THE SHOWING OF DAFFODILS

Many are the awards lost between the garden and the show bench. It is the easiest thing in the world to show blooms from bulbs costing $50 or more and to lose against blooms from bulbs costing 25 cents or less, and to get very angry at the judges in the process.

How to avoid this humiliation? Several books on daffodils devote space to this subject but often they assume too much experience on the part of the reader. For this reason perhaps the following paragraphs, by one who struggled for two years or more to catch the judges eye without getting as much as an ‘honorable mention’, but who finally succeeded, may be helpful. There is not one bit of magic involved in the process, just extreme care in a lot of little things, so here we go.

First get a copy of the entry rules and requirements for the show in which you are interested and read them as carefully as you would your late Aunt Jemima’s will, for these are the laws the judges go by. Decide in what classes you will compete and in this you will be guided largely by the number of flowers available in each class in your garden. We will take just one of the classes in which three blooms are required. In your garden, not later than the evening before the show, select at least five of the freshest blooms with the straightest stems (no twist or bending), the best posture (they should look up at you, not down) and in which the perianth segments are free of nicks and blemishes and stand at right angles to the neck. If this is not possible, do your best in approaching this requirement, others may be having the same trouble. Cut the stems above ground, where the white turns to green, with a sloping cut with a sharp knife. At this point, if you are showing many varieties, keep each variety separate and tag them with the proper name; it will save confusion later.

Take your flowers to the house and stand them in buckets or other containers of hot water, about 80°F. After about two hours move them into cold water which should stand about four inches above the bottom of the stems. The next morning, early so you won’t be hurried, clean up each bloom front and back if they are the least bit dirty, with a sable or camel hair artist’s brush kept droppy wet so that specks of mud and dirt will be floated off. Avoid touching the anthers so that no pollen is dropped, it will stain the trumpet or cup. If the pollen has already fallen, discard the flower as it is a sign of age. Be careful of the handling of each specimen as the stems and necks are brittle. Be sure that all the white part of the stems has been removed.

Now select the three most evenly matched specimens from the point of view of size, quality and posture. At this point resist, with all your will-power, the inclusion of that one big bloom of which you are so proud, it could lose for you. Watch out, of course, for nicks and blemishes and don’t remove or cut the brown sheath just behind the flower, leave it alone. Now select one more bloom, the next best, to serve as a substitute should any of the others be damaged before you leave them on the show bench.

Now you are ready to go to the show, except that you should take with you a pair of scissors, pencil, small scratch pad, your artist’s brush, a small supply of wax paper or long fibre sphagnum moss, containers if they are not supplied, your
entry cards for each variety properly filled out, and a cheerful mind.

You are now at the show. Find a place at the tables usually provided for exhibitors and proceed to arrange your flowers in the containers. There is no one prescribed way to arrange them. One good way is like an inverted pawnbroker's sign except that the two side-by-side flowers should not be quite on the same level. The common method of sticking the flowers in the container "and that's that" is to be deplored. Fix the position of the flowers by stuffing sphagnum moss around the stems in the neck of the container, or use crumpled wax paper. The flowers should spread out a little and should face front.

Place your exhibits in the proper division and class, together with the correct entry form for each, properly filled out. Leave about three inches of water in each container. Don't rush out at this point—go over each of your exhibits, see that you have the correct number of blooms in each container, and that each is in the proper space for its class and that each entry card is in place. You have now done your best.

When the judges are through take a good look at the prize-winning exhibits. If you have succeeded in getting awards yourself you may still gain valuable information by studying other exhibits, successful or otherwise. Observation and perseverance are prime requisites in competing in shows. Showing daffodils is exciting. The best of luck to you.

—Pierce Timmis (VI.)

This article, because of its clarity and timeliness, was lifted from the Newsletter of the New England Region.—Ed.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

After long and devoted service to the Society, Judge Carey Quinn has resigned as editor and chairman of the Publications Committee. The Judge was the first president of the American Daffodil Society, and all of us are grateful for his contribution and inspiration in the formation and leadership of the Society. In addition to his distinguished service to the Society, Judge Quinn is the author of the first American book about daffodils for American growers, "Daffodils — Indoors and Out," which will remain our text on the culture and use of daffodils for a long time.

Mrs. John C. Wister has accepted the responsibility as editor and chairman of the Publications Committee. Mrs. Howard B. Bloomer, Jr., will continue as editor of the Bulletin, and Mrs. George D. Watrous, Jr., and Mr. George S. Lee, Jr., will also serve on the committee. Other members will be appointed at a later date. We are fortunate to have these competent people serve on this important and difficult assignment.

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Upon assuming the responsibilities of the publications, Mrs. Wister asked to be relieved as chairman of the Classification and Registration Committee, and Mrs. W. L. McCoy, of Indianapolis, Ind., pres-
ently on this committee, has agreed to serve as its chairman.

* * *

Dr. Helen C. Scorgie, vice president of the New England Region and co-chairman of our Symposium Committee—Miniatures, has resigned as a member of the Round Robin Committee, and Mrs. W. Olen Sheets of Reidsville, N. C., has consented to serve on this committee. Miniature daffodils are her “special love.”

* * *

Mr. Jan de Graaff, who has disposed of his wholesale daffodil business to devote his entire time to lilies, has resigned as chairman of our Commercial Committee. No one has been selected to replace him as chairman of this committee pending determination of more definite purpose of this committee.

* * *

By the time you receive this BULLETIN you should have received our newly designed membership renewal envelope. It will save time in getting out renewal notices and is a convenient way for members to remit their annual dues and order RHS Yearbooks, Classification Lists, etc. I hope all of you like this innovation and will return the envelope with your dues to our treasurer promptly.

* * *

Remember to save the dates, April 6 to 8, for our 1961 Convention at Roanoke. Course H of the Judges’ school is planned for Sunday, April 9. The Middle Atlantic Region will be our host and all who attend will have a wonderful experience. A detailed program and registration forms will be sent to all members soon.

* * *

Please be reminded that the ADS has been declared by the Internal Revenue Service to be a tax-exempt, educational organization, and any donations as well as unreimbursed personal expenses for transportation, lodging and meals while rendering service to the Society, are deductible as contributions on your personal income tax returns. This would include travelling expense of directors attending meetings of the Board, and all unreimbursed expenses of officers and committee members incurred in the performance of their duties.

* * *

Plan to attend and exhibit in as many daffodil shows as possible in 1961. And may you win many ribbons and encourage many others to develop an interest in our favorite flower—the daffodil.

WELLS KNIERIM

COME ONE, COME ALL—DON’T MISS ROANOKE APRIL 6-8

From the social hour on Thursday, April 6, at 5 P.M., until the banquet Saturday night (plus School No. 2 on Sunday) our Sixth Annual Convention has all the necessary ingredients for success. We have fine accommodations with reasonable room rates at the renowned Hotel Roanoke, the menus are scrumptious, and barring another season such as that of last year, there will be a multitude of daffodils for your edification and inspection.

The program includes visits to gardens of daffodil growers in Roanoke, Martinsville and Fincastle, the famous Garden Club of Virginia Daffodil Show, and lectures on arranging daffodils, health problems, and other topics. Wilmer B. Flory, past president of the Hemerocallis Society, will deliver one of his entertaining monologs at the banquet, and we hope to have B. Y. Morrison with us again.

We promise you a warm reception and a good time. And for the sum of $30 we propose the munificent bargain of two social hours, two lunches, three dinners, bus transportation, attendance to all scheduled convention events, and most important of all—daffodils galore!

NEXT DEADLINE APRIL 29

Please note the editor’s correct address as shown in this BULLETIN. An incorrect address can delay your mail several days and deadlines are just that . . . deadlines. April 29 is the deadline for the next issue. All show reports must be in by that date.
DAFFODIL SHOW DATES FOR 1961

March 4-5—Santa Barbara Daffodil Show; chairman: Mr. C. K. Dorwin, Santa Barbara, Cal.

March 4-12—International Flower Show, the Coliseum, New York City. There will be a special section for pot-grown, forced daffodils. Suite 212, Essex House, 157 W. 58th St., New York 19.

March 18-19—Fifth Annual California Daffodil Show, Descanso Gardens, La Cañada, Cal.; chairman: Mr. William Roese.

March 24—Perennial Garden Club Daffodil Show, Reidsville, N. C.; information: Mrs. W. W. Sheets, 1314 Woodland Drive, Reidsville, N. C.

April 4—Middle Tennessee Annual Daffodil Show, First Presbyterian Church, Franklin Road, Nashville, Tenn.

April 7-8—Garden Club of Virginia Twenty-Seventh Annual Daffodil Show, the Armory, Chatham, Va.; advance registration: Mrs. Langhorne Jones, Chatham.


April 12—Norristown Garden Club Daffodil Show, Montgomery County Medical Society Building, 1529 DeKalb St., Norristown, Pa.; information: Mrs. Charles O. Gruber, 124 Lincoln Terrace, Norristown.

April 12-13—Maryland Daffodil Society, Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore.

April 13-14—French Broad River Garden Club Third Annual Daffodil Show, Biltmore Farms, Biltmore, N. C.

April 14—Bowling Green Daffodil Show, Bowling Green, Ky.; information: Mrs. Paul Garrett, 1710 Normal Drive, Bowling Green.

April 14-15—Southern Regional Daffodil Show, Community Hall, Siloam Springs, Ark.; chairman, Mrs. Wilson Ford, 301 E. Harvard, Siloam Springs.

April 15—Daffodil Society of Greater Kansas City, Consumer's Cooperative Association Bldg., Kansas City, Mo.

April 15—Kansas State Daffodil Show, sponsored by Lawrence Daffodil Society and Green Thumb Garden Club, Lawrence, Kan.


April 15-16—Missouri State Show, Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis; information: Mrs. William V. Donnan, 995 Kirkham Ave., St. Louis 22, Mo.

April 15-16—Twelfth Annual Show of the Washington Daffodil Society, Woodward and Lothrop Auditorium, Chevy Chase, Md.


April 21—Berwyn Garden Club and Neighboring Garden Clubs Daffodil Show, Trinity Presbyterian Church, Berwyn, Pa.

April 21—Sixth Annual Harford County Daffodil Show, St. Mary's Parish House, Emmorton, Harford Co., Md.

April 22-23—Daffodil Section of Miami Valley Garden Club's Thirteenth Spring Flower Show, Dayton Museum of Natural History; information: Miss Evelyn Rasnake, 4830 Sedgwick Drive, Dayton 24, Ohio.

April 22-23—Three Village Garden Club Annual Daffodil Show, Garden Club Sanctuary, Setauket, L. I.


April 28-29—Third Annual Suffolk Daffodil Show, Smithtown Presbyterian Church House, Smithtown, L. I.
AMERICAN DAFFODIL SOCIETY
ACCREDITED JUDGES, JAN., 1961

Mrs. Ernest J. Adams, 1121 Twelfth Ave., Huntington 1, W. Va.
Mrs. William F. Akin, Box 35, Hermitage, Tenn.
Dr. Raymond C. Allen, Kingwood Center, Mansfield, Ohio.
Mrs. R. LaRue Armstrong, Clearwater Park, Covington, Va.
Mrs. Webster Barnes, Journey's End, Aberdeen, Md.
Mrs. Walter M. Berry, 1215 Haynes Rd., Memphis, Tenn.
Mrs. Howard B. Bloomer, Jr., Rt. 2, Box 35, Lorton, Va.
Mrs. Bert B. Boozman, 906 N. Fifteenth St., Ft. Smith, Ark.
Mrs. William A. Bridges, 10 Othoridge Rd., Lutherville, Md.
Mrs. Jesse Cox, 108 Eighth St., Hot Springs, Ark.
Mr. Jan de Graaff, Box 512, Gresham, Ore.
Mrs. Goerge Doughtie, 5260 Riverwood Dr., N.W., Atlanta, Ga.
Mr. Orville W. Fay, 1775 Pfingsten Rd., Northbrook, Ill.
Mr. Hubert A. Fischer, Route 3, 53rd St., Hinsdale, Ill.
Mrs. Kent Ford, 118 First St., Clifton Forge, Va.
Mr. Paul F. Frese, 23 Hubbard Lane, White Plains, N. Y.
Mrs. Paul L. Garrett, 1710 Normal Dr., Bowling Green, Ky.
Mrs. Charles A. Gruber, 124 Lincoln Terrace, Norristown, Pa.
Mrs. George H. Gunnoe, 723 Third St., Huntington, W. Va.
Mrs. Paul F. Hamby, 440 Oakview Rd., Decatur, Ga.
Mrs. Harry W. Harris, 414 Franklin St., Alexandria, Va.
Mrs. Wm. Carpenter Jones, 4910 Evelyn Byrd Blvd., Richmond 25, Va.
Mrs. Glen Kildow, 504 East Jackson St., Alexandria, Ind.

Dr. Harold S. King, Stafford Road, Darlington, Md.
Mr. Wells Knierim, 31090 Providence Rd., Cleveland 24, Ohio.
Mrs. E. E. Lawler, Jr., Box 327, Alexandria, Va.
Mrs. John Larus, 67 Wyndwood Rd., West Hartford, Conn.
Mr. John Larus, 67 Wynwood Rd., West Hartford, Conn.
Mr. George S. Lee, Jr., 17 Chichester Rd., New Canaan, Conn.
Mrs. Goethe Link, R. R. 6, Box 152, Martinsville, Ind.
Mrs. Donald M. Linton, 1950 Chichester Rd., Nashville 12, Tenn.
Mrs. W. L. McCoy, 807 Lesley Ave., Indianapolis, Ind.
Mr. Charles Meehan, Box 123, Chesterfield, S. C.
Mr. Grant E. Mitsch, Canby, Ore.
Mrs. Jim Peterson, Soperton, Ga.
Mrs. John C. Peterson, P. O. Box 86, Ailey, Ga.
Mrs. W. J. Peterson, P.O. Box 7, Ailey, Ga.
Mrs. Bert Pouncy, Jr., Anoka Farms, Hughes, Ark.
Mrs. Henry C. Prang, 5721 Haverford Ave., Indianapolis, Ind.
Mr. Carey E. Quinn, 5014 Del Ray Ave., Bethesda, Md.
Mrs. W. H. Ragsdale, 421 Woodland Brook Rd., Smyrna, Ga.
Mrs. Ben M. Robertson, Daff-O-Dale, Taylors, S. C.
Mrs. Darrell St. Clair, 4970 Linnean St., Washington 8, D. C.
Miss Anne Sangree, 201 Lansdowne Ave., Wayne, Pa.
Mrs. Ruben Sawyer, 4887 Shady Grove Rd., Memphis, Tenn.
Mrs. C. W. Schmalstig, 4371 Tam-O-Shanter Way, Dayton 29, Ohio.
Dr. Helen C. Scorgie, Route 1, Harvard, Mass.
Mrs. Chester V. Steed, R. R. 1, Redkey, Ind.
Mrs. George Steedman, 2512 Oregon Ave., Roanoke, Va.

(Continued on next page)
THANK YOU, CAREY QUINN

This issue of our Bulletin marks the retirement of Carey Quinn as editor of our publications and chairman of the Publications Committee. Judge Quinn undertook the enormous task of organizing the Society, and guiding it through its first years (1955-1957) as its president. After completing his term in the presidency, he took over the publications in the spring of 1957, and they received his devoted attention until he resigned his chairmanship in the autumn of 1960.

The Society owes so much to Judge Quinn's enthusiasm and devotion that it is a pleasure to have this opportunity to say "Thank you—well done!"

Mrs. Bloomer, managing editor of the Bulletin since the spring of 1958, herewith becomes its full-fledged editor.

—GERTRUDE S. WISTER,
Chairman of Publications

ACCREDITED JUDGES—Contd.

Mrs. Lewis P. Thomas, 2247 Sewell Lane, S.W., Roanoke, Va.
Mr. Miller Thompson, 5585 Rockbridge Rd., Stone Mountain, Ga.
Mr. Harry I. Tuggle, Jr., 709 E. Indian Trail, Martinsville, Va.
Mrs. Archibald W. Walker, 617 Woodland, Spartanburg, S. C.
Mrs. George D. Watrous, Jr., 5031 Reno Rd., Washington, D. C.
Dr. Freeman Weiss, 3223 Vista St., N.E., Washington 18, D. C.
Mrs. Nolan F. West, Sardis, Miss.
Mrs. Lawrence Wharton, 4504 Roland Ave., Baltimore 10, Md.
Mr. Willis H. Wheeler, 3171 N. Quincy St., Arlington 7, Va.
Mrs. Harry Wilkie, 302 North Main St., Bellbrook, Ohio.
Mrs. John C. Wister, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pa.
Dr. John C. Wister, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pa.
Mrs. A. O. Woods, Route 5, Murray, Ky.
Mrs. Merton S. Yerger, 301 William St., Downingtown, Pa.

ANNUAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the annual meeting of the members will be convened at 7:30 P.M., April 6, 1961, in the Hotel Roanoke, Roanoke, Va. At that time the following amendment to the by-laws, having been unanimously passed by the Board of Directors on October 22, 1960, 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, $4 for each calendar year.
   Sustaining, $5 for each calendar year.
   Contributing, $10 for each calendar year.
   Life, $100 for life if an individual, otherwise for 20 years.
   Family, $6 for each calendar year for husband and wife who shall receive one copy of all publications given in consideration of membership.

b. Commercial:
   Three times the foregoing amounts.

There will be a meeting of the retiring Board of Directors at 2:30 P.M., April 6, 1961, in the Hotel Roanoke and of the newly-constituted Board of Directors at 12:45 P.M., April 8, 1961, in the Hotel Roanoke.

—MAXINE M. ADAMS,
Secretary

ARE YOU A DORMANT AUTHOR?

Or are you budding, or in full bloom? Have you thoughts milling around in your head about our favorite flower that you might share with the rest of us? In our ranks are beginners, experts, and in-betweeners—people from many kinds of climates and soils. What you have to say may be very helpful to at least some of them. Don't be bashful. Drop a line to the chairman of the Publications Committee, giving an idea of what you would like to write about.

Don't be frightened by Frederic Lee's article on writing articles! May we hear from you?
THOUGHTS ON THE CLASSIFICATION PROBLEM IN DAFFODILS

“There are many things to be borne in mind when classifying a flower. For instance, it is no doubt to some extent influenced by weather conditions when it is opening, and may well belong to one class when it is newly out and another before it goes over; also its measurement may vary slightly from season to season, or different localities, as the flowers pay no attention to the classification. . . . There are quite a number of our best flowers that are what I would call border line flowers, and may well measure as Ic in one season and IIc the next . . .”

These words from Guy Wilson point out a significant fact about the classification of daffodils. The classification is a useful and necessary tool. It aids us in our efforts to understand the flowers we are growing. But even in the wild the demarcations between many species and varieties are far from distinct, and are forever undergoing revision. The flowers that result from the crossing of the many wild kinds through countless generations now flow from shape to shape and color to color, quite disregarding the neat compartments we have set up for them. In addition to the countless possible combinations of genes, there are the confusing effects of weather and soil.

Mr. Wilson’s remarks were addressed to the problem of the breeder in assigning seedlings to the proper class. To quote him further:

“My idea is that a flower should be classified according to its appearance and character, and not by rigid measurement.”

Apparently there was considerable discussion in the Narcissus Committee of the RHS over the classification of Silver Wedding and Cantatrice, and Ic finally won out over IIc. Virtue was designated IIc, but Mr. Wilson still feels that its place is with the trumpets, and so lists it in his catalogue.

This discrepancy has caused agitation among exhibitors in American shows, who enter Virtue in all good faith as a I, and are told at the entry table that it is a II. If the RHS check list is ordained to be the last word in a show, it must be adhered to, but there might be instances in which a passing committee could accept the classification of the breeder over that of the check list.

Perhaps a little gentle, unknowing discipline by the flowers is good for us. They say, “Don’t fence us in!” and quietly appear on the side of the fence where they are not supposed to be.

—GERTRUDE S. WISTER

HOPES (AND PLANS) SPRING ETERNAL IN THE HEART OF MAN

The bulb planting season is over—especially since this last snow. Now we realize that we did not purchase quite all the varieties we wanted. No matter what I add to the collection there is always the wish that I had added so-and-so this year instead of waiting until a later year. I happen to be one of those unfortunates to whom daffodil collecting and raising is a continuing series of frustrations. This, however, seems to be balanced nicely by a glowing aura of expectation. A particular “rave” turns out to be something of a disappointment. The “perfect” Chinese White expires after flaunting her beauty one year. The ordered bulbs of Snipe were not received. You can kick yourself around the block because you did not order Pixie this year.

On the other side of the ledger sheet is the knowledge that you have never had—nor seen—Obvallaris, Charity May, W. P. Milner, etc., etc., and there is the eager expectation of seeing them in your yard come spring, and finding out what they will do for you.

For some reason, the daffodil season seems not to be confined to a two months’ blooming period. This, of course, is the highlight, but it is followed by the perusal of catalogs, the ordering of new varieties; then there is the arrival of the bulbs and the decisions on where to plant them, if you have no pre-ordained plan. All this followed by the winter reading of yearbooks, the lists compiled of future “wants”, the expectation of spring’s results, and the future breeding plans, if any.

—WARREN E. GOTTSHALL (Va.)
FLOWER SHOW VASES

Mr. Willis Wheeler, our vice president, has suggested the design for an eight-inch dark green plastic vase for three stem entries in daffodil shows, and the Vlchek Tool Co. of Cleveland, Ohio, has offered to manufacture the vase in lots of 50 at a cost of $22.50 a hundred, plus transportation if they can be assured of total orders of about 10,000. They would also manufacture a similar vase suitable for single stem entries if there is enough demand to justify the tooling expense. The vases would be light weight, almost unbreakable, and suitable for exhibiting many other flowers in addition to daffodils.

Garden clubs and others who are interested in obtaining vases of this kind are requested to write to Mr. George Burhoe, Vlchek Tool Co., 3001 E. 87th Street, Cleveland 4, Ohio, stating the quantity of such vases they would purchase if and when they become available. Or write to Mr. Wells Knierim, our president, who lives in Cleveland and is in contact with Mr. Burhoe.

DAFFODIL DAY AT SWARThMORE

The Northeast Region of the ADS, the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and the Scott Foundation of Swarthmore College invite you to a Daffodil Day at the college on April 11. There will be a morning of talks on culture, classification, the smaller daffodils, preparing flowers for the show bench, and the garden use of daffodils. Lunch will be served, and the afternoon spent outdoors in the nursery and the Wister garden.

A charge of about $4 will cover lunch and costs. If you are interested, notify the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, 389 Suburban Station Building, 1617 Pennsylvania Blvd., Philadelphia, Pa., and when registration blanks are available one will be sent to you.