

WASHINGTON DAFFODIL SOCIETY

Newsletter, September 1984

Officers:

President: Miss Elinor E. Dunnigan, Washington, D.C. (244-6552)
Vice President: Ms. Susan Ticknor, Falls Church, Va. (532-7245)
Secretary: Dr. Chauncey Maher, Chevy Chase, Md. (656-7833)
Treasurer: Mr. George K. Brown, McLean, Va. (356-4753)
Newsletter Editor: Mrs. George D. Watrous, Jr., Wash., D.C. (363-4745)

Board of Directors: Term ending 1985: Mr. Scott Bally, Miss Delia Bankhead, Mrs. Elisha Hanson, Col. Charles Thomson; ending 1986: Mrs. George Eads, Mr. Robert Galano, Mr. Howard Jewett, Mrs. Kenneth L. Oswalt; ending 1987: Mrs. Joel R. Crenshaw, Mrs. Jennings C. Pamplin, Ms. Eileen V. Riley, Dr. Adrienne A. Whyte.

Honorary Board Members: Mrs. P. S. Battle, Mrs. John Bozievich, Mrs. Charles E. Cox, Mr. Bernard L. Greenberg, Mrs. Harry Harris, Mr. Joseph S. Petersen, Jr., Mrs. George D. Watrous, Jr.

FALL MEETING

The fall meeting will be held on October 14 at 3:30 p.m. in the Auditorium of the National Arboretum (Board meeting at 2:30). The bulb orders will be distributed, and it is important that members either come in person or make definite arrangements for someone to pick up their bulbs for them. Members are asked to bring a few choice bulbs to share with others in the bulb give-away at the meeting. Usually there are also extra bulbs from the bulb order. Light refreshments will be served and the ADS slide program "Novelties and Newer Varieties" will be shown. Susan Ticknor, in charge of the program, says that she will need a carousel slide projector and screen and asks that people who can provide them call her either at home (532-7254) or at her office (523-1892). There will also be a vote on the proposal recommended at the June Board meeting to raise the dues from \$3.50 to \$5.00 a year. Dues are for the calendar year, payable between January 1 and July 1. After this year members who have not paid by July 1 will be dropped from the mailing list.

LETTER FROM THE NEW PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow-Members of WDS, I am trying to fulfill the duties of president of this organization, and wish to thank all who are helping by their suggestions and by their labors.

The handling of this year's bulb order, the preparation of next year's list, the availability of the garden markers, the revision of the membership roster, the possible sponsorship of an ADS convention, and the plans for our 1985 show -- all are in the hands of responsible, cooperating members. Won't you join us? If you can, do.

Elinor Dunnigan

WDS. At his suggestion three of the larger garden clubs of the area, Woodbridge, Silver Spring, and Takoma, joined forces to put on a combined daffodil show in 1950. Mr. Frank S. Pohanka served as chairman, and I was one of the members of the Takoma Horticultural Club appointed to the organizing committee. As plans developed for the show, to be held at Taft Junior High School, some of the committee members thought such a combined show ought to be made permanent, and I, acting as secretary, had printed a sheet headed "Do you want an organization devoted solely to Narcissus in the Washington area?" which was distributed at the show. Response led to formation of the society later that year, and through cooperation with Takoma Horticultural Club the first bulb order was possible.

From 1950 to 1960 Dr. Weiss served both WDS and ADS in various capacities. His contributions on various phases of daffodil growing and enjoyment appeared frequently in daffodil society and other horticultural publications.

After 1960 Dr. Weiss divided his time between Charleston, South Carolina, and his farm in Minnesota. In South Carolina he influenced the planting of daffodils in Magnolia Gardens, and in Minnesota he promoted daffodil growing through the ADS North Central Test Garden at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum.

- Roberta C. Watrous

Some Other Daffodil Shows:

March 30, Somerset County Garden Club, Princess Anne, Md.
April 6-7, Tidewater Daffodil Society, Newport News, Va.
April 13-14, Garden Club of Gloucester, Gloucester, Va.
April 13-14, London Town Public House and Garden Show, Edgewater, Md.
April 24-25, Maryland Daffodil Society, Baltimore, Md.

And then there is the National Show, April 25-26, in connection with the ADS Convention at the Holiday Inn of Valley Forge, King of Prussia, Pa. Fuller information about all of these may be found in the December issue of The Daffodil Journal.

And

The Annual Meeting and election of officers of WDS will be held Sunday afternoon, May 19. More information later.

GARDEN MARKERS

Last year's garden marker sales were so successful that the effort is being repeated. The sturdy zinc markers with 10-inch stems are being sold at five for \$1.00. To arrange to pick up yours before the October 14th meeting call Scott Bally at 483-8553. The remainder will be available at the meeting.

JUNE BOARD MEETING

A very lively meeting of the Board of Directors was held at the home of the new president on June 18. In addition to actions reported above, the proposal to move our show to the Botanic Garden was discussed at length. It was decided to hold the 1985 show there as an experiment, and that good relations be maintained with the Arboretum. Delia Bankhead will be show chairman, with Adrienne Whyte as co-chairman. A committee consisting of Susan Ticknor, Scott Bally, and Patricia Crenshaw was appointed to investigate the possibilities of holding an ADS convention in 1986 or 1987, possibly at Crystal City. This committee has met and will have a recommendation ready for the October meeting. Directors are reminded that they are supposed to attend Board meetings when possible.

1985 SHOW

The Board, at the June meeting, approved a new location for our 1985 show. Next year the show will be held in the Conservatory of the U.S. Botanic Garden on April 20 and 21. This location, easily reached by three Metro lines, is likely to attract a great many local visitors. As the date comes just before the ADS National Convention in nearby King of Prussia, Pa., many out-of-town daffodil enthusiasts will probably attend our show as well.

This will be the Middle Atlantic Regional Show in 1985, and will offer the ADS Bronze Ribbon for a collection of 12 vases of three stems. The show schedule has been expanded to include more classes for entries in the single-bloom and vase-of-three sections. Two new classes have been added for our participating club members.

Those who have bulbs to plant this fall can begin preparing for the show at planting time. If your daffodils generally bloom earlier than the show date, you can retard bloom by planting deeper than usual and by mulching with Perlite. (This also helps to keep the blooms clean.) Plant as soon as the soil has begun to cool, in well worked soil. If it is clay add peat moss and sand to provide better drainage. Add some superphosphate to the soil just below planting level to encourage good root development. It is a good idea to make a planting plan in addition to labeling your bulbs. Double check the spelling and classification of all cultivars now, so that at show time you can write the correct names on stems as you cut.

ADS entry tags will be used for the first time and will be available from George Brown at the March meeting and thereafter. Our enthusiastic show committee is working hard on other projects to make the 1985 show beautiful and exciting. If you would like to help with the show, or have special abilities (sign-making, art work, carpentry, etc.) please call me at 759-2133.

Delia Bankhead, Show Chairman