



Wim Lemmers receiving the Peter Barr Memorial Cup from RHS President Sir Richard Carew Pole, Bt
(photo James Akers)

THE PETER BARR MEMORIAL CUP 2005: AWARDED TO WILLEM (WIM) LEMMERS



MALCOLM BRADBURY

The Peter Barr Memorial Cup is awarded annually by the Royal Horticultural Society, on the recommendation of the Daffodil and Tulip Committee, to someone who has "done good work of some kind in connection with daffodils". In 2005 the cup was awarded to Willem (Wim) Lemmers of Lisse in the Netherlands.

Born into a family of bulb growers in 1931 Wim has lived in Lisse all his life and except for a couple of year's compulsory military service spent his working years as a bulb grower. Tulip enthusiasts will know that Wim was for many years the Chairman of the Tulip Committee of the Royal General Bulb Growers Association (KAVB). They will also be familiar with the text and "A Grower's Perspective" that he provided for Christopher Baker's beautifully produced large format book *Tulipa: A Photographers Botanical* (Artisan 1999 New York). However, it is for his contribution to the world of daffodils that Wim has been honoured by the RHS.

A bachelor, Wim has travelled abroad frequently, to visit daffodil shows, conventions and growers in the United Kingdom, United States of America, Australia and New Zealand. Using his long experience as a grower and critical eye for a good flower, Wim has bought bulbs of many cultivars raised outside the Netherlands. After trial at his nursery, many of these cultivars were sold on to other Dutch growers, thereby widening the quality and choice of modern daffodil cultivars available to a wider gardening public. Examples include 'Segovia', 'Trena', 'Pink Paradise' and 'Petrel'. Similarly, Wim bought many of Jack P Gerritsen's cultivars and introduced them to

the Dutch bulb trade; he also discovered how to grow *N. bulbocodium* as a successful large scale commercial crop. He worked with Jaap Leenen and Jan Weijers on the year-round flowering of daffodils and together with Jaap enabled tazettas to be grown in the Netherlands throughout the year. Wim was also one of the pioneers of "parting", a modified and more practical form of twin-scaling daffodil bulbs in the Netherlands. He worked hard to ensure that cultivars were true to name.

Wim served on many daffodil-related committees in the Netherlands and was a member of the KAVB's Daffodil Committee from 1993-2000. In recognition of his work for the Dutch bulb industry Wim was awarded the "Silver Pin" by the KAVB. In the United Kingdom Wim was a member of the RHS Daffodil and Tulip Committee from 1993-2000 and of its Trials Sub-Committee during 1994-2001. He was also a member of the Advisory Panel on Narcissus Classification from 1996 to 2002.

Wim has now sold his bulb business and moved into an active retirement in which much of his time is spent travelling around the World looking at wild plants, bulbs and tulips in particular. He has done much to update and widen the choice of daffodils available to gardeners and his global "networking" has successfully promoted the growing of daffodils both as a hobby and commercially.

We were all pleased when Wim was able to visit London earlier this year to be presented with the Peter Barr Memorial Cup by the President of the RHS (see photo left) and wish him a long, healthy and well earned retirement.