



# The GVDS Gazette

A Quarterly Publication of the Grand Valley Daylily Society

July-September, 2020

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### JULY 10-12

AHS Region 2 Summer Meeting

Summer Meeting Cancelled

### JULY 18

Annual Daylily Show

Show Cancelled

### AUGUST 1

Bus Trip

Bus Trip Cancelled

### SEPTEMBER 3

Fall Auction

Cascade Christian Church

Drop off 6:00pm Auction start 7:00pm

### SEPTEMBER 5

Rockford Farmers' Market

### OCTOBER 1

Plants with Extra Garden Value

Sandra Dunn

Frederik Meijer Gardens

7:00pm

### NOVEMBER 5

Daylily Q&A

Location TBA

### DECEMBER 3

Christmas Party

Cascade Christian Church

6:30pm

The Board of Directors will be monitoring the coronavirus situation as it develops and will keep you informed if it is going to affect any planned meetings.

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Happy Summer!

The sunny days amid the rainstorms has created lush greenery on my gardens. My COVID-19 project was to thank everyone for helping with the club and to show appreciation during the trying Spring through a note in the mail. Thank you to the people who called or emailed back to me.

Thank you for your understanding as we try to navigate this unprecedented time. We are making modifications to the fall events in the hopes we can meet together again.

My heartfelt condolences goes out to Sharon. Ben was a great encouragement to me as we became acquainted over the last few years. When I finally learned which house belong to them, I realized I always looked forward to viewing the yard when I was in the neighborhood taking that street as a short cut to work at Field's Fabric.

**Please note:** We would like to determine an approximate number of people who think they would be willing to attend the September auction. Please RSVP to Claire Sheridan by Sunday, August 23 at: 616.837.8474 or email [modelt14@gmail.com](mailto:modelt14@gmail.com). We will be sending an email to the membership with more auction details in the near future.



## GVDS AND COVID-19

COVID-19 has impacted all of us with changes in our routines and has led the BOD to cancel meetings for the safety of its members. The past months have been difficult but as Michigan begins to reopen we too are exploring ways to function as a club that will make people feel like they can participate without putting their health at great risk.

There is no way to eliminate all risk of COVID-19, but these are the procedures that the Board of Directors has approved for use at meetings to try to make them as safe as we can. Every person, however, must evaluate their own level of risk and make a decision for themselves about whether they want to attend meetings. We realize that not every person may agree with the requirements, but we ask for your cooperation anyway to help protect those in the club who are in high risk categories. We are doing these things not just to help ourselves, but to help our friends and colleagues too.

1. If you have been in contact with someone with COVID-19 symptoms in the last 14 days, please do not attend a GVDS meeting.
2. If you have any of the symptoms of a possible COVID-19 infection, please do not attend a GVDS meeting. The CDC website states the following:

*“People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness.*

*Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:*

- *Fever or chills*
- *Cough*
- *Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing*
- *Fatigue*
- *Muscle or body aches*
- *Headache*

- *New loss of taste or smell*
- *Sore throat*
- *Congestion or runny nose*
- *Nausea or vomiting*
- *Diarrhea*

*This list does not include all possible symptoms.”*

3. When attendees arrive at a meeting there will be a no contact temperature screening and a possible verbal screening.
4. To help keep everyone safe, all attendees at club meetings are required to wear a mask unless there is a medical reason they cannot wear a mask. If someone forgets to bring a mask, one will be provided and they are required to wear it for the entire time the group is together.
5. No refreshments will be served. If you bring your own beverage you are strongly encouraged to remain six feet from everyone else while you consume the beverage.
6. Attendees at club meetings must practice social distancing to help keep everyone safe. This means that people must make every effort to remain six feet apart, whether the meetings are indoors or outdoors.
7. Attendees who refuse to follow these requirements will be asked to leave.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding. Together we will get through this.



## FIRST CALL, LAST CALL.....CALLING ALL!

We are in need of growers for the 2020 Fan Club program and the deadline is looming. Since we have not met, the process will be a little different (and quicker) this year. But first let's talk about the great plants which will be arriving in September for distribution at the Fall Auction. This year's Fan Club daylilies were purchased from Sandy and Mike Holmes, Riverbend Daylily Garden in Ohio. We have a nice variety of colors, sizes, heights including 'Fall Creek Gorge', 'Sweet Chance', and 'Secret Pink' to name just a few. You can check out Riverbend Daylily Garden at: <http://www.daylilytrader.com/riverbend/> We need growers for these plants! The "door prize" plants are grown and returned once in 2022 and the more expensive "auction" plants will be returned twice in 2022 and 2023. As a thank you, at the end of this growing commitment, you may keep a double fan, if the plant has increased. Since these plants will be distributed at the Fall Auction, there is no time for the signup sheet. Please contact Fan Club Chair, Sharon VanderWilp at [svanderwilp@sbcglobal.net](mailto:svanderwilp@sbcglobal.net) or (616) 447-8998 with questions or to sign up. Don't miss out on this fun way to help out your club and add great plants to your collection!



## MEMBER GARDEN PROJECTS

President Peggy Pike has been busy in her garden this past spring taking advantage of the "Stay Home, Stay Safe" order. Here's a summary of her projects:



1. I needed to remove a grass infested iris bed. The space is the new home of my plants from Along the Fence, Couturier's and Garden Path Perennials. I received some planting tips from Sandra and Barb on starting new plants with Alfalfa pellets at the bottom of the hole. After installing 100 bags of garden soil, alfalfa and using Milorganite as my fertilizer.
2. My old plants from John O'Malley are planted roadside, Along the Fence in the middle and the Couturier and Pearce plants near the sidewalk.

3. My bed is as robust as my five year established beds. Bloom time will be 7 weeks from the time I took the picture to the right. I am anxiously awaiting my purple, pink and lime blooms



If you are up for a road trip, my yard is open for viewing. The flowerbeds are a favorite for the dog walkers and neighborhood walkers. I thought this was going my Spring to catch up but my job in Title work picked up and face mask sewing stole my gardening time. So enjoy the years of hard work and forgive for the weeds.



A volunteer is needed to head up the Rockford Farmers' Market on September 12. This is our only outreach to the community to help them know more about daylilies. Please contact Peggy Pike at:

616.318.7603 or by email at [peggypike@yahoo.com](mailto:peggypike@yahoo.com)

## MEETING QUESTIONNAIRE REPORT

Thank you to everyone who participated and returned their meeting day questionnaire. Not everyone answered every question so you will see that the total responses for the questions differ. If one questionnaire was returned and signed by a couple, both of whom are members, their answers were counted twice. Twenty six members participated in the survey. The results are summarized below:

A majority of the respondents preferred to continue meeting on Thursday evening, by a total of 13-9. Most people said they are able to meet on Thursday evening with only 2 people saying they could not meet then.

Ten people said they preferred to change the meeting time to Saturday mornings from 10 am – noon and eight people preferred not to do that. If you recall, the meetings affected by this would be in February, March, April, May (possibly), June, October, November and December. When people were given a choice of which Saturday morning to meet if a change is made, the choices were almost evenly split between the first through the fourth Saturdays in a month. One comment was that there are “lots more scheduling conflicts with Saturdays”.

Six people said that they likely would drop their membership in the club if the meeting time changed to Saturday mornings while thirteen said they would not. One person said they might drop their membership. For the follow up question about whether people would remain in the club and continue to do the work they currently do, 17 people said they would and 2 people said they wouldn't. There was a comment : “Yes, as long as conflicts don't arise too often”. On the next question, 3 people said they would keep their membership but be unable to continue the work they do for the club, 11 people said they would continue the work and 1 person said probably.

There was almost unanimous agreement, 22-1, about willingness to consider fewer meetings, possibly meeting every other month with the first meeting of the year beginning in March. Comments were: “Will be harder to remember and if you have to miss a meeting a long time between meetings”; “I find the social aspect of these types of clubs the most important. Maybe the focus needs to shift a bit to pure socializing time over planning for formal presentations every month.”

Even more people were willing to eliminate the February meetings, 23-2, and somewhat less the June meetings, 17-3. The comments were: “maybe changing to Saturday mornings for the colder, darker months, Feb., Nov., Dec.”; “ enjoy the bus trips; would enjoy a local outing, maybe garden and dinner at a restaurant (no bus needed)”; “I like visiting member gardens in the summer. Years ago we would visit two on an evening. Remember it is light out until 9 or so in the summer. Also weekends are busy with family.”

The additional comments were: “Could a few Saturday mornings be tried to see how they work out? Those that would potentially draw the biggest crowds—hybridizer presentations and auctions seem the best options. It is a shame the club has moved away from visiting gardens during the blooming season from June to August. After all it is the love of daylilies that brought us together—let's get out and see them in each other's gardens again”; “I joined the club to learn more about daylilies so I like programs that are educational’.

## PLANTS WITH EXTRA GARDEN VALUE

Sandra Dunn of Along The Fence Daylilies will return as our speaker on October 1. This year she will be sharing photos and observations of daylilies she calls “extra value plants.” As she explains, “we grow over 2200 different cultivars here and about 500 seedlings, so we see a great variety. I want to highlight some of the plants that I highly recommend for the added value they bring to our garden.”

There are a number of ways certain cultivars stand out and it is generally not for the bells and whistles. Rather, it could be that they have a ‘stop you in your tracks’ garden presence. Some have an extra-long bloom season, which may include consistent rebloom even here in Michigan. Maybe they make a stunning clump display. Or they just have a truly unique look.

Sandra asks that each of us email her photos of a couple of the daylilies you feel add extra value in your own garden. Please add a comment or two to share what you appreciate about the plant. She would like to incorporate these into her presentation. Her email address is: [alongthefencedaylilies@gmail.com](mailto:alongthefencedaylilies@gmail.com). If you aren't a computer-user, just call and give her the names of the plants you recommend and why. She will track down a photo. Her number is 517 449-7368."

### GVDS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Our officers for 2019 have been elected and are:

**Peggy Pike** – President—616.318.7603—[peggypike@yahoo.com](mailto:peggypike@yahoo.com)

**Claire Sheridan**—Vice President—616.837.8474—[modelt14@gmail.com](mailto:modelt14@gmail.com)

**Bruce Wickmann** – Treasurer—616-399-4907—[bdwicks@gmail.com](mailto:bdwicks@gmail.com)

**Nancy Sniff** – Secretary—616-455-2548—[nsniff@gmail.com](mailto:nsniff@gmail.com)

**Eileen Schmuker** – Member at Large—616.540.8783—[divamom3849@gmail.com](mailto:divamom3849@gmail.com)

## A SINCERE THANK YOU

Thank you for the beautiful cards you sent, as well as the gift certificate for a special daylily at the time of my husband, Ben's passing. I appreciate all your kind remembrances of Ben and think that our club's practice of sending a gift certificate is such a nice gesture. Ben enjoyed getting to know you all over the years and hopefully made you all laugh a little—that was his goal! His last major outing was the GVDS bus trip to Along the Fence Daylilies and he enjoyed that day so much. Ben was always impressed with Sandra and her crew and was also happy that he had the chance to talk with Sandra's friends who spoke at GVDS as they drove us to Nancy Cooper's fabulous garden. Thank you GVDS for your kindness and for the memories.

~~~~Sincerely, Sharon VanderWilp

## What We're All About

The Grand Valley Daylily Society is a 501(c)7 non-profit organization organized to promote and encourage the development and improvement of the daylily and to increase interest in its use as a means of home and civic beautification