



The Indiana Ledger

A Triannual Publication of the Indiana Daffodil Society
Suzy Wert, Editor

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From the Garden of the President



Greetings Daffodillians

This newsletter is a bit later than it should be due to the ill-health of my father, 85. Thanks to Helen Merrill for getting them out as soon as she has!

The picnic in Bloomington was a whale of a good time. Don & Kay Cunningham's place in Ellettsville is wonderful: lots of acreage, a woods behind, and even a frog pond and chicken coop! I must have waxed poetic when I came home, because Tom Wert is considering Ellettsville as a potential retirement destination for us! Thanks also to the entire Bloomington contingent for their efforts; Kay said she couldn't have done it alone. To give you all an idea of how far they went, we had fresh lemonade with mint leaves with our *hors d'oeuvres*!

The drought we've been enduring isn't bad for the daffodils, but according to the people at the National Weather Service, fall and winter will be mild and dry; it's the dryness in the fall and winter that is so bad for daffodils. If you want better color than we had last spring, keep an eye on the weather and if it really is dry, then you'll need to water. Kind of hard to do with a frozen hose, though, isn't it?

See you October 5th!

~Suzy Wert

October 5th meeting

HOLLIDAY PARK NATURE CENTER 1:00

Joe Hamm and Helen Trueblood "Tips on Planting and Organizing".

Bulb and Plant Exchange

Dues. You might want to take advantage of paying your dues at the October 5th meeting. Dues are to be paid by January if you wish to be listed in the 2003 directory.

Mitch orders will be distributed.

We have a bumper crop of good show quality bulbs for Awards and for the exchange table.

If you have an idea of what you would like for a 2003 meeting please let us know. "Ask and you shall receive. Knock and it shall be open to you!" "If you put a candle under a basket, we cannot see your light"

2003 Show Dates

The 2003 Show is Thursday, April 17 and Friday, April 18 with set up on the 16th at 1:00.

Cards, Notes & Well Wishes

Update: Helen's nursing home was involved in the tornado in Martinsville this past week. She had to be relocated to a home on the north side of Indianapolis, but by the time you read this, she should be back at the Waters, safe and sound.

Please send cards and Notes to Helen Link: RR6
1660 Observatory Road, Martinsville, IN 46151.

Reflections

~by Joe Hamm

I visited with Helen Link the other day at the Water's of Martinsville and after our visit I went to her home, to apply a second treatment for weed control in the collection beds. Walking the rest of the property I looked at her perennial beds, checked on her green house, and I marveled at all she has collected and enjoyed in the plant world. Helen is known for daffodils but it is amazing the collection of daylilies, hostas, and perennials not to discount the orchids and other plants to be found in her green house. Helen has these all documented in books or has slides arranged in binders. She is truly a Renaissance Woman when you add all the scientific research and technical data she has documented.

What prompts this reflection? Well I guess it was just the thought of her dedication to horticulture. Her generosity in giving of her time and her plants. She revels in seeing others enjoying the plants and bulbs she gives. As our Foundress she has set example for us to continue. Helen has just celebrated her 90th Birthday Anniversary.

This should be the goal of most IDS members to educate others and ourselves in the joy not only daffodils can bring to life but also all the other plants found in creation. IDS as a club has accomplished much this year. We are active assisting in maintaining parts of Holliday Park, we have dug a bounty of bulbs not only for our sales, but for bulbs furnished to Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, which will be planted at area schools.

We furnished a collection of Historic bulbs to the Heirloom Gardens at Westfield Town Hall. We will be planting bulbs at Holliday Park and we will be spending time at Helen's property to maintain the legacy she has given us. Lectures have been given to the Indianapolis Society and to the Henricks County Master Gardeners.

We have furnished a classroom of fourth graders in Noblesville with a couple of bulbs each and Mary Kraft will be heading up that project. Bloomington Hospital will be planting a daffodil in remembrance of babies who have died with a matching one for their families and Sara Kinne is heading up that project.

We have members who have been active with Hilltop in Bloomington, members who are active in the communities of Scottsburg, New Albany, Leota, Madison, Bloomington & Noblesville; giving willing of their time to lecture, give bulbs or assist in local projects.

Still to go for 2002, members are needed to help on the following projects:

Planting bulbs at The Waters in Martinsville

Planting at Holliday Park in Indianapolis

Cleaning up the daffodil rows at Helen Link's place on Observatory Road.

Plant Pansies for Winter

By John and Jeri Cretti

The National Weather Service is forecasting a mild and dry winter for central Indiana – and a mild winter is perfect for winter-blooming pansies.

The bright faces of pansies can withstand our modest snows and still keep blooming. Most gardeners don't think of planting flowers in the fall because cold tolerance is not considered a trait of annuals, yet one of the most cold-tolerant flowers of late fall and early winter is the pansy (*Viola wittrockiana*).

Fall Is Also Pansy Time

While many gardeners plant this annual in spring, we've found it most successful and rewarding to plant pansies now, so we can enjoy their cheery faces throughout the monochrome winter. Also, when planted now, pansies

are not bothered by troublesome spider mites and leaf-eating caterpillars. Occasionally, the tender fresh foliage becomes a treat for browsing rabbits, but we've discovered that a sprinkling of hot pepper flakes on and around the plants imparts a fragrance and taste that rabbits can't stand.

Pansy Facts

Pansies are members of the Viola family and are noted for their large flowers, some reaching 3 to 4 inches in diameter. The plants are short stemmed and rarely exceed 12 inches in height. You'll find pansy varieties in practically every color and color combination, with and without blotches and streaks.

Container Pansies

We like setting out pansies among new plantings of tulips and daffodils. Pansies will flower now into winter, then again in the spring to bloom at the same time as those spring-flowering bulbs.

Another nice way to use pansies during the late fall and early winter is to plant them in large containers on the patio or deck. When planted in a good-sized container (14 inches diameter or more) and a well-drained soil mixture, pansies will thrive and provide bursts of color throughout the winter. Just remember to water the container-grown plants during dry spells.

If it gets cold enough for the soil mass to freeze solid in containers, insulate the pots with blankets, fit to cover the sides of the pot. We've found that by using this technique, you can grow a variety of cold-tolerant flowers combined with bulbs in large containers. Again, remember to water the soil during dry spells. In addition, a mulch of cedar shavings, pine needles, or coarse compost will keep the plants healthy and happy.

