



NEWSLETTER OF THE CENTRAL OHIO DAFFODIL SOCIETY

VOL XXIII NO. 1 JANUARY 1993

Phyllis Hess, President

Naomi Liggett, Editor

CODS CORNER

Dear Fellow CODS Members:

Here it is December and another Holiday Season nearly upon us. Yet, as I write this I am looking at two daffodils that were picked from my garden! Two of the New Zealand cultivars decided the recent cold, then warm spell meant it was Spring and time to grow and blossom. Needless to say, they are now under a thick layer of mulch. I am hoping they will continue to grow when Spring really does come.

It is my sad duty to inform you of the death of Wells Knierim. As most of you know, he had been ill for some time. If it were not for Wells there would be no CODS, he meant a great deal to us all and will be greatly missed.

I have received several catalogs from our "down under" friends and some of the offerings really whet the daffodil appetite. I hope my own personal Santa will grant my request to send for a few choice bulbs!

I want to thank Elsie, we had a successful members bulb sale. The extra bulbs that were not sold were donated to the zoo. After seeing Steve's slides we can better appreciate what he must go through to protect plants from the animals. I thought I had a problem when a deer or stray dog got in the daffs!

I also want to thank all the members who donated bulbs to Whetstone. We had so many that a few had to be put in a bed we had not intended to plant. Once again, that superior shovel handler, Ray Scholz, came down from Medina and made the job much easier for us all! Thanks again, Ray.

Last time I asked that some of you send Naomi a few lines to let us know how you got started growing daffodils. Naomi still needs our help with *CODS Corner*. It is difficult to find material to fill the newsletter each time. Another thing you could do is research some phase of growing daffodils or some division and report on that.

A couple things need mentioning, our meeting in February will be on the 2nd, in March our meeting will be on the 23rd. Both will be at Whetstone Library and the times will be 7:30 PM. These changes are due to the new way we have to reserve the meeting room. Although Betty calls when asked to, it seems the times we would prefer are already taken.

My Holidays will be blessed with the happy sounds of the grandchildren as they discover their Christmas treasures, plus the fact that I am fortunate to have my family together. I hope your Holiday is blessed with the things that bring you the most joy!. May we all have a good winter, until February.....

THOUGHTS OF DAFFODIL BREEDING

Peter Ramsay, Hamilton, New Zealand



Metaphors have always fascinated me. "Hook, line and sinker" is very overused - so much that something different is needed. Describing my involvement in daffodil breeding is perhaps more like the nibble, the bite and the complete swallow (with, to mix the fishing metaphor a few sparrows along the way!)

The nibble began when I was about ten years old when I made a few crosses at my father's elbow. Dad collected and sowed the seeds and later gave me mature bulbs. Of course Dad was sowing much more than seeds - a certain daffodil bug was involved. Nothing much emerged from this nibbling, except for an early yellow from Galway x Goldscript, unimaginatively called Goldway, which served as a filler for several Northern growers many years ago. However the nibble set the scene for bigger things to come.

The bite began when we shifted from Wellington a most unpalatable place to grow bulbs - twenty years ago. We purchased our own home and we set about growing and showing bulbs in earnest. About twenty crosses a year were made for the first few years, mostly with not much forethought and planning. Winning at shows was our prime goal, and additions to our collection of the best and brightest on the show bench was our preoccupation. Jim O'More had become a close friend and his generous gifts of named and numbered varieties led us to have an excellent basic stock. George Yarrall was also a great mentor at this time - how we all depend on previous generations. One cross I made from two prized new ones paid quick dividends - Cool Crystal x Immaculate. This produced several good things, two of which I named Cameo King 2W-W and Cameo Prince 2W-Y. The former won the single bloom class ahead of twelve others at the National last year, and the latter was premier of its division this year. Why did I make this cross? Well, they looked good together - both large, clear whites and vigorous. And they were planted next to each other, so I did not have to walk too far! There was no science about it at all.

My bite continued as my daffodil friends increased. A study leave of six months in England led me into friendships with great growers like Tony Noton and John Lea. The latter introduced to me the "split half" notebook in which all his breeding stock were recorded twice on single page, the book then cut, so that in a flash John could compare pedigrees of likely crosses. What had this to do with the price of fish, I wondered? (See how I've cleverly returned to the fishing metaphor). Line breeding (get it!) was the answer. Common grandparents or great grandparents was the plan. Armed with this new found wisdom, and much impressed with John's tremendous array of beautiful seedlings, I returned to New Zealand with fresh enthusiasm. To digress a moment. On another trip to Dunley Hall, John demonstrated his sense of humour by asking me to sort out a "few" seedlings from Loch Assynt. Giving me three stakes, he instructed me to select the three best from the cross. By the third flower all stakes had been used - it was a cracking cross which produced Dunley Hall and Evesham! Line Breeding!

Back to New Zealand where the swallow commenced. Max Hamilton became another firm daffodil friend. He had a vast array of excellent seedlings, one of which, Red Cameo, I persuaded him to name immediately. When he shifted north, we shared experiences, and as our small city section was crammed with bulbs my seeds went to Gordonton. Good things started to appear, and our enthusiasm increased. Max's famous double Kiwi Magic got onto the show bench and started its great run, culminating with best bloom in show at the Australasian championship in Canberra this year. Five years ago we shifted onto a ten acre block at Matangi, just south of the city. Since then my crosses have increased to about 100 per year as I plan for retirement amongst lovely blooms. New soil has meant better blooms, and while showing remains a priority, breeding is just as important.

What if I had it over again? What have I learned? For what it is worth here are the Ramsay Five Rules of Daffodil Breeding. (With no apology to Emile Durkheim for his Rules of Sociological Method because he knew nothing about daffodils!

Rule 1 Make at least some of your crosses on the basis of line breeding.

Why not follow the great breeders like the Jacksons, John Lea et al? It pays dividends.

Rule 2: Make some crosses which look good together. Looking at my four best seedlings last year two came from rule one, two from rule two. Red Ember x Kinsman are both Merry King seedlings, while Brixton x Bandit both date to Green Island. This seedling is a 2Y-Y and was best seedling in Camberra. And I was looking for a 2WW-WYO! Seraglio, in both parentages gives the answer. On the other hand Red Haze x Altruist gave a lovely all red, and no common ancestors.

Rule 3: Breed only from vigorous stock. Don't think you'll breed weakness out, they - the weak traits that is - have a nasty habit of becoming SuperGene.

Rule 4: Cross smooth varieties with smooth varieties. We've concentrated too much on bright colour. Concentrate on quality, colour comes later.

Rule 5: Make at least a couple of wild crosses.

Let the pioneer spirit prevail - without some kind of experimentation every thing will stand still. Anyhow the bee has probably been there before you.

I hope this is of some interest to readers. There are far more experienced daffodil breeders than me who will laugh at my puny seedling patch which attracts me most right now. And remember, amateur and small scale growers can strike the jackpot. The best 1W-W yet bred in New Zealand, Snowy Morn, was raised by Welly Munro who makes only a few crosses each year. So get the hybridizing gear out and make like a bee!

WHETSTONE GARDEN REPORT

Nancy Kolson

On October 10, 13 Cods members gathered at the park to plant 335 cultivars of daffodils in Beds 12, 13,14,15 and 16. Those present were Grace Baird, Donna Dietsch, Phyllis Hess, Ray Scholz, Mary Lou Gripshover, Elsie Hack, Bessie Haddad, Nancy Kolson, Naomi Liggett, Trevor McCoy, Irene Mosely, Cecile Spitz and Cindy Hyde.

The 335 cultivars of daffodils included 318 standards and nine miniatures. Eight cultivars were planted to the right of the rock garden to start a Heritage Garden. (To be eligible for the Heritage Garden, a cultivar must have been introduced early (usually by 1930) OR it may be a species.)

Several good suggestions were presented for faster planting. They will be incorporated into next year's planting.

We finished before 1:00. At 1:30, it started to rain. It was a perfect day!

Thanks to Helen Meeker and Cecile Spitz, who helped lay out the beds on Friday. Also, thanks to Ray Scholz, who dug many of the holes. A special thanks to Cecile Spitz, who made an extra trip back to the park later Saturday afternoon to lock the gate.

Following is a list of donors and cultivars added to the garden this year:

AmeriFlora'92: April Tears, Baby Star, Beryl, Broadway Star, Chit Chat, Desdemona, Elixir, Falconet, Ice Wings, Itzim, Kenellis, Manly, Misty Glen, Mondragon, Petrel, Segovia, Sextant, Sun Disc, Sunny Miss, Sydling, Tamar Fire, Tricollett

Tag Bourne: Cyros, Mohawk, Rhine Wine

Donna Dietsch: Best of Luck, Bit O'Gold, Fanad Head, Finch, Flirt, Highlite, Interval, Just So, Lipstick Pink, Lisette, Mary Isabel, Merry Bells, Murlough, Namraj, Nouvelle, Our Tempie, Rima, Sportsman, Spun Honey, Sunbeater,

Tollymore, Top Notch, Tudor Dance, Wind Song.

Mary Lou Gripshover: Bee Mabley, Beryl, Bridal Crown, Bushtit, Cairngorm, Cloyfin, Conestoga, Cool Waters, Cornet, Crystal River, Daphne, Delta Wings, Dresden, Eaton Park, Elizabeth Ann, Empress of Ireland, Fragrant Rose, Gay Cavalier, Gay Challenger, Gay Record, Gettsyburg, Glorious, Green Ice, Green Quest, Greencastle, Happy Hour, Hawaii, Honeymoon, Irish Rover, Johanna, Kasota, Ken's Favorite, King's Sutton, Laurens Koster, L'Innocence, Loch Owskeich, Loch Stac, Milan, Monterrico, Mount Angel, Narvik, Nymphette, Polbathic, Prologue, Quetzel, Roseate Tern, Saberwing, Seafarer, Sihouette, Silk Cut, Silver Surf, Snow Gem, Stilton, Tripartite, Yellowthroat

Phyllis Hess: April Love, Chippewa, Forest Park, Fort Knox, Glendarroch, Highway Song, Mary Baldwin*, Thoresby, Tuckahoe*

Nancy Kolson: Blue Bird*

Naomi Liggett: Abiqua, Backchat, Bulbarrow, Cadence, Chianti, Cortez, Far Country, Gloucester Point, High Cotton, Lighthouse, Loch Trool, Porthchapel, Ravenhill, Silver Snow, Springston Charm, Starlet, Thackery, Wakefield

Helen Link: Pewee*, Roberta Watrous*

Cecile Spitz: April Tears, Baby Moon, Topolino

* Replacements

DUES ARE PAST DUE!

CODS dues are now past due. This will be your last newsletter unless you send a check for \$4.00 made out to CODS and mailed to Mrs. William C. Baird, 1874 Collingswood Road, Columbus, OH 43221.

_____ Dues not paid

IS YOUR NAME IN HERE???

Cindy Hyde, 1993 Show Chairman

It's easy to get excited about our 1993 show when the you know the Zoo is just as enthused! Their support has been outstanding!

The following bits and pieces will give you an idea of who is doing what and what is planned to date:

Set-up will be Friday, April 23, possibly beginning at 5:00 p.m. The rooms are used for educational purposes during the day.

Handy and I will work on the floor plan in January. The Zoo needs the plan by February so they will know how many tables to set up and, if necessary, how many to rent at \$5.00 each.

Naomi will help with the show schedule and class record sheets as they are stored in her computer. Nancy Gill has agreed to coordinate statistic recording.

Classification will be checked by Handy.

Publicity will be covered by the Zoo to their members, local newspapers and, possibly, TV.

Judges and clerks will be coordinated by Tag.

Box lunches will be purchased through the Zoo. The price will be \$4.00 and \$4.75 per person. I will have a sign-up form in our next newsletter. You **must** return the form if you want lunch, otherwise, food is available on the grounds. Elsie and Bessie will coordinate the lunch.

Betty has arranged our awards banquet with B.G. Salvi's, an excellent Italian restaurant. She will also have a form in the April newsletter for you to fill out and return with your check.

Dick Kolson had agreed to make a direction/information poster which will be placed at the Zoo entrance to guide visitors to our show.

Now, if your name wasn't listed above, please call me! We will need clerks, hosts, etc. To everyone who has volunteered their expertise -- my sincere thanks in advance!!!

RAYMOND WELLS KNIERIM

Tag Bourne

It is with deep sorrow that I inform CODS members of Well's death on December 8, 1992. He died at his home in Cleveland of cancer.

He was born July 6, 1907 in Dayton and after high school he was awarded a Leadership and Academic Scholarship to Harvard University. He graduated with honors and went to work for Ohio Bell in 1929. He worked there for 40 years and was Data Processing Manager when he retired in 1969.

Wells was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Mary Hicks. Mary graduated from The Ohio State University and went to Cleveland to work for Ohio Bell and there met Wells and they married.

Wells was an accomplished photographer. Wells and Mary traveled all over the world where he photographed flowers. He was a member of many plant societies, including ADS where he was past president, treasurer for many years and received the ADS Silver Medal for service to the society. He was responsible for color in *The Daffodil Journal*. He was one of CODS' Honorary Members. He was responsible for CODS getting underway and always willing to judge and help us with shows, conventions and anything we undertook. His Cleveland Daffodil Show was at the end of the season and all the rules "went out the window" when we went to Cleveland. We will always remember our great luncheons at That Place on Bellflower.

He was active in the Men's Garden Club, The Garden Center of Greater Cleveland, Holden Arboretum and Cleveland Photography Club.

Wells was involved in scouting for over 26 years. He took groups of boys to National Jamborees. He was a Boy Scout Leader and recipient of the Silver Beaver Award.

He was most active in his church and supported their community projects. He was deeply concerned about feeding the poor and was involved in the soup kitchen and Head Start programs at his church.

We extend out sympathy to his family and he will be greatly missed.

Donations can be made in his memory to:
First Presbyterian Church
16200 Euclid Avenue
East Cleveland, OH 44112

PROFILES

Betty Kealiher, Vice President

Born and educated in Columbus, I've been employed by Columbus Southern Power Company for over 35 years and currently working in the right-of-way section of the Engineering Department. My work as an abstractor takes me into eight courthouses in central Ohio, researching deed information and preparing easement information in order to receive legal permission to construct our facilities on the customer's property. My husband of 15 years, Bill retired from CSP in January after 38 years of service. Bill likes to mess around with guns (buying and selling) and is also involved with various Masonic organizations. His current major project is cleaning the garage of 30 years of "stuff".

In the summer of 1991, I started a project which has been on the list of things to do during my retirement years - genealogy. My goal is to learn first and last names of all gg-grandparents. To date, I've been successful with 13 of the 16. Fortunately, all grandparents were born in Licking County where I'm a member of the Licking County Genealogical Society.

Bill and I plan to build a home and retire in northern Licking County where most of my daffodils are planted along with about 25 iris and 20 daylilies. The area is wooded farmland, home for many deer, and this year, for the first time, we have seen wild turkeys.

I enjoy reading - anything - but especially historical novels. Needlepointing is a favorite past-time: the current project being a Christmas stocking.

Possibly my greatest blunder is occurring this year.

I was so happy to discover that our local nursery had leek plants, that I got carried away and bought a flat. I stopped counting at 110 plants. PLEASE, we would appreciate receiving any recipes for their use.

If it were once again 1967, I would be busy buying property in German Village to restore and rent in order to buy and restore more with the hope of being able to have enough rental units that I could be a full time land baroness.

Hitting the lottery would put me in the very enviable position of being a full time philanthropist. While it would be impossible to make a great dent in the national or world-wide cause, a great deal of good could be accomplished within the boundaries of a small geographical area in the fields of education, medicine, welfare and environment.

IMPORTANT CULTIVATION NOTES FOR HOOP-PETTICOAT DAFFODILS:

Rod Barwick, Glenbrook Bulb Farm, Tasmania

In our gardens we flower our hoop-petticoats (the species *N. bulbocodium*, *N. cantabricus*, *N. romieuxii* and their hybrids) prolifically every year. We believe this success is due to planting the bulbs in a situation where they get **no** water from November through until March. The easiest way to achieve this is by planting in pots and tipping these on their side for the summer. This long, hot, dry spell certainly seems to be the key to prolific flowering.

Editors Note: Don't forget the difference in seasons in Australia.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS MARCH 15TH.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

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