

# American Daffodil Society

## Pacific Region Newsletter, Spring 2006

### **American Daffodil Society**

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Although many parts of the country are just beginning their daffodil season, many of us in the milder parts of the Pacific Region are well past peak. Surprisingly, there still are quite a few daffodils in bloom and some still yet to bloom in my garden in southern California. I learned from a friend today that March in the Los Angeles basin was the coldest since 1906. Indeed, there were days when the temperature never rose above the frigid upper 50's! For a southern Californian, that's an arctic blast and a valid excuse to stay indoors and bundle up until things begin to thaw out. Seriously, although people have been complaining about our unseasonably cool weather, the daffodils have loved it and this has kept flowers in good condition for longer than is usually to be expected.

Thanks to all of you who sent in ballots for election of Pacific Region officers. The new Regional Director, taking Laura Baxter's place, is Nancy Ellis (Oregon). Bob Spotts (California) will serve as representative to the National Nominating Committee and I will continue as Regional Vice President. Terms will begin in April at the annual meeting at the National Convention in King of Prussia, PA.

Rod Armstrong will be taking over as President of ADS from Mary Lou Gripshover at the annual meeting in April. I have no doubt that Mary Lou will continue to be deeply involved with ADS, though. Sadly, Naomi Liggett will be leaving her position in ADS as Executive Director this summer. Her position will be filled by Jaydee Ager. Jaydee served as President in the late 1990's and is a real bundle of energy.

We hope to hold another Pacific Region fall meeting. Last year's meeting in late October in Eugene/Springfield, Oregon was tremendously successful thanks to Steve Vinisky's planning. We had over 40 people in attendance with a wonderful slate of speakers and buffet luncheon. A group of us will be getting together at the National Convention to decide on a time and place for this year's meeting. I welcome input any of you might have as to what type program or topics you would like to hear.

*Steve*

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Our region has had several new members since last fall's newsletter was sent out. Welcome to all of you! Please don't hesitate to contact me or any of the Regional Directors if you have any questions. You'll find we're a friendly group!

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## SPRING SHOW HIGHLIGHTS

Although not all shows in our region have not taken place this spring, the majority have. Here are some highlights.

Kirby Fong received the Tuggle Medal at the Livermore Show on March 11 & 12. The Tuggle is for vases of 3 of 12 different cultivars. It sometimes is hard enough to get a good vase of 3 for one cultivar, let alone twelve! Also, the Tuggle is offered only at a regional show. Congratulations, Kirby. Bob Spotts received the Gold (best of show) and Rose (best standard seedling) Ribbons for his own seedling, Triple Crown x (Jetfire x *N. viridiflorus*). Harold Koopowitz and Marilynn Howe received the Mini Rose Ribbon for their seedling of Biometrics x *N. assoanus*, as well as the Watrous award (best 12 miniatures) with the majority of flowers from their own breeding.

At the Murphys Show, Bob Spotts took the Gold with his seedling of Tuscarora x (Midas Touch x Hager 1 Y-Y seedling), as well as the Mini White (best vase of three mini), Rose, Mini Rose, Best Historic, Best Historic Vase of 3, Best Intermediate, Best Standard Container, Best Species Container, Silver Ribbon (tied with Kirby Fong for most blue ribbons), Purple Ribbon (best collection of 5 standards), Best American Bred Collection, Watrous Award, Havens Award (12 standards from divisions 5-10), and Quinn Award (24 standards from five or more divisions). Whew!!

Elise Havens won the Gold and Rose Ribbons for her 1 W-O seedling of (Widgeon x Momento) x Magic Lantern at the Lake Oswego Show. Steve Vinisky's 12 seedlings from his own breeding were good enough to win him the Watrous Award.

At the Amity Show, Steve Vinisky once again won the Watrous Award for 12 seedlings of his own breeding, as well as the Mini Rose.

Finally, at Fortuna, Bob Spotts took the Gold, Mini Gold, Mini White, Intermediate, Standard Container, Rose, Mini Rose, Silver, Purple, Lavender (best 5 minis), mini Red - White - Blue (with 5 of his seedlings), Bozievich (collection of 12), Havens, and Throckmorton

(collection of 15 from 5+ divisions). Obviously, Bob grows lots of flowers. Congratulations to everyone.



**Top: Bob Spotts' Gold and Rose ribbon winner at the Livermore Show (Kirby Fong photo).**

**Bottom: Kirby Fong's Tuggle Medal winner at the Livermore Show (Kirby Fong Photo).**

### DAFFODILS IN JULIAN

California Route 78 is a two lane road that winds through the back country of San Diego County. Harold Koopowitz, Marilyn Howe, Karen Muir and I had started the day driving along the Pacific coast. As we headed east and started climbing through the foothills of the Cuyamaca Mountains, we left behind groves of orange trees in full fruit and tall green *Washingtonia* palms dotting the landscape. These were gradually replaced by more cold tolerant pines and deciduous oaks. As we climbed higher the sky became a brighter blue and the air took on crispness, reminiscent of an early spring day in my native Pennsylvania. I don't remember who spotted the first bright yellow clumps of color along the roadside, but we all knew what they were without question – daffodils! We also knew this signified we were approaching the town of Julian.

Julian is a small town which was founded in 1870 during California's gold rush. At a 4,200 ft. elevation, it is cold enough in

winter to receive accumulating snow. Although its gold rush days are long past, Julian has transformed itself into a mountain getaway famous for its apples, apple pies, and specialty shops; and thanks to the efforts of one resident, it also is becoming known for its daffodils. Julian's Chamber of Commerce website makes mention of this and has a daffodil picture on one of its web pages.

In 1990 Sally Snipes was looking for an appropriate memorial for her father and decided that the bright yellow flowers of early spring daffodils would be appropriate. Van Bourgondien Bros. (bulb company) had a program where bonus bulbs would be received for a specified amount of bulbs that were purchased. That first year Sally spread the word among town residents of what she wanted to do and collected around \$6000! That was enough money to purchase 65 bushels of daffodil bulbs for the residents and give 15 bushels of bonus bulbs. Those 15 bushels were planted around Julian's Town Hall. In subsequent years Sally expanded the program and began planting bulbs along roadways in and around Julian. She and friends have been doing this every year except for one when she made a brief move to Hawaii.

On March 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, Julian held its second annual daffodil show, which was organized by Sally Snipes and Jay Pengra. Jay is an ADS member who lives near Pasadena and became aware of Julian's burgeoning affection for daffodils while vacationing in the area with his wife, Faye.



**Jay Pengra and Sally Snipes, organizers of the Julian Daffodil Show (Steve Hampson photo).**

Sally persuaded owners of a newly opened garden shop and gallery, The Blue Heron, to hold the show in their store. The shop featuring gardening items, and including daffodil artwork from local artists, was a perfect setting. Although a non-sanctioned ADS show, the show drew 11 local exhibitors and included a junior division. Eighty nine flowers were entered for competition, with an additional eighty one flowers for display. Peeping Tom 6Y-Y, exhibited by Ann Garcia, won best of show, while Replete 4W-P, exhibited by Diana Garrett, won best vase of three. Parker Winship had the best junior division flower with Ice Follies 2W-Y. Harold and I, along with Jay, brought flowers for display, as well as ADS brochures, a few copies of *The Daffodil Journal* and some specialty daffodil bulb catalogs. Hopefully we sparked further interest in daffodils among residents and the show will continue to grow in the future.

## NOMINATIONS FOR 2007

It's time to begin thinking about nominees from the Pacific Region who will be willing to serve in key positions. These are Regional Director (a 3-year term ending in 2010), and Regional Vice President (I may serve for one more year following my upcoming term, but other nominees will be accepted). Terms will begin at the Annual Meeting of the 2007 ADS National Convention. The permission of the nominee is required. The nominee also should be willing to attend as many Conventions and Fall Board Meetings as possible. Please send your nominees to Bob Spotts (see contact information on the first page) by **July 15, 2006** so they may be included on the ballot in the Fall Newsletter. Neither of the positions is extremely time-demanding. If there are any questions concerning duties, you may contact either Bob or me.