

Narcissus Notes

Midwest Region - American Daffodil Society

REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT

September, 1990

Mrs. William J. Newill
10245 Virginia Lee Drive
Dayton, OH 45458
513-885-2971

MIDWEST REGIONAL DIRECTORS

1990 Douglas Clarke
13905 Allisonville Rd. Noblesville, IN 46060
1991 Mrs. Robert H. Brunner
610 College Lane, Indianapolis, IN 46240
1992 Mrs. David Gill
2475 West Lane Avenue, Columbus, OH 43221

ADS OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS FROM MIDWEST REGION

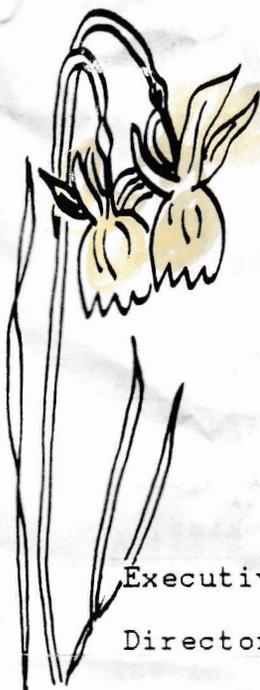
Executive Director: Mrs. Paul Gripshover
1686 Gray Fox Trail, Milford, OH 45150
Director at Large: Mrs. Goethe Link
Box 84, Brooklyn, IN 46111
Slide Programs: Mrs. Hubert Bourne
1052 Shadyhill Dr. Columbus, OH 43221
Classification: Mr. Handy Hatfield
22799 Ringgold Southern Rd. Stoutsville, OH 43154
Schools and Judges: Mrs. James Liggett
4126 Winfield Rd. Columbus, OH 43220
Membership: Mrs. William M. Pardue
25291 Henthorne Rd., Columbus, OH 43221

NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. Pat Crooks Henley 6350 Harlem Rd. New Albany. OH 43054
Dr. Michael Hovan 4251 W. Bath Rd. Akron, OH 44333-1155

WELCOME TO YOU ALL! Do plan to join your local society for sharing knowledge, fun and bulbs. We hope to see you at the October 27, 1990 Regional Meeting at Cox Arboretum, Dayton, OH.

ADS members receive a copy of the quarterly American Daffodil Society Journal and regional newsletters. They have access to the ADS library by contacting the Executive Director, Mary Lou Gripshover and slide rentals through Tag Bourne - (note addresses above). Members are encouraged to join round robins and share the area of growing and/or showing that holds their greatest interest.



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REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Remember the last Fall Regional Meeting! You went home with several new treasures (bulbs), because your fellow daffodil grower lifted and saved some to share. We are expecting a repeat performance - if you lifted bulbs this year do put some aside for the upcoming bulb exchange. It's always a highlight of the meeting.

I know you are looking forward to receiving the bulbs you ordered last spring and are anticipating future blue ribbons as you plant and label. You may wish to try the etched zinc markers sold by Smith and Hawken. Address is: 25 Corte Madera, Mill Valley, CA 94941 (415 383-200). This information came to me via Elise Olsen Cheesborough, Southeastern Regional VP. A special thank you to her for sharing. I will bring one to show at the Regional Meeting. I also label underground using pieces of plastic milk bottles correctly marked and planted with the bulb. Somehow labels do get lost. An updated map is a must. A bulb may arrive that is not what you ordered or it fails to come up. If this happens to you, just forward this information to your supplier.

Our REGIONAL MEETING is next on our agenda. Please check your calendar and be sure you have SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1990 circled as the red letter day which is for you. We will meet at COX ARBORETUM, 6733 Springboro Pike, Dayton, OH. Map and directions are included on the back page. All members, please remember to bring, 1) a covered dish to share for lunch, 2) your own table service, 3) bulbs for exchange, and 4) a friend who would be a potential member. Napkins, cups and beverage will be provided. There will be a dollar fee to cover costs.

AGENDA

9:30 - 10:15 REGISTRATION - Coffee and rolls.
10:15 - 11:00 BUSINESS MEETING

Library Report
I will return Alice Gray's Book

Report from Societies
Announcements of Show Dates
Update from National Board Members
Review of the 1990 Handbook for Growing,
Exhibiting and Judging Daffodils by Namoi Ligget
NATIONAL CONVENTION 1991 - Phyllis Vonnegut Chr.

11:00 - 11:10 BREAK -
11:10 - 12:00 REPORTS AND/OR SLIDES OF THE NATIONAL CONVENTION
SHOW WINNERS - Wells Knierimn

12:00 - 1:15 LUNCH with time to preview the bulb exchange table.

Miniature Culture

1:15 - 2:15 "FROM SOIL to SHOW" with a panel of experts - Nancy Gill, Tag Bourne, Handy Hatfield, and Mary Lou Gripshover. Questions welcomed. Come and join in share your knowledge.

Thanks = Peg

2:15 - 3:15 BULB EXCHANGE

I welcome your comments on Narcissus Notes - and most especially your articles. DEADLINE for March Narcissus Notes: February 1, 1991. How about each Society president sending in an article that they would like to share with their fellow daffodil lovers. I'll be expecting to hear from YOU!

Looking forward to seeing you on OCTOBER 27th, at Cox Arboretum.

Reg Jewell

MIDWEST REGION DAFFODIL SHOWS

April 6 - Scottsburg, IN. DAFFODIL GROWERS SOUTH, Leota Barn R.R.3
Information: Mrs. Verne Trueblood, R.R.3, Leota, Scottsburg, IN 47170

April 13-14 - Cincinnati, Ohio, SOUTHWESTERN OHIO DAFFODIL SOCIETY
at the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden, 3400 Vine St. Information
Mrs. Neil Macneale, 524 Abilene Trail, Cincinnati, OH 45215.

April 23-24 - Chillicothe, Ohio. THE ADENA DAFFODIL SOCIETY at the
Veteran's Administration Medical Center, Building 9, Recreation Hall.
Information: Mrs. Howard Junk, 1270 Austin Road, Washington Court
House, OH 43160.

April 25-26 - Westerville, Ohio, the CENTRAL OHIO DAFFODIL SOCIETY at
Inniswood Gardens, 940 Hempstead Road. Information: Phyllis Hess,
3670 E. Powell Road, Westerville, OH 43081.

April 27-28 - Mansfield, Ohio, KINGWOOD DAFFODIL SOCIETY - Midwest
Regional Show - at the Exhibit Hall, Kingwood Center, 900 Park Avenue
West. Information: Charles Applegate, 3699 Pleasant Hill Road,
Perrysville, OH 44864.

April 27 - Akron, Ohio. THE NORTHWEST OHIO DAFFODIL SOCIETY at the
Rolling Acres Mall, 2400 Romig Road. Information: Mrs. M. E. Hardesty,
4493 Newcomer Road, Stowe, OH 44224.

The Indiana Daffodil Society will be hosting the National Convention
Show in Indianapolis, Indiana, April 18-20.

ATTENTION: ALL SHOW CHAIRMAN

The question always arises - what about intermediate classes on the
show table? Following a questionnaire sent to Show Chairman the
response showed that some felt their shows were more versatile and
interesting with intermediate classes as part of their show. At
present intermediate flowers as part of the show remain a local
option.

The ADS has a NEW Awards Chairman - Robert Spotts, 409 Hazelnut Drive,
Oakley, CA 94561. Your show dates and information must be to him by
October 1. The deadline for announcements in the December Journal is
early October. Many times the March Journal is delivered to late to be
effective in publicizing your show. Please get your information to
Bob Spotts NOW! The shows listed in this issue of Narcissus Notes
were handed to Bob at the board meeting in September - If I do not
have your show date listed above he also does not have it.

SHOW SCHEDULES must be approved by Bob Spotts as early as possible.
Please pass this information on to your show chairman. Not all show
chairmen are ADS members and will not receive this newsletter.

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INTERESTED in a "Pre-1940 Daffodils" Robin? You are invited to participate. Write to Scott G. Kunst, 536 Thrud Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48103. (313)995-1486. Thanks Scott for sharing the article below.

O U T S I D E T H E O L D H O U S E



Due to a space crunch, two excellent and widely available varieties were eliminated from Scott G. Kunst's September/October article on post-Victorian daffodils: 'Scarlet Gem' (an orange and yellow poetaz, 1910) and 'February Gold' (a short, early yellow trumpet, 1923).

Daffodils:

The Glory of the Post-Victorian Garden

For daffodils, the early-20th century was a Golden Age. Although gardeners had grown and admired about a dozen kinds of daffodils for centuries, no one had put much effort into developing new varieties until the late 1800s. Then, between 1880 and 1900, some 60 named varieties were introduced; by 1920 there were nearly 1,000.

This sudden fascination with daffodils was due in part to the growing popularity of Colonial Revival and Arts and Crafts aesthetics. In contrast to the "flashy" tulips and stiff hyacinths favored in Victorian bedding, daffodils were considered simple, natural, and old-fashioned. They were also, as the catalogs emphasized, trouble-free and long-lived.

Daffodils are enjoying another renaissance today, with a wealth of new varieties being introduced yearly. Fortunately, many gems of the early 1900s remain widely available. Listed below are over three dozen classics to plant in your post-Victorian garden this fall.

Keep in mind, however, that it often took quite some time for a bulb to become popular or affordable. 'Mary Copeland' sold for a steep \$22.50 a bulb in 1931, 17 years after its introduction date. Old varieties lingered on, too.

'W.P. Milner' (1884): This strong-growing, pale-yellow miniature stands about five inches tall.

'King Alfred' (1899): This big yellow trumpet is the image that springs to mind when we think of daffodils. But, according to daffodil authority Brent Heath, 'King Alfred' has become almost a generic term. True stock is rare, with similar and newer varieties frequently substituted for

the real thing.

1880-1889: Other still-available treasures from this period include: 'Colleen Bawn' (1885); 'Scilly White' (1889); 'Grand Monarque' (1890). (Only 'Colleen Bawn' is fully hardy throughout the U.S.)

'Laurens Koster' (1906): Resembling a large paper-white narcissus, yellow-cupped 'Laurens Koster' is often listed as hardy to USDA zone 6 at best (south of a line from roughly Boston to Kansas City). However, it has bloomed beautifully along the south side of my zone-5 Ann Arbor home.

'Mrs. Ernst H. Krelage' (1912): Named for the wife of one of Holland's greatest bulb growers, this splendid variety sports a pale yellow trumpet surrounded by a white perianth.

'Mary Copeland' (1914): This vigorous double has been aptly described as gardenia-flowered. Its long cream-colored petals are interspersed with shorter petals of lemon and deep orange.

'Thalia' (1916): Clusters of nodding white flowers with swept-back petals give 'Thalia' (in the words of the 1936 *Wayside Gardens* catalog) a "mystery" and "peculiar attraction."

1900-1919: Other fine daffodils from this period include: 'Grand Primo' (1900); 'Medusa' (1907); 'Dulcimer' (1913); 'Golden Sceptre,' 'Spring Glory' (1914); 'Silver Chimes' (1916). (Not all are fully hardy.)

'Beersheba' (1923): In 1966, daffodil-expert George S. Lee, Jr., lauded 'Beersheba' — then the most widely grown of all white trumpets — as a "flower of perfect form and purity of color that it still holds its own after 40 years."

'Cheerfulness' (1923): Similar to a smaller, bunch-flowered 'Mary

Copeland,' this creamy-white, sweetly fragrant double is still a top-selling variety today.

'Fortune' (1923): The perianth is lemon yellow; the cup is a "wonderful glowing coppery red-orange," according to John Scheepers, Inc., which offered the variety for \$150 a bulb in 1929.

'Mrs. R.O. Backhouse' (1923): Known for decades as the pink daffodil, 'Mrs. Backhouse' might be better described as ivory and apricot. It is a striking flower in any case.

1920-1929: Other still-available varieties: 'Orange Glory' (1920); 'Chinita' (1922); 'Irene Copeland,' 'March Sunshine,' 'Music Hall' (1923); 'St. Agnes' (1926); 'Actaea,' 'Carbide,' 'Carlton,' 'Golden Harvest,' 'Golden Perfection,' 'Halrose,' 'Le Beau,' 'St. Keyne,' 'Trevithian' (1927); 'Texas' (1928); 'Little Witch,' 'Pencrebar,' 'Unsurpassable' (1929).

SOURCES: 'King Alfred,' 'Cheerfulness,' and other common varieties are available in local garden centers and from mail-order firms. The following companies carry some of the more unusual varieties as well.

Daffodil Mart, Rte. 3, Box 794, Gloucester, VA 23061. Catalog, \$1.

De Jager Bulbs, Box 2010, South Hamilton, MA 01982. Free catalog.

International Growers Exchange, Box 52248, Livonia, MI 48152. Catalog, \$5 for three years.

McClure and Zimmerman, Box 368, Friesland, WI 53935. Free catalog.

Messelaar Bulb Co., Box 269, Ipswich, MA 01938. Free catalog.

John Scheepers, Inc., RD 6, Phillipsburg Rd., Middletown, NY 10940. Catalog, \$3.

— Scott G. Kunst
Old House Gardens
Ann Arbor, Mich.

LETS SPREAD YELLOW FEVER

Gardening is the number one hobby in the U.S.A.. Observe those in your area who are involved in this hobby. Are they busy planting bulbs? Do they know about your local Daffodil Society? Frequently they are waiting to be asked to join. They hesitate to attend uninvited. I remember a friend who said to me, "I always wanted to belong to a Garden Club but I've never been invited. Thanks for thinking of me. I'd love to join you for your next meeting".

How about Direct Mailing? Walk around your neighborhood and note those who show evidence of time spent in the garden. Address your invitation to Mr./Mrs. Gardener (you found the address on the mail box) and invite them to your next meeting. You may find a new and interesting friend who is delighted to be part of your society.

FLYERS-are another way to let people know about your Daffodil Society. Leave them at your local Garden Centers, Arboretums or Library.

Christmass is just around the corner. Consider forcing a pot of daffodils as a gift for a friend or relative and present it along with an ADS membership. You will be introducing them to knowledge, fun and bulbs. A gift that can develop into a lifetime hobby filled with "gold" (pinks, whites, orange and who knows what will come up from the next hybridizer). Your June 1990 Daffodil Journal has a detailed article about "Home Forcing of Daffodils" on pages 221-223. Peggy Macneale in her recent article for "Flower and Garden" Sept./Oct. 1990, says that "Tete-a-tete" and "Jack Snipe" are daffodils that will bring spring into your windowsill in January. She also mentions using her window wells that are below frost level and covering the pots with oak leaves as a means of convenient cold storage during the 13 week required dark and cold (35 to 40 degrees). She brings her pots into the house after Christmass (a late gift is always appreciated) and places them into a cool (55-60 degree) east window in an unheated room. When buds are evident and color appears, she says it is safe to bring them into the living area and enjoy. If you expose them to high heat to fast they will "blast" or drop from the plant unopened. Brent Heath in his recent catalouge listing "Forcer's" uses a layer of sand, marble chips or gravel on top of the bulbs to keep them from "heaving" out of the pot. He says that a sprinkling of rye grass over the pot yields a nice green turf by bloom time. He suggests giving extra "day" length with flourescent or Gro-lights in the evening if your home has low light conditions which can cause "leggy", tall plants. Try bulb forcing. It will bring spring into the home early. WHAT A GIFT FOR A FRIEND.

SPREAD YELLOW FEVER - its a great GIFT.

MEMBERS - LIST YOUR BEST GROWERS

PLEASE bring a list of the six cultivars which did best for you in 1990. Include the name of your favorite division on the show table.

Also state your opinion regarding Intermediate Classes. I will share this information with your fellow regional members in the next issue. NO names will be mentioned.

*If you have any pictures
from Convention - please bring
them - Slides or Photos*

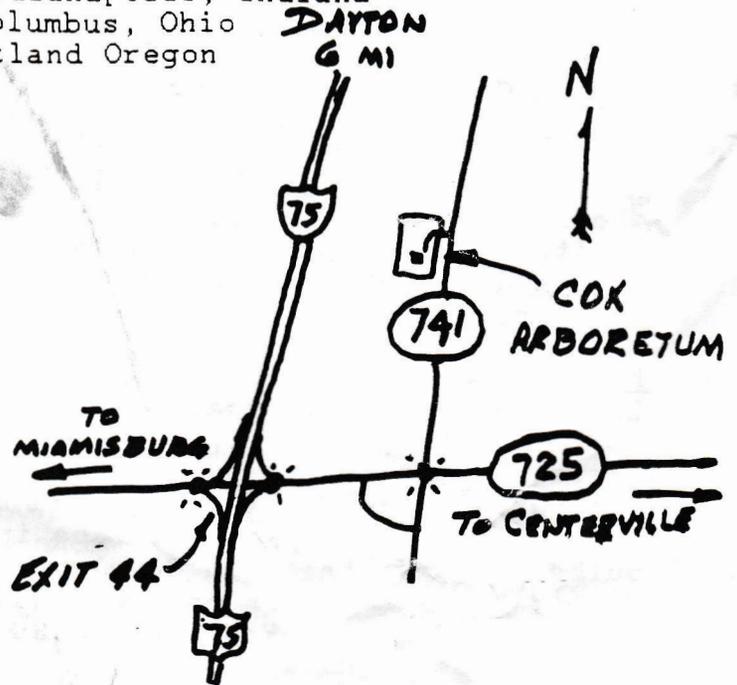
COMING EVENTS

April 13-14, 1991 Championship of Ireland, Belfast, Northern Ireland
April 18-21, 1991 ADS Convention, Indianapolis, Indiana
April 23-25, 1992 ADS Convention, Columbus, Ohio
Spring 1994 ADSCOvention, Portland Oregon

YOUR SHOW DATES - PLEASE

TO GET TO COX ARBORETUM

Exit I-75 at the Miamisburg Centerville Exit 44, and go East on Rt. 725 to Rt. 741 get into the left lane to turn North onto Rt. 741. Cox Arboretum is about a mile ahead on the left. Entrance is on the North edge of the park.



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Midwest regional Vice President
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Mrs. Paul Gripshover
1686 Grey Fox Trails
Milford OH 45150

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