

Some Holiday Gifts for Daffodil Gardeners December, 2003

December is “down time” for daffodils, at least in the Northern Hemisphere. If you still have some bulbs to plant, you’ll want to do that as soon as possible, so they can make good root growth during the winter.

Mostly though, it’s holiday time--or preparations for the holidays. And holidays usually mean gifts for special friends and relatives. If there’s a gardener on your list, something for the garden is sure to please. A friend once told me she was getting rocks for her anniversary, and not the kind you wear on your finger! She was getting rocks for a retaining wall, and she was very pleased. So think about some of the gardening things your friend might enjoy.

Books are usually a good choice, and for the daffodil-lover on your list, *Daffodils for North American Gardens* (\$28) by Brent and Becky Heath is the best book out there. It’s a visual feast of beautiful colored photos and it also includes cultural directions for various areas around the country. You can order this from Suite101, or you may find it in local bookstores. If your friend is interested in miniature daffodils, then the newest publication from The American Daffodil Society, *Miniature Daffodil Cultivars – a Guide to Identification in Color*, would be of interest. This is a small softcover book with 130 of the 167 cultivars listed in the index shown in color. (\$20) If your friend likes species daffodils or has an interest in rock gardening, then John Blanchard’s *Narcissus, A Guide to Wild Daffodils* would be of interest. Mr. Blanchard has traveled extensively in Spain, Portugal, France, and Morocco where daffodils are native. This book, published in the UK by the Alpine Garden Society, has wonderful color photos of daffodils in their native habitat. Mr. Blanchard also gives information about the type of soil in which the bulbs are growing along with some information about the elevation at which they are growing. (\$40) Another UK publication, *Daffodils with Snowdrops and Tulips*, (\$24 with the yearly supplement to the RHS Register which lists newly registered daffodils) is published annually by The Royal Horticultural Society. Along with news from around the globe about the national daffodil shows, the latest edition includes articles on “Growing Healthier Daffodils,” “Daffodils in the Small Garden,” and “Galicia Revisited.” (Where a price is listed, the book is available at that price from The American Daffodil Society, 4126 Winfield Rd., Columbus, OH 43220, and includes shipping costs in the U.S. Add 6.75% for sales tax if you live in Ohio.)

You can also find china decorated with daffodils, from pottery to fine china. I’ve been collecting daffodil mugs for some time, and I have an assortment of other china daffodils—plates, cups and saucers, and some three dimensional ones—that I’ve been given. You can almost always find either a “daffodil” or a “narcissus” in those series of “flower of the month” cups and saucers. You might find some out of print books either online or in used book stores. Look for books by Michael Jefferson-Brown, Don Barnes, or E.A. Bowles. And if you’re lucky,

you might find a drawing from one of the early books on daffodils. The plates from Burbidge and Baker's *The Narcissus* are beautiful, and not inexpensive.

A membership in one of the national daffodil societies would also make a great gift. Here are some snail mail addresses along with email addresses. For information on dues in non-US countries, it's probably a good idea to contact the person listed to learn the best method of payment. Dollar checks are expensive, so that is probably the worst option as the banks usually take \$7-\$15 for bank fees. So, it pays to check first. Membership in each of the societies includes publications sent throughout the year.

American Daffodil Society, \$20/year, \$50, 3 years.
Naomi Liggett, Executive Director, Nliggett@cs.com
4126 Winfield Rd.
Columbus, OH 43220
USA
(You can join at the website www.daffodilusa.org)

The Daffodil Society (UK), £10 UK and Europe, £12 overseas surface mail, £15 overseas airmail.
Ian Tyler, Membership Secretary, daff@tyler.freeseve.co.uk
32 Bentham Rd., Standish, Nr Wigan
Lancs. WN6 0ND
UK

The National Daffodil Society of New Zealand
Mr. W.T. Hall, N.D.S. Secretary, natdaffsec@xtra.co.nz
105 Wallace Loop Rd.
Ihakara R.D. 1
Levin 5500,N.Z.

The Northern Ireland Daffodil Group, £7.50/year; £18, 3 years
J. Smyth, Secretary, brisdee@hemscott.net
35 Tullyglush Rd.
Banbridge, Co. Down BT32 3TN
Northern Ireland
U.K.

National Daffodil Association of Australia
Brenda Lyon, falkirk@tpg.com.au
"Falkirk," 1070 Edith Rd.
Oberon 2787, NSW
Australia