

NEDS Bulletin

*Publication of the
New England Daylily Society*

Editor: Debbie Carpenter

December 2009

Meeting Agenda for December 12, 2009

- 8:00** Set- up for hospitality (volunteers needed to help)
- 9:00** Board meeting
- 9:30** Social time (Food donations from members, last names A-L)
- 10:00** Morning program: NEDS Photo Contest
- 12:00** Lunch break
- 1:00** Business meeting, drawing for door prize plants
- 1:30** Afternoon program: Continuation of photo contest if necessary
- 3:30** Clean- up (volunteers needed to help)

Upcoming meetings and activities:

- Jan. 9** NEDS Hybridizers Presentations
- Feb. 13** Daylily Bingo
- Mar. 13** Guest speakers: Willet and Douglas
- Apr. 10** Guest speaker: Paul Owen / Potluck luncheon
- May 8** Members plant sale and auction
- July TBD** NEDS Exhibition

All meetings held at Tower Hill Botanic Garden
11 French Hill, Boylston, Mass

See <http://www.towerhillbg.org> for directions

This publication is emailed or mailed free of charge for one year to all new American Hemerocallis Society members in New England. After one year there is a \$5.00/year fee for members receiving it by mail to help defray the cost of printing and postage. Please contact the editor to receive the NEDS Bulletin in color by email.

Notes from the President

As I write this, I am digesting turkey and pumpkin pie. I hope your Thanksgiving was as good as mine. As my mother will be traveling to California to visit my sister at Christmas – we were Vermont bound for the weekend. At least this year it hadn't snowed yet. My mother just went to high speed Internet and she had a list of things for me to fix. But at least I could still log on to Facebook.

A big thank you to everyone who contributed to last month's soups on. As always, we have some great cooks in this group. We also had great speakers (I'm always happy when the speakers include pictures of their cats). Margo and Jim's plants always do well in my garden so I'm glad I got 2 of them. I also enjoy the names. I was so happy to get Crystalline Entity and Warp Speed Ahead last summer for my Star Trek garden. Now that I know Planet Max was named after their cat – it's moved to the top of my want list.

This month is our photo contest. The submissions are closed, but we will be voting on the winners in all 7 categories. If there is time left we can look at pictures from this past summer's regional.

Unless you are a life member, or in the middle of a 3 year membership (check the label from your journal), it is time to renew. Don't know what you want for Christmas – how about an AHS membership! Remember membership in NEDS is based on membership in AHS, if you aren't an AHS member, you can't be a member of NEDS.

We are also trying to create a publicity source database. Do you read a newspaper daily? Does that paper have a gardening section? If you are a selling garden - do you advertise? I would love to hear your thoughts if you live in Vermont or New Hampshire. Paul and Lisa are collecting the data for Maine; Pat for Southern Massachusetts, Adele for Northern Massachusetts. I misspoke at the meeting, surprising everyone by saying Rachel would handle Rhode Island. Especially since we had talked about asking Leslie during our board meeting (must have been that rum cake). Sorry about that Rachel, and thanks for understanding ☺

Winter hasn't even started and I'm already counting the days until spring and the Can-Am Classic. It is full of interesting presentations and region 4 business.

The park and ride we used for the Buffalo regional is a great place to meet for carpooling. I'll be driving up and can help organize a "group carpool" if others are interested. Next up is the National. I'm hoping to get my fee in this month to qualify for the early bird drawing. First stop is definitely Universal Studios in Orlando, but we are trying to decide if we want to go to the panhandle or the keys for a couple of days before the garden tours start?

I noticed the grass has invaded my daylily beds when I was pulling scapes. This will have to be left until I wake up the garden in the spring. I don't want to remove too much and leave the crowns unprotected for the winter. I've put some weed blocking fabric down to kill the grass to expand the beds than run up and down the driveway. But I'm going to have pull out whole quarters of the lily pad and round-up the bed (I prefer organic, but sometimes...). This should take 3 or 4 years if I do a quarter a year.

I grew up with dogs. It was only after I had been adopted by Egbert that I became owned by cats. When I first moved here I continued to foster dogs. We had a dog one Thanksgiving. After the turkey came out we sat down to eat, the dog close by. And Niobe watching. Be really careful what your cats see – they learn! Since that time, Niobe has begged for turkey, and as whenever we have roaster chickens for dinner – she has broadened her begging to include those. Come to think of it, that was the same dog that taught Sekhar to wag her tail! She in turn has taught the rest of the cats to wag their tails too. Life is never dull at my home/zoo.

--Kim

2009 DAYLILY EUREKAS

2010 Daylily Eureka's have arrived and we will have them at the December NEDS meeting. The pickup price will be \$30.03 – this is \$1.43 more than last year, BUT – a saving of \$12.87 over individually ordered Eureka's. If you have not already signed up for one, and would like to reserve one, please send me a message at jocelyn99s@verizon.net.

If you wish to have your Eureka sent to you, the total price will be \$34.98 (includes priority flat rate postage). Please send a self-addressed mailing label (a 3" x 5" index card is fine), and a check made out to NEDS, Inc. to Jocelyn Spragg at 99 Whitcomb Avenue, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130.

PLEASE HELP NEDS IMPROVE ITS PUBLICITY

It was apparent at the August auction that NEDS did not reach as many members of the public as we like to. This year, there are several possible reasons for that, but one that the Board has decided to address is updating our list of publicity contacts.

Some Board members have volunteered to scout out particular New England states, but we also need your help. In your area, what newspapers, magazines, garden bulletins, radio or TV stations, etc. provide information about garden-related activities, such as the NEDS exhibition and flower show? Any suggestions are welcome – as is any contact information, how far in advance notice must be provided, what form the notice should take, etc. Of course, we're looking for free listings! If you could email me any information that seems useful, I have volunteered to compile an updated publicity database. jocelyn99s@verizon.net Jocelyn Spragg and Pat Wessling

Secretary's Report – November 14, 2009

Board Meeting

The board meeting convened at 9:55 with only Mike Mayer absent. The board discussed the following items not presented at the business meeting.

1. The board again discussed the club's publicity and need for a news contacts database. Volunteers were solicited for various areas of New England. Pat W. volunteered to ask Leslie Nolan to survey newspapers and other publicity outlets for Rhode Island, Pat said she would do southern MA, Adele K. volunteered for northern MA, Kim W. volunteered for New Hampshire and Vermont, and Paul and Lisa volunteered for Maine.
2. The board discussed a possible ambiguity in the wording for membership requirements in the Bylaws. All members agreed that the intent was to require AHS membership in order to be a NEDS member. Dorothy C. volunteered to draft a rewrite that would make NEDS membership requirements clearer.

Program

Margo Reed and Mike Murphy were the speakers for the meeting. Margo spoke in the morning and Jim spoke in the afternoon. They generously gave several 2009 and 2010 introductions to auction off. Thanks Margo and Jim.

Business Meeting

The short business meeting was presided over by the President, Kim Walters. There were 60 members present including five new members. Welcome new members Valerie Jo Feeney, youth member Andrew Reilly, and Diane Moore. One other new member had joined at the exhibition in July, and the fifth new member did not leave any contact information.

The following items were discussed:

1. The President discussed publicity and the need for the proposed publicity contacts database. All members were asked to check with their local newspapers and to submit contact info if the paper would print garden society information. This information would be entered into a database for use primarily for our public events.
2. Door prize plant winners were:

WHITE CHOCOLATE	Judy Deene
REVENGE	Marlene Harmon
MAHUKONA	Valerie Price

Respectfully submitted,
Dorothy Campbell

Program Notes

Hello again NEDites!

Hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving and are all ramped up for the Christmas season! I, for one am not! I have not even started my Christmas shopping. I have no clue where to start and have not even started to think about it. I am actually sure I don't want to think about it! The last week will get me and I will do it all in a hurry and alas get it all done! I don't want to do it, I am a real BAH HUMBUG! when it comes to shopping. I love giving gifts I just hate dealing with all the crowds.

Well I am here to thank everyone for the wonderful turn out at last month's meeting! What a great crowd! There were quite a few new members also! I was so happy to see that! It is so nice to have the club growing! I get excited so easily as we all know, it doesn't take much.

The meeting was great with Margo Reed and Jim Murphy there! A double whammy! GREAT programs!!! The wonderful plants they donated to the club were a great success also!

This month we have the Digital Photo contest which will be so much fun, voting for all your favorites! So many entries and so hard to pick the winners! It makes for a great day! We are all very grateful to the Bourret's for running this for us!! It takes a great deal of work on their part.

I look forward to seeing you all there! Take care all and enjoy this unseasonably warm weather we are having!

Pat Wessling ,Co-Program Chair

Member Spotlight

From the editor: Many thanks to all NEDS folks who have graciously agreed to write something about themselves, both in past bulletins and for the future. If you would like to share a bit about yourself and your gardening/daylily interests, please contact me. Deb Carpenter

This month we hear from Betsey Clark .



Betsey and grandson Lars

I got really interested in daylilies about six years ago. I had loads of fulva and Kwanso on my

property here in rural Lebanon, Maine. A neighbor gave me a nice clump of *H. flava*. I started noticing other colors at garden centers, but thought they were too expensive at \$12.95 a pot. Then I saw a sign on the side of the road, "Daylilies for Sale". They were \$3.00 a clump and I bought six clumps. Of those, the only one I've identified for sure is Ra Hanson's 'Last Flight Out'. But I watched them bloom that summer and they were gorgeous.

Up to this point I had grown vegetables and berries organically, and some shrubs and perennials. I had pretty good luck, because our place had previously been a chicken farm, and the broiler house had collapsed right over where I decided to put the garden. I was familiar with organic methods, because I had grown up with a 'mulch pile' in the back yard. My dad used to just bury the garbage between the rows instead of composting.

Once I caught the daylily bug, I went online and ordered what I thought was pretty and fit my wallet, so most of them were 1970's through the early nineties. Then one day I googled Dan Bachman's *Valley of the Daylilies*, because I was intrigued by the catchy name. I found the section on Nostalgic Daylilies and read how Dan was promoting and preserving Hugh Russell's cultivars, and how he specialized in "spiders", so I ordered a few of both. Bingo!



H. Young Love (Russell 1976)

Then I decided I needed a mentor. I remembered seeing a sign for daylilies on Rte. 11 in New Durham, NH. There I met Les Turner, who took up my offer of free weeding for information on growing daylilies. He got some weeding and I got a lot more; an

introduction to AHS, NEDS and the world of hemaholics.

In “real life”, I was a Special Education Case Manager at the high school level. I also taught Adult Ed. Classes for a while and did cooking workshops. I was the advisor to the ski club for six years. I am a charter member of a women’s book group that began in 1976, and is still going strong. Another hobby I had picked up at about the same time as raising daylilies was mushroom gathering. So summers I worked in the garden, and during the fall I roamed the woods with my dog, taking photos and hunting down edibles.



‘Basket of Hens’

Each season, I acquired some “new” and some “old” daylilies. I heard of an AHS Robin that was forming around historical daylilies and I joined. I have learned so much from this group. Together we have researched the cultivars, lives and connections between the early hybridizers, and created a website and library for our members to enjoy. At the 2008 Region 4 Peak Bloom Conference I was able to meet three members of this group, and have formed lasting friendships.



H. ‘Dark Star’ (Connell 1953)

I currently have about 550 registered cultivars and a fair number of ‘unknowns’. I have seen my first batch of seedlings bloom. The compost is spread and the daylilies are mulched. If we have good snow cover, it should be pretty around here next summer.

Betsey Clark

December Door Prize Plants:



HAZY LAZY CRAZY DAYS (Bobbie Brooks 2005) Purple-burgundy with a darker purple eye above a green to gold throat. Bobbie states that HLCD changes color during the day and is a front of the border plant. Pod and pollen parents are unknown. Semi-evergreen, Diploid, Midseason Bloom, 25" scapes, 4" bloom. 3-4 way branching, 18 budcount. Photograph above has been taken by is the property of Bobbie Brooks. Pod and pollen fertile. Eureka Value: \$26.



photo by Paul Bourret

LILY MUNSTER (Elizabeth Shooter 2005) Ruffled lavender-rose-buff above a chartreuse-green throat. Parents: (STACK THE DECK X SEEDLING). Semi-

evergreen, Diploid, Midseason Bloom, Registered as a rebloomer but hasn't in Maine. 34" scapes, 8" bloom. 3 way branching, 18 budcount. Unusual Form Cascade. Pollen fertile only. \$75 from Hybridizer. \$15 in Eureka



PRISMATIC (Bobbie Brooks 2005) Clear purple with a lighter watermark and pencil band above a green to gold throat. Bobbie states that PRISMATIC is variable in shape and colors with the seasons/ heat days and nights. Pod and pollen parents are unknown. Dormant, Diploid, Midseason Bloom, 33" scapes, 6.25" bloom. 3-4 way branching, 18 budcount. Unusual Form. Photograph above has been taken and is the property of Bobbie Brooks. Pod and pollen fertile. Eureka Value: \$25.

Fall Clean-up and Lazy-Bed Gardening

As I continue to take advantage of the extra mild and extended fall season to do a lot more fall clean-up than I can usually fit in before the first snow, I have been thinking how last year at this time, it was a very different story. Last year here in Deering, NH we got our first lasting snowfall in November. That put an end to leaf-raking, compost-pile building and general garden clean-up. It meant that there was a lot more

left to do in the spring, but it also meant I was able to start on my Christmas gift projects a lot earlier.

Like many throughout New England, we were victims of the 2008 pre-Christmas ice storm which although fast moving (it came and left in one night) its effects were long-lasting. We were actually some of the lucky ones who only had to survive without electricity, water, and heat for 5 days. Actually, our inside temp having gone down to 38 after the first day without power, Jim and I, along with my mom, camped out at my aunt's house in the next town. She also didn't have power, but she did have heat from a propane furnace and once an extension from the generator next door at her son's house was hooked up we were able to alternate between plugging in the microwave or the coffee pot. It was actually fun reminiscing and getting to hear about storms and harder times in the past from my aunt and mom, both sisters in their 80's. The ice storm left a lot of damage throughout the area and our property was not spared. Many trees were left broken half-way up the trunk, many branches on the ground. Some trees fell on the exposed metal garden markers and destroyed them. We lost our beautiful clump of white birch and other ornamental trees were so damaged and ugly, they had to be cut down.

2009. Is this really December? Fifty-degree days this time of year is a real treat and good for the heating fuel budget, but I'm ready for a rest from outdoor work. I'll tell you a secret, and to look at the number and size of my gardens, you might not believe this, but I am really a lazy gardener.

Yes, it's true. I like to find the easiest and least time-consuming ways to keep the gardens looking good. Why do you think I fell in love with daylilies? They are so hardy (mostly) and so carefree (mostly) and they can do very well pretty much without any spraying, watering, or pruning. If I choose not to fertilize they will still grow. If I choose not to divide them for years, they will still grow and even bloom. As long as the beds are well mulched, weeding is minimal and so is watering. They get along well with lots of my other favorite hardy perennials and shrubs.

Over the years, I've found that besides mulching with organic matter in the spring, there are a few other work-saving things that I've learned. One concerns edging for the numerous garden beds. I've tried several materials that make nice looking edges: landscape timbers, cobblestones, old bricks, native rocks, even (in my foolish youth) black plastic edging strips. All of these, with one exception, have been dug up and discarded because even with a mowing strip, the grass eventually grows up to the material and

requires using a string trimmer /weed whacker several times a season to make it look neat.

To get the easiest and actually neatest edge between the lawn and garden in my opinion, is to use an old-fashioned half-moon edger once or twice a year. The exception is one garden area where there is no grass, just wood-chip paths. There, I use my old cobblestones to keep the raised beds in place.

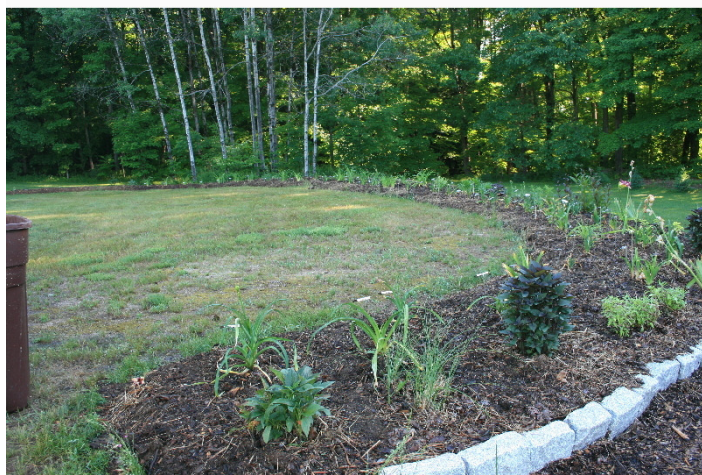
Another of my favorite time – and back-saving methods is the “lazy-bed” method of preparing a new garden. There have been books published about “Lasagna Beds” in which you layer various organic materials such as leaves, grass clippings, compost, etc. with soil and newspaper and/or cardboard all right on top of the sod and just wait for it to decompose. This is similar, but more structured and formal than what I do.

First, I decide where I want the new bed. The newest one made by this method here is a 50 ft. long C-shaped bed which we built along the edge of our leach field. To delineate the size and shape of the bed, I brought out a long garden hose and placed it along the “edge” of the future bed. After moving and shifting it until I liked the outline, I waited for a day with little wind. This is important because the next step is to cover the bed area with several layers of newspaper. Wet down the newspaper with your hose and immediately cover the wet paper with whatever organic material you have at hand. I’ve used grass clippings, chopped leaves, straw, compost, wood chips. After a layer of organic material, sprinkle a little soil. If all you have is brown leaves, you can sprinkle some alfalfa pellets or blood meal to help add nitrogen for better decomposition. Since there is only about an inch of loam on top of the gravel bed of the leach field, I wanted to build up a raised bed to give the plant roots room to grow. This was a large area and it took several months to collect enough organic materials to have it built up about 12-15”. By fall, when I added the final layer of chopped leaves, the bottom layers were already pretty much decayed and the grass and weeds that had been the “lawn” on top of the leach field were all dead and decaying also. The following spring, I gave the whole area a quick stirring with my small 4 HP rototiller, trying not to overtill as the bed was already loaded with earthworms. Planting in this bed was so easy, I could do it with just my hands. I mulched it lightly with some composted wood chips, fed it with a little alfalfa tea and it was good to go. The daylilies and other perennials I have planted there have increased extremely well and since there is so much organic matter and mulch, it does really well even with no

supplemental watering. So, it took one gardening season to build it, one winter-spring for it to finish, and then plant. It’s not really fast, but you don’t have to dig and remove the sod. You don’t really need to till it like I did, but you might have to wait a little longer for the decaying to complete. Oh yes, it also helps to have a helper !



This is another garden where the newspaper and leaf mulch is covering 2 layers of cardboard. We were trying to kill goutweed by smothering it.



Newly planted bed on top of leachfield 2008.

If you have other back- and time-saving gardening techniques you would like to share, please let me know. Happy winter rest to all you gardeners.

Deb Carpenter

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