



# THE AMERICAN HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY

*An International Daylily Society*

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## PRESS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Daylily Society Recognizes Outstanding Service in the World of Daylilies**

Lake Mary, FL – August 3, 2009. The American Hemerocallis Society (AHS) is pleased to award the Helen Field Fischer Gold Medal for 2009 to Lee Pickles and Roswitha Waterman. This is just the sixth time in the history of the award to result in a tie. The awards were announced at the 2009 AHS National Convention in Lake Mary, Florida, on May 23, 2009.

Established in 1950, the Helen Field Fischer Gold Medal is the society's highest honor and is the official recognition for distinguished and meritorious service rendered the AHS by a member on the national level. It is named for the founder of the American Hemerocallis Society.

Lee Pickles, of Hixson, Tennessee, currently is President of the Tennessee Valley Daylily Society and travels extensively giving presentations to daylily clubs and symposia. Lee joined the AHS in 1986 and immediately put his skills to use for the benefit of the AHS. Lee was elected Regional Vice President for his region in 1990-1992. He served as the Editor of his region's newsletter in 1990-2002 and distinguished himself as one of the first to introduce color and desktop publishing software to daylily newsletters. In recognition of his groundbreaking newsletters, *The Daylily Appeal* won the AHS Best Newsletter Award in 2000. Lee broke new ground by introducing the concept of off-season symposia and chairing the very first Mid-Winter Symposium (MWS) in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Off-season symposia further the educational goals of the society and foster social networking within the society at a national level. Lee is also a distinguished daylily hybridizer. He registered his first daylily, 'Choo Choo Fantasy', in 1995 and has registered over 70 cultivars. AHS is pleased to recognize and honor Lee Pickles for his creative contributions and dedicated service to the AHS and its members.

Roswitha Waterman joined the AHS in 1976. Roswitha currently resides in Long Island, New York, and was instrumental in reestablishing the Arlow B. Stout garden at the New York Botanical Garden. For years, she gave lectures in the U.S. and in Europe about daylilies. She is credited as the moving force behind the introduction of the modern daylily to the Europeans and for providing the spark that ignited the current popularity of daylilies in Europe. Because of these efforts, she was awarded the first International Service Award in 1989. Hemerocallis Europa also established a special award in her honor. The Waterman Award is given to an extraordinary American cultivar that displays excellent performance and hardiness in diverse European climates. In 1991, Roswitha became the AHS International Secretary, now known as the International Membership Chair, and served in this capacity for the next decade. AHS is pleased to bestow its most prestigious service award to Roswitha Waterman.



Lee Pickles

*Photo provided by Lee Pickles*



Roswitha Waterman

*Photo by Chris Petersen*

### **About The American Hemerocallis Society (AHS)**

The American Hemerocallis Society, Inc., also known as The American Daylily Society, is a non-profit organization organized exclusively for educational and scientific purposes, and especially to promote, encourage, and foster the development and improvement of the genus *Hemerocallis* (commonly known as the daylily) and public interest therein. Visit the AHS website at [www.daylilies.org](http://www.daylilies.org).

### **An invitation to join...**

Interested gardeners and flower enthusiasts are invited to join The American Hemerocallis Society. Members receive *The Daylily Journal*, a full-color quarterly publication featuring the latest information about daylilies, photos of award-winning cultivars, and news of meetings and conventions. Visit the AHS Membership Information page on the AHS website at [www.daylilies.org/AHSmemb.html](http://www.daylilies.org/AHSmemb.html) for more information.