



# CODS CORNER

Newsletter of The Central Ohio Daffodil Society

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Cindy Hyde, President

Tag Bourne, Editor

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Dear Fellow CODS Members,

It's almost like Christmas...waiting for the mailman to deliver my bulb orders. I enjoy receiving my daffodil orders; it's the planting that throws me a "curve." I should make an equipment checklist. Seems like everytime I load the garden cart and take it to my planting destination I've forgotten something. I wonder how many miles I walk by the time the last bulb is planted?

Summer went by fast! Chris is settled in at kindergarten. The Cocktail Party and member's bulb sale were very successful thanks to our wonderful hostess Pat Zwilling and your bulb donations! Soon it will be time for our Whetstone Daffodil Garden planting and our first meeting of the 90-91 year. I'm looking forward to another exciting year as Handy has some excellent programs planned.

Please mark your calendars now for these events:

- October 13 at 9:30 a.m. - Whetstone Daffodil Display Garden planting. Bring your shovels, trowels, knee pads, rakes, etc. A light lunch will be provided as usual. Contact Donna if you have questions.
- October 27, 1990 - Annual Fall Midwest Regional Meeting at Cox Arboretum in Dayton. Nancy Gill and Handy are on the program, and others, and there will be the annual bulb exchange. Contact Peg Newill (513)885-2971 for more information.

Thanks also to Nancy Kolson for the great job she did publishing our annual yearbook. She devoted much time and effort to the book's organization.

On a sad note - We were very sorry to hear that David Spitz was back in the hospital in August. Please keep he and Cecile in your prayers.

See you at the planting,

*Cindy*  
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## PETER BARR MEMORIAL CUP 1990

The Peter Barr Memorial Cup was established by the RHS to recognize major contributions to the development of the Daffodil. I was so pleased to see that it was presented to Kate Reade of Carncairn this year for her hybridizing and enthusiastic promotion of the Daffodil. Kate has been so kind to our CODS members over the years and it would be nice to see many cards from this group going her way.

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 Mrs. William C. Baird, 1874 Collingswood Road, Columbus, OH 43221.

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### SEEDLINGS AT CASCADE DAFFODILS - 1990

Making daffodil crosses and raising the seedlings to blooming stage is, to me, the most fascinating part of growing daffodils. While shows are fun -- its always thrilling to win a major award -- that just does not produce anywhere near the excitement or year 'round interest that a breeding program does. Even more than seeing favorite, named clones bloom each Spring, seeing the first flowering of your own seedlings provides a special thrill, particularly if they are outstanding in any respect. With a named clone, (or even a selected seedling) one can look forward to only variability in bloom quality from year to year. With first bloom seedlings, however, the experience is always new and always fresh, carrying with it as it does the possibility for achieving a really outstanding daffodil.

Of 43 seedlings resulting from the cross Broomhill x Misty Glen, thirteen have already been selected for further observation and, of those, seven have appeared in winning Red-White-Blue Ribbon exhibits and one, 81-29-12, was awarded the Rose Ribbon at the 1989 Minnesota show. As a group, the overall quality of the cross is very high. The flowers distinguish themselves with exceptional whiteness, unusually heavy substance, uniform smoothness and deep green eyes.

The perfection of 81-29-11 clearly marks it as the best of those flowering to date. Incorporating much of the alluring perfection of its illustrious parent, Misty Glen, the beautifully proportioned flowers, while slightly smaller, are considerably whiter and smoother with very heavy substance in their opaque petals. This seedling's performance has been so good in the three years since it first flowered, one can only hope that it is maintained while the stock increases to the point where it can be named and registered.

Over the years, my interest in poets has resulted in a number of seedlings being selected. Realistically -- and in spite of how I might feel about their worth -- none truly represents a significant advance in the division. Because of their limited genetic variability, poets present a difficult challenge to create distinct and significant improvements over what currently exists.

Imagine my surprise (and not a little frustration) when the best poet I've bloomed resulted from open pollinated seed. As round and flat as a fifty cent piece and about the same size, the perfectly formed blooms of 83-32-6 have the heaviest substance of any poet I've seen. The frilled eye has a deep green center, blending to a light yellow mid-zone and finishing with a deep red rim. Alas, true to its poeticus heritage, the cup substance dehydrates in strong sunshine. Remarkably, however, the cup colors neither fade appreciably, nor develop the distracting white ring so typical of most poets. As long as it maintains its present promise, it bids well to displace Seraph as my favorite poet.

One of the first crosses I bloomed from high quality parents was Easter Moon x Rashee. The remaining eight selections, while good, have not been particularly distinct, although twenty years ago they would have been breathtaking! Over the years, I've given the excess away, the last time when they were replanted in 1989.

In one of those Murphy-esque turn of events, one of them, 76-22-3, produced wholly unexpected, unusually well formed, beautifully smooth flowers of extremely heavy substance. I remember returning time and again to look at those lovely blooms, realizing all the while that the two bulbs producing those three flowers are all that remains of some twenty bulbs dug last Summer.

Why, after all these years, should this seedling have produced such outstanding blooms after so long a period of relatively undistinguished performance? Apparently, this remarkably fine flower's Achilles Heel will be a lack of consistency, although it may just need additional time to settle.

One of the most unusual flowers that I've bloomed came from Binkie, o.p. Somewhat smaller than that cultivar, with equal substance, but smoother and with an extremely strong neck and stem, the blooms exhibit a unique color pattern. Overall, the flower is clear white with each petal indistinctly and softly edged in lemon. Since the cup is pure white and the petals have the only color, would this be classed as a reverse bicolor? I've sent a few pieces of L-5-1 to other growers for an opinion because I'm not sure what to do with it, or that it really represents something worth saving.

A sibling, L-5-2, is just as distinctive, but for an entirely different set of characteristics. Quite a large bloom, it is well formed and exceptionally smooth with the heaviest substance imaginable. Of the most delicious shade of soft, clear lemon you could wish for, the flawless blooms appear as carved from ethereally colored wax. Even though of reverse bicolor heritage, the beautiful color remains uniform and unfading throughout the long life of the flowers -- a truly outstanding daffodil. Although a robust grower, it's a very slow multiplier -- just six bulbs after nearly fifteen years. That flaw can be rather easily countered, were it not for a more exasperating one -- inconsistency. This superb performance, so glowingly described, seems to occur only once every three or four years. When it does occur, however, the resultant blooms are so stunning as to make one all too easily forget!

Another Misty Glen cross, this time with White Empress, has also produced several very fine flowers. Two of the best are 81-32-1, 1W-Y, and 81-32-4, 2W-W.

- . 81-32-1 is a full trumpet bicolor with a very white, smooth, flat perianth of quite good show form. The trumpet is an unfading (unusual from this type of breeding) lemon that is without serration, but gently outturned at the lightly frilled edge. As a single bloom, the muted coloring does not make a

bold statement. Since the perianths are significantly whiter than is normal for the class, I suspect its show value may well be as a superbly matched V3 exhibit.

- . 81-32-4 is a stunning bloom and the only seedling to which I've awarded five stars. Extremely white and exceptionally smooth, the beautifully formed, green-eyed flowers exhibit unusually heavy substance. A clone of exceptional beauty and grace, it may be the best white I've produced.

Another Misty Glen cross, a larger one this time and with Empress of Ireland, has produced several flowers of more than passing interest. 82-63-1 is like a carbon copy of Homestead, but it opens considerably whiter than that variety and after only a day, or so, is ready for show. In my garden, Homestead requires a week for the rather strong yellow of the freshly opened cup to bleach out before the blooms can be cut for show. Such a lengthy requirement for maturation of the blooms exposes them to the risk of damage from severe weather. At the 1988 Chicago show, 82-63-1 was the most admired bloom in my winning Red-White-Blue Ribbon exhibit and probably would have won the Rose Ribbon had it been offered. It will probably make a fine show bloom and should provide Homestead with some stiff competition.

The really interesting one is 82-63-3. A 1W-W, I suppose, its not pure white but, rather, like heavy cream, palest primrose. Well formed, the large bloom displays a corona with the flange and lightly serrated edge of the classic trumpet. Unfading and unchanging over the long life of the blooms, the color reminds me of a family heirloom, an antique ivory bracelet. The name "Antique Ivory" seems a perfect fit for this one.

Bicolor trumpets are a major breeding interest and now, as more crosses begin to flower, certain parental characteristics are becoming evident. As a parent, Preamble, endows its seedlings with the darkest orange-gold coloring in the trumpets that I've seen. Unfortunately, this highly desirable color seems to be linked with lightly colored perianths, and not the snowy-white one longs for. That trait, just as unfortunately, appears to be linked with very pale trumpet color.

78-67-1, (Wahkeena x Preamble), is one of the best of my earliest crosses. The good form of the perianth is combined with uniform smoothness. The trumpet has the deepest, orange-gold color that has yet appeared and, as a major bonus, is unfading. Alas, the perianth is a very pale yellow, rather the shade of Ivy League, that just does not fade out. Its a slow multiplier as well, but I've used it several times in crosses hoping to retain its best traits while trying to whiten the perianth.

One of my best 1W-Ys seedlings came from an unlikely source -- 2W-W Dew Pond, o. p. 83-25-2 comes close to what I am looking for: beautifully formed perianth with a gracefully out-turned, lightly frilled trumpet; clear, clean white; very smooth and with good

substance; a bonus are the strong stems. It lacks only size and, alas, depth of color. Although size most likely will improve, the color probably will not deepen beyond the present pure, soft lemon -- a shade the color of beaten egg yolks.

Rainbow has long been a favorite show flower and, even though newer seedlings are touted as its successor in the class for non-predominant pinks, I feel it remains the best of its type. Several selections from a series of Rainbow by Tangent display the desirable show characteristics of Rainbow, but surpass that variety with much whiter perianths and purer, deeper pink coloring that (over the range of the cross) is quite fade resistant.

81-25-2 and 81-25-3 both open with solidly colored, deep pink cups. That color rather quickly recedes to a wide band that is then retained for the life of the blooms. In cooler, more favorable growing regions the change may not be as rapid or as complete.

As the cross of Ghost by Canisp began to bloom, I was not particularly impressed, even though the blooms opened the clearest white. Since the seedlings appeared larger and stronger this Spring, I decided to take a closer look at them.

What I had earlier dismissed because of rather narrow petals and less than optimum size produced a quite different impression this Spring. Now in their third season, this series from Celilo x Canisp has produced several extremely white, green eyed trumpets with the narrow-based trumpet form that so delighted Murray Evans. Another heritage from this line of breeding is the narrowed petals. Rather than detracting from the bloom's presentation, it seems to add a light and graceful, appealingly feminine touch -- quite distinct from the heavy appearance of large blooms like Empress of Ireland and Panache. Those that have bloomed to date are quite uniform, making selection difficult. This cross may well have to be grown several seasons before selections can be made.

I've never been one to discard open pollinated seed and, over the years, I've bloomed several distinct seedlings from it. Two of the better ones to bloom are both 2W-Y and probably Festivity, o.p. Their wide, flat, rounded perianths are beautifully smooth and have quite good substance. The outstanding characteristic of each of them is color: brilliant, clear white perianths and unfading cups of deep, orange-gold. That intense, unfading cup color marks them as distinct advances, particularly in this climate where strong Spring sunshine fades almost everything. Oddly, each opens on a short stem that lengthens to normal height after several days. Both are robust growers with wide, deep green foliage and one tends to be a faster multiplier than the other.

That I know of, I've not been any more successful in achieving good 1Y-Rs than other breeders. One of the best of the "also rans" combines the long, straight-sided cup, wide perianth and heavy substance of Resplendent with the equal substance and smoothness of the Australian 2Y-Y, Ives. The resulting seedlings all have very

heavy substance and are quite smooth. Although the cups are trumpet-shaped, none measure the desired Division 1 length or have much depth of color. Nonetheless, I've used them in several crosses, but have yet to see the results. Several of those crosses involve other seedlings from similar breeding, i.e., 1Y-Y x 2Y-R, so there exists the possibility that a fortunate combination of genes will yield what is sought: a full trumpet 1Y-R with deep, lasting color.

The most interesting cross blooming here this Spring came from Widgeon x Pink Caprice. Most of this season's first bloom seedlings have been marked for further observation. There has probably been more variation in this cross than any I can remember from recent experience. Many of the seedlings measured Division 2, as would be expected, but a number of Division 1 seedlings have also appeared. The color combinations have ranged from W-W, Y-Y, Y-W, Y-P, W-Y and W-P with several variations of these basic colors in the coronas. Inexplicably, several of the best selections from this cross are Division I.

- . 82-16-2 is a beautifully formed 1Y-WWY of very good show form, exemplary smoothness and substance and classic coloring. The very flat, wide-petalled, smooth perianths open an attractive, amber-tinted soft yellow that holds throughout the bloom's long life. Of a shade similar to the perianth, the trumpet is distinctly suffused with pink and ends in a neatly ruffled rim of amber-gold. Slowly losing much of its color as the bloom matures, the trumpet whitens to a distinctive reverse bicolor with a lovely, ruffled rim of deep gold.
- . Another trumpet, 82-16-1, is close to being the best of the cross to bloom to date. The well proportioned blooms have the most beautiful pastel coloring of creamy-lemon and soft, pure pink. As the flowers mature, the distinctive white ring -- a hallmark of reverse bicolor breeding -- appears at the base of the perianth segments and the trumpet whitens a bit as some of the pink disappears, but not to the point where the reverse bicolor effect occurs. For the second year in a row, the perianths have opened perfectly flat and without flaw.
- . 82-16-8 goes through several color phases before it matures to 2YW-WWP. This is the largest flower of those that have bloomed to date and, overall, one of the prettiest. The wide-petalled, smooth, flat perianths are a soft, clear lemon-gold and back a heavily ruffled cup of amber-pink tinted with gold. Over the long life of the blooms the pink gradually fades, receding to the rim of the flowers, as the amount of gold in the color increases to where the ruffled band of color becomes like a sky at dawn: soft pink, shaded with amber and gold. In the early hours of the day and late in the afternoon when the light is indirect and not as bright, the white cup has an overlay of palest pink. This lovely flower is quite unlike anything else I've seen in daffodils and remains in my mind's eye as the most impressive bloom of the season.

Dave Karnstedt