

Midwest Region Newsletter

October, 2019



From your RVP—

Welcome to our third short newsletter.

It was good to see all who could make it to our fall regional meeting. I'm including minutes.

Since the weather has finally begun to cool and planting season is approaching, I thought it would also be timely to send out some comments from Kathleen Simpson. One thing I especially enjoy about ADS and especially our region is that we have so many nationally known experts in our midst, and they are invariably generous with sharing their experience and knowledge.

I'm looking forward to attending the fall forum in Lynchburg, VA, and I hope to see some of you there.

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, jim@wilsonjh.org

ADS Midwest Regional Minutes October 12, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Regional Vice President Jim Wilson 10:10. 31 members signed in.

Jim recognized and thanked the Regional Directors present, Dan Bellinger and Rebecca Koesters.

Jim then gave an update on members who have experienced loss or illness. J.R. Blanton's wife, Donna passed on July 8th. Frederica Lawlor gave a lovely tribute to Donna. She discussed Donna's family and work life, and the many lives she touched. John Reed is not in good health, Phyllis Hess is having issues with her eyesight and falling, and Betty Kealiher is having health problems. Jim asked if anyone knew of members who were unable to attend due to illness, and Frederica updated us on Joe Hamm's health. Jim invited attendees to sign cards at the front of the room. Sara mentioned that some members may wish to contribute bulbs to former regional member Diane Cockerham, who lost her collection in her move.



ADS Membership Chairperson, Allen Haas, spoke about the importance of clubs attracting youth. Sara Kinne discussed some of the activities the Indiana

Daffodil Society had at its show last year. Activities included Allen working with visiting youth to plant a bulb to take home, making headbands for children, making cards, and other daffodil-related youth activities. Allen stressed the importance of instilling the love of daffodils in children. Even if they are not able to participate in their teen years, it is our hope they return to clubs as adults. Jim stressed the importance of clubs attracting and mentoring new members. He challenged meeting attendees to help mentor one person in the coming year.

Jim thanked Fred, Rebecca Koesters, Margaret Baird, and Janet Wilson for their help and guidance in setting up the meeting.

Jim reminded and asked members to supply information to him for future newsletters. He would like to feature one or two members in each issue, and he thanked regional director Dan Bellinger for being featured in the last issue. Fred Lawlor added that even a photo can tell a story. She encouraged attendees to take photos and send them to Jim.



Sara Kinne welcomed ADS members that were attending a regional meeting for the first time: Trish Walters, Troy Bartley, and Bob Faulkner, and presented them with bulbs as a welcoming gift. Sara asked attendees to watch the new member section of the daffodil society to watch the Daffodil Journal. If you see new members in your area, please contact them, send them bulbs, invite them to a meeting. We need to make new members feel welcome.

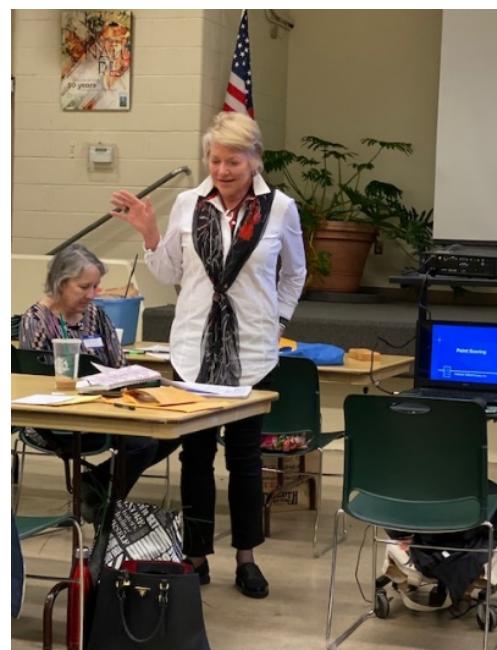
Jim mentioned the rent for the Wegerzyn Center. A box was passed to collect donations to help cover the cost of using the facility.

Sue Luken mentioned she will be taking orders for

bulbs from New Zealand. If you would like to see the catalog, it will be on the IDS website at www.indianadaffodilsociety.org

Jim asked Naomi Liggett if she would like to speak about the traveling regional trophies. She has looked but cannot find them at this time. She will continue to look.

The ADS has assigned regions to host upcoming spring conferences and shows. The Midwest Region has been assigned the year 2022. Even though it sounds far in the future, our region needs to start planning now. CODS was the last Midwest regional club to host a spring conference. There was a discussion about the best locations, Cincinnati being mentioned favorably, and Indianapolis not ruled out. Janet Wilson suggested an exploratory committee to be formed to start evaluating locations. That committee will be made up of Mary Lou Gripshover, chair, and Carolyn Cutshall, Ariel Bartunek, Kathleen Simpson, Dan Bellinger, Fredrica Lawlor, Rebecca Koesters, and Mike Kuduk. Allen mentioned that ADS produces a 27-page guide that outlines how to host a conference.



Nancy Gill gave a judge's refresher on Point Scoring. She led an interesting talk regarding what judges should be looking for while judging, based on the theme of "Don't Make Mistakes!"

After our lunch break, Naomi Liggett stated that the new handbook is now complete and is at the printer. It should be ready for order by the end of the year.

Jim asked for a regional roll call. Members were asked to stand for each club and gave a report of activities if they would like.

Central Ohio Daffodil Society 11 members,
No updates

Indiana Daffodil Society 9 members

Sara Kinne discussed the Public Day the club has on the last day of the show. The ice rink where the show is held send out a mailer to over 3,000 addresses on their mailing list. A Bloomington, Indiana newspaper reporter also attended and wrote an article about the day complete with photos. That article can be found in dafflibrary's articles section: https://dafflibrary.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/HTHomes_042719_Jackierev.pdf

Kentucky Daffodil and Bulb Society 3 members
The club recently has a bulb cleaning party. A future meeting will be set up for a bulb swap. The club is starting to grow, and the show next year will be at the same location on April 4-5.

St Joseph Valley Daffodil Society 1 member

Dan said that the 2020 show will be at Fernwood again, this time the regional show. The club is now officially recognized by Fernwood and is being offered monthly meeting space free of charge. Dan said the club is attracting attention and growing.

Southwest Ohio Daffodil Society 8 Members

Fredrica talked about an event the club had at the Cincinnati Zoo where children were each given planting instructions and a free daffodil bulb. The show next year will again be held at Krohn Conservatory.

Tom Stettner gave an update on Bill Lee. Tom has been in contact with Bill's sister, and she said Bill is now in assisted living. Tom can provide contact information for anyone who would like to write Bill.

Jim passed out ballots for the regional elections. Votes were returned to Naomi and she announced that 100% vote for Jim to continue as RVP, George McGowan to serve as the regional director to replace Rebecca, and Tom Stettner to serve as nominating committee representative to replace Naomi, all as of next spring.

Jim announced that funds collected covered the cost of the room with more left over. Rebecca and Margaret will be reimbursed from the money. If there is any remaining money, it will be added to the auction proceeds from a previous regional meeting and may be listed as an asset in the ADS budget for the Midwest region. Such a plan will require approval of the ADS treasurer.



The meeting concluded with a bulb/item swap, with a big thank you to Sue Luken and Janet Wilson for arranging the bulbs on the swap tables. Everyone left with exciting new additions for their gardens.

The meeting was adjourned, and all members participated in cleanup.

Respectfully submitted, Janet Wilson

"Life is all about the condiments."

--Fredrica Lawlor



Indiana Daffodil Society had its fall meeting at Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis October 19th—good company, business, food, and, of course, a swap.

Raised beds and ground—what goes where?

Kathleen Simpson (via Jim Wilson)

Having a couple of slightly raised beds to plant in this year as well as some essentially ground level beds, and knowing that Kathleen Simpson has those conditions too, I (Jim) asked her for her recommendations on which divisions or colors would be best to plant where. She provided the benefit of her own experience, pointing out that it depends on climate and soil and on the individual cultivar and of course on the soil in the raised bed. She also notes that this is mostly for newer flowers; most of the historicas that are still around are toughies. The exception for her are division 1 and 2 whites, which are at least as prone to rot as the modern plants. She quotes Michael Jefferson-Brown's Narcissus, 1991, talking about Guy Wilson: "His whites are his memorial. Starting with wretched weak little plants ..." Kathleen says "wretched and weak" describes a lot of whites in her

garden. (Wilson's Panache is one of the few 1W-Ws that thrive in her undrained clay.)

Her notes, by division, follow:

"In my heavy clay soil, I find that most division 1, 2, 3, and 11 W-W, W-P and reverse bicolors do better in a raised bed. HOWEVER, there are lots of exceptions and, if a bulb doesn't rot, it might grow better in my ground than in one of my raised beds. In general, things from the UK and any of the Pannill bulbs are likely to rot for me, and I try to keep them in the raised beds. Conversely, the Thockmorton bulbs and a lot of the Havens and Reed bulbs do better in the ground. Ancestry matters a lot – for instance, too much Empress of Ireland is a big warning sign for me that it needs the best drainage possible.

My problem with 4s is blasting - they do worse in raised beds than planted deep in the clay.

All of my 5s are in at least partly raised beds, mostly with extra sand and fresh, amended soil. I have lost every one I've put straight into my clay soil, except Puppet, Tresamble, and (weirdly) Katie Heath. Hawera grows like a weed in my woods, but none of the other almost identical-looking miniature 5 Y-Ys I've tried right next to it have persisted long. I think 5s are extra susceptible to rot, so good drainage and soil that hasn't seen daffodils before helps. On the other hand, I had less loss than usual over the summer of 2018 when it was really wet here, and Jason [Delaney] just told me to try more water on the Akepa I just got from him, so I just don't know.

Despite the conventional wisdom saying 6s like wet conditions, I have to keep 6 W-W and W-P in raised beds or they disappear. (Every div 6 reverse bi I've tried except Lemon Silk has died, even in my raised beds.)

On the other hand, I've never had much problem with 7s in the ground, even the reverse bi 7s. Some

7s dwindle for me, I think because it's too cold here, but none rot. Planting the 7s extra deep in the clay instead of in raised beds, has helped prevent them splitting and going to grass.

I have no information on 8's or 10's for you. Just a few 8's grow for me and those are so tough clay can't kill them. So far, I haven't found a single div 10 that can take the winters here.

9s multiply more slowly in my ground but have larger and smoother blooms than in the raised beds. For whatever reason, I don't think I've ever lost a 9, in a bed or in the ground.

It is confusing and I don't know a hard-and-fast answer. In practice, I tend to put new bulbs in raised beds. If they are good show flowers and thrive, I try perennializing just part of them at the first dig. If they grow well and I like them, but they don't do well in show, I put all of them in the ground - and a few have turned into show flowers there. If they are dogs in the raised beds, I give them all away - and then have seen some knockout blooms from people who got my rejected bulbs. A couple of years ago the Kerrs had armsful of stunning Pannill whites-- great form, big, smooth, and thick substance; all from bulbs I had given up on.

Best of luck with it!"

Welcome New ADS Member:

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The Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden hosts an annual Tree Carnival, giving a passport to each child to visit different education stations on various aspects of nature, with the reward of a tree to plant at home. Over two hundred children attended the event September 28, 2019. SWODS members Michael Lavoie and Mary Lou Gripshover entertain a young attendee with instructions on how to plant daffodils: pointy side up! SWODS distributed a gift bag to each child, with a nice blooming-size daffodil and complete planting instructions.