



NARCISSUS NOTES

NEWSLETTER OF THE MIDWEST REGION

Spring, 2011

Regional Vice President, Daniel Bellinger
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MIDWEST REGION JUDGED SHOWS 2011

April 2: Jeffersonville, IN
Kentucky Daffodil Society/Indiana Growers South
Contact: Sue Bartle, 107 Nashua Dr., Clarksville, IN 47129; (812) 945-8219; suebartle@att.net
St. Paul's Episcopal Church,
321 East Market St., Jeffersonville, IN 47130.

April 9-10: Cincinnati, OH
Southwest Ohio Daffodil Society
Contact: Linda Wallpe, 1940 Gregory Lane, Cincinnati, OH 45206; (513) 221-4140; LWallpe@gmail.com
Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden, 3240 Vine St, Cincinnati, OH (because of construction: building TBA)

April 13-14: Indianapolis, IN
Indiana Daffodil Society
Contact: Sara Kinne, 8899 Baby Creek Rd., Bloomington IN 47408; (812) 332-5603; skinne@kiva.net.
Nature Center at Holiday Park,
6363 Spring Mill Road, Indianapolis IN 46260.

April 16-17: Columbus, OH
Central Ohio Daffodil Society
Contact: Phyllis Hess, 3670 E Powell Rd, Lewis Center, OH 43035; (614) 882-5720; daffphyll@hotmail.com
Franklin Park Conservatory, 1777 E Broad St, Columbus, OH 43205..

April 16-17: Youngstown, OH
Fellows Riverside Gardens Daffodil Show
Contact: Keith Kaiser, (330) 740-7116 Ext. 205; keith@millcreekmetroparks.org.
Fellows Riverside Gardens,
123 McKinley Ave., Youngstown, OH 44509.

April 23-24: Cleveland, OH
Western Reserve Daffodil Society
Contact: Dan Bellinger, 341 Akron Road, Wadsworth, OH 44281; cuyahoga@neo.rr.com.
Cleveland Botanical Garden,
11030 East Boulevard, Cleveland, OH 44106.

ADS Midwest Region
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MIDWEST REGION NON - JUDGED SHOWS 2011

April 9-10. Granville, OH

Granville Garden Club

Contact: Monique Pinkerton, (740) 973-8169 cell;
(740) 587-4848 work; monique.pinkerton@yahoo.com

College Town House

334 East Broadway, Granville, OH 43023.

Welcome New Members! Midwest Region

Contact them, invite them to your show, to your meeting, or just over for coffee to see your daffodil patch. You can never have too many daffodil and gardening friends!

New members, come to our regional meeting and learn more about daffodils and our shows and projects. New members always leave with extra daffodils.

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GETTING READY FOR THE DAFFODIL SHOW

By Mary Lou Gripshover, Cincinnati

Never exhibited in a daffodil show before? Maybe this is the year to take the plunge! Presumably you've planted wonderful daffodils in the fall, and now you want to exhibit them at the flower show this spring. So what are some of the things you can do in advance?

Mulch your bulbs. If you haven't mulched when you planted, try to get some mulch on the beds prior to bulb growth. You can do it after growth has started, but it's much easier if they're up no more than an inch. You can use fine pine bark, straw, hay, Hershey's cocoa hulls, whatever is convenient for you. Just don't use peat as a mulch. When it rains, the spatters from the peat dirties the flowers, and it's hard to get off. It's much easier to remove ordinary soil spots. The mulch is to keep the flowers clean when it rains. If you mulched in the fall, you don't need to mulch again.

Walk through your garden frequently, looking for possible blooms to take to the show. If stormy weather, hail, etc., is forecast, you'll want to cut the flowers to bring inside. If it's a cultivar that "burns" easily, you will probably want to cut the flower when it is about $\frac{3}{4}$ open. Put the flower in water, in a dark basement, for a few days to let it mature inside. A fine spray mist from time to time would prove helpful. Flowers will grow larger if you can let them mature in growth, but cutting and putting in a dark basement works almost as well. And you don't run the risk of the flower being damaged before the show date.

Some grooming tips: most daffodils should "look you in the eye." So if the head is hanging down, you should try to gently lift it. "Gently" is relative, and you have to practice. Take a flower and push its bloom up, toward the sky. You don't want to push so hard you break the neck, but if you do it right, a bloom that was looking down can be brought up to a pose that is more acceptable to judges. Division 5 and 6 flowers are the exception. They tend to look down. The six petals (and if there are less than that, leave the flower home) should preferably be flat, in the same plane. If the petals are hanging over the cup, or "hooded," push the petals back and gently massage them with your fingers. You'll be amazed how much better the flower looks. The warmth of your hands can do a lot to improve the flower's appearance. You'll hear judges say a flower wasn't "clocked." That means that the upper and lower petals don't line up with the stem in a straight line. So, what to do? Gently (there's that word again) twist the flower head until they line up. This is a small point, but you can see for yourself how much better the flower looks. If you want to enter a vase of 3, choose three blooms that are as close to identical as you can.



Okay, your flower looks perfect 10 days before the show date. What now? You're out of luck? No. Cut it and refrigerate it. First clean off any dirt that may be on the flower. You can do this with a Q-tip dipped in water. If the spot is troublesome, put a drop of dishwashing liquid in the water, then gently rub the spot. (If you've mulched, you probably won't have a problem.) There are several schools of thought on refrigeration. Some put the flowers in water with a plastic bag over them and keep

them that way. I prefer to put them, without water, into plastic bags and lay them on my refrigerator shelf. When I take them out to exhibit (the night before), I re-cut the end of the stem and put them in water. Even those that look wilted will probably recover. This doesn't work for miniatures, though. You have to put them in water in the fridge to keep. If you don't try it, you won't have the flower, so what have you got to lose?

Know the names of your daffodils. When you plant bulbs, make some kind of map or planting diagram so that you'll know in the spring what you're looking at. Labels in the garden are good, but do the diagram also, in case labels get moved by children or animals, or by ground freezing and thawing. As you cut flowers, write the name on the stem, using a laundry marker or something that won't wash off.

The night before the show (or even as the flowers are growing), decide if you want to do any collections. Choose what flowers you want to use, and don't forget to have extras on hand in case you need to make last minute substitutions. This eliminates a lot of stress the morning of the show.

Make out your entry cards in advance. If you have address labels or a stamp that will print your name and address, you can put them on the cards weeks in advance. Then all you have to do is put the flower name, classification, and class number on the entry card at the last minute, maybe the night before. Anything you can do in advance lowers your stress on the day of the show.

BUT I DON'T WANT TO EXHIBIT . . .

You may just want to enjoy your flowers in the garden, or share them with friends. That's fine, too. So use the time on your daily walks through the garden looking for signs of disease as well as enjoying the flowers. Yellow stripe is something I hope I don't see. Sometimes this can be confused with weather damage. When foliage comes up in late fall or early winter, it can get damaged by the cold weather. Sometimes the tips become yellow.

Sometimes the foliage is yellow if it's been under snow cover for a long time. But in yellow stripe virus, the thin yellow lines go from the



tips of the foliage down to ground level. Conventional wisdom says to dig the infected bulbs and throw them away—not on your compost pile, but in the trash. Some say that the virus is present in a lot of bulbs, but only appears when the bulbs are otherwise stressed, and doesn't appear every year. And some say certain cultivars are “Typhoid Mary's,” carrying the virus but never displaying symptoms. ‘Silver Chimes’ is said to be one such cultivar. As with “people” viruses, there is no cure for virus—thus the admonition to throw them away. It is said that virus spreads by aphids who feast on one leaf then another, thus spreading the disease; and by cutting stems with a knife.

It's also a good idea to check the foliage for “spikkels,” or bumps along the leaves, a symptom of nematodes. I don't think there's any disagreement on what to do with these bulbs. Get them out as soon as you can! Either treat the soil with something like Basamid or don't plant bulbs back in that location for several years, since nematodes live in the soil. You can save the bulbs, but you'll have to give them hot-water treatment before re-planting. You can rig up a “home

cooker” by using a hot tray of the type used on buffet tables as the heat source. Then use any container that won’t be hurt by heat, half fill it with water, and bring it to a temperature of 112°. Put the bulbs in the water and maintain a temperature of 112° for 3 hours. The temperature will drop when you put the bulbs in, so add hot water to get it back up to 112° as quickly as possible. If the water gets too hot, add cold water. I keep the bulbs in net bags with the labels, as it’s easier to deal with them that way.

Daffodil flies don’t show up until later in the season, when it begins to get warm. You might see them flying about or sunning themselves on the flowers or leaves. They look like overgrown house flies or smallish bumble

bees. Get out your butterfly net and amuse the neighbors as you try to catch the flies! I’m not sure which chemicals are currently approved for use on daffodils to control fly, but Dursban, Cygon-E, and Dylox 80 used to be approved. **USE EXTREME CARE WITH ALL CHEMICALS** and follow all directions on the label. Raid Wasp and Hornet Killer will kill the fly, but it will also damage any foliage it hits. You can do a lot to control bulb flies if you give your bulbs a good squeeze when you plant. If the bulbs are soft, it’s likely there’s a fly larva inside. You can either discard the bulb, or try to get the larva out with some sort of hook. It depends, I guess, on how much you value the bulb.

A Seed Story

By Larry Force, MS



I was making the rounds several weeks ago checking on seed pods and noted a couple of cyclamineus seed pods had split and were dropping seed on the ground. As it was late in the evening and I had no tweezers or baggies with me and it was starting to rain, I hastily collected the pods and made a neat

little pile of seeds under the cyclamineus plant, and covered it with a pot for protection from the elements and any varmints.

The plan was to return the next day with tweezers and collect my seeds.

The next day I returned, removed the pot and much to my dismay and disbelief my neat little pile of seeds were gone. Even most of the ones that had already dropped were gone. The pot was intact--what possibly could have happened to the seeds? It soon dawned on me that ants were the only thing that could have moved the seeds. I carefully begin to remove the leaf litter around the area and begin to find some of the seed 12 to 18 inches away. Of course I never found all of the seeds. Some may have been moved further or even buried in the ground. Perhaps they will sprout somewhere in the area next spring. Such is life growing daffodils, we live and learn.

Midwest Region Judging School

By Daniel Bellinger, MW Regional VP

The ADS Midwest Region is proud to offer an approved Judging School this April for all ADS members interested in becoming daffodil judges.

Judging School II will be offered on April 9 -10, 2011 at the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden in Cincinnati OH, in conjunction with the Southwest Ohio Daffodil Society (SWODS) Spring Show.

Any ADS member can potentially become a Judge. Nothing that I have done in my 25 years with daffodils has helped my growing, exhibiting, and hybridizing of daffodils as much as Judge training.

The topics for **Judging School II** are:

Section A: Protecting blooms, advancing or retarding bloom, controlling stem length, cutting, conditioning, grooming blooms, transporting blooms by auto and air, and entering the show;

Section B: ADS awards, choosing the champion, and etiquette and ethics for Judges;

Section C: Judging three-of-a-kind entries, judging miniatures and species, and practice point-scoring of species, miniatures and three-of-a-kind entries;

Plus: Identification of common show blooms.

To become a Judge, an ADS member needs to complete three Judging Schools (Schools I- III). The Schools may be taken in any order. The Midwest Region will offer Judging Schools I and III in 2012 and 2013, so that no one from our region will have to travel far to complete their training.

Once a student passes any of the three ADS Judging Schools, he or she becomes a Student Judge, eligible to judge in any ADS show under the supervision of an Accredited Judge. The Student Judge then has 5 years to complete the other requirements for accreditation—such as winning 5 blue ribbons in ADS shows over the course of three years and completing three student judging assignments.

I especially encourage junior members in our region to take Judging training. The Midwest Region will directly help any junior member to meet the requirements to become a Judge.

Judging School II will also be offered at the ADS National Convention in Jackson MS, on March 9-10, 2011. ADS members from other regions who need Judging School II but are unable to attend the National Convention may take Judging School II in our Region.

An application for **Judging School II** at Cincinnati OH is enclosed or attached to this newsletter.

JUDGING RESPONSIBILITIES or THINGS ALL JUDGES SHOULD KNOW

By Mary Lou Gripshover, Cincinnati

Judging other people's flowers is a responsibility we should not take lightly. We want the best flowers to win. There was just a show on PBS (a drama, not a garden show) that included a spring flower show where the Grand Duchess always won the trophy for best flower because . . .well, because she was the Grand Duchess. We don't want that to happen, so we don't judge the flower based on the handwriting we recognize on the tag.

Judging requires some tact. Have you ever heard a judge say, "That flower is a dog," or "It's not a show flower, just ignore it?" Be careful what you say. You never know, your clerk may be the exhibitor of that flower. How about individual prejudices? You don't let them get in the way, do you? I heard a story once about a judge from Kentucky who just "had to give a blue ribbon to 'Kentucky Cardinal'."

We all know that the season can affect the color, so just because the flower doesn't look exactly like you remember it, don't be so quick to say it's mis-named. And be sure to take a walk around the show before you begin judging to gauge the overall quality of the flowers. If there have been hailstorms or damaging winds prior to the show, maybe you don't penalize as harshly for small defects.

I remember when I first became a judge, I was a terror on dirt. After all, the exhibitor could/should have removed the dirt. Maybe I've mellowed, but a tiny speck of dirt isn't the end of the world.

Yes, it should have been removed, but maybe it got there after the exhibitor placed the flower, or when the Committee moved flowers to make the show look better.

If you're judging in other regions, educate yourself about what you might see. In the South or California, tazettas are going to have lots more florets than they would in our region. Conversely, maybe the only poeticus they can grow is 'Actaea', so don't dismiss it as "that old thing."

The new edition of *Daffodils to Show and Grow* offers some guidance on Intermediates. The column that formerly was used to list a "V" for variable, is now also used to indicate "I" for Intermediates, "PI" for possible Intermediate (when no measurements were given at registration), "M" for Miniatures, and "H" for Historics. Hopefully this will eliminate the discussion about whether something is—or is not—in one of those categories.

Missing Regional Trophies

Two of our rotating Regional trophies are missing: the Bill Pannill Trophy for best standard daffodil, and the Cynthia Bell Trophy for a collection of 12 standard daffodils. Both are believed to be silver platters. If you know where these trophies might be, please contact Linda Wallpe (SWODS) at lwallpe@gmail.com

E-Mailing the Regional Newsletter

To save postage and printing costs, I am emailing this newsletter to all members for whom I have an email address. The format is a Word document. If you are receiving this newsletter by snail-mail, and you have an email address, please send me your email address so we can update your membership records and begin communicating with you by email. My email address is cuyahoga@neo.rr.com

If you prefer to get a hard copy of this newsletter (even if you have e-mail), please let me know that also.

ADS Website

If you haven't checked the website lately, be sure to do so: www.daffodilusa.org. New resources are added all the time and you will also note that you can now make purchases of ADS publications and merchandise online using a credit card. In addition, you will find lists of ADS approved miniatures, suggested intermediates, the Pannill and Wister lists, a Pocket Guide to Daffodils, and Daffodil Coloring Pages.

The link to "Daffseek" is also especially valuable. Ben Blake and Nancy Tackett continue to add more and more photos and features to this database. Check it out!

ADS Dues Reminder

Effective July 1, 2009, we converted to an annual dues renewal date of JULY 1. By this time, most members should be on the new schedule for dues payments. If you have questions, please contact the Executive Director Please renew by sending your check, made payable to ADS, to JayDee Ager, Executive Director, PO BX 522, Hawkinsville, GA 31036-0522; jager@dishmail.net; (478) 783-2153.

Important note: You can also renew at our ADS web store: www.daffodilusastore.org