

CODS CORNER

NEWSLETTER OF THE CENTRAL OHIO DAFFODIL SOCIETY

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Phyllis Hess, President

Naomi Liggett, Editor

Dear Fellow CODS Members,

That most busy time of year is upon us, THE Holidays. I hope all are prepared and have given their Santa's a list of the new cultivars they want to be in their garden next year.

It seems that when one should be getting the most done, everything goes wrong, computer problems for me. I guess that is just Murphy's Law at work.

I want to remind you that we will be having our March meeting in Tennessee. We will give more details in the March issue of *CODS Corner*. At this time plans call for going down on Friday the 27th and returning Sunday evening or Monday the 30th for those who will not have to be at work on Monday morning. Ruth Pardue has invited us to an after show party at her house on Saturday evening. I understand that just seeing Ruth's Spring garden will be worth the trip. We will also be able to take flowers to the show and will tour Frank Galyon's garden as well. Beaver Creek Nursery is also a "must see" site. So, mark your calendar and save those pennies and dimes for the trip.

The Fall Regional Meeting held at the Barry's was quite nice. It was great to see our friends and to meet a delightful couple from Russia, the Kapinos. Dimitri gave a wonderful talk about some of his gardening experiences in Russia. I wonder how many of us would be willing to give a talk in Russian after only 11 months in the country? We look forward to seeing them at one of our CODS meetings.

I want to thank Bessie Haddad for stepping in and offering to chair the Publicity Committee. Fred Rucker had to resign.

With the warm weather we have been having, I have seen noses of many 7's and 8's coming through the ground. Can Spring be far behind? The days have begun to be longer and we just have to struggle through January and February before time to see all the foliage start to peek from under the mulch. Hope all those expensive bulbs you so carefully put in the ground this fall produce show winners in the future.

I wish everyone a joyous Holiday Season and a very happy and Healthy New Year!

Phyllis

The New Zealand South Island National Daffodil Show

Peter Ramsay

Everyone has their own idea of Daffodil Heaven. Try this one out: lounging in a deck chair on a beautifully sunny day in an immaculately kept daffodil garden free of weeds and with beautiful foliage and flowers, being served outstanding locally grown and produced white wine, accompanied by delicious scallops dredged that morning and cooked in a fine batter, plus copious quantities of that amazing kiwi delicacy, whitebait, served up with a range of other food and in wonderful daffodil company. I doubt if that can be beaten, but it was just one highlight in John and Marie Hunter's garden of a wonderful weekend occasion organized by the good people of the Brightwater Horticultural Society. A small organization, located just out of Nelson city. After this experience and that of Wairoa in the North Island, daffodil people are convinced that we should go to small towns more often especially if weight and cholesterol are not a problem!

The only danger was that the flowers almost became a side event in the face of continual hospitality - well, almost, as daffodil buffs do not talk for very long - even with mouthfuls of melting scallops - without getting on to daffodil exhibiting, breeding, diseases, good doers, poor doers, ad infinitum! And in any case, the flowers at Brightwater matched the hospitality. Close on 2,500 blooms making an impressive display in the main exhibition hall. The competition we believed was stronger than in the North Island with the Koanga team meeting their match in several classes. Not so in class one, for 12 cultivars, three of each raised in New Zealand, where Koanga were victorious, although the winning margin by general agreement was very narrow. Their sets of 12 were well matched and carefully staged. The little shown 'Bogside' 3W-R(Phillips) was good and 'Kawhatau', a very promising and new Hamilton introduction, both caught the eye. The latter should strengthen the 3Y-Y's in the future. Second place was local grower, John Hunter, who excelled by putting up a set completely of his own raising. If the color balance had been there he almost certainly would have won this class. His white flowers, though were outstanding. 'Polar Island' 2W-W, 'White Sapphire' 2W-W and 'Polar Convention' 3W-W were amongst the best and should be in all collections. Third place was David Adams from Christchurch whose flowers continue to improve. His time will come.

Class Two is the New Zealand equivalent of the Engelheart Cup. This is always a close go and John Hunter completed a good show by winning this class with an excellent set in which 'Polar Island' stood out

again. Brodgen's daffodils had to settle for second this time with a mixture of tried and true and something new. Older cultivars 'Director' 1Y-Y and 'Flying High' 3W-YR were joined by the newer 'Kiwi Ruler' (an excellent 3W-O) and 'Kiwi Moon' that will startle a few in the 3W-W division. In third place was David Adams. His 'Triple Phase' is going to be a very helpful newcomer in the 3Y-R division.

Class Three is for the British-Raised Gold Cup, an impressive trophy that was worth 75 guineas when first presented back in 1923. There were four very good entries this year. Koanga Daffodils were again first with an absolutely magnificent vase of Brian Duncan double 'Dorchester' 4W-P standing out. There are also flowers of the rarely shown 'Badbury Rings' 3Y-YR and the more frequently grown 'Achduart' 3Y-R in their entry. Second place went to IRN Associates (Peter and Dianne Irwin. 'Dailmanach' and 'Achduart' again were good in their entry. In third place David Adams put up a very good entry, which must have been very close to second place getter.

Class Four, which is open to those who have not entered Class One, also had four very good entries. Denise and Neil McQuarrie had a well-presented set for first place, mainly of older varieties. 'Tonga' 4Y-R and 'Centrefold' 3W-YR were amongst their best flowers. Seconds were Michael and Marion Brown from Christchurch with 'Centrefold' and 'Kasia' 2Y-OOR being good in their entry, while third was David McLennaghan with the tried and true double favorite 'Kiwi Magic' 4W-Y, a fine flower group.

The other classes in the open collections were very well contested. The Bell Trophy for six seedlings created something of an upset with Hokorawa from Foxton in the North Island upsetting the usual winners, Koanga Daffodils. The former's entry was very good indeed and one of the seedlings, a 2Y-Y found its way to the championship bench as best seedling in the show. The class for all yellows was strong and the Brown combination won from three others. 'Cameo Sun' was an excellent vase in their entry. In the whites David Adams prevailed, while in the red cups the McQuarries scored again as they did in the Australian-raised cultivars, again heading off Koanga Daffodils. The old cultivar 'Pem' 2W-YOR was excellent in this entry. In the double class Welly and Judy of 'Snowy Morn' fame beat five other good entries. One to absolutely stand out here and not seen before in New Zealand was a cultivar called 'Party Girl', a beautiful white and pink double, which is Canadian raised by the late David Shepherd. Tony Robinson took the division five's, while Michael and Marion Brown completed a two-island double by winning the division six classes. IRN Associates were successful in the split coronas from

three other entries, while in the intermediate classes we noted 'Elfin Morn', which is surely one of the best in this area.

The amateur classes were equally well contested. The South Island Championship went north to Otaki, the flowers having been transported south by the Irwins. The winner was John Hollever with nice flowers of 'Shaz' 2W-OOR and 'Ebony' 1W-Y. In the next class Sandra Muckle scored a well-deserved victory. We regret to report that she, along with the winner of the amateur seedling classes, Stan and Shirley Clapham from New Plymouth, are to depart our shores soon for Australia. Australia's gain is our loss and we hope both continue to show and bred daffodils in their newly-adopted country.

The highlight of the amateur classes was Class 106 which this year carried the Cleveland Award which always seems to attract plenty of flowers and entries. In this instance 15 aspirants staged 90 flowers and the winners were again from the North Island in the form of Tracey and Bruce Hooker from Hamilton, who included excellent flowers of 'Waipaoa' (Johnstone) in their entry, which is a vastly under-rated 3W-R. Kevin and Carol Kerr were second with the American-raised 'Trumpet Warrior' 1YYW-WWY being their best flower, while Greg Inwood from Christchurch was a close up third. In other classes we noticed domination of Greg Inwood and his father Noel, while a young exhibitor Aaran Russ at 16 years of age, won the classes for three yellows and three red and yellow with well-grown flowers. At the other end of the age spectrum Vic Blincoe, who's well into his 80's, still showed his ability to win against other growers including the 3-white class with 'Polar Venture' 2W-W. Local grower Bill McLeod also won the occasional class. 'New Penny' 3Y-Y was noticed amongst his entrants. We also noted that next year's host of the national show was represented by Malcolm Wheeler from Te Anau whose 'Tracey' 6W-W took away the Class of Division Six.

The premier table always attracts the population - perhaps not like the scallops, but certainly every bit as popular. As usual there were controversies here. In your scribe's view, the best flower was a 2Y-R bred by John Hunter, which came from three generations of his own raising. The judges did notice the faintest of bumble bee damage in the cup, but this was hardly enough to keep it from being best in show. Other good flowers noted on the premier stand were 'Polar Morn', an excellent 3W-W, a very definite advance in the 2Y-W class in '12-Gauge' - named because of its long snout by Reg Cull of Hokorawa Daffodils. An excellent 'Snowy Morn' took the 1W-W, while the Hunter-raised 'Sulphur Monarch' was the 1Y-Y premier bloom. 'New Hope' 3W-Y, a Brogden-raised cultivar, was also

excellent, while the American-raised 'Crystal Star' took the 2Y-Y premier. Dorchester was the premier white-backed double, although we thought very fortuitously from 'Party Girl' that had an under-and-over petal on the back that caused the judges to down-point it. We hope that the famous daffodil raiser, Bill Brogden, who in his day showed very little interest in anything from Class Four onwards, was viewing the show, especially as his son took the Division 8 premier bloom with 'Radiant Gem' 8Y-R.

Finally, best bloom in the show was grown and shown by the writer. A seedling, 2W-W 95-85 bred from 'White Glen' crossed 'Medici'. Once again this seedling which was pure white and beautifully formed showed the advantages of line breeding descending from 'Easter Moon' and 'Empress of Ireland' on both sides of the pedigree.

So ended the national season. A season not without its difficulties, but then when will we ever get one that satisfies the doubting Thomas's of the daffodil world? As is always the case, new flowers emerged, others consolidated their place, but above all, daffodil friendships were renewed and retained. The hospitality will long live in my memory and doubtless anybody else's who attended this lovely show.

VANISHING SOURCES

Steve Vinisky, Oregon

Like it or not, we are in a transitional time in terms of breeders of daffodils and their catalogs. We still face big changes in supply, demand and availability over the next decade or so. It seems to me that the "market" (those of us that buy new introductions) has clearly spoken with out check books. The sad but true FACT is that selling new daffodil introductions is simply a money losing proposition in addition to a whole lot of hard work. I'm sorry that this sounds so negative but reality IS reality.

Most of us outside of England probably aren't aware that the fabulous 100 year tradition of massive commercial displays from breeders of the "newest and best" daffodils at the RHS Halls has gone the way of the dodo (extinct). Both Brian Duncan and Clive Postles have stated publicly and privately that they will not be doing further commercial displays for the RHS Shows as it cost too much in time, money and labor. I would submit that if there was indeed a profitable return on the investment in time, money and labor, someone would have stepped in and filled the void. Perhaps someone will still step forward but to my knowledge no one is beating down the doors at RHS

to arrange for the space for a commercial display of daffodils. It is sad to think that the famous Richardson position at Vincent Square "under the clock" is now empty or filled with Rhododendron commercial displays.

Part of my talk in England next year will point out just how cheap (not inexpensive but downright cheap) Brian, Clive, Havens, Scamp, etc. etc. are really selling their bulbs. All new introductions are below real costs, this in my opinion. I calculate that new introductions would have to at least double on average to keep pace with real costs. Check a Richardson catalog or open one of Guy Wilson's for the price of their introductions. The real cost in terms of average household weekly income for the period is most instructive. 'Romance', for example, was introduced in 1965 at USD \$140.00. My father earned about \$850.00 take home a month at that time or \$36.95 take home per day. It took 3.8 days to earn enough to purchase a bulb of 'Romance'.

The average household annual income today is about \$33,500.00 (this is generous and it may be before tax) which if divided by 12 months equal \$2791.66 per month. If this is divided by 23 working days per month (exactly the same as above) it equals \$121.37 per day. The rough average of Brian and Clive's new things is about USD \$55.00. Using this formula, it takes about four hours to pay for a new introduction in today's terms. 'Romance' or its equivalent today should sell for well over \$300.00!!! Well over two hundred dollars if taxes haven't been taken out. I would submit that real costs to produce a bulb have either gone up significantly or at absolutely the best case have remained the same; this at the breeders level of production. Do you think the market might bear a 300% to 600% increase in new introduction prices? <<Pause here for hysterical laughter>> Clearly, the more one is willing to sell, the higher the loss.

The Dutch have it right. Done by the hectare, the price gained growing daffodils is slightly higher than which you earn producing potatoes and the cost to produce daffodils is the same as for potatoes. ERGO: More money from the same acreage! Even if we (breeders in general) completely write off our labor and the original cost of the bulbs, I see no way to make money other than to basically cover annual expenses for production. Other than Havens (who both still MUST work dawn to dusk at backbreaking labor to insure the premium quality of their "product") this is why no one can earn even a modest living breeding daffodils. Expenses are high and the dollars generated are low.

Treasure those breeder of new things that have given all of us so much joy and beauty over the years. I

believe that they deserve our orders even if only to show support and understanding of their commitment to "Mistress Daffodil" (as Guy Wilson used to say). The price of new introductions has NEVER been lower in the 120 years history; all the way back to Hartland's first catalog. As the saying goes, "get em while the gettins good".

SUNSHINE

Cecile Spitz

John Montgomery, Newark, OH died Thanksgiving week. The Montgomery's have been members of CODS for approximately twenty years. Out heartfelt sympathy goes to John's wife, Eva.

Bessie Haddad had a kidney stone removed at Riverside Medical Hospital at the end of June. A CAT scan followed revealing another condition and abdominal surgery was performed the end of September. I spoke to Bessie on December 20th and she said, "I'm in good health, all is fine".

Good health to all CODS members. **Please call me** when you hear of an illness or crisis of any CODS member. Thank you.

WHETSTONE NEWS

Phyllis Hess

When it was time to plant the one remaining empty bed at Whetstone this summer, I was able to hire a couple young guys to go with me and dig the holes. Naomi Liggett came over as well and we were able to plant the entire bed in two hours!. If only we all had young backs once again.

I wish to thank Ruth Pardue for her generous donation of bulbs. Naomi, Tag and I donated a few as well. The guys dug 108 holes, when the bags were thrown in them, all were filled. Pretty amazing as we did not count ahead of time. Naomi donated some division 9 cultivars and they were planted as well, in another bed.

It is always nice to have fresh input, Frank, one of the men who helped, figured out that instead of stringing string everywhere he could place a stake on either side of the bed 18" apart, the distance between the plantings, then dig rows one and three opposite the stake on the west and rows two and four opposite the one on the east. The only strings that were needed were placed down the center of the bed and 18" on

either side of that one. Made the digging go very fast. Planting was done by placing the first bulb opposite the stake as well. Don't know if you can understand what I mean but, trust me, it was innovative and time saving!! Fresh minds solve problems. Thank you, Frank!

Linda tells me the beds will be mulched as soon as they finish with the roses.

Plans call for digging beds one, two and three in 1998, We do not anticipate needing many donations as most of those beds are doing very well. However, donations of cultivars not in the Park are always welcome.

We are storing the supplies in my barn, so the labels etc. will be kept here. We are going to install shelving for the bulbs to be stored on this summer if my rack is full. I will be having a "label washing" party before they are put out this spring. Nancy Kolson has generously agreed to continue making the labels, a big job, and we have transferred funds to the Whetstone account to take care of purchasing the materials.

The really BIG news is that the Ceramic Drive Civic Association has offered to help us maintain the garden!! They enjoy seeing all the daffs and having them in some of their back yards so to speak, so are going to help put out labels and weed. This offer came quite unexpectedly and they wish no publicity. (However, if anyone sees the lady with the big white dog, smile really wide.) Needless to say they have our heartfelt thanks and gratitude.!!

We really do need to enlist some younger people to help with this garden. I fear for the future if we do not come up with a solution to the maintenance problem. The advisory committee has met and is working on it. We will keep you posted. Thanks to all who helped this summer.

CODS HYBRIDIZERS

Four CODS members have registered their originations this year - Daniel Bellinger, Donna Dietsch, Mary Lou Gripshover and Curtis Tolley.

Donna Dietsch:

'Fox Moon' 2YYW-W ('Epitone' x 'Young American') 89/63
'Woods Colt' 6Y-Y ('Mite' OP) 89/6

Daniel Bellinger:

'Sinai' 2Y-O ('Gala King' x 'Altruist') 87-20-2
'Mary Oliver' 9W-GOR ('Felindre' OP)
'Vi Boone' 2W-P ('Raspberry Ring' x 'Little Princess') 87-19-1

Mary Lou Gripshover:

'Happing Ending' 4W-W ('White Sail' x 'Glory Of Lisse') 75/17
'Montpier' 3W-Y ('Angel' x 'Fellowship') 75/17
'Northam' 2W-W MJB 212B

Curtis Tolley:

'Big Otter' 2Y-Y ('Loch Lundie' x 'Esperanza') 88-3-1
'Cedar Lake' 2W-P ('Dewy Rose' x 'Dailmanach') 88-6-4
'Red Jacket' 2Y-O ('Vulcan' x 'Resplendent') 89-13
'Tamarack' 1Y-Y ('Comal' x 'Ormeau') 88-10-3
'Valley Belle' 2W-P ('Portrait' x 'Dailmanach') 88-7-10

We can all look forward to seeing some of these in our local shows maybe with big awards on them.

AN AFFAIR OF THE HORT

Tag Bourne, Chairman of Inniswood Project

The Central Ohio Daffodil society participated in the *Affair of the Hort* at Inniswood for three days.

A final count shows:

SALES:

Advanced Orders	63.75
Sold at Inniswood	430.50
Nancy Gill Sold	233.50
Sold at Regional	35.25
Naomi Liggett sold	36.00

Total Sales \$799.00

Total Expenses \$314.58

PROFIT: \$484.42

As stated previously, I was very disappointed in the number of sales of miniatures at this affair. Naomi donated a number of beautiful large standard bulbs for this sale and they sold quickly. Our profit came from Nancy Gill going out and selling, Naomi selling at her garden club and Tag selling at the Regional Meeting. I donated a number of 'Chit Chat' and 'Minnow' to be sold at garden club.

I have no problem with us participating in the *Affair of the Hort* again, but I certainly feel we should not try to sell miniatures. In fact, I'm not so sure we should sell anything there.

DEADLINE APRIL NEWSLETTER: March 15, 1998