

It's Showtime! April, 2004

Well, in my part of the world, it's showtime. In some parts of the country the shows are over, but April brings out the shows in this region. The local show will be held on April 10-11, and judging by my garden, it might be a small show. But daffodil growers are never satisfied. The season is either too early, and they worry all the flowers will be over; or it's late and there won't be any flowers for the show. I suppose it's that way for most people who show their favorite flower. I do keep records of the first bloom each year, and a quick check just now showed that this season is just a few days later than last year. It's cold and rainy now, but with a few days of warm weather, flowers will begin opening.

There are two groups of miniature daffodils: those that begin the season, and another group that blooms late in the season. The early ones tend to bloom before standard daffodils, and coupled with the fact that I grow most of my miniatures along the south wall of my house, they began blooming several weeks ago. So it does extend the season.



I was invited to help judge a show in Knoxville, Tennessee, last week. It was a lovely show, with a great variety of daffodils on display. Show Chairman Lynn Ladd was also a very successful exhibitor, winning the ADS Gold Ribbon for the best standard bloom in the show with a lovely bloom of 'Lemon Lyric'. This came from her winning collection of 24 different cultivars. She also took first place in the class for a collection of five cultivars bred in Ireland, which included 'Mount Fuji', 'Gold Bond', 'Regal Bliss', 'Pismo Beach' and 'Ethereal Beauty'.

The best miniature in the show was a stem of 'Dandubar' which had five florets on the stem. It came from my winning collection of 12 miniature cultivars. I also won the ribbon for the best collection of American-bred miniature daffodils, which included several of my own raising. It's exciting to win with something you've raised from seed to blooming size, a period that can vary from 5 to 7 years. The flowers were 'Small Talk', 95-53, 'Norwester', 'Yellow Fever' and 97-16.

Shows are also social events, providing a good opportunity to get to know others who share your



interest. Check the website of The American Daffodil Society at www.daffodilusa.org to see if there's a show near you. Then, if you have flowers, take a few to enter. Even if you don't enter, go visit the show to see the wide range of daffodils that will grow in your area. You may be surprised at the variety.

Thanks to my friend, Tom Stettner, for permission to use his photos which accompany this article.