

# The Daffodil Bulletin

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CAREY E. QUINN

1010 Vermont Avenue, N.W.

Washington, D. C.

*Editor*

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## EDITORIAL

Greetings to all of you from your new editor. I hope I will have the cooperation of each of you. I will need your help partly because I am being asked to fill the shoes of one of the ablest horticulturists in the country, namely the lovable Freeman Weiss, who unfortunately has been forced to ask to be relieved by reason of the press of personal business.

## A SHORT INAUGURAL ADDRESS

My first word to the membership as top man on the totem pole is one of friendly greeting and a promise to be mindful of the interests of each of you in the administration of your Society.

More members, a kindling of interest in daffodils where little now exists, improved publications, a sound policy for awards, accrediting judges and approving shows, and development of a harmonious relationship between our regional and national activities are some of the goals before us.

I shall rely heavily on your continued interest and support.

GEO. S. LEE, JR.

## PRESIDENT ADVISES

Two new vice presidents have taken over since the Mansfield Convention: Ray Allen our genial host at the happy

occasion, is now First Vice President with responsibility for keeping in touch with the activities of the regional vice presidents; and Willis Wheeler, probably in deference to the awesome power he exercises over our imported bulbs, has been promoted to Second Vice President where he will keep in touch with all committee operations.

Committee assignments are about complete and each member will receive a copy of the full committee on which he is to serve. Many changes have been made, not in judgment of past performance, but as a policy of bringing new talent forward whenever it becomes possible. A new Publicity Committee has been created and expansion of membership activities is in prospect.

GEO. S. LEE, JR.

## HELP WANTED

We are losing many potential new members by failing to set up and staff a membership display at daffodil shows. A volunteer is needed to lay out and supervise production of a hundred or so kits consisting of large colored cards with a pocket for membership blanks. Volunteers for this chore please report to G. S. Lee, Jr., 17 Chichester Road, New Canaan, Conn. If you can do it, don't leave it for the other fellow; he may not volunteer either.

## 1st VICE PRESIDENT ADVISES HELP YOUR REGIONAL VEEP

The key to the success of the American Daffodil Society lies with the Regional Vice Presidents. They are the ones who, through the intimate knowledge and con-



tacts can stimulate interest in daffodil culture and uses. Strong regional membership, organization and activities will add materially to the prestige and value of the national society. Give your regional vice president generously of your ideas and help and be ready to assist him in all regional programs and activities.

My *first* suggestion to all Regional Vice Presidents is to contact *at once* all Directors in your Region and set up a working team.

Second — Plan now for a Regional meeting — with a Judging School if you want it — next spring.

RAY ALLEN  
*First Vice President*

## 2nd VICE PRESIDENT ADVISES

You will note that our president has indicated that I am to keep in touch with all committee operations. For that reason I will expect to hear from the committee chairmen from time to time to learn of progress they are making and the problems they face. At the same time I shall expect to receive questions on committee program and duties which I will try to answer. As a beginning I shall be pleased to receive estimates of money that may be needed by the committees in their operations for the ensuing year.

WILLIS H. WHEELER  
*Second Vice President*

## REGIONAL ADVICES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

This space hereinafter will be at the special disposal of the nine Regional Vice Presidents. The Editor hopes all nine of you will use it.

Says Polly Anderson, West Coast Vice President:

Greetings from the Far West Region to the new officers and committeemen of the American Daffodil Society! The Kingwood convention was very stimulating.

We start this new year in our region with a very loosely organized member-

ship, but with many plans for extending our activities.

One very experienced member has offered to head a round robin.

We are compiling another news letter, for distribution this month.

MRS. KENNETH B. ANDERSON  
4810 Palm Drive, La Canada, Cal.

As your Regional Vice President for the coming year I hope that all of you will send me ideas and suggestions of what you would like to have done in the district.

I have been approached by several members concerning having a district show and meeting in the spring. Our two major problems are finances and location. If you have any suggestions, let's have them.

Mrs. R. L. Ross, Tallmadge, Ohio, has written that they are planning a really fine show for next spring. Good work, Mrs. Ross!

MRS. GOETHE LINK  
R.R. 6, Box 152, Martinsville, Ind.

A summary of the Second Annual Convention at Mansfield, Ohio, by its Host, Ray C. Allen.

## THE ANNUAL MEETING IN RETROSPECT

It was a great honor for the Mid-West Region to serve as hosts to the American Daffodil Society for its Second Annual Meeting and we are particularly grateful for the splendid cooperation we received from the national officers. Many people were involved in the planning but the following were especially helpful and served as the general committee: Mr. Wells Knierim, Chagrin Falls, Ohio; Mr. Hubert A. Fischer, Hinsdale, Illinois; Mr. O. B. Van Sickle, Akron 2, Ohio; Mr. Clair W. Johnson, Akron, Ohio; Mrs. Wayland C. Marlow, Jr., Granville, Ohio; Mrs. Eva F. Montgomery, Granville, Ohio; Mrs. Winifred W. Lindsey, Granville, Ohio; Mr. William Wood, Mantua, Ohio; Mr. Fred Ramsthaler, Barberton, Ohio; Mrs. Goethe Link, In-



dianapolis, Indiana; Mrs. Paul Karnath, Dayton 3, Ohio. In addition special mention should be made of the great help given by Mrs. R. L. Ross of Tallmage, Ohio, who not only provided many ideas, but participated in the program and was responsible for getting the special exhibits and many of the flower arrangements for the show. Other groups that were particularly helpful included the Flower Arranger Club, of Mansfield and Akron, the Akron Flowers for the Church Club, the Garden Club of Ohio, Judges Guild and the Kingwood Garden Center committee.

A total of 168 persons registered for part or all of the meeting and 24 states and the District of Columbia were represented. The daffodil competitive show included about 1400 entries. Some 12,447 people attended the show and visited the garden displays.

Everyone was indebted to the daffodil hybridizers and growers in the United States, Great Britain and Holland who had sent in about 450 varieties for the variety test garden which included the Associated Bulb Growers of Holland, Daffodil Mart, Gloucester County, Virginia; W. J. Dunlop, Broughshane, Balymena, Northern Ireland; G. W. Wilson, the Knocker, Broughshane, Northern Ireland; Little England Daffodil Farm, Bena, Virginia; Grant E. Mitsch, Canby, Oregon; Oregon Bulb Farms, Box 512 Canby, Oregon, and John Swain Ltd., the Seedhouse, Bristol, England.

Much of the credit for the success of the meeting should go to the people who participated in the educational program. We were honored by having such top authorities as Jan De Graaf of Gresham, Ore., Dr. S. L. Emsweller of Beltsville, Md., Dr. Freeman Weiss, Washington, D. C., Gustave Springer, New York City, Harry Tuggle of Martinsville, Va., and Whillis Wheeler of Arlington, Va. There was also local talent on the program in the persons of Mrs. R. L. Ross of Tallmage, Ohio and Carlton B. Lees of the Kingwood Staff.

The Daffodil Judging School was the first to be held in the region and 69 members completed the school including the examination. Heading the school was Mrs. William A. Bridges, assisted by Harry Tuggle.

R. C. ALLEN  
*First Vice President*

(The Convention Host could hardly praise himself. Let the Editor say that our Host, Ray Allen, did a magnificent job, perfect in every detail, and fitting to beautiful Kingwood Center. CEQ)

By reason of the peculiar seasonal importance of certain of the lectures presented at the Convention, the Editor has asked the authors to give you herewith a brief summary.

**Dr. S. L. Emsweller, director, ornamental plants, U. S. Department of Agriculture, said on the subject of the culture of daffodils:**

## CULTURE OF NARCISSII

Narcissii are relatively easy to grow. Buying bulbs from a reliable dealer is good insurance you will obtain flowers. The type of soil best suited to narcissii is a medium well-drained loam. Soils, however are not too important and gardeners, using what they have available are growing good plants all over the country.

Planting should be done early enough for the bulbs to establish heavy roots before the ground freezes. In experiments at Beltsville, the early plantings gave better results than the late. Depth of planting depends on soil type. Plant deeper on light soils and where severe freezing is expected.

In using fertilizers be careful with nitrogen. High nitrogen increases the severity of basal rot. Irrigation is important in dry years. Plants should have ample moisture especially after flowering when next year's bulbs are forming. Digging should be delayed until the tops die down. Early digging reduces bulb size and cuts flower yield next year.



**Freeman Weiss, Curator, American Type Culture, said on the subject of keeping your daffodils healthy, the following:**

The Daffodil, while one of the healthiest plants in cultivation, is nevertheless heir to some difficulties, and they arise not alone from mistakes of culture. Let us, therefore, see what these are, though still remembering that good culture is the first step in avoiding most of them.

#### **Nematode (Eelworm) Disease**

Historically the bulb nematode was the most damaging of all daffodil pests. The risk of introducing it anew into garden plantings with market bulbs of the quality now prevailing is slight. It is where it has already become established in bulb gardens that trouble mostly lies.

The symptom of nematode disease in the bulb is the presence of brown, usually moist ring-like lesions (areas of disease) which tend to follow one or two adjacent scales, visible only by slicing the bulb crosswise just below the neck. In the field, with the plants in growth, nematode lesions appear as small yellowish-green swellings in the leaves, best detectable by lightly running the leaf from base to tip between thumb and forefinger. Bulbs discovered to be infected should never be planted, but should be consumed in a hot fire. The commercial methods of treating bulbs, with hot water or vapor carefully controlled at a certain temperature for several hours, are impracticable for amateur gardeners.

The recent introduction of chemicals in liquid or capsule form, capable of killing even the dormant stages of nematodes in the soil, arouses new hope of freeing infested garden areas of this pest. Soil-fume caps, D-D (*not* DDT), Nema-gon, and V-C 13 (see list of sources at end of article) provide practicable and fairly effective means of disinfecting soil, even by amateur gardeners. As a rule they are used after the site has been cleared of bulbs, and two or three weeks before replanting, but the last-named

material is low enough in plant toxicity so that it can be used in occupied ground. The manufacturer's directions should be carefully followed with each.

#### **Basal Rot**

Differing from nematode disease, which (at least in early stages) appears in the upper part of the bulb, basal rot always starts at the bottom and progresses upward. It first invades the roots as the bulb matures, then penetrates the root plate (the abbreviated "stem" of the daffodil), finally entering and consuming the fleshy scales. In color it is characteristically darker, and in texture dryer, than nematode rot. Under moist conditions patches or tufts of white, or pinkish, mold appear on the outer scales and root plate. It develops most conspicuously when the bulbs are lifted and stored out of the ground. When only slightly infected bulbs are planted in the fall the decay may continue until the bulb is destroyed if the weather is warm, or may be arrested, permitting the bulb to sprout weakly in the spring. As a rule there is no symptom of root or bulb infection visible as the growing season ends, and the bulbs may appear perfectly healthy when dug, yet disintegrate from basal rot in storage.

This disease is caused by a soil-inhabiting fungus, and is favored especially by warm weather (70° F or upward) when the bulbs are planted, dug, or stored. Soil once infested is likely to remain so for at least several years, but simple and effective means are available for disinfecting bulbs. This is accomplished either at planting or at digging time. The most effective *proven* treatment is a brief immersion (only 2 to 5 minutes, sufficient to wet the surface of the bulbs) in a solution of a mercurial fungicide sold under the name Mersolite. Only one ounce of Mersolite to 50 gallons of water is required; one-sixth ounce, or a scant teaspoonful to 8 gallons.

When the bulbs are dipped as a pre-storage treatment it is advisable to wait two days (but not more than three) after



digging before treating, and the bulbs should be dried promptly thereafter, and stored in as cool and well-ventilated surroundings as possible. When treating prior to replanting, the bulbs should first be cleaned and sorted to eliminate those already decayed or mutilated. Use a loose-mesh bag for holding the bulbs during immersion, and empty them into trays to dry before planting.

The DuPont Company's Ceresan or Semesan can be used instead of Mersolite if the latter is not available, *but only as a pre-planting treatment*. Treat according to directions furnished by the manufacturer, and remember that *all these mercury compounds are poisonous if taken internally, though not dangerous to handle if rinsed off promptly after contact*.

Keeping daffodils in the ground as long as they bloom well, or replanting immediately after digging are also health measures against basal rot, in contrast to frequent lifting and summer storage out of ground. But sooner or later, in most garden plantings, daffodils must be dug, and then the chemical aids to keeping them healthy must be invoked.

#### Virus Diseases

This is a subject for treatment by itself, and at a later date, for it is already too late in the season to identify virus or mosaic symptoms in the foliage, and these diseases can not be identified in the bulbs. They are diffusely present, though not ordinarily destructive in most daffodil plantings. The time to recognize mosaic, and to eliminate infected plants, is the early period of shoot growth, so we may well leave the subject until next spring.

FREEMAN A. WEISS

#### Sources of Materials for Daffodil Pest Control

Captan (Orthocide 50), a fungicide. California Spray Chemical Co., Richmond, Calif.

D-D, soil fumigant. Shell Chemical Corp., Agricultural Chemical Div., New York 22, N. Y.

Ceresan, Semesan. Fungicides. Du Pont Agricultural Chemicals Div., Wilmington, Del.

Mersolite-W. Fungicide. F. W. Berk & Co., Wood Ridge, N. J.

Nemagon. Soil fumigant. Shell Chemical Corp.

Systox (demeton). Systemic insecticide. California Spray Chemical Co.

V-C 13. Soil fumigant. Virginia-Carolina Chemical Co., Richmond, Va.

Note: The products and firms cited above represent only *one* source of these materials. Most manufacturers of pesticides have similar products, which could be used if they are stated to be similar to those mentioned and intended for the same purpose.

**Willis H. Wheeler, Esq., pathologist and hybridizer of great authority said on the subject of hybridizing daffodils the following:**

When the flower to be the seed parent *first* opens, its anthers should be removed. If it is also to be used as a pollen parent, save those anthers in a small receptacle which in turn should be kept in a larger container over silica gel or calcium chloride as a drying agent. The larger container should have a tight lid.

On the *second* day after the removal of the anthers, place pollen on the stigma (the round, flat end of the stalk in the flower center) and tag the bloom showing the name of the seed parent first and the name of the pollen parent second. The pollen may be applied again the next day. A bloom probably remains receptive to pollen for a week or more, depending somewhat upon the weather conditions.

Six to eight weeks after pollination the green seed pods begin to show a *faint yellowing*. Then is the time to pick the pods. Place them in a bag or envelope to dry and then remove the seeds.

Persons with experience recommend planting daffodil seed soon after harvest.



Plant in flats of fine soil one to one and one half inches deep, where the seedlings grow for two years. Then they are planted in the open beds where they are to bloom.

In choosing daffodil parents the breeder should ordinarily use the best of the thoroughbreds. However, there will be occasions when the breeder will want to go back to the old varieties or the species to secure some desirable character.

**The ever charming and knowledgeable Jan de Graff as the banquet speaker of the Mansfield Convention on the subject of Daffodils for America, made a profound contribution summarized as follows:**

The key to better daffodils for America does not lie in the haphazard crossing of tetraploid show varieties now so prevalent. It lies in finding good pollen parents among your naturalized Daffodils, or among the species, (most of which were triploids) and then crossing those with the best of the show Daffodils.

~~It is my considered opinion that, with the continued intercrossing of tetraploid daffodils, we are achieving very little and that little at a very high cost.~~

The sooner we realize this and the sooner many of us embark on a project to raise new lines of hybrids, based in part on the varieties that have stood our treatment or maltreatment for many years, the sooner shall we see a renaissance of the Daffodil and a renewed interest in this lovely flower.

I have pointed out the fact that, here in America, in our old naturalized plantings of Daffodils, we have varieties eminently suited to our climatic and soil conditions.

#### **THE NEW OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS ELECTED FOR 1957-58**

President, George S. Lee, Jr., 17 Chichester Road, New Canaan, Conn. 1st Vice Pres.-at-Large, Dr. Ray C. Allen, Kingwood Center, Mansfield, Ohio. 2nd Vice Pres.-at-Large, Willis H. Wheeler,

3171 North Quincy St., Arlington 7, Va. Secretary, Miss Estelle L. Sharp, Berwyn, Pa. Treasurer, Mrs. Wm. A. Bridges, 10 Othoridge Rd., Lutherville, Md. Editor, Carey E. Quinn, 5014 Del Ray Ave., Bethesda 14, Md.

Regional Vice Presidents: 1, New England, Mrs. William B. Weaver, Jr., Quaker Ridge, Greenwich, Conn. 2, Northeast, Mrs. John B. Capen, Boonton, N. J. 3, Middle Atlantic, Mrs. Lawrence R. Wharton, 4504 Roland Ave., Baltimore 10, Md. 4, Midwest, Mrs. Goethe Link, R.R. 6, Box 152, Martinsville, Ind. 5, Southern, Mrs. Walter E. Thompson, 2907 Southwood Rd., Birmingham 9, Ala. 6, Southeast, Mr. E. Fay Pearce, 339 Beverly Rd., N.E., Atlanta 5, Ga. 7, Southwest, Miss Eleanor Hill, 1633 East 22nd St., Tulsa 14, Okla. 8, Central, Mrs. R. O. Powelson, Rt. 2, Box 403, St. Joseph, Mo. 9, Far West, Mrs. Kenneth B. Anderson, 4810 Palm Dr., La Canada, Calif.

#### **DIRECTORS**

New England Region: Mr. R. E. Morosani, Laurel Ridge, Litchfield, Conn. (1-yr. term); Mr. John R. Larus, 67 Wyndwood Rd., West Hartford 7, Conn. (2-yr. term); Mrs. C. M. Mackall, Edgewood Dr., Greenwich, Conn. (3-yr. term).

Northeast Region: Mrs. J. Whitton Gibson, 61 S. Valley Rd., West Orange, N. J. (1-yr.); Mrs. Edward J. Storey, 370 Orienta Ave., Mamaroneck, N. Y. (2-yr.); Mrs. L. Stephens Crosby, Indian Hill, Towaco, N. J. (3-yr.)

Middle Atlantic Region: Mrs. Jesse F. Hakes, "Ellerslie", Glenwood, Md. (1-yr); Mrs. George H. Gunnoe, 723 Third St., South Side, Huntington 1, West Va. (2-yr.); Mrs. Omer O. Utt, 406 Euclid Ave., Lynchburg, Va. (3-yr.)

Midwest Region: Mrs. R. L. Ross, 112 Outlook Dr., Tallmadge, Ohio (1-yr.); Mr. Hubert A. Fischer, Route 3, 63rd St., Hinsdale, Ill. (2-yr.); Mr. S. H. Woleben, 11 Byfield La., Dearborn 2, Mich. (3-yr.)



Southeast Region: Mr. W. H. McNairy, 1001 Church St., Laurinburg, N. C. (1-yr.); Mrs. Ben M. Robertson, "Daff-O-Dale", Taylors, S. C. (2-yr.); Mrs. T. E. Tolleson, 441 Langhorn, S. W., Atlanta, Ga. (3-yr.)

Southern Region: Mrs. Walter Colquitt, 487 Albany, Shreveport, La. (1-yr.); Mrs. Jesse Cox, 108 8th St., Hot Springs, Ark. (2-yr.) Mrs. Robert L. Hovis, 475 N. Perkins Rd., Memphis 17, Tenn. (3-yr.)

Southwest Region: Mrs. W. Frank Knox, Jr., 9901 Meadowbrook Dr., Dallas 20, Texas (1-yr.); Mrs. E. G. Sawyers, 204 S. Scott St., Oklahoma City, Okla. (2-yr.); Mrs. J. T. Foster, 3309 N. W. 21st St., Oklahoma City 7, Okla. (3-yr.)

Central Region: Mrs. T. A. Barton, 839 Brookridge Rd., Ames, Iowa (1-yr.); Mrs. Daisy L. Ferrick, 416 Arter Ave., Topeka, Kans. (2-yr.); Miss Mary A. Becker, 7221 Palmer Rd., Rt 2, Kansas City 13, Mo. (3-yr.)

Far West Region: Mr. Neil Campbell, 1020 S. Spring Meadow Dr., West Covina, Calif. (1-yr.) Mrs. Frank Reinelt, Capitola, Calif. (2-yr.); Mr. Allen W. Davis, 3424 S. W. Hume St., Portland 19, Ore. (3-yr.)

Directors-at-Large: Mr. Grant E. Mitsch, Canby, Ore. (1-yr.); Mr. Paul F. Frese, 23 Hubbard Dr., White Plains, N. Y. (1-yr.); Mrs. Paul D. Sowell, 12 Blythewood Rd., Baltimore 10, Maryland (2-yr.); Mr. Orville W. Fay, 1775 Pfingsten Rd., Northbrook, Ill. (2-yr.); Dr. John C. Wister, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pa. (3-yr.); Mr. Harry I. Tuggle, Jr., P. O. Box 1108, Martinsville, Va. (3-yr.)

### THE 1958 CONVENTION

The Third Annual Convention of the Society will be at Atlanta, Georgia, March 27-30, 1958, with headquarters at the Atlanta Biltmore Hotel. Lionel Richardson, famous daffodil breeder

from Southern Ireland, has been invited to be our principal guest. Fay Pearce, Regional Vice President, says that we Southerners are really going to show you a fine time.

### REPORT OF THE HEALTH AND CULTURE COMMITTEE

The Health and Culture Committee has been accumulating material on the variation in health and culture of daffodils in different parts of the country. Representing a Society that is nation wide, we have the duty of considering the problems of all sections.

One of the Committee members is collecting data on the rise to prominence of various pests and diseases, and the legal measures and legislative enactments concerning the importation, transportation, and sale of narcissus bulbs.

The Committee has made a good start on the problem of virus infection of daffodils and has a plausible hypothesis for the mechanism of spread of such diseases. From this hypothesis control measures naturally follow.

The Committee has considered setting up a research program, and a list of projects has been compiled. In carrying out such research the variables should be under control and varied one at a time. Such experimentation is the long-range aspect of the Committee's duties.

HAROLD S. KING

*Chairman*

### NOTICE REGARDING REGISTRATION OF DAFFODIL NAMES

In conformance with the Suggested Procedure for the Registration of Daffodil Names by a National Organization, submitted to the American Daffodil Society by the Royal Horticultural Society, and with the Registration Plan adopted by the American Daffodil Society, the American Daffodil Society has appointed a Registrar, Mrs. Walter Colquitt, 487 Albany, Shreveport, La., to act on its behalf in all matter con-



Miss Anne C. Sangree  
201 Lansdowne Ave.  
Wayne, Pa.

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nected with the Registration of Daffodil Names.

Breeders and stockholders of new varieties of daffodils are invited (urged) to communicate with her in regard to registering them. She is prepared to provide registration forms (application blanks) and further information to those desiring it; also, to forward approved names or applications to the Royal Horticultural Society, the International Registration Authority, for final approval and International Registration.

Daffodil Breeders and others interested in obtaining the RHS Classified List of Daffodils may do so by writing directly to the Secretary of the RHS, Vincent Square, S. W. 1 London

MRS. J. ROBERT WALKER  
*Chairman Registration  
and Classification*

*Central Region* is very small in number—in the past so many have felt could not grow Daffodils—and is a

slow process to convince folks to TRY. A group was organized in Kansas City area in February for Daffodil study and Tulips. They are to meet four times a year. Mrs. R. F. Johnson is the president. Mrs. Johnson has served the last two years in the Missouri Federation as chairman of Judges Council and is anxious for more efficient judges for Daffodils.

MRS. R. O. POWELSON  
*Regional V.P.  
St Joseph, Mo.*

#### GREETINGS SOUTHWEST REGION

I will have a regional letter in the mail early in July to our members. I am planning a regional meeting to be held at your convenience and a regional show which will be held in late March, 1958.

ELEANOR HILL  
*Regional Vice President  
Tulsa, Okla.*