

FRANK GALYON

Frank Galyon of Knoxville, Tennessee, who died in February 2007, had a keen interest in gardening that went back over eight decades. A medical doctor by profession, Frank hybridized a wide range of plants including Magnolias (for which he was internationally famous), Hemerocallis and Iris. In 1974 he started to apply his wide experience of hybridizing to daffodils, of which seven, including five in 2005, have so far been registered and further selections will be introduced in due course by Elise and Richard Havens. Frank's best known flower to date is perhaps 'Millie Galyon' 2W-R ('Dewy Rose' x 'Pipestone') which was named after his wife and as a seedling won the Mitsch Award for the best vase of three of a seedling exhibited by its raiser, at the ADS National Convention and Show in 1997. However, given their relatively recent introduction, the registered daffodils are but a small part of his contribution to the daffodil world.

Frank Galyon froze pollen so as to be able to make crosses between early and late and spring and autumn flowering daffodils, and made a point of sharing both this expertise and his knowledge of genetics with other hybridizers, via his articles in *The Daffodil Journal* of the ADS. By distributing seeds widely in both the USA and abroad, Frank also resolved the problem of what do when advancing years made it unlikely that he would live long enough to see the results of crosses

that he had made. As a hybridizer Frank was interested both in breeding early and late flowering cultivars that would grow well in Tennessee and in working toward the creation of fertile miniature and standard sized daffodils from each of the divisions 5, 6 and 7.

I met Frank Galyon on a bus trip during the ADS National Convention and Show at Portland, Oregon, in 2000 and both then and in subsequent telephone conversations spent many happy hours discussing hybridizing with him. Despite the difficulties of which he was very well aware, Frank was more optimistic than most hybridizers about the potential for raising fertile daffodils in divisions 5, 6 and 7 by using existing diploid and triploid species and cultivars. It was this which led me to invite Frank to contribute 'My work with the genus *Narcissus*' to the 2002-3 *Yearbook*. The article both reported evidence of real progress in some difficult areas of hybridizing and passed on fascinating insights for other hybridizers to use. These insights and the practical evidence that built up through his hybridizing will be Frank's ultimate legacy

to the daffodil world. A fuller feel for the deep love of plants felt by this gifted and thought provoking hybridizer can be had by reading both the article mentioned above and that written by Ruth Pardue and published in the June 2004 edition of *The Daffodil Journal*, to mark the award of the ADS Gold Medal to Frank Galyon.

Malcolm Bradbury



Frank Galyon with gold medal
(photo Lynn Ladd)



'Quick Bells' 5W-W
(photo Elise Havens)