



AMERICAN DAFFODIL SOCIETY, INC.

CENTRAL REGION NEWSLETTER

March 1990

American Daffodil Society President: Mrs. Marvin V. Anderson,
7 Perth Drive, Wilmington DE 19803

Regional Vice President: Mrs. Roland J. Meyer,
3403 Brookmeade Drive, Rolling Meadows IL 60008

Regional Directors: Mrs. Harry Mercer, 2019 Clinton Street,
Rockford IL 61103
Mrs. Carol Sisson Regehr, 1001 Colorado,
Manhattan KS 66502
Mr. Michael Heger, 8015 Krey Avenue,
Waconia MN 55387

We heartily welcome the following new members to the Central Region and look forward to seeing and hearing from them:

Mr. and Mrs. Karl Jensen 609 Gardner Street, Belvidere IL 61008
Mrs. Marilyn Tibbetts 216 Sumner Avenue, Box 816, Peotone IL 60468
Mrs. Cleya Bolman 2217 Lake of the Isles Parkway, Minneapolis MN 55405
Mr. Dwight Purdy 1104 Park Lane, Morris MN 56267
Mrs. Cynthia Busiek Route 1, Box 178-50, Strafford MO 65757

Dear Daffodil Friends,

It's that exciting time of year again -- SPRING -- Daffodil Season is here! Weather of course is playing tricks throughout the Central Region, causing one to be very curious about the quantity and quality of bloom for the upcoming shows.

Reports from Kansas are that their season is 3 weeks early. The Chicago area experienced a mild January, 61 degrees on February 9th, followed by 10 1/2" of snow just 5 days later. What a Valentine's Day gift from Mother Nature! Icy conditions prevented some meetings from taking place at the month's end and then, warm-up time began. Early March brought temperatures ranging from 50's to 70's. St. Patrick's Day is soon and colder temperatures have moved in. Along with the "wearing of the green" we are "seeing green", 8 and 10 inch high daffodil foliage and lots of buds. Rockford, IL and Minnesota seem to be at just the right stage of growth for their areas.

THE NATIONAL SHOW

MARCH 29, 30, and 31 are almost here and hopefully you will be attending the 1990 ADS Convention at Callaway Gardens, Pine Mountain, Georgia. "SOUTHERN SPLENDOR", the 35th Annual Convention and National Show of ADS promises to be a spectacular event. The things to see and do appear to be endless and if you've never experienced southern hospitality -- now is the time to start and there is the place to be! The December '89 Daffodil Journal describes in detail the wonderful time you will have.

Also in the December Journal, beginning on page 108 you will find proposed By-Law Changes. It is imperative that you carefully read these proposed changes and give them serious consideration. If you will be attending the Convention, please attend the very important General Meeting after the dinner on March 30. This will be your opportunity to VOTE. Much thought has gone into these proposals. You, as a member of ADS, may agree with them all -- disagree with them all -- or have just parts you feel uncomfortable about. This is your society and as a member you are entitled to a vote. Let your voice be heard.

CENTRAL REGION DAFFODIL SHOWS

April 12 - 13 THE LAWRENCE DAFFODIL CLUB SHOW "Daffodil Patches" will be held at the Lawrence Arts Center in Lawrence, Kansas. Though it is not an ADS show, daffodils abound in horticultural and design sections. Art work inspired by daffodils, done by children and adults, will be seen. Quilt block names will be incorporated into the Artistic Designs. Kit Carlsen, 811 Sunset Drive, Lawrence KS 66044 co-chairs with Jean Van Lew.

Mentioning Kansas brings to mind Kay Haines Beach of Edwardsville. Mr. Beach died in August 1989. He was a dedicated, active member of ADS and an accredited judge. A devoted enthusiast of this beautiful Spring flower, he enriched many lives by sharing his love of daffodils. Mr. Beach will long be fondly remembered. Our sympathies to his family and friends.

April 28 - 29 MIDWEST DAFFODIL SOCIETY will present "Breath of Spring III" in the exhibition hall of the Botanic Garden of the Chicago Horticultural Society, Lake-Cook Road, Glencoe, IL. Show Chairman is Charles Wheatley, PO Box 150, Mongo IN 46771. Artistic Design Chairman Candace Carr announces the largest section ever for MDS, 32 designs in 8 classes! All entries in the Design Division of the show must be registered in advance. Entrants please contact Candace at (708) 385-0876 before Mon., April 23rd.

May 5 - 6 NORTHERN ILLINOIS DAFFODIL SOCIETY and the COUNCIL OF ROCKFORD GARDENERS will sponsor "Ducks and Daffodils IV" at the Sea Scout Building, Sinnissippi Gardens, Rockford, IL. In addition to open competition in more than 150 Horticultural exhibition classes, there will be special exhibition classes for the novice, children, and customers of NIDS' Fall bulb sale. Information: Show Chairman, Katherine Robertson 1222 Kent Street, Rockford IL 61102 or Staging Chairman, Mike Lager 7891 Wagon Wheel Lane, Rockford IL 61109.

THE REGIONAL SHOW

May 12 - 13

The DAFFODIL SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA and the IRIS SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA together are presenting a combined "Gala Spring Flower Show". This show will be substantially different from the usual American daffodil show and more along the lines of a Spring Flower Show commonly seen in England and New Zealand. Horticultural divisions and artistic arrangements will comprise this Regional Show held at Har-Mar Shopping Mall in St. Paul (Roseville) MN. The announcement appears on the wrapper page of this newsletter. Being in a mall will certainly give greater exposure and should encourage new memberships. For information, please contact Dave Karnstedt, 1790 Richard Circle, N. St. Paul, MN 55118-3821.

Please, members, support your local shows or those in nearby states if possible, with your flowers as well as your help. Members who refrain from being involved with shows miss out on a wonderful experience. Share the joy of daffodils -- take a friend to a show and tell him about ADS. We hope you will be willing and indeed, anxious, to enter the upcoming shows. The stunning effect of a hall filled with daffodils cannot be surpassed. Please bring whatever is blooming and share their beauty with others! Your enthusiasm and hard work will result in a fabulously successful show!

Many exhibitors come great distances to participate. We acknowledge the fact that it takes energetic workers to ensure the success of a show. We are truly grateful to all who give so unselfishly of their time and talent. THANK YOU.

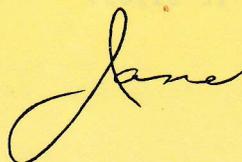
NOTICE

JUDGING SCHOOL COURSE III will be held in Rockford, Illinois on Sunday, May 6, 1990 beginning at 8:00 a.m. For information contact Mrs. Shirley Freund at 2426 Devonshire Drive, Rockford, IL 61107, (815) 399-2066. Deadline for registration is April 22. All prospective students, student judges, and accredited judges needing refresher credit are invited to attend. A great deal can be learned by attending the session, even if you are not interested in being a judge. Advance registration is a must.

Following is an article submitted by Dave Karnstedt of Minnesota to share with the members of the Region. Dave's contribution to the Fall newsletter met with such great response, that he was asked for an encore. We certainly appreciate the opportunity to increase our knowledge of our favorite flower, the DAFFODIL.

Articles for the Central Region Newsletter are most welcome, and would be appreciated.

Hoping to see you at the 1990 Daffodil Shows.



SOME FAVORITE PINK DAFFODILS

Appearing in ten of the twelve RHS Divisions, the many shades of pink are probably the most pleasing of daffodil colors to many people. Hundreds of cultivars have been registered during the last 25 years. From them, I'm sure that each of us could easily select ten or fifteen favorites without problem!

There are several pinks that I look forward to seeing again each Spring, any one of which I could name as a favorite. Often, though, a given season seems to highlight one or two above the others. Upon reflection, it appears that only one, KEN'S FAVORITE, stirs the strongest memories; certainly, it has been a consistent favorite.

The broad, flat perianth of KEN'S FAVORITE is a clean, clear white and has sheen. Substance is good and the blooms usually open without flaw. The ruffled, bowl-shaped cup is a lovely, clear, soft rose pink - a shade that is uniform and lasting. A deep green eye sharpens the contrast, enhancing the appealing freshness of the opened bloom. Listed by several dealers, its available for around \$10.00 and represents a sound investment in daffodil beauty.

CULMINATION is one of the top ten daffodils produced by Grant Mitsch and, easily, his best Division 2 pink. Its a large bloom, yet is one that tends to be quite refined with heavy, opaque substance and fine texture. CULMINATION has the lovely, clear white, flat perianth of COOL FLAME without that flower's frustrating habit of "mitten thumbs". The ruffled crown is deep rose-red. Stems are strong and tall enough to bear the blooms above the foliage, thereby avoiding wind damage. Good though CULMINATION has been for me, it just refuses to produce that haunting flush of deep rose on the base of the petals that it does in Oregon. This cultivar (or its sibling, MUSIC) will probably be as important to the development of a new class of daffodil - the pink perianth - as BINKIE was to development of another distinct class: the reverse bicolor. The price for a bulb of CULMINATION has declined to around \$15.00, a modest outlay considering its overall quality and special pleasure it provides when in bloom each Spring.

AKEPA, another Grant Mitsch creation, is unique - a pink-cupped triandrus. Grow it for that reason alone, but know, too, that it is one of only two or three Division 5 flowers that has consistently fine show form. The flat, smooth perianth segments gently reflex and are defect free. Usually, the soft pink cup is uniformly tubular and free of the one flat side so typical of triandrus hybrids. Tall stems are a bonus.

AKEPA has not done particularly well for me, although the really beautiful stems one occasionally sees at shows indicate that (under the right conditions) it does do well. I've usually dug my small stock every year in an effort to speed up increase. Recently, however, I've been told that doing so may be a mistake. AKEPA (apparently) is one of those rare daffodils that produce better blooms if left undisturbed for several years - at least a minimum of three. My experience with Division 5 hybrids, in general, has been that they seem to do better in somewhat warmer regions than here; in lighter soils and full sun where warm, dry conditions coincide with dormancy; and sheltered from the prevailing wind. Though, at \$50.00 a bulb, I don't know how many people might be interested

in experimenting with it to discover conditions more to its liking. If you find that Division 5 hybrids are favorites, as they are for many people, it can be worth the cost. For hybridizers working with this Division, it has been moderately fertile in Oregon as a seed parent. To date, it hasn't been for me, but that may very well be related to the fact that it has been dug and replanted every year. Its a fact that many plants, including daffodils, are not fertile until they have become established to conditions in your garden.

FRAGRANT ROSE - the name says all! Its still very rare for a standard daffodil in the first two RHS divisions to be fragrant. One can probably count the examples on the fingers of one hand. Division 3, because of its poeticus heritage, has a few cultivars with some degree of fragrance. And, for the same reason, one can find several examples among the single stem doubles of Division 4.

If only because of this delightful fragrance - likened to that of a hybrid tea rose - FRAGRANT ROSE would be worth growing. (After all, how many of us grow LOUISE de COLIGNY for that very reason alone?) Notwithstanding, its a marvelous show daffodil (Gold and White Ribbons at the 1987 ADS National, among many others) and a "pink" to boot! Smooth, flat perianths of heavy substance set off the rather straight corona of a vivid, orange-toned, rose pink. Now that its price has declined to \$25-30, you can have no excuse for not obtaining this marvelous daffodil. If you twin scale a round each Fall for three to four years, you'll soon have upwards of a hundred bulbs coming on. Then it won't be long until you'll be able to pick thirty stem bouquets to revel in - such luxury! I find primroses difficult to grow here, so I expect FRAGRANT ROSE to provide my Spring garden with a fragrance to rival the early season hyacinths. But. . . I wonder, how long will it be before one is able to purchase a bunch of FRAGRANT ROSE to enhance the February breakfast table and provide a tantalizing hint of Spring to come?

ERLIROSE has consistently been the first standard pink to bloom in my garden each Spring and for that trait alone deserves a permanent place. The perianth tends to reflex and the segments to cup slightly, but the pure white perianth is a good foil for the vibrant, rosy pink coloring of the ruffled cup. The blooms are rather large, yet have heavy substance. Even though strong, stems could be longer. Overall, however, its fully worth planting a clump of at least three bulbs in a sheltered, sunny spot to hurry them along each Spring for use at the early shows.

I look forward to seeing RECITAL each Spring for its cup of deep, violet-tinted, rose pink. Although cup color is its strong point with me, the broad, clean white perianth is well formed and has good substance; tall, strong stems are a bonus. The only other pink I grow that can match that appealing violet-pink of RECITAL's cup is John Lea's DALCHARN. Daffodils are unusual flowers in that their pink coloring has been achieved from the orange side of the spectrum, rather than from the blue side, typically represented by magenta. Only now, in some of the newer daffodils, are stable tints of magenta beginning to appear.

PINK SILK - why do all the really good pinks seem to be Grant Mitsch creations? - is probably the finest example in that still scarce class of pink trumpets. Smooth, flat, pure white perianths of heavy substance back a well formed, trumpet-length corona of clear, reddish-pink that deepens near the margin. While PINK SILK consistently produces fine show blooms, I never seem willing to spare one from my breeding efforts.

MEMENTO - Grant also had a singular skill in choosing the most evocative names for his creations - is a hauntingly beautiful daffodil in shades of soft lemon and ivory. The nicely formed trumpet is a pure, soft apricot pink, a hue that complements the perianth color and does not compete with it. Perianths are flat and well formed, with good substance and texture. Since this color combination is not known to the general public, and may also not be known by those new to daffodil growing, blooms of MEMENTO on the show table always excite comment.

FOUNDLING was the first high quality Division 6 with pink in the crown and remains, even today, one of the best. Its a lovely flower in all respects and is widely grown in all parts of the daffodil-growing world. The perianth, of broad, slightly pointed, white petals, reflexes evenly to bring into prominence the shortish, deep rose pink crown. Its a good plant that is healthy and a rapid multiplier. The price has finally declined to around \$10.00 and if you don't yet have this one, I'd strongly suggest you make an effort to change that - you won't be disappointed!

In general, this is not a particularly good climate for double daffodils. Even though there are a number of pink doubles that are highly thought of abroad, none of them have done well enough here to become favorites. In fact, I can't remember ever getting a show-quality bloom of PINK PARADISE in the years that I've grown it, or from any of the dozen or so others that I grow as well.

For that matter, there are a number of other pinks that do well elsewhere but have not distinguished themselves in my garden. Most prominent among them would have to be DAILMANACH. Regarded in Great Britain as ". . . the best exhibition pink available anywhere.", I have yet to see a bloom of this cultivar grown in this country that can live up to that billing. Quite obviously, its just one of those daffodils that demand absolutely perfect conditions: cool temperatures, misty rains, little sun and shelter from wind to perform up to its best. I persevere, however, hoping for that once in a decade Spring to see for myself.

GRACIOUS LADY, even after several years in my garden, is another that I don't think I would recommend. It may be that this daffodil, like DAILMANACH, is one that requires near perfect conditions to perform at its potential. Most disappointing, though, has been its short stem habit, catalog description notwithstanding.

While some of my favorite pink daffodils may be yours too, I'm certain that each grower will have different ones they particularly look forward to seeing each Spring. And, as the new ones from the hybridizers become available, I'm sure there will be a couple more favorite pink daffodils to add to those I've listed!

- Dave Karnstedt

Central Region Newsletter

American Daffodil Society, Inc.

CA 90230
Culver City
11831 Juniper
Mrs. Roland J. Meyer



Mrs. Roland J. Meyer
3403 Brookmeade Drive
Rolling Meadows, IL 60008

DAFFODIL SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA & IRIS SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA

TOGETHER PRESENT A COMBINED

GALA SPRING FLOWER SHOW!

CENTRAL REGIONAL SHOW OF THE AMERICAN DAFFODIL SOCIETY, INC.

**DAFFODILS - DWARF & SPECIES IRIS - EARLY TULIPS
ARTISTIC ARRANGEMENTS**

HAR-MAR SHOPPING MALL
NORTH SNELLING AVENUE, SOUTH OF HWY 36
ST. PAUL (ROSEVILLE), MINNESOTA
12 - 13 MAY 90 ~ DURING MALL HOURS