

THE DAFFODIL BULLETIN

Quarterly News Letter of the American Daffodil Society

Fall Number

October 1956

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

The 1957 Convention in Mansfield

Dr. R. C. Allen tentatively set April 27-28 as the convention dates for the American Daffodil Society at Kingwood Center, Mansfield, Ohio. Two new features will be our first Test Garden planting and a Judges' School.

Some New Additions

Permit me to announce that Mrs. J. Whitton Gibson of West Orange, N. J. will fill the place on the Board of Directors of the American Daffodil Society created by the resignation of Mrs. William C. Meissner. Congratulations, Mrs. Gibson. And we are sorry Mrs. Meissner, it's not as late as you say! Mrs. Gibson is a garden power in New Jersey and a lovely lady.

Also, we welcome Mrs. Goethe Link of Indianapolis to the Board. Mrs. Link is also President of the newly formed Indiana Daffodil Society. Great work, Helen.

And Mrs. Edward J. Storey of Mamaroneck, N. Y. completes the additions to the Board. Mrs. Storey we regard as a great addition.

Mrs. Walter Colquitt, 487 Albany St., Shreveport, La. has consented to become our first Registrar. Mrs. Colquitt is a former Registrar for the American Iris Society. We are very fortunate to have Minnie Colquitt. We are confident that Mrs. Colquitt in co-operation with Mrs. J. Robert Walker, Chairman of the general committee on Classification and Registration, will get this function going. Write Mrs. Colquitt if you have any ideas.

Charles W. Culpepper, 4435 Pershing Drive, Arlington, Va. has been appointed chairman of the Liaison Committee, and his principal duties will be the handling of routine technical questions with reference to Daffodils.

Miscellaneous - from all the Regions

Mrs. Lawrence R. Wharton, V. P. for the Mid-Atlantic Region, writes that she is perfecting plans for a Regional Convention at Frederick, Maryland the last week in March next year - where a Judging School plus several top line lectures on Daffodils will feature a one-day meeting and visiting session. Mrs. Wharton has perfected a very fine Regional Committee and is now busy trying to coordinate shows, list everyone's gardens and what Daffodils they grow. She also says that she can work out at least three excellent Test Gardens and is looking for one in West Virginia. She tells her own story on page 4.

Have you who are on that committee, sent in your Symposium Report to Charles Meehan, Box 123, Chesterfield, S. C.? The Symposium will be in the Year Book later in the year. Charlie is doing a job.

Mrs. Wm. A. Bridges, Treasurer
10 Othoridge Road
Lutherville, Maryland

Willis H. Wheeler, Secretary
3171 N. Quincy Street
Arlington, Virginia

Freeman A. Weiss, Editor
3223 Vista St., N. E.
Washington 18, D. C.

Correspondence regarding membership and dues should be sent to the Treasurer.
Communications for the Bulletin and the Yearbook should be sent to the Editor,
or (especially regarding daffodil shows and garden visits) to Associate Editor
Mrs. Channing M. Bolton, Box 179, Fairfax, Virginia

Mrs. R. O. Powelson, V. P. for the Central States Region, is recovering from a recent illness. Be careful, my dear, be careful.

Serena Bridges announces completion of a manual text covering definitions and regulations of Judging Schools, Accredited Shows, Test Gardens, Test Garden Judges and Consultants, Honors and Awards. Same will appear shortly in the Annual Year Book.

Elizabeth Capen, Regional V.P. for North East Region, is about to make a deal with the New York Botanical Garden for a Test and Display Garden. A terrific deal!

Dr. Harold King, Chairman of the Committee on Health and Culture, says his committee is about ready with the first real manual on the subject ever written. It will be in the Year Book.

Mrs. Kenneth B. Anderson, V. P. for the Far West Region, has recently worked out a fine Test Garden set-up with a local college. She also is planning several shows next year. Excellent, Polly.

Walter E. Thompson of Birmingham, Ala. announces arrangements with the Alabama Polytechnic Institute for a Test Garden for the Southern Region. That's what I call cooperation!

Serena Bridges and Hubert Fischer have gone on a diet! And Fay Pearce retired to look for another job. Well, well! Mrs. Elsie Hovis did a great job at the Tennessee State Fair - just concluded - on behalf her Southern Region. Alita Weaver plans an all New England Regional meeting, perhaps in Hartford, Conn. next spring. And Elizabeth Capen is shining up a bell wether show for New Jersey and New York. The Lady Foster has gotten more new members in Oklahoma than any one Region - (so Serena Bridges says - The Lady never writes me.)

Did you see those pictures of convention personalities Larry Mains made last April? The guy is an engineer by profession--but he is also a very fine artist with a camera.

George S. Lee, our philosophic first Vice-President, has been sending around an editorial taken from a Chicago daily newspaper comparing Daffodils to Marilyn Monroe and justifying by inference the high prices of novelties on the theory that they go on and on, ad infinitum, multiplying, whereas the editor has some doubt about the same being true of Marilyn. What are we trying to prove anyway, George?

Executive Committee My last announcement. The Executive Committee will meet at 1 P.M. November 3, next at the Kenwood Country Club, Washington, D. C. The Committee will spend the afternoon and evening on its crowded agenda with breaks for lunch and dinner. The Executive Committee comprises Mrs. Jesse Hakes, Harry I. Tuggle, Mrs. Lawrence R. Wharton, George S. Lee, Mrs. William A. Bridges, Willis H. Wheeler and Carey E. Quinn.

The Executive Committee would like to have all committee chairmen and is especially anxious to have with us our Editor, Willard A. King, L. G. McNairy, William H. Wood, Dr. Harold S. King and Charles Meehan. Those in attendance can spend the night at Kenwood Club if they so desire.

So Long - I just got in 3 boxes of Daffodil bulbs. Where do you think I'm headed.

Carey Quinn

TRAVEL

Willis H. Wheeler, the Society Secretary, returned on September 25 from two and one half months of travel in Europe on official business for the United States Department of Agriculture. While in Europe he had an opportunity to meet various bulb growers and shippers in France and the Netherlands, as well as the begonia and gloxinia producers in Belgium. He also spent a few days in the British Isles and was able to call on both Guy L. Wilson and W. J. Dunlop of Broughshane, County Antrim, Northern Ireland who sent their greetings to daffodil enthusiasts in the U. S.

UNREGISTERED DAFFODIL NAMES

It has come to the attention of the Committee on Classification and Registration that the daffodils "Fortune" and "Mrs. E. H. Krelage" may be offered by some dealers under the unregistered names of "Wheel of Fortune" and "White King Alfred" respectively. We are sure members will understand those varieties can be exhibited at the shows only under their correct names.

NEW MEMBERS

Speaking of names, here are some that are registered - as new members of the American Daffodil Society. A glad hand to them all! And this reminds us to ask whether any of our Daffodil friends who are members of this Society, or who think they are, are not receiving the Daffodil Bulletin, specifically this number. It has been quite a job for the Treasurer, the Editor, and our printer to bring order into the chaos in which our address list had gotten. We hope that all is well now, but if it isn't your notification to us of any difficulty still remaining will receive prompt attention.

Mrs. J. W. Berndt
Box 90
Stevensville, Michigan
W. J. Green
Pilgrims' Cottage
Haynes, Bedford, England
Mrs. Edward H. Kocher
163 Reserve Street
Boonton, New Jersey
Judge Dirk A. Kuyk
2827 Wilton Road S. W.
Roanoke, Virginia
Mrs. Otis R. Moore
Box 145
Bedminster, New Jersey
Mrs. E. E. Mueser
105 Lake Drive
Mountain Lakes, New Jersey

Mrs. R. M. Nugent
1207 Princeton
Midland, Texas
Mrs. Burton J. Ray
808 Clay Street
Franklin, Virginia
Mrs. Leland Rice
1215 Barney
Fortuna, California
Mrs. R. L. Ross
112 Outlook Drive
Tallmadge, Ohio
Mrs. Herbert Shinkle
Timberline Gardens, Route 1
Clayton, Ohio
Mrs. Lowry Wright
Nesbit, Mississippi

Mrs. Matthew Linton, Bernardsville, New Jersey, is the first to call our attention to the oversight of not having listed her as a member of this Society. She is!

NEMATODES BEWARE!

Nematode (or eelworm) parasites of plants have been, with few exceptions - notably the root-knot inducing kind - among the most neglected of plant enemies. This has been due partly to their habit of working mostly underground, partly also to the extreme scarcity of qualified students to investigate their kinds and ways of life. It is

gratifying, therefore, to be able to report that the nematologists are not only becoming more numerous (thanks largely to the pioneer work as investigators and teachers of Nathan A. Cobb and Gotthold Steiner, former workers - and we do mean work - in the United States Department of Agriculture) but they are becoming organized too. From Dr. W. R. Jenkins, Plant Pathologist of the University of Maryland, comes this note about a "Nematode Workshop" that was held at that University last summer. Dr. Jenkins wrote, "We are always happy to let people know that we're working on this problem." Daffodil growers will be happy, too: nematode problems are still a serious problem sometimes.

"During the week of August 6 - 11, a Nematology Workshop was held at the University of Maryland under the sponsorship of the Northeastern Regional Nematode Project. Instructors were A. L. Taylor, Section of Nematology, United States Department of Agriculture, A. J. Braun and W. F. Mai of Cornell University, Clive Loos of the University of Rhode Island, and W. R. Jenkins from the University of Maryland.

"Twenty-six plant pathologists from Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Iowa, Ohio, and the United States Department of Agriculture attended and received instruction in control, identification, and morphology of nematodes and diseases caused by them.

"Interest was high and participation excellent in the group. It is expected that much work will soon be done by these people in the growing field of plant nematology."
- W. R. Jenkins

LIBRARY DEPARTMENT

From Mrs. John S. Moats, Librarian of the American Daffodil Society.
Her address: 5609 Harwick Road, Washington 16, D.C. Send your questions and suggestions regarding daffodil and other garden literature to her. The following listed books have been added to our Library.

Downey, E. F. Improving your garden through soil management. 1955. 250 p.

"Plants do their best in soil containing proper nutrients in proper proportions. In this book, the author, a soil analysis expert, tells how to determine the needs of your garden soil and how to correct its deficiencies." Book Review Digest, 1955.

Kellogg, C. E. Our garden soils. 1952. 232 p.

"An internationally known expert on agricultural soils discusses the general aspects of soils and gardening, fertilizers, barnyard manure, drainage, etc., for the amateur gardener." Book Review Digest, 1952.

American Society for Horticultural Science and the National Plant Food Institute. The care and feeding of garden plants. 1954. 282 p.

"Wide in scope, this unique book covers in full detail every aspect of plant nutrition. Featured in this strikingly illustrated volume are remarkable full-color illustrations that clearly show how leaves, blossoms, and fruits of house and garden plants should look when growing normally. In the same color plate they are then shown as they would look if they were deficient in nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium or other trace elements so essential for healthy, growing plants, etc." From the Book Jacket.

REPORTS FROM THE REGIONS: MIDDLE ATLANTIC

The Middle Atlantic Region of the American Daffodil Society feels very honored that the Society was founded in this region.

The first meeting to organize the American Daffodil Society was held on April 9, 1954 at Woodward and Lothrop's Auditorium in Chevy Chase, Maryland. Everyone at the meeting was most encouraging and enthusiastic to get under way.

I was asked last year to be Vice-president of this Region which covers Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia, Virginia, and West Virginia. I tried to divide the states into sections, appointing a chairman for each section. The chairmen were asked to publicize the American Daffodil Society and to obtain as many new members as possible; also to send in the names of qualified daffodil judges in their sections so we could have a complete list on file.

Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Maryland have been having daffodil shows for a great many years, also Washington, D. C., and West Virginia. I cannot tell you off-hand just when some of the shows in the other states were started.

Maryland's first daffodil show was held 35 years ago and has increased in size every year. There are 41 garden clubs in the Maryland Daffodil Society; each club pays dues of \$10, which covers the entire club. We have had as many as 5,000 specimen blooms in one show besides having six arrangement classes. Our shows have been held for a great many years at the Baltimore Museum of Art, and are very well attended.

There are also many test gardens in this Region. Mr. Wister's at Swarthmore in Pennsylvania is especially well known. In Virginia there are four large ones. The George Heath's, Mrs. Pratt's Little England, Mrs. Robert Walker's, and Mr. Harry Tuggle's. Mrs. Jesse Hakes is now starting a test garden in Maryland. There may be several others that I do not know about, and if there are, please tell me.

I am now in the process of forming a committee to organize our first Regional meeting which we hope to hold in March. Toward the end of April when the daffodils are in bloom, we plan to hold our first judges' school course, just before the annual meeting.

- Louise H. Wharton

L'ALLEGRO DEPARTMENT

"Hence, loathed Melancholy" - J. Milton

From the Chicago Daily Tribune, under date of August 24, 1956.

More Newsworthy
Than Marilyn

The British popular press went all out on the recent arrival in London of Miss Marilyn Monroe. Tons of newsprint were devoted to Miss Monroe's charms.

The Times of London did not join in this. In fact, a tabloid taunted its editors with the fact that whereas they had found some 20 inches of valuable space for a review of a bulb catalog, not so much as a line was given to informing their readers that "The Wiggle" was on British soil.

Curious as to what the readers of the Times would find in a new bulb catalog, we borrowed some current British lists from a gentleman in Hinsdale. These are daffodil catalogs. The Dutch lead the world in marketing of tulips and most other spring bulbs, but there is no climate in the world so perfectly suited to the cultivation of daffodils and the breeding of new varieties as that of County Antrim. The shows and field trials in which Irish innovations win their world-wide recognition are held in England.

It has been said, in fact, that to be a successful daffodil breeder you must have had an Irish father, or preferably a grandfather, to bequeath you his seedlings and breeding

stock. For the production of a new daffodil, and the accumulation of a salable quantity of its bulbs, is the work of decades.

Seedlings, obtained by crossing two varieties, take from five to nine years to produce a flowering bulb. If one of these seedling blooms wins an award of merit or a certificate at London or Birmingham, the grower has a valuable asset, but it takes him another 10 years to cash in. Daffodils increase only at a doubling rate. It takes 10 years for a single bulb to increase to about 500. And so, if you would be a daffodil fancier, be prepared to pay.

This last season Guy L. Wilson, who succeeded to the gardens of his uncle, A. M. Wilson, at Broughshane, County Antrim, and at 75 is considered the dean of daffodil breeders, offered a few bulbs of a new variety named Knowehead at \$70.25 each. This is by no means a record. Last spring Mr. Wilson brought to this country four bulbs of another variety, which he has not yet introduced commercially, and had no trouble finding buyers for them at \$200 apiece.

Daffodil catalogs are as explicit of lineage as the Jockey club's studbook. Knowehead is a cross between Cotterton and Broughshane. Broughshane, which Mr. Wilson pronounces "in some respects the most remarkable thing I have raised up to date," won an award of merit from the Royal Horticultural society in 1943. It is a giant white flower, 5½ inches in diameter. It has increased to the extent that you can now buy a single bulb for \$2.11. Its parents were Trostan and Kanchenjunga. Kanchenjunga, which won its award in 1940, now costs only 84 cents a bulb.

J. Lionel Richardson, another of the great Irish breeders, sold a magnificent variety called Arbar five years ago for \$112. Today it costs \$14. We know a man in Northbrook who has 10 of them, descendants of a single \$112 bulb. He can afford them. Last year he sold a single day lily plant, a seedling he had developed, for a thousand dollars.

These daffodils have the same basis of value that Marilyn has. They are, each in its own way, unique. But 20 years from now they will have increased to form a startling patch of beauty in the spring sun. Wonder if the same can be said of Miss Monroe?

In response to which Mr. Wilson wrote to the Editor, dated Sept. 21.

The Knockan, Broughshane,
Ballymena, Co. Antrim.,
N. Ireland.

Dear Dr. Weiss,

Mr. Willis Wheeler, who was here a few days ago, has just sent me the enclosing amusing cutting from the Chicago Daily Tribune. As I have said in a letter acknowledging it to Mr. Wheeler, the writer is quite a bit off the rails here and there. My Irish Father and Grandfather had no particular interest in daffodils at all. I did not succeed to anyone's gardens. The late A. M. Wilson, who bred daffodils not in Co. Antrim, Northern Ireland but in Radnorshire in England, was not related to me in any way. I am not 75 yet, only 71 last birthday. However, let that all pass!

I shall never forget the wonderful time that Mr. Wootton and I spent amongst you all in Washington last April; a bit hectic and rushed no doubt, but it was very delightful to experience such amazing kindness and hospitality and to meet such a crowd of charming and interesting people.

With every good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

(signed) Guy L. Wilson

TO DAFFODIL BREEDERS -- A FEW SUGGESTIONS

The American Daffodil Society invites the cooperation of all Daffodil Breeders who name their originations to help prevent confusion by clearing the names with the Society's Registrar before using them.

The registration of Daffodil varieties has certain advantages: (1) It makes them eligible for awards within the jurisdiction of the American Daffodil Society (and the Royal Horticultural Society); (2) It gives publicity to the breeder and to the variety; (3) It permits them to be exhibited in competition in any flower show accredited by the American Daffodil Society.

Seedlings should have flowered at least three times under number, in order to reveal their true qualities, before naming is considered. All the stock should still be in one person's hands at the time of introduction.

The Royal Horticultural Society classified list of Daffodil names should be consulted, before choosing a name for registration, to see whether or not it is already in use.

It is advisable to choose simple, usable names, easily spelled and pronounced but different enough from those already in use so as not to cause confusion.

Registration may be undertaken by filling in the application form adopted by the American Daffodil Society and submitting it to the Registrar together with the Registration Fee.

APPLICATION BLANK

APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION - AMERICAN DAFFODIL SOCIETY

Proposed name of seedling - Indicate pronunciation, if unusual name.

Number of seedling - Number of times it has flowered

Classification - Seed Parent - Pollen Parent

Relative flowering date

Name of originator - Name of introducer

Description - (color, form, substance, height, foliage, pose, quality, etc.)
Specimen or color photograph.

Awards received

In what way do you consider this Daffodil an improvement over or different from existing varieties?

Signature and address of Applicant

Date

Signatures of endorsing Registration Committee members

As regards Classification, the ADS proposes to follow the present RHS Classification until such time as it is modified by the RHS.

Daffodil Breeders Registered with the American Daffodil Society

Elmo L. Agee
Bluefield, W. Va.
C. M. Bass
Richmond, Va.
C. W. Culpepper
Arlington, Va.
Orville W. Fay
Wilmette, Ill.
Hubert A. Fischer
Hinsdale, Ill.
Mrs. Paul Garrett
Bowling Green, Ky.
Harold S. King
Darlington, Md.
Mrs. John Levison
San Francisco, Calif.
Charles Meehan
Chesterfield, S. C.
Grant E. Mitsch
Canby, Ore.
Frank Reinelt
Capitola, Calif.
F. N. Rhines
Oakmont, Pa.

Mrs. John A. Ridley
Stony Creek, Va.
Mrs. Ben M. Robertson
Taylors, S. C.
H. R. Simmons
La Grange, Georgia
Donnell M. Smith
Stevenson, Md.
Mrs. C. E. Straub, Jr.
Christiansburg, Va.
Harry I. Tuggle
Martinsville, Va.
Mrs. George D. Watrous, Jr.
Washington, D. C.
Willis H. Wheeler
Arlington, Va.
Frank G. Winter
Hinsdale, Ill.
William H. Wood
Cleveland, Ohio
Mrs. Fletcher D. Woodward
Charlottesville, Va.