

NEWSLETTER

PACIFIC REGION

American Daffodil Society, Inc.

SEPTEMBER, 1977

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Dear A.D.S. Members:

Get busy! It's bulb planting time. In just a few months ahead that glorious season of flowering daffodils will be with us. Bulbs and planting preparation may be as much a part of your fall as it is mine. The anticipation of the spring scene fills my imagination and starts the action.

It was fun to find the American Daffodil trial garden at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum this summer. My inquiry surprised the lady at the desk as not many people are looking for daffodils late in June with roses and day lilies in bloom. The daffodils grow on a slope in several long strips. I enjoyed reading the labels half hidden in the grass to find some familiar older cultivars and then discovered a strip a bit lower with newer ones. In this collection were some of Murray Evan's named varieties: JOLLY ROGER, ROYAL COACHMAN, MONUMENT, YOSEMITE, FOXFIRE, CHEDDAR and others I don't recall now. The foliage was green and it was past the middle of June. Perhaps some spring I shall be in Minnesota and see how they bloom.

In order for you to plant and plan ahead we are listing the spring daffodil shows in our Pacific region. We hope that you will plan to attend one or all because each is unique due to its location or time. You are sure to see or learn something new as you brush shoulders or share with another daffodil group. Make your plans to come to one now. Follow the daffodil season up the Pacific Coast.

Another year has started for our local societies. An election of officers has resulted in the following people to serve for the ensuing year. Since these people are dedicated to promoting our favorite flower, I wish to add, with your help and support. Think of this as you enjoy the various daffodil activities. There are many ways to serve.

Glee Robinson
Regional Vice-President
Pacific Region

S P R I N G D A F F O D I L S H O W S

Santa Barbara	March 4 - 5
Oakland - Lakeside Gardens	March 11 - 12
La Canada - Decanso Gardens Regional Show	March 18 - 19
Fortuna Garden Club	April 1 - 2

OFFICERS 1977 - 1978

Southern California Daffodil Society

Joy Angie Gerard H. Wayne President
Helen Grier Marilyn J. Howe Vice-President
Erma Waring Helen A. Grier Secretary
Carol Hesse Treasurer
Harold Koopowitz Show Chairman

Northern California Daffodil Society

Nancy Koon Betty Craig (Mrs. James) President
Betty Fawkes (Mrs. Arthur) ... Vice-President
Jo Cowell (Mrs. Arthur) Secretary-Treasurer
Jack Romine Show Chairman
Pat Humphrey (Mrs. J. Willard) Director
Meta Bella Eames (Mrs. H.A.) . Director

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A MINIATURE SOLDIER
by
Glee Robinson

If FEBRUARY GOLD or PEEPING TOM salute your daffodil season, try this upright little fellow, GAMBAS. It is long lasting and delightful on a different scale.

GAMBAS is a miniature trumpet. Its perianth is flat and smooth, about three quarters of an inch across with a pert neat trumpet, all of good substance that give it a military stance. In addition to good form is the bonus of having a clear yellow color throughout. My stems measure four inches tall with the leaves only a half inch taller. This precise little flower is held erect and it blooms early in March to look straight out at you. Most of my miniatures are potted so I can carry them up to the house or patio to observe them during their bloom. And the bulb, like a small hazelnut, divides readily. It was bred by Alec Gray and registered in 1964, a seemingly fine candidate for the ADS Approved List.

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1977 Santa Barbara Show
by
Jay J. Pengra

After an absence of a number of years, on February 26 a daffodil show returned to the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. The Museum of early California design is located just north of the beautiful Santa Barbara Mission.

In a number of ways this daffodil show, the first of 1977, was a bellwether for the other California shows. As with the other shows it rained before the show making the drive along the coast most beautiful. The views of the ocean and green coastal hills were excellent. This cold rain was most appreciated after six very hot days in mid-February and served to heighten growers anticipation of the coming enjoyable season.

Being an early show the self yellows were especially nice. A Bill Roesse entry FINE GOLD won out over nine other Division 1 yellows and was selected champion Trumpet. ORMEAU noted for its consistency was champion Large Cup for Ken Darwin.

A very large, well formed TREVITHIAN grown by Mrs. Brett barely lost out to a strong colored and well poised stem of ORANGE QUEEN from the Harold Koopowitz garden. This latter bloom went on to win Champion Jonquil and the ADS Gold Ribbon for best flower in the show, beating out the trumpet FINE GOLD. This was to be the first of two Golds to be won by Koopowitz entries in 1977 and the first of three runner ups for Bill Roesse. This feat must surely earn our past ADS President the title of Brides Maid Bill.

TETE-A-TETE developed deep color and won the ADS Miniature Gold and White Ribbons for Harold Koopowitz and Rosemary Roesse respectively. Ceylon grown by Bill Roesse was awarded the ADS White Ribbon.

JET FIRE was intensely colored for Carol Hesse winning a blue. Jay Pengra had a number of entries with tazetta blood including Champions; ERLICHEER with 22 florets, an elegant HIAWASSEE, and enchanting n. pachybolbus. Division 11 was well represented with Polly Anderson's seedlings, some with strong contrast and improved form.

In spite of the added task of selecting Champions in each Division the judging was completed ahead of schedule and all adjourned for lunch and camaraderie. Next year's show should again be well represented as exhibitors plan on a beautiful trip to Santa Barbara in late February or early March.

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MORE NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIAN DAFFODILS
by
Harold Koopowitz - Irvine, California

New Zealand is one of those blessed parts of the world where abundant rain and good soil make great gardens inevitable and the good people of those islands have made the most of their opportunities. Not only have they imported the best cultivars from the rest of the world, but they have also developed many outstanding varieties of their own. Much has already been written about the downunder daffodils, but the surface has scarcely been scratched. We spent close to seven weeks in New Zealand during their 1976 spring and were able to observe many of their flowers through the entire season. I was able to spend some time at both of the Phillips' farms and could observe flowers at early, mid and late season. I returned to the states with a profound respect, not only for the downunder flowers but for the growers as well. Most of my time with daffodils was spent at Graham Phillips' farm, which I will discuss in a future article, but I also visited his father, Phil Phillips' farm where perhaps one of the greatest collections of daffodils in the world resides.

Among the early flowers which I saw at Graham Phillips' farm were a number of all white flowers of superb quality which we should grow to fill in the gaps of our daffodil season. SNOW DEAN is a very early 2C with a straight clipped cup. The corona may be too long for some tastes but the satin textured perianth is immaculate.

In fact the corona has some of the shape of PEACE PIPE although it measures a comfortable 2C. I have already flowered SNOW DEAN in Southern California and did use it in a winning collection at the Pacific Regional Show in 1976. An average flower measured 3 and 3/4 inches in diameter, the cup was 1 inch wide and 1 and 3/8th inches long. A yellow 2a, rather like SNOW DEAN but with a crown not quite so long was GOLD SCRIPT. It is another one of those flowers with high yields of exhibition blooms which have perianths which appear to have been ironed flat. It is probably one of the best of the early yellow-self large cups. GOLD SCRIPT does not have the depth of orange-gold one now expects in really top-notch yellows. But it does have that magnificent tailored form.

The required depth of color is to be seen in another self-yellow called DEMAND, a flower from the Phillips' stable. This recent seedling has ace of spades minor petals, slightly rounded at the tip. It is gold with good texture and substance. Another outstanding and different self yellow is HANEDA, another Phillips' seedling. This is a giant flower with a well flanged trumpet. It is one of the yellow 2A's which looks as if it really should be a 1A. The remarkable feature of this flower is not its size but the overlap of the petals. Not only do the outer three overlap but so do the inner trio. This flower might need a little grooming for show but should be a potent influence for breeding.

REWARD is an all gold trumpet which appeared on a number of show benches and won many awards. I must admit that the flower really did not appeal to me. The perianth lacked the smoothness I look for in the very best flowers. Nevertheless, this flower was very popular with both the exhibitors and the judges and we can probably expect to see it one day at our shows in the Northern Hemisphere.

CHASTE is not only a 1B pink but it is also very early. This Australian flower opens yellow and develops into a pleasant light pink. The perianth is ivory white with pointed smooth segments. Flowers can be 4 inches in diameter. The flanged trumpet is really borderline 1B and may retain a glimmer of yellow along the trumpet's rim. One could have hoped for a stronger pink color but with the scarcity of early pinks, and trumpets at that, one should not complain. Another early pink about which much has been written is "MY WORD". This is an early pink with a frilly trumpet and much the strongest pink color I saw in New Zealand. In both quality or coloring, however, MY WORD cannot compare with the latest offerings from Oregon. I did see some excellent and remarkable pinks down under. One of the best pinks to be introduced by Phil Phillips is SEDATE which has a trumpet shaped crown of baby pink. The perianth is smooth, broad and white with somewhat pointed segments. The outstanding feature of this mid-season flower is the purity and evenness of the pink coloring which is enhanced by a green eye. The Jackson pinks are, of course, legendary and well deserve their reputation. VERRAN although small, has an excellent perianth of rounded segments with an evenly flanged cup of soft pale pink. VERRAN in turn has been the parent of a number of fine pinks of which VAHU is probably the best. This large flower is very white and very pink with an immaculate perianth as have most of the Jackson introductions. VAHU was one of the best pinks I have seen and a good one can probably beat any other pink in the world. An interesting pink is NORELCO which tends to have cupped perianth parts but the corona is an enormous bell of startling pink. It will make an excellent garden flower if it ever becomes popular. Another flower which has been described before is DEAR ME, a very smooth pink with pointed petals but the stems seemed rather short. On Graham Phillips' farm is a seedling 1B pink which looks like an improved DEAR ME. It is probably the best pink trumpet to have been introduced. The smooth thick petals appear to have been chiseled out of marble and the slender trumpet has the deep pink one has come to expect in modern daffodils. Last but not least the most distinctive pink is one that has recently been introduced by Brogden named CONFLICT. This flower has a rounded white perianth flat and smooth and the deep pink coloring of the narrow cup bleeds into the base of the petals. This flower was considered as the premier pink at the local show held in Lower Hut while VAHU was the premier pink at the World show held next door.

One seedling at the World show which attracted some attention, from those in the know, was a 3B pink seedling raised by Jim O'More. The perianth was somewhat weak but the white cup had a fairly wide baby pink rim. PINK JEWEL another New Zealand seedling raised by Cotter only has a wire rim of pinkish color and looks more like a displaced Poet than a small cupped pink.

A surfeit of yellow-reds exist down under. Nevertheless there was not much that could match the well grown FALSTAFFS which appeared to abound all over. Some flowers did, however, stand out among the crowd even though these were not always particularly smooth or even show flowers. PETERMAN is an early Phillips' seedling. It literally stands out in the crowd. The two foot stalks carry the flowers well above the foliage. The short flaring cup is the very intense orange which daffodil fanciers call red (in their fancies). The cup fades a little towards the base but makes a very strong contrast to the strong yellow overlapping perianth. The four inch flowers stand out and call across the fields. A delightful flower was the very early cyclamineus seedling PATROL, also from the Phillips' stable. This is reputed to have come

from a cross between BERYL and NARVIK. The flower is hardly smooth but the contrast between the reflexed round canary yellow petals and the brilliant short red cup is startling. Phil Phillips does have under trial a smooth long trumpet red cyclamineus which is very smooth and in many respects comparable to or even surpassing JETFIRE. PATROL on the other hand seems to be very vigorous and a generous increaser. It seems to be the kind that the Dutch could, and perhaps one day will, sell by the ton.

I was very impressed by two red perianthed flowers which I was able to compare with the best red perianths from the Richardson collection. One of these was RED HOT bred by Jim O'More. This 3A is one of the most intense all reds I have seen to date. The petals are rounded and flat. Although the substance was not as heavy as ALTRUIST or SABINE HAY the color seemed more intense. The cup in RED HOT is not as dark as usually found in other all-reds and this tends to intensify the color somewhat more. There were surprising numbers of flowers with red flushes in the perianth. Some are being used for the cutflower market by Graham Phillips, but many are discarded as the color in the perianth is not as intense as is now expected in modern red perianthed flowers. TEKAPO, which is in the ancestry of many Southern Hemisphere all reds, was quite disappointing in terms of both color and form but it goes to show how color can be intensified and form improved if a little line breeding is undertaken. One of the most unusual of the 2A red cups was another Phillips seedling, DYAK. This flower has rounded petals of very heavy texture and a neat goblet shaped cup of intense orange-red. Splashes of orange-red at the base of the petals not only make the flower glow but seems to intensify the cup. The coloring in the petals is a real orange-red rather than the pinky-biscuit-orange of the so-called all reds. I suspect that it will be a real boon to breeders along this line of endeavor.

Among the 2B yellows three flowers stood out. Two Brogden introductions. KAREKA and TABLET had enormous perianths and the petals seemed to be very rounded, even the inner petals seemed almost to be themselves perfect circles. This is one of the features of Brogden flowers; the flat perianths are always very rounded. This third flower is CERES, another seedling from Jim O'More which is also very rounded and seemed very popular in the North Island. None of these, however, have good color contrast but the form is superb.

Rather surprisingly, reverse bicolors have received comparatively little attention. Everyone grows DAYDREAM. I only saw two other reverses which seemed novel. PRYDA by Brogden, was spectacular. This flower was bred from LEMONADE x DAYDREAM and has a short flaring cup which was very white while the perianth was among the most intense yellow I have seen in reverses. This large flower might be useful for breeding back towards small cupped reverses. Phil Phillips has just introduced a very smooth cyclamineus called JINGLE. It does not reverse as well as some of the Mitsch seedlings but is one of those flowers which can be as smooth as custard. The broad petals overlap but the straight cup lacks the flare and waist one would like to see in this division.

CHINO is the Phillips contribution towards the pink cupped-yellow perianthed flowers. The perianth was amber-cream with lemon beige highlights. It is not the lemon yellow of MILESTONE but rather more like the color of

AMBERJACK. The cup was pink with amber tones. Looking at a row of the flowers gives more the impression of apricot than pink, although the pink color does deepen as the flower matures especially around the rim of the cup. Most fascinating was a seedling of Phil Phillips which had a large smooth lemon perianth, quite rounded and a trumpet shaped white cup with a distinct wide clear pink rim. I am not sure if this measured division 1 or 2, but it was a good quality show flower and a distinct color break.

Another distinctive flower from the Phillips' group is the recently introduced BROWNING. It has a good white perianth and a trumpet shaped cup which develops to a brownish-red. This is obviously material which could lead to 1B oranges and also crossed to the best of the KILWORTH-ARBAR siblings will introduce large flared cups into the 2B reds.

Two miniature seedlings stood out. One called CUPID appears to be a cross between jonquilla and cyclamineus and has many of the attributes of both parents. It produces a cluster of up to five petite golden flowers with wind-swept petals and a long unflared cup. CUPID was produced by Cooper. Another unnamed seedling between two bulbocodiums had a typical hoop petticoat flower but the edge of the corona had a very fancy little frill that made it most distinctive.

Looking back - despite the interesting color breaks I saw, my main impression is that the New Zealanders have gone in for form rather than color. They are fussier about the shapes of the corona than we and will not tolerate the irregularities that we sometimes endure in that part of the flower. Pointed petals are penalized and they like their division three flowers on the small side. I do think that unless we use the best that they have to offer we will start to fall behind as far as form is concerned. If we use the opportunity to combine the form they have with the great color and good form we already have, then magnificent blooms will await us in the future.