

NEWSLETTER

SOUTHEAST REGION

AMERICAN DAFFODIL SOCIETY

FEBRUARY 1979

William O. Ticknor -----Executive Director A.D.S.
Willis H. Wheeler -----Chm. Health and Culture Comm. A.D.S.
Mrs. Ben Robertson -----Southeast Regional Vice President
Mrs. W. L. Wiley -----Regional Director
Mrs. William Ticknor -----Regional Director
V. Jack Yarbrough -----Regional Director

Dear A.D.S. Friends,

Yesterday, to my delight, I found snuggled up to a rock wall, a bloom of N. Cyclamineus. This morning (Feb. 18) it's covered with eight inches of snow. I hope it will raise its head when the snow melts.

We have so much good news for this letter, I hope you'll forgive my not getting out one last fall. Ben's six extended stays in the hospital with Myasthenia Gravis took all of our time. I'm pleased to say he's showing a bit of improvement.

NEW MEMBERS - since last newsletter

We very happily welcome the following:

GEORGIA:

Mrs. Wm. H. Cochran - Rt. 6, Conard Road, Rome, Ga. 30161
Jerry Collette - 521 Harold Ave., N.E., Atlanta, Ga. 30307
Georgia Daffodil Society - % B. L. Kennedy, Roxboro Rd.
Mrs. R. C. Karrh - P. O. Drawer K, Swainsboro, Ga. 30401
Donald T. Ladd - Box 88713, Dunwoody, Ga. 30338
Mrs. Marh M. Manning - 1650 Seayes Rd., Mableton, Ga. 30059
Mrs. Tom L. Roland - 2771 Anscot Ct., Snellville, Ga. 30278

FLORIDA:

L. G. McNairy - 4617 Bay Shore Blvd., Tampa, Fla. 33611

NORTH CAROLINA:

Mrs. Pauline Butler - Rt. 5, Box 181, Chapel Hill, N. C. 27514
George O. Doak - P. O. Box 853, Chapel Hill, N. C. 27514
Dr. Fred B. Lopp - 5003 Carlson Dairy Rd., Greensboro, N. C. 27410

SOUTH CAROLINA:

Serials Dept. Robert M. Cooper Library - Clemson Univ.,
Clemson, S. C. 29631
Mrs. R. L. Thompson - 218 France Ave., N. Charleston, S. C. 29406

*Mrs. G. Defreest Larner, 12 Sashell Crane Rd.
Hilton Head Island, A.C. 29928*

IN MEMORIUM:

We regret having to report the loss of the following members, and extend sympathy to friends and relatives.

George C. Watson - Enfield, N. C.

I'm sorry I never had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Watson.

Mrs. Clarence Heer - Chapel Hill, N. C.

Mrs. Heer served our region well as Vice President in the 60's.

Mrs. Lionel Richardson - Waterford, Ireland

A woman of many talents, who continued her husband's daffodil hybridising after his death, and gained many top awards in the London show. She also raised and exhibited fine cattle. Prospect House was a joy to visit. I'm glad I had that pleasure in 1962. Their daffodil introductions have enriched gardens all over the world.

CHAPEL HILL SHOW:

The Chapel Hill show is March 31 and April 1. Co-Chairmen are Mr. and Mrs. William Ticknor. The Chapel Hill members were evidently very disappointed at having to cancel their show last year. They have made excellent plans for this year, preceded by a workshop last September. The following topics were discussed:

Bed Preparation: -by Red Lappi

Cultivars Successful in Chapel Hill: -Mrs. Pauline Butler

Miniatures: - - - - - George Doak

Best Show Cultivars:- - - - - Mrs. W. L. Wiley

Diseases and Pests: - - - - - Mrs. Betty Wilson

The State Show will be held at The Totten Center, N. C. Botanical Gardens. Mrs. W. L. Wiley, 412 Cameron Ave. for information.

ATLANTA SHOW:

This show, sponsored by The Georgia Daffodil Society and Rich's Garden Center, will be March 29/30 at Rich's downtown store. The doors from parking garage to Plaza floor (orange and green levels) will be open at 8:30 a.m. March 29 for the convenience of exhibitors. Entries must be in place by 10:30 a.m.

GREENVILLE SHOW:

The Greenville Garden Club in S. C. is having a Daffodil show March 21 at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Julian Smith.

I'm very pleased to see enough interest in the flower to have another show. Many years ago, 1948/55 we had excellent shows. Now, there's many new and younger members in the club, and the time could be just right for an up and coming Daffodil show.

JUDGES SCHOOL:

April 5 & 6 - Course III (and make-ups) will be given in Atlanta. Mrs. Maurice Abercrombie is Chairman and Mrs. T. E. Tolleson is Co-Chairman. We owe a debt of gratitude to Mrs. Abercrombie for her hard work and patience for the past few years, in putting on the schools. Thank you, Berma.

NATIONAL CONVENTION :

The National Convention this year is to be in Boston, Mass. May 3-5. Plan to attend, you'll have a great experience if you've never attended a convention before, and if you have been before - you probably couldn't be kept away.

In this newsletter you'll find interesting, the method the Tichnors use in preparing for a show, Bill Simms report of Mildred, Margaret Tolleson's Jitters about the season, Jack Yarbrough's items about Georgia and Jaydee Swafford's excellent review of the Atlanta show. That show won the Certificate Award of Achievement from the Garden Club of Georgia and The National Council of State Garden Clubs.

Have a good season, and do enjoy every minute of it.

Eve Robertson

P.S. N. Cyclamineus did survive the snow without even a broken neck.

SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL DAFFODIL SHOW

The Georgia Daffodil Society planned a second, late show for Spring, 1978 at our Fall, 1977 membership meeting. We were fortunate to have done this because our Spring season was so delayed we were compelled to cancel our regular show which was scheduled for March 23 and 24, 1978. This was the common problem of all the shows over the Southeast Region. Many were cancelled and many were delayed.

The dates for our second, late show were set to be April 7 and 8. This show had been planned as a "test run". If the show was successful, we considered that we might make it an annual affair. Because most avid growers buy new cultivars each year, many of our new flowers bloom too late for the regular show dates. Also, many of our late bloomers miss the shows. So in light of these reasons, we decided to try a second show. Had it been as we had planned, it would have been a small show with many new and late season cultivars. Last Fall, I think we all envisioned a very pleasant atmosphere whereby we could all stroll in with a few dozen top-quality blooms, enter them, and then wait for the judging to be completed so that we could enjoy looking over the show. We would welcome the relaxed environment after the hectic main show.

What a surprise for us when it became evident by March 18 that our regular show date of March 23 and 24 would have to be cancelled. We were so lucky to have planned the second, late show! We just switched our Southeast Regional Show date to April 7 and 8.

The show was held at Rich's, Inc. Lenox Store Auditorium. We had feared a space problem but there was no crowding at all. The auditorium made a lovely setting with the track lighting overhead. Because of the strategic location of the room, many people saw the show. Some just popped in for a glance while others studied the blooms for hours. More of the general public saw our Southeastern Regional Show this year than in many, many years. We were very excited about that!

There were 500 entries in the show and this was slightly above average for our show. The quality was very good and most classes were well filled. There were 906 total blooms exhibited. In the single stem entries, Division 2, as usual had the most entries with 133. The most entries came in the bi-colors classes. There were 28 entries in the white perianth/cup yellow class, and 23 entries in the white perianth/cup predominantly pink class. This indicates to me that the pinks must be some of our very favorites. No longer are they on the uphill climb towards reaching that position. Some of the ladies here in Georgia are really attracted to the pinks and I'm sure that this is why our pink classes are always so hotly contested. Margaret Tolleson and Dianne Mrak are two of our most avid lovers of the elusive pinks. Both of these ladies really grow them well in spite of our sometimes problem climate. It was obvious that the newer pinks from Oregon had the best coloring. It seems that the older pinks just won't color up for us here in Georgia. I'm glad that the newer pinks have arrived, because I am tired of looking at my near white cups on most of my older pink cultivars. I've yet to determine what type of weather is best for pinks. It would seem to me that a cool, damp climate would be best, but, despite our hot, dry season, the pink color was suprisingly good. Tangeant showed deep color thru out the show. The brightest pink in the show was a specimen of Ken's Favorite (2 W-P, Evans, 1978), exhibited by Mildred Simms.

Canisp was exhibited by both Mildred Simms and the Abercrombies and this cultivar was one of the most outstanding varieties in the show. I think I remember seeing approximately four Canisp blooms and all were magnificent. Canisp (2 W-W, Lea) is not a new flower but it is not widely grown, especially in our basal rot climate. Canisp is the favorite flower of John Lea and Bill Pannill and has won Best in Show at the R.H.S. shows on two occassions. Need I say more? Unfortunately, the flower is unavailable this year, apparently withdrawn for increase by Mr. Lea. It was only \$5.25 in his 1977 catalog.

All of the reverse bi-colors in the show were of the most wonderful quality. Daydream, exhibited by the Yarbrough's was an example of this quality and was selected as Best in Show! This bloom was not from a new bulb, in fact, the bloom came from a bulb that the Yarbrough's had for many years, and this truly makes the award very meaningful. Plaza (2 Y-W, Evans, 1975), Chelan (Evans, 2 Y-W, 1975), and Amberglow (Mitsch, 2 Y-W, 1969) were also in my notes as outstanding reverse bi-colors. The reverse jonquils were beautiful as always. The haunting lemon/sulphur colors are great tranquilizers.

In the Abercrombie's winning Bronze Ribbon collection, Killdeer (Mitsch, 6 Y-Y, 1970) was the vase of three that caught my eye. They were so fresh and perky! Mrs. Abercrombie had arranged them in the perfect style for Division 6 in my opinion. They were in a triangular formation, yet all were to the side so that the viewer may admire their beautiful reflexing character. Killdeer has a most distinct and wonderful characteristic. At the junction of the reflexing perianth and the long cup--- there is a halo type region with the beautiful green striations in the style of Daydream and Top Notch. I think that this is one of the most beautiful features

that a daffodil can have. Unfortunately, Killdeer has been withdrawn for increase from the Mitsch/Havens 1978 catalog. This was the third try in a row for the Abercrombies vs. the elusive Bronze Ribbon. Victory was sweet and hard-earned, indeed! As evidence of the quality of their exhibit, Amberglow, was selected as Best Vase of Three from their collection.

Some new flowers which attracted attention were: Wizard (Evans, 2W-Y, 1976) exhibited by Mildred Simms. The parentage is Effective x Festivity open pollinated. The cup is a small diameter, yet it is long and tubular shaped. The flower is most unusual and attracts immediate attention. Angel Eyes, Mitsch's new poet, was a lovely flower. It will probably be the Queen of Division 9 for a long time. Impressario (Mitsch 2 Y-WWY, 1975) was exhibited by Margaret Tolleson and was one of the newer flowers unknown to most of us except for being the cover flower of Mitsch's 1977 catalog.

Park Springs (Mrs. J. Abel Smith 3 W-YYO, 1972) was exhibited by Otis Etheridge and was a very formal flower. It reminded me of Dr. Throckmorton's flowers. I was on the classification committee and I stopped my work to enjoy the elegance of the flower. I'm afraid I am not a very good worker for the classification committee as I stop to enjoy the flowers too much, especially the newer ones!

I think the Georgia Daffodil Society can be very proud and pleased with our 1978 show. Due to the definite quality of the show, I feel confident that we will have a second annual late show again in 1979. We hope the seasons will cooperate and we can have our larger main show and then our second small show. I feel that it will be well worth the effort. We are very fortunate to have Richs', Inc., here in Atlanta, to support our shows. We have our main show at their downtown store auditorium each year and we hope that they will allow us to hold our second late show at their suburban Lenox store auditorium again next year.

To start having a second show every year will mean a lot of hard work, but we must show our daffodils when they are blooming. Perhaps we should all limit ourselves to only show our very best at this second show. Yes, it would be small but the quality would be of the utmost perfection.

Daffodils are like bass fishing, once you get started you just can't stop. But what a wonderful way to run yourself nutty!!!

MRS. J. W. SWOFFORD

DO YOUR HOMEWORK

Making entries in a daffodil show starts well in advance of the show date. Hopefully, you have planted bulbs which are suitable for exhibition in addition to those for landscaping and cutting for the house. When you receive your show schedule, study it and take it as a challenge to exhibit the very best you have.

Over the years Bill and I have exhibited, we have worked out a routine which has done well for us. Flowers of blue ribbon quality only are generally cut in the early morning or late afternoon, plunged into a bucket of warm water (comfortable to your hand), after their names have been written on the stem with ball point pen. Cutting is done over 4 or 5 days and the flowers kept carefully misted in an old fashioned refrigerator (not a frost free or self defrosting one), or in some other cool , moist place. Immediately after cutting flowers are groomed. So far this is general standard procedure but from here on the Ticknor Technique differs somewhat.

Shortly before going to the show, the dining room table, as many card tables as needed, indeed any flat surface is cleared for use. Each flower is carefully checked over for any imperfection we may have missed in the garden and any final grooming is done, name and classification are re-checked and each bloom is put in a soft drink bottle and listed by division. The bottles are then grouped by division so a glance across the table can tell us what possible collection possibilities we have.

If we decide to enter a Quinn Collection, we check to be sure we have 5 Divisions then pick out possible blooms to use. These are separated from the rest of the mass and sometimes there are 35 or so to select from. We stage a collection and keep selecting out the weakest ones until we are satisfied that we have the strongest possible entry plus a couple of back up blooms in case a change is needed. After finishing the most important , or largest, entry we plan to make, we begin to work through other collections, vases of three stems and eventually single entries.

AS an entry is selected, it is packed one of two ways. For years we carried flowers to a show either nearby or at a long distance in soft drink wooden cases holding 24 bottles. Of course, each bottle held 2 or 3 stems, or whatever could be held firmly and safely and bottles spaced in the case with sufficient head room in between so the blooms would not touch each other. In recent years we have tried and successfully used the Richardson- Bozievich-Hardison method of dry packing in a wooden box. A schedule is marked with each entry we plan to make. Entry tags are usually prepared at the same time and a list compiled of each entry.

In other words, we cut thoughtfully, groom (clean, help pose or straighten the axis, etc.) just after cutting, pre-select our entries at home, do as many of the details as we possibly can at home, then go to the show area and stage blooms to go on the show tables. We have found we can be more selective and thorough in the quiet of our home than in a crowded staging area where you can't help but speak to people you haven't seen in months or exclaim over a flower with some one. Preparing entries for the show tables takes less time this way and we have been able to place more entries because of our work beforehand.

This method has worked quite well for us in the past and we will try our hand at it again before too many more weeks.

Laura Lee Ticknor

Feb. 22, 1979.

On this, President George Washington's birthday, the Georgia Daffodil Society looks forward to spring and an excellent regional show at Rich's Downtown Plaza Auditorium on March 29th and 30th.

As this is being written, the 1979 Atlanta Home & Garden Show is being presented at the Civic Center. The Georgia Daffodil Society has been invited to exhibit in the 1980 Home & Garden Show, and it is hoped that this will encourage development of pot culture by some of our members for a creditable display of daffodil blooms next year.

Although other sections of the country have a greater snowfall than Atlanta and Georgia, the northern two-thirds of the state is reeling from four inches, or more, of sleet and ice which fell Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 17 & 18. Spring is not "busting out all over", but when the ice partially melted yesterday Berma Abercrombie "rescued" four blooms of Bambi which today brighten her big farmhouse living room at Palmetto, Ga.

At an enthusiastic spring meeting at Rich's Garden Center, the new officers, as follows: Pres. V. Jack Yarbrough; 1st Vice-Pres., Mrs. Phillip Campbell; 2nd Vice-Pres., Mrs. J. Edwin Gunby; Rec. Secretary, Mrs. V. Jack Yarbrough; Cor. Secretary and Treasurer: Mrs. J. W. Swafford; assumed their duties.

Barnie Kennedy is at home and he is doing so well, according to reports, that he may surprise us at the Atlanta show! We will miss Mildred Simms' invaluable assistance at the show, and one of our newer members, Dianne Mrak, is moving to Gales Ferry, Conn.

Several of our members are planning to exhibit in the National Show to be held in Memphis next year. Let's all work to make it one of the most beautiful and successful shows ever.

V. Jack Yarbrough

DAFFY JITTERS

The Daffodil season in this area, I think, is the most distracting and frustrating season on our calendar. Here it is Valentine's Day and most of my bulbs have not even come through the ground. I've known seasons when there would be a garden full of blooms at this date.

Last year was such a disastrous year with bulbs, and because of that, we are more than eagerly looking forward to what this year will bring forth. But I know, from past experience, that given a few sunny days, the bulbs will begin to pop out of the ground, and fast. What fun it's going to be to watch their progress.

Mrs. T. E. Tolleson

Dear "Daffodilers" and other "Wunnerful" Friends:

The outpouring of your love, compassion, prayers and concern through your cards, letters, telephone calls and other means has completely overwhelmed us. I would like to write each of you personally and tell you how much we appreciate your kindness during this trying period of the past two months. Being the poor correspondent that I am, it would take much too long, so please accept this means of communication to say a great big, THANK YOU, and to bring you up to date on Mildred.

Mildred has been on chemotherapy for five weeks and while the side effects have not always been pleasant, she seems to have gained ground since the very first treatment. On our last trip to the Doctor, the report was good as to her vital signs, blood platelet and other tests. The excruciating pains she felt in her back, shoulders and legs, although still there, have subsided to a great extent. She is very thin and weak and spends most of the time in bed. Her appetite leaves a lot to be desired, but we're hoping that will improve and she will gain weight and strength. We feel that she is gaining ground and have high hopes for a complete remission.

Although she felt terrible, with the help of my hired men, she was able to get most of her bulbs back into the ground. Then, after she gave up, we managed to get them all planted, so she's looking forward to some beautiful blooms next month.

To her daffodil friends, I hope she will be able to join you again soon in this beautiful avocation. Most of you know by now that Pat Lee and Mary Cartwright came down from Nashville and graciously relieved Mildred of her Awards Chairmans' job. We thank them so much for this.

To all of our friends, the bottom line is THANK YOU, THANK YOU! and please keep on praying for us for we have truly felt your prayers.

Mildred sends her love to each of you. Her attitude is wonderful.

Gratefully,
Bill Simms

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