



*Hemneocallis* Diane Joiner

# The Seed Pod

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*Editor Margie Brown*

**A HAPPY NEW YEAR**

## Installation of New Officers

December turned out to be an exciting time for daylily club members. The long awaited worker's party was a welcome addition to the annual Christmas party. Everyone went home with several quality daylilies and three recipients, Dee Dee Toler, new member Ken Poston, and Karolina Alvarez won a free year of A H S membership.

New officers for the year 2007 were installed by Dr. Elizabeth Gibbs as she likened their office and duties to the colors of a rainbow. The new President is Deane Spradley; First Vice-President, Margie Brown; Second Vice-President, Margie Dumesnil; Co-Second Vice-President, Dr. Gene Or-

geron; Treasurer, Sharon LeBlanc; Recording Secretary, Margaret Butler; Corresponding Secretary, Gwen Ochoa; and Historian, Rita Lege.

Prizes left over from the Region 6 Meeting were awarded. Fred Rice, Craig Hoyal, Earline Tullier, Dr. Gene Orgeron and Sharon LeBlanc won gift certificates to Cowboy Red's Bar-B-Q., Deane Spradley won a \$30 gift certificate to For All Occasions and Margie Dumesnil won 3 yards of Bruce's Garden Mix.

Mary Gage presented a slide show of her photographs of the AHS National tour gardens in Long Island, NY and of the Region 6 tour gardens.

## The President Said:

It has been a wonderful four years, and I have been proud to serve as your president. The old adage, "When the going gets tough, the tough get going" really sums up the Gulf Coast Daylily Society. We have a wealth of knowledge and experience with our older members, and I would hope that they stay involved and keep participating.

Thank you again; I can't say enough regarding the support we received for the 2006 Regional. We had an unbelievable turnout, lots of fun, and the food.....WOW! It was great that so many of you upheld my motto, "Think Club First, Self Second."

Dues are now payable. Please send your dues to Treasurer, Sharon LeBlanc at 225 Jennie Ln., Bridge City, TX 77611. They still remain a bargain at \$5 yearly and must be paid before the end of the year to be in the 2007 Yearbook. It would be great if all our members could join AHS. AHS dues are now \$25 yearly or \$30 for two in the same household. Remember garden and exhibition judges, you must pay your AHS dues before Dec. 31 or you will lose your accreditation.

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## Incoming President's Message

I know we are all looking forward to the promise of a new year. The club has accomplished some amazing goals this past year and I'm sure you are all ready for what ever comes our way.

We plan on combining education, fellowship, and fun with a small dash of business. We have made some changes in meeting places and restaurants that I believe you will enjoy. We have two new member yards for our tours that I'm sure you will appreciate.

You have a dedicated Board of Officers and Chairmen who are looking forward to serving you and presenting you with ideas that will keep our club growing and strong.

I personally am going to take the message from Kevin Walek, AHS President, to heart. I believe each of us can examine our roles in the club and ask ourselves if we are doing all we can to "keep our customers satisfied". You are a group of wonderful and knowledgeable people who have a lot to offer and I for one am looking forward to finding new members to introduce to this outstanding group.



## Gardening Tips



**Gwen Ochoa** suggested that we tell everyone about the wonderful mulch the city of Beaumont gives away, free, every Saturday from 8 A.M. until 1 P.M. Several daylily club members have used this mulch for a number of years. There are two grades: a fine cut that is usually only available to the “early birds” on early spring mornings, when the gardeners line up as early as 6 A.M., and a coarser cut that has larger pieces of wood chips and sometimes leaf bag fragments, etc. which usually is in plentiful supply. This time of the year there aren't as many people there for mulch so the fine cut lasts longer into the day. The place is the city of Beaumont landfill which is located at 5895 Lafin Dr. Lafin is just off Fannett Road less than a block southwest of Cardinal Drive. They load!! You'll probably see a few familiar faces there.

**Margie Dumesnil** has tried a new product (or new to us) for nut grass. It is called Sedgehammer. It is safe to spray around daylilies and some other plants and has her nut grass looking very yellow.



### February Meeting

The February meeting of GCDS will be a business meeting/Dutch treat meal on Saturday, Feb. 3, 11:30 A.M.-2:00 P.M. at the Red Onion Restaurant, 120 W. Candlestick Dr. in Lumberton. Take U.S. 96 North to Lumberton and turn left on Candlestick Dr.

The program will be presented by Micah Meyer from the Beaumont Agricultural Extension Office. The yearbooks will be distributed

## Rust Survey

*Dr. Gene Orgeron*

In the several years since daylily rust invaded our gardens, little progress has been made in controlling rust except this repetitive and tiresome spraying which must be done merely to control the epidemic.

In the Spring 2003 issue of *The Daylily Journal*, Matthew Kaskel outlined a scheme for grading cultivars as to complete or partial resistance to rust and outlined a scheme for breeding to control rust. Since that time, virtually nothing has been published about the control of rust.

Kaskel experimented by crossing resistant cultivars to other resistant cultivars. This resulted in seedlings of which 90 percent were highly resistant. Since then, nothing has been published along this line. The large commercial growers are obliged to spray since they cannot send plants out of state unless they have been sprayed. When you buy a new plant, you have no idea of what its rust resistance might be. It may be up to us, the ordinary gardeners, to do something about it.

It has been suggested that we grade plants as to rust resistance with a system similar to public school grades: AA= no sign of infection with rust; A= excellent garden appearance, with very few noticeable rust pustules; B= good garden appearance but with many pustules noticeable only upon close inspection, and so on. Kaskel found that 40 percent of his plants were of grade A. I recently surveyed my daylilies and found approximately the same percentage.

By crossing A-grade with other A-grades, Kaskel produced seedlings of which 90 percent were A-grade. I think this is the route which must be followed to win this battle against rust.

I invite all of our Gulf Coast Daylily Society members to survey their plants and send the results to me, and we will then have a large number of “safe” plants for future hybridizing.

Please send your survey results to: Dr. Gene Orgeron at 1731 Hebert Woods Dr., Port Neches, TX 77651.

### President...

Now it is time to look to the future. Please support our new President, Deane Spradley, and all the incoming officers and committee chairmen. They have planned a fun year. You still have not gotten rid of me.....Dr. Orgeron and I will chair the flower show. So think about which daylilies you want to enter. Just remember - they must be your daylilies and grown by you. Good Luck.

Hope your daylily garden looks like Heaven in 2007! Merry Christmas and a Wonderful New Year,

Margie Dumesnil

