

AMERICAN DAFFODIL SOCIETY, INC.

Southwestern Region

SUMMER

NEWS LETTER

1984

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NEWS AND THINGS OF INTEREST by your Regional V. P.

The Arkansas Daffodil Test Garden will be moved this fall to Conway, Arkansas ... on the campus of Hendrix College. Details of the move have been worked out by a committee composed of Mrs. Esther Dawson, President of the Arkansas Daffodil Society, Dr. Thomas Clark, head of the Geology Department at Hendrix and Mr. & Mrs. Richard Butler of Little Rock.

The fall A. D. S. meeting will be held on Saturday, October 15th at 11:30 A.M. at the Bonanza Sirloin Pits on Rodney Parham Road in Little Rock. At that time Dr. Clark will be our guest and tell us about the test garden. There will be a number of surplus bulbs for sale at our meeting and three or four of each will be planted back in the new test garden. A nominating committee composed of Mrs. Jesse Cox, chairperson, Rosalie Dillard and Dunny Crafton will submit names for next year's officers.

The present list of A. D. S. members from the Southwestern Region who plan to attend the World Convention in Australia in September are: Fanita Harris, Professor Victor Watts, Mabel Ketcheside, Lucile Shidler, Dorothy Pouncy, Joan Hammer, Esther Dawson and Dunny Crafton, all of Arkansas. Bertie Ferris, Charlyn Owen, Maurine and James Kerr will be our Texas representatives.

Mabel Ketcheside and others from the Arkansas delegation sent me a list of the daffodils at the Portland Convention which they liked best. They were: Foxfire 2 W-YOR, Pantomine 3 W-ORR, Minx 3 W-GYR, Parfait 4 W-PP, Ghost 1 W-W, Dewey Rose 2 W-WPP, Janis Babson 2 W-WWP, Ken's Favorite 2 W-P, Artic Char 2 W-P, Suede 2 Y-W, Chelan 2 Y-W, Epitome 1 Y-WWY, Big John 1 Y-W, Lipstick 2 Y-R, Chapeau 2 W-O, Lingerie 4 W-WO, Purbeck 3 W-YYO, Multnomah 2 Y-O.

Reporting on her recent trip Esther said she would have loved to have had me on the trip with them. She and Mabel walked 2 miles at 6 A.M. "Dunny and I walked 15 minutes at 7 P.M. The rainy weather wasn't easy on her." Love.

SEASON '84 -- by Eve Robertson. For unavoidable reasons my bulbs were not lifted for six years. It had to be done last year and was a monumental task. Over five hundred cultivars were lifted and, needless to say, I never considered replanting all of them. Hundreds were given away which still left four hundred cultivars to plant. That's too many.

When Phil Phillips was here last year he said I didn't use enough fertilizer. I have never used large amounts of fertilizer, as you people who have a warmer climate than I, know why. I decided to try a heavier feeding last year and hoped to get by with it. Perhaps I have. There has been more rainfall and cool weather than any daffodil season I can remember.

Usually I have better flowers the second year after lifting. However the weather and fertilizer produced the best flowers I've had in many years. Still, one had to be right by the bloom if it were to be seen before the next stormy rain.

The color of the flowers was magnificent. A great deal of potash contributed to that. My usual fertilizer is 3-9-18.

Some of the flowers that were best were 1 Y-R Glenfarclas and Uncle Ben, smoother and redder than ever; 1 Y-Y Artic Gold, always smooth and of show quality. Banbridge was very nice also, but the form is not as good. Gold Convention was superb as always. Two very large flowers I like are Arkle and Kings Stag. They are large, smooth and of good color.

In the 1 W-Y classification Cool Harmony, Grianan and Elegant Lady can be counted on for plenty of smooth flowers with much substance.

I have a number of 1 W-P's. The best was Mitch's Pink Silk. It opens pink and is rather early. The perianth looks like satin and the flowers last a long time. Also, I have just harvested some seeds from it.

Among the best 1 Y-W's were Teal and Yellowstone. They are both of good contrast and have grown well for me.

Of the 1 W-W class, Ulster Queen, Panache and Virgil give nice flowers every year. There are many other nice ones but these three are my best growers.

There are any number of fine flowers in division 2 Y-Y and it is difficult to choose. Perhaps Euphoney, Emily, Strines and Golden Joy would be in the top ten.

It's impossible to talk about all of the fine 2 Y-R's. I especially like Caracas, Fiery Flame and Red Haze for the red flush in the perianths. Falstaff, Vertex, Loch Hope, Shinning Light and Torridon produce quality blooms every year. Of course this is not only a joy from good flowers, it's bulbs can be there on and on.

The 2 Y-P class is not my favorite division. However, Irrisistable and Redstone are charming flowers and the color combinations tend to become more fascinating. They do grow well.

It would be difficult to have a more outstanding flower in 2 W-Y than Festivity. One can find the show bloom and at digging time the bulbs are there.

Unless I guard against it, I'll mention too many pinks. Division 2 W-P has always been such a great joy to me. Arctic Char with it's deep color cup is never of poor quality. Dailmanach, Declare, Fragrant Rose, Gracious Lady, High Repute, Pitta and Reform are flowers whose beauty causes me to sigh.

As of now, I think Refrain is the most beautiful pink yet, followed by Dailmanach and Artic Char.

Long ago when I first saw Hades and Jean Hood (many of you never heard of these oldies) I loved the 2 W-R class and longed for sunproof cups. There are many good ones. Loch Brora, Newport and Rameses give blue ribbon flowers every year. Rameses was chosen in '62 by David Lloyd and Allan Hardy as the best of the Richardson's 2 W-Rs and it will push anything to beat it in color, quality and bulb performance.

The 2 W-W class just might be my favorites. While at Fred Board's place in '62 I thought Dover Cliffs the best I'd seen. Then we didn't have Ashmore, Broomhill, Misty Glen, Starmont, Immaculate and Yosenite. My! what fine flowers they all are. I was unable to get Dover Cliffs until two years ago. It's still a very nice flower and has been winning in the R. H. S. shows, yet the other mentioned ones grow somewhat better. Mr. Lea's great Canisp has proved itself best in England and many shows elsewhere. How I wish it would stay with me.

It seems I have too many favorites. Ever since childhood when we had these green things that would never open right, I've loved the doubles. Richardson opened our eyes to the good ones. Gay Challenger, Candida, Acropolis and Fiji all grow so well. Grant Mitsch has introduced some good ones. His Angkor and Spun Honey are well formed and good stems and color. Nothing is dearer at the end of the season than his Sweet Music and Alabaster. John Lea's Delnashan and Elphin are very good pinks. I shall never forget the feeling I had when I first saw Delnashan in Philadelphia in '76. Murray Evans has also produced some good doubles, Felicity and Replete. Murray's display at the convention had in it many new ones I hope to live to grow in my garden. When we were at Murray's in '72 he was getting close to an all white. This year he had it. What a glorious flower Bill Pannill's Androcles is. I've waited many years for this flower and I hope it will grow well for me. In my area about the greatest enemy of the doubles is our late freezes while they are in bud. This year we didn't have it and they are all a great joy.

I skipped division III and will touch on it and the rest at a later date, if, after these notes, your Laura Lee will allow it.

TO BE CONTINUED, Stay tuned.

OBITUARY.

Maurine writes that Sara Shryoc lost her husband last month. Your sympathy and prayers are needed.

We extend our sympathy to Dr. Victor Watts and family in the loss of their wife and mother, Isobel, who passed away recently. She was a valuable member of the A.D.S.

At the Convention at Portland we were told of the death of Phil Phillips of New Zealand. He contributed much to the A.D.S. and was one of the planners of Springfield.

Recent word has come of the death of John S. Lee of England. A great modern day hybridist and a speaker many times at our A.D. S. Conventions.

We will all miss Mrs. S. F. Ditzmar (Jewell) of Muskogee, Ok as she was such an enthusiastic worker in our society. Jewell served the National organization as Southwestern Regional Vice-President in 1974 and 1975. She also served as a director of our Region for 2 three year terms during the 1960's and 1970's. She was responsible for Oklahoma having a series of Judging Schools and was chairman of a number of state shows. She was the mother of Maurine Kerr of Dallas.

MY GARDEN AND I. (Editor's note: I just had to share the following gem which I ran across recently. The author is Mrs. H. W. Johnson, Verdi, Minn.)

We are bosom pals, my garden and I. Here in it's beautiful sanctuary I can work and relax and enjoy it's boundless beauty or to whisper my secrets and troubles -- and yes, even cry.

For here indeed is a haven of retreat wherein you can reign supreme in all a garden gives you.

Here with tender loving care you can plant tiny seeds that mature into blossoms that rival the colors of the rainbow.

And, you bury daffodils and other bulbs that may look dead but with the resurrection of the unexplainable urge that comes with spring.

Then send forth beauty and joy to those who plant and share them.

Every garden, perhaps, is different in size and style and the preference of what you plant and grow.

But there's a bountiful harvest of satisfaction -- relaxation and solace in a garden that no other place can give you.

Oh yes! It's just a patch of dirt. But oh the feeling of warmth and intimacy you get from the good growing earth.

So feel privileged that you can stimulate to life the tiny specks of seed or bulbs endowed in your care.

The feeling of Peace and contentment that's yours in a garden wipes away the man made cares and tribulations of the world when your're down on your knees in the soil.

MY DAFFODIL SEASON WAS GREAT. HOW WAS YOURS? Willard King.

Weatherwise, this was a perfect spring for daffodils. The cool rainy season was just what they wanted. Many varieties out did themselves and became show quality when they had just been ordinary in previous years. The ones which turned in the best score were Golden Vale 1 Y-Y, Descanso 1 W-Y, Strathkinaird 1 Y-Y, Chromocolor Bill Pannills gorgeous pink, Pure Joy 2 W-Y, Canby 2 W-P, Loch Lundie 2 Y-R, Widgeon 2 Y-PPY, Kimmeridge 3 W-YYO, Archduart 3 Y-R, Cul Beag 3 W-R, Loch Hope 2 Y-R, Loch Naver 2 Y-OCR, Rubh Mor 2 W-OCR, Torridon 2 Y-R, Ashmore 2 W-GWW and Rockall 3 W-R my all time favorite. Why? Because it has a very stately stem and the flower looks up at you as if to say "Boy I've got it and you know it". Too many daffodils want to nod their heads forward as if they were guilty of something, and for these, one has to get down on ones hands and knees to get a good look at the flower. Isn't it a shame all of your best and most expensive flowers don't put on their prime bloom at show time? My two biggest disappointments this year were Cloud Nine which died of heart failure and Green Elf which Laura Lee gave to us, bud blasted. John Lea sent me as a bonus one of his double seedlings which was gorgeous. I don't know why he did not name it. Incidentally Laura Lee now has 15,692 daffodils and more to come. I wonder what it is that makes one a daffodil nut? I'll try to answer that in a future news letter.

EPIGLOTUS MAROON, one of our newest members writes that her number one choice is Sir Watkin. Just to know this one stirs her pulse to a quickening rhythm says she. Her second choice is King Alfred which she says strengthens her tenuous hold on reality. You will be hearing more from her as time goes on. She's a card.

BARGAINS IN DAFFODIL BULBS.

Mrs. Ketcheside has selected the bulb order for 1984. You may order one or all, or any other bulbs listed in the Mitsch-Havens catalog. A discount of 25% will be allowed on all bulbs not marked "Net".

Angkor	4 Y-Y	\$10.00	NET: Broomhill	2 W-W	\$8.00
Chapeau	2 W-Y	5.00	Ivy League	1 W-Y	5.00
Hoopoe	8 Y-C	15.00	Minnow(min)	8 W-Y	1.50
Heron	2 W-P	9.00	Multnomah	2 Y-YO	20.00
Imperial	2 Y-Y	5.00	Panache	1 W-W	10.00
WaterMusic	2 Y-W	9.00	Resplendent	2 Y-R	11.00
		<u>\$53.00</u>			
		Less 25% <u>13.25</u>			NET <u>\$55.50</u>
		Total <u>39.75</u>			

Four collections are available: 1. Sample collection. A \$45.00 value for \$30 net. 2. Exhibitors collection: At Dawning 1 W-P, Hummingbird 6 Y-Y, Lark 2 Y-WWY, Lemon Tree 3 W-YO, Pitta 2 W-P, Resplendent 2 Y-R, Seafoam 2 W-W, Step Forward 7 Y-W, Premium bulb: Grebe 4 Y-C. An \$80.00 value for \$60.00. 3. Connoisseur's collection: Hummingbird 6 Y-Y, Meditation 2 W-YWP, Pay Day, 1 YW-W, Queensize 3 W-Y, Sylph 1 Y-Y, Vertex 2 Y-R. Premium bulb: Angkor 4 Y-Y. \$140 value for \$90.00.

Division 3. Exhibitor's collection from Dr. Throckmorton: Late Snow 3 W-GWW, On Edge 3 Y-GYR, State Fair 3 G-GYR, Stinger 3 Y-Y, Suave 3 Y-Y. Premium bulb: Painted Desert 3 Y-GYO.

The better seedling mixture is available for \$7.75 per dozen, net.

OUR VISIT TO PORTLAND

Esther Dawson reports that they had a very enjoyable to Portland. We visited several lovely garden. Had lunch one day at Menuchen, a Presbyterian Retreat. Another day we lunched at Mt. Angel Abbey. Farther Athanasius Bucholz at the Abbey is one of the finest growers of show daffodils. Though it rained both days we visited the field of Murray Evans and the Mitsch daffodils at Mr. and Mrs. Richard Havens' farm. The Convention was held at the Red Lion Inn-Lloyd Center and the Pacific Region was host.

Commercial growers from Northern Ireland, England, The Netherlands, Canada and the United States brought beautiful displays of their own introductions and people were busy compiling want lists of the flowers they couldn't live without.

Brian S. Duncan, Rathowen Daffodils of Northern Island, was the speaker Friday night. On Saturday night the speaker was Dr. Harold Koopowit of California. His slide show of daffodils of Mr. Evans and Mr. Mitsch was outstanding. A special gold medal was awarded to Mr. Mitsch by the organization of the Commercial Daffodil Growers of Holland. The presentation was made by the ambassador from Holland.

The 1985 convention and show will be held at the Valley Forge Holiday Inn in the town of King of Prussia, just west of Philadelphia, Pa.

TRIVIA.

You will find the results of the Arkansas Spring Daffodil show in the Arkansas News Letter.

USELESS INFORMATION

Charles XVI of France never took a bath.

REPORT OF THE DALLAS 1984 DAFFODIL SHOW.

Mrs. R. Guy, Show Chairman, reports the following award winners:

<u>AWARD</u>	<u>EXHIBITOR</u>	<u>VARIETY</u>
GOLD RIBBON	Mrs. Kelly Shryoc, Ft. Worth, TX	Cassata, 11 W-W
MINIATURE GOLD RIBBON	Mrs. Patrick Haggerty, Jr., Dallas	n. canaliculatus, 10 W-Y
WHITE RIBBON	Ms. Wanda Dow, Ft. Worth	Texas, 4 Y-O
Miniature White Ribbon	Mrs. James R. Walther, Dallas	Jumble, 6 Y-O
SILVER RIBBON	Barrie Kridler, Mt. Pleasant	11 blues and 5 reds
PURPLE RIBBON	Barry C. Nichols, Mt. Pleasant	1. Rocky Horror 11 Y-Y
		2. Mistril 11 W-Y
		3. Chablis 11 W-PPY
		4. Dolly Mollinger 11 W-OWO
		5. Suare Dancer 11 Y-Y
ROSE RIBBON	Barrie Kridler	Seedling #4-6-83 2 Y-Y
MINIATURE ROSE RIBBON	Barrie Kridler	Seedling #4-1-83 1 W-Y

Varieties which created the most interest: Cassata, n.canaliculatus, The Splits, Troubadour and Dr. Fleming.

Show Judges: Mrs. Royal A. Ferris, Jr., Mrs. Wm. D. Owen, Mrs. Wm. D. Bozek, Mrs. James K. Kerr, Mrs. R. D. Rodgers, Jr., Mrs. James F. Piper, Mrs. Kelly Shryoc, Mrs. C. R. Bivin, Ms. Wanda Dow.

HOW TO CLEAN UP AT A SHOW. by Gertie and Dick Butler.

1. Spend as much time as possible with your daffodils before a show.
2. Have breakfast, lunch, dinner and snaks in the beds with them -- no crumbs. They hate crumbs.
3. Talk to them -- sing to them -- gossip a little about other peoples daffodils.
4. They like to feel loved so make love to them when you are placing them on the show bench.
5. Rotsa Ruck!

THE GIRLS



"Does 'Margaret Chase Smith' ever get high enough to climb a trellis?"

REPORT OF THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

As required of your committee we have made a continuing study of all material published about, or relating to, daffodils and have procured copies of such publications. As in the past we have cataloged all material as it has come into us. Any requests for loan of material have been satisfied. Some material is too delicate and rare to send through the mail but may be picked up personally. We urge you to make use of the publications we have on hand. Incidentally we now have an elegant glassed-in bookcase for storing all of our books and periodicals.

Mrs. W. D. Owen, Chairperson.

TRIVIA. The best way to get real enjoyment out of a garden is to put on a wide straw hat, dress in thin, loose-fitting clothes, hold a little trowel in one hand and a cool drink in the other and tell your yard boy where to dig.

SIDE SPLITTING JOKE. A minister returning home late one night from a sick call, noticed one of his flock staggering down the street. "Let me help you to the door" he said, guiding the inebriated member of his parish gently home. At the door the besotted man beseeched the minister to come into his house with him but the minister replied that "it was too late". "Please, Rev'ren", the man pleaded. "Just for a minute. I want my wife to see who I was out with tonight."

DAFFODIL WINE.

From
Sonnets
of a
Gardener

Flower of fate, voracious yet benign
Your myriad petal - softness awry . . .
A toast to fools! who -- never tasting wine --
Too swiftly drain a tender chalice dry!
They -- also surfeit, who but stand and wait,
Eyeing this gift, so fecund and dew-wet --
A fraid for love yet wild to consummate --
And almost losing what it came to get.
On what, what split-level, whither bifurcation,
Prefabricated self-pollination!
Lives love so lovely, beauty for a day?
To what the end and --- who to show the way?
In A. D. S. the essence of the thing
Is how it looks and smells to Helen Link.



= "I have to be absolutely gorgeous by 6:30!"

A DAFFODIL STORY
Bertie Ferris

When I was six years of age, my mama gave me some hollyhock seeds and told me to go plant a beautiful glower garden. The day my hollyhocks bloomed I became an amateur horticulturist.

Two years later we moved two miles into the country to a very old house without a garden. When I think of home I think of mama and her garden in Rockwall County. It was going to be fun starting this garden that I just could not wait to get things growing. As it was in the middle of summer and no rain, mama informed me we would wait until October to go back to the townhouse to get her beloved roses, lilacs and a few other plants that must be moved to our new home. October finally arrived, and believe it or not, the first things planted in this dream garden were bulbs of Daffodils.

Mrs. Monty Compton, a new neighbor, came calling. Her welcome gift was bulbs of "Grand Monarch", "Jonquilla Simplex", "Conaliculatus" and "Twin Sisters". She included in the gift some white, pink and blue hyacents and a few fall and spring crocus. Mrs. Monty's bulb story was so fascinating we looked forward to spring with anticipation for the promised riot of color we would have blooming with the wild flowers. Daffodils: What a welcome to spring and the beginning of a love affair with this gay flower as it danced on our windy-hill garden.

In 1947 from this garden a collection of plants and bulbs was transplanted in my new garden in Dallas, Texas. The following spring I observed some new varities of daffodils blooming in my next door neighbor's garden. Mrs. Thomas Burke (Marie) loved daffodils. She would not trade bulbs because mine were common and hers were hybrids. Her fine collection came from Mrs. Foote and Mr. Grant E. Mitsch. In the fall she gave me a start of Scarlet Elegance, Tunis, Yellow Poppy, Tresamble and Cherie, my first pink. When they bloomed I decided to stop trading and to start buying daffodil bulbs. I added dozens of varities to my collection. I soon realized that the P. D. Williams hybrides took to our hot summer so I have stayed with many of his varities, because they do well under trees in a natural planting.

From Mitsch's Daffodil Haven many of my favorites have stayed in mama's and my gardens. Better for her than me she let nature take care of them while I gave them too much water in summer.

Rapidly time moved to 1957 and another horizon⁴--Daffodils in Exhibition. The Dallas Council of Garden Clubs staged its first Flower show to last a week, its purpose to raise funds for the Dallas Garden Center. The show would change its flowers in the Artistic and Horticultural sections every third day. Marie persuaded me to enter Grant Mitsch's Connoisseur's collection of twelve daffodils in the daffodil class. She entered them for me. They won twelve blue ribbons, the Queen of Show and the Award of Merit as well. The bulb growers of Molland awarded me their famous Delft blue porcelain bowl, 100 daffodil and tulip bulbs, and a membership in their daffodil and tulip societies.

At this time, (1957), I became known as the daffodil lady of Dallas.

The interest and enthusiasm that the daffodils created in the show was so great, the show chairman, Mrs. Frank Harmon (Nita), said We would form a society for Daffodils. That summer the Texas Daffodil Society was organized, the object was to share our knowledge, to stimulate the growing and the love of the daffodil. The first fifty members would constitute the founders' group, and regular membership would not be limited. Ten ladies started the founders group: Nita Harmon, Marie Burke, Charlene Owen and I were among the ten. We have been meeting five times a year since we were organized in 1957. The first meeting in September is for the purpose of getting our bulb orders. The first four meetings of the following year we meet to study daffodils. The society has a show each March. Usually we stage over 500 daffodils at the garden center.

We had not been organized a year when Nita went with her husband to a convention in Washington D.C. She met Carey E. Quinn, the author of "Daffodils Outdoors and In", and he persuaded her to have the Texas Daffodil Society to host the American Daffodil Society in March of 1958. We were flabbergasted, but we knew that come March about 200 daffodil lovers would be our guests. Nita, a great organizer, was Convention Chairman and I was the Show Chairman. Naturally I thought I knew all one needed to know about daffodils. Not So. All previous experience is of little use when you joined the Daffodil Trek. To join the crowd a gardener just needs to have enthusiasm and an open mind.

Back in 1947 Marie Burke told me Mrs. Jesse Cox of Hot Springs, Ark. was an authority on growing and judging daffodils. This I can verify. She arrived in Dallas with containers filled with entries for our first national daffodil show. Daffodils were scant, so Laura Lee made my day and saved my neck as well. All our helpers left to take the Judge's Clinic, School I and left her and me holding the bag. Quickly I learned how to move rapidly, to groom and stage a daffodil show and how to be a good show chairman. Unfortunately I did not know this when I entered "the Carey Quinn class". I was surprised I did not receive an award, nor did I win many blue ribbons.

It was not only our first convention and show. It was our first judge's clinic, or clinics as we had two. One on the first day and School II on the day following the meeting. We met many celebrities, such as Mr. B.Y. Morrison, principal founder of the American Horticultural Society, whose special interest was daffodils. This made him doubly qualified to be the banquet speaker. Mr. George S. Lee, Jr., president of the National Society, Mrs. Goethe Link, a very special friend to the Southwest Region. As you might know, Mrs. Jesse Cox and a newcomer, Dr. Tom Throckmorton, who had yet to make his impact contribution to daffodils.

As we listened to tales of woe from other regions, our society realized for the first time that we were not the only ones who had trials and tribulations in growing daffodils. We were challenged to keep trying after hearing such delightful speakers as Eleanor Mill from Oklahoma, Margaret Thompson from Alabama, Carl Amason, Arkansas, and Eve Robertson from South Carolina.

Back to the Judge's Clinic which did so much to enlighten me about the dos and don'ts of growing and showing the Daffodil. I took my first student judging in a show in Roanoke, Virginia, with Mr. Hubert Fischer as lead judge, the second one in Nashville, Tenn., and the last one in Siloam Springs, Ark. Our good fairies, Laura Lee, Helen Lind, and Betty Barnes have been faithful to guide and instruct in our judge's clinics and refresher courses.

Time, as it has wings, has brought us to this day. We have loved and enjoyed the fellowship on the local, regional and National levels. As we look forward to the future and a new Spring, may we continue to love daffodils and all the gardeners who love growing this gay flower.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. It is important that all correspondence regarding memberships, change of address, receipt of publications, supplies, ADS records and other business matters should be addressed to me.

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