



THE COASTAL NC DAYLILY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2021

No. 111

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Happy New Year! I hope you will join me in looking forward to the New Year and the promises of new beginnings. Our next meeting, Sunday, January 10th, will be held at 2:00 pm at the South Mills Fire Station – directions follow. Our group is small, and the facility allows room for us to spread out. Tables will be set up so that we can do just that. Please space yourselves, and as a courtesy to everyone. Face masks will be required.



Pat Mansfield

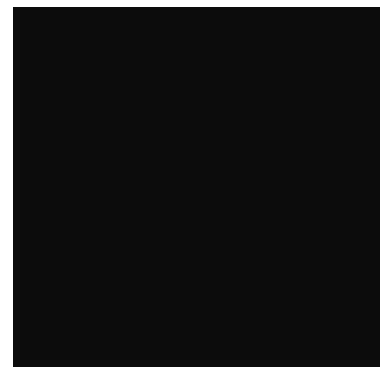
We will be installing our new officers. They are: Pat Mansfield, President, Beverly Ambrose-Vice President, Sarah Burket-Secretary and Marsha Jackson-Treasurer. We will discuss and vote on holding another on-line plant sale and any opportunities we might have for in-person sales for the coming year. Ken will update us on where we stand with plans for the Fall Regional meeting in October. Please come ready to offer your assistance to Ken as he works to pull all the final details together.

Our program will be how to recognize the different types of foliage in the winter. Examples of Dormant, Semi-Evergreen and Evergreen plants will be on display for hands-on observation. We will also talk about growing seedlings and combating fungus gnats. Examples of seedlings in various stages of growth, as well as fungus gnat controls will be on display for more hands-on observation.

After this meeting, we will not meet in person again until April when we will be outside at Pat and Bill Mansfield's home. This will be a working meeting and members should come prepared to assist with cleaning, spraying, and fertilizing our daylilies that they are growing for us.

I look forward to seeing you all on Sunday!

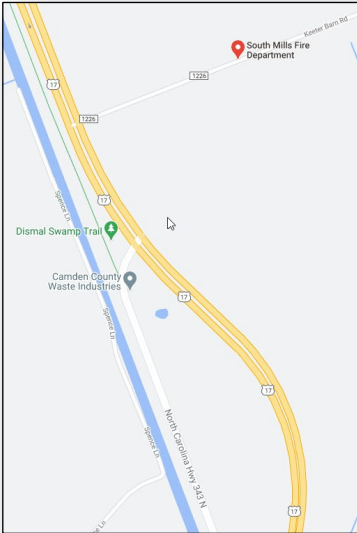
An
Amish
Neighborhood's
2020 Christmas
Lights Displays



JANUARY 10th, 2PM, MEETING LOCATION

Station 14 - South Mills VFD

127 Keeter Barn Road, South Mills 27296



Here are some simple route perspective directions: Coming from the North of South Mills on Route 17, make a **left turn just before** the marked right turn for Route 343 onto Keeter Barn Road. From the South on Route 17, cross the High Level Bridge over the Dismal Swamp Canal. Keeter Barn Road is your **first right turn**. The station will be on your right.

This is a working firehouse. **DO NOT PARK** in front of the building. Park on the left side or in the back of the station. The entrance we will use is on the left side.



Collecting corn syrup



Can't have opinions about truth

JANUARY
HUMOR
OR LACK
THEREOF

The Utah monolith. What was the guy reading? The media never reported it.



HELLO.
WE HAVE
BEEN
TRYING TO
REACH YOU
ABOUT
RENEWING
YOUR
ADS
MEMBERSHIP.



Be kind to everyone you meet.
You do not know their battles.
They may be dealing with
fungus gnats at home.

THE WAR ON FUNGUS GNATS



Beverly Ambrose

I'm still fairly new to doing more with daylilies than simply collecting them. No doubt there's much more for me to learn but I thought I would share my experiences and what I have learned so far.

Last year I started the seed in plastic bags with a mix of 3 parts peroxide to 7 parts of water. Once the majority of seed in each bag had sprouted, I transferred them to solo cups. The cups were prepared by punching drain holes in the bottom and filling them with seed starting soil. I soaked the soil in the cups and added soil more if needed after settling. I had a bunch of seeds that I had collected, bought and traded for. My seeds sprouted beautifully and I was dreaming of

the blooms to come.

To my horror after about 3 weeks my seedlings started to droop, collapse and die!! What was happening??? I put in a call to my very knowledgeable good friend, Pat Mansfield. First thing she asked was did I see bugs. Yes; pesky little flying things. She proceeded to educate me about fungus gnats. The gnats themselves don't kill our precious seedlings but their larvae are born in moist soil and proceed to feast on the tender roots.

Pat suggested that I let the cups dry out since the larvae need moisture to survive. Unfortunately, by the time any drying occurred I had lost more than half of my crop.

I decided to find a better way! On a whim I tossed a few seeds into a pot that I had tried to (unsuccessfully) grow an orchid in. The ceramic pot was made for orchids so had holes in the sides so plenty of air could circulate. I had pulled the remains out of the moss in the pot sometime before. I soaked the moss and added the seeds and put them in a sunny spot on my counter. I was so excited to see them sprout and no signs of gnats anywhere. I invested in more moss and seedling trays.



The first 2 trays full were a happy success! As the seeds sprouted and got a little size I transferred them still wrapped with moss into pots. They continued to thrive. The third tray told a little different story. Because of colder weather I kept this tray in the house more than the first 2. The dreaded gnats returned! Desperate to avoid a repeat of the previous winter I carried the tray out to my front porch where I literally watered it with insecticide!! The next few days were forecast to be pretty mild so I left the tray on the porch. Two days later I pulled the seedlings out of the cells and unwrapped the moss to check for signs of larvae. I only saw a few but all were dead and the seedlings didn't seem any worse for wear. Those seedlings are also in pots now and doing well.

I started experimenting with soil mixes. I added 1 part sand and 1 part diatomaceous earth for every 3 parts of potting mix. While the diatomaceous earth would kill the fungus gnat larvae I also noticed that it caused clumps when wet. Not sure yet how that is working out yet.

The great news is that our new Treasurer, Marsha Jackson, loves the science behind hybridizing and growing daylilies and she has found a simple solution that seems to be working so far. Amazon sells sticky traps made to get rid of this type of pest!! I am still playing with soil mixes but the traps are doing their job!

Please let us know about your successes or frustrations with those nasty gnats.



Ryan Stephens 🍷
@ryanstephens

Picasso created more than 50,000 works of art.

How many are considered masterpieces that we still admire today?

About a 100.

Less than 1% of his creations are still relevant.

Stop trying to be perfect.

It's a numbers game.

Start creating.

Be courageous enough to share.

Two pieces of unsolicited wisdom for anyone that would like to become a daylily hybridizer



Stephen McCranie

The master has failed more times than the beginner has even tried.