

CODS CORNER

NEWSLETTER OF THE CENTRAL OHIO DAFFODIL SOCIETY

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Nancy Kolson, President

Naomi Liggett, Editor

Dear Members,

It's Christmas in September! Just Friday I received three packages of bulbs in the mail and I could hardly wait to open them. The bulbs themselves were wonderful, but it was the gratis bulbs that I was really curious about--I wanted to see what new cultivars I had gotten. I can hardly wait for next spring to see them bloom.

We recently had two of the best bulb sales that I have ever seen. Our Ways & Means Chairman, Phyllis Hess, spent many hours organizing these sales, and the results were fantastic! At the Members' Bulb Sale, many very nice cultivars were offered at an extremely reasonable price. Phyllis and Sara Scribner really organized it well. Then, later, Naomi Liggett spent a day helping them repackage the left-over bulbs for the public bulb sale at Franklin Park Conservatory. Again, Phyllis had this well-organized in 2-hour shifts. Bulbs that were left over there will be offered for sale at the Regional ADS meeting or will be given to Tag Bourne for her Habitat for Humanity project.

Over the summer, the Conservatory called and asked CODS to contribute a gift basket for their silent auction money-raiser on Sept. 24. We had an emergency meeting at the Members' Bulb Sale to okay this. The final product was beautiful--a large basket containing Brent and Becky Heath's book *Daffodils for American Gardens*, a gift membership to CODS, leather gardening gloves and 21 cultivars of bulbs with labels. The entire package was beautifully wrapped in cellophane and fastened with a big bow. Many thanks to Cindy Hyde, who did a great job on the wrapping.

Our November meeting will be on the 14th, at Franklin Park Conservatory. For the program, we'll be seeing slides of some of John Hunter's finest 'Down Under' introductions. Please plan to attend.

HAPPY PLANTING!

Nancy

Spain Revisited

Mary Lou Gripshover

This past May, I was invited to join Kathy Andersen and Kathy Welsh for a week-long trip to Spain. Since my last trip was so memorable, I jumped at the chance! And I was not disappointed!

I joined Kathy Andersen in Philadelphia for the overnight flight to Madrid, where we were met by Kathy Welsh. As it turned out, John Blanchard, his son Daniel, and Brian Duncan were also in Spain looking for daffodils at the same time as we were. Kathy A. had arranged to call John on our arrival to find out what the season was like. After getting details, they agreed we would try to meet the next evening at Pajares. Then we were off! (A sidenote here: I didn't get an International Driver's License; I don't remember getting one the last time I went; the car rental agent said that it wasn't necessary to have one to rent a car-but if the police stopped you, the International Driver's License WAS necessary. Keep that in mind if you're travelling overseas.)

The day was overcast as we set off north of Madrid, where the highway was flanked by lots of the red Flanders poppies. The Guadarramas mountains were snow-capped. Once out of the city, we left the main road and "headed for the hills." We stopped at a location where Kathy had previously found *N. rupicola* and *N. triandrus pallidulus* growing among granite rocks, and were delighted to find them again-still in bloom. Last time I went with Kathy, we went the end of March, and also found these two species in bloom, so the season was a little later. The overcast day turned into a rainy day, and though we found more triandrus later, we decided to return the next day, when we hoped the weather would be better.

Next morning the weather was better, so we went back to take photos and enjoy an abundance of triandrus blooms. Then we set off through Segovia, north towards Ponferrada, hoping to find a species which Kathy had seen two years before. Kathy hadn't found anything about any species daffodils in this area in the literature, and thought it just different enough from *N. arnensis* (a name which may not yet be acceptable) that it might not have been described previously. We found a supermarket along the way, and got provisions to sustain us in our mountain travels! After meandering along narrow, one-and-a-half lane roads, through villages as old as time, and gorgeous country, we made our way to the Sierra de Teleno, where we did find the small trumpet daffodil. The cup was yellow, and the perianth was whitish, with yellow from the cup bleeding into the perianth. They were scattered about,

a few in clumps, but many more scattered here and there. There were also a few crocus, but these were mostly over. We were at about 6000 feet elevation, and the bad weather caught up with us again, with rain and hail.

The rain followed us as we headed for the mountain pass at Pajares, where we hoped to meet John, Daniel, and Brian. When at last we made it up the 17% grade in pouring rain to the hotel at the pass, it was after 10:00 p.m.-just in time for dinner! They had about given up on us, and were a drink ahead of us-but we soon caught up! Next morning, the rain was still with us, though the weather seemed to be clearing. We found some *N. nobilis* in bloom in a field adjacent to a gas station next to the hotel. After going to the ski area nearby, where we saw a few *N. bulbocodium* and found *N. asturiensis* seedpods, we parted company with John's party, agreeing to meet two days later in Cangas de Onis. We then headed for San Isidro, where we hoped to find some *N. asturiensis* still in bloom. We were able to drive into a ski area, right up to the lifts, where there was still lots of snow on the mountains. We saw gentians growing along the roadside. We spent quite a bit of time looking around, and finally did find some *N. asturiensis* still in bloom. And I was pleased to find one with a definite pale orange trumpet! I'm trying to track down a good photo of it, as mine didn't turn out very well. I guess I was too excited!!

We then headed to Tarna, and the weather improved. We saw *N. triandrus triandrus* along the way, and found fields of *N. nobilis* near Marana. While the individual flowers are diverse and certainly not up to show standards, a field of them is a breathtaking sight. We stayed overnight in Riano, alongside the Embalse de Riano. You may remember that some years ago Kathy wrote about an area that was being flooded to provide recreational and tourism opportunities. Well, this is the place. Kathy pointed out places where she had seen daffodils before, and which were now under water. Next day we headed for the Puerto San Glorio, to the "Bear Statue." This was erected by the local public works department, but I couldn't make out why. It doesn't matter, because the view is drop-dead gorgeous! The Picos de Europa are all around, and they are magnificent! But to daffodil people, the Bear is the place which is surrounded by *N. asturiensis*. Well, there were cows, and other tourists, but no *N. asturiensis* in bloom. Well, we did finally find one lonesome bloom. But there were lots of seed pods, and I picked some, and hope the seeds matured enough to grow here next spring. Near the Puerto de Pandatrave, where we had our picnic lunch, we found Gentian verna, Ranunculus pyrenaicus, and Anemone nemorosa. After lunch, we found a magnificent field of *N. nobilis*, much larger than what we had seen before--a meadow

Phyllis Hess, Chairman

I wish to thank all those who bought bulbs at our bulb sale. Also those of you who helped dig the bulbs at Cindy's. A special thank you to Jody Scribner for allowing us to "borrow" Sara for a couple weekends. She really did a lot of work and was very helpful in getting ready for the sale. I could not have done it without her! Thanks again Sara! (She was a star salesperson at Franklin Park too!) I also want to thank Cindy for helping to pack the basket we donated to Franklin Park. She donated the wrapping, ribbon, and raffia and wrapped it beautifully as well. It contains 21 cultivars of daffodils, *Daffodils For American Gardens* by the Heaths, plant labels for the daffodils, culture sheets, a pair of garden gloves donated by Nancy Kolson, and a one year membership to CODS.

Now down to the nitty gritty, we made lots of money, \$645.00 at the members bulb sale. \$308 at the sale at Franklin Park. Franklin Park will get 20% of what was sold there.

We still have a few bulbs to take to the Regional Meeting to see if anyone there would like some ---- and some left over to donate to Habitat for Humanity. That my friends is a total job well done!!

Thank you to everyone who made this project such a success.

Editors Note: On Monday Phyllis sent an mail to CODS members listing the remaining cultivars and sold \$59.00 more bringing the total to over \$700.00. One of the best sales I can remember! Good show Phyllis!

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, November 14, 2000 7:30 at Franklin Park Conservatory. John Hunter of New Zealand is sending slides of daffodils of his origination for our viewing.

DEADLINE for January *CODS Corner* is December 15, 2000.

of flowers with mountains in the background. And such a diverse group of flowers: narrow trumpets, fat ones, narrow petals, some not so narrow. Amazing. Heading north again, we went through a magnificent canyon, the Desfiladero de los Beyos, with walls going straight up, and on to Cangas de Onis. We met John, Daniel, and Brian, and compared notes over dinner. Next morning we headed to the Lago de le Ercina area, looking for *N. citrinus*. It was Sunday afternoon, and lots of people were out enjoying the wonderful sunshine. After walking around most of the lake, we eventually found a few still in flower. Again we had a magnificent view of the Picos, from the other side! Along the way, we passed the huge church at Covadonga. This is one of the pilgrim sites in Spain, celebrating their victory over the Moors. In the afternoon, we went back to Tarna, and looking where Daniel had directed us, found *N. asturiensis* and *N. bulbocodium*, along with a few gentians. Later near the Puerto de las Senales, we found *N. tarnensis* growing happily in company with *Erythronium*.

The long drive back to the Madrid area left time for thinking about what we'd seen. I mentioned cows earlier. It seemed the best specimen of whatever species we saw was growing in the middle of a cow pie. So I guess if I had access to manure, I'd try some as a top dressing on the beds. At least on a small part, to see what would happen. Assuming I could stand the smell, of course. And the flowers within a species population are so diverse. It certainly affects my thoughts on judging species. *N. triandrus pallidulus* often comes with only one bloom per stem, so I won't object to single-floreted triandrus species in the future. And for the most part, these are mountain plants! Growing among rocks and boulders! No wonder they don't do well in my climate. And while we are taught that *N. rupicola* comes one bloom to a stem, I did see a couple with two blooms per stem. But since there is barely any pedicel, they don't look graceful on the stem--they look crowded. And Spain is a gorgeous country.

So, was the return visit a success? Absolutely. I'm glad I had the opportunity again to enjoy the company, the scenery, and the daffodils.

DUES

CODS dues are now past due. Please send your check for \$5.00 single, \$6.00 family made out to CODS to Elise Hack, Treasurer, P. O. Box 276, Powell, OH 43065. This will be your last issue of *CODS Corner*.

_____ Dues not paid