

Narcissus Notes

September 1980

Midwest Region - American Daffodil Society



Regional Vice President:

Mrs. James Liggett
4126 Winfield Road
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Editor:

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Regional Directors:

Mrs. Wm. C. Baird, 1874 Collingswood Road, Columbus, Ohio 43221
Mr. W. H. Schrader, 1008 Sycamore Line, Sandusky, Ohio 44870
Mrs. Verne Trueblood, RFD 3, Box 187A, Scottsburg, Indiana 47170
ADS Treasurer: Mr. Wells Knierim, 31090 Providence Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44124

ADS Director-at-Large: Mrs. Goethe Link, P. O. Box 84, Brooklyn, Indiana 46111

ADS Committee Chairpersons:

Miniatures - Mrs. Neil Macneale, 524 Abilene Trail, Cincinnati, Ohio 45215
Test Gardens - Mrs. William Pardue, 2591 Henthorn Road, Columbus, Ohio 43221

VICE-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members:

I am looking forward to seeing many of you Saturday, October 11th at the Midwest Region's Fall Meeting. The program will be informative and hopefully of interest to all. It will be held in Dayton, Ohio, at the Benjamin Wegerzyn Garden Center, 1301 E. Siebenthaler. For your convenience an unattached map is included with this newsletter.

The agenda is as follows:

10:00-10:30	Registration and Coffee
10:30-11:00	Business Meeting - Report of Societies
11:00-12:00	HYBRIDIZERS: PAST AND PRESENT - Mrs. Hubert Bourne
12:00-1:00	Lunch
1:00-2:00	DOUBLE DAFFODILS - Handy Hatfield
2:00-2:15	Bulb Exchange
2:15-	ENCORES - Slides 1980 Shows - Wells Knierim

It has been decided to have a potluck lunch since it would not be convenient to go out or to have it catered. Bring your favorite salad, casserole, dessert or whatever. If we can cook like we grow daffodils, it will be a gourmet delight. Napkins, cups and drink will be provided, but please bring your own table service. Coffee and doughnuts will be available before the meeting at cost. Please let me know whether you plan to attend, so I have a rough idea how much to buy. Last, but not least, do not forget the bulb exchange. Bring a bulb or two and hope to win a bulb you've always wanted.

Congratulations to the new judges in our region. 1981 Show Chairman don't forget to consider them for your shows. If any of the Student Judges still need shows to judge, please let me know and I will try to help you finish your requirements.

The Indiana Daffodil Society will host the ADS Fall Board Meeting September 26-27 in Indianapolis. Friday night members will be bussed to the Goethe Link Observatory for buffet supper followed by slides of the Link Garden. Saturday after the Board Meeting, a trip will be made to the famous Indianapolis Motor Speedway. Evening brings dinner at the Sheraton West with a slide presentation by Wells Knierim.

I am compiling an information sheet on the five societies in our region. If you are not now a member of one and are interested in joining one, write and I will send you a copy. Belonging to a local society is informative and will help you become more involved in daffodil growing and showing. For those not close to an organized group and interested in helping form one in your area, please write for assistance.

Did you know that there were 2,842 daffodil exhibits with 5,397 blooms in our Midwest Region's shows this past spring. That's a lot of daffodils! Let's hope we can top this next Spring.

Plan now to take Saturday, October 11th off and join your fellow daffodil lovers at the Region's Fall Meeting.

Sincerely,



Naomi Liggett

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NEW MEMBERS:

Warren E. Rupp
1829 Alta West Road
Mansfield, Ohio 44903

I. E. Weed
4200 Foster
Columbus, Ohio 43214

Mrs. E. W. Ossenschmidt
3753 Sagebrush Lane
Cincinnati, Ohio 45239

Mrs. Betty G. Dziech
10310 Little Turtle Lane
Piqua, Ohio 45356

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At the time of publication, Mrs. Betty Barnes, Judges Chairman, informs me that Tag Bourne, Nancy Gill and Handy Hatfield have finished all the requirements and have received their ADS Judges Certificates and their names have been added to the list of ADS Accredited Judges. Mrs. Barnes will inform us of those who complete their requirements in the future and those names will be published in later issues of Narcissus Notes.

In the last issue of our newsletter, I referred to diseased bulbs being saved by a Benomyl soak. I have been reminded in a letter to the Editor that I should have pointed out that 1 Tablespoon of Benomyl translates to 2 Tablespoons of Benlate (the form in which it is available to gardeners). Many people get these two mixed up and do not use enough Benlate. Some good growers have used 3 Tablespoons of Benlate per gallon of water.

I hope you like our new letterhead for Narcissus Notes and the Editor would appreciate any timely articles from regional members to go with it.

FORCING DAFFODIL BULBS

Christmas in the Fall? That's right, have you ever thought of a gift of forced daffodils for that special friend or neighbor? Now's the time to think about it. Some inexpensive older varieties available in your local garden store are perfect for forcing.

Narcissus "Paper White" is probably the easiest and most popular variety to force. These fragrant flowers offer weeks of continuous bloom and sure-fire cure for the mid-winter doldrums! It's simple! Arrange the bulbs around and on top of pebbles or vermiculite in a shallow bowl. Water and place in a cool dark place until roots are well formed, then move to a cool room to flower. The entire process takes about six (6) weeks.

Early blooming standard varieties are generally best for forcing, however, some later varieties have proven quite successful. Some recommended forcing varieties are:

GOLDEN HARVEST 1 Y-Y	THALIA 5 W-W
DUTCH MASTER 1 Y-Y	CARLTON 2 Y-Y
REMBRANDT 1 Y-Y	CROCUS 2 Y-Y
KING ALFRED 1 Y-Y	AVE 2 W-W
CANTATRICE 1 W-W	KILWORTH 2 W-GRR
CROMARTY 1 Y-Y	ICE FOLLIES 2 W-W
EFFECTIVE 1 W-Y	MAHMOUD 3 W-R
HUNTERS MOON 1 Y-Y	MATAPAN 3 W-R
BEERSHEBA 1 W-W	TREVITHIAN 7 Y-Y
BINKIE 2 Y-W	CRAFORD 8 W-R
CARBINEER 2 Y-R	ACTAEA 9 W-GRR
GERANIUM 8 W-O	FEBRUARY GOLD 6 Y-Y
	KINGSCOURT 1 Y-Y

Bulbs must be pre-cooled if you desire bloom in January or February. The blooming process can be shortened a few weeks by chilling the potted bulbs then bringing the pots into a warmer environment. But, bloom in January is practically impossible without pre-cooled bulbs. The minimum period of time to cool the bulbs is 1,000 hours at 38° - 40° F.

Choose a plastic or clay pot that has excellent drainage. This promotes root growth, air circulation, and prevents root rot. Place charcoal or gravel over the drainage hole then cover with a thin layer of peat moss. Fill the container with a growing medium consisting of fertile, sterilized, well drained potting soil, leaving about 5" from the top. Place the bulbs about 1½" apart and cover with remaining soil. The tips of the bulbs should be at soil level. Leave about ½" from the top of the pot for watering. Remember the level of the soil will sink after watering. Then the pots may be placed in an unheated room, in a garage, or on the basement floor, but they should not be allowed to dry out. Two to three weeks of a temperature of 50° F is ideal for promoting root growth. The pots could then be buried outside (before the ground freezes), placed in a cold frame, put on outdoor cellar steps, or unheated attic steps, placed in a basement window well, or returned to the refrigerator. All are fine if they can be kept dark and the temperature relatively even at 40° F. Rocks or gravel of some kind should be placed in the trench or window well to insure good drainage and prevent worms and insects from invading the container. Cover pots with layers of soil, grass clippings, hay, or black plastic to prevent freezing. We want to encourage root growth and to discourage top growth.

In 10-12 weeks when root development is apparent and a tiny bit of top growth is visible (1"), the pot should be uncovered and given more light, but still be kept cool (50°-60°) and given more water. When buds should appear at the base of the foliage more heat, water, and light should be given. Be careful to avoid direct light.

After blooming, care should be taken to let the foliage die naturally, and the bulbs may be returned to the garden. Forcing the same bulb has not proven successful. Some experts advocate discarding forced bulbs after they bloom, but you may re-climatize the bulb back into the garden situation.

CODS is experimenting with some newer varieties from the Educational Display Garden at Whetstone Park. We hope to report to you our successes in time to have you save some of your bulbs for forcing next Fall. Let's face it it beats paying a psychiatrist for the mid-winter doldrums!

Nancy Gill

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GROWING DAFFODILS IN NORTHERN INDIANA

My season is finally over and I can now look back at what was the longest and latest one ever. The Memphis Convention took place before even *N. cyclamineus* was out but we went anyway. A chance to meet old and new friends and see daffodils long before ours would show their faces. It was a pleasure to finally meet John Lea and listen to his thoughts on daffodil raising. Did you know he almost discarded Achduart and Gold Convention? Achduart 3 Y-R was Best in Show at the convention, too! I also noted a nice Lemon Candy 2 Y-W and the Merlin x Estrella seedling both shown by Bill Roese.

Back home *N. cyclamineus* and Bagatelle started to open and were crossed with their seeds harvested yesterday. We then journeyed to Oregon to visit the Mitsch's, Murray Evans and others. The first part of the week was rainy but the last half was warm, sunny and quite nice. At Grant's the new red/pinks were looked at eagerly. Magician 2 W-R was the best of them ... an improved Cool Flame. Carib 6 W-P had improved over three years ago when I saw three flowers of it under number. I feel it is the best light colored (lilac) 6 W-P ... classic cyclamineus form. Cotinga 6 W-P was even better ... wider, larger petals than three years ago. It bloomed the same for me this year in Indiana. The 6 Y-W's were out and Swallow 6 YW-W seemed more refined than Wheatear 6 Y-WWY this year ... Nazareth 2 Y-W is the source of their reverse colors. Still under number was a 2 Y-P with the darkest pink crown seen in a Y-P. What I consider to be the best 6 Y-O for garden or exhibition has now been named Elan 6 Y-R (not to be confused with the Division 7 Eland). Torridon 2 Y-R had settled down to its Oregon home and was well colored as well as the smoothest Y-R there. Many novelties were seen and choices were hard to make, even in the mixed seedlings.

A vist to Dave Sheppard's place in British Columbia took us past Mount St. Helen's which rested, occasionally "snoring" during our stay. The Kanouse's were visited in Olympia, Washington, and their new 11 Y-W's were viewed... not the ultimate, but worth having. Dave Sheppard's farm was at early season and the CBC were out to film a documentary on daffodil growers. I especially liked his two split coronas, Honky Tonk and Can Can Girl and the Dutch 2 W-O Johann Strauss. At home all did just as well and I feel the 2 W-O which is big, well colored with very white petals, etc. and EARLY should be grown by all.

A stop at Madeline Kirby's revealed added beds of daffodils to the terraces around her house. She has such enthusiasm I wonder if mine will increase as I get older? A very beautiful specimen of 2 W-W Ardbane was noted ... it could have beat many more modern whites.

Murray was busy cultivating his greatly reduced stocks. I would venture that I have more bulbs than Murray now, but I'm not so sure that is such a good thing as digging time is near. Broomhill 2 W-W and Ghost 1 W-W were out then ... both quite per-

fect. Drama 1 Y-P was out too, but the petals are quite pale and back home it showed good increase and deeper pink coloration which pleased me. Not as good as 1 Y-P Lorikeet but nice.

Back home a cool spell was broken by 3 days of 88⁰ heat only to be followed by a snow fall! This broke a 2 week dry spell. The yellow/reds were at their best with Loch Hope 2 Y-R being flawless, Loch Lundie 2 Y-R has more substance and glowed, too. Barnsdale Wood 2 Y-R (Noton) gave its first credible flowers. Irish Light 2 Y-R (Richardson) looked like Brian Duncan's specimen shown at Columbus three years ago. The star of the season was Stylish 2 Y-O (Phillips) it opened ambery/orange and tolerated the 88⁰ heat for 2 days before it started to bleach. Older Gypsy 2 Y-R and Fiery Flame 2 Y-R (Richardson) did not show much petal color, but newer Fire Flash did and had good flowers to boot ... a solitary bloom of Creag Dubh 2 O-R was nice, but not orange in the petals. Perhaps another year will help? Dailmanach 2 W-P was vastly improved and very smooth.

Misty Glen 2 W-GWW, Impresario 2 Y-WWY and Broomhill were perfect as usual. Rubythroat was ruby red again and if shaded keeps its color completely. Grand Prospect 2 Y-W was much improved as were 2 W-Y Flash Affair (Glover), 1 W-W Lady Slim (C. O. Fairbairn) and Panache 1 W-W (Guy Wilson) down 3 years. Early 2 Y-Y Showtime (Reg Cull) here 3 years from New Zealand impressed me and had I had more out to make the trip worthwhile, it might have vied for Best in Show at Columbus. Golden Vale 1 Y-Y finally gave perfect blooms eclipsing Meldrum 1 Y-Y, Midas Touch 1 Y-Y and improved Golden Sovereign 1 Y-Y, but the massive substance of Sol 1 Y-Y (Jackson) kept me coming back and back to it. Silken Sails 3 W-WWY was huge and stately ... aptly named ... I've never seen it smoother.

It was a grand season with many perfect flowers, too many to mention them all, but in closing, I must mention Green Pearl 9 W-GWW distinctively poeticus, but without the red rim. I've had it 2 years now but these were the first flowers a little charmer!

The flowers are gone, the seed pods developing and weeds are out-numbering the daffodils. It's a long time until next Spring but I can't wait! Hope it's a little earlier for a change as I'd like to take some of the newer overseas blooms to Columbus.

Hope this is informative and that your season was as good as mine. If you ever get a chance to visit in the Spring just let me knowI should have a good display in three years if I lift bulbs this year.

John Reid

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Deadline for the next issue of Narcissus Notes is February 1st..... in that issue we will have a very interesting article by Helen Link entitled "Why Hybridize?"

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We are now down to that time and can no longer postpone worrying where to put all that good increase of daffodils dug these past months however, do take Saturday, October 11th off and join us at the Benjamin Wegerzyn Garden Center in Dayton for the ADS Fall Regional Meeting.

"Tag" Bourne, Editor