

ADS GOLD MEDAL 2004

FRANK GALYON

**President Steve Vinisky
and Gold Medal 2004
winner Frank Galyon.
[McKenzie photo]**



At age three, Frank Galyon was introduced to pollen as he smelled the peonies in his grandmother's garden. His family recalled this young lad with a yellow, pollen covered nose. Today, nearly 8 decades later, he is still enjoying the spreading of pollen.

As a 4 year-old, Frank had a garden of his own where he grew daffodils and some other plants. It wasn't long until he learned how to make crosses with irises. Irises became a fascination for Frank and he attended the American Iris Society annual convention. He was only 12 years old when he boarded a train for the trip alone, to Bluffton, IN, where he met his future mentor, Paul Cook. He was inspired and started to learn about the genetics of irises and quickly understood how this could be applied to other plants.

Everywhere Frank went, he was always looking for gardens. After 2 years at the University of Tennessee, in 1943 he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and as he served, he found many lovely gardens along the way.

It was during his time in Alaska that he was encouraged by his friends to pursue a career in medicine. He decided to go into ophthalmology and went to the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, MI, to do his intern work and served a three-year residency. While in Michigan he planted iris at a botanical garden and started making crosses of magnolias at Nichols Arboretum.

Today, Frank has collections of many kinds of flowers. His work in magnolias is recognized throughout the magnolia world. His work with hemerocallis is noteworthy for he has a goal of hybridizing late blooming cultivars. His latest interests are camellias and Aril irises.

In hybridizing daffodils, Frank has several goals. First is creating very early cultivars and he has been successful in developing January blooming daffodils in East Tennessee. He has also worked with double daffodils to get reliable plants for the warmer climates that do not blast.

Another very important goal is to create hybrids with health and vigor. Frank has produced some very show-worthy plants but many of his hybrids will probably not reach the show bench due to their earliness. Most of the selections he has made are reliable flowers for the landscape as well. Color is always uppermost in Frank's mind when making crosses. He seldom breeds white flowers for he says "Why have white flowers when we have all the possibilities of color?"

At the 1997 Jackson, Mississippi, National Convention of the American Daffodil Society, Frank received the Mitsch Award for the best vase-of-three for a seedling daffodil exhibited by its raiser, for a rich red-pink Division 2 flower that was later registered as 'Millie Galyon', 2 w-r, in honor of his wife. He has used this flower as a parent in his breeding program.

Elise Havens offered his registration 'Quick Bells', a 5 w-w, in 2004. She praises him for his depth of goals and accomplishments. She says that his miniatures have been exceptional, including some outstanding Division 6 and Division 5 flowers, along with a few which will probably be classed as Division 2. She also says his many Division 5, 6, and 7 cultivars will be introduced and offered when there is enough stock.

Frank has written for *The Daffodil Journal* on the subject of genetics. He encourages any want-to-be hybridizer. He has served on panel discussions at Hybridizers' forums and brings a practical approach to his work. His use of tetraploid forms of species (i.e., *jonquilla* and *fernandesii*) is of significance. His understanding of genetics has guided his work.

Frank Galyon joins a distinguished list of hybridizers who have been awarded the American Daffodil Society's Gold Medal for pre-eminent service to the daffodil. His work will live on in many genres of flowers and the daffodil world has increased in knowledge, understanding and new cultivars because of his dedication to hybridizing.

Ruth Pardue