

Midwest Region Newsletter

June, 2019



From your new RVP—

I feel humbled to accept this office in a region with a wealth of talented daffodil growers and active participants in ADS. I can, though, write a newsletter from time to time, and I hope it serves to help share information that people have found useful. I'd like to include short articles about our most active people, so please feel free to send me information about yourself, to cajole others to do so, or to write something about someone else. Otherwise, I may be contacting you.

A little about me—I was born near Rockford, Illinois, moved to Champaign-Urbana, Illinois to study Speech Education, Speech and Hearing Science, and to learn to use computers to provide instruction. I worked in the latter field at the University of Delaware and later supported several areas of computing at Miami University in Ohio. On moving into my first house in Delaware, I found some irises growing and blooming in the yard and realized I could actually grow them. That led me to attend an iris show, to join the club, and to become an “iris person.” I met Janet while judging an iris show in Louisville where she was clerking—her entry was Best in Show; I later learned that she married me because she needed the variety ‘Summer Sky’ in her garden. Anyway, I retired and moved (with ‘Summer Sky’) to LaGrange to be with Janet and John. Janet took me to a daffodil show, and later we entered one put on by Indiana Daffodil Growers South as a small grower. There we learned from Sue Luken and Helen Trueblood, and Linda Wallpe graciously walked us through the show and gave us pointers. Libby Frey was inspirational in her love of every daffodil she brought (way too many to have time to enter). We went to meetings of the Kentucky Daffodil Society and its sales in Louisville, and we began slowly to become “daffodil

people” together. Dan Bellinger encouraged us to sit in on our first judges training class. We learned that judges training in the daffodil world is more rigorous than in the iris world, and that it concentrates much more heavily on shows than on garden performance. We were surprised that daffodil judges can exhibit at shows they judge. Since becoming more serious, we've participated mostly with the Indiana Daffodil Society, but have also visited shows by KDABS, SWODS, and, when the season allowed it, gone to Nashville and Niles, MI. We're not experienced at refrigerating and transporting yet—still have a lot to learn. We grow only about 300 daffodils—not nearly in the league with some of our teachers. (We call them S-girls: Suzy Wert, Sara Kinne, Sue Luken, Kathleen Simpson.) I work on the IDS website along with a few iris websites. Janet works hard in the yard with our primary plants as well as with hostas, vegetables, and others, and does volunteer work for the National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals.

I'm sending this to a list of ADS members that Frank Nyikos has provided. If you know of someone who didn't receive it and would like to, please ask that person to contact me and to provide Frank with updated contact information. Since it is easy to distribute materials by email, I'd like to do so more frequently than a couple of times a year, if we have content to share. Please do send me articles or mini-articles that you think may be of interest to others in the region.

--Jim Wilson, jim@wilsonjh.org

Midwesterners serving ADS

Besides our regional officers, people in the region are very well represented on the ADS board. Maybe our most prominent representation is by Fredrica Lawlor, lawlor.f@pg.com , 1st Vice President of ADS, also chairing the Financial Review Committee. The ADS Secretary is Kathleen Simpson, mwgilzow@aol.com , not technically a Midwesterner, but a member who often participates in Midwest events. The Executive Director is Frank Nyikos, ads_exec_dir@daffodilusa.org . A new Director-At-Large is Suzy Wert, limequilla@aol.com . Tom Stettner , tstettnerjr@cinci.rr.com , is not only one of our very few talented and hard-working photographers, but also chair of the Display Gardens committee. Mary Lou Gripshover, mgripshover@cinci.rr.com , is chair of the Library and Archival Policy committee, and works diligently to make dafflibrary available, as well as serving as our National Daffodil Registrar. Lisa Kuduk, lisakuduk@earthlink.net , is chair of the Youth and Homeschooling committee. Naomi Liggett, nliggett441@wowway.com , serves as the Midwest region's representative on the National Nominating Committee. In addition, others, while not actually board members, serve actively on these committees, for example, Sara Kinne, sara8899kinne@gmail.com , on the membership committee.

Our Midwest regional directors are Rebecca Koesters, edwardsmom@ameritech.net , Daniel Bellinger, rdanielbellinger@gmail.com , and Tamara Mitman, thcmitsman@gmail.com .

It is a tribute to our region that so many are willing to serve ADS. Having them close at hand provides us both an opportunity to assist them in the work they are doing for us and an opportunity for us to learn from them the needs of the society and what we can do to meet them.

National Convention in Minnesota



Attending from the Midwest were Margaret Baird (pictured unpacking flowers with Rebecca), John Beck, Diane Cockerham, Carolyn Cutshall, Donna Dietch, Nancy Gill, Dorothy and Jonathan Kerr, Sara Kinne, Rebecca Koesters, Fredrica Lawlor, Leone Low, Frank Nyikos, Tom Stettner, Trish Walters, and I—quite a little group.



We were fortunate to be joined by growers from across the country, as well as from New Zealand, UK, and Australia. Attendees could learn at a judging school, collect treasures and books at a boutique, mingle with first-timers and mentors, and stage flowers—all just on the first day! Then on Friday, those not involved with judging could take a tour of some of the Minneapolis Regional Parks system. A board meeting was followed by a reception and dinner, where show awards were presented.

On Saturday, Dave Hardy, Harold Koopowitz, Deb Wheeler, and Margaret Macneale shared their experience dry packing and transporting blooms long distances to shows and refrigerating blooms to hold them several weeks. Dave showed us his packing box and system, which had worked beautifully to transport blooms from Northern Ireland. Several refrigeration ideas and configurations were discussed. This really works—Becky Fox Matthews brought some blue-ribbon flowers from TN, among others.

Allen Haas and Sara Kinne hosted an exchange between board members and convention attendees. A trip to the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum occupied mid-day.

Fredrica Lawlor coordinated a spirited bulb auction of contributions from around the world, raising substantial funds for ADS.

Following another great dinner, Mike Heger spoke on “The Role of Specialty Plant Societies: Past and Into the Future.” He stressed the need to evolve, to recognize

the changing nature of how new generations interact, and also to reach out to commercial associations, landscapers, and others whose goals may overlap with ours.

The ADS gold medal was awarded to William (Bill the Bulb Baron) Welch, for his work in promoting and developing tazetta daffodils. The ADS silver medal was presented to Mary Darling, with a well-deserved standing ovation, for outstanding service over many years, particularly while she served as ADS Treasurer.

A highlight of Sunday morning was a judges refresher conducted in the form of a Jeopardy game, by Becky Fox Matthews.

Then we headed off to garden visits. First, Jean Lanz’s Wonderland Garden, was packed with whimsical Alice in Wonderland references and a wide variety of plants, including irises. Next, we visited Michael Berrigan’s farm, with daffodil plantings arranged by their hybridizers’ country of origin, protected by wind screen fences. Mike showed his method of “turning around” daffodils, planting in large pots with a base of pine bark fines.



A stop at the Ellsworth Creamery (cheese curd capital of Wisconsin) capped off the trip.

After a final great dinner, Jessica Helgen spoke on “Secrets of the Hive – Understanding Honey Bee Communication” and expertly fielded questions from the group. Finally we were invited to future conventions—the 2019 Fall Forum in Lynchburg, VA, the 2020 ADS convention in Dallas, TX, and the 2020 World Convention in Australia, with a New Zealand add-on trip. For those who had more time, a wide variety of scenic and cultural activities in the Minnesota area were available.

National Award Winners from the Midwest



It was a good day at the show for our region. Besides many individual ribbons, we had other winners: Rebecca Koesters won the Northern Ireland award. Carolyn Cutshall was a double winner with her Elise Havens collection and the Olive W. Lee trophy. However, the biggest winners by far for the region were the flowers of John Reed. Although John could not attend, Mike Berrigan spearheaded an effort to get them to Minnesota, and several of us were involved in entering them. They won the Silver Ribbon and too many other major awards to mention.



ADS National Fall Forum “Small” Project

--Janet Hickman

At the Fall Forum October 25-27, 2019 in Lynchburg, VA, we’re having a “Small Symposium”: talks about growing in small spaces (pots, small gardens, using miniatures). Please imagine having to limit yourself to just 25 varieties of daffodils, and list what you would choose to grow.

You can use any criteria you wish: garden worthiness, show success, nostalgia, your own hybrid, a friend’s name, etc. What would you plant if you could have only 25?

Please make a list, and send it to Janet Hickman, hickmanderm@aol.com, or to 107 Lee Cir, Lynchburg, VA 24503-1336.

Recovering from Bulb Fly Damage

--Sara Kinne

Five years ago at the annual Big Dig at Dr. John Reed's Oakwood Daffodil Farm, I was hand digging the cultivar 'Roger' and was mystified by some grasslike foliage on a multitude of tiny bulbs. Jason Delaney was nearby in the field, came over to look at our anomaly, and succinctly explained that the narcissus bulb fly had feasted on the bulb's interior but had not devoured the basal plate. As a result, growth continued from the basal plate and, over time, the little grass foliage was attached to new bulblets. This is what we hope to accomplish when we "chip" a bulb by carving a daffodil bulb in pieces, each with a portion of basal plate. This year I came across these two examples when we were shucking bulbs at the big dig.

Becky Fox Matthews took this photo which states what happened better than my words can. The upper example shows a bulb fly dining result that happened longer ago than the lower example. Notice the leaves are broader and the bulbs are larger in the upper example.

I have always been told to squeeze all new bulbs I plant in the fall and look for any hole which suggests entry from narcissus bulb fly. (Softness due to basal rot is easily visually ruled out.). The rule is to throw out the soft ones (do not compost!) or, if a hole is present, probe it with a crochet hook. If a narcissus larva or maggot is found, extract it and kill it. If this is a prize show bulb and no basal rot is ascertained, and whether or not I found a larva, I would consider filling the cavity with the antibacterial/anti-fungal flowers of sulfa powder, plant it, and hope for the best.

Midwest (and Neighboring) Vendors:

Oakwood Daffodils
2330 W. Bertrand Road
Niles, MI 49120
[catalog link below]

Joe Hamm
99 Maple Road
Buffalo Village-Hopewell Township
Washington, PA 15301

PHS Daffodils
P.O. Box 6061
St. Louis, MO 63139-0061
www.phsdaffodils.com



It could also be helpful to members to take a look at the section on chipping, developed by the RHS:

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/profile?pid=101>

Club News

If your club is scheduling events that may be of interest to others in the region—sales, guest speakers, etc.—please let me know, and we can spread the news in the next newsletter.

Membership Renewals

Please pay attention to your ADS membership renewal date. The easiest ways to renew are available here:

<https://stores.daffodilusastore.org/ads-membership/>

Midwest Regional Fall Meeting October 12

I'm grateful to Margaret Baird for securing Wegerzyn for our fall regional meeting, so that we have a good central place to meet and so that people can save the date. We can conduct our business, hold a bulb/plant exchange, and enjoy a judges refresher. Please send me ideas of the topics you would be most interested in for the judges refresher (or the ones you've observed are most needed!). Please also let me know of any other business we need to deal with or other ideas for the meeting. Along that line, Naomi has asked that we develop a plan to deal with the regional traveling trophies that she now has in her possession. We need to conclude by 3pm so as to be done and cleaned up by 3:30pm, and so we can plan to start as early as necessary to do what we need to – maybe 9am or 10am.