
NCDS Newsletter



August 1996

Is Your Membership Current?

The Northern California Daffodil Society membership year runs from April 1 to the following March 31. Your membership expires on March 31 of the year that appears on your mailing label. If you joined NCDS between February 1996 (e.g. at the Alameda County Home and Garden show) through October 1996, your initial membership will run through March 1997. If your membership expired March 31, 1996, you have until the fall meeting in October to renew your membership retroactive to April 1; otherwise, you will be dropped from the membership. Membership rates are \$8 per year for an individual and \$10 for a family. If you are not going to be attending the fall meeting and need to renew, send your check payable to NCDS to membership chair Nancy Tackett, 066 Green Street, Martinez, California 94553

Fall Meeting, Bulb Raffle, and Auction

The fall meeting will be at Mary Smith's home, 3910 Alhambra Way, Martinez on Sunday, October 13. See the map at the end of this newsletter. If you get lost on the way there, call her at (510) 228-6098 for directions. We will start with a brief business meeting at 1:00 pm followed by the bulb raffle and auction. We will conclude with a potluck supper after the auction (expected to be about 3:00 to 3:30). We will send another newsletter next month with suggestions on what to bring. If you have bulbs to donate or can help set out bulbs for the raffle, bring them or come at noon.

The bulb raffle is undoubtedly the major event, and if you've never been to an NCDS raffle, you've been missing out on a way to get good daffodil varieties at bargain prices. Here's how it works. We sell one raffle ticket for a dollar or 12 tickets for ten dollars. We pull the numbers out of a box at random and call the ticket numbers. When your number is called (and it will be!), you rush up to one of the tables and take a bag with a bulb. The bags are labeled and are laid out according to division and color code. We will have hundreds of bulbs and sell hundreds of tickets. Numbers are called in fairly quick succession, so pay close attention! Chances are you will get a bulb for every ticket you buy. The varieties that go into the raffle are exhibition varieties with typical retail values up to \$15. Almost all the raffle bulbs are worth more than a dollar.

The more valuable bulbs are auctioned. We often get valuable donations from Grant Mitsch Daffodils, Oregon Trail Daffodils, Bonnie Brae Gardens, Nancy Wilson, Hatfield Gardens, Brian Duncan, and Clive Postles. Because they have supported NCDS, you should try to order bulbs from them. That is not to say however that you should not bid generously at the auction as well. The raffle and auction are our only fundraising effort. The money we raise here pays the expenses for our daffodil shows.

1997 Daffodil Shows

The Northern California shows next year will be at Sutter Creek March 1 (tentative), Livermore March 8-9, and Fortuna March 22-23. The Fortuna show is sponsored by the Fortuna Garden Club. There will be three shows in Oregon. The Amity show, in order to avoid Easter weekend, will move up to March 22-23. The Albany show will be April 5-6, and the Hillsboror show will be April 12-13. The National show will be in Jackson, Mississippi March 13-15.

ADS on the Internet

An NCDS member, Marilyn Howe, during her term as American Daffodil Society president advocated getting ADS online. Ted Snazelle, a former ADS president and faculty member at Mississippi College, persuaded the College to donate a mail list service and World Wide Web service. If you have access to

Internet electronic mail, send the one line message "subscribe daffodil" without the quotes to listserv@mc.edu. No subject is needed; these two words go in the body of the message. You will then be on the daffodil mailing list. People send messages to the list by sending one message to daffodil@mc.edu. The list server then sends copies to everyone on the list. Be sure you subscribe from the machine and account where you want the mail sent. Your return address when you subscribe is the address to which mail will be sent. There are approximately a hundred subscribers right now of whom nine are NCDS members.

One of our members, Nancy Tackett, designed some daffodil Web pages as a class project. Recognizing of this project for an ADS home page, Bob Spotts sold ADS on the idea of establishing a home page at Mississippi College with Nancy as its creator and editor. If you have Internet access and a Web browser like Mosaic or Netscape, aim it at URL <http://www.mc.edu/~adswww>

The ADS intends to make use of its Web site to change the way local daffodil show results are reported. In the past, the September issue of The Daffodil Journal listed all the people and all the cultivars in all the ADS award winning classes. Starting this year, the Journal reports will omit the cultivar names in the collection classes. Instead, this information will be put on line among the ADS Web pages.

Daffodils on Your Home Computer

NCDS member Steve Vinisky and his brother have developed an application named the Illustrated Data Bank. This is based on the ADS Data Bank and includes 14,000 data entries and several hundred pictures with more to come. The program can construct genealogies from the parentage data and also allows you to augment the data base with your own notes about the cultivars that you grow. Both PC and Macintosh versions are available. The price is \$149.95. Early orders will be entitled to a free upgrade late this year which will include many more pictures. For a brochure giving more details, contact ADS Executive Director Mrs. Mary Lou Gripshover, 1686 Grey Fox Trails, Milford, Ohio 45150. You may also call her at (513) 248-9137, FAX at (513) 248-0898, or send e-mail to daffmlg@aol.com.

NCDS Officers

At the March 9 membership meeting the following people were elected to the following positions for the next year.

President, Kirby Fong, 790 Carmel Avenue, Livermore 94550 (510) 443-3888
Vice President, Mary Smith, 3910 Alhambra Way, Martinez 94553 (510) 228-6098
Secretary, Nancy Tackett, 066 Green Street, Martinez 94553 (510) 372-8083
Treasurer, Anna Rawls, 973 Florence Road, Livermore 94550 (510) 449-4415
Show Chairman and Director, Wayne Steele, 1777 Spruce Street, Livermore 94550 (510) 447-5261
Director, Byron Davis, 45453 No. Oak View Drive, Oakhurst 93644 (209) 683-2843
Director, George Perko, 5980 Grizzly Peak Blvd., Oakland 94611 (510) 845-9608
Director, Phil Stanley, 5980 Grizzly Peak Blvd., Oakland 94611 (510) 845-9608

Board members, please plan to attend a board meeting at Mary Smith's house at noon on October 13.

NCDS Members Holding ADS Offices

Marilynn Howe has become ADS Immediate Past President. Bob Spotts has become ADS First Vice President. Stan Baird continues as Chairman of the Governance Task Force and has become Chairman of Judges and Schools. Steve Vinisky continues as Chairman of Marketing & Products and has become Chairman of the Information Services Committee. Kirby Fong has moved on from Slides and Photography to Awards Chairman. Nancy Wilson continues as Pacific Regional Vice President, and Jerry Wilson continues as a Pacific Regional Director.

ADS Awards

It is possible to hold a daffodil show without ADS approval, but by configuring classes to follow American Daffodil Society guidelines and by having ADS accredited judges judge the show, a local show sponsor such as NCDS can offer some ADS awards. Most awards are ribbons which the ADS furnishes to approved shows. A couple of the most prestigious awards are medals which the sponsoring society purchases. Here is the complete set of awards which will be available in 1997.

Gold Ribbon: Best standard daffodil in the Horticultural (as opposed to Design) Division.

- White Ribbon:** Best vase of 3 standard stems. We typically use three separate test tubes instead of a vase. All three stems are of the same cultivar. The purpose of having three of the same is to demonstrate uniformity among blooms of the same cultivar.
- Rose Ribbon:** Best standard seedling exhibited by its originator. This is a hybridizer's award. A seedling is a cultivar still identified by a number assigned by its originator; that is, it does not have a registered name yet.
- Purple Ribbon:** Best collection of five different standard daffodils as specified in the schedule or for an eligible exhibit in a group of collections of daffodils as specified in the schedule. The description of this class should be supplied in the show schedule by the local show committee. Awards for a collection of five are intended to demonstrate the possibilities within some limited range.
- Red-White-Blue Ribbon:** Best collection of five different standard cultivars, one stem each of American breeding. Entries in this class are not eligible for the Purple Ribbon.
- Maroon Ribbon:** Best collection of five different standard cultivars, one stem each, colored perianth, cup paler than perianth (reverse bicolor), any division or divisions. Entries in this class are not eligible for the Purple Ribbon.
- Green Ribbon:** Best collection of twelve different cultivars and/or species of standard daffodils from at least four divisions.
- Throckmorton Ribbon:** Best collection of fifteen cultivars and/or species of standard daffodils from fifteen different RHS classifications, each labeled with name and complete classification. This means no two daffodils in the collection can have the same division and color code.
- Carey E. Quinn Award:** Silver Medal or Ribbon for a collection of twenty-four different cultivars and/or species of standard daffodils from at least five divisions. The medal may be won only once by any exhibitor in all ADS Shows where offered. A former winner may exhibit in this class but may receive only the Quinn Ribbon. Open only to ADS members.
- Bronze Ribbon:** Best collection of twelve vases of three stems per vase of twelve different cultivars and/or species of standard daffodils from at least three divisions. This award is available only at Regional Shows.
- Junior Award:** Ribbon for the best standard daffodil in the Junior Section in the Horticultural Division.
- Small Growers Award:** Best standard daffodil in Small Growers Section in the Horticultural Division.
- Standard Container-Grown Ribbon:** Best standard container-grown entry in the Container-Grown Section.
- Miniature Container-Grown Ribbon:** Best miniature container-grown entry in the Container-Grown Section.
- Species/Species Hybrid Container-Grown Ribbon:** Best species or species hybrid container-grown entry in the Container-Grown Section. Species hybrid refers to naturally occurring hybrids.
- Historic Daffodil Ribbon:** Best pre-1940 cultivar in the Historic Daffodils Section.
- Miniature Gold Ribbon:** Best miniature daffodil in Horticultural Division.
- Miniature White Ribbon:** Best vase of three miniature stems.
- Miniature Rose Ribbon:** Best miniature seedling exhibited by its originator.
- Lavender Ribbon:** Best collection of five miniature daffodils excluding entries in the Miniature Red-White-Blue class.
- Miniature Red-White-Blue Ribbon:** Best collection of five different miniature cultivars, one stem each of American breeding.
- Roberta C. Watrous Award:** Silver Medal or Ribbon for a collection of twelve different cultivars and/or species of miniature daffodils from at least three divisions. This medal may be won only once by an exhibitor in all ADS Shows where offered. A former winner may exhibit in this class but may receive only the Watrous Ribbon. Open only to ADS members.
- Miniature Bronze Ribbon:** Best collection of five vases of three stems per vase of five different miniature daffodils from at least three divisions. This award is available only at Regional Shows.
- Silver Ribbon:** Awarded to the exhibitor winning the most blue ribbons in Horticultural Division.

Sutter Creek Show Results

The Sutter Creek Show on March 2 was one of two sponsored by NCDS in 1996. It was held at Gallery 10, an artists' co-operative art gallery. To save space, we list only the ADS awards for which there was a winner, and we omit the names of cultivars in collections. Eventually, the show results including cultivar information will be included in the ADS Web pages.

Gold Ribbon—Wayne Steele: Corbiere, 1Y-O

White Ribbon—Sid DuBose: DuBose seedling C26-37, 2W-P

Rose Ribbon—Bob Spotts 96-15-1 (Rubh Mor x Golden Amber)

Mini Gold Ribbon—Nancy Wilson: Blanchard seedling 72/25D (Ringstead x *N. dubius*), 8W-W
Mini White Ribbon—Nancy Wilson: Candlepower, 1W-W
Mini Rose Ribbon—Sid DuBose UN96-1 (*N. cyclamineus* x *N. jonquilla*), 12Y-Y
Small Grower Award—Barbara Hamilton: Irresistible
Purple Ribbon—Bob Spotts: yellow daffodil collection
Lavender Ribbon—Nancy Wilson
Red-White-Blue—Bob Spotts
Miniature Red-White-Blue—Bob Spotts
Watrous—Kirby Fong
Standard in Container—Richard Hunt: Falstaff
Miniature in Container—William Hyde: Minnow
Species in Container—Wayne Steele: *N. alpestris*
Silver Ribbon—Bob Spotts

Livermore Show Results

The Livermore show was held March 9–10 in the greenhouse of Alden Lane Nursery. Due to the normal, heavy foot traffic at the nursery, our show had many more visitors this year than it had the last two years in non horticultural locations. There were 279 entries comprising 457 stems.

Gold Ribbon—Wayne Steele: Nob Hill, 2YYW-Y
White Ribbon—Wayne Steele: Trena, 6W-Y
Rose Ribbon—Sid DuBose Q80-1, 2W-OYO
Mini Gold Ribbon—Kirby Fong: Mickey, 6Y-Y
Mini White Ribbon—Kirby Fong: Minnow, 8Y-Y
Mini Rose Ribbon—Bob Spotts 96-M-101-1 (*N. jonquilla* x Joybell), 7Y-Y
Small Grower Award—Richard Hunt: Conestoga
Standard in Container—Bob Jerrell: Treasure Waltz
Miniature in Container—Mike Winters: *N. jonquilla*
Species in Container—Wayne Steele: *N. calcicola*
Purple Ribbon—Bob Spotts: Division 5 collection
Lavender Ribbon—Kirby Fong
Red-White-Blue—Bob Spotts
Mini Red-White Blue—Sid DuBose
Green Ribbon—Wayne Steele
Quinn Award—Bob Spotts
Silver Ribbon—Bob Spotts

NCDS Members at Other Shows

The following NCDS members won ADS awards at other shows this year. At the Fortuna show:

Gold Ribbon—Wayne Steele: Williamsburg, 2W-W
White Ribbon—Sid DuBose: Nob Hill, 2YYW-Y
Rose Ribbon—Bob Spotts 89-393-3, 2W-PPW
Mini Gold and Mini Rose Ribbons—Sid DuBose T-36-10, 12W-W
Mini White Ribbon—Bob Spotts: Minnow 8Y-Y
Small Grower Award—Missy Griffith: Geometrics, 2W-Y
Miniature in Container—Nancy Wilson: Mary Plumstead, 5Y-Y
Species in Container—Nancy Wilson: *N. bulbocodium conspicuus* "Atlas" form, 10 Y-Y
Purple Ribbon—Stan Baird: Division 2 collection
Lavender Ribbon—Nancy Wilson
Red-White-Blue Ribbon—Stan Baird
Mini Red-White-Blue—Sid DuBose
Green Ribbon—Kirby Fong
Quinn Award—Bob Spotts

At the Albany, Oregon Show:

Gold Ribbon—Bob Spotts: Gold Bond, 2Y-Y
White Ribbon—Wayne Steele: Chippewa, 3W-YYR
Rose Ribbon—Bob Spotts 96-691-5, 2Y-Y
Purple Ribbon—Bob Spotts: Yellow collection
Lavender Ribbon—Kirby Fong

Green Ribbon—Bob Spotts
Throckmorton Ribbon—Steve Vinisky
Quinn Award—Steve Vinisky

At the Tyson's Corner, Virginia Show:

Rose Ribbon—Bob Spotts 96-641-1, 2WG-WPP
Quinn Award—Bob Spotts

Daffodil Valley

In 1994 the Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club began a project to plant daffodils in Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin, and Sunol. In cooperation with the Club, Alden Lane Nursery ordered wholesale quantities of a yellow trumpet called "California" from Davids and Roysten and also helped publicize the planting project. The public purchased 71,000 bulbs, and the profits from those plus cash donations paid for another 27,000 bulbs which the Club and other volunteers planted in public locations throughout the valley in the fall of 1994. According to the ADS Data Bank, California is a 2Y-Y registered by Percival Williams in 1945. Davids and Roysten probably appropriated the name and applied it to a yellow trumpet to make it sound more appealing, but that's not a serious issue; what matters is that the cultivar be able to bloom year after year without further care. In 1995, the Club chose Fortune and planted 40,000 bulbs throughout the communities. In February of 1996 Davids and Roysten had an overstock of 40,000 yellow daffodils which they offered the Club for the cost of freight and which the Club accepted and planted. Thus we saw a number of late blooming trumpets this spring.

One of the major sites for planting daffodils is Livermore's "Boot Hill" at the corner of Stanley Boulevard and Wall Street which is officially known as Oak Knoll Pioneer Memorial Park. This is an abandoned park which previously was a cemetery. As a prominent location at the western approach to Livermore, it was a natural candidate for beautification. Boot Hill is now the site of 20,000 daffodils including some Ice Follies and Erlicheer as well as California and Fortune.

In two years the Club, with the aid of other volunteers such as Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Rotary Clubs, school classes, 4-H clubs, and many others, has planted 107,000 daffodils in public places. Another 101,000 daffodils have been sold to others for private plantings. The Daffodil Valley project has received several awards for civic beautification, and the Boot Hill planting has won two awards in its own right.

If you wish to see the daffodils, planting sites in Dublin are Dolan Park, Dublin City Hall, Shannon Center, and St. Raymonds Church. In Pleasanton, go to the Bernal undercrossing, Century House, the Del Valle undercrossing, Fairlands School, Foothill Road (south of Raccoon Hollow and Old Foothill Road), Mission Hills Park, Moller Park, Pleasanton Library, Val Vista Park, and Walnut Grove Park. In Sunol, the daffodils are at the entry signs, the post office, and Sunol Glen School. In Livermore, besides Boot Hill, find daffodils at Alden Lane Nursery, Almond Park, Baer Park, Big Trees Park, Carnegie Park, Livermore City Offices, Club House Drive, Girl Scout House, Holmes Street (south of Concannon), Independence Park, Junction Middle School, Lizzie Fountain, Las Positas Road (near First Street), Mocho Park, North Livermore Avenue (between Portola and Las Positas), the Police Department, Portola School, Robertson Park, Springtown tree wells (east side of Springtown Blvd. north of Poppy), Spruiell Park, Vasco Road median (near Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory), Wentle Park, Williams Park, the wine barrel on I-580 near Airway Blvd., and the wine barrel on North Livermore Avenue near Portola and Junction.

If you would like to know more, contact David Oakley, President of the Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club and chairman of the Daffodil Valley Project. Phone (510) 846-4038 or write to 37 Castledown Road, Pleasanton, CA 94566-9770. The Project is continuing, so donations of money for buying bulbs and donations of labor for planting bulbs are welcome.

Forcing Daffodils (by Wayne Steele)

For the last 5 years the NCDS has had a booth at the Alameda County Home and Garden Show at the fair grounds in Pleasanton, CA. We started out by giving new members a pot of daffodils which were not in bloom. The only flowers we had to give away were Erlicheer which were donated by Bill Welch in Carmel Valley. I subsequently started to experiment by forcing daffodils so they would be in bloom by the 1st of February. A pot containing a blooming daffodil is more appealing to the general public than one that is not in bloom.

What really works is varying the time that the daffodils are refrigerated. You are in essence fooling mother nature into thinking that they have had a hard, cold winter, and it is time to get going. We have ended up

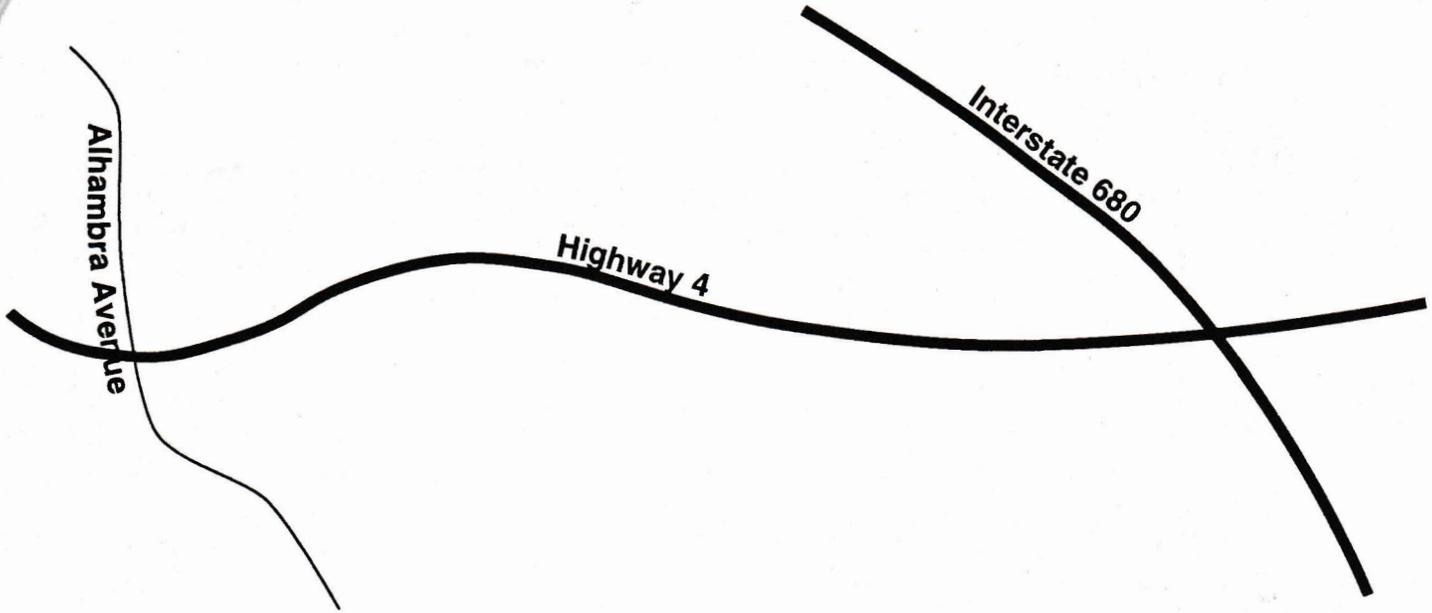
with a booth of blooming daffodils including Pasteline, Monal, Meadow Lake, Erlicheer, a seedling of Sid DuBose, Mexicali Rose, and several early blooming miniatures.

I put bulbs of Pasteline in the refrigerator the 8th of September, Monal the 15th of September, Meadow Lake and Sid DuBose's Mexicali Rose the 8th of September. I planted the bulbs at the regular time. Since Erlicheer does not respond to refrigeration, I planted them and started to water the 25th of September. You can get away with this since Erlicheer is not as prone to basal rot as other cultivars.

In 1997 the Alameda County Home & Garden Show will be held Jan.31, Feb. 1-2. Friday morning Jan 31. is set up time. We need volunteers to man the booths for approximately 2-3 hrs. Your bonus will be free admission to the Home and Garden Show plus your choice of a potted, blooming daffodil. If you can help out, see me at the NCDS auction or call me at (510) 447-5261.

In the past few years we have gotten approximately 25 new members each year. I want to thank Sid DuBose for furnishing Mexicali Rose. I also want to thank everyone that helped at the booths last year, and I especially want to thank Pat Sabin and Kirby Fong for the help in setting up the display.

Martinez



If you are not familiar with the central Contra Costa County area, the least complicated way to get to Mary Smith's house is by Highway 4. Take the Alhambra Avenue exit and go north. Turn right on Alhambra Way; there's a stoplight at that intersection and a Shell station on the west side of the street. If you get totally lost, call Mary at (510) 228-6098. Mary's house is the second house south of a little side street named Linden Lane. If you are coming through the Caldecott Tunnel on Highway 24 and are familiar with the central county area, it is shorter and quicker to go up Pleasant Hill road and Taylor Boulevard and then Alhambra Avenue. If you don't know the area well, you probably will be better off taking Highway 24 to Walnut Creek and going north on Interstate 680 to Highway 4.

