

Adventures in Region 3

by Tim Herrington, AHS Region 5



Introduction: My trip to Region 3 from June 26 to June 30, 2013 was all about daylilies and the wonderful people that grow them. My destination was to the Region 3 Spring Conference called “*Daylilies at the Beach*”. It was sponsored by the Delaware Valley Daylily Society (DVDS) and was the first ever regional in Delaware. Every activity was special, but having my picture taken with Dorothy Gayle (Amanda Jack Hotaling) above was the one at the top of the list. You see I had previously asked the Wizard of Oz if I could get my picture made with Dorothy and he said the only way for that to happen was for me to come to the Region 3 spring meeting in Delaware. I brought along my daylily friend from Savannah, Georgia, Scott Elliott [www.scottelliottdaylilies.com], who is our Region 5 Publicity Director and also a great daylily hybridizer. For four days we got to see daylilies in beautiful gardens and had a chance to talk to a lot of daylily folks. There were so many flowers and people to see and it was so hard to see them all. To those of you who read this document whom I didn’t have much time to visit with or photograph, please forgive me and I hope we can meet again in the future and have time to converse. You all know how special the hybridizer of *Hemerocallis* ‘Dorothy and Toto’ was to me. She was my best friend, soul mate and partner in daylilies. Well to those host gardens that grew her flowers and displayed garden art around the “Oz” theme, you don’t know how much I appreciated that kind gesture. To all the organizers and participants of what Dave Guleke called a “Mini AHS National Convention”, please allow me to share this poem; *Kind hearts are the gardens, Kind thoughts are the roots, Kind words are the blossoms, Kind deeds are the fruits.*

Day 1, June 26: Scott and I first had to get to the Atlanta Airport and find our flight to Baltimore, which is like roller skating in a Buffalo herd. After we landed we met our hosts and very thoughtful caretakers, Jerry and Faith Bange. They took us to Timbuktu (a restaurant) where we had the best crab cake ever!!! We finally got to their lovely home in Davidsonville, MD right before dark and got to see some daylily blooms.



Day 2, June 27: First we helped our hosts by deadheading the blooms from the previous day. Scott was more diligent than I. Then Faith had invited local growers to visit her garden and meet us. Faith is always so symbolic; she even had invited a lovely lady named Georgia Fallin to meet these two Georgia boys. After lunch we visited the gardens of Mildred Anderson, Ellen Brous, and Beth Ann Dye. For supper we all got together for supper at Ledo's Pizza where all the pizza's were square instead of round.



Above- Faith and Mildred



Beth Ann Dye Garden



(Left) The garden of Ellen Brous.(Right) 'Rose F. Kennedy' in the Bange Garden(Fay's Bloomers)

Day 3, June 28: Kathleen Schloeder, Janice Kennedy, and Carol Spurrier came by on their way to Dover and brought some of Pat Cochenour's blooms including some of her small spider seedlings.



After lunch we headed for the conference headquarters in Dover, DE. After crossing that tremendous Chesapeake Bay Bridge we stopped by the garden of Diana Coslick in Stevensville, MD. Oh what a beautiful garden and she had 'Dorothy And Toto' blooming.



'Dorothy And Toto' Faith, Ellen, Scott, & Diane in her garden. Jerry next to a Harry Louder's Walking Stick
 After arriving in Dover, we attended the dinner function and heard Curt Hanson, our speaker for the conference.

Day 4, June 29 All the tour gardens were just outstanding. My only grumble is I just wish we would have had more time in each one to fully grasp the beauty and design of the total garden. The first garden was in Rehoboth Beach at the home of Dave Guleke and Randy Kobetich with a superb breakfast awaiting all the attendees. Their garden was the culmination of endless care and their 1200+ daylilies were grown to perfection. Everywhere you looked were very large clumps with the most I have ever seen in a garden of their size. They had so many additional companion plants and trees and along with the garden music, one could easily get the feeling of being in the presence of garden magic. This garden made folks have smiling faces and below left you see Dianna Driver with her wonderful smiling face. Their Monkey Puzzle tree (below center) will go down in the annals as one of the most extraordinary plants ever in any tour garden. Below right is Dave welcoming all the Region 3 attendees.



The next garden was that of Jeff Cox in Harberson, DE. With approximately 800 daylilies, he had an all-embracing collection of real new daylilies to fascinate the visitors. Plus with the bubbles freely flowing in the air, I couldn't help but be reminded of happy times many years ago watching the Lawrence Welk Show. Below are 3 pictures;



The third garden was that of Greg and Jan Thompson in Dagsboro, DE. They had around 350 daylilies and almost 300 varieties of hosta which was labeled. I feel the Thompson's garden of flowers is also their garden of thoughts and dreams. The thoughts grow as freely as the flowers, and the dreams are as beautiful.



Thompson Garden (left to right); Land of Oz, Jan under her beautiful River Birch tree, Janice Kennedy pointing out ‘Little Lemon Twist’, ‘Angel In Oz’, & my Bus Captain, Ken McNelis, rounding us up for lunch. After a delicious meal at the East Coast Garden Center in Millsboro, DE we headed for Willow Rock Gardens, L.L.C. in Clayton, DE. With its 60 themes & over 3000 daylilies, there are two words to describe it; amazing and astonishing. Their garden featuring daylilies is indeed an oasis utilizing their personal charm to enhance their partnership with nature. Their garden art was remarkable. The proprietors, Heather Hotaling, Dave Giglio, [Heather & Dave just got married a week before], Amanda Jack Hotaling, and Grace Rishell greeted everyone as they got off the busses.



(L-R) Dave, Heather, Amanda, Grace, Scarecrow, Tin Man, Cowardly Lion, Tom and Ellen eating cupcakes in Tim’s Cupcake Garden and a clump of ‘Plum Cupcake’.

-----More Pictures below-----



(L-R) Jacquie’ DeJesse, Nancy Nordberg, Larry & Jeanne Rowles, Randy Kobetich, Beth Creveling, Curt Hanson, Scott Elliott & Guess Who?

Day 5, June30: Faith arranged a going away breakfast in Dover with several Region 3 attendees, ate one more crab cake in Maryland, then flew back to Georgia and put together this poem below;

The People and Gardens of Region 3

This is my tale of June 26-30, 2013, when the people and gardens did unfold,
 Ah, among this group and their daylilies did I find majesty and splendor twofold,
 The Region 3 members I met were some of the happiest ever born,
 And they made me happy like when I eat some good ole Georgia sweet corn,
 Each member had their own uniqueness and gave out much delight,
 For it was easy to see their love of people and daylilies at first sight,
 As I look back, I still admire their love and labors while things become quite clear,
 For Region 3 is part of the daylily world one can treasure and hold very dear!

Closing Thought: “Daylilies are beautiful hieroglyphics of nature, with which she indicates how much she loves us.”