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President's Message

Some how I always enjoy the arrival of January even though there can be days that are bitterly cold (the case today as I write this column). I enjoy the lengthening hours of daylight and the often sunny weather that accompanies winter. It gives me great optimism for the gardening year that lies ahead. Weather in Nova Scotia is often variable. This year was no exception as we enjoyed fall like-conditions to mid-January. Nevertheless, we can usually count on a few weeks of winter conditions. These are days best employed for perusing catalogues or web sites, dreaming about daylilies, planning new beds, and redesigning old ones.

One of the things I have been pondering lately is where will I move H. 'Mad Max'? It just isn't happy in its present spot, and after seeing it doing very well in Carol Harvey's garden this summer I vowed to move it or throw it out. So, I'll move it and give it one last chance! I hope you take the time to think about how your daylilies are doing and what you might do to make things better. It was great to see so many gardens this past summer and see what other people are doing for the culture of daylilies in Nova Scotia.

As January hails the beginning of a new calendar year, it also marks a new beginning for NSDS. Our AGM has come and gone with a bit of change. I remain as President; Coral Kincaid as vice president and Linda Smith takes on the singular role of secretary. Cecil Dunlap joins the executive as treasurer since the role of secretary/treasurer has now been divided into two positions. It is great to have Carol Harvey continuing as our club's librarian and membership chair. Barb Downham brings a great deal of enthusiasm to the role of Program Coordinator.

The spring, summer, and fall that lies before NSDS is already being planned. I believe that it is going to be an exciting year of events that will lead to continuing membership growth for our club. Coral has been busy from her armchair in Florida making sure our babysitting plant order is in place. We will have a table at the Nova Scotia Home Show in March and two big club plant sales in May and June. Our Bazaar in July and a visit from Ted Petit will follow in August. In the fall, we will have the president of the Ontario Daylily Society, Dave Mussar as our guest speaker.

We are still a young club but there is much that is happening. I believe the biggest growth for daylilies in this province is yet to come. Our society is poised to help facilitate the introduction of many new daylily cultivars to Nova Scotian gardeners who have not yet discovered the allure of the new daylily hybrids. I hope that you are excited about the possibilities that lie before us, and that many of you will do whatever you can to lend a hand with the task that is ours. Let's share our love of daylilies with as many people as we can in 2007!

Yours in Daylily Gardening,

Allan Banks
President NSDS

Focus on NSDS Member Brian Smith

By Cecil Dunlap

I first met Brian a couple of years ago at the first NSDS Daylily Daze in Canning. I spoke to him a few times at meetings but never really got to know him. This past summer when he was particularly busy in both his workshop and his garden, I offered to lend him a hand. I don't think poor Brian knew what he was getting into. For two weeks I pestered Brian with questions. Come to think of it there were a couple of evenings he called me to say he had other things to do the next day. Maybe he couldn't face anymore of my dumb questions. Nonetheless, over those two weeks, I really got to know Brian better. I got to appreciate his dry sense of humour, and could *usually* tell when he was kidding and when he was serious.

When Allan asked me if I would do an interview with Brian for the newsletter, I gladly took him up on it. After all, this would give me a chance to once again pick his brain and he wouldn't be able to cancel out on me.

Brian bought his first daylily back in 1981, while he was living in Cape Breton. Actually his first purchase was a set of 3 un-named and unregistered plants. He said that one was pink, another was a rust color and the third had yellow tones. When asked if he still had any of them, he said "one, one that survived a toss out." Apparently when he was revamping his garden he stuck one in an area of the garden thinking if it survives fine, if not so be it, and it has. When Brian moved back home from Cape Breton he brought all of his daylilies with him. He said he brought about a dozen different cultivars with him. Included in the ones he brought were his 3 originals, *Hemerocallis*. **'Catherine Woodbery'**, **'Eenie Allegro'**, **'Eenie Weenie'**, **'Grape Magic'**, **'Grape Velvet'**, **'Little Grapette'**, **'Little Rainbow'**, and **'Little Zinger'**. He currently has 380 cultivars in his gardens.

I asked Brian if he considered his daylily garden when he was shopping around for a new building lot. Brian quickly informed me that yes; he wanted a lot where his backyard would be facing south.

Now Brian tells me that he was not necessarily the first to grow daylilies in NS but he was probably the first to bring in the modern lilies from US hybridizers. He said when he began growing daylilies Carol Long in Middleton was also growing them. When asked why he chose daylilies over say Asiatic or Oriental lilies, Brian said, "daylilies were an easy maintenance plant and there was a greater variety of them". Initially, Brian purchased most of his lilies from Canadian growers. Back in the day, Brian didn't have the Internet to find suppliers so he relied on advertisements in magazine etc.

In talking to Brian about his “favorites”, he said his favorite when he started out was *H. ‘Catherine Woodbery’* but he no longer has the cultivar. He said, “it became too common and I needed the space for new cultivars.” Brian said that his favorites have changed over the years depending on the availability of plants. Also, as the grower’s supplies changed so did his favorites. When pressed on the issue, Brian stated “ ‘**Peggy Jeffcoat**’ – a double white” was his all time favorite. He also enjoys ‘**Snowflake Express**’, and ‘**Bombay Bicycle**’. As far as forms go, Brian prefers Spiders and Unusual Forms but this too will change with what the growers have to offer. His favorite Spiders and Unusual Forms include – ‘**Polar Bear Express**’, ‘**Orchid Corsage**’ and ‘**Alchemist**’. When asked what he currently favors in his garden he quickly names ‘**Lonnie Leroy Carpenter**’ which is a “7” orange daylily. I have seen this one and agree it is a fantastic cultivar.

Brian continues to purchase new lilies each year, but like most of us he is hesitant to say how many he would buy. (I think to put a number on it, would be like admitting we may be more hooked than we like to believe). He pretty much buys all of his new cultivars from the US, stating there is a greater selection of newly registered cultivars. I asked him about the hassles of getting plants across the border and he replied “no hassle”. He elaborated on this by saying as long as the proper paper work is completed; the plants arrive directly to your door. He said that if you deal with hybridizers/suppliers that ship across the border, they complete all the necessary forms, you pay them and they ship them directly to you, no problem. He also stated that without the proper paperwork the plants become compost for our customs people. When asked about the climate change between the US and Canada, he stated this was not a problem if you stick to the northern US hybridizers, which he does mostly.

As I am somewhat of a novice with many things yet to learn about this hobby, I drilled him on some items such as how long unusual forms and doubles have been around. Brian felt that both of these forms have been with us for the past 50 years. Newer yet and just now becoming popular are the double spiders, which he hopes to purchase, as they become more available. When asked about the mistakes he made when he was a novice like me, he stated “it is a live and learn process”. Two mistakes he made and thinks they are very common were: buying similar color daylilies and buying more plants than he had room for in his garden.

I then asked Brian to talk briefly about how the NSDS was formed. Brian stated that he was one of the original seven that met at Wayne Ward's & Wayne Storrie's. In addition to Brian, the others were - Wayne and Wayne, Coral Kincaid, Don Longton, Marie Stuart and Dr. Downey Grover. Brian said the others got deeper into growing daylilies after meeting him. As time wore on they talked amongst themselves to the point where they decided to formally come together as a group and meet on a monthly basis. They continued to meet in the

Valley each month (unless bad weather occurred), until last year when the group started meeting in Hammonds Plains.

Brian started selling daylilies in 1991. His best seller these days is *H. 'Peach Magnolia'* and the best selling form is the open face lily. I asked Brian if he had a price list of his product and why he didn't have a 'website'. He replied that he has a price list for those who ask for it but he does not do mail order. To date he has not put up a website but hopes to later this year, however he does have photos of his cultivars available to visitors. I asked him if he has done any hybridizing and he said he touched up a few in the past, but he never really got into it.

I asked Brian to give me the scoop on 'Display Gardens'. He stated that your daylilies had to be registered ones (he later clarified that you could have unregistered daylilies as well but your garden must have registered lilies). Lilies must all be labelled with the name, hybridizer and the date of registration. Your garden must be weed free and organized. In order to have a "display garden" you must register it with the AHS at no charge. Display gardens may have other perennials as well and not just daylilies. When I asked him about the reasons for the lack of display gardens in NS he said it was people not knowing about them and perhaps they just couldn't be bothered. He stated there is not much reason other than "self satisfaction" for having the title of "display garden. Brian stated that when he first registered in 1999, only one other person in NS had a display garden. This was Carol Long in the Valley. She has since let her registration lapse, making him the longest standing registration in the province. He is also a registered display garden with the Canadian Hemerocallis Society. (It should be noted there remains two Registered Display Gardens in NS: Brian's and Coral Kincaid's.)

I then discussed with Brian his philosophy regarding "garden dressing". I had thought that Brian was strictly an "organic soil person," based on comments that he made at a recent garden round table discussion. Brian clarified this for me and said when he plants a new garden it is initially an "organic garden". He makes a new bed with - peat moss, rabbit pellets, and kelp (**please note-** you can put kelp in the hole you have dug for the cultivars but do not put rabbit pellets in the hole, they will burn the roots, rabbit pellets may be used for top-dressing). Then in the spring he top-dresses his plants with 6-12-12 or triple 10 fertilizers.

I must say it was a pleasure once again to sit with Brian to discuss something that he is as passionate of as I am. Brian's love for gardening and the raising of daylilies in particular is ever apparent to all whom have been to visit his gardens. I believe Brian once told me that he paid \$6.95 for all 3 of his original plants. He said at the time (This would have been in the early 80's) people, himself included, thought it to be "outrageous" that anyone would spend that kind of money on a flower. Fast-forward to today when some of us do not hesitate to spend \$100 on a single plant. In closing I would like to thank Brian, not only for this opportunity, but for all he has done in spreading the word of daylilies to fellow Nova Scotians.

Some Photos of Brian's Gardens







Hybridizers Corner

By Edward Kimball

I have offered to give Don a little rest and throw my 2 cents on hybridizing in to the ring. I am new to daylilies and very new to hybridizing. I started growing daylilies three summers ago and my first seedlings were planted out this past May. Over that time I have picked up a lot of information. Some of it might even be true.

I starting thinking about hybridizing last winter and I decided to jump start my “program” by buying seeds off the Lily Auction. My first lesson is that germination rate depends on how much room you have. If you have room for 50 seedlings and plant 50 seeds you are going to end up with 15 seedlings. If you have room for 50 seedlings and plant 100 seeds they will all germinate. From my Lily Auction seeds and some donations from Sandi Jacques I have about 150 seedlings growing in my yard. Like most I have started with Pretty X Pretty crosses with little consideration to climate. In my favor at least I stick to daylilies with good branching and bud count. About a third of my seedlings are out of Ed Brown, the most recent Stout Medal winner. I figure that since there are 175 registered daylilies with Ed Brown as a parent he must be a pretty good one. I’ll tell you next year when the seedlings start to bloom. I hear that I can probably expect about 10% to bloom in the second year. The rest will wait until third or so.

Last winter I also started buying daylilies with the intention of hybridizing. I started with the lower priced ones with a decent reputation along with branching and bud count. Some of my favorites so far are America’s Most Wanted and Inherited Wealth. I looked at a lot of other people’s seedlings and there seemed to be some nice ones out of these two. I dabbed a little bit of pollen over the summer and ended up with about 20 seeds from Inherited Wealth X America’s Most Wanted. Since I don’t have anywhere to put them yet I gave them away. I am sure if something wonderful comes of those seeds Cecil will share a fan back.

A wonderful resource I have found is the Tinker’s Daylily Database website. Search out a perspective parent and it will show you all the daylilies that have it a one of their parents. I have spent too many hours there.

<http://db.tinkersgardens.com/>

This fall and winter the bug really hit and I have invested a lot more money in parents. The ones that I am most excited about are Victorian Lace and J T Davis. Victorian Lace was actually a Christmas Present. This coming summer I will be doing a lot more crosses and selling seeds and probably donating a few to the club to auction off as well. Summer number three (2008) I will be making crosses for my garden. Hopefully by then I will have enough seedlings composted to have room for the next batch of dreams

2005 Babysitting Plants Update – Allan Banks

In the spring of 2005 NSDS brought in 15 daylilies to be distributed as babysitting plants. These were purchased through funds raised by the club and several plants were donated by some of the participating hybridizers. The babysitting program is a method of bringing in recently introduced root division daylilies from a variety of hybridizers in Canada and the US. NSDS members wishing to babysit a plant must have taken out membership in the previous year and they must have attended at least 4 meetings since the last babysitting distribution. Names are drawn for the participating members. The participant whose name is drawn first chooses the first plant. Names are drawn and plants are chosen until no plants remain. Participants take the plant home and nurture it for 2 years. The plants are then dug up and divided and the babysitter gets to keep one fan and returns the other fans to the club to be sold as single fans at the June auction and plant sale.

The first round of babysitting plants are due to be returned to the club in June 2007. I thought people might be interested to find out how the plants had grown by the fall of 2006 and what they might expect in the way of fans for each cultivar being returned to the club. Following is the information as supplied by the babysitters. Where available a photo of the flower in the Nova Scotia garden is included. I have also indicated the 2007 Eureka price (where possible) for a double fan of this plant as well as the name of the hybridizer.

BURNING HOT SPOT – Curt Hansen '04
40" EM 2 3/4" Tet Sev
Avg. Eureka Double fan price \$60 US



Photo: Allan Banks

This daylily was received in July as a very small single fan. It grew slowly and steadily for the remainder of the growing season, developing into a sturdy single fan. In the spring of the next year it emerged very healthily with no sign of spring sickness or other ailments. It developed a second fan and the first fan became much thicker, looking much more like a typical tetraploid. A single well-branched scape was produced with well over 25 buds. Blooming started in August and continued well into September. Although the hybridizer has listed the bloom as 2 3/4" it certainly appeared much bigger than this although I never actually measured it. The flowers are small but open well even after cool nights and the red colour fades very little in the hot sun. To date it has not reached 40" high in my garden, but it is a great plant – sturdy with good bud count and branching. I recommend it for anyone who doesn't mind smaller flowers and is looking for a daylily that blooms later in the season and increases slowly. It has increased to 3 fans as of the fall of 2006.

DELTA DRAGON - Brian Culver '04
32" ML 5.5" Tet Dor Ext
Web site price DF \$35.00 Cdn.



The babysitters of this plant reported that they find the bloom very similar to H. 'Bandit Man' & 'Eye-Yi-Yi'. It was equally as good as these other cultivars but not any better in terms of bud count or branching. It survived well in the NS climate and is not a fast increaser having grown to 3 fans by the fall of 2006.

GIGGLE CREEK - Brian Culver 2000
28" MLRe 5" Tet Ext
Web site price DF \$50.00 Cdn.



This plant has a wonderful flower and blooms very well. Although the plant is fairly slow growing, (it has grown to 2-3 fans) it is hardy. Its flowers regularly open well. It has also performed well in the garden of the individual who purchased the other fan at the sale. It is

recommended by the babysitter and the person who purchased the other fan.

INTELLIGENT DESIGN - Emmerich
2003 36" EMRe Tet Sev Fra
Avg. Dbl fan Eureka price \$47.50 US



Photo: Brian Smith

This daylily appears to grow well here in Nova Scotia and has increased to six fans. Blooms have been nice as can be seen by the photo.

LADY BANDIT - Brian Culver '04
30" EM 5" Tet Dor Ext Fra
Web site price DF \$75.00 Cdn.



Photo: Carol Harvey

(CUSTARD Candy X Jenny Kissed Me). Cream white with a clear pink eye, gold edge and a green throat. It has three-four way branching and a high bud count. It has been a slow increaser for

me, from two fans in spring '05 to four fans by Sept. '06. It had two flower scapes this year, blooming for the first time on July 13, 2006. Lady Bandit has a beautiful flower and great foliage. I would recommend this plant.

LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE - Emmerich '03
24" EMRe 5" Tet Sev Fra
Avg. Dbl Fan Eureka price \$35 US



This cultivar excelled in several aspects during its time in the host garden. It had a great bud count and every flower opened well and looked simply wonderful. Branching was also very good. By the fall of 2006 it had increased to four fans. The babysitters were very pleased with this cultivar.

LOAVES AND FISHES - Emmerich '05
36" EMRe 6" Tet Sev Fra
Web site price DF \$75.00 US

This is another daylily that appears to grow well in Nova Scotia. It has increased to five fans and is growing well.

MIGHTY FORTRESS - Emmerich '05
30" MRe 6.5" Tet Sev Fra
Web site price SF \$50.00 US



Photo: Coral Kincaid

Mighty Fortress bloomed during the first fall of its arrival to NS but the blooms were not well formed. In the second year it did not bloom at all. The plant is slow growing and has increased from one to two fans. However, the fans are huge and the host gardener indicates that there will probably be four fans by spring given the size of its 2 fans as of fall '06.

NO MORE TEARS - Emmerich '03 28"
EMRe 5.5" Tet Dor
Avg. Dbl Fan Eureka price \$56.25 US



Photo: Brian Smith

This daylily has grown and bloomed well in its host garden. It has increased to six fans.

PRISMATIC - B.B. Brooks '04
33" M 6.25" Dip Dor Unf
Avg. Dbl Fan Eureka price \$58.60 US



Photo: Coral Kincaid

This Unusual Form daylily has increased to 4 fans.

SUGAR PLUM JAM - B.B. Brooks '04
35" ML 7" Dip Dor Unf
Avg. Dbl Fan Eureka price \$19 US

This daylily started in Nova Scotia as two small fans and has increased to four nice sized fans and continues to grow well. It sent up two scapes in its second summer and the babysitter notes that the bloom time was long. This is probably indicative that it has a very good bud count. The host gardener also notes that the flowers were lovely.

TOWER OF BABEL - Emmerich '04
38" Mre 6" Tet Dor Fra
Avg. Dbl Fan Eureka price \$75 US

Starting off in Nova Scotia as a single fan it has now increased to six fans. The scapes measure the full 38" that they were registered. As a 3-fan plant it produced 2 scapes in its second summer. There was 3-way branching of the scapes with 16 buds. The flowers opened full and flat in its NS host garden. According to the babysitter it is

a medium purple flower with a darker almost blue-purple halo. It has a yellow eye and green throat.

THE STILL POINT - Curt Hansen '05
40" EE 6" Tet, Sev UF
Web site price DF \$100 US

(Roaring Fork X John Karl Seager).
This cascading unusual form flower is soft quartz-pink. It has three to four way branching and bloomed for the first time on July 8, 2006. It started out as a single fan in 05 and has increased to five fans in 06. The Still Point only had one flower scape this year with a low bud count.

THERAPEUTIC TOUCH - Curt Hansen
'04 38 L Tet Sev Price ?



Our host plant sitter said the flower on this plant is fairly similar to that of Joan Senior. As far as growth is concerned, it wasn't fantastic, having grown to 2-3 fans. It did have 2-way branching but wasn't a particularly great plant that sticks out any better than any other cultivar. It had one bloom stem in the summer of 2006 and bloomed mid-late season. The bloom in 2006 was better than during the summer of 2005.

YOU ARE MY CANDY GIRL - B.B. Brooks '04

Last but not least, another daylily that has grown well during its time in its host garden and has increased to five fans.



Conclusion – It appears as though the first returns of the NSDS venture into babysitting daylilies has been a great success. No plants died and I think this is due to the excellent care awarded them by the babysitters and also the prudent choices that were made with regard to hardiness for northern gardens.

If you are counting, there may be well over forty fans coming back to our club for our May babysitting plant sale and auction, from the original 15 plants that NSDS brought in.

If each of these is purchased at a minimum of \$25 each, that will mean an extra \$1000 brought into our club. Hmm, I wonder if that means we could purchase \$3000 worth of babysitting plants for 2008!

UP COMING EVENTS

- (1) The Babysitting Plant distribution and Auction will be held at the May meeting: May 10th, 2007.
- (2) The NSDS Bazaar is Saturday July 7th, 2007 at the Hammonds Plains Baptist Church.
- (3) Ted Petit will be teaching the Garden Judge Course and speaking on August 4th, 2007.
- (4) The Nova Scotia Daylily monthly meeting is usually held the second Thursday of every month at the Hammonds Plains Baptist Church unless notified otherwise.

<http://www.geocities.com/tgpetite/>