

AMERICAN DAFFODIL SOCIETY, INC.

Middle Atlantic Region

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER, 1979

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

Regional Directors:

(1980) Dr. John L. Tarver, Jr., 1420 N. King St., Hampton, Va. 23669

(1981) Miss Bonnie M. Hohn, 718 Alleghany Ave., Staunton, Va. 24401

(1982) Mrs. Frank C. Christian, P.O. Box 368, Urbanna, Va. 23175

Directors-at-Large:

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

(1982) Quentin Erlandson, 9 Burnbrae Rd., Baltimore, Md. 21204

First Vice President of ADS: Mrs. John Bozievich, 6810 Hillmead Rd., Bethesda, Md., 20034

Committee Chairmen of ADS:

Library: Mrs. H. B. Bloomer, Jr., 11111 Gunston Rd., Lorton, Va. 22079

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,

Nature smiled upon us at Bryce Resort the last weekend in October giving us a beautiful clear Saturday for our fall regional meeting. In all, there were 76 enthusiastic and happy daffodil lovers there. The people at Bryce were exceptionally accommodating, very pleasant to work with, and I believe we all look forward to holding another meeting there soon.

Our morning program overflowed with talented participants who both entertained and enlightened us discussing various aspects of the daffodil. I am indebted to four excellent reporters who have written the following reviews for us.

GROWING BULBS COMMERCIALY IN ENGLAND AND HOLLAND

To begin the program, Bonnie Hohn gave a most informative slide presentation and lecture comparing the bulb growing techniques in England and Holland. Both countries use only a few cultivars in commercial production - mainly Carlton, Golden Harvest, Fortune, Mount Hood and Ice Follies.

England, which is the second largest bulb producer - and the largest producer of Narcissus - in the world, grows two and a half times more daffodils than Holland, mostly in the Fen counties of Lincolnshire and Essex. The soil is rich, silty loam with excellent water holding capacity and the bulbs produced are smaller and more solid with higher flower production than the Dutch bulbs. The English growers leave their bulbs down two years and practice crop rotation (with wheat and other vegetables) over an 8-12 year period to control pests. They use, as the Dutch do, a hot water treatment with a .2% formaldehyde solution for further pest control.

In contrast, the Dutch with a sandy alkaline soil, leave their bulbs down one year only. They use the same fields year after year and sterilize the soil between plantings for pest control. The bulbs produced are larger with larger flowers than the English ones. The principal bulb-growing district in Holland is around The Hague. This area, which produces 44% of the daffodils grown in Holland, has lost considerable acreage to residential and other uses in recent years as land values have appreciated greatly and many bulb fields have been sold for more intensified use.

It is interesting to note that the two countries with their different methods have the same production per acre. Also very interesting is the ultimate destination of these millions of bulbs --- (Con't. next page)

ENGLAND
(total production daffodils ---
405 million KGS)

home market	85%
Holland	} 15%
West Germany	
Sweden	

HOLLAND
(total production daffodils ---
162 million KGS)

home market	50%
West Germany	22%
France	10%
U.S.	7%
Sweden	7%
England	4%

Think of all those Carltons and Ice Follies growing in American and European gardens!

--- Delia Bankhead

DRYING MINIATURE DAFFODILS

Quentin Erlandson's talk on "Drying Miniature Daffodils" stimulated a lot of interest and lively discussion. He explained that the object is to remove all moisture as quickly as possible. The faster they are dried, the better the color. Since sand and borax take too long, he recommends silica gel, leaving the flowers in the drying medium two days (or three days maximum).

Use a flower that has just come into bloom with no dew or water on it. Cut a two inch stem. Put a little gel in an airtight container and lay the flower in the gel, face up if possible. Carefully spoon gel over it until the flower is completely covered. Put the lid back on and tape the edges. Be sure you don't tilt the container when you move it.

To remove the flowers, tilt the can and gently pour off the gel. The stem will be almost gone. Take a fine wire and gently insert it in the stem if possible, or place the wire at the back of the flower and tape it to the stem.

To display, find an attractive airtight container, put the flowers on a small pinholder, add two or three tablespoons of gel at the bottom and seal. Flowers treated in this manner will last indefinitely.

--- Alleyne Moore

DAFFODIL MYTHS AND FACTS

Richard Ezell, Regional Vice President of the Northeast Region, gave an interesting presentation on "Daffodil Myths and Facts". His humorous discussion of conflicting theories points to the need for additional experimental research by the society and its members. Richard advocates cutting below ground level if additional stem length is needed. It is his observation that bulbs in the ground never go dormant and always have long white roots. Because of this he suggests that perhaps bulbs should be dug in August and replanted in September but cautions that replanting too soon may result in basal rot. He thinks that storage should be in a place that is cool and moist. He found that bulbs planted with surrounding sand increased more in size. He has experimented with sand, perlite and fine pine bark. He had the most basal rot with pine bark. He found perlite expensive and resulted in smaller and fewer bulbs. He experimented with planting bulbs at depths of 6", 8", and 10". The bulbs at 10" increased as fast or faster, were larger but more susceptible to basal rot. He plants new varieties 7" deep. He will try Bill Tichnor's suggestion of using cold frames for improved seed germination.

--- Johnny Tarver

HEALTH AND CULTURE PANEL

In the absence of Virginia Perry, Dr. John Tarver served as moderator of the Health and Culture Panel which consisted of Marie Bozievich, Bill Pannill and Bill Tichnor.

Narcissus Bulb Fly What to do when chlordane is no longer available? Marie Bozievich stated that Willis Wheeler recommends Cygon, a systemic pesticide. Apply in the spring when the foliage is 4" high. Since it is absorbed by the leaves, she did not think it would be dangerous to handle the flowers. Bill Tichnor referred to a recent Dept. of Agriculture pamphlet which recommends trichlorfon (trade name, Dylox R). Spray at the base of foliage at beginning of adult activity. Frank Klein said that VPI concurred in this.

Basal Rot Benomyl (trade name, Benlate) is the answer. The manufacturer is now including on the package directions for use on daffodils. Bill Ticknor and Marie add Formalin to their Benlate solutions but Bill Pannill does not. Remember when using Benlate to dip immediately - the same day the bulbs have been lifted and washed. If the original solution remains clean, it may be re-used a day or two later. Add a little extra Benlate. Thickness of solution will not damage bulbs. Have water warm for best results.

Residual Benlate Solution Recommendations differ. Some panelists and members pour leftover solution on their daffodil beds. When Benlate was first recommended, Marie contacted Dr. Gould about its usage and reusage. He advised against pouring on beds. He felt that we should not depend on Benlate alone but should alternate with Formalin since there is a possibility that the fungus might become Benlate resistant. Bill Ticknor stated that Mr. Humphrey-Jones of England has said that so far, he has never known a single instance in which Benlate was not effective.

Bagging and Labeling Mesh bags are available from Bemis Co. in Norfolk. You may remove the outside paper labels, insert tags of paper, plastic or card stock. Use an indelible pen or laundry marker for varietal names. If outside paper labels are left intact, they may be reused many times but be careful to mark through previously written names.

Cleaning and Storing If you do not use Benlate, Bill Pannill warned against washing bulbs as more basal rot is likely to occur. Simply shake off the dirt and store. When dipping in Benlate, wash bulbs thoroughly first. Hose down on your driveway or in a mesh bottomed box or shake bulbs around in a bucket filled with running water. Unnecessary to remove roots if left in Benlate a long while as they will absorb it and when dried will be just fine hair. Don't dry bulbs in the sun. Hang and dry in any well ventilated structure or dry on wire racks in same.

Hot Water Treatment Requires special equipment and handling and the average grower need not bother about it. Bill Pannill and Marie use only for therapeutic purposes (bulb scale mite, etc.). Both include Formalin in the treatment.

--- Fran and Raymond Lewis

AFTERNOON AND EVENING AT BRYCE

After lunch and a bounteous bulb exchange, Wells Knierim, our ADS Treasurer from Cleveland, Ohio, treated us with slides of the Narzissenfest in Bad Aussee, Austria taken on a trip he made with the Zandbergens late in May. His pictures revealed beautiful alpine meadows where the poeticus narcissi stretch in solid white sheets below the snow capped mountains. Villagers in this area still wear the traditional dress and Wells has captured the charm and vitality of life there which seems far removed from worldly concerns and troubles.

We met again in the evening for a bountiful dinner. Following the dinner, Bonnie Hohn did yeoman's service again by showing some more of her very professional slides, this time of shows and gardens seen on our World Convention tour last spring. Bonnie's botanist eye glimpsed many a treasure the rest of us failed to see. And how she found time to take so many pictures all full of light and perfect in every detail when our time was so limited and the skies so frequently gloomy and dark, I shall never fathom. Better next time we should pool our funds, send Bonnie along with a goodly supply of film and, through the magic of her camera, enjoy the trip later in warmth and comfort!

JUDGING SCHOOLS

Makeup for Point Scoring, Course I, will be held Sunday, April 13, 1:00 P.M. at the RETREAT HOSPITAL, 2621 Grove Ave. (near the Virginia Museum), Richmond. Please note the change in place from that previously announced. Fee: \$5.00

Course II will be held the next day, Monday, April 14 in the Holiday Inn-Crossroads, 2002 Staples Mill Road, Richmond, at 9:00. Fee: \$10.00

Anyone wishing to attend either of these schools should contact Mrs. Lester F. Belter, Route 2, Box 217A, Mechanicsville, Va. 23111 (Tel. 804-746-2010) or Mrs. Berkeley Williams, Jr., 3045 Waddington Drive, Richmond, Va. 23224 (Tel. 745-3920). Please indicate whether you wish to take the exam or not.

STUDENT JUDGES

We have two additional student judges to add to those listed in the last newsletter:

Mrs. N. Thomas Whittington, Jr., Marion Station, Md. 21838
Donald S. King, RFD Box 236-C, Hartfield, Va. 23071

Again I beseech the Chairmen of Judges for our shows to include student judges on the panels. These new students are required to judge five shows which is going to make it difficult for all of them to find spaces.

DATES TO REMEMBER IN 1980

ADS Convention, Memphis, Tenn. -- March 27, 28, 29

Daffodil Shows:

Chapel Hill, N.C., April 2,3. Information, Mrs. W. L. Wiley

Hampton, Va., April 5, 6. Sponsored by Tidewater Virginia Daffodil Society
Mr. and Mrs. M. W. Christian, Jr., Chairmen

Princess Anne, Md., April 12 at the Peninsula Bank. Show Chairman is Mrs. Wallace Warwick, Sherree Lane, Princess Anne, Md. 21853. Phone: 301-651-3290 Design classes have interesting titles such as Breakfast is Served, Soup's On, Join Us for Dinner, Bon Appetit and Demitasse. (Have you guessed that Mrs. Warwick is a dietician?)

Gloucester, Va., April 12,13. Judges Chairman, Mrs. David B. Perrin.

Washington, D.C., April 12,13. Sponsored by the Washington Daffodil Soc.
and to be held at the National Arboretum.

Huntington, W. Va., April 12,13. Sponsored by the Huntington Council of
Garden Clubs, Ms. Jo Caldwell, Chairman; Mrs. Curtis R. Davis, Judges Chairman.

Lynchburg, Va., April 16, 17. Sponsored by the Garden Club of Virginia (not
an ADS show) Information, Mrs. Karl Hehl.

Wilmington, Del., April 19

Chambersburg, Pa., April 22, 23

Baltimore, Md., April 23,24 Sponsored by Maryland Daffodil Society, Brown
Memorial Church, N. Charles St., Mrs. Edward Richardson, Jr., Chairman; Mrs. J. Raymond Moore, Jr.,
Judges Chairman.

NEW MEMBERS

We are happy to extend a welcome to the following new members:

Charles Lee Burwell, The Vineyard, Millwood, Va. 22646

Mrs. William J. R. Dunseath, 107 Enfield Rd., Baltimore, Md. 21212

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard E. Ewoltd, Box 218, Naxera, Va. 23122

Mrs. Stafford H. Koonce, P.O. Box 112, Halltown, W. Va. 25423

Mrs. C. Clark Laster III, 1438 Princess Anne Rd., Norfolk, Va. 23507

Mrs. Philip D. Lines, The Hill, S.R. Box 166, St. Leonard, Md. 20685

Mrs. J. M. McLaughlin, Jr., 713 Whiffletree Rd., Richmond, Va. 23235

Mrs. Paul E. Miller, Jr., Rt. 1, Box 10, Kearneysville, W. Va. 25430

Dr. J. Raymond Moore, Jr., 904 Applewood Lane, Baltimore, Md. 21212

Mrs. Ronald Peckham, P.O. Box 717, White Stone, Va. 22578

Timothy H. Richard, 1169 Overbrook Rd., Petersburg, Va. 23803

Change of name and address:

Mrs. Linda G. Kincheloe to Mrs. Thomas K. Rogers, 3201 N. Abingdon St.,
Arlington, Va. 22207

Changes of address:

Brent C. Heath, The Daffodil Mart, Rt. 3, Box 208R, Gloucester, Va. 23061

Mrs. Bruce C. Gunnell, Banbury Cross Farm, Middleburg, Va. 22117

Mrs. James H. Hancock, Jr., Rt. 2, Box 416, Rustburg, Va. 24588

Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Koonce, Dr. Moore and Mrs. Peckham all attended our meeting at Bryce Resort. We were so happy to see them there and hope the rest of you will join us next year wherever the meeting is.

Mrs. McLaughlin is my daughter and Mrs. Laster my neice. My mother, Mrs. C. P. Nair, Jr. of Clifton Forge has been a member of ADS almost from its beginning. I wonder how many other three generation families there are in the Society? Unfortunately, daughter Beverly will soon be moving to the Charlotte, N.C. area so we will be losing her to the Southeast Region.

NEWS FROM NEWSOMS

(I twisted Betty's arm for this enchanting vignette of life in Newsoms.)

Where Have All the Flowers (and Flies) Gone?

My daffodil season last spring did not produce a two headed Camelot nor a yellow Silver Chimes nor a blue variety nor any other sport. President Carter didn't come to see my yard nor did any of the fifty governors. The weather was absolutely perfect with cool sunny days and plenty of gentle rain.

My most earth shaking experience was finding a use for the idle daffodil beds. My Scotch-Irish blood deplores the waste of this lovely soil after the daffodils have finished blooming.

In two of my raised beds I grew some midget watermelons. These three pound grapefruit sized watermelons were quite a conversation piece. I love miniatures!

The exciting news, though, was my other crop --- that marvelous herb, basil. For several years I have grown basil at the kitchen door around an old well where miniature daffodils are planted. I have read that basil keeps flies away. In Mediterranean countries a basil plant is placed in an open window to keep the flies out. A sprig of basil laid on a bowl of ripe tomatoes will keep fruit flies from gathering.

The years I planted basil, flies stayed away from my back door, but they still managed to come in the front one. Last spring I planted basil on either side of the front walk where there are rows of bulbocodiums. Voila! not a fly in the house all summer, back or front door.

Basil is not an insecticide, but flies don't like the way it smells. They "bug off" and go to my neighbors. I keep the plants compact by clipping them back and I freeze the clippings to use all winter in soup, spaghetti sauce, etc. Tomatoes and basil have an affinity for one another. It sounds like a wonderful idea for edging patios or cook-out areas.

Footnote: Last week I pulled up the basil to plant pansies. Three flies came in the back door. It works for me.

--- Betty Darden

THANKS

My most grateful appreciation goes to all those cooperative people who were on the program at Bryce and to all others who helped out in so many different ways. And again thanks to all our fine writers who contributed to this newsletter. The many lovely letters I have received have brought me more pleasure than you can know and I thank you for them. And thanks to all of you who attended our meeting and made it a most congenial and pleasant occasion.

May your holidays be happy ones!

Yours fondly,

Frances

Frances Armstrong
Regional Vice President

