

Arcadian Daylilies

October 2004 Newsletter

October 31, 2004

Stout Silver Medal for 2004 Awarded to Moonlit Masquerade

It has just been announced that Moonlit Masquerade has been named the recipient of the 2004 Stout Silver Medal.

Congratulations to hybridizer Jeff Salter on receiving this recognition for an amazing daylily.

Registered in 1992 and introduced in 1993, Moonlit Masquerade has grown in our gardens for about 6 years and has proven to be a vigorous plant with robust blemish free

foliage. For the benefit of those not familiar with MM, it is pale cream, near white with a sharply contrasting deep purple eyezone above a green throat. An early midseason bloomer that often starts the 3rd week of June, it blooms with clusters of flowers for 5 or 6 weeks with rebloom after that.

This is an exceptional cultivar exhibiting all the important qualities a Stout medallist should have.

How are the Best Daylilies Identified ? **Awards & Honours**

History of the Stout Silver Medal

First awarded in 1950 by the then recently formed American Hemerocallis Society (in 1950 it was simply called The Hemerocallis Society) the Stout Silver Medal was named in honour of Arlow Burdette Stout. Stout as a botanist, hybridizer and author is widely credited with bringing advances to the understanding of the genus Hemerocallis and appreciation of the beauty of this beloved flower.

Stout's 1934 book "Daylilies" is still considered one of the major references on Hemerocallis.

One Stout Silver Medal (SSM) has been awarded every year since 1950 and the SSM is the highest recognition that a daylily can receive. The SSM indicates the recipient exemplifies the highest standards and advances in hybridizing at the time of the award.

While the daylily was already immensely popular in 1950, nobody could have then imagined how many hybridizers would devote

so much effort to advancing the beauty, variety and performance.

Today the American Hemerocallis Society (AHS) has over 10,000 members in 23 countries making it truly an international organization. It is the garden judges of the AHS that vote to determine which cultivar will receive this award.

Currently the AHS has about 750 garden judges. In order to qualify to be a garden judge an individual must have been a member of the AHS for at least 36 months, must grow a representative collection of award-eligible daylilies and regularly visit other gardens to evaluate a large number of award-eligible cultivars. As well it is required that 2 garden judging workshops be attended and a written exam passed to be appointed as a Garden Judge.

A point scoring system is used to evaluate the whole plant and its garden performance through time. It is emphasized that to be award worthy a cultivar must be more than just a pretty flower.

The following attributes are evaluated when judging daylilies in the garden.

Complete Plant

- Garden value and beauty
- Vigor – good rate of growth, hardiness, resistance to disease, etc.
- Performance – long season of bloom, rebloom, consistent quality of bloom, etc.

Foliage

- Clean healthy, appealing, in proportion to the scapes and flowers

Scape

- Height & strength in relation to flower
- Branching and budcount

Flower

- Substance and weather resistance
- Colour(s) and pattern
- Form

Distinction

- In flower, performance, season of bloom, rebloom, unusual beauty, or other special plant features

These same judging criteria are used by garden judges to determine the following awards.

Junior Citation is intended to focus attention on newer cultivars that display outstanding qualities.

Honorable Mention is the first major award a daylily becomes eligible for and must be recognized by garden judges in a variety of climatic zones and geographic regions in order to qualify.

Award of Merit - There are 12 AM's awarded annually, to daylilies that have proven distinctive, beautiful, and exceptional in a wide range of geographic areas.

At Arcadian Daylilies we are constantly evaluating daylilies as we become aware of new introductions. We pride ourselves at being able to filter through thousands of new introductions every year to find the truly exceptional plants for our Canadian gardens.

More information on these and other daylily awards is available on the American Hemerocallis Society website www.daylilies.org

Christmas Gift Ideas for that special Daylily Aficionado

Some gift suggestions that can be put under the tree.

Norman Tracks' book "Daylilies"

Written by Dr. Norman S. Track to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the naming of the Daylily.

Daylily Instructional Video

A beautiful 50 minute video guide to growing and hybridizing daylilies in Canada and the northern U.S.

Arcadian Daylilies Gift Certificates

Available in any dollar amount

Check our website www.ArcadianDaylilies.com for details

PS: Arcadian Daylilies 2005 catalogue will be available online the first week of January.

A printer friendly PDF version of this and past newsletters are available on our website ☺ at www.ArcadianDaylilies.com