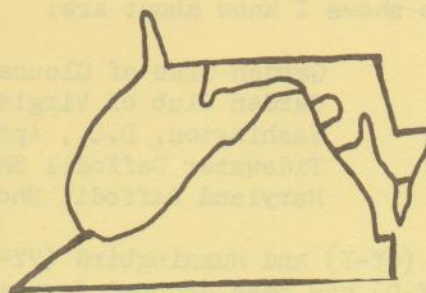


AMERICAN DAFFODIL SOCIETY, INC.

Middle Atlantic

Region



NEWSLETTER

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November 23, 1983

Dear ADS Members:

Our Fall Regional Meeting was well attended: 56 persons including 3 from Pennsylvania and 2 from North Carolina. The program was excellent thanks to our speakers and the weather in Virginia Beach beautiful though windy. I hope to encourage more Maryland members to attend next fall and have arranged to hold the meeting at the Holiday Inn in Annapolis November 10th.

After my last Newsletter had gone to the printers, I learned of the death of Henning Roundtree. Henning was President of the Tidewater Daffodil Society and many times chairman of their show. Our sympathy goes to all his family. We will all miss him.

Tag Bourne has written me that it has been difficult for her to get Show dates from chairmen. She needs the -

Date of Show

City or Town

State or Regional

Sponsor

Location

Name and address of person to contact for information.

January 1st if the deadline for inclusion in the March Journal.

Tag would also like to know ^{of} any ADS Judges who are National Council or Garden Club of America Judges who could also judge artistic sections as

well as the daffodil horticulture. Please let her know if you fall in this category.

So far the shows I know about are:

Garden Club of Gloucester, April 7 & 8
Garden Club of Virginia, April 11 & 12
Washington, D.C., April 14
Tidewater Daffodil Show, April 14
Maryland Daffodil Show, April 18 & 19

Add Heidi (6Y-Y) and Hummingbird (7Y-Y) to your Approved List of Miniatures. Lintie (7Y-O) has been dropped from the List.

My thanks to Fran Lewis, Delia Bankhead and Don King for taking such great notes at the Fall Meeting. They follow below:

ACCLIMATIZING BULBS FROM DOWN UNDER

Dr. William Bender and Mr. Richard Ezell

The joint presentation by Dr. William Bender and Mr. Richard Ezell was most informative and stimulated interesting discussion among members. Mr. Ezell focused primarily on a review of the literature regarding the immediate and "hold back" till fall planting methods. Among growers cited were the late Guy Wilson, Phil Phillips (ADS Jr. June 1983) and Richard Brook of England (ADS Jr. Sept. 1982). Both Phillips and Brook now favor immediate planting.

Dr. Bender devoted most of his talk to a third means - twin-scaling. He described in detail a project which he and Mr. Ezell had undertaken in February 1979. They had twin-scaled from $\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 bulbs (offsets removed) of 38 cultivars received the preceding day from Phil Phillips. The viable twin-scales were subsequently divided between the two speakers. Each lined out his share in May 1979. From his 835 twin-scales, four years later Dr. Bender had 382 plants of blooming or near-blooming size growing in the same ground. Although Mr. Ezell's records were not complete, he agreed with Dr. Bender that they had possibly cut the pieces too small, various cultivars respond differently to the process and twin-scaling offers no improvement as a means of acclimatization. Both now prefer immediate planting and several recommendations about this method were made.

Fran Lewis

A SURVEY OF PINK DAFFODILS

The regional meeting's Saturday morning program began with Nancy Howard's skillful presentation of the ADS slide set, "A survey of Pink Daffodils", which traces chronologically the development of pink daffodils. The early ancestors of most pinks were the species poets, notable *P. radiiflorus*, *P. poeticus*, *PS albescens*, *PS bicolor* and *PS abscissus*. Two of these were involved in the parentage of Lord Kitchener, which in turn was a parent of many of the first pinks, including Mrs. R. O. Backhouse. Contrary to widespread belief, this cultivar was not the first pink. It was registered ten years after the Brodie of Brodie introduced Fairy Circle, 3WWWP, in 1913. The data bank shows others introduced before Mrs. R. O. Backhouse as well.

It was fascinating to see slides of many of the older flowers and several generations of their progeny, concluding with some of the most magnificent of the new pinks. The program is especially interesting for those interested in the best exhibition flowers or in breeding pinks. It shows the dramatic spurt of new introductions which began in the mid-60s and continued through the late 70s, demonstrating clearly the enormous advances in form and intensity of color made by breeders everywhere. This slide set would be an excellent means for local societies to encourage interest in growing newest cultivars.

We were then treated to an unprogrammed extra ---a ~~slide~~ showing of about 70 of Bill Pannill's new flowers, including some of Murray Evans. Two of Murray's new pink seedlings were shown, including Q28, a very nice 4WP. Bill showed mostly named cultivars and a few seedlings. Among them were Chianti, Fire Alarm, Javelin and Tahoe-2YRs; Jamboree 1YO; River Queen, Forest Park, Wakefield, La Mancha, Snowdrift and Starmount-2WWs; Mountain Dew, Portfolio and Gallery-1WWs; several pinks, including some very good seedlings and Peacock, Close Encounter, Diablo and Outlook.

He had a small star cluster of Divisions 5-7; Jovial 5YO, Woodcock and Oz (miniature candidate?) 6YY, Demitasse and Junior Miss, 6WY; Toto 6WW, Sailboat 7WW and my favorite Rising Star 7WP. Bill said he was working on these divisions in order to exhibit in the large collections. How well we all know the problem of finding great quality 5-8s blooming at the right time to show well with the larger divisions.

Most impressive to me were Close Encounter 2WP, Monticello 2WY, Androcles 4WW, Falcon 1YY, seedlings 68/1/1 2WWWP and 74-48, a spectacular 2WW and El8 (Evans) 2YY. Also some super miniature cyclamineus seedlings.

You all know about his extemporaneous talks, so I hardly need to say that this one was packed with information and humor. Apologies, Bill, if anything is misnumbered or misclassified. I was writing so fast I wore the pencil right down.

At the end, I was left with a reinforced belief that Bill has made and is continuing to make significant improvement of the genus -- especially in the area of form. Also, he contributed greatly to an already great program. Thanks, Bill!

Delia Bankhead.

"LOOK ALIKE" MINIATURES
Mary Gwynn Erlandson

In her introduction, Mary Gwynn stated that her material came for Alec Gray's book "Miniature Daffodils" and from the Daffodil Handbook. She referred to Phil Phillip's presentation at the recent Convention in Williamsburg wherein he stated that there are certain characteristics of individual cultivars that never vary, e.g. 1) length of neck to seed pod; 2) distance the pistil extends beyond the stamen; 3) amount of green on back of flower; 4) ribbiness or smoothness of the stem. She also invited the audience to feel free to comment at any time since her talk would be confined to cultivars normally grown by exhibitors. Her presentation was illustrated by slides of various cultivars.

By divisions the 'look alike' were discussed. First, Little Gem and Wee Bee. Both are sports of n. minor and as such are cousins and 'look alike'. The difference? Wee Bee comes later and is more hooded.

Segovia and Yellow Xit. At first glance there is very little difference until they are placed side by side. The perianth of Segovia is pristine white while that of Yellow Xit has a slightly yellow tinge. But, she warned, be careful when placing them both in the same collection.

April Tears and Hawera. The former blooms later and generally has fewer florets than Hawera. The perianth on April Tears is rounded, where Hawera has a wavy perianth; its form is not as good as April Tears. Look for form and number of florets. Also, April Tears has fragrance; Hawera has none.

In the cyclamineus division the cultivars named were Mite, Kibitzer and Zip. Kibitzer has better form than Mite; both are easily distinguished from Zip which has very little reflex in its perianth.

The jonquillas discussed were many in comparison to other divisions and elicited more comment from the audience. Stafford is distinctive with its orange rim around the cup. Sun Disc has good form with a round perianth. Although it is a YY as is Sundial, it blooms much later (for the reporter it blooms in May). Sundial blooming early is comparatively easy to identify. Clare is a very distinctive flower with a reflexed perianth. Rikki is a

bicolor although its perianth bleaches white more slowly in Maryland than it does farther south. With respect to Baby Moon and Baby Star, Baby Moon has a round perianth; Baby Star's form is not nearly as good. In discussing Kidling and Chit Chat, Mary Gwynn observed that Chit Chat has good form but should have at least three or four florets. It is also a vigorous grower. Bill Pannill said that he has a hard time distinguishing between jonquillas as most, if not all, are descended from *n. jonquilla* and should look like a refined jonquilla. Brent Heath observed that Kidling is smaller than most jonquillas and is quite fragrant. Roberta Watrous said that jonquillas are more alike than they are different. Going back to the individual cultivars, Mary Gwynn discussed Pixie's Sister whose petals are shovel shaped and whose foliage is different from that of Chit Chat.

In introducing the species, Mary Gwynn spoke first of the three t's - albus, concolor and pulchellus. These are distinguished by their color: albus, white throughout; concolor, lemon yellow throughout; and, pulchellus, reverse bicolor with a creamy white cup and yellow perianth. In speaking of *rupicola* vs. *juncifolius* the characteristics are: *rupicola*, one flower to a stem; *juncifolius*, up to six flowers. *Rupicola*'s bloom rests at the top of its sheath with little or no neck; *juncifolius* has a long neck; *rupicola* has flat blue-green foliage; *juncifolius* has deep green foliage. Roberta Watrous stated that until recently one was a subdivision of the other - that *juncifolius* has a longer neck to accomodate more blooms - *rupicola* has only one bloom, therefore no neck. Another difference is that *juncifolius* is more fragrant, also the cup is large for the size of the flower which is almost the smallest of the *n. jonquilla* species. *n. watierii* is distinguished merely by its scarcity.

Mary Gwynn's advice on entering bulbocodium in collections is to enter only one and label is simply *bulbocodium*! Roberta observed that some distinguish only between *bulbocodium citrinus* and *bulbocodium Heinzi* (57 varieties)! Some of the distinctions of the various "b's" are: *conspicuus*, the most common, the green color comes through the perianth; *tenuifolius*, resembles *conspicuus*, however, its foliage is generally prostrate and its perianth yellow throughout; *navalis* is the smallest in size of flower and height of stem; *romieuxii*'s perianth segments are nearly as long as its corona; *obesus* has a very short stem for the size of the flower and its foliage is prostrate and twisted, its crown slightly constricted at the mouth. Therefore, advised Mary Gwynn, go on faith when ordering *bulbocodium*!

The presentation ended with an interesting statement that the Erlandsons' miniatures Jessamy and Tarlatan (Both Div 12) bloomed in December 1982 and that their intermediate Tiffany (also Div 12) bloomed New Year's Day 1983. There were slides to show the blooms in the snow and the flowers were there for us all to see, preserved in silica under a small glass dome.

At the conclusion, everyone present realized that the "basis material" referred to in the beginning also included knowledge and wisdom gained from the speaker's great experience with miniature daffodils.

Donald King

Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas

Wesley

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