

February, 1974

NARCISSUS NOTES

Newsletter of the Midwest Region of The American Daffodil Society

Regional Vice-President: Mrs. Paul Gripshover, Columbus, Ohio
Directors: Mrs. Leon Killigrew, Hobart, Indiana
Mrs. Eugene Kleiner, Cincinnati, Ohio
Miss Virginia Wolff, Scottsburg, Indiana
Schools: Mrs. Goethe Link, Brooklyn, Indiana
Treasurer: Wells Knierim, Cleveland, Ohio

The Fall Regional Meeting held on October 13, 1973, proved to be an interesting day to those who attended. The chill rain outside did not dampen the warm friendships being made inside. Those attending had an opportunity to get acquainted over coffee and donuts during registration.

The only item of business on the agenda was choosing a name for the newsletter--and the name "Narcissus Notes," submitted by Mrs. George S. Hoppin III of Cincinnati, was selected. Many thanks to all who sent in suggestions.

As I was unable to obtain the speaker I had in mind for miniatures, those attending had to put up with the Regional Vice-President. The accompanying slides showed the miniatures growing in a slightly raised bed which had a good bit of sand added as the soil had been hard clay. No fertilizer has been applied to the bed. Cultivars which have done well and are recommended are Sundial, Quince, Baby Moon, Baby Star, Hawera, April Tears, Wee Bee, Bagatelle, Mustard Seed, Minnow, and Clare. Frosty Morn grows well, but the flower is too large and coarse on a short stem. The same could be said of Marionette. Lintie and Bobbysoxer are both excellent growers, but are considered too large as they grow here to be exhibited as miniatures. A new bulb of Tete-a-Tete shows promise of living up to its reputation. The following, purchased in 1970, have never bloomed: Cobweb, Flomay, Pease-blossom, Rockery White, and N. x ten-
uor. A comment was made by Mrs. Hanenkrat that she felt the prices on some miniatures were far exceeding their value, to which the speaker heartily agreed. For example, the 5 bulbs mentioned above, purchased in 1970 cost \$9.25. In 1973, two were not available, and the remaining 3 could be had from the same source as in 1970 for \$26.00.

The species are even more difficult to establish. The tiny bulbs often do not bloom the first year. Others, such as scaberulus with its tiny, tiny blooms, insist on sending up foliage in early winter with resultant winter-kill. Asturiensis stays, but does not increase. Triandrus albus seems at last to be settling down and giving more bloom, but triandrus concolor and pulchellus have gone the way of scaberulus. Rupicola, too, seems to be settling.

So, try the miniatures, but begin with the hybrids and graduate to the species.

Mrs. Goethe Link was to be the next speaker. However, due to a problem at home, she was unable to attend. She had, however, sent some slides along with a narrative on pests and diseases. Mrs. Harry Wilkie read the narrative and answered questions.

To summarize briefly, chlordane applied to the bulbs at planting, and again in Spring, should protect against the bulb fly. Benlate appears to be most promising in controlling basal rot. There is no cure for virus--bulbs must be dug and burned.

Following a buffet luncheon at the Ohio State University Golf Course Club House, we were privileged to have Bill Pannill of Martinsville, Virginia, speak to us on growing for showing. Bill frankly admits his daffodils are planted to provide exhibition daffodils--not to provide garden decoration. They are planted in rows, and half his garden is dug every year. He emphasized that "it's what's down deep that counts." So prepare your beds deeply--put the good soil and nutrients beneath the bulbs. He also emphasized the importance of watering deeply--soaking the soil at least once a week when the bulbs are in active growth. That's in the Fall when they're making root growth, and again in Spring and continuing until the leaves die down. The third necessary item for winning ribbons is planning--planning that begins in the Fall at planting time. If you want to win the trophy for a collection of white cultivars, for instance, plant some of the early blooming ones in a late-blooming spot, and the late bloomers in a warm spot. And plant more than you need, so you won't be in the position of having to use an inferior bloom to fill out the class.

To show our appreciation to Bill for coming to speak to us, those attending the meeting have presented the William G. Pannill Trophy to the Midwest Regional Show. The trophy will be awarded to the best standard daffodil.

Besides missing lots of daffodil talk, fun and friendship, those of you who couldn't come also missed out on some great door prizes. Everybody got at least one, and some people got two bulbs. Bulbs included Panache, Ulster Queen, Hawaii, David Bell, Queenscourt, Camelot, Romance, Birthright and others. Eat your hearts out!!

-o-

"Old Bessie, a brown speckled cow,
Tried to swim, but she didn't know how.
So she stitched up a sail,
Hitched it fast to her tail,
And you ought to see Bessie go now!"

For those "who didn't know how" ---- after hearing and meeting Bill Pannill at the Midwest Regional meeting, they certainly could not have gone away without some new knowledge of growing and showing daffodils.

During a luncheon conversation, he described exactly how he prepared his daffodil beds. I came away so enthused that I went to work immediately. I dug all the clay from four beds, hired a small truck to carry it away, started filling in with a mixture of new top soil, peat and sand. When I got to the depth where the bulbs would normally sit, I placed 2" of sand and placed my bulbs. After making my graphs and new stakes to carefully mark each bulb, I covered with top soil. Bill Pannill states "it doesn't matter what you throw on top, it's down underneath ---- so the roots can grow and grow."

I have such splendid thoughts these cold winter days ---- around convention and GDS show time "you ought to see old "Tag" go (home with many ADS ribbons)!

Seriously, this was a most pleasant and satisfying day. We are very fortunate to have had such an excellent and enthusiastic speaker come to our region and maybe these thoughts will help to bring out a larger group the next Regional to learn more about daffodils.

--Tag Bourne, Columbus

-o-

"THIS and THAT" from your Regional Symposium Chairman

When Mary Lou asked me to be the Symposium Chairman for our region, I really had no idea of my duties, but accepted because I knew I would be learning something more of daffodils and also would be working for the ADS as well as our region. I recognized that I would be filling pretty big shoes because the chairmen of the past years have a great deal more experience with both growing and showing daffodils as well as being top notch judges of the society. So I had accepted a new challenge and looked forward to meeting new faces in the daffodil world.

The latest information on the regional symposium is that with all three states reporting, 17.78% of our membership have mailed in their returns. With a membership rating third in the nation, a bare 18% is not much to boast about, but even at that our region rates third in returns. This is a rather startling figure and makes one ponder the value of a symposium. The final report will appear soon in the Journal. At this time I wish to add my special thanks to that of Mrs. Capen in the response you have given the Symposium.

Here I wish to quote Mrs. Capen, our ADS Symposium Chairman: "... something that has bothered me. People sometimes call our Symposium a popularity poll and suggest it is for beginners. Pop polls are not weighted, nor classified. It takes about 200 varieties, exclusive of novelties to chart this Symposium. I maintain that a garden having all 200 could not be called a 'beginner's'. We grow over 1600, and we always find something we need to add. Where else will a member look, if he wants to add some 5b's - or 3c's but here?"

In one short summer I have learned how difficult the Symposium Chairman's job has become in order to get the necessary information to make a decent report of what is grown nationwide. It is like pulling teeth. The returns are scattered and slow. I have personally concluded that most of us let the deadline date pass us by and think "Oh it is too late for my report now. I'll just wait until next year." Frankly, there would be no Symposium to publish if the Chairman and the Regional Vice Presidents and their staff didn't persist. All of this has provoked much thought on my part and has raised questions in my mind.

FIRST.... "What is a Symposium?" Webster's Unabridged Dictionary says: SYMPOSIUM... (Latin from Greek "Symposion" from "Sympinein... to drink together" from "Syn + pinein" to drink - More at POTABLE) 1.a: a drinking party especially one following a banquet and providing music, singing, and conversation 1.b: a banquet or other social gathering at which there is a free interchange of ideas. 2.a: a meeting at which several speakers deliver short addresses on related topics or on various aspects of the same topic 2.b: a collection of opinions on a subject; especially one assembled and published by a periodical 2.c: Discussion ...

What fun it would be to have a gay, convivial and lively party where we all exchanged our ideas over a cocktail or a punch bowl to make up the Symposium! More like the cocktail circuit? the convention banquets? Yet we are aware that serious decisions are often made on such occasions. And if we come up with a GOOD SYMPOSIUM, why not? Now let's go to number 2a above. Promptly this connotes a garden clubber judge's symposium. Well that isn't what we are looking for. Now 2b. Here we have it, the meaning of a Symposium for daffodil growers is just that: a collection of opinions assembled and published by a periodical. A little grim, but factual and down to earth and meant to be a very useful guideline for anyone interested in growing the best varieties (not necessarily the newest or the most expensive) for both show and the garden.

SECOND...."What is the Value of a Symposium?" I will have to answer for myself this way. When I first became a serious grower of daffodils, I considered the Symposium a guideline; with it, and attendance at shows to see what I liked best, I chose the varieties I wanted to grow. In our region, Mary Elizabeth Blue willingly shared her knowledge and experience with a few of us and later this group became the nucleus of The Central Ohio Daffodil Society. The varieties she recommended to us that day are still the basic plantings in my own garden. The following year our GODS group with Mary Elizabeth president sponsored a clinic to which Wells and Mary Knierim were invited. They came and shared with us some very useful knowledge gleaned from their years of experience. So you see it all boils down to this: we learn by sharing. A Symposium is only as good as we make it and with the greater percentage of us participating and sharing our knowledge the better and more valuable the Symposium becomes.

So this year, let's RESOLVE TO MAKE OUR LIST OF 25 AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE AND MAIL IT PROMPTLY regardless of whether you grow 25 or 2500 varieties...LET'S SHARE OUR KNOWLEDGE AND ENCOURAGE MORE GARDENERS TO GROW THE BEST VARIETIES WE KNOW.

And a little bit of "THAT." We all have difficulty singling out that one daffodil we must grow above all others (Should I call it the Popularity Poll?); we had some interesting replies including the oldies "King Alfred"; "Thalia"; "Charity May"; and one specie, "obvallaris"; but I thought you might want to know the results of the race. "Festivity" took the lead with "Arctic Gold" a close second, and "Accent" and "Peeping Tom" tied for third place. The member who listed "obvallaris" grows over 225 varieties. This poll was taken from growers of anywhere from 25 varieties to over 1000, but the greater percentage of our reporters grow between 200 and 500 varieties. This exhibits a poll from STRENGTH. I hope you will agree.

--Grace Baird, Columbus

-0-

From Ruth Cunningham, Salem, Ohio, comes the information for the following:

Anyone with some gas to spare and some time to admire daffodils planted for landscape value, might well enjoy visiting Carroll County, Ohio's "Daffodil County." Since 1968, over 100 bushels of daffodil bulbs have been planted by various civic groups, churches, schools and individuals. In the Fall of 1971, 4 x 4 foot signs reading "Carroll, Ohio's Daffodil County" were erected on all the state highways leading into the county. The lovely markers are dark green with yellow daffodils on them, and I believe are patented by their designer. Drive-It-Yourself tours were inaugurated in 1970; they are held the last week in April when daffodils are in full bloom.(Ed. note - perhaps a note to the Chamber of Commerce, Carrollton, Ohio, would get you a map of the tour area.)

There is a large Fairground in the north of Carrollton, and many daffodils are planted there as well as through the town. The most famous landmark in Carrollton is the McCook house. It is opened for visitors. Carroll County is largely agricultural, and their tour last year included several farms and the McCook house.

Canton is nearby, about 20 miles northwest of Carrollton, and there is quite a substantial planting in McKinley Park in the center of Canton. And if any members should come to Carrollton, they should by all means stop and see the magnificent daffodil display at Kingwood Center in Mansfield. It is worth a long drive even in these days of gas shortage. We go there nearly every year and it is spectacular in any season.

About 20 miles west of Carrollton is Schoenbrunn, where the Moravians had a mission, and a number of Indians lived in their village. This has been rebuilt and includes an ancient small graveyard where the names and life dates of people can still be read on large boulders. This is just off Route 77.

Maybe 10 miles north of Schoenbrunn is Zoar. The fine buildings in Zoar remain as reminders of a group of people who came to this country to establish communal living. It is well cared for and worth seeing. It includes a nice hotel and restaurant.

-o-

Convention time will soon be here! Details were in the December Journal, and no doubt more will appear in the March Journal. I hope to see many of you there. Betty Hobson, convention show chairman, has informed me that show schedules will hopefully be available by March 1. She will also have ADS entry tags so you can make them out in advance. Entries can be made Wednesday, April 17, from 5-10p.m., and Thursday, April 18 from 8-11a.m. A grooming room is available, but it's not exactly luxurious. No overnight refrigeration will be provided.

Registration for the 3 day event is \$50 before March 27, \$55 after that date. A partial registration form is at the end of this newsletter if you (or your spouse) can only attend part of the convention. Perhaps some of you have husbands like mine--who prefer golf and baseball to bus tours! If so, have them bring their clubs along. Paul is hoping some of our Cincinnati members will be able to arrange for guest privileges at their Golf Clubs; and the Reds will be in town to provide major league ball at it's best!

-o-

Welcome to the following new members. We hope you enjoy your association with the American Daffodil Society.

John Eberhard, 813 Stanton Ave., Terrace Park, Ohio 45174
Mrs. Robert O. Houghton, R.D. #6, Wooster, Ohio 44691
Benjamin Wegerzyn Garden Center, 1301 Siebenthaler, Dayton, Ohio 45414
Mrs. J. Bradford Berry, 715 Allen Ave., Chillicothe, Ohio 45601
Mrs. Earl Richar, 8021 Stuart Lake, Marshall, Michigan 49068
Dr. M. U. Scott, 543 Ballantyne Rd., Grosse Pte. Shores, Michigan 48236
Mrs. Albert E. Huber, Jr., 2213 Berrywood Drive, Cincinnati, Ohio 45244
Mr. & Mrs. Morse Johnson, 9 Far Hills Drive, Cincinnati, Ohio 45208

-o-

Mark the following show dates on your calendar, and plan to enter and/or visit the shows.

April 16, Chillicothe, Ohio; information, Mrs. Howard Junk
April 18-19, Cincinnati, Ohio; information, Mrs. Henry Hobson, Jr.
April 27-28, Columbus, Ohio; information, Mrs. Paul Gripshover
April 30-May 1, Cleveland, Ohio; information, Wells Knierim

The show to be held in Columbus will be the Midwest Regional Show and will offer the Pannill Trophy for the first time, as well as the Helen K. Link Trophy for the best artistic design. We sincerely hope that many of you from all over the region will come with your blooms to help make the show a success.

-o-

WHO GROWS RUSSET?

Does anyone besides me grow Russet, a 3a registered by Guy Wilson in 1947? If I do indeed have Russet, it has by far the best substance of any 3a I grow. However, the perianth is such a pale shade of yellow, one could almost say ivory, that I wonder if I have the right bulb. I entered in the Midwest Regional Show in Dayton last year hoping to find out if it was --or wasn't -- Russet. A friend of mine who was doing her student judging said the judges wanted to move it in with the 3b's. But they didn't, Russet got no ribbons, and I still don't know if it's really Russet!! If you grow Russet, won't you please tell me what yours looks like?

--Mary Lou Gripshover, Columbus

-o-

PARTIAL REGISTRATION FORM

ADS ANNUAL CONVENTION
April 18 - 20

Holiday Inn, North Sharon Rd. at I-75 Cincinnati, Ohio

	<u>Thurs. 18</u>	<u>Fri. 19</u>	<u>Sat. 20</u>
Registration fee (PER DAY)	___\$4.00	___\$4.00	___\$4.00
Thursday dinner, annual meeting, awards presentations	___\$7.00		
Friday bus tour and lunch (Nature Center, Camargo Country Club, three gardens)		___\$9.00	
Friday dinner & program		___\$8.00	
Saturday buffet breakfast & bulb auction program			___\$4.00
Saturday tour of Queen City (Taft Museum, Krohn Conservatory, Garden Center, Sooty Acres Park)			___\$5.00
Saturday banquet & program			___\$10.00

Total _____

Name _____

Address _____

Make checks payable to: Mrs. Samson I. Crew and mail with this form
(participation items checked) to
Mrs. George Hoppin III
183 Lafayette Circle
Cincinnati, Ohio 45220

For show schedules and entry tags write to:
Mrs. Henry Hobson, Jr.
8650 Hopewell Rd.
Cincinnati, Ohio 45242