



# florida daffodil society news

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April 2014

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- **ANNUAL MEETING: April 19, 2014, from 9:15-10:30 AM in the laundry cottage at Goodwood Museum and Gardens.** We will celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a discussion of the FDS-past/present/future. We encourage everyone to attend or send comments to Linda Van Beck at [Ivanbeck@comcast.net](mailto:Ivanbeck@comcast.net) or call her at 850 878-9753

## Annual Flower Show

We got off to a bad start. All the early flowering daffodils were neatly swaddled and installed in Mary Maude's flower refrigerator two weeks before the flower show, a sharp drop in temps to 22 degrees froze the room, the refrigerator and over 200 flowers. The only 'early bloomers' for the show were a very few stragglers. However, we picked the Van Beck garden (except for , reduced the show space, and improved the identification section (individual cultivators placed in test tube stands and identified by division and name). But the Show was really gorgeous! There were five great arrangements that ranged from simplicity (Mary Maude Sharpe), modern (the Reeds and Gunella Trull), and old fashion (Jana Walling). Over 100 people attended the show, attracted by good weather, good newspaper and radio coverage. We were glad to see many new or renewing members.

Due to lack of flowers, the Van Beck garden did not open to the public until the following weekend. We had a good response on Saturday and rain on Sunday.

Daffodils in the show:

Division 1 (trumpet): Beersheba, Flower Carpet

Division 2 (big cup): Carbineer, Carlton, Ceylon, Chipley Big Cup, Fortune, Fortissimo, Giant Star, Gold Coin, Ice Follies, Stella (John's Old Fashion), Vulcan

Division 4 (double): Abba, Erlicheer, Orange Phoenix, Telamonius, Plenus, N X Odorus Plenus (double Campernelle)

Division 5 (triandrus): Frosty Morn, Sugar Cups

Division 6 (cyclamineus): February Gold, Itzim

Division 7 (jonquilla): Orange Queen, Sweetness

Division 8 (tazetta): Avalanche, Avalanche of Gold, Brentwood, Brooks Agar, Chinita, Cloth of Gold, Craigford, Early Pearl, Grand Primo, Hugh Town, Miss Linda, Nat Williams, Odoratus

Division 13 (species): *N. Jonquilla*, *N. Italicus*, *N. Pseudonarcissus*, *N. x Intermedius*, *N. x Odorus*

## Fieldguide Based on Van Beck Garden Still Relevant

Daffodils in Florida a Field Guide to the Coastal South is primarily based on data collected from the Van Beck Garden in 2003. Now it is 2014, and most of the data remains relevant. A few cultivators have disappeared due to back-to-back hot springs, moles, and basal rot.

The garden has expanded with collections of daffodils. The Nat Williams bed contains daffodils he grew in Thomasville, GA. The David Atkins beds are a collection of historic daffodils that he rescued in and around Natchez, MS. The Montaine Martin bed, with daffodils from Blakley, GA, contains a variant of Grand Primo and Paperwhites that were originally purchased for President F.D. Roosevelt's Little White House. A new bed will be named for the John Brady collection of small floret Paperwhites from their pioneer family home in Havana, FL. The Bart collection of primarily Queen of the North 3W-Y, but also including Double Campernelle 4Y-Y and Seagull 3W-YO, was originally brought to Havana from Montgomery, AL. Daffodils from these beds are made available to public gardens. Bulbs from the Bart collection have been sent to La Grange and Atlanta, GA. By the end of the season, over 4,000 tazettas named after Nat Williams will be shipped to Bill The Bulb Baron. The aim is to make this daffodil commercially available to the public at a reasonable price.

Other areas in the garden are still serving as test beds for Bill Welch's modern tazettas. Another area is devoted to daffodils purchased from Ron Scamp, a British shipper – most of which are doing well.

Daffodils that like the cold loved the 2013-2014 winter, and are blooming en masse. One of the big surprises is petite April Tears 5W-W. At the time the book was written, it was assumed that April Tears was a goner – we hadn't seen her for years. And now, very unexpectedly, she's back. Not one, but 12 healthy clumps, of which 4 are already in bloom and more may be coming. Gotta be the cold. April Tears is one of the many daffodils where flower color changes as the plant matures.

The cold weather continues to swing in and out, and the cold-natured daffodils love it! In early March there was a lull and suddenly mid to late March, there was an explosion. Green clumps turned yellow overnight. Many bulbs had waited years to bloom and bolted out like Jack Rabbits. Some newly planted bulbs are blooming later than normal -- Margaret Feaster's Sweetness 7Y-Y, purchased last fall, did not open until April. By next newsletter, we will know how many varieties bloomed during this colder than usual winter.

# The Flower Show



The Flower Show looked beautiful



Test tubes worked a treat



Only 5 flower arrangements, but all were stunners  
(This one by Jana Walling)



Guenella Trull's lovely arrangement, and masses of primarily Grand Primo straight from the refrigerator



Butter and Eggs 4 W-O



Duke of Winsor 2W-O



Cloth of Gold 8Y-Y (Rare) A unique daffodil.  
Cross of tazettas and *N. pseudonarcissus*



Paperwhite seeds

## Photos From The Van Beck Garden A portion of the Van Beck Garden



Carlton the reliable