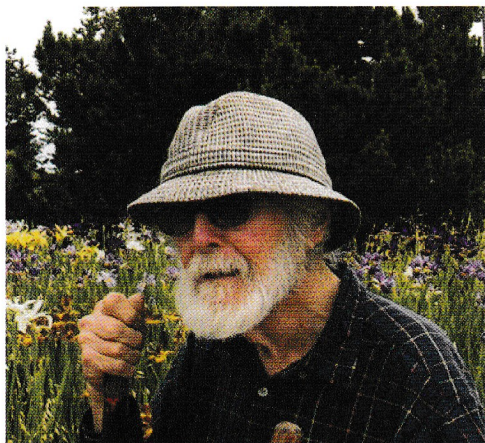


## SID DUBOSE

It is with regret that we record the death of Sid DuBose at the age of 84 years. Though not personally well known to enthusiasts in the British Isles, Sid was awarded the American Daffodil Society's Gold Medal for pre-eminent service to the genus *Narcissus* in 2000 and it seems appropriate to pay brief tribute to the man and show appreciation of his work in growing and breeding daffodils.



Sid DuBose  
(photo Anne Kadarauich)

Sid DuBose had wide ranging interests and covered most divisions in his 36 years of daffodil breeding. Ignoring seedlings in growth and under observation, Sid only distributed 39 cultivars of which 29 have so far been registered - an indication of his careful selectivity.

I first met Sid in 1977 in Los Angeles at the now defunct Descanso Daffodil Show, with his great friend and business partner Ben Hager of international Iris fame. They exhibited a wonderful range of excellent daffodils, selected specially for their tolerance of the Californian climate. Sid DuBose was of a modest and quiet personality but this modesty concealed an intense enthusiasm and great depth of

knowledge on all aspects of daffodil breeding and culture.

Probably the best known of his cultivars is 'Brooke Ager' 2W-P (1997), a truly wonderful little daffodil for exhibition or garden which is definitely intermediate both in flower size and plant proportions. This flower has had much success in shows on both sides of the Atlantic, is being built up to commercial stock levels in Holland and was given an Award of Garden Merit by the RHS last year. The name aptly commemorates Brooke, the little daughter of Jaydee Ager (current ADS Executive Director), who died tragically in a road accident.

The appropriately named 'Geometrics' (1990) is a 2W-Y flower that, surprisingly, was bred from pink 'Precedent' and the ubiquitous all-yellow 'Camelot'. It has won innumerable Best Bloom and other awards in America and seems to be part of the exhibition armoury of most serious exhibitors in its homeland because of the sharp perfection of form and consistency. It has not enjoyed the same popularity in the United Kingdom and Ireland probably because of its rather bland colouring and medium size.

A third flower raised by Sid DuBose, 'Work of Art' (1997) 7W-P is a real advance, a little charmer and a personal favourite which I gazed at in wonder when seen as a seedling at a show near San Francisco in 1994. This flower, for which I predict a great future, also illustrates its raiser's thought and consideration in the naming of his flowers. A garden helper named Art was asked to pollinate a few flowers of a pink seedling with pollen of *N. jonquilla*, from which eventually emerged 'Work of Art'. What a wonderful pun to describe a stylish artistic bloom and at the same time recognise a trusty friend and helper. The excellent 'Polly Anderson' 8Y-Y also commemorates a friend and a lovely lady of Californian daffodil circles. I need say no more, the significance and choice of daffodil names help depict the character of a man who will be sadly missed by his friends in California and in the wider ADS fraternity.

Brian S Duncan