

ADS Gold Medal 2012

Harold Koopowitz



Phyllis Hess photograph

The ADS Gold Medal for Meritorious Service is given in recognition of accomplishment of a preeminent nature in the advancement of daffodils. This year the honoree is Harold Koopowitz of California.

Harold has been involved with the preservation of species for many years. He is recognized around the world as an ambassador for fall blooming daffodils and uses seasonal species, such as *N. viridiflorus* and *N. serotinus*, for hybridizing. He encouraged the Royal Horticultural Society to include “Autumn” in their standard set of daffodil bloom seasons. He registered his first fall bloomer, ‘Paper Sol’, in 1981, long before this season was officially recognized.

In the last two years, Harold received two major hybridizing awards: the Gold Medal for Innovation twice, for ‘Itsy Bitsy Splitsy’ and for an as yet un-named seedling; and the RHS Ralph B. White Memorial Medal for ‘Itsy Bitsy Splitsy’.

The world of miniature daffodils has exploded with his introduction of new colors across a wide range of divisions. He is literally re-making the entire Miniature Section. To achieve this, he uses the combination of his knowledge of species coupled with the best parent stock available from hybridizers around the world.

Harold has opened many people’s eyes and imaginations to the possibilities for miniatures. In the Fall of 2008, as part of an ADS Board of Director’s meeting, Harold organized a Miniature Symposium, and featured miniature experts from the U.S. and overseas.

He quietly gives away bulbs of species and other good “parent material” to amateurs new to the world of daffodil breeding. His hope is to encourage others to start their own breeding programs.

He has registered just over 30 daffodils, the first in 1979, registering a few more up to 1984. Other plants claimed his interest after 1984, but he was back again in 1997. This time in earnest!

The ADS is proud to award the 2012 Gold Medal to Harold Koopowitz, of California. 🌸