

CODS CORNER

NEWSLETTER OF THE CENTRAL OHIO DAFFODIL SOCIETY

VOL XXX NO 1 January 2001

Nancy Kolson, President

Naomi Liggett, Editor

Holiday Greetings!

It is December 13 as I write this and a big winter storm is predicted. Guess planting days are over for a while. I hope you have all your bulbs in the ground by now. If not, my Christmas wish for you is a warm trend in January so you can finish. From what I read on the Daffnet, it seems that all parts of the country are having weather problems. I hate to admit it, but maybe the *Old Farmer's Almanac* was right when it predicted an early and severe winter.

At our last meeting, we were favored with some slides of John Hunter's latest hybridization efforts. My favorites were 'Navigator' 2Y-O (to die for) and 'Polar Flame' 3W-YOO. John will be sending his price list, so we will have copies for you--at our February or March meeting. Out speaker for the February 13 meeting will be Dr. Pat Crooks-Henley. Some of you may remember her as a former CODS member. She will speaking on perennials with emphasis on companion planting using daffodils and daylilies. She will be showing slides as she speaks. Please plan to attend--rumor has it that she will be bringing some gift certificates.

Since we will be having two meetings before our next newsletter, I want to tell you about our very special program for March 13. Our very own Peggy Macneale will be giving a slide program, highlighting her many years of daffodil knowledge and friends. This will be a good chance for us to learn many new things and to see some of the 'movers and shakers' of the daffodil world.

Sadly, there is further news I must report to you. At least three of our close daffodil friends have reasons to be less than cheerful this holiday season--Irene Moseley, Naomi Liggett (who broke her foot) and Ruth Pardue (who has undergone surgery recently). Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers over this holiday season and perhaps send them a get-well card.

To go along with the recent program on down under daffodils; an article has been included on how to acclimatize (turn around) bulbs. Many people graciously contributed to it--you can choose the method that suits you best, but this is something we all should try. It can be done! Now you know how the experts do it! We all know how tough daffodil bulbs are--just give them a change to grow AND THEY WILL.

Hope you have a happy and restful holiday season.

Nancy

LUCKY LUCKY ME!!

Ray Scholz

Sometime in the late thirties I remember my mother's ring of daffodils around the ancient maple stump in our front yard. They were the old doubles of a cultivar that I don't know the name or where she got them. I thought they were pretty and did admire them in my ignorance of not knowing anything better.

One day in April 1973 I read a small announcement in the Cleveland paper of a daffodil show at their garden center. I was curious enough to go. Oh my gosh! This old hick never saw anything like that. What an impact it made on me. It was just indescribable to relate, having never seen such cultivars or perfection. The one that I remember most was 'Euphony' 2Y-Y. How many times I went back to look at it. I thought it was too nice to be real.

What really made my day and changed my life was when Wells Knierim took the time to strike up a conversation with me. Up to that time I just stood around and admired. He and Mary apparently noticed my interest in this spectacle and splendor I was witnessing. He took my phone number and later that summer called and said he had some bulbs for me.

Wow!! I found his home and he collected up a precious bag of bulbs for me and at no charge. What elation I felt in the start of my daffodil paradise here.

I hope I've been a credit to the daffodil society in what little I've done to repay Wells and Mary for my introduction to the daffodil world. Then it was on to going to Columbus to the Regional meetings. I remember and still enjoy thinking when Mary Lou was handing out the name tags and thought I might be Fred Taylor. It was exciting to know the names and faces of all the important people of our daffodil world.

How I miss those golden days when I could turn into the driveway of Whetstone Park and spend the day digging, planting or admiring the daffodils with my splendid friends.

Not being very competitive in the showing of daffodils I've tried to make up by sharing my surplus bulbs with friends, Northern Ohio Daffodil Society fund raising sales and rare visitors in hopes of getting new members for the daffodil society.

At bloom time everyone I have time for gets all the blooms I can pick including our Medina Library and Senior Citizens Center. Nothing leaves here without my

thinking of Mary and Wells Knierim and my CODS friends who have been so kind and generous with me.

Kathryn Culbertson 1918 - 2000

Phyllis Hess

Although we have lived across the street from one another for nearly 20 years, Kathryn and I had never been acquainted until one spring day. I had purchased some daffodils from one of the catalog companies and had them planted in a bed near the front door. One day the UPS man delivered a package and remarked that I must love going over to my neighbor's and seeing all the daffodils in the ravine. Well, I had not seen the daffodils in the ravine much less known that they were there!! I high tailed it across the street, knocked on the door, and when Kathryn answered told her I had to see the daffodils. She was thrilled, no one had asked to see them before! That was the first of many tours of the ravine. There were thousands of them, along with checkered lilies (*Fritillaria melagris?*), blue bells, trilliums and all manner of wild flowers. This was the result of nearly 30 years of dividing and replanting by the bushel all over the ravine, down the side across a small bridge and up the other side, really something to see.

That day a bond was formed between us. A few days later there was an article in the *Columbus Dispatch* about a daffodil garden at Whetstone Park. Since I was now making daily visits to the ravine, I asked Kathryn if she would like to go with me to see the daffodils. Of course, she did and we went. It just happened that Naomi Liggett was there; she was President of CODS at that time and gave us a guided tour. We were thrilled and visited again and again.

Naomi also told us there would be a bulb sale at Franklin Park in the fall and to watch the paper for details. We went that fall and met Cecile Spitz. Well, SHE was the ultimate daffodil sales person and lover of daffodils! Before we got away from there we had purchased nearly all the bulbs they had to sell, plus joined CODS and ADS. The rest, as they say, is history. About this time the Culbertson's bought a motor home and we found ourselves tooling down the highway to the ADS Convention. We didn't really attend the functions, Kathryn was still in her shell and did not want to mingle. However, we did spend hours looking at the flowers at the show and met the hybridizers from around the world who had trade stands set up. Again, we were thrilled.

It wasn't long before we branched out and started buying iris as well. Then Kathryn got the daylily bug,

then the hosta bug and then the lily bug. Since I had three kids in college I couldn't follow her into all her ventures but we continued buying the latest and greatest daffodils.

Another thing she was famous for was her "dig" tags. If a daffodil did not look like she thought it should or live up to its publicity, she would put a "dig" tag next to it and it would be moved to the ravine! Did not matter how much it cost either. Of course, we later learned it took, in some cases, several years to "turn around" some daffodils. Fortunately, I did not follow her in the dig process either so many very good cultivars were saved from the ravine as I still had then. When Spud Brogden visited he about had a heart attack when he found one of his "babies" with a dig tag and learned the reason for it.

Those that were around when CODS held their shows at the Upper Arlington Municipal Center might remember one year when she beat Kathy Andersen in a Throckmorton Class. That was a highlight for her. She also treasured her Quinn Medal and wore it often. I remember she bought a chain immediately after winning it.

Kathryn was a wonderful cook. She was always trying some new recipe, nearly daily, that led to a lot of good lunches across the street. She did not make soup, she didn't like it, so Ray had to depend on me when it came to soup. She was never known for making a small quantity of anything. Some of the dishes she took to Regional Meetings were legend.

Kathryn was a wonderful friend, mentor, teacher and person. I never heard her raise her voice nor speak an unkind word. She and husband, Ray, became very special to both Dave and me, we likened them to second parents. Dave, Ray and later my Mother started going to the Ohio State Women's basketball games. That gave Kathryn and I time to peruse the latest catalogs, show reports and such to see what new daffodils we just had to have. A lot of nights were spent around her round kitchen table covered with catalogs and list.

Although Kathryn died just recently, she was really lost to us back in February of 1995 when she became ill after Ray's death. I count myself very lucky to have known her and luckier yet that she was my friend. She was a very special person. Kathryn loved her daffodils and we were able to save most of them. That was the last thing she asked me to do, save her daffodils before the house was sold. The Columbus Zoo people came, dug them and put them all in pots since they hadn't died back. If you visit the zoo, many wonderful daffodils around the lake near the entrance came from

Kathryn and Ray's just before the for sale sign went up. She also loved the minis and had a good collection. Unfortunately, many of those were lost when the new owners had some top soil delivered and dumped right on top of them!. Thank heavens she never knew about that!

I just wish that Kathryn and I had met 20 years sooner. You would think that sometime while our kids were playing either there or at our house or while I was driving her children to school, someone would have mentioned that darn ravine!

ADS APPROVED MINIATURE LIST

At the recent ADS Fall Board Meeting the Miniature Committee added the following cultivars to the approved list of miniatures: 'Golden Bells' 10Y-Y, 'Gumnut' 6Y-Y, 'Star Music' 6Y-Y, 'Wyandot' 1Y-Y, 'Wynken' 7W-W, 'Niade' 2Y-Y. A complete list of miniatures can be found in the December *The Daffodil Journal*.

ACCLIMATING DOWN UNDERS

Nancy Kolson

We are becoming more aware of the many beautiful daffodils being hybridized by breeders down under. This presents a real dilemma for us--the flowers are spectacular and we want them, but the timing is off six months. Recently, I asked several big growers from across the USA how they turn around bulbs from Australia and New Zealand.

Here are several different ways to achieve this:

Donna Dietsch (Columbus, OH): Since the bulbs get to us in January or February and I believe that the bulbs acclimate better if put into the soil right away and the soil is usually frozen at that time of year, I found a way to get them into the ground.

I dig a trench in the ground before it freezes. It is about five inches wide, six inches deep and as long as needed to give about five inches between each bulb I ordered. Then I line the trench with plastic sheeting and fill it in with leaves. I put the removed soil into a bag that formerly held peat moss or mulch and take the bag indoors so that it will not be frozen. When the bulbs arrive, I remove the leaves by lifting the plastic out of the trench. I put an inch or so of the unfrozen soil in the bottom of the trench and line out the bulbs. In between each cultivar, I put a flat piece of plastic,

which I cut from a milk jug, and a tag with the name of the cultivar. Then I fill in the trench with the rest of the soil.

I have never used fertilizer at the time of planting and do not mulch the bed. I do provide a bit of shade in the summer with some annual flowers and keep the soil slightly moist over the summer. Using this method, I have lost only one cultivar in ten years of buying six to eight cultivars each year.

Mary Lou Gripshover (Milford, OH): I first ordered bulbs from down under many years ago when I lived in Columbus. At that time, I held the bulbs until fall and planted them when I planted bulbs from Northern Hemisphere suppliers. More recently, I plant the bulbs as soon as possible, when there's a break in the weather. I've tried planting miniatures in pots, but have not been very successful with that method. This last year I planted the minis in berry baskets, sunk in the ground; five of the six came up, and one bloomed. I guess I water the pots too much. Standard sized bulbs go directly into the ground in somewhat shady place. Sometimes they send up growth that first summer, sometimes not. As far as long term success, I don't think one method (spring vs. fall planting) is better than another. I've had bulbs fail to come up either way and I haven't seem much difference in first bloom either. Maybe there's a slight edge to those planted immediately, if they come up; but if they wait until the following spring to come up, they don't bloom any earlier.

Phyllis Hess (Lewis Center, OH): I remember When Cecile Spitz first started doing this. She told us to refrigerate, then not to refrigerate, to plant right away and to hold until fall and plant at the regular time.

Well, I have done all of these and have seen little or no difference in the results. I have had bulbs that I planted when I received them not come up for a year and when they did it was obvious they had multiplied! I have also had bulbs planted later in the year not come up the following spring. But when they did, they too were just fine.

This year, when the bulbs arrived, I plan on potting them up, leaving them in the garage while watering them sparingly and then plunge the pot when the ground is soft enough to do so.

The main thing to remember about the bulb you try to turn around is that it may take up to five years before they are completely turned and look the way you expect them to look.

Some growers recommend potting all the bulbs you receive out of season and keeping those pots in as cool a place as possible. The pots should be watered profusely during the growing season--of course, allowing them to drain very well and not stand in water. When foliage dies back, knock them out of the pots and put them in mesh bags as you do the bulbs you dig. Plant as usual, with the rest of your bulbs.

Betty Kealisher (St. Louisville, OH): The only thing I try to do is to get them planted a little deeper. I've planted them on the east, west and south sides of the house and in the wide open. This year my 'Otari River' (From the bulb auction in April) came up in the latter part of September. Can't see it out the window, so have to guess that it's flat on the ground.

One year 'Turning Point' 2YYW-WWY was planted the latter part of March and came up about the 25th of June, blooming in time to take it to a wedding in Chicago. What was so strange about the foliage was that it stayed green until about Thanksgiving. The next year it flowered when it should have but the flowers were not as large as they had been before.

Also, I try to isolate the down unders only because Cecile Spitz said that I should. Don't know that it makes any difference. Since the ground is probably wet when I plant them, I put them in potting soil.

Leone Low (Yellow Springs, OH): Down under bulbs need to be planted in a spot that is somewhat sheltered and is shaded during the summer such as on the north side of a house or under a tree.

Prior to ordering bulbs, I check to see how much available planting space there is. The soil is removed and put into two gallon pots, fertilizer (6-26-26 or similar) and sand added to the bottom of the hole and the soil returned to the hole, still in the pot. This space is covered with plastic to keep it dry and mulched to keep it from freezing. When the number of planting spaces is known, the small number of bulbs for which I have space is ordered.

Bulbs received by the end of January or the beginning of February do the best. Results are less favorable as the delivery time lengthens into late spring or summer. When the bulbs arrive, the pots are lifted out of the holes, the bulbs and labels placed in them and the dirt in the pots dumped on them--NO DIGGING! These are watered well and often. The acclimating bulbs are mulched heavily.

It's great to have daffodils blooming through the summer!

Peg Newill (Dayton, OH): I plant my down under bulbs as soon as possible in February or March. The receptacle for the bulb has been dug the previous October, soil removed and the hole covered with plastic and marked with garden stakes. The down under bulbs receive the same treatment that my October-November planting receive--the same soil composition, drainage provision and fertilizing program.

Planting as soon as possible upon receiving the bulbs has at times given me a bloom in July or August. I let the foliage ripen, dig up the bulb and replant it at the same time that I plant the bulbs I divided in July. They all go back into the ground at the same time. One year I tried holding them over but found that I did not receive any first year bloom even though I planted them in the fall along with my other bulbs.

Bob Spotts, (Oakley, CA): When I receive bulbs from down under, it's seldom before February or March. It is too late to plant them in the ground for a quick turnaround--our cold weather is over. So, I pot the bulbs using a sterilized planting mix, generally, two or three bulbs per four gallon pot. (That could be two or three cultivars) I soak the pot and leave it for about a week in the shade. Then I move the pot into the refrigerator (about 38-40 degrees) for two months, adding water to the pot every week or so. I take the pot from the refrigerator after this time--probably early May. I put the pot on the north side of the house where it receives some sun, but not all day. I grow the bulb in the pot, watering frequently. Most bulbs bloom sometime in the summer. I continue to water as long as the foliage remains green. Then I let the pot dry out. I remove the bulbs from pots and plant them in the ground when I plant bulbs in the fall (October or November).

Linda Wallpe (Cincinnati, OH): My down under bulbs usually arrive in March and I plant mine as soon as possible in a semi-shady location. For me, that spot is on the north drip line of a string of 40 foot tall pine trees. The soil is slightly acid.

The bulbs usually start throwing foliage in May and I water, water, water--trying to keep that foliage going as long as I can the first year of turnaround. I have had a bulb or two that did not throw foliage until the fall. In that case, I watered and mulched with pine needles when the weather turned cold. Occasionally, a bulb will not throw any foliage that first year but they always have the next spring.

About a third of the bulbs bloom the first year. I remove the scapes as quickly as possible in order that all the energy goes to the foliage.

The second year down they usually come up and sometimes bloom. At the end of that season, I dig the bulbs and move them to a sunnier place.

Michael Berrigan (Oakdale, MN) I put my bulbs to acclimatize in pots of either two gallon or three gallon size. We have a freely draining composted bark mix available called Biocomp that I have used with great success. I half fill the pots with the mixture, then place the bulb in the pot. I then fill the pot completely and pack tightly. The media is free draining so I can water without waterlogging the plants. I water the pots and keep them in the garage above freezing (barely) until the weather gets more hospitable outside. I place the pots under a sterile plum tree (this avoids over investigation from the deer and burrowing beasts) and they bloom profusely in July. The water is cold from the tap and each afternoon the plants are watered to keep them turgid and the media cool. 'Tinopai', a poet bought in Portland had offsets forming when I planted the bulbs out in October. I just dig a DEEP hole, place my good soil in the base, knock out the daffodil plant, The leaves usually are on the plant. Shake some of the material free of the roots. The roots are about one foot long. Work the roots into the hole and cover them with dirt. The bulb winds up about six inches below grade. I add labels and a garden stake then fill the hole.

I hope this information encourages you to try buying bulbs from the many down under hybridizers. remember--no matter which method you choose--daffodil bulbs are tough. THEY WANT TO GROW! Give them a chance to do so and they will.



Well, wonder no more. I have personal knowledge of some cyclamenius traveling in pink socks. Hmm, I wonder if the 6Y-R 'Red Socks' came before or after that? Then a friend of mine named 'Peggy White' traveled to the other side of the globe and put down roots in New Zealand. Seems she had M&M candies as traveling companions. I understand the climate suits her very well and she is thriving with all the attention she receives. She plans to stay there and raise some progeny.

Not too long ago a couple friends of mine went with some beanie babies to keep them company on the long trip. They were wrapped as birthday presents to boot! Some others decided they needed to take a goretex hat along as it can get pretty rainy at certain times of the year. I understand all that rain is wonderful for their complexion.

So you see, there are many ways of traveling and as long as you put down good strong roots when they

arrive all is well. My grandmother always said, "Where there is a will there is a way." I guess when it comes to daffodils, "If you can get them there, they will grow anywhere in the world."

Name withheld to protect the guilty. (I've been accused of being too good at this traveling thing.)

(Editor: Coffee mugs with styrofoam peanuts is also a good vehicle for small bulbs. Also, if carrying them with you, place them in the toe of your shoes and replace the stuffing that comes with the shoes. Keeps them from being smashed and hopefully not found.)

Habitat for Humanity 2000

Tag Bourne, Education Chairman

As stated in the past, Habitat for Humanity's goal is to give low-income families the opportunity to have a decent, safe, affordable home they can call their own. In 1999 CODS agreed to provide daffodil bulbs for landscaping some of these homes.

On September 24, 2000 I again participated in a planting seminar held at the Greater Columbus Habitat offices. We had donations of perennials, daffodils,

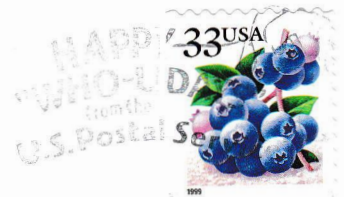
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landscaping items, herbs as well as other gardening items. There was a much larger crowd than in 1999, so word must be getting around. Members donated a great many bulbs as well as the surplus from Whetstone Garden. Betty Kealiher donated a great many bulbs that had been planted on her property for many years as she wanted room for newer cultivars. These people really appreciate receiving our bulbs and it is a wonderful project for CODS to continue.

I received the following letter from Jane Sagraves, who is Director of Family Services for Greater Columbus Habitat: Dear Mrs. Bourne: I want to thank you for your generosity and donation of the bulbs and the time you took to share your knowledge of caring and planting bulbs at our recent Habitat Fall Bulb Planting Workshop. The families thoroughly enjoyed the workshop, and all indicated they learned new information about bulb care. As you know, landscaping contributes so much to completing and beautifying a home, and many of our families have never had this opportunity. Your willingness and CODS to partner with us in this endeavor has definitely made a difference in the lives of many families. God bless you all.

Deadline for next newsletter: March 15, 2001.



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