

# florida daffodil society news

ISSUE NO. 13

November 1996

## BULB SALES

We had four bulb sales this year, which was a bit of a strain on our people resources. In addition to our large sale in Tallahassee, two sales were held in Perry and one in Monticello. The sales were a big success, and thanks go to all members for their support and participation!

Special thanks go to Frasier Bingham, Isabelle de Sercey, and John Van Beck for donating bulbs for the sales. The money received from the sale of their bulbs is all profit!

Big time thanks go to co-chairpersons Nancy White and Clara Jane Smith, and to those who spent a Saturday morning packaging bulbs – Jack and Mary Ann Van Kleunan, Mary McLeod, Mary Adore Minardi, Marge Orrick, Frasier Bingham, Clara Jane Smith, Nancy White, and John and Linda Van Beck. A good time was had by all. All together, 10,000 daffodils were counted out and sold!

Pre-sale summer orders were a big success with about \$1,600 in prepaid advance orders. Members taking advantage of advance ordering reaped substantial savings.

The Society grossed approximately \$3,700 on the four sales. Our cost for bulbs was approximately \$3,000, but that included the bulbs purchased for the trial garden and our public plantings as well. With so many bulbs going directly into the trial garden and public plantings, and factoring in donated bulbs, we're not sure what our "profit margin" was – but we made one!

The society is certainly solvent and ready to charge ahead into the new season.

**Are your bulbs safely planted? Remember, "daffodils belong in the ground, not in the garage."**

## FDS PUBLIC PLANTINGS

### Thomasville: Nat Williams Daffodil Garden

The Nat Williams Daffodil Garden in Thomasville is now a reality, for which we especially thank the Paradise Park Consortium, co-chaired by Carter Arnest and Jackie McMullian. The Consortium, made up of citizens-businesses-government, is responsible for the management and maintenance of the park. Carter was actively involved in all aspects of the project.

Clara Jane Smith laid out two beds in Paradise Park on Broad Street, diagonally across from the Neal House. The city prepared the ground and members Michelle Harrell, Harriet Hawkins and John and Linda Van Beck, aided by Peppy Williams (Mrs. Nat), planted 500 Carlton in one bed and 500 Gigantic Star in the other. The bulbs will be backed by Coral Bell azaleas and Japanese red maples which are being donated by Thomasville folks. Harriet has done a wonderful job of coordinating the work and donations for the daffodil garden. Harriet will also coordinate the dedication ceremony which will be held next spring when the flowers are in bloom.

### Quincy: Monroe House

Judy Woodward reports that the Gigantic Star purchased jointly by the FDS and the Quincy Garden Club, as well as the jonquilla and *N. italicus* which were donated by our members, are in the ground at the historic Monroe House. Good job!

### Tallahassee: Garden Club Center

Member Helen Purvis, President of the Tallahassee Garden Club, says the 500 Tresamble donated by an FDS member were scheduled to go in the ground at the Garden

**May 1996**

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Club the week of November 11. Clara Jane also designed that bed.

Only 60% of the bulbs are of blooming size, so it will take two years for the garden to produce a full show. One wonderful thing about gardens — especially gardens with lots of daffodils — is that they become lovelier each year as the bulbs mature and multiply.

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## **BITS AND PIECES**

If you haven't fertilized your daffodils, do it NOW. Either broadcast 5-10-15 or super phosphate (followed immediately by an application of a balanced fertilizer) over beds.

The September/October issue of *Coastal Gardener* published in Savannah, contains an article by John Van Beck titled "Daffodils for the Live Oak - Spanish Moss Belt." With the artwork supplied by the publisher, the article looks really nice.

Most daffodils bloom within four to six weeks after breaking ground. There are some exceptions, however. *Bulbocodium* (hoop petticoats) which were all coming up by September 1, won't have flowers until the end of February. *Jonquilla* popped up about the first of November. They'll bloom in March. Paper whites were jumping out of the ground by October fifth, followed a little later by Chinese Sacred Lilies, Double Chinese Sacred Lilies and *N. italicus*. They may flower by Thanksgiving.

While the name "Double Chinese Sacred Lily" is widely used in this country, in Europe the same flower is known both as "Constantinople" and "Double Roman."

A new brochure titled "Planting and Care of Daffodils" was finished just in time for distribution at the Tallahassee bulb sale. Hope you got it! If you didn't and would like one, call Mary Ann or Jack Van Kleunan at 997-3986 and let them know. We will mail you one with the next newsletter. It looks great, and is a

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significant improvement over the previous handout. It is a tri-fold with two illustrations of daffodils (*Hawera* on the front and *Tete-a-Tete* on the last page). Phyllis Graham had wanted to re-do the old one for a long time and her efforts, with the writing and artistic talents of John and Linda Van Beck, produced this new jewel!

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## **WE'RE SORRY**

Regretfully, we did not realize some Gigantic Star bulbs were not in good shape when packaging them for our sales. The bulbs that went "bad" had somehow been stressed shortly before they were shipped, and it took a while for the damage to show up. We have been assured by the supplier the problem would not spread within a package or box.

If you received some bad bulbs, please call John Van Beck at (904) 878-9753 and tell him how many, or leave a message. We will be glad to give a refund, or apply credit toward dues or purchases next year. The club is being compensated by the dealer.

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## **LOOK AT US!**

The Florida Daffodil Society now has a membership of 185, probably making us one of larger groups in the country. Please check your Newsletter mailing label. If your dues are current, the date "6/97" will appear. Dues remain at the bargain rate of \$5.00 for an individual and \$6.00 for family, and should be mailed to Mary Adore Minardi, 913 North Gadsden Street, Tallahassee, 32303.

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## **PROGRAM SCHEDULED**

The first program of the year will be "A Daffodil Primer." It will cover the basics of planting and tending daffodils, classification of daffodils by division, and the color coding scheme used by the American Daffodil Society and the Royal Horticulture Society. The program, illustrated with slides, will be held on

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Saturday December 7, 1996 at 10:00 am in Jubilee Hall, Goodwood Plantation. If you have any questions about it, call John at 878-9753.

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## **RETIREMENT**

It is with regret that we heard about the retirement of Mary Lou Gripshover as Executive Director of the American Daffodil Society. Mary Lou was of considerable assistance in the establishment of our Florida society and has remained a great friend and staunch supporter of our group. Mary Lou served in many posts including editor of the *Journal of the ADS*

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## **NATIONAL SHOW AND CONVENTION**

The American Daffodil Society national flower show and annual convention will be held in Jackson, Mississippi, March 13-15, 1997. A few local folks plan to go. Going to national is a great experience and not easily forgotten. For the first time ever, flowers from Florida will be exhibited. Whether they win a blue ribbon or booby prize, it will be great to see them exhibited. Most folks believe you can't grow daffodils in Florida. We'll show 'em!!! If you are interested in attending, please call Marge Orrick at 877-3806 and let her know.

List bulbs for trial garden.

Boxwood around trial bed

Historic display garden

Daffodil show at Tallahassee Nurseries

Wood ashes on your beds

