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June, 1974

NARCISSUS NOTES

Newsletter of the Midwest Region of the American Daffodil Society

Regional Vice-President - Mrs. Paul Gripshover, Columbus, Ohio

Directors - Mrs. Eugene Kleiner, Cincinnati, Ohio

Miss Virginia Wolff, Scottsburg, Indiana

Mrs. Verne Trueblood, Scottsburg, Indiana

Schools - Mrs. Goethe Link, Brooklyn, Indiana

Treasurer - Wells Knierim, Cleveland, Ohio

Now that we're in the middle of bulb digging, perhaps we can look back over our strange season and say, "Well, at least I enjoyed the flowers that survived." Anyway, next year will have to be better!

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LET'S ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE....from the Midwest Regional Symposium Chairman

None of us wants to be reminded of the foul Spring weather with which we were blessed in 1974. In fact, that word WEATHER almost became a dirty word in my book. The heavy rains, sleet, hail, late snowfall together with the five degree weather we "enjoyed" just when our lovelies were off to a head start; all of these followed by the very frightening tornado storm which seriously hit our area in April do give us something to think about and poses a genuine challenge in reporting to the Symposium Chairman of ADS. Anything which withstood these adversities and came back blooming beautifully deserves to be listed on one's best 25 list. In making my own report I found it difficult to keep my list to the minimum of 25 despite the fact many of my good varieties normally listed had suffered. So, if you have not already done so, please accept this challenge: share with us your list and we should all profit because these are the varieties we want to know more about. The ballot is reprinted below for your convenience.

--Grace Baird, Columbus, Ohio

ADS 1974 SYMPOSIUM BALLOT

Select up to 25 varieties of daffodils you have grown in your own garden for a minimum of 3 years. Consider both the quality of the bloom and the behavior of the plant but disregard price, reputation, and classification. However, do consider the early, late, and the various forms and types in making your list. Please list ALPHABETICALLY.

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|----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 7. _____ | 13. _____ | 19. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 8. _____ | 14. _____ | 20. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 9. _____ | 15. _____ | 21. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 10. _____ | 16. _____ | 22. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 11. _____ | 17. _____ | 23. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 12. _____ | 18. _____ | 24. _____ |
| If you could grow only one _____ | | | 25. _____ |

No. of varieties in your garden _____

Name _____ State _____ Region Midwest _____

Mail to: Mrs. John Capen
Rte. 3, Box 215
Boonton, N. J. 07005

Now all of you who haven't sent your ballot to Mrs. Capen, please fill it out now, before you finish reading this even, and send it in. Remember, the only criteria for voting is that you have grown the cultivar at least 3 years. Let's make the Midwest Number 1!!

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Every daffodil grower in Ohio looked forward with keen anticipation to the Spring of 1974. The National Convention and Show would be held in Cincinnati. The Midwest Regional Show was scheduled in Columbus. In Chillicothe, the Adena Daffodil Society Show would be held in co-operation with the Veterans Administration Hospital and last but not least the Western Reserve Society show would be held at the Garden Center in Cleveland.

The first week of March, Spring came in with a rush and a flourish. The beds and borders were a blaze of color. Armada, St. Keverne, Court Martial, and Butterscotch tried to out-do each other. Honeybird and Nampa grew tall above the foliage. The cyclamineus hybrids were in step too. Titania, Satellite, Willet--dainty and gay. By the middle of March stems lengthened and buds developed on Festivity, Goldcourt, and Roman Candle. Crocus and hyacinths complemented the picture. Then alas and alack came sleet, snow, howling winds and near to zero temperatures three nights running. The devastation was likened to a tornado and ^{we} were like Job in our lamentations. But all things pass. Once again we were to witness the hardiness, the endurance of these gallant flowers as they struggled to recover from this calamity and make their way to the shows held for their benefit. The results were amazing and the exhibitors properly humble and happy.

--Mary Elizabeth Blue, Chillicothe

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SHOW REPORTS

There were 4 ADS shows held in the Region this year, all with lovely flowers despite the unusual weather.

The Adena Daffodil Society held their show on April 16 at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Chillicothe. One of the highlights of this show is the arrangement section open only to hospitalized veterans. These arrangements are done as part of the therapy at the hospital.

Winning the Gold Ribbon with Arbar was Mrs. Howard Junk, who also won the Miniature Gold with Minnow; the Purple Ribbon with a small cup collection which included Snow Gem, Kansas, Fairy Tale, Aircastle, and Corofin; and the Silver Ribbon.

Mrs. Reginald Blue won the White Ribbon with 3 evenly matched blooms of Rashee, and Mrs. Mary Rutledge won the Miniature White with April Tears.

The Southwest Ohio Daffodil Society sponsored the National Show at the ADS Convention in Cincinnati on April 18-19. Beautiful flowers were brought from all parts of the country, with Mrs. John Bozievich of Maryland winning the gold Quinn Medal, the Larry P. Mains Trophy, the Maxine Lawler Trophy, the AHS Bronze Medal, the Gold Ribbon and the DeWitt & Elizabeth Balch Memorial Trophy with Aircastle, the White Ribbon and the Rita L. Fuller Memorial Trophy with Aircastle, and the Green Ribbon and the Indian Hill Garden Club Trophy for her collection of 12, and the Mary and Carl Krippendorf Memorial Trophy for her triandrus collection!!

The Roberta C. Watrous Gold Medal was won by Mrs. W. R. Mackinney of Pennsylvania, while Mrs. Marvin Andersen of Delaware won the Harry I. Tuggle, Jr. Trophy. Mrs. Andersen also won the Lavender Ribbon for a collection of miniatures which included Mite, Minnow, Segovia, Hawera, and Minidaf.

The first Matthew Fowlds Medal was awarded to Mrs. Charles Bender of Pennsylvania for her bloom of Charity May.

Other ADS awards went to Mrs. William Baird of Columbus, who won the Miniature Gold and SWODS Trophy with Halingy; and Mrs. James Liggett, also of Columbus, won the Miniature White with 3 evenly matched blooms of

bulbocodium. Miss Barbara Gripshover, of Columbus, won the Junior Award with White Marvel.

The Silver Ribbon as well as the Red-White-Blue Ribbon went to Mrs. Ernest Hardison of Tennessee.

Wells Knierim of Cleveland won the Purple Ribbon for his cyclamineus collection which included Jetfire, White Caps, Andalusia, Killdeer, and Jenny.

Mrs. George Watrous of Washington, D.C. won the Rose Ribbon with her seedling 646-3 (Binkie x (triandrus aurantiacus x triandrus loiseleurii)).

Mrs. Watrous and others also brought some delightful miniature seedlings, and it remains a great mystery to me as to why the judges found no bloom worthy of a ribbon.

The Carl W. Schmalstig Memorial Trophy for a collection of pink daffodils was awarded to Mrs. Paul Gripshover of Columbus, while the SWODS Rosette, available to SWODS members only, was awarded to Mrs. Robert Sulgrove II of Dayton for her bloom of Pinza.

On April 27-28 the Midwest Regional Show was held in Columbus, sponsored by the Central Ohio Daffodil Society. Theme of the show was "Beauties of Nature." There were 476 adult entries and 47 Junior entries in the horticulture section of this show for a total of 1020 blooms. The William G. Pannill Trophy for the best standard bloom in a Regional Show was awarded to Mrs. William Pardue for her bloom of Corofin, while Mrs. James Liggett won the Helen K. Link Artistic Design Trophy for her arrangement interpreting "Frosty Morn."

Mrs. Pardue's Corofin also won the Gold Ribbon and the Mary Elizabeth Blue Founders' Cup, while Mrs. Liggett also won the Miniature White Ribbon with bulbocodium; the Silver Ribbon; the Lavender Ribbon with Stafford, Demure, Sundial, Clare, and bulbocodium; and the Green Ribbon.

Wells Knierim won the White Ribbon and the Mary & Wells Knierim Award with Galway, the Purple Ribbon for his all white collection, the Red-White-Blue Ribbon and the Walter T. Poppenger Award, and the Maroon Ribbon. Included in the latter collection were Pastorale, Rich Reward, Honeybird, Lunar Sea, and Siletz.

Mrs. Paul Gripshover won the Miniature Gold and the Leonora C. Wilkie Award with Cobweb, and the Rose Ribbon for her seedling 69-31-1, Bithynia x jonquilla, which had quite a greenish cast to it. Miss Barbara Gripshover won the Junior Award and the Christopher David Lang Award with Accolade.

On April 30-May 1, the Western Reserve Daffodil Society show was held in Cleveland. Mrs. Grover Ramsey made 12 beautiful arrangements, all with the theme of "baskets" which added greatly to the show.

Wells Knierim won the Gold Ribbon with Daviot, the White Ribbon with Festivity, the Silver Ribbon, the Purple, Red-White-Blue, and the Carey Quinn Ribbons. Mrs. James Liggett won the Miniature Gold with Demure and the Miniature White with Clare.

To all who entered blooms in any of the shows goes a great big thank you. Without your flowers, there wouldn't be a show, and the committees appreciate your efforts to show our favorite flower at her loveliest. I hope next year to see more of you at the shows. I'm sure you'll enjoy a fun-filled day--and who knows--next year we may be reading about your triumphs!

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FALL MEETING

Mark your calendars now! The second annual Fall Regional Meeting will be held on Oct. 5, here in Columbus, from 10-3. I haven't got all the speakers yet, so if there's someone you'd like to hear, or a particular topic discussed, let me know and I'll see what I can do. Hopefully we'll have some great door prizes again. So plan now to attend and enjoy a day of daffodil fun and fellowship. Details will come in September.

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HERE AND THERE

rom Michigan--

Late I know, but we had such a cold and late Spring, there was little to report.

On April 27 I noted in my garden journal that most of the daffodils were up, but only Peeping Tom had opened. On April 28 I noted that February Gold had opened. On May 9 I had noted that the King Alfred's and Moonstruck were blooming, and also forsythia. May 13, Kilworth was blooming. We are right on Lake Michigan which probably means it's colder in the Spring and Summer, but warmer in the Winter. As you can see, I have not lived here enough springtimes to find out what blooms when. Even the trees have just finished leafing out--and on June 8 my hawthorn is just leafing out, and also sunburst locust.

--Eileen Scharlow, Frankfort, Michigan

(ed. note - Mrs. Scharlow formerly lived in Shaker Heights, Ohio)

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We have grown daffodils for thirty years more or less, but never had a ring-side seat to observe so much in one season. During the first two weeks of March we brought different varieties into the house and had the pleasure of watching the different stages of development from half-opened buds to full maturity. Ordinarily our season doesn't start until the end of March. The variety we enjoyed the most was Brunswick, a 2b. It is an old variety, early, very reliable and prolific. We have grown it for years, but never fully appreciated its beauty. The petals are glistening white, the cup a soft lemon yellow, which fades to a delicate rim of chartreuse on the ruffled edge. The stems are long and strong. It is a medium size flower of good proportions. At its blooming time we were always too busy watching the development of the exhibition varieties to realize its worth. Now that Spring is only a memory, the delicate charm of Brunswick is still fresh and alive in our thoughts.

--Mary Elizabeth Blue, Chillicothe

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ATTENTION! Those of you who ordered the split-coronas and miniatures last year through me, do not have Lemon Beauty. I don't know what we got, but I will write Mr. Gerritsen and ask him to replace the bulbs, since they were not true to name. I'll keep you posted.

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The Central Ohio Daffodil Society has an opportunity to plant a daffodil display garden at the Columbus Park of Roses. As there is already a ravine naturalized with daffodils, emphasis in the bed will be on exhibition types. So, if anyone has any bulbs to spare, miniature or standard, the society would be most grateful if you would send them to Mrs. William Pardue, 2591 Henthorn Road, Columbus, Ohio 43221.

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PETER'S CIRCUS CLOWN

Peter likes to grow things. I've seen him grow a bean in a flower pot in Winter that I couldn't begin to match in the garden in Summer.

In the Fall of 1971 I gave him a bulb of Circus Clown. He was five years old then. Each time I saw him during the Winter we talked about our daffodil show and his bulb.

Peter's bulb had been planted late and the time for the show came nearer. Finally, the day before the show, we had a bud beginning to open but only about four inches of stem.

Since I was working with my entries, I put Circus Clown in warm water, in a warm room, under a florescent light. The next morning the bud had opened. I could see why they had named it Circus Clown. The cup was very ruffled like the collar of a clown's suit. The colors intermingled, giving it a fluted effect.

The next morning it went along to the show, but what to do about that short stem? So I filled the container bottom to the top with the yew we were using, wedged a small piece in front, and Circus Clown looked nice

d tall. We entered him in the Ross County Exhibit for Peter.

Now how do you tell a five year old going on six, with only one daffodil, he might not win? So I thought maybe, just maybe, an honorable mention?

After the judging was over, that daffodil had become more important than mine. When I went to see, Circus Clown had a blue ribbon.

Peter was home from kindergarten at noon so I called him. His brother brought him in to the show. I'll never forget that shy, elfish grin, those gleaming little white teeth, every one showing. It was a picture of pure joy. Here was a winner at his first show with only one daffodil! This winning with only one entry can happen, and did in 1973 - a best of show - but that is another tale. This one belongs to Peter Hoyt and Circus Clown.

-- Betty Beery, Frankfort, Ohio

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Welcome to the following new members. We hope you enjoy your association with the ADS and we look forward to seeing you at our meetings and shows.

Mrs. Kenneth Dunn, 28 Shawnee Drive, Chillicothe, Ohio 45601
Mrs. Philip J. Marsick, 3217 Grischy Lane, Cincinnati, Ohio 45208
Geneva R. Fugate, 301 S. Franklin St., Darlington, Indiana 47940
Mrs. Charles Brookey, 3508 Kingswood Dr., Kettering, Ohio 45429
Mrs. James I. Sluss, R.R. #1, Unionville, Indiana 47468
Mrs. Luther Tucker, 4535 Drake Rd., Cincinnati, Ohio 45243
Mrs. Joe Bolin, P.O. Box 36, Rutland, Ohio 45775
Dalton W. Battin, 5786 Salem Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45230
Mrs. Ellin Skimming, 2022 Tullis Drive, Middletown, Ohio 45042
Mrs. James Bates, P.O. Box 451, Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068
Mrs. Edson C. Wright, 2501 Bristol Road, Columbus, Ohio 43221
Ati B. Morgan, R.R. #1, Greensburg, Indiana 47240
Mrs. Richard Raifsnider, 6726 G. R. 175, Bellevue, Ohio 44811
Ms. Jean Flory, 1350 North Road, Troy, Ohio 45373
Mrs. J. R. Wolfe, 7185 Blacklick Eastern Rd., Box 116, Pickerington, O.
Mrs. David H. Jackman, 133 N. Walnut St., London, Ohio 43140
Mrs. Clyde Mitchell, 1771 Caleb Drive, Zanesville, Ohio 43701
Wilmer Forry, c/o Struman Helmuth, S. Calhoun Road, Plain City, Ohio
Mrs. Roger E. Peck, 1433 N. Tecumseh Road, Springfield, Ohio 45504
Mrs. Robert L. Fies, R.R.# 1, Lewisburg, Ohio 45338
Mrs. G.R. Thompson, 302 Spring Ave., Pomeroy, Ohio 45769
Mrs. Fred Hiron, 5824 Mohican Lane, Cincinnati, Ohio 45243
Mrs. Phillip Ramsey, P.O. Box 175, Morristown, Ohio 43759

That IS a nice group!!!

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HYBRIDIZER'S CORNER

Have you ever tried your hand at hybridizing daffodils? Anyone with 5 years to spare really ought to try it! Seriously, pollinating the blooms is a simple matter. Simply take the pollen from one flower and put it on the stigma of another. Nancy Fitzwater's excellent article in the June JOURNAL goes into more detail, and I think you will find it interesting. Planting of the seed varies according to the individual, but I have found from experience that the seed pots (or flats) need winter protection in my area. I find that sinking the pots to the rim right up against the wall of the house and then covering with straw seems to give the necessary winter protection. Five or more years are necessary for first bloom. Although that seems like a long time to wait, after the first five year wait you'll have something new each year. And it really is exciting to bloom one's very own seedling.

Betty Beery, Ada Simon, and Naomi Liggett received seeds from the ADS Seed Broker, Bill Ticknor, and they report as follows.

I planted my seed in two plastic flats, also a space between. Placed them ground level, covered with $\frac{1}{2}$ " mesh hardware cloth, slightly domed. I placed branches on top which caught some of the maple leaves. They were planted Oct. 17, in sand, peat moss & garden soil, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches apart. I watered them well at that time. I think nearly every seed came up.

I planted some of Mr. Culpepper's seed in the Fall of 1972; was late planting them. The flats were on top of the ground, none came up. Also in 1972 I gave Martin Nist half of my daffodil seed. He has about 18 this year in two flats. He planted his in the same type soil as I did.

--Betty Beery, Frankfort, Ohio

I received 350 daffodil seeds from Mr. Ticknor last October. I proceeded to make 4 beds to plant them in.

I dug out the soil first and filled in with soil I mixed which was peat moss, sand, and some good sandy loam from my garden. I tried not to sow it too thick, and covered it about $\frac{1}{4}$ ". Then I sprinkled chlordane over the beds to discourage mice and rodents from digging in the beds. That worked real good I think. I have about 40 germinated, and am hoping for more to come up. (April 24.)

--Ada Simon, Chillicothe, Ohio

I planted part of the seed in pots in a mixture of soil and perlite and placed the pots in the basement under a florescent light. Nothing germinated. This spring I put the pots outside, and they are just now (June 15) beginning to grow. Several shoots are in evidence in each pot. The remaining seed was planted this Spring, but as yet nothing is growing.

--Naomi Liggett, Columbus, Ohio

The first few years I planted seed, I had trouble with germination and so I wrote Helen Link about it and she replied--

"I have my best luck with daffodil seeds germinating if I plant them as soon as they are ripe in pots which I sink into the coldframe for the Winter. I keep them there for two years and then line them out in the field bed to grow on to blooming age.

The seeds definitely are improved for germinating if they go through the Winter outdoors. I think the cold improves germination. I doubt that it needs to be freezing as rarely do the people in California get freezing weather yet they do grow seedlings.

I always think the coldframe gives them some protection and keeps the dirt from heaving out of the pot. I put chicken gravel on the top of the dirt which keeps the water from washing the dirt out of the pot when you water them.

Sometimes the seeds are more like chaff and are not fat and shiny. Those which appear dry never will germinate as they have no endosperm to feed the young plant in its growth. They either do not germinate or else do not grow after they do because of lack of food supply."

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Sometimes new growers will ask where they can get good quality bulbs. Listed below are some dealers I'm familiar with.

GRANT E. MITSCH, Daffodil Haven, Canby, Oregon 97013 - lists mostly his own excellent cultivars, some from other growers, a sprinkling of miniatures. He is actively seeking to sell his business, so don't put off ordering something you really want.

MURRAY EVANS, Rte. 1, Box 525, Corbett, Oregon 97019 - lists his own and a select list from other growers. He insists that white be white and that colored flowers be sharp and clean.

P. DeJAGER & SONS, South Hamilton, Mass. 09132 - general bulb catalog with many pictures. Very useful to beginners unfamiliar with varieties.

MICHAEL JEFFERSON-BROWN, Whitbourne, Worcester, England - covers all RHS divisions thoroughly. Some miniatures. Carries originations of many hybridists as well as his own.

SHOWEN DAFFODILS, "Knowehead," Dergmoney, Omagh, County Tyrone, Northern Ireland - Mr. Brian Duncan has purchased the collection of Tom Bloomer and also has some of his own introductions coming along. Some of the late Fred Board's flowers can also be found here. Have not personally ordered from this firm, but have seen some choice flowers which have come from there.

CARNCAIRN DAFFODILS, LTD., Broughshane, Ballymena, County Antrim, Northern Ireland - list their own and other Irish daffodils. Some Dunlop and Wilson originations can be found here.

BROADLEIGH GARDENS, Barr House, Bishops Hull, Taunton, Somerset, England - this firm has the biggest selection of miniature daffodils. Have bulbs sent air mail--it is expensive but worth it for these small bulbs. Minimum order about \$12.00, so get a friend to order with you, if necessary.

DAFFODIL MART, Gloucester, Virginia 23061 - has a general list, special list for ADS members, a list of Zandbergen selections, and a miniature list. Longest miniature list in USA, but prices seem high. (a little editorial opinion, there!)

VENICE BRINK, 114 E. Maple St., Nashville, Ill. 62263 - is an amateur hobbyist who issues a mimeographed list of cultivars of which he has a surplus. Grows over 1000 cultivars. A good place to find those no longer listed commercially.

J. GERRITSEN & SON, Voorschoten, Holland - specializes in split coronas and also has nice assortment of miniature trumpets.

WALTER BLOM & ZOON B.V., Hillegom, Holland - has a good list of bulbs, many of them of Richardson breeding. Also has miniatures.

MARY MATTISON VAN SCHAİK, Cavendish, Vermont 05142 - runs a small and very personal import business which offers Holland-grown bulbs.

CHARLES H. MUELLER, River Road, New Hope, Pa. 18938 - handles many Spring bulbs. Request the Special Daffodil List. According to Amy Anthony, he is the only source for Donna Bella (Div. 12).

JOHN SCHEEPERS, 63 Wall Street, New York, N.Y. 10005 - general bulb catalog.

BALLYDORN BULB FARM, Killinchy, Newtownards, Northern Ireland - list their own & other Irish daffodils, mostly in Divisions 1-3.

JOHN S.B. LEA, Dunley Hall, Stourport, Worcester, England - lists mainly his own introductions. Has been recipient of Engleheart Cup. Stocks of most are small, and therefore still expensive.

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Correopsis and speedwell are blooming in the border where Daydream, Newcastle and Abalone battled the mid-March sleet/snow storms. We were concerned after the storm about the broken foliage and its ability to manufacture food for the bulbs. Another observation was the number of mini-climates our garden had, and how many air current paths. A row of Paricutin was flattened to the ground, while on either side Festivity and Accolade only bent with the wind. The squalls swept down the garden path and around the corner of the house. Binkie and Coral Ribbon behind the shelter of a yew hedge, paid no heed. A planting of Festivity in the path of this gale leaned sideways out of the way. Everywhere in the garden were similar evidences of air currents and climates. As the season advanced our conclusions were that the bud stage of development at the storm time affected the bloom, that many varieties had a built in hardiness, and that the bent or broken foliage stayed green and grew. The bulbs may not be as large, but we hope the flower bud is formed. In my garden the top performer of this adverse season was Festivity.

--Mary Elizabeth Blue, Chillicothe