



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 Daffodilians,

It is weather like this that reinforces my love of gardening in the fall and in the spring. I have a bit of trepidation about that confession because I wish it weren't true. At this time of year the garden gives me as much pleasure in my dreams of what will come as it does in its steamy, weed-choked reality. One long lived stroke of success and enjoyment has been the fragrance of lilies planted near our front door five years ago.

I'm pleased to report our show in April at a new venue, Holliday Park, was a big success. To the many members that participated I extend a huge thank you and kudos for a job well done. The concerns about the physical space turned out to be a non-issue and the smaller size of the show display area resulted in a gorgeous visual. The Holliday Park staff was incredibly helpful and interested in our event and encouraged us to use the nature center for the 2007 show.. A partnership between Holliday Park and IDS has been established for our 2007 show date. It is lovely to feel wanted.

Our annual picnic was hosted by Libby Frey in Bloomington and her spectacular gardens made it feel as though we were strolling through a work of art. That feeling was enhanced by Gwen Gutwein who produced a plein air watercolor at her easel while we assembled lunch. The weather cooperated enough to hold off the rain until we were winding down. Frank Nyikos, owner of Walnut Grove Nursery in Unionville, donated door prizes of bulbs, a hosta, and a daylily.

As a club, the income of the IDS is in direct relation to the dollars we bring in at our two bulb sales. The bulbs sold at our first sale came entirely from the daffodil dig at John Reed's in Niles, Michigan this past June. As the only IDS member who was able to attend, I didn't know what to expect, but now I'm glad I took a chance and did this. I found the whole experience enjoyable and educational, and now that I've done it, I want to influence other IDS members to consider taking a similar leap of faith. I hope John Reed extends to us an invitation to a 2007 dig and I hope several of you will join me. (I found the antiquing in Michigan to be terrific and plan to allow extra time for that next year.) The beauty of the area, near Lake Michigan, was lush and plentiful, and the camaraderie of

like-minded, mission oriented people was stimulating and gratifying. Traveling to Michigan to lift the bulbs from the ground is a labor intensive, time-specific beginning of our sale process. We also need members to receive those bulbs for proper curing, cleaning and bagging. It would be very helpful if you would indicate to me your ability to participate next June so we can have our network in place in advance. The message that I need your good help has been sent. Please receive. Enough said.

The bulb sale gained us 4 new members which is exciting and encouraging. My observation is that people who join IDS at a bulb sale are good participators with a genuine interest. Please welcome them as they are introduced at future meetings. Remember what it was like to not know anyone in the group when you were a newbie? You can help fix that for our newest members.

Our August meeting will have an informal program devoted to the handling and storage of bulbs, and best practices for planting. I'm looking forward to seeing you there at the Nora Library.

2005 Daffodil Calendar

Saturday, June 25 - Picnic at Mrs. Link's --Also, Mitsch orders due to Sonja Eaton. Look for the "D" after the price for a 25% discount. (See article left)

Meeting and Plant/Bulb Exchange Holliday Park Sat., August 20, 2005 - Saturday, 1-4pm.

Meeting & Plant/Bulb Exchange Holliday Park Sat., October 8, 2005 - Saturday, 1-4pm

Bulb Sales Holliday Park - Sunday, July 31 and Sun., August 28, 2005

2005 Daffodil Show Results

Back Home Again in Indiana

Congratulations to Libby Frey and Kay Cunningham who tied with the most blue ribbon. They both won the Silver Ribbon!

298 Exhibits

561 Blooms

Gold: 'Sunday Chimes' 5W-W George McGowan

White: 'Starlet' 9W-GYR Libby Frey

Mini Gold: 'Bebop' 7Y-Y Helen Trueblood

Mini White: 'Hawera' 5Y-Y Helen Trueblood

Youth Best Bloom: Chelsea Hutchison 'Tahiti' 4Y-O

Youth Vase 3: Elizabeth McDonald-Zwoyer 'Actaea' 9W-YYR

Small Grower: Dawn Garlich 'Whiskey Mac' 2YYW-Y

Historic: Helen Trueblood 'Shanach' 9W-YYR 1939

Historic V3: George McGowan 'Geranium' 8W-O 1930

Intermediate: Tag Bourne 'Scarlet Tanager' 2Y-R

Rose Ribbon: Mary Lou Gripshover seedling #2001-17-2 5Y-Y

Mini Rose Ribbon: Suzy Wert seedling #W5 9W-GYR

Silver: Libby Frey and Kay Cunningham (Tie)

On Digging

~by Suzy Wert, Indianapolis, Indiana

Ah, the harvest! If your bulbs are big and round and clean and dry, congratulations! (Do you live in Indiana?) My bulbs had several anomalies this year that you might have noticed in your garden, too.

Dog Toothed bulbs are bulbs that have split too many times without ever gaining any size. One of the causes is narcissus bulb fly, which eats the center of the bulbs and only leaves a piece of basal plate left to grow. The bulb, in a magnificent effort to stay alive, sends up many little baby-bulbs from the basal plate. If you dig the first year after a bulb fly infestation, you'll see baby dog toothed bulbs, and the second year you'll see bulbs with 4 and 5 small noses coming from the same basal plate. The third year, the bulb should return to normal. You can also get dog toothed bulbs from cutting a bulb with your spade or other physical injuries. It can also indicate basal rot.

Rotten soft necks are from bad drainage and late spring-early summer rains. Lots of water as the bulb foliage is maturing and going dormant. Planting on a raised bed or slope will help with drainage, but nothing will make it stop raining! Be sure you aren't inadvertently getting your daffodils wet when you water with the hose.

Basal Rot is from a soil born bacteria that is prevalent in Indiana. It is exacerbated by high soil temperatures and too much water. Planting bulbs directly on sand, grani-grit or perlite will help, along with a layer of annuals to help keep soil cooler. Something such as moss roses which don't need much water would be ideal. You probably have basal rot if your bulbs suddenly disappear or if your bulbs are blackish at harvest.

Little peas-sized noses appearing at the base of bulbs indicates injury. Most of mine come on double nose bulbs and I rip the noses apart and only keep the one without the little pea-sized nose. The bulb attached to the pea is always rotten in the core.

Wobbly nose on a triple nose bulb. How do you decide whether to keep the third (or fourth) nose on a big healthy bulb? You can shake it and see if it comes off on its own. Or you can just go ahead and snap it off. You get into trouble, though, if it starts to pull. One side will get all the basal plate and the other side will have nothing to grow on, rendering it basically dead. Generally speaking, you can snap the bulb after the third day out of the ground. And you might as well go ahead and snap it because an open wound at planting is bad – the bulbs needs a day or two to callous over the open wound before it gets soil and bacteria gets in it.