

AMERICAN DAFFODIL SOCIETY, INC.

Middle Atlantic Region

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY, 1980

Regional Vice President: Mrs. R. LaRue Armstrong, Rt. 5, Box 26, Covington, Va. 24426

Regional Directors:

- (1980) Dr. John L. Tarver, Jr., 1420 N. King St., Hampton, Va. 23669
- (1981) Miss Bonnie M. Hohn, 718 Alleghany Ave., Staunton, Va. 24401
- (1982) Mrs. Frank C. Christian, P.O. Box 368, Urbanna, Va. 23175

Directors-at-Large:

- (1980) William G. Pannill, P.O. Box 5151, Martinsville, Va. 24112
- (1982) Quentin Erlandson, 9 Burnbrae Road, Baltimore, Md. 21204

First Vice President of ADS: Mrs. John Bozievich, 6810 Hillmead Rd., Bethesda, Md., 20034

Committee Chairmen of ADS:

- Library: Mrs. H. B. Bloomer, Jr., 11111 Gunston Rd., Lorton, Va. 22079
- Public Relations: Mrs. W. J. Perry, 1500 Dogwood Rd., Staunton, Va. 24401
- Schools: Mrs. Merton S. Yerger, Box 97, Princess Anne, Md. 21853
- Symposium: Mrs. P. R. Moore, Jr., 96 Sandy Bay Dr., Poquoson, Va. 23662

Dear Friends,

At the end of January I was ready to forecast an early spring following a mild winter when WHAM --- snow and subzero temperatures descended upon us. In any event it can't be too long before our daffodils will pull us out of the doldrums; indeed, some of you close to the water may have them in bloom by the time you receive this. With all the rain we have had this past year, our daffodil season should be the best one yet. When I wrote Phil Phillips that we had had a phenomenal 55 inches of rain here in 1979, he replied that 55-60 inches annually were normal in his area of New Zealand. I assume, therefore, that we may expect our daffodils this spring to be as large and tall as those grown Down Under. And that is really something to anticipate!

NEW MEMBERS

We are delighted to welcome the following new members:

- Mrs. Bruce Angus, 2 Farmington Heights, Charlottesville, VA 22901
- Mrs. E. Parker Brown, 3807 Exeter Rd., Richmond, VA 23221
- George B. Bull, Jr., 49 Greenwood Ave., Baltimore, MD 21206
- Ron Aaron Eisenberg, 3314 Quesada St., NW, Washington, DC 20015
- Mrs. James E. Hess, Laurel Point, Kilmarnock, VA 22482
- Mrs. Cary Jackson, Butler Road, Glyndon, MD 21071
- Mrs. William G. Thomas, 318 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria, VA 22304

Change of address:

- Mrs. Edward H. Ould III, 2020 Stonewall Jackson Trail, Martinsville, VA 24112

JUDGING SCHOOLS

Jean Belter and Jerry Williams are again serving as chairman and cochairman of our Course II Judging School in Richmond and Make-up for Point Scoring, Course I. Jean writes that already she has received registrations for both.

The Point Scoring Make-up will be held in The Retreat Hospital Board Room, 2621 Grove Ave., on Sunday, April 13, 1:00 P.M. The hospital is one block east of Boulevard from the corner of the Virginia Museum. Eleanor Hughes is taking care of the arrangements there for us. We feel very fortunate that our Executive Director, Bill Ticknor, will be teaching this course. Fee is \$5.00.

Course II is scheduled for Monday, April 14, in the Holiday Inn - Crossroads, 2002 Staples Mill Road, at 9:00 A.M. Fee is \$10.00.

With pride and pleasure we announce the following distinguished faculty for

this school:

- Cultural Practices -- Dr. Wm. A. Bender, Chambersburg, PA
- Miniatures -- Mrs. A. Gordon Brooks, Richmond, VA
- Judging Ethics -- Mrs. Baldwin Perrin, Gloucester, VA
- Point Scoring -- Mrs. John Bozievich, Bethesda, MD

Please register before April 1 with Mrs. Lester Belter, Rt. 2, Box 217A, Mechanicsville, Va. 23111, and she will send you a study outline. Indicate whether you want to take the examination or whether you wish to audit.

1980 CONVENTION

Those of us who attended the 1966 ADS Convention in Memphis remember well the warm hospitality and beautiful garden tours we enjoyed there. The plans and accommodations for this year's convention March 27 - 29 sound even more exciting. If you have never attended an American Daffodil Society convention, you are in for a real treat. You will find friendly people everywhere ready to discuss our favorite subject. I have been told that a large number of the growers in England and Northern Ireland plan to attend since the convention is early and they will not be busy with their own activities at that time. Also Phil Phillips will be there from New Zealand and Matthew Zandbergen from Holland. Think it over and decide to join us there. (Spouses are welcome even though not members.)

FLOWER SHOWS

The Tidewater Virginia Daffodil Show will be our Middle Atlantic Regional Show this year. This means that they will offer the Bronze Ribbon of the ADS for a collection of 12 cultivars from three divisions, three stems each. This makes a beautiful class and a very difficult one.

The Huntington Council of Garden Clubs will sponsor the West Virginia State Show in Huntington, the only group this year asking for permission to hold a state show. Flower Show Chairmen, please read pages 33 and 34 in the Handbook for Exhibiting and Judging Daffodils and see if your show might be eligible for this distinction next year. Application is made to the regional vice president.

Please refer to the December Journal for daffodil show dates and information. And don't be shy about showing off your beauties.

THE JOYS OF GROWING MINIATURE DAFFODILS

While in other fields I have never been inspired to collect or to admire little things particularly, I must admit to being thoroughly enchanted by the small daffodils.

The reasons for this love affair are many. Surely the premier one would be that a goodly number of them bloom early in the spring, far ahead of their larger counterparts, a very important attribute in our highland climate. I fondly recall in the cold blustery March when our younger daughter was married her bridesmaids' excitement on discovering the golden yellow blooms of Wee Bee, Tete-tete, Cyclataz, Mite and Jumbie flouting snow flurries and wind in the two southern corners outside our living room windows. They did not know such treasures exist. How often do we hear that remark at show and displays!

At the other end of spring, strangely enough, the "minnies" are the last of the daffodils. In most seasons Baby Star and Baby Moon bloom freely throughout the month of May.

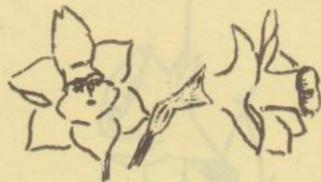
The miniatures' undemanding space requirements endears them to me in this region of shale and hard clay soil which needs an inordinate amount of preparation. Just tuck them away in unused corners, around shrubs or in front of the larger daffodils and they thrive happily in ground prepared to one spade's depth or, for the very small bulbs, in clay pots and berry baskets buried with a little gravel thrown underneath for drainage.

Then aside from season and space I love them for their intrinsic grace and charm. The pristine perfection of Xit, the graceful pale yellow bells of April Tears and the jaunty deep gold blooms of Quince would soften the heart of the meanest Scrooge.



Quince

Perhaps the biggest difficulty in growing miniatures is their acquisition. Over a quarter of the ones on our ADS Approved Miniature List are currently unobtainable from any commercial source. However, the bright side of the coin is that most of the prolific, easily grown ones are readily available. So, for the uninitiated, begin by providing yourself with some of the easily obtained yellow trumpets: Wee Bee, Small Talk, Bagatelle, Little Gem and Piccolo. Bicolor Little Beauty is available as is Rupert, a better flower but very slow to increase. W.P. Milner, a 1 W-W, is also available but, while good for garden decoration, will rarely win a ribbon in a show if that is your desire.



Wee Bee

Really good Division 2 miniatures have either not been bred or are unobtainable. Marionette is a gross flower on a short stem; Mustard Seed is preferable but also large flowered. Tweeny always blasts for me. I am unfamiliar with the other three in this division.

The third division little ones are better. Segovia has near perfect blooms on tall stems and increases quickly. Yellow Xit, much like Segovia, and beautiful white Xit are widely and well grown in the Chesapeake Bay area. Paula Cottell multiplies rapidly but is rather large. Picoblanco, a nice little 3 W-W, succumbed to rot the first season but I hope to try it again.

The wee doubles are a problem being extremely sensitive to wide temperature fluctuations which abound here in the mountains. Even with protection the buds fail to open properly if at all.

The triandrus division flowers are truly among the loveliest. Of the fourteen triandrus hybrids on our miniature list two are readily obtainable, two can be had from one source each, the remainder I could not find listed anywhere; indeed, it is questionable that some of them still exist at all. April Tears and Hawera, plentiful and inexpensive, are both ethereal. Alas, they have the unfortunate habit here of thriving and multiplying for many years; then suddenly one spring, nothing. This has been a great frustration for these lovely hanging bell triandrus hold me completely in their charm. Mary Plumstead is similar to the above two but grows less freely. Frosty Morn, a larger white cultivar, has grown and increased well here but to my knowledge was not listed anywhere last year. Cobweb, an even larger one with a flatter corona, cheerfully flaunts its rather gross bloom while the daintier ones languish.

Raindrop, an Alec Gray origination which he subsequently lost, I understand survives in this country only through the growing expertise of Betty Darden and her generosity in sharing it with others. It is absolutely captivating when exhibited in Eastern shows but is not yet available commercially.



Snipe

It is in the sixth and seventh divisions that the miniatures really star. The cyclamineus are my favorites for their abundant bloom so early in the season which comes through frost and snow unscathed. Tête-à-tête, Mite, Jetage, Jumblie and Quince along with the trumpets Wee Bee and Little Gem are my golden harbingers of spring. Little white Snipe with its long nose has increased happily here for many years; apparently it does not do well in warmer climates or even in the British Isles as only one grower has it for sale and that one for a hefty price. In addition to cool weather I believe it prefers an acid soil as the largest blooms come from bulbs planted between azaleas.

The jonquil division bulges with miniatures. They mostly fall into two types: the small multiflowered ones resembling *N. jonquilla* such as Baby Moon, Baby Star, Pixie, Pixie's Sister, Chit Chat, etc. and the larger ones, often single flowered, Sundial, Sun Disc, Bobbysoxer, Stafford, Rikki, Clare, etc. That is not to say that they are completely similar; they vary in size, color and time of bloom but many are quite alike. On the distinctive side, Sea Gift has longer cups than other miniature jonquils but is rather rough. Flomay is a delightful wee jonquil with a pink cup. Most jonquils are easily grown.

In Division 8, Cyclataz has thrived and multiplied in our garden but has

not been listed in recent years by any commercial grower that I can find. Pango survives but does not multiply. Minnow is pure joy with its dainty cluster of blossoms. It increases rapidly and is easily obtained. Halingy is not hardy here but is charming in the Tidewater area.

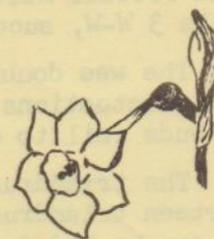


N. bulbocodium

Of the miniature species and their hybrids (Div. 10) most seem to prefer a warmer climate than found in the mountains. *N. jonquilla* grows well but not with the abandon with which it performs in eastern Virginia and the South. On the whole I believe the species should be left to the experts and those willing to grow them from seed. Many of them are being depleted in their natural habitat as they are collected for commercial trade.

For those willing to go to a bit of trouble, forcing the miniature daffodils in pots for winter bloom inside the house is quite rewarding. The small pots require little room and may be placed in a refrigerator for four to six weeks for their cold period. Gradually bringing them into light and warmth will force the bud at which time they need sunlight to bloom. Daily spraying is beneficial.

The early blooming cultivars do best. I have often forced extra bulbs of Wee Bee and Tete-a-tete with excellent results. This past winter I was fortunate to receive two bulbs of *N. Bulbocodium monophyllum foliosus* from a friend. Our January was brightened with three beautiful and unusual white blooms. Having no bees around to pollinate I took a brush to the anthers and stigma and am now nursing a fat seed pod with great anticipation. This experience has made me want to acquire some of the other tender bulbocodiums for growing in pots next winter.



Sundial

The best sources for miniatures are The Daffodil Mart (67 listed in 1979), Broadleigh Gardens (42 listed 1979), and Charles H. Mueller (33 in 1977, my latest price list). The Washington Society Bulb Order offered 24 miniature species and hybrids in 1979. Others who may list a dozen or so are Murray W. Evans, Mary Mattison van Schaik (handles Gerritsen's introductions and a few others), Michael Jefferson-Brown and Grant E. Mitsch Novelty Daffodils. All the above addresses may be found on page 35 of our new membership list.

DINING WITH THE DALTONS

Virginia's First Lady, Mrs. John N. Dalton has published a cookbook, Dining With the Daltons. All profits from its sale benefit Mrs. Dalton's mental retardation project. While I love cookbooks and like to be supportive of work with the mentally retarded, I especially wanted this book for its handsome colored pictures of the elegant flower and fruit arrangements and decorations in the Virginia Governor's Mansion done by our own Polly Brooks. We "daffodil people" will be happy to see that Polly's skill enhances our favorite flower in a number of arrangements and we can enjoy her artistry with a great wealth of other plant material as well. I commend this book to you.

DAFFODIL YEAR BOOK 1942

A year or so ago, my mother delved into her crowded bookshelves and presented me with a copy of the Daffodil Year Book 1942, a joint issue of the Royal Horticultural Society and the American Horticultural Society.

I was amazed that she had this hidden treasure and she seemed equally amazed that I was so pleased to have it and so very interested in its contents.

Its 96 pages enclosed in a rather plain board cover was priced \$0.75. There were numerous black and white photographs and four pages of advertisements, over three-fourths of them American, which included one from Edwin C. Powell, Rockville, Maryland and another from the Hodge Podge Shop in Gloucester, Virginia.

Robert Moncure discussed choice daffodils found in his Virginia garden while S. Stillman Berry, Kenyon L. Reynolds and Lena M. Lothrop wrote about their experiences growing daffodils in California.

There were articles from William Jackson in Tasmania and C. G. Hayes in New Zealand as well as reports of shows there and in Pasadena.

Guy Wilson contributed three articles: one described a visit with the Richardsons at Prospect House in Waterford, another concerned his own daffodils mentioning a fine newly registered cultivar named Chinese White for which he expressed high hopes, the third was of correspondence from the United States with Professor Sidney B. Mitchell, Eliot Rogers, Joseph Urmston and Frank Reinelt of California, and with John C. Wister of Philadelphia. D. Blanchard discussed his seedlings in Dorset and A. Cowen instructed on growing daffodils in bowls. But the real highlight of the Daffodil Year Book 1942 was the account of the Royal Horticultural Society's Show held April 17 and 18, 1941, in Old Horticulture Hall, Vincent Square, London.

Daffodils that cold and frosty spring were a week to ten days later than usual and, in view of that and the reduced traveling facilities due to the war, not many entries were expected. However, weather at the last minute improved and the response exceeded all expectations. There were eight commercial groups and 41 competitors made 484 entries.

Most of the exhibits had been staged on Wednesday, April 16, when "an enemy aircraft made a very heavy and sustained attack on London" lasting the entire night. Fortunately the Old Hall with its glass roof was intact although two incendiary bombs fell on the New Hall just a few yards away. The account comments that "those exhibitors who spent the night in London are not likely to forget the 1941 Daffodil Show."

Messrs. Barr & Sons of London and Mr. J. L. Richardson, Prospect House, Waterford, Eire, were awarded gold medals for their commercial displays. The Barr display included Beersheba, Havelock, Bodilly, John Evelyn, Firetail, Beryl and Little Witch among others, while Red Goblet in the Richardson display received an Award of Merit. Other of the Richardson outstanding cultivars were Carbineer, Crocus, Porthilly, Rustom Pasha, Coverack Perfection, Blarney, Rose of Tralee and Pepys.

For the third year in succession Mr. Richardson won the Englehart Cup (one stem each of twelve cultivars bred and raised by the exhibitor) with Buncrana, Krakatoa, Kingscourt, Narvik, Glendalough, Bahram, Malta, Greenore, Matapan, Killaloe and two unnamed seedlings. Mr. Guy L. Wilson was second with a fine bloom of Chinese White, Samite, Overseer, Armada, Rouge, Larne, Slemish and five seedlings.

The Banksian Medal offered for the best bloom shown in the competition classes was awarded to Mr. Richardson for a flower of Matapan. Other flowers mentioned as competitors were Aranjuez, Leinster, Ludlow, Kingscourt and Samite. A quick perusal of the open classes finds Mr. Richardson the winner in most of them. All collections called for three stems each of six to twelve cultivars. Class two, for instance, asked three stems each of twelve trumpet varieties. What a tremendous number of daffodils he must have staged!

The amateur classes were not well filled as several well known amateurs were unable to exhibit due to "shortage of staff".

There were also daffodil shows at Spaulding that spring and at Lymington.

The British do "carry on" no matter what the circumstances.

SWAN SONG

This is my last Newsletter to you. These last three years have been quite rewarding, thanks to you nice people. You have been a marvelous group, quick to respond cheerfully and efficiently to everything I have asked of you. I thank each one of you for your help, advice, support, interest, good humor, patience ---- I could go on and on. My successor will be elected in Memphis at the convention. I wish for her every bit of the pleasure that I have had.

Yours gratefully,

Frances

Frances Armstrong
Regional Vice President

