

# Midwest Region Newsletter



September, 2019

## ***From your RVP—***

Welcome to our second (short) newsletter. If you are like us, summer provides a bit of a break from daffodil work. We are using it to do some needed cleanup of our iris beds. This has resulted in a fair number of pots of divided Siberian irises—the large dark violet ones like Cleve Dodge, Frosty Rim, Trim the Velvet, and *I. sanguinea* ‘Kamayama’ always seem to grow the most vigorously for us, and so we will be bringing some to the plant swap at our fall meeting. If you’d like some, please remember to save a place in your garden.



The main reason for this newsletter is to provide preliminary information on our meeting October 12. Please let me know of anything else we need to make room for on the agenda.

In particular, the ballot for officers, provided by current Nominating Committee member Naomi Liggett, is attached. Notice that it includes spaces for write-in candidates; if others would like to be considered,

please take advantage of this month to do some campaigning. Terms of officers end and begin at the ADS national spring meeting. The RVP serves for a one-year term and could conceivably be re-elected for a maximum of three terms. The three regional directors serve a single three-year term, the terms staggered such that we elect one each year. This year (for the term beginning in 2020), we will be replacing as Regional Director Rebecca Koesters, who has taken on additional ADS responsibilities in administering judges credentialing. Our other regional directors are Daniel Bellinger (term expiring 2021) and Tamara Mittman (term expiring 2022). Our member of the nominating committee serves a one-year term and could be re-elected for a second.

If you will be unable to attend our fall meeting and would like to vote, please complete the attached ballot and mail it to Naomi in time to reach her by October 11.

If you are a judge and haven’t yet attended a refresher this year, please make a special effort to attend Nancy’s at the fall regional. (You never know what may come up to keep you away from one next year.)

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 1) share, and 2) 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. Please do send me articles or mini-articles that you think may be of interest to others in the region.

--Jim Wilson, [jjm@wilsonjh.org](mailto:jjm@wilsonjh.org)

## ***In the Spotlight—Dan Bellinger***

[ Editor Note: I'd like to include in this section of each newsletter a bit about the background of a person or two in our region. This time, our spotlight is on Dan Bellinger, one of our Regional Directors. Please feel free to send me an article about yourself or cajole someone else to do so. Otherwise, I beg individuals myself. ]

I started growing daffodils in 1982, not long after we bought our first house. The house was built on a slight rise a block from Lake Erie, but most of our Toledo neighborhood was below lake level. A seawall kept the lake at bay.

When the neighborhood flooded, as it sometimes did when storms and an east wind pushed water over the seawall, our house became an island.

But because of the lake and the flooding, our soil was deep, rich and black. And because of the lake, the climate in our neighborhood was milder than in the rest of the city, or in any of the farmland south of the city. It was perfect for growing flowers.

But what flowers? The old owner had grown grass and a few roses. We bought gardening magazines, looking for ideas. One ad in one of the magazines attracted us—Wayside Gardens in South Carolina. We ordered its color catalog. From the Wayside catalog we bought rhododendrons and species mountain laurel; and then in a second order, daylilies and oriental lilies. We also bought something called “A Host of Golden Daffodils.”

In the spring we waited for the “spectacular and colorful display” from the 50 bulbs we had planted. We were pleased when they bloomed. We thought: Yes, these are nice. But they were not “spectacular.” The daylilies were more colorful, and the smell of the true lilies made us want to linger in the garden.

However the next Wayside catalog had pictures of a “pink” daffodil and a yellow “jonquil” bred by someone named Grant Mitsch in Oregon. We were intrigued. American daffodils? We ordered “Pink Frost” and “Vireo,” hoping they would be worth the price.

And I had started reading a gardening column in the Wall Street Journal by a New Jersey professor named Allen Lacy, who described in ecstatic terms encounters with many different kinds of perennial plants. Some of his columns had just been collected into a book, “Home Ground” (Farrar Straus Giroux, New York, 1984), which I bought the day that it was released.

The first two chapters—“American Narcissism I” and “American Narcissism II” are about Grant Mitsch and his daffodils; about Murray Evans; Tom Throckmorton; and other hybridizers; and the American Daffodil Society. Much of the second chapter is a conversation with Brent Heath. I learned that there were many, many new and improved daffodils growing in the U.S., in Ireland and Northern Ireland, in England, in Australia and New Zealand.

I wanted to see these better daffodils.

Somehow—I don't remember how—I learned that there were daffodil shows in Ohio. My first show was in Columbus, Ohio. At that time, Columbus was considered one of the finest of American shows (I didn't know this). Many of the best exhibitors in the country showed there: Handy Hatfield, Nancy Gill, Tag Bourne, Naomi Liggett, Margaret Baird, Donna Deitsch, Mary Lou Gripshover, Peggy MacNeale, Helen Link, Libby Frey. I was blown away. I had never seen so much concentrated beauty anywhere.

It set the highest possible bar for my future growing and showing. After Columbus, I started growing the best cultivars I could find (many from Handy Hatfield--*Hatfield Gardens*, now closed). The following year I showed at Columbus and at other shows, and—mostly because of my superior soil and growing conditions—started to win. I also formed long-term friendships with more than a few of these exhibitors, friendships which have lasted to this day.

Daniel Bellinger  
70093 Gumwood Road  
Niles MI 49120

## **Re-regioning?**

ADS President Nancy Tackett has appointed an Ad Hoc Committee to study the alignment of Regions, and whether there is a need to make any changes. Are the regions too small? Too large? What could/should be done to help small regions host conventions and Fall board meetings? What could be done that might encourage new members?

The Committee would like to hear your thoughts.

Please email them to me at [mlgripshover@cinci.rr.com](mailto:mlgripshover@cinci.rr.com).

Thanks in advance for sharing your thoughts.

Mary Lou

## **Welcome New ADS Members:**

Larry L. Bence  
136 Marion Ave.  
Mansfield, OH 44903-2201  
419-775-5335  
[bencelarry@yahoo.com](mailto:bencelarry@yahoo.com)

Brenda DeFord  
7717 Gold Rush Drive  
Camby, IN 46113  
317-691-3365  
[bjdgoldrush@gmail.com](mailto:bjdgoldrush@gmail.com)

Bob Faulkner  
2780 Little York Road  
Dayton, OH 45414  
937-890-1297  
[pollinatorbob@aol.com](mailto:pollinatorbob@aol.com)

## **New Institutional Member:**

Carroll County Daffodil Society  
c/o Dale Alexander  
190 Alamo Road SE  
Carrollton, OH 44615  
330-627-8046  
[dalexander@ccparkdistrict.org](mailto:dalexander@ccparkdistrict.org)

## **2020 Shows**

Planning is under way for our full complement of daffodil shows. [Evening entries will be accepted where indicated]:

KDABS. George Rogers Clark High School,  
2745 Boonesboro Road, Winchester, KY  
April [3]. 4-5 (unconfirmed)  
[kuduk@earthlink.net](mailto:kuduk@earthlink.net), (859) 556-0897

SWODS, Krohn Conservatory,  
1501 Eden Park Drive, Cincinnati, OH,  
April 11-12  
[Lawlor.f@pg.com](mailto:Lawlor.f@pg.com), (513) 473-8321

IDS, Hamilton Community Ctr. and Ice Arena,  
2501 Lincoln Park Drive, Columbus, IN,  
April [16], 17-18  
[chemocurl@hotmail.com](mailto:chemocurl@hotmail.com), (812) 794-3675

CODS, OH, Franklin Park Conservatory,  
1777 East Broad Street, Columbus, OH  
April [17] 18-19  
[dafflyphyll@hotmail.com](mailto:dafflyphyll@hotmail.com), (614) 882-5720

SJVDS (2020 Regional Show),  
Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve,  
13988 Range Line Road, Niles, MI  
April 22-23  
[rdanielbellinger@gmail.com](mailto:rdanielbellinger@gmail.com), (269) 683-2804

## **Club News**

A few tidbits that some local clubs have shared:

From Phyllis Hess, CODS:

We've added a couple of new members!

From Lynn Courson, IDS:

We sold enough bulbs this year to once again fund our three \$1000.00 scholarships and the Spring Daffodil Show. The dates for the Show have been. The public day was so successful last year that we will be doing it again on Saturday the 18th. Children again will be the focus. A number of families that bought bulbs at our sales are interested in participating with their children.

The last meeting for this year will be held October 19 at 1:00 at Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis. John Dillinger, Benjamin Harrison, Eli Lily and our own Helen Link are waiting patiently to welcome us. The foundation is also sponsoring a spooky concert in the chapel. You can buy tickets online if you care to stay for the show. It is a big event for Indy so you should get tickets before they sell out.

From Michael Kuduk [paraphrased], KDABS:

The Winchester show will continue to serve as a testing ground for new ideas. It has taken advantage of a "fun show" to welcome new exhibitors, tried out the fragrance ribbon suggested by Dan Bellinger, offered again the ribbon for a collection of 12 American-bred daffodils, and resurrected previous club prizes, for example, the collection of ten white daffodils.

From Dan Bellinger, SJVDS:

I've been talking with Fernwood about making SJVDS a Fernwood club, with meetings as often as once a month--mostly to attract local members. John Reed is unfortunately in very poor health.

From Fred Lawlor, SWODS

SWODS maintains the ADS membership of several local organizations: Krohn Conservatory, Cincinnati; Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden; St. Clare Convent/Centennial Barn, Cincinnati--the site of ADS Display Garden planted by SWODS members; Civic Garden Center, Cincinnati; Wegerzyn Gardens, Dayton; and Cox Arboretum, Dayton. SWODS participates in the Tree Carnival held in September at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden, where members educate about 300 children and give them gifts of daffodil bulbs to take home.

SWODS donates bulbs to the community: Krohn Conservatory, Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden, Civic Garden Center, Springdale Garden Club, Boone County Garden Club--who have beautified the library and other sites in Northern Kentucky, and Gamble Montessori High School--where students beautify their school grounds. All of SWODS donations are made possible by the generosity of Dr. John Reed of Oakwood Daffodils in Michigan and Joe Hamm of Joe Hamm's Barn and Hortus in Pennsylvania.

## **ADS Summer Auction**

Our own Frank Nyikos, ADS Executive Director, hosted the first ADS Summer Bulb auction. This exciting new outreach is the first step in a promising new program. Read all about it in [daffnet.org](http://daffnet.org).

## **Thinking Ahead to 2022**

Cool Springs did it, Minneapolis did it, Dallas is doing it, Gettysburg will do it, and next will be our turn. So many times we've said or heard others say that they don't go to a national convention because it is too far away. 2022 will be our chance to hold one in our own or a neighboring city. It is definitely not too early to be brainstorming about where and how we will meet this challenge. Bring your thoughts to our meeting!

## ***Fall Midwest Regional Meeting, American Daffodil Society, October 12, 2019***

Saturday, October 12, 2019: 9:30 am to 3:00 pm

Wegerzyn Gardens, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave., Dayton, OH 45414

(Special thanks to Margaret Baird for making arrangements for the location!)

Bring: Potluck dish to share for lunch

Bring: Items for swap: Bulbs, plants, but also pots, tags, tools, books, magazines, clothing, accessories, or anything else of interest to gardeners

9:00 – 10:00 am = Arrival & setup (Please try to arrive by 9:30 am so we may convene at 10:00 am.)

10:00 – 10:45 am = Brief business meeting

Announcements, Events

Donations to Wegerzyn Gardens in appreciation for hosting us

Traveling trophies

Election of new regional officers

10:45 am – noon = Special guest speaker Nancy Gil

with a presentation on the theme “Don’t Make Mistakes!”

including local and regional awards, show schedules, and a positive approach to point scoring with time for questions and discussion afterwards

This session will be fun and informative for new exhibitors, and will also qualify as an approved Judges Refresher, for judges who would like to pay the \$5.00 fee to ADS and sign the roster.

Noon – 1:15 = Potluck lunch (Bring something yummy to share.)

1:15 – 1:45 = SWODS sale and new attendee bulb distribution [See below.]

1:45 – 3:00 = Swap: BULBS, PLANTS, but also pots, tags, tools, books, magazines, clothing, accessories, or anything else of interest to gardeners

3:00 – 3:30 pm = Cleanup and depart site, which closes at 3:30 pm sharp.

A message from Sara Kinne, ADS Membership Committee:

For the seventh year, the Midwest Region will proudly award a starter pack of 5 show-worthy daffodil cultivars at the annual meeting October 12. Those eligible to receive this gift are ADS members attending the Midwest Regional meeting for the first time. This is our way of honoring you and showing our appreciation for your membership and involvement in ADS, hopefully by exhibiting your flowers. You must attend the meeting to receive this collection. These bulbs are tried and true to our region, are the easiest to grow, and have the best chances for you to win ribbons at daffodil shows. We know from experience that those people who show their flowers know more and more about daffodils, and that is the direction we are going.

# Midwest Regional ballot, 2019, for terms beginning in 2020

For Regional Vice President:

Jim Wilson (2<sup>nd</sup> term)

\_\_\_\_\_

For Regional Director:

George McGowan

\_\_\_\_\_

For Nominating Committee Representative:

Tom Stettner, Jr. (1<sup>st</sup> term)

\_\_\_\_\_

If you cannot attend the meeting to vote in person and wish to vote, please mark your ballot and mail it to

Naomi Liggett, 4126 Winfield Road, Columbus, OH, 43220-4606  
[nliggett441@wowway.com](mailto:nliggett441@wowway.com)