



THE COASTAL NC DAYLILY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2020

No. 107

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

President's Corner

I'm focusing this month on Membership. Daylilies are fabulous and fascinating. The variety of colors, sizes and looks are seemingly endless. Hybridizers are creating new breakthroughs every day in textures, color combinations, fancy edges, heights, you name it, it's happening.



Pat Mansfield

CNCDS has a treasure trove of experience among our members in growing the Perfect Perennial – the Daylily. The tips and techniques we share at our meetings are valuable. Isn't it a shame to keep all this knowledge to ourselves? It's time we increase our membership and inspire others to grow these exquisite plants and become more available to fellow gardeners.

BRING SOMEONE TO A MEETING - Do you have a friend who loves daylilies or who is interested in growing daylilies? Bring them to a meeting. What better way to introduce them to our world?

SHARE OUR NEWSLETTER – Our newsletter is chocked full of great daylily information – and entertainment! Either print or forward it to them! If you need help in how to forward the newsletter, I bet your grandkids can help you!

TALK ABOUT DAYLILIES – Inspire and excite others about daylilies, either in person or on your Social Media account (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) and then when they want to know more, invite them to a meeting!

BE A NEW MEMBER MENTOR - Once you get someone to come to a meeting, YOU be the one to call them and invite them to ride with you to the NEXT meeting. Text with your phone, reach out on Facebook or become email buddies. Share your knowledge by answering questions they may have. Send them pictures of blooming daylilies in your garden. Encourage them by giving them a plant or two for their garden and then go to their garden and help them plant them.

CHANGE OUR MEETING TIME - We tried to make our meetings more compatible to working folk and youth by holding meetings on Tuesday evenings, and moving the meeting around in our area so that it was more convenient for everyone at one time or another. But driving at night or longer distances is a problem for some of our members. So, what can we do to make the meeting date and time more convenient for our current membership AND for potential new members?

What would you think about changing our meeting time to Sunday afternoons? If we met at 1:30 pm, what issues would that present for you?

Prior to our September 15 meeting at Janet Hong's house, we are asking each of you to write down your thoughts on the pros and cons about changing our meetings to Sunday afternoons, and come prepared to have a thorough, and meaningful discussion.

Together we can not only grow beautiful daylilies, we can GROW our club!

CONTACT US:

Pat Mansfield—President
mansfieldsdaylilies@gmail.com
252.333.7191

Beverly Ambrose—Vice President
bkambrose812@gmail.com
252.333.4747

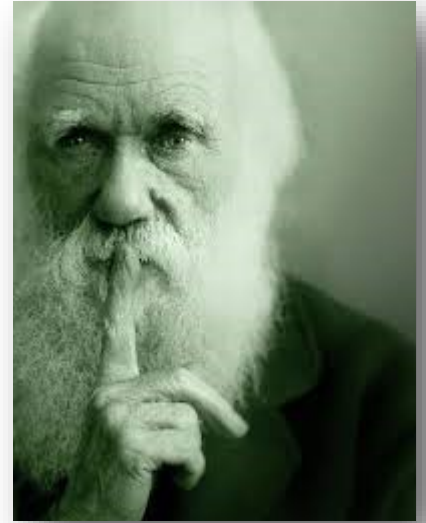
Get on our mailing list.
This NEWSLETTER is published the
first week of every month.

SEPTEMBER 15th

The date is the 259th day of the year in the Gregorian calendar. 107 days remain until the end of the year. *ed. Which can't come soon enough*

On this date in history in 1835, - Charles Darwin aboard the HMS Beagle reaches the Galápagos Islands. The ship lands at San Cristobal. It is rumored that he absconded with a large clump of *H. fulva* (var) for his return voyage. [This was on the internet so it must be true]

This date is also the birthday of: 1789 – James Fenimore Cooper, American novelist, short story writer, and historian; 1890 – Agatha Christie, English crime novelist, short story writer, and playwright; 1903 – Roy Acuff, American singer-songwriter and fiddler; 1922 – Jackie Cooper, American actor.



It is also the date of our next **MEETING** with a BYO Lunch, followed by a work session removing and potting some of my seedling. The plants will be donated to the Society for sale at some future event.

10AM, DIRTY CLOTHES, YOUR LUNCH & DIGGING TOOLS.

Here's the contact info: 2605 Pine Forest Lane, Chesapeake, VA 23322 757.297.8681

Not ONE but TWO chances to show off

The 2022 National Convention in Asheville, NC is now accepting **REGISTERED** Guest Plants. We expect to have 6 gardens on tour in the Asheville area, so this is a great opportunity for 400-500 daylily enthusiasts to see **your** plants during the convention tours.

Each hybridizer may send up to 5 guest plants, 2-4 fans. Keep in mind the convention tour dates are **July 8-9**, so please do not send early bloomers. We are receiving plants now through the end of **September 2020**. Send plants to:

Eric Simpson
890 Lower Flat Creek Rd
Alexander, NC 28701

The 2022 National Convention in Asheville, NC is also accepting **SEEDLINGS** for the Carolina Seedling Award bed.

Each hybridizer may send up to 4 unnamed seedlings, 2-4 fans. Keep in mind the convention tour dates are **July 8-9**, so please do not send early bloomers. We are receiving plants now through the end of **September 2020**. Send plants to:

Chris Shea (known to some as the founder of CNCDS)
751 Everett Road
Pisgah Forest, NC 28768

**REUSE
recycle**

When I first bought my property I was so excited to have my own yard. It didn't take me long to realize that even though a lot of trees had been taken down, I still spent a lot more time cutting tree roots than digging a hole to plant something!!

I started planting everything in pots which worked great until we had a long, hot dry spell and I wore myself out keeping my pretties watered. There had to be a better way. **RAISED BEDS!**



Beverly Ambrose

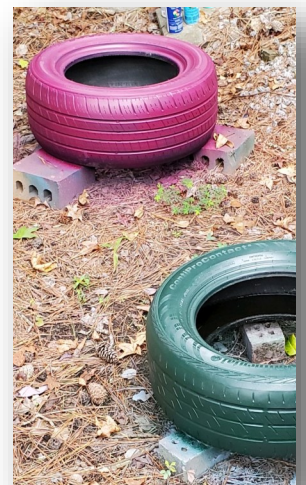
At the time I was working part time at Lowes in the Garden Center, so knew when there were sales on wall blocks and soil. Even with my employee discount it was getting pretty expensive. This was in spite of buying a ton of plants off the "Rescue Rack".

I started looking at other yards trying to get some ideas. I live in a farming community and let me tell you farmers (and as I am learning gardener) have wonderful ideas about recycle and reuse. At the end of a driveway, only a few miles from my house, there were old tires that had been painted and planted with irises.

Asking around, it turns out that places that sell tires have to pay a fee to have the used ones hauled off so most of them are happy to let you have them! I use Krylon Indoor/Outdoor spray paint which will run \$4-\$6 depending on where you buy it. I find I can paint 3 small or 2 large tires per regular sized can.



It was a blast hunting down used tires and painting them bright colors! Imagine my heartbreak to find that without the protection of the pots, a nasty, very hungry little creature called a vole discovered a wonderful buffet in my yard. They were literally eating my perennials underground! I don't use poison to control varmints because of my dogs and my neighbors on either side having pets that spend time outside. I tried putting a layer of rock in the bottom of each tire but that only slowed them down.





The great thing about being a cashier in a place like Lowes is that you see all kinds of useful items come across the counter. When a customer who was building a small animal enclosure brought a small meshed, galvanized roll of wire to my register I took a good look at it. That day when I got off work I grabbed a roll and took it home to try it. Most of the tires I get are for 17 inch rims. I buy the 36 inch wide roll and cut it into 18x18 inch squares that I put down and hold in place with a brick until I get the tire placed over the center.

I learned I could use less dirt if I filled the air space of the tires. 2 liter plastic soda bottles and half gallon milk/juice jugs are perfect. Be sure to either take the lid off the bottles or punch a hole in the sides. The air trapped inside the bottles contracts and expands with the rise and fall of the temperature. The popping noises they make when they expand when the air can't escape is startling to say the least, especially when there's 4 and 5 in each tire! These are the easiest to use but I have used whatever I can find to fill the space as long as it isn't sharp. As with any other raised bed the dirt will settle after a couple good rains. Mulch is an inexpensive way to fill those spaces back up. Check out the article in the AUGUST Newsletter....



Mulch for



And for the over achievers in the group, here is an idea for a multi-tiered raised bed. Have at it and be sure to send us photos.

Happy Gardening!

Name that Region 15 Fall Meeting



OBX Autumn 2020 won't exactly work as a title for our event next year. What name do **YOU** think will make people sit up and take notice?

Bring one or more with you to the meeting on the 15th at Janet's house and be ready to share. One idea that has come up is title it like a Super Bowl, with Roman Numerals.



Got pods? What next?

by Pat Mansfield

So, you did some cross pollination, or your winged pollinators did it for you, and now you have seed pods. Whoooo Hooooo! Now what?



Pods can be harvested between 40-45 days. Obviously, if the bees and other winged pollinators gave you "bee pods", you will not know exactly how many days it's been since conception.

One way to know if your seed pods are ripe is to press on the sides of the pods. If the pods "crack" on the top, they are ready to pick.

If you find pods that have already opened, harvest them quickly, like NOW. Wind can scatter the seeds around the garden, mixing seedlings with your named plants.



As you collect pods in the garden, be sure to label them so that later you will know what your cross was, or if they are bee pods, who the pod parent was.

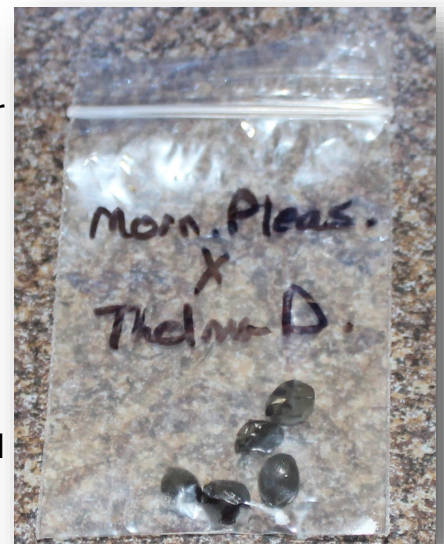


Open the pods and put the good seed from each pod in an open container to dry for 24 hours. What's a good seed? It's one that is black and shiny. It may have or will get some wrinkles, but that's normal. Shriveled gray ones should be tossed immediately. Another way to evaluate your seeds is to put them in a dish of water. After 15 minutes, if they sink, they are probably good. If they float they are probably bad. Toss the bad ones, drain the water and put them in a screen or paper towel to dry thoroughly.

Place your dried seed in a plastic bag – label them (pod parent first - remember ladies first) and store in the crisper of your refrigerator for 2-4 weeks to "cold stratify" them.

After that, it's up to you as to when, where, and how you sow your seed. Check out next month's newsletter for tips and techniques on sowing daylily seed!

FYI – recent Facebook chats suggest that cold stratification may not be necessary. Beverly is testing this by sowing some freshly collected seed. By the time of our September meeting, she will be able to report how successful this method is.

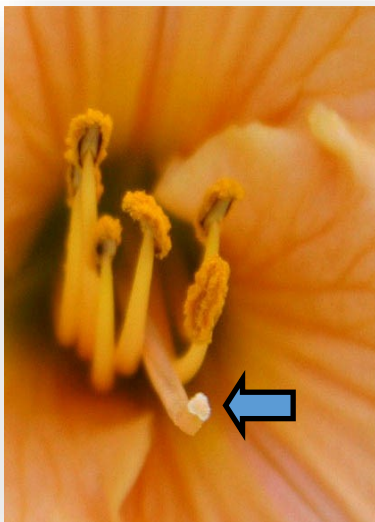


THINGS THAT MAKE YOU GO... Hummmmmmmmm...?

If you have ever cracked open a daylily seed pod, you probably found beautifully rounded, shiny black seeds in 3 distinct chambers.



BUT, have you ever come across a daylily seed pod with 4 or more segments?



To understand how this happens, we need to go back to the anatomy of a daylily flower.

SINGLE flowers consist of 2 whorls or layers of perianth segments. Translated that means 3 sepals and 3 petals. It also has 6 stamens and 1 pistil. The end of the pistil is the stigma which has 3 segments [pic at left]. The stigma sits on the style, which has 3 tubes that descend into a 3 chambered ovary [pic at right, cross section] at the bottom of the flower.



DOUBLE flowers consist of 2 whorls or layers of PETALS. Most doubles express 6 stamens and 1 pistil that are easy to identify.





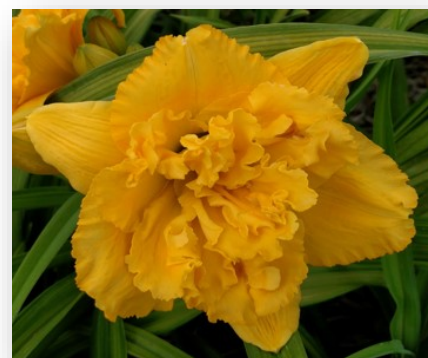
POLYMEROUS flowers have more than the normal 3 sepals and 3 petals (usually 4 or 5 on each whorl).

But some DOUBLES can get a bit tricky.

In some complex blooms, the collective female parts [CARPELS (stigma, style and ovary)] may look like PETALS. That part is called a PETALOID (petal-like).

What you think may be a POLMEROUS bloom, may

actually be a DOUBLE with some of its CARPLES looking like PETALOIDS or petals. And sometimes, the STIGMA may have 4 segments rather than the normal 3 leading to a **4 chambered ovary**. But looking like a petal, you may not be able to identify the actual stigma that you want to pollinate.



The moral of the story is you can pretty much always get a 4 or even 5 chambered seed pod when you fertilize a polymerous bloom (pod parent). So have at it and send us some photos of some of your unusual seed pods.

YOUR VOTE
IS
YOUR VOICE

Remember, at our Business Meeting on September the 15h, 10A at Janet Hong's, we'll be NOMINATING all of the officers of the Society for the next term. Think about who YOU want to keep our group moving forward within the Region and the Nation.

The vote will take place at the November meeting.