



ADS YOUTH NEWS

American Daffodil Society Youth Newsletter

Fall 2008

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New Directions

Your former youth chair, Becky Fox Mathews, has become the second vice president of the ADS. She is heading to the presidency in a few more years and I am sure she will continue to promote our youth movement. When she called me to fill her vacated space I responded that I had no children of my own (only sheep, goats and a cat and canary) but that I HAD read all the Harry Potter books! But you can guess by my contest in the '08 September Journal that besides daffodils-I LOVE to read! The **WINNER** of the Poet Collection will be announced in the spring newsletter. An extension may be offered since there were printing problems with Sept. issue.

The other thing I have in common with you is that I am relatively new to the daffodil society too. My first convention was the World Convention in Oregon in 2000. I had yet to enter any flower in a show and was only there to observe. I saw that the show was sort of a contest like chess using

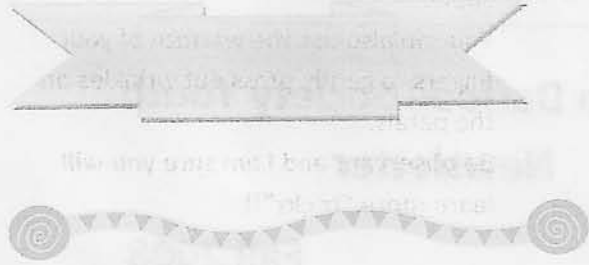
flowers like pawns to be moved to their best advantage. Kathy Welsh, who I knew from our Washington D.C. Daffodil Society, had flown her daffodils from the east coast. She stayed up all night staging flowers. I realized that the more work you put into your goals the better your results.



WINNERS CIRCLE

2008 YOUTH WINNERS FROM THE U.S.A.

Hannah Ainsworth: Best Bloom @ Kennett Square, PA
Bridget Beck: Best Bloom @ Glencoe, IL
Rachael Beery: Best Bloom + Vase of 3 and **Silver ribbon (11)**-most blue ribbons in show! @ Chillicothe, OH; Best Bloom + Vase of 3 @ Columbus, OH
Ryan Bishop: Best Bloom @ Atlanta, GA
Tiffany Bolling: Vase of 3 @ Nantucket, MA
Lily Cecil: Best Bloom @ Towson, MD
Michael Driscoll: Best Bloom @ Barco, NC; Vase of 3 + Collection of 5 @ Gloucester, VA; Best Bloom @ White Stone, VA



WINNERS CIRCLE

2008 YOUTH WINNERS FROM THE U.S.A.

Continued:

Kierra Eaton: Vase of 3 @ Robinsdale, MN
Tianna Eaton: Best Bloom + Collection of 5 @ Robinsdale, MN
Charlie Hanigan: Best Bloom @ Nantucket, MA
Laura Hawes: Vase of 3 @ Towson, MD
Molly Hibbs: Best Bloom + Vase of 3 @ Clinton, MS
Chelsea Hutchison: Collection of 5 @ Indianapolis, IN
Sierra Johnson: Best Bloom + Vase of 3 @ Livermore, CA and Murphys, CA
Stephanie Johnson: Collection of 5 @ Amity, OR
Phoebe Lewis: Best Bloom Greenwich, CT
Stephanie McKean: Best Bloom @ Rye, NY
Abby McKinney: Vase of 3 @ Nashville, TN
Alison McKinney: Best Bloom @ Nashville
Amanda McKinney: won Bozievich with mother @ Nashville, TN
Mikail Moore: Best Bloom @ Knoxville, TN
Patton Newbill: Best Bloom @ Gloucester, VA
Jared Rock: Best Bloom @ Wheaton, MD
Justin Rock: Vase of 3 @ Wheaton, MD + Best Bloom + Vase of 3 @ Youngstown, OH
Will Sadler: Best Bloom + Collection of 5 @ **National Convention, Richmond, VA**
Linda Shepherd: Vase of 3 @ Shelter Is., NY
Tyler Shepherd: Best Bloom @ Shelter Is., NY

Jordan Smith: Best Bloom @ Edgewater, MD
Lindy Stallings: Best Bloom @ Cincinnati, OH and Indianapolis, IN
Cassie Stump: Best Bloom @ Jefferson, IN
Madeleine Wallach: Vase of 3 @ **National Convention, Richmond, VA**
Olivia Vollen: Best Bloom + Vase of 3 @ Lake Oswego, OR
Clare Wilson: Best Bloom @ Fortuna, CA

TIPS FOR THE SHOW BENCH

- ❖ **NAME.** Without your flower's correct name you can go nowhere. Keep good labels and map your beds. I have found that above ground labels can be written in pencil or paint pen. **WARNING: Sharpies FADE in sunlight!**
 - ❖ **PICKING.** As virus can be spread from flower to flower, I pick using a small kitchen knife which I dip into rubbing alcohol after each cut. I keep the alcohol in a small long spice jar with a lid. Then using a ball point pen, write the name of the flower on the bottom half of the stem then place in water. I like to keep a journal with what I pick and the date I picked. You can later go and fill in other information about the flower so when you get to the show you can maybe figure out other places to show the flower like the Red, White and Blue collection which must be by American hybridizers.
- PICKING A WINNER!** Look very close at the flower and see if it is the best. Does it have nicks or holes? Turn it around and look at it from the back. One year we had a hail storm and the front the flower looked fine but from behind if

held up to light you could see the bruises from the hail damage. Before you pick also check the color code on your label as sometimes a flower needs time to develop its true color so you might need to let it mature some more. Also know that picking early and often saves flowers from burning. The orange and red cup flowers tend to burn in the sunlight. You can even feel the burn if you rub your finger over the edge of the cup and it feels crispy or rough. And this might sound silly but make sure your non double flowers have the correct number of outer petals-SIX! Flowers with multiple heads sometimes don't have six petals on each of their flowers and a good judge will spot that and take points off.

- ❖ **SHOW PREPERATION.** Once picked, keep your flowers as cool as possible. We have a refrigerator just for our flowers! Mist them to keep them fresh. When you are ready to stage, first clean off any dirt. To do this I have seen people with small paint brushes or a Q-tip dipped in water. Be gentle so as not to damage the flower. A very senior exhibitor once said you could use the tip of your tongue to lick "like a kitten", the dirt off the flower. I have tried this and find your tongue gets numb and this might be why deer don't eat daffodils.

"Clocking" is a way to gently twist the flower head so the six petals are aligned to look like two triangles-kind of like the star in the flag of Israel.

For Div. 6 cyclamineus flowers, whose petals are flung back, sometimes those petals need a little coaxing to stay back and you can use some light string to tie

them in place until ready to enter in the show.

You can also use the warmth of your fingers to gently press out wrinkles on the petals.

Be observant and I am sure you will learn more "tricks"!!

READY, SET, ENTER!

Read your show schedule because every show has its own rules. But usually you must fill out the entry card with your name, the flower's name and its division but sometimes you must put the color code, or its date of registry -if it is historic it must be pre 1940. Look for the youth division in the schedule and put the youth section letter on your entry card then fill out the number for the entry you will be putting your flower in the show.

In staging your flower there will be some sort of greenery, like boxwood, to hold your flower in the test tube. Please don't get too carried away with the staging greens it's the daffodil you want to be noticed! Lift your flower high in the test tube and make sure to fill it to the top with water as I have seen many a good flower wilt and die before it even gets judged!

Finally, remember the old adage: **nothing ventured, nothing gained!** So be brave and GO FOR IT! Every entry you make will be a learning experience. Watch and learn from others and ask questions.



Grow it! Know it! Show it!

This year once again we have been fortunate to have several specialty daffodil growers donate bulbs to the ADS youth group. From Leo Vandervlught, who is president of Dutch Gardens, there are bulbs of White Marvel 4W-W, Intrigue 7Y-W (Pannell) which is a reverse bicolor and a Wister Award winner!, Replete 4W-P (Evans), Martinette 8Y-O (Tuggle) and Pencrebar 4Y-Y which is on the ADS Historic list. I had asked for a challenge and I think these fit that request. Nancy Wilson has sent the Div. 13 N. bulbicodium which is a miniature also called "hoop petticoat" because of its flower cup. Brent and Becky Bulbs have sent the nice little package of N. 'Hawera' which is a miniature from New Zealand which can also be entered as a historic as it is from 1939. These small bulbs can be grown outside or it is OK to grow them in pots (you can't enter the larger flowers in a show that have been pot grown-only mini's). From our farm, South Mountain Flower Farm, my husband Mitch has dug, heat treated and packed one of these four bulbs for you: 'Cedar Hills', 3W-GYY (Mitsch & Havens); 'Conestoga', 2W-GYO a bulb from Dr. Bender who used to live close by in Chambersburg, PA; Modulux, a 2W-Y and another New Zealand bulb; and a poet from Northern Ireland's Brian Duncan called 'Patois', 9W-GYR. These can all be show winners! A promise of down under bulbs will be shipped to our farm in late December or January from David Jackson from Australia. We will turn them around which means get them used to a new time for spring as their spring was our winter. So they are very confused and tend to bloom at odd times until their internal clock gets reset. But look for those bulbs next fall! You can look all of these bulbs up by going to: www.daffodilusa.org . At the bottom of the page you will see **Internet Services**, click on the

link to **DaffSeek** then click on the highlighted area at the bottom of that page. On the **Query Database** type in the flower name then at the bottom of the page click **submit query**. What a world of knowledge you will find there!

To Daffodils
By Robert Herrick

Fair daffodils, we weep
To see
You haste away so soon;
As yet the early-rising sun
Has not attain'd his noon.
Stay, stay,
Until the hasting day
Has run
But to the evensong;
And, having prayed together
We will go with you along.
We have short time
To stay, as you,
We have as short a spring;
As quick a growth
To meet decay,
As you, or anything
We die,
As hours do and dry
Away,
Like to the summer's rain;
Or as the pearls of
Morning's dew,
Ne'er to be found
Again.

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