

Washington

Daffodil

Society

May 1991 • PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

OFFICERS:

President:

Chauncey Maher (301) 656-7833

Vice-President:

John Finch (301) 933-7800

Secretary:

Janet Skidmore (703) 281-6504

Treasurer:

Patricia Crenshaw (703) 759-5450

Term ending May 1991:

Drury Blair (703) 751-7785

Kori Calvert (301) 330-3869

Joy Walker (301) 521-9481

Tom White (301) 330-3869

Term ending 1992:

Robert Darling (202) 483-2126

Robert Hall (301) 839-3873

Brian Lazarus (301) 721-0631

Linda Whitton (703) 549-6735

Term ending 1993:

Scott Bally (301) 907-9324

John Colwell (703) 255-1594

Mary Koonce (304) 725-5609

Dorothy

Sensibaugh (301) 799-0147

Immediate Past President

Delia Bankhead (703) 668-6651

COMMITTEES:

Arboretum

Harold Winters (301) 434-8213

Club Membership

Elinor Dunnigan (202) 244-6552

Garden Visits

Marilyn Rankin (301) 371-6119

Hospitality

Pat Bennett (703) 250-7179

Membership

John Finch (301) 933-7800

Show

Harry McCrone (301) 867-3631

Chuck Wirth

Ways and Means

Linda Whitton (703) 549-6735

WDS NEWSLETTER

Editor: Louise Millikan
(202) 667-5867

Robert Darling
Elinor Dunnigan
Nancy Generally

Dear Daffodil Friends,

Whew! Where do I start? This has been a very busy spring. My thanks to John Finch for his work in arranging our Spring Luncheon at the Raindancer in March. I'd also like to offer at least three cheers to Delia Bankhead who completes her three-year term as Regional Vice-president of ADS. Delia has been quite busy at the "local" level. She provided us with the excellent bulb order list and has confirmed April 18 and 19 for our 1992 show at the National Arboretum. She also organized and ran Judges School III, completing the series of schools she instituted in 1989. Hip, hip, hooray...!

Kudos also to Harry McCrone who has performed heroically as our show chairman for the past two years. This year, over 1,700 blooms were staged under very trying circumstances. Of special note were the large number of entries in the Junior classes. This must make Brian Lazarus very proud. Dorothy Sensibaugh has taken over as Show Chairman for 1992 and, with a "new" venue she will need an extra bit of effort from all of us.

For those of you who have not tried your hand at exhibiting, there are rumors in the air of an Exhibitors Seminar in the spring of 1992. WDS last sponsored such a seminar in 1984 and for me it was a revelation. Those of you who are interested, please let me know.

Our annual meeting and picnic, with the election of officers and new board members is scheduled for Saturday, May 25. It promises to be a grand way to welcome old and new members to the WDS. Mike and Diana Nicholls host the picnic at their beautiful home and garden in Gainesville, Virginia. The garden should be resplendent with Iris on May 25th.

See you all there.



Spring Luncheon

March 9, 1991

by John Finch

Almost 50 people gathered at the Raindancer Restaurant in Rockville to shake the winter doldrums at our annual Spring Luncheon. Members were treated to a talk and slide show by Diana Nicholls. Diana, president of the Chesapeake and Potomac Iris Society, and her husband Mike are proprietors of Nicholls Gardens in Gainesville, Virginia, and will be hosting our Spring Picnic on May 25 (see details, page 7). Members were treated to a preview of Nicholls Gardens in Diana's presentation. The beautiful slides, many with interesting combinations of daffodils in a garden setting, inspired us all to improve our own!

WDS Board Meeting

March 9, 1991

The Board met at Chauncey Maher's prior to the Spring Luncheon. Committee reports included Harry McCrone who brought everyone up to date on the plans for the 1991 show at the Botanical Gardens. John Finch made a membership presentation noting that our priority this spring will be expanding our membership and contacting former members. Scott Bally and Robert Darling volunteered to meet as a publications committee to review all the publications activities of the Society.

Delia Bankhead reported the Nominations for next year:

- For *President*: Chauncey Maher
- For *Vice President*: John Finch
- For *Secretary*: Kori Calvert
- For *Treasurer*: Patricia Crenshaw
- For *Board of Directors*
Term ending 1994:
 - Kori Calvert
 - Bernard Greenberg
 - Bobby Lively-Diebold
 - Harry McCrone

Remember the Meeting and Picnic on May 25!
Come and vote and enjoy a beautiful garden.

Bulb News

Bulb Order Chairperson Pat Crenshaw was jubilant in announcing a record number of bulb orders this spring. Over one hundred orders were filed. This bodes well for some outstanding garden and show results in the years ahead! Fall Bulb exchange this October.

Arboretum News

by Harold Winters

It has been a very good year for daffodils at the National Arboretum. The season came early--in February--and ended late--the last to flower were just fading on May 1.

On April 6, the Daffodil Open House brought hundreds of viewers to Fern Valley, although many of the daffodils were a few days past their flowering peak. John Colwell, Brian Lazarus, and Harold Winters, representing WDS, passed out literature, answered questions, and served as guides.

For the third year, flowering records were taken by WDS teams: Robert Darling and Betty Brikowski, Harold Winters and Joan Feeley, Sid and Trudi Wolin, Bobby Lively-Diebold, Sally and Bernie Greenberg, and Elinor Dunnigan and Gail Brooks. Many thanks to all of you!

The Arboretum collection is a major display of our favorite flowers. The WDS has been instrumental in strengthening the collection, assessing old cultivars, and freeing some of them from ivy strangulation. Our work there is beginning to show results. The data gathered will be used by Joan Feeley of the Arboretum to assess future needs.

Welcome New Members

We are delighted and pleased at the many new members that joined this spring. We hope to see all of you at the May meeting and picnic. We'd like to welcome you in person. Hints on summer bulb preparations and treatment will be shared, new Board and officers elected, and a beautiful garden seen. Come and enjoy your society.

New Members:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Mary Anne and Bill Barton | William Scott Higgins |
| Sally Guy Brown | Mrs. Frederick Hutchison |
| Catherine S. Carpenter | Mrs. Esther N. Keyser |
| Victoria Cooper | Ann E. Kline |
| Mr. and Mrs. Byron Corcoran | Adron Lint |
| Roberta J. Deihl | Greg Lynch |
| Jane Eggleston | Marion Maclean |
| The Rev. and Mrs. Mervin Eyler | Bonnie Mirmak |
| Carmen Haas | William and Elizabeth Paulson |
| Marilyn Hathaway | Cindy Ralls |
| | Thomas W. Taylor |
| | Jessica Turner |



1991 WDS/ADS Awards Summary

WDS AWARD / ADS Gold Ribbon for Best in Show:

Loch Lundie Anne Donnell Smith

ADS Miniature Gold & WDS Watrous Award:

Segovia Dorothy Sensibaugh

Wheeler Award / ADS White Ribbon:

Homestead Anne Donnell Smith

ADS Miniature White Ribbon & WDS Battle Awards:

Segovia Dorothy Sensibaugh

Culpeper Award: Mary Pamplin

Bloomer and Ticknor Awards: Scott Bally

King Award: Joan A. Stanford

Lawler and Weiss Awards: Delia Bankhead

Butterworth Award: Mrs. LaRue Armstrong

Bozievich Award: Pat Crenshaw

Novice Award: Tom Taylor

Gates Award: "Queen of the Garden" Mary Pamplin

Cahill Award: "Along the Garden Path" Madge Overly

Club Award: Alice Conrad-Rock Spring Garden Club

Harry McCrone Sweepstakes Award

for most ribbons won by a WDS member:

Scott Bally and Mary Koonce (a tie!)

American Horticulture Society Silver Medal:

Anne Donnell Smith

Junior Award: *Gull* Leigh Koonce

Silver Ribbon: Mary Koonce w/ 10 Blue ribbons

Purple Ribbon: Mrs. LaRue Armstrong

Red-White-Blue Ribbon: Delia Bankhead

Maroon Ribbon: Anne Donnell Smith

Green Ribbon: Mr. and Mrs. Philip McAllister

Miniature Rose Ribbon:

Scott Bally seedling SB 80/60 a 5-w-w

Throckmorton Ribbon: Marie Bozievich

The Judges did not award the ADS Lavendar Ribbon, Rose Ribbon, Bronze Ribbon, the Quinn Award, or the Watrous Award this year.

Easter Blooms for '92

by Dorothy
Sensibaugh
Show Chairman 1992

Time and space conflicts at the U.S. Botanic Garden next year present us with change and opportunity. A major advantage for the WDS will be having an Easter show at the National Arboretum. This is one of the most visited days and should boost our attendance. We will need many volunteers to arrange the show, staff it, and

Show Report

by Harry McCrone
1991 Show Chairman

Flowers entered: 1722

Thank you again WDS! In the past two years over 3,000 carefully grown, groomed, and staged flowers have lined the walls of the U.S. Botanical Garden. Our society is again reaching the potential for being one of the top shows in the country. This has been one of my goals as show chairman for the past two years. It couldn't have been done without you ALL—not only the exhibitors but also everyone who helped with the setup, staging, and mechanics of the show.

We now have a different format to work with. One of the most successful changes has been the availability of food for the exhibitors and the workers. This wonderful hospitality was provided by Pat Bennett, Linda Whitton, and Sid and Trudi Wolin. We were able this year to serve the Judge's Luncheon right in the garden, saving the Society a lot of money.

Next year, the National Arboretum will present new challenges. Dorothy Sensibaugh will be the new Show Chairman. I am certain she will do an excellent job. I will help her in any way I can. I've enjoyed my 2 1/2 years as Show Chairman, but I sure wish there could be 42 clones of Commander Data answering to the name Harry!

The success of any show is a tribute to the many exhibitors who entered their blooms and staged them so skillfully. Thanks to all of you, especially those who came from long distances. Of the many who did such a splendid job working on the show in addition to those above, mention must be made of the contributions of Scott Bally, Delia Bankhead, Boots Blair, Sarah Burton, Pat Crenshaw, Robert Darling, Eleanor Dunnigan, Cassie Kingsley, Mary Pamplin, Mary Reynolds, Joy Walker, Chuck Wirth and, what a treat it was to see 83 year old Virginia Perry, a long time ADS member from Chapel Hill, help at the information desk.

It is the pleasure and hard work of all the volunteers, those mentioned and those many others who helped that make the WDS. There so many of you to thank in this report and I hope to thank you all personally for all the help you've given in the last two years to make the shows so great! Thank you all again!



have WDS 'docents' in the Daffodil Collection at Fern Valley. We want to make this a beautiful and exciting show and we need your help. Please indicate jobs that interest you on the membership form on page 7. Thank you in advance. I look forward to working with all of you next year.



Garden Visits

These WDS members' gardens are open on a call-before-you-come basis:

Bozievich Garden, 6810 Hillmead Rd., Bethesda, Md. (301) 365-0263; 500 show daffodils, azaleas, Iris, peonies+

Crenshaw Garden, 1047 Walker Mill Road, Great Falls, Va. (703) 759-5450; 400 show daffodils, peonies, lilies+

Grimes Garden, 3006 James St., Fairfax, Va. (703) 281-3847; 250+ Daffodils; 300 Peonies, 200 Iris, Sat/Sun

Hall Garden, 5708 Blackhawk Drive, Oxon Hill, Md. (301) 839-3873; Woodland garden w/ 2000+ Daffodils.

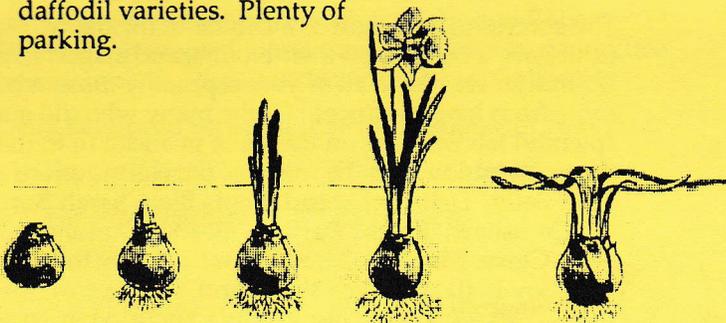
McCrone-Wirth Garden, 207 Owensville Rd., West River, Md. (301) 867-3631; 400 Daffodils, daylilies, dwarf conifers

Peters Garden, 3201 N. Trinidad St., Arlington, Va. (703) 533-3189; 300 Daffodils, Iris, Daylilies, 'mums.

Rankin Garden, 6130 Jefferson Blvd., Frederick, Md. (301) 371-6119; 600 Daffodils, 250 Daylilies, 'mums.

Just Added:

Oswalt Garden, 15938 Cardinal Dr., Woodbridge, Va. (703) 221-7773. Come to see about 45 varieties of pink daffodils as part of her 300 daffodil varieties. Plenty of parking.



New This Year

A Fabulous Fall Frolic for WDS members

Delia Bankhead has invited us to explore her new digs in Hillsboro, Virginia, this fall. We'll have a chance to enjoy the product of Delia's labors as we explore her historic 18th-century stone house and tromp (gingerly) through her new garden. This pot-luck picnic allows us to share summer news and spring hopes. Watch for more information about the day, time, and the directions to Hillsboro.

Mark your calendars now for this special gathering at Delia's in September or early October.

Newsletter Notes

from the Publications Task Force

Your WDS Newsletter needs you, wants you, requests that you write to us. Share your experiences in growing Daffodils. In that way we can all learn from each other's experience and have a forum for ideas and information on our favorite flowers.

This year the Editorship of the Newsletter rotates from Nancy Generally to Louise Millikan.

Nancy has done a great job for the past several years in a very difficult and time consuming position. We all owe her our gratitude and thanks for a job very well done. Nancy has graciously consented to continue working on the Newsletter staff along with Eleanor Dunnigan and Robert Darling.

Louise Millikan has grown Daffodils for a number of years in her garden in Mount Pleasant. When not cheerfully going about her duties with the Educational Media Division of the National Geographic, she raises her family along with the aforementioned choice collection of narcissus.

When queried, Louise admits that she looks forward to working on the Newsletter, but challenges all members of the society to take out pen, paper, or computerized electrons and jot down an article for us to share. It does not need to be long but should personalize your experiences in growing or showing Daffodils. The fall issue will concern itself with "Anticipating Spring" and "Preparing Spring".

We need and want to hear from you. The Newsletter can only be as good as its members make it. Articles can cover a wide area of your expertise. They can also highlight your questions. We'd love to have a question and answer column. If any questions are sent in we will endeavor to answer them to the best of our abilities or our reference materials abilities.

What are your favorite ways of preparing for spring?

How did winning your first ribbon affect you?

What have you discovered in making floral arrangements with the Daffodil family? Is there a 'design' expert to guide us 'along the garden wall'?

We would like an article on our bulb suppliers and growers. Who knows people from ADS Conventions that would share their knowledge and experience? The latitude is wide, all we need is for you to begin.

See the calendar on the back page for deadlines. But don't wait for a deadline. When an idea for an article occurs, just write it, and send it along. We are building a file of articles to use.

It should be fun. Thanks in advance for your help!



Post-Bloom Culture: What To Do When The 'Dils Are Done

by Scott Bally

The show is over, the blooms are fading and your doubles have blasted ...so you think you can sit back and relax...right? WRONG!!!

If you want blue ribbon blooms next season it's time to get to work!

Here are some suggestions for Daffodil TLC:

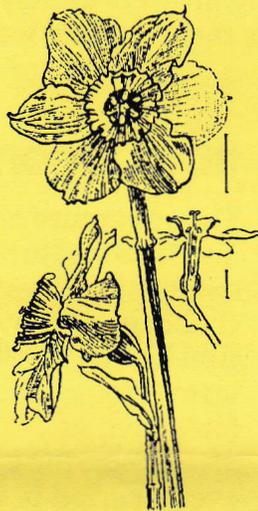
WATERING: Continue to water until the foliage dies down. About one inch of water per week is recommended.

GENERAL MAINTENANCE: Keep your beds clean. Remove dead foliage as soon as it dies. Foliage damaged by frost or mechanical injury should be trimmed. Deadhead (remove) your spent blooms unless you are interested in hybridizing. Seed production takes energy from the plant which could be used for forming next year's blooms. Some experts recommend that you do not use a knife for any of these procedures as you may spread virus from plant to plant by doing so. Others suggest dipping your knife in alcohol after each cut.

Spraying for narcissus fly is also recommended throughout the growing season, until foliage is dead. Dursbar has been recommended as an effective spray and may be combined with a foliar feeding solution. When spraying, be sure to get both sides of the foliage, especially at ground level where the fly likes to lay its' eggs.

Overplanting is recommended to keep many bulbs from being baked by the hot summer sun. Other bulbs, especially some miniatures, need a good baking to thrive. Read up about specific cultivars on this. Good overplanting material includes sweet alyssum, marigolds and other annuals tolerant of dry soil. The alternative is to cover your bed heavily with a mulch such as pine needles.

DIGGING: If you are planning to dig bulbs you should do it just as the foliage is beginning to die down.



Research has shown that six weeks after bloom is ideal. Murray Evans suggested that prompt digging is an effective way to reduce narcissus fly as it aborts their trip from the foliage to the bulb itself. Remember that the earlier you dig after the six weeks, the better it is for the bulb.

You have two choices after digging: to replant the bulbs immediately or to store them and plant in the fall. If you are storing, keep your bulbs in a cool, dark, dry place.

While you have your bulbs up, you will probably want to dip them in Benolate. Mix the solution with warm water as per directions and immerse bulbs for an hour or longer. Do your best to keep the temperature of the dip evenly at 85-90 degrees. Dipping must occur within 24 hours after digging while the roots are still able to absorb the dipping solution. If the roots have dried up, the process is worthless. Be sure that the bulbs are clean

before dipping. After dipping, be extra careful that the bulbs are thoroughly dry. This may be achieved by hanging the bulbs in loosely filled mesh bags on a shaded clothesline where air may circulate through them.

FEEDING: Although opinions differ in this area, some experienced WDS growers suggest Peter's 5-50-17 Super Root & Bloom. Others recommend sulphate of Potash immediately after bloom. Some growers do both. The former is known to be

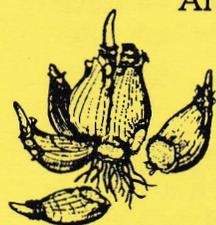
available at Southern States Nursery locations in the D.C. area. Foliar feeding may be effective for about four weeks after bloom.

If you have any questions, be sure to contact the more experienced growers in the WDS. Advice may vary slightly from person to person since everyone has favorite techniques. Meanwhile, have fun and enjoy your summer garden!





From Bulb Dreams to Reality



After every spring's blooming season, novice and experienced grower carries a precious list of varieties admired. Now is the time to turn admiration into reality. The treasured bits and scraps of paper that list 'dream' flowers can guide your selections from the many thousands available. A major benefit of being a member of the Washington Daffodil Society is acquiring the finest proven narcissus bulbs to grow in our own gardens. The WDS Bulb Sale is one excellent way to build a beautiful collection. Another is the fall bulb exchange and auction. The more adventurous will want to contact outstanding growers and hybridizers directly to acquire their dream blooms. Following are reputable dealers that you may want to contact. Now is the time to place your orders for fall delivery.

American Bulb Sources

The following is a list of reliable bulb sources in the United States. All have catalogues or lists. When you request one, be sure to indicate you are a WDS member or a member of the ADS.

- | | |
|--|---|
| Bonnie Brae Gardens
1105 S.E. Christensen Rd.
Corbett, OR 97032 | McClure & Zimmerman
P.O. Box 368
Friesland, WI 53935 |
| Cascade Daffodils
1790 Richard Circle
W. St. Paul, MN 55118 | Grant E. Mitsch
P.O. Box 218
Hubbard, OR 97032 |
| The Daffodil Mart
Rt. 3, Box 794
Gloucester, VA 23061 | Oakwood Daffodils
2330 W. Bertrand Road
Niles, MI 49120 |
| Hatfield Gardens
22799 Ringgold Southern Road
Stoutsville, OH 43154 | Oregon Trail Daffodils
3207 S.E. Mannthey Road
Corbett, OR 97019 |
| Gerard Knehans, Jr.
Route One
Owensville, MO 65966 | Nancy R. Wilson
6525 Briceland-Thorn Road
Garberville, CA 95440 |

International Bulb Sources

The adventure of growing bulbs from international growers is found both in the excellent new varieties they offer and in the challenge of growing them in our different climate. Be sure to read the payment instructions carefully. Also, remember that for "down under" bulbs, you will need to acclimatize the bulbs to your northern garden over a period of two to three years before you can expect them to thrive and bloom successfully.

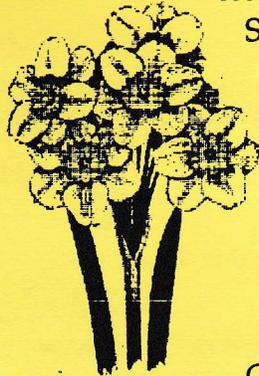
- | | |
|--|--|
| Mrs. J. Abel Smith
Orchard House
Letty Green, Hertford
SG14 2NZ
ENGLAND | Carncairn Daffodils, Ltd.
Carncairn House
Broughshane,
Ballymena
Country Antrim
NORTHERN IRELAND |
| Ballydorn Bulb Farm
Killinchy,
Newtonards
Country Down
NORTHERN IRELAND | Brian Duncan Daffodils
15 Ballynahatty Rd.
Omagh County
Tyrone
NORTHERN IRELAND BT78 1PN |
| M.E. Brogden
Normanby
Taranaki, NEW ZEALAND | J.N. Hancock & Co.
Jacksons Hill Road
Menzies Creek
Victoria 3159
AUSTRALIA |



Come To The Spring Picnic • Saturday, May 25, 1991

Don't miss our most social event of the year! A marvelous time to visit and exchange ideas with WDS members! This year we will meet at Mike and Diana Nicholls' beautiful home in Gainesville, Virginia. As proprietors of Nicholls Gardens, their property is a veritable cornucopia of horticultural splendor!

The vital details:



Saturday, May 25, 1991

Mike and Diana Nicholls

Nicholls Gardens

4724 Angus Drive

Gainesville, Virginia

(703) 754-9623

To find your way to Nicholls Gardens:

From the Beltway (Rt. 495) . . .

Take Rt. 66 West to Exit 11B (Rt. 234 North). In about a mile you will be at the intersection of Rt. 234 and Rt. 29 (traffic signal). Continue straight for approximately 6 miles. Turn left on Lawnvale Drive; left on Flamingo; right on Angus Drive. 4724 Angus Drive is on the right side, a white house with brown shutter

- Board Meeting 1:00 p.m.
- Membership Meeting;
Election and Installation of
New Officers 2:00 p.m.
- Picnic 3:00—7:00 p.m.

Pot Luck Notes

Occasionally we've had trouble with having enough substantial food to eat. Everyone brings delicious deserts and we haven't a main course. PLEASE bring a main dish or a salad. Of course, you may bring a desert too. Refreshments will be served, but you may bring along your own. Also, please bring chairs.

The important thing is -- COME!! Even if you decide at the last minute!

Washington Daffodil Society • • • Membership Renewal Form

Membership period for individuals and households is May 1, 1991 through April 30, 1992. Please send this renewal notice in now before you forget. In the past we have had to send out reminder postcards costing time and money. Thanks for the cooperation!

(Please print)

Name _____

Address _____

Home Phone () _____ Work Phone () _____

Nickname _____

1 Year Individual (\$10.00) _____

1 Year -Household (\$12.00) _____

As was stated at general meetings, there has been a decline in WDS membership over the past four years. Thus, we are asking for voluntary contributions to help boost the treasury. For the cost of just a few inexpensive bulbs, you can do much to help the Society. All such offerings are deeply appreciated.

Voluntary Tax Deductible Contribution to the WDS _____

Do you have skills or interests that could be applied to WDS? Do you own a pickup truck or van, can you work or do you own a computer, are you a writer, editor, carpenter, or photographer, would you help on the newsletter, or serve at a booth? Please let us know if you would be willing to use your expertise to help WDS!

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Make checks payable to WDS and mail to:
Washington Daffodil Society - PO Box 369 -
Great Falls, VA 22066

1991-1992 Calendar

May 25 (Saturday) Annual Picnic Meeting

Home of Mike and Diana Nicholls
(see p. 7 for Directions)

- Board Meeting 1:00 p.m.
- Membership Meeting:
Installation of New Officers
2:00 p.m.
- Picnic 3:00—7:00 p.m.

- Deadhead your daffodils
- Update your blooming records
- Mark what you want to move

June

- Dig bulbs and dip (if you are going to)
- Store bulbs and separate some for the Fall Bulb exchange at the October meeting.

July, August, and September

- Plan where you will plant the new bulbs you have ordered for the fall.
- Start preparing planting areas where and whenever possible
- Write an article on your Narcissus experiences for the Fall Newsletter - Deadline August 25th+. WDS wants to hear from you!

September

- Prepare beds and check bulbs.
- Prepare labels and planting charts
- Prepare for Fabulous Fall Frolic & Picnic at Delia Bankhead's Hillsboro Haven

October 20 (Sunday)

WDS Fall Meeting

- Bulb pick-up, Exchange & Auction
- Guest speaker to be announced
- Plant bulbs and water if dry.

November

- Write an article on your Narcissus experiences for the Newsletter - Winter Deadline November 25th+.

Jan or Feb

- Full Board meetings
- Bulbs must receive 1" of water each week

March

- Luncheon preceded by Board Meeting
- Articles due for Spring Newsletter.

April 18 - 19

- Show at the **National Arboretum**
- Ready your blooms and enter! Sign-up and volunteer NOW! See: Dorothy Sensibaugh

Washington Daffodil Society
P.O. Box 369
Great Falls, VA 22066



*"A house with daffodils in it is a house lit up,
whether or no the sun be shining outside.
Daffodils in a green bowl --
and let it snow if it will!"*

A. A. Milne