

# NARCISSUS NOTES

SEPTEMBER 1989

MIDWEST REGION - AMERICAN DAFFODIL SOCIETY



## REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT

Mrs. William J. Newill  
10245 Virginia Lee Drive  
Dayton, OH, 45458  
513-885-2971

## MIDWEST REGIONAL DIRECTORS

1990 Harold McConnel,  
4075 Danern Dr. Dayton, OH 45430  
1991 Douglas Clarke  
13905 Allisonville Rd. Noblesville, IN 46060  
1992 Mrs. Robert H. Brunner  
610 College Lane, Indianapolis, IN 46240

*MARY Lou - Receiving  
Questions Regarding  
INTERMEDIATES &  
Show Schedules -  
Will you address this  
Subject at the  
Meeting?  
Hank -  
Reg*

## ADS OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS FROM THE MIDWEST REGION

Executive Director: Mrs. Paul Gripshover  
1686 Gray Fox Trail, Milford, OH 45150  
Director at Large: Mrs. Goethe Link  
Box 84, Brooklyn, IN 46111  
Awards: Mrs. Hubert Bourne  
1052 Shadyhill Dr. Columbus, OH 43221  
Classification: Mr. Handy Hatfield  
22799 Ringgold Southern Rd. Stoutsville, OH 43154  
Schools and Judges: Mrs. James Liggett  
4126 Winfield Rd. Columbus, OH 43220  
Nominating Committee Member:  
Mrs. William M. Pardue  
2591 Henthorne Rd. Columbus, OH 43221

## NEW MEMBERS

It is a pleasure to welcome the following new members to ADS:

Irene Mosely, 615 E. Schreyer Place, Columbus, OH 43214  
Mrs. Patricia Thames, 21375 Shaker Blvd., Shaker Heights, OH 44122

## REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members:

September is here, and you have or soon will receive your 1990 order of bulbs. If you lift bulbs this year do remember to set aside some for the bulb exchange at the Fall Meeting.

In May, Helen Link received the Evelyn Mooney Award For Creative Horticulture Achievement, from the National Council of State Garden Clubs Inc. at their National Convention In Rochester N.Y.. The National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc. is a member of the Royal Horticulture Society. The presentation read as follows: "A chance gift, from her husband, a bushel of daffodil blubs began Mrs. Goethe Link's fifty years enchantment with daffodils. Her rigorous, well conceived scientific approach to hybridizing daffodils has resulted in the development of many new hybrids which are widely esteemed. It takes five to seven years from seed to bloom, and only those that are deemed superior are carried on for further propagation - a slow process. Miniatures are one of Mrs. Link's specialties and in 1988, three of her six seedlings she named and registered are miniatures. Her endeavor in propagating new daffodil cultivars is truly an horticulture achievement of permanent importance".

The FALL REGIONAL MEETING has been planned for SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1989 at COX ARBORETUM, 6733 Springboro Pike, Dayton, OH. (map and directions included in newsletter). All members, please remember to bring 1) a covered dish to share for lunch, 2) your own table service, 3) blubs for the exchange, and 4) a friend who could be a potential member. Napkins, cups and beverage will be provided. There will be a \$1.00 fee to help cover these costs and the cost of the building.

AGENDA:

10:00 - 10:30	REGISTRATION - Coffee and Rolls
10:30 - 11:00	ANNOUNCEMENTS
	Reports of Societies ( Presidents take note )
	Update from National Board ( Board members report)
11:00 - 12:00	REPORTS AND/OR SLIDES OF THE SAN FRANCISCO CONVENTION - SHOW WINNERS Wells Knierim & members
12:00 - 1:00	LUNCH
1:00 - 2:00	"MINATURES" - Helen Link - <u>ADS approved refresher</u> if refreshing the fee is \$2.00
2:00 - 2:30	BULB EXCHANGE
2:30 - 3:15	TOUR OF COX ARBORETUM

Do you belong to a society? If not, please do consider it. Write and I will send you information regarding societies in this region. Local societies are full of friendly daffodil growers who like to share their bulbs and information which will help you become more knowledgable about growing and showing. If you do not live close to an organized group and are interested in forming one in your area, please write me for assistance.

I welcome your comments on Narcissus Notes - and most especially your articles. DEADLINE for March Narcissus Notes: February 1, 1990.

Mark you calendar NOW! Plan to join you fellow daffodil lovers at the FALL REGIONAL MEETING on October 7th.

Sincerely,



## PLANTING SPRING BULBS

Sabina Mueller Sulgrove

For the new gardener one of the easiest ways to start a garden is with bulbs. They can provide color where there is now none -- at the base of hedges, among foundation plantings, around trees that are ringed with mulch. Bulbs are relatively carefree: they have the advantage of coming up every year even when they have been virtually ignored once planted. Bulbs increase in bloom for several years, are disease free, and may cost no more than other potted perennials (\$3.00 or less). Daffodil foliage, flowers, and bulbs have the added advantage of being unattractive to squirrels and chipmunks, who are otherwise said to steal or eat tulips, crocus, and dwarf iris. In spite of this, I have successfully planted tulips annually for 8 or ten years and only one year did I have any real problem with animals digging bulbs in late spring. Apparently one way to get around the problem of animals going after bulbs is to plant so many of them -- and plant them deep in the ground -- that the varmints can't possibly get them all. Or have a cat! Even a dog keeps chipmunks at bay!

### Selecting Bulbs

Buy quality bulbs from a reputable mail order grower. Bulbs in the local garden centers often come in so early that they sit around for 4-6 weeks in the hot, dry store before you -- or the weather -- are ready for planting. Buy named varieties. This allows you to tell your neighbors what varieties you have and also allows you to enter the daffodil shows. Also, pay a little more for named bulbs (rather than 10 for \$2.00) to ensure that you get large, doubled nosed bulbs, producing 2 or 3 blooms the first year. The mail order house will send you the bulbs at the correct planting time; for this area, it's October. My rule of thumb as to when to plant is, if it's too hot for you to feel like planting, then don't! You can always plant them next week when it is cooler! Just keep the bulbs in a cool place with the individual packages opened to allow air circulation. I keep mine in the air-conditioned house until it gets cool enough in the garage. You can plant as long as the ground isn't frozen. I have planted as late as January 3rd in a warm spell. The later you plant, and the deeper you plant, the later in the season the bulbs come up the first year.

If you are just starting out, buy three to five bulbs of a few varieties, and plant them in patches. This produces a mass of color, rather than a strung out line of lonely, individual blooms. Not only is this better landscape designing, but it also allows you to enter in the daffodil show the three stem classes where there are not as many entries and you therefore have a better chance at a ribbon. Or with the extra blooms enter a collection in the show.

### Planting

Although it is possible to spend a lot of time and money raising daffodils, it is also possible to put in a minimum of time and still have delightful daffodils in your garden, on the dinner table, and winners on the show table. Even garden varieties like Ice Follies (2w-w), Trevithian (7y-y), Beryl (6y-o), Spellbinder (1y-w), and Mary copeland(4w-o) can be show winners

when well-grown. The best results for the minimum amount of gardening time is to take a little extra care in planting -- even if you do nothing else -- and you will be rewarded by years of bloom .

There are a few simple rules for planting.

**Plant deep.** If you do not want to have to divide crowded masses of bulbs every three or four years, plant them as deep as it's practical. I have planted some of mine 14 inches deep, about the length of my spade. Smaller bulbs can be planted at shallower depths. The common rule is, plant bulbs at a depth measured from the top of the bulb equal to two to three times the diameter of the bulb. Or if you plan to divide your bulbs and move them around or share them with friends, then plant at shallower depths to encourage bloom multiplication. The deeper you plant, the later the bulbs will come up. But location, or where you plant, determines which bulbs will come up first. Because the east side of my house is the least exposed and thus the warmest, those bulbs come up first. Along the 88 ft. of the front of my house, the bulbs came up first on the south east end, and in the middle where there is less wind. Here the latest blooming varieties are already blooming before even the earliest varieties on the west, or most exposed and coldest end, have even started to bloom. So the fact that in my first year of gardening I had used a ruler to carefully measure how far down I placed each group of bulbs made no difference whatsoever!

**Put your best soil at the bottom of the hole.** In the Dayton, Ohio, area we are gardening in heavy, clayey soil which is like concrete! I make a good soil from equal parts old flower pot soil laced with compost or Canadian peat moss, and one third native dirt. The mixture should be crumbly and shatter easily when a compressed handful is poked. If the soil is still too heavy, add perlite or used soil which is high in perlite. Although the experts recommend adding sand, I find that in the Dayton area adding sand only makes cement! The soil has so much clay that only enormous amounts of coarse sand would improve the soil.

**Make a big enough hole to accommodate the bulbs with 2 or more inches between each bulb and the sides of the hole.**



Align the bulbs in the hole so that the bulbs and their offsets are parallel to each other, so that the future offsets will have space.

Fill the bottom 2-3 inches of the hole with the soil mix and mix in a heaping teaspoon of powdered bone meal, if you desire. Firmly press the fortified soil into the hole. To prevent basal rot put mounds of clean sand or perlite onto the spots where you want the bulbs to sit, so that the bulb bases won't touch the rotting compost. Then fill up the hole with alternating "good" soil and native dirt that originally came out of the hole. Mound it up a little to allow for soil settling. Cover with 2-3 inches of shredded hard wood mulch.

Whether or not bone meal, which is highly insoluble, is any more effective than a good soil mix alone, is debatable. I've planted tulips with and without bone meal, and haven't really noticed any difference. So use bone meal if you have it; otherwise, don't bother. The loose crumbly soil is probably more important. Likewise, if the soil is crumbly enough, I don't think the sand pile on which the bulb sits is critical. When I have been in a

hurry, the use of "good" soil seemed to make the most difference between bulbs just thrown into a hole and covered up, and those that had been carefully planted.

**Use mulch.** A covering of 2-3 inches of shredded hardwood mulch minimizes temperature fluctuations in the soil, conserves moisture, reduces weeding, and prevents dirt from splashing on the flowers in the spring. This means less cleaning to prepare the blooms for the show table. Do not use Canadian sphagnum peat moss for a mulch. Once it dries out it is extremely difficult to wet.

**Water when finished.** Water the planted bulbs so that all soil settles and that there are no air pockets into which roots will not grow. Or plant your bulbs just before the weatherman has promised rain.

### Annual Maintenance

**Mulch annually.** Perhaps the annual early spring mulching of my flower beds is the most effective labor I can do in my garden. As the mulch breaks down, it adds to the fertility and crumbly texture of the soil. The mulch acts as an insulator which minimizes frost heaving. It prevents many weed seeds from germinating. It keeps the flowers clean, and it makes the garden look neat.

**Add an extra scattering of fertilizer, 5-10-5, or slow-release urea, 45-0-0, before and after laying the mulch in order to provide extra nitrogen for the decay-causing organisms. Otherwise these organisms deprive the plants of the nitrogen they need for growth.**

Thus with a little bit of extra care at planting time, you, can have masses of color in your early spring garden without a lot of work. Even well-grown garden varieties can be blue ribbon winners on the show table.

### Sources for Bulbs

Good quality, inexpensive bulbs which do well both in the garden and on the show table can be purchased from DeJaeger Bulbs, 188 Asbury Street, Box 2010, South Hamilton, MA 09182, and Park Seed Company, Cokesbury Road, Greenwood SC 29647-0001.

[Editor's Note: A list of inexpensive garden & show cultivars, and an extensive list of sources, will appear in the next newsletter.]

**About the Author:** Sabina Sulgrove has a Ph.D in Botany and is currently the International Registrar for ivies (Hedera) and a technical editor and writer for the American Ivy Society. She is an avid gardener (as time permits), and a daffodil grower and daffodil judge.

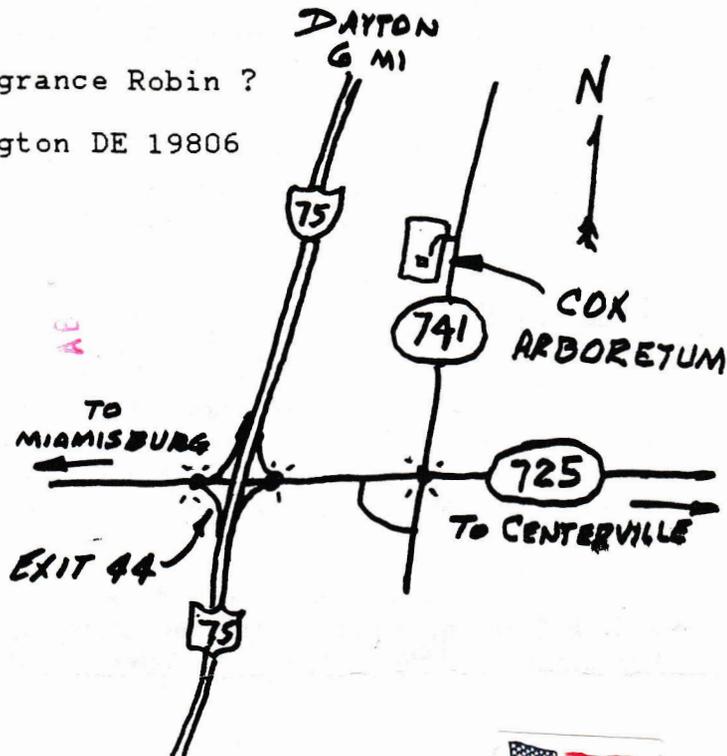
DATA BANK: Dr. Throckmorton tells us that the RHS has published a new Daffodil Checklist which contains all 23,00 registered names, classification where known, breeder, and date of registration. He is asking all members to send corrections to him for review and/or inclusion in the Data Bank.

ROUND ROBINS: Interested in The Fragrance Robin ?  
Contact: Mrs. Johannes R. Krahmer  
2201 Kentmere Pkwy., Wilmington DE 19806

NEED YOUR SHOW DATES - PLEASE

HOW TO GET TO COX ARBORETUM

Exit I-75 at the Miamisburg Centerville Exit 44, and go East on Rt. 725 to Rt. 741 get into left lane to turn North onto Rt. 741. Cox Arboretum is about a mile ahead on the left. Entrance on North edge of park.



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