

the PETALOID

Patriot Daylily Society • C/O Partridge Hill Gardens 23 Partridge Hill Road Dudley, MA 01571-6201

www.patriotdaylilysociety.org

Join us for PDS Fall Fun on Saturday, October 7

by Bobbie Brooks, Program Chair

On Sat Oct 7th we will start our Fall/Winter/Spring get togethers. We always have fun so hope you plan on attending. Beginning with a half hour social time at 12 noon with the program starting promptly at 12:30. Please bring goodies to share and feel free to invite your gardening friends. Bring anything garden related that you would like to put on the "share table". When you arrive, don't forget to sign up to win a door prize. Our fun is as good as we make it, right? Got plants for an auction or door prize? GREAT! Just bring in the complete info and your name on duplicate file cards, one for PDS and one for the winner and of course the plants! Did you save seeds for our online auction? We'll discuss what to do with those at the

meeting. Participation gets you PDS points as well. See our website for details. We have also decided to move the board meetings to another date instead of on PDS Meeting Days. Those members want social time, too, and that will help our meetings to start promptly.

The AHS Convention on Long Island was a smashing success. I, with my new Canon Digital 350 Rebel in hand, went two days early to tour the several Preconvention gardens as well. I'll share photos of 13 drop dead gardens with a short break in between. Many shots will be of daylilies within the landscape as well as several new intros and well-known daylily people.

Looking forward to seeing you on Saturday.

George Doorakian to speak in November

November 4 is the day to remember for George Doorakian's presentation. Be sure to make a notation on your calendar because you won't want to miss his presentation, complete with pictures of his 2006 seedlings. George's introductions include *H. Malachite Prism*, *H. Marty Wray* and *H. Queen Kathleen*. It'll be interesting to see what George has in the seedling pipeline. George won an Honorable Mention at the AHS Awards Banquet at the National in Long Island last July for *H. Malachite Prism* while our club president Ellen Laprise won the Region 4 (Stanley Saxton) Seeding Award for her seedling #03-7 (*H. Fooled Me x Primal Scream*).

We've got a lot of exciting programs scheduled to keep us occupied over the long cold winter. We encourage your participation and attendance.

Other programs scheduled for the 2006 - 2007 season are:

December 2 Meeting

Christmas Party at Kate Reed's house

January 6 Meeting

Powerpoint presentation of Kate Reed's trip to Holland, England and Belgium

February 3 Meeting

John Pike - Photography contest

March 3 Meeting

AHS Exhibition Show -
How to prepare daylilies for exhibition
by Mary Collier Fisher.

April Meeting

Spring Festival - Special Speaker,
Auction, and Plant Trade

President's Message

from Ellen Laprise

The 2006 growing season is drawing to a close at last and I'm sure all Patriot Daylily Society gardeners are feeling a combination of sadness and relief that it's almost over for 2006. I'm working away at cleaning up the daylily beds, the final weeding and transplanting chores. Like everyone else who hybridizes, I'm getting the seed trays ready, excited to be choosing which crosses from 2006 I will plant first and I'm even starting to think about my selections for next year's crosses.

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you at our first meeting of the season. Bobbie Brooks has been working hard, putting together a great line-up of speakers and programs for this coming season. You won't want to miss these.

I want to thank Nick Chase for his large contribution of seeds from *H. Implausibility* (*H. fukva Europa X Ed Murray*) Chase, Nick 1997, Tetraploid, 38" tall, M, Dormant, 5". Flower of fire engine red with a darker red halo and gold to green throat. Please bring some pictures to share with the group, Nick!

We encourage members to bring their extra seeds for our club to sell on the Lily Auction. Seed sales are always a big part of our annual fundraising effort. We are also looking for someone to handle our auctions. This would entail receiving the mail from closed auctions, receiving payment and forwarding to Mary Collier Fisher to deposit in the PDS bank account, and finally, packaging and mailing the seeds out. Good recordkeeping skills are a must.

See you all on Saturday !

– Ellen Laprise, President, PDS

Part 3. Pixels for your daylilies – image editing *by Patsy Cunningham*

First, you need to know how to crop and change the size of your photo. “Size” sounds straightforward, but can be very confusing unless you have experience using picture files. First, set your camera on its highest resolution. This means each picture will take quite a bit of file space. Invest in a nice 1 gig memory card to replace the 16 meg freebie that came with the camera. Save your original photos onto the computer and don’t edit them; they’re your backup in case something goes wrong or you change your mind. You need to be aware that each time you save a picture in jpg format (the typical picture format) after editing it, you will lose some of the picture’s information. Only save it after you’ve made your changes.

A good reason for using the highest resolution on your camera is that you’re probably going to need to crop the photo. Let’s face it, unless you’re a professional photographer in a controlled studio situation, your pictures are not going to be perfectly framed. There’s bound to be extraneous material like somebody’s hand or a dead daylily that will need to be trimmed off. Turning a daylily photo into a close-up can make a really striking picture, especially if it has a complex eye. Problem is, if you crop it too much, there won’t be enough pixels left to make a good print unless you started with your highest resolution to begin with. All editing programs will let you crop. Look for a symbol like a pair of corners, or check the software menu. Use your mouse to click at the point that you want to be your top left corner, then again for the bottom right corner. I usually add a “c” or “cropped” to the end of the file name so that I can tell them apart in a list of files. Some editing programs, like ThumbsPlus, will give you visual guidelines on the photo that you can enlarge or reduce, all the while showing you where to crop to keep the finished photo a certain proportion, like 5X7 or 8.5X11.

If you are going to print your photo, you want it to be high resolution to have it print well. Dots per inch (DPI) describes how many different pixels are squeezed into a 1-inch portion of your printed picture. For photos, 300DPI is a good number. That means if you want to print a photo 8 inches wide by 10 inches long, it should have a “resolution” of 2400 X 3000 pixels. Check your camera book or menu to see what the maximum resolution is on your camera. However, if you’re going to just show the picture on a website, you will not want that high resolution with its huge file size. People have different resolutions set up on their monitors, generally from 800 X 600 to 1280 X 1024. So for a picture to fit on most monitors, you may want to change it to less than 800 pixels across. Most editing programs call this “re-sampling” the file. DPI is not terribly important for web pics, it’s sort of automatic, but set it for 72 dpi if you

have a choice. Save it under a different name; if it was daylily.jpg, call it daylily-web.jpg or daylily_small.jpg. This will make it much easier to load the right one into an email or onto a website, etc. Since you saved the original, it still can be used for photo enlargements.

You may not have used your digital camera to take many flower photos. You may be surprised to find that the colors on the digital image as with conventional film, do not necessarily match the actual colors on the blooms. This is not unique to digital cameras; most folks who have taken photos of flowers have been disappointed at times by their inability to capture the perfect clear blue of a delphinium or the lustrous velvety black red of a rose like ‘Crimson Glory’. Furthermore, different cameras might saturate the colors of a photo more or tend to give different tones to the overall picture. The kind of light that the flower is illuminated by also changes the color; there’s a big difference between daylight, a flash or indoor fluorescent lighting.

Each type of camera has different types of color sensors that interpret what they “see” and captures it digitally on a memory card. Their memory may be better than ours but none are as sensitive as our eyes. Photos taken at the same time by different cameras may show different color biases on the computer monitor, (and the monitor is another whole issue, those all interpret data differently too!) The first thing to do to improve your color accuracy is to read your instruction manual (usually what I do when all else fails) and find out how to set the white balance on your camera. I’m not a professional photographer, so I can’t really explain white balance other than by what it does to the picture. Your digital camera will have a number of settings for white balance; mine includes automatic, fine (sunny), incandescent, fluorescent, cloudy, and flash. It also has a setting where you can use a professional photographer’s grey card and take a reading off of that for accuracy. Admittedly, I usually just use the “auto” setting, but if you want color accuracy, choose the appropriate light setting. If you don’t believe it makes a difference, just take the same picture repeatedly using a different white balance setting each time. You’ll be astonished by the different colors you get.

So, now you’ve taken the photo with the correct white balance and you have it on your monitor and it still is not just right. It’s time to use a computer art program to correct your photo. I’ve seen ads for roses and daylilies with a notation that the photos are not manipulated by programs such as Photoshop. This seems disingenuous, as it still doesn’t mean the colors are true. Sometimes you need to correct the color yourself, preferably with the bloom handy nearby to check your results against. If you really need to be picky, like when you’re

describing the color of a new introduction for registration for example, it would behoove you to have the Royal Horticultural Society’s Colour Chart. These coded cards with 884 colors are a world standard for many horticultural and textile uses. It’s way too expensive to buy brand new (135 pounds right now, or about \$236.), but the older version with 808 colors sometimes can be found on ebay at a reasonable price. A smaller version of the RHS color chart produced by the Flower Council of Holland contains 244 colors and costs 25 pounds.

Back to real life now. All editing programs have slightly different ways of editing colors. Most will have sort of an “automatic fix” button; rarely will it make your picture look right. Be prepared and know where the “UNDO” button is; you’ll use it often till you get used to the controls. One of the most common changes you’ll need to make is to lighten an underexposed picture. See if there is a choice for gamma, a slight adjustment here can help your exposure. Try the “lightness” control also, in fact, try lots of controls. You can always hit “UNDO” and then if you change your mind, hit “REDO.” Try adding more contrast, or a little more saturation, or even move the sliding bars that are usually used to adjust your balance of red, green and blue. Little changes are usually best; you’ll know when it looks natural. Before you save your adjusted photo, you might want to consider sharpening it a little bit. This won’t improve an out of focus picture, but it will bring out the details in a good picture. Use the sharpening tool with the terrible name: the “unsharp mask.” Don’t ever use this tool until you have your photo adjusted to its final size; you’ll just lose pixels without improving the photo if you do.

Next time I’ll describe some things you can do with your photos and be more specific about some features of different programs. What you could do now, however, is try out one or more of the common editing programs. Most allow you to download a trial copy, to try before you buy. Go to <http://adobe.com> and download Adobe Photoshop Elements. It’s a huge file; don’t use dial-up. Use it for 30 days, its about \$50. if you want to keep it. I’ve just started using it in order to compare it to Thumbsplus and CorelPhotopaint, which I usually use, both are available for about the same price. So far, I’m impressed with its features. You can use it in its simple mode or click a button and use it almost like a full-fledged Adobe Photoshop. ThumbsPlus can be downloaded from <http://cerious.com> and Corel Paint Shop Pro can be gotten from <http://www.corel.com> under free trials. Try one at a time for the 30 days they give you and decide which is compatible with you.