

Report on ADS Judges Refresher April 27, 2009

On April 27, 2009, while on a bus heading for Oakwood Daffodils in Niles, Michigan, a Judges Refresher was held. Eighteen judges participated and applied for refresher credit. Some of the other passengers were also judges, and all on the bus were subjected to the proceedings of the course. Thirty of the 57 passengers were daffodil growers who participated in a survey, the results of which are shown below.

The topic for the refresher was "The Wister and Pannill Awards, What Every Judge Should Know." After a 45 minute bus ride through Chicago from the ADS 2009 Convention hotel in Northbrook, Illinois, the session commenced. A course outline (copy attached) was distributed and reviewed briefly. (Not all topics and activities were accomplished, due to the unavailability of promised audio-visual support.) We were fortunate to have Bill Pannill as one of the refresher registrants. He contributed interesting background information on Mr. and Mrs. Wister and on the establishment of the Wister Award. It was interesting to learn from the man for whom it is named how the Pannill Award came into existence.

Written materials provided from old Journal articles by Mary Lou Gripshover and observations from Loyce McKenzie and Richard Ezell were cited. These will be made available to registered participants via email.

A copy of the ADS Portable Guide, downloadable from the ADS website, was distributed. The criteria and aims of award winning cultivars are listed there for both awards, so this served as reference material. It was noted that some judges were not familiar with this excellent reference and promotional material.

A survey was made of those present to determine the use and familiarity of the award cultivars. During the survey a number of interesting questions and observations were contributed by individuals present. These were not limited to those registered in the course. An explanation of the name St. Keverne by a native Brit and pointed comments on certain cultivars and on their characteristics added to the interest in the survey. (The physical arrangements prevented face to face confrontation on matters of dispute.) Observations about variations observed in certain varieties, commercial availability of the award cultivars, the identification of Wister and Pannill winners in commercial catalogs, and more aggressive publicity of the awards by the Society were discussed.

How may more participation among the membership be engendered for the selection processes? Why do these awards not have the level of respect as do similar awards in other plant societies? Since bulbs fall out of fashion over time or become unavailable, should the list be reviewed or modified periodically? These and similar questions were touched upon as the bus neared Oakwood Daffodils and the session was, of necessity, terminated.

In the opinion of the facilitator of this refresher, these proceedings demonstrated the value of structured discussion and conversation among expert peers as a means of refreshing and refining daffodil knowledge and judging skills.

Registered Participants Seeking Refresher Credit
April 27, 2009

Paul Botting
George Dorner
Kirby Fong
Larry Force
Edie Godfrey
Sally Hecksher
Kathy Julius
Gary Knehans
Keith Kridler
Becky Fox Mathews
Peggy Oberg
Bill Pannill
Ethel Smith
Ted Snazelle
Mary Ann Streeter
Lois Van Wie
Kathy Welsh
Lissa Williamson

Submitted by George Dorner
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