

# CODS CORNER

NEWSLETTER OF THE CENTRAL OHIO DAFFODIL SOCIETY

VOL XXV NO 2 April 1996

Cindy Hyde, President

Naomi Liggett, Editor

Dear CODS Members,

It's show time! Call Betty Kealiher, our show chairperson, and tell her how you can be of help. Her phone number 614-745-3424 and she'd love to hear from you!

We have a new keeper award at our show for Historic daffodils, pre-1940's. To be eligible to win this award you have to put an "H" and the date of introduction on the top portion of your entry tag.

Elsie Hack is working hard to plan another great show luncheon. If you plan to have lunch you **have to make reservations by April 12** with Elsie. We will have a Trio-Salad Box Lunch (drink & mini dessert included) for \$8.50. Elsie's number is 614-881-5077. When you call Elsie you can also give her your After Show Dinner reservations for the Muddy Creek Grill.

Set-up for the show will be Friday, April 26 at noon. Remember, Betty, will only bring Quinn and Throckmorton properties for those who make reservations.

Those of us who volunteered for the American Cancer Society Daffodil Days had a lot of fun again this year! The people are great and so is the food. This year they even had drawings for daffodil sweat shirts, tote bags, baskets, etc. Just knowing our efforts can help in the fight against cancer is a great feeling.

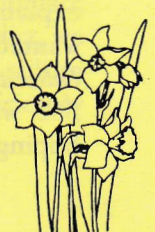
Nancy Kolson needs label help at Whetstone Park April 5th and 6th. Please give her a call at 513-348-2331 for more information. An open garden is planned at Whetstone on April 28th. Also, Elise Havens has named the 7W-P seedling HO 20/20 'Whetstone Tribute' in Nancy's honor! (see photo on back page of the March *The Daffodil Journal* )

Now that Spring is here you'll want to grab up a daffodil T-shirt for only \$11.00. There are just a few left so call Irene Moseley at 614-262-7333. She can also tell you about the slate garden signs that are available on special order.

A **big** thanks to Phyllis Hess for chairing the March 12th meeting when my husband had surgery. I'm sorry I missed Naomi's Australian slides. I heard everyone enjoyed the program and I truly hope I'll get the chance to see them sometime.

See you at the April 9th meeting at Upper Arlington Municipal Services Building!

*Cindy*





## 'MAYA ANGELOU'

### Donna Dietsch

Twelve years ago I decided to try my hand at breeding new cultivars of daffodils. Actually, I knew so little about the whole process that I planted the seeds that first year in plastic ice cube trays. The second year was a bit better, but most seeds didn't germinate because I planted them too shallow. Then I got smart, joined the ADS Hybridizers Round Robin and started learning how it was done. In 1986 I planted over 800 seeds from carefully planned crosses and from that year's seeds I have the first two flowers that I believe are worth naming and registering with The Royal Horticultural Society.

In 1995 I named 'Maya Angelou' 9W-GOO and 'Dominica' 1W-W. There is a story to both of those and a suggestion was made to me that I should tell about them.

'Maya Angelou' was first shown as #86-44-10 in 1991 at the Indianapolis American Daffodil Society Convention in the Link class in the Hybridizers Section. It and two other poets received second place, behind Elise Havens and in front of Brian Duncan. I was thrilled. It has been considered twice for the Rose Ribbon and received many nice compliments and blue ribbons.

Many poeticus cultivars were named for famous poets, but all of them were dead, English men. I decided I would name this one for a live, American woman. Most poets are not well known and if I named it for them, no one would know who they were. Maya Angelou is well known and I have read her first autobiography *I know Why the Caged Bird Sings* and was touched by her narration. I had read a few poems by her in various periodicals and heard her poem that she read at President Clinton's inauguration. I decided that she was a woman poet that I could admire, a strong, sensitive person of extraordinary wisdom and perseverance. She was a poet for whom I could name a daffodil.

When you name a new cultivar of any kind of plant for someone who is living, you must get their permission to do so. I thought I could reach her through her publisher. I called the library, explained to the person who answered what I wanted and why. She said they had a book called *Celebrity Addresses* and would see if she were listed. She was. I carefully composed a letter to her, hoping she would not think I was some kind of nut,

and sent it off. Over a month passed with no response. On the day that I was to go to the ADS Convention in Dallas, I went home to pick up my luggage and found a message on my answering machine from Maya Angelou's secretary saying that she thought it was very nice and I could name the poet for her. She asked me to call back to let her know I got the message. When I called back her secretary told me that Dr. Angelou wanted me to write her a long letter about why I chose her. I was excited! I went to the book store, bought four of her books to read more about her before I wrote the letter. She asked for a bulb that I sent to her along with the certificate of registration for the RHS. This may be a good way to meet famous people. I think my next one will be -- Robert Redford.

My other registration is named for a dear friend who passed away a few years ago. Dominica was an American Indian. After her daughter was grown and her husband had died, she decided to become a Catholic and a nun. Having chosen to follow the rules of St. Dominic, she applied to the Dominican convent of St. Mary of the Springs here in Columbus. They refused to accept her, telling her that she would be happier in an order that included women of color. None suited her, so she decided to start her own which she called Sisters of the Universe. George Fulcher, the auxiliary bishop of Columbus, became her mentor and helped her to form the rules to govern her order and accepted her vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. Her mission was to help the poor, black people of Columbus, not a direction that would ever gain her much respect from the powers in her church. She called herself Sister Dominica.

I met her a short time after the death of the bishop, who had been a friend of mine, as well. This connection started a precious and lasting friendship between us. I spent many hours with Dominica while she explained her spirituality to me and taught me about religion, philosophy and dedication. I miss her now that she's gone and wish the phone would ring and she would be on the other end telling me exactly how many days and hours it had been since I last called her.

I don't suppose most people ever have the opportunity or the privilege of having as a friend a truly holy person, a saint, but I did, and for too short a time. After her death, I decided that the first really good white daffodil I bred would carry her name. Odd, that the first really good daffodil that I bred would be a white one -- and even win Best in Show.



When I reach the pearly gates, I expect that Dominica will be there, telling St. Peter to let me in because her sister has come. Fortunately for me, she never did take no for an answer.

### WHAT'S IN A NAME?

#### Mary Lou Gripshover

Are you ever curious where daffodils get their names? I admit that over the years I've written down lots of possible names for daffodils, hoping that someday I'd have one that I thought was good enough to name and register. Over the last two years, I've registered four daffodils, and here's where the names came from.

'Three of Diamonds' 3W-GWO was registered in 1993 and the name was chosen because it is registered in Division 3 and one of its parents was 'Knave of Diamonds'. The cross was made in 1969 and it has been a good increaser.

'Ten of Diamonds', 9W-GGR, also registered in 1993, was named to fill out the royal flush of "diamond" poets. There already was an 'Ace', 'King', 'Queen' and 'Knave of Diamonds' so the 'Ten' fills out the flush. I think it would be fun to exhibit then in a collection, but I don't have either the 'King' or 'Queen'. The 'Ten of Diamonds' was what I thought was the best (though not the best grower) of the cross of 'Dactyl' by an Evans red-cupped poet seedling. There were lots of good poets in the cross.

'Final Curtain' 3W-GYY, 1995, got its name because it is just about the last daffodil in bloom in my garden. It is from 'Grace Note' open pollinated.

'Norwester' 6Y-Y, 1995, is named for the NorWest Flower Show where I first learned about exhibiting and met the people who taught me about growing good daffodils. It's a cute miniature that looks like a larger *N. cyclamineus*. It is not a particularly good grower.

**Editor's Note:** In keeping with the theme of how hybridizer name their daffodils the following article was copied from The Daffodil Society's Newsletter entitled *Tailpiece* by Ahren.

### 'CAROLE LOMBARD'

Best Bloom in Show at the RHS's Late Daffodil Competition was won by Clive Postles with a bloom of 'Carole Lombard' 3W-YYO.

Mention of Carole Lombard brings to mind for people of the older film-going generation the beautiful American film actress, wife of Clarke Gable who so tragically died, at the early age of 33, in an aeroplane crash in January 1942. It has a special significance for Mr. Colin Edwards, an American gentleman, now resident in Ipswich, who has an almost lifelong devotion to the lady, he even has an aeroplane named after her, who on retirement in 1990 became an ardent collector of films and memorabilia about the lovely lady.

In 1992, it being the 50th anniversary of her passing he decided a nice commemoration would be to name a flower in her memory. But why a daffodil? Apparently in one of her films she was given a bouquet of daffodils by Fred MacMurray which she greatly admired. So Mr. Edwards with this in mind contacted the RHS who in turn spoke to Clive Postles who suggested he visit the Daffodil Show and select a seedling to be named in her honour. So was 'Carole Lombard' named.

Miss Lombard originated from the small American town of Fort Wayne, Indiana and in September this year (1995) a consignment of bulbs of that particular cultivar is to be sent by Mr. Edwards for planting in the garden of the house where Miss Lombard was born in October 1908.

### NORTHERN IRELAND - DAFFANATICS DELIGHT

#### Steve Vinisky

There is absolutely no doubt that Northern Ireland is one of the world's best kept secrets. A truly magical, beautiful country filled with warm and friendly people. Not just daffodil friends, but everyone we came into contact with; from gas station attendants to friends of friends! Such a friendly, hospitable attitude most likely is due to the natural beauty that is everywhere and doubtlessly this must soak into the populace somehow or other. As a hopeless daffodil addict, we were made to feel doubly welcome and are still in awe over the kind hospitality that was so graciously extended by one and all.



The sunny mild weather that greeted us at Belfast International Airport pretty much remained with us for our 10 day stay. We were told that this was perhaps the nicest spring weather in 25 years! Betty Duncan loaded Heather and me (along with Mary Koonce of West Virginia) into the car for the trip to Omagh.

As we entered the drive leading to the main house, we were thrilled to see thousands of Brian's newer hybrids used with great taste and distinction in the shrub and herbaceous borders. 'Gimli' 6W-P, 'Reggae' 6W-GWP and others had been used with a lavish hand and were at peak of perfection. Although he is world renowned for hybridizing, all of us can learn from Brian's thoughtful artistic application of modern hybrids in the landscape. After all, daffodils are first and foremost a garden plant. A lengthy article please; with plenty of photographs!!!

Brian had been cutting for the Belfast show all morning and the bulb shed was full of spectacular examples of both named things and seedlings. We had a little time to dash through the seedling beds for a first enthusiastic glimpse of this year's treasures. Then it was into the car for the trip to Belfast to stage for the show.

A warm welcome and plenty of daffodil talk in the staging area at Belfast made me feel quite at home. the laughter and gentle banter mixed with bright hellos was a counterpoint to the serious dedicated work of staging. How nice it was to put names to faces known only from afar.

The Belfast Spring Flower Show was really top notch on a par with other great flower shows. There were sections for Alpines, Rhododendron, Bonsai, Flower Arranging, Food, Photography, Crafts and even Wine! The much loved daffodil had more floor space and was a key (if not the main) attraction. The standard of judging was quite high and many a good 'eye' for flowers was in evidence. The quality of flowers was world class with many new introductions and seedlings grown to very high standards.

My good friends Mr. Richard Frank of Nashville, TN and Dr. Susan Raeburn of Macon, GA were also in attendance. Imagine a "family" reunion in Belfast. Competition was spirited with Kate Reed, Sir Frank Harrison and Brian Duncan all in close contention. We Americans were in seventh heaven. The general public came in droves and at times you couldn't get through the aisles. A fine luncheon

banquet was served to the judges after their hard work.

The NIDG banquet was Saturday night during one of the hardest rainstorms that I have seen (and in Oregon we see a lot)!. The fellowship, camaraderie and genuine warm welcome will never be forgotten. I greatly enjoyed speaking to the group but in all truth, I could have listened to Sir Frank Harrison's kind and thoughtful remarks all evening. When I mentioned this in my speech, Lady Patricia Harrison got the laugh of the evening by tartly requesting that "I not give him any further encouragement or I would!"

Scouring the seedling beds at Brian Duncans was a tremendous experience. I will not bore you with a voluminous listing of seedling numbers. I will say that in the next few years, the world will be introduced to major advances in pinks (look for D1450 among many, many others), yellow/reds (both in Division 2 & 3), whites (especially Division 2 and yellow trumpets to name a few stellar categories. The creative but disciplined approach and plain hard work consistently applied over years is really paying off with results. The standard of cultivation is as high as I have seen. If you have an interest in hybridizing, a Northern Ireland visit should be a must on your itinerary.

## SOME WHETSTONE OBSERVATIONS

### Mary Lou Gripshover

During the blooming season of 1995, several CODS members visited Whetstone Park and were asked to make notes on up to ten cultivars that impressed them. The idea was to see if there were some cultivars that could be recommended as excellent garden cultivars.

Irene Moseley was the first to visit, on April 8. Her notes say that her visit was after a bad freeze that saw temperatures dip below 20 F. She noted eight cultivars that impressed her. 'Impresario' 2 Y-WWY and 'Ceylon' 2Y-O were of medium height, with the blossom about the same height as the foliage. Also of medium height, but with blossoms held above the foliage were 'Kasota' 7Y-O, and 'Kings Sutton' 5Y-Y. 'Brackenhurst' 2Y-O, 'Creag Dubh' 2O-R, 'Glen Clova' 2Y-ORR and 'Prologue' 1W-Y were all noted as being tall, with the blossoms held above the foliage. Blossom count varied from 13 for 'Prologue' to four for 'Glen Clova' and 'Creag Dubh'.



Peggy Macneale and Mary Lou Gripshover visited the garden on April 22, a day that was cool and cloudy with the temperatures near the 50 mark. Mary Lou noted 'Drumnabreeze' 2Y-WWY had good reverse color, but should have a taller stem. 'Trillick' 3W-GYR showed good increase with flowers held well above the foliage. 'Desert Bells' 7W-Y and 'Pipit' 7YYW-W had many stems per bulb, while 'Marque' 3Y-ORR and 'Rameses' 2W-R had large flowers on tall stems. 'Dress Circle' 3W-YYR and 'Green Linnet' 3W-GGO had good color contrast with flowers above the foliage; while 'Angel' 3W-GWW had large, tall blooms. 'Bobwhite' 7Y-Y made a colorful clump with many blooming stems. Some others noted were 'Bee Mabley' 3W-YYO 'Stratosphere' 7Y-O, 'Tristram' 2Y-Y, 'Narya' 3Y-YYR, 'Roimond' 2W-O, 'Culmination' 2W-P, 'Pipe Major' 2Y-R, 'Decoy' 2W-R, and 'Gold Convention' 2Y-Y.

Peggy chose 'Salome' 2W-PPY because it is consistently good and easy to locate in garden stores. 'Modulux' 2W-Y is a great bloomer, with blooms held above the foliage. She choose 'Marque' for its beautiful form and noted it also multiplies nicely. 'Pipit' made a bright spot in the garden Peggy thought 'Tristram' was outstanding--a midseason sensation. She also chose 'Rameses' for its good contrast and generous bloom. 'Golden Dawn' 8Y-O and 'Geranium' 8 W-O were noted because of their multiple florets late in the season, while 'Roimond' made a brilliant show with its blooms held well above the foliage. She noted 'Tudor Minstrel' 2W-Y was a dependable bicolor for early mid-season.

Grace Baird's report was dated April 29 and was extensive and highlighted blooms in each of the beds. The weather when Grace visited was sunny in the 50 to 60 range. I'll include here only those which got "very good" or other comments, since her report was so extensive. She noted 'Pipit' was very good, with healthy foliage 'Desert Bells', being short, would be more for a rockery. Another she noted as very good was 'Graduate' 2W-GPP, which had short, healthy foliage. 'Mary's Pink' 2W-P and 'Radiation' 2W-P were noted as having short flowers. 'Turncoat' 6W-O rated very good, also had short flowers and foliage. Others Grace listed as very good were Ice Rim 7W-YYW, 'Gold Chain' 7Y-Y, 'Altruist' 3O-R, 'Bright Angel' 9W-GOR, 'Culmination', 'Eyecatcher' 3W-GYR, 'Bee Mabley', 'Florizel' 3W-YYO, 'Inverpolly' 2W-W, 'Geranium', 'Ace of Diamonds' 9W-R, 'Perdita' 9W-GYR, 'Milan' 9W-GYR, 'Saturn' 3W-GYO, 'Actaea' 9W-YYR, 'Aspasia' 8W-Y, 'Avignon' 3W-GYY, 'Avenger' 2W-R, 'Bushmills' 3W-YYO, 'Festivity' 2W-Y,

'Flaming Jewel' 3W-R, 'Florida Manor' 3W-GYO, 'Hoopoe' 8Y-O, 'Dickcissel' 7Y-W, 'Corofin' 3W-YYR, 'Royal Revel' 2Y-O, 'Woodland Star' 3W-R, 'Stratosphere', 'Unique' 4W-Y, 'Trident' 3W-YYR, 'Diversion' 3W-GYR, 'Glowing Ember' 2W-R, 'Glorious' 8W-R, 'Sextant' 6W-GWW, 'Scarlet Thread' 3W-GYR, 'Narya', 'Roimond', 'Quetzal' 9W-GYR, 'Pipe Major' 2Y-R, 'Omaha' 3W-YYR, 'Murlough' 9W-GYR, 'Lisette' 7Y-GYR, 'Lauren Koster' 8W-Y, 'Accolade' 3W-R, 'Angel', 'Angel Eyes' 9W-GYO, 'Bandon' 2W-W, 'Bee Mabley', 'Cairn Toul' 3W-ORR, 'Canadel' 3W-GYR, 'Centre Ville' 3Y-R, 'Columbus' 2W-W, Moonshine 5W-W, 'Webster' 9W-GYR and 'Valhalla' 3W-R. 'Bobwhite' and 'Bushfire' 2Y-OOR were listed as Plus.

When Nancy Kolson visited on May 6, she found 'Webster', 'Florida Manor', 'Moon Tide' 3Y-YOO, 'Gold Chain', 'Culmination', 'Spun Honey' 4Y-Y, 'Snowfire' 4W-R, 'Salome', 'Quetzal', 'Pipe Major', 'Misty Meadow' 7YW-W and 'Bunting' 7Y-O looking fine.

Naomi Liggett visited at the end of the season on May 13 and said that 'Cedar Hills' 3W-GYY had large flowers that stand above the foliage. 'Starlet' 9W-GYR is one of the best poet hybrids--blooms are above the foliage and it is late blooming 'Sun Disc' 7Y-Y held its bloom above the foliage and can be depended upon for late bloom.

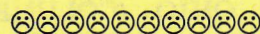
Interestingly, 'Culmination' was noted by three people, two weeks apart; while 'Salome' was noted by two people two weeks apart. Flowers that were noted a week apart were Desert Bells, Pipit, Angel, 'Bobwhite', 'Bee Mabley', 'Stratosphere', 'Narya', 'Roimond', 'Pipe Major', 'Geranium', 'Gold Chain', 'Florida Manor', 'Quetzal' and 'Webster'.

**CORRECTIONS TO YEARBOOK**

Grace Baird's phone number - 488-0981.

Cindy Hyde's address - 8870 West State Route 22

Ruth Pardue's area code has been changed to 423



In April 1991 in the Cleveland area a man shot a neighbor whose daughter picked one of his daffodil. He was sentenced to 25 years in prison but was recently pardoned. Pretty drastic measures for picking a daffodil.



## DAZZLING DAFFODILS

**Betty Kealhier, Show Chairman**

Dazzling Daffodils will be held at the Franklin Park Conservatory on April 27 and 28. Set-up will begin at noon on Friday, April 26 in the three classrooms on the lower level. Entries will be received from 7:30 am until 11:00 am. A Box Lunch will follow. If you haven't sent your check to Elsie, please do so as soon as possible. The show will be open to the public on Saturday from 1:30 PM to 5:00 PM at which time we will begin to tear down the show.

The location of the Awards Dinner will be at the Muddy Creek Grill located just off Broad Street on Nelson Road. (the old Broad-Nel)

Not only will the conservatory be having their annual butterfly exhibit but there will also be an exhibit of hanging baskets. They have also asked that I mention that on the following weekend, they will be holding their annual plant sale.

As those of you who exhibited will remember, the staging area is very small. If at all possible, PLEASE stage your flowers at home. Please let me know ahead of time if you plan to enter a Quinn or Throckmorton Collection so that I won't have to carry all the boards only to have them stashed under the table.

It's also my understanding that the Brodgen Bulb will be sent again this year to be awarded to the best New Zealand bred flower in the show. Make sure you put a Z on the top portion of your entry tag.

On SHOWDAY, breakfast on PEACHES AND CREAM, SHORTCAKE and IRISH COFFEE with AUNTIE EILEEN, UNCLE DUNCAN and LITTLE CARA.

Follow the ELEGANT LADY from CHARLESTON: WALT DISNEY, MINNIE and MICKEY: the HUSSY from MEXICO CITY: LADY DI, the DUKE of WINDSOR and FERGIE: and the COWBOY from DALLAS, TEXAS to the SUN CITY of OHIO (COLUMBUS) for a JOYFUL DAY and not one of LATE SNOW.

May your SWEET DREAM be turned into SWEET LUCK of a SWEET SURPRISE of SWEET VICTORY.

## THOUGHTS ON MY APPLE

**Peggy Macneale**

Now that Linda Wallpe has given out the secret of not only my age (which has never really been a secret) but the fact that I have a computer, I decided to show you how well it writes about daffodils. I do second Linda's message that getting off the fence isn't so bad--really fun when you aren't frustrated by a cursor that isn't where it is supposed to be. See? I am getting the vocabulary to a point that I may be able to talk sensibly with my grandchildren the next time I see them.

Now, to daffodils. After this crazy winter I hope we can have a normal spring. I have been out there in the back yard every day watching the leaves grow and there are fourteen buds well up on my 'Cornets'. These are always the earliest out of all daffs so I should have blooms by next week if the weather stays as warm as predicted. This would mean that this year we are about three weeks later in starting the season then we've been in recent years. sometimes I've had thirty or so cultivars out at this point (March 11). However, it is those years that turn deadly with late freezes, so I would rather have my freezes now, thank you, than have them in late March or early April.

There are two other advantages in having a computer aside from working this work processor, but I have no immediate desire to indulge in either one. Susan Rouff has made an impressive note book with pages of all her daffodils cross-indexed by division, color, source, etc., etc., etc. I guess she has it all on floppy disks, too, ready to retrieve if she loses her note book. At this point my card file looks a lot simpler, but you never know--some fine hot summer day I may decide to the same thing.

Tom Stettner has his collection computerized, too, I expect, but what he does with his computer is surf the daffnet. He keeps telling me to sign on, but I am resisting because I can hardly keep up with my kids and nieces and nephews who are all on-line. They all write long, funny letters, so the family correspondence is keeping me so busy I hardly have time to watch *Mystery* any more. The time is coming, though, when I will have to get serious about my 1996 daffodil orders--the catalogs are piling up, so maybe the computer will have to cool off for a while!



## SUNSHINE

### Cecile Spitz, Chairman

A card was sent to Keith Hyde, Cindy's husband after his recent surgery. Don Piper's mother is in the hospital after fracturing her leg. Virginia Kelley has recovered from a very bad fall. Barry Nichols has been under the weather off and on most of the winter.

## NEW MEMBERS

### Cecile Spitz, Membership Chairman

Welcome to Margaret Baird 1220 Latchwood Avenue, Dayton, OH 45405-1947



Gene & Nancy Cameron, two of our Oregon members recently moved into their new home after passing a final building inspection. I hear it is an outstanding home and look forward to seeing it in 2000 or hopefully sooner. Now retirement can begin!



Congratulations to Steve Vinsky on winning the Gold Ribbon at the Amity, OR Daffodil Show last weekend. The winning cultivar was a 1991 Jackson introduction--'Buchan' 1Y-Y.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Cindy Hyde, President; Phyllis Hess, Vice-President; Elsie Hack, Treasurer; Bessie Haddad, Secretary

Nancy Kolson, Irene Mosely, Elsie Hack

## APRIL MEETING

The next meeting of CODS will be Tuesday, April 9th at the Upper Arlington Municipal Services Building. The program will be the ADS Slide Program on 1995 Show Winners.

## NATIVE FLORA

### Naomi Liggett

The narcissus species are not the only plants in danger of extinction from unscrupulous digging or picking. Australia's native flora is in great demand on the international cut flower market and for use in pharmaceuticals. Japan is the number one importer with the United States second.

Western Australia has approximately 6000 species of native flora and this is where the native flower production is centered. Plantations cover over 4000 hectares and can't meet the demand for the product. So 20% of the exports are taken from state forests, reserves and private lands. An export licence for bush-picked flowers is required by the Australian Nature Conservation Agency. However, this is very difficult to monitor. Some feel this could lead to extinction of some bush flowers as demand escalates. Each species has certain needs, some have a short life and are not vigorous growers and they're subject to a range of diseases. Research is being done on how many of these bush flowers can be grown on the commercial level.

One of the big successes is the wax plant, Geraldton Wax. This is readily available at the local florist in the U.S. and makes a good filler for floral designs. Breeding programs have developed cultivars that bloom eight months instead of three and with a wider range of color and greater floriferousness. An interesting plant found occasionally cut or potted is Kangaroo Paws which comes in a variety of colors. There is even a Kangaroo Paws Society. Let's hope the Australians find a way to preserve their beautiful and unique native flora.

**DEADLINE JULY NEWSLETTER: June 15, 1996**