



# Northeastern NC Daffodil Society

June 2007      Volume I - Issue 2

The **Northeastern North Carolina Daffodil Society** will be meeting on Saturday, October 27, 2007 at 10:00 am at the Higgins' home; 102 Teague Court, Harbinger, NC 27941. Please RSVP to Clay & Fran @ (252) 491-9268 and leave a message or used the mailer on back page so that we can get an accurate count of those coming.

Evelyn Nock, Regional Vice President of the American Daffodil Society will be our guest speaker. Ann Corson a master gardener and daffodil judge from VA will present "Miniature Daffodils." Jan Payne-Weber will be discussing the "Master Gardener Volunteers of Currituck County." As our Program, Clay Higgins will demonstrate bulb planting and labeling, and discuss mulch for daffodils.

There will be a Bulb Exchange and Giveaway after refreshments. Anyone that has bulbs or plants that they would like to share are encouraged to bring them. Everyone is asked to bring a small dish of their favorite food to share with others. All those that joined the Northeastern NC Daffodil Society this spring will receive a minimum of three varieties of daffodils, along with planting and labeling instructions.



## Message from the Northeastern NC Daffodil Society

This fall's meeting will be our first as an organization. We would like to have our Organization Articles available for members to review and comment if so needed. Fran and I as founders of the Northeastern North Carolina Daffodil Society would like to have as many members as possible participate in our organization. We have a number of positions in the organization that we would like to have staffed by our members to help. No previous daffodil society experience necessary, just a willingness to participate. Working with any other volunteer organization should be experience enough for us to learn together. We would like to have a club secretary to record our meetings and shows, and make distribution of notes. A newsletter editor is another position, as we would like to distribute three newsletters each year. These three are envisioned as: One for the fall meeting, the second for the spring (end of winter) before our spring meeting and show, and the final newsletter after the show to report on the show and other events. Positions to assist in the show committee are also welcome. Clay will co-chair the show with Jan Payne-Weber, and also be the Judges Chairperson. Fran will be the Clerk Chairperson. We will need a number of assistants during the show next March and are willing to train anyone to be that assistant and to eventually taking over the positions themselves. However, if you just want to be around daffodils and to enjoy them, you are welcome also.

Respectfully submitted: Clay Higgins



## Planting Daffodils

The time for planting daffodils in Currituck County and the surrounding areas of North Carolina is late November and the first couple of weeks in December. Here are a few suggestions as to activities that one should take to get the daffodils started.

### SEPTEMBER:

**Prepare:** Prepare beds for fall planting. The sandy soil in NC needs to be amended with organic matter.

**Refrigeration:** Daffodils do not need refrigeration to bloom in Eastern North Carolina.

### OCTOBER:

**Plan to Plant:** In late October, start planning where daffodils are to be planted. Sometimes planting should be delayed to November in Eastern North Carolina, if conditions are not right and there ground is not cooled off to below 54%. If you must fertilizer put it at the bottom of the hole with soil or sand between the fertilizer and the bulb. Never put the bulb directly on fertilizer.

**Planting:** Plant bulbs so that the neck of the bulb is about 6 inches below the ground surface. Miniatures and tiny bulbs are of course usually planted much more shallowly. . . bases set about three (3) times the bulb's height. Always mulch your bulbs.

### NOVEMBER:

**Plant:** Start planting bulbs by the end of November after the soil has cooled and rain has fallen to soften and moisten the ground. Thanksgiving week is a good "check point" to get started. The ground is cool enough and the roots will have time to gather strength.

**Fertilize:** After planting, top dress by spreading a low nitrogen fertilizer (5-10-15, 5-10-5, 5-10-30(best)) over the area following the guidance on bag. Don't over do it.

**Forcing:** November is the time for forcing. Some daffodils need just a few weeks of refrigeration to start into growth. They can be potted, refrigerated, then brought into a cool sunless area to bud up. Some need no refrigeration and can be set in pebbles in a bowl (paper-whites) with water just touching the basal ring. You can find more detailed instructions on forcing where they are sold.

### DECEMBER:

**Plant:** Finish planting and labeling your daffodils. Make a plot plan of those daffodils planted, in case something happens. The ground is cool enough and the bulbs need to be in the ground before Christmas.

**Summary:** To sum up, daffodils can be a year round avocation. Or they can just be planted in the late fall and enjoyed in the spring. This brochure is a listing of "what to do when." For "how to do it" consult gardening books or attend the meetings of the NE NC Daffodil Society. Other information of interest may be, Daffodil:

## Directions:

The Higgins' home is in Cypress Point section of Harbinger, which is loosely behind the Holly Ridge Golf Course. The phone number is: (252) 491- 9268 if you become lost. The directions are: take Rt 158 to Harbinger, NC. At the Exxon "Get Go" take Edgewater Rd off Rt 158 for about ½ mile to Harbinger Ridge Road. Right on Harbinger Ridge Road for ½ block to left on Reggie Owens Drive. Take the first left onto Teague Court. 102 is the first house on Teague Court, on the right.

