

NCDS Newsletter



February 1998

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NCDS Web Site is <http://www.daffodil.org/>

Learn How to Exhibit Daffodils

In last month's newsletter we expounded on the joy of exhibiting daffodils. But how, you wonder, does someone get started when there are no books or videotapes to show you how? The answer is that NCDS has something even better than books or videos. Our own Jan Moyers is an experienced teacher and an accredited daffodil judge. And to top it off, she's willing to teach you live and in person how to get started showing your daffodils. Alas, this newsletter "went to press" (January 25) before the date and time of her workshop were settled, so you will have to phone her for details. Jan is at (415) 453-5261. She will show you how to read the show schedule and fill in entry cards. You will learn how to select the most promising specimens to enter. You will learn how to clean, groom, and stage your daffodils. And you will be amazed how much you can improve the appearance of your daffodils in the process. If you thought even your best daffodils were not as good as the ones you've seen in previous shows, you're wrong. You just need to learn what the experienced exhibitors already know; few flowers are ready for showing without some grooming. Do you look your best when you've just got out of bed? Well, your daffodils just picked from their beds probably don't either! However, it's as straightforward to groom your flowers as yourself. That's why it won't take Jan long to show you how to present your flowers to best advantage.

Sutter Creek Show and Dinner

Your first chance to try out your newly learned exhibiting skill is the Sutter Creek show at Gallery 10 on March 7. You can enter flowers Friday evening or 6 to 8 Saturday morning. See the January newsletter for the details. Dinner details are still unknown; however, it will be Saturday night, and you can order and pay at the restaurant.

Livermore Show, Dinner, and Business Meeting

Now that you're really into the swing of things, you can continue to hone your skills at the Livermore show on March 14-15. You can enter exhibits Friday evening 7 to 11 PM or Saturday morning 6 to 10 AM. We also need volunteers to help set up the show Friday afternoon. This means rolling out the table cloths and filling test tubes. If you could help at 4 PM Friday, we'd really appreciate it. You can then grab a good space to do your staging. Yes, you can go out to dinner between setting up for the show and staging your flowers. The Saturday night dinner will be at the Cattlemen's Restaurant at 7 PM though you're encouraged to come at 6 to relax and talk to others before dinner. We'll have our annual business meeting in the restaurant immediately after dinner.

Dinner will cost \$18.95 per person and includes tip and dessert. Make checks payable to Northern California Daffodil Society and give them to either Wayne Steele or Anna Rawls along with your choice of entree. The choices are prime rib, grilled Pacific salmon, top sirloin, and three cheese pasta (vegetarian). Please don't wait till the last minute to sign up; we would like to have a reasonable idea of how many of you are coming a couple days in advance.

A brand new motel has just opened in Livermore. It is Extended Stay America, and it is located on the street behind the Cattlemen's Restaurant. We are not getting any special rates from them; however, we mention them because their regular rates are lower than the rates we were able to get at the Comfort Inn which we have used in previous years. Prices are King \$59, Queen \$49, double \$59. Phone (510) 373-1700, FAX (510) 373-1710.

A map showing the locations of Cattlemen's, Extended Stay America, and Alden Lane Nursery is included. You may notice we also marked a location named Boot Hill. This used to be a cemetery, but the bodies have been removed. The site fell into disuse until the local garden club began planting daffodils there several years ago. If you have time, you might drive past to see the plantings. At press time, the foliage was already starting to come up, and a handful of very early blooms were visible. Peak bloom should be late February or early March, but there should still be something left by the time of the Livermore daffodil show.

Other Shows

There are two other shows where you can practice your exhibiting skills. The Fortuna Garden Club is holding its annual daffodil show at the Fortuna Monday Club building March 21-22. For information, contact Dian Keesee at (707) 725-2281. The place to stay is Best Western Country Inn, 1528 Kenmar Road in Fortuna. Their phone number is (707) 725-6822. This year's Pacific Regional Show will be in Eugene, Oregon at Valley River Center, a shopping mall, on March 28-29. For information, contact Betty Jean Forster at (541) 491-3874. The place to stay is the Valley River Inn, 1000 Valley River Way right next to the mall. Their phone number is (541) 687-0123. The Oregon Daffodil Society has arranged special rates of \$75 single, \$85 double, \$95 triple, and \$105 quad. You would take your daffodils to either show just the same way you did to Sutter Creek and Livermore, most likely standing in bottles of water in your car.

Fertilize Now?

If you didn't apply slow release nitrogen last fall or anything in January, you should apply a low nitrogen fertilizer right now. Low means about 5%. If you use something with a higher percentage, use a correspondingly lower application rate. Daffodils don't need much nitrogen, but the time they need it is when the leaves are coming up. Refrain from applying nitrogen after February. Daffodils can use a lot of potassium, so it's okay to apply some now as well as next month.

Picking Daffodils

What could be easier? You just take a knife or some shears and cut the stem right? Well, yes, that's one way to do it. However, that enables your shears or knife to transfer virus from one plant to another. Virus usually shows up as yellow streaks or stripes on the foliage early in the season. While the daffodil probably won't die, its vigor is impaired, and the virus can be transferred by aphids as well as infected shears. Since you will want the largest flowers on the longest stems for exhibiting, it's advisable not to let virus spread among your show daffodils. Dig up and destroy any sick looking plants. Rather than dipping shears and knives in disinfectant after each cut, it's simplest not to cut at all. Grab the daffodil low on the stem and snap it off. Try not to get the sap on your fingers. That way you can go on to snap off more stems without danger of spreading virus.

Freshly picked daffodils should be put in luke warm water immediately because you want them to draw up as much water as they can. Water is what gives the flower substance. After you bring them into your house, you can use a sharp knife to make a clean cut across the bottom of the stem since there is no longer any way of transferring virus to the plant after the stem has been picked. This is also the best time to clean and groom your daffodils. Don't wait until the show to do it; you'll be busy enough at the show getting your flowers staged.

You can start picking daffodils a week before the show if you have a cool place, like a spare refrigerator, to store them. You might want to change the water and recut the stems once or twice if you are storing them for some period. If the refrigerator is frost free, it will have a low humidity which tends to dry out your flowers. In this case, put wet towels or sponges inside in order to keep the humidity up. Or mist the flowers several times per day. The flowers should be standing in jars of water in the refrigerator. Since the chill causes the flowers to set, you should groom and shape them before refrigerating them; they'll be harder to groom after chilling.

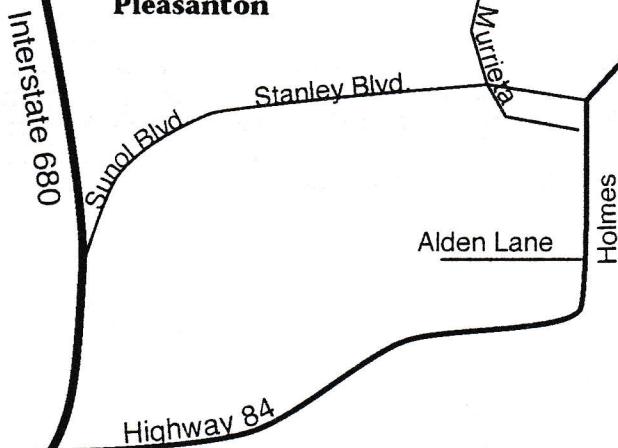
Membership Renewal

Check the mailing label on this newsletter for the expiration date of your membership. If you think there is a mistake, contact Nancy Tackett at (510) 372-8083 or send her e-mail at nancyt@netvista.net. If your membership has expired or will expire soon, it is highlighted in blue, and you should renew now. Individual membership is \$8 per year; family membership is \$10 per year. Make checks payable to Northern California Daffodil Society and mail them to Nancy at 066 Green Street, Martinez, CA 94553. In addition to your name and address, please tell Nancy your telephone number and (if you have one) electronic mail address.

Dublin

Interstate 580

Pleasanton



Portola
First Street

Livermore

Note: maps are not drawn to scale. If coming from the east, take the First Street exit (Highway 84) and drive through downtown Livermore. First Street becomes Holmes as it leaves downtown. From the north or west, take the Portola Avenue exit and turn right (at the Shell station) down Murrieta Blvd. Murrieta changes name to Fourth Street when it crosses Holmes.. From the south, Highway 84 is a steep, winding two-lane road; consider taking Sunol and Stanley Boulevards through Pleasanton.

North Canyons Parkway

Comfort Inn

Kitty Hawk
Airway Blvd.

Extended Stay America
2380 Nissen Drive

Cattlemen's
Restaurant

Interstate 580

Portola Avenue

LIVERMORE

First Street

The exit for Extended Stay America and the Cattlemen's restaurant is the Airway Blvd. exit. It is possible to go either north or south on Airway Blvd. from either direction on I-580 even though this map doesn't show it. The Cattlemen's restaurant is on Kitty Hawk Road almost at the intersection with Airway Blvd. Extended Stay America is behind Cattlemen's on Nissen Drive which is a short north-south street coming off Kitty Hawk Road. Yes, it is possible to follow either Kitty Hawk or Airway and Jack London to get to Murrieta as well as the obvious method of taking I-580 to the Portola exit. Go through the nursery shop to get to the greenhouse which is directly attached. The daffodil show will be in the greenhouse.

