

Spice up your club meetings!

Editor's note: This is the first in a series of stories that will provide suggestions to you and your club about ways to spice up your meetings with interactive activities. If you have an idea, we encourage you to email a short story (300 words) to journal@daylilies.org for possible inclusion in a future Journal. Thanks to Mike Huben for this terrific idea and our first story!

By Mike Huben
Region 4, Massachusetts



Huben

Daylily clubs often lapse into a stale routine of food, how-ya-doing, and slideshows. While these are all enjoyable features, with a bit of creativity, program chairs can add much more participation. It's the chance to participate in the meeting that makes it exciting, and beginners especially ought to be able to participate.

NEDS (the New England Daylily Society) has a long history of meetings with tons of participation. As an auctioneer, I make it my job to encourage the crowd to ask about the plants and share their experiences with the audience, and I share my knowledge about the varieties and their hybridizers. If information about the plants is missing, a host of folks clutching their Eureka's race to provide it.

When I was program chair, we had a full slate of talks AND a full slate of other, more participatory activities. I'd like to share my favorite with you: The Tailgate Swap.

We all purchase loads of garden stuff with the intention of using it, but somehow some of it is never used, or we stop using it after a few trials. I

quit rototilling, for example. The unused stuff sits in our basements, garages, etc. for years, because we cannot bear to throw out something useful. A tailgate swap solves this problem! The idea is simple: It is like a mini garage sale of garden stuff to other gardeners in the parking lot.

Bring all the stuff you don't have plans to use soon. Price it cheaply enough that you won't have to bring it home and put it away. Tools, fertilizers, power equipment, seed, weed control, pots, plants you want to move on, art; you name it. Anything you don't move on, you need to bring back with you.

Here's what makes this so great:

- The cheap prices are for your friends in the club, so you can think of this as doing your friends a nice favor rather than thinking of it as selling at a loss.
 - You get to do a little salesmanship, but you also get to explain and educate your fellow club members.
 - You might find some excellent bargains and learn about each others garden practices.
 - Expensive stuff you always wanted to try might be there.
 - A club policy of bringing home anything you didn't sell or give away leaves the parking lot clean afterwards.
 - You can get rid of that stuff you were never going to use anyway.
 - You might now have space that you can fill with new stuff.
 - You need to make sure that is no city ordinance that prohibits this kind of activity in public places.
- Have fun! ■

Valley of the Daylilies

web: www.valleyofthedaylilies.com

We grow over 4,000 cultivars including 400 spider/unusual forms and 180 historicals

Email: valleydan@embarqmail.com

1850 S. State Route 123, Lebanon, OH 45036 (513) 934-1273

The Spring 2013
Introductions!
from the
Bachman family





Katelyn Lillie Bachman



Ballad of a Thin Man



Highway 61 Revisited



Queen Jane Approximately



Tribute to Connie Caton



Tom Thumbs Blues



Desolation Row