

# Awards to people

## **PETER BARR MEMORIAL CUP 2011 Awarded to Kathy Andersen Brian Duncan**

In 2011, Dr Kathryn (Kathy) Andersen from Phoenixville, Pennsylvania, USA became the one hundredth recipient of the Peter Barr Memorial Cup. President Elizabeth Banks conducted the much improved and dignified Awards ceremony at the Royal Horticultural Society with charm and efficiency, and seldom has the Cup been both presented and received with such gracious pleasure. On the recommendation of the Daffodil and Tulip Committee, the Cup is awarded annually to someone who has 'done good work of some kind in connection with daffodils', and there is no doubt that Kathy merited the accolade.

Kathy Andersen, who confesses to having passed 'four score years', has for a generation and more been one of the most respected daffodil aficionados in the United States. She was a founder member of the Delaware Valley Daffodil Society and joined the American Daffodil Society (ADS) in 1967, being its Secretary for 12 years from 1972 to 1984 and President from 1988 to 1990. She has been both a member of the Executive Committee and Chairman of the Research Committee and is currently Species Conservation Chairman, a position she previously held for several six-year terms. Kathy is dedicated to maintaining and improving judging standards and has for long been an instructor at ADS judging schools. She has been a great ambassador for the daffodil and has taken part in every World Convention since the first, while her record of attendance at ADS conventions has been spoilt only by her giving a lecture on clivias elsewhere, another of her specialist subjects. She was awarded the ADS Silver Medal in 2002 for outstanding service to the Society.

I first met Kathy in Philadelphia at the 1976 ADS Convention, when she was not only the very efficient Secretary of the Society, and



Kathy Andersen  
with the  
Peter Barr  
Memorial Cup  
(photo James  
L Akers)

obviously very much in control of ADS affairs, but also National Show Chairman in charge of all the arrangements – and she still managed to win the most prestigious Quinn Medal and at least four other major awards. On that occasion and numerous others since, Kathy has stayed up all night staging her hundred or more flowers – such energy and perseverance brings enthusiasm and dedication to a new level. Not surprisingly, I was in awe of this wonder woman!

Over the years Kathy has won countless other ADS awards at both local and national level, prime targets being the Quinn Medal for standard daffodils and the Watrous Medal for miniature daffodils. In 2008 she exhibited at the RHS show in London for the first time and won the trophy for the best miniature.

Inspired by John Blanchard, Kathy developed a deep and passionate interest in studying daffodils in the wild and has acquired and developed a vast knowledge. She has travelled every year since 1988 in search of species and wild hybrids in France, Spain, Portugal and Morocco. It has been a pleasure to join her on some of these expeditions: her enthusiasm is infectious and she seems to find no situation, let it be steep hill or cliff face, too daunting if daffodils are there to be studied and photographed. She may be amused to learn that

a mountain goat has been mentioned, by way of comparison, in admiration of her exploits in the hills. John Grimshaw said 'indomitable' was a word invented for Kathy after she and Marvin joined him on Alpine Garden Society expeditions he led to East Africa and the Drakensberg. Perhaps those climbing days have gone, but walking poles still drive her to amazing exertion in pursuit of her beloved wild daffodils. In a recent email she put her species hunting expeditions at the pinnacle of all her many horticultural interests. I can relate to that!

Kathy has many friends in the daffodil fraternity who will share her delight in this prestigious award. Indeed, since the presentation we have found that Kathy is equally well known by lily, clivia and chrysanthemum cognoscenti throughout the world and said to be worthy of similar recognition in any of these fields.

We wish Kathy many more years' enjoyment of daffodils and daffodil-hunting.