



Weird Weather Again - But It Looks OK for a Good Show

While the warm winter made our show look iffy, the recent cold seems to have slowed things down. Two weeks ago I saw my first bloom of Peeping Tom, always the first to appear here. Last week I saw nine of the same flower in a bunch which got a lot of sun. This Tuesday they are still there, recovering from the recent chill. I don't expect them to stay around for the show on April 30, but their friends look healthy and are budding now.

- We won't have a pre-show session for newbies since last year's wasn't well attended, and it's late to schedule it. But we have good handouts with instructions, and we will make them available on our website or, upon request, by mail. The website was hurt recently and is in need of repair, but it should be back in shape by when you get this.

- As always, we are looking for everyone to pitch in for an hour or two to make this high point of our Club year achieve the heights we are used to. We can use a couple of helpers on Friday afternoon, the 29th. You may be very helpful just by "minding the show" on Saturday afternoon or anytime Sunday. This would be an excellent time to really take in

all the winners, see how they compare to what you have in your garden, and to answer the questions of the many visitors to the Garden who will be delighted to discover our show in Bernstein Hall. We especially need folks during lunch on Saturday and for the cleanup at the end on Sunday around 4:30.

- Of course, if you plan to enter blooms - (And why not? There are sure to be some good ones in your yard by then!) - plan to be at the Garden early on Saturday. It always takes longer to prep entries than one expects, and there should be someone there to advise you. Entries should be in by 11 AM. And, there are many little tasks for which your presence will be helpful during the judging.

- Don't forget the Design and Photography sections. Tell your artistic gardening friends.

- The Show program is a PDF file which will be on the website, will be emailed to you, and which will be sent on paper on request.

- If you are not members at the Garden, you may gain entry by identifying yourself to a gate sentry as working on show setup.

A Word or Two From Our New President...

Earlier this month I had the absolute pleasure of attending the 2016 World Daffodil Convention in St. Louis along with George and Mary, Nancy, Katherine, and Ray. I can't begin to explain how much I learned on this trip. Every person met was united in a love of daffodils and was overwhelmingly welcoming. I was rapidly introduced to greats in the daffodil world, whose names I have heard since childhood, and I made new friends from all over the country and the UK, Ireland, New Zealand, and Australia. My making the comparison to it being "Better than a Doctor Who convention" was met with varying degrees of amusement. My enthusiasm carries to our upcoming show (hopefully my blooms are equally enthusiastic). Each club was challenged with bringing in and mentoring a youth to join our hobby. Reach out to any susceptible grandchildren, children, and neighbors to whom we may spread yellow fever (with their parents' permission, of course). Happy growing, may your season be plentiful, and may your bulbs be well drained. See you soon!

Rose Finnegan, President

AND, YOU SHOULD PUT THE MAY 7 SHOW IN SHEBOYGAN ON YOUR CALENDAR

The initial show in Sheboygan, organized by Ray Rogers, was an enormous success last year. There were five of us who showed up there to enter blooms, judge, or just have a look at the proceedings. Ray has the Town and Country Garden Club excited about our favorite flower and the opportunity to share them with the public. It's a nice one-day trip to the May Environmental Center. Ray saw that the MDS got some good PR as co-sponsors.



Sheboygan Press

Mark May 7 to visit Wisconsin. You may have as much fun as Katherine Robinson did while judging there last year.

Contact Ray at: rayorayor185@gmail.com or



Katherine Robinson (see page 1) also attended but missed the photo session.



Shown are Nancy Pilipuf, George Dorner, Rose Finnegan, Mary Dorner, and Ray Rogers at the very recent World Daffodil Convention in St. Louis. Ray was the big winner in the Container section. We all had a great time viewing the gorgeous blooms, traipsing through huge gardens (the weather wasn't better than Chicago), hearing experts from around the world, and visiting with new and old friends who share our narcissus fascination.



Brent Heath, Rose Finnegan, Sara Van Beck, Loyce MacKenzie

One of Jason Delaney's fields in Flora, Illinois.

• **The Fall Bulb Sale** will be on **October 15-16**. Same drill as usual. We're looking for someone to phase in on running our second most important event, and we will set up a committee to help. We hope to get in on the dig at Oakwood again this year. Details are not yet available. The last few years the dig has been on Memorial Day weekend, hard for our main diggers to do because of public memorial services which demand time from vets and service volunteers. We may try to schedule a more convenient time. Stay tuned.

• And, we really goofed this year. We thought that we brought home many bulbs of Phantom and Coral Light, and that's how we sold them. But Al Champ put some in pots and his early report was that these were NOT the right names for the bulbs. We owe

an apology to many customers and to you. If you received either of these misnamed bulbs and marked them when you planted them, shoot a photo when they bloom and we'll try to verify what they really are.



The Phantom Phantom

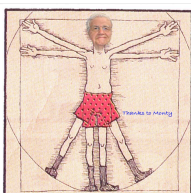


The Elusive Coral Light

• Check out our **webpage** at MidwestDaffodil.org and follow our presence on **Facebook**. Rose posts nice photos there, and we get a number of "Likes". If you have good photos to post, send them to Rose or me.

• I want to thank all you folks who have been supportive in the various activities of the Midwest Daffodil Society. Especially, we owe a ton of thanks to Carol and Al Champ who have served as officers and have helped give continuity over the years.

• I met Rose (then Rose Bradley) and her mother (a protegee of Charles Wheatley, who got me into daffodils) at the first MDS meeting I attended. She was a pre-teen, I think, and now she is positioned to help move the organization forward. And, she significantly has helped to lower our average age. Good luck, Rose. *George Dorner,* daffodil@dorners.net.



LAST ISSUE, WE ASKED "WHAT SHOULD THE PRESIDENT OF THE MDS DO?"

Well, now we have a new President and it's time to step forward to advise, support, and volunteer to make her job easier and more effective, to help mold the organization for new challenges, and to get some other enthusiastic members.

Send President Rose an email at rosita1254@gmail.com.