



NARCISSUS NOTES

NEWSLETTER OF THE MIDWEST REGION

Spring 2005

OUR OFFICERS ARE:

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT:

Phyllis Hess 614-882-5720
3670 East Powell Road
Lewis Center, OH 43035 daffphyll@hotmail.com

REGIONAL DIRECTORS:

2005 - Tom Stettner, Jr. 513-351-6071
3818 Drakewood Dr.
Cincinnati, Ohio 45209 - tstettnerjr@cinci.rr.com

2006 - Suzy Wert 317-259-0060
7350 North Illinois Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46260 - limequilla@aol.com

2007 - Sally Heckscher 513-561-3812
4650 Walton Creek Drive
Cincinnati, OH 45243-4142 Heckschersr@aol.com

2008 - Sare Kinne 812-332-5603
8899 Baby Creek Road
Bloomington, IN 47408-9600 kinnpeet@aol.com

ADS OFFICERS:

President:

Mary Lou Gripshover 513-248-9137
1686 Grey Fox Trail
Milford, Ohio 45150 - Daffmlg@aol.com

ADS Executive Director:

Naomi Liggett 614-451-4747
4126 Winfield Drive
Columbus, Ohio 43220 - Naomijliggett@cs.com

ADS STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Chair Marketing/Public Relations
Bill Lee 513-752-6752
4606 Honey Hill Drive
Batavia, Ohio 45103 - Blee811@aol.com

Silent Auctions

Peg Newill 937-847-1661
2148 Sycamore View Court
Miamisburg, Ohio 45342-5725
103710.3426@compuserve.com

Nominating Committee and Librarian

Delores (Tag) Bourne 614-457-4526
1052 Shadyhill Court
Columbus, Ohio 43221 tagbourne@columbus.rr.com

Dear Daffodil Friends,

As I write this, I am in sunny Florida and about as far removed from our Region and its weather as I could be, so no references will be found as to what kind of winter and spring we have had.

I was able, with the help of good friend and my mentor Handy Hatfield, to dig and replant most of my daffodil beds last year. I anticipate having lots of gorgeous flowers this year!

I hope lots of you can attend the 2005 Convention to be held in St. Louis. Jason DeLaney who is the Chair has wonderful things planned for you. I will have the honor of hosting Peter and Leslie Ramsay, who will speak at the convention, and taking them out to St. Louis with me. If you have not met our friends from "down under" you are missing a treat. I have found all the visitors from the land down under to be most charming and friendly. Not to mention they grow some of the most wonderful daffodils to be found on the planet!

Our Region is hosting the Fall Board meeting of the ADS on October 1, in Columbus. I may call on some of you to help with plans, decorations, etc. I know we have lots of talent in our Region.

If you have the opportunity, visit one of the Daffodil Shows in our Region this year. Most of the shows have classes for small growers and first timers, so you could win a blue ribbon! Times and places for the shows are listed elsewhere. Better yet, join a local Society, it is a wonderful way to learn more about our favorite flower and to get lots of new bulbs, plus you will meet lots of nice people!

If you happen to meet one of our new members, please welcome them and give them all the advise and help you can.

They are:

Hugh Earnhart, 2935 Red Maple Lane, Poland OH, 44514-2423
Phone:330-757-4727
Margaret Kaiser, 4304 Schulte Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45205

My thanks again to Richard Ezell for speaking at our Fall Meeting, too bad more of you could not attend. It was a good time with lots of good food!

I am looking forward to meeting and seeing many of you at the various shows and in St. Louis at the Convention .

I hope you have a wonderful Spring with lots of beautiful flowers!

See you at the Shows!

Phyllis

MIDWEST REGION 2005 SPRING DAFFODIL SHOWS

APRIL 2, 2005 MIDWEST REGIONAL SHOW, LOUISVILLE KENTUCKY

Kentucky Daffodil Society at the Dunn Elementary School, 2010 Rudy Lane. Louisville, Kentucky
Contact: Hilda Dunaway, 3104 McMahan Boulevard, Louisville, KY 40220-2241 Phone: 502-458-7121
HTDunaway@aol.com

APRIL 7 - 9 AMERICAN DAFFODIL SOCIETY 51ST ANNUAL CONVENTION & SHOW, ST. LOUIS, MO.

Greater Saint Louis Daffodil Society, Sheraton Westport Chalet, St. Louis, Missouri
Contact: Jan Rahn, Registrar, 64 West Sherwood, St. Louis MO 63114 for more information on the event.

APRIL 16—17 2005 CINCINNATI, OHIO

Southwestern Ohio Daffodil Society at the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden, 3400 Vine St, Cincinnati Ohio
Contact: Tom Stettner, 3818 Drakewood Dr. Cincinnati OH 45209-2126 Phone: 513-602-1994
tstettnerjr@cinci.rr.com

APRIL 16—17 2005 YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

Fellows Riverside Gardens Daffodil Show at Fellows Riverside Gardens Mill Creek Metroparks, 123 McKinley Ave., Youngstown OH 44509
Contact: Keith Kaiser, 123 McKinley Ave., Youngstown OH 44509 Phone: 330-740-7116
kkaiser@cboss.com

APRIL 19, 2005 CHILLICOTHE, OHIO

Adena Daffodil Society Show at the Trinity Methodist Church, 82 East Main St., Chillicothe, OH 45601
Contact: Mary Ellen Sheridan, 83 East Fourth Street, Chillicothe OH 45601 Phone: 740-775-7595
NO E-MAIL

APRIL 21—22, 2005 INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

Indiana Daffodil Society at Meridian Street United Methodist Church, 5500 North Meridian St. Indianapolis IN
Contact: Kay Cunningham, 7828 West Ratliff Road, Bloomington, IN 47404 Phone: 812 876-7947
NO E-MAIL

APRIL 23—24, 2005 COLUMBUS, OHIO

Central Ohio Daffodil Society at Franklin Park Conservatory, 1770 East Broad Street, Columbus OH
Contact: Phyllis Hess, 3670 East Powell Road, Lewis Center, OH 43035 Phone: 614-882-5720
daffphyll@hotmail.com

MAY 1, 2005 NILES, MICHIGAN

Midwest Region of the ADS and Oakwood Daffodils at Bertrand Barn, 2330 West Bertrand, Niles, MI
Contact: Suzy Wert, 7350 North Illinois Street, Indianapolis, IN 46260 Phone: 317-259-0060
limequilla@aol.com

BE SURE TO PICK YOUR NICEST BLOOMS AND TAKE THEM TO THESE SHOWS. THERE WILL BE SOMEONE AVAILABLE TO HELP YOU PUT YOUR FLOWERS IN THE SHOW. WINNING BLUE RIBBONS IS FUN!! BUT MORE FUN IS ALL THE NICE PEOPLE YOU WILL MEET AT A DAFFODIL SHOW.

IF YOU HAVE ACCESS TO THE INTERNET THESE ARE SOME SITES YOU MIGHT ENJOY:

American Daffodil Society website: daffodilusa.org you will find links to many more sites as well.

Bill Pannill's website: <http://homepage.mac.com/daffybills/daffodils/>: wonderful video of how he gets ready for shows.

Mary Lou Gripshover, President of the American Daffodil Society writes a monthly article about daffodils and gardening. <http://www.suite101.com/welcome.cfm/daffodils>

Char's Daffodil Ridge site has some nice photos with division info: <http://www.cherylsdaffodilparty.com/Garden%20of%20the%20Month'04/GardMoChar.htm>

Daffodils in the UK web site has photos from down under as well as the UK: <http://www.btinternet.com/~pat.james4/>

**Peter Ramsay a good friend and noted hybridizer and judge has sent us some of his thoughts for this Newsletter:
DAFFODIL ISSUES FROM NEW ZEALAND**

PETER RAMSAY

Correspondence: 402 Matangi Rd, R.D. 4, Hamilton, New Zealand

"Forty years onwards, Afar and Asunder" – how well I remember singing this at High School! At that age five years didn't sound much. Now that Lesley and I are well past the forty years on, the five years since the World Convention in Portland seems to be a lengthy period in the greater scheme of things. It was certainly a longer absence than we had planned. We are sure, though, that when we attend our seventh ADS Convention (our first was Nashville in 1982) our many American friends will look just the same as when we last met – given the odd wrinkle or two. Certainly it is undeniable that Lesley and I have not changed in our appearance one little bit. Admittedly it takes a little longer to find things, to do things, to remember where we put things, and to understand why we have gone somewhere, to find something, and can't recall what it was that we wanted! We have also turned our mirrors face to the wall, and the photo which just appeared on my new driver's licence was not of me but the old bloke who was behind me in the line. These kind of errors are being made more frequently nowadays. We look forward to you judging the veracity of all this in St Louis!

At every ADS Conference we have attended we have learned something valuable – there are always new topics to discuss and old ones to rehearse. This time around we are interested in two major issues which confront us in New Zealand at present. Lesley, as the Senior Vice-President and incoming President of the National Daffodil Society of NZ (NDSNZ) wants to learn how the ADS goes about recruiting and retaining members – a hardy perennial for most floral and horticultural societies. We are also both very interested in another problematic area – how people become judges at a National level, what procedures are followed in the judging process, and how accreditation is affirmed for those who are already National judges. Lesley has recently been appointed to the membership of National Executive's subcommittee on judging which deals with the appointment and promotion of judges, while I am known as the most frequent moaner about the decisions of judges! We are therefore very ready to learn about new and better systems. A brief account of the present situation in New Zealand may explain why we are anxious to learn.

The NDSNZ is the world's second oldest national daffodil society – founded in 1926. It may surprise readers that – despite this mature age – the Society has never produced a judging manual! Or a cultural manual for that matter. We have survived on an outdated set of judging regulations and bits and pieces which have appeared in our publications. At the AGM of NDSNZ in 2002 a motion was passed unanimously asking for the omissions to be repaired. The judging manual was dealt with first. Executive formed a Working Party to prepare a draft. Lesley and I were on it, together with two of the most respected judges in New Zealand – Max Hamilton and Brian Parr. I am sure I was there as a ploy to stop me moaning. The ploy hasn't worked!

The working party sought and gained the permission of the Daffodil Society of Great Britain (DSGB) to use their Manual as a starting point. We took this step because this was a very well worked out volume (in its fifth edition), carefully worded but in a way that beginners could comprehend. Jargon is avoided and precision is apparent. Also of considerable importance was the fact that the United Kingdom and New Zealand have similar growing and showing conditions, although only parts of our South Island have the extremely cold Springs experience there. Thus very few flowers are produced from containers in New Zealand.

We also consulted various Royal Horticultural Society publications as well as the ADS Handbook and ideas were utilised from these sources. In 2003 the Working Party was able to provide National Executive with a draft manual for their consideration. After a lengthy period of time which can only be described as unpleasant for the working party, National Executive finally found a compromise position which allowed a draft manual to proceed to a trial period of two years beginning in 2004.

There are several features of the draft manual which may interest readers:

A points system has been adopted which emphasise the importance of form – 30 points of the 100 available are allocated here, the highest number of any system currently in operation.

The points allocated to size has been reduced from 20 which is the DSGB figure to 15 – the second lowest in the world. Size is "actual" not "size for cultivar", thus removing from the equation the impossible expectation placed on judges of knowing the average size of every cultivar in commerce, let alone seedlings. The time taken to consult the Register would prolong judging by hours! Colour is allocated fifteen points, condition, substance and texture 25 and stem and poise 15.

The points system is required to be used in two collection classes at each of the two National shows. Points cards are filled in by senior judges and placed alongside the first and second placed entries. It is hoped that this will be educative for other judges and the general public. Education at this point is very much in the minds of the writers of the manual. The points system is to be used elsewhere **only** when the contest is **very close**.

The purpose of all this (and these are only a few issues covered in an extensive manual) is to endeavour to attain consistency from judge to judge in decision making, and also to make individual judges more consistent from class to class. This may, perhaps, lessen New Zealand exhibitors' preoccupation with judging the judges before judging actually takes place. The NDSNZ has a very small membership which means that the preferences of individual judges are well known to the exhibitors. At National shows membership of the judging panels for the various sections of the show are published in advance. Experienced exhibitors know that if Mr B is the senior judge on a panel, flowers with very good form, not much colour and are rather small in size will win. A small fly speck will be enough to put a flower out of contention. Mr B will support his decision by saying that he is looking for perfection which means that form is worth ninety per cent and that even flowers eligible for intermediate classes get 10 out of fifteen points for size. This judge is not very interested in good cultivation techniques! At the other extreme we have Mrs P who will award prizes to large, colourful flowers which may have some slight form faults, and even a bit of dust and dropped pollen. Mrs P judges from three feet away, whereas Mr B wears heavy lenses for judging purposes and gets as close as possible to the flowers, face screwed up in concentration as he seeks out the slightest fault. In her defence Mrs P will proclaim loudly for all in the hall to hear that exhibitors must be rewarded for "well grown" flowers, that muddy and insipid flowers should not be shown and that flowers must have "presence" and "character". She knows that such terms are indefinable so the argument ends there!

Of course Mr B and Mrs P are fictitious characters and any resemblance to persons living or dead is purely coincidental. But if they did exist the Judging Manual may make them more accountable and perhaps their differences may be reduced. I say reduced not eliminated – no amount of legislation will eliminate personal preference and value judgements.

But what if Mr B and Mrs P refuse to change their ways. Therein lies the rub. New Zealand does have a tolerably good (albeit not very rigorous) system of training judges which is based on a master-apprenticeship model. It does though have some weaknesses:

*While senior judges are required to report on the performance of their apprentices, hearsay has it that many senior judges' feedback to their apprentices is very uneven and sometimes non-existent. Their teaching model appears to be based on "observe how I do it, and do as I do" with very little explanation of the rationale underlying their decisions. At the other end of the spectrum, some senior judges sit down with their apprentices and go over the report they will make and its recommendations. It is little wonder that the apprentices, after judging with different senior judges, become confused – especially as in the past there has been no manual to guide anyone!

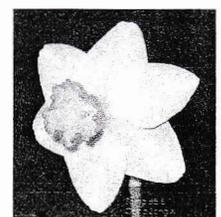
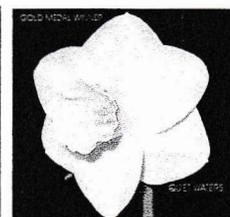
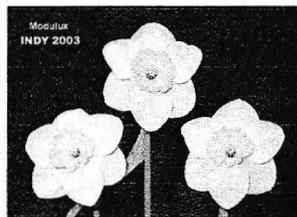
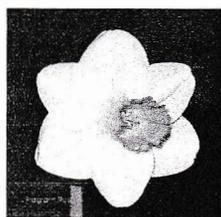
*The operation of the judging subcommittee of Executive is not transparent – indeed it is mystery to most. They do not report to AGM, nor is there a specified place for them on Executive agenda. I am hoping pillow talk will help to inform me here!

*And, worst of all senior judges are not assessed by anyone and appear to be life appointments. Like Caesar's wife, they are beyond reproach. As Plato once argued, we need some way of guarding the guardians!

All of the above and more demonstrates why we want to study the USA system. We will welcome any literature, personal experiences and novel ideas that you can offer. Lesley and I look forward to the discussion.

I want to thank Peter so much for his thought provoking article!

Some Tom Stettner Photos from the 2004 Shows. Thanks again Tom for all your wonderful photos!!



Mary Lou Gripshover, our ADS President, sends this account of her recent trip to Portugal. Thanks so much Mary Lou!

Portugal, 2005

When Phyllis asked me to write something for the newsletter, she said I could pick any topic I chose. So I thought you might be interested in hearing about my trip to Portugal last week, when Kathy Andersen, Kathy Welsh and I went looking for species.

With some telephone advice from John Blanchard, and from reading his articles in back issues of the RHS Yearbooks, we were able to find several species we'd not seen before. The first one we found was bulbocodium, presumably *N. obesus*. There were lots with fat trumpets, but not all had the prostrate foliage that is supposed to be a characteristic of *N. obesus*. Some did, but I think the others were just fat bulbocodiums.

We headed south, looking for various forms of *N. jonquilla* and its varieties and subspecies, but were not successful. Either we were in the wrong place, or the bulbs had not appeared this year. It's very dry in Portugal, much of the country seems to be in drought conditions, and much of the country seemed to have been subject to fires recently.

We drove further south and found some tazettas and more bulbocodiums. It was nice to see paperwhites growing in the open. We followed John's directions to a location where *N. calcicola* reputedly grows. It would have helped if I was part mountain goat, but I made it to the very top of the "hill." We found only one in bloom, but several with seedpods. Some were blooming over the side of the cliff, but there's no way on God's green earth that I'd have even attempted to get to them! But we all photographed the one open bloom.

With little success in the South, we decided to head north. We found *N. scaberulus* growing in the Mondego River valley, again following John's directions. These were in sandy pockets in the sandstone cliff face, along the top of the cliff, and along the river bank. They are really cute!

Again with John's directions, we found *N. triandrus concolor*, which I understand is now to be known as *N. lusitanicus*. Personally, I prefer *N. triandrus concolor*, but they didn't ask me! These are lovely golden triandrus with up to four or more blooms on a stem.

On our way back to Lisbon, we decided to check for *N. calcicola* at another reported site near Mira d'Aire. Again, being a mountain goat would have helped!! We found them growing at the very top of the hill in giant limestone boulders. They were not in great abundance, but we found them.

In most of the places we found the species, there had been a fire in the not too distant past. My coat can attest to that fact, as it's covered in black ash! Now, whether this simply clears out the trees so the bulbs get more light, or whether there's something to be said for the additional potash, I don't know. But since I'm not about to use a flamethrower over my daffodil beds, I think I'll add a bit of potash to my plantings. Can't hurt . . .

SOME REMINDERS:

Youth Membership in the ADS is only \$5, good gift for that Son, Daughter, or Grandchild you would like to catch Yellow Fever. Adult memberships are cheaper if you join for 3 years, only \$50. . Contact Naomi Liggett our Executive Director. Naomi also has books, pins, the International Data Bank on CD: which contains around 4000 photos and lists 15,000 daffodils all for just \$79. Check the inside back cover of your *Journal* for other items available from her office.

It's that time again, please be thinking about someone who would like to be a Regional Director, the term of office would start in 2006 and run through 2009. We would like to welcome Sare Kinne who was elected to the office at the Fall Board Meeting, her term will be from 2005 to 2008.

We also need a candidate for the Regional Nominating Committee for 2006. Since I was elected for the 2005 term please send any nominations or suggestions for nominations to me at daffphyll@hotmail.com.

When you dig this summer, be sure to save some bulbs to bring to the Fall Regional Meeting.

Be sure to mark your calendar to attend your "favorite" daffodil show this spring, there is a new one being held in Youngstown, and Niles Michigan will have their show for the second time. Everyone enjoyed this last season show last year!