International AHS Members Visit our 2003 National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina

International AHS Members attending the 2003 AHS National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina:
Dario Bergemann (Brazil), AHS President Luke Senior, Jr., Neussa Bergemann (Brazil), Mario Romero (Mexico), Karl Rupp (Germany), Hanne Rupp (Germany), AHS International Membership Chair Gisela Meckstroth. Image: Allen McLain.

By AHS International Membership Chair Gisela Meckstroth
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Membership Rates

- Individual (1 year) ............... $18.00
- Individual (3 years) ............... $50.00
- Dual Membership (1 year) ....... $22.00
- Dual Membership (3 years) ........ $60.00
- Life Membership .................. $600.00
- Dual Life Membership .......... $750.00

Yearly dues are to be paid by January 1 of each year.

Make checks payable to the AHS.

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Dexter, GA 31019

*Dual Membership means: Two persons living in the same household.

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The American Hemerocallis Society is a non-profit organization, and the American Hemerocallis Society Region 2/Great Lakes Newsletter is published for the benefit of American Hemerocallis Society members residing in Region 2. As such, the editorial focus of the publication centers on:

- Hemerocallis.
- AHS and Region Two events.
- Region Two members and hybridizers.

Submissions are encouraged. The editor reserves the right to edit for space, grammar, and focus on the three criteria cited above.

A Few Words from Gisela

His has been a most interesting and busy “traveling” summer for me, and I am so grateful to be married to a man who is also interested in daylilies and who, therefore perhaps, understands my daylily and travel passion. Summer started with a trip to Germany to attend my class reunion and to visit daylily gardens in mid June. Then came the AHS National Convention, one day afterwards to wash clothes and to pick up more funds, and it was time to drive to Collinsville, Illinois, with Rosemarie Foltz from Canton, Ohio, to enjoy the wonderful gardens of our Region Two Summer Meeting. A few days later came our MCDS daylily show where I helped as placement chair then came, judging daylily shows at Southwestern Michigan HS and the Ohio DS. Once more a day at home to wash clothes, repack suitcases, pick up more funds, and off it was with Region 2 member Janice Clark (also an MCDS member) to Amsterdam for daylily garden visits in Belgium and Germany for the combined Hemerocallis Europa–Perennials Society/Specialty Group Hemerocallis meeting in Holland.

A detailed description of those garden visits will be posted in full color on our Region 2 web pages http://www.ahsregion2.org about the end of November. The German translations of the international garden-visits articles will also be posted on the web pages of Hemerocallis Europa http://www.hemerocallis-europa.org/ in December.

DO YOU KNOW ...

that daylilies grow along the Internet Highway and that you can...

- Surf the Net and learn more about daylilies.
- Visit our Region 2 web pages and local club links at: http://www.ahsregion2.org
- Visit the American Hemerocallis Society Web-Site at: http://www.daylilies.org/daylilies.html
- You can “travel” to many interesting daylily sites by clicking on links on the AHS Web Site. If you don’t have a computer, visit your local library. Friendly librarians will be glad to help you navigate the high seas of the Internet.

Special thanks to RVP Ed Myers for giving permission and encouragement for the posting of this travel tale.
Seven international AHS members attended our convention. They had come from Brazil, Germany, Mexico, and Italy.

In late May, Hanne and Karl Rupp e-mailed from Germany saying they had been unable to attend the annual May Florida Mecca, as this meeting has become to be known, and that they had booked a flight so they could attend our convention in Charlotte instead; good thing, because AHS Honors and Awards Chair Richard Rosen informed me not long afterwards that Hanne and Karl had been nominated for the International Service Award and that the AHS Board of Directors had determined that they had indeed earned this important award. AHS Executive Secretary Pat Mercer arranged for payment of registration fees with Convention Chair Bob Richardson and Co-chair Peggy Jeffcoat and the convention registrar; not an easy accomplishment.

Rupps had contacted our famous “Columbus, Ohio, Spiderman” Jamie Gossard to see if they could purchase some cultivars from him so they could take them to their home. Jamie was willing, provided I would take the plants with me to North Carolina. Hemerocallis Europa Vice President Gudrun Tillmann-Budde had long wanted to see DONNA’S PRAYER bloom in her beautiful German farmhouse and garden hideaway, and Frank Smith told me that he was also willing to bring the plant to the national convention. Rupps and Bergemanns had expressed a

Columbus Ohio’s famous Spiderman Jamie Gossard’s package of cultivars for Hanne and Karl Rupp, international AHS members, who would attend the 2003 AHS National Convention in Charlotte, NC. Rupps’ precious daylily purchases safely tucked into pails with some water in the bottom to keep them fresh on their 10 hour journey from Columbus, Ohio, to Charlotte.
desire to meet US hybridizers. That was easy since our well-known hybridizers are always friendly and willing to talk to daylily lovers from near and far. With all preliminary arrangements made, I took off to visit gardens in Germany, to visit my relatives and childhood friends, and to attend my class reunion there.

A day after I returned from my wonderful Germany visit, Jamie brought a large number of cultivars (about four times the value purchased), and I packed them in 5-gallon pails containing some water for their roots. Metropolitan Columbus Daylily Society Member Karen Ciula and I took off in my husband’s brand new car for the 10-plus hours’ drive to Charlotte, NC.,

The social hours, that are so efficiently built into the convention schedule, gave our international visitors ample opportunity to meet not only hybridizers and regional and national officers, but they also were able to meet so many other daylily lovers from all of our 15 regions. Kaskel, Kinnebrew, Kirchhoff, Morss, Sharp, and Stamiles were most accommodating and invited the international visitors to share their dinner tables. Leo Sharp graciously introduced Mario Romero all around the inner “hybridizer circle.” Thank you all for helping to make our international members welcome!

Except for Janice Dal Pra from Italy, all were registered at the convention hotel and I was able to contact each of them before the buses were to leave on Friday morning. Someone told me that Janice was staying with friends and would need no translation help. Even with best-laid plans, it turned out to be not altogether easy figuring out where and how the buses would pick up people for the garden tours.

Rupps’ English is perfect, so there was no need for me to fret. Mario had Leo Sharp as a guide, good. Tiago’s English was perfect, but we agreed to sit on the same bus so I could explain things that he could translate. This worked well until the young man found a youth member from Indiana in the back of the bus.

Award-winning “Best AHS Regional Newsletter for 2002” Editor Brenda Mason (Region 10), Louise James of Cedarthorn Gardens and editor-publisher of the much asked for daylily calendar, daylily growers and professional landscape-construction business owners Dario Bergemann and his spouse Neussa Bergemann from Joinville, Brazil.

Hanne and Karl Rupp in a lively conversation with John Kinnebrew whom they had met and gotten to know during previous USA travels.

Former Region 2 Secretary Rosemarie Foltz, AHS Member from Germany Hanne Rupp, Hybridizer John Kinnebrew, AHS Members from Brazil Neussa and Dario Bergemann, and AHS Member from Germany Karl Rupp. Hanne and Karl were awarded the 2003 AHS International Service Award during this convention.

The Brazilian Bergemanns with their son Tiago. Tiago spent one year as an exchange student in Michigan, and Bergemanns decided to visit daylily gardens in the Midwest and then attend the AHS National convention in Charlotte.

with whom he struck up a friendship. Necessity is supposed to be the mother of invention. Right on! Surprisingly, Bergemanns “dug up” German language skills they had acquired in their grandparents’ homes, and from then on they and I had no problems exchanging information in German. What a surprise.

Dario and Neussa discovered MILK CHOCOLATE (Carney 1967) in the Listening Lizards Garden, and owners Jennifer Prowe and Terry Baucom graciously dug a couple of blooming fans for a long journey to Brazil. (Tiago had not been sure about his joining the family business, but he might just have changed his mind about that since seeing the many beautifully grown daylilies in the Caroli-

nas. He has established e-mail contact with our only international AHS Youth Member Ruben Billiet in Belgium, too. He has also joined our AHS E-mail Robin and was looking for information on greenhouse light equipment)

During Friday evening’s business meeting, Hanne and Karl Rupp received their well-deserved International Service Award Medal. Rupps have been AHS members for many years, they have visited several AHS events in the USA, and they have one of only three display type gardens in their country. They are

AHS International Membership Chair Gisela Meckstroth during presentation of the 2003 AHS Regional Service Award presentations to International AHS Members Karl and Hanne Rupp of Schortens, Germany.

Brenda Macy, Louise James, Dario Bergemann, Neussa Bergemann, Metropolitan Columbus DS Members Don Losasso, Gisela Meckstroth, and Theda Losasso.
International AHS Members Karl and Hanne Rupp thanking the AHS Board of Directors and 2003 National Convention attendees for the honors they received in Charlotte, North Carolina.

members of Hemerocallis Europa (HE) and the Gesellschaft der Staudenfreunde (GdS), Fachgruppe Hemerocallis (Perennials Society, Special Interest Group Hemerocallis). They had developed the idea of creating a daylily garden for the 2002 Landesgartenschau in Bad Zwischenahn near Bremen, Germany. This is an event similar to our state garden exhibitions. They had developed the plans, presented the plans for approval, raised the funds for the undertaking, recruited plants from HE and the GdS/Hemerocallis) members, and recruited people to help with the project. Then, they planted 156 daylilies in chronological order, beginning APRICOT (Yeld 1893), and continuing to the most modern cultivars. They tended the beds, and then manned the exhibition area and related information booths, passing out pamphlets, selling daylilies, and—with the help of HE members Hans-Ulrich and Ilse Kaiser—giving over 600 of their own seedlings as gifts to exhibition visitors. They donated all funds raised by those sales to their organizations. They continued to work at the daylily exhibition area in 2003 and even recruited a volunteer work crew straight from members attending the combined 2003 HE-Gds/Hemerocallis annual business meeting in Ede, Holland, July 18-20.

Rupps and Bergemanns expressed surprise and appreciation for our AHS “open annual business meeting” policy for members and nonmembers alike. They also felt welcome by all members they met.

Hanne and Karl Rupp organized the creation of this daylily garden for the 2002 Landesgartenschau in Bad Zwischenahn near Bremen, Germany. Many Members from HE and GdS helped and continue to help with the project.

Mario Romero and Leo Sharp during Friday evening’s banquet.

Karl Rupp, Neussa Bergemann, Hanne Rupp.

Bergemanns presented Hybridizer David Kirchhoff with a beautiful work of daylily art created especially for the occasion by a Brazilian artist. The image is made from inlaid wood and shows a blooming daylily scape. AHS President Luke Senior, Jr. and AHS Membership Chair Gisela Meckstroth also received these works of art.

A festively arranged and decorated banquet table during Friday evening’s ceremony.

A beautifully arranged and decorated banquet room during the 2003 National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina.

During the various events and were pleasantly surprised that people wanted to know all about them and their daylily lives.

During the evening banquets, Bergemanns presented beautifully inlaid wood pictures, illustrating a daylily scape with all its parts, to David Kirchhoff for helping them during a previous USA visit, to AHS President Luke Senior, Jr., and to me, the International Membership Chair. These are exquisite gifts. We received these gifts with gratitude, and they will remind us that—as former AHS President Kay Day has pointed out so many times—we come for the daylilies and return for the people and the friendships we have made. As individuals we have, again, built bridges of friendship that unite us in our love for daylilies across national boundaries and deep oceans.

It’s a small, small world in which we live, after all.