



THE COASTAL NC DAYLILY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2022

No. 116

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings!!



Beverly Ambrose

We held our first meeting for 2022 on 20 February at 2PM. The South Mills Fire Department was kind enough to let us use their training room for the event. We've added two new members... Darlene Forehand and Jeannie Jackson! So if you haven't met them yet, be sure to give them a nice welcome when you do.

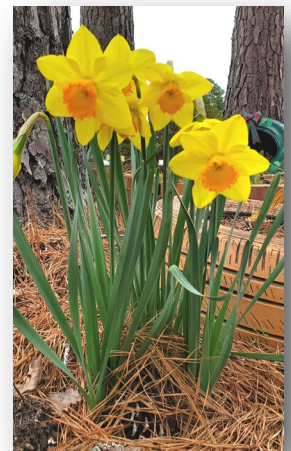
Our future meetings will be held on 17 April, 19 June, 21 August, 16 October and 18 December all at 2PM. The exact locations are still to be determined. I'm hoping to be able to find another location so that we can rotate meetings and distances that members will have to travel. Right now we still have the South Mills Fire Department and Great Hope Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, locations we have used in the past. I will be checking with Sunbury Fire Department to see if we can add them to our rotation.

Our Society will be participating in the 2022 Currituck Master Gardener Show on 23 April. This is their first event since 2019. We will have bare root plants for sale and will need volunteers to help man our booth throughout the day. Prior to the event we will be digging and prepping the club plants that are growing in Pat's field at Mansfield's Daylilies in Hertford. Again, volunteers are welcome!! I will be sending out an email with more details as that date approaches. The Cooperative Extension Office will let us load in and set up on Friday.

Spring is just around the corner and I know I am ready for some warmer weather. I have flower beds to build!! My daffodils have started blooming and daylilies are peeking out of their nests of mulch!

The end of March is a good time to start a regular feeding/fertilizing schedule. This year I have made a resolution (my only one) to be more diligent about maintaining a regular feeding/watering schedule. We shall see how that goes! Milorganite is a great organic fertilizer that I have been using for a couple of years now. If You can't find it in a local store, Walmart will ship it to your door!

If you are already seeing aphids, a good spraying with Bifenthrin now will help get them under control until our ladybug friends arrive later in the year.



Beverly



As the de facto editor of this publication, I am a bit rusty remembering how to navigate the software to put this thing together, as it has been an embarrassingly long time since the last issue. Here are some new and old ideas.

The one important thing that I feel needs to be communicated to the membership is the minutes of the previous meeting. This should help to keep everyone informed as to how the Society is moving forward. One other bit of information that will be handy is a calendar of events... starting now—

This is a bit of a rerun of an email that everyone should have received last week. Woody Gardener (yes, his real name,) a former member of our Society, has invited us to come out and dig up clumps from his daylily beds as a donation. Part of his property is being developed, and well, the plants are kind of in the way.

WEDNESDAY 9 MARCH - 10:30A 2844 Caratoke Highway, Moyock

Using the so-called “**route perspective**”, for directions... When you turn right at Frog Island Seafood and head toward the beach, Woody’s place is a couple of miles down the road on the right. If you pass the McDonald’s, turn around... you’ve gone too far.



The event is on rain or shine... and right now the forecasters are calling for 50° with a 100% chance of rain. Dress accordingly. And don’t forget gloves and something to sit on if you might need it. Pat will be bringing all of the tagging supplies. A work day at Pat’s will be scheduled to dig Society plants from the gardens there, and to clean and tag all of the fans for sale at the show.

Speaking of the Garden Show on SAT, 23 APR, from 9A to 4P at the NC Cooperative Extension Office, 120 Community Way, Barco, we will need help selling at the booth, but help will also be needed with load-in on FRI, 22 APR, from 12N to 5P, and load-out after 4P on SAT.

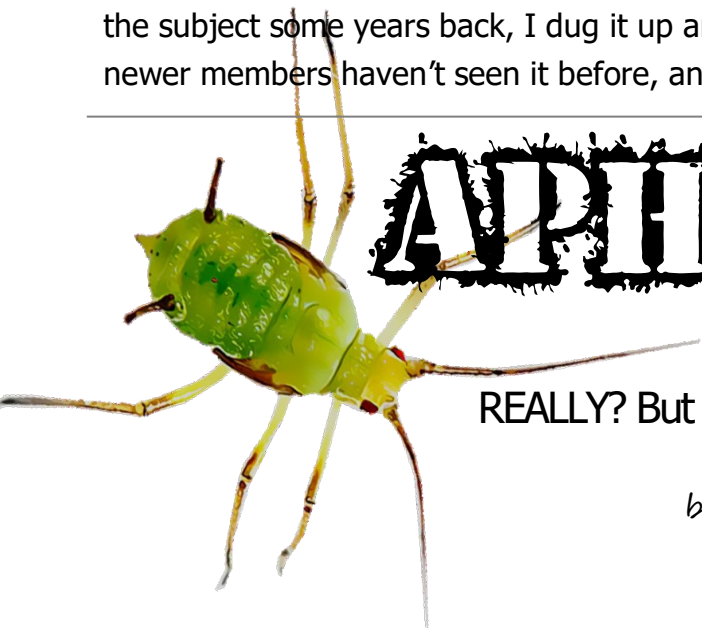
Park in the side lot. It’s much closer to the auditorium. More info will follow.





WHAT'S UP IN THE GARDEN

While discussing the content of this newsletter with Beverly, she told me that recently when she was in Pat's garden, there was evident damage from aphids. Remembering that Pat wrote an article on the subject some years back, I dug it up and am publishing it again. This not really a rerun, as our newer members haven't seen it before, and for those of us that have, think of it as a refresher.



APHIDS

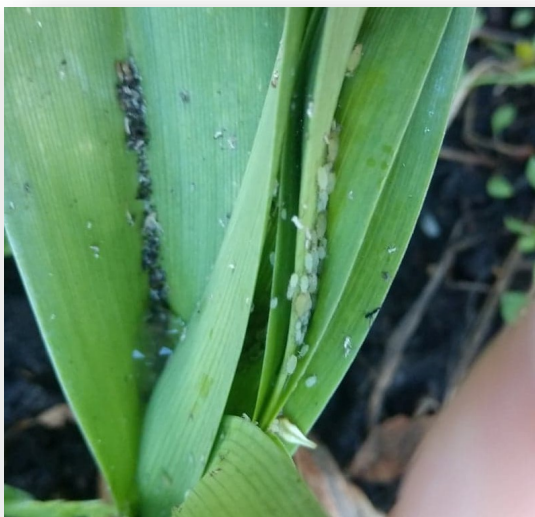
REALLY? But it's still WINTER!

by Pat Mansfield

I know it's winter time, but aphids are active 365 days a year around here. And, aphids love Daylilies. I bet if you go out and look deep into the throat of your plants, you will find some. That is unless you subscribe to the advice in a gardening book I have, Copyright 1940, which says, "Allow your poultry to run free in your gardens and you will be aphid free." Of course, you might be daylily free too!

What to look for. You won't find them walking up and down your plant leaves. Aphids have buried deep down inside the throat of your plants, as far down as they can get to protect themselves from the cold. So you have to go looking for them. The tale-tale sign is the white skins they leave behind when molting. Those you may find up above the throat, stuck to the leaves.

Once you find the skins, pull a few leaves back and look down inside the throat of your plant. That's where you will find the tiny greenish bodied insects.



Aphids up close



Skeletons on leaves



In the plant throat

Aphids have piercing-sucking mouthparts. and they are literally sucking the life out of your plants. In high numbers, they can do some serious damage. And they reproduce asexually (don't need a boy and a girl to make babies), and they do it quite well. They give birth to up to 12 live nymphs at the time who come out ready to eat!

Lady Bugs absolutely LOVE to eat Aphids. You can actually buy them and release near the Aphids and they will think they'd gone to a Thanksgiving feast! But weather warm enough for the Lady Bugs is still a couple of months away.



A method of control is to spread the leaves to expose the aphids and hit them with a sharp blast of water from your hose to dislodge them from the plant. Once on the ground, they are unprotected and will die - either from exposure or from some critter who has found a free lunch!

If the water method is not appealing when it is cold outside, you can avoid getting soaking wet by mixing a tablespoon of liquid dish detergent in a quart of water and spraying the aphids. The soap works by dissolving the cuticle on their skin resulting in desiccation of their bodies. Repeat this method every 2 days until you find no more aphids on your plant.

And if spraying every two days isn't practical for you, there other organic insecticidal means to control aphids such as the use of Neem Oil, Insecticidal Soaps, Horticultural Oils, and a host of other organic products. Most of these will recommend spraying every 7-14 days.

But if you are like me and you have a vast garden and not enough time to spray so often, I resort to a chemical insecticide to control aphids. I have two "go-tos" **Talstar** (Bifenthrin) and **Orthene** (Acephate). Talstar is a "contact" insecticide, meaning you must get it ON the bug to kill it, while Orthene is a systemic, meaning it will both kill on contact AND the plant will absorb the product so that any remaining insects will die after feeding on a treated plant.

Regardless of HOW you decide to combat Aphids, be sure to DO it. Untreated plants will suffer and with the advent of warmer weather, aphids will only increase in number. Just remember, with any spray, be it organic or a chemical compound, always **READ AND FOLLOW** the label directions.

GARDEN TIP OF THE MONTH

You can use the plant holders in your car or truck for drinks too!



It's a Bird, It's a Plane, It's a ... Flying Spider?

Officially called the **Joro** spider, many people are referring to the arachnid species as "parachuting spiders" because of their unique ability.

The legs of the so-called giant spider span three inches. Their size and startling appearance, with bright red, yellow, and black bodies, has some East Coast residents on edge. While the spiders are venomous, the good news is that they have very small fangs, so bites likely wouldn't break human skin.



Researchers believe the species, native to Asia, came to the United States on shipping containers about a decade ago.

Homeowners in Georgia are already encountering their huge, golden webs and University of Georgia scientists released a study saying they are about to spread up and down the entire East Coast. First spotted in Georgia in 2013 or 2014, researchers say they've already made their way into the western Carolinas.

Their "ballooning" technique allows newly-hatched spiders to parachute to new areas by moving through the air via their webs. Male spiders also use the technique to find females and the method allows the spiders to travel between 50 and 100 miles.

Scientists suggest that residents should just learn to live with the Joro spiders and point out that they hunt mosquitos and other bugs. Like it or not, they're probably just going to be here to stay.

Society Business Meeting Minutes

Coastal Daylily Society

Meeting: 2 pm, Feb. 20, 2022/South Mills Volunteer Fire Dept.

Attendance: Beverly Ambrose/Pat Mansfield/Ken Ferguson/Donna Stewart/Darlene Forehand/Jeannie Jackson

The meeting was called to order and members welcomed by our newly elected President, Beverly Ambrose.

Beverly opened the meeting with "**Tool Time**", an opportunity to share and demonstrate member's favorite tools. Various items included a "sheep shear" clipper, canvas log tote-used for weed collection and a short half apron for holding pens, tools and assorted needs. Also discussed were methods to sharpen blades, including a Dremel tool kit.

Beverly invited former President Pat to introduce the **newly elected officers for 2022**:

President – Beverly Ambrose

Vice President – Marsha Jackson

Treasurer – Pat Mansfield

Secretary – Donna Stewart

Ken Ferguson will continue to manage the Club's newsletter.

Presentation: Beverly surprised former President Pat Mansfield with a gift from club members for her past dedication and leadership of the club. A beautiful painting, created by club member and nationally recognized wildlife painter, Janet Hong, was presented. Pat's service culminated in a very successful hosting of the NC Regional Fall meeting in Oct. 2021 in Manteo, NC. Pat was surprised and expressed her deepest appreciation for the gesture and beauty of the artwork.

Educational Topic: Beverly demonstrated her methods for starting seeds indoors. She uses clear, tall, plastic cups, with 5 drilled drainage holes, potting medium and inserts sprouted, soaked seeds (3 parts peroxide to 7 parts water-until tadpole tail forms). They are watered in a shallow tray only from the bottom and under grow lights. 9-10 days are allowed between watering. Approximately 10 seeds per cup. Fungus gnats are treated with Bifenthrin (½ Tbsp to 5 gals water) via spray bottle. Plants are hardened on a covered porch with some sun/shade as temperatures get milder.

Tagging is important and must be durable. Sunlight destroys plastic. Good options include pencil on a plastic white plant marker, buried by the plant, Sharpie white Paint marker on black plastic pot, or China Marker/grease pencil on cut metal venetian blinds.

Record keeping is essential for hybridizing to track parent plants, and a variety of codes are used.

Correspondence: Pat presented cards for members to sign to Deb Cash in the loss of Hadley Cash and a get well for Van Sellers at Irongate Gardens.

National Meeting: The American Daylily Society's 2022 National Convention will be held in Ashville, NC on July 6-9. Registration has closed with 515 to attend. Some local members will attend and assist the Western NC Daylily Society with growing plants, soliciting donations and running the auction. Our club has been asked to provide an auction "basket" and a competition will take place for best club contributions. Club member, Janet Hong, has been invited to display and sell her wildlife artwork.

Currituck Home, Flower and Garden Show – Sat. Apr. 23, 2022/9am-4pm- Currituck Extension Bldg.

This club plans to participate and will need volunteers for digging plants, cleaning, tagging in advance, setting up day before and selling plants.

New Plant Purchase: Plants for Members Program-The local club identifies a hybridizer and purchases plants for members to grow for 3 years. At the end of this time, plants are divided for resale and club grower retains 2 fans of the original plant. This method allows local club members an opportunity to share new plants and assist in creating plants for the club to auction for revenue. Members must contribute 10 hrs. of service to the club to participate in this program. Beverly has records for years 2019 & 2021. (Club did not purchase plants in 2020, due to Covid). Beverly invited members to suggest a hybridizer for this year's purchase.

The meeting was adjourned and refreshments were served.

Submitted by:

Donna Stewart, Secretary

PLANTS FOR MEMBERS

Since that business meeting, Pat Mansfield made an email motion on 3 MAR, that was seconded by Ken Ferguson, that we spend \$500 this year for our Plants For Members. This is the same amount that we have spent in previous years. The selected hybridizer will be determined at a later date. If you have any suggestions please include them with your reply.

The email voting will end at 5P THU 10 MAR. If you haven't voted on the motion yet, time is running out. Just send a simple YES or NO to bkambrose812@gmail.com. Beverly will email everyone the results of the vote.

A Little March Humor

