

ADS GOLD MEDAL

The ADS Gold Medal is awarded for exceptional service in extending the knowledge of the daffodil. The recipient this year has a 30-year history of active service in the American Daffodil Society. Already she has received the ADS Silver Medal in recognition of unselfish service to our Society.

Her dedication to the ADS is unquestionable, but always she has maintained a larger focus: extending the worldwide knowledge of daffodils. As Editor of *The Daffodil Journal* she took the quality of that publication to new heights. She set the standard for publications of all societies to meet. Under her guidance the *Journal* became truly an international journal for the dissemination of daffodil information.

In 1989, while she was the ADS Second Vice-President with future succession to its presidency, the position of ADS Executive Director became open. She decided she could make greater contributions to the ADS and the world of daffodils in this arduous position than as ADS President.

As the ADS Executive Director, she established a cooperative relationship with the Royal Horticultural Society and especially with its International Daffodil Registrar. Working together, they have eliminated the discrepancies between RHS and ADS data banks. That was a major assist toward the compilation and recent publication of the encyclopedic *RHS International Daffodil Register and Classified List*. She has published a revised *Daffodils to Show and Grow*, the essential handbook for American exhibitors and a valued show resource overseas. Through her efforts, the *DTSG* included registrations worldwide through 1998, just a few months before its issuance.

Her accomplishments have long been recognized worldwide:

- Recipient of the Peter Barr Cup from the RHS in 1993
- Vice President of The Daffodil Society

- Full member of the RHS Narcissus Classification Advisory Committee

To balance her activities she hybridizes daffodils, promotes daffodils through a column (Suite101.com) on the Internet, judges and exhibits in shows, and travels to see her many daffodil friends overseas.

Worldwide, should one ask what current American is the most significant contributor to the daffodil world community, the answer might well be unanimous: Mary Lou Gripshover!

Mary Lou, please accept this prestigious and most deserved award.