



CODS CORNER

Newsletter of The Central Ohio Daffodil Society

VOL. XVIII, No. 1 JANUARY 1988

Handy Hatfield, President

Tag Bourne, Editor

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Well, I never thought I would be talking about a convention in Columbus again this soon. But, I guess, the word "never" is not in CODS vocabulary. Although I do remember vaguely hearing some of our members saying it last April. To inform our members who were not at the November meeting, CODS has invited the American Daffodil Society to have its convention and show in Columbus again, April 23-25, 1992, when Columbus will be having the "Ameriflora '92" celebration. A few days ago I received a letter from our ADS President, Dr. Ted Snazelle, informing us that the Executive Board of the ADS has unanimously accepted our invitation. So now it is official! Naomi has already talked to the Hyatt on Capitol Square and it is available for the dates we want. I am sure CODS will rise to the occasion and stage another great one.

Also I am pleased that the Jackson's of Tasmania, who will be speaking at the ADS 1988 Washington Convention, have accepted our invitation to be our guests at the CODS Midwest Regional Daffodil Show this April. They will be arriving in Columbus on April 15th. Other details of their visit have not been worked out, but I am sure CODS members will be their usual very gracious hosts.

Finally, we are getting some much needed moisture in the Central Ohio area. As I walk around the garden I see a few noses starting to show. If you are like I am, you are probably already thinking about Spring and another daffodil season. The thoughts of all those beautiful blooms in the garden and on the show bench take away some of the gloom of winter.

Thanks to Harold McConnell for a very informative program at the November meeting. It is always educational to see how different things are done overseas in England and New Zealand. Now we should look ahead to the February meeting on "Pink Daffodils". If you have any favorites, be sure to tell Cecile so she can try to get slides of them for showing at the meeting (February 9, 1988).

Let's hope for another good winter for our daffodils with good moisture and a more normal Spring. Have a joyous holiday season and see you at the February meeting.

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MEMBER NEW ADDRESS:

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION
ABOUT AMERIFLORA '92

DATES OF EVENT:

Indoor Exposition: April 3 - April 19, 1992
Outdoor Exposition: April 20 - October 12, 1992

LOCATION:

Indoor Exposition: Ohio Center
Outdoor Exposition: Franklin, Wolfe, Academy Parks
with limited usage of Jeffrey Park

PROJECTED ATTENDANCE: Three to Four Million Visitors

PROJECTED ADMISSION COST: \$7 - \$9 (1987\$) Single Day
\$30 - \$40 (1987\$) Season Pass
There will be discounts for children and
Senior Citizens

AVERAGE LENGTH OF VISIT: 4 - 6 Hours

POTENTIAL PARTICIPANTS:

Indoor Exposition: Countries
Outdoor Exposition: Countries
Regional Areas (States, Cities, or clusters of States)
Professional & Amateur Horticultural Associations
Commercial firms (Horticulturally-related)
Commercial firms (Non-horticulturally-related)

PROJECTED COST: \$50 Million

THEMES:

Indoor: QUINTESSENCE - Something in its most pure form
Outdoor: DISCOVERY:

OTHER INFORMATION:

1. On-site commercialism will be extremely limited. An off-site Garden Marketplace has been proposed to provide opportunities for commercial activities.
2. On-site parking will be limited to tour buses, handicapped individuals, and officials. Satellite parking areas will be established. It has been proposed that the primary satellite parking area be located in the downtown and that the Garden Marketplace be adjacent to this primary parking area.
3. The transportation program must include a plan for linking AmeriFlora '92 to other 1992 events being planned for the Quincentennial Celebration such as downtown cultural events, the panda exhibit at the Columbus Zoo, Ohio State University quincentenary programs, etc.

Two members of CODS are serving on the AmeriFlora '92 committee: Ruth Pardue is serving on the Competition and Awards Subcommittee and Handy Hatfield, President of CODS, on the Amateur Horticulture Subcommittee.

On their 50th wedding anniversary November 27th, 1987, Kathryn and Ray Culbertson were given a lovely party by their five children, many grandchildren and a few great grandchildren. This took long range planning as they all reside in different states throughout the U. S. Congratulations, Happy 50th Wedding Anniversary and many, many more anniversaries.

Helen Meeker went to Riverside on November 16th for a post-operative Thyroid treatment. She was in isolation for 3 days and was radioactive an additional week after her release. She is recuperating at home. The treatment is considered successful.

On November 25th Pat Zwilling underwent major surgery. According to the pathology report it was a successful operation. She is also recuperating at home.

Bessie Haddad was admitted to the University Hospital on December 8th. She was found to have pneumonia and is recuperating nicely at home.

Cecile Spitz
Sunshine Chairman

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DAFFODILS 'TEACH' GEOGRAPHY

Daffodil growing and showing and convention-going has taught me geography in a way that my fifth grade teacher could never have imagined.

For my first visit to the Midwest, those of us at the 1987 American Daffodil Society convention were treated to not one, but two days of touring the countryside. And, of course, one day it rained, I think, there's a law somewhere that at least one of the travel days of a convention has to proceed in a downpour. The Hernando ladies broke a six-weeks' drought in Memphis by setting their travel day last year.

Columbus struck me first as such a clean town, much like those well-kept European cities one hears about from continental travelers. All the pear trees, and lots of crab-apples, were in bloom along the streets.

Columbus is, I think, the upstart among Ohio cities, younger than the venerable lake and river cities of Cincinnati and Cleveland. For most of us, it's the home of the Ohio State Buckeyes.

During some of the inevitable delays on our sunny travel day caused by tour bus breakdowns, I had the chance to study 1880's style city architecture, Ohio version.

In Mississippi, town homes in that time period were just being built and were nearly always wood, whether Greek Revival mansions or turreted Victorian Gothic. In downtown Columbus, the century-old homes are brick, with a veritable feast of unique stone window trims and doorways. And always, everywhere, the essence of neatness.

The first tour stop on Friday, our rainy day, was Whetstone Park, home of the Central Ohio Daffodil Society's test and exhibition garden. Here, as in the national show, I could see the group's attention, not only to the needs of the daffodil but also the convenience of the visitor.

Rather than planting by the 12 divisions, which would inevitably lead to several beds' being completely "not-yet" or "bloomed out" at anyone time, the members of CODS have chosen to plant the daffodils alphabetically, by cultivar name. Here we found an

"inground" botanical dictionary of daffodils, past and present.

And here I found "THE daffodil." Always, each convention, I find one special new cultivar which speaks to me. I'd wondered, at the magnificent show, why the notes I was making were all of things I already grew, to grow them better, or in greater quantities. Why, I wondered, didn't I find one to fall in love with?

She was waiting for me at Whetstone, 52 years since introduction, Grey Lady, a graceful white Division Three, small-cupped creation of Guy Wilson, the first of the great modern Irish hybridizers. Why this one?

I can't tell you, except for that adjective, "graceful." Where do I buy the bulb? Hard to say, unless I can join the Central Ohio Daffodil Society and be around when they dig that bed. Better a 52-year old no-longer obtainable bulb than a \$54 bulb, like Fragrant Rose, the white-pink daffodil which won best in show.

Our other delightful rainy stop was at the garden of Handy Hatfield, the winner of the Quinn Gold medal. The long rows, well-labeled and arranged, were intriguing but overwhelming. What captivated me, and my collection of pictures testifies to this, was his elegantly-lanscaped garden around his home, where flowering trees and shrubs, wildflowers, and well-proportioned beds and borders were a proper setting for superbly-grown flowers.

Friday's tour, in the sunny April weather, was a contrast between old and new. Kingwood Gardens, in Mansfield, Ohio, is one of the great botanical gardens of mid-America. One of our own members, Charles Applegate, has been on the staff of Kingwood many, many years and is responsible, among other things, for the great sweeps of spring bulbs which greeted us at the gate.

Here we found a bit of everything, from naturalized bulbs in the woodlands, to a magnificent conservatory full of, among other things, delphiniums. Stop two was at a new park, Inniswood, where CODS members have also worked very hard on the daffodil plantings, and others have worked equally hard to prune away everything that detracts from a fine wildflower garden.

There's no education so lasting as that which involves the class's participation. I wish that I, as a teacher, could once in my lifetime have a class as attentive as the one, 200 strong, which faced John Blanchard Friday morning and Saturday evening. Blanchard is an Englishman whose particular monomania is the species daffodil in its natural habitat.

He thinks no more of hopping over to Spain to go climb mountains and search for tiny, rare species of daffodils than local businessmen think of flying out to Dallas for a corporate executive's lunch. My college botany grade won't stand scrutiny; but I bet all of us could have made an A after this pair of illustrated lectures.

Our other banquet speaker, Elise Havens, is one of our own, a second-generation hybridizer, and daughter of Grant Mitsch, the quite, soft-spoken Oregonian who put American daffodils on the map. She traced with us the growth of her parents' work with daffodils, especially the striving toward the true pink-cupped daffodil.

(Editor's Note: The above article was written by Mrs. Herman L. McKenzie (Loyce) of Madison, Mississippi for her column "Gardening Glimpses" which appears in the Northside Sun, Jackson, MS. Loyce is a teacher, avid gardener and a long-time columnist for the Northside Sun. CODS members will know her as the ADS Show Reporter and her fine articles that appear each year in the September Daffodil Journal. I dug "Grey Lady" and sent it to Loyce to guard against a plagiarism suit

since I did not get her permission to use this article.

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GUY LIVINGSTONE WILSON

Since Loyce mentioned a cultivar of Guy Wilson's, and this issue marks the 25th anniversary of the death of the "Father of Ulster daffodils," I thought some of our new members would be interested in a short biographical sketch of Mr. Wilson.

When I hear Guy Wilson's name, I think "WHITE" daffodils. His earliest and most pleasant recollections were of daffodils and running water. Being the youngest member of the family, as soon as he could toddle, he was allowed the freedom of the garden at Knowehead.

By the time he entered boarding school, he had a modest collection of daffodils and while away at school, he would send his mother carefully-drawn plans of his beds and asked for detailed reports of their progress. He took a job in a cousin's wool factory chiefly because he could still live at home and care for his daffodils.

At the age of 20, he realized the possibility of making crosses and that year went to the Midland Daffodil Show in Birmingham, which turned into a memorable occasion, because there he met George H. Engleheart, P. D. Williams, Alex Wilson and other prominent growers.

A few years later he began to compete at London and Birmingham and had such success, which brought about requests for bulbs so he published a small catalogue and said "Goodbye" to the woolen factory.

Some notable cultivars are Cantabile, Knave of Diamonds, Ave, Easter Moon, Rashee, Angel and Cantatrice.

Guy Wilson was asked to name "his best daffodil" and Cantatrice was the answer as being the best exhibition white trumpet variety at the time until he hybridized Empress of Ireland.

For years he provided the flowers for the Broughshane Presbyterian Church and went each Saturday afternoon to place them in suitable containers. Even though he knew he might lose a point or two in the Engleheart Cup competition, he would put in flowers he thought the public should see. Another example of what kind of an individual he was; even though he was racing the clock to get his own flowers in the shows, he'd always stop to help the amateur.

He was always trying to make the world a more beautiful and happier place and for 55 years pursued "Mistress Daffodil" diligently and worked to improve existing varieties.

He stated that one of the highlights of his career was in 1956, when in April he was guest of honor at the first ADS Convention in Washington, DC.

He died at his home, "The Knockan" in 1962 just a few months after his great friend and rival, Lionel Richardson.

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And so to the 1988 season ... the next CODS meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. on February 9th, 1988, at the Upper Arlington Municipal Services Building, Tremont and Kenny Roads, Upper Arlington, OH. The meeting will take place in the Council Chambers.