

AMERICAN DAFFODIL SOCIETY (ADS) 2016 SILVER MEDAL RECIPIENT ANNOUNCED!

Nancy Tackett and Ben Blake from Martinez, CA were awarded the 2016 American Daffodil Society Silver Medal on April 8th at the World Daffodil Convention in St Louis, Missouri.



The American Daffodil Society Silver Medal is awarded each year for meritorious service to the American Daffodil Society. The recipient of this award has been instrumental in furthering the goals and objectives of the ADS in promoting the love of daffodils.



Nancy Tackett and Ben Blake are being acknowledged for their extraordinary service to the ADS through the creation and maintenance of the ADS family of websites. The establishment of the ADS website, www.daffodilusa.org, was a major milestone in the evolution of the ADS into its current, world-respected status. It would be hard to picture the ADS in 2016 without its online presence. Nancy deserves full credit for creating the website in 1996 and improving it continually. Ben has applied his considerable talents in programming and hardware to enable the website's evolution in content and quality.

In 2007, Nancy Tackett and Ben Blake were awarded the ADS Gold Medal in recognition of their substantial contributions to advancing the knowledge of daffodils, primarily through their creation and maintenance of websites DaffSeek.org and DaffNet.org. This joint honor was applauded throughout the daffodil world.

After funding the ADS's online presence themselves for 10 years, the websites are now a necessary ADS financial/cost budget item. To support the ADS family of websites, Ben and Nancy developed the ADS Information Technology Plan, introduced concepts of the IT Plan to the ADS Finance Committee, and after gaining approval of the IT Plan, have implemented it. Ben researched the technology needs of the ADS, established hardware-capability and software requirements, led the acquisition of the hardware and software, installed the equipment at a secure site, and now maintains the vital hardware and software through continual monitoring. Ben keeps abreast of new malware and virus threats and implements countermeasures to assure safety to data and users.

Nancy served as ADS Chairman for Information Technology for nearly ten years before establishing the ADS Information Technology Plan, and being joined in that role by Ben. She has also contributed to the ADS in numerous other ways. Some notable contributions are as Co-Chairman of the 2010 National Convention, serving on the National Nominating Committee, assisting in writing the "Guidelines for the ADS National Convention and Show," and publishing numerous articles in the ADS Journal. At the local level, she is a frequent speaker about daffodils to garden clubs.

The American Daffodil Society has a tradition of honoring individuals who have contributed to the betterment of daffodils and the American Daffodil Society. Nancy Tackett and Ben Blake are the bright faces of ADS to daffodil enthusiasts around the world and have earned this award for their superior meritorious service and join a short list of select individuals who have received both of the ADS' highest honors.