



# SWODS News

## MEETING JUNE 23

Ted and Susan Ruoff have invited SWODS to their home in Mason for a daffodil meeting on June 23 at 3:00. An informative program is planned and the meeting also features a pot-luck supper. Ted and Susan are furnishing the entree, but bring your favorite covered dish to supplement it.

There will be a business meeting to discuss next year's show and plans for the fall potting party and zoo bulb sale.

The program will include a video of an older Victory Garden show which featured the ADS convention in Atlanta. The video shows interviews with Jaydee Ager, current president of ADS, Bill Pannill (successful exhibitor, hybridizer, and certified character), and Elise Havens (hybridizer and proprietor of Grant Mitsch Novelty Daffodils). Those who attended this year's convention may also contribute highlights from that convention.

After the video we will adjourn to the outdoors for a practical demonstration of digging and dividing bulbs, again with input from all members on favorite methods of storing and replanting.

Ted and Susan have invited all to bring their swimsuits to use the pool after the meeting.

Don't miss this meeting!!

## MOLE CONTROL

Having problems with moles this season? Clermont County gardeners prepare a mixture that is sprayed on the soil of garden beds to deter moles from burrowing underneath. Here is the recipe:

3 ounces unscented castor oil  
2 tablespoons liquid detergent  
Blend well

Stir in 8 tablespoons of water.

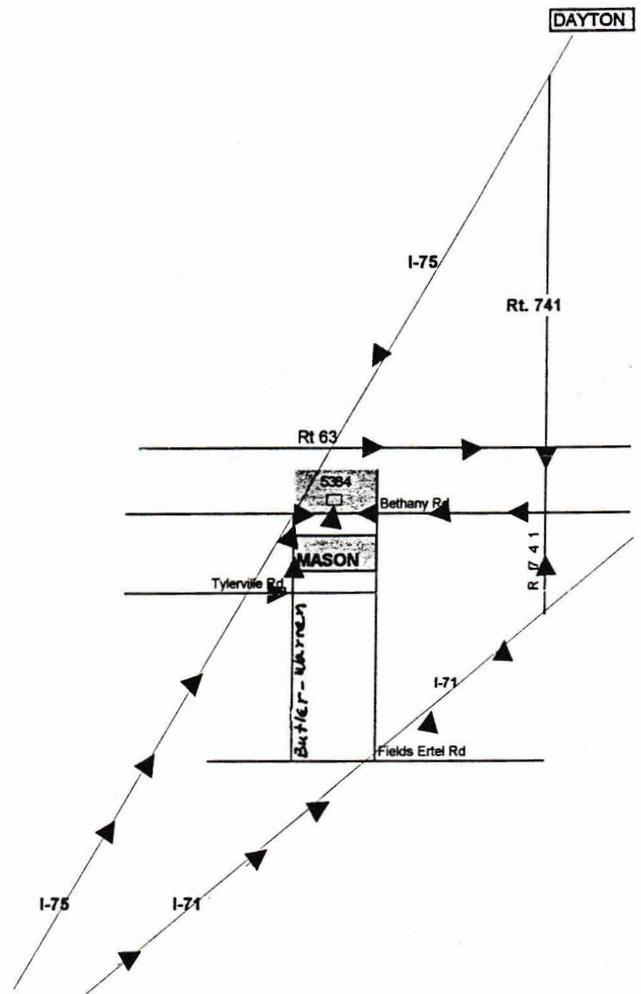
Use as a concentrate adding 1 tablespoon of concentrate to 1 gallon of water. Spray soil surface.

Note: castor oil can be hard to find in Clermont County because lots of people use it for this purpose. You may have to look in other neighborhoods.

## Directions to Ted and Susan's Home

5384 Bethany Road • Mason, OH 45040  
398-5491

**From Dayton:** South on I-75 to Exit 29(Route 63). Turn left on Rt. 63 and go east to Rt. 741. Turn right on Rt. 741 and go to Bethany Rd. Turn right on Bethany Rd. Go through stop sign at Mason Montgomery Rd. and the first house on the right is 5384 Bethany.



**From Cincinnati on I-75:** Take I-75 north to Exit 22(Tylersville Rd.). Go right on Tylersville to Butler-Warren Rd. (after the business district). Turn left on Butler-Warren and go to Bethany Rd.(2<sup>nd</sup> stop sign). Turn right and go to 5384 Bethany.

**From Cincinnati on I-71:** Take I-71 north to Rt. 741 exit. Stay on Rt. 741, and go across Rt. 42 to Bethany Rd. Turn left on Bethany Rd. and go through stop sign to 5384 Bethany.

**Mason Montgomery Rd. is closed south of Mason!**

## NEW SWODS JUDGES

For the past two years, seven SWODS members have been studying to become accredited daffodil judges through taking a series of four full-day judging schools. All seven members have passed all four judging schools and are at various stages in fulfilling the rest of the requirements for accreditation.

In addition to passing all four schools, candidates must complete three student-judging experiences and apply for accreditation. Along with the application fee, candidates must submit a list of the cultivars they grow (a minimum of 100 cultivars is necessary for accreditation).

Four SWODS members have completed the whole process and are fully accredited judges: Margaret Baird, Linda Wallpe, Bill Lee, and Tom Stettner. Don Caton, Liz Ragouzis, and Rebecca Koesters are in various stages of completing the remaining requirements. Congratulations to all in passing the four schools.

## 2001: DAFFODIL ODYSSEY

SWODS has been approved by the board of the American Daffodil Society to host the national convention in Cincinnati in the year 2001. That gives us five years to make plans to make this the best convention ever seen. It will also give all SWODS members who cannot travel elsewhere for the convention the opportunity to experience a national convention. We have many hard-working, dedicated members, and all their help will be needed. New members and previously inactive members will also be needed to help this convention succeed. More details will be presented at the June meeting.

## SEPTEMBER BULB SALE

SWODS has been invited by the Zoo to host a booth at the September 28 Autumnfest at the Zoo. They have asked us to sell bulbs. This is an opportunity for us to raise some funds for future use. We will order some bulbs from Dutch wholesalers. However, to really show a profit we will need to rely on the generosity of members to furnish bulbs. So as you dig this summer, reserve some of your extras for the SWODS bulb sale. We will be looking for three kinds of bulbs:

- *Blooming size bulbs of known cultivars.* For example, we might sell a package of 3 bulbs of Silver Surf.
- *Blooming size bulbs, mixed cultivars, unidentified.* We might sell a package for mixed gardening use where the identification of the cultivars included is not important.

- *Landscape size bulbs, mixed cultivars.* These would be your smaller bulbs which will not necessarily bloom the first year planted. These would also be sold as a packaged assortment.

So be generous when you dig this summer. All bulbs donated will directly benefit SWODS. Call Peggy Macneale if you need to have bulbs picked up. Her phone number is on the resource list.

## CHALLENGE BULB

### *Double Value*

There will be two Challenge Bulbs this year, sold as a single package. Each package will consist of two bulbs of Tripartite(11Y-Y) and The Alliance (6Y-Y). Tripartite is a favorite for many, as it is a split corona daffodil, but it also has multiple florets per stem. Even those who don't normally like the split corona daffodils seem to like Tripartite. It grows well here and multiplies. A "good do-er," as we say. The Alliance is a classic cyclamineus, and usually appears on everyone's list of favorite Division 6 cultivars.

The price for a package of two Tripartites and one The Alliance is \$5.00. Send a check to Liz Ragouzis, payable to SWODS, to secure your order. Include a little extra if you don't think you will be at either the Zoo bulb sale, the fall potting party meeting, or the ADS fall regional meeting, and you do think we will need to mail you the bulbs. (Usually we can arrange to have you pick them up in a convenient part of the city.)

For new members who may not be familiar with the concept of a Challenge Bulb, each year we choose one cultivar that is both successful in the gardens in this area and show-worthy. We offer it as a Challenge Bulb at a price usually lower than you can buy the same cultivar from any other supplier. Then in next year's show there will be special classes for the challenge bulbs, open to SWODS members only, in which members compete to see who has been most successful. Even if you do not intend to show your Challenge Bulb flowers, the cultivars selected will do well in your garden and are worth purchasing.

## MIDWEST REGION AND SWODS ON THE INTERNET

Linda Wallpe, regional vice-president, has built a web page on the Internet for the region with link to a home page for SWODS. This may not have much meaning to those who are not yet computerized and on-line, but those who are will understand that this is quite an accomplishment. Feel free to visit at [www.otwgroup.com/daffodils](http://www.otwgroup.com/daffodils).

### SOIL STERILIZATION

**A**t the Baltimore convention, Delia Bankhead presented a non-chemical method for sterilizing soil for new plantings that many might want to try this summer before bulbs arrive in the fall. She calls it "soil solarization"—an efficient and organic way to disinfect soil. Delia says it will:

- kill most harmful fungi (including fusarium), bacteria, pests and weed seed
- create more productive soil and increase beneficial organisms; it does not kill earthworms
- work on any soil that gets full sun most of the day
- work best on north-south level beds wider than 24 inches
- work more quickly in hot climates—best in mid-summer when the sun is highest.

Time required:

if summers frequently top 90F ----- 4 weeks  
 if summers more likely average 80F ----- 6 weeks  
 if summers average a high of 70F ----- 8 weeks

(all require more time in cloudy summers)

*all can be left on longer for deeper penetration*

**Here is the procedure:**

1. Clear bed of all vegetation and cultivate as deep and fine as possible.

2. Rake bed level, remove any rocks or large clods that would prevent cover from fitting tightly.
3. Wet the soil uniformly to a depth of 12 inches.
4. Dig a shallow trench around the bed to bury edges of plastic.
5. Cover, and stretch for maximum contact with the surface, with 4 mil thick clear plastic that contains UV inhibitors. (DO NOT use black plastic or heavier clear plastics--4 mil is thin enough to transmit more heat but thick enough to last, and not tear easily. It can be reused.)
6. Put edges of plastic in the trench and cover with dug out soil. Do not use boards or stone—these do not give a tight enough seal. If plastic becomes torn, mend with tape to prevent heat loss.
7. Some weed seeds will germinate, but will grow weakly. If they push up the plastic, go in and remove them. Then restretch the plastic.
8. For daffodils, keep the plastic on until ready to plant.

### WELCOME NEW MEMBER

**O**ur newest member is Rhonda Bridges who just joined SWODS in April. Rhonda found us through the listing in Brent and Becky Heath's new book *Daffodils for American Gardens*. Hope we see you at the June meeting, Rhonda.

### DUES AND CHALLENGE BULB ORDER FORM

Make checks payable to SWODS and mail to Liz Ragouzis, 425 Rawson Woods Lane, Cincinnati, OH 45220  
Call Liz at 221-1166 if you have any questions.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Dues @ \$5.00 per year .....

\_\_\_\_\_ Challenge Bulb package [2 bulbs of Tripartite (11Y-Y) and 1 bulb of The Alliance (6Y-Y)], @ \$5.00 .....

..... **Total Enclosed** \_\_\_\_\_

## DUES

Of course, no SWODS mailing would be complete without a plea to update your dues. Dues are always due at Showtime; therefore, 1996 dues are now due. Please update your membership today.

The 2-digit number above your name on the mailing label shows the last year you paid dues. A "P" indicates that you are a prospective member who has shown an interest in daffodils but who has never formally joined SWODS. Dues are still only \$5.00 per year.

Send your payments to Liz Ragouzis, 425 Rawson Woods Lane, Cincinnati, OH 45220. If you think our records are incorrect, call Liz Ragouzis at 221-1166.

## 1995 CHALLENGE BULB FIDELITY

At the last meeting several people inquired about the availability of additional challenge bulbs from last year. There are 7 or eight bulbs that will be available later this summer after the foliage has died down and the bulbs can be dug. Bulbs have been requested by Ruth Goering, Miggy Jacobs, Don Klemm, Bill & Shirley Boardman, and Kathryn & George McGowan. There are not enough bulbs for anyone to have more than two. We'll decide at the meeting how to distribute them fairly.

### Resources

#### *Cincinnati:*

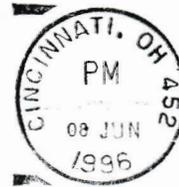
Bill Lee, 752-8104  
 Mary Lou Gripshover, 248-9137  
 Linda Wallpe, 221-4140  
 Liz Ragouzis, 221-1166  
 Peggy Macneale, 522-7025  
 Tom Stettner, 351-4268

#### *Dayton:*

Peg Newill, 885-2971  
 Harold MacConnell, 426-9557  
 Christine Hanenkrat, 275-9919  
 Rebecca Koesters, 252-3028

## SWODS

c/o Bill Lee  
 4606 Honey Hill Lane  
 Batavia, OH 45103-1315



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**GRIPSHOVER Mary Lou**  
 1686 Gray Fox Trail  
 Milford, OH 45150