



The GVDS Gazette

A Publication of the Grand Valley Daylily Society

September-December 2026

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 10

Fall Auction at Cascade Christian Church

Doors open-6:00pm Bidding-7:00pm

SEPTEMBER 12

Rockford Farm Market Sale

SEPTEMBER 19

Creston Farmers' Market Sale

OCTOBER 1

Genni Kleckner of Work In Progress Gardens

Saundra Dunn, presenting

Zoom at Meijer Gardens

7:00 pm

NOVEMBER 5

Annual Holiday Dinner

2027 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY 17

Cathy Coulson

Ephemerals, Bulbs & Other Early

Bloomers

Zoom Program

MAY 20

Spring Auction

JUNE 3

Open Garden TBD

JULY 10

Daylily Show

JULY 16-19

Regional Summer Meeting

AUGUST 5

Picnic at Kay Anderson's garden

SEPTEMBER 9

Fall Auction

SEPTEMBER 11

Rockford farm market

SEPTEMBER 18

Creston farm market

OCTOBER 7

Michael Bouman

Daylily growing in the autumn of
our lives

NOVEMBER 4

Harvest get together

FEBRUARY 11

Saundra Dunn

MARCH 4

Mike Holmes

APRIL 1

Karol Emmerich

DON'T MISS OUR FALL AUCTION ON SEPTEMBER 10



Our fall auction is almost here! This is a great chance to add some new plants to your garden at very affordable prices so plan on attending on Thursday, September 10, 2026. It is also a good chance to downsize your bigger clumps of daylilies and donate them to the auction as this will be 100 percent member donations. Daylilies registered from 2006 and newer will be accepted for the auction and will be pictured on the PowerPoint.

Please send your cultivar name(s) to Ginny Pearce at floragin@gmail.com by 6:00pm on September 7 so that a photo can be put on the PowerPoint. We will also email out the PowerPoint that week to all members and the proxy bidding process will be available.

Your donations of daylilies need only be bagged and labelled with cultivar name, number of fans and if they are connected (marked by a "C") or unconnected/"U" (separated fans).

We will also have our Silent Auction and donations of perennials, garden items, home décor, fresh produce, etc. Daylilies registered in 2005 or before can also be placed in the Silent Auction. As a donor you can set the price, if you wish. Bid sheets will be available at the auction.

Lastly, sweet and savory snacks will help us all keep our energy up for some lively bidding!

Cascade Christian Church, Centennial Hall, located at 2829 Thornapple River Dr., SE, Grand Rapids, 49546 will be the place to be. Doors open at 6:00pm and bidding will start promptly at 7:00pm. We also love visitors at our auctions. Cash, checks and credit card accepted—Bid generously! It will be a wonderful night of seeing each other again for some friendly bidding on both the live auction and silent auction items.

Put the date on your calendars now--Thursday, September 10. **Bidding starts at 7:00pm.** Donations should arrive at least 20 minutes prior to 7:00. Thank you for your support of GVDS!

See you then!

Silent Auction!

ON THE ROAD AGAIN!

Like Willie Nelson sang, "Just can't wait to get on the road again. The life I love is sellin' 'lilies with my friends...." We will be doing exactly that twice this fall. Saturday, September 12 will find us at the Rockford Farmer's Market, N. Main St., Rockford. One week later, we will be at the Creston Farmer's Market, 1720 Plainfield Ave, NE, Grand Rapids. We are looking for member donations of daylilies for these two sales and any unsold auction plants will be sold at the farmer's markets. There are no stipulations on the registration year of donations for these sales. They only need to be cleaned and labelled with the cultivar name and do not need to be individually bagged. Please have them divided into minimum of 2 fan divisions and understand that we cannot accept undivided clumps of daylilies. Please send the cultivar name(s) to Nancy Sniff at nsniff@gmail.com by 09/09/25 so that photo sales sheets can be made.

Daylilies at both of the Farmer's Market sales will be priced at \$5 for a double fan (or better) or 5 cultivars for \$15. This is a good source of revenue from non-members. It is also a great chance to introduce and educate the public on growing daylilies and to promote GVDS. If you know of anyone who is looking to add daylilies to their landscape, they cannot go wrong with a purchase here. We will have a nice variety of colors and sizes. Color photos will make the selection easy. We will be accepting cash or credit card. Thank you for your support!

WORK IN PROGRESS GARDENS

Genni Kleckner, of Work in Progress Gardens in Wisconsin, will partner with Sandra Dunn on the presentation of our October 1 Zoom program beginning at 7:00pm. Genni and her late husband, Francis, were introduced to daylily growing in 1997 when they purchased their first daylilies. The daylily bug bit and they progressed to starting daylilies from seed to doing their own hybridizing. They have over one hundred introductions and grow several hundred daylilies along with hostas and other perennials. Some of their daylilies will be auctioned at the end of the presentation. The daylilies will be shipped prior to the meeting so winning bidders will be able to take their plants home the same evening.

Wild Dreamer



Clown in the Crowd



Maybe I'm Amazed



Granny's Wizard



Orange Smiles

RECAPPING OUR PUBLIC DAYLILY SHOW WITH NUMBERS

July 11 was perfect weather for our annual public daylily show at Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park. Thirteen of our members set an early alarm so they could pick blossoms to bring to the event. We had a total of 353 daylily blooms (not including the flowers in the design division) for our guests. The main event was our off scape blossoms of which there was an impressive 217 "pretty faces." Fan Club growers brought in 6 different Fan Club daylilies that opened that morning. Club hybridizers supplied 107 seedlings and there were 23 different daylilies for the on scape display. We had a total of 370 visitors during our show hours of 11:00am to 5:00pm. New this year was the Standard Flower Show hosted by the Kent Garden Club which was held in the same corridor. The hall was buzzing with activity as many visitors stopped in at our show and then continued on to the Standard Flower Show.

Once again this year we asked our guests to vote on their favorite daylily from the 23 on scape cultivars we had on display. Forty-four votes were cast and 10 cultivars got at least two votes. First place with 8 votes went to 'Evening in Eden' (Petit, 2013). Taking second place was 'Humungousaur' (Gossard, 2013) with 6 votes. There was a 3-way tie for third place with 5 votes each between the following cultivars: 'Daring Deception' (Salter, 1994), 'Sister of Praise' (Bell, 2004) and 'Sugar Sprinkles' (Holmes-S., 2014). Honorable Mention with 4 votes each went to 'Magenta Assault' (Bremer, 2003) and 'Mary Kathryn's Delight' (Bell, 2022).

DAYLILY SHOW RECAP, CONT'D

Once again the judged portion of our show was the Design Division. The two judges from the National Garden Club awarded 1st, 2nd, 3rd and Honorable Mention for each of the four classes. Of the 1st place winners, one designer was given the Best of Show award.

Six members entered a total of 14 floral arrangements. The theme this year was "Children's Books" and the awards are as follows:

Class 1 The Giving Tree

1st place – Ginger Smith

2nd place –Steve Smith

3rd place—Christy Spoehr

Honorable Mention—Sharon VanderWilp

Class 2 How the Grinch Stole Christmas

1st place – Sharon VanderWilp

2nd place –Christy Spoehr

3rd place—Steve Smith

Honorable Mention—Ginger Smith

Class 3 The Three Little Pigs

1st place – Steve Smith

2nd place – Ginger Smith

3rd place - Sharon VanderWilp

Honorable Mention – Christy Spoehr

Class 4 Pick Your Own Book, novice only

1st place—Rich Surmont

2nd place –Peggy Pike

BEST OF SHOW

Drum roll please! Ginger Smith won the Best of Show top award! Congratulations, Ginger!

We also asked our 370 guests for their opinions on our designs. 34 votes were cast. Twelve visitors agreed with the judges and gave Ginger Smith "Best of Show" for her "Giving Tree" arrangement. Seven people parted ways with the judges and gave Sharon VanderWilp 1st place for her design, also in the "Giving Tree" category. Rich Surmont took 2nd place with 6 votes for his entry in the Novice class. Four votes for 3rd place were cast for Christy Spoehr's "Three Little Pigs" design. Honorable Mention went to Ginger Smith with 3 votes for her "Three Little Pigs" design.

New this year was a request sent prior to the show date to members who have licensed daylily sales gardens. We wanted to let our guests know where they can purchase daylilies since we cannot sell at this show. Three members provided a half sheet promotion for their businesses. Thank you to Sandra Dunn of Along the Fence Daylilies, Jerry and Lisa Marlatt of Ogden Station Daylilies and Ginny Pearce of Garden Path Perennials for participating. Your information was well received at our welcome table.

Also something new for 2026 was a signup sheet to receive an email for our fall auction and PowerPoint which will be emailed to the interested parties. Eleven of our guests provided contact information and will be receiving a notice prior to our September auction.

Last, (and also new) but certainly not least, member Jennifer Bieneman-Courtney designed two very nice, colorful one-page advertisements. One was for our show at Meijer Gardens and another for the show plus our September auction and both Farmer's Market Sales. Members who are on Facebook posted these on their pages prior to the show date and the one detailing all four events was printed up and went quickly at our Welcome Table at Meijer Gardens.

It was a wonderful day of strutting our favorite flower. A huge thank you to all the members who contributed time, flowers and energy to make this show a success!





CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER!

You probably have heard the wonderful news by now--Ginny Pearce is the 2026 recipient of the Howard Hite Award. Congratulations from all of us at GVDS, Ginny!!

The award, sponsored by the Southern Michigan Daylily Society, began in 1989 and is named after Howard Hite. In the early 1960's, Mr. Hite began his hybridizing program which focused on not just the blossom, but the entire plant and the daylily had to weather the Michigan winters. His first introduction was "Angelus Bells" in 1968 and a week before his 99th birthday in 2006, he introduced his final flower "Christine Walser Hite", in honor of his mother. Between those years, he registered a total of 125 cultivars.

What exactly is the Howard Hite Award? The answer is from the ADS Region 2 website. "The Howard Hite Award is to honor a Region 2 ADS member who has contributed notable achievements in the field of hybridizing. These achievements have been the results of years of dedication to a hybridizing program and have greatly influenced the world of daylilies."

We all know that Ginny certainly qualifies as being dedicated to her hybridizing program and she has similar goals as Howard Hite. 2026 marks her 30th year in hybridizing daylilies and per her website, her goal has been "to create very hardy, robust, and northern reblooming tetraploid daylilies with large flowers of great color, substance, and form displayed as a minimum of 20 buds per well-branched scape."

Sandy Holmes presented the award at the recent Region 2 Summer Meeting. To build suspense when presenting this award, the presenters will withhold the name of the winner and just present some facts about the person beginning with the least well-known information. When Sandy continued on and said that this person had won the Englerth Award three times, GVDS members in the audience knew it had to be Ginny who had won! Ginny received a sand-etched glass plate with an engraved image of Howard Hite's H. 'Indonesia' and now joins the ranks of Mr. Hite, Dr. Charles Branch, Brother Charles Reckamp and many others as winner of the Howard Hite award. She is also the third member (past or present) of GVDS to receive the award. The two other members are: Mandy McMahon in 2019 and Jerry Marlatt in 2025.



PHOTOS FROM THE DAYLILY SHOW



NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP SPECIAL



Have you been thinking about joining the American Hemerocallis Society, a nation-wide group of daylily lovers. If you've never been an ADS member before, now is the time to join. A one-year membership is only \$10 until April 30, 2027. This offer is available exclusively to individuals who have never previously held an AHS membership. Copy and paste this link in your browser to the information for joining ADS: daylilies.org/ahs-membership/

PRESIDENT'S NOTE



A Heartfelt Thank You!



I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to **Ned and Rita Brown** for their incredibly generous donation to our upcoming fall farmers markets. They offered **three winning auction opportunities, each for 10 plants to be dug from their beautiful garden**. These generous offers will be donated to our fall farmers market plant sales.

If you're interested in adding some wonderful plants to your garden this fall, please stop by and visit us at the **farmers markets**. You never know what treasures you may find!

I also want to **thank all of our members** for your generous donations to our auctions and farmers markets. Your support, time, plants, and enthusiasm are what make these events possible.

We will also need **many volunteers** to help make these events a success. Whether you can help with setup, sales, organizing plants, or cleanup, every helping hand makes a difference.

Thank you all for supporting our society and sharing your love of gardening with our community!



MANY THANKS!

As the newsletter editor, I would like to express my gratitude to Claire Sheridan and Sharon VanderWilp for the many hours they spend scheduling, writing and proof reading the newsletter every 4 months. Without these two faithful ladies, my job would be impossible. If we have a member or two who would be interested in helping write articles for the newsletter, I'm sure Sharon would be grateful for the help.

Thanks again ladies, Connie

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.

GVDS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Peggy Pike—President—616.318.7603—peggyposiepatch@gmail.com

Claire Sheridan—Vice President—616.837.8474—modelt14@gmail.com

Bruce Wickmann—Treasurer—616-886-1151—bdwicks@gmail.com

Jerri Schultz—Member-at-Large—517-625-7157—jschultz1@tds.net

Sharon VanderWilp—Secretary—616-447-8998—slvanderwilp@outlook.com