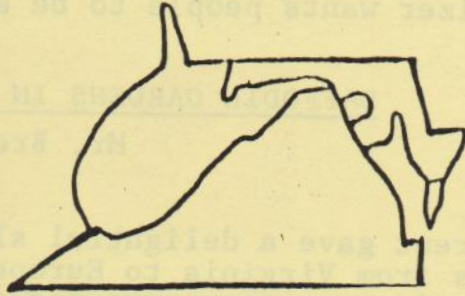


1986

# AMERICAN DAFFODIL SOCIETY, INC.

Middle Atlantic

Region



NEWSLETTER

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Dear Daffodil Friends,

After beginning this letter in November, 1985, I find it will be finished, with luck, in January, 1986! Trying to write this with a broken hand has proven to be quite an experience!

Our "Fall Meeting" was delightful and those of you who could not come were surely missed. A brief resume of the program will follow but this will not do justice to the speakers who shared their love and knowledge of daffodils with us.

Colonial Williamsburg proved to be a beautiful setting and I was so pleased that we had so many of you from Maryland and Washington as well as Wells Knierim from Ohio.

## BREEDING AND SELECTION

Mr. Bill Pannill

Bill Pannill spoke on Breeding and Selection which as an added bonus served as a "Refresher Course" for Judges.

"How does one select their parents for seedlings? It is best to try different combinations and learn the hard way. If you plant 6,000 seedling you will probably keep (1) Easter Moon was a great parent and from it has come the best known flowers.

When judging seedlings in shows, distinction used to really count. As a matter of fact, it almost had to be a freak to win. Now it is hard to tell what is distinct about a flower.

When exhibiting seedling the hybridizers name must be included if it is not yours. If a name is not on the entry card, the bloom is a contender for the Rose Ribbon. The "Best" seedling has to have 90 points but it does not have to be a blue ribbon winner. Go to all classes looking for a seedling for the Rose Ribbon.

What is a hybridizer looking for when making crosses? When crosses are made a hybridizer is looking for certain things from his seedling. Often he will set out to get one thing and will end up with something else. It is very easy to overlook a pretty flower. When exhibiting seedlings, look for a flower in your own garden for it may not come again. It is most important to get plenty of blooms from a seedling - nine out of ten blooms consistently. Try to get flowers in each division with color more distinct than texture. Variety really counts. The hybridizer wants good quality from each bloom. When the



seedling gives all perfect blooms, then it is named. The hybridizer wants people to be able to grow his flowers well."

#### DAFFODIL GARDENS IN AMERICAN AND EUROPE

Mr. Brent Heath

Brent gave a delightful slide program on beautiful gardens from Virginia to Europe. The use of thousands of one variety in one space were spectacular to see. From naturalized gardens to formal gardens it was spectacular to see what can be done with daffodils and tulips.

#### SPRING GARDENS IN WILLIAMSBURG

Mr. Rollin Wooley

by

Mr. Donald S. King

Although Mr. Wolley's presentation was titled Spring Gardens, he touched also on the Summer, Fall and briefly the Winter season. Illustrated with excellent slides, his talk gave a true picture of the beauty of Colonial Williamsburg. Bulbs, flowering trees and shrubs combine to lend their beauty to the landscape and accentuate the Colonial Architecture.

Trees, which abound, include Cornelian Cherry, Redbud and fruit trees such as Peach, Pear, Plum and Japanese Quince. Interestingly the Redbud flower is edible and used in salads in Canada. The Flowering Almond shrub is most beautiful.

In the woods surrounding Williamsburg are found Paw Paw, Dogwood (the bark of the Dogwood was used to treat malaria in Colonial times) Silver Bell and the sweet shrub Calycanthus.

Back in town, Lilacs bloom in profusion as well as the Ohio Buckeye. The Cherokee Rose is very old, believed to have been brought from China prior to 1781. Unfortunately, the bushes were severely damaged by the killing freeze of January 20, 1985.

The Virginia Rose (*Rosa Virginicum*) is colorful even in wintertime with its red stems. The Laburnum or Chair Tree blends with the Pink Locust and Fringe Tree. The latter was cited by John Clayton (18th Century Naturalist) in his writing.

The Catalpa blooms on Memorial Day and adding to the bright green of Spring is the ubiquitous topiary of Williamsburg.

Mr. Wolley had some beautiful pictures of Spring blooming vines including Jasmine, native Wisteria (much easier on structures than the Chinese variety), Coral Honeysuckle (a hummingbird attractor) and the Crossvine.

Pictures of wildflowers included Buttercup, Bloodroot (which the Indians used to make red dye), the pink Ladyslipper of the Orchid family (if you wish to transplant you must use the fungus rich soil of its native habitat), May Apple (the fruit is poisonous) and Jack-in-the-Pulpit.

In the gardens, Colonial Williamsburg is planting bulbs which is thought would have been there prior to 1781. Recently, extensive beds of *Actaea* were lifted and given away. There are large beds of crocus, both yellow and purple, species



Daffodils and Tulips. They do plant Red Emperor in the Governors Palace Gardens. In the parterres of the Palace Gardens are planted yellow Tulips and yellow Pansies. Mr. Wooley had several interesting slides showing fall planting techniques in the larger beds.

In the Spring the Tulips are gone and the Jumpups are blooming along with the Iris, Tree Peonies, Cowslips, Bleeding Hearts, Orinetal Poppies and Spider Wort (Tradescantia).

Later the herbs begin to bloom and in summer Hollyhocks, pink and white Phlox are abundant. Fall brings Asters and Sweet Alyssum.

The presentation was a fitting climax to a great program. Our thanks go to Colonial Williamsburg and Mr. Wooley!

Polly Brooks brought us up-to-date on the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden in Richmond. Laurie Graman, the Senior Gardener was introduced and she announced the Garden will open in early Spring 1986, in time for the daffodils.

#### DRYING DAFFODILS

Quentin Erlandson

Quentin very graciously agreed to be our "Dinner" speaker and he shared with us his knowledge of drying daffodils.

Quentin said that the materials that are needed are silica gel, florist wire and tape, scissors, a spoon and a can. As his specialty is dried miniature hybrids, he immediately showed us some of his finished products.

Initially it is necessary to pick the flower right after it opens so that it will retain its color. (Water must not be on the flower). Cut most of the stem off. Place the bloom in one-half inch silica gel, face up. Be careful with the petals so they will retain their shape. Cover the flower completely and leave in the gel for two days for miniatures. When the flower is dry, take floral wire and either run up the stem or along the side of the stem and tape it with floral pinholder and spray with a clear protective spray to help carry the flower over the summer.

#### 1986 SHOW DATES

APRIL 5: Princess Anne, Maryland. Somerset County Garden Club at the Peninsula Bank of Princess Anne.

APRIL 5-6: Gloucester, Virginia. Garden Club of Gloucester at the Gloucester Intermediate School, Route #17.

APRIL 12-13: Williamsburg, Virginia. Mid-Atlantic Regional. Tidewater Daffodil Society at the Williamsburg Hospitality House, Richmond Road and Virginia Avenue.

APRIL 23-24: Baltimore, Maryland. Maryland Daffodil Society at the Brown Memorial Woodbrook Presbyterian Church, 6200 N. Charles at Woodbrook Lane.



School III for Judges will be held in Martinsville, Virginia on April 10 in conjunction with the Garden Club of Virginia Daffodil Show on April 9-10.

Here's hoping that at our next Regional Meeting we can all bring our dried daffodils for Quentin's inspection!

Frances Armstrong has written that the Winchester Council of Garden Clubs is having a Spring Flower Show emphasizing daffodils on April 12 and 13. It will be held in the War Memorial Building, City Park. The Chairman is Mrs. John A. Baden, Route #2, Box 282, Bunker Hill, West Virginia 25413. "They have a very good complete schedule of daffodils which includes classes for collections for miniatures". Please, if possible, support this show as this could be a wonderful source for new members.

I know all of you join me in expressing our sincere sympathy to Frances Armstrong on the death of her Father. We truly missed them in Williamsburg.

My most grateful appreciation goes to the four people who were on our program in Williamsburg - Bill Pannill, Brent Heath, Rollin Wooley and Quentin Erlandson. A special thanks to Lucy and Donald King who handled the Judges' Refresher Course and to Jane and Roxie Moore who made the arrangements with Colonial Williamsburg. And thanks to all of you who attended the meeting and made it such a congenial and delightful occasion.

Happy New Year!

*Betty Barr*  
Betty Barr  
Mrs. E. H. Ould III  
Regional Vice-President

P.S. Look forward to seeing you at the Shows and the Convention.