



ARKLA February Newsletter

Arkansas & Louisiana Region of the American Daylily Society

Meeting and Garden Tours, June 7 and 8, 2024

Comfort Suites Little Rock West



The main purpose of this newsletter is the 2024 tour announcement. A bus tour of three gardens will begin Saturday, June 8, beginning with a trip to Robert Treadway's garden in Carlisle. Robert lives on 67 acres, has a collection of 175 daylilies and 600 irises. He is a past President of the Society of Louisiana Iris.

Sandy Holmes will speak Friday evening (June 7, 7:00) before the auction. If our tour bus (55) is filled, space will be available for her presentation, and the Regional Auction, including recent introductions by Mike and Sandy Holmes. Join us in our *first* visit to this location:

Comfort Suites, LR West
11 Crossing Court
Little Rock, AR 72205



Second stop will be John Antonetti's garden in Benton. John provides a variety of designs and themes in a backyard garden. He has designed and constructed screens to provide a background to plants with different sun requirements, but daylilies will be the stars in June. Note the picture on the lower left, with clematis and daylilies in bloom. You'll get great ideas for backyard privacy, as well as overall garden design in Arkansas.





White Rock Garden of Phyllis and Odie Kirtley is on a 3.5 acre lot near Benton, and Japanese irises could be in bloom when we arrive. This garden has raised daylily beds, constructed by filling in low rock edges with a combination of mulches, saving time needed for weeding. Phyllis is a master in getting different plants into the right amount of sunlight, as there are at least five different iris types planted with daylilies and peonies. Following a lunch, Phyllis will host Workshop II on Saturday, at 2:00.



Sue Lileah



Our Talking Ghost



Walt Lowry

Welcome, Sandy Holmes

Sandy started as a back yard hybridizer in 1995. In 2003 she got serious about her daylily obsession when she and her husband, Mike moved Riverbend Daylily Gardens to its current location just outside of Xenia, OH (dalilytrader.com/riverbend). They have 289 introductions in the American Daylily Society registry of cultivars; Sandy had her first introductions in 2005. She credits Steve Moldovan as a significant influence on her hybridizing. Her focus is on large tetraploid unusual forms but doesn't let that prevent her working on other looks. Currently she is focusing on large unusual forms with interesting eyes. Mike's current interest is striped daylilies, but he was very active in early teeth daylilies.

Sandy became a Garden Judge in 2007 and a Garden Judge Instructor in 2011. She has coordinated the Shirley Farmer Midwest Hybridizer's meeting since 2004 and has served in several volunteer positions with the ADS. Sandy was Region 2 President from 2016 thru 2020 and received the Region 2 Service Award in 2021.

Sandy was honored when her daylily Walt Lowry (named for her father) won the Ned Roberts Spider/Unusual Form award in 2016 and even more excited when it won an Award of Merit. In 2017, Tidewater Elf won the Presidents Cub followed by the Award of Merit in 2020. Little did she dream that she would have the thrill of a life time when her I Lava You won the Stout Silver Metal in 2020.



I Lava You



Butterscotch Trees



Michigan Farm Girls



Big World Hello

Director's Message

Greeting Region 13,

I would like to invite you to the Region 13 meeting being held in Little Rock, Arkansas. I look forward to visiting the gardens of Robert Treadway and John Antonetti. Their gardens were not on-tour the last Regional I attended in 2010. I can tell you from experience, White Rock Garden, the garden of Phyllis and Odie Kirtley, is worth a trip with or without a Regional Meeting. A write up of their garden can be found in the 2010 Summer edition of the ArkLa at [Summer 2010 \(5\).pdf \(ahsregion13.com\)](#) This area has always been one of my favorite parts of the country. Make sure you make time for Garland Woodlands Gardens, Downtown Hot Springs, Bathhouse Row, Lake Hamilton, and if more excitement is your style there is the Electric Cowboy for shooting pool and dancing and Oaklawn horse racetrack and Casino. There is plenty to do if you are looking for a long weekend.

Speaker Sandy Homes is entertaining. She and her husband Mike's introductions are excellent and will perform well in our region but especially in the northern portion of our Region.

If you want to make the week of vacationing and flower pursuing the AHS National Convention is being held the following week in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. I believe there is still availability, and a second hotel was required for an overflow attendance.

I look forward to seeing you in Little Rock,

Joe Goudeau
Director Region 13
Endowments Chair

Regional Matters:

Bob Stassen, Interim Regional President

Hope all is well, and 2024 has provided some much-needed rainfall throughout our states. The groundhog has forecast an early spring, and a longer bloom season, so we have that.

This note is primarily for the announcement of the Regional Meeting in June, and there's some old and new business that should be discussed.

2024 Regional Meeting

The 2024 Meeting in Little Rock is at a more central location so travel in should be shorter. Little Rock has direct flight service from range of cities, also served by Southwest Airlines, so you can imagine that the ticket prices are competitive. The conference hotel, the Comfort Suites Little Rock West is a 20-minute Uber trip away, so you don't need to be at a downtown location and still be a convenient trip to and from the airport. The hotel is in shopping center development where you're a short walk from a variety of dinner menus. In short, you'll have Garden Judge Workshops, an entertaining hybridizer, and three of Arkansas's best gardens to see.

The Comfort Suites provides a breakfast to guests, and I have asked the hotel to begin serving breakfast at its regular weekday time, starting at 6:30, this should provide adequate time for us to board buses, and be on our way to Carlisle at 8:00. . Because of distances between gardens and tightness of available parking at the host gardens, a bus is necessary. If it's not possible for you to be on our Saturday tour bus to gardens, you're still welcome to come to Sandy Holmes presentation and support the Region through the auction, and no registration is necessary.

An updated mailing will go out to the new members, and further updates will be sent made available via the Regional website, [ahsrgion13.com](#). Contacting members via e-mail is challenging, and our region needs an individual responsible for making sure e-mail addresses are current, and receiving correspondence.

Regional President

The position of Regional President remains open, and there will be report from the Nominating Committee in Little Rock. Please keep this in mind and pass along your thoughts to Bill Monroe, Carol Lazar, Joe Goudeau, and me, we will contact this person to confirm their interest. I will continue to help as needed with the mailings and serve as Garden Judge Liaison. In terms of assistance for a new president, there is ample experience in the region to call on for assistance, but honestly, with Joe Goudeau as our Director, I don't expect to much work coming back on the regional officers. In contrast, he'll be an advocate for keeping activities centrally controlled where cost effective, and allow the Regions to operate with a minimum of

interference. He has served as a Director before, and knows what to expect. You could always send the ADS a financial contribution and receive a note thanking you, as he is the new Endowments Chair. Congratulations, Joe.

2025 Meeting Location

A more urgent matter, which must be addressed at our meeting will be selection of a host club for the 2025 meeting—don't all call me at once. Clubs are not as successful as they once were. We once had very active clubs in Shreveport and Lafayette, that once hosted National Conventions, as well as several regional meetings. It was hoped that membership promotion would help the clubs, and bring clubs back, and certainly, there are other ways of getting club back in running order, as the ADS is really only as strong as the work done in local clubs.

Having tour gardens is the most important matter, and these individuals willing to prepare and open their gardens are to be worshipped. After this, the conference hotel, getting buses, arranging meals are important, but relatively smaller matters. The Friday night, "meal on your own," has become a "standard" with a Saturday night meal being an impediment to those that can only be available for the night prior to garden touring. All of this can revert to what was the standard when I attended meetings in our Region, as if a club sees an opportunity for adding value to the tour by offering more, and there's no problem with that.

ADS Display Gardens

Our Region has lost some tour gardens, and that is an area of concern. Negotiations will take place this spring to lengthen the Northwest Arkansas Daylily Society's agreement with the Botanical Garden of the Ozarks. We expect to have nearly 200 newer cultivars in the display bed, with the majority in some stage of our Pyramid of Awards ballot. To my knowledge, it is the only display garden with Garden Judges in mind in the U.S. Our initial agreement was to operate it on year-to-year renewal basis, but a multi-year commitment is necessary at this stage, so that it can become a display garden. This will be a topic on the Regional Meeting Agenda. If your club would like to coordinate a longer-term commitment from a public garden (with a deer protection) this should be shared, so that the Region can support it.

Donations of Plants for Regional Auction

Hybridizers who have supported us in the past to donate plants have done so if they receive some compensation for their shipping costs, as they will again in 2024. The best way to donate plants for the Regional Auction is to bring plants from your collection that are newer introductions that have increased. Similarly, if the daylily has received recognition as a Honorable Mention winner, or on the HM ballot, that will certainly put it into demand at an auction.

If you cannot attend the Regional, and want to donate plants, send them along with others in attendance, or send them to:

Bob Stassen
3456 N Gunnison Dr
Fayetteville, AR 72703

If you plan to send plants by the USPS (mail), be assured that it is risky. Please send them about a month in advance so that these can be "revived" before the auction. Bringing plants with you, is of course, fine—just notify us in advance so that the auction list and slide show can be prepared.

Treasurer's Report.

Our Region is in good shape financially, and Errol Nabb, of Bella Vista, has taken over the responsibilities of Treasurer from Ed Herringshaw. The year-end report follows. In short, we should be able to support all clubs that report their membership rosters to the Region and would like to take advantage of this offer to be reimbursed for paying their American Daylily Society (ADS) memberships. However, the benefit of this promotion is shown in the participation demonstrated by club representatives at our regional meetings. CENLA hosting the Regional in 2023, and participation by other clubs in the region was appreciated. Please, all clubs are encouraged to attend our Regional Meeting.

A special thanks to the hosts of gardens on our tour, Robert Treadway, John Antonetti, and Phyllis Kirtley. A special thanks to Phyllis, who is also coordinating Saturday's luncheon. In addition, thanks to those who are Arkansas State Daylily Board Members: Brenda Barr, Doug & Libby Beecher, April Burchfield, Errol & Gwen Nabb, Sheila Nash, Gail Rasberry.

Garden Judges Voting: 2023 Award of Merit

Cultivar	R5	R2	R15	R11	R3	R1	R4	R13	R14	R10	R12	R8	R6	R7	R9	Regions	Total
Mayor of Cornatzer	18	8	6	5	5	1	1	5	1	1				1	2	12	54
Spacecoast Tequila Sunrise	1	5	2		1	2	2	1	3		5	1	1	1		12	25
Double My Sunshine	5	6	1	2	1	6	2		1	2		1	5	1		12	33
Off to See the Wizard	16	2	4	5	7		1	1	1	1	2		1			11	49
Too Cute	2	10	1	2	4	1		2		1		4		1		10	31
A Little Twisted	10	5	3	2	3		1	1	2	2	1					10	32
Spacecoast The Green Mile	5		2	1	2	4	1		1	1	6	1				10	24
Faber Sabre	1	1	6	5	2	4		4		2		1				9	26
Riot Act	1	3	4	1	3	6	1	4	1							9	24
Asheville After Dark	4	2	8	5				2	1	1	1	2				9	26
Wisteria	5	4	1	7		1	2	1	2				1			9	24
Gryphon Hankow Legacy	3		4	8	2	1	12		1	3			1			9	36
End of the Tunnel	1	9		7	3	1	2			2		1				8	27
Heavenly New Frontiers*	4	8	3	1	8	1	4									7	29
MeMe's Merlot*	4	5	5	4	4	3	1									7	26
Mardi Gras Indian*	5	5	10	1	2				1	1						7	32
Totals	85	73	60	56	47	31	30	21	15	17	15	11	9	4	2		498
*Below 1/2 Regions																	

Garden Judges Workshops I and II will be offered at the upcoming Regional Meeting, and the above table illustrates how important an individual garden judge's vote can be to this critical stage in the ADS "Pyramid of Awards" process. The table above is modified from the Excel spreadsheets (daylilies.org/awards/award-of-merit/) created from the 2023 ADS Garden Judges voting for the Award of Merit (AM). The top 12 cultivars in the table will be on the Stout Silver Medal ballot in 2025. For hybridizers, getting past the first stage (Honorable Mention) is about getting your plants widely distributed into the eyes of Garden Judges. After getting on the AM ballot, it is 100% the responsibility of the Garden Judges to get out and evaluate the plants if possible.

The award is made each year to the **twelve registered daylilies** that won an Honorable Mention as late as 2020. The Garden Judges voting, has two separate criteria: A cultivar must receive votes from at least half of the 15 regions (1), and not more than one-third of the total votes credited to a cultivar shall come from any one region (2). Here, the table is sorted by number of regions voting for the cultivar, with four missing the AM because it lacked the votes of an additional Region. Differently, "End of the Tunnel" would not be an AM winner without the "singleton" votes from regions 5 and 8.

Every ADS region needs more Garden Judge, due to the declining number of judges across country, however, Region 13, like those casting fewer votes, plays a very important part

in the process. Region 11 (Kansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma) is one of the nearly "required" regions in getting the number of votes, but votes from our Region is important in achieving an AM. Region 13 has multiple growing conditions, where it is possible for a cultivar to receive that critical one vote from either Bella Vista, Arkansas or New Orleans, Louisiana.

At all summer ADS Regional Meetings, offering Garden Judges workshops is a required component, and critical in the evaluation of cultivars that is part of our status as a 501 (c) (3) non-profit. There will be at least 5 Garden Judge Instructors in attendance in Little Rock, so the discussion show be thorough and interesting, as it is whenever experienced garden judges can discuss daylily habit and improvement.

Before coming to the clinic, students should be acquainted with "The Garden Judges Handbook," and it is : "free" in PDF format from the portal "store:"

www.daylilynetwork.org/page/GardenJudgesHome.

If you have difficulty in getting this downloaded, contact me at coolplanter@hotmail.com. There is also a Slide Show PowerPoint that has been revised in 2023 that you can view before Workshop I. We review this, but are attentive of material expected, given the short time period and familiarity with the topics that have been on past exams.

Bob Stassen, Garden Judge Liaison, Region 13