

ADS Gold Medal 2009

John Pearson



The Gold Medal of The American Daffodil Society is given to someone who has done pre-eminent work in the advancement of the daffodil. The recipient this year certainly fulfills that requirement. The ADS is proud to present its highest honor to John Pearson, of Hofflands, England.

Born in 1936, John had planned to study horticulture at Reading University, and did his year's practical work working for Guy Wilson. Becoming a daffodil enthusiast, he stayed on with Guy for another year and then joined Kate Reade in starting Carncairn Daffodils. He began hybridizing in 1962, and despite postings in various parts of the world managed to continue doing so throughout his Army career. Retirement from the Army was followed by a move to Hofflands. In 1987, he registered his first, and perhaps best known, flower, 'Altun Ha'. Its excellence was acknowledged early on, receiving the Award of Merit in 1989 and a First Class Certificate in 1993.

John is renowned for his pale yellows and reverse bicolors—'Caribbean Snow', 'Goff's Caye', 'Lighthouse Reef', and 'Sargeant's Caye' come quickly to mind. Yet of his 97 registered cultivars, 48 have white perianths. His 'Sugar Rose' and 'Katrina Rea' are sought after additions to Division 6. A half dozen of his flowers are listed as Intermediates, among them 'Sloe Gin', 'Pretty Baby', and 'So Sweet'. 'Quiet Waters' and 'Sheelagh Rowan' are among his best-known whites, and his pinks include 'Fine Romance' and the 2008 registration 'Rosemary Pearson'.

John has served the Daffodil Society (UK) in many capacities, and has been a member of the RHS Daffodil and Tulip Committee, and was the recipient of the Peter Barr Memorial Cup in 2007. He delighted us in Jackson in 1997 as the convention speaker, mixing his love of jazz into his talk.

John Pearson is a worthy recipient of the ADS Gold Medal. 