

florida daffodil society news

ISSUE NO. 11

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NEW OFFICERS FOR 1996/97

Weej Broderson, chair of the Nominating Committee, along with members Janice Mac David and Annette Folsom, had their recommendations for 1996-97 officers accepted by acclamation at the annual meeting at Goodwood on May 25. New officers are:

Dr. Frasier Bingham, President
Mrs. Dot Roberts, First Vice President
Mrs. Mary Ann Van Kleunan, Second Vice President
Mrs. Marjorie Orrick, Secretary
Mrs. Mary Adore Minardi, Treasurer
Mr. John Van Beck, Immediate Past President

New committee chairpersons include:

Publicity - Jody Taylor
Bulb Sale - Clara Jane Smith & Nancy White
Telephone - Virginia McKee
FDS News - Editor, John Van Beck
Set-Up, Phyllis Graham
Duplicating, Mary Adore Minardi
Distribution, Jack & Mary Ann Van Kleunan

DAFFODIL WORK - NO BENDING REQUIRED!

We do still need people power! Even though FDS is *very* laid back, it still takes a minimum of people to keep things running. If you can spare the minimum time required to chair either the Hospitality or Exhibit Committee, or can serve as a member of either committee, call Dot Roberts at 385-4101.

PHOOEY!!!!

Mary Adore Minardi bought a whopping lot of Ice Follies and planted them in her front yard. They looked just fine but there were two, shaped exactly like the rest, with yellow petals instead of white. The petals stayed yellow. At the American Daffodil Society Convention, the FDS president, inquired unceasingly about this possible sport. He was referred to Wib

Lemmer, a retired bulb grower from Holland who said (after hearing a description of Mary Adore's errant daffodils), that there was a common sport called "Slim Whitman." When El Presidente got home and checked his official daffodil list, he found that "Slim Whitman" had been registered but it had white petals and an orange cup!!! So much for that. Maybe Mary Adore really does have a new daffodil!! (More later, if we ever find out anything.)

DAFFODIL EXHIBIT

We had hoped to have a daffodil show and educational exhibit at one of the major malls in Tallahassee in March. Al Mead contacted the malls and found that we would have to take out an insurance policy in order to use their facilities. Tallahassee Mall indicated that they would be happy to have us if we were insured, while the other major mall was less than helpful. The cost of an insurance policy was absolutely prohibitive.

Undaunted, we will attempt to find another way of doing a show. Al Mead has brought up the issue with the American Daffodil Society, and John Van Beck brought up the matter at the spring ADS Board Meeting in Baltimore, where it was referred to committee. A possible solution would be for the ADS to take out a blanket policy to cover local shows, with local organizations paying a per member share.

\$ REMINDER \$ BULK \$ ORDERS \$

If you are planning to get daffodils in quantities of 25 or greater, you may pre-order (and pre-pay!) and get a price break. A wide variety will be available to those pre-ordering. We will be glad to help you with your choices and needs. Call 878-9753 by June 15, and if no one answers, please leave a message.

GARDEN CENTER AVAILABLE

Helen Purvis, current president of the Tallahassee Garden Club, has advised us that the Florida Daffodil Society is welcome to use the Garden

Club facilities located at 507 N. Calhoun Streets for board meetings or other meetings and functions. While we anticipate continuing to use the facilities at Goodwood, we appreciate the offer of additional facilities.

READER'S CORNER

A few excellent new gardening books have come out in the last 18 months. Brent and Becky Heath, the largest daffodil dealers in the U.S.A., have published Daffodils for American Gardens, 143 pages, Elliot & Clark Publishing, Washington, D.C., \$25.00. The numerous illustrations are superb for reference purposes. The general information is of value, but some information is not applicable to our area. This book is a "must" for the daffodil lover.

Scott Ogden's book, Garden Bulbs for the South, Taylor Publishing Company, Dallas, Texas, \$22.95, has a good section on daffodils included. It has 250 pages with loads of illustrations. Any half-way serious gardener or flower-lover should have a copy.

A relatively new publication of general interest to local gardeners is "The Coastal Gardener." This is a newsletter for the coastal south edited by Carol Krawczyk, landscape architect for the City of Savannah. The issues are packed with in-depth information on a myriad of topics. Of particular value are references to dealers, growers, publications and literature. I have spoken with Carol a couple of times and we may do a daffodil article for the fall issue. Carol had a great daffodil article in the January/February 1996 issue. Back issues \$2.00; subscription \$24.00; \$20.00 for senior citizens.

SEEDS ANYONE???

It is amazing how many daffodils set seed this year! Heavy seed bearers included Carlton, Gigantic Star, Jonquilla, Bulbocodium, paper whites, and assorted others here and there. Bumble bees did their thing with the Gigantic Star and Carlton until they were drawn away by the blue berries in bloom.

Species (wild varieties) such as jonquilla, pseudonarcissus, and bulbocodium reproduce primarily by seed. They are extremely slow to multiply vegetatively, that is, make off-set bulbs. Hybrid bulbs (garden varieties) reproduce mostly by vegetative division, some slowly and some extremely rapidly.

You can pollinate your daffodils with a water color brush or a feather. Frasier Bingham bought a sable water color brush and spent almost 2 hours over a span of days pollinating his jonquilla patch. For his efforts he was rewarded with over a cup of tiny jonquil seeds.

Many old gardens have jonquils in the lawn where the seeds seem to sprout and prosper better than in the bed "where they belong." You might want to try your luck at pollinating next spring. Some daffodils are sterile, but even "sterile" ones have been known to produce seed that ultimately led to some fine new varieties. It takes 4 to 5 years to produce a flower from seed.

START 'EM YOUNG

Linda Van Beck has been running around all over the county delivering daffodil bulbs and providing planting and cultural advice to schools.

John and Linda were given digging rights in the garden of Edwin White, who had been a banker in Tallahassee before his death many years ago. The garden had been abandoned for probably 25 years and was overgrown with trees, brambles and bahia grass. The property is now owned by Paul and Lynn Grant.

A number of FDS members helped rescue the daffodil bulbs, including Mary Adore Minardi, Larry Paarlberg, Jane Leonard Smith, Beth Weidner, Nancy White and Linda Williams. Minimums of 50 bulbs from that site and 25 bulbs from the Van Beck's garden were given to each of 14 public and private schools this year. Godby High School received 500 bulbs! School board member Emily Millett helped contact the schools for us by e-mail. More schools will be provided bulbs next year. If you have a school in Jefferson or Gadsden counties that you would like to receive bulbs, please let John or Linda know (878-9753) and they will put them on the list for 1997.

As Linda says, "Start 'em young!"

SPREAD THOSE DAFS AROUND!

Bulbs are also being given to the Tallahassee Garden Club, Goodwood and Maclay Gardens, in numbers sufficient to plant large beds in each of those locations. Most of the bulbs dug are quite small and will take a year or two to grow to blooming size.

BOARD MEETING

At the May board meeting held at Goodwood, the board approved expenditure of up to \$150.00 for daffodil bulbs for the test garden, and up to \$100.00 for a public planting of daffodils in Thomasville. We hope to enlist the aid of one of our members in designing the Thomasville planting. That garden will be in honor of Nat Williams. The Board would welcome contributions of cash or daffodil bulbs for the garden.

Partial reimbursement of \$25.00 was approved for members Judy Gregory and Julia Woodward for their costs in planting 100 Gigantic Star at the Gadsden County Courthouse. The Board strongly supports public plantings as part of our on-going educational efforts in the areas we serve.

In this blistering heat -- FDS members can dream of chilly days warmed by cloudbursts of sunshine daffodil
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