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### ***President's Message***

Well, it's official. I am a Hem nut. I love daylilies. I am doubling the number of cultivars of daylilies that I am growing this year from 250 to over 500. Some of my orders have arrived and more are yet to come. Where am I going to put them all? I am trying to make a vow to be saner next year, but we already know that will be next to impossible. Gardening on a steep hillside that is absolutely filled with boulders and all shapes and sizes of rock is not an easy task. I am sure that each of us in NSDS has his/her own challenges when it comes to growing daylilies and finding enough room for them as well as scores of other plants. Yet, that is the tie that binds us together as a unique Nova Scotian group. We do it for the love of the plant we adore!

An early warm spring has helped my daylilies get a good head start. However, the quick turn in temperature downward over the past couple of weeks has slowed their progress. Nevertheless, the brilliant hues of green foliage are a pleasure to awake to each day. One of the wonderful things about daylilies is that they are relatively pest free. The wet weather lately means that slugs have been out in force. However, I have never had them do much damage to my plants. I find that they prefer the bottom leaves that are already

wasting. I expect for those of you growing seedlings it is a different story, as a slug could topple them in a very short time. Take good care of your babies. You don't know if one may be a future Stout Medal winner!

I have had the privilege of serving as president of NSDS for five months now. With the help and experience of Coral Kincaid as vice president/program chair, Linda Smith as secretary/treasurer, Carol Harvey as membership chair/librarian and Edward Kimball as newsletter editor I think I've been able to stay on track. We have a fine Bazaar committee that has things well in hand for that event. I have had much interest expressed in this event by people not in our club. Therefore, I think we are headed for a best ever event. The executive has met regularly to plan other events for the year. Attendance has been growing at almost every meeting and our financial situation is improving regularly. Our babysitting plants and auction meeting went extremely well, with over \$1200.00 raised. We have the new brochure ready thanks to Tim Cross for his graphic work. Posters for our bazaar have been designed by Don Longton and are ready for distribution. It promises to be a great summer for NSDS. Let's hope that our summer weather cooperates and our daylilies continue to enjoy great growth.

As you can see there are some very talented and dedicated members in our group. If you have some talent or would like to help out with club meetings/ or events please let me or one of our executive know that you would like to have a more active role in our society. As I write this letter I am preparing for our June meeting, our plant sale and auction. It is one of the best-attended meetings of the year. Donations of plants are coming in from many of the membership. We have received a very generous donation of plants all the way from our PEI member Nancy Oakes who spoke at our April monthly meeting. I would like to thank everyone from our club who donated plants. We are truly growing into a great club with some really amazing cultivars. A special thanks goes to Coral Kincaid for her work in bringing our babysitting plants back to NS, dividing them, potting them all up (her own pots & soil) and then taking care of them. She then did up a great slide show so we could see what they looked like in bloom. Now she is at it again for our June meeting, putting together a list of the donated plants and preparing a slide show. It all takes a lot of time and she has been very generous with her time. Linda Smith has been working behind the scene to keep the books and financial records in order as well as taking care of minutes from our meeting. If anyone wants to sign out one of the daylily journals, see Carol Harvey at any of the meetings. They are great reading!

Hopefully, this letter finds you busily and happily gardening and avoiding the black flies. Our club is all about daylilies and bloom season (that most exciting of times) is just beginning. Have a great daylily summer!

Yours in Daylily Gardening,

Allan Banks  
President NSDS

# **The Niagara Falls Can-Am Classic Daylily Symposium**

By Allan Banks

Nova Scotia was well represented at the Canadian Hemerocallis Society's annual conference in Niagara Falls, with six people in attendance from our province. This was the first time in my life for attending a daylily conference and I was not disappointed. The only downside for me was that I had a miserable cold the whole time I was there. Nevertheless, I enjoyed meeting many of the hybridizers and members from other daylily clubs from across North America. It was great to put a face to many of the hybridizers whom I had only read about previously or heard listed as the hybridizer for a particular cultivar.

Multiple slide shows at the conference showed the newest cultivars and the advancement in daylily plant breeding as well as the progress different hybridizers were making towards the elusive blue daylily. One demonstration emphasized the use of sound, movement, and texture in the daylily garden. One critique of the conference is that it would be nice to have included more presentations that were different (info. on pests or diseases etc). My second critique was that the auction at four hours was much too long! Some people didn't like the lack of organization where sessions did not start on time. I liked the laid back atmosphere. I wanted to unwind, not add more stress running to the next session to make sure I wasn't late and I enjoyed having the chance to chat before sessions got started.

I would definitely attend again in the future and recommend it to anyone who can handle the lack of structure. In addition to the slide shows there were group events such as a wine and cheese social and optional tours. Everyone went away with at least one daylily given to everyone who registered. If you wanted more, there was a sale table where plants could be purchased out right or tickets could be purchased toward draws for other daylilies. My name was drawn for a lovely double, Denali.

The choice of dates for the conference was excellent. It was early enough in the spring that I didn't feel I needed to be home getting started on the vast amount of work that needed to be done for the season. Yet, it was late enough in the year that we really didn't have to worry about snow and ice delaying travel plans.

Overall, I liked the conference and felt the cost was reasonable. Anyone who attends will need to realize that Niagara Falls is a tourist town and if you go out to eat, prices may be higher than what you are accustomed to paying.

If you are serious about daylilies consider a daylily conference!



The NS Six - out to lunch.



Doreen Fitzgerald and Don Longton with hybridizers Steve Moldovan and Roy Woodall.



Five of the NS contingent banqueting at the conference (Wayne Storrie, Wayne Ward, Allan Banks, Don Longton, Doreen Fitzgerald)



The six NS Hemeroholics in front of Niagara Falls (Allan Banks, Doreen Fitzgerald, Brainard Fitzgerald, Don Longton, Wayne Storrie, Wayne Ward) .

## **Hybridizers Corner**

By Don Longton



It was really nice to see the enthusiasm that our new members had when I put some seeds up for auction at the April Meeting. From what I hear, many of you are having success with germination. In no time, your seedlings should look like this. They should be strong looking and green. Now that danger of frost has passed, they can be planted outside. If the seedlings look small and weak, don't waste your time planting them, as space is valuable and they will probably always be weak. I know how hard it is to cull these weak ones but from experience I have found they are not worth it in the end. Also have a look at their root systems. They should have long, thick white roots and the strongest ones will have small tubers. These are the ones that will be worthwhile and will grow well. Plant these in rows in well prepared beds that are not made too light with peat moss. I plant mine in raised beds with lots of horse manure and a little dump compost. I make my rows a foot apart and plant my seedlings about 6 to 8 inches apart. This may seem like too far apart but you will see as they grow that in no time, you did the right thing.

This year, I paid special attention to how my previous years' seedlings are growing. This is very important in the evaluation process. You want to grow good looking plants that are hardy in our zone. At this time of year, you are not distracted by the beautiful blooms and focus is entirely on plant habit. This is also when you can determine which are Dormant, (Dor), Semi Evergreen, (Sev), or Evergreen, (Ev). Dormants will likely be your hardiest plants that will thrive in our climate. Dormants will disappear underground in winter and emerge when the ground warms in the spring. They can have a blue-green foliage that from a distance you will be able to pick out easily. These blue-green plants tend to resist Spring Sickness (leaves looking all chewed up), blotching and even yellowing. Spring sickness is actually a virus, which can winter deep in the old foliage and re-emerge in spring thriving in cold, damp weather. Semi Evergreens tend to be a solid green and even slightly



yellow green at first and can have marked and even browning bottom leaves for a short while in early spring but will soon send up new, healthy leaves as it warms up. Some Sevs will quickly look great while others take longer to catch up. This is due to the plant being less tender and carrying more cold hardy genes than other Sevs. An interesting thing that is quite common is that siblings of the same parentage can have varying degrees of cold hardiness. For instance, you may plant a row of seedlings that all came from the same seed pod, but have different habits. Sometimes all the seedlings will look good and strong, while other times they may all be tender or a combination of both. I make a note of the best looking Sevs so I can use these in my hybridizing program. By crossing these with my best looking Dormants, chances of producing many good hardy seedlings are almost assured.



Evergreens are by far the most tender in our Great Northern Climate. Although some of them are tolerant enough to be fairly good plants that flower reasonably well here, they will fall short of the full potential that would be enjoyed in warmer zones. These plants may need heat to develop the huge, ruffled edges and bud count as well as rebloom. Our season may be too short to enjoy some evergreens here. Evergreens largely look awful up emerging from the cold ground, often curled and even sporting ripples in the leaves. This is largely caused by the cold as it struggles to find some heat. Incredibly, these tender plants will take off and grow quite well once the full heat of summer reaches and warms the soil. If there is lack of snow cover in winter, or they were not mulched, the whole clump can potentially freeze and the crowns die either killing the entire plant or setting it back. I have used Evergreens often in my program and sometimes while crossed with a hardy Dormant, can produce some excellent seedlings that have the full Evergreen flower on a hardy Dormant plant. This is not always the case as sometimes a 'recessive' gene can emerge that will surprise the heck out of you.. For example, a white flower crossed with another white flower may end up with a red seedling. huh? How does that happen? Well, if one were to research the parentage of both parent plants and Grandparents, you will likely find the culprit gene. This recessive gene can also affect the plant habit, meaning you can cross a Dormant with a Dormant and get a Semi evergreen.

When evaluating your seedlings in spring, watch for Spring Sickness and mark these seedlings. See if they are prone to this virus next spring; if so, don't use them for crossing as they can pass this susceptibility to their offspring.

Your goal should be to produce strong, vigorous plants that have good blue-green or green foliage that resists cold and disease and flower with an acceptable bud count

and scape height. These factors should be assessed before considering the flower. The flower is important but the plant performance is ultimately the most important. Once you have a fantastic plant, then you can work on the flower.

Have a great bloom season!

### Loss of an Icon

I am shocked and saddened to hear the news of Steve Moldovan's passing. I had the great fortune of meeting Steve and his partner Roy Woodhall on two occasions, both at the Can Am Convention in Niagara Falls. I had lunch and breakfast with Steve and Roy, along with Karol Emmerich and Brainard and Doreen Fitzgerald.

Steve was a lot of fun, with a loud laugh and outspoken and animated. For fun, he auctioned off a purple wax mold of his hand that he made on a whim at Niagara, he was overwhelmed at the interest and thrilled at the final price his hand went for. Doreen and Brainard ended up with it! Something for them to cherish!

Steve was a pioneer in Daylily Hybridizing. He began when he was 19, more than 50 years ago. He learned from some of the other hybridizers of the day, such as Reckamp and later Munson and continued to produce some fine, cold hardy northern daylilies in his Ohio garden since 1959.

In a conversation with Steve in May, he told me how hurt and disappointed he was that for the 50 years of work he has done, for the groundbreaking hurdles he has made in hybridizing, that he has never been awarded or recognized by the AHS for his contributions. He assured me it was political and discrimination based.

My heartfelt condolences go to Roy, his partner of many years, who shares his life and passion for Hybridizing, and to the Daylily Community, who just lost a pillar and an Icon. I am fortunate to have met Steve. He was a fine man and an inspiration.

Don Longton

### Steve Moldovan's Passing

After spending a beautiful day working in the garden, we came home to find out Steve Moldovan had died early this morning, July 14th. Our trip to CAN-AM earlier this year gave me the chance to meet Roy and Steve. Roy, with the wonderful sense of humor, and Steve, a giant of a man with the largest hands I have ever seen, made a wonderful couple. They have been companions for 38 years! Brainard and Doreen Fitzgerald have a wax mold of Steve's hand that they bought at the CAN-AM auction.

Steve Moldovan has been hybridizing daylilies for 55 years. I expect he has forgotten more about daylilies than I'll ever know. Steve's plants are very hardy in our climate and

most have large bright flowers. We grow 18 Moldovan introductions and we love them all. Wayne and I have been discussing the possibility of a trip to Ohio to visit the Moldovan Gardens.

Even though we knew him for only 3 days, we did have 2 lengthy conversations. Steve Moldovan was a true gentleman, and he had the respect from daylily hybridizers everywhere. I feel slightly cheated that I will not have the opportunity to speak with him again.

Wayne Ward

### ***Image Gallery***

Here are a couple of seedlings hybridized by club members. The first is being considered for introduction by Marie Stuart and the second is the first seedling of the year for Wayne Storrie.





If you have any images that you would like included in the image gallery please email them to the Newsletter Editor. They can be seedlings or registered varieties.

### ***UP COMING EVENTS***

- (1) AHS National Convention 2006, July 13-16. Host is Long Island Daylily Society in Melville, New York.
- (2) AHS Region 4 2006 meeting will also be held during the National on Long Island.
- (3) The NSDS Bazaar is Saturday August 5th, 2006 at the Hammonds Plains Baptist Church. From 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM.
- (4) Garden tours will be held on July 30<sup>th</sup>, August 7<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, 2006. Information on which of the gardens will be open each day will be provided through the Yahoo Mail Group.
- (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. Meetings will resume September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2006

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