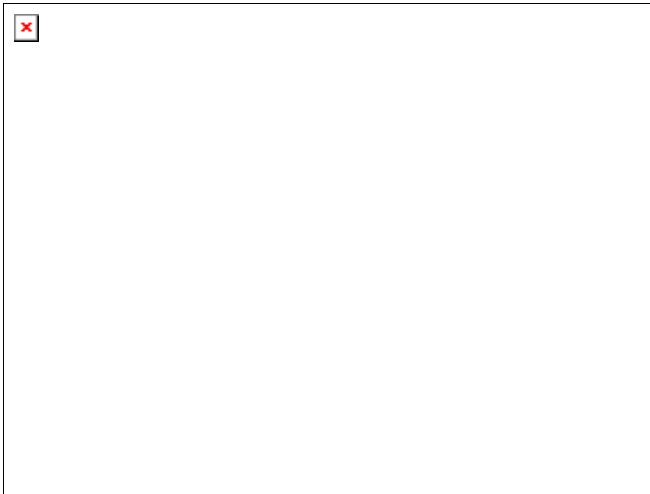




Volume 1 Number 1 October 29,2003

The Nova Scotia Daylily Society was started following a meeting at the home of Wayne Ward and Wayne Storrie in the fall of 2002 with Marie Stuart, Coral Kincaid, Linda and Brian Smith, Donald Longton and Downey Grover .



It was resolved to start a Society and meet in January. On January 18, 2003 which was a cold and windy night 15 people showed up and Wayne Ward and Storrie presented slides, an executive was chosen we were on the way. In February we co-ordinated our efforts and in March we were in Bridgewater where Coral gave a talk how she started her interest in daylilies and gave an excellent show about her daylilies. In April we heard Nancy Oakes talk about unusual forms of daylilies. In May, at the home of Marie Stuart, Al Everett talked of his experiences and hybridization with daylilies. Coral had a garden showing in July and Wayne and Wayne had a Daylily sale and display in August.

On September 18, we started our monthly meetings after the summer and Coral had a slide show for those who missed it in March. Carol Harvey showed a video in October on the hybridization and growing of daylilies. This was very informative for those of us who try to hybridize.



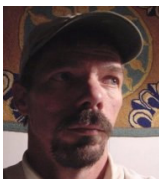
President's Report

I would like to start by thanking Downey for his efforts in getting our Society's Newsletter started. This will be the twine that pulls us all together. As for our daylily addiction.....it is growing big time. We have had an excellent growing year with lots of rain. We were sold out by early August, but with 8,000 potted plants for next year, I think we will be ready. We hope to sponsor a Daylily Show at next years Open House.

Our Society is growing and I feel we have a membership that works well together. We would like to hear from anyone who has a suggestion how we can make our happy group even better.

Thanks again,

Wayne Ward, President NSDS



Hybridizer's Corner



by Don Longton

Welcome to our first Nova Scotia Daylily Society Newsletter !

So...what is Hybridizing?

Hybridizing is the creation of a new plant by the taking of pollen from one daylily and dabbing it onto the pistil of another to create a pod with seeds that carry both the pollen parent and the pod parent's genes. From there, each seed within the pod, even though they share the same parents and genes, will be unique, some very different and some looking very much like the parent plants. How is this done?

Well, it's very simple, really. It is a good idea to have a plan first and try to visualize the outcome of the two crosses. Sometimes you can get some wonderful results by chance, however I think the more thought put into your choices, the more interesting the results.

First, choose your pollen parent and take off a stamen. Reverse-action tweezers are great for this. They don't let go until you squeeze them again, ensuring the stamen is secured between the tweezers tips. The stamens are protruding from the center of the flower. At the end of the stamen is the anther. The anther will have fluffy orange-yellow pollen on the top of them. Make sure the pollen is good and dry (fluffy looking) or it may not take. Touch it on the top of the pistil of the pod parent (this is the plant which will form the pod of seeds after pollinating). The pistil is the long thin tube-like part which in most cases extends out beyond the edge of the flower. Sometimes there will be a tiny honey-like bead at the top of it. After pollinating, make sure you tag the base of the flower with a label or colored wire to identify the pollen parent for future reference. Documentation is important! If you get a spectacular seedling cross, you will know how you got it and can repeat it.

Do not take off the wilted flower the next day or you will lose the pod. I cut the dead flower in half leaving the base of it intact. You will know if your efforts have taken by a small pod forming where the base of the flower was. You can usually see this within 3 days.

The Harvest.

Allow the pod to ripen until ready for harvest. This can take up to 5 weeks or longer for some. It will be ready when the base of the pod turns white and the top of the pod is usually brownish and will begin to split.

Just open up the segments (sometimes there are four but usually three) and scoop out the shiny black hybrid seeds remembering to keep the tag (label) with them.

I let them air dry 24 to 48 hours in ice cube trays or Dixie cups then put them in 2X2 or 2X3 inch zip lock bags using tweezers to pick them out of the trays. I like the bags that have a white write-on block for recording the parent information. Refrigerate in the lower crisper until you are ready to germinate them. Check them now and again for dampness, which can cause the seeds to rot. I put a few grains of rice in the bags to absorb this. Sometimes you may have to change the rice if they turn blue or get too damp.

More to come on germinating your seed in the next newsletter.

Happy parenting! Have fun!



Editor's Note:

I hope that you enjoy the newsletter and that you will let me know what you would like to see in the Newsletter. Send in any suggestions for content, format etc. so we can

make it a happy experience for all. Thanks to Wayne Storrie for the software and suggestions and to all the helpful hints and information given by others. I am sure we will all benefit from Don Longton's articles.

