

The Indiana Ledger

A Triannual Publication of the Indiana Daffodil Society

Joe Hamm, President

Suzy Wert, Editor

From the Garden of the President

Greetings "Daffodilians",

The year is over three-quarters compete as we reflect on the activities and achievements of the society. We had a successful daffodil show, with many late-season blooms arriving early. *Orchard in Bloom* with not enough bloom to create the 'micro garden' we planned, but at least enough for a table display and to share with visitors. Dick Crum gave us the opportunity to visit on radio with him and Mrs. Green-thumb, allowing the Indiana Daffodil Society to promote part of the objectives of the Society. The fifth page of the yearbook lists our objectives and the reason for the existence of our group. I have asked our editor to re-print this in this issue of the *Ledger*.

Our two sales were successful netting approximately \$1,360.00 after expenses. This was accomplished thru the efforts of Jeanne and Doug Clark, Helen Link, Helen MacPherson, Marcella Modisett, Dolores Moore, Barb and David Sinders, Jean Stallcop, Helen Trueblood, Tom Walls, Juanita Webster, Suzy Wert, Joyce Wozniak and one individual whose face is familiar, but who left after helping bag bulbs, and I neglected to get her name. Without the time and sweat of these dedicated individuals, revenue derived from these sales would not give us the funds needed to carry on our objectives.

Helen Link, Helen Trueblood, and Suzy Wert were instrumental in providing over 350 bulbs representing 28 different *cultivars* for the students of Wheeler School and P.S. 64. I made fifty-six identification labels so

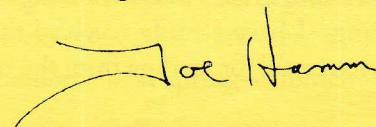
these students will be able to identify the differences. This is an excellent opportunity to expose formative minds to the wonders and subtleties of nature.

Helen Link and Helen Trueblood have given bulbs, along with bulbs that I had been trying to identify to our Park project. Ramona Frosch and Suzy Wert have agreed to work with the Indy Parks and Meridian Street organizations. This year will see a few hundred bulbs planted in the Alice Carter Section, which is in conjunction with the Master Gardeners group who have been active with this section for years. We still have details to be resolved with the Indy Parks people. This could be as great a public awareness project as our Show, (ADS members, read the article on p. 228 of the June *The Daffodil Journal*).

This is a reminder that membership carries responsibility to our objectives. I wish to see the activities of our other members applauded; it is amazing how active our members are in their communities and how daffodils are part of their generosity.

We have a membership that covers the state and over the borders of adjoining states. Some members are unable to attend meetings, so the *Ledger* becomes the instrument of fellowship. I am suggesting you make your activities known to our editor and... "stop putting your candle under a basket"!

Happy Planting (when the ground is less like concrete)

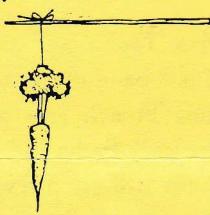
 Joe Hamm

October 10th Meeting

~by Joe Hamm

Refreshments for the October 10th meeting will be furnished by: Marcella Modisett, Dolores Moore, Helen Trueblood and Juanita Webster.

The October 10th meeting is to be a general open discussion meeting with everyone giving their "how to" tips. Everyone has his or her favorite method of planting, labeling, storing, digging, mapping, cataloguing, etc., so bring your garden tips. What type of problems to expect from the record breaking June rains? Bring your garden or daffodil questions. There are no dumb questions! Be sure to bring your 1999 dues, bulbs and plants for the exchange table, and a big satchel to haul your loot home!



There will also be:

- Sneak Preview Sheets of the 13 Divisions. 13???
- A look at the new RHS International Daffodil Register and Classified List 1998.
- Special bulbs furnished by a Very Special Person.
- The bulb and plant exchange.

And most of all:

- The chance to interact with each other!

Distribution of Club Challenge Bulb -- 'Freedom Rings', 2 Y-P, by R. & E. Havens, registered 1994, will be distributed at the October 10th meeting. This is a very rare and unusual flower —yellow perianth with a pink corona!

Note: You must pick up your bulb, or make arrangements for someone to pick up the bulb for you, or have already sent the money to the treasurer for mailing. I have already received the list of members who have paid for mailing from the treasurer, as well as

list of members who are declining the bulb and members who have made arrangements for receiving their bulbs. October 8 is the shut off date to contact Joe Hamm.

Extra bulbs will be sold at the October 10th meeting.

1998-99 Daffodil Calendar

Sat., October 10 1:00 Meeting, Nora Library
"Round Table and Hint Exchange"
See article at left, "October 10th Meeting"

October TBA - IDS Fall Planning Board Meeting.
Contact Joe Hamm if you are interested in attending.
See article page 4, "1999 Programs"

April 3 - Kentucky Daffodil Society Show, Louisville

April 10 - Scottsburg Show, Leota Barn

April 11 - Judges school IV, Scottsburg

April 14 - Set-up Indianapolis Show

April 15-16 - IDS Show (55th & Meridian)

April 22-24 ADS NATIONAL SHOW in Pittsburgh.
According to Dianne Mrak of Pittsburgh they are planning several optional trips such as *Falling Waters* and the *Frick Mansion* in addition to the normal gardens. In reality the dates are the 20th thru the 25th if you take advantage of the full convention. It is a leisurely 7 hour drive.

Indiana Daffodil Society Officers

President: Joe Hamm - 297-2281

Vice-President: Phyllis Vonnegut - 255-9638

Recording Secretary: Jeanne Clarke - 773-3252

Corresponding Secretary: Mary Higgs - 255-7520

Treasurer: Helen MacPherson - 545-1730

WINTON'S IRIS HILL

~by Betty Polanka



Editor's Note: For those of you who don't know returning IDS member, Doris Winton, she has a retail iris-hosta-daylily garden on the outskirts of Franklin, IN. Doris has invited the IDS members to have our June picnic in her garden on June 27, 1999.

As I drove up the drive to Doris' A-frame house, many different trees and shrubs dotted the yard. One of the great sights was her collection of butterfly bushes, her favorite being a deep purple one surrounded by the butterflies. Doris has 800-900 different iris, SDB, MDB, IB, BB, MTB, TB, and Siberians. As I came across the yard, the rebloomer 'Royal Summer' was giving a repeat of purple bloom. Doris suggested Tall Bearded 'Dusky Challenger', blue-purple; 'Before The Storm', black; 'Jesse's Song', lavender and white plicata; 'St. Helen's Wake' or 'I Surrender', white; 'Anna Belle Babson' or 'Beverly Sills', pink; 'Stepping Out', deep purple and white plicata; 'Edith Wolford', yellow over blue-violet; 'Time Piece', yellow, and 'Yaquina Blue', marine blue. For smaller ones, 'Little Showoff', icy blue and Welch's 'Reward', yellow over reddish-purple are outstanding.

The daylilies were winding down somewhat but I still saw some great ones. Some expensive and others very affordable — all collectable. 'Condilla', double gold and rebloomer; 'Barbara Mitchell', pink; 'Lavender Stardust', dark lavender; 'Indy Rhapsody', ruby-red; 'Big Snowbird', white; 'Monstrosity', rose-tangerine; 'Honey Round', cream with lavender eye; 'Firestorm', red and yellow spider; rebloomer 'Chris Salter',

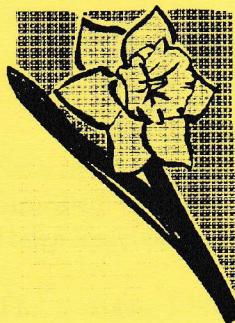
lavender with deep gold edge; 'Captive Audience', deep lemon; and a great rebloomer 'Take Heart', tangerine-rose blend with a lemon eye. 'Indy Love Song' was a nice small shrimp.



Toward the back of the gardens is a huge, huge oak tree that shades the Hosta Beds. Others are shaded under a lath shade. Included in her collection are 'Great Expectations', 'Chartreuse' turning cream with dark green margin; 'Invincible', bright shiny green; 'Guacamole', wonderfully fragrant; 'Patriot', dark green edged white; and 'Grand Master', puckered blue-green with white margins.

Doris also grows over 100 perennials and is adding a new bed for next year. Included are beautiful clumps of cone flowers, 'Magnus'; Heliopsis, 'Ballerina'; Rudbeckia, 'Goldsturm'; Shasta Daisy, 'Snow Lady', and a deep purple Salvia, 'May Night'.

Doris grows over 1900 daylilies and 300 plus Hostas. Just an education to see and enjoy her gardens. The garden is open for visits everyday, but you should call ahead if you are traveling a far distance. She can be reached by telephone or at dwinton@hsontonline.net. Generally, orders are placed on the day you visit and shipped later in the summer. Hostas may be dug on the spot. Doris grows over a hundred daffodil varieties, and may have a list for interested IDS members next spring-summer.



IDS Miscellany

~ by Joe Hamm

1999 Programs

In order to better serve the membership, it would be nice to hear from anyone who has a meeting topic idea, or the name of an individual speaker for fun — or educational meetings -- in 1999. The Executive Board will be meeting in late October to plan events for the 1999 year.

The Board can only make the meetings and projects as good as the input from the membership, so if you have an idea, or there is something you want to happen, *please tell us!* What day of the week, time of the day, or how often do you want the meetings?

The Board Meeting is open to all members. Call Joe Hamm (317-293-3381) for the date and the place. Come see what makes the wheels turn.

Society Objectives

The objectives of the society shall be to increase the general interest in the use of daffodils through:

- a. Exchange of interest and experience
- b. Study and testing of varieties and cultures
- c. Promoting and encouraging wider use and appreciation of daffodils
- d. Encouraging breeding and improvements of daffodils particularly for the mid-west climate
- e. Study of means to promote the health of daffodils
- f. Setting standards for showing and judging of daffodils in shows

Hospitality

Barbara Sinders has volunteered to co-ordinate the Hospitality Committee. We ran last year with out a Chair. Thank you Barbara for starting this at the August Meeting. Please contact Barbara and see if you can fill a date in March, August or October, 1999.

Thank you to Ruth Zimmerman, Judy Vaught, Betty Polanka and Sara Kinne for furnishing refreshments for the August 8 meeting.

ADS 2001 Convention

Our KDS friends are putting together an Historic Daffodil Bed at Whitehall Park. Contact Chuck Schad, 3008 Tall Oaks Drive, Jeffersonville, IN 47130 or call him (812-288-6294) if you have any of the pre-1940 historic cultivars you could donate to the cause. They would like at least 5 bulbs of a given cultivar. If you do not have any this year, you might keep them in mind as you dig next year.

Volunteer at the IMA

The Indianapolis Museum of Art is now in the process of restoring their Ravine Garden and has extended an invitation to gardeners to help plant in organized work days on October 15 and November 24.

Workers will meet in the Greenhouse parking lot at 8:30 am for coffee and doughnuts and instructions before heading off to the garden. Each day will end at noon, so it isn't an onerous chore to volunteer. They do not provide personal items such as hats and gloves, but will provide equipment. Call 923-1331 x 586 at least three days ahead of time. Paid positions are also available.

Thoughts on *Bulbocodium*

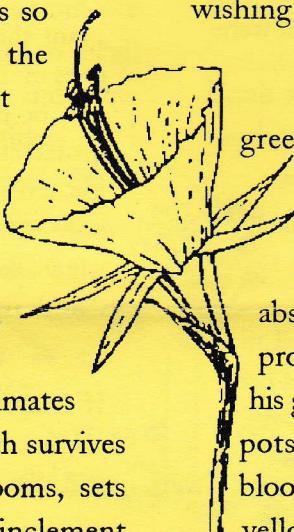
~by Dave Karnstedt, The Tundra, Minnesota

What does it take to consistently grow *N. bulbocodium* successfully from season to season? Based on my experience here in Minnesota, I would suggest the basic problem with things like *N. bulbocodium* in climates where considerable freezing (alternate freezing/thawing) or long term cold exists is that the foliage gets so badly damaged that food reserves in the bulbs become exhausted as the plant struggles to replace the damaged leaves.

The species and forms of *N. bulbocodium* are Fall sprouters, i.e., after a dry Summer, the bulb begins to grow again with seasonal moisture from the Fall rains. The bulbs soon produce a substantial growth of foliage that, in climates more akin to their homeland, pretty much survives inclement weather until the plant blooms, sets seed and recovers from the effort. In inclement climates, this Fall produced foliage is either frozen many times, often back to the soil surface, or is frozen and then covered for six months of the year by mulch or snow. The plants will not successfully survive either scenario for more than a season, or two.

It is possible to evade this problem by employing a little trick that I have successfully used over the years to get these species to bloom in Minnesota. I plant the bulbs very late (mid-to late October in Zone 4a). They begin normal root growth after being watered in but do not have an opportunity to get much above the soil surface before they are locked into their icy prison for six months. Since the foliage has not expanded, they

survive this regimen and will usually bloom nicely. The caveat, however, is that the bulbs must be dug and replanted each year to be effective, thus making them seem labor-intensive. The bulbs are small, though, and easy to plant, so this should annual planting should not be a deterrent to those wishing to grow these unusual little flowers.



For those with access to a cool greenhouse (or cold frame in milder climates than here on the Minnesota tundra), the various species, forms, and hybrids of *bulbocodium* and *cantabricus* make absolutely splendid pot plants. Jim Wells proved this years ago. I vividly recall seeing his glasshouse in NJ with dozens of four inch pots — many with more than a hundred blooms on them — in veritable sheets of yellow and white! In a cool greenhouse, the pots of bloom often last a month or longer. To produce this marvelous December through February display, glasshouse culture is essential since (like all "forced" daffodils) the plants will etiolate badly if grown indoors without bright light and cool (50s F.) temperatures. Also, for best bloom when grown in pots and not replanted each year, the potted bulbs must be kept warm and dry from the time the foliage dies down until regular watering begins again in late September.

These daffodils are favorites of mine and I feel almost any effort required to produce the luxuriant display of which they are capable is worth it!



1998 Award of Merit Winners

~by Steve Vinisky, Sherwood, OR

The August 1998 issue of the Journal of the Royal Horticulture Society, *The Garden*, announced that 22 Daffodils have been granted the Award of Garden Merit after a three-year trial at Wisley. Three criteria were used: Impact of the flower (color, pose, size, grace and charm); Durability of the flower (flower life, weather resistance); and Constitution of the bulbs (health and vigor).

Cultivars granted the Award of Garden Merit were:

- 'Barnum' 1Y-Y; Brian S. Duncan
- 'Grasmere' 1Y-Y; J.S.B. Lea
- 'Tyrone Gold' 1Y-Y; Brian S. Duncan
- 'Glenfarclas' 1Y-O; J.S.B. Lea
- 'Gin and Lime' 1Y-W; Carncairn Daffodils Ltd.
- 'Bryanston' 2Y-Y; J. W. Blanchard
- 'Special Envoy' 2Y-Y; J.S.B. Lea
- 'Bram Warnaar' 1Y-Y; W. Blom and Sons Ltd.
- 'Willy Dunlop' 2W-Y; W. Blom and Sons Ltd.
- 'Carib Gipsy' 2Y-WWY; A.J.R. Pearson
- 'Triple Crown' 3Y-GYR; Brian S. Duncan
- 'Badbury Rings' 3Y-YYR; J.W. Blanchard
- 'Crackington' 4Y-O; J.W. Blanchard
- 'Tamar Fire' 4Y-R; Mrs. J.L. Richardson
- 'Sir Winston Churchill' 4W-O; H. A. Holmes
- 'Surfside' 6W-Y; Grant E. Mitsch
- 'Reggae' 6W-GPP; Brian S. Duncan
- 'Kaydee' 6W-P; Brian S. Duncan
- 'Quail' 7Y-Y; Grant E. Mitsch
- 'Bunting' 7Y-O; Grant E. Mitsch
- 'Oryx' 7Y-W; Grant E. Mitsch
- 'Falconet' 8Y-R; Grant E. Mitsch

Of the 131 cultivars judged, 22 were given the Award of Garden Merit and 21 cultivars had to be removed because they developed symptoms of virus. Grant Mitsch originations, 'Oryx', 'Quail' and 'Bunting' gave more than 200 flowers from 25 bulbs after three years in trial.

'Quail' was noted as "outstanding".

Put 'em in a Pot

Every year, the IDS has a 'Pot Grown' section in the show schedule, and every year there is hardly any competition in it. Part of the reason may lie in the difficulty of proper timing so the exhibitor can have a perfect pot full bulb blooming on the day of the show. Practice makes perfect, as they say, and here are a couple of tricks on timing that might make the difference between having a pot in bloom or a pot of green foliage.

Plant the bulbs in 6" plastic pots — the heavy duty ones mums come in this time of year. Cut the bottom out, or not, and plant your bulbs. Leave the pot protected outside for the winter. You can leave it on top of the soil and stack leaves up, around and over the pot. Or place it down in a north or west-facing window well. If you root and grow your bulbs outside, the flowering will be better timed for our show.

If things are progressing too rapidly, just bring that plastic pot in to the 'fridge. The 40 degree temperature will slow things down considerably.

That black
u g l y ,
but ugly. Use
for a nice
cachepot in the
no one will be



plastic pot is
functional,
it as a liner
looking
Show and
the wiser.

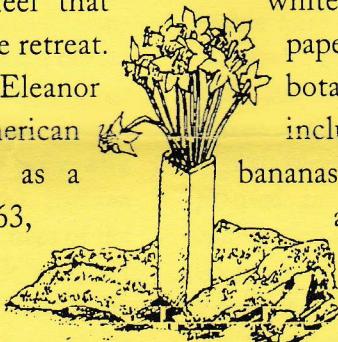
There are
available from
Daffodil Mart
local garden
will grow in pots. I have had especially good luck with
'Bravoure', 1W-Y; 'Foresight', 2W-Y; 'Hawera', 5Y-Y;
and 'The Alliance', 6Y-Y; but this year, the Junior
Growers and I will be experimenting with 'Cassata',
11aW-W and 'Jumble', a miniature, 12 Y-O, too.

~Suzy Wert

A Touch of Yellow

*Interior Designer and Author ALEXANDRA STODDARD
gives away a trade secret about an elegant COLOR
that no room should ever be without.*

WHEN DECORATING A BEACH HOUSE on Fisher's Island off Connecticut in the early 1980s, I was inspired to bring the blues from the sky and water inside. I added pink tones to recall the sun setting over Long Island Sound and some sea-foam green to recall the soothing tides. As I schemed room by room, I could feel that something was missing from this seaside retreat. Then I remembered the wise words of Eleanor McMillen Brown, the doyenne of American interior design, who once told me as a fledgling interior decorator in 1963, "Every room needs a touch of yellow."



As one of the three primary colors in the spectrum, yellow contains stunning wavelengths of energy. Mrs. Brown became famous for her signature touch of placing five lemons on a plate as the centerpiece of her round dining room table.

In the Fisher's Island beach house, I incorporated yellow in the rooms by installing shiny brass hardware. I also framed botanical flower watercolors in gold-leaf swan frames. In the breakfast room I warmed up the blues with Claude Monet's favorite yellow and blue china.

Whether you have a pitcher of daffodils, yellow tulips, roses, or freesia, the touch of yellow will warm up any room. A brass standing lamp, a gold

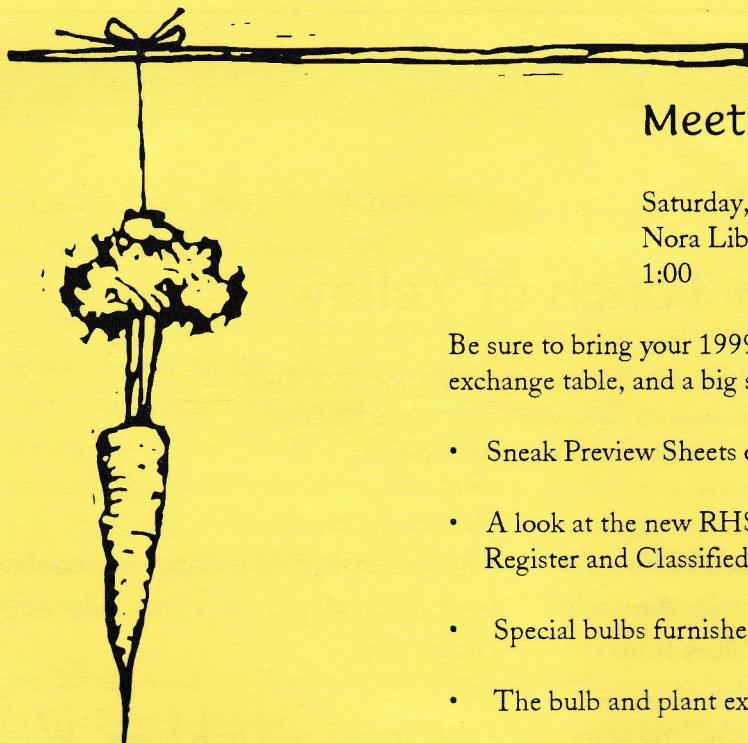
pen on a desk, gold tooling on a book, or a yellow book jacket all provide a burst of sunshine even on cloudy days.

Look around your own home. Where are your touches of yellow? You may have some yellow and white gingham napkins or a yellow paperweight. In our bedroom hall we hung botanical watercolors on the walls, including daffodils and yellow iris. Even bananas in a bowl on the kitchen table can put a smile on your face. If you're looking for an ideal color to paint your entrance hall, choose a fresh yellow, welcoming you, your family, and friends into your home.

Remember the wisdom of my mentor and friend Mrs. Brown. A touch of yellow will always cheer up a room or an experience and make it glow."

ALEXANDRA STODDARD is the author of *Living a Beautiful Life* and *Gracious Living in a New World*.

Editor's Note: I'm sure Ms. Stoddard would agree that displaying pots of forced daffodils and paperwhites in the home would be inspirational in bringing in that 'Touch of Yellow'.



Meeting Reminder

Saturday, October 10.

Nora Library

1:00

Be sure to bring your 1999 dues, bulbs and plants for the exchange table, and a big satchel to haul your loot home!

- Sneak Preview Sheets of the 13 Divisions. 13???
- A look at the new RHS International Daffodil Register and Classified List 1998.
- Special bulbs furnished by a Very Special Person.
- The bulb and plant exchange.

And most of all:

- The chance to interact with each other!

Mrs. B. D. Dove 98
6299 W. County Road 550 S.
Catesville, IN 46121



Suzi Wert
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