

# The Daffodil Bulletin

Summer Issue

August, 1963

## ADS COUPLE VIEW A SHOW IN LONDON

By MARGARET AND WALTER THOMPSON

*Birmingham, Alabama*

Daffodil Society members will go anywhere to see daffodils. Just mention a show and they will find some way or reason to attend. At the recent ADS Convention in Connecticut, Charlie Meehan told us of a special RHS Show to be held in London March 30 to April 1, due to the late daffodil season. Since we were to be in Amsterdam at this time we could not think of any reason why we shouldn't just fly over to London and take a look. That is just what we did.

The show was beautiful but entirely different from our shows. They cater to the grower over there and have many commercial exhibits; there was nothing in the show that could be called an arrangement. The show was held in two buildings, about a block apart, and the same ticket admitted you to both buildings. The first building contained the competitive show down the sides and commercial exhibits in the center. The second building contained commercial exhibits only.

In this show the seedlings competed with the named varieties. Some of the outstanding award winners were:

Award of Merit—Grant Mitch's Daydream, 2*d*.

1st Class Award—Richardson's Syracuse, 3*b*.

For Trial at Wisley—Zanbergen's Golden Gift, 1*a*.

Banksian Medal—Wilson's Castle of Mey, 2*c*.

Silver Medal — Wilson-DeJager's Winged Victory, 6.

Interesting ribbon winners were: Majorca, 2*a*, Ringmaster, 2*a*, Ormeau, 2*a*,

Rameses, 2*b*, Handcross, 2*d*, Perimeter, 3*a*, Lemonade, 3*a*, Dingle 3*b*, and Florestan, 4.

The most interesting winner was a 6*b* seedling, a Beryl cross, with yellow perianth and red cup.

In this building were some of the most beautiful azaleas we have ever seen in shades of yellow and orange.

We went over to the second building where we met our friends, Mrs. J. Lionel Richardson and Michael Jefferson-Brown. Both sent their regards to ADS members.

The most talked about daffodil was Brer Fox, exhibited by Jefferson-Brown. This one you only looked at, since the price was \$1,000 per bulb. It is a 1*a*, with yellow perianth and red trumpet. We are wondering who will be the first ADS member to secure this bulb?

Of the exhibitors who ship to the U.S.A., we felt the following flowers were worthy of note:

Richardson—Infatuation, 2*b*, a white with a green throat, cup had a pink rim; Nearula, 3*b*, white perianth, red cup; Rose Dew, 1*b*, pink trumpet; Hawaii, 4, a beautiful 1963 introduction; George Leek, 2*b*, a 1963 introduction; next year watch for Don Carlos, 2*b*, and Rose Royal, 2*b*.

Wilson-DeJager—Irish Rose, 2*b*, white perianth, pink cup with green throat; Kinard, 2*b*, white perianth, yellow rim on cup; Rushlight, 2*d*, yellow rim on trumpet; Palana, 3*b*, white perianth, yellow cup with orange rim; Tornamona, 2*c*, has a green throat; Blaris, 2*b*, white perianth, pink cup with green throat; Queensland, 2*b*, a beautiful pink cup.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

While garden activities are at a low ebb as far as daffodils are concerned (unless you're still digging bulbs and planting seed), the Society's program can not be forgotten, even in mid-summer. Therefore, in the next few paragraphs I will call certain matters to the attention of both the members and the Board.

\* \* \*

Members will be interested to know that those on the Board will travel from far and wide to Hot Springs, Ark., for the fall meeting October 12. Board members, please send the undersigned suggestions of matters you believe should be considered at that time.

\* \* \*

Members will recall that a dues increase was voted on at the Eighth Annual Meeting at Stratford, Conn. By a majority of the members present, Article I, Section 3 of the By-laws was amended as follows:

The dues of the members shall be—

a. Non-commercial members:

Annual, \$5.00 for each calendar year or \$12.50 for three years; Sustaining, \$7.50 for each calendar year; Contributing, \$10.00 or more for each calendar year; Family,

Jefferson-Brown—Brer Fox, mentioned above; Stromboli, 2b, white perianth, red cup, excellent texture; Pin Money, 7, a lovely new jonquilla; Aruba, 2b, white perianth, yellow cup with orange rim.

Alex Gray had a nice exhibit of miniatures. Mrs. C. F. Coleman had an interesting group of miniature seedlings. A nice one was Broomhill, a cyclamineus hybrid. Almost all of her seedlings were crossed with *N. cyclamineus*.

These beautiful daffodils were exhibited on each side and the center was filled with the most beautiful primroses and auriculas we ever saw.

After a delightful day spent at the London show we flew back to Amsterdam to see more flowers in the lovely Keukenhof Garden.

\$7.50 for each calendar year or \$18.75 for three years for husband and wife, who shall receive one copy of all publications given in consideration of membership.

b. Commercial:

Three times foregoing amounts.

\* \* \*

Those at the Stratford meeting were informed that the 1964 *Year Book* would not carry a roster of members. The 17 pages required for the roster will be devoted to more valuable information. However, names of new members may be published if space is available. So, members of former years, *please don't write and ask why your name isn't in the roster!*

By referring to the BULLETIN you can learn who the president, treasurer, chairman of publications, and editor of the BULLETIN are. The other officers are: first vice president, John R. Larus (Conn.); second vice president, Mrs. Goethe Link (Ind.); secretary, Mrs. E. E. Lawler, Jr. (Va.); New England Region vice president, Mrs. Joseph D. Nelson, Jr. (Conn.); Northeast v. p., Mrs. Francis Harrigan (Pa.); Middle Atlantic v. p., Mrs. Webster Barnes (Md.); Southeast v. p., Mrs. Clarence Heer (N. C.); Midwest v. p., Mrs. Glen Kildow (Ind.); Southern v. p., Mrs. Donald M. Linton (Tenn.); Central v. p., Mrs.

### THE DAFFODIL BULLETIN Published Quarterly by AMERICAN DAFFODIL SOCIETY, INC.

Mrs. Howard B. Bloomer, Jr., Editor  
Shore Acres, Route 2, Box 35  
Lorton, Virginia

Mrs. John C. Wister  
Chairman of Publications  
735 Harvard Avenue  
Swarthmore, Pennsylvania

Willis H. Wheeler, President  
3171 North Quincy Street  
Arlington, Virginia

Mrs. Grover F. Roennfeldt, Treasurer  
7426 Lynn Avenue  
University City, St. Louis 30, Mo.

Robert F. Johnson (Kans.); Southwest v. p., Mrs. Ted Schwachhofer (Okla.); and Far West v. p., Mrs. Henry Eames, Jr. (Calif.).

\* \* \*

The Board appointed the following persons as members of the Nominating Committee, to report to the Ninth Annual Meeting at Asheville, N. C., April 2, 3, and 4, 1964: Wells Knierim (Ohio), chairman; Mrs. Jesse Cox (Ark.); Bill Pannill (Va.); Mrs. Henry Eames, Jr., (Calif.); and Mrs. Joseph D. Nelson, Jr. (Conn.).

\* \* \*

Saturday afternoon, April 27, 1963, those attending the Eighth Annual Meeting met to receive a report from the Committee on Miniatures. After some discussion, the members approved a motion accepting the report as submitted. The report lists daffodils to be exhibited as "miniatures" in ADS approved shows. At the present time a committee is working out a procedure for the designation of future daffodils as miniatures. The committee will also establish a system for reviewing any decision already made, when such a review appears necessary.

\* \* \*

To conclude, I call to the members' attention a new ADS award, gratefully accepted by the Board at the 1963 Annual Meeting. The anonymous donor is paying for the die from which the medal will be struck. The requirements are as follows:

The Roberta C. Watrous Award, a gold or silver medal, may be offered at any show, approved by the American Daffodil Society, for a collection of 12 different miniature blooms from at least three divisions of the official classification.

The Gold Medal may be offered at any show held in connection with the annual meeting of the Society; the Silver Medal at any other approved show.

Each specimen must score at least 90, be correctly labeled, and exhibited in a separate container. All

## "SILENT SPRING" Again

Those who prefer netting daffodil flies instead of using a pesticide on them should be sure they are not exhausting themselves chasing various kinds of bees rather than flies. How can you tell the difference? Well, bees and their relatives sting, but you don't need any such painful test. All bees, wasps, hornets, and similar insects have *four* wings but all flies have only *two*. (See the illustration in Michael Jefferson-Brown's book, *The Daffodil*, opposite page 190).

*(A special gold medal award should be available to any ADS member who can count the wings of a bee or a bug in flight.—Editor.)*

## NEW DIRECTORS

Directors elected at the 1963 Convention whose terms expire in 1966 are:

Directors-at-large—Mrs. Raymond L. Roof, Paducah, Ky., and Dr. Tom D. Throckmorton, Des Moines, Iowa.

Regional directors—New England, Mrs. Charles E. Zoubeck, Greenwich, Conn.; Northeast, Mrs. John B. Capen, Boonton, N.J.; Middle Atlantic, Mrs. Donald C. van Etten, Charleston, W. Va.; Southeast, Mrs. Maurice L. Abercrombie, Palmetto, Ga.; Midwest, Mrs. Ray Schweinfurth, Mt. Vernon, Ill.; Southern, Mrs. Ben Allen Thomas, Shelbyville, Ky.; Central, Mrs. Robert L. Hovis, Ferguson, Mo.; Southwest, Mrs. George D. Doolittle, Albuquerque, N.M.; Far West, Mrs. Gilbert Rowe, Pasadena, Calif.

---

specimens must be named in the list of miniature species and garden varieties approved by the Society at Stratford, Conn., April 27, 1963, or as subsequently amended.

The schedule must state that this class is open only to members of the American Daffodil Society.

Any member may win both the Gold Medal and Silver Medal, but may not be awarded either medal a second time.

WILLIS H. WHEELER

## THOUGHTS ON CARRYING FLOWERS TO A SHOW

Have you ever exhibited a daffodil in a show?

Do you plan to exhibit a daffodil in a show?

If your answer is "no" to both these questions, don't waste time reading farther.

Exhibiting a daffodil is the climax of many steps—selection of varieties, buying, preparing the ground, planting, cultivation, selection of the best bloom of a variety, and cutting at exactly the right time for maximum perfection.

After all this, you take it to the show.

You still are not finished. After transporting the bloom you groom it and stage it to its best advantage.

All of this work (and incidentally, pleasure) can be nullified by careless transportation.

There are many methods of carrying flowers. Some people put their blooms in coca-cola bottles, some favor a pail with a mesh of chicken wire over the top, some just put them in a pail and trust to luck, and some even carry them in their hands.

### Give Them Your Best

But if you have spent money for a good bulb, and given your effort and time to growing it, why not give it the best possible chance to arrive at the show in prime condition?

Maybe you're one of the lucky people with so many blooms you can afford to be careless. You have so much to choose from you can cut many more than you will have time to enter, and if a blossom is damaged there are others to take its place.

But for the majority of us there is a limit to our superior flowers.

Why not pack and carry them so they arrive in as good condition as they left home?

To do this means that you give them care—tender, loving care! No matter how you transport them, make it careful transportation.

If you have only a short distance to go to a show, your blooms will not suffer if they are placed individually in bottles and firmly wedged with a small wad of cotton, so the heads will not shift and knock or rub against one another or against the sides of the car. Wedging to prevent one flower touching another is almost impossible in a pail. But many people win with flowers carried that way.

Even if you go to the show with two or three magnificent specimens clutched in your hot little hand, you can still take care to see that they do not rub against each other.

To leave home with a superior bloom in excellent condition and find on arrival at the show that the perianth is torn is a sad experience.

One of the disadvantages of carrying flowers in bottles or a pail or your hand is that the flow of air in the car has a tendency to dehydrate them. This can impair the substance and your flower will not stand up well. But on a short haul this is relatively unimportant.

### Shallow Box Is Best

The ideal way of taking flowers to a show is in a box—a shallow box with a well fitting lid. The box can be of either light wood or of cardboard. A cardboard suit box makes an excellent carrier, or your local florist may be willing to give you, or sell for a small charge, one of the boxes in which he receives flowers.

If you use a box your flowers can travel and arrive in exactly the condition you packed them—no bruises, no tears, no laments.

Packing in a case is not difficult and once you have the hang of it, not time consuming. If you are traveling some distance it is well to line your case with a sheet of plastic material such as dry cleaners use to return garments. A garment bag cut open will line the bottom, sides and come up over the edges. This

will prevent dehydration, which is greater in a paper box than in wood.

### **Put Heads on Pillow**

Next, using folded tissue paper, make a bolster or pillow as long as the box is wide and about one inch high. Place this at the top of the box. Your daffodils, having been well hardened in water over night, are now placed on this pillow with just the top perianth supported by it. Place them as close as possible without their touching. You now have a row of beautiful faces looking at you. Make another tissue bolster and place it across the width of the box just under the bottom perianth petals. This second pillow will serve to support the top perianths of your next row of flowers. Next place a pillow under the lower petals of this second row.

Now reverse your box and repeat this process from the other end. It is advisable to use the longest stemmed flowers in the first rows of each end. Continue packing from first one end and then the other until it's apparent no more can be put in without disturbing what you have done. There will probably be a space in the center of the box where nothing but stems are in view. Even this space can be utilized. If you are entering a show where foliage is required you may place it here. Miniatures travel well in this space.

### **Moisten With Spray**

Your case is packed. Now with a very fine sprayer held some distance away, lightly mist their faces with water. Over your open box place another piece of plastic, put your lid on securely, and your prize blooms are ready to travel. Packed in this way they can stand up for 48 hours in normal weather without being opened. If the temperature is unusually high, that time limit is shorter.

On arrival at the show open your case of blooms, cut on a slant a half inch off each stem, and place the blooms in water immediately.

This method of transportation is for

use when you are carrying your own blooms. If it is necessary to ship them the same method of packing is used but a wooden box is really necessary because it will stand up under rough handling, and also because you can fasten your flowers down so they will not shift even if turned upside down. To secure them, you take a length of cotton tape and with thumb tacks fasten each end of the tape to the floor of the box over the stems of every two rows. Make sure your tape is not so tight it bruises the stems. Between the end tacks put two or three more evenly spaced to hold your flowers firmly in place.

Actually everything that has been said can be told in one word—CARE.

## **NUTRITION**

*By CAREY E. QUINN*

I do not pretend to be a nutrition expert in the growing of daffodils as a scientist would regard the matter. But I have just completed an extensive examination of the known records and experiences available, and it is probably for this reason that our managing editor has asked me to summarize this question.

One of the oldest and most common questions asked by the average gardener when they see some well grown daffodils is, "what do you feed them?" And how satisfying it would be if you could hand out a pat answer—with a magic formula guaranteeing success.

Unfortunately there are many other related questions, and the visual apparent success at any given time may have little to do with what special nutritional program was followed.

For example, if the soil the bulbs were planted in was deeply dug—at least 18 inches—the feeding field for your roots was greatly increased by the capillary action of water and the increased length of roots thus encouraged. The result would be better daffodils in most soils, even if they had not been fed at all that year.

Again, in relatively poor soils, if a larger supply of water is provided, the

daffodils will do better—often top form—because the more water, the more nourishment your bulbs get. Plants take on nothing in dry form, no matter how rich the soil or how much you feed. It is what is available that counts, and it takes water to make it available.

It must be remembered always that there are no plants that want or use just one nutritional element. I often hear the expression “feed this thing only bone-meal,” or “feed that one only potash,” and so forth. If such expressions are of any real value experience-wise, it means that a given soil is known to be deficient in the element mentioned. Then there is often the idea that feeding a plant or bulb too much of one element—say nitrogen—will cause harmful and undesired results, whereas the undesired situation actually stems from malnutrition—i.e., the plant got the nitrogen it wanted but failed to get its normal needs in other elements.

It seems probable that all plants are selective and take mainly certain nutritional elements at one growth cycle, and the other elements at other times. In short, your bulbs need all the elements and take them if they are available at the right time in their growth cycle. You need nitrogen first to get your plant up and growing; then some weeks later you need phosphoric acid to give you root growth and floriferousness; and finally, you need potash after blooming to give you cell divisions, or bulb growth and strength. So the nutritional problem comes down to a program that gives your bulbs the sundry elements when they need it. And the nature of the soil plus the type of nutritional elements used has a lot to do with this. Slow acting fertilizers (often called organics) should all be used at one time—say in the early fall—in good garden soil. On the other hand, quick acting or quickly soluble fertilizers must be adapted to your daffodil cycle.

You might say that your daffodil cycle runs from September to May, with nitrogen needed in the first part of the cycle,

## ARE THE OLD VARIETIES MORE DISEASE RESISTANT?

Today I believe it is a more commonly held belief that the newer daffodil varieties do not, as a group, have the stamina and disease resistance of the old-timers. Probably there is some justification for that belief, but the following offers some reason to question it, at least in certain instances.

In the spring of 1961 my attention was called to a scattered, naturalized planting of daffodils on an abandoned estate in Northern Virginia. Land that had once been cleared had gone back to forest, thus putting the daffodil clumps in shade from mid spring on. In the whole area I found only one bloom which appeared

---

### GOLD RIBBON WINNER

At the French Broad River Club Show in Asheville last April the White Ribbon of the ADS was won by Mrs. John C. Cheesborough for three stems of Beryl, while the Gold Ribbon was won by Mrs. George H. V. Cecil with an outstanding specimen of Kingscourt. Mrs. Cecil's name was inadvertently omitted from the report of this show.

---

phosphoric acid (super phosphate) in the central portion, and potash at the beginning of the last three months.

Getting your nutrition to your roots when they need it is complicated somewhat by the available forms of nutrition. There is little problem with reference to nitrogen because there are a number of both slow acting (i.e., cotton seed meal) and quick acting (i.e., nitrate of soda) forms; but phosphoric acid is more difficult—it means either bone-meal that is too slow to calculate or super phosphate which takes about three months to become available when put in the soil. All this means that nitrogen and superphosphate could or should be fed together in late summer or early fall so phosphoric acid would be available at mid-cycle when needed.—*Reprinted from a BULLETIN of several years ago for the information of new ADS members.*

to be the old and familiar *van Sion*, with the flower form as it grows on the Isle of Texel in the Netherlands. Beside this clump with the bloom was another which I marked for the future.

From a history of the estate concerned it appeared the daffodils had been there for at least 100 years. I assumed the scarcity of flowers resulted from crowding, excessive shade, and competition from tree and shrub roots. On July 4 I returned to the place and lifted the marked clump. After photographing the mass I returned home with the bulbs and a couple of dozen fiery chigger bites. When the clump was separated there were 55 bulbs of all sizes, none being more than  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch in diameter.

In the fall all bulbs were planted in one row, 14 inches away from the next row which had nothing except Spellbinder.

In the spring of 1962 I was surprised to have six blooms from the 55 *van Sion* bulbs. All the flowers were of the color and form we generally see in this country—greenish-yellow and much like cabbages in shape. It was especially interesting to note these plants, and those on the old estate, showed no visible infections of virus.

The *van Sion* bulbs were not lifted in 1962, and a few blooms appeared in 1963. When the foliage had died the whole bed was dug. The Spellbinder in the adjacent row turned out a fine collection of bulbs with no apparent loss of the number originally planted. Of the *van Sion* bulbs, 25 remained, the others having rotted in the ground!

The outcome of this unintentional experiment was a surprise. Some other varieties, in that and the bed on up the garden slope, showed varying losses from a rot which is quite troublesome on certain varieties planted in those beds. Two different plantings of *Narcissus canaliculatus* even failed to come up after the first winter in the ground. Before this experience I would have said that *van Sion* would have been able to take almost anything, because it is re-

markedly persistent in many old gardens and abandoned plantings. Apparently it can survive many adversities but not the one in the Wheeler garden.

WILLIS H. WHEELER

## DAFFODILS IN THE "RECORD"

The following is an excerpt from the Congressional Record:

MR. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, in view of the extraordinarily exhilarating speech the distinguished minority leader is making, plus the sound advice being given by the Senate's first expert on agriculture, Mr. Vermont, I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from Illinois be allowed 15 additional minutes. [Laughter.]

THE VICE PRESIDENT. Is there objection? The Chair hears none; and the Senator from Illinois is recognized for 15 minutes.

MR. DIRKSEN. O, Mr. President, I shall not take 15 minutes, because it takes only a moment for one to express the sense that is in his heart about the beauty of flowers.

I remember what Wordsworth wrote in his poem on the daffodils: Ten thousand saw I at a glance,/Tossing their heads in a sprightly dance.

In those two lines Wordsworth captured a sentiment which probably I could not capture if I took not only the 15 minutes allowed me, but even much more time, in order to extol the grace, the beauty, and the loveliness of that flower.

However, before the entire membership of the ADS floods Mr. Dirksen with letters and cards thanking him for his tribute to the flower we love, you should know that this was lifted out of context. It was incidental to Mr. Dirksen's proposal that the marigold be made the national flower of our country!

Ladies and gentlemen, rise in your wrath! The marigold indeed!

**BULLETIN DEADLINE  
OCTOBER 16, 1963**

Mrs. Goethe Link  
R.R. 6, Box 152  
Martinsville, Indiana

Non Profit Org.  
U. S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Washington, D. C.  
Permit No. 41132

American Daffodil Society, Inc.  
7426 Lynn Ave.  
University City, St. Louis 30, Mo.

### DRAINAGE—REALLY NECESSARY?

Growing instructions always tell us that daffodils need good soil drainage but few of us may have had that rule proved by actual experience. This past winter I did.

For some years I have planted surplus bulbs on the side of a level corn field belonging to friends. The soil is red clay with hard pan a short distance below the surface. During the winter the Washington, D. C. area had freezing weather for a considerable time. Then snow fell on the frozen ground to a depth of several inches. Eventually a sudden thaw came and the snow turned to water that stood for days on the soil surface since the frozen ground below was as impenetrable as concrete.

The results were apparent when the plants began to grow in the spring. Foliage and stems were short, and there were many blank spaces in the rows. At digging time the whole damage could be

seen. A few varieties were a complete loss. Every bulb of Glenwherry rotted in the ground. The same was true of some others. On the other hand, Fortune and Kilmorack grew quite well in spite of their water treatment. One of the most noticeable results of the prolonged flooding was the destruction of the roots of the bulbs. As a result, the foliage died prematurely in the late spring.

In my own hillside terrace garden, where no drainage problem exists, there was no water damage.

WILLIS H. WHEELER

IF YOUR summer has been very dry, start watering your daffodil bulbs in August on a planned schedule. They need water to start early root growth. Early root growth insures a healthier bulb and a better flower next spring.

HAVE YOU ever contributed to the BULLETIN?