



AMERICAN DAFFODIL SOCIETY, INC.

MIDDLE ATLANTIC REGION

District of Columbia - Maryland - Virginia - West Virginia

NEWSLETTER

Delia Bankhead, Regional Vice President

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Director at Large - William G. Pannill, P.O. Box 5151, Martinsville, VA 24112

Regional Directors -

1991 - Patricia M. Crenshaw, 1047 Walker Mill Rd., Great Falls, VA 22066

1992 - Jane Bradford, 302 Suwannee Place, Lexington Park, MD 20653

1993 - Joan George, 614 W. Timonium Rd., Timonium, MD 21053

ADS Committee Chairmen -

Finance - Mrs P. R. Moore, Jr., 3750 Kecoughtan Rd., #6, Hampton, VA 23669

Test Gardens - Nancy Whitlock, Route 2, Box 239, Berlin, MD 21811

March, 1991

Dear Daffodil Friends,

It was such a pleasure to see many of you at our regional meeting last October. No matter what the programs are, to me, the best part of our fall meetings is the chance to see and visit with friends, to exchange ideas, stories and (always!) bulbs. Though I have far more bulbs than I should be growing, I always come away from the bulb exchange with some rarity or oddment that proved irresistible...

The planting of my entire stock was, again, late, as we ran into bedrock when we were making the new beds here. We had to dig them out with a backhoe, and two dump trucks full of shale had to be hauled away! Finally, in mid-November, the beds were ready and planting began, only to be interrupted by preparations for my house to be on tour, all decorated for Christmas, in mid-December. On Jan., 2, 3 and 4, I finished filling the prepared beds, which, to my dismay, were not large enough. New homes had to be made for Divisions 5, 7 and some 4s. The soil is so different here, that I'm very curious to see what does well, or not at all, here. As you've, perforce, followed my move, perhaps I will write a follow-up saga on bulb performance.

I've written several times on the virtues of early digging as a method of control for the Narcissus fly, but discovered when cleaning the bulbs that last year, 'early' wasn't early enough! Many bulbs had fat grubs in them and had to be discarded. I had not been able to spray as usual during the growing season because my bulbs were still at my old house 35 miles away. I now believe that if one intends to use only early digging for fly control, this means everything up by June 1 in our region. Bob Jerrell of California reports in his newsletter that his flies followed his bulbs into his garage, where they continued laying eggs undaunted by the change of venue. So, unless 'fly-proof' storage is available, some chemical control is necessary. In the past, I have always used Dursban, but in the last few years of its use, it seemed to me that it was not so effective as it had been. Is anyone familiar with a better product?

This is my last letter to you as Regional Vice President, as my term ends in April. Three years ago, I took this post with some reluctance - not for the job, but because I knew what was ahead for me. Selling my old house, finding this one and making it livable have consumed far too much of my time in the last three years, and I regret to leave with so many ideas unrealized. My greatest regret is our declining membership and I urge each of you to become activists on behalf of the daffodil. Share bulbs with

friends, take them to shows - better still, help them enter a few flowers, and above all, encourage them to join ADS! Now is a very good time to join. Between now and June 30, new members of ADS will receive a bulb certificate which may be used at any one of 18 participating growers.

One of the ideas I didn't have time to implement is one I hope will be put into practice in the future. This is the 'mentor' program, in which the RVP would send experienced members the names and addresses of new members living near them. The mentors would then write, or call, to offer help, invite the new members to their gardens, etc. This was discussed with some enthusiasm at one of the fall meetings, and at the time, several members volunteered to become mentors, so I believe the idea has some merit, and should be pursued.

In the course of my term, I have heard occasional complaints about the ADS, such as - "...it's too stuffy...", "...too preoccupied with shows...", "only interested in the newest cultivars...", etc. To all these, I have one observation to make - it has been my experience that an organization reflects the interests of its most active members. So...if you think ADS should move in other directions, become more active, and change course!

All the above is not to say I have not enjoyed the past three years - I have, very much. And I will miss the many contacts and new acquaintances they have brought me. Of course, I'm not going to disappear, and will continue to work for ADS in whatever way seems best to me.

Blessings on all of you, and your gardens. I look forward to seeing many of you at the spring shows.

à bientôt,

Delia

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NEW MEMBERS

A hearty welcome to our new members who have joined since the last newsletter:

Mrs. L. Margaret Abbott, Franktown, VA

Mrs. Jim Price, Charlottesville, VA

Mrs. Doris Rodriguez, Vienna, VA

I hope you all have wonderful blooms in your gardens this spring! If you want lots more bulbs, plan to attend the fall meeting to take advantage of our wonderful bulb exchanges. Attending a show near you is a good way to learn more about the types of daffodils, and make notes of your favorites, and if you come, please let us know you're a new member.

If anyone will be in the Washington area this spring, there are about 8 private daffodil gardens open to view, in addition to the daffodil collection at the U.S. National Arboretum. For information on the private gardens, write or call Marilyn Rankin, 6130 Jefferson Blvd., Frederick, MD, (301)371-6119. Also, the daffodil collection at the Ginter Garden, Bloemendaal, in Richmond is well worth a visit.

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1991 FALL MEETING

by Harry G. McCrone

Tucked away at the end of Maryland's Patuxent Peninsula is one of the area's best kept secrets - Solomon's Island. Settled in 1680 as Bourne's Island, it was renamed Solomon's in 1870 in honor of Isaac Solomon's oyster packing plant, the island's largest industry.

Fifty ADS members enjoyed a beautiful fall weekend filled with good food, the amenities of the Holiday Inn, enlightening meetings and surprises at both lunch and dinner. The Inn staff made us feel really welcome.

After a series of interesting programs, we moved to lunch, where we had a chance to talk with many friends and enjoy Southern Maryland seafood. One of our members, Jane Bradford of Lexington Park, MD, is the author of a small book on the settlement of Maryland, Sir George's Great Idea. Fifteen of us had pennies under our plates and received autographed copies of Jane's book. (Thanks to the author! Ed.) Our regional VP, Delia Bankhead, was surprised to receive a decorated birthday cake from two of her admirers, Algernon (McCrone) and Willie (Bankhead), who could not attend, as they have four paws. The Inn staff serenaded Delia as they served the cake.

After lunch, ADS Treasurer Jane Moore, of Hampton, VA, brought up several issues important to our region's membership, and perhaps to ADS as well. This was a series of questions about how many of us were judges, how many showed, or hybridized with daffodils, etc. Some members felt there was too much emphasis on shows and expensive new cultivars. The discussion ended with a consensus that ADS should place more emphasis on gardening with daffodils to capture the many dedicated gardeners who are not interested in showing or becoming judges.

We had a very good bulb exchange, organized by Anne Donnell Smith, of Stevenson, MD. Many good cultivars were on the table, with new members getting first choice. Everyone came away with several new bulbs.

Hurricanes and stormy weather passed us by, and many of us spent the afternoon touring parts of Southern Maryland. Richard Ezell, Marilyn Howe and I went all the way to the end - Point Lookout, where the opposite shores seem very far away. We stopped at the Prison Camp Memorial where over 3500 Confederate soldiers had died, then toured St. Mary's City before returning to the Inn.

Our dinner was another fine sampling of Maryland cuisine, and the tables were bright with flowers and plants. Susan Finch of Kensington, MD, had brought many gorgeous dahlia blooms to decorate the tables, along with pots of rosemary, pineapple sage and scented geraniums (again, courtesy of Harry. What a generous member! Ed.) Beautiful large pots of mums also added color. These, and the table plants were gifts for more members with pennies under their plates.

We were well entertained after dinner by our speaker, Dr. Fusonie, (see below - Ed.) At the end of the evening, we were surprised with a drawing for more bulbs, including some New Zealand rarities.

At breakfast Sunday morning, we said farewells to our friends before setting out for home. This was my third regional meeting, all of which were most enjoyable. All were held in quite accessible places, yet I see very few new faces each year. Why not attend the next meeting and find out what ADS is really like? It might surprise you.

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Judges' Refresher by Scott Bally

Part of our morning program was a judges' refresher course, which was most informative to us all, and gave 12 of our current judges renewal certificates for three years. It addressed some "Knotty Problems" judges often face, and highlighted recent changes in the ADS handbook, including the new minimum score of 80-84 for third place awards, and the new rule stating Honorable Mention requirements. (May not be awarded unless all three placing awards are made in a class.)

The panel consisted of Anne Corson, Richard Ezell and Bill Pannill, with Delia Bankhead as moderator. Questions had been previously submitted and others were entertained from the floor. A series of lively discussions ensued, out of which came unanimous agreement that, in addition to sound judgement and common sense, all judges must have a spirit of giving awards, not withholding them.

Panel members frequently emphasised that judges need to respect and encourage those who exhibit. One way to do this is to be as liberal as possible with honorable mention awards. This does not mean to compromise standards, but to recognize all flowers which would score high enough to place.

The subject of anatomical imperfections was raised. It was noted that judges must use discretion in penalizing such shortcomings, and that the severity if the imperfection should be regarded compared to the entire flower.

The question of judging reverse bicolors was a tougher nut to crack. It was noted that the flower must be judged, "as it is at the moment of judging." The tendency of many cultivars to reverse only as they are dying often puts judges in the position of having to choose between flowers which are not, or incompletely, reversed, and reversed specimens near death. Some panelists felt a flower must be completely reversed to win a blue. Others felt that few enough points could be deducted for incomplete reversal, and that an otherwise outstanding bloom could still win. Judges were reminded that they also have an obligation to the public, and that, especially in two-day shows, dead flowers on the awards table do not advance the daffodil with the public.

The issue of regional differences in color and size of specific cultivars was related to this discussion, and it was agreed that when judging out of their regions, judges should check the entire show to find a consistent pattern for size and color of locally grown cultivars.

A concern was raised about misnamed flowers. In some shows they are removed from the show tables. Panelists suggested that a better approach is to leave the exhibit in place, unjudged, with a note on it. Judges were further encouraged to write notes on any questionable exhibit, in order to help exhibitors learn.

Another thorny subject was what to do this 'difficult' judges - those who allow their biases to affect their judging, who touch blooms, judge their own entries, refuse to look at seedlings, etc. Much discussion ensued, from which I have extracted some "quotable" quotes - "...it's about good flowers!..." (Marilynn Howe), "...judges must read each schedule!..." (Jane Moore), "you make the rules to advance the purposes of the show..." and "...know your flowers and know your judges!" (Richard Ezell.)

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Horticulture on the High Seas by Joan George

Despite the fact that Captain Bligh and his mutinous crew failed to deliver the Bounty's cargo of breadfruit trees, these men were the most celebrated of a large group of unsung heroes - those countless men who risked lives and fortunes to collect and carry trees, vegetables, herbs, flowers and animals across the oceans of the world. Dr. Alan Fusonie, historian and Head of Special Collections at the National Agricultural Library, opened a little-known chapter of history for members at the ADS regional meeting in his presentation, "Trans-Atlantic Journey - the Roles of Sea Captains, Plant Explorers and Nursery Enterprises in our Horticultural Heritage." Housed in the National Agricultural Library in Beltsville, MD is the 400-year long story of the incredible debt the modern world owes to these men.

Many had started out searching for fame as explorers of new lands, seeking gold and glory for themselves and their European sovereigns. However, their most valuable contribution is the introduction of new plants and animals to the benefit of both continents. Columbus brought oranges, limes and melons to Spain, and on a return journey, brought several types of domesticated animals to the Western Hemisphere. Potatoes, long a European staple, originated in the Western Hemisphere.

While commercial interest in these horticultural treasures ran high, they also came under the intense scrutiny of scientists and artists, and the great age of botanical illustration began. The Royal Society of London encouraged the collection of American flora in the colonies of Plymouth and Jamestown, and by the late 1700s, many beautiful botanical drawings had been executed and catalogued. These drawings stimulated other plant collectors, and a frenzy of exploration ensued, culminating in the "Age of Great Collection," 1870-1920. In 1897, the Secretary of Agriculture, James Wilson, made plant introduction and seed distribution major goals in his plans to make this country agriculturally self-sufficient. Plant explorers were sent all over the world in search

of useful new seed plants

In the late 1700s, the first plant nurseries opened in the United States. The Prince family of New York was the first to advertise, by tacking its price list to trees in surrounding neighborhoods. Realizing the appeal of the exotic, Prince hired sea captains to collect plants for his nursery. Thomas Jefferson and others further promoted selection and planting of new and better types of vegetables and flowers. In Baltimore, J. S. Skinner published the first plant journal in the Middle Atlantic area.

This new-found love of gardening created a boon for artists, as illustrated catalogs became the vogue. J. Vicks' catalog was the first in color. Today, among its many treasures, the Library houses a collection of over 7000 original botanical drawings.

Dr. Fusonie concluded by inviting us all to visit the Library. With the most complete agricultural collection in the United States, it is a tremendous resource for everyone, and all are welcome - admission is free.

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SPRING CALENDAR

March 30-31 - Tidewater Daffodil Show, Newport News, VA
April 3 - Upperville Daffodil Show - Upperville, VA
April 6-7 - Gloucester Daffodil Show, Gloucester, VA
April 6-7 - Somerset Co. Daffodil Show, Princess Anne, MD
April 9-10 - Garden Club of Virginia Daffodil Show, Roanoke, Va
April 12-13, Londontown Daffodil Show, Edgewater, MD
April 13-14 - Middle Atlantic Regional Show, Washington, D.C.
April 17-18 - Maryland Daffodil Show, Baltimore, MD

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JUDGING SCHOOL

The last of the old series of three ADS Judging Schools will be held in the basement classroom of the U.S. National Arboretum Administration Building on Sunday, April 7, 1991. This course is open only to students who have successfully completed the old Courses I and II, student judges who need to make up all or part of the old Course III and to accredited judges who need a refresher course. Anyone wishing to begin judging schools should check the March Journal for dates of the new series of courses.

Registration deadline is March 25. A course outline will be mailed to all registrants. Required reading is Chapter 2, pp 5-7, Chapter 6 and Chapter 7, pp 30-34 in the new (pink) Handbook for Growing, Exhibiting and Judging Daffodils.

The all-day class will begin at 9 am. Bring your lunch - coffee, soft drinks and cookies will be provided.

REGISTRATION FORM

COURSE III, ADS JUDGING SCHOOLS

Please register by March 25

Name(s) _____

Address _____ telephone _____

Fee for course, or makeup, all or part is \$10.00 Refresher fee is \$5.00

No. registrations @ \$10.00 _____ No. refreshers @ \$5.00 _____

Please make checks payable to: Delia Bankhead and mail to:
P. O. Box 4, Hillsboro, VA 22132

1990 DAFFODIL REGISTRATIONS ADDENDUM

The cultivars registered in 1990 by Meg Yerger, Princess Anne, MD, were omitted from the December Daffodil Journal, and are listed below. Please add this information to your records.

BRIGHT OUTLOOK 9W-GYO (Felindre x BonBon) Saucer corona with large green eye, narrow yellow midzone and a band of orange at outer edge.

GLITZ 9W-GYO (N. p. praecox grandiflorus x Lights Out) Cupular corona with chartreuse eye, yellow-orange midzone surrounded by a band of deeper hue.

GOLDEN REFLECTION 9WWY-YOR (N. p. praecox grandiflorus x Lights Out) Deep cup with yellow halo on perianth, chartreuse eye with yellow-orange midzone and orange-red outer zone.

MARYLAND BEAUTY 9W-GYR (Lamplighter, OP) Saucer corona with chartreuse eye, yellow midzone, orange-red outer zone with narrow band at the edge.

SEA SPRITE 9W-GGR (Sea Green, OP) Flat disc corona with chartreuse eye and midzone, surrounded by a wide band of orange-red.

WINGS OF SPRING (N. p. praecox grandiflorus x Lights Out) Cupular corona with chartreuse eye, yellow midzone and narrow orange-red rim. 9W-GYR.

Meg has been working with Poets for many years, and has a substantial number of introductions to her credit. One of her main goals has been to get earlier blooming poeticus cultivars, and she now has a number of these.

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