The Daffodil Journal
ISSN 0011-5290
Quarterly Publication of the American Daffodil Society, Inc.
Vol. 26
MARCH 1990
Number 3

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Daffodil Journal, 1686 Grey Fox Trails,
Milford, OH 45150-1521.

THE DAFFODIL JOURNAL is published quarterly (March, June, September, and
December) by the American Daffodil Society, Inc., Milford, OH 45150-1521. Second class
postage paid at Milford, OH 45150-1521. Membership in the Society includes a subscription.
$12.00 of the dues are designated for the Journal. The Daffodil Journal is printed by
Williamson Sales and Printing, Inc., 2nd Ave., Franklin, TN 37064.
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Articles and photographs (glossy finish for black and white, transparency for color) on
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DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS APRIL 5, 1990

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ADVERTISING RATES

Advertising rates for the Journal are as follows: full inside page, $90.00; one-half page,
$50.00; one-quarter page, $35.00. Prices for color advertisements available upon request.
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N. pseudonarcissus ssp. Nobilis growing with white Anemone nemorosa and pink Erythronium dens-canis at Superbagnères, Central Pyrenees, France. (Andersen photo)

NARCISSUS SPECIES IN THE EASTERN AND CENTRAL PYRENEES

SARAH B. ANDERSEN, Wilmington, Delaware

In mid-May of 1989, four of us spent ten days criss-crossing the Pyrenees in pursuit of species daffodils. We found large populations in the localities described by Cyril Coleman in his account (The RHS Daffodil and Tulip Yearbook 1953) of travel through the region and in many other areas not documented in the literature, though probably well-known to local inhabitants.

Marilyn Howe, and three Andersens, Kathryn, Donald, and myself, convened at the Barcelona airport. Following superhighways, we skirted the city and headed northwest soon passing Montserrat, a jagged-toothed massif rising abruptly from the surrounding plateau. Nearby, great fields
of red poppies brightened the countryside. As we continued north following the Rio Llobregat into the Pyrenees, summer gave way to early spring with trees and shrubs barely in leaf. In a high verdant meadow along the Rio Segre east of La Seu d'Argell, we stopped to look for daffodils, but found only the ubiquitous primrose. We proceeded into the mountainous principality of Andorra and spent the final hour of daylight exploring the precipitous slopes above Andorra la Vella.

In the morning we continued our ascent following the glaciated valley of the Rio Valira, a rushing mountain stream fed by melt waters off high Andorran peaks. Rounding a turn just west of Soldeu, we came upon a meadow (1660m) blanketed with pale yellow *Narcissus pseudonarcissus* ssp. *pallidiflorus* (= *N. pallidiflorus*). This population appeared to be of quite uniform pale straw color, with trumpets darker than the perianths. The perianth segments did not, in most cases, overlap and varied from smooth and flat to twisted and erratic. More variation could be seen in the shape of the trumpets. Some were deeply six-lobed (like a primitive split corona), and others were neatly serrated at the edge of the trumpet or almost smooth. In almost every instance the trumpets were expanded with some rolling back of the edge. There was not too much range in size, no true “miniatures” and no very large ones. Uniformly, the flower seemed to be in proportion to the stem.

Pale yellow to purplish forms of *Dactylorhiza sambucina*, brilliant blue *Gentiana acaulis*, and purple to white *Hepatica nobilis* bloomed with the daffodils to signal the approach of spring in an otherwise wintry landscape where deciduous woody plants such as birch were still in tight bud. To our delight, the bright floral carpet extended three kilometers up the lower southeast slopes of the Vall d’Incles (1700-1800m). As we continued our ascent to the pass into France, the daffodils disappeared along with the good weather which deteriorated rapidly to heavy fog and driving snow.

The next day we travelled from Bourg Madame to the ancient walled city of Mt. Louis where we spent two days exploring the surrounding fields and mountain valleys. We found a sizeable population of *N. pallidiflorus* blooming in a pine forest (1680m) along the river flowing from Lac des Bouillouses, but were too early to find the species blooming around the ice-covered lake (2042m) where Coleman had found it during the summer. In the dappled shade of pines and scattered blueberry, azalea, and pink-flowering *Daphne mezereum*, the pale yellow trumpets bloomed with white *Anemone nemorosa* and pink *Erythronium dens-canis*.

In contrast to the limited occurrence of *N. pallidiflorus*, *N. poeticus* ssp. *poeticus* (= *N. poeticus*) grew in great abundance around Mt. Louis. Where Coleman saw only “isolated plants”, we saw vast fields of poets. The innkeeper described expanses of white covering the meadows at peak bloom which we estimated to be one to two weeks later. We saw poets blooming with pink clover, buttercups, and assorted grasses in moist meadows (1080m) near Fontpedrouse, a small town east of Mt. Louis. At higher elevations, poets were still in bud in moist and wet
N. pseudonarcissus ssp. nobilis blanketing the steep slopes at Superbagneres, Central Pyrenees, France.
meadows near Real (1440m), at the Col de Quillan (1715m), and at the mouth of the Vall d’Eyne (1680m).

From Mt. Louis we drove westward to Bagnères-de-Luchon in the Central Pyrenees. A winding mountain road has replaced the “little mountain railway” described by Coleman to link Bagnères-de-Luchon with Superbagnères, a lofty peak 1200m above the town. We drove through a forest to open pastures at the summit where one can look south across the deep Vallee du Lys to an arc of snow-covered peaks. In a southeast gently sloping meadow (1700m), we found scattered N. bicolor and N. pseudonarcissus ssp. nobilis (= N. nobilis) and a single clump of N. poeticus.

Immediately below the summit (1800m), N. nobilis covered the steep northeast slope. Blooming amid the daffodils were white Anemone nemorosa, purple Scilla liliohyacinthus, pink Erythronium dens-canis, varied shades of Hepatica nobilis, white Ranunculus pyreicaicus, and Pulmonaria montana. When Parkinson named this species N. variformis in 1629, he expressed exactly what he observed—the most variable narcissus imaginable. Size varied from the smallest miniature trumpets to outsized. Usually the perianth segments were quite white, but occasionally they were the same lemony yellow as the trumpet. These segments could be broad and overlapping, thin and twisted, spooned or windmillly. Stem length varied from 5 cm to 40 cm with the largest blooms sometimes appearing on the shortest stem. It is possible to stand contemplating a population of N. nobilis and wonder what our modern standards might be like today if early collectors had brought back some of the more unorthodox flowers instead of those closely approximating cultivars on the market today.

Coleman’s “flower valley” description lured us to the Val d’Esquierry (1700m), an east-west trending valley that hangs high above the Val d’Asta near Bagnères-de-Luchon. A rugged two-hour climb through pasture, larch, and beech forest brought us into the valley where N. bicolor (= N. abscessus), Primula veris, Pulmonaria montana, Helleborus viridis, Gentiana acaulis, Erysimum sp., Hepatica nobilis, Fritillaria sp., Polygala alpestris, and Anemone ranunculoides bloomed amid the rock-strewn meadow. N. abscessus seems like the ideal name to describe this species with its long “stove pipe” trumpet clipped off abruptly at the end—no gentle expansion or rolling of the edge. The blooms, in general, had straw-colored perianths with deep golden trumpets, although some were almost uniformly buff-colored. In no instances were truly white perianths observed to justify the epithet bicolor. N. bicolor has very broad grey-green leaves of heavy substance easily distinguishable from those of other narcissus growing in the Pyrenees.

Below, in the lush green meadows of the Val d’Asta (1140m), blooms of N. poeticus ssp. poeticus filled the air with a lovely fragrance. This classification covers all the variations of poets found in the Pyrenees. For all who think that all poets look alike, ten minutes spent in one of the poet
meadows will quickly dispel this notion. All poets observed did have an “eye” of green-yellow-red and a very white perianth. Perianth segments varied from broad and overlapping to ray-like and twisted. The eyes were either flat and disk-like or cupped with short sides. The size of either shape varied from tiny to quiet large. Overall diameters ranged from less than 4 cm to over 10 cm. Most poets in one meadow in the Val d’Austau would certainly be considered “miniatures” by ADS standards.

From Bagneres-de-Luchon we drove westward to Gavarnie. Enroute, we found a large population of N. nobilis blooming on a steep north-northwest slope at the Col du Peyresourde (1570m). The bright colors of the daffodils and Anemone nemorosa, Soldanella alpina, and Ranunculus pyrenaicus contrasted with the blackened branches of recently-burned scrub.

We went to Gavarnie to find N. requienii (= N. juncifolius) which Coleman had reported finding on limestone in the area. Although N. requienii is very difficult to find since it is so small and has such thread-like foliage, Marilyn Howe did find one small population of it in an unremarkable meadow south of Paragneres (910m). The blooms were past prime but still faintly fragrant. Further up the valley, we saw N. bicolor blooming in meadows above Gedre (1070m) and surrounding Gavarnie (1440m). Narcissus did not extend along the footpath to the Cirque de Gavarnie, but we hiked to the gargantuan bowl to marvel at its size and the great cascades plummeting off the headwall to the rubble of rock and snow below.

Since N. pseudonarcissus ssp. moschatus var. alpestris (= N. alpestris) is not known to occur on the French side of the Pyrenees, we had to cross into Spain in order to find it. Although our next destination, the Parque Nacional de Ordesa, lay immediately south of the headwall of

(Left) N. pseudonarcissus ssp. pallidiflorus below Lac des Bouillouses Eastern Pyrenees, France. (Right) N. pseudonarcissus ssp. mochatus var. alpestris growing in the Circo de Soaso, Parque National de Ordesa, Central Pyrenees, Spain.
the Cirque de Gavarnie, we had to drive much further west to cross the mountains at the Col due Pourtalet. Immediately north of the Col in a broad alpine meadow (1760m), we found a huge population of *N. nobilis* on unusually short stems. Some standard size blooms were borne on stems so short that the petals touched the ground. In the distance, patches of *Ranunculus pyreanicus* tinged the meadow white.

We selected Ordesa as a possible site for *N. alpestris* because of its wild terrain and protected status. As we drove to Ordesa we noticed that conditions on the Spanish side were drier which may explain the distribution of *N. alpestris*. We hiked the trail on the north side of the east-west trending Valle de Ordesa rising along the Rio Araza through pale green beech forest to high open meadow. Above us towered limestone cliffs with hanging valleys and waterfalls. We had hiked nearly eight kilometers to the Circo de Soaso when we spotted the snow-white blooms of *N. alpestris* nodding above the vicious spines of *Echinopsartum horridum*. The beautiful pendant flowers appeared to have sprung from the same mold except for size of bloom and length of stem and foliage. Medium-sized blooms on 30 cm stems emerged through the dense cover of *E. horridum* while shorter stems of perhaps 10 cm arose in the open bearing miniature blooms. Not wishing to back-track, we returned by the trail on the south side of the valley which rose hundreds of meters above the river. Each time we crossed a patch of snow covering the trail we feared it would break free and hurl us to an early death on the talus slopes below.

We ventured next to the Valle de Aran. Here, at last, we found vast poet meadows in full bloom, a sight we had hoped for since missing the spectacle at Mt. Louis. At the edge of one meadow, we found a natural hybrid, probably of *N. poeticus* and *N. bicolor*. Its short orange cup was surrounded by a flat off-white perianth. On a slope above the meadow, we found *N. bicolor* past its prime, poets, and a second hybrid of the two blooming in a veritable wildflower garden full of *Trollius europeaus*, purple *Aquilegia*, *Pulmonaria longifolia*, *Fritillaria pyreanaicus*, *Scilla liliohyacinthus*, *Alchemilla* sp., *Euphorbia hyberna*, *Thalictrum* sp., and *Geum rivale*.

It appeared to us that finding certain narcissus species in bloom in the Pyrenees depended on being at the right elevation at the right time. For example, we found *N. pallidiflorus* in peak bloom at two localities that were widely separated and very different, but similar in elevation. Geology may play a greater role in the distribution of species such as *N. requienii* and *N. alpestris* which have roots in intimate contact with limestone. Some factors that we were unable to assess in the spring which probably influence the occurrence of many of these species include grazing intensity and summer soil temperature and moisture content. On future trips we hope to learn more about the distribution of these narcissus species and to study in detail the variations within wild populations.
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HEIRLOOM DAFFODILS

JANE BIRCHFIELD, Abington, Virginia

"The daffodils...were new varieties of a terrifying size, either
deaf white or dark yellow, thick and fleshy; they did not look
at all like the fragile friends of ones childhood."

The Pursuit of Love—Nancy Mitford

Any heirloom is something that has been cherished, given tender,
loving care, and passed on from generation to generation; but heirloom
daffodils go on beyond this description for they not only have been passed
from generation to generation, but they have gone from garden to garden,
and even from country to country. And, over the years they will have
increased, thrived on a minimum of care, and given more and more
pleasure to more and more people along the way.

Surely part of their charm is that so many of them are indeed like the
flower friends of one's childhood, in fact many may be the same ones! The
group includes sturdy little fellows like the Lent Lily, the Tenby Daffodil, or
Early Virginia, that truly take the winds of March in beauty and are not a
whit discouraged by late snows and sleet and freezing rain. Others, such as
Albatross and Sea Gull seem to be so fragile as they flutter and dance in
the spring breeze, one wonders that they survive a season, much less a
succession of years!

Between these two extremes there are hosts of others, each with a
special beauty and/or interest. All are worth tracking down and being
given a spot of earth with a share of sunshine where they can be left to
multiply and provide ever more bulbs to pass along to other gardens.

In addition, beyond all considerations having to do with sentiment or
nostalgia, there is a very practical and compelling reason for keeping these
early hybrids in cultivation; that is, their possible future value as genetic
material. It may not be generally recognized but many of these old and
venerable cultivars may be just as important as the species, for preserving
a reservoir or gene bank of characteristics that may be diluted or lost in
subsequent generations of hybridization.

Then, in my experience, in collecting these “oldies” I found that nearly
every one had a pleasant or interesting association. It might be related to
its history or be connected with some happy experience. Nearly every one
I have grown brings to mind some special person, or place, or occasion.
This, alone, makes them very dear to me.

A list of favorites will probably vary from person to person. My own list
may be longer and more varied than some, since for over forty years I had
enough space (forty acres) to plant all I could find that appealed to me.
And I had the advantage of being in the right place at the right time to find
and identify and collect a nice assortment, for, there were still many
spacious old gardens nearby, where a number of older daffodils were
being grown, too there were a number of abandoned farmsteads (not yet over-run by progress) and I had a long list of “flower friends”—those ladies from small towns or farms in the South, whom I had found through the various market bulletins.

Building a collection today would not be as easy as it once was, but I am sure there is still time to track down many of the older daffodils. The important thing is to know what you are looking for, recognize it when you find it, and get the word out that you are interested. Mention your quest when you attend meetings or shows, give programs, or conduct workshops. Perhaps a special Round Robin devoted to Heirloom Daffodils would turn up a number of good prospects. Whatever the method you use, being on the look-out will be your best bet.

One of my more interesting “finds” was along a back road, where I was “lost”—something that happened with frequency since I tended to see only trees and flowers and birds and overlook such mundane things as road signs. In this case I was lucky to have gotten lost, for along the roadside I spotted what seemed to be a patch of the usual N. biflorus (that old timer we call Lords and Ladies, Husband and Wife, or Twin Sisters in the South).

On close inspection, however, this proved to be most unusual, in that there were variations having one, two, three—in fact up to six—florets per scape. I dug a couple of bulbs of each variation, took them home and tuck them in at the edge of some woodland. Subsequent seasons proved that these variations were not just a seasonal aberration and certainly they seemed to bear out the theory that this natural hybrid had a tazetta as one parent.

Our various bits of woodland were generally a good place to plant most of the older daffodils, where they did well under the filtered shade of laurel oak, pin oak, shad blow, wild cherry, hickory and other trees. One lovely spot was ringed around with clumps of Emperor and Empress, two Backhouse hybrids that date from before 1869. By no means smooth, I find them both appealing from a standpoint of good balance, pleasing form, nice proportions, and good, clear colors. Emperor is a rich golden yellow (it was sometimes listed as Lorifolius or Lorifolius Maximus). Empress is a good bi-color with cleanly contrasted white perianth and soft yellow trumpet. (This was sometimes listed as Bicolor Maximus.)

I got my first bulbs of these from Sisters Bulb Farm (alas the Jones sisters are long gone but I am sure both of these cultivars must be in cultivation in many places). I don’t know where my own bulbs went when we sold The Forty Acres in ’83, but I do know that these are still to be found at Black Oak Ridge back in Loudoun County, and I still remember the lovely day when I took Matthew Zandbergen up to have tea with my dear friend Constance Lyon and we later walked down in the woods to see all of the daffodils she had planted over the years. (It was sort of like taking a stroll back through daffodil history.)

In another area of our woodland I had Sea Gull and Albatross growing
along the path between a front field and the vegetable garden. These are among the more fragile and informal types, originally classified as Barri hybrid excepts which were raised by Engleheart and date from about 1890 or a bit later. They are similar in form (one writer described them as having "eucharis type flowers" and they do resemble this genus in form), both having citron yellow cups with contrasting rims of color, Albatross being a bright orange-red and Sea Gull edged with apricot. The petals are listed as white but I found them to be a pale creamy color, varying on the tint once called brimstone or sulphur yellow. I have Edith Walker (the long-time chairperson of the Daffodil Test Committee of the GCVA) to thank for helping me track down these two charming oldies.

After a long search for the old tazetta Jaune a Merveille (which dates from 1906) I finally was able to get bulbs of it from Ron Hyde who was still growing them Down Under. This has brimstone petals, a slightly deeper yellow cup, with a thin wire rim of bright orange-scarlet. Really a charming flower and it has a most pleasant scent, lightly sweet and faintly spicy.

Along our old entrance lane I had an assortment of the old daffodils. Two of my favorites were planted here, Whitewell and Homespun. I found Whitewell in an old Leesburg garden where it had grown since it first came in an early GCVA Test Collection (in the early thirties). This is a charming all-white, small flower, originally classified as a Leedsii. Because of the starry effect of the petals it was sometimes called "white star narcissus" or "the silver winged narcissus"—and while it doesn't have thick substance it does remain pretty for a long time. (This is one I like to use in dainty arrangements.)

Homespun was another Engleheart hybrid, dating from about 1907. My bulbs came from Rockland, another Leesburg garden, where all types of daffodils looked especially pretty, growing around the lovely limestone outcropping on this historic place. (Lib Brown gave me many interesting daffodils, old and new, in addition to Home spun.) This one, however, is a favorite. There is a nice painting of it in Jacobs, which shows how flat and overlapped the petals are, and the attractive coloring—perianth segments of a soft brimstone yellow, with a slightly frilled and rather open cup of golden yellow.

One of my favorite miniatures is N. × tenuior and the particular strain I have is unusually good, further, this one has especially happy and interesting associations. My bulbs came from the garden of another old friend, Anne Dudley, near Aldie, Virginia. When she gave me my first bulbs of it, at least forty years ago, it had been growing in her garden (or rather ramping about all over her lawn) for almost fifty years and her bulbs had originally come from the garden of an old Rectory in Baltimore, where it had been brought from England a hundred years before that!

I am glad to say that it likes me (so far at least). Everywhere I have grown the bulbs, they have done well; every time I have exhibited stems they have taken pride of place. Each of my Watrous Medal collections included this daffodil, in addition to the smaller winning collections of five.
With me it has never looked back and just last season it seemed to be better than ever.

Too, it has not only done well for me; years ago I was able to obtain enough bulbs to take to a fall meeting of the mid-Atlantic Region at Natural Bridge and give three bulbs to everyone who attended the meeting. (This was years ago and I still get reports on how well this little daffodil has done for others.)

A bit later than this I was able to collect another supply of bulbs from Anne Dudley and this time I was able to add a bulb or two for each of the two hundred GCVA members who bought test collections that year.

When I think of the thousands of miles this tiny daffodil has travelled, over such a span of time, each spring it blooms I go out to admire it and say, "You've come a long way baby!"

This is just a sample of the many heirloom daffodils I have grown and loved and given to others. But I hope this sample will be enough to encourage others to continue that quest from now on.

Collecting them may not be as easy as it might have been earlier—but tracking them down can be just as interesting and rewarding. In closing I must caution that all, or nearly all, of my "oldies" were left on The Forty Acres when we moved in '83 but soon thereafter all of the bulbs were lifted and taken on to other gardens. So I can't supply bulbs—only encouragement—but I do urge everyone to start on a private quest. Remember, getting there is more than half the fun.

---

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

As the end of this administration approaches, I look forward to leaving office with mixed emotions. It is time to shed the responsibilities of this office and have more time to devote to the presidency of the North American Lily Society, but I shall miss the close contact and interactions with our Executive Director and some of our Committee Chairmen and Officers which have been rewarding as we all worked for mutual concerns. Most of our conversations occurred at night and some of the phone numbers or at least area codes are now a part of the trivia I carry around in my head.

Mary Lou Gripshover, at (513)-, has taken us into the 1990's and looks even further ahead. Her great knowledge of the workings of our Society and of its membership will help us chart the proper course. She has been an asset and stabilizing factor from the time she took office, and I shall always be grateful for her support.

Kitty Frank is that angel, at (615)-, who tolerates this quarterly message appearing by FAX a day or two after the appointed time. Even though she checks in periodically, I never know how splendid each issue of the Journal will be until I actually have it in hand. (I have come to love her succinct answering machine message and wish that others might take note.)

Naomi Liggett, at (614)-, will talk to me in the wee small hours when everyone else is in bed. She has undertaken and completed the herculean task of updating the handbook for judges with a committee of strong-minded individuals who never lacked for ideas. Those of you who have read this polished revision, can well appreciate her dogged attention to detail and consistency throughout, but you cannot imagine how hard she worked to achieve a consensus among the contributors.
Marilyn Howe, (213)-, (she usually calls me) has been my eyes and ears and kept me up-to-date on daffodalia throughout the civilized world. We have also explored the daffodil situation together in some very uncivilized places.

Jack Romine, at (415)-, has always had sage words and considers each situation on its merits. We have worked closely together on most endeavors in this administration. He will be a strong ADS President and will guide us well during the next two years. I wish him well and know that he can count on the same support from the Board and membership that I have received during my term.

I thank you all! I am afraid that all the goals I hoped to achieve upon taking office have not been reached, but some have:

The judges’ handbook is a reality.
We are coming to terms with our finances.
The public is beginning to demand accountability from dealers resulting in fewer wild-collected species on the market.
Perhaps we are all beginning to enjoy daffodils and daffodil friends a little more. I know that I am.

—KATHY ANDERSEN

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S DESK

Unusually cold weather in December with temperatures reaching −20°F certainly wasn’t what I had in mind when we moved back to Ohio! Fortunately, we had a six-inch snow cover, so hopefully the bulbs were protected. I guess we’ll know soon!

Boxes from Mississippi containing old catalogues have now been sorted, and there are many duplicates. These catalogues, from many growers, will be available for sale at the convention in March. Look for them in the boutique.

We’ve now also sorted through the ADS Library books, and as the library is seldom used, we are disposing of the non-daffodil books, as well as a few duplicate daffodil titles. Some titles include the AHS American Daffodil Yearbook from 1937; also 1939; The Daffodil Handbook in hardcover; Calvert’s Daffodil Growing for Pleasure and Profit; Herbertia, Narcissus Edition; Herbertia, Second Narcissus Edition; and an original copy of Ye Narcissus or Daffodil Floure and hys Roots. Plans are being made to offer them at a silent auction at the convention. If you would like to mail in a bid for any of them before the convention, please feel free to do so. A complete list of the books is printed elsewhere in this issue.

The office gets requests from time to time for old RHS Yearbooks and specific issues of the Journal. If you have either books or Journals which you no longer need, why not consider donating them to the Society. That will help the Society, and will get the books out to others to enjoy as you have enjoyed them.
A brief note came recently from England announcing the closing, due to a ministerial decision, of Rosewarne Experimental Horticulture Station. We can only hope that work with daffodils will be carried on at another location.

Again, I remind any of you who have the brochure, "Catch Yellow Fever," to call or write for labels to put over the old dues structure. Please do not use the brochure with the old dues structure.

—MARY LOU GRIPSHOVER

WANTED

Requests have been received for copies of the June 1978, December 1981, March 1983, and March 1988, Journals. If you have a duplicate, or if you can spare any of those issues, please send them to the office.

JUDGING SCHOOLS

Information about the 1990 Judging Schools is found on page 93 of the Journal, December 1989.

—NAOMI LIGGETT, Judges and School Chairman

BOOKS AVAILABLE FOR AUCTION

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<th>Year</th>
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<td>Enjoying America's Gardens</td>
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<td>How to Control Plant Diseases</td>
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<td>Journal of California Hort. Society</td>
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<td>July 1940</td>
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<td>(Daff. Conference Issue)</td>
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<td>Knight &amp; Struck seed cat.</td>
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<td>Narcissus Diseases in Washington (xerox copy)</td>
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<td>Parks for America</td>
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<td>USDA Circular #122, Daffodils</td>
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<td>Ye Narcissus or Daffodyl Flowre...(ADS reprint)</td>
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<td>Ye Narcissus or Daffodyl Flowre...(original)</td>
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**AMERICAN DAFFODIL SOCIETY, INC.**
**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS**

Nashville, Tennessee, September 16, 1989

A special meeting of the members was held at the Vanderbilt Plaza Hotel, Nashville Tennessee, on September 16, 1989, with the required quorum of members present. Mrs. Marvin V. Andersen, President presided and Ms. Marilynn J. Howe, Secretary recorded. Article VI, Audit Committee and Finance Committee, as it appears on p. 216 of the June 1989 Journal was approved.

**AMERICAN DAFFODIL SOCIETY, INC.**
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

Nashville, Tennessee, September 16, 1989

(Abridged from the report of the Secretary)

The 1989 fall meeting of the board was held at the Vanderbilt Plaza Hotel with 44 Directors and two guests present. Mrs. Marvin V. Andersen, President presided and Ms. Marilynn J. Howe, Secretary recorded.

**REPORT OF THE OFFICERS**

**PRESIDENT:** Mrs. Andersen thanked Mrs. Gripshover for all her efforts as the new Executive Director. She reported that the Executive Committee took no actions since the last meeting in San Francisco.

**SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT:** Mr. Ezelle thanked the RVP's for their good newsletters and
those who have planned fall regional meetings.

REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENTS: Reports were received from all nine regions. (Complete reports are on file with the Secretary.)

President Andersen asked for a moment of silence in the remembrance of our members who have passed away since the last meeting.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Mrs. Gripshover reported that in going through old records looking for guidance, it was discovered that George Lee had routinely sent his report to the members of the Board along with the agenda. It seems a good practice, and one which will be continued.

Current membership is as follows:

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<th>8/4/89</th>
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<td>1,486</td>
<td>68</td>
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<td>Foreign</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>13</td>
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<td>1,664</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>219</td>
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Based on the last two quarters, of the 72 now delinquent perhaps 10 or 12 will pay their dues. Currently there are nine complimentary memberships:

Computer Center, Iowa Methodist Hospital
Current Serial Records, National Agricultural Library
Library of Congress
Library, Victoria Plant Research Institute
Jim Pearce, Colchester, England
Walter Poppenmuller, Frankfurt, West Germany
Royal Horticultural Society
Dr. Bernie Wesenberg, Puyallup, WA
American Horticultural Society

Unless the Board directs otherwise, I propose to write the last six that we can no longer provide complimentary memberships, and suggest to the RHS and AHS that we would entertain an exchange membership. Currently there are 16 exchange memberships with other plant societies and overseas daffodil societies.

In the matter of overseas mailing of the Journal we received a letter from Johnson & Hayward, a company which offers air lift consolidation of overseas mail. According to their literature, overseas mail would be delivered in 7-10 days at a cost of about 3.5 times the current rate, that is, $215.00 versus $61.00 per issue. Overseas members would appreciate getting the Journal in a timely manner, judging from the mail I receive. Rates are going up in September, and I should have firm figures at the meeting. What are your wishes in this matter?

In June, I received a call from a representative of the Conwood Group which is publishing a new magazine called Garden Works. They want to know if they could use our color separations for free, giving credit to the ADS and the photographer. This presents the following serious problems. First of all, I wouldn't let them have them without charge. Second, I would require a deposit up front equal to the total cost we paid while they examined the separations to see if or what they wanted to use. The purpose of the deposit, of course, is to guarantee the return of the separations in good condition. I would also set a limit to the length of time they could keep them for examinations, and return after publications, including a monetary penalty for late return. Rental fee and our shipping costs would be deducted from the deposit before returning the deposit. I would ask Dick Frank to draw a contract before any separations are ever sent.

There still remains the question of whether the photographer would agree to this. I know that some of our photographers would object, and I would not send out materials without the photographers' consent. (See new business, ownership of photos)

Leslie Anderson brought a station-wagon load of ADS materials to Ohio in July, and among the materials were five cartons of back issues of the Journal. These will be offered once only 25 different issues for $15.00.
We currently have 14 sets of cuff links and 13 sets of earrings. I propose we offer them at cost, $20.00 for the cuff links and $27.00 for the earrings, so that we can recoup our out-of-pocket expenses.

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES: (Condensed from the full report on file with the Secretary.)

AWARDS: Mrs. Bourne's report stated "The ADS Procedures for obtaining Awards" will be updated as soon as the Handbook Committee completes their work. A proposed National Show Schedule was written at the request of the Handbook committee. If this is approved, a copy will immediately be sent to the Chairman of the convention at Callaway Gardens for use in 1990. In discussing medal prices with the Executive Director, we have decided that $35.00 will cover the silver Quinn and silver Watrous for the present time. However, it will be necessary to raise the price of the gold Watrous to $41.00, plus mailing costs. Inventory should be made on the bowls which Phil Phillips donated for a New Zealand Award. I think the inventory is depleted. Peter Ramsey expressed interest in changing this award and contemplated giving New Zealand orginated bulbs for this award. I will contact Dr. Ramsey in the near future. A precedent should be set for engraving trophies. It is almost impossible to get someone who will do hand engraving these days. Past board minutes state the name of each winner will be engraved on the appropriate trophy and all items of expense will be added to convention expenses. For information, the cost of mailing ribbons, medals, etc., in 1988-89 season was $45.87. If board members have any recommendations for awards, please contact me.

BREEDING AND SELECTION: Dr. Bender reported that the Hybridizers Breakfast at the ADS National Convention in San Francisco was well attended. Clive Postles, successor to John S. B. Lea daffodils and breeding stock, very ably discussed the intensive selection of breeding stock by John Lea.

CLASSIFICATION: The Secretary read Mr. Hatfield's report. (See December 1989 Journal, p. 90, for changes reported.)

Many discrepancies have been discovered between the new International Daffodil Checklist and the ADS Data Bank. I feel the two should coincide as closely as possible since both are used worldwide. As my winter project I will cross-check the two and prepare a list of differences for the Spring board meeting. I have spoken with David Jackson and Peter Ramsey. They are either formulating a list or speaking with the other breeders in their areas during the current show season. They will forward the information that they are able to compile to me about "down under" varieties that are commercially available but not in the ADS Data Bank. I am sending them a current copy of the ADS Data Bank to help them in this endeavor.

DATA BANK: Dr. Throckmorton reported that the 1990 Data Bank is ready. He stated that Robert Jerrell, a member of this committee, transmitted all the updates directly into the computer in Iowa from his home in California. This saves re-keypunching and approximately $200.00. He said that Ruth Pardee of Ohio and John Byrne of New Zealand have been very helpful in maintaining the Data Bank. He stated that not all of the recent changes published by the RHS are included in the data bank, but they would be updated soon. He reminded the Board that the "V" in the Data Bank stands for variable color in the flower. He also stated that Sally Kington is very helpful and has offered the ADS a computer tape of the Check List in order to update our files.

EDITOR OF THE JOURNAL: Mrs. Frank reported that in the preparation of the September Journal it was discovered that the printer does not print color from the separations but from some other negative which they have not be storing. The result was the two color photos in the September issue had to be redone instead of just reusing. We are presently working on some sort of plan to store the color negatives more than the usual three years. It also seems to me that some other use could be made of these separations/negatives. Post cards may be a good place to start. The budget that was submitted is very tight, but considering the advertising and the donation given by Wells Knierim it should be enough to cover a roster next year.

FINANCE: Mrs. Moore reported that the Finance Committee had a very productive meeting on Friday September 15, 1989. (See New Business)
INTERmediates: Mr. Romine read Mrs. Wilson's report. The Intermediate Committee is now beginning to collect data regarding activity centered around Intermediates in the 1989 shows. It become evident, after the 1989 Shows, that there was no structure lending itself to reports of Intermediate exhibits from the individual shows. The reports to the ADS Awards Chairman were for prize winners and did not reflect what was actually exhibited in each local show. The ADS Awards Chairman, Mrs. Bourne, reported special mention of two show reports that sent comments:

1. Atlanta: The intermediate class for a collection of five brought much public interest, many comments were heard about lovely blooms of Tahiti, Foundling, Flyhalf, Firestorm.

2. Longwood: for the first time we had a collection of 15 cultivars from divisions 5-9. There were five entries and the exhibitors seemed delighted to have an opportunity to show these flowers off to advantage.

Due to the logistics of gathering information, a questionnaire has been sent to each of the 1989 Show Chairman soliciting information from the 1989 Shows and paving the way for gathering information from the 1990 Shows. Returns are coming in and the results will be collected to provide a report that will be presented at the next ADS meeting in Georgia. The next project of The Intermediate Committee will be to create a form for each Show Chairman to fill out at the time of the 1990 show thus helping to collect the data needed. A meeting of the Intermediate Committee will be scheduled at the Convention. I feel that development of the Intermediates as a category will broaden the interest in Narcissus and will provide another dimension for exhibiting these lovely flowers. Many daffodils of medium size are to the general public and the interest they generate will help the Society to grow. (See p. 153 for Questionnaire)

JUDGES AND SCHOOLS: Mrs. Liggett reported, since the April report 95 Accredited Judges have refreshed; School I was held in Albany, Oregon, with 13 students and in Washington, D.C., with 15 students. School II was held in Dallas, Texas, with 12 students, Severna Park, Maryland, with 28 students and Rockford, Illinois, with 9 students. One Make-up school was held in Cincinnati, Ohio. There are a total of 62 Student Judges, 223 Accredited Judges, 31 Accredited Judges Retired and 3 Appointed Judges. There is a surplus of $175.45 from the schools and refreshers.

LIBRARY: No Report was received from the Library Chairman.

MEMBERSHIP: Mr. Erlandson reported the membership is now 1683, down 92 from last year's Fall Board Meeting. We have a continuing significant turnover in membership. This is probably normal for a society like ours. In the past 12 months we have picked up about 200 new members and lost about 300. I've written letters to all new members and to all delinquent members, a total of about 500 letters in the past 12 months. The 300 letters to delinquent members were all personal, hand-written letters urging them to renew their membership. The response has been good enough to convince me the effort was worthwhile. The 200 letters to new members were personal letters of welcome; however, offset printed copies of my hand written letter were used. I wrote newsy letters to eight foreign members in eight different countries. So far three have responded. I also wrote a gentleman (name from Mr. Blanchard in Portugal inviting him to join the ADS and urging him to find new ADS members in Portugal and Spain—the ancestral home of the daffodil. So far no reply. At my request a gift membership form was inserted in the September Journal. Our objectives have not changed: 1. Add new members. 2. Hold on to the members we have. A special thanks to Mary Lou Grijphoven. She has supplied the names and mailing labels on time in clear understandable form.

MINIATURES: Mrs. Mackinney stated the Royal Horticultural Society adopted some changes in the color coding of a few miniatures. (See December Journal, p. 94.)

Additions to the Miniature List:

- Cupid, 6 Y-Y, hybridized by D.J. Cooper, 1959, parentage unknown.
- Yellow Minnow, 8 Y-Y, a self-yellow clone of Minnow 8 W-Y.

PHOTOGRAPHY: Mrs. Turner stated that there have been 30 slide rentals for the first nine months of 1989 which has generated a net profit to the Society of $353.48. The majority of rentals have been from ADS members at the current rental fee of $5.00 per program. Those non-ADS members requesting programs have been encouraged to join our Society. Landscaping with Daffodils has become the second most requested slide program (the Daffodil Primer is still the most popular). A duplicate Landscaping program will be forthcoming, hopefully by spring. She thanked all those who contributed to the slide library.
enabling us to update our programs and a special thanks to Wells Knierim who again generously donated over 100 slides to the ADS.

PUBLICATIONS: Mrs. Cartwright reported 1700 rosters were printed and 1683 were mailed. The new format of the roster is due to its being a print-out from the Executive Secretary’s word processor. I would suggest keeping the roster in a notebook or binder. It has been mentioned that we might send out one every year, but I defer to the finance committee on this question. She suggested coordinating all publications under the ADS sponsorship—so that wording is standardized. She is putting aside the Daffodil Classification list that the Publications Committee was asked to prepare until information comes in from the Handbook Committee. There have been requests for advertising prices from organizations and businesses which have nothing to do with daffodils. Our present policy has been to refuse such advertising.

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Mr. Stettinus reported that the Public Relation Committee will handle the Raffle at the convention next year.

REGISTRATION: See December Journal, p. 111.

RESEARCH, HEALTH AND CULTURE: Mr. Wadekamper stated all of our research projects have been completed and published in the Journal. The herbicide control project at Ohio State was particularly helpful. More analysis and reporting on the nutrient project is required and will be forthcoming this winter. At the present time there are no new research projects underway. One project suggested is a method to control bulb fly. If the Board feels this is a significant project I will set up such a project and proceed with a budget request for next year. As our finances become better organized and well defined I would like to suggest that we set up a specific research fund with a goal of $100,000.00, the interest from which would be used to sponsor significant research when it is defined and needed. Under the Research part of this committee I would like to see us set up a species committee of members interested in the preservation of the species in nature and also in the preservation of species in cultivation.

ROUND ROBIN: All the robins are functioning—I hope. Since the last Board meeting, we have had one lost robin (now reconstituted) and one very delayed robin is now back in circulation. Daffodil people seem to travel more than most people, and robins appear to arrive when someone is on an extended trip. This slows them down, but most manage to move at a seemly pace. Some interest has been expressed in a robin about historical daffodils. This might be an interesting and educational robin. It might involve what daffodils were grown in old gardens here and abroad, which older varieties are still widely grown and shown. It might lead to a more lively use of the ADS library. Should any Board member be interested or know of someone who might be interested, please let me know. Leone Lowe is trying to start a regional robin. I do think regional robins are a good idea, but any robin is difficult to begin.


TEST GARDENS: Mrs. Whitlock reported that two testers for the Wister Testing Committee have notified the chairman of their resignation. A few new ADS members have
indicated interest in becoming a tester for the Wister Program. The overall interest by individual testers seems too lax as only three reports have been returned for Foxfire. Two cultivars, Pitta and Chapeau, are currently being tested. A special committee has been appointed by the President to consider this a award based on the results of these testings. A synthesis of comments and considerations of this committee is submitted with this report. (Report deferred until Spring 1990.)

1990 CONVENTION: Judy Dunn gave a report on the National Convention to be held in Calloway Gardens, Georgia on March 29, 30, 31. A detailed report about the activities will appear in the December Journal. (Beginning p. 99.)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS
INTERMEDIATE COMMITTEE: The report of the Intermediate Committee was deferred until the Spring of 1990.

EVALUATION OF THE WISTER AWARD: The report of the committee was deferred until the Spring 1990.

NEW BUSINESS
BUDGET: The 1989 budget was accepted as read.

Mr. Butler moved that regions pay their own expenses for newsletters and look for local source for revenue. Mrs. Turner Seconded. Mr. Stetitius moved for a substitute motion to refer the matter to the Finance Committee. Mr. King Seconded. The substitute motion carried.

The Finance Committee recommends that [Resolved] the Executive Director’s salary shall be set at $6,400.00 and that it be retroactive to April 1, 1989. Mr. Erlandson, Seconded. Motion carried.

The Finance Committee recommends that [Resolved] the bond for the Executive Director be discontinued when it is renewable April 1, 1990.

Concerning a depository for ADS funds we recommend the following resolutions:
1. [Resolved], that any FDIC or FSLIC insured institution may be designated a depository of this corporation provided the account is insured.
2. [Resolved], that all drafts, checks, and other instruments or orders drawn against all accounts except a petty cash account of this Corporation in the said depository shall be signed by any two of the following: Executive Director, Treasurer, Secretary.
3. [Resolved], that all loans from commercial banks be authorized with the signature of any of the following: Executive Director, President, Secretary, Treasurer and anyone of the three may deliver the instrument to said institution including the hypothecation of security.
4. [Resolved], a petty cash account be opened which may be drawn upon by single signature of any of the following: Executive Director, Secretary, Treasurer.

All of the above resolutions were passed.

HANDBOOK COMMITTEE REPORT:
1. [Resolved], that the schools be expanded to four. Course I would be theory only and may be held anytime provided it is at least two months prior to Course II. To be eligible to take Courses II, III, or IV the student must attend and successfully pass Course I. Course I will not

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Offers new and recent award-winning introductions and selected seedling stocks.

All cultivars of proven vigor, substance, and purity of color.

Catalogues will be sent out in early March, 1990, to all purchasers of bulbs in the last three years. New applicants please enclose $1.00 with catalogue request.
be eligible for refresher credit. The purpose is to give more time for teaching and practice judging.

2. [Resolved], that the ADS Challenge Class remove the restriction that it is only open to ADS members.

3. [Resolved], that ADS Judges be permitted to exhibit as well as judge at all ADS National Shows.

4. [Resolved], that the Handbook revision be accepted and 1000 copies be printed. The price to be set by the Executive Director and the Treasurer.

5. [Resolved], that a NATIONAL SHOW SCHEDULE be approved. The local society may add or delete classes in single stems and vases of three provided that it is approved by the ADS Awards Chairman, but may not add local awards.

All resolutions were passed.

OWNERSHIP OF PHOTOS: Mr. Frank moved acceptance of the following suggestions submitted by Mrs. Capen, a member from New Jersey. Mr. Ezelle, seconded. Motion carried.

1. All slides and other pictures, sent to the ADS remain the property of the photographer. Any should be returned on request.

2. No slides or pictures, loaned to the ADS, should be sent to non-members without written permission of the owner.

3. When responding to requests for rental slides, the chairman should make it clear to the borrower that they are loaned with the understanding that no copies will be made.

BYLAWS EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS: Mr. Romine, Chairman of the Bylaws Revision Committee made a report regarding the restructuring of the Board. (See December Journal p. 108.)

INVENTORY: Mrs. Gripshover requested permission of the Board to dispose of old issues of ADS publications. It was moved, seconded and passed that [Resolved], the Executive Director may, after distribution to general membership and keeping no more than 10 copies of any edition of the Journal on hand, dispose of the balance as the office sees fit.

LIBRARY: The following resolution was adopted. [Resolved], that the Executive Director be authorized to dispose all non-daffodil books presently in the ADS library and keep only those books with historical significance about daffodils and at least one copy of all ADS publications.

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION USA: Mr. Frank reported that this committee felt because of the size and distances involved in the USA and the variable blooming seasons of the different parts of the country, the cost of an International Convention in the USA in 1992 in conjunction with Ameriflora would be prohibitive. Mr. Frank moved [Resolved], that the committee not consider any further plans for an international convention. Motion carried. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 3:15 P.M.

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INTERMEDIATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Please complete the following questionnaire as soon as your show is over and return it to the Intermediate Committee in care of

Charlyne Owen
4565 Rheims Pl.
Dallas, TX 75205

1. Did you include Intermediates in your Show Schedule?
   Yes ________ No ________

2. If yes, how did you include them?
   1. Separate Categories ________
   2. Collections ________
   3. Other ______________________

3. Do you have a printed list of Intermediate available to your members that differs from the list published in the ADS Journal?
   Yes ________ No ________
   (If Yes will you please include it with the returned questionnaire.)

4. How many Intermediate entries did you have in your Show? _____

5. Do you have a list of the specific entries available?
   Yes ________ No ________

6. Are you planning to include Intermediates in your Show Schedule in 1991?
   Yes ________ No ________

7. If you plan to include Intermediates in your Show as a separate category or collection in 1991 would you be willing to list the entries and send them to the Intermediate Committee after the Show?
   Yes ________ No ________
   Would you please list the entries from your 1990 show.

8. Date and sponsor of show. __________________________________

9. Comments:

Thank you for your time. Your input will be valuable for our Committee.
My Catalogue for 1990 will include exclusive new introductions of my own and of the late John Lea plus many more of the very finest Hybrid Daffodils.

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CONVENTION UPDATE

JAYDEE ATKINS AGER

“Southern Reflections”, the 35th Annual Convention and National Show of the Society awaits you in Georgia on March 29, 30, and 31.

Some noteworthy news concerning the Convention plans will be that Jim Wells will be on hand autographing his new book, *Modern Miniature Daffodils*. The book will be sold in The Georgia Daffodil Society Boutique and Mr. Wells will be present for autographing sessions. If you already have your book, please bring it along so that Mr. Wells may personalize it for you. The Georgia Daffodil Society is most appreciative of Mr. Wells’ kindness. If you have not seen the book, you will be thrilled...the photography by Jim is superb! The drawings are by Michael Salmon, one of the featured guest speakers. An added surprise will be the appearance of Brian Duncan as one of the speakers.

Please note a change of address for the Convention Chairperson: “Daffodil Lane” 344 Bear Branch Road, Kathleen, Georgia 31047.

Please be advised of the registration fee refund policy: there can be no refunds after March 25, 1990. Also, be aware of the hotel refund policy per your confirmation slip.

The Hybridizer’s Display Garden will be a feature of the Tour on Friday, March 30, 1990. The following persons are recognized and thanked for participating in this project: Kate Reade, Meg Yerger, Bill and Laura Lee Ticknor, Clive Posties and the late John Lea, Elise Havens, Ted Snazelle, Bill Bender, Barbara Smith, Bill Pannill, Sid DuBose, Ben Hager, and the late Otis Etheridge.

1990 DAFFODIL SHOW DATES

MRS. HUBERT BOURNE, Awards Chairman

March 10-11—LaCanada, California. Southern California Daffodil Society/Descanso Garden Guild at the Descanso Gardens, 1418 Descanso Drive. Information: Miss Helen Grier, 4671 Palm Avenue, Yorba Linda, CA 92686.

March 17-18—Clinton Mississippi. Central Mississippi Daffodil Society at the B. C. Rogers Student Center, Mississippi College. Information: Mrs. Herman McKenzie, 249 Ingleside Drive, Madison, MS 39110.

March 17-18—Walnut Creek, California. Northern California Daffodil Society at the Heather Farm Garden Center, 1540 Marchbanks Drive. Information: Mr. Bob Spotts, 409 Hazelnut Drive, Oakley, CA 94561.

March 17-18—Ft. Worth, Texas. Southwest Regional. Texas Daffodil Society at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden Center, 2700 University Drive. Mr. Rodney L. Armstrong, 7520 England Drive, Plano, TX 75025.
March 24-25—Fortuna, California. Fortuna Garden Guild at the Fortuna Monday House, 610 Main Street. Information: Mrs. Christine Kemp, P. O. Box 212, Fortuna, CA 95540.

March 24-25—Hernando, Mississippi. State Show. Garden Study Club of Hernando at the National Guard Armory, McCracken Road. Information: Ms. Sue Watson, 389 Gale Cove, Hernando, MS 38632.


April 4—Onley, Virginia. Town and Country Garden Group at the Carrie Watson Memorial Clubhouse. Information: Mrs. David W. Corson, P. O. Box D, Locustville, VA 23404.

April 4—Upperville, Virginia. Upperville Garden Club at the Parish Hall, Trinity Episcopal Church. Information: Mrs. Margaret Wiltshire, Box 152, Upperville, VA 22176.


April 7-8—Albany, Oregon. Oregon Daffodil Society at Linn County Fairgrounds, 3051 S. E. Oakway Avenue. Information: Ms. Betty Forster, 31875 Fayetteville Road, Shedd, OR 97377.

April 7-8—Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Southeast Regional. North Carolina Daffodil Society at (to be named later.). Information: Mrs. Joe Hackney, 104 Carolina Forest, Chapel Hill, NC 27516.


April 7-8—Princess Anne, Maryland. Somerset County Garden Club at the Peninsula Bank of Princess Anne. Information: Mrs. George C. Coulbourn, P. O. Box C, Marion, MD 21838.

April 11-12—Bowling Green, Kentucky. Kentucky Daffodil Society and Cardinal Council of Garden Clubs at Greenwood Executive Inn, 1000 Executive Way (off Scottsville Road). Information: Mrs. Russell Morgan, 1909 Harvey Avenue, Bowling Green, KY 42104.

April 12-13—Edgewater, Maryland. London Town Publik House Assembly and Chartwell, Tidewater and Naval Academy Garden Clubs at the
London Town Publik House and Gardens, 839 Londontown Road. Information: Mrs. Frank Coulter, 342 Prestonfield Lane, Severna Park, MD 21146.

April 14-15—Dayton, Ohio. Southwestern Ohio Daffodil Society at the Wegerzyn Horticultural Center, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Avenue. Information: Ms. Leone Low, 1450 President Street, Yellow Springs, OH 45387.

April 14-15—Newport News, Virginia. Mid Atlantic Regional. Tidewater Daffodil Society at the Student Center, Christopher Newport College, 50 Shoe Lane. Information: Dr. John L. Tarver, Jr., 252 Beauregard Heights, Hampton, VA 23669.

April 16-17—Chillicothe, Ohio. The Adena Daffodil Society at the Veteran’s Administration Medical Center, Building 9, Recreation Hall. Information: Ms. Mary Rutledge, 704 Ashley Drive, Chillicothe, OH 45601.

April 18-19—Baltimore, Maryland. The Maryland Daffodil Society at the Church of the Redeemer, 5603 North Charles Street. Information: Mrs. R. Bruce Campbell, 200 Churchwarden’s Road, Baltimore, MD 21212.


April 19—Indianapolis, Indiana. Midwest Regional. Indiana Daffodil Society at the Meridian St. Methodist Church, 5500 N. Meridan Street. Information: Mr. Russell Bruno, P. O. Box 500, Medaryville, IN 47957.


April 21-22—Columbus, Ohio. State Show. The Central Ohio Daffodil Society at the Upper Arlington Municipal Services Center, 3600 Tremont Road. Information: Mrs. William Pardue, 2591 Henthorne Road, Columbus, OH 43221.

April 21-22—Mansfield, Ohio. Kingwood Daffodil Society at the Exhibit Hall, Kingwood Center, 900 Park Avenue West. Information: Mr. Charles Applegate, 3699 Pleasant Hill Road, Perrysville, OH 44864.


April 24-25—Cleveland, Ohio. The Western Reserve Daffodil Society at the Garden Center of Greater Cleveland. Information: Mr. Wells Knierim, 31090 Providence Road, Cleveland, OH 44124.
April 28—Akron, Ohio. The Northwest Ohio Daffodil Society at the Rolling Acres Mall, Romig Road. Information: Mrs. M. E. Hardesty, 4493 Newcomer Road, Stow, OH 44224.

April 30-May 1—Nantucket, Massachusetts. The Nantucket Daffodil Society at the “Meeting House”, Harbor House, North Beach Street. Information: Mrs. J. Antonio de Zalduondo, 13 Cliff Road, Nantucket, MA 02554.

April 28-29—Glencoe, Illinois. Midwest Daffodil Society at the Botanic Garden of the Chicago Horticultural Society, Lake Cook Road. Information: Mr. Charles Wheatley, P. O. Box 150, Mongo, IN 46771.

May 3—Greenwich, Connecticut. Greenwich Daffodil Society at the Parish Hall, Christ Church, 245 East Putnam Avenue. Information: Mrs. John T. Haskell, 5 Canoe Trail, Darien, CT 06820 or Mrs. George T. Mott, III, 38 Perkins Road, Greenwich, CT 06830.


STAGING A COLLECTION

RICHARD EZELL, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania

(Reprinted from Tuscarora Trumpet, Volume 1, Number 1)

Soon as you’ve won a few blue ribbons for your single-stem entries at daffodil shows you find yourself wanting to compete for some collection awards. And you should. It’s simply more fun to win with an entry of 24 stems (and take home a Carey Quinn Medal) than to win with your lone bloom. Maybe not 24 times as much fun, but then it’s not 24 times as hard either. Though it is harder.

Probably you’d be best advised not to jump into the Quinn competition until you’ve built up a bit of expertise with smaller collections; most of us probably began with groups of five. But I think for many novices the best introduction to showing in the collection classes is the ADS Green Ribbon competition.

Most anyone who has grown and shown daffodils any length of time can round up the required assortment of blooms: one stem each of 12 standard daffodils from at least four divisions. If the show comes rather
late in the season you might be out of trumpets, but there should be plenty to choose from in the other divisions; it might well be a great chance to exhibit a group featuring the lovely, smaller flowers that populate divisions 5, 7, 8 and 9, and which generally bloom after mid-season. Should the show be early, you won't have them but there'll be lots of divisions 1, 2, and 6, and many of the division 11 split-cups are early. And you can probably scrape up an early bloom or two from divisions 3 or 4.

Before entering the Green Ribbon Collection Class, or any other, you will want to read the schedule carefully, making sure to follow it exactly, and of course you will want to be able to feel each bloom you enter will meet your own personal standard of something worth inviting others to look at, whether or not judges find it worthy of a ribbon.

Much of the challenge and fun—and frustration—of entering a sizable collection comes in the staging: will the big yellow bloom look better than the small white? If you put a big double on one end, do you need another big double on the other end as well? Do you have enough variety? too much? should you arrange all flowers at the same height above their containers? Put all the larger ones on the topmost row? does that little Charity May look ludicrous between the big Festivity and Empress of Ireland?

None of these questions has any bearing whatsoever on the official point scoring of entries in American Daffodil Society approved shows. That doesn't mean they don't count...they do. But often in subtle ways, and always in different ways to different judges. As there are no hard and fast rules, you should not be afraid to be creative: express with your choice of flowers and staging your own sense of what looks best with what you have to work with.

Just remember the areas that are covered by ADS rules of point scoring, and enter only flowers you feel have no serious major flaws, for no collection will be awarded a first place if so much as one bloom in it fails to live up to first place expectations, no matter how good all the rest are.

Ready to try a collection or two this spring? Go ahead. No? Then, order a few extra bulbs from good specialist growers this year, so you'll have a chance to take home a Green Ribbon next year.

MRS. J. ABEL SMITH
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PINK DAFFODILS
Also other choice EXHIBITION and DECORATIVE varieties including NEW HYBRIDS raised at —

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DAFFODIL PRIMER

HOW TO ENJOY YOUR DAFFODILS

HELEN K. LINK, Brooklyn, Indiana

Whether one grows daffodils for personal satisfaction, profit, or show purposes, the efforts should produce pleasure. How to produce this pleasure depends somewhat on a sincere effort. Of course there is a little hard work attached.

If the yellow fever bug has bit you, the first thing to do is to decide whether the effort should be in the direction of beauty for personal pleasure, for the show table, or both. Growers interested only in growing for the show table must be more selective of cultivars than those who grow only for landscape effect or personal pleasure.

First, one needs to attend shows, study catalogues, read books on daffodils, and then grow them. Sometimes growing can be discouraging. We go to a show; study the award winners; buy the bulbs; plant them, and then just maybe the blooms end up with nicks and/or mitten thumbs; not at all like those award winners we saw on the show table. It is equally possible for every bloom to be almost perfect. Whatever the outcome, next year the results may be the opposite.

There are a number of things which can influence the production of high quality daffodil show blooms. First, the source of bulb supply; virus free stock is a must. Since virus infection is uncurable, all one can do is destroy the infected bulbs. Secondly, if blooms are for show purposes, study those cultivars which have won awards in the past. They are already tested.

If color is wanted for landscape purposes, choose the yellows, reds and oranges which are eye catching and floriferous. Form of the flowers is not the important factor.

Some bulbs do not multiply rapidly. Usually it takes years to produce enough stock for the market at a moderate price; however, tissue culture and bulb dissection are making multiplication less expensive and faster.

Well prepared soil will help to produce good blooms. If soil is sandy or heavy with clay additives may be needed. Dig the bed deeply, at least a foot. Do not plant a five dollar bulb in a two cent hole. Do not forget to fertilize and use plenty of water during growth and at blooming time.

If you wish to hybridize remember parentage is very important; progeny acquire the traits of the parents and/or grandparents, good or bad. It is well to choose parents with good characteristics and hope for beautiful progeny. Above all do not become discouraged when those beauties you take to the show do not win an award. There will be another year, and in the meantime, perhaps that person who always wins all the
awards may stub his/her toe and you may have a chance at the blue ribbons. Don’t give up! Enjoy your flowers regardless of whether they win awards. Those that are dog-eared and floppy are still attractive in their own way. Enjoy them!

To enjoy your daffodils to the fullest you should cut a few blooms every few days throughout the blooming season; put them on the kitchen table. Sit down and look at them, study each one carefully; see how they differ. Each day see how many you can name without looking at the labels. This becomes a pleasure as well as an education.

Be sure to smell the daffodils along the way down the garden path!

PREFACE

The following article was sent to me by Gertrude Wister whose husband, Dr. John, was an inveterate ‘clipper’. His files are a treasure trove of horticultural gems.

The article appeared in The New Yorker Magazine May 8, 1971. It was written by John McCarten.

John McCarten (1916-1974) was born in Philadelphia and his career with The New Yorker spanned more than forty years. McCarten spent the last six years of his life in Ireland, continuing to write articles which appeared in The New Yorker “Irish Sketches” column.

—Joy MacKinney

IRISH SKETCHES

A HUNDRED THOUSAND AT A GLANCE

John McCarten, Dublin, Ireland

(Reprinted by permission; © 1971, The New Yorker Magazine, Inc.)

Daffodils have been daring the spring since I arrived in Ireland some months ago. The spring that they’ve dared has nothing to do with the vernal equinox; in Ireland, where the solar rules of the road are ignored, spring comes upon the land—even if gales that make your bones feel brittle are gusting about—on February 1st, by popular demand. In this aberrant situation, I have seen daffodils outside florists’ shops and on curbside barrows raise defiant trumpets against all kinds of wind and weather. No doubt these winter blooms were reared in the warmth of a hothouse, but they stood up bravely in the chill air to which they were suddenly and unexpectedly subjected. However, these pioneers no longer have to ornament the streets of towns and villages, since their unpampered kin, which have been living out-of-doors all winter, have now made their annual appearance. Whether they originate in a hothouse or an un-
protected meadow, I've always been a patsy for daffodils. Years ago, in a pubescent poetic phase, I used to stroll the banks of the Schuylkill River in Philadelphia with my foolish young head full of the romantic numbers of Keats, Shelley, and Byron, but I never let the three of them get such a hammerlock upon my mind that I couldn't spare a thought for that old Lake laureate William Wordsworth, who, back in 1804, paid a pretty tribute to my favorite flower. Wordsworth, addicted to confusing the terrestrial with the celestial—you remember that violet by a mossy stone that was fair as a star when only one was shining in the sky—compared his crowd, his host, of golden daffodils to the twinklers on the Milky Way, but no matter if his eye kept rolling upward, he kept his gaze down to earth long enough to spot ten thousand daffodils at a glance. I always envied him that glance, for until the other day I'd never seen more than a handful of my beauties tossing their heads in sprightly dance. When I mentioned this yearning to gaze upon daffodils en masse to a horticultural friend of mine in Dublin, he recommended that I get in touch with Mrs. Lionel Richardson of Prospect House in Waterford. "Mrs. Richardson," my friend told me, "is the widow of a man whose daffodils are world famous. When he died, ten years ago, he had won sixty-two gold medals at the Royal Horticultural Society shows, which is surely a record for one man that will never be surpassed. Since his death, Mrs. Richardson, who was for thirty years his aide-de-camp, has been carrying on his work, and she herself has already won twenty R.H.S. gold medals, the most recent at a competition in London—damned good going, since she was bucking the windy spring we've been having, and I'm not thinking about that arbitrary February spring. If you want me to, I'll call Mrs. Richardson and arrange for you to visit Prospect House."

I thanked him, and a day or so later I was on my way to Waterford, an ancient town about a hundred miles south of Dublin. It was established by the Danes, who kept fighting with the local Irish inhabitants until Strongbow (Richard de Clare, Earl of Pembroke) and Raymond le Gros gave them their comeuppance and established Anglo-Norman dominance of the place.

When I arrived at Prospect House, a sprawling old mansion encircled by a hundred fecund acres and within sight of the gentle slopes of the Comeragh Mountains, I was met by Mrs. Richardson, tweedy, exuberant, and most gracious, and an aging cocker spaniel and an unusually friendly Siamese cat. I told Mrs. Richardson about my ambition to emulate Wordsworth in the daffodil-glancing line, and she said that that could be easily arranged. "We had a small boy here once," she remarked, "whose father had taught him that poem of Wordsworth's. When I showed him one of our fields, he stared for a while, then blinked and stared again. After that, he boasted to his father that he had seen twenty thousand daffodils, and could have seen a million if he had kept on blinking and glancing. Actually, we've got about a hundred thousand bulbs planted in the fields around Prospect House, but how many of them will be worth the time we
spend on them is difficult to say. We have roughly three hundred and fifty named varieties, but hundreds more never develop into anything worth cultivating or christening. It takes five years, you know, to transform a daffodil seed into a bulb, and out of five thousand seeds you'd be lucky to be rewarded with two hundred bulbs that you wanted to keep. And at the moment I'm having a dreadful time roguing out some daffs that I had high hopes for but which were ruined by a pesticide. Nevertheless, I'm not climbing the wall, for, as every daffodil grower knows, you spend eleven months of the year in anticipation and then have one month in purgatory. But before I go on, let me get you a drink."

Mrs. Richardson led me into one of the daffodil-bedecked sitting rooms of Prospect House, seated me by a fireplace, whose warmth was welcome, since the day was nippy, and fetched me a drop of whiskey. "I'm a great advocate of a bit of the spirit," she said. "I remember how I used to administer it to Lionel, my husband, when he was called upon to say a few words at gatherings where he was being honored for his horticultural efforts. He was a very shy man, and he had ambitions in his youth to become an engineer. But he came of a huntin', shootin', fishin' family, and he was expected to be a country gentleman, and keep quite clear of anything industrial. But Lionel didn't have an idler's temperament, and just before the First World War he got interested in the genetics of the narcissus family, and it wasn't long before his hobby of crossbreeding different strains of daffodils had become so expensive that to support it he had to go into trade. I don't know whether you'd call what we've been doing at Prospect House an art or a science, but I do know that Lionel worked purely by instinct, and, alas, never got around to putting down on paper all the things he knew about the flowers he loved. I won't bore you with all the botanical niceties involved in producing different types of daffodils, but I can assure you that it's not simply a matter of fiddling haphazardly with pistils and stamens. Pedigrees are so important that I have them detailed on a computer—it's known as George—which is used by Dr. Tom Throckmorton, who lives in Des Moines, Iowa. Prospect House has eighty customers in the United States, and some of them were among the four hundred people for all over the world who urged me to keep going when Lionel died. It's not as easy as it used to be to run a farm like this—labor is in short supply—but I am fortunate in having a head gardener, named Jack Goldsmith (he's been here for forty-three years), who not only sees to it that things run smoothly here but is also enormously helpful when I have to go about staging an exhibition. We sent seventeen hundred blooms to the London show the other day—a hundred and ninety varieties—but usually we send more than that. About three thousand on average. These show blooms are the only cut flowers we're interested in; to strengthen the bulbs we knock the heads off the plants after they've blossomed, which is what the bulb men in Holland do with their tulips. Daffodils have never excited frenzied speculation such as Holland had when the tulip craze was at its height in the seventeenth
century. Remember the story of the man who ate a bulb worth Lord knows how many guilders after mistaking it for an onion? But while they’ve never been as fantastically inflated in price as the tulip bulbs, ours have occasionally proved quite valuable. Back in 1921, Lionel introduced a bulb called Fortune that was sold for eighty pounds, and I myself have had the luck to grow one that returned fifty. In the operation of Prospect House, though, the idea of making a profit never occurred to Lionel or to me. We wanted to break even or at least to keep our losses within bounds, and that’s what I’m trying to do right now. Well, enough of that. Let’s head for the fields.”

In row upon row, the daffodils swayed languidly in the light, chilly air that were stirring around Prospect House. It took but a moment to leave Wordsworth behind in the daffodil-gazing stakes, and to be properly impressed with the flowers’ endless variation in color. Familiar yellow, delicate pink, pure white—whatever the shades, they were all pleasing, and many of them had trumpets of a tint different from their perianths. “Almost all of these are Lionel’s,” said Mrs. Richardson, “but there are a few that were cultivated by Guy L. Wilson, who when he was alive was a friendly rival of Lionel’s. He was from the North of Ireland, as was Lionel’s father. I originated them myself, but my roots have gone very deep here. There’s always someone from the Waterford municipal administration proposing that I sell them some land for housing development or the like. That, of course, would be the ruination of Prospect House, and there will be no sale while I’m alive to prevent it. People, I’m afraid, tend to forget how important flowers are in their lives. One man who didn’t was Winston Churchill. When he noticed a shortage of flowers during the Second World War, he asked about the matter and was told that, with the transportation shortage, there was no space for the shipment of flowers. He not only ordered that flowers were to be shipped but also saw to it that the R.H.S. shows went right on during the war. He said flowers were good for morale, and he was right.

“To get back to our daffodils, we’re always hard up for names for the ones we fancy, and we usually make a point of naming one after the winner of the Grand National. You have to reserve such names with the R.H.S., but a couple of years ago, when Red Alligator won, I just couldn’t do it. Somehow, alligators and daffodils don’t seem to go together. Nevertheless, some other grower has reserved the name. With all the daffodils we’ve had to christen, we’ve been hard put to it to get them all titled, and we’ve run the gamut from Amber Light to White Prospect in our efforts to identify the daffs in our catalogue. Ironically, one of the last that Lionel bred—a Rose Caprice-Infatuation cross called Romance—didn’t mature until two years after his death. But it turned out to be the advance in pinks that he’d hoped for, and I made sure that the bulbs of Romance went to the twelve individuals who had subscribed fifty pounds apiece to encourage Lionel in experimenting with this particular flower, which is large and lovely—four and a half inches in diameter, and a beautiful blend of white
and rose pink with just a touch a green at the base of the cup in its center. I suppose you think I'm daft about daffodils, and in a way I suppose you're right. But Prospect House isn't exclusively devoted to daffodils, not by long odds. Although the three gardeners around the place concentrate on flowers, and are helped by a local lad, I grow such things as tomato plants for the market and have a fine big herd of Jersey cattle grazing across the road. I also have an old-fashioned Victorian garden that I'd like to show you, if you've had your fill of daffodils."

I told her that I doubted if that day would ever come, but I followed her obediently to the garden, all neatly laid out, with paths bordered by boxwood hedges, to the rear of Prospect House. "We don't devote much attention to this place nowadays," said Mrs. Richardson, "but at one time three gardeners were kept busy in this area looking after two hundred bedding plots." The garden, even without intensive care, was a lovesome thing, God wot, and I left it reluctantly to have a spot of tea, at Mrs. Richardson's invitation.

"I imagine that there must be a case for urban existence," she remarked when we had settled before the fireplace once more, "but for the life of me I can't imagine what it might be. I'm back and forth to all points of the compass to see my fellow daffodil enthusiasts, and yet I never pause in a city that stirs me like the green hills of Ireland, or, to tell you the truth, in any other meadows or fields that make me feel as happy as my own."

At this juncture, the Siamese cat jumped into my lap, purring vigorously, and the spaniel began to lick my hand. "I must say you look at home here," said Mrs. Richardson.

I suggested that I'd better return to Dublin before she and the house and the fertile land took me completely in thrall.

**IMPROVING (?) PINKS**

**LEONE YARBOROUGH LOW, Yellow Springs, Ohio**

Time will not erase the delight of seeing really great pink daffodils for the first time. For me, this occurred at a daffodil show in Dayton at the turn of the decade. Almost all of these smooth, brightly colored blooms were exhibited by Handy Hatfield, who has the reputation of growing best the newest and best. (Handy continues to grow great pinks, and he won the ADS National Gold and White ribbons with Fragrant Rose 2 W-GPP and the Matthew Fowlds Medal with Elizabeth Ann 6 W-GWP, as well as the Gold Quinn, etc., at the 1987 ADS Columbus Convention.)

This display of pink cupped blooms convinced me that my pink cultivars with rough, pale, inconsistent blooms which always looked at the ground should be replaced. I was a newcomer to ADS membership and
needed help in building a collection. Christine Hanenkrat was the first to provide this help to me, since then many others have also been kind. The improved quality of my collection inspired me to try for further improvement by adding Division 1 and 2 pink cups to my hybridizing program.

My basic strategy is to cross two cultivars which have many nice characteristics in common, but which are good where the other is lacking.

Some older cultivars I have used are Precedent, for its perianth and substance, and Tangent for its color and cup. The seedling bed contains offspring of Chloe, Cordial, Pastel Gem, Rose Royale, Rima, Early Blossom, Patricia Reynolds, Amber Castle, (is it still a pink?), Saucy, Rainbow, Del Rey, Cavoda, Bon Rose, Audubon, Dewy Rose, Pink Panther, Ann Campbell, Heart Throb, Upper Broughton, Desert Rose, Quiet Day, Gourmet (when it was a pink), Peacock, Pink Wing, Portrait, Ophelia, Painted Doll, Kildavin, Balvenie, Volare, Gracious Lady, Coral Light and Abalone.

Some recent acquisitions and good show flowers from 'Down Under' that have been used in my hybridizing program are Sedate, Melancholy, Pink Delight, Nexus, Forte, Obsession and Bundy.

Fragrant Rose crosses easily for everyone but me, apparently. However these interesting newer cultivars have done a little better: Lea/Postle introductions Dailmanach, China Doll, Dalcharn, Pol Dornie, and Pol Volun are said to produce seedlings that are slow to bloom, supposedly the influence of Lea's 2 W-W Inverpolly. Eileen Squires, Mentor, Ken's Favorite, Arctic Char, Kelanne, Quasar, Pink Tea, Tyee, Pink Silk, Brookdale, Peripheral Pink, Gloucester Point, Love Boat, and 1 Y-P's Memento, Unity, Fidelity, and Lorikeet have all collaborated in producing at least a few seeds. For the most part, I prefer these cultivars as well as a few of my seedlings.

I read what I could find in the ADS Journal and elsewhere, but felt that I was just beginning to understand a few of the questions, and none of the answers. The Hummingbird, a round-robin of hybridizers, has been most helpful. I am slowly developing a set of rules for beginning hybridizers such as myself, and this is the current version.

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RULES FOR NEW HYBRIDIZERS

1. Do it. Make every cross which will lead to the improvement that you want, and make the cross with several blooms, if possible. Repeat the cross, i.e., put fresh pollen on the pistil a day or two later for better seed set. If your 'right cross' doesn't work the first year, try it again in a more favorable season, since temperature and moisture will affect seed set. Try to keep records.

2. Read everything. Make out pedigrees if you want to do linebreeding. Act as though everything is fertile. Pay particular attention to earlier ADS Journal articles on collecting, planting, growing seeds. Don't let the seeds dry out.

3. Deanther 1's, 2's, 6's, etc. only if you wish to save the pollen. Deanther 3's, 7's, etc. only if you think that the world will end if you mislabel a cross or if you wish to save the pollen.

4. Cross like colors, etc. At least try W- to W- and Y- to Y- unless you have the time to make several generations of crosses, at 4-8 years per generation. Most W-color crosses are results of goals of intensifying whiteness and contrasts, while Y-Y's may have resulted from attempts to make the color uniform and more yellowish. There would need to be a quantum leap in form to compensate for the muddy color from W- × Y-.

5. Stick with it for the five years to your first bloom, after which the appearance of new seedlings each season will whet your appetite for more. Feel flattered, rather than crushed when someone says your seedling is a (specific) named cultivar.

The W-P's and Y-P's that were purchased by or given to me in the early 80's are the parents of my spring '89 first blooms with pink (also yellow, white, and beige) cups. There were 146 spring '89 survivors of the 300 seeds planted in late spring '84. These are from the 14 crosses that set seed, from the 28 crosses which were attempted. Five of these surviving crosses involved pinks which gave the following spring '89 results:

- Dalcharn × Dailmanach—no blooms
- Pastel Gem × Dailmanach—no blooms
- Chloe × Dalcharn—1 bloom, somewhat similar to Chloe
- Gourmet × Chloe—2 seedlings with broad perianths, good substance, clear color, and 8 terrible seedlings.
- Plover × Pastel Gem—a distinctive seedling and an interesting seedling, also a dozen tragedies.
- Gourmet × Stainless—produced ten muddy white, nearly indistinguishable blooms.

An unexpected bonus was a bloom of Saucy × Dalcharn which was planted in spring '85. It was very similar to Saucy, but had a longer stem, and, in my opinion, better pose and perianth.

The world does not seem to be beating a path to my door after my
maiden bloom season, but I am not discouraged. I can send my mistakes to a friend in Montana who has trouble getting the daffodils from Holland to grow, and I have 10,000 more seedlings which will bloom in all the colors, shapes, and sizes available in daffodils.

My 1990 New Decade Resolution is to stop making crosses with bad daffodils. It is no more effort to grow a seed from a good flower than it is from a bad.

FRAGRANCE IN DIVISION THREE

ANDY MOORE, Waynesboro, Tennessee

Several hybridizers are working on the challenge of getting good fragrance in standard daffodils. Each Division is unique when genetic potential is assessed—different species have played a part in their backgrounds, though at this point most are fertile tetraploids with a diverse palette of traits. Colors, forms, and fragrances all emerge as seedlings bloom, to be studied and selected by the Artist-Hybridizer. Of the first 4 Divisions, 3’s have the most which are scented. This is typically a light fragrance, but a good one.

It seems to me that Division 3 scent could be intensified through planned crosses. Many of the small-cups come from breeding involving poeticus species, some of which are quite fragrant. Engleheart used N. p. ornatus as a parent in several of his crosses, and the results were registered in Divisions 2, 3, and 9. Some of these historic 3’s are Albatross, Fiery Cross, King George V, Miss Willmott, Seagull, and White Lady. Also, the flat-cup daffodils raised by Edward Leeds, (Leedsii), are described as “sweetly scented” by early 20th century authors.

A phenomenon mentioned in literature about fragrant plants is the “dilution” of fragrance genes as hybridizing progresses away from early crosses involving the species. This is explained by Mendelian theory, which predicts that characteristics of both parents will appear in the original cross, but only ¼ of progeny having a character unique to one of the original parents will occur in the second generation crosses. Not only daffodils but roses, sweet peas, carnations, etc., can rapidly lose their scent if the breeder does not select for this trait. Fortunately, the theory also suggests ways to restore “lost” genes.

In the case of Division 3 daffodils, three approaches are possible: crossing scented small-cups with each other; crossing fragrant 3’s with fragrant 9’s; and back-crossing to the fragrant poeticus species. Each has its advantages and limitations. Some Div. 3 daffodils which have been called scented are Benvarden, Bryher, Cushendall, Dunley Hall, Frigid, Merlin, Irish Nymph, Pixies Pool, Portrush, Reprieve, Scarlet Thread, and Wetherby. Perhaps you know of others. These have managed to retain
Brian and Betty Duncan wish to thank the many friends and customers for the support in 1989 which helped make their first season such a success.

The even more colourful 1990 catalogue (available early March) contains a range of exciting new introductions, a wide selection of show bench winners, resulting from over 25 years of hybridising plus some of the very best cultivars from raisers around the world.

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enough of the genes which produce fragrance for the effect to be detected. A first generation cross between any of these should produce offspring which are scented, though stronger fragrance than either of the parents would be unusual.

Crosses with fragrant Division 9 poets should also yield mostly fragrant progeny. The word fragrant is emphasized because many poets have slight scent, or none at all, due to the same "dilution" process already mentioned. The poeticus species are not all fragrant, thus even "pure" poeticus hybrids can become scentless through intercrossing if some of their ancestors are not fragrant. Also, the flowers produced by the 3 x 9 cross would probably be too small to compete well in Division 3. An F2 generation should have approximately 25% of acceptable size and stronger Division 9 scent.

Backcrossing, on the other hand, would be expected to produce a majority of offspring more fragrant than the 3's used as parents in the first generation. However there are several problems with this approach. Though pollen from the most fragrant poeticus species (NN. pp. hellenicus, ornatus, recurvus) will fertilize Div. 3 daffodils, the progeny are likely to be sterile. If fertile ones do occur, several generations would be required to restore form and size. This would likely be challenging, as the few existing intermediate and minature sized Div. 3. daffodils do not appear to be fertile. But this approach should at least add to their number.

Hybridizing is a truly creative hobby, and I admit being both a beginner and an enthusiast. Raising daffodils from seed adds a whole new dimension to gardening, and whatever your goals may be, the time and effort spent can only increase your pleasure.

Postscript—A more experienced hybridizer (who wishes to remain anonymous) offered a few comments on this article: 1. Genetic theory is not quite as simple as outlined here. 2. A fair percentage of the 3 x 3 seedlings would very likely have less fragrance than either parent. 3. Size of daffodils depends to a large extent on how many chromosomes they have—there are diploid, triploid and tetraploid 3's. 4. The progeny of a backcross of 3's to poeticus species are not likely to be sterile. Divisions 1, 2, and 3 are really the result of the fact that there is virtually 100% pairing of chromosomes between the trumpet species and the poeticus species. Though many of the seedlings from this kind of cross will be triploids, there are a great many triploids among narcissi that are fully fertile both ways.

Memorial Contributions

Bernard Hobbs ............................................. Helen Link
William MacKinney ................................. Dr. & Mrs. Marvin Andersen
Grant E. Mitsch .......................................... Mr. & Mrs. V.J. Yarbrough
Martha Williams ......................................... Mrs. Marvin Andersen

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OF DAFFODILS AND......

PERSEPHONE

SWEET SCENT OR STINK? Now and again someone comes up with the idea of breeding daffodils for fragrance and I always want to ask, "What fragrance?" For, just as surely as beauty is in the eye of the beholder, smell is in the nose of the sniffer.

Louise de Coligny is possibly the only daffodil that most of us find pleasantly scented; it has that lightly sweet, fresh lemony perfume that is somewhat similar to the little sweet violet Rosina, the Dr. van Fleet rose, lily-of-the-valley, or even a freshly baked lemon tart!

Other than this, reactions to various daffodil smells vary widely and wildly. How wildly different is readily apparent in the notes I have made over the years.

Marjorie Anthes frequently referred to the "stink" of poets—not real poets mind you, but the entire tribe of poeticus daffodil species and hybrids. And, to her, N. elegans smelled like frying bacon!

By contrast E. A. Bowles thought this one smelled like tar or creosote. To him, Soleil d'Or had a heavy, leather-like scent but Becky and Brent Heath find this one pleasantly sweet.

Again, Bowles compared the smell of Primo Citroniere or Scilly White to soot, and deemed some tazettas "strong and not altogether pleasant." In fact, if you get downwind of some of the tazettas you are likely to check the soles of your shoes, to be sure you haven't stepped into something "naughty" as Gerard described it.

Legend had it that The Furies wore narcissus flowers in their tangled locks and used the flowers to stupify those whom they intended to punish. Many people believed the scent of narcissus was actually harmful and their perfume in closed rooms was considered "extremely disagreeable, if not injurious to delicate persons, causing headache and loss of recollection."

I don't profess to being all that delicate, and I don't blame the daffodils for any gaps and lapses in my memory—but I must admit that the heavy, drowsy perfume of some of these daffodils gives me a violent headache and makes me nauseated.

The hybrid, Fragrant Rose is said to smell just like the real rose, Tropicana and if that is so, it would be very pleasant to have around. How to go about capturing this fragrance in other daffodil hybrids, however, is beyond me. And, how can you be sure that the fragrance that appeals to you might not repel someone else?

Lately I was amused to note that one hybridizer cleverly side-steps this issue when describing her seedlings. Under "Fragrance?" she just writes "Yes!" Reminds me of the patient at our local clinic who filled out the usual medical form with the usual information until she came to the question
“Sex?” She just wrote “Yes.”

GIFTS FROM THE SEA. Sometimes fragrance can be a useful clue as to the parentage, and thus classification, of a mystery daffodil. Surely everyone who grows miniatures is familiar with Sea Gift, that charming little orphan daffodil that Alec Gray found growing in a Cornish cottage garden. It was said to have been the gift from a grateful sailor whose life was saved by a Cornish cottager. The form is unlike that of any other little jonquilla hybrid, but the sweet jonquilla scent makes the classification unmistakable.

I had a similar mysterious gift from the sea, which had to have jonquilla in its parentage, although it was not so listed. This was Overseas, which Ron Hyde sent me from Down Under. This was a Pierson hybrid, classified as a small-cup self yellow. (No parentage for it appears in the Data Bank.)

I wanted it for breeding. It was supposedly one of the few all-yellow small cups at that time. But, when it bloomed it was definitely not a 3 Y-Y! It was a large, handsome, small-cup flower with pure white perianth and a neat, small, pale yellow cup. It had a tall, strong stem, superb substance and smooth velvety texture, and the pure sweet fragrance of jonquilla.

For obvious reasons I could never exhibit it, but for equally obvious reasons I called it Sea Change, gave it tender loving care, increased it over hundredfold and used it every season for all sorts of mass arrangements where large, eye catching daffodils were needed i.e. altar arrangements, formal drawing room decorations during Garden Week, and such.

When we sold our place and moved on I couldn’t bring Sea Change bulbs with me, but they went on to other gardens and from all reports they are continuing to give a lot of people a lot of pleasure as garden plants and for indoor decoration.

LEAN CUISINE. Generally when a daffodil does not have typical color one or more factors could be responsible. But one, that few people take into account, is improper or inadequate nutrition.

I never cease to marvel at growers who give their bulbs a diet that could be the equivalent of a daily menu of double cheeseburgers, chocolate shakes, and orders of French fries on the side; or, perhaps worse yet, provide a growing medium of fake soil and commercial fertilizer mixes. Then, they wonder why so many of their expensive daffodils are here today and gone tomorrow, and can’t understand why they lack resistance to adverse weather conditions, insect damage or disease; produce few, if any, viable seeds; and lack desired substance and stem strength.

All of the above may be directly related to inadequate or unbalanced nutrition. The truth is that bulbs simply cannot be handled like container-grown plants kept on “hold” for eventual sale for permanent planting. Nor should they be expected to thrive on periodic doses of commercial fertilizer mixtures at a time when they do not utilize the food, then find the
cupboard bare when they do need certain main elements and trace minerals.

The blooming season is not the time to try and correct these problems, but stay tuned—for June!

NOW IS THE TIME to study your daffodils and train yourself to describe color and recognize form. (The best advice I ever got, related to identifying daffodils, came from a bird watcher. He said, “Train yourself to recognize the form and proportions of a bird—these characteristics remain fairly constant. Once you get them imprinted on your mind, then check on the color, which may be variable according to season, sex and age of the bird.”)

You can’t go wrong if you follow the same method in training yourself to identify daffodils.

ABOUT COLOR. It just isn’t enough to say a cultivar is 1 Y-Y. The same goes for 2 W-Y, 3 Y-W and suchlike. These codes are merely clues. I’ve said this before and I’ll say it again, at the risk of boring you. For example let’s take Y for yellow! Lemon gives a fairly accurate indication of the color meant, ditto sulphur, or Maximus gold.

But then, let’s consider the color “cream”—what kind of cream, I wonder? Jersey, Guernsey, Brown Swiss, Holstein, or some other? Each is different. We need not go into the bewildering assortment of shades and tints that are covered by P for pink, and the same goes for orange, red, green, et al. Then, what about salmon or coral?

Back in 1967 I started urging hybridizers, judges, people working on classification committees, and everyone else in fact, to start becoming familiar with the RHS Horticultural Color Chart and using it. Well, as my Scottish grandfather would say, I might as well have saved my breath to cool my broth.

Few people then or now have bothered to get the Chart, much less use it, so it is no wonder that most of the time we might be speaking a foreign language to each other, when it comes to talking or writing about color.

SPEAKING OF CHALLENGES. I can hardly suppress a chuckle when exhibitors today complain about the difficulty of entering our various challenge classes. Today a Quinn Trophy Class or a Watrous Medal Class is mere child’s play, compared with the early years!

In the Christchurch Show of 1913, Class No. 1 called for “three stems each, of fifty different varieties.” Yes, I said fifty! Furthermore there were several entries competing and the trophy was won by a W. Bryliss. Dare I say they were Giants in those days?

TIPS AND HINTS. Did you know that something as simple as water can make a difference with your exhibition daffodils. (I mean after they are cut and staged, not while they were growing.) A few of us learned this years ago, thanks to the generosity of a local soft-drink distributor. He not only supplied our show with enough Coke bottles to stage all of the stems in our show, he sent them filled with carbonated water. The effect on those specimens was measurable and marvelous.

This is not to say I would advise everyone to lug along jugs of water to
every show, but if you are going to enter some classes where the competition is keen and the stems will be staged in test tubes, then it may be well worth your while to take along a liter bottle or two of carbonated water to fill your own! This pepper-upper could make the difference between getting a top trophy or being an also ran.

FINALLY, GADGETS AND GISMOS. My dentist gave me the ideal tweezers for deanthering, splitting flowers to remove lower stamens, and performing other delicate operations related to hybridizing. They were long and had very long, pointed tips. As frequently happens I put them in a safe place, so safe I couldn’t find them again. I was in despair until I located the same kind of tweezers in the Brookstone Catalogue. I believe they are designed for special jobs related to other hobbies, e.g. jewelry repair, but I find them invaluable for working daffodil flowers.

Then, in a wine and cheese shop I found the perfect gadget for lifting small bulbs of miniatures, or seedlings, from a group that may be growing close together. Of all things, it is a cheese scoop. While you are there you might also pick up a wine corkscrew with which to make neat little holes for planting tiny bulbs.

And, while you’re there, why not treat yourself to a wedge of Brie or Camembert cheese and a bottle of Cabernet Sauvignon (the above gadgets can be recycled for their intended use now and again) then all you’ll need is a loaf of bread, a bough to sit under, and a Thou to sing to you. Even the Wilderness will be Paradise enou!

TAZETTA TALK

MAX HAMILTON AND WILF HALL, New Zealand

(from New Zealand Daffodil Annual 1989)

A letter was recently received by the Editors from John McLennan a commercial grower from Otaki who is interested in breeding new tazetta cultivars to supplement things like Soleil d’Or. His results and observations are of interest and an edited version of part of his letter is printed here.

I flowered about 10 tazzetas (Bathurst open pollinated) for the first time in 1988 and this season selected two for keeping. One has the colouring of Sol, but more florets per stem, a shorter stem, rounder form and with the florets being bigger than those of Sol. The perianth is a lighter yellow and the open cups are mid yellow.

I have been flowering seedlings from Soleil d’Or for a number of years and along with these Bathurst seedlings, I have noted several points worth looking at.

FLOWER FORM: I have yet to raise a seedling as smooth in the perianth as Sol. Almost all seedlings are rounder and rougher in form than Sol. Most have a more open cup shape than Sol. Some the coronas of Sol; most have crinkled cups.

COLOUR: The colour range in the seedling perianths is from the deep
gold of Sol through all shades of yellow to the pale yellow-milky white shade of Bathurst. The corona colour ranges from Sol orange-red or even slightly stronger, down to a clean gold similar to the perianth colour of Sol. As yet I haven’t flowered any with the clear, bright colour combination of Sol.

FLORETS PER STEM: Most commercial lines of Sol have floret count range of between 4-12, probably averaging 8. I have seen a selected line from Jim O’More stock which was certainly more vigorous and healthier and had a much higher floret count. Almost all the tazetta seedlings from Sol have a much high floret count—one clone I have had has up to 23. It averages out at about 14 a stem of small, rough but quite bright florets. I wonder if the ‘virus free’ Sol with more florets to a stem, would have smaller florets or, if the seedlings suffered reduced vigour through virus attack, they would have less florets but that these would be bigger.

FOLIAGE: The growth of leaves and stems also shows great variation. A few have the narrow C-shaped dark green, upright leaf expected of jonquilla species but most are of the blue-green and more drooping form, that is more characteristically tazetta. Very few have the great after flowering pre-senescence growth that Sol has. With good stock Sol can grow to over a metre in height—perhaps the source of their vigour. None of the seedlings have stems as tall or as solid as Sol at their best. Most are thinner and far easier to pick than Sol.

I feel the next step in tazetta or jonquilla hybrids is from the hybrids

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Tyrone Daffodils

Clarke Campbell, formerly of Rathowen Daffodils, announces the establishment of Tyrone Daffodils in conjunction with his son Desmond

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onto well coloured standard flowers. Barbara Fry and others have been using Matador for some interesting results. I know Graham Phillips is following the lines I am using, of Sol and its hybrids onto early singles. He has registered Sol City, 8 Y-Y (Malvern City × Soleil d’Or) which I understand has good yellow colour and 2-3 florets per stem. I have quite a few coming along in pots whose pollen parents were seedlings from Sol.

Pipit (Mitsch) and some of its mates, have fertile pollen and some set seed. From this line crossed to singles, we would get multi-coloured hybrids with probably 2-3 florets per stem. Longterm, these crosses (of Sol hybrids × singles), onto other seedlings could be interesting, if no further fertility problems arise. This is the line I hope to follow. As I don’t have any species, I don’t intend to go that far back. I feel the only division in which it should be necessary would be cyclamineus, as some of the new hybrids are to my eye too far from the parent. Usually the only reason one could believe that they are cyclamineus is their ability to reflex in the perianth.

And, finally a little comment about the weather. In the 15 years I have been on this property, I can record having had only two frosts heavier than the 5°C we had on July 3rd. Growth has certainly slowed down after an early start. May be a ‘normal’ show season at last.

The Society has also recently ‘acquired’ another member who is very keen on the tazettas, Richard Perrignon of Australia. He has been interested in the capacity of Bathurst to set seed quite readily and has done some research into the relationship of chromosomes to the breeding ability of various tazettas. He has provided the following information, which might appear to be very technical, but if you intend to attempt any breeding from the Divisions past 4 and particularly tazettas, you need to have a sprinkling of knowledge to understand the difficulties involved. This is what he has to say—

(1) Tazetta species, together with NN. serotinus, papyraceus and pachybolbus belong to the subgenus Hermione.

(2) Species of subgenus Hermione are distinguished from the subgenus Narcissus because Hermione is built on units of 10 or 11 chromosomes; subgenus Narcissus is built on units of 7. Thus N. tazetta has 20 chromosomes (being 2n = 2 × 10 = 20) and N. papyraceus has 22 chromosomes (being 2n = 2 × 11 = 22). Their gametes have 10 and 11 chromosomes respectively.

On the other hand, members of subgenus Narcissus, like N. jonquilla for instance, have gametes of 7 chromosomes. The adult plant therefore has 2n = 2 × 7 = 14 chromosomes. So the pollen granules (male) each have 7 chromosomes while the ovule (female) also has 7. When combined at fertilization the full number of 14 is regained.

(3) All crosses between subgenus Hermione and subgenus Narcissus are sterile. So, if you cross N. tazetta, Soleil d’Or with N. jonquilla you may obtain a pretty hybrid with 2n = 10 + 7 = 17 chromosomes, but it will be infertile because of its odd chromosome number and it
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cannot therefore produce viable gametes. The most obvious examples of such sterile hybrids are the ‘Poetaz’ crosses between poeticus (Narcissus) and tazetta (Hermione), an example being Martha Washington.

(4) On rare occasions these sterile hybrids may produce a fertile gamete (almost always a male cell, i.e. pollen) by a process called non-reduction. The adult cell of 17 chromosomes fails to split and the pollen produced still contains the full complement of 17 chromosomes. This may unite say with a normal gamete (ovule) of 7 chromosomes to give a hybrid with 2n = 17 + 7 = 24 chromosomes. Of course this would also be infertile, except that it may also produce a gamete by non-reduction which would have the full number of 24 chromosomes.

(5) Matador is a hybrid between two members of sub-genus Hermione, hence its fertility. One parent had 2n = 20 chromosomes giving a hybrid with 2n = 22 chromosomes. The former, that is the seed parent, had a reduced gamete with 10 chromosomes giving a hybrid with 2n = 10 + 22 = 32 chromosomes. Getting really technical now, Matador is said to be a ‘diabasic’ (that is, having only two species in its genes) and ‘allotriploid’ (that is, it had three sets of chromosomes, n = 10, 11 and 11 and these sets are not the same number of chromosomes).

(6) Grand Monarque is a ‘diabasic allotriploid’ cross between two species from subgenus Hermione, and is therefore fertile. It has 2n = 21 chromosomes which are derived from one gamete with 10 and another with 11 (2 sets, diploid, 3 sets as in Matador triploid).

(7) Diploids tend to be more fertile (80% plus) and Richard expects that Bathurst is one. Allotriploids like Matador and Scilly White are moderately fertile (60-70%).
MY FAVORITE DAFFODILS

DAVE KARNSTEDT, West St. Paul, Minnesota

(from Yearbook of the Daffodil Society of Minnesota, Vol. 3, No. 3 and Vol. 4, No. 4)

Which are the daffodils I look forward to seeing each spring? To be eligible for inclusion, a given cultivar must exhibit consistent performance over a period of time. I must admit, however, that occasionally I will succumb and include a new acquisition because some one thing—usually color or form—is particularly appealing. For example, I placed 1 Y-P Lorikeet from Grant Mitsch in that category because of its appealing color: soft lemon perianth and quite intense apricot pink trumpet.

To many people, the great golden trumpets are daffodils. I do grow over 130 cultivars of the 1 Y-Y daffodils of which Arctic Gold is my favorite. It can be depended upon to produce flowers in abundance. Aside from the bonus of early bloom it has deep uniform golden color and elegant form. Arctice Gold’s quality has been recognized by the award of an FCC for both exhibition and garden display. It is one of the best Lionel Richardson’s introductions.

Among daffodil fanciers white daffodils are often favorites. There are a number of good cultivars among which Broomhill and Easter Moon are classics. Each possesses a distinctive form. Easter Moon’s heavy substance and fine form have made it an exhibition favorite ever since its introduction by Guy Wilson in 1954. It has proven itself to be a marvelous parent, as it transmits its best characteristics. Easter Moon is a parent of Broomhill, a fine white long cup, and other fine Division 2 whites such as Misty Glen a 2 W-GWW. In addition to its achievements as a superb exhibition bloom Broomhill makes a fine garden daffodil too, with its 2 ft. stems a real bonus. Its clear snowy-white flowers, heavy substance and consistent performance make it my favorite white.

Another old and new combination of value to me is Ceylon, 2 Y-R, and Torridon, 2 Y-R. Although Ceylon is now approaching the 40th anniversary of its introduction I admire its clear bright sunny-yellow color, perfect form and distinctive pose. Torridon will quite consistently develop its reddish cup color in Minnesota. For me its perfect form is unsurpassed. The perianth is flat, smooth and without a nick or crease.

For a long time double daffodils were not very highly respected. Seedlings bred from Falaise, 4 W-WOO, by Lionel Richardson in the 1950’s changed that image. Of the dozens produced since, Acropolis, 4 W-WRR, remains my favorite single-flowered double. Acropolis possesses a strong stem and neck. This characteristic enables the flowers to remain upright through much of the worst spring weather. Acropolis’ white is pure and clean, a clear white, and interspersed among the bases of the petals are the deep red fragments of the cup. The beautiful form and uniform build make it a hard double to beat on the show table, an appropriate finishing touch is the heady poeticus perfume. Due to its poeticus heritage it does have one fault, albeit a minor one, it is a slow
multiplier.

For division 2 standards Avenger, 2 W-R, is a rather small flower, but one of great perfection. The perianth needs a couple of days to whiten after opening but the ruffled deep orange-red cup stays that color. If it can be protected from the sun and wind which will burn the edges, the flowers possess such a jewel-like form and coloring that the extra work is worthwhile. Although the cross Kilworth × Arbar has produced dozens of 2 W-R flowers, Avenger and Don Carlos possess the consistency to make them classic.

One of the most important and distinctive color breaks in daffodils occurred with the introduction of Binkie, 2 Y-W, the forerunner of an entire color group the reverse bicolors. At first the color grouping Y-W was confined to the first two divisions. Largely through the efforts of Grant Mitsch, this color pattern can now be found in several divisions. My favorite reverse bicolor remains the classic 2 Y-W Daydream. It is a perfect flower in its class. For many years Daydream’s competition on the show table was its fine sibling Bethany. Today there are others. Daydream is a winner under garden conditions as well.

Festivity remains a formidable show daffodil. It is a daffodil that will respond to good cultural conditions and plenty of water. I’ve seen individual flowers 5” across without loss of refinement. The clean, clear white perianth and medium yellow long cup are enhanced by the flat perianth and heavy substance. The perianth petals are opaque and are highlighted with green at their base. In unfavorable weather Festivity seems to have an annoying propensity to “mitten thumb”. It seems to require frequent lifting and division to consistently produce good show flowers.

Much breeding has been done in the white-pink group in the last twenty years. Hence picking a favorite pink daffodil is difficult. I have several favorites, each chosen for an outstanding characteristic in addition to color. First of all would have to come Rima, 1 W-P. Under ideal growing conditions the pink of the trumpet deepens to raspberry. While you’ll seldom see that color in Minnesota Rima does have enough merit in several respects—form, season, and overall balance—to earn it a solid place on my list of favorites. For deep color—rose red—I would include Cool Flame and Rubythroat, still quite expensive however. Beautiful color is their most appealing characteristic. For consistent success as a show flower one would find Passionale difficult to surpass. The perianth is perfect. The cup is formed like a half trumpet and tends to be a rather pale pink but one of clarity and softness. It also produces a hard round bulb that is a joy to behold. Accent is a good garden pink since it’s not expensive and its color is deep enough to have good carrying power in the garden. The perianth petals have a tendency to crease so it is not a first class show bloom unless one is willing to take the time to groom it as the flowers develop. Accent together with Precedent have been among the best daffodils for providing deeper color in pinks. These two are the parents of Cool Flame which when used as a parent has produced some astounding seedlings.
These first four divisions contain most of the better known daffodils and the ones most often seen at shows and in gardens. Beyond the many favorites in the first four divisions, there exists a true wealth of largely unappreciated beauty and interest in the remaining divisions: heavenly fragrance, multiflowering tendencies, diminutive stature, unique forms, and a season ranging from the very earliest to the very latest. I do not intend to stay with the earlier theme of contrasting an old favorite with a newer favorite. It was difficult with flowers for the first four divisions, it is nearly impossible with the other divisions.

Division 5 contains the descendents of **Narcissus triandrus**. Readily recognizable characteristics are drooping florets with swept back perianths that hang from the tips of the scapes and stems bearing as few as one or two flowers, or as many as a dozen, depending on the cultivar or species.

Grant Mitsch’s introduction, Saberwing, has rather formal, small, white, green centered, round flowers that are usually borne singly, but are loveliest when they come two to a stem. I’ve grown it for quite a while and find it satisfactory in every respect.

Hawera and April Tears usually produce three to eight flowers per stem and I wouldn’t want to be without either of them. Hawera performs better for me, lasts longer and is fragrant. April Tears seems to be touchier and I have lost it several times.

Hybridizing with this group seems to result in increased bloom stems from the resultant hybrids. Forty-Niner, Harmony Bells and Lemon Drops bloom so profusely they virtually hide their foliage. As a group triandrus hybrids possess low fertility. There are at least two, however, that will set seed—Silver Bells and Honey Bells—and both are worth growing for that attribute alone.

Abundantly displaying both grace and charm, Division 5 hybrids appeal to those whose tastes are not inclined toward formal structure, bright colors and “bigness” in daffodils.

Division 6 flowers have a strong appeal as well, but for a different reason. They are usually among the very first daffodils to bloom in spring. Without Grant Mitsch, this division would be poor indeed. Most of the recent registrations are Mitsch seedlings—and what a marvelous group they are!

For many years, since 1948, Cyril Coleman’s trio were, deservedly, the most popular cyclamineus hybrids. Grant Mitsch repeated the cross that produced Charity May, Jenny, and Dove Wings; he selected Willet from that cross. It has proven to be a better flower than Charity May in many respects, and when well grown can easily take a blue ribbon.

Another older yellow I wouldn’t be without is Prefix. I’ve grown it for many years always looking forward to seeing its sturdy flowers each spring. I grow it in a sun trap, so it is always my first cyclamineus to bloom each year. Sometimes I push my luck a little too much and I lose the flowers or buds to a severe, late frost. In good years, however, I’ll have flowers before the end of March.
Ibis is a strong favorite with me for its color and form and the abandon with which it produces its flowers. It is easily the outstanding Division 6 flower for floriferousness in Havens' field plantings. I've seen ten meter rows of this cultivar growing in their fields with so many flowers that it appeared to be solid ribbon! Ibis blooms just as freely for me.

For uniqueness of form, I think Peeping Tom stands alone. It is impossible to mistake those commanding golden yellow flowers for anything else. Even here, the flowers of Peeping Tom will last three weeks outdoors and sometimes as long indoors when grown in pots for March bloom. Someday I hope to obtain virus-free stock of this cultivar, as well as Tete-a-tete, but until then, grow it by itself, away from other stocks and enjoy its beauty. Until very recently Tete-a-tete's form was also unique in Division 6: multiflowered. More than one flower is not a cyclamineus trait, so its placement in Division 6 has long been questioned and finally Tete-a-tete has been placed in Division 12. This decision won't affect this cultivar's marvelous value as a garden flower or as a subject for growing indoors in pots. There are but few years when I have not potted a large bulb pan of Tete-a-tete to enjoy a breath of spring on those winter weary days of March.

I am really impressed with these older cyclamineus hybrids, probably because we've been friends for so long. I grow most of the newer introductions, but with the possible exception of Rival, have not found any real favorites among them.

Jonquils are a great favorite with nearly all daffodil growers, including those people who do not quite yet know the distinction between Narcissus and daffodils and, so, refer to everything as "jonquils". To me, the most appealing jonquil characteristics are their multiflowered habit and enticing perfume.

In Division 7 as in 6, the skilled hand of hybridist Grant Mitsch has created more worthwhile seedlings than any other individual. To him goes the credit for, virtually singlehandedly, expanding and popularizing the jonquils among exhibitors and gardeners alike.

One of my favorite jonquils over the years has been Chat. I have not seen it offered commercially for a long time and don't really understand why. In my garden, it is a vigorous grower producing many three-flowered stems. It is a soft lemon yellow color and the well formed perianths perfectly set off the white cups. It is always popular at our shows and usually will win a blue ribbon. I have most of the other cultivars of this color type including Pipit, Verdin, Dickcissel, Step Forward and High Note, but find that none of them appeals to me quite like Chat.

Bell Song I love! White and soft pink make an irresistible combination and those stems that don't end up on the show bench are cut and enjoyed indoors. Everyone should grow it just for the sheer pleasure of it.

Dainty Miss is another I would not like having to do without. One of the few single flowered jonquils (derived from N. watieri, a single flowered species from northwest Africa) the well formed, small flowers are perfection in white.
I wouldn't be without Quail either. I never cease to marvel at the extravagant number of flowering stems this cultivar will produce when down for two to five years. If you don't grow it yet be sure to add some to your order this year.

Quick Step is a remarkable jonquil and fertile. Many crosses have been made with it and I currently have small lots of open pollinated seedlings coming along as well as a number from a cross with Impala. Grant Mitsch felt its potential has barely begun to be explored. Like most jonquils it is a good multiplier and a couple of bulbs won't set you back much. Next spring you'll be able to experiment with whatever pollen you choose. There is a high probability of something good coming from your efforts.

Next to jonquils, tazettas are equally fragrant and for that reason alone find a ready market as cut flowers in Europe. This has been a rather stagnant division with most registrations coming thirty or more years ago. My two favorites are Geranium and Golden Dawn. Both are intensely fragrant and appear near the end of the daffodil season. Sporting up to seven or eight flowers, Geranium’s crinkly white perianths and orange red cups sit in a bunch atop twenty inch stems. When well grown the stems will not fit in a coke bottle. Golden Dawn is a yellow and orange counterpart to Geranium, equally as fragrant, but not as tall or vigorous. Reputedly somewhat tender, I have never lost any to mid-winter cold.

Poeticus daffodils, Division 9, are a long time interest of mine. As a member of a Poeticus Round Robin over the years, I’ve accumulated more than two dozen of these special flowers. For many of them, really, their major value is historical, but I grow them because I enjoy them.

Once again, it comes as no great surprise to find Grant Mitsch involved in remaking a division. Beginning with the introduction of Quetzal in 1965, his contribution culminated in the introduction of a number of very fine flowers from a remarkable cross: Quetzal × Smyrna. Of these introductions Bon Bon has become my favorite. For a poeticus Bon Bon has very fine form in addition to heavier than usual substance. The glistening white perianth is perfectly set off by a small, deep red-orange eye. The flowers of Bon Bon tend to be smaller than average, but combined with the exquisite detailing and presentation of the entire bloom it is entirely appropriate. In a large flower much of this sense of perfection would be lost. Bon Bon displays another character of its poeticus heritage—it is rather slow to multiply so dissemination has been limited.

In recent years several people have made significant contributions to Division 9 including Tom Bloomer, Brian Duncan and Helen Link. Helen Link introduced three of her seedlings in 1975, Phebe, Sheilah, and Lucy Jane. I have a bulb of Phebe and three things make it standout in my collection: whiteness, substance and a prodigious amount of pollen.

The poeticus daffodils of Division IX are the third of the divisions to have substantial fragrance.

The last three divisions are not well represented in my collection and those cultivars/species that I do have tend to be miniatures, and thus, more appropriately covered at another time.
FLOWER SHOWS IN RIGA, LATVIA

JURIS SVARCS, Ogre, Latvia

As in every spring, the Latvian flower show took place May 5-7, 1989. During the recent years it has been organized in the entrance hall of the Riga Sports Palace, as there are some difficulties with preserving flowers for 3 days other places. The American flower growers might be surprised at the exceedingly large number of visitors—21.6 thousand including 4.6 thousand school students. It is a record number because flowers are very popular in the Baltic states.

Many people grow bulbous flowers and sell them via the Horticulture Society; that is why they are the most attentive viewers of the show and try to put down the names of the latest varieties, while others have simply come to admire the flowers and have some rest.

The same as every year, the show featured very different flower species (specialized daffodil shows are seldom held), but tulips and daffodils are the dominating ones in spring flower shows.

Of course, we can learn much from the horticulture specialists of America and other countries about how to organize flower shows. We do not practice displaying flowers in vertical stands (the only exception is the stand of selectionists), but the vases with flowers are placed on the floor level and on elevated platforms. We understand that it is more difficult to view the flowers this way but thus the flower compositions of a large number (even up to 100) of one variety are made. This type of arrangement is traditional but lately we are also looking for other options.

The assortment of the daffodil varieties is evidently not of the most recent because there have been some difficulties in obtaining the latest varieties from the USA, England, and Northern Ireland for many years. These hurdles put up by the state officials, have not been fully removed even now.

We mainly grow daffodils of Divisions 1, 2, 3, 4 and 11. It is interesting to note that split-corona daffodils gained wide popularity almost immediately. The varieties of the other divisions are rarely met so far. Our horticulture specialists like white-red, white-orange, and white-pink colour combinations of blooms. They are greatly interested in such varieties as: Cool Flame, 2 W-P; Ace, 2 W-PPW; Precocious, 2 W-P; Graduation, 2 W-WWP; Heron, 2 W-P; Snowfrills, 2 YW-W; Odd’s On, 4 W-R; Gay Kybo, 4 W-O; Outer Space, 4 W-O; Mondragon, 11 Y-O; Fanline, 11 W-PPY; Egard, 11 W-Y; Riesling, 11 W-WFY; and Sancerre, 11 W-Y, which are still rarely met in our country, but they evoke enormous interest.

The variety Acropolis, 4 W-R, was widely acclaimed the star of the show.

Lately selection work has also enlarged, the first varieties having already been registered by R.H.S.
The author of this article, starting in 1982, sows on the average 1500-2000 seeds annually, consisting of 40-50 combinations, and exhibited some interesting hybrids of Division 11 at the flower show this year.

The winner’s cup this year was presented to Paupers Evalds by the panel for his achievements in daffodil selection. He has managed to get the most interesting pink daffodil—Brigitta, a 2 W-P—so far. The rest of the hybrids are also mainly from Division 2.

The chief editor of our Horticulture Journal and the most efficient specialist Janis Ruksans had exhibited mainly the hybrids of Divisions 2 and 4, and one of them has been called Samantha Smith, a 2 W-GWP. This year he visited selectionist Brian Duncan and returned home with a host of impressions.

A poll of the visitors’ opinion was arranged during the show and the most popular varieties turned to be:

1. Acropolis, 4 W-R
2. Dolly Mollinger, 11 W-OWO
3. Roulette, 2 W-YYR
4. Amor, 3 W-YYO
5. Debutante, 2 W-P.

In the future we intend to launch a more detailed poll among the horticulture specialists concerning classification divisions, and colour combinations of blooms. However, we will not be able to have such a vast number of competition classes as in the USA and England, but in the future we are trying to work to that end.

COMING EVENTS

March 29-31, 1990    ADS Convention, Callaway Gardens, Pine Mountain, Georgia
April 18-20, 1991    ADS Convention, Indianapolis, Indiana
April 23-25, 1992    ADS Convention, Columbus, Ohio

HERE AND THERE

Word has recently reached us of the death of Mrs. J. O. Smith a life member of the Society and a resident of Temple, Texas.

We have also learned that Florence L. Wobensmith of Doylestown, Pennsylvania, passed away last November. She was active in the Nature Club of Doylestown as well as the Daffodil Society.

Another member, Robert Odom of Coulterville, Illinois, passed away this past summer.

To the family and friends of the three special people we extend our sympathy.
MARIGOLDS IN THE DAFFODIL GARDEN

Kitty Frank, Nashville, Tennessee

From time to time I have been asked to speak to garden clubs about daffodils. Without fail the question of cutting down the foliage arises. The answer, known to all of us, is always followed by a groan and some unworthy comment about the lawn mower in the family.

Years ago Dick and I solved the problem of unsightly foliage, but it was not easy, and the total process which included many daffodil problems was fraught with pain. The conditions with which we had to deal were the usual floppy, dying foliage. The weeds that moved into the gardens immediately after the blooms faded. The problem of four beds and four growers, three of whom did not feel it incumbent upon themselves to do any weeding, and the fourth person saying "I'll do mine, and you are on your own." The result of this was a very delapidated garden for the balance of the summer. This issue came to a head when that fourth person did indeed weed all four of the gardens because there was to be a party in the back yard. Have you ever looked at a grassless, flowerless, weedless area with neatly lined up rows of tags, each with a name, and wondered exactly what it was good for? Well, several of our guests were very curious, but only one had the nerve to ask. Dick replied that it was a moles' grave yard.

This grave yard, with the neat rows of labels and the hedge of Japanese box, all weeded, turned out to be a disaster. The first thing that happened was a blistering hot summer, not a lovely warm Oregon or England or Ireland for Tennessee. Summer was just a refinement on an oven—a breeze was added from time to time. The total damage was apparent only the following year. The foliage was weak, the flowers were small, and there were numerous holes where no daffodils appeared. Upon digging into the empty spaces it was discovered that the fly had moved in. All holes were dug, and the gooey mess that had not hatched was bagged and thrown into the garbage can. Fortunately none of the varmints had hatched, and with only a few exceptions, no more bulbs were lost to the fly. At the same time the hedge/wind break was cut to a foot tall and thinned so that there was no heat inversion to encourage the fly, but still qualified as a wind break. The heat itself was another problem that still had to be solved.

Needless to say, weeds as a cover crop are not acceptable. They not only are unsightly but could supply cover for a future attack of the fly, or harbor other creatures that themselves may be happy in our daffodils, but would not be welcome as far as we were concerned. Nemetodes, for example.

No one that we found to talk to about these problems seemed to have a solution. "Just live with it" seemed to be the general attitude. We felt that there must be a solution out there some where. And the weeder was going to find it. (I pick the worst time to become efficient and orderly.) We were willing to re-purchase the fifty cent bulbs—this was along time ago—but not the ten dollar and up varieties.

After talking to growers of other things, and listening to the tale of woe
from a neighbor who found nematodes in his vegetable garden, we
decided to try marigolds.

Now, in case you have not noticed the marigolds in the seed
catalogues lately, let me tell you they show up with at least three pages of
different varieties. And they come in singles and doubles. And tall and
taller, and short and shorter. And big flowers and small flowers. The first
year we tried several different types. "If I have to have a yard full of
marigolds they will not be all alike, besides I like zinnias better," was the
attitude expressed by one family grower. That year we grew some very tall
and bushy—Climax, some singles—Signets, and some small French ones
that are no longer available. We discovered that the tall ones do not like a
hillside. They fell over, and besides they seemed to like water in the
summer. The single ones were probably the most attractive but the cover
they gave the ground was not sufficient to keep out the weeds. The French
ones were too small and did not cover the area enough to keep out the
weeds either. Back to the seed catalogue.

The second year we still ordered the big, tall and bushy ones and
planted them on flatter ground where they were happy and did all the
things we wanted them to do. We tried another of the French hybrids that
year, but it took too many of the plants to make a good covering since
each of these made only a seven inch ball. They also set seeds like mad and
had to be checked constantly. Finally we learned that 10 or 15 minutes a
day, moving from one bed to another in an orderly fashion cured the seed
problem. Also, these marigolds did not require watering during the
summer.

The third year we found the best of the French crosses for our
purpose. It was called Red Seven Star. (This variety was off the market for
a while, but has returned at a higher price.) It germinated easily (but
marigolds always do) and grew to be a 14 to 16 inch ball. They exactly
fitted between the rows of daffodils and spread enough to cover the dying
foliage and the stakes. One weeding and planting combined and rain from
the hose or the sky until the daffodil foliage was down, and that was the

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end of that.

We considered this program an ideal solution for a lazy gardener, or two or four lazy gardeners. We were rid of the fly, saw no other disease problems and continued in this manner until Burpee stopped selling Red Seven Star and I got cancer. That year, even though we had enough plants to cover the beds we only had one laborer and he was distraught—not a good attitude for heavy digging, especially the weeding part of the job. As a result, only half of the daffodils were covered with marigolds. The remaining areas languished with weeds, or as in one area, bare ground because the Treflan which we were now using for weed control had killed off the weeds and only a few inches of pine needles were there to cover the resting bulbs.

Like the first year and the fly, we had a revaluation the following spring. All the cultivars came up—no fly. Some of the leaves had a few spickels. Nematodes? And the foliage that spent the summer under the protection of the marigolds was beautiful. It was thicker, taller, fatter and with better color than those leaves that were in the next row who spent the summer under the pine needles. The spickel showed up under the weeds.

So what did we learn? The hot summer damage to the resting bulbs could be avoided by over planting. The watering that we did to get the bulbs strong after blooming also made the marigolds big and fat so that the weeds did not grow. The dying foliage did not show, and the stakes were hidden. A perfect mass planting with minimum work, and none of that in the middle of the hot summer. Because marigolds are drought resistant only once in twenty years have we had to water and even a heavy summer rain caused no damage to the resting bulbs—no basal rot. The marigolds used up the water. The fly did not return. Marigolds seem to deter the fly, especially if they are the smelly variety. (We had no aesthetic luck with the Park’s Nematode Marigolds. They were spindly and uneven in plant size and bloom.) These annuals will not, however, stop an invasion of the fly from the neighbor’s yard, especially if they have squadron markings and fly in formation. The spickels did not reappear. We do not know if we really had nematodes and as long as no symptoms appear we shall assume that we have none of them either.

Our present program includes spreading Treflan in early March. Spring rains take if off the pine needles onto the ground. We fluff up the pine needles for better air circulation. This also helps protect the buds from the intermittent freezes with which we are blessed. After the blooms are gone we start setting out marigolds which have been started in the greenhouse. And we water the prescribed amount for good bulb development. The big bed is covered with only one variety for a pleasing mass. Other areas that have mixed flowers including daffodils have any other kind of marigold planted that the zinnia lover orders, one on each side of the daffodil clump. This does the same concealing job, as well as tells us exactly where the daffodils are so that we do not accidently slide a spade into one of the little darlings.

Will this program work for you? Maybe. Certainly it will not hurt the bulbs and it does improve the general appearance of the yard. And it leaves free time for anything else that sounds like fun all summer long.
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Thank you very much.

P.O. BOX 218 • HUBBARD OREGON 97032
DAFFODIL CARE AT WHETSTONE PARK

DONNA DIETSCH, Columbus, Ohio
(from CODS Corner, Vol. XIX, No. 24)

Daffodils are easy to grow. Plant them in the ground—they grow. What we want to know is how to grow them well. Part of growing them well is spotting problems and knowing what to do about them. At Whetstone Park we have been gathering information on various cultural practices and trying them out to see if we can find new ways to grow our daffodils better. Many people have offered suggestions, people in this country and also from other countries.

Recently, we have corresponded with Ron Scamp, who is starting a new display garden in Cornwall, England, with Martin Harwood who is in charge of the British National Collection of Narcissus. The most gratifying part of the exchange of information is that they asked what we have been doing here. Both are interested in an exchange of bulbs with us in order to get some varieties that are no longer found in their own country. We will receive some that we have not been able to acquire, especially those that are historic varieties that have long since left our own gardens.

Also helping us with information has been Sir Frank Harrison of Ballydorn in Northern Ireland and Dr. Elton Smith of OSU who did our pre-emergent test.

Surflan, the pre-emergent herbicide that was found to be most effective, should be used at a rate of five pounds to an acre, which is 4840 square yards. It comes in wettable powder form, is mixed with water and sprayed on the surface of the soil. Follow the directions on the container. Since Dr. Smith also found that it does not harm hostas, daylilies or shrubs, you can use it in nearly any normal garden situation. After the treatment of the soil do not disturb the surface of the soil. If you do, you will bring to the surface weed seeds which will then sprout. Treat the soil in mid-October to control weeds into the following June. This will not affect any perennial weeds already growing there, but will prevent seeds from germinating.

Roundup can be used in late August or early September to kill any weeds growing in your beds. Before applying Roundup, rake the surface of the soil to fill in any holes left when the daffodil foliage died. If you don’t fill the holes, the Roundup may travel down the hole to the bulb and will damage or kill them. Roundup has been said to have a residual effect. That is, that it will continue to kill green plants growing later in beds that were treated. When it contacts the soil it is neutralized within a week. However, if you do not remove and discard treated plants, or if you spray it on a heavy layer of mulch, the Roundup will not contact the soil and will not be neutralized. In that case, it can remain effective long afterward. After the weeds have died and you have removed them, rake the mulch to allow treated portions to contact the soil and there will be no problem.
Fungus and bacteria will attack the daffodil foliage, especially in the kind of wet weather that we had this past year. The damage is not always readily apparent unless it causes the bulb to get basal rot. What it does do is to cause a gradual decline in the affected clump, causing the bulbs to be smaller and the blooms to be fewer and smaller and weakening the plant, the bulb will no longer be there. Early emergence of foliage will often start the problem. When the leaves get nipped by a late frost, the part that was frozen will die back. This necrotic tissue becomes a host for *stagonospora* fungus. Each time it rains, the spores are washed down the leaves into the bulb, infecting it as well. You could use a fungicide to control it, but an easier way is to pluck the dead tips off the leaves. Throw them away. Don’t put them on the ground around the plants. We tried this system for two years on a couple of the beds at Whetstone. The results were amazing. The clumps were larger and healthier and multiplied more. Even the color of the foliage was better and the flowers were larger. Sometimes, the simplest solution is the most effective.

Many people don’t like to use chemical controls for problems and most of the rest of us find no fault with judicious use of chemicals. Sometimes my own inclination to go easy on chemicals comes up against a problem that is too difficult to control any other way. That’s where I find myself when confronted with the narcissus bulb fly. You can catch the flies with a butterfly net and then dig up all the bulbs to search for the larvae. That’s nearly impossible in a large garden like Whetstone Park. Even if you did, the neighbors grow daffodils and the park has naturalized large areas with daffodils. There’s nothing to do but reach for the Cygon. Cygon is best applied just after bloom is finished in early May in central Ohio. Two applications spaced ten days to two weeks apart, will usually be adequate control. Use three tablespoons of Cygon to one gallon of water. Add two teaspoons of a spreader-sticker or wetting agent. Some people use dishwashing detergent but I prefer to use a commercial compound with polymer in it since it dries hard and does not wash off. Wet the foliage completely, spraying it from all sides. Spray a couple of inches of the soil around the clump, too. The incidence of bulb fly at the park is now much less than it was for a while. We hope to have it under control in the next year or two. Remember that Cygon is a systemic poison which means that it is absorbed into the plant. It will also be absorbed into your skin. Use rubber gloves when applying it and wash afterward. Of course, you don’t want to use it on food plants. It is not harmful when dry.

It seems that no single person has a monopoly on good useful information about growing daffodils. We are grateful to those people who have shared these tips with us. The more we learn, the more we find that there is to learn.
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