



# Northeast North Carolina Daffodil Society Newsletter Summer 2016



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN, NORTHEAST NORTH CAROLINA DAFFODIL SOCIETY

This short newsletter to our members communicates the results of the ninth annual Northeast North Carolina Daffodil Society Show held in the auditorium of the NCSU Currituck Extension Center in Barco, March 26.

## JUNE MEETING



The Summer Daffodil Society Meeting will take place at the home of Nellie and Robert Healy, 5205 Barlow Lane, Kitty Hawk, NC 27949. (252) 255-2628/cell 252-207-4260. The meeting will start at

11 a.m. on Saturday June 4. Additional directions will be sent closer to the date. Dress casual and comfortably, please bring something for the pot luck picnic.

This is an important meeting as we will be discussing officer candidates for next year, a review of the show and how to improve it, and a discussion of the fall meeting and bulb exchange.

At this meeting I will give any member or master gardener one batch (about 45) bags for storing daffodils, and yellow 2x3 labels with ties to label the bags with the bulbs. We would like for more of our members to dig bulbs and make them available for the Fall Bulb Sales as well as the bulb exchange.

## FALL MEETING

Our fall meeting is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 29, 2016 at 10 a.m. We will have a guest speaker, TBD.

Our show this year was on Easter and we had a smaller turnout of locals to exhibit. However, next year we would like to see all of you there. We hope all who turned out had a good time, enjoyed the social interaction with their old and new friends, and have fun putting daffodils in the show.

We still encourage buying bulbs that are labeled *Early or Early Mid Season*. However, if you want to hedge

your bets, go ahead and buy some of the mid to late-season bulbs and it will extend your blooming season.

Our weather is hot and dry in the summer and mulch, or shade, is needed to keep the heat from “cooking” the bulbs and causing them to dwindle.

Assuming that I get some help again this year in digging bulbs, we are going to have another large number of bulbs at the fall exchange. But—not as many as last year; I will be digging fewer this year.

## SHOW REPORT



The Northeast North Carolina Daffodil Society Show co-sponsored by the NCSU Currituck County Extension Center and the Master Gardener volunteers of Currituck County held its ninth annual Daffodil Show at the Currituck County Center in Barco, NC on

March 26, 2016. The show was chaired by Clay Higgins and co-chaired by Peggy Lilienthal, Lesley Minor and Kerie O’Toole.

The Master Gardeners were everywhere and again were the engine that made it run. The overseeing of the information booths, exhibitor registration, providing support to the judges, and the breaking down of the show at the end was critical. Thank you. Joyce Stallings was the main focal point of setting up the sections and laying out the classes on the tables with lots of expert help from our Master Gardeners. The Master Gardeners are very efficient in setting up the show hall. Everyone worked hard. I’d like to name all the Master Gardeners but space does not allow.

Special thanks go to the **Design Committee**, chaired by James Fincher, with Shelly Murray. It takes a lot of people to pull off a successful show like we had this year.

Kerie O’Toole stepped in to assist Cora Wade in coordination of the Clerks and Clerk logistics. They deserve a loud “Thank You” for a job well done. Kerie

will be taking over the Clerk's responsibility with the departure of Cora.

Special thanks to all those who helped at the show! There are more than I can name, but to name a few: Fran Higgins, Ken Ferguson, Cora Wade, and all those who staffed the information and registration tables, and those who stayed to break down the show. As the show chairman, I truly appreciated the help.

### **Daffodil Show Exhibitors**

We had Pizza night again on Friday night which is also our big night for exhibitors. Others who we thank brought snacks for the exhibitors. We socialized as we staged our daffodils; talked to people we haven't seen for a while and prepared blooms for the show bench. We all worked together and helped each other until the last daffodil was entered in the show. Much thanks goes to Richard Ezell, and members of our own group who helped new members and small growers. And, we had a lot of fun!!!

### **Judging**

Thanks to those who brought "goodies" for the judges' coffee and for the exhibitors. Most of the judges were from Virginia, with two from Maryland, and one each from Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Our judges are essential to the success of the show and for keeping the show certified under the American Daffodil Society. .

### **Daffodil Show**

The 2016 show was a super success. It provided a total of 839 daffodil stem entries. We had a total of 417 entries or exhibits in the show. Our number of exhibitors was larger than previous years with 41.

## **AWARDS**

### ***Design Section***



Winners in the "Fame"-themed design section included:

*Best in Show*: Nellie Healy for vertical design, "Taxi"  
*People's Choice* (voted by the public): Jim Fincher for sculptural design, "Mermaid's Saxophone"

*Most Creative* (voted by judges): Jim Fincher for table setting, "Country Music"

Class 1 – Synergistic Design: Doris Flattum

Class 2 – Vertical: Nellie Healy

Class 3 – Sculptural Form: Shelly Murray

Class 4 – Functional table setting: Jim Fincher

Class 5 – Small design: Doris Flattum

### ***Horticulture Section***

1. Small Grower Award: Peggy Lilienthal Rapture 6Y-Y
2. Wild Goose Award for the most blue Ribbons for a small grower: Timmie Scott: 8 Blue Ribbons and Peggy Lilienthal 8 Blue Ribbons. First year that we had a tie.
3. Best Youth Bloom: Ryan Potter: Geometrics 2W-Y
4. Youth 3 Stems Award: Ryan Potter: Golden Echo 7W-Y
5. Youth Best Collection of Five: No Entry
6. Best Photograph: Ken Ferguson: Name of Exhibit: Spring Cleaning
7. Best Novice Award: Sara Watts: Irene Copeland 4W-Y
8. Best Historic: Janet Hickman: Queen of Spain 5Y-Y 1888
9. Historic 3 stems: Clay and Fran Higgins Beryl 6W-YY0 1907
10. Classic Best: Janet Hickman Estrella 3W-YYR 1956
11. Classic 3 Stems: Nancy Fuchs: Lunar Sea 1Y-W 1954
12. Best 3 stems: Nancy Fuchs: Banker
13. Best in Show: Clay and Fran Higgins: Magic Lantern 1y-o
14. Most Blue Ribbons in Show: Clay and Fran Higgins 26

That bulb exchange in the fall is beginning to pay off with improved quality. We love to see the bulbs given away in the fall come back to the show in the spring. We encourage our exhibitors to keep venturing out into Historics, Classics and into the "standard" classes at the show, instead of just exhibiting in the Small Growers.

Clay & Fran

Chairman of the NE NC Daffodil Society

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### **Minutes of the Feb. 27, 2016 NENCDS Meeting**

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

A. Summer meeting: Nellie Healy will host our summer meeting at her home in Kitty Hawk on Saturday, June 4, at 11 a.m. Address and directions will be sent closer to the date.

B. Treasury Report: Clay reports a balance of \$1,447.07 in our treasury.

C. Minutes from Fall Meeting: The Treasurer's report and the Fall Minutes were accepted as presented. Refer



to past reports for specifics.

D. James Fincher gave a summary of the Artistic Design section of the Daffodil Show and opened the registration for the Design exhibits.

E. Class Changes: Clay reviewed changes and reminded entrants to bring their show schedules (passed out to members at meeting).

F. Clerks and Show Help: Fran Higgins and Cora Wade spoke briefly about the duties of clerks in assisting the judges and encouraged members to sign up to help either online or with the existing sign-up sheets. Included was a new form to make it easier for clerks to return exhibits to the show floor after final judging is complete.

G. Show set-up and tear down: Clay explained the set-up and show tear down, reminding us that many hands make light work.

H. Entry Cards and Staging Daffodils: Nancy Fuchs explained how to fill out an entry card, how clerks should fill out the green class cards and that clerks must remain “on duty” until the gold ribbon has been awarded. Afterwards Nancy showed how to stage a 3-stem entry card on the exhibit.

#### NEW BUSINESS

A. Members present at the summer meeting will be reminded that June is the (approx.) time to divide large clumps of bulbs. This would be the time to dig, label and store bulbs to be sold at the MG Fall Plant Sale if we decide to do so.

B. We briefly discussed the change of time for the summer meeting on June 4, to 11 a.m. in Kitty Hawk.

C. Our Fall meeting location will be the Currituck Cooperative Extension Center, Saturday, Oct. 29, 2016. Members are reminded that dues are due in October but new members may join at any time.

After a break for lunch, members gathered for a Design Class presented by Lee Snyder. She explained the basics for assembling a Synergistic Design and a Sculptural Form Design. She emphasized that the instructions and directions for these specific designs must be followed to the letter and she provided us with a work sheet listing the requirements. Ms. Snyder made two designs to illustrate and let members draw names to take them home. Her class was fun and informative, her design hints will be helpful and members enjoyed her presentation.

With no further business, our Spring meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Clay Higgins



## Digging Daffodil Bulbs for Beginners

By Clay Higgins

As a rule of thumb, daffodils should be dug six to eight weeks after the daffodil bloom season, while the foliage is still visible, has turned brown and fallen over. Daffodils should be replanted in the fall. If one takes reasonable care, daffodils are good keepers and can be success-fully kept over the summer and replanted when it gets cool. Keeping them cool means, under shade where the air can move.

Daffodils are a cold weather plant, and are dormant in the summer. Digging is needed every three or four years to thin daffodils out so that they will continue to provide a healthy and hardy bloom each year. I'm not an advocate of tying-up or tying-back the daffodil foliage.

**Digging Daffodils:** The digging process should start with and be finalized during the blooming season. This insures that all the bulbs that are to be dug are located and properly marked and named before the foliage disappears. When digging bulbs it is critical to keep bunches of bulbs separate. Once a daffodil bulb is dug, it looks just like any other daffodil bulb.

Mesh bags like “onion” or “orange” bags that you obtain from the produce department of grocery stores are the ideal type containers to hold freshly dug daffodils. The bags can be obtained online from commercial sources. Clay can provide bags to those who need them. The second critical part of digging is having a reliable digging instrument I recommend the flat tonged garden fork over a shovel.

Most freshly dug bulbs will come out of the ground with foliage attached. Gently twist off the foliage separating the bulbs. Collect the foliage for removal from the daffodil beds. However, do not place daffodil foliage into your compost pile for the same reason that you remove the foliage from the beds: it may contain virus and disease that can be spread to others. The bulbs should be immediately placed into the mesh bags, one variety or cultivar a bag, and the bags labeled.

**Drying of Bulbs:** Freshly dug daffodil bulbs should be placed in a shady and airy place.

Allow the bulbs to dry in the open air for approximately two weeks. Spread the bulbs out so that they are only one-layer deep. After a couple weeks of drying the daffodils are ready for the next stage, which is storage for the summer.

**Storage of Bulbs Over the Summer:** The method many use, and I'm one of them, is to store daffodil bulbs in an open air location under shade. I use lightweight 4 foot wide 2x3x8. Fir wood frames covered with a 3/4 inch wire mesh screen under a canvas carport. The wire mesh allows the bulbs to be open to the air on all sides.

**In Summary:** Dig daffodil bulbs about six to eight weeks after blooming. Take care when digging bulbs to maintain integrity of the variety and to have a name tag attached so that when fall planting comes, the variety will be known. Storage across the summer should be in shade, and in a place where the air circulates. Make a list of the bulbs that you are going to replant, and label the bulbs newly put into the ground. Good luck and good digging.



## From the Gallery

