

## **Meet Our Featured Speaker Mark Carpenter**

We are privileged to welcome Mark Carpenter to our Region 11 meeting. Mark is the nephew of renowned hybridizer Jack Carpenter, the founder of The Lily Farm. Jack founded The Lily Farm, near the rural town of Center, Texas 28 years ago. From its humble beginnings Jack transformed about 40 plants into what is now four acres of daylilies and a truly magical place during bloom season.

Our speaker is 53 years old and married to Jill his soulmate of 30 years. Mark and Jill have two children, Kelsey who works at USAA in San Antonio and Lindsey who is attending Baylor University in Waco, Texas. Mark also has "another" family member his beloved yorkie-poo Cocoa!

Mark purchased The Lily Farm six years ago when Jack decided to retire from the business. Mark and his family were living in San Antonio at the time where he was managing an HEB grocery store. He had helped Jack over the years during Memorial Day weekends and vacation time. Over the years Mark grew to love Jack's business and the special people associated with The Lily Farm.

Mark's goal, as the new owner of The Lily Farm, is to continue the tradition of producing truly cutting edge daylilies, both in patterns and large forms. Mark is also focusing on the introduction of doubles, UF's and Spiders. Doubles and UF's were never a big part of Jack's hybridizing program but is something Mark enjoys doing and believes it compliments Jack's giant flower tradition. Growing and hybridizing is a challenging business for a variety of reasons but at the same time it is very rewarding. Where else can you enjoy lifelong friendships with wonderful with wonderful people while sharing the love of our favorite flower, the daylily?

Dennis & Valorie White  
516 Topaz St.  
Wichita, KS 67209

Dennis and Valorie often refer to their landscape as the “accidental garden”. It all began in 1993 when a Kansas thunderstorm produced four inches of rain. Thus caused a rock wall to collapse and bury a bed of Shasta daisies and herbs. Shortly thereafter Valorie attended one of our annual plant sales. The plants provided fantastic color the next summer. And so it began!

Take a stroll around the yard and enjoy over 200 registered cultivars. Their favorites include plants from Dan and Jan Trimmer, Rich Howard, Nan Ripley, Bill Maryott, Dave Niswonger and Paul Owen. In addition, one bed is dedicated to small and miniature registrations with plants from G. Stamile and others. In 2002 Dennis and Valorie started hybridizing and growing a few seedlings. By 2004, they developed a plan to focus their hybridizing efforts on a sale they could “handle”. During your visits please enjoy their several hundred seedlings as well as a few introductions. Their introductions are strong growers and do well in our often-challenging Kansas climate. They have found growing seedlings to be the most rewarding aspect of their daylily experience thus far.

Richard & Jackie Longberg  
10828 Southwest Blvd.  
Wichita, KS 67215

The adventure began in 1983 with the purchase of five plus acres in southwest Wichita. The site had numerous mature trees and shrubs but 30 yards into the property everything was mostly hidden by overgrown vegetation. There were two houses a few outbuildings and what remained of a former nursery. Their Daughter Monica remarked at the time "Someone would have to be crazy to buy this place." Richard said I guess we were crazy! Thus began a 30 plus year love-hate relationship. The house was updated, the small second house improved, and buildings added. Overgrown shrubs and trees were trimmed. All this while Jackie and Richard worked, raised two kids, multiple Labrador Retrievers and a few cats.

In time the wheat field nearby succumbed to civilization, the kids grew up and moved out, and the priority shifted to improving the landscaping and curb appeal. It was then that Richard and Jackie joined the Wichita Daylily Club and their daylily addiction began. Enthusiastic about their new hobby they attended summer and winter gatherings and added AHS tour gardens to their annual vacation plans. The drive home usually entailed sharing the car with daylilies and other garden treasures. This meant new raised beds were added to accommodate their purchases.

During your visit you will have an opportunity to explore their collection of over 600 daylily cultivars and a variety of accent plants. They have also started to dab a bit of pollen to see if something exciting results. The garden contains an eclectic collection of garden art. Enjoy this haven of nature with its mature trees and randomly placed daylily beds as you enjoy lunch at their work in progress Kansas ranch.

Floanna Crowley  
1341 N. Valleyview St.  
Wichita, KS 67212

This garden contains a meticulously chosen collection of daylilies and companion plants. A retired artist, and very active Sedgwick Country Master Gardener, her garden illustrates how important color, plant texture, and visual balance is when designing a garden. The end result is a little bit of heaven right here in Kansas.

Her garden is the culmination of over forty years of hard work. Through the years her vision for the garden has changed several times. Each transformation reflected a developing love of plants and an expanding knowledge of horticulture. Years of dedication, coupled with back breaking work, is evident everywhere you look. Floanna carefully developed each bed hauling in top soil and then incorporating lots of compost to provide the best growing environment possible. Carefully placed rocks outline each bed. She also removed a considerable amount of soil to accommodate a sidewalk constructed with rock, brick, and stone.

Floanna purchased her first daylilies in the 1990s. Her collection grew and she added and enlarged beds almost yearly. Today a collection of over 250 daylily cultivars occupy every available sunny location. The shady areas in the garden allow her to pursue an addiction for hosta, Japanese Maples, and Viburnums. The Koi pond creates an outdoor living space where she can kick back, relax and enjoy the fruits of her labor. We can't help but wonder how often she has time to truly "kick back" and enjoy?

Cindy Lindquist  
5507 SE 96th  
Valley Center, KS 67147

Cindy's garden is located about 15 miles northwest of Wichita in a rural setting. To the north is a grove of cedar trees that provide an excellent windbreak. Her home, horses, and associated farm buildings are a quintessential example of rural living in Kansas. With these rural features as a backdrop she has developed extensive plantings of daylilies interspersed with a wide variety of perennials and shrubs. The result is without a doubt a peaceful "Paradise on the Prairie."

Since the last regional some trees have been removed along the East side of the yard. With additional sun the daylilies are thriving. In addition to an impressive collection of daylilies Cindy has two large rose beds full of David Austin roses along the East side of the house. There are also many roses scattered throughout the garden. In addition you will find fifteen different varieties of Hellebores and of course shady spots are populated with many hosta cultivars. Cindy also has an impressive collection of over thirty peonies including several miniatures. Sorry they don't bloom in June!

Of special note is her extensive collection of Carpenter daylies with Wichita Gals naturally leading the way. Behind her home be sure to check out the butterfly house. We know you will enjoy every minute of your visit in this peaceful country garden. Cindy and her puppy "Montana" bid you welcome!

Cliff & Dianna Cook  
10 Hawthorne Road  
Wichita, KS 67206

### Who needs grass? Not the Cooks!

Although Diana and Cliff have lived in their house for 37 years, they didn't become gardeners until the summer of 2010 when they found it necessary to replace the drain tile around their basement foundation. This entailed digging down eight feet and our four to give feet to access the foundation. With a pretty skinny yard on all but the east side, there was virtually no lawn left. Just a mountain of nasty clay soil. So they decided to remark the entire yard into a flower garden.

Six years latter, that's just what it is! While their yard is not huge, making the entire yard into a garden all at once became an immense project. The only plants salvaged from the original plantings was three rose bushes, some Siberian Iris and three Euonymus. Everything else is new. This includes flagstone paths, patios, concrete cobblestone wall, tall wood fence, a waterfall, arbor, post lights, bridge and porch railings. They also installed 19 irrigation zones, did tree stump carving, and put all utilities underground and out of Sight.

Diana describes her yard as casual, colorful and eclectic. While daylilies are very much favored, there is an enormous variety of other other flowers, shrubs, and plants. Virtually anything that captured her fancy. She has some 250 daylilies, many of them newer varieties. Nothing too planned or structured, just pretty wild and wonderful. The Cooks wish they could have done it all by themselves, but readily applaud all the professional help they have been lucky enough to garner. Enjoy your time in this luscious garden.

Marilyn, Lisa, Deana, Fitzsimmons  
4820 N. Glendale St  
BelAire, KS 67220

The journey began twenty-five plus years ago with a skinny six foot silver maple tree that has since grown into a huge shade tree covering the majority of the back yard. A large former circular bench was replaced to accommodate it's girth. This tree is now the centerpiece of the backyard landscape.

Keeping the silver maple company are approximately 200 daylilies and a variety of shrubs and perennials. These include hosta, crepe myrtles, coneflowers, and many other accent plants. Numerous David Austin roses also reside in both the front and back yard flowerbeds. During your garden visit you will see various pieces of yard art dotting the landscape. These include stained glass and whimsical metal sculptures that pay homage to three colleges with family ties – Friends University, Wichita State University and Kansas State University.

The landscape provides a cozy place to rest, relax and enjoy the great outdoors. Their four legged friends are an integral part of daily life and the landscape provides a place where the dogs are free to play and pursue the many types of wildlife that make their home in the garden. There are also five eight foot raised beds to accommodate a plethora of vegetables. These provide fresh produce in the summer and many opportunities to can produce for winter winter use. There is also a large deck where the family enjoys good food and conversation. Of course there is always the option to relax in the hammock under the maple tree and enjoy a good book. Marilyn, Lisa, and Deana bid you welcome and hope you enjoy your time in this charming oasis on the Kansas prairie.