



# LIDS Newsletter

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longislanddaylily.weebly.com

## Paul Limmer is *The 5<sup>th</sup> Man*

Everyone in LIDS knows Paul Limmer as an active member of the club. An active hybridizer, his backyard is a registered display garden. And he's usually the man behind the gavel at club auctions.

But there's another dimension to Paul. As we know, he spent half a century as a track coach at Mepham High School. For that role he was, in 2016, inducted into the New Balance Coaches Hall of Fame.



And now there's something else Paul can add to his resume. He is the subject of a full-length award-winning documentary, **The 5<sup>th</sup> Man**.

The movie, a 70-minute testimonial to Paul's coaching, was the brainchild of Dexter Braff – one of Paul's athletes in the 1970s. Braff was one of three brothers at Mepham. Paul coached two of them. Their mother died of cancer on a Friday afternoon, and their father had a fatal heart attack four hours later. In the course of one horrible afternoon these three boys were orphaned. Paul was instrumental in some creative maneuvers that allowed the boys to stay at Mepham, continue their careers in track, and go off to college. Dexter was a success in business and became wealthy. He eventually turned his attention to movie production.

Over the years, Dexter heard a lot of testimonials to Paul, but felt that they never did him justice. He felt he owed Paul a debt (though Paul insists he didn't), and decided he wanted to make a documentary about him. Paul resisted the idea, but Dexter persisted, eventually convincing Paul to allow the project. Paul consented to being interviewed but insisted that he have no control over the film's contents.

Though Paul has 737 wins to his credit, the film isn't really about those. It's more about the thousands of athletes who credit Paul with changing their lives. The summary on IMDB explains it best: "In a world where gigantic stories are supplanted a day later by even bigger ones, the story of a high school track coach might feel small to the point of inconsequence. **The 5<sup>th</sup> Man** manages to be substantially bigger by telling an extraordinary story about an ordinary teacher whose dedication impacted so many lives."

Two years in the making, the film was released to festivals this past summer. It won the Festival Achievement Award at the Stony Brook Film Festival and the Festival Award at Flickers' Rhode Island Film Festival. Netflix, Nike and HBO Sports have all expressed interest, so there's likely more news to come.

# Tips for Taking Cuttings

By Frank Chaloupecky



As the garden season comes to an end each year, there are always a few plants I want to save for next year. I've found that I would rather take a cutting and start a new plant, than bring in a giant plant that may be harboring insects or most of the leaves fall off of. I can take a few cuttings and save a few small plants that I in turn use for stock plants to take more cuttings of for next year.

I like to prepare the stock plant to increase my success. I water and fertilize a few days to a few weeks before taking cuttings. That allows me time to take cuttings whenever I have a chance. Most people know a plant is **wilted** when it does not have enough water, a plant is said to be **turgid** when it is fully imbued with water and nutrients. I will also prune off the four larger leaves on the top two leaf nodes of the cutting and wait until I take the cutting to prune off all lower leaves to allow better absorption of rooting hormones, which aids in my success. Also prune off all flowers; otherwise the cutting may die from focusing on flower development rather than root development. Many annuals such as geraniums and coleus root if you just place them in a cup of water for a few weeks. If you use this method, plant in soil as soon as the roots appear. This will help to prevent root rot. So, pinch off the flowers, top four leaves and cut  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch below the last leaf node to promote best rooting results. The plant's own auxins are located in that leaf node and a callus will form at that cut and roots will develop in the stem just above the callus in about 2 weeks. You will know when roots are developed because the cutting will begin to grow and leaf out.



like to use powder rooting hormones but if you are a hardcore organic gardener, you can use **willow extract**. Make extract by cutting a small branch of any kind of willow into 1 inch pieces, put in a small container, add water until covered, soak for 24 hours, remove willow pieces and retain the liquid to soak your cuttings in overnight.

After soaking or dipping cuttings in hormones, place in a rooting medium burying the stem 2/3 deep. I like to use **Promix** for cuttings and repotting. I usually use deep cellpacks for annuals and 6 inch deep pots for larger materials like rhododendron. Rhododendrons require a few extra tricks like saving only 5 or fewer leaves, cutting the leaves by at least in half and a **heal** cutting, peeling it off the branch at the base of the cutting and spraying with Wiltproof.

I use stronger rooting hormones and spray the leaves of difficult materials with plant based wax such as **Wiltproof** to keep them from drying out. This spray is also useful for transplanting plants when you need to do it in a hurry, such as construction surprises.

For technical information about specific plants I use **The Reference Manual of Woody Plant Propagation: From Seed to Tissue Culture** by Michael Dirr and Charles W. Heuser. It is available from libraries and on the internet. This amazing book has everything you need to know about propagating any plant.

Have fun saving your plants!

## Please write for this newsletter

The LIDS newsletter can only be as good as the LIDS members make it. Please consider writing for it. Contact Marc Whinston for details. Thanks!



# LIDS Members New Intros

**Elliott Turkiew has registered two new cultivars:**



***Grandma Sonja*** - Purple quilled unusual form with a lavender watermark. Named in honor of my amazing grandmother, who was more colorful, quirky, and beautiful than this daylily.



***Marilyn Patterson*** - Fuchsia pink cascade unusual form with a pale pink watermark. I waited a long time to produce a seedling that I felt was worthy of carrying Marilyn's name, and Ira Rubin gave me his blessing to do so with this lovely daylily. Marilyn Patterson was an extremely kind, gentle, and well-loved former member of LIDS.

**Laura Chaloupecky has registered two new cultivars:**



***Rhubarb Crisp*** – Strawberry red with toothy gold edge and gold throat; Height: 24"; Bloom: 6"; Mid; Dormant; Unknown × Unknown;



***Woozle's Pies*** – Pale red with toothy gold edge and gold throat; Height: 31"; Bloom: 6"; Mid; Dormant; Unknown × Unknown;

**Frank Chaloupecky has registered one new cultivar:**



***Buttery Goodness*** – Buttery yellow with green throat, midribs, pinched petals; Height: 32"; Bloom: 5"; Mid; Dormant; Diploid; North Wind Drifter × Raspberry Splash;