



THE GARDEN GATE

Published for the members of the [North Texas Daylily Society](http://www.NorthTexasDaylilySociety.org), est. 1988

Volume XXXI, Issue 5

May 2019

TUCKER'S TALK

Daylily season is finally upon us.

Unfortunately our rainy season is also upon us. You have to love waterspotted daylilies. (Sarcasm). At this point in the season there isn't much we have to do to our plants except enjoy their beauty and deadhead our one day blooms to keep them looking their best. I am a firm believer in fertilizing but at this point I always recommend waiting until the plants are finished blooming for any future feeding. At the upcoming meeting, we will be discussing the show that is taking place on June 1st and we need everyone to be involved so that the show can be as successful as possible. It takes a lot to have a great show and being that I think our show is the best in the area we need everyone to be

involved to make that happen. Enjoy your daylilies and bring some pictures of your favorites to share with everyone. See you at the meeting.

And, for the record, **2019 Dues are Due!**

Tucker❖

Secretary's report

Meeting convened at 7:09 p.m.

20 members attended and 4 guests.

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Joyce and seconded by Rebecca. Motion approved.

A motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Janet Howie and seconded by Cathy. Motion approved.

Old Business:

- The room in which we normally meet is still being renovated. According to the night's speaker, director of the Botanic Gardens, work should be completed by the next meeting.
- AHS is displeased with the number of national members within our local society. Show information was sent to Houston instead of our club, Nickie and Linda will check to see where it was sent. The May meeting will be devoted to preparing for the June 3rd show. Dallas and Johnson county clubs

Officers

President

Tucker Reed
682 553 6914

First VP Programs

Rebecca Reed
682 553 7050

Second VP Membership

Nickie Knight
817 551 7260

Third VP Publicity

Susan Austin
817 925 5052

Fourth VP Treasurer

Linda Long
817 341 1297

Secretary

Janet Von Kohn
817 483 5146

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have yet to determine if or when they will have a show.

New Business:

- Considering Subhana Ansari to provide plants for the fall sale. Janet should contact her.
- Menu for the May meeting is picnic food, but please don't include the ants.
- The Longs checked on providing plaques for the show awards, but found them very expensive and would rather use the funds for our club. Consider giving gift certificates for our fall sale as awards.
- Volunteers to pick up the vases for the show are needed.
- The article written by Steve Chamblee in the previous newsletter is worth taking the time to read.

Meeting convened at 7:31 p.m.

Janet ❖

Speaker

This month's program, at this time, is general discussion of show prep, grooming of scapes, identification tags, and classification.

Rebecca ❖

Gardening tips from a great grower

By Roger Mercer, Correspondent, Fayetteville Observer

I recently taught several courses on growing and breeding daylilies to the Sandhills Daylily Club and to regular and continuing education classes at Fayetteville Tech's Horticulture Education facility.

I always mention Van Sellers as a consummate grower of daylilies and a source of great how-to information.

But I usually provide neither his original advice nor my first story about Van, who became one of my favorite mentors. It's nearing daylily bloom season, one of the best times to select and plant daylily additions. So, here's Van's story, for everybody:

The man was skinny.

He wore cowboy boots, a Stetson hat and jeans. He smoked, nonstop.

The first time I met Van Sellers he stood in the middle of his **Iron Gate Gardens** in Kings Mountain and watched me like a cat afraid someone would take his freshly killed mouse.

I later learned that someone had stolen some of his prized plants. And Mr. Sellers is a careful man.

I ignored him.

I looked instead at the most exquisitely grown hostas, daylilies, hellebores, belamcandas and other perennials I had ever seen.

They didn't grow that way in my garden. And I wanted to know why.

Later, at a daylily convention in Columbia, South Carolina, Van — as he is known to all who are serious about hostas and daylilies — told me why.

The man has made an art and a science of growing his plants. He shared with the convention the most complete growing information I have seen regarding daylilies. The information is based on his 30 years of experience. Most of it is useful for growing any decorative plants, particularly perennials, and especially hostas and daylilies.

Here are the highlights of what Van had to say:

Soils

I cannot emphasize too much the importance of having soil tests made.

Applying fertilizers to improve growth may be a waste of time and money if you don't know what your soil needs.

Be extremely careful about applying lime if you don't know that your soil needs it.

The person who makes your soil tests will need to know what types of plants will be grown before he can make a recommendation.

Be sure to write "**perennials-daylilies-roots**" on the box and information sheet. The person doing the testing will not, most likely, know what a daylily is. Remember that most people think daylilies have bulbs, not roots. The fertilizer requirements for bulbs and roots are quite different.

Fertilizers

Fertilizers might be placed in two groups:

- Chemical, which includes granular, liquid, slow-release and others
- Compost, which includes manures, sludge, rotted leaves and other materials.

Plants can use chemical fertilizers only if soil conditions are correct - hence the need for a soil test.

In my sandy soil, granular fertilizers give one swift kick and are then washed away.

Liquid fertilizers must be used on schedule to be effective. Using a weak solution (read the label), spray the foliage and ground around the plant every seven days for maximum effectiveness.

Watering the plants will help make the fertilizer more effective.

I use two types of chemical fertilizers:

- In fall, I apply a fertilizer strong in nitrogen.

All daylily plants are divided and replanted at Iron Gate Gardens each year, beginning about July 15 and continuing until frost. I use nitrate of soda, if available. I use it lavishly.

Depending upon your soil type, be careful with this. If there is no rain within a week, I turn the sprinklers on, at night, and let them run for six to eight hours.

There is immediate growth of the plants. Since our coldest weather doesn't arrive until December, I have six weeks or longer of growing time left. Keep in mind that pure nitrate of soda is deadly in heat, and do not let it touch the plants.

- In spring, I use 10-10-10 fertilizer - the same as I use on the lawn - only on those plants that seem to be a bit sluggish about growing.

Some plants just take longer to get started. Daylilies do love nitrogen, but remember that it does make for taller scapes and more robust growth.

Composts

Composts are simply the finest soil builders that can be used - and usually the cost is low. Daylilies are heavy feeders, so use enough compost to supply plenty of nutrients. The following are some rules you might use in connection with compost:

- May be used abundantly.
- Provide the best method of building soil.

Manures

All manures are excellent. Horse manure is perhaps best because it breaks down well in winter. Cow manure breaks down more slowly. Chicken manure can give daylilies a quick boost and aids greatly in making fibrous roots.

Here are the two most important things to remember about manures:

- Manures are high in nitrogen, and daylilies love nitrogen.

- Yes, manures have weeds, but one must make sacrifices. [we found a riding stable that bedded the horses on wood chips, not straw. NO WEEDS – jim]

Leaves

Rotted leaves make a wonderful compost. Everyone should have a compost pile. I dig a hole for my pile and use the topsoil elsewhere in the garden. Pine needles decompose slowly and are less desirable in compost than leaves.

Competition

Large weeds, trees and shrubs deplete the soil of nutrients and water.

Anytime you see good daylilies growing near trees or shrubs, you may be sure the daylilies are receiving constant feeding and watering.

Send your questions and comments to Roger at orders@mercergarden.com or call (910) 424-4756. You may write to Roger at 6215 Maude St., Fayetteville, N.C. 28306



SUNSHINE REPORT

Our thoughts and prayers to Gail Williams (Floyd) on unexpected loss of her only child.

Jim❖

APRIL Host/Hostess – POT LUCK

Joyce Valdez, Vernon Wallis, Ann Martin, Linda Long, Ester Strawn, Cathy Koogler, Rich Miller, Tucker & Rebecca Reed, Janet Von Kohn, and Sharon Bartlett,

Thanks so much!



MAY Host/Hostess – PICNIC FOOD

Joyce Valdez, Cathy Koogler, Ester Strawn, Vernon Wallis, Kristi Kolpanen, Tucker & Rebecca Reed, Nickie Knight, Linda Long, Dennis Niles, and Sharon Bartlett,

Thanks!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NTDS Meeting @ Ft Worth Botanic Gardens
Time 7:00 PM, May 16th 2019

DGDallas Meeting @ North Haven Gardens
Time 10:00 AM, Third Saturday,
Jan-May, Sept-Nov.

Johnson County Iris & Daylily Society @
United Cooperative Services, Cleburne
Time 10 AM, Second Saturday
monthly

ETDS Meeting @ Tyler Public Library
Time 2:00 PM, Second Sunday,
Jan-May, Oct-Nov

Brazosport Meeting @ Lake Jackson Civic Center
Time 2:30 PM, March 10, 2019,
Speaker Dan Hansen from Ladybug Daylilies
with auction

Shows n Sales
NTDS show, June 1st, 2019
Open to public after judging

AHS Regionals
Reg 6, June 27-29, 2019 Albuquerque, NM

AHS

North Texas Daylily Society

Membership Application Form

Please complete ALL fields

Date _____ Renewal for 20____ New membership(s)

Note that new members joining after January 1st are joining for following year.

Are you currently an American Hemerocallis Society member?

Names (please print) _____

Mailing address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone numbers Home _____

Work _____

Email address _____

Do you need the Newsletter mailed? ____ (Y/N)

Do you want a NorthTexasDaylilySociety.org email address? ____ (Y/N)

If so, PRINT exact address wanted.

(Normally this is First.Last@NorthTexasDaylilySociety.org)

Memberships desired: Single member - \$15 Family membership - \$20

Youth member - \$8

Life membership - \$150 Lifetime family membership - \$200

Please make checks payable to **North Texas Daylily Society**. Mail to

Linda Long

N T D S TREASURER,

116 Encino Springs Lane

Weatherford, TX 76088

In addition to NorthTexasDaylilySociety.org, we have the alias NorthTexasDaylilySociety.com. Please note that the Newsletter address has changed on previous pages.

The 'I have a problem/question' address is admin@northtexasdaylilysociety.org.

My club address is Jim.Bartlett@northtexasdaylilysociety.org while my normal email continues to be G236007@gmail.com

I plan on discussing this as needed in future meetings. I think using our club as your email address (or one of your email addresses) is just nicer than gmail, yahoo, msn, etc. Or the ever changing email address provided by your current ISP.

And, you can quickly change the NorthTexasDaylilySociety.org account to automatically forward **all mail to any other email account**. It will keep or delete the messages forwarded as you instruct.

So, I can just set everybody up or ask for requests. I would prefer to set everyone up at one time because I can do that from the membership list. And yes, this is a little easier than manually setting up 40-odd folks. Please note that I did NOT say 40 odd-folks.... :o)

OBTW, this includes all the applications included with a GMAIL account, private and shared DOCs (word processing, spreadsheets, etc), private and shared calendars, private and shared Sites (web pages).

Think about it and we can discuss any Thursday. Or just send me a note.

Jim