

CODS CORNER

Newsletter of the Central Ohio Daffodil Society

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear CODS Members,

Hope all your daffodil orders are in and you're enjoying summer. There are still six weeks or more to be lazy before September starts with its usual rush, and we have our buffet supper at Gripshover's. Remember, Knierim's are going to tell us all about photographing flowers--should be our best meeting ever. Look elsewhere in this issue for details and be sure to be ready when Fran Young calls you for food choice and reservations.

Another thing, we hope all members will consider applying for membership in the American Daffodil Society. The quarterly Journal which comes with the \$5.00 fee is an unbelievable goldmine of information and excitement. There should be a report of our show in the September issue and soon the news will be in about the '73 convention in Williamsburg. If you've ever been there, you can imagine the enchantment of daffodils in those gardens. Write George S. Lee, Jr., 89 Chichester Rd., New Canaan, Conn. 06840 soon.

See you in September.

--Cynthia Bell

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Our September meeting will be held on Sunday, Sept. 10, beginning at 5:00p.m. at Gripshover's, 2917 North Star Rd. Husbands are invited. It will be a pot luck buffet with a "bring your own bottle" cocktail hour. The meat will be provided, and that will cost you \$1.00 per person. If you would like to send your money in advance, that will be just dandy, and we'll consider your reservation made. When the telephone committee calls you, please be prepared to tell whether you'll bring an hors d'oeuvre, a vegetable, salad, or dessert. We're planning on being outdoors, so let's hope the weather co-operates.

NOTE--if anyone dug bulbs this year and has extras to donate to the Society, bring them along to this meeting, and we'll have a sale table where anyone who wants any of the bulbs can just help themselves and put the money in the pot (which will be provided!)

BULB SALE

The bulb sale which was decided upon at the May meeting seems to be successful. Orders were received for 85 standard collections and 63 miniature collections. We'll need lots of help with the bagging when the bulbs arrive, so we'll be calling you.

1972 SHOW

Our first ever daffodil show was a smashing success. In case you hadn't heard, there were 456 entries for a total of 897 blooms! The hard-working committee is to be congratulated for staging such a lovely show, and thanks go also to all the exhibitors for bringing their blooms to display.

MINIATURE DAFFODILS

Miniature daffodils have fascinated me ever since I first saw them at the Midwest Regional Show in Cincinnati several years ago. So in 1968 I ordered my first miniature bulbs, and I have been adding some each year until now I have about 50 cultivars. Some have thrived while others produce only foliage year after year. Still others seem out of place on the miniature list. Generally, the hybrids are more likely to bloom and thrive in the garden; bulbs of species are often collected in the wild by dealers and resent being moved to other locations. If you are fortunate enough to buy the species from a dealer who has grown them in his nursery for awhile, I believe the chances for success are greater.

Last year, most of my miniatures were placed in a special bed at the South wall of the house. The bed is raised several inches, and has a liberal amount of sand mixed in. No fertilizer was added. I had hoped that this type of preparation and location would provide the summer baking that the miniatures seem to like, but with all the rain this year, nothing has gotten a baking! (Cyclamineus ought to be happy anyway!)

Finding a source of supply for miniatures is sometimes a problem. Broadleigh Gardens, Barr House, Bishops Hull, Taunton, Somerset, England has the biggest selection. I received bulbs from them last year (by air mail) and have placed another order this year. Grant Mitsch has half a dozen bulbs listed in his catalog, and Waltz has jonquilla. Jefferson-Brown, Walter Blom & Zoon, Zandbergen-Terwegen, Gerritsen, DeJager, Park Seed Co., and Daffodil Mart also list some. I understand Murray Evans is also trying to build up a stock of some miniature

I have six trumpets which are on the ADS Approved List of Miniatures. Little Gem was one of my first acquisitions, and remains one of the first to bloom. However, there are many variations on form in the group of bulbs. From the 5 bulbs I planted in 1968, I now have over 40, but most of them do not bloom. I have selected one which I refer to as "Little Gem with good form." Some of the others may be N. minor conspicuus or Little Beauty. Who can say?

Small Talk and Wee Bee were added in 1970. Small Talk has narrower perianth segments than some of the others, but has given good bloom both years I have had it. Wee Bee is similar to my Little Gem with good form. In 1971, I added Bagatelle and Lilliput. Bagatelle on first bloom was a delightful miniature trumpet with good form and very free-flowering. Lilliput is a lb with good form, but the petals could be whiter. In the lc's, I have Rockery White which I got in 1970, and it has not yet bloomed even once. It sends up loads of foliage, but no bloom. Planted with the miniatures (although ADS does not classify them as miniatures) are la Topolino, with pale yellow petals and a deeper yellow trumpet; la Minidaff, a nice all yellow flower; and lc Colleen Bawn, an old-timer with a pendant pose. Topolino really is too large to fit in the miniature category, but Minidaff would be a fitting addition. Colleen Bawn is a trifle large, but then so are some others I can think of.

In Div. 2, I have Marionette, Mustard Seed, and Rosaline Murphy, all 2a's. Marionette is a large flower on a rather short stem, although the stem does grow as the flower ages. It has a pale rim of color on the cup. Mustard Seed opens on short stems which are barely strong enough to hold the flower off the ground. Rosaline Murphy was new this year and was a uniform light yellow. This year it had 8 or 9 perianth segments, all of which hooded around the cup. We shall see what it does next year. Colibri (also not on the ADS list) has a very large flower on a very short stem. It is quite unbalanced, and should not be added to the list.

In Div. 3, I have Segovia and Paula Cottell, both 3b, and Xit, 3c. Segovia has a lovely green eye at the base of the yellow cup, while Paula Cottell does not. Both have very long perianth tubes and long necks. They bloom late in the season. Xit is a very perfectly formed small white flower which I unfortunately lost this year. I have reordered it.

I'm not particularly fond of doubles, but I do have two miniatures. Eystettensis is a very old cultivar whose petals lie one on top of the other and form a six-pointed star. It is perhaps just a bit large to use in a collection of miniatures. Pencrebar is more orthodox in form, but appears top-heavy. Both are yellow flowers. The buds on Pencrebar blasted this year.

In Div. 5, I have Hawera and April Tears, a pair of half-sisters which are very similar. To my mind, April Tears is the more refined of the two. It is a slightly deeper yellow than Hawera and also blooms a little later. Frosty Morn is a white addition to this class, which in two years in my garden has been ridgy and wavy-petaled. It is floriferous. I have had Cobweb for two years, and have yet to see it bloom. The one bud it had this year blasted.

In Div. 6, we have three cultivars which came from the same pod of seed (Cyclataz open-pollenated) -- Tete-a-Tete, Jumble, and Quince. The tazetta ancestry accounts for the fact that there is more than one flower on a stem in these cultivars. Quince is a short cup, the

others are long cups. The coloring is similar--pale orange cups with yellow petals. Tete-a-Tete is highly regarded, but I have had it from two sources and have not been able to keep it. It has been ordered again. The Little Gentleman was new this year; it was a very smooth golden flower, but showed no evidence of its cyclamineus ancestry. The perianth was at right angles to the cup. Stella Turk was a quite small flower that was obviously a cyclamineus hybrid--the perianth was reflexed almost as much as in the species. In comparison, Mite is a large flower with a pleasingly reflexed perianth. Most of the flowers in this division bloom early.

The jonquils as a group are very fragrant. Sundial is the first one to bloom for me, about midseason. Coming near the end of the season are Bobbysoxer and Bebop. Bebop has only one flower to the stem, while Bobbysoxer generally has two. Clare is a slightly larger edition of Sundial, with one flower to the stem. Demure, in white and yellow, is very refined. Lintie is quite large with a wire rim of color on the cup. Baby Moon and Baby Star are similar--both gold and very fragrant, but Baby Star is earlier and on shorter stems. Both are very floriferous. Baby Moon blooms at the very end of my season with Frigid, opening about May 12. Kidling on first bloom was undistinguished. Pixie has been lost; Pixie's Sister had tiny bulbs when it was replanted in its new location last fall and did not bloom this year. Hopefully the new location will be more to its liking. I have had Flomay and Peaseblossom for two years, and neither has yet bloomed.

In Div. 8, I have only Minnow, but I like it very much. Mine is almost a bicolor--pale yellow perianth with deeper yellow cup--but Grace also has Minnow, and hers has yellower petals.

I'm presently growing (or attempting to grow) 15 species miniatures. Asturiensis is the earliest of all to bloom. This miniature trumpet is planted in my patio garden so I can enjoy it without venturing out in the yard during our unpredictable March weather. Cyclamineus is another early charmer. I had ordered it for several years in a row, and one year what few bulbs grew turned out to be bulbocodium nivalis, and another year the bulbs didn't grow at all. Last year Grant Mitsch was kind enough to send me a bulb of it, and it was beautiful this past Spring. It supposedly does not live long in cultivation, so I hope to propagate it from seed. Scaberulus is a tiny, early flower here--absolutely delightful! Triandrus and rupicola are both lovely--I'd like to have more of each of them. In the two years I've had it, N. x tenuior has had loads of lovely foliage, but no blooms. N. minor in several varieties gives very little bloom. Jonquilla perfumes the air with fragrance.

Miniatures look best when planted in a garden to themselves, or in a rock garden with plants of similar scale. If it's a mass of color you want, stick to the standard size flowers. Miniatures need to be enjoyed as individuals.

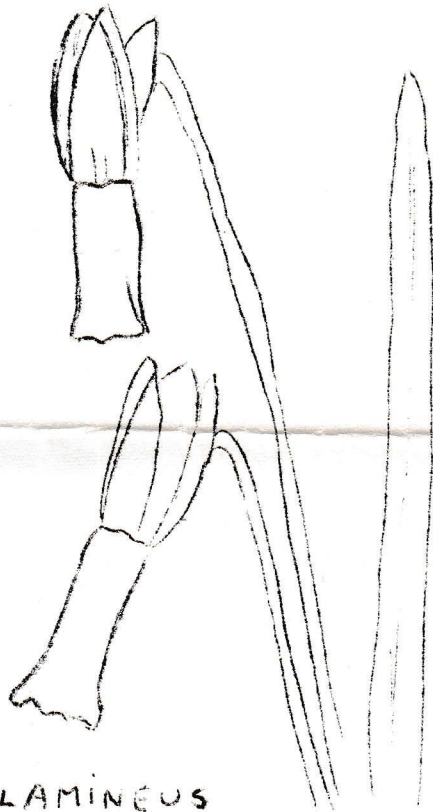
--Mary Lou Gripshover

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

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