

# The Daffodil Bulletin

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The American Daffodil Society  
Incorporated

Winter Issue

February 1, 1959

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## EDITORIAL

### *Enjoy Your Flowers*

Nineteen hundred fifty-nine is with us—soon the daffodils will be pushing through and spring will be here again. This year, plan to live with and enjoy your flowers. Don't walk hurriedly through and then work so hard all weekend that you never get time to sit and study your flowers. Learn to use a notebook, and enter carefully the details both of your own and the new ones you see somewhere. So many people never really look at their flowers! Making notes forces you to look closely.

### *Buy from Your Friends*

There is probably no force that brings more sound cooperation than properly cultivated mutual interest. Who are the people who help the ADS? The new Yearbook is out. Who helped us with their advertisements, who pitches in to help with our problems?

### *The New Yearbook*

The 1958 Yearbook should be in your hands. It represents a lot of work, believe me, a lot of work—and our good managing editor, Charlie Phillips, deserves our thanks. The same for a lot of other people. As it turns out, we had more copy than we could fit in so

we held some copy for later use. The Yearbook is better, but we want to do better yet. The Board of Directors has given Publications more money for 1959. How shall we spend it?

Shall we try for a hard-back Yearbook if there is enough money? Another issue of the Bulletin? More pages in the Bulletin and Yearbook? More cuts? Write us please; the Publications Committee needs your ideas.

And you camera fans—send us clear pictures of your garden, of your best flowers. But, please, we cannot use these little items for a projection screen. We need clear black and whites, something like the newspaper boys make.

See you in Philadelphia—April 23, 24, and 25.

CAREY QUINN

## FOR YOUR LIBRARY

The ADS has for sale:

The RHS Daffodil and Tulip Yearbook of 1959—\$2.25;

The latest Classified List of Daffodil Names, 1958—\$1.50;

The ADS Daffodil Yearbook of 1959—\$1.25.

These may be secured from Mrs. William A. Bridges, 10 Othoridge Road, Lutherville, Md.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

After serving from the beginning of the Society, Charles Meehan has asked to be relieved as chairman of the Symposium Committee. The work has been taken over by Harry Tuggle, who will bring equal experience and sound judgment to this indispensable tool.

\* \* \*

The Test Garden Committee is being organized under Miller Thompson, Stone Mountain, Ga., who will be remembered for his talk at the Atlanta convention. Our best talent is being sought for this undertaking which is essential to breeding varieties better adapted to our conditions.

\* \* \*

Chairmen have not yet been found for the Publicity Committee and the Committee on Affiliated Societies. Development of strong ties with the growing number of state and local daffodil societies should not be longer delayed. Volunteers or suggestions to fill these posts will be welcomed.

\* \* \*

Someone interested in photography is needed to check over occasionally the slides which we have for rental. One set has been completed; there is material for a second set, but the search for better slides and for slides of new varieties and landscape effects is continuous. Hubert Fischer has been doing this work but has asked to be relieved to devote full time to his duties as president of the American Hemerocallis Society.

\* \* \*

The directors authorized a special committee to prepare a booklet of suggestions on holding a new or small daffodil show. A number of members are working on the manuscripts.

—GEO. S. LEE, JR.

## DAFFODILS BY CAREY QUINN

The first American book about American daffodils for American growers is to be published March 1, authored by

## DAFFODIL SHOWS OF 1959

- March 7, 8—Daffodil Show, Highland Park Club, Birmingham, Ala.  
March 28—Daffodil Show, Fort Smith, Ark.  
March 28, 29—Southwest Regional Daffodil Show at Tulsa Garden Center, 2415 S. Peoria, Tulsa, Okla.  
March 28, 29—Third Annual Far West Daffodil Show, 8138 S. College Ave., Whittier, Calif.  
April 2—Oklahoma Garden Clubs, Inc., Oklahoma City, Okla.  
April 3—Sixth Annual Perennial Garden Club Daffodil Show, Lutheran Church, Reedsville, N. C.  
April 3, 4—Daffodil Show, Community Hall, Siloam Springs, Ark.  
April 4, 5—Annual Daffodil Show of Garden Club of Gloucester, Gloucester High School, Gloucester, Va.  
April 8, 9—French Broad River Garden

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Carey E. Quinn of Washington, first president of the ADS.

Entitled *Daffodils—Indoors and Out*, the 192-page volume with photographs, and drawings by Marguerite Burgess, is divided into three sections. Part I is devoted to the culture of daffodils out of doors—why, when and where. The second section on indoor growing gives guidance on forcing, preserving and arranging. Part III, a section for the specialist, sets forth facts on judging, exhibiting and breeding.

Much of the book comprises Judge Quinn's own experiences and observations. As most ADS members know, he has long been a grower of daffodils at his home on the Maryland side of Washington, D. C. His forthcoming book, in addition to satisfying that impulse most of us have at one time or another on our favorite subject, is designed to fill a void in the daffodil area of American horticulture.

Scheduled for release March 1 by Hearthsides Press, Inc., of New York, *Daffodils—Indoors and Out*, will retail for \$4.50, with a lower price, yet to be determined, for ADS members.

Club, Biltmore Dairy Farms, Biltmore, N. C.

April 8, 9—25th Annual Garden Club of Virginia Daffodil Show, Farmington Country Club, Charlottesville, Va.

April 9—Eleventh Annual Daffodil Show, Mountain River Garden Club, Emmanuel Episcopal Parish House, Covington, Va.

April 10—Middle Tennessee Daffodil Society Show, 110 Ensworth Ave., Nashville.

April 11, 12—Third Annual St. Louis Daffodil Show of St. Louis Horticultural Society, Missouri Botanical Gardens, St. Louis.

April 14, 15—Royal Horticultural Society Daffodil Show, London.

April 15, 16—Maryland Daffodil Society, Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore.

April 17—Fourth Annual Hartford County Daffodil Show, St. Mary's Episcopal Church Parish House, Emmorton, Md.

April 18—Indiana Daffodil Society, 101 E. 27th Ave., Indianapolis.

April 18—Daffodil Society of Greater Kansas City, Co-Op Building, 3315 N. Oak Trafficway, Kansas City, Mo.

April 18, 19—Tenth Annual Show of Washington Daffodil Society, Woodward & Lothrop Auditorium, Chevy Chase, Md.

April 22—Midland Daffodil Society Show, Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Birmingham, England

April 22—Garden Club of Springfield, Pa.

April 23, 24—Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and American Daffodil Society, Philadelphia.

April 28, 29—Fourth Annual Connecticut Daffodil Show, Ekman Center of the Electrolux Corp., Old Greenwich, Conn.

May 4, 5—Massachusetts Horticultural Society, Boston.

### ANNUAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the annual meeting of the members will be convened at 9:00 A.M., April 24, 1959, in

the Sylvania Hotel, Philadelphia, Pa. At that time the following amendments to the by-laws, having been unanimously passed by the Board of Directors on November 1, 1958, and recommended to the membership for affirmative action, will be submitted for final approval:

RESOLVED: That Article I, Sec. 3, be amended to read as follows:

Dues.—The dues of members shall be:

a. Non-commercial members:

Annual, \$3.00 for each calendar year.

Family, \$5.00 for each calendar year for husband and wife who shall receive one copy of all publications given in consideration of membership.

Sustaining, \$5.00 for each calendar year.

Contributing, \$10.00 for each calendar year.

Life, \$100.00 for life if an individual, otherwise for 20 years.

b. Commercial:

Three times the foregoing amounts.

\* \* \* \*

RESOLVED: That Article VII, Sec. 1, be amended to read as follows:

Standing Committees.—There shall be such standing committees as the board of directors may by resolution provide.

There will be a meeting of the retiring Board of Directors at 8:00 P.M., April 23 and of the newly-constituted Board at 8 A.M., April 25. These meetings will be held in the Provincial Room of the Sylvania Hotel.

Estelle L. Sharp, Secretary

### DAFFODIL STUDY AND SHOW SCHOOLS

The outline for the courses of study has been revised and was approved by the board of directors at Philadelphia on November 1, 1958. Rules for conducting the schools were not changed and may be found on pages 41 and 42 of the 1957-58 Yearbook.

#### Course I

A. Divisions and sub-divisions of the daffodil as classified by the Royal Horticultural Society 1950. 1¼ hours.

B. General characteristics of the daffodil: to include color, stem, form, pose, foliage, substance and texture, size and condition. ½ hour.

C. Identification with point scoring of ten varieties, vase of 3 and a collection of 5 stems common to the area. This is to be a demonstration with class participation. 1¼ hours.

D. Written Examination: 10 questions on A, 5 questions on B, and 10 specimen blooms to be identified in writing. In this course students will differentiate between divisions, varietal names not required. 1 hour.

Judging of small daffodil show. Show to include 10 entries; 8 single blooms, a vase of 3, same variety, and a collection of 5 stems. All entries to be point scored.

### Course II

A. Cultural practices: soil preparation, proper planting, plant requirements, fertilization, diseases and their treatments. 1 hour.

B. Judging Ethics: acceptance of an invitation to judge, comprehension of schedule, duties of a judge, fairness to exhibitor, cooperation with other judges. 1 hour.

C. Point scoring of ten specimen blooms, with class participation covering at least 5 divisions, RHS classification. 1 hour.

D. Written Examination: 10 questions on A, 10 questions on B, identification in writing of 25 specimen blooms as to varietal name and division. These blooms are to be chosen from a display of named specimen blooms on exhibit during the school. Judging the small daffodil show; show to include at least 5 divisions (3 entries each) RHS classification, point scoring not necessary. 1 hour.

### Course III

A. Selection of material for exhibiting in shows; to include cutting, hardening, protection, methods of advancing and retarding blooms, and transportation of specimens. 1 hour.

B. Proper staging of cultural specimens, collections and displays. Judging of seedlings. 1 hour.

## MY METHOD OF RAISING SEEDLINGS

By MRS. BEN M. ROBERTSON  
Taylors, S. C.

In the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains I tend a small garden. For many years gardening has given me pleasure, but since I've been hybridizing daffodils it has become a most satisfying physical, mental and spiritual endeavor. There are those for whom this article

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C. Point scoring of 10 specimen blooms, to include as many divisions as possible, also a seedling, class participation. 1 hour.

D. Written Examination: 10 questions on A, 10 questions on B, written identification of 50 specimen blooms as to varietal name and division. These blooms are to be on exhibit during the school. Judging the small daffodil show. This show must include as many divisions as possible (3 entries each) also a class for seedlings. Point scoring not necessary except for seedling class. 1 hour.

The committee suggests that students be instructed to refrain from handling specimen blooms during judging; the containers may be handled, but not the blooms.

\* \* \*

Courses of Study for 1959 have been scheduled as follows:

COURSE I—Norman, Okla., March 30, 1959. Chairman: Miss Eleanor Hill, 1577 E. 22d St., Tulsa, Okla.

COURSE II—Decatur, Ga., March 21, 1959. Chairman: Mrs. Paul Hamby, 440 Oakview Rd., Decatur, Ga.

COURSE II—Philadelphia (ADS Convention), April 26, 1959. Chairman: Mrs. Lawrence R. Wharton, 4504 Roland Ave., Baltimore, Md.

COURSE III—Alexandria, Va., April 13, 1959. Chairman: Mrs. Lawrence R. Wharton, 4504 Roland Ave., Baltimore, Md.

COURSE III—Indianapolis, Ind., April 19, 1959. Chairman: Mrs. Henry C. Prange, 5721 Haverford Ave., Indianapolis.

will be repetitious, as daffodil breeding is fundamentally the same the world over. To many it will be new and I hope it may encourage a few to try a hand at hybridizing.

Daffodil breeding is the production of new varieties by means of cross fertilization and seedling raising. Those who wish to grow seedlings should possess some good varieties, and from time to time add new ones from which they can hope to raise something still better.

As the first flowers begin to open, I revel in their beauty, before hybridizing is started. When I "get my feet on the ground," so to speak, all tools with which I work are assembled in a large shoe box. For parents, only the best possible flowers are selected. Flowers are chosen for seed parents just as soon as they are well open. The anthers are removed immediately to prevent self pollination. As soon as a variety is open and the pollen is out, anthers are gathered with the tweezers according to the needs for pollen in the plan of crosses. These are placed in capsules, or squares of aluminum foil to prevent drying. Each variety is placed in an envelope, labeled and arranged upright alphabetically in the box.

The box is carried to the seed parents for the crossings. From the desired envelope, the anther is taken with the tweezers and gently brushed across the pistil of the de-anthered seed parent, making sure some pollen grains are deposited. As the pollen ages it may fall from the anther into the container but can be picked up easily with an orange stick. A plastic stem label  $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 6" makes a perfect marker for crosses. The label is looped loosely around the stem of the seed parent, leaving room for expansion of the stem. As crosses are made a check is placed in the record book by that cross.

After the pollinating is done and the flowers have faded, I watch the growth of the flower stems and the enlargement of the seed pods. Some pods will shrivel and die off, but most of them will enlarge their seeds and grow to maturity, when the pod will turn brownish. At

this stage, they should be closely watched and picked before the seeds fall. When mature, the pods are picked with a portion of the stem and the label that was made at the time of crossing. They are opened and the number of seeds, along with the cross, are written on the envelope and placed in boxes to await planting.

In the field record book, the crosses are recorded alphabetically before planting starts, leaving space by each cross for the number of the row in the bed and the number of seeds planted. It is best to plant seeds as soon as possible after all are gathered. The seed beds are in the open and have never had any protection from the weather. When germinated in this way, they grow very vigorously.

As soon as possible after the seeds are gathered, they are planted in rows about an inch apart and to a depth of about two inches. When the planting is finished, a mulch of ground corn cobs two inches thick is poured over the beds. This prevents weed growth, keeps the seeds moist and cool, and prevents rain from washing the seeds from the soil.

The seed bed is kept free from weeds at all times. When all foliage is up, a light sprinkle of bonemeal is scattered over the bed. Other than watering during dry weather, the work is over for another year. After the second year of growth, but before the foliage dies, the bulbs are moved to the field.

The bulbs are planted at about the same depth and given the same treatment as large bulbs. In these beds they remain until all have flowered. Many will flower at four years of age, most of them at five, but some will be delayed. The first long wait will come only at the beginning. While the seedlings are flowering, any considered worthy of further trial are labeled. At the proper time they are removed and given a new bed for additional trial.

Second and third generation seedlings last spring produced some of the most brilliant red cups I have ever seen. They came from being crossed with each other and by re-mating with some of the orig-

inal parents from the following: Tinker, Klingo, Cornish Fire, Rouge, Chungking, Rustom Pasha, Dunkeld, Magherally, Carbineer, Porthilly, Tamino, Forest Fire, Marksman, Market Merry, and Playboy. All of these have vigor and good color. Therefore, it seemed that before long flowers could be produced that would not fade in our very hot sun. Even now, results are gratifying, and I am eagerly awaiting the results from this group that were mated with newer things, such as Armada, Ceylon, Air Marshal, Fury, Jezebel, Home Fires, Sun Chariot and others.

Although most of the 1c and 2c varieties grow well here, on the whole we wish for them a little more vigor. Further breeding in this locale will be required to enable the whites to enjoy the happiness they display in colder, wetter climates. I'm working on a group of seedlings from vigorous growers such as Courage, Dunseverick, Trostan, Eskimo, Roxane, Tibet, Corinth and others. Seedlings from these crossed with newer things that would lend refinement, will be blooming in another year or two.

So far, actual accomplishments are few, yet enough to hint at the results a prolonged breeding program in this climate could produce. It's enough encouragement to wish the other months away just to see what each new Spring has in store. . . . Who knows, next year could bring the super-flower!

## THE LOVELIEST DAFFODILS

By HUBERT FISCHER

I have at times tried to name the loveliest daffodils and think of Empress of Ireland and Flamingo, Spellbinder, Moonstruck, Kingscourt, Green Island, Cantatrice, Preamble and many other new ones. There are so many fine varieties. Then I remember others that came before them that I thought were best—Truth, Courage, Content, Broughshane—and before them we were thrilled by Fortune, Carlton and Daisy Schaffer. Before that we eagerly awaited the bloom of Dick Wellband, John Evelyn,

## HONORS FOR ADS MEMBERS

Miss Harriette R. Halloway, Plainfield, N. J., has been awarded the medal of the Garden Club of America for "distinguished service in the field of horticulture," specifically "for the Cornus Arboretum, the Iris and other Gardens," including the Daffodil Plantation, in Cedar Brook Park, a unit of the Union County park system. The cornus collection is said to be the largest in the United States.

Dr. John C. Wister was named as the first recipient of the Liberty Hyde Bailey Medal at the American Horticultural Congress which met in Williamsburg last October.

Hubert A. Fischer of Hinsdale, Ill., has been elected president of the American Hemerocallis Society.

Books from the pens of ADS members include "Dried Flowers with a Fresh Look," by Eleanor R. Bolton (Van Nostrand, \$6.95), and "The Azalea Book," by Frederic P. Lee (Van Nostrand, \$8.95).

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Spring Glory, Beersheba and Mrs. R. O. Backhouse.

Then I remember one morning in April, 1918. We were at war and were saving the world for democracy. On a march across country we came upon what was once a little farm house, completely demolished. It had been an artillery target and they had performed their duty well, the destruction was complete. At one corner of the foundation was the remnant of a large lilac bush, with one arm that had somehow escaped destruction trying to bloom. There had been a garden there and among the rubble of stones and splintered wood was a scattering of daffodils in bloom. I am sure that the perianths were not flat and overlapping or the crown in perfect balance; perhaps the necks were not strong and upright, but to me they were the loveliest daffodils I have ever seen. Their name—I wouldn't know. I only know that they were golden yellow. The loveliest daffodils that I have ever seen I cannot name. It was 40 years ago.

## CHILDREN OF FAMOUS PARENTS

By WILLIS H. WHEELER

The editor asked that I begin a series of articles under the above title to deal with offspring of well known daffodil varieties. Originally the title had been proposed as "Famous Children," but a study of the literature on the subject available to me convinced me that the title might better direct our thoughts toward famed daffodil parents and their issue, rather than the children alone. Unfortunately, the children, whether they be of daffodils or persons, seldom seem to attain the distinction of their parents.

In examining the parentage records of the past, one is surprised at the importance of certain older varieties in many of the modern daffodils of today. Those records are, of course, available to those who have adequate library facilities and who like to dig into books, but for those who do not have the records or who enjoy digging in the earth more than in books, I will attempt to summarize the information of interest to the daffodil enthusiast.

I had at first intended to begin the series with famed 1a King Alfred, bred by John Kendall, who passed away in 1890 before its flowering and subsequent registration in 1899. However, I found there was something back of that variety that we could hardly ignore if the story is to be complete.

Therefore, we will begin the story with narcissus Emperor, an old-timer registered in 1890, although originated several years earlier by William Backhouse, who died in 1869. Evidence developed by E. A. Bowles, as well as by Drs. Abilio and Rosette Fernandes, suggests Emperor came from a cross of *Narcissus bicolor* x *N. pseudo-narcissus*. In turn, the records I have found show it to be the parent of the following varieties:

7a Buttercup (1890)

1a Emperor x *N. jonquilla*

1a Canute (1927)

Emperor x 1a King Alfred

1a Darius (1923)

1b Grandis x Emperor

5a Earl Grey (1901)

Emperor x *N. triandrus albus*

1b Florence Pearson (1907)

Emperor x 1c Mme. de Graaff

1a Golden Bell (1892)

1a wild trumpet x Emperor

5a J. T. Bennett-Poe (1904)

Emperor x *N. triandrus albus*

1a King Alfred (1899)

Emperor x *N. hispanicus*

1a Mervyn (1908)

Emperor x *N. obvallaris*

1a Michael (1907)

Emperor x 1a King Alfred

I believe the majority of daffodil growers will agree that the third to the last cross in the list might be called the most important one ever made, for at least two reasons. King Alfred, resulting from the cross, has been the top commercial daffodil from the time it became priced for cut flower purposes, and it has since entered into the breeding of a long list of newer varieties of importance. Thus we see the significance of the earlier cross that gave us Emperor.

For those who are interested in daffodil breeding I offer two conclusions of possible interest. First, four bulbs I have bloomed from selfed seed of Emperor produced flowers almost identical with the parent's appearance. Second, approximately 23.5 percent of Emperor's blooms set seed in 1958 when I used pollen of Content. Because of Emperor's vigor and persistence when naturalized I propose to use it with several other varieties with the hope it may yield other things of value for that same purpose.

The research for this story suggests another field of interest and activity, i. e., the recording of these old varieties in color photographs. If any members of the American Daffodil Society have the varieties (except King Alfred) listed in the crosses with Emperor, I would appreciate receiving a bulb of each to bloom for photographic purposes. Or perhaps the members themselves would be willing to make the kodachromes for the society.

Mrs. William R. Taylor  
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### ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE ADS

The annual convention of the American Daffodil Society will be held this year April 23 to 25 inclusive, with headquarters at the beautiful Hotel Sylvania in Philadelphia. Course II of the official Study and Show School will be given Sunday, April 26, with Miss Estelle Sharpe, Mrs. Serena Bridges, and Dr. Freeman Weiss presiding as deans of instruction.

A detailed program will reach all members at a later date. However, Dr. John Wister, convention chairman, feels the Bulletin will be safe in saying we register Thursday, April 23, and visit the Daffodil Show of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. Friday, April 24, will have a sort of Daffodil Institute following a business session, with a special lunch, and dinner in the evening. Saturday we will take box lunches and visit by bus some of the most beautiful gardens in the

country, and wind up with the usual big dinner and speaker in the evening.

Visitors, to and from the convention, can arrange to see a number of gardens enroute. Plan now to attend—if you have any interest whatever in daffodils you can hardly fail to enjoy yourself.

### HELP OUR NEXT ISSUE

Your managing editor of the Bulletin hopes to attend the Royal Horticultural Society Daffodil Show in London this year and will, therefore, not be here to edit the Spring issue of the Bulletin.

The Editor and Chairman of the Publications Committee, Judge Carey E. Quinn, has been kind enough to volunteer to take over the Spring issue.

Please give him every assistance by getting your material in as soon as possible, and by April 15 at the latest.

—KATHERINE L. BLOOMER