

ADS SILVER MEDAL 2004

WELDON CHILDERS



**President Steve Vinisky
and 2004 Silver Medal
winner Weldon Childers
[McKenzie photo]**

The Southern Region and the entire American Daffodil Society would be vastly poorer without Weldon Childers, of Carbon Hill, Alabama.

Weldon, a lifelong resident of Carbon Hill, taught algebra for many years; his students still remember him as the best math teacher they ever had. He is dedicated to First United Methodist Church of Carbon Hill, where he has taught Sunday School and sung in the choir most of his life.

Weldon told me not long ago, “I used to grow all sorts of plants – and then I discovered daffodils!” Thank goodness he did.

Weldon has collected daffodils and new members for the ADS with equal zeal. Students contend to be on his judging panel, “because we learn so much.” Becoming a Judges Instructor was a proud moment for Weldon; but he has always been teaching everyone who would listen about daffodils, good daffodils, how to grow them, how to exhibit them, how to judge them, how to hybridize them.

He told me once, “I fertilize when I plant and never after that and I never water.” That’s the only thing Weldon ever told me that I’m not sure I believe. But the results are their own evidence.

A charter member of Central Mississippi Daffodil Society, he has been our forever-and-always Classification Chairman. He knows the historic old daffodils and the newer show cultivars equally well.

But most of all, he knows his daffodil friends, and they are legion.

Loyce McKenzie