



CODS CORNER

Newsletter of The Central Ohio Daffodil Society

VOL. XIX, No. 4 OCTOBER 1989

Phyllis Hess, President

Tag Bourne, Editor

Dear Fellow Cods Members,

It's that exciting time of year again! The bulbs we ordered in the Spring are arriving and we can look forward to all the blue ribbons they will be winning for us.

After all your bulbs are safely tucked in the ground, sit down, relax and send for your membership in the ADS. We should all make a concentrated effort to get one new member each for the ADS. As I have mentioned in the past, the Journal alone is worth the price.

It would be wonderful to have an even larger CODS contingent at the Convention at Callaway Gardens. If you have not been there it is a most beautiful place. For the golfer, there are three fantastic courses. I am most anxious to see the Butterfly Center as it is new since last I visited.

Of course the best thing about Convention is meeting so many wonderful people. I have particularly enjoyed meeting the breeders from around the globe. They not only share their beautiful flowers but so much wisdom as well. I can hardly wait until 1992 when we get to play host to the World!!

As we look forward to the new year I think Cindy has some great programs planned for our meetings. Be sure to mark your calendars so you don't miss a one!!

Thanks to all who donated bulbs for the Members Bulb Sale and especially to Naomi for having it at her home.

See you all October 14th at Whetstone for planting!

- o -

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Richard & Pat Henley, 6350 Harlem Road, New Albany, OH 43054

Daffodils are easy to grow. Plant them in the ground - they grow. What we want to know is how to grow them well. Part of growing them well is spotting problems and knowing what to do about them. At Whetstone Park we have been gathering information on various cultural practices and trying them out to see if we can find new ways to grow our daffodils better. Many people have offered suggestions, people in this country and also from other countries.

Recently, we have corresponded with Ron Scamp, who is starting a new display garden in Cornwall, England and with Martin Harwood who is in charge of the British National Collection of Narcissus. The most gratifying part of the exchange of information is that they asked what we have been doing here. Both are interested in an exchange of bulbs with us in order to get some varieties that are no longer found in their own country. We will receive some that we have not been able to acquire, especially those that are historic varieties that have long since left our own gardens.

Also helping us with information has been Sir Frank Harrison of Ballydorn in Northern Ireland and Dr. Elton Smith of OSU who did our pre-emergent test.

SURFLAN, the pre-emergent herbicide that was found to be most effective, should be used at a rate of five pounds to an acre, which is 4840 square yards. It comes in wetttable powder form, is mixed with water and sprayed on the surface of the soil. Follow the directions on the container. Since Dr. Smith also found that it does not harm hostas, daylillies or shrubs, you can use it in nearly any normal garden situation. After the treatment of the soil do not disturb the surface of the soil. If you do, you will bring to the surface weed seeds which will then sprout. Treat the soil in mid October to control weeds into the following June. This will not affect any perennial weeds already growing there, but will prevent seeds from germinating.

Roundup can be used in late August or early September to kill any weeds growing in your beds. Before applying Roundup, rake the surface of the soil to fill in any holes left when the daffodil foliage died. If you don't fill the holes, the Roundup may travel down the hole to the bulb and will damage or kill them. Roundup has been said to have a residual effect. That is, that it will continue to kill green plants growing later in beds that were treated. When it contacts the soil it is neutralized within a week. However, if you do not remove and discard treated plants, or if you spray it on a heavy layer of mulch, the Roundup will not contact the soil and will not be neutralized. In that case, it can remain effective long afterward. After the weeds have died and you have removed them, rake the mulch to allow treated portions to contact the soil and there will be no problem.

Especially in the kind of wet weather that we had this year, fungus and bacteria will attack the daffodil foliage. The damage is not always readily apparent unless it causes the bulb to get basal rot. What it does do is to cause a gradual decline in the affected clump, causing the bulbs to be smaller and the blooms to be fewer and smaller and weakening to plant, making it more susceptible to fusarium which causes basal rot. Eventually, the bulb will not longer be there. Early emergence of foliage will often start the problem. When the leaves get nipped by a late frost, the part that was frozen will die back. This necrotic tissue becomes a host for stagonospora fungus. Each time it rains, the spores are washed down the leaves into the bulb, infecting it, as well. You could use a fungicide to control it, but an easier way is to pluck the dead tips off the leaves. Throw them away. Don't put them on the ground around the

plants. We tried this for two years on a couple of the beds at Whetstone. The results were amazing. The clumps were larger and healthier and multiplied more. Even the color of the foliage was better and the flowers were larger. Sometimes, the simplest solution is the most effective.

Many people don't like to use chemical controls for problems and most of the rest of us find no fault with judicious use of chemicals. Sometimes, my own inclination to go easy on chemicals comes up against a problem that is too difficult to control any other way. That's where I find myself when confronted with the narcissus bulb fly. You can catch the flies with a butterfly net and then dig up all the bulbs to search for the larvae. That's nearly impossible in a large garden like Whetstone Park. Even if you did, the neighbors grow daffodils and the park has naturalized large areas with daffodils. There's nothing to do but reach for the Cygon. Cygon is best applied just after bloom is finished in early May. Two applications spaced ten days to two weeks apart, will usually be adequate control. Use three tablespoons of Cygon to one gallon of water. Add two teaspoons of a spreader-sticker. Some people use dishwashing detergent but I prefer to use a commercial compound with polymer in it since it dries hard and does not wash off. Wet the foliage completely, spraying it from all sides. Spray a couple of inches of the soil around the clump, too. The incidence of bulb fly at the park is now much less than it was for a while. We hope to have it under control in the next year or two. Remember that Cygon is a systemic poison which means that it is absorbed into the plant. It will also be absorbed into your skin. Use rubber gloves when applying it and wash afterward. Of course, you don't want to use it on food plants. It is not harmful when dry.

It seems that no single person has a monopoly on good useful information about growing daffodils. We are grateful to those people who have shared these tips with us. The more we learn, the more we find that there is to learn.

On September 27th, Brent Heath of the Daffodil Mart will be here to give a couple programs on daffodils. Beds are to be planted at the entrance to the daffodil garden at Whetstone and naturalized in ground cover under one of the trees in the perennial garden. Since this is being written before he gets here, we will have to wait to find out what is planted. It should be lovely next spring.

Planting day will be Saturday, October 14th, starting at 9:00 with rain date the following Saturday. Since we are trying it on only one day, please try to get there to help. Workers will get lunch and any extra bulbs. Bring your trowel and kneepads and come on up.

Donna Dietsch

- o -

In a previous CODS CORNER I asked anyone wishing a copy of Modern Daffodils by James S. Wells to let me know. Mr. Wells' book will be out on October 15th and we should have them available at the November meeting. However, there is a price increase of \$5.00. If you want to change your mind and DO NOT want the book, call me at 451-4747.

Naomi Liggett

REPORT FROM THE MINIATURE DAFFODIL COMMITTEE OF ADS: Joy Mackinney, Chair

The Royal Horticultural Society is contemplating making changes in the color coding of some of their miniatures.

These changes as they would affect the ADS Miniature List are:

Flomay 7 W-WPP to 7 W-WWP

Gipsy Queen 1 Y - WWY to 1 YW-WWY

Paula Cottell 3 W-WWY to 3 W-GWW

Tele-a-Tete 6 Y-O to 12 Y - Y.

The RHS suggests changing the division from 6 to 12 on the grounds that the cultivar falls neither into its parents class 6 nor its grandparents, class 8 and its perianth segments do not reflex or overlap. This division change would give ADS exhibitors an easily obtainable division when entering a Watrous collection.

Suggested additions to the Miniature List:

Cupid 6 Y-Y hybridized by D. J. Cooper, 1959 parentage unknown

Yellow Minnow, 8 Y-Y, a self-yellow clone of Minnow 8 W-Y.

EDITORS NOTE: Since Handy Hatfield is the ADS Classification Chairman, I would like to ask Handy to write up all classification changes for CODS CORNER, so that our membership can be kept informed.

- o -

NOTES FROM ADS FALL BOARD MEETING:

Dues have been increased: Individual \$20.00 per year; \$50 for 3 years.
Family \$25.00 per year; \$60.00 for 3 years.
Life membership \$250.00

World Convention was discussed and pros and cons were presented to the Board by Dick Frank. Columbus 1992 is not to be considered a formalized World Convention.

A new ADS Approved List of Miniatures will come out in the December Journal.

The Handbook Committee recommendations for a revised Handbook For Growing, Exhibiting and Judging Daffodils was accepted by the Board. Naomi Liggett is Chairman of the Handbook Committee.

A series of new by-laws and recommendations presented to the Board by a By-Laws Committee were quite disturbing to me. I hope all ADS members will attend the Regional Meeting in Dayton on Saturday, October 7th, where I am sure this will be thoroughly discussed and our representatives can go back to the Board and vote your wishes in a democratic manner.

- o -

The following was written by George Tarry for the Daffodil Society of England's Newsletter re the ADS Convention:

This year's convention was held in mid March in San Francisco, one of the early-season areas of daffodil culture in the USA. As a result the show was about half the size of those held in recent years in the main centres of activity further east but there was no lack of good flowers, good fellowship and keen discussion.

The main topic was not the awards that were made but those that were withheld. Under ADS rules every bloom must be correctly labelled with its name, classification and colour code. To secure a first award it must score 90-100 points, for a second 85-89 points and for a third 75-84, but only one of each awards may be given in any class. In collections every bloom must score in the given range of points to secure the award. At San Francisco, no fewer than ten collection classes, some of them for trophies, had the first prize award withheld as the judges scored one or more blooms at less than 90 points. The view was expressed that some of the judges were too obsessed with the desire to discover the most trivial (nit-picking?) blemishes rather than the prime objective of assessing the true merit of the flowers.

One exhibit subjected to this treatment was the 12 seedlings staged by Clive Postles in the ADS Trophy class. The judges decided that one bloom lacked the condition necessary for an award and so the whole exhibit was passed over. At the end of the two-day show there was no noticeable deterioration in the condition of any of the blooms and it is hoped that all judges present noted the condition of the collection on the second day for future reference. The trophy was won by Bill Roese of Santa Maria, CA, with a very good set of flowers, but it must have been a very close result if Clive Postles flowers not been eliminated under the ADS Code of Judging.

EDITORS NOTE: It is always most interesting, especially being a judge, to hear comments by other judges about our judging. Then I go read the portion of the handbook entitled "Etiquette and Ethics of Judges" and then I just laugh, laugh, laugh and laugh!!!!!!!

- o -

I hope to see most of you at the Fall Regional Meeting on Saturday, at Cox Arboretum in Dayton, Ohio. Bring a covered dish for lunch, your own table service, bulbs for the bulb exchange and anyone who might be interested. This is always an educational experience and the greatest people in the world. If you have not attended an ADS Regional, now is the time! You'll have a great day.

- o -

REMINDER: CODS DUES ARE NOW PAST DUE If you find a check mark here _____ this will be your last newsletter unless you send a check for \$4.00 made to CODS AND MAILED TO Ms. Lura Emig, 1878 Demorest Road, Columbus, OH 43228.

- o -

"Nature works her magic ways
With tulip and narcissus
Young and old respond alike
Exchanging hugs and kisses."

DEADLINE FOR NEXT CODS CORNER: December 15th.