

NEWSLETTER

PACIFIC REGION

American Daffodil Society, Inc.

JUNE, 1976

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Dear ADS Members,

In this newsletter I shall share with you some of the events of this Spring's show season and several articles from our members.

We are happy to welcome the following new members:

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn A. Huber
705 Benston Drive
Puyallup, Washington 98371

If you live in our San Francisco Bay area you know that we truly depend on those winter rains and that this past season we were about 60 percent short of our annual rainfall. It forced many of us to irrigate earlier and longer to provide the water needed by our bulbs. Nevertheless, many lovely blooms were displayed at the three California daffodil shows.

Most shows provide new learning experiences for those who attend. Here is one that delighted me. Among the winning cultivars at the Fortuna Show was an outstanding and exquisite bloom of DAVIOT exhibited by Christine Kemp. I have grown it here in the Bay Area since 1969 and have seen it exhibited at shows for many years but never have I seen such magnificent color. The shades of orange and yellow on the corona were as bright and saturated as if they were freshly painted. It was a dazzling revelation of the effect of that climate's temperature and moisture on color and substance. Of course, I have read about the significance of such elements but seeing this vivid bloom was impressive and a memory to keep. I hope your attendance at daffodil shows will give you some rich reward, too.

Three outstanding shows in '76 are behind us and highlights of these happenings are in this letter. Other exciting trips, shows and conventions lie ahead. There are several tours this fall which combine The World Daffodil Convention and Daffodil Tours with sightseeing in New Zealand. A major event for the Pacific Region will be the National American Daffodil Society Convention in San Francisco on March 18, 19, 1977.

"The more thou learnest to know and to enjoy, the more and complete will be for thee the delight of living."

Mrs. Robert C. Robinson
Regional Vice-President

THE OAKLAND SHOW, 1976

The Northern California Daffodil Society had their ninth annual show in Oakland on March 13th and 14th which brought a large number of early midseason blooms to the show bench.

Our cyclamineus classes were magnificent this year. An extremely fine specimen of WILLET was awarded the ADS gold ribbon with BANBRIDGE, a 1A, as runner up. Another cyclamineus winner was JENNY, three graceful stems of it taking the white ribbon. All were beautiful.

Sometimes our pink daffodils are disappointing (especially, I think, to the viewing public) depending upon the tint or shade of pink one expects to see. However, this year VERRAN, a2BP from Tasmania, was a beautiful entry with great feminine appeal. The overlapping petals had that lovely smooth texture and great substance that forms a most attractive perianth and draws the eye to the corona which in turn was a true but delicate pink. The whole flower exhibited good carriage and strength right down to its stem. For me it was a satisfying pink and a winner.

Among the other eye-catching blooms was John Lea's elegant white CANISP. It won a merit for the best white daffodil at the show.

HARMONY Bells, CHAPEAU, CELILO, WAHKEENA, and WILLET formed the best collection of American cultivars and took the Red, White and Blue ribbon. All five bloom fairly early in the season.

The junior award winner was the beautiful reverse bicolor, BETHANY.

Year by year the miniature classes become more interesting as seedlings appear in competition. Also the number of entries continues to increase. This year SPRITE was awarded the miniature gold ribbon and the white went to three stems of SUNDIAL. Winning the ADS lavender ribbon was the collection of *N. scaberulus*, *N. bulbocodium*, *N. jonquilla*, Tete-a-Tete, and a Seedling 73-1 (*N. bulbocodium obesus* x CHEMAWA).

In retrospect I would like to see more entries in the junior division. Perhaps that could be a goal for some of our enthusiastic members - I think daffodil growing is contagious. It would take only a little effort to involve a young person --- a few bulbs in the fall, a colorful catalog, a spring daffodil show or helping them cut and enter their first bloom. What a happy pursuit it can become for the initiated. Try it.

-- Glee Robinson

1976 THIRD PACIFIC REGION SHOW In Conjunction with
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA TWENTIETH ANNUAL DAFFODIL SHOW

In the opinion of most veteran observers present, this was one of our best shows. In spite of a warm, dry winter and a heat wave the week of the show, both quantity and quality of blooms were excellent. The unseasonal but lovely summer weather was influential in luring a total of ten thousand visitors to Descanso Gardens and our show on Saturday, March 20th, and Sunday, March 21st. We were informed that this was the largest turnout ever for a flower show at Descanso Gardens, including their famed Camellia Shows. The festivities were shared by tens of thousands of tiny white flies which suddenly descended upon people and blooms about fourth minutes prior to the start of judging, only to disappear just as mysteriously within the next two hours. Although the Southern California Daffodil Society prides itself in leadership, we hope to forego future similar entomological "firsts".

The nine Accredited Judges participating were Polly Anderson, Stan Baird, Ken Dorwin, Helen Grier, Robert Jerrell, Madeline Kirby, Glee Robinson, Rosemary Roesé and William Rosé. They were assisted by several Student Judges including William and Carol Hesse, Harold Koopowitz, Jay J. Pengra and Gerard H. Wayne.

Best flower in the show was a seedling, (FALSTAFF 2A Seedling) by ADS President, W. Roese. This lovely creation approaches the ultimate in smoothness and contrast for the yellow-red flowers. Madeline Kirby exhibited a trio of superb CHARITY MAYS. One flower which stimulated much public interest was GAY CHALLENGER as grown by Maxine Johnson. Mitsch sent three stems each of twelve different cyclamineus to win the Pacific Challenge Cup. This collection clearly demonstrated that Grant Mitsch has truly earned his world wide reputation and acclaim. Another exceptionally smooth and well tailored flower was LYNETTE SCHOLL, an Australian cultivar. In the junior division Marta J. Wayne was awarded the ADS Special Award for Best Standard Daffodil - Marta won her first blue ribbon with CORDIAL.

The coveted Carey E. Quinn Award was won by Gerard H. Wayne, a first time winner. It was a beautiful and varied collection of 24 blooms.

A lovely dinner was served following the show on Saturday evening, in the Hospitality House at Descanso Gardens, at which we enjoyed the pleasure of the company of our guests from the Northern California Daffodil Society. Awards were presented immediately following dinner.

Harold Koopowitz and Gerard H. Wayne

THE FORTUNA SHOW, 1976

The Fortuna Garden Club had their Second Annual Standard Daffodil Show on March 27th and March 28th at the Fortuna Monday Club. Even though the seasonal peak is mid-March, the show was a great success with 503 blooms entered.

Christine Kemp won the ADS gold ribbon for best in show with DAVIOT; the runner-up was VULCAN exhibited by Karen King. The collection of three stems of STRATOSPHERE won the ADS white ribbon for Mrs. Ann Olsen.

The miniature gold ribbon went to Mrs. Claude Carter for N. triandrus concolor and also the miniature white ribbon for N. bulbocodium.

Denise King won the junior award with BELISANA, a 2B. A beautiful and varied American collection, SILETZ, SILVER BELLS, WAHKEENA, AUDUBON, and OREGON GOLD won the ADS red, white, and blue ribbon for Karin King.

-- Betty Allison
Show Chairman
Fortuna Garden Club

THE ADS CONVENTION, 1976

The Philadelphia Daffodil Show, April 23, at the American Daffodil Society Convention, turned out to be a beautiful show in spite of the 90 degree weather which had prevailed all through the Northeast area for the previous week. We all know what that heat does to daffodils! However, at judging time, 11 o'clock Friday morning, all daffodil specimens looked fresh and beautiful. Special collections were exquisite, miniatures were adorable. By evening it was a different story - they literally collapsed, all except the ones from Oregon, and other far away districts.

There were many excellent 3's and 9's in the show and in the collections - we don't see many of these in our Pacific Coast shows. However, I do think the quality and diversity of our shows compares very favorably with the Eastern show.

There were many miniatures and intermediates in this show but very few tazettas. Roberta Watrous exhibited many named miniatures as well as a whole series of miniature seedlings, one of which won the miniature gold ribbon; a very small stem with 7 or 8 bells similar to Hawera but smaller.

The commercial displays from England, Ireland, Holland, Oregon and Virginia were most interesting.

Ballydorn showed many green eyed beauties, many poeticus and bright edged 3's.

Carncairn had a vase of the very popular Foundling, the small, sturdy little pink which has been such a sensation at several of our conventions.

Richardson's pink doubles resemble those we've seen at Mitsch's and Evans, and are notable for their very nice formal perianths: Pink Pageant and Pink Paradise were lovely. Her 2b pinks have exceptionally good form. Rainbow is a favorite of mine with several shades of pink in the cup. Violetta has a very deep pink cup, though I could not detect any violet shade in it.

Mrs. J. Abel Smith, from England is a new commercial exhibitor at our conventions and showed many large green eyed 2's and 3's, also many pinks with very nice round perianths, and a number of wide expanded cup 2's with colorful rims.

John Lea, also a new exhibitor from England stressed very large perianths and bright cups closely approaching red.

It was interesting to hear these Irish and English hybridizers tell of their methods of growing and treating bulbs. They didn't all agree, but they all do hot water treat their bulbs before planting, at varying temperatures and lengths of time and with various chemicals, but they did agree that the amateur should not try the hot water treatment. There are too many variables, and it is too risky.

Evans, Mitsch and Throckmorton all had very nice commercial displays. Throckmorton's were notable for their large size and wide flared cups. Especially good were: Marque 3a, Painted Desert 3a, Cherry Bounce 3b, and Tom Jones 3a.

Evans' Rose City, Tyee, Pink Flare, Snow Pink, Chloe and sdgls. M62, K8, and double L 43/6 showed various shades of pink - in fact, the deep, deep pink shade was so near red that I could scarcely (under artificial light) tell the difference between the deep pink and the red 2b's.

Mitsch's intermediates are always of great interest to me, Bell Song 7b, is such a dainty pink, 7b Flycatcher with two florets and 7a Quail with 3 florets, are similar yellows, but with different length cups. Petrel is a pleasing triandrus with wide petals similar but taller than Quick Step. 5b Kite (Fowlds) has an interesting flat fluted cup. Pink double Tropic Isle is perfection, and pink split cup Phantom is so formal it almost doesn't show its splits.

Zandbergen brought a huge double seedling so large that it was actually three flowers in one, having three distinct centers.

Heath of Daffodil Mart brought his usual large collection of miniatures, (which incidentally seem to get higher in price every year). Cricket is similar to Hawera, Cobweb is a spidery interesting thing. Demure, a small 7b, and Flomay 7b, and Xit 3c, all have flat cups. Clare was new to me, a very nice 7b yellow. Peter Piper, Pee Wee, Nor Nor, and Little Charlie were good but not at all small, but then neither are they listed as miniatures.

-- Polly Anderson
La Canada, CA

March 18 - 19, 1977

A D S
NATIONAL
CONVENTION

March 18 - 19, 1977

As most of you already know, the Northern California Daffodil Society will be host to the ADS National Convention in 1977 (March 18-19). Our convention headquarters will be the Holiday Inn, Union Square, in San Francisco. (It was formerly known as the Westbury.) Although officially we are offering only a two-day convention, there will actually be three days of activity. On Thursday, March 17, we will be setting up and judging the annual NCDS show at the hotel, and in the evening there will be a slide show featuring seedlings and new registrations. Tours are planned for both Friday and Saturday, March 18 and 19. On Friday we will visit gardens in the Berkeley-Orinda-Lafayette-Walnut Creek area; on Saturday we will go down the Peninsula to three large estates, two of which feature daffodils. For our Saturday night banquet we hope to have a presentation by a well-known Irish breeder.

I will not go into details now except to say that the convention committee believes you will thoroughly enjoy the tours, the show, the meals, the programs, and the company. Full details will be published in late winter; but plan now to attend the convention and bring your best blooms to the show.

--Jack S. Romine, Chairman
1977 ADS National Convention

UNORTHODOX DAFFODIL HYBRIDS

There are two major goals for the amateur hybridizer, creating new and better flowers and making cultivars which are well suited to the local environment. The latter goal occurs automatically as one grows a batch of seedlings towards flowering size and this becomes reinforced if one uses the most vigorous of one's own seedlings for breeding succeeding generations. In Southern California it is the tazetta group and the jonquils which grow the easiest and perhaps one should use their genes for producing new flowers. As far as creating new and better flowers are concerned one often looks towards the great hybridizers and despairs of ever achieving comparable flowers. The flowers which they introduce in their catalogues are frequently obsolete compared to the new seedlings blooming in their trial fields. What is the amateur hybridizer to do? The answer I would content is to do something unique or different. Try to make out-of-the-ordinary hybrids. The following paragraphs describe some unflowered hybrids, and although this is rather like counting chickens before they hatch; it does suggest some unusual crosses that others might like to repeat on the off-chance of getting something really different.

Narcissus serotinus is a small fall-blooming white species with a very small yellow corona. It is easy to grow and bloom and it appears to be very fertile when crossed with other species. It hybridizes with N. viridis to give intermediate flowers and in the wild it also crosses with Tapeinanthus

Unorthodox Daffodil Hybrids Continued

Humilis to give an intergeneric hybrid. I have two batches of seedlings from this. N. serotinus X Autumn Sol gave lots of seedlings which are still in their second year. The seedlings resemble the seed parent and when they bloom may prove to be the same. This year I carefully emasculated a flower and applied pollen from Lawali, a standard pink double from Tasmania. Seven seeds resulted which were planted as soon as ripe and two have germinated already. There is the possible prospect of a fall blooming double daffodil.

Gaytime and Falaise have been used extensively as pod parents but they also bear anthers. The plants are unpredictable in their behavior. Some years they produce flowers with perfect stigmas and ovaries on nearly all flowers but at other times the flowers are female sterile. Often when this is the case anthers can be found associated with the white petaloids. Sometimes the petaloid merely bears a ridge of pollen along one side. As far as I am aware all present double tazettas and triandrus like Cheerfulness and White Marvel are sports but one should be able to create doubles in these and other groups by using pollen from double daffodils onto the correct parents. Two crosses which I made this spring and from which I obtained good seed were Silver Bells x Gaytime and N. bulbocodium conspicuous x Gaytime. Hopefully the former cross will yield some double triandrus and the latter some miniature doubles. Others might wish to try double pollen onto the tiny miniature species like watieri, rupicola or gaditanus. This year only one out of about twenty Gaytime blooms had a good pistil and this was pollinated by Matador - unfortunately all I obtained were two flat seeds but the cross will be repeated next year.

The old double yellow, Golden Eagle, always has an abundance of pollen and this was used on a number of emasculated Matador blooms with good effect and I harvested a number of seeds. Will they produce double tazettas? Time will tell. Matador pollen is viable and it is easier to get seed using it as the pollen parent than as the pod parent. Some of the crosses harvested this year have potential for being different if not good. They include Inca Gold x Matador, Nampa x Matador and even Gold Collar x Matador. Would any one care for a bunch of flowered split-coronas or a bunch of trumpets on a single stalk?

This year White Pearl, which is possibly the best white tazetta, produced some viable pollen. Two crosses harvested were Leonaine x White Pearl and Rose Caprice x White Pearl. Unfortunately the crosses of white small cups and White Pearl were unsuccessful but one should try crosses repeatedly before giving up. The vision of a green-eyed white counterpart to Highfield Beauty will keep me trying to make these kinds of crosses for many years.

Another group of way out crosses which gave reasonable seed this season were from Paperwhite x Binkie and Paperwhite x Recital. We hope for reverse bicolor tazettas and pink cupped tazettas. The paperwhite crosses require a great deal of patience as probably only one in a hundred florets sets seed. However, if the correct auspicious juxtaposition or temperature, stigma maturity and pollen age occur an entire umbel of pods will form as did one stalk of Paper white x Carita. Tazetta seed should be planted very soon after harvesting as they will germinate in early August in Southern California.

Triandrus pollen onto Accent gave Mitsch some pink triandrus hybrids, why not repeat the cross using some of the newer deeper pink colors? What about cyclamineus pollen onto pink long cups and trumpets? Veryl often sets seed. Would double pollen onto a reflexed standard cyclamineus give one a pom-pom? There are many unique crosses which could be made. It only takes a little imagination and a bit of courage to do something which might not be acceptable to the purists. Without that where would be the magnificent doubles and the red trumpets of today and the split coronas of tomorrow? Did you know that Guy Wilson had trouble introducing the first reverse bicolor - Spellbinder, because the coloring was not quite acceptable at that time. Without his daring, perhaps, Daydream and its rich constellation of relatives would not exist and then even the new lemon and pink combinations only now starting to become popular would not have been born. Try an unusual cross next year!

-- Harold Koopowitz

Inconsistency of Daffodils

Among the various flowers in your garden, most will come true to form and color, providing they are not affected by disease, lack of water or nutrients. Not so with daffodils; there are few, even when grown under optimum conditions, that give typical blooms year after year. Colors in red cups and pinks, of course, are dependent on temperature and moisture factors when they are ready to open. If too warm and dry, they will be forced out with only a hint of their intense colors usually expected of them. Self yellows and whites fare better in the same situations that cause wan colors in pinks and red cups. Although whites need warmth and sun to develop their dazzling sheen, they are adversely affected in weather which is too damp and cool. In our Northwest climate, many registered as 1c or 2c remain 1b or 2b throughout most of their lives.

The most worrisome aspect of daffodil inconsistency is form; some will be magnificent one year and mediocre the next. Often, after registration as a promising new member in its category, it will sulk and give typical blooms only one year in three. The dream of all daffodil breeders is to raise a flower so dependable that show quality blooms can be gathered at random. Common imperfections of form are lack of substance, irregular perianths and "mitten thumbs", caused by perianth segments catching in the folds of the cup margin. Unfortunately, the more ruffle in the cup margin, the more likely the flower will be thus affected. The mitten thumb syndrome can be eliminated by breeding daffodils with smooth cup margins, but then we would end up with a lot of look-alikes. For no apparent reason, some cultivars known for dependability will give performances considerably below par in an average or nearly ideal season. In our climate, more often than not, blooms average much better from bulbs left down more than one year. Growers in other regions may find through experiments with various types, the procedures best suited to their own situations. Perhaps the inconsistency of daffodils is one reason why fanciers grow so many cultivars, hoping to have some perfect blooms at the right time!

-- Murray W. Evans
Corbett, Oregon

HYBRIDIZING CAN BE FOR EVERYONE

Daffodils are among the easiest flowers to hybridize. Like many others, I discovered this to be true, and so can you! That does not mean to imply that all daffodil hobbyists should or must hybridize. However, I do believe that they should be encouraged to do so because it is truly a very simple procedure of placing the pollen of one bloom (referred to as the "pollen parent") on the stigma of another bloom (referred to as the "seed parent"). Basically and mechanically, that is really all there is to it, other than the harvesting of seed from the ripe pods of those crosses that has "taken". The seed should be planted as soon as possible after harvesting. It usually takes five years for the seed to grow into a blooming size bulb, but if you make crosses every year, after that initial waiting period you will have blooms from new crosses annually. Most important, it should be emphasized that the daffodil hobbyist does not have to be a botanist or geneticist to produce show-quality seedlings! Some of the finest show flowers have come from accidental or open pollinated crosses. In such cases the pollen parent will never be known for sure, if at all. Those wishing to pursue hybridizing for the first time next season should read the excellent article in The Daffodil Handbook by Roberta C. Watrous, "Breeding by Amateurs". Naturally, it is most desirable to also consult with your contemporaries that have been hybridizing.

Occasionally, I will hear of someone voicing the opinion that it is "unfair" for seedlings to compete in the same classes with registered standard cultivars in shows. This attitude is most distressing, because I believe it is the result of misunderstanding and lack of familiarity with the facts. Those voicing such an objection will usually claim that seedlings are years ahead of the average registered show bloom. Whether or not this may be true is usually irrelevant anyway because of the other factors involved in winning a blue ribbon. These factors range from the competitor's ability to groom the bloom properly to the quality of the blooms in competition in the same class. To prove the point, we all know that old standard inexpensive cultivars frequently beat expensive new cultivars on the show bench because they may be better grown and better groomed and staged. That is exactly as it should be. The talent, patience and experience of the competitor have proven to be great equalizers on the show bench.

To force seedlings to compete among themselves in a class of isolation would be grossly unfair to both the seedlings and their originators, whether or not they be the hybridizers. When a backyard horticulturist finally succeeds in growing a fine seedling, after the years of patience involved, and accredited judges award that seedling a blue ribbon and perhaps even Best of Show, that backyard gardener has successfully produced a seedling that has out-performed, on that day, perhaps many of the finest hybrids of the leading professional/commercial growers and hybridizers. What greater achievement can the amateur horticulturist hope for? What greater tribute can be paid to such a person? After all, are we not a society of predominantly amateur horticulturists?

It is also specious to assume that most seedlings grown by amateur hybridizers are "years ahead" of most fine newer registered cultivars. The truth

is that they may be years behind.

As I only began to hybridize a little more than two years ago, I have yet to even produce a bulb of blooming size. My first efforts, probably mostly worthless, are now only two year bulblets. I do expect some exciting things from my second efforts, and am even more enthused about the seeds I am now finishing harvesting. I am also prepared for plenty of disappointments. Nevertheless, I shall continue to persevere, because I personally find it challenging and enjoyable. For me, the rewards are enticing. They can be for you, too.

The fact that I have limited space to work with, rather than an acre or so of ground, does not deter or embitter me. Obviously, I would like to have much more space to plant my daffodils. My lack of space simply makes it more challenging and forces me to be more innovative. While on the subject of limited space, I must suggest that you read the fascinating article by Noel A. Burr, "Exhibition Daffodils From A Small Garden" in Daffodils 1975. Mr. Burr's show bed is only thirty-five feet long and three and a half feet wide. John Lea told me that he has only about three-quarters of an acre in England! His superb introductions and numerous awards speak for themselves. That mere three-quarters of an acre, with Mr. Lea's talent and effort, has produced cultivars that have made John Lea one of the most respected professional/commercial grower-hybridizers of our time.

At our Pacific Regional Show at Descanso Gardens last March 20th, Best of Show was won by an incredibly beautiful Ila RRR seedling (Falstaff X Guy Wilson IIa Seedline) entered by Bill Roesé. Of perfect form, it was immaculately groomed. It deserved to win, and win it did. I certainly did not consider his entry "unfair" because it was a seedling competing with other registered cultivars in the same division and class. I could only gaze in wonder at the breathtaking beauty of that lovely flower and applaud Bill's talent and knowledge, gained over at least seventeen years of effort, that made that seedling possible.

Perhaps some day I will grow a seedling good enough to win Best of Show. Perhaps you will too. But only if you try to "play bumblebee". Hybridizing can be for everyone!

--Gerard H. Wayne