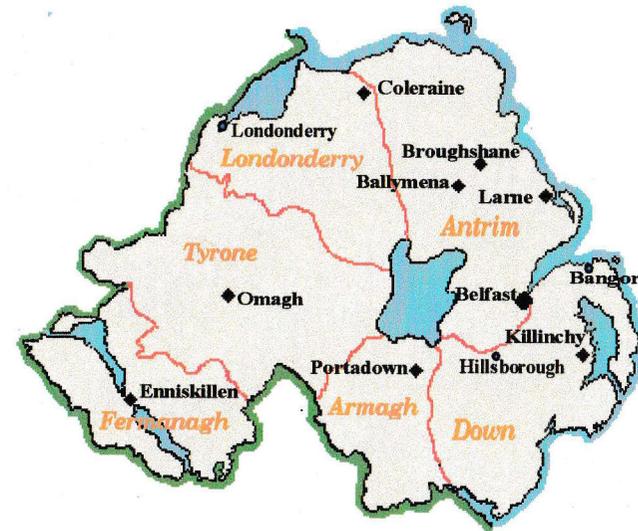


Newsletter

of the

Northern Ireland

Daffodil Group



Half yearly publication

*Spring 2002
Issue*

**THE NORTHERN IRELAND DAFFODIL GROUP
NEWSLETTER**

VOL 5 NO. 10

Spring 02

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CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

So that's the first year of my tenure in office completed, in many aspects not a memorable year but in other ways it was punctuated by many pleasurable events. We couldn't have got off to a worse start with the cancellation of the early show due to a late season followed by foot and mouth, which wiped out virtually the remainder of the show programme. Then during our planting season, always a time of great expectations we had the dreadful events of September 11th.

There were however a few gems to brighten the year and to look back on with positive memories. I refer of course to the two 'Private' shows hosted most generously by Betty and Brian Duncan, I can't emphasise too much the appreciation felt by all for the rescue of our show season that was performed by the Duncan partnership. On behalf of the Group I offer sincere thanks to Betty and Brian for their help and unstinting hospitality. May I also offer congratulations from us all on the awarding to Brian by the R.H.S. of the Veitch Medal for his contribution to horticulture particularly in raising and exhibiting daffodils.

If the year has taught me anything, it is just how dependant a chairperson is upon the advice and support of his or her committee. In that regard I could not have wished for better fellow officers, they gave me unstinting support and advice especially during the will we/won't we phase prior to cancelling our early show. In this category I would also include John McAusland for his help in liasing with the Coleman's during a difficult period.

Before I leave contributions made by group officers I must mention the part played during the year by James Smyth our secretary. Alike with myself he is new to the job

and in a difficult year he has done an excellent job on our behalf. We all owe James a large vote of thanks for his work throughout the year. James also competed with great success (14 firsts!) at the R.H.S. Late Show. So in the middle of his secretarial duties he still managed to remain focused on raising good flowers. Well done!

We have used Balance House as the main venue for our meetings and not only is the venue congenial but the staff are most welcoming and co-operative. On behalf of the Group I offer all concerned at Balance House our thanks for their efficiency, tolerance and hospitality.

Now to our future plans. We intend resuming the practice of including pen portraits in our newsletter of individual group members. For the majority of our members the magazine is the only contact they have with the group and we hope these articles will give some sense of familiarity with the people behind the names that feature in our twice yearly publication. Who knows some may even start attending meetings when they see how normal we are! On the topic of attendance could I encourage anyone who has not exhibited at London to grab the offer of sponsorship by the group. As the first to avail myself of this opportunity I highly recommend it, not only for its cost effectiveness but for the amazing experience that London is, so get your applications in now.

During the past season the 'Geography' of daffodil growing and breeding in Northern Ireland has undergone radical change. Kate and Robin Reade have handed over the reins of Carncairn to Broughshane Garden Committee and within the last few months Brian and Betty Duncan have handed over to Nial Watson. Best wishes to the reconstituted Carncairn and the expanded Ringhaddy Daffodils, may both ventures prosper. I have no doubt we all wish much health

and happiness to all the recent retirees. I hope all concerned have noticed a big difference but knowing them as I do I somehow doubt it!

George Wilson

SECRETARY'S REPORT

This year has brought about big changes among our 'professional breeders and growers'. Carncairn made the first move being taken over by Broughshane Village Garden Ltd. Who produced their first catalogue last Spring. Kate Reade has taken up a consultancy role. Then in late summer Nial and Hilary Watson from Ringhaddy Daffodils took over Brian Duncan's Daffodils. Brian will still be involved in hybridising and exhibiting for many years to come. We look forward to Nial's first colour catalogue. I wish both ventures a successful future and to Kate, Robin, Brian and Betty-enjoy life without care.

Now let me take you back to the highlights and the show season of 2001. Last February our lecture of the year was conducted by Dr. Gordon Hanks on Pests, Diseases and Disorders of Daffodils. It was a very informative talk on how to keep your bulbs in good health, in the ground and out of it. We all learnt a lot and to stop us forgetting again Maurice Kerr has released a series of notes in the NIDG Magazines, which we can refer back to throughout the growing season.

We certainly had a show season with a difference, with 8 shows cancelled due to for and mouth disease controls. With the very late season and good growing conditions, this turned out to be a very good year for daffodils. George Wilson took up the offer of sponsorship from the group for his first trip to London Main Show. He nearly pulled out due to lack of flowers but I bet he is glad he did not. He gave

Tony James a good run for his money. I also went to London for the Late Show. Suffice to say they will not let us both back to compete in the Novice.

Two private shows took place at Brian and Betty Duncan's in May. For many members this was their first shows of the season. Both shows were very relaxed but very competitive with approximately 500 blooms at the first show and 400 blooms at the second. Let us make the Belfast Spring Fair this year as competitive.

In the autumn George Wilson presented 'Carncairn X Files' This proved a great hit with the members especially Kate and Robin Reade. He and his research assistant Ian Scroggy put a lot of work into this talk.

Our February Lecture of the year 2002 will be entitled 'The many ways of using Daffodils in the Garden' delivered by Lady Christine Skelmerdale. She is the owner of Broadleigh Gardens, which specialises in small bulbs and she is also a member of the Royal Horticultural Society Daffodil and Tulip Committee. There is a small charge for this meeting (£2-50) to go towards cost and a lot of interest has been shown for this meeting. We also hope to visit Harold McBride's Alpine garden in Lisburn during May.

I wish you all a successful growing and show season in 2002 and look forward to meeting many of you again 'on the show circuit'.

James Smyth

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

2001 will be remembered for a very long time due to the events already referred to. In light of the circumstances prevailing during the show season I made a decision not to go to any of the shows which were organised at short notice.

Instead I took the opportunity to appreciate the real quality of some of the blooms I had and in particular the new seedlings. In previous years because of work commitments and with rushing to cut in the evenings usually against the weather and the fading light, I have had little or no time to evaluate these in depth. So this year with not having to worry about cutting blooms for show and having Saturdays free I made quite a few crosses of some of my newer seedlings in the hope that in five years I will have some exciting blooms to look at now that I no longer teach full time.

Now to matters editorial; copy is at an all time low and if was not for our Chairman and one or two others there would not have been any Newsletter recently. I would like to reduce the dependency on reproducing material based on some of our meetings throughout the year. So please if you wish to continue this half yearly publication you are going to have to come up with ideas and copy as we are starting to dry up and it would be nice to see some other names with articles attributed to them expressing their experiences or views on topics of interest. Do not worry if you feel that you are not a literary genius, jot down your ideas and let us have them as the editorial team would only be too glad to have material to work on at this juncture.

On now to the regular spring debate is it going to be an early or late season. As things stand in my own garden again this year progress seems to through other as some so called early blooms are still at this stage only showing through while others which I would expect to see late on in the season are well on their way. To crown it all a Tuggle Div 8 seedling which I normally would not see open here on the Seven Mile straight until the end of March or early April is breaking all records and started to open one of its blooms on the 2nd of March ; nothing has seemed to slow it's development down yet those bulbs around it which are not

much later in the order of flowering are still only five or six inches at most and long way from flowering. With global warming winters are supposedly becoming warmer and one would expect consistent advancement of all the flowers but this does not appear to be the case. Many of my bulbs are just through which is what I would have expected as again this year I have had quite a few frosty nights with some quite low temperatures for a couple of nights but this global warming seems to making the flowering times of bulbs much more unpredictable. Perhaps someone would like to investigate further and write an article as to the probable cause or causes of bulbs not flowering in their expected order. Is it something in the genetic makeup which has been passed down from some of their ancestors or is it just all down to the weather?

So with that thought may I wish you all a very successful season this year and may you have many hours of enjoyment with your flowers.

Maurice Kerr

THE AMERICAN DAFFODIL SOCIETY CONVENTION

The ADS conventions are one of the highlights of our daffodil year. Hilary and I have been going to them for several years now and every year we enjoy them even more as we get to know our American friends better and meet new ones. Our hosts are the most friendly people you could wish to meet, I know that they are daffodil people and so would be friendly but they do that extra bit to make a foreigner feel welcome.

The whole adventure starts in January when you send

off your registration fee and book the flight and the hotel. After that the season progresses until the week before departure. Blooms are gathered for the various classes and in our case for a trade stand. These are put into containers in a cool place and an appointment is made with the DANI inspector to come with the Phyto. Cert., ideally the day that the flowers are to be packed.

Packing is probably the most important part of the preparation. Each bloom has to be closely inspected held up to the light and checked for insects or any unwanted signs. If trouble is to be avoided at the point of entry into the USA the flowers must be free of disease and even more importantly, not have any insects on them. The blooms are remarkably resilient. On our trip to Louisville our luggage was lost. We were lucky in that the US Dept. of Agriculture man in Atlanta was very nice and helpful so that when they appeared he checked them and sped them on their way. We later found out that they had crossed the Atlantic three times!

On arrival there is the worst few hours of the whole trip. Clearance at immigration takes a very long time and then with heart in mouth you go to the Dept. of Agriculture. The boxes are opened and in most cases there is a pretty good inspection and all is OK. However, we met a very officious lady in San Francisco who wanted to unpack them all and shake them over a white sheet and inspect each bloom with a lens. It had taken three hours to pack them in the first place and we were not happy as our flight to Portland was due to leave in under an hour. In the end she let us go with muttering about Mad Cow Disease and not being too careful.

At last you arrive at your hotel tired and ready for bed. Not to be. Daffodils come first. The blooms are unpacked, the stems cut and put into water. These buckets are carried down to the staging room which is kept nice and cold.

The next morning after a very good breakfast it is all

hands to staging. This is when the first bit of culture shock comes hits. No moss! Instead a bag of hedge trimmings is put in front of you. Americans use box to stage and I must say that once you get used to it is very easy to stage with. The other great thing is that leaves are not allowed. The staging is when you first become aware of just how friendly your hosts are. It is hard to keep staging as there is a year's gossip to catch up on and new people to meet. Throughout the staging time there is endless coffee and food to keep up the strength. If you have the stamina, and many do, you can stage all night. By this time we have had enough for one day and so retire to the bar for a few beers.

Once the Trade Stand has been put up we then have some time to look around the exhibits. It is a great chance to see the American daffodils and make notes.

The American system of judging is slightly different to ours but we come to the same conclusion in the end and the best generally wins. Where we really differ is that in the US they tend to award a lot of "Highly Commended" ribbons. They also use ribbons for places instead of cards with stickers. That means that everyone has a chance of taking a ribbon home. Best Blooms are decided by a ballot. The contenders are lined up and numbered. Each judge is given a slip of paper and has to vote for the bloom of their choice.

The work being done it is time for the entertainment and there is plenty of that. Busses wait outside the hotel to take everyone to various sites of interest. There are always visits to peoples gardens to see their daffodils and when in Oregon we were able to see several of the main commercial growers fields.

Our first trip was to Pittsburgh, which I must say we were braced for a dark industrial town. Far from it. There is no sign of the city as you come in from the airport and then you go through a tunnel. Suddenly there is this beautiful city with clean high rises and the sun glinting on the three rivers.

Beside the hotel was a triangular park with two rivers joining to become the Ohio. This was a lovely place to walk. There was also a very good dinner on a river boat. Steve Vinisky entertained everyone with jokes and magic tricks.

Portland, Oregon, was spectacular for the rivers, waterfalls and mountains that we saw on our trips. On the last day we went on a particularly interesting journey up the Columbia River and ending up having lunch in a ski lodge on the snow line of Mount Hood. As usual the food was wonderful and the barbecue and drinks on the riverboat cruising through Portland in the sunset was superb.

Louisville, Kentucky, is in the heart of the American race horse stud country. We had a very interesting visit to Churchill Downs where the Kentucky Derby is held. For those interested in baseball we also visited the Louisville Slugger baseball bat factory where all the pro bats are made.

Alice was with us in Louisville, which was not only her first ADS convention but also her first trip to the USA. She was in seventh heaven and it would take wild horses to keep her away from future trips.

In all honesty I can strongly recommend these conventions. Anyone who has not been to one should go, at least once in their daffodil career.

Nial Watson

Individual hybridiser in the following family trees may be found using the following list of abbreviations.

AMW	Alexander M. Wilson	Back	Backhouse(Henry?)
Barr	Peter Barr	BBF	Ballydorn Bulb Farm
Brodie	The Brodie of Brodie	CD	Carncairn Daffodils
Cole	C. F. Coleman	DB	Douglas Blanchard
Deg Br.	De Graaf Bros.	Engle	Rev. George H. Engleheart
GE	Miss G. Evelyn	GM	Grant Mitsch
Groot	P J De Groot	GLW	Guy Wilson
JCW	J. C. Williams	JLR	J. Lionel Richardson
JSBL	John Lea	Kend	John Kendal
Leeds	Edward Leeds	Lloyd	David Lloyd
ME	Murray Evans	NAB	Noel A. Burr
PDW	Percival D. Williams	Segers	John Segers
TB	Tom Bloomer	Veen	J.H.Veen

X FILES 3

Carncairn Daffodils.

Researching and compiling this edition of the 'X Files' gave me particular pleasure as some of my earliest memories of assistance with staging flowers and being greeted with warmth and encouragement involve Kate Reade. She is always ready to admire a flower, even if it isn't one of her own cultivars and to someone just starting out on the show scene this is most encouraging. Come to think of it, it is still encouraging after several seasons of showing.

I am indebted to Ian Scroggy for allowing me to use freely his thesis on Carncairn Daffodils and to Kate and Robin themselves for putting up with my visits and for their hospitality. I have also drawn quotations from articles Kate has had published in various journals as well as information given by Kate and Robin during my visits. In this regard the text differs from the presentation given at Balance House where Kate gave personal anecdotes as the various cultivars were introduced.

In the fact file it is impossible to reveal the contribution John Maybin and John Pearson made in the establishment and subsequent success of Carncairn daffodils. Kate has often described John Maybin as 'our strength and stay'. (1) He had worked for Robin's father as a gardener and he had also acquired a great knowledge of bulbs working for Guy Wilson. Without him we would not have been able to produce the healthy bulbs that customers expect from us. (2) Not content with growing and supplying bulbs Carncairn Daffodils rapidly moved into the realms of hybridising and it was in this area that John Pearson was to make a major contribution. 'The whole idea of hybridising fascinated me and when John Pearson joined us in the early days of Carncairn Daffodils I

learned a lot from him' In essence John Maybin gave a lifetime of work and John Pearson introduced Kate to hybridising practices which in turn became her lifetime work. John Maybin remained at Carncairn but John Pearson moved on and eventually founded Hofflands Daffodils.

Guy Wilson himself inadvertently played a part in Kate's initial attraction to daffodils. 'It was seeing some of Guy Wilson's seedlings flowering in a large frame that really got me bitten, one was 'Moonstruck' the seed parent of 'Gin and Lime' one of our most successful show flowers'. (2) So armed with enthusiasm and aided by such able assistants it is little wonder Carncairn developed into a most significant player in the world of daffodils. Unfortunately there is not enough space in this article to examine all the magnificent flowers produced by Kate. In consequence I asked Kate and Robin to select the cultivars which are examined below, which they did most willingly, their selections being based on a variety of reasons.

**Carncairn Daffodils
Fact file**

Marriage: Robin and Kate 1948

Moved to Carncairn Lodge: 1951

Initial purchase of exhibition cultivars: 1953(?)

Supplier : Guy Wilson

First Commercial Venture: 1957

First R.H.S. Show: 1957

First Booklet Catalogue (99 varieties): 1959

Management Structure: Production – Kate, Business/
Finance – Robin

Production Assistance:- John Maybin and John Pearson

Bulb Storage: Cleaned at lifting and stored in ventilated trays
(originally potato boxes were used)

Planting Procedure: Hot water treated followed by planting in new ground.

Typical numbers planted: 25,000

Awards:- R.H.S. Gold medals for Trade Displays 1977, 1978, 1989 and 1990

1991:- Peter Barr Memorial Trophy :- awarded to Kate in recognition of her outstanding contribution in the promotion of the Daffodil.

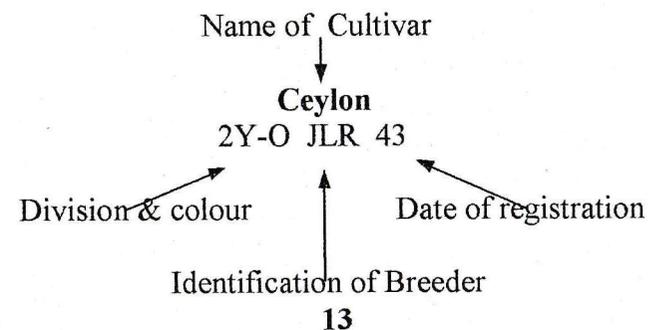
1992:- Gold Medal of the American Daffodil Society for Meritorial services to the Daffodil

Number of Cultivars registered: 210 (internet figure)

New Management: in 2001 'Carncairn Daffodils Ltd' became 'Carncairn Daffodils Broughshane' and is now run by 'The Garden Village (Broughshane) Ltd' with Kate as a consultant.

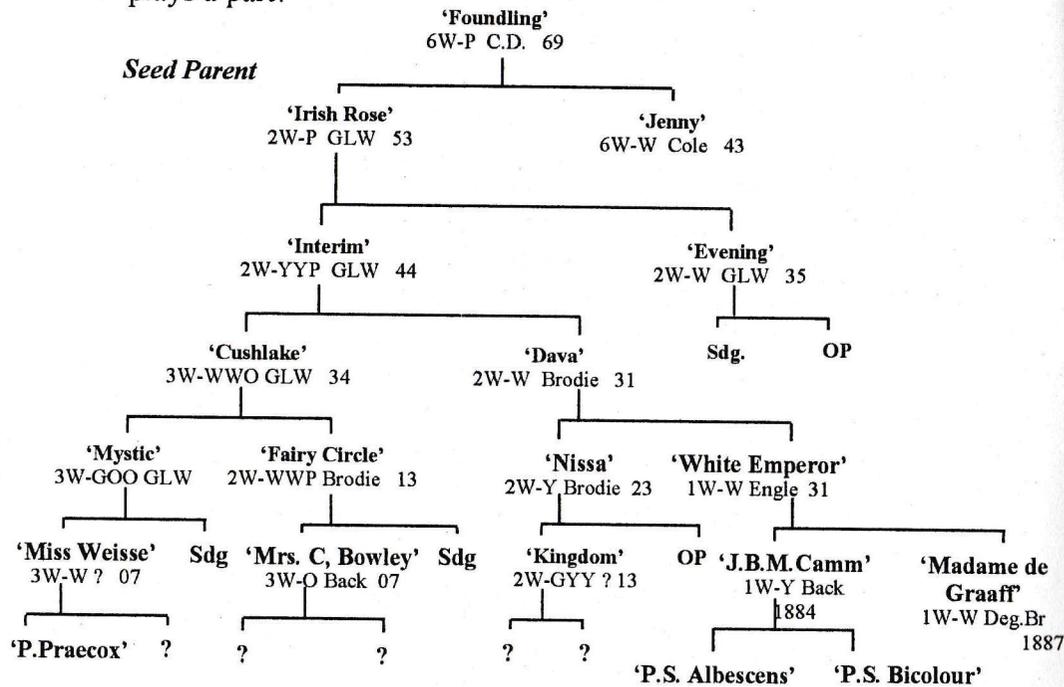
Having looked at the bare bones of the history of Carncairn let us now examine the genealogy of the selected cultivars. The system of identification used throughout the diagrams is shown below.

Diagram Key

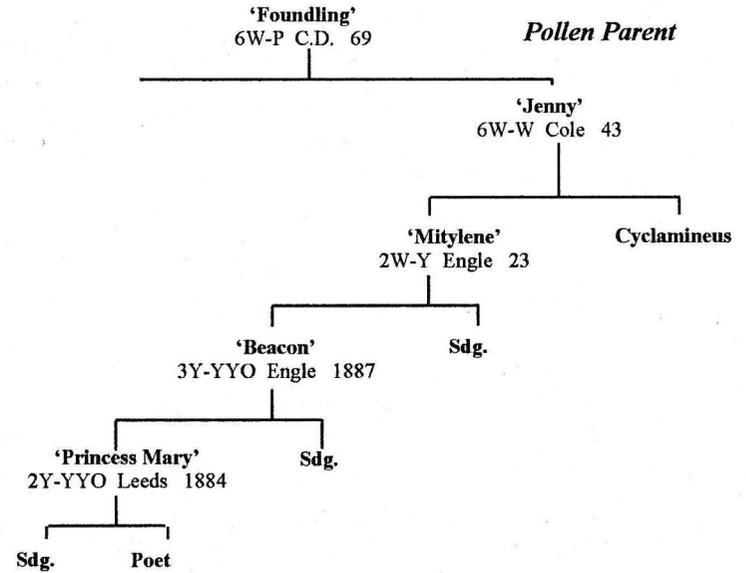


'Foundling' 6w-p

It would be impossible not to include 'Foundling' in any selection of Carncairn cultivars and fittingly it was the first cultivar chosen by Robin and Kate. Not only is it a super flower in its own right but chronologically it starts the list of significant Carncairn flowers. There is also a mystique about its breeding and many people are surprised to see it has registered parents. Contrary to popular belief 'Foundling' did not appear in some strange situation but appeared as a unique specimen among its sibling seedlings and was a 'Foundling' in that it differed so much from the others. In terms of logic with 'Jenny' (6w-w) to give the cyclamineus form and 'Irish Rose' (2w-p) to contribute pink to the cup. I suppose an outcome such as 'Foundling' was likely. However if logic ruled consistently in hybridising it would be a easy business and as we all know logic rarely plays a part!



On the seed parent side there are some well used breeding flowers. 'Irish Rose' has 22 registered offspring including 'Passionale' the seed parent of 'Mentor' and pollen parent of 'Algarve'. 'Interim' was even more prolific with 50 registrations against it's name, registered by Guy Wilson in 1944 and used as recently as 1986 by Ballydorn to produce 'Interval' 2W-GYP and in 1987 by Bill Pannil in America when he registered 'Wood's Pink' a 2W with a GWP cup. 'Mystic' which we will be seeing later has 20 registrations by six different breeders. 'White Emperor' was yet another long lasting breeder, registered by the Reverend Engleheart in 1913 and used by many breeders up to the 1950's.

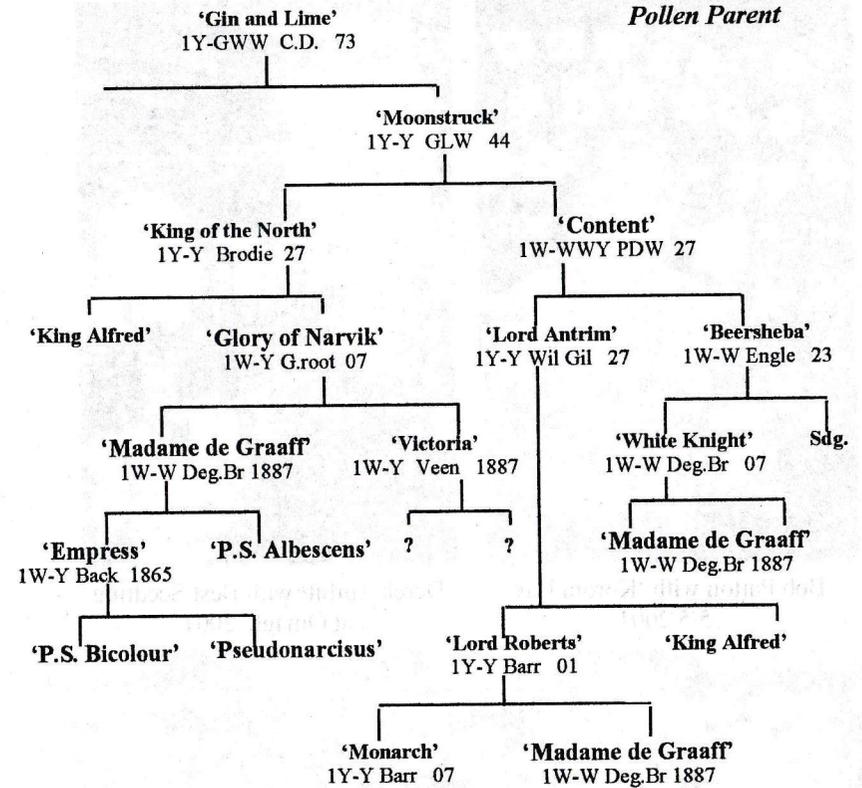
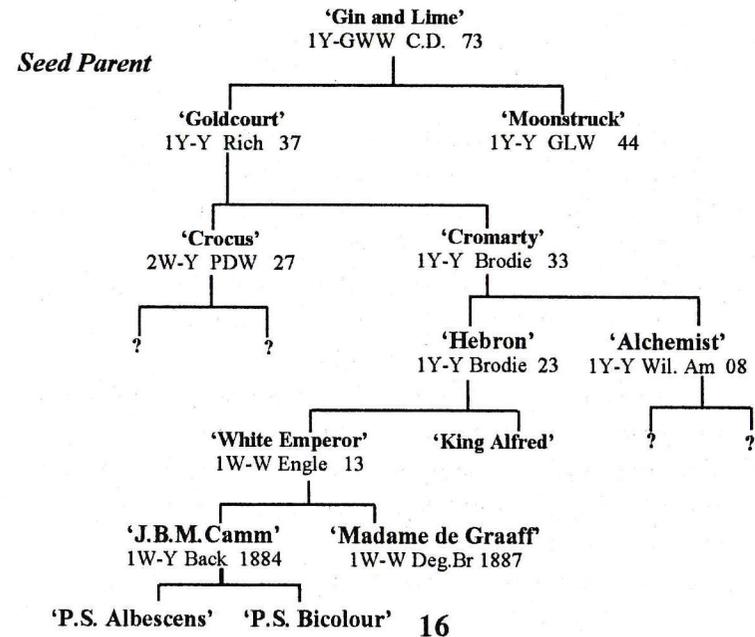


On the pollen side life is much easier for the 'X' Files as it is quite sparse in comparison with the seed side, but 'Mitylene' can hold it's own for registrations of present with 59 to it's name. The list of breeders is like a whose- who of daffodil hybridisers stretching from 1923 to 1968 and divisions covered range from 1 to 6.

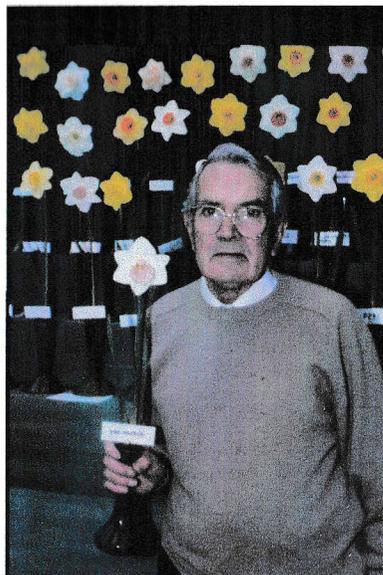
Included in this list of registrations is 'Dove Wings' another of Coleman's cyclamineus and still listed in catalogues today even though registered in 1949. On the topic of breeding what a gem 'Foundling' turned out to be. Carncairn produced two with appropriate names following 'Foundling' namely 'Waif' and 'Stray' by crossing 'Foundling' with 'Lilac Charm'. Now one of 'Lilac Charm's' parents is 'Roseworthy' and when this was crossed with 'Foundling' our past chairperson Michael Ward produced 'Bubbity'. Among other registrations Brian Duncan contributed 'Cha-Cha', 'Reggae' and 'Swing Wing' to name but a few and of course 'Foundling' was a parent of the sister registrations 'Elizabeth Ann' and 'Mary Kate'.

All in all 'Foundling' with 24 registered offspring, many still in cultivation was a flower well worth finding.

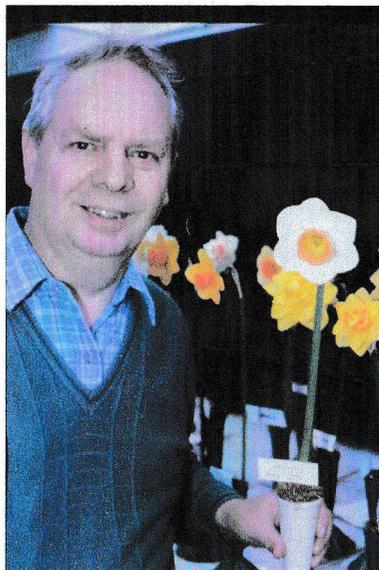
The next choice is described by Kate as one of Carncairn Daffodils most successful show flowers and it is still hard to beat as a division 1 reverse bi-colour, no prizes for guessing that it is 'Gin and Lime'.



The seed parent of 'Gin and Lime' is itself a parent of 51 cultivars and while the pollen parent 'Moonstruck' was not nearly so prolific having only 5 registered progeny, it was seeing this variety in flower at Guy Wilson's that caused Kate to be bitten by the yellow fever bug. Needless to say no 'X' files enquiry can be complete without our old friend P.D.W. i.e. Percival D. Williams popping up with mystery flowers in this case 'Crocus' one of 'Gold Court's' parents; however, for once, he does redeem himself by revealing the parents of 'Content, the pollen parent of 'Moonstruck'. This family tree also displays three appearances of 'King Alfred'



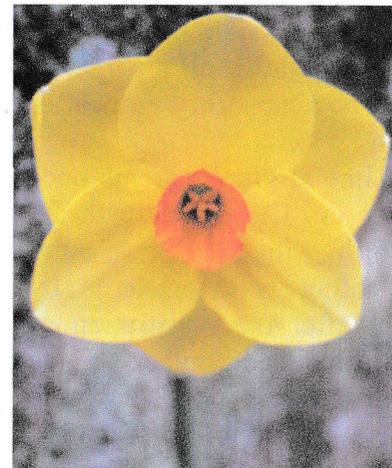
Bob Patton with 'Korora Bay'
5/5/2001



Derek Turbitt with Best Seedling
at Omagh 2001



Back row:- Robbie Curry, George Wilson, Richard McCaw, Ian Scroggy, Brian Duncan
Middle row:- Derek Turbitt, Mr. Scroggy, James Smyth, Bob Patton, Spencer Rainey
Front row:- Betty Scroggy, Chris Rainey, Sandra Wilson, Betty Duncan.



'Samsara' - Best Bloom 5/5/2001



'Denali' Best Bloom Early Show
2002



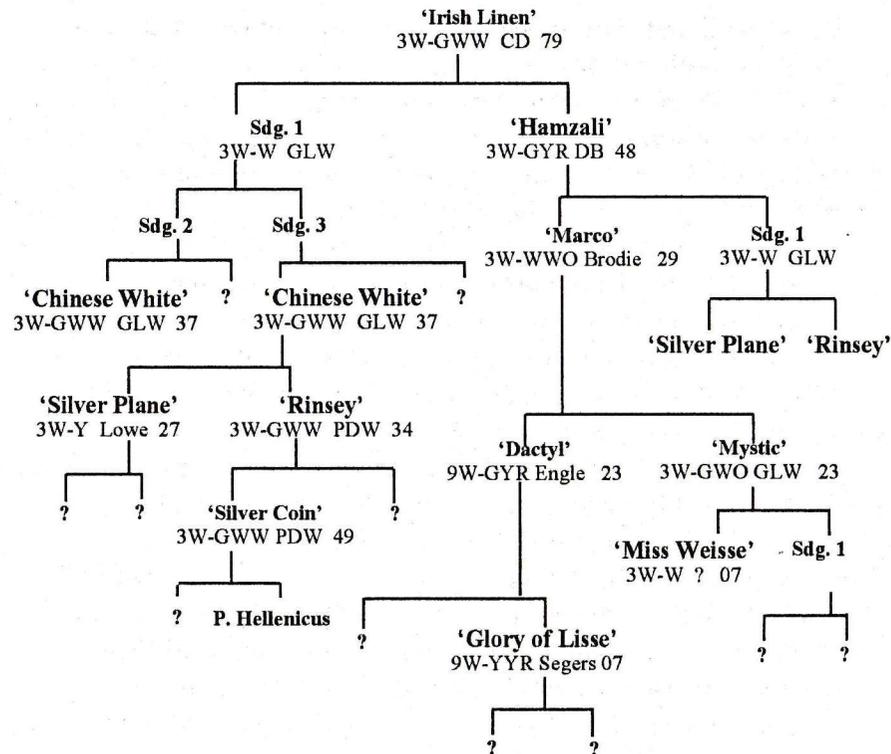
Robbie Curry being presented with his Trophy by Chris Rainey

our old friend and four appearances of 'Madam De Graff' in one case as both parents of 'White Knight' itself a parent of 20 progeny the last registered in 1956 almost fifty years after it's own registration.

Getting back to 'Gin and Lime's' grand parents once again we have prolific breeders in 'Cromarty' with 35 registrations and 'King of the North' with 27. One of these 'Honeybird' another reverse bicolour was registered by Grant Mitsch in 1965, 38 years after the registration of 'King of the North'. Mitsch also produced another reverse bicolour 'Entrancement' using the same parents the same way round, 'King of the North' as seed parent and 'Content' as pollen parent. Perhaps it was this gene combination carried forward in 'Moonstruck', that reappeared when Kate crossed this cultivar with 'Goldcourt'. Incidentally on the longevity of breeding there is a 'Goldcourt'/'Integrity' cross - 'Mill Gold' registered in 1984, 47 years after 'Goldcourt' was registered and 48 years after 'Integrity' was registered - there must surely be a story in there somewhere as the hybridiser Jim O'More of New Zealand had other registrations in the 70's and 80's using 'Integrity' as a parent. All the foregoing is typical of the can of worms you can open when you enter the 'X' Files mode.

'Irish Linen' 3W-GWW

Our next cultivar 'Irish Linen' is perhaps the whitest flower produced up to its date of registration in 1979 and is still an impressive flower when well grown and in prime condition. As one American Judge said on seeing Irish Linen for the first time 'a white daffodil should be white and this flower sure is white' With 'Chinese White' and div. 9 ancestry its little wonder it is so white and has that beautiful green eye as a contrast.



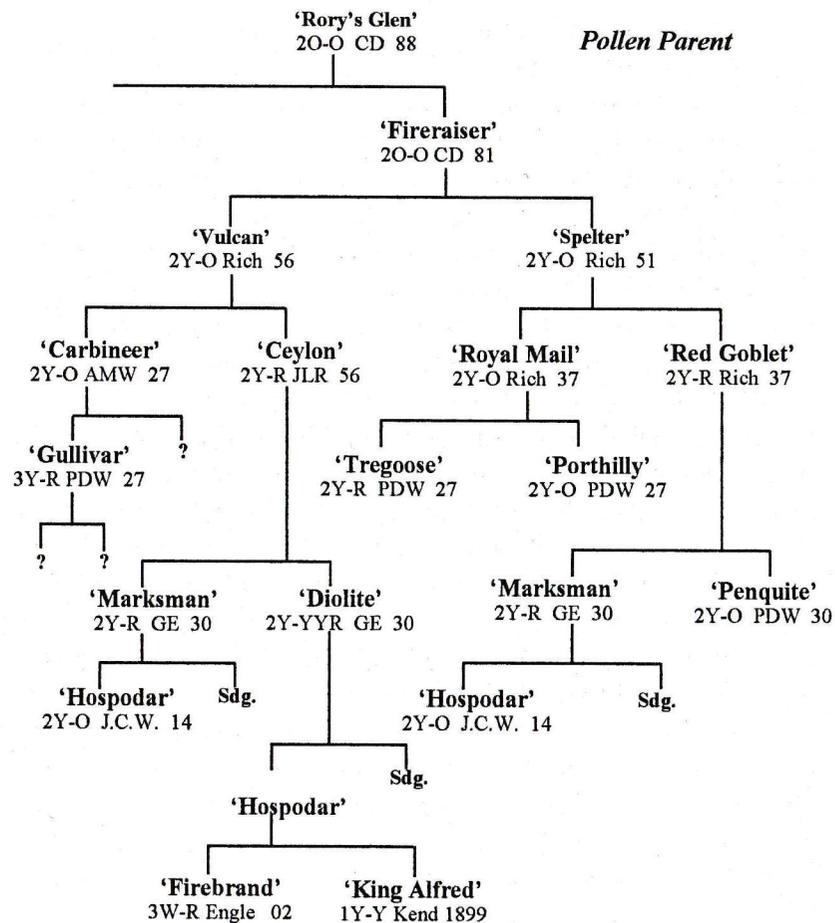
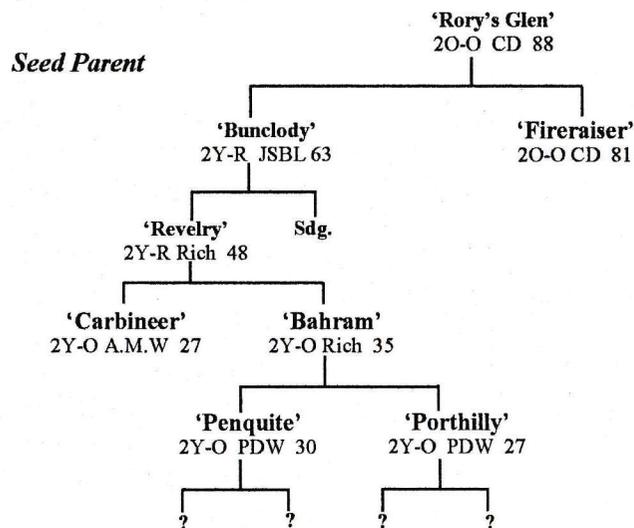
The pollen parent 'Hamzali' was used by many breeders as well as Carncairn. Guy Wilson, the Richardson's, Lea, Mitsch and Bloomer all used it and overall it produced 20 cultivars often crossed with the then big timers 'Green Island' and 'Aircastle'.

'Silver Plane' and 'Rinsey' feature on both seed and pollen sides of this cultivar most famously producing 'Chinese White' which Guy Wilson registered in 1937, this flower had subsequently 97 offspring registered. 'Rinsey' is a cultivar registered by our man of mystery Percival D. Williams in 1934 and typical of the man he registered 'Rinsey's' own seed parent in 1949 i.e. fifteen years after

'Rinsey' was registered. What a man, I would love to see his books and notes.

I don't think we have ever come to a halt with so many question marks and two poetic varieties. As ever such events save the old 'X' Files operative a whole lot of research.

With the vast number of daffodil registrations it is always a head scratching session to come up with a new name and indeed there are multiple registrations using the same name. In the case of our fourth selection I always assumed that 'Rory' referred in some way to the intense orange red but it was intriguing to find that the flower is in fact named after a house in Robin's family. However it was named the result is most appropriate and in Kate's own words 'Rory's Glen' has 'a glowing colour which intensifies each day till the flower takes on a luminous quality'. 'Rory's Glen' turned out to be a good pollen parent with 'Warm Day' (Stylish x Rory's Glen) perhaps being the best known of the subsequent hot series of flowers.



The seed parent 'Bunclody' while not in the mega breeder class numerically with only 12 registrations has other fine flowers against it's name such as 'Bailey', 'Kings Grove', 'Namraj', 'Red Spartan' and 'State Express' a dew of which will be readily recognised. Staying on this side we have another old friend in 'Carbineer' which has almost 70 progeny registered and which gets honourable mention in all 'X' Files. Speaking of old friends look what Percival D.

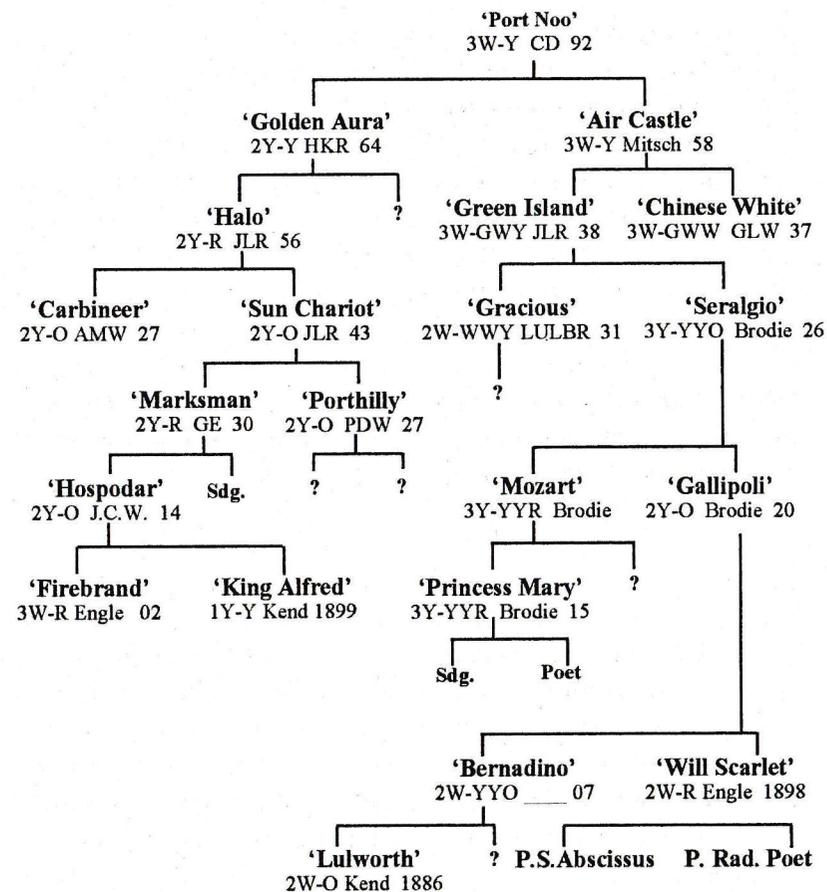
Williams has done to us here, 'Penquite', 'Porthilly' and 'Gullivar' all registered without parents still it saves a lot of time in looking up the records.

On the pollen side of 'Rory's Glen' we come on 'Vulcan' as a grandparent. This Richardson flower was absolute cracker, used by all main hybridisers in its day it produced 46 registered cultivars including 'Achduart', 'Creagh Dubh', 'Glenfarclas', 'Hot Gossip' and 'Liverpool Festival' to name but a few. 'Vulcan' which also has 'Carbineer' as a parent has the classic line through 'Ceylon' with 'Marksman' and 'Diolite' then the essential ingredient for orange reds 'Hospodar' twice. As pointed out previously this father/mother of orange reds is one generation away from our original 'X' Files focus 'King Alfred'.

'Port Noo' 3W-Y

Including Port Noo in this edition of the x Files gives me a lot of personal satisfaction. I have grown this fine flower for around six years and have found it totally consistent, hardy, a good increaser and a real 'grow 10 stage 10' flower. Perhaps part of my appreciation also stems from my well known liking for 'Golden Aura' the seed parent of 'Port Noo'!

As a parent 'Golden Aura' was not over prolific but apart from 'Port Noo' two other 'Golden Aura' progeny are still to be seen, 'Halstock' occasionally and 'Crackington' quite frequently, both John Blanchard flowers. 'Carbineer' was quite prolific and appears in lots of family trees, used by all and sundry to produce 66 progeny. As usual Percival D. Williams weighs in with a parentless flower in this case 'Porthilly' another much used flower in this case combined with 'Marksman' another stalwart of the



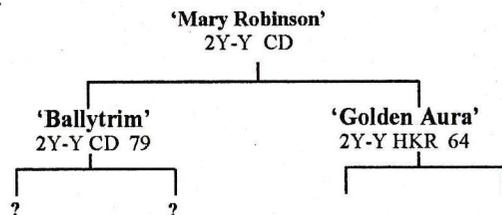
era. In the line below we come across the Father/mother of all good orange reds – 'Hospodar' one of the many 'Firebrand'/'King Alfred' crosses that litter a lot of family trees.

On the pollen parent side we come on some real heavyweights, 'Aircastle' is the most prolific Mitsch flower I have come across in these enquiries with 58 registrations. However this pales into insignificance when compared with

the next line. 'Chinese White' we have met before in 'Irish Linen' and if you recall it has 96 progeny but this still only small beer when compared with 'Green Island' which has 131 registrations. With a total of 227 flowers between them I have been at shows with fewer flowers! Next line down features 'Seralgio' which is one I do not remember coming across before which is strange for two reasons, it is a Brodie flower and it has 43 registered progeny. The parents of 'Seralgio' are a combination of names that I find hard to reconcile- how do you combine 'Mozart' and 'Gallipoli'? 'Bernadino', 'Princess Mary' and 'Will Scarlet' towards the bottom of the tree were all much used and also appear in all our previous 'X' Files enquiries.

Mary Robinson

Earlier in this article I mentioned the perennial problems associated with attributing suitable names to new cultivars. In the case of this flower the naming process worked in reverse, Kate having been asked to name flower after the then President of Eire. It then became a matter of matching a seedling to the name 'Mary Robinson' and when Kate asked the good lady what her preference was in terms of daffodil colours she replied that a daffodil 'had to be yellow', end of problem.



Both parents are Richardson flowers, in the case of 'Ballytrim' this was given to Carncairn as a seedling by Mrs. Richardson and was registered without revealing the parents.

'Golden Aura' we have looked at in the previous flower and so Kate and Robins last selection turned out to be easiest in terms of research.

I can think of no better way of concluding than by quoting Kate herself on the aims and ideals that governed her approach to raising daffodils. It is also appropriate that the article from which this extract is taken is entitled 'Still Dreaming'

The aims, which I stated in my 1979 article were:

1. To produce show flowers that will win in any company.
2. To produce strong healthy plants with good bulbs.
3. To concentrate the breeding programme on areas of scarcity
4. To have a more serious attempt at breeding miniatures.

Now my aims are much the same but I think more attention should be given to cultivars suitable for mass planting as well. Though many good show flowers fall into that category. I also think I would put number 1 below number 2 of my aims as a show flower is not good if it is not healthy.

With these aims it is little wonder Carncairn achieved the successes it did under Kate and Robin's stewardship. Long may Carncairn Daffodils in what ever form continue to perpetuate the dream.

References:-

1. Daffodils in Ireland: 1998 edition
2. Kate and Robin Reade of Carncairn Daffodils: H.N.D. Thesis.: Ian Scroggy 1993
3. Daffodils in Ireland: 1979 Edition

George Wilson

Slugs A Menace In The Garden!!!

Well 2001 has been the worst year I have seen for slugs right from February until now they have been active. Slugs do a lot of damage to daffodil bulbs especially when you grow most of your bulbs in pots like I do. They lay their eggs just at the neck of the bulbs and when they hatch out just start munching through the bulb destroying it completely. The best time to get these pests is to start right from early February with Slug Pellets, Slugit Liquid, Armillatox, Pots of Beer, Copper Tape or Night Watch Patrol.

Slug Pellets:-This method is most effective as when the slug eats the pellets it starts to dehydrate the slug and when the sun comes out it shrivels up and kills the slug. There are stronger Slug Pellets that kill the slugs dead more or else instantly but these are generally very expensive.

Slugit Liquid:-This is very easy to apply and gives you a more even coverage of all your plants. Rain afterwards will wash the liquid down into the soil so should in theory kill in slugs in the soil but usually it gets washed down and out of the pots that quick that it does not kill the slugs. As long as it stays dry overnight after application it works well. This is an on going treatment at least once or twice a month.

Armillatox:- Now approved for Vine Weevil control some growers who use it a lot have told me that they have found a decrease in the number of slugs around the treated areas now whether it is the smell of the chemical, as it is quite strong, or the actual active ingredients that deter or kill the slugs I am not sure. If any of the readers have had the same result please let the editor have your "copy" for the newsletter.

Pots Of Beer:- The best and well tested by amateur growers is to leave a small jam jar out near your plants or pots buried

to near soil level with a canopy over the jar to keep the rain out but to let the slugs in. The slugs are enticed by the smell of the beer and drop into the jar and drown.

Copper tape:- This is a tape coated with copper sulphate that you put around your pots. The theory is that this forms a barrier and stops the slugs going past it. I say in theory, as I have never heard of it working 100% the tape usually does not stick onto the pots too well.

Night Watch Patrol:- Finally if all else fails go out at night with your torch and pick up the slugs and dispose of them.

There are other methods such as placing sharp grit or soot around your plants. The idea behind this is that slugs have a soft underside and do not like going over grit and the soot dries up their mucus that they use to move about. The soot does work when it is dry but when it gets wet it is no use. As for the grit it deters some slugs but you will always get that one slug that manages to go over it and get your plants.

I mostly use Slug Pellets I know they are harmful to animals as well if they eat them but as I do not have any pets or not many birds coming in I use them. This year however I am going to try the Armillatox and see if it works as you get more benefits with it, namely it is supposed to kill vine weevil and kills mosses and liverworts growing on the top of your pots. It also acts as a soil disinfectant. BUT PLEASE be sure to follow the manufacture instructions as too much chemical and not enough water can kill your plants.

Last year I mentioned I was trying out the new chemical PREVADO. Well I tried it on all my daffodil pots and on some of my shrubs in pots. The results that I got were very good for greenfly control although the manufacture says it only lasts for a month for a plant insecticide I found it did

about 6 to 8 weeks. As for the Vine Weevil control I found no sign of Vine Weevil in the pots after six months, as this is the time the manufacture says it works. It would be interesting now to try and use prevado again but this time introduce vine weevil grubs say after a month just too see if it works as it is supposed too. As for trying it on the daffodil pots too see if it would kill the Narcissus fly larvae it did not work I still had some fly damage in the pots I treated.

If any of the readers have any problems in their garden and would like advice then please, please write into the editor as after all this is your magazine to help you get the most out of your garden and plants that you grow especially our "Daffodil Fever".

Ian W. Scroggy HNDH

NORTHERN IRELAND DAFFODIL GROUP

Summary of Income and Expenditure Year ending 31/12/01			
<i>Income</i>		<i>Expenditure</i>	
Balance B/F	£16975.13	Journal	£693.31
Interest	£617.12	Sec. Expenses	£245.31
Subscriptions	£329.50	Meetings	£372.00
M. Curie	£209.65	Trophies	£202.12
Sales	£76.50	London (travel)	£325.00
Bulb Sale	£217.00	London display	£106.90
Bulb auction	£234.00	M. Curie	£210.65
		Belfast Parks	£30.00
		Daffodil Soc.	£6.00
		Bank charges	£6.32
		Balance C/F	£16461.29
	£18658.90		£18658.90

**NARCISSUS DISEASES
and their control - for breeders,
enthusiasts and specialists.**

Dr. Gordon Hanks

Viral Diseases *Continued from spring edition*

- Typically, 80% or more of plants in commercial stocks give positive 'ELISA' tests for at least one virus, often narcissus late season yellows, narcissus yellow stripe, narcissus latent or tobacco necrosis viruses.
- Cultivars from *N. pseudonarcissus* are more susceptible to viruses than *N. tazetta*, which in turn are more susceptible than those from *N. jonquilla*.
- Twenty-one viruses have now been reported in narcissus, but some occur only in restricted geographical locations or are considered to have only minor effects.
- Some are primarily or solely pathogens of narcissus, while others have a wide host range.
- Most have aphid or nematode vectors, one is transmitted by thrips, one by a fungus and three (narcissus mosaic, narcissus tip necrosis and narcissus Q viruses) have no known vector
- Only ring-spot viruses are seed- or pollen-borne.
- Viruses often occur together in complexes: up to five have been isolated together, multiplying damage.

The more important viruses of narcissus are:-

- Cucumber mosaic virus occurs mainly in tazetta narcissus in association with other viruses, and the symptoms it causes on its own are unknown. The only aphid-borne virus of narcissus with a wide host range.
- Narcissus degeneration virus is important in tazetta narcissus, causing chlorotic leaf striping and loss of vigour. Occurs in complexes with other viruses. Aphid transmitted.
- Narcissus latent virus is often symptomless or causes only mild leaf chlorosis when it occurs alone, but exacerbates the effects of other viruses when they occur together. Aphid transmitted.
- Narcissus late season yellows virus: Infected plants are often symptomless initially, developing extensive chlorotic striping

and leaf chlorosis late in the season when temperatures are higher. Aphid transmitted.

- Narcissus white streak virus causes white or silver streaks on the leaves late in the season when temperatures are higher, leading to premature senescence. Possibly caused by the same virus as narcissus late season yellows. Aphid transmitted.
- Narcissus yellow stripe virus is probably the most important virus of narcissus, occurring everywhere they are grown. Causes leaf symptoms early in the season, stunted plants and distorted leaves with chlorotic streaks, severely reducing yield. Flowers often 'broken'. Aphid transmitted
- Tobacco rattle virus is common in cultivars 'Golden Harvest' and 'Carlton' and in dwarf varieties. Causes yellow or chlorotic streaks in leaf bases, distorted leaves and mild 'breaking' of flowers, but sometimes symptomless. Occurs early in the season and can be confused with narcissus yellow stripe virus. Nematode transmitted
- Soil-borne ringspot viruses: *Arabis* mosaic, tomato black ring, tobacco ringspot and raspberry ringspot viruses are the more important soil-borne viruses of narcissus. Effects may be mild when one occurs alone, more damaging when in complexes. Tobacco ringspot virus may cause twisting and chlorosis of leaves. Nematode and seed transmitted
- Narcissus mosaic virus induces mild mosaic leaf symptoms or dark brown oval spots on the upper halves of leaves. May be severe when in complexes. No known vector.
- Narcissus tip necrosis virus is widespread, but often with no obvious symptoms. In prolonged dry weather, leaf chlorosis symptoms develop, the leaves becoming necrotic and dying prematurely. Severe in cultivar 'Sempre Avanti'. No known vector.
- Control of narcissus viruses consists of preventing spread and controlling the virus vectors.

Control of spread:

- Specific narcissus viruses spread mainly from infected plants within a crop, so spread is slow and local and the roguing of infected plants is important
- Roguing should be carried out at least twice a year, early and late in the season, as different viruses show symptoms at different times.

- More generally occurring viruses that are not restricted to narcissus can be spread from other crops or weeds
- Mechanical transmission (via sap) has been reported for some viruses (narcissus yellow stripe, latent and mosaic viruses). Narcissus mosaic virus can be spread easily mechanically, e.g by flailing.
- Aphid- and nematode-transmitted viruses are unlikely to be transmitted by the alternate handling of infected and healthy bulbs - although a very low spread of narcissus yellow stripe virus was detected in glasshouse experiments
- There is no evidence that narcissus tip necrosis virus can be spread by handling or flower cropping
- Virus-tested bulb stocks are available, and these should be grown in isolation from other narcissus stocks. Isolation of 50 m suggested
- Improved stocks can also be built up from selected, vigorous plants
- Cultivars that are susceptible to viruses (e.g. 'St. Keverne'), should be kept away from other cultivars.

Control of aphid vectors:

- It is very unusual for aphids to colonise narcissus, although this has been reported in warmer climates or very late in the season.
- Although aphids rarely feed on narcissus, migrating aphids may settle on narcissus foliage long enough to spread virus during exploratory probings (stylet-borne or 'nonpersistent' transmission). The rate of spread of viruses is correlated with the size of the aphid population.
- Many common aphids transmit narcissus viruses.
- Because of the way aphids spread viruses to narcissus, control is difficult and frequent applications of antifeedant pyrethroid insecticides are needed.
- Early lifting of bulbs before aphid populations build up may help avoid infection: aphids are rarely seen on narcissus before mid-May (in southern England), so infection occurs only in the last two months of the growing season.

Control of nematode vectors:

- Tobacco rattle virus is transmitted by *Trichodorus* and

Paratrichodorus species. Other viruses are transmitted by *Longidorus* and *Xiphinema* species.

- In the case of valuable bulb stocks, soil sterilisation can be used before planting; most of these nematode species multiply slowly.
- Other host plants in the vicinity should be controlled.
(Section on Pests to follow later)

DAFFODIL TOUR OF NEW ZEALAND

September 11 - September 30, 2002

In 1996 we had the pleasure of arranging a very successful tour of Australia and New Zealand for the American Daffodil Society. This year we are offering a similar tour of New Zealand featuring the major New Zealand shows, visits to noted daffodil growers and propagators, scenic and cultural highlights of New Zealand, and finally, the **Australasian Championships Show** in Christchurch. This will enable American Daffodil Society members to meet both the New Zealand and Australian growers. The tour includes the North island National Show near Wellington, the **Hamilton and Brightwater Shows** and the **South Island National Show** in Christchurch. We also include a farmstay, the cultural and thermal sights of Rotorua and, as a post tour extension, Queenstown and an overnight cruise on majestic **Milford Sound**. The itinerary allows the opportunity for serious daffodil lovers to spend extra time at shows and with growers while less interested spouses and travel companions have many other optional activities to choose from. David Adams from the New Zealand Daffodil Society will escort the tour on the North Island, while another member of the NZ Daffodil Society, to be announced, will accompany the group in the South. In 1996 the hospitality of the New Zealand daffodil folks was legendary so, if you, or anyone you know, are "into daffodils" . . . please contact us for a detailed brochure.

Jan Coyle

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