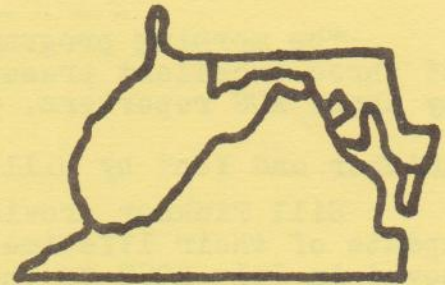


# AMERICAN DAFFODIL SOCIETY, INC.

## MIDDLE ATLANTIC REGION



### NEWSLETTER

January, 1981

Regional Vice President: Mrs. Quentin E. Erlandson  
9 Burnbrae Road, Baltimore, Md. 21204

#### Regional Directors:

- (1981) Miss Bonnie M. Hohn  
718 Alleghany Ave., Staunton, Va. 24401  
(1982) Mrs. Frank C. Christian  
P.O. Box 368, Urbanna, Va. 23175  
(1983) Dr. John L. Tarver, Jr.  
1420 N. King St., Hampton, Va. 23669

#### Director-at-Large:

- (1982) Donald S. King  
RFD Box 236-C, Hartfield, Va. 23071

President of ADS: Mrs. John Bozievich  
6810 Hillmead Road, Bethesda, Md. 20034

Second Vice President of ADS: Quentin E. Erlandson  
9 Burnbrae Road, Baltimore, Md. 21204

#### Committee Chairmen of ADS:

- Library: Mrs. H. B. Bloomer, Jr.  
11111 Gunston Road, Lorton, Va. 22079  
Membership: Mrs. R. LaRue Armstrong  
Rt. 5, Box 26, Covington, Va. 24426  
Public Relations: Mrs. W. J. Perry  
1500 Dogwood Rd., Staunton, Va. 24401  
Schools: Mrs. Merton S. Yerger  
Box 97, Princess Anne, Md. 21853  
Symposium: Mrs. P. R. Moore, Jr.  
96 Sandy Bay Dr., Poquoson, Va. 23662

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year from the two of us to all of you. May this be a year of beautiful blooms, fruitful hybridizations and abundant bulb division! And may we all have the good health and good weather necessary to do all the subsequent digging! How's that for a tall order?!

#### 1980 FALL REGIONAL MEETING

Those of you who could not come to Annapolis missed a good meeting. We had 84 for the morning program and refresher course and 71 for the dinner meeting. Bill Pannill did an excellent job on the refresher course and the following judges were recertified through 1983: Mrs. R.L. Armstrong, Mrs. A. H. Battle, Dr. W.A. Bender, Mrs. J.F. Birchfield, Mrs. H.B. Bloomer, Mrs. John Bozievich, Mrs. R.S. Brown, Mrs. E.T. Cato, Mrs. F.C. Christian, Mrs. C. Constantine, Mrs. C.M. Cox, Mrs. R.N. Darden, Mrs. Q.E. Erlandson, Mr. R.T. Ezell, Mrs. W.K. Ford, Mrs. Bruce Gunnell, Mrs. M.M. Hartman, Mrs. K.F. Hehl, Mrs. W.J. Howard, Major F.J. Klein Sr., Mr. Wells Knierim, Mrs. Wells Knierim, Mr. Raymond Lewis, Mrs. Raymond Lewis, Mrs. J.R. Moore, Mrs. P.R. Moore, Mrs. D.B. Perrin, Mrs. J.P. Robinson, Mr. W.G. Pannill, Mrs. G.F. Parsons, Mrs. H. Rountree, Jr., Mr. F.D. Seney, Mrs. T.W. Smith, Mr. W.O. Ticknor, Mrs. W.O. Ticknor, Col. R.C. Vance,



Mrs. R.C. Vance, Mrs. F.J. Viele, Mrs. Leo Vollmer, Mrs. Roberta C. Watrous, and Mrs. M.S. Yerger.

Congratulations to all.

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The morning program (1980 Fall Regional Meeting) consisted of three excellent presentations. Thanks to careful note taking by three ADS reporters, we can provide the following summaries:

"Hither and Yon" by Bill Ticknor - (summary by Fran Lewis)

Bill Ticknor provided us a most interesting review and update of their lifetime collection of daffodil bulbs which they moved in July 1977 to their new home in Tyner, N.C. This approximated 1,000 varieties, about 7,000 bulbs. Two year old seedlings were left in nursery boxes. The present location presented a vastly contrasting environment from the rocky clay hillside in Falls Church. Much thought was given to the best method of planting in this flat, low sandy soil which was previously farm land and had been fertilized heavily. He decided to till up into high hills and plant in long, narrow rows, two rows of bulbs in the hills, in full sun. Drainage problems anticipated from heavy January rains did not materialize. All bulbs were dusted with Chlordane before planting in late October.

Evaluation of their crop after three years showed both good and bad results. Fertilizer leaches out fast. Now planting in beds in preference to long narrow hills. Had never seen bulb fly in Falls Church but had used Chlordane after encountering grubs. In May 1979, he and Laura Lee caught 35 flies but this year many less. Weeds are still a major, unresolved problem. Three-year down daffodils have short stems, smaller flowers and blooms not too plentiful. Those down two years or less are O.K.

On the plus side, the miniatures have produced more beautiful blooms, prolific growth and increase beyond all hopes. The standards, almost without exception, have superb color, especially the reverses, golds, pinks and red. Fine substance; practically no losses except some rogued for virus. Reverse bicolors have experienced healthier growth and improved performance. Cyclamineus hybrids are much superior to Falls Church results and many have set seed readily. The doubles in 1978-79 had poor quality blooms but in 1980 almost as good as Falls Church. There have been thousands of open-pollinated seeds during the three year period, especially in 1979. A rarity in Falls Church.

In the summer of 1980, they were able to dig about 3,000 bulbs, approximately 1/6 of the regular planting. Great increase but disappointed in size of bulbs, many of which were not blooming size. Now increasing use of fertilizer (3-9-18) in an effort to correct this.

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"Mixing and Matching" by Bill Pannill - (summary by Donald King)

In his own droll and witty manner Bill gave an exceptional talk on judging and growing seedlings and at the conclusion answered questions.

Accredited judges present used this opportunity to get refresher credit in line with action taken at the last Board Meeting. Bill said that he did not really think that judges in the Middle Atlantic Region needed refreshing; therefore he added, "You will be renewed". Well, renewed we all were!

"Seedlings should be judged exactly as any other daffodil", said Pannill. He stressed this point in view of the fact that there has been a great deal of discussion as to whether or not a seedling should be unique or different in order to qualify for registration. "After all," he added, "we are striving for perfection in making our crosses."

He went on to make the following points:

- (1) A seedling results from the development of a new cultivar by hybridizing.
- (2) Until it gets a name it is still a seedling, designated by a number.



- (3) The originator must own the entire stock of bulbs.
- (4) The registrar does not necessarily have to be the originator, but must own the entire stock at the time of registration.

Last autumn at the Middle Atlantic Meeting at Bryce Mountain, Bill gave away the entire stock of several of his seedlings. This reporter was very successful with his gift at Chapel Hill, N.C. last spring.

Bill gave an example of his system of numbering seedlings: 80/6A - 80 represents the year (1980), 6 is the cross number (6 of 40 crosses) and A, B, or C represents the selection of the cross.

Pannill stressed that a seedling may be entered in any class in a show; however, it must be entered under the originator's name and number.

Under the new rule for the Rose Ribbon, a seedling to be considered must be entered by the originator; it must score 90 points (though it does not necessarily have to win the blue ribbon in its class). This is the only case in which a bloom can win an ADS Ribbon without winning the blue in its section/class. Before the rule change, seedling had to be entered against seedlings. Now good blooms can win over named cultivars. The scale of points used for judging a seedling is the same as that for judging any other daffodil. In short, a seedling must be judged as if it were a named variety.

On the subject of growing seedlings, Bill began by citing an example of his progress in pursuing another hobby, i.e. trout fishing. First, he used bait (I presume worms); then he used flies; then he began to tie his own flies, and finally by examining the "crawl" of a fish and tying a fly to resemble what he found there.

Frankly, he explained that his interest in hybridizing daffodils is not to achieve a better world, but to compete successfully in the shows. In today's shows he exhibits only his own originations. He has won the Quinn using only his own seedlings; he hopes to win the Quinn using named varieties registered from his own seedlings. His aim in hybridizing is to produce a complete assortment of cultivars in every possible division. Especially, he has striven to produce better "whites". This, he said, will be difficult in view of the accomplishments of Mr. Wilson, followed by even greater work by Mr. Lea (he feels that it will be almost impossible to beat Mr. Lea at this time). So, he says, "I will try to get a better one for our climate!"

Bill thinks that available information on "crossing" makes it seem a lot harder than it really is. For example, he does not think it is necessary to deanthier the seed parent after putting pollen on the stigma. As he said, "I try to do crosses the easy way."

In response to a question on "back crossing" he said that he did not think this was very practical in view of the fact that, for standards, it takes six years to obtain a bloom and another four years for evaluation. The original parents will probably not be in the garden after that length of time.

In answer to another question of insects jeopardizing a cross, he said that spiders in the bloom are no problem since daffodils (except species) are self sterile. He admitted that bees going from flower to flower could cause a problem.

In crossing species, he advised using parents that have the best characteristics (most blooms to the stem in jonquillas as an example).

To the question of using fresh pollen vs. stored pollen, Pannill stated that he had used both. At the present time, he puts the pollen in a capsule and keeps it for perhaps two weeks while making his crosses. He has, however, taken pollen to Oregon for use there which may spread the time over three to four weeks.

Another question involved crossing species with standards. Which bloom should be the parent? He advised using the larger as the seed parent; also, most species will set seed.



When asked what percentage of germination he considered good, he replied 90% - and plant the seeds right away.

As a parting shot Bill said it is much better to take the two best blooms and get 25 seeds than to take two dogs and get 100 seeds. "Don't go backward!"

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"April in January" by Calvert C. McCabe, Jr.

"C.C." shared with us the method he uses to force daffodils, a method he has perfected over the 30 years he has been forcing flowers to early bloom. He has used lots of methods; however, he believes this is the simplest, easiest, and least expensive. He has forced crocus, hyacinth, and tulips but daffodils seem to be a favorite - especially the early varieties.

"Forcing", said "C.C.", "is a device primarily for bridging and shortening the long gap from fall until spring." There are five basics: 1. Good growing medium, 2. Plenty of moisture, 3. Cool dark place (simulating an abbreviated winter) for rooting, 4. Gradual increase in temperature, and 5. Moderate warmth and sunshine - simulating early spring.

The method McCabe uses is an outdoor, above-ground method. Prepare an enclosure using a short length of wire mesh placed against a wall or the outside of the house or garage. Fill with leaves. Prepare a soil mixture of: 2 parts loam, 1 part peat, and 1 part sand. He adds bonemeal (1 tbs/quart), superphosphate, and 5-10-5. Perlite can be substituted for sand.

For potting he uses the so-called bulb pans, pots whose diameter is about twice their height. He uses bulb pans about 8 inches in diameter, just right for 4 daffodil bulbs per pot. Pot the bulbs in late October or early November. (He had just finished his potting and placing them outdoors at the time of the meeting - Nov. 1) Cover the drain hole with a layer of Perlite or sand, then add potting soil. Place bulbs so only tip of bulb protrudes. Compact soil but not too packed. Give it a good soaking of water. Label the pots and make a map locating the pots in the leaves.

Bury the pots in the leaves. Pots are all above ground, far enough apart so they do not touch, leaves all around with 18 inches of leaves above the pots. Pots stay in leaves 8-10 weeks minimum, more likely 11-14 weeks. Objective: root growth. Leaves maintain 40-50 deg. in spite of periodically low temperatures. When roots are growing out the hole in the bottom and some short shoots on top the pots are ready to bring in. Stagger the bring-in time to lengthen your indoor flowering period.

Bring into bloom in three stages: 1. One week in cool (not over 55 deg.) place (no sunshine)(gradually increasing temperature), 2. Move to direct sunlight (not over 65 deg.) until buds appear, and 3. Once buds unfold move out of direct sunlight into bright area to prolong blooming time (about 2 weeks).

"C.C." suggests early varieties. His favorites are February Gold, Peeping Tom, Tete-a-Tete, Golden Harvest, and Ice Follies. He has also forced Sundial (shown in Philadelphia Flower Show), White Lion, Barrett Browning, Carlton, Goblet, Dove Wings, Dutch Master, Mount Hood, Fortune, Thalia, Mercato, Beryl, Jumblye, and Kingscourt. Bulbs can re-used but not forced.

Ed. note: He just brought in (Jan 1) pots of February Gold, Peeping Tom, Tete-a-Tete, and Golden Harvest. They were put in leaves Oct. 27, brought in after 9 weeks, expect blooms by end of January. Rest of pots stay put for later blooming.

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THE IRON FURNACE FOUNDATION- Meg Yerger has asked me to relay to you a request for donations of SPECIES daffodil bulbs to the Iron Furnace Foundation. The Planting Chairman is Ann S. Coates, P.O. Box 273, Snow Hill, Md. 21863 and she will see that all bulbs sent to her are acknowledged by the Foundation, a non-profit organization. Meg thinks this is the first time a planting authentic to the period (1820-1840) will have been made in Maryland or Virginia. Hopefully when you lift species bulbs this summer you will have a few to share with Ms. Coates for planting in September, 1981.



## COURSE III

Course III, Daffodil Judging School, will be held Monday, April 13, 1981 at the Holiday Inn-Crossroads, 2000 Staples Mill Road, Richmond, Va. at 9:00 AM. The chairmen are Mrs. Lester F. Belter and Mrs. Berkeley Williams, Jr. There is a fee of \$10.00. Please register before April 1 with Mrs. Belter, Rt. 2, Box 217 A, Mechanicsville, Va. 23111, and indicate whether you wish to audit or wish to take the examination. This is an excellent opportunity for those accredited judges who have not yet complied with the ADS Board ruling concerning a refresher course, and remember - you need only audit a judging school course in order to be recertified.

## 1981 SHOW DATES

April 1 & 2, Garden Club of Virginia Daffodil Show, Nansemond River Academy, Suffolk, Va. Chairman: Mrs. Thomas J. O'Conner, 1020 Maryland Ave., Suffolk, Va. 23434.

April 4 & 5, The Tidewater Daffodil Society Show, Holiday Inn - Coliseum, Hampton, Va. Chairman: Mr. Henning A. Rountree, Jr., 276 Harris Creek Road, Hampton, Va. 23669.

April 11, Somerset County Garden Club Daffodil Show, Peninsula Bank, Princess Anne, Md. Chairman: Mrs. Lloyd Lohmeyer, Rt. 1, Box 261, Crisfield, Md. 21817.

April 11 & 12, Garden Club of Gloucester Daffodil Show, Gloucester Intermediate School, Gloucester, Va. Chairman: Mrs. J. D. Briggs, Bena, Va. 23018.

April 18 & 19, Washington Daffodil Society Show, U. S. National Arboretum, Washington, D.C. Co-Chairman: Mr. Maurice Katoen, 5712 Quiet Brook Road, Fairfax, Va. 22030.

April 22 & 23, Maryland Daffodil Society Show, Woodbrook Brown Memorial Church, Baltimore, Md. Chairman: Mrs. Frederick J. Viele, 237 Cooley Mill Road, Havre de Grace, Md. 21078.

April 28 & 29, Chambersburg Garden Club Daffodil Show, Recreation Center, Chambersburg, Pa. Your entries are particularly requested since this will be a show in celebration of the Golden Anniversary of the Garden Club with some very special awards. For information, contact Dr. William A. Bender.

## MEMBERSHIP

A hearty welcome to the following new members of the Middle Atlantic Region of the American Daffodil Society:

Karl Hehl (joins his wife in a family membership), 4705 Boonboro Road, Lynchburg, Va. 24503

Natural Bridge Garden Club c/o Mrs. Maurice Leach, 1 Courtland Center, Lexington, Va. 24450

John Risher, Jr. 3311 Cleveland Ave. NW, Washington D.C. 20008

Joseph Stettinius, 311 Oak Lane, Richmond, Va. 23226

Stephen Webber, Webber Gardens, 9180 Main Street, Damascus, Md. 20750

Mrs. T.J. Westbury, Jr., 107 Overlook Dr., Charlottesville, Va. 22901

Congratulations are in order also to Mrs. N. Thomas Whittington, Jr. who is now a life member.

The following have moved and the correct address is now:

Pastor Harold A. Toms, P.O. Box 550, Tazewell, Va. 24651

Mrs. Edward L. Gates, 3532 Richwood Link, Sarasota, Florida 33580

We are sorry to lose Mrs. Gates to another region but wish her well in the sunny south.

Before closing - a reminder to all who can possibly come to the Annual Convention on March 26-28. The December '80 Journal contains all of the information and necessary registration forms as well as an article telling of the planned activities. Sounds like great fun so do join us if you possibly can. Finally, my sincere thanks to those who helped so much with the Fall Meeting - Alleyn Moore, Nancy Howard, Jane Viele and Betty Smith.

See you in the springs  
Mary & Lynn