

CODS CORNER

NEWSLETTER OF THE CENTRAL OHIO DAFFODIL SOCIETY

VOL XXX III NO 1 January 2002

Tag Bourne, President

Naomi Liggett, Editor

Dear Fellow CODS Members:

Winter is finally upon us! Our gardens are planted and the daffodils are bedded down for the winter. I was not sure it was ever going to get here with the strange weather we have been having.....Imagine forsythia blooming in December. It is not time to be thinking about Spring and another daffodil season.

Three beds were planted on October 19 at Whetstone under the most ideal conditions. Nancy Kolson laid out the beds for planting. Ray Scholz and Hube Bourne dug all the holes and Susan Gray, Phyllis Hess, Betty Kealiher, Helen Meeker and Tag Bourne threw in the bulbs (two to the East and one to the West) and covered the bulbs. We had planted three beds before noon. We all enjoyed lunch at Wendy's after a morning of hard work.

Helen Meeker has graciously agreed to chair the Whetstone Park Project. An Advisory Committee for Whetstone Garden has been appointed: Tag Bourne, Naomi Liggett and Phyllis Hess to help Helen determine what changes and/or improvements need to be implemented. We must advise the park personnel about the bulb fly problem. Weeding as usual is a real problem and with the warm weather we have been having the weeds are returning. Since working at night in the Spring was so successful, we will try it when weeding this Spring.

We had a successful bulb sale at Franklin Park Conservatory placing \$598.28 in our Treasury, Tag's workshop for Habitat for Humanity was a success on October 28 and all CODS show properties have been repainted.

For the first time we had a Christmas Potluck Dinner. I want to thank Christopher Maslon for hosting the dinner at his home and all the preparations he had made. It was well attended and wonderful food was provided by great CODS cooks. We very much enjoyed Christopher's antiques. Again, many thanks Christopher for your hospitality!

Irene Moseley was in attendance and we were so happy to see her looking so well.

It is with deep regret we announce the death of Curtis Tolley. We will miss him and send our sympathies to his wife and family.

It is December 15, 2001, and time to think about family and friends. I am very thankful for a wonderful family and good friends (especially CODS friends). I hope the Christmas and New Year's holidays are as joyful as I'm sure mine are going to be. I just hope we don't just think about all the "goodies" we will be getting, but the main reason we celebrate, the birth of the Christ child.

Happy Holidays!

Tag

FURTHER EVALUATION OF POT GROWING DAFFODILS

Donna Dietsch

🌱 A couple of years ago, I started experimenting with growing my daffodils in plastic nursery pots. Many of the people in England grow them this way, since some have smaller lots than they would like to have. First, I contacted several people and asked them how they grew theirs in pots. Then I started to look at ways in which I could do the same. I live on the bank of Big Walnut Creek and nearly half my lot is a steep slope down to the creek. Of course, I want more flowers than I can grow on the level part.

Just in case you do not remember, I found some plastic landscape timbers that have tough vinyl covering a foam core. They are so light that I can pick them up with two fingers. They can be easily cut with a small hand saw. I cut two of them in half and used them as end pieces, making the bed 4" x 8". The timbers were secured to the ground with long aluminum nails that are made to use with these timbers. One nail was inserted at each end of the first board and then another nail connected the top board to the bottom one. The bed was dug out to a depth of another board that was three inches. The removed soil was used to fill in other beds and not placed back in the bed. One of the purposes of this experiment was to control basal rot by planting in new soil each time the bulbs were dug.

I have tried various combinations of compost and soil to use in the pots. Some were fine, but some were not. I found that too much sawdust that has not completely composted would use up so much of the nitrogen that the bulbs had lighter leaves. The decay of the compost also caused basal rot and I lost several nice (and expensive!) cultivars. After plenty of thinking and some trying of different soil mixes, I have used a combination of well-rotted compost composed of just a bit of sawdust with leaves from the trees, some vegetable trimmings from the kitchen and some garden soil to start the composting. I composted this for two years, turning it whenever I thought about it and this year it was really black and smelled like a moist forest floor in spring. I combined this with a commercial top soil that I got in bags from Plantland. It is cheaper than anything else but the best I have found. The brand is Earth-Gro and is packaged by Scotts. Then I mixed a handful or two of 6-24-24 fertilizer (root vegetable fertilizer). Naturally, I do not have a container large enough to mix all this soil together, so the driveway worked just fine. I got a large quantity of one gallon nursery pots to use and they go in nicely six deep and fourteen wide, adding up to 84 pots per bed. I filled the pots about two inches deep with the potting

mix and placed them side by side in the bed. I filled in between the pots with peat moss for the first bed, but the one that I did this year was in an area where I had not had daffodils for six years, so I used some of the soil I dug out. You can plant two normal sized bulbs per pot, one if you got them from "you know who" and more if they are smaller bulbs. The bulbs are planted as two rows of pots are put into place, then another two rows are done. The pots are filled as you go, up to the top. The markers are put into the front of the pot all facing the same way. When the bed is filled, you could sprinkle more soil over the top until it is even. This year I will purchase fine granite chips to put on top of both the beds I have done so far. I intend to do two more beds before I am through.

The benefits of pot growing are that you never mix the bulbs when digging. You never slice into a very expensive one, either. If something multiplies faster than the rest of the bed, you can pull one pot and redo that one. If you find virus in a new bulb, you can pull the pot and not have to worry about it having spread to something close and you will not have to dig out soil around the place where it was. Pots are so much lighter than heavy soil and potting makes "digging" the bed a breeze. The number one benefit of pot growing is that you can plant 84 cultivars in a 4" x 8' bed. If I have more bulbs than will fit in one pot, I plant two pots next to each other. Each year, I fertilize twice by sprinkling the fertilizer over the bed in the spring when the leaves start to emerge from the ground and again in September when the bulbs are sending down roots.

When I finish the bed, I make a chart of the cultivars in the bed. I just do it on paper with a grid drawn on it. I write the name of each cultivar in the corresponding square and then I never have to worry about a marker being pulled out or becoming unreadable.

I intend to do more beds and put each of them next to the existing ones so that I can use the timbers of the first bed as part of the next one. I think four beds will be enough. This has been a fun experiment, especially since it is working and even more than that, since I keep getting older and need to make growing my daffodils easier on me.

New Member

David Gross, 2310 Tremont Road, Columbus, OH 43221

Babu Mathew, 1010 McCarron Court, Gahanna, OH 43230 614-855-5621

Shirley Pettit, 953 Mt Olive Road, Washington Court House Oh 43160 740-335-8303

Welcome!

2002 ADS CONVENTION

Betty Kealiher



The ADS Daffodil Convention 2002 will be held April 18-20 at the Drawbridge Inn and Convention Center in Ft. Mitchell, KY. This is an approximate two hour drive from Columbus to south of Cincinnati in Kentucky. If you have never attended a convention, take this opportunity to attend your first within a short distance of home.

The Southwest Ohio Daffodil Society is hoping that you will attend what they assure us will be a very special event. The general theme, besides daffodils, will be of a Medieval nature with lords and ladies, court jesters and a special appearance by King Alfred and the Empress of Ireland. The gardens of Mistress Gripshover, Lord and Lady Caton, King Alfred (Bill Lee) and the Empress of Ireland (Linda Wallpe) will be part of the Saturday tour. Sessions are planned on Friday for the newcomer, those interested in historic daffodils, soil preparation and others -- something will spark your interest.

If you registration is made before February 1, 2002, the cost of \$235.00. Rooms are available at rates of \$72.00 and \$92.00 per night.

This will be a wonderful opportunity to meet new friends and greet the old, see daffodils that will grow in your own backyard and also participate in the first *Ooh and Aah Daffodil Show*.

If you need further information, check the SWODS website at www.swods.net or contact me, Betty Kealiher at bkealiher@msmisp.com or (740) 745-3424.

Ways & Means - Daffodil Show

Phyllis Hess Chairman

I am happy to report we were able to put \$311.96 in our Whetstone Account and \$296.32 in our CODS account as a result of our bulb sale. I want to thank everyone who helped at Franklin Park, came to the house to bag bulbs, and of course, a special Thanks to those who donated any bulbs for the sale.

Also, a big thank you to Rod Armstrong and to Bill Pannill who donated some bulbs for Whetstone Park.

On another note:

Adam Kline, the teenager we hired to paint the properties, has finished his job. They look great. Tag donated and I purchased, for CODS, some plastic see through containers, boxes, to put them in, so setting up and then tearing down at future shows should be easier. They are lighter to carry and it won't matter if they get a little wet and so forth. Adam also helped me clean off the shelves in the barn, and then helped with covering the new boxes with a tarp to try to keep them clean. But, it is a barn so we will probably need to wash the ones on the top layer anyway.

Dave also brought home a wonderful cabinet that is about 8 feet long and 3 feet or so wide that we will be able to use to store some items and use the top of when we sort. It is Formica and easily cleaned. One of the perks of being married to a "scrounger." (He found the old bread rack we use for drying bulbs as well.)

I will be calling some people to help with washing the test tubes and repackaging them in the new containers after the first of the year. We have the new containers for them as well. I do need some bubble wrap to put between the layers of tubes, if you have any available to give us please let me know. I thought that would protect as well as it would not matter if it got a little damp. (much better than the paper bags or newspaper we used to use)

ODDS & ENDS

The daffodil fabric that Christopher used at our recent dinner can still be purchased at Hancock Fabrics.

Grace Baird's house has been sold and she has moved to Dayton with her daughter, Margaret. Hope all goes well. CODS will miss you, Grace! She was a charter member of CODS along with three other current members.

2002 Data Bank and *2002 Daffodils To Show & Grow* will be available after the first of the year from the American Daffodil Society office. Check for prices.

Franklin Park Conservatory may experience a large cut in the Columbus City 2002 Budget. Let's hope it is not so large that the facility cannot be run effectively. This could change our meeting place and show venue.

NEXT MEETING: ♡ February 12, 2002 *Miniature Daffodils*

Deadline for April newsletter: March 15, 2002.