

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DAFFODIL SOCIETY
WINTER NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 1989

Greetings, Daffodil Friends!

WEATHER RAMBLINGS

From my garden, it does look like it's going to be a late season. This February cold spell has stopped every bit of growth. Quite a contrast to the early seasons of the past two years when I had many things blooming by now!

The lateness of the season will yield mixed blessings. The early-season shows at Fortuna and Descanso may be hard-pressed for flowers. The ADS National Show in San Francisco (March 16-17) should be just at the Northern California peak season - but the number of entries may suffer some from the lack of flowers from our friends in Oregon, whose season also will be late. Fellow daffodilers in the Southeast States may also have a late season; still several are hoping to bring miniatures for Show competition.

NCDS SPRING EVENTS

February 26 (Sunday) - Potluck social at Jack Romine's house in Walnut Creek, 2-5pm. The theme: "How to enter the daffodil show and win!" In addition to just plain socializing, there will be an orientation to the things you'll encounter when you first bring an entry to a show: what are entry "classes;" how do you fill out an entry tag; how do you set up single-stem or three-stem exhibits; what is a "collection?" And more basically, how do you select and cut daffodils to bring to the show; what are judges looking for; how do you "groom" a bloom to look its best? Bring your friends; non-NCDS members are welcome. And come even if you know all the stuff above. Call Pat Sabin (415-935-0350) or Bob Spotts (415-223-6499) to coordinate a food dish. They will also give directions to Jack's house, 2065 Walnut Boulevard, Walnut Creek.

March 16-18 (Thursday through Saturday) - NCDS hosts the American Daffodil Society National Convention and Show at the Cathedral Hill Hotel, Geary at Van Ness, San Francisco. The Show is Thursday and Friday; entries are accepted Wednesday evening and Thursday morning (actually from 3 pm Wednesday thru 10 am Thursday). You need not be an ADS member or registered in the Convention to enter flowers in the Show. This Show replaces our Heather Farm Show for this year! Help us be good hosts: bring daffodils to the Show. For information, call Nancy Wilson, Show Chairman (415-524-5713).

I encourage you to attend the Convention if you can. The activities at the Convention include talks and chats with daffodil enthusiasts (the featured guest is Clive Postles from England), tours (by chartered bus) of Rod McLelland's Acres of Orchids and Melrose Gardens' acres of daffodils, the Show, boutique, banquets, bulb raffle and auction, and the chance to meet like-minded people from the world over. From my experience, the friends you'll make you'll value for life. Daffodil folks are fine people. For information, call Jan Moyers, Convention Chairman (415-453-5261).

Weekend afternoon in April or May (date yet to be set) - Business meeting and properties cleanup party, Jerry and Nancy Wilson's house, Berkeley. We'll conduct our business, elect officers for the 1989 year, clean and box our show properties, and talk about the Spring blooms just finishing. You'll get an announcement in the mail.

HELP WANTED AT THE CONVENTION

Show Clerks Chairman Dorothy Rucker needs a dozen Clerks to assist during the judging of the Show. This would take about four hours (10 am to 2 pm) on Thursday, March 16. You'll get to see the Show before it opens, will be able to observe and hear the Judges evaluate the exhibits, and will record the awards and place the exhibits. You don't have to be registered at the Convention to Clerk at the Show. Call Dorothy (415-837-2098) if you'd like to contribute.

Dorothy is also looking for Leaders for buses on the tours. Each tour bus requires a Leader to assure that stragglers are found, etc. On Friday afternoon, the tour to Rod McLellan's in South San Francisco will have two buses. On Saturday (most of the day), the tour to Melrose Gardens in Stockton will use three buses. If you'd like to go to these places (even if you're not registered at the Convention), here's your chance! Call Dorothy Rucker and volunteer.

Show Entry Placement Chairman Jack Romine needs an elite staff of volunteers to help exhibitors get their entries into the proper places on the showroom tables. That would take your time from 7:30 to 10 am on Thursday morning. If you'd like to assist exhibitors in staging, that's possible, too. Call Jack (415-939-7744) to volunteer.

Show Boutique Chairman Mary Smith can use some help in running this activity. If you'd like to be involved, call Mary (415-228-6098). She's also open to ideas about daffodil-related things to stock the boutique.

Convention Chairmen Jan Moyers has a seemingly endless need for volunteers during the first couple of days of the Convention: Hospitality Desk, registration desk, helping get Show entries from exhibitors' cars to the staging area, helping commercial exhibitors to stage their stands, taking pictures, you name it. If you have some free time and energy, call Jan (415-453-5261)

NOVICE AWARD AT THE NATIONAL SHOW

The NCDS will award a special prize (the "maltese macaw") for the best Daffodil entered by a novice exhibitor. Who is a "novice?" In this Show, it's any exhibitor who has yet to win a major ADS Award or Ribbon. Those blue, red, or yellow ribbons you won in the past don't matter. The Award will be a \$25 gift certificate for daffodils, plus a perpetual trophy.

SAD NEWS

The NCDS lost one of its best friends with the death of Murray Evans in November. Murray's support of our Fall Bulb Auction was a major factor in it's success. Each year, he supplied generous numbers of his top-quality cultivars so that our newer members could grow the best daffodil varieties. Murray Evans will be missed, but he will not be forgotten. The legacy of exquisite daffodils he left us will assure to that.

DUES REMINDER!

Annual dues are now payable. Bring to the February Party, or send \$5 (individual) or \$8 (household) to:

Pat Sabin, Treasurer
1972 Desert Circle
Walnut Creek, CE 94598

OTHER PACIFIC DAFFODIL SHOWS

Both the Fortuna Garden Club and the Southern California Daffodil Society will hold their Spring Shows on March 4-5, 1989. For information on the Fortuna Show (at the Fortuna Monday Clubhouse), contact Christine Kemp, P.O. Box 212, Fortuna CA 95540. For information on the SCDS Show (at Descanso Gardens in La Canada), contact Nancy Cameron, 410 S. Paseo Estrella, Anaheim Hills CA 92807.

The Oregon daffodil society will hold its Spring Show on April 1-2, 1989. For information on the ODS Show (at the Linn County Fairgrounds in Albany), contact Betty Forster, 31875 Fayetteville Road, Shedd OR 97377.

DAFFODILS FOR 1990

Believe it or not, Spring is the time to order daffodils by mail for Fall planting. Several daffodil growers have been generous in their support of the NCDS, we suggest you consider them when you purchase:

Grant Mitsch Novelty Daffodils
P.O. Box 218
Hubbard, OR 97032

Hatfield Gardens
22799 Ringgold Southern Road
Stoutsville, OH 43154

Murray Evans Daffodils
3500 SE Manthey Road
Corbett, OR 97019

Nancy Wilson Miniature Daffodils
571 Woodmont Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94708

Oakwood Daffodils
2330 W. Bertrand Road
Niles, MI 49120

Write for lists or catalogs (enclose \$3 for the Mitsch catalog with beautiful color plates). The catalogs are usually available in mid-March.

DAFFODIL SUPPLIES

The new edition of "Daffodils to Show and Grow" is now available for \$5 from the ADS. It lists and describes all the common and show varieties of daffodils. The address is:

The American Daffodil Society
Rt 3, 2302 Byhalia Road
Hernando, MS 38632

See you at the February Party - and at the March Show!

Bob

BOB SPOTTS