

AMERICAN DAFFODIL SOCIETY, INC.

Middle Atlantic Region

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER, 1978

Regional Vice President: Mrs. R. LaRue Armstrong, Rt. 5, Box 26, Covington, Va. 24426

Regional Directors:

- (1979) Mrs. Henning Roundtree, Jr., 276 Harris Creek Road, Hampton, Va.
- (1980) Quentin Erlandson, 9 Burnbrae Road, Baltimore, Md. 21204 / 23669
- (1981) Miss Bonnie M. Hohn, 718 Alleghany Ave., Staunton, Va. 24401

Director-at-Large:

- (1980) William G. Pannill, P.O. Box 5151, Martinsville, Va. 24112

First Vice Pres. of ADS: Mrs. John Bozievich, 6810 Hillmead Road, Bethesda, Md. 20034

Committee Chairmen of ADS:

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

Dear ADS Friends,

The attendance at our Fall Meeting in Williamsburg on October 28 was beyond all expectations: eighty for luncheon plus a few more for the morning program and fifty-five for dinner and the evening slide show. Williamsburg always brings out a crowd as well it should being at its most glorious with lots of fall color and delightful weather. We were particularly gratified with the large number of new members who came and also some prospective ones. We wish to welcome the following

NEW MEMBERS

- Mrs. Harvie A. Carter, 1033 New Kirk Dr., Richmond, Va. 23224
- Mrs. Robert Crowell, 11748 Cliff Lawn Rd., Chester, Va. 23831
- Mrs. John E. Hauss, 10212 Rounding Run, Richmond, Va. 23233
- Mrs. Anne D. Haynie, Box 177, Reedville, Va. 22539
- Mrs. H. Grady Jarrard, 1526 Cedarbluff Dr., Richmond, Va. 23233
- Mrs. John S. Phillips, 4810 Monumental St., Richmond, Va. 23226
- Mrs. Frederick V. Van DeWater, Jr., 200 Harwick Dr., Richmond, Va. 23235

Also, Mr. and Mrs. George H. Bragdon, 8702 Shadow Lane, Richmond, 23229 have moved into our region from Andover, Mass.

IN MEMORIAM

It is with great sorrow that we report the loss of two fine members of our region.

Mrs. LeRoy F. (Lillian) Meyer of Oxon Hill, Md. died suddenly in her garden September 23. At the time she was serving as a board member of the ADS, as a vice president of the Washington Daffodil Society and also as vice president of the National Capital Area Federation of Garden Clubs. From 1969 to 1971 she was head of the volunteer guide service at the National Arboretum and for the past four years she had taught courses in house plants at the Department of Agriculture Graduate School. Lil was a vital active person, always full of good cheer; it is indeed difficult to realize she is gone.

Only in the last few months did we learn of the death in October of last year of Thomas F. Martin of Ashland, Va. Mr. Martin was a long time member of ADS, attended many of our regional meetings and was actively engaged in hybridizing daffodils. We shall miss both of these good members and extend our sympathy to their families.

HYBRIDIZING DAFFODILS IN MARTINSVILLE, VA.

Due to a conflict in meetings Dr. Tom Throckmorton was unable to come to Williamsburg to speak on hybridizing. Being quite anxious to learn more about this subject Dr. Johnny Farver of Hampton, Va. called Bill Pannill (also unavailable on the date of our meeting), taped their conversation over the telephone and played it at the morning meeting. Some of Bill's humor and expertise is reflected in the comments and suggestions that follow.

To begin with, use the best quality flowers. Don't repeat old crosses. "To go back is like using a cave man to improve modern man." For example, use Empress of Ireland rather than Mount Hood. Try crazy crosses: pink x orange cups, pink cups x reverse bicolors. Or, use species for pollen parents on standard varieties. Remember when dealing with species use the best blooms you have because they usually are seed grown and not clones (all identical) like the named cultivars. The rewards of a good hybridizing program? "It's fun entering a show with nothing but your own flowers!"

Bill's basic equipment for hybridizing is a tweezers (to remove the anthers containing the pollen he wants), three small brushes for applying pollen, 8 - 12 inch deep redwood flats for growing the seedlings and -- a practiced eye! When flowers have been open 1 - 1½ days, the nectar on the stigma is wet and sticky. That is the time to put on the pollen. (Pollen keeps 2-3 weeks in a dry place and can be frozen for longer storage.) It is not necessary to de-anther the seed parents to prevent cross pollination. After each cross he cleans the brush in his mouth and puts that brush in his pocket to use again when it is almost dry. What if by chance stray pollen should get involved in a cross? "It doesn't make the computer blow up if you get the wrong parentage!" It's the quality of the flower that counts.

By the end of May the pods are almost ready to fall off. If you shake them and hear seeds, pick them off, put them in a paper cup, and let them ripen until they open. Mature seeds are black, but not always shiny and might not be round. Bill plants the seeds the week harvested, keeping careful track of his crosses. The seeds are placed in his flats one inch apart on the surface of the soil and covered with a ½ inch layer. (Baccto is good for this.) There must be at least 6 inches of soil below the seed so that the contractile roots of the young plants have room to pull the developing bulb down into proper position. Since the flats are kept outside, a wire frame is used to keep out cats, etc., and weeds are cut off or removed when tiny. Care must be taken to keep the flats from drying out. By the third year the seedlings can be lined out in the garden. A few will bloom the fourth year, many the fifth, lots more the sixth! If you really get the "bug" for crossing daffodils, you'll get to the point of offering Bill's hybridizer's prayer: "Lord, let it be something good, and if it isn't, don't let it set!"

--- Sally Hohn

GROWING DAFFODILS IN NORTHERN NECK

"Growing daffodils is simple," smiled Sue Robinson. "It's nothing but hard work and luck." The luck, in her case, is the sandy soil with good drainage that typifies the Northern Neck, Virginia area. Also, there is abundant rainfall. Although she never has to water her daffodil beds, the wind sweeping across the open spaces can cause damage to the blooms. The hard work comes in two phases, digging and replanting. From mid-June to mid-July her daffodils are lifted for storage. She digs one third of them each year, revising the labels to conform to the new color coding system given in Daffodils to Show and Grow. Her cultural practices are specific: use a potato fork to dig; as bulbs are dug, wash and clean them thoroughly with a vegetable brush; soak them in warm Benlate solution (directions on bag); for storage, hang in mesh potato bags. Each year she has the county agent test her soil; it usually is low in potassium. When she replants (mid August to mid September), she works the ground 10 inches deep and incorporates one teaspoon muriate of potash and one tablespoon bonemeal into the soil below each bulb. Two tablespoons of sand and a dusting of chlordane are placed directly below the bulb and sand is used to fill

in all the spaces -- with a bit more chlordan over the bulb. The daffodils are planted three times as deep as their maximum diameter and spaced 4-6 in. apart. The rows are hoed up and pine needle mulch and labels are added. She has found that Everlasting labels and E#1 rose marker work well for her. This ends the hard work for the year. Mrs. Robinson emphasized the importance of growing quality daffodils. "Good daffodils always win and sometimes winning a ribbon spurs you on!"

---Bonnie and Sally Hohn

STAGING THE TIDEWATER DAFFODIL SHOW

In her inimitable witty way Millie Rountree told how the Tidewater Daffodil Society operates so efficiently in staging its show each spring.

The show is held in a motel exhibition room which is well air conditioned and easily accessible for unloading supplies and flowers but has poor lighting and "busy" wallpaper. Having rooms and a restaurant in the same building is a great convenience.

Their equipment is geared to the size of a U-Haul-It truck. Everything is packed in a large box which fits into the truck and is stored commercially in that same box.

It takes two hours to set up the show. Supplies are set out in order of need and generally the same people do the same jobs each year. They have 3200 ft. of display space.

Only two problems does Millie admit. One is classification as the best people on that are also entering flowers. The other is picking the date. She looks forward to the day they have six daffodils and 12 judges.

The breakdown, she says, is the best part. Because they always have a breakdown party afterwards, taking down the show and storing properties in the box in reverse order in which they are needed is done quickly (56 minutes is their record time).

And on Monday morning they find their best flowers in the garden.

JUDGING DAFFODILS IN MIDDLE ATLANTIC

After Frances Armstrong introduced Kitty Bloomer, Lois Perrin, Fran Lewis and Mary Gwynn Erlandson as members of the panel on Judging Daffodils in Middle Atlantic, Kitty Bloomer as moderator invited the audience to submit questions. The first question was "How do you judge collars?" Fran Lewis replied that collars are not as difficult to judge or exhibit as many people think and that they should be judged for perfection just as any other standard daffodil. Kitty Bloomer added many judges must overcome a natural antipathy to collars.

A question about whether a Waxwing with only one bloom should be shown involved the panel and audience in a free flowing discussion of single versus multibloom flowers and, of course, there was the usual disagreement over how many blooms Tete-a-Tete should have. There were admonitions from the audience that multibloom flowers give judges more material with which to find fault and that the blooms may be smaller. The panel agreed that the judges should look at the blooms and look for perfection but that all other things being equal the multibloom flower would win over a flower with a single bloom.

There was also audience participation in the discussion on whether an exhibitor should try for diversity in setting up a collection. Kitty Bloomer said that although there are no points for diversity or staging she would opt for diversity. There was general agreement that a well staged collection will win.

Bill Ticknor brought up the "single entry syndrome." He has observed that many judges will not award a blue ribbon when there is only one entry in a class and he thinks this is a weakness in judging.

Raymond Lewis asked for an interpretation of the statement in Chapter Eight of the Handbook for Exhibiting and Judging Daffodils that "Any judge may select one candidate for the best bloom in the show, except that if a section calling for a single stem provides its champion, no other flower in that section shall be eligible." It was agreed that if a champion has been selected for a section for single blooms a judge cannot overrule the panel by selecting a different bloom. However, a single bloom may be selected from a collection that has not placed.

The final question on whether foreign judges should be invited to judge our shows brought forth a lively exchange. Wells Knierim said that this was a matter of courtesy and spoke of his experiences judging in New Zealand. Marie Bozievich also told about judging in Ireland and pointed out that foreign judges may be asked to step aside when all American classes are judged. Although some members of the audience felt that foreign judges had different standards and were too aggressive, Kitty Bloomer did not agree and said they were not nit pickers. She noted that there is usually one foreign judge on a panel and that he can be overruled by the other two judges.

--- Letitia Hanson

THANKS

Thanks to Helen Klein our luncheon and dinner tables at the Cascades Restaurant were enhanced by small pumpkins filled with colorful chrysanthemums from the Klein's garden. Needless to say, our meals were typical of Williamsburg's delicious bounty at its best including such delicacies as pumpkin soup, quiche Smithfield and bombe of rum raisin ice cream. Really sinful!

After dinner we were entertained by Wells Knierim's slides of beautiful daffodils from every division and class showing the new color coding, and of pictures of daffodils, places and people in England, Ireland and Holland, a foretaste of what those lucky people who are making the trip to the World Daffodil Convention there next April will see. Wells' slides were perfect as always and we deeply appreciate his and Mary's coming all the way from Cleveland to be with us.

Other special guests were our Executive Director Bill Ticknor and his assistant in all endeavors, Laura Lee. It is always a pleasure to welcome them "home."

We wish to express our gratitude to Jane and Roxie Moore, Frank and Helen Klein and Milly Rountree for all their work in making the arrangements, handling the registration and attending to other details. Many thanks, too, to all the willing and talented people participating in the program. We all learned much from each of you. And finally, thanks to you who wrote these programs up for this Newsletter, a wonderful help to me.

NEW JUDGES

Congratulations to our four new accredited judges: Mrs. Alice H. Battle of Virginia, Mrs. Elisha Hanson of D.C. and Mrs. J. Raymond Moore, Jr. and Mrs. Leo Vollmer, both of Maryland.

We also have four new student judges: Mrs. David W. Corson, Misses Bonnie and Sally Hohn and Mrs. W. J. Perry, all of Virginia. In addition, Mr. and Mrs. Bragdon who recently moved to Richmond from Andover, Mass. are student judges. Daffodil Show Judges Chairmen, please remember to include student judges on your panels.

Mrs. Perry's name was omitted from the list of Virginia ADS student judges in the September issue of the Journal (page 52). Mrs. Herbert D. Clough, Jr. has moved from our region and Mrs. A. L. Lorraine is deceased so their names should be eliminated. Please make these corrections in the list of judges. And don't forget to add the Bragdons.

SHOWS 1979

Chapel Hill, N.C., March 30-31
Gloucester, Va. , April 7-8
Princess Anne, Md., April 7
Garden Club of Virginia, Lynchburg, Va., April 10
Tidewater, Va. Daffodil Society, April 14-15
Washington Daffodil Society (Regional Show), April 14-15
Maryland Daffodil Society, April 18
Wilmington, Del., April 21
Harford County, Md., Bel Air Middle School, April 21-22

JUDGING SCHOOLS

Course 2: Dallas, Texas; Dayton, Ohio; California
Course 3: Greenwich, Connecticut
Course 3 Make-Up: Atlanta, Georgia

Anyone desiring information about these schools should write to the proper regional vice president.

If we have enough people requesting Course 1, there is a possibility we might have a judging school in Richmond next April. If you would like to attend such a school, please drop me a postcard.

We have had a long, too dry, but beautiful autumn for planting bulbs and readying the garden for another season. Noticed last week the foliage of N. jonquilla already emerging from the ground. Things are going on underneath which we know not of!

May your holidays be happy ones(....)

Yours sincerely,

Frances

Frances Armstrong, Regional V-P

