

Desert Daylily Doin's

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March, 2009

President's Notes

The winter's quiet time is coming to an end. Activity and lots of fun are near!

A garden pilgrimage is planned for Wednesday May 20th. We will visit the gardens of Dena and Christian Cornelius, Molly Clark and Eloise and Gene Koonce. Travel will be in private cars, and will start at 8:00am at the Cornelius's home. We will have approximately an hour at each garden. Invite others who enjoy flowers to ride with you. Show them the beauty of the daylily. This is an ideal time to reach out for new club members. Don't miss the opportunity!

Our flower show, named *PASSION FOR DAYLILIES*, will be held at the Scottsdale Civic Center Library on Saturday, May 30th. It will be open to the public – free of course- and will be another chance to introduce new friends to daylilies.

Beautiful blooms and healthy plants take water and fertilizer. A little over two months of prime growing weather remains before the pilgrimage and flower show. Take advantage of it and enjoy.

Gene

Daylily Auction at the March Meeting

By Joan Downs

Bill Maryott, the California hybridizer who gave the program at our January meeting, donated two gift certificates to the Desert Daylily Society which will be auctioned at our March 21st meeting. The daylilies that were donated are two of Maryott's 2009 introductions. If you cannot attend the March meeting, you can still bid on the daylilies by emailing Joan or George Downs at gdowns747@comcast.net and indicating what you would be willing to pay and which flower you are interested in. The auction winners will receive the gift certificates to send to Bill Maryott and indicate when you would like them to be sent to you. (*Note: The last shipments are sent out the last week in September, which is a little earlier than we usually plant in the Arizona desert area, but you can pot the plant and keep it inside during our hot afternoons until it is cool enough to plant in your garden.*)

The first plant to be auctioned is **FILIPINA BRIDE** (Maryott 2009). This hybrid is 30 inches tall, an EM EV Tet with 5.75 inch flowers. The

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MARCH DAYLILY MEETING

March 21, 2009

DAYLILY SOCIETY MEETING

11:00 AM

PHOENIX FIRE STATION #52
NORTH TATUM BLVD.

Fire Station #52 is about ¾ mile north of Loop 101 on the left side of Tatum Blvd. Stay in the left lane on Tatum and there will be a left turn lane to turn on the street to the fire station. You will see the fire station on the left side. Use the American flag that flies at the fire station as a guide. (If all else fails, get out of the car and yell "FIRE").

**BRING A FRIEND
WITH YOU**

March Meeting – Saturday, March 21st

Plan on attending our March meeting. There are details to be finalized about our May 30th Flower Show, *PASSION FOR DAYLILIES*, during the business meeting. Molly Clark will lead a casual discussion about techniques two of our members use when they hybridize. The discussion will also include growing tips used to help our daylily plants produce better flowers for our flower show.

After the discussion is over, we will have the daylily auction of the gift plants donated by Bill Maryott.

See you at the meeting.



SPRING HORTICULTURE TIPS

The weather has been warmer than average this spring, and the plants are responding to the sunny days and high temperatures with early growth. Recommendations for great plants and spectacular blooms this season include:

- Make sure your plants are pest-free (aphids, thrips, and grubs). Aphids are the easiest to eliminate with a spray of cold water, but it will take continued vigilance as they come back quickly. An in depth article on aphid control from the January issue of the Daylily Growers of Dallas newsletter is reprinted in our newsletter. Thrips are more difficult to detect, but their absence may be insured with application of a systemic, either liquid or solid. Grubs take spraying with liquid Sevin. Just be certain to check the contents of all "bug killers" to ensure that they do not contain Keltane, as this chemical is deadly to daylilies.
- Increase watering above your winter amount. More water makes for larger scapes and for larger, more vibrant blooms.
- Fertilize now if you have not already done so this spring. A balanced food for plant growth is advisable. A slow release food works well, especially for plants in pots. Closer to bloom season a liquid bloom-booster at one half strength every two weeks will give great blooms. Miracle Gro bloom booster is one source readily available, but any type will help.
- As bloom scapes begin to appear a little later in the spring, avoid getting water or spray on any buds. Water causes streaks on the blooms, especially the dark colored daylilies.

You can expect to see bloom scapes popping up on the early varieties as early as the middle of April. Or if you purchased plants at our club's fall plant sale, some of those plants are "confused" and may be blooming earlier than normal. We have bloom scapes on Ariel Applique, Crossfire Hurricane and Moonlit Masquerade in our garden. These cultivars should become acclimated and bloom correctly next year

ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE

It's that time again, Annual Dues are due!

Dues are \$10.00 for individual membership.

Please pay at the March meeting, or send a check to the Treasurer, Eloise Koonce.



Daylily Auction (Continued from page 1)

flowers are blue-pink with a darker pink eye and a yellow throat. The petals are heavily ruffled as you can see in the picture shown to the right.

Parentage: Cameo Luster x Wild Cherry Roundup. If you go to Bill's website at www.daylilygarden.net, you can see this hybrid's pedigree. Bill's comment on his website about hybridizing pink flowers is "*Creating a pink is difficult because many of the pinks tend to be slightly muddy or too much rose to be really pink. This pink is really quite pink.*" You can go to this hybrid in his daylily list and then click on the pedigree to see the flowers behind **FILIPINA BRIDE**. This is one of Bill's 2009 introductions and is listed at \$100 on his website. Remember, the bidding will start at \$10.00 for each plant so this is a chance to get a beautiful 2009 introduction for less than the listed price.

The second plant to be auctioned is **STAR WOMAN** (Maryott 2009). It is a 30 inch tall EM EV Tet. It is a gorgeous violet purple color and both petals and sepals are heavily ruffled. The ruffled petals have a white center stripe and a small yellow eye with a green throat. Bill's comment on his website was: "*We were delighted to find it was a strong grower and overall excellent garden cultivar.*" **Parentage: Light Opera x Michael Miller.** This hybrid is also listed for \$100 on his website. **Editor's comment:** In looking at the pedigree for this hybrid, it was interesting to see this **violet blue** hybrid came from a cross between the pink-flowered **Light Opera** fertilized with pollen from **Michael Miller** (a white flower with a cream eye). The violet blue color was very different from any of the other daylilies in its pedigree shown on Bill Maryott's website.

Aphids and Other Bugs Control

By Helen Reynolds

Editor's Comment: *This article is from the Daylilies of Dallas Club newsletter. Helen Reynolds gave us permission to reprint it.*

A careful examination of the new growth areas of your daylilies will, in all probability, reveal a goodly number of aphids, mealybugs, whiteflies, and other critters.

Aphids come in all colors, are prolific breeders, and injure all forms of new vegetation. Their primary damage is from sucking sap from the tender new growth area of the plant. This causes distorted growth. They are also responsible for transmitting plant viruses which affect the plant in a variety of ways. If nothing else, their presence reduces the vigor of the plant. These critters do not wait until spring to do their damage. Warm winter days are perfect for them to go to work. Examine your daylilies now.

Spraying with Diazanon, Malathion, or Orthene will kill them. Just remember **never to use a product with Kelthane in it**. Because many bugs are resistant to what we are allowed to use, we are going to have to start using water to wash aphids off until they recycle themselves.

Buy a good water wand that will put out a forceful spray of water. You will have to spray your plants more often with water to keep them knocked off, but the effort will be well worth it.

Lots of places sell ladybugys, praying mantis, and other things that will eat and kill aphids. This is still very early in the year and I have not seen any in the garden centers yet, but they will be in supply soon.

Good luck in your effort to control aphids!

COMING EVENTS

Mark Your Calendar for 2009 DDS events:

Saturday, March 31...General Meeting 11:00 AM

Followed by a program on horticulture

April 10-11 Spring 2009 Region 7 Meeting

San Diego, California

Wednesday, May 20...Annual Garden Pilgrimage

And a short business meeting

May 20-24.....AHS National Convention

At Lake Mary, Florida

Saturday, May 30.....DDS Flower Show

Scottsdale Civic Center Library

Saturday, July 18... .General Meeting, 11:00 AM

Saturday, Sept. 19. General Meeting, 11 AM

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Spring 2009 Region 7 Meeting

April 10—11, San Diego, California

Featured Speakers – Jeff and Elizabeth Salter

This year the meeting will be held in San Diego near the Balboa Park

Call Eloise or Gene Koonce (480) 515-2648 and ask them to email or mail a copy of the registration form for the Spring 2009 Region 7 meeting if you need one.

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Speaker at DDS September 19th Meeting

Bruce Salomon from Baker's Nursery

Will present a program explaining the different types of fertilizer and stating which ones are best for Arizona soils.