

# O.D.S & Ends

## Ontario Daylily Society Newsletter

### AUGUST 2004

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*Last night, there came a frost, which has done great damage to my garden... It is sad that Nature will play such tricks on us poor mortals, inviting us with sunny smiles to confide in her, and then, when we are entirely within her power, striking us to the heart.*

*Nathaniel Hawthorne.*

## The Great Canadian Daylily Expedition A.H.S. Region 4 Peak Bloom Meeting, July 23-25, 2004, Toronto, Canada

I admit I might be somewhat biased, but the general consensus regarding The Great Canadian Daylily Expedition is that it was a resounding success despite the unseasonably cool weather that kept most daylilies in the tour gardens from putting their best face forward. There were no real glitches, the food was superb, plants left the sales tables at a fever pitch, the gardens were glorious and there were even a few special touches like twenty vases stuffed with multi-blooming daylily scapes and Ontario's finest field flowers ready to adorn the hotel foyer and banquet hall. O.D.S. did its 'darndest' to wine, dine and woo the 142 registrants – half visitors from the U.S.A., the others mainly from Ontario with a sprinkling representing Canada from coast to coast. And I would have to say we definitely succeeded!

The regional kicked off Friday afternoon with a plant sale, registration and a chance to mingle and get caught up on all the latest daylily world news and gossip. The evening program began with a PowerPoint presentation that clearly demonstrated the talent, originality and just plain excitement coming from out of Region 4. To the accompaniment of raucous kazoo and whistles we zoomed through 201 slides from 22 Region 4 hybridizers. There was something for every taste. My personal favourites included several astonishing U.F.O.s from Linda Michaels

Dare Devil Daylilies, Gil Stelter's just plain 'wow' collection especially the crosses with H. Fulva parents and one spectacular 11" beauty, a Trahyta x Wildest Dreams cross from Nancy Oakes. There were so many more that I now have to adopt David Engel's catch – phrase... 'I never saw a daylily I didn't like'.

The final event of the evening program was guest speaker David Kirchoff from Sandford, Florida. A new slide presentation showcased his daring dazzling doubles { an alliteration I couldn't resist}, incomparable reds and some new directions in his hybridizing program. As always it is a treat to listen to David; not only is he an outstanding speaker – witty, knowledgeable, direct, he has always been a solid supporter and instrumental to our



organization's success. And you can depend on David to inject some politics into any proceedings. An anecdote he shared with us was his droll response to a query as to why he would call one of his best reds 'Betty Ford'... "Well there are a few

good Republicans. He also showed us why he remains on the cutting edge in the world of hybridizing; we saw slide after slide of truly amazing doubles, many hardy up here, as he took us through the intricacies of form, colour and style. His goals are to introduce daylilies that will 'grow in the Yukon', subtle eyes in his doubles, saturated reds that won't melt in the midday sun, pleated and puckered self's and a new form he calls 'cloak and dagger'. Need I say more. Just wait till you see next year's Daylily World catalogue.

On Saturday morning at 7:30 AM sharp we groggily boarded the three tour buses and set out for the gardens. It was unseasonably cool and had in fact dropped to 6°C overnight in Beeton, not much higher in Guelph which is a full 2 zones further south. The first stop for our bus was Gil and Sally Stelter's Gryphon Gardens in historic downtown Guelph. Their gardens surround an 1866 restored farmhouse that is now surrounded by more recent development. Our breakfast was ready; the daylilies were not quite and it really didn't matter. We were in a gardener's garden where daylilies were growing as they should...the stars of the summer border, standing out among a variety of other perennials and shrubs. And as befits an historian and the city itself, in a garden design that showed the historical evolution of the daylily without being pedantic. Simply put, it was stunning and the live classical music ensemble made up of some youthful neighbours

contributed to the delight. Garden visitors were directed to start at the beginning with the oldest species daylilies and cultivars and wind their way through the decades up to the present and on to Gil's own seedlings and dare we hope soon introductions. Many of the species and older cultivars were not open yet but when you hit the center beds, things really began to happen. Beautiful, healthy, lush daylilies not just thrown in willy-nilly, but displayed with a real eye for design and colour. One spectacular grouping consisted of a multilayered group of reds...POINT OF VIEW, CHRISTMAS RIBBONS, RUBY SPIDER, fronted with a brilliant yellow clump whose name escapes me and a little further on Ned Robert's SKINWALKER rising up over the foliage and dominating the whole garden. All too soon, the whistle blew and we were on to our next stop, Nottawasaga Daylilies in Creemore where all three tour buses would converge for both lunch and the garden visit.

Tom and Julie Wilson's Nottawasaga Daylilies is located on a 25 acre farm on the Niagara Escarpment It's tucked away on an old concession road and is just a bit tricky to find. The view from the house and barn sweeps down over the daylily beds and the ski hills of Barrie and is to say the least spectacular. 20 beds of daylilies sparkled in the midday sun, a veritable smorgasbord as befits a commercial operation. Garden visitors wandered through rows of old favorites and discovered some new possibilities. I was reminded how tall and gorgeous HYPERION can be and was impressed by MISS JESSIE and her forty inch scapes. The Stanely Saxton bed was a hub of activity as we examined the 35 seedlings entered by Region 4 hybridizers and wished more were in bloom. We had to make a decision before we left and drop our choice in the ballot 'jug', the results to be announced at the banquet. What was amazing about the Wilson's garden was the variety of daylilies, many southern exotics, growing and thriving on a windswept hill under some pretty harsh Zone 4 conditions. It speaks to the character of our favourite plant and the determination of its' growers.

Last on the tour was a visit to the garden of Nick and Barbara White just north of the tiny hamlet of Beeton and what a gem. Packed into their yard both back and front are almost 700 daylilies not to mention

perennials of all shapes and descriptions, hostas, clematis and some truly spectacular Asiatic lilies that rival the C.N. Tower in size and height. And I haven't mentioned the containers filled with plants that Barbara starts herself. The daylilies themselves are pretty amazing even though to Barbara's considerable dismay many had refused to come out in the cold. A few that stood out were MURIEL SHACKLETON,, SELMA LONGLEGS, KRISTEN'S CORSAGE, ENJOY and RUBY SPIDER and a particularly winning combination was LONGSTOCKING backed by a Miscanthus Strictus and a geranium Rozanne in front. Virtually every important hybridizer was represented but what stood out was the Canadian content with several fine cultivars from the Lycett-Lorrain and Bryan Culver programs. And what's a garden visit without a bit of controversy...a new double Echinacea "Razzmatazz", people either loved or loathed but had to admire for its sheer size and bravura. What a garden! When the whistle blew we had to drag the bus-driver back on the bus – a future O.D.S. member perhaps?

There is a publishing deadline looming and I am running out of steam so you readers will have to wait for our next newsletter for a report on the banquet, auctions, judge's clinic, awards, Humber Arboretum etc.

Written by Faye Collins

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## FALL MEETING

The Fall Meeting will be taking place on Saturday, September 11th from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m., followed immediately by our AGM! This meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn on the South Service Road in Burlington.

Our speakers will be Bobbie Brooks from Gloucester, Massachusetts and John Shooter of Marietta, North Carolina. Bobbie is a garden designer who grows hundreds of daylilies in her cottage garden near seacoast north of Boston.

Bobbie's website is at <http://daylily.net/garden/bobbiebrooks.htm> . John is part of the John-Faye-Elizabeth Shooter team of Marietta Gardens. Their website is at <http://www.mariettagardens.com>. Beth and Clarence Crochet will not be able to be with us because Beth is still recuperating from hip surgery.

There will be lots and lots of great plants - in

the auction, on the plant sales table, in the silent auction, in the Chinese auction, plus a huge plant "door prize" table with something for everyone!! Plants will be coming from North Carolina plus lots of northern plants from Ohio and from many different hybridizers both near and far!

To enter the Douglas Lycett Seedling Award Contest, please send slides or digital images of your best seedlings to Chris Austen, making sure you put "Lycett Contest" in the subject line and send them to her at [mcadba@mountaincable.net](mailto:mcadba@mountaincable.net) . There are five classes - large flower, small flower, spider/variant, double and unusual form. Each hybridizer is allowed ONE entry per class. A winner of each class will be voted on at the fall meeting plan an overall winner will voted on with the award being presented to th is winner at Can-Am 2005 next April. Congratulations again to our last winner, Don Longton from Petite Riviere, Nova Scotia!

See you there!!!

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## FUTURE MEETINGS

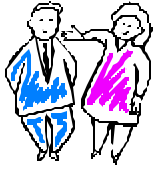
**October 16—10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.**  
Upstairs at RBG Centre

**Nov. 20—10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.**  
Upstairs at RBG Centre

**April 22,23, 24, 2005—9th Annual Can-Am Daylily Classic—Holiday Inn, Burlington**

**June 29—July 3/05—AHS National Convention—Cincinnati, Ohio**

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**We welcome as new members:**

All our new members are from Ontario - Welcome

Janine Bernard & family - Guelph  
Hank Carr - Spencerville  
Jane Fish - St. Thomas  
Shirley Park - Carrington  
Pat and Claude Sang - Tottenham  
Linda Woods - Niagara Falls

**From the Membership Team**

**A reminder - your membership expiry date is the first line on the address label of your ODS newsletter. We send a renewal notice 30 to 60 days prior to your expiry date. If you have e-mail and have not renewed by your expiry date we will send a gentle reminder, but truly it is up to you as a member to renew your membership on a timely basis. If your membership is not renewed within 60 days of your expiry date your name is removed from our Membership Roster.**

**ODS MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

Annual Single	-	\$15.00
Annual Family	-	\$20.00
3 Year Single	-	\$40.00
3 Year Family	-	\$50.00
Annual Youth	-	\$ 8.00
3 Year Youth	-	\$20.00

New members please send cheques payable to O.D.S. to Ontario Daylily Society c/o Frances Baker and Alison Parker, P.O. Box 111, Clarksburg, ON N0H 1J0

Ontario Daylily Society Web Page  
<http://www.ontariodaylily.on.ca>  
Daylily Rust Info Page  
<http://www.ncf.ca/~ah748/rust.html>

**AHS Membership Information**

Individual (1 year)	-	-\$18.00 US
Individual (3 years)	-	\$50.00 US
Family (1 year)	-	\$22.00 US
Family (3 years)	-	\$60.00 US
Youth-		\$ 8.00 US

Please add \$5.00 per year for postage. Cheques payable in US funds to AHS may be sent to:

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31019

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