

# LIDS NEWSLETTER

John Stahl, Editor    Fall 2009

After a rather cool, very wet Spring, a number of anomalies were seen in our gardens, from leaning scapes to distorted buds, to no blooms at all. Nonetheless, most of our beloved hems performed well, and of course, there's always next season! Our flower show and plant sale were very successful, and several of our members received awards from the AHS, so all in all it was a good year.

## Confessions of a Neophyte Hybridizer- Part 3

By John Price

In the summer of 2008 I continued to make crosses well into September and ended up with 4000 seeds! Some of the crosses seemed pregnant with possibility. They included CHRISTMAS IN OZ x MYSTIC JELLYFISH, CATHY CUTE LEGS and YELLOW MONKEY. Also MONOCACY SUMMER MIST crossed with MISS JESSIE, CERULEAN STAR, JERRY'S WHIRLIGIG, KARISSA'S KISS, RUNNING LATE, SQUARE DANCER'S CURTSY and WEDDING CANTATA. Others included MAMA'S HOT CHOCOLATE x DOUBLE BOURBON, WHITE EYES PINK DRAGON x RISEN STAR and FLAMINGO WILDFIRE x ORANGE ELECTRIC. Also FRANK'S FIRE OPAL x SHORES OF TIME, HEAVENLY UNITED WE STAND x SANDRA ELIZABETH and BROADWAY RFAVES x BROADWAY CHARMER, plus many more.

But where to plant them? I belong to a tennis club which has a large lawn out beyond the tennis courts, where nobody ever goes. So I asked the Board of Directors if I could grow daylilies there. I told them that I would keep a few for myself and the other club members could have all the rest. They said YES!

Andy the groundskeeper helped me by rototilling a 2500 square foot area and fertilizing it with horse manure mulch. He had three sprinkler heads out there so we could water it as needed. I spent Memorial Day weekend (four days) planting my seeds in rows 6 inches apart, and the seeds 6 inches apart. I was worried about rabbits eating my seedlings, but Andy assured me that

hawks had finished off most of the rabbits earlier in the spring. Then he told me he thought he saw some birds eating my seeds! In a panic I rushed over to Hicks where I bought a large scary-looking plastic owl and a few silvery spinners left over from Memorial Day, and set them up in the garden. (I don't think birds were ever a threat).

My next challenge was weeding. You may remember that last year I let the weeds get away from me, and had trouble telling the weeds from the seedlings. I wasn't going to let that happen again. So I weeded frequently for weeks until I got rid of them. Then I spread Snapshot, which prevents seeds from germinating. This is a herbicide that Paul Limmer told me about. There were many days while I was weeding, listening to my friends playing tennis, that I would ask myself why am I doing this stupid weeding when I could be playing tennis instead.

The 2700 seeds I planted in a friend's lawn last year are doing very well. A good 50% of them bloomed this summer. There were a few interesting flowers, but nothing great. In choosing my crosses I'm emphasizing spiders, unusual forms, tall, late and more. Someday I hope to develop tall unusual forms that bloom in August and even September. I'll keep you posted!

---

### LIDS 2009 Flower Show

Thank you to all who helped make this year's show a great success. All of your hard work was greatly appreciated!

### Show Results

#### DIVISION I

Best in Show: MARY'S GOLD entered by Rich DeRochber

Best Extra Large: GREEN DOLPHIN STREET entered by Marc & Carolyn Bossert

Best Large: MARY'S GOLD entered by Rich DeRocher

Best Small: PANDORA'S BOX entered by Marc & Carolyn Bossert

Best Miniature: CORKY entered by Tom & Carol Ramsden

Best Spider: CAT'S CRADLE entered by Tom & Carol Ramsden

Best Unusual Form: GIDDY GO ROUND entered by W. F. Bucklin  
Best Region 4 Popularity Poll: PRIMAL SCREAM entered by Tom &  
Carol Ramsden

DIVISION II

Best Individual Bloom: Lisa Regush

DIVISION IV

Tricolor Rosette: Pat Sayers

**Betty Harwood~Hybridizer of Extraordinary Hardy Northern  
Daylilies**  
**By John Stahl**

**My first Betty Harwood plant was LAURA HARWOOD, a gift from Paul Limmer, when he divided an enormous clump for a LIDS plant sale.**

**I became an instant fan of Betty's plants after seeing several others in Paul Limmer's garden. For those of you who are not familiar with her creations, allow me to wax poetically about them. While no one hybridizer offers absolutely everything one could hope to find in the world of daylilies, Betty's fifty-three introductions come pretty close. Sadly there are no doubles, but she pretty much covers the bases with sizes from 4-1/2 inches to 12 inches, unusual forms, both dips and tets and a fair number of lates and very lates.**

**Although she is no longer hybridizing, her plants are available from several sources, but it takes some time to discover them. I have obtained several from Melanie Mason and Cindy Ruddy, and her intros will also be found occasionally on sites such as The Lily Auction. Networking with folks on the various Email robins is another excellent**

way to find sources. Prices are very reasonable, from \$15 to \$60.

Having been bred in New Jersey, they grow extremely well on Long Island, on both North and South Shores. Since they also grow well for Melanie Mason in her sub-tundra Zone 5 conditions, I would not hesitate to purchase any of her plants. Aside from hardiness, they also increase rapidly.

Although I am a diehard SPUF lover, I am very pleased with many of the outstanding features of the Harwood singles. Colors run the gamut; reds, pinks, purples, yellows. There are selfs, blends, bitones, watermarks and eyes. Betty offers eight lates and very lates. LUCY BY MOONLIGHT finished blooming here on October 12<sup>th</sup>, while AUTUMN ODDITY expired on Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>! Several of my favorites are:

**LAURA HARWOOD**~a very deep purple with a very large yellow-cream halo, blooming midseason, 23 inches~simply spectacular!

**MY HEART SINGS**~a lavender-pink bitone with ruffled edges, usually 8-9 inches in our garden, 33 inches, Tet

**CLARISSA'S CHARISMA**~a 7 inch Lavender-rose blend with raised, pinched midrib, 27 inches, UF, Tet-like substance In a dip

**COOL CASSIE**~Pale lavender-pink blend with lavender purple eye, mauve watermark, 28 inches, Tet

**LAST REWARD**~Greenish cream-rose blend, 25 inches, Midlate

**SWEET TREAT**~Peach blend, green throat, yellow midribs, ruffled edges, 33 inches, a blooming machine!!

**Possible sources for Harwood Daylilies:**

**North Country Daylilies, 518-753-0356,  
[www.northcountrydaylilies.com](http://www.northcountrydaylilies.com),  
[Melanie@northcountrydaylilies.com](mailto:Melanie@northcountrydaylilies.com)**

**Answered Prayers Daylily Farm, Kevin & Cindy Ruddy, 201  
Bennett Ave., Freehold, NJ 07728, 731-462-3303**

**Critter Creek Farm, 336-873-7579,  
[www.GardenEureka.com/CRITT](http://www.GardenEureka.com/CRITT)**

**Partridge Hill Gardens, 508-943-1885,  
[partridgehillgardens.com](http://partridgehillgardens.com)**

**Simonton Bridge Daylily Farm, 706-769-7652,  
[simontonbridgedaylilies.com](http://simontonbridgedaylilies.com)**

**Moon's Farm, 843-383-5309/861-6699,  
[moonsfarmdaylilies.com](http://moonsfarmdaylilies.com)**

**Singing Oakes Garden, 803-786-1357,  
[singingoakesgarden.com](http://singingoakesgarden.com)**

**Daylily Haven Iris Garden, 662-369-6522,  
[daylilyhavenirisgardens.com](http://daylilyhavenirisgardens.com)**

**Simple Pleasures Lily Farm, 207-883-3904,  
[www.GardenEureka.com/SIMPL](http://www.GardenEureka.com/SIMPL)**

**Additional 2008 AHS Awards**

**Don C. Stevens Award~ ADORABLE TIGER~George Rasmussen**

**Honorable Mention~ KING'S GOLDEN TREASURE~ George Rasmussen  
TIGER SWIRL~ George Rasmussen**

-6-

ISLAND GLAMOROUS GUEST~ George Rasmussen

Newsletter Award~ Best article on Cultivars~ "Is It Really Blue?",  
By John Stahl~ Region 4 Newsletter, Spring/Summer  
2008 issue

Have a cozy, toasty winter, perusing all of those new daylily catalogs---  
See you in Spring 2010.  
Your Editor