

# The Bud, Branch and Scape

A publication of the Southern Michigan Daylily Society

Volume 25, Issue 3

December 2017

## Saying Goodbye to 2017 and Hello 2018! !

We were without power at our first meeting in 2017. You would think the meeting would have been canceled. Not when your speaker brings his own equipment and commandeers a generator. We kept our coats on and enjoyed the presentation and luncheon. Thanks to George Papadelis, owner of Tellys Greenhouse.

April was our banquet with John Kulpa as our speaker. Lots of surprises at this event from the guy who is "always thinking outside the box". You should start making plans now to attend the SMDS 2018 Spring Banquet now! AHS President Nikki Schmith will be our speaker and she never disappoints.

May took us to Hemlock Michigan to join CMDS at Lisik's garden. June was another road trip with a catered lunch in Clio MI at the beautiful Pace Gardens, also a visit to nearby nursery and special discount coupons. July was busy with the Region 2 meeting in Grand Rapids and a SMDS visit to the Detroit Zoo with lunch provided.

In August we met at Ann Arbor Matthaei Botanical Gardens and was treated to a catered lunch again and dozens of door prizes. September called for a more serious meeting addressing a review of our bylaws. In October we had a pizza party, Marietta Crabtree took us on a tour of Antarctica and we had our election to wrap up the year.

It was a great year of fun and events and as I type this newsletter I am already anxious to begin the 2018 garden season. Teresa Dillon



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Made in Michigan (Balash 2011)

# ◆◆◆◆◆ SMDS 2018 Calendar of Events ◆◆◆◆◆

**March 24**-Topic : Mixed Perennial Borders- Speaker Arlene Welsh, from Ontario Canada

**April 28**—Annual SMDS Banquet-Speaker AHS President Nikki Schmith

**May 19** –Picnic and a tour by Bill Horman of the Sunny Fields Botanical Park

**Complete details of each of these events on Page 6**



## SMDS Executive Board and Supporting Committees

January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2019

### Officers:

President – Libby Militello – 720-339-4701 - libby.j.militello@gmail.com

Vice President – Greg Schindler – 586-274-4502- gregsdailily@hoymail.com

Secretary – Lorna Demarias – 519-965-3337 - lornaatdleins@yahoo.com

Treasurer – LaVere Webster – 248-227-7619—laverew@aol.com

Newsletter - Teresa Dillon – 989-288-3408 – dillon1t@lentel.com



**Saturday April 21, 2018 at 10:00 am.**  
**Tim Bell- Daylily Hybridizer and Owner of Bells Daylily Garden**  
**in Sycamore, GA. Will be a special speaker at**  
**Central Michigan Daylily Society .**  
**Every one is invited to attend.**

**We will learn what is happening now at Bells Daylily Garden and there will be an auction of Bell Daylilies . Refreshments will be provided.**

**The meeting is at the: COMMISSION ON AGING 2200 S. Lincoln Rd. Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858**

**Questions? Contact CMDS President Jerry Brown at 517-230-3532 or**  
**[brown-841@hotmail.com](mailto:brown-841@hotmail.com)**

## From the Desk of the President:



Dear Daylily Buds,

I hope that you are healthy and happy. I just wanted one last time to thank you for allowing me to serve as your President. It was both a pleasure and an honor to serve you in that capacity. My fellow Board Members did an awesome job and their hard work and dedication is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

In just a few short weeks a new SMDS Board will take over and guide us on new adventures. I know that, with our members' support, they will be successful in their new and challenging tasks. It should be a very exciting experience. I wish the new SMDS Board all the best in the New Year.

I would also like to wish each and every one of you a very Merry & Blessed Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Winter Solstice (That's for you Nick Balash.) and a Healthy & Happy New Year!

As I end this message to you, I am reminded of what Nick Balash would always say at the end of his phone conversations, "STAY HEALTHY AND HAVE FUN!" Thanks for the memories, Nick. You are truly missed but not forgotten because you touched the lives and hearts of many people. I hope that you are enjoying your daylilies with your loved ones. Rest in peace my dear friend.

Hugs,

John Kulpa



are Needed in  
preparing for our  
2018 Annual  
Spring Banquet

**If you love to decorate, organize,  
or just enjoy being involved... your talents are  
greatly needed.**

**You and your friends can work together on a  
committee. Please consider the needs of SMDS  
and donate some time.**

**And contact President Libby Militello  
ASAP.**

**At 720-339-4701**

**or [libby.j.militello@gmail.com](mailto:libby.j.militello@gmail.com)**





**Region 2 Winter Symposium, will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana once again this year.**

**The Date is February 23-25, Friday though Sunday**

Our Host Hotel is the Embassy Suites - Hilton Indianapolis North [3912 Vincennes Rd. Indianapolis, IN. 46268](http://3912VincennesRdIndianapolisIN46268)

The Special Rate for our Hotel is \$124.00 Per Night IF MADE BY FEBRUARY 7, 2018 Call 317-872-770 OR go to the Link for Reservations: [http://embassysuites.hilton.com/en/es/groups/personalized/I/INDNHES-RDL-20180222/index.jhtml?WT.mc\\_id=POG](http://embassysuites.hilton.com/en/es/groups/personalized/I/INDNHES-RDL-20180222/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG)

OR YOU MAY GO TO THE REGION 2 WEBSITE FOR REGISTRATION FORMS AND ALL UPDATED INFORMATION. [r2registrar2018@outlook.com](mailto:r2registrar2018@outlook.com) OR CALL GREG MC MULLEN at [317-598-0434](tel:317-598-0434)

E-MAIL IS STONGLY PREFERED !!!!!!!

THE COST : FOR THE SYMPOSIUM IS \$125.00 PER PERSON IF POSTMARKED BY JANUARY 1, 2018 and \$149.00 per person after that date.

Please remember THERE IS NO 2018 SUMMER MEETING !!!!! This is your chance, maybe your only chance in 2018 to meet the hybridizers, and to make new and renew friendships with all the fabulous Daylily folks who support and attend the Region 2 Meetings.

You will be hearing several outstanding speakers which includes, GAIL BRAUNSTEIN, TERESA BYINGTON, JAMIE GOSSARD, MIKE GROSSMAN, RICHARD NORRIS, PAUL OWEN, ERIC SIMPSON, & BILL WALDROP.

We will have Judges Clinics and Roundtables, TWO HUGE LIVE DAYLILY AUCTIONS !!!! Special Contests,

A delicious dinner will be served on Saturday evening, as well as Refreshments at breaks. Our Hospitality room will once again be available to chat with friends, have some snacks, and enjoy conversation with our guest speakers.

FOOD, FUN, FRIENDS AND FLOWERS.....THE PERFECT WEEKEND GET-A-WAY  
DON'T DELAY REGISTER TODAY !!!!!!!!!!!

Barb Buikema  
Region 2 Publicity Director

The New SMDS by-laws were approved at the September meeting.

They are posted on our SMDS website where they can be downloaded. Go to [www.midaylilysociety.com](http://www.midaylilysociety.com), click on the "more" tab, then go to

"society information". When you click on the file it can either be viewed, printed, and or saved to your computer.

## From the Desk of our Newly Elected President: Libby Militello



Dear Daylily Buds,

Hello! I hope this letter finds you well and that you are enjoying the warmth of the holiday, whether that means snuggled up with a cup of hot cocoa at home or out and about with friends and family.

Thank you, everyone, for your support and the opportunity to represent you as the President of the Southern Michigan Daylily Society. I'm happy to be in this position and I look forward to continuing the atmosphere of fun that the previous board members so wonderfully delivered to us! I'd like to take a moment to thank them for their service to our club the last few years, for their big hearts, and for their support and advice that they have passed on to the members of the new board. I would also like to thank my fellow incoming board members for embarking on this journey with me; they have already put forth great effort toward planning some exciting events for 2018!

As with any change in leadership there is....well, change! We're all a little different and we all have our own styles of leadership, but it is my sincerest hope that all of you will love and enjoy the next two years with the incoming board as much as I have loved being a member under the previous board.

That said, you might be thinking "Just *who* is this new president and what can she do for our club?"...

I went to school for a dual major in Business Marketing and Business Management, with additional courses in psychology, journalism, and multimedia. Currently, I am a substitute teacher, and loving it! Moving from classroom to classroom in different age groups has given me a great deal of perspective on differences in learning styles, teaching styles, cultures, and attitudes, and it has also shown me the importance of keeping things fun and entertaining. Substitute teaching also gives me the flexibility to have my summers free for—what else?—GARDENING!

I do not claim to be an expert gardener at this stage of my life, but I have read a great deal, had many trial and error experiments in my own gardens, and I thoroughly enjoy growing things. If you love growing edibles (flowers or vegetables), we have something in common! In fact, I got into daylilies, in part, because they were listed as an edible flower! I still haven't had the courage to eat one...yet.

I joined this club to make friends with other daylily enthusiasts, and now that I am president of SMDS, I am eager to reach out and help non-daylily enthusiasts find the passion.

As a thirty-something with a strong interest in daylilies and an even stronger interest in seeing this wonderful club continue for many years to come, my primary goal is to work toward making SMDS interesting and attractive to all age levels and to increase membership for our club, particularly with those who are 12-40 years old. Since I am in this age range myself and I also work with students ages 12-18, I have insight as to what currently interests—and creates obstacles for—people in these age ranges and I look forward to using that knowledge to drive our membership goals.

Our club is about camaraderie, shared interests, mentorship, and community. It is about spending time with friends, having fun, and inspiring others to love daylilies as much as we do. We have the inspiration within us. We have the knowledge to share with others. And we have a whole lot of people out there that *could* make wonderful members and friends. So I hope you'll join me in spreading the daylily love with each other and with others...Let's get out there, make it happen, and have fun doing so!

Sincerely,

Libby Militello

## More from SMDS President Libby Militello

Can you believe it? December is already here and the snowflakes are knocking on our doors. It feels like winter held off a little longer than normal this year, but now that it is here, it's time to stock up on hot drinks, dig out the warm sweaters and fuzzy socks and sit down with seed catalogs, gardening magazines, and any other thing that helps remind us of spring. Here's a little extra something to help beat the winter blahs...

## Spring 2018 Events Calendar

**March 24** – Nothing says Spring like flowers, and while March 28<sup>th</sup> is a little early for most flowers here in Michigan, that doesn't mean we can't enjoy looking at them! We are pleased to announce that the speaker for our March meeting will be **Arlene Welsh**! She will give a presentation on mixed perennial borders with plenty of beautiful pictures taken by her husband, Bill, of their gardens. Some of you may have been fortunate enough to see her gardens years ago at the 2009 picnic, but as we know, gardens are like fine wine, they only get better with each passing year!

Please remember to update your membership at the March meeting, too, if you haven't done so prior to that time!

**April 28** – Mark your calendars, you won't want to miss the 2018 banquet! We are very excited to announce that AHS president, **Nikki Schmith**—also a former SMDS member and SMDS president—will be the speaker for this event! As many of you know, she now lives in Illinois with her husband and her son. Nikki is an blogger, haiku poet, gardener, and daylily enthusiast. She brings her energy and passion to the world of daylilies every day and we look forward to having her speak at our April Banquet! Details are still in the works for this event, but we are anticipating a great turnout, so keep your eyes and ears peeled for ticket sales in the upcoming months.

**Important note! We are in the process of finalizing the venue for this event and, in order to book an appropriately-sized room, we need an idea of how many of you are planning to attend the banquet on April 28. Please email [Libby.J.Militello@gmail.com](mailto:Libby.J.Militello@gmail.com) BEFORE January 1 to let her know if you (and any of your family and friends) are interested and plan on attending the event.**

**May 19** – April showers bring May flowers. Lilacs, specifically. Come join us for a picnic and a tour by Bill Horman of the Sunny Fields Botanical Park, located in Emmet Township in the lower part of 'the thumb.' Twenty-five acres of beauty all coming to life as the weather warms up in mid-May—could anything be more perfect? This time of year the lilacs are certain to be in bloom, but Sunny Fields is home to over 1400 different types of plants, so keep an eye out for other spring bloomers, too! Please plan to bring a food item to share with others. More details will be provided soon!

Our Summer schedule is still in the works, but we are currently planning to host an off-scape daylily show in July and we need volunteers to help with the planning, setup, operation, and cleanup of the show! Thank you, in advance, to any and all of you that offer your time and volunteer, it is a big project and we can't do it without you! To volunteer, please email Libby at [Libby.J.Militello@gmail.com](mailto:Libby.J.Militello@gmail.com).

As we plan more fun events, we'll let you know! See you in the Spring!

President,

Libby Militello

## Remembering Nick Balash

As our December 2017 newsletter began, I tried to take everyone on a walk back through some fun times of this year. Now I want to take you on another memory walk while I review some of the pictures and memories I have of Nick Balash.

First an interview that Marietta Crabtree did with Nick in August of 2010.

### **Nick Balash: SMDS Hybridizer and Honorary Life Member**

Nick has been growing daylilies, hybridizing daylilies and attending AHS National Conventions for approximately fifty years. In about 1958 Nick responded to an ad in the New York Times for daylilies from a Walter Marks Garden in Oregon. Nick bought six daylilies and planted them in his backyard in Albion, Michigan. The first year brought daylily blooms, the second year they clumped up and by the third year they were big plants and Nick “started to pay attention”.

In 1961 Nick saw an ad in a plant catalogue for the American Hemerocallis Society. He contacted AHS and became a member. Nick attended the AHS 1961 National Convention in Chicago. Nick saw Virginia Peck’s Dance Ballerina Dance tetraploid with ruffling and Davidson’s tetraploid Decatur Pie Crust at the convention. Virginia Peck gave a presentation at the convention about her conversion lab in her kitchen for converting diploids to tetraploids. She and her husband were professors at Middle Tennessee State. Some Chicago hybridizers also doing conversions to tetraploids were Fay, Griesbach, and Marsh.

In 1962 the AHS Journal published a letter written by Wendell Mullison stating that diploids were perfect and that people were crazy to expose themselves to chemicals and develop tetraploids. The letter started a big controversy between the diploid and tetraploid breeders.

The diploid daylily has two sets of 11 chromosomes for a total of 22 chromosomes. (One set from egg and one set from the pollen resulting in 22 chromosomes upon fertilization of the egg.) The use of the colchicine chemical interferes with the chromosomes separating into new cells during cell division and the number of chromosomes in the cell is doubled. The chromosome number goes from 22 diploid (2 sets of chromosomes) to 44 (four sets of chromosomes) tetraploid. Nick remembers Bill Munson paying \$500 for a tetraploid seedling in the late 1950’s.

Nick became “fired up” about daylilies from the Chicago Convention and bought more daylilies, a “promising line of diploids”. By 1964 the backyard of his Albion, Michigan home was filled up with daylilies and he needed to move. He bought 80 acres in the Albion area which became Balash Gardens. Nick hybridized nights and weekends.

Nick attended the AHS National Convention in Pittsburgh in the late 60’s. He met Howard and Eleanor Hite, Margaret Dickson, Harris Olsen, Al Goldner and Judith Weston at the convention. Howard Hite had a hospitality room and a “pretty good party” which Nick attended. Howard invited Nick to visit the Hite Garden at Lake Angelus. Nick bought a lot of daylilies from the Hite Garden and joined the Iris and Hemerocallis Society which later became the Southern Michigan Daylily Society. (The Iris members formed their own Iris Society.) Harris Olsen and Nick became good friends and attended many AHS National Conventions.

Nick was a daylily exhibition judge for the societies for twelve years. He also donated large quantities of daylilies for society fundraisers. He never accepted any reimbursement or donations for his judging expenses (traveled over 100 miles from Albion). In appreciation, he was made an Honorary Life Member.

As Nick got closer to retirement, he bought a lot of tetraploid daylilies for hybridizing. He printed a price list and started a mail-order business...but would rather dab pollen. His hybridizing goal is “large flowers of good substance and bud count, healthy plants...not bug magnets, and self-cleaning of spent blooms.” Nick currently grows 800 registered daylilies and 4,000 seedlings.

Nick is also trying to produce an all green daylily as an approach to blue. He is slowly achieving this with a yellow seedling becoming chartreuse. Nick wanted to produce something different and used some chemicals to produce mutations. One result was a characteristic that Nick calls “bleachers”. The daylily changes colors throughout the day as exposed to light. The purple bleaches to a blue. He is also incorporating John Kulpa’s seedlings into his hybridizing program.



While waiting for the perfect daylily and producing hundreds of beautiful seedlings, Nick registered three daylilies.

1. Forty Years Later: Balash, dark mahogany double
2. Briana Joy: Balash / Bailey, Yellow-gold double- named for Mrs. Bailey's granddaughter
3. Let's Boast a Bit: Balash/Salk, Yellow with brown eye and edge

Nick was born in Buffalo, New York. His family moved to Albion, Michigan in 1939 when he was in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. He was married to Sue for 52 years until she lost her battle with cancer. Nick is hybridizing to develop an "exceptional daylily" to name in her honor and to donate the proceeds to the Breast Cancer Society. Nick has a daughter, Nancy, three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Nick's advice to hybridizers is, "to taylor the hybridizing program around how much time can be spent, how much space is available and how much money can be spent. Many seedlings are needed to explore the crosses."

Thank you, Nick, for over 40 years of service to the daylily societies and for the beautiful daylilies that you have hybridized. –Marietta Crabtree



Above Left: Nick Balash & Charles Applegate during the 2010 Region 2 meeting. Cooling off inside the hall at Kingwood Center, OH.

Right: Kim Issacson, Nick Balash and Nikki Schmith at the 2010 Region 2 Summer Meeting in Ohio. When I took this picture I asked Nick what he was smiling about, he replied "I am really happy to be here. At my age I am happy to be anywhere."

Below Left: Martin Kamensky, Nick Balash, Fred and Kathy Rinke. At the Delisle Gardens 2011- Region 2 meeting

Below right :2011- Region 2 meeting -In the Kulpa gardens: Chad Bush, John Kulpa and Nick Balash. Nick has shared daylily knowledge with John. And John is now sharing his experience with hybridizer, Chad Bush.







Left: 2011- Region 2 meeting - Marietta, Nick & Don Crabtree at Crabtree Gardens

Below left: 2012 AHS National Convention  
Kim Hensley, Nick Balash and Chris Hensley

Nick Balash stated this was his 23<sup>rd</sup> AHS National Convention

Below Right: John Kulpa and Nick Balash share a laugh at December 2011 SMDS Christmas Party



Below left: Marietta Crabtree and Nick Balash- May 2016 SMDS Banquet

Below Right: Nick Balash and Sheila Green at 2012 SMDS Banquet







Left: Sandra Dunn, Kate, Nick Balash and Mandy McMahon at SMDS Banquet April 2015. Nick was "so thrilled to be seated in the middle of all these lovely ladies".

Below: Nick Balash at AHS 2012 National in OH

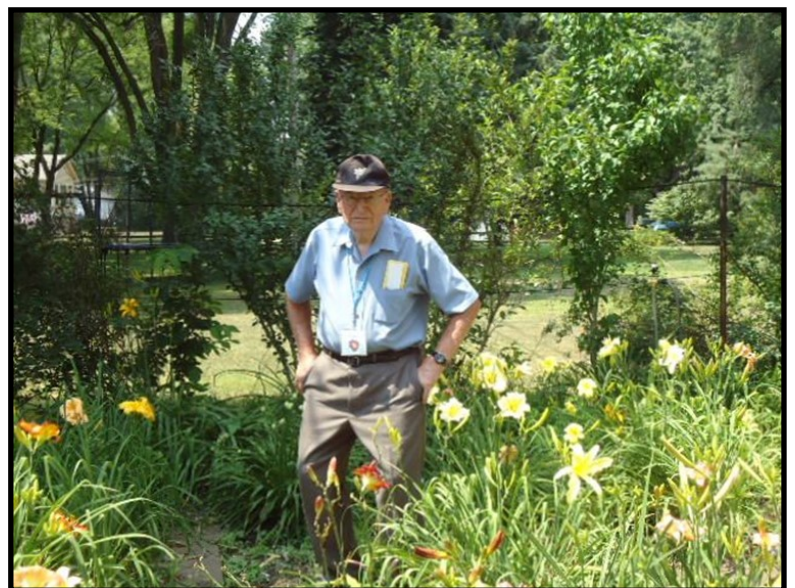


Left: This photo of Nick was provided by Lee & Bette Alden.

All of the photos of Nick (except the above photo) included in this newsletter were taken by myself. I enjoy being on the backside of the camera but while reviewing all of these pictures I began to wish that I had handed the camera to someone else and huddled beside Nick, just for a keepsake photo of us together.

Nick will be missed.

Teresa Dillon



Nick at Martin Kamensky's garden  
Reg 2 Summer Meeting 2011





To all of our “retiring 2017 Board members”, Thank you for your hours of devotion to the betterment of SMDS.

Back- Left to Right: 2017 Board Members– President John Kulpa, Vice President Armand DeLisle, Director Bill Kaputka

Front: Secretary Denise Woods, Director Barbara DeLisle, Director Pat Salk and Treasurer Kathy Rinke.

## SMDS 2018 OFFICERS



Above Left: Treasurer LaVere Webster & President Libby Militello



Above Right: Secretary Lorna Demarias



Right: Vice President Greg Schindler