



Volume 3, Number 1

March 13th, 2006

A lot has happened since the last newsletter. We have a new President, Vice President, Newsletter Editor and location for meetings. We had an enjoyable Christmas Party where gifts were exchanged, daylilies won at raffle, and we voted on which babysitting plants were to be purchased. It looks like it is going to be a wonderful year

Executive Member List

President – Allan Banks
abanks@ns.sympatico.ca

Vice President / Program Coordinator – Coral Kincaid
cakincaid@bwr.eastlink.ca

Secretary / Treasurer – Linda Smith
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Newsletter Editor – Edward Kimball
edkimball@yahoo.com

President's Message

For daylily enthusiasts throughout our province, late winter is the season of quiet anticipation. It isn't filled with the flurry of activity and green growth that spring is sure to usher in. Nor is it full of the kaleidoscopic patchwork of summer hemerocallis blooms that many of us have waited for all year. Nevertheless, these less frenetic days of winter give us pause from our busy spring, summer, and fall schedules as gardeners and daylily growers. I find myself pulled to the computer to ponder over some of the many digital images from my own garden last summer. Then, if that's not enough I go to the web to try and satisfy my longing for more blooms of the flower I have grown to love. It is wonderful to belong to a club where so many of our own members have their own web

sites with wonderful daylily images. It is great to see what has been done collectively by the members of NSDS to promote daylilies in our province. Please keep up the great work!

I am pleased to be writing my first letter as president of the Nova Scotia Daylily Society, for our newsletter. It is a very humbling experience to be entrusted to this role, for someone so relatively new to NSDS. However, with the help and experience of Coral Kincaid as vice president and Linda Smith as secretary/treasurer I think I'll stay on track. The executive has met to plan events for our upcoming spring and summer schedule. It promises to be a great summer for NSDS. Let's hope that our summer weather cooperates and our daylilies enjoy great growth.

I hope you are like me and have taken the time during the lull of winter to contemplate your daylilies and which ones you plan to add to your garden this year. I have most of my orders done and have overspent again! I am however, enjoying my first copy of the Eureka Daylily Guide for doing and dreaming all things daylily. Another first for me this year are my plans to attend the Can-Am Daylily Symposium in Niagara Falls. I have never seen the falls and have never attended a daylily conference, so this will be a great learning experience for me. If you haven't been to this conference, I've heard from many individuals that it is a great time of fun and learning.

In closing, I would like to encourage each of you to look outside of our club for potential members who might be interested in joining our society. Inform your gardening friends and if someone seems to be partial to daylilies, by all means encourage them to attend one of our meetings. I would like to see continued growth in the club membership as we spread the word about "The Perfect Perennial".

Yours in Daylily Gardening,

Allan Banks
President NSDS

Babysitting Plant Program

Each year the NSDS purchases newer daylilies for the club babysitting program. This gives members the opportunity to acquire daylilies that would be otherwise out of reach. At the May meeting club members' names will be drawn at random (if they have been members for a year and have attended at least 4 meetings during that year) to care for one of these daylilies. After two full years the babysitter will return any increase and may keep one fan of the original plant at no cost. The increase from each daylily will be auctioned off as the main fundraiser for the club. In cases where the hybridizer has

provided more than one fan, or bonus plants, these will be auctioned off to club members at the May meeting, so bring your pocketbook.

Baby Sitting Plants for 2006

Root Beer Float (Mason 2006)
Flight into Egypt (Emmerich 2006)
Magnify the Lord (Emmerich 2006)
Roger Herr (Herr 2004)
Northern Dawn (Korth 2006)

Woman at the Well (Emmerich 2005)
Flamenco Twirl (Herr 2006)
Jolly Good Fellow (Herr 2004)

Pictures of the babysitting plants can be viewed at the following websites:

<http://daylily.net/gardens/pinewood/>
<http://donherrdaylilies.com/>
<http://www.springwoodgardens.com/>
<http://www.northcountrydaylilies.com/>

Christmas Party Raffle Results

The following daylilies were won at the Christmas Party:



Admiral's Braid – Edward Kimball
Antique Rose – Edward Kimball
Spacecoast Sharp Tooth – Brian Smith
Spacecoast Extreme Fashion – Downie Grover

The raffle raised \$110 for the club.
Thank you, Coral, Don and Wayne for donating plants for the raffle.

Spacecoast Sharp Tooth – Picture by Coral Kincaid

Hybridizers Corner

By Don Longton



With the mild and incredibly green winter we have had so far, I am eager to start planting my fall harvest of seeds. I usually plant them in mid – February to early March. I find they tend to be strong and grow well when planted at this time. It is a good idea to take the time and soak your seeds according to the Moon phases.

New moon to Full moon: Examples of garden chores to do by the light of the moon:

These are general guidelines.

- Repot and groom houseplants
- Sow seeds of plants that grow above ground
- Fertilize
- Graft fruit trees
- Plant evergreen and deciduous trees

The decreasing or waning phases are when the moon "shrinks" from the full moon down to the new moon (darkness). As the moon wanes during the 3rd and 4th quarters, this is a good time to prune plants, as the water table is diminishing and so less sap will flow out of the cut ends. The plants will orient themselves toward their roots, making this a favorable time for planting, transplanting and harvesting root crops in general. The 4th quarter is the most dormant period and is good for chores like weeding.

Full moon to dark of the moon: Examples of garden chores to do by the dark of the moon:

- Plant bulbs
- Plant crops that grow below the ground, such as potatoes, carrots
- Cultivate weeds
- Plant biennials and perennials because they need strong roots
- Eliminate slugs
- Prune shrubs

How is sowing, transplanting and harvesting linked to phases of the moon? One theory is that during the light (waxing) of the Moon, sap is thought to flow more

strongly, filling plants with vitality and energy, favoring the planting and harvesting of crops that mature above ground.

There are Moon Almanacs available online. They list the days of each month where planting, fertilizing weeding and harvesting are the most effective...Try it!

More Info at: <http://www.earthyfamily.com/A-planting.htm>

Preparing and planting your seeds:

To soak your seeds, make up a solution of one part Hydrogen Peroxide or Bleach to ten parts distilled water or well water. I prefer using Hydrogen Peroxide. This helps to break down the tough shiny outer skin of the seed. Don't make the water too warm, room temperature is fine.

I find it most convenient to pour the solution using a baster or large syringe right into the little zip lock bags, that way you can see that all the seeds get covered. Zip them up squeezing out most of the air and put them in a tray so they can stand vertical. Put the tray of soaking seeds in a warmish place out of bright sunlight and check them every day to see if they have begun to sprout. They will usually sprout at the tip and the root looks like a white tooth. If you notice the water becoming cloudy, you may have a bad seed. Just pour them into your hand and give each of them a gentle squeeze. If any are squishy, discard them then replace the old solution with new. You may have to do this several times over the next three or four days (sometimes more) until they have germinated. Each day the tooth will get longer and will get a little horn like burr on top of the root. This is the early stage of the leaves and should be planted right away but I usually plant them before they develop this far. Sometimes the root will have a curve to it. Plant the curve pointing down and burr up if it has one.

Use a good quality seed starter mix or Pro mix. You can use a plastic shoe box and plant in rows 1 inch apart or a flat with many cells, both work well, you will find the deeper the container the better they perform. I just use a pencil to poke a hole in the soil then using tweezers, put the seed root down or slightly angled in and cover it up. It is a good idea to add a layer of fine sand on top of the soil after you have planted, that way you won't be plagued by fungus gnats which lay their eggs at the crown of the seedling. Their larvae feed on the new roots often killing the seedling completely. Also you can use No Damp in the sprayer to help with fungus rot and gnats. Make sure your trays don't dry out. Your seedlings should do well and get strong fast in a window or under grow lights. Now the fun begins...

HOMESPUN HYBRIDIZING

By Melanie Mason, Saratoga Springs, NY

If you've grown daylilies for a few years, gone to your local club meetings, and read your Daylily Journals religiously, you're bound sooner or later to want to try your hand at hybridizing. So you take some pollen from that newish ruffled eyed baby you bought at the club auction, dab it on your favorite red, and lo and behold, a pod forms! You watch it carefully, protecting it from marauding dogs and falling tree limbs, and in September you see the pod start to crack open at the top.

You carefully harvest the pod, and save all the wonderful hard shiny black seeds. You throw away any that are shriveled or soft. Then you refrigerate the seeds for at least three weeks in a sealed air-tight container in order to break any cold dormancy requirement. But then what's next?

That's what this article is really about. What do you do with those seeds come February? A few years ago I tried something new, and got lucky. I went to B.J.'s and picked up a couple dozen clear plastic shoe boxes (12" x 6 1/2" x 3") with colored lids. (Wal-Mart has them also, \$1 a piece or 6 for \$5. -Ed.)

Then I stopped by Agway and got a large bale of Pro-Mix as a seed-starting medium. Also at Agway I picked up the smallest plastic tags they had. Then came the hard part. I type into my computer all the crosses. To save space, I abbreviate each cultivar to just the first three letters of the first two words of the name. For example, AZTEC FURNACE becomes AztFur, and HEAVENLY HARMONY crossed with CHERRY CHAPEAU becomes HeaHar x Che Cha (some very funny sounds come out when you try to read this out loud).

The computer remembers the full cross, but I only print up the abbreviations. I cut out the tiny names (printed in the smallest type) and fix them onto the plastic stake with Scotch Magic Tape. (If you're clever, you can probably print them on Avery labels and save some work. I can vouch that the scotch tape will protect the label the first summer, but can't say how the Avery labels would fare.)

I measure four coffee cans of Pro-mix per shoe box, add one coffee can of hot water, put the lid on and set the box aside for about 15 minutes while I fill more boxes. This allows the dried Pro-mix to hydrate before the seeds are planted. When the first box is ready, stir the medium until it is evenly moistened. Then make four to six grooves across the short direction of the box; each "row" should be about 2" apart.

Rose that I inadvertently put too close in previous years caused the plants to become overcrowded before the outside ground was ready for planting, and I had to divide them in early spring. This set the seedlings back so allow enough space at the beginning. Then number of seeds I have of each cross determines how many crosses go into a box. Usually I get about 50 seeds per box.

Plant the seeds in the furrow, and pull the soil over them. Lightly tamp the soil down over the row so that the seeds are in good contact with the soil. Put the proper tag in at the end of each row, pushing it deep enough that the lid will go on, or if your tags won't fit with the lid, lay them along the rows. Put the lid on tightly, can place the box where it will get bottom heat if possible.

The window seat in my dining room has radiators under it, so is just about perfect. I understand a heating blanket works pretty well too. Sunlight and bottom heat! Under these circumstances last year, I got germination in about 7-10 days.

Leave the lids on the boxes until most of the seeds have germinated, and the tallest seedling is touching the top. Once they touch the top, the lid has to come off. I want to keep the "greenhouse" effect going a bit longer though, so I saved my clear plastic grocery bags and bought some wooden shish kabob sticks from the grocery store. A stick in each corner, topped with an upside down plastic grocery bag (handle end tucked under the box) makes a pretty fair mini-greenhouse.

The seedlings will need a lot of light at this time, since the days still are pretty short. Grow lights would be optimal, but I rely on natural light, moving the boxes so the seedlings don't lean too much, and rotating them so that the shadier ones get their turn in the sun. A heated greenhouse would be very nice if you had one: maybe for Christmas.

One the babies are up 4-5", it's time to introduce them to the real world. Loosen the plastic bags and roll the bottoms up slightly for a day or two before removing them altogether. You haven't needed to add any water or fertilizer at all yet, but once the protection of the bag is gone, you'll have to be responsible for replacing the water that evaporates from the soil surface and is used in growing. Try to keep the boxes evenly moist without getting them soaking wet. Remember there are no drainage holes, so be judicious in your watering. I use a weak Miracle-Gro solution, and water whenever the soil begins to feel crumbly. Sometimes the top will dry out, but the soil will be quite moist underneath. It's always good to check with your finger first.

You'll notice quite a difference in the seedlings. Some crosses will hit the ground running, while others will sulk and mope before settling in. Some germinate in 7 days. Some take two weeks or more. At this stage, it doesn't seem to me to have much to do with vigor, just a genetic time clock. You may notice a few albino seedlings mixed in. These will die because they have no chlorophyll, hence, no way of manufacturing food from the sunlight. Other seedlings may appear weak and spindly, and never produce true leaves. These can also be removed from the rows. The big vigorous ones are the ones we all like see, and fortunately there seem to be a lot of them. Rarely, one cross will all be duds. None will germinate. C'est la vie. Cheer on the strong ones.

So why use shoe boxes instead of flats? The depth of the shoebox allows quite a root development. You can pick up a box and see the roots on the bottom after about 6 weeks. Don't worry about them growing together down there. Unlike a little girl's hair, they all

untangle pretty easily. Another advantage is that due to the sizable soil mass, the root zone seldom dries out completely. It's relatively simple....



Twenty day old seedlings in shoebox – Picture by Edward Kimball

UP COMING EVENTS

- (1) AHS National Convention 2006, July 13-16. Host is Long Island Daylily Society in Melville, New York.
- (2) AHS Regional 4 2006 meeting will also be held during the National on Long Island.
- (3) The NSDS Babysitting Plant Draw is May 11, 2006 at the Hammonds Plains Baptist Church on Thursday at 7.00pm
- (4) Club Auction will be held on June 8, 2006 at the Hammonds Plains Baptist Church on Thursday at 7.00pm. Members are encouraged to donate plants for the auction

(5) The Nova Scotia Daylily monthly meeting is usually held the second Thursday of every month at the Hammonds Plains Baptist Church unless notified otherwise.

[Home](#)

December 8, 2005 - Monthly Meeting Kentville Research Station

Minutes of the December 8, 2005 meeting of the Nova Scotia Daylily Society

1. The meeting started at 7:00 P.M. with 12 people in attendance.
2. Minutes of the last meeting and current financial report were read and approved.
3. The new NSDS business card was displayed & distributed in lots of 5 to interested members.
4. Downie Grover resigned as newsletter editor and Edward Kimball has agreed to take on the responsibility.
5. A motion was made, and agreed to send the amount of \$200.00 to the Region 4 Treasury as our contribution for the year.
6. Coral has volunteered to send a blanket email to all members re: the Yahoo group for them to sign up. She will go ahead and sign members up after a week. This way all members will get notices of events, meeting etc.
7. Coral was asked to give a brief talk on the North Carolina Daylily Bus Tour coming up the end of May. Those members who were interested were urged to get their reservation in.
8. There was a discussion on the Babysitting Plant Program. It was motioned by Coral and agreed by all to spend \$1000.00 on the plants this year.
9. Coral presented a slide show of possible plants for the Babysitting Program this year. Sheets were prepared with the plants listed and passed out for voting. Coral will tally the votes and let the club know which plants will be ordered.

10. Shannon passed out the Daylily calendars to members who ordered them. Each calendar came to \$18. The club paid the \$127 up front so those who ordered paid the money back to Linda to put back into the account.
 11. The following plants were donated for a fundraiser by selling tickets by \$5.00 each and won by:
 - Admiral's Braid – Edward Kimball
 - Antique Rose – Edward Kimball
 - Space Coast Extreme Fashion – Downie Grover
 - Space Coast Sharp Tooth – Brian Smith
- This fundraiser raised \$110.00 for the club's treasury.
12. Following the business meeting and babysitting program, a Christmas Party was held. Gift were exchanged, a lunch befitting the occasion was served and all had a good time.
 13. The next meeting is to be held at the Research Station on January 12 at 7:00
 14. The meeting adjourned at 9:00
- Submitted: Linda Smith, secretary\treasurer of the Nova Scotia Daylily Society.

January 12 2006 - Monthly Meeting
Home of Marie & Derek Stuart - Kentville

Minutes of the January 12, 2006 meeting of the Nova Scotia Daylily Society

1. The meeting started at 7:00 P.M. with 9 people in attendance.
2. Executive members in attendance were Don Longton, VP and Linda Smith, Secretary\Treasurer.
3. Minutes of the last meeting and current financial report were read and approved.
4. As proposed during an executive meeting last week, there was a discussion on changing the regular meeting location in an attempt to boost membership. The Hammonds Plains Baptist Church, on the Hammonds Plains Rd. has been booked for the February meeting. All in attendance were in favour. We have an option for the rest of year at the same location.

5. Shannon has resigned as President. It was asked if anyone was interested in the job. Allen Banks has agreed to take it on for the remainder of the term and it was agreed by acclamation.
 6. Don Longton is resigning as VP. Coral has offered to take on the job for the remainder of the term if no one else is interested. This was agreed upon unanimously.
 7. Marie Stuart volunteered to chair the Bazaar committee as this is her expertise.
 8. There was some discussion on the Bazaar and garden tour dates. The tentative dates ran from the weekend of July 30th to Aug 14th. The Hammonds Plains area was suggested as a location for the bazaar. This is all to be discussed at a later meeting, hopefully with volunteers to chair and work on committees
 9. Allen suggested we send a letter to past and present members reminding them to pay their dues and encourage them to rejoin. Linda is to send him the membership spreadsheet and he will send the letter.
 10. There was some discussion on club incentives such as club dollars for duties taken on, and to be spend at club events; free AHS membership draw for new members to encourage interest in daylilies (# of AHS memberships to be discussed later); a club library – Pat Vinish showed some interest in chairing this. All these are to be discussed later and finalized.
 11. Marie served coffee, tea and refreshments.
 12. The meeting adjourned at 9:00
- Submitted: Linda Smith, secretary\treasurer of the Nova Scotia Daylily Society.

February 9th 2006 - Monthly Meeting
Hammonds Plains Baptist Church Hall-Hammonds Plains

Minutes of the February 9, 2006 meeting of the Nova Scotia Daylily Society

1. The meeting started at 7:00 P.M. with 11 people in attendance.
2. Executive members in attendance were Allan Banks - President, Coral Kincaid - VP and Linda Smith - Secretary\Treasurer.

3. Members were requested to sign our new Attendance Sheet. We welcomed 2 new members and one current member who was able to make the meeting for the 1st time.
4. Members were advised that refreshment had been set up and to help themselves at any time rather than to wait till the end of the meeting.
5. Minutes of the Jan 12th meeting and current financial report were read and approved.
6. There was a discussion on the NSDS meeting location to be moved to Hammonds Plains Baptist Church. Coral Kincaid gave an insight as to why the decision was made to look for another location. The old location was not available on holidays and during the summer. This location is more central as it connects to all the major highways. We are looking to expand the membership from the larger population base in the HRM area. The cost to rent the hall is \$25 a night. The pros and cons of the move were discussed and a vote was taken from the members present and 2 proxy votes (Norma Sweet and Don Longton). The vote tallied as follows:
 - 12 yes votes for the change to the new location
 - 1 no vote to keep the old location.The motion was carried to move the location for future meetings.
7. An email had been sent to members looking for a new membership chair by Allan Banks. Carol Harvey expressed interest. There were no other candidates for the position. Carol Harvey was appointed by acclamation and welcomed by the executive.
8. Allan Banks gave an update on some of the up coming events as follows:
 - March 9th - Monthly meeting-Program still to be decided
 - April 13th - Monthly meeting-Possible guest speaker - Nancy Oakes
 - May 11th - Monthly meeting-Babysitting Plants distribution & auction
 - June 8th - Monthly meeting-NSDS member plant sale
 - July 13th - Monthly meeting-No program - possible Bazaar promotion
 - July 30th - Garden Tour – Valley
 - Aug 5th - Tentative Bazaar date -Hammonds Plains Baptist Church Hall
 - Aug 7th - Garden Tour – South Shore

Aug 10th - Regular Monthly Meeting not to be held in lieu of heavy club schedule during this period.

Aug 13th - Garden Tour – Eastern Shore\Halifax

9. There was a discussion for the new members to explain the Babysitting program and the some of the rules governing it as follows:

A member must be a member for 1 yr and attend 4 meetings in the calendar year prior to the plant meeting.

Only 1 babysitting plant draw per membership (single or family)

Winners of the plants take it home and grow it for 2 years. The 2nd year they get to keep one fan and bring back all other fan(s) to be auctioned off to the other club members.

10. There was a discussion on the Bazaar date, location and hall rental cost. A vote was taken and passed unanimously to have the Bazaar on Aug 5th at the Hammond Plains Baptist Church Hall for a rental fee of \$150. Motion carried.

11. Coral Kincaid will be the chairperson of the Bazaar. Allan Banks and Linda Smith will assist by co-chairing during July. The members were advised of the list of committees that needed to be setup for the Bazaar and asked for volunteer to head these. The results are as follows:

Clean-up - Edward Kimball

Set-up - Brian Smith

Advertising - Cecil Dunlap

Food & Refreshments - Linda Smith

Workshops - Allan Banks

NSDS Section - Open for several positions. Members will be contacted for support in this area.

Vendors - Don Longton

12. There was a discussion on the merit of the NSDS joining the AHS as a club. The benefits of course are the insurance coverage and the Daylily Journal for the members use (4 issues a year). The cost would be \$80.00 US for 3 yrs. A vote was taken and passed unanimously to proceed with the membership. Motion carried.

13. There was a short discussion as to whether to have a NSDS stamp made. Coral Kincaid will research the cost.
14. There was a discussion on the format of the Garden tour. Allan asked that members email the executive on their ideas and a decision will be made at a later date based on the input.
15. Edward Kimball asked for clarification on the Yahoo Group and it was decided that it would be used for NSDS **meeting** business only.
16. Members were told that dues must be paid by the March meeting, or membership would lapse and they would have to rejoin as a new member.
17. Allan asked if there was any more business. There was none so Coral proceeded with her presentation on Daylilies that rebloom. A brief explanation was made on what is meant by rebloom, using a diagram of the daylily to enhance. Coral then gave a slide show presentation of daylilies that have been reported to rebloom in Zones 5 & less.
18. The meeting adjourned at 9:00

Submitted: Linda Smith, secretary\treasurer of the Nova Scotia Daylily Society.