



ISSUE NO. 96

florida daffodil society news

January 2016

CALENDAR

The Florida Daffodil Society Annual Flower Show

Saturday, March 5 and Sunday, March 6
Tallahassee Nurseries

10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. in the Greenhouse

If you want to show your daffodils, please deliver them on Saturday between 8:00 a.m. & 9:00 a.m.

Volunteers are needed for set up, take down and greeting attendees. Call Karen Kunz – at 443-4821.

Sunday, February 28

Goodwood is holding its Annual Garden Symposium. The speaker is Norman Winter, widely published director of the Coastal Georgia Botanical Garden. The FDS has a long standing relationship with the Garden, going back to the time of John Van Beck. Call 850-877-4202 for details on the Symposium.

FOR THE RECORD

The FDS donated 950 narcissus bulbs in 2015 to a daffodil walk in Bonifay, public gardens in Tallahassee, and a demonstration bed at the IFAS center in Chipley. The FDS will give bulbs for public planting that meet location qualifications and a pledge of appropriate care. Applications should be made by the end of May. Contact Linda Williams (lindamwil@embarqmail.com) for application information.

The deformed daffodil shown in the last newsletter (Natchez Unknown) is Soleil d'Or. It was later found in the Van Beck field plantings and at an abandoned house in South Georgia.

DAFFODIL MEDICINE

The last reported death in Britain was in 1999, but it is really old news that digesting daffodils can kill you. The new news is that daffodils contain an

alkaloid that may be beneficial in retarding senile dementia, including Alzheimer's. This alkaloid drug is marketed in the U.S. under the name Galantamine. Many daffodils were tested to determine best yield of the alkaloid. It was reported that daffodils grown at 1400 feet doubled the yield compared to daffodils grown at sea level.

In Mississippi, tests showed that Carlton, Ice Follies, and Cheerfulness all contained the alkaloid. The bad news is that Carlton came in first. We have already reported on Carlton's glaucousness, i.e. blue green foliage that contains wax that holds water. Our problem has been Carlton rotting in storage. Now this negative turns into a positive as Carlton can lie out in the field longer than other daffodils which extends harvesting time. Carlton shows no loss of weight or galantamine while lingering in the field. The reason it's bad news? Demand for Carlton for alkaloid production may cause a shortage of the bulb for garden use. We can hope that Carlton will remain available and retain its low cost.

NONY

'Nony' was hybridized from at the Volcani Institute in Israel by Huret Yahel, and registered in 1997. There is an interesting story of how Huret Yahel visited Barbara Frye at the Rosewarne Experimental Horticulture Station in England. Ms. Yahel was interested in breeding white tazettas for commercial purpose and Barbara Frye was concentrating on yellows. During the conversation, Frye realized that the 'Soleil d'Or' imported from France and grown in Israel was not the 'Soleil d'Or' grown in Sicily. After Ms. Yahel went home, she sent some of these French bulbs to Barbara Frye. They turned out to be about the same as *N. tazetta* subsp. *Aureus*, which Mr. Hannibal (from Mississippi) had sent her many years before. Nony's parent *N. tazetta* subsp. *Aureus* probably accounts for why Ms. Yahel's 'Nony' does so well in Florida's wet soils. In the heyday of commercial bulb farms in Florida, French bulbs were preferred as being less cold dependent and having larger flowers.

WORLD DAFFODIL CONVENTION

This April, the American Daffodil Society (ADS) is hosting the 2016 World Daffodil Convention at the Missouri Botanical Gardens in St. Louis. The U.S. hosts this meeting once every 16 years. Currently the American Daffodil Society has over 1,000 members. The convention in St. Louis will be huge. Daffodilians with their daffodils will compete in the big flower show. They will come primarily from Britain, Ireland, Holland, New Zealand, Australia and maybe even Tasmania. Everyone will take tours, attend lectures, share stories and meet old friends.

Our society contributed \$500 to support the Convention, as did other state and local societies. Our thank you is this new logo designed by Lynn Slackman, who is doing yeoman duty for the Convention.



Double Chinese Sacred Lily



Soleil d'Or



Paper White with carpenter bee pollinator



Paper White with wasp – main pollinator of the garden

Other pollinators which have been seen are the silver spotted skipper and the yellow cabbage butterfly (common in summer but not usual in winter). Their busy work means that this is a great year for seeds.