

CODS CORNER

NEWSLETTER OF THE CENTRAL OHIO DAFFODIL SOCIETY

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Phyllis Hess, President

Naomi Liggett, Editor

Dear Friends,

The Holiday season is upon us. Dave and I are especially blessed this year as we had a new Grand daughter on Dec. 14th. It has been 4 and 1/2 years since we have had a baby in the family so she will be enjoyed to the fullest! She is our seventh grandchild and Mom and baby are doing fine!

The planting at Whetstone was once again done in record time. Thanks to my hubby and Justin Aleshire! They dug the holes and after the bulbs were positioned, raked in the dirt, and smoothed the beds!! All three beds were done in 3 hours. Thanks to those who helped!! Once again we finished on Friday so folks did not have to come on Saturday. I don't expect we will be able to always achieve this. Please keep trying to recruit new members!! (Preferable ones with strong backs, who like to dig.)

The *Affair of the Hort* was pretty well attended this year. We sold most of the Whetstone and donated bulbs. Nancy Gill helped us by purchasing the paperwhites that were left. I think we are going to have to consider just selling our own bulbs there, the minis and paperwhites did not do as well as we thought they might.

If you missed the November meeting, it was fun. We enjoyed visiting with Ruth Pardue, several of her friends from Inniswood came to see her as well. Thanks to Elsie who helped with the refreshments. Speaking of Elsie, she broke her ankle just before Winter Break and just before she was to leave for Florida to spend the holidays with her son. What a bummer! She was able to go though.

Naomi will have new *Daffodils to Show and Grow* for you to purchase, everyone will need one as there have been many changes to the classification system.

We are hoping to go to Tennessee to see Ruth, and go to the Knoxville show. Ruth has also very generously invited us to a party at her home on Saturday evening. That will be the last weekend of March. Please mark your calendar!! I know we will have a fantastic time!!

Just so you do not forget, December 31 is the deadline for your registration for the Pittsburgh Convention. HOWEVER, just received an e-mail from Dianne Mrak, she will allow you to use the form in the December ADS Journal. It will be a little late, printer problems. So just send it when you receive your Journal. It seems there are changes to the form.

I wish all of you the Happiest of Holiday Seasons and hope the New Year brings a perfect spring and all the blue ribbons you could possibly carry home!! To our down under friends, don't wear yourselves out with all the planting that is ahead!

Happy Christmas! *Phyllis*

DIVISION 3 DAFFODILS

Clay Higgins

The excellent coverage extended the Division 3 daffodil by the Royal Horticulture Society's 1996-97 Yearbook sparked my interest and started me exploring the world of short-cupped daffodils. It gave credit to such American Division 3's as 'Sauve', 'New Penny', 'Johnny Walker', 'Irvington', 'Taco' and 'La Paloma' along with others. The RHS Yearbook inferred that American daffodils, for example, 'New Penny', are "untried". I wanted more and quickly found myself "treading water" on information "over my head" and beyond that contained in the Yearbook.

The Division 3 daffodil has a special place in the heart of the British showers and growers and myself. The RHS Yearbook reported that in the British Isles, the top ten daffodils for the past ten years included 'Doctor Hugh' 3W-GOO, 'Merlin' 3W-YYR and 'Purbeck' 3W-YYO four times each; 'Achduart' 3Y-R, three times; 'Moon Shadow' 3W-GYY, 'Stanway' 3Y-R and 'Verona' 3W-W were included once each. 'Cool Crystal' 3W-GWW never won the best bloom, but was on the top ten daffodil lists for the last ten years.

Conversely, in the 1996 American shows, the only Division 3 daffodil that won best in show was 'La Paloma' 3W-GYR. All together, 79 separately named Division 3 daffodils were included in winning collections, not many. Since there were no listings of individual awards for single daffodils or divisional best in show, the remainder of my analysis concerns those Division 3 cultivars included in winning collections. Using these criteria, 'La Paloma' was the big winner, and the only one to take an award for best in show and was included in five additional collections. Next winners were a tie between 'New Penny' 3Y-Y and 'Spindletop' 3W-Y with an even five wins, followed by 'Evesham' 3W-GYY with four and 'Angel' 3W-GWW, 'Dunley Hall' 3W-Y, 'Glamour Girl' 3W-YYR, 'Rim Ride' 3W-GYO, 'Triple Crown' 3Y-GYR, 'Tyson's Corner' 3-GYR, 'Purbeck' with three each.

Other quality daffodils that won, but were not big winners included 'Achduart' 3Y-O, 'Carol Lombard' 3W-YYO, 'Doctor Hugh', 'Irvington' 3W-R, 'Loch Trool' 3W-YRR, 'Moon Shadow', 'Molten Lava' 3W-R, 'Red Era' 3Y-YRR, 'Romany Red' 3O-R, 'Sabine Hay' 3O-R, 'Taco' 3W-R, 'Warmington' 3W-W and 'Verona'.

American Division 3's listed in the RHS Yearbook that did not fare so well included 'Sauve' 3Y-Y, 'Johnny Walker' 3Y-Y, 'Irvington', 'Taco', 'Cherry Bounce' 3W-R, 'Random Event' 3W-YOY, 'Princeton' 3W-WWY, 'Citron' 3Y-WWY, 'First Formal' 3W-YWP, 'Lemon

'Tree' 3W-YYO, 'White Tie' 3W-W and 'Cool White' 3W-W. My conclusion was that with the 1995's late winter, the 1996 shows were over before the late season Division 3 daffodils were in their prime. My entire showing season in '96 lasted fourteen days. I was lucky that the 1996 National Show in Baltimore was in the middle of that short time span.

In the 1997 there were more than 108 separately named Division 3 daffodils included in winning collections, counting only those shows east of the Mississippi River, which showed that the mild winter in the east during 1996/97 was better for the Division. The consistency of the lot followed the same pattern. 'La Paloma' again was the big winner with ten. Next winner was 'Evesham' with eight, followed by a tie with 'New Penny' and 'Spindletop' with an even seven wins. That was followed by 'Molten Lava' with six and 'Angel' and 'Centreville' 3Y-R with four each. Only two Gold Ribbon winners were posted from the 1997 shows, 'Molten Lava' and 'Rim Ride'. The conclusion was that 1997 was a better growing year for the late season Division 3 daffodils and that the three consistent winners over the two-year span were 'La Paloma', 'New Penny' and 'Spindletop'.

In 1998, of 63 repeat winners reported in the ADS journal, eleven or approximately 10% were Division 3 daffodils included in winning collections. The winners were 'Molten Lava' with eight wins, followed by 'Spindletop', 'New Penny', 'Evesham' and 'Palmyra' 3W-YRR with six wins. Other winners included 'Angel', 'Triple Crown', 'Amboseli' 3Y-YYR, 'Vernal Prince' 3W-GYY, 'Page Lee' 3Y-YYR and 'Cherry Bounce' with four each. The only big winner the last three years that did not do well in '98 was 'La Paloma', which did well in my garden. This leads me to the conclusion that 'Evesham', 'Spindletop' and 'New Penny' were the best of the lot for consistency for the last three years followed closely by 'La Paloma' and 'Molten Lava'. I continued 'La Paloma' in the consistency range because of personal knowledge of wins that it had that were not included in the ADS awards. I will predict that 'La Paloma' will be back in the winner's circle in the years to come. Secondly, if the trends holds, 'Molten Lava' will become one of the top producers in the category of 'La Paloma', 'Spindletop', 'New Penny' and 'Evesham' on the American show benches.

The numbers of separately named Division 3 daffodils reported about sounds like a lot, but it doesn't compare with the thousands of Division 1 and 2 daffodils winners shown. These results makes me continue to state that our American Daffodil Society Show Reports do not tell the complete story as there are no current awards for divisional "best in show". I encourage the ADS Board to consider the awarding a "Best in Show" for the Best

Division 1 - 13. Also, local daffodil society awards are not recorded on the ADS Home Page, e.g. Division 3 collections of five stems are awarded blue ribbons, but not included in the ADS awards. Of course, they should not be included as there are more awards now than can be logically reported, however, my statement is to show that a true picture of the Division 3 cannot be obtained by show reports only.

I still hold that unless hybridizers create earlier blooming division 3's, the Division 3 will continue to follow the Division 1 and 2 in popularity with the general public and thus, the exhibitors. I'd like to see more Division 3 daffodils as winners and am doing my part by actively showing, promoting and including as many Division 3 daffodils with my collections as possible. I seek out and enter all Division 3 categories that I can find at the shows I attend and have steadily built a Division 3 collection around the best that are available to date. That's both American and imported Division 3 daffodils.

Every color combination available amongst daffodilhybrids is to found in Division 3. Their creamy white perianth segments and good form inherited from their *N. poeticus* ancestors, brighten up show collections. They are generally later to flower and the second half of the season should provide better growing conditions. Later flowers should offer ample opportunity to enter late season collections.

(Reprinted from Daffnet by permission of Clay)

Naomi Liggett

In reviewing my records (last 20 years) of Division 3 daffodils that have won ADS ribbons for me, I found that the most successful cultivar was 'Bee Mabley' 3W-YYO. This daffodil was hybridized by the late Mrs. C. E. Fitzwater of West Virginia and registered in 1973. It has never been on the commercial market but I was fortunate to be given a bulb by Mrs. Fitzwater. It has been in 3 winning Throckmortons, one Red-White - Blue and two Green collections; plus won two Gold and one White Ribbon.

Then comes 'Angel' 3W-GWW Wilson 1960 with three wins, one Green and two Purples. Cultivars with two wins were 'Rimmon' 3W-GWY Duncan 1981 and 'Gransha' 3W-GYR Ballydorn 1977, 'Earthlight' 3Y-WWY Throckmorton 1976, 'Duchess of Abercorn' 3W-GWW 1973, 'White Sprite' 3W-GWW, Bloomer 1964, 'Valediction' 3W-GWW Richardson 1976 and 'Shadrack' 3W-YYR Glenbrook.

Other down under cultivars that have been used successfully are Centerfold 3W-YYR Brogden, 'Red

Ember' 3Y-R O'More 1971, and 'Stereo' 3W-GWW Jackson 1989.

Twice a collection of five white Division 3 daffodils was awarded the Purple Ribbon. Included in these collections was 'Achnasheen', 'Benediction', 'Duchess of Abercorn', 'Valediction', 'White Sprite', 'Delos', 'Angel', 'Carrara', and 'Troutbeck'. A strange coincidence is that they are all 3W-GWW. Also if you will notice most of these flowers are not the newer cultivars.

Several others won just one ADS ribbon. At present I am growing about 120 Division 3 cultivars, so I guess they are one of my favorite divisions. One of the reasons I feel that flowers from this division do not win as many big awards is because many of them are late bloomers. Since a large number of Division 3 flowers have red or orange in the cup they are easily burned on warm sunny days (or windy days) and then are not suitable for exhibiting. I hope as more of the down under cultivars become acclimatized that they will start winning ADS Ribbons.

Maybe other members would like to comment on their best Division 3 flowers for the April issue.

Here and There

The *ADS Data Bank*, \$30.00 plus \$1.73 sales tax for Ohio residents, and *Daffodils to Show and Grow* are now available from the ADS Office. DTSG sells for \$6.25 or 10 for \$5.25. CODS will have them available at the March 9 meeting for \$5.55 including Ohio sales tax.

Inactivating Viruses

Dr. Ted Snazelle

The topic of using milk to inactivate plant viruses has been mentioned before on the Daffnet. Even though my original training was as a plant pathologist (virology), I have not previously commented about using milk to inactivate viruses infecting daffodils. Some of the viruses, e.g., NMV (narcissus mosaic virus), infecting daffodils are transmitted mechanically, i.e. they are transmitted on cutting knives or finger nails used in cutting daffodil scapes. Traditionally, viruses on cutting knives have been inactivated by trisodium phosphate dipping (corrosive to metal), alcohol and Clorox. I have used paper towels saturated with rubbing alcohol to disinfect my cutting knife for years. Another version of this is to dip the knife blade into the rubbing alcohol and while holding the knife (tip down) ignite the alcohol with a match. This flaming of the blade will inactivate any virus present.

Well, on to milk as a virus disinfectant. An article appeared today in our local paper about using milk to inactivate plant viruses. It was written by Dennis O'Brien, The Baltimore Sun. In this article, O'Brien discusses the work being done by John Hammond at the USDA's Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, MD, on using milk to inactivate TMV (tobacco mosaic virus). Hammond found that untreated TMV extract caused 226 lesions (brown spots) /tobacco leaf whereas milk-treated TMV extract caused five lesions/tobacco leaf. TMV is a real problem with greenhouse grown orchids, tomatoes, etc. Hammond speculates that it is protein in the milk not the fat, which inactivates the virus as dry, whole, low fat and skim milk seem to be equally effective in inactivating VM as is regular milk. So, in conclusion, milk-disinfection of mechanically-transmitted plant viruses on cutting tools (or on your finger nails) may offer an alternative to inactivation of these same viruses by alcohol and Clorox.

So, Daffniks, are you going to take a glass of milk to the garden when you cut daffodils? Something to be considered here is "How long does the virus have to be in contact with the milk to become inactivated?"

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Peggy Macneale's husband fell in Minnesota breaking a hip and has just recently returned to Cincinnati. He has since fell again and broke the same hip in a different place and is in University of Cincinnati Hospital to have surgery to repair the latest break. I hope all goes well and he will be able to go home soon.

Cecile Spitz was in the hospital for a week in early December. She is home and getting stronger.

Just learned that Phyllis Vonnegut died December 4.

I hope all the rest of our members are well and have a healthy and prosperous year.

NEXT MEETING: March 9, 1999 Tom Stettner, Jr. will be the speaker

DEADLINE April Newsletter: March 15, 1999



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