

# florida daffodil society news

ISSUE NO. 14

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## DAFFODIL EXHIBIT

The Board is pleased to announce that a daffodil exhibit will be held at Tallahassee Nurseries in early March, 1997. We attempted to obtain exhibit space at the local malls but had no success. Fortunately, Tallahassee Nurseries and our good member, Gene Ellis, came to our rescue.

This will be an *exhibit*, not a *judged show*. Tallahassee Nurseries has offered to advertise it in their newsletter and in the Tallahassee Democrat. Vice President Mary Ann Van Kleunan will serve as chairman. The next *florida daffodil society news* will give more information and tell you how to participate.

## 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*

## “SPECIES AND WILD HYBRIDS”

The second slide program of the year will be “Species and Wild Hybrids.” John and Linda Van Beck developed it based on a book by John Blanchard, and a program he did for an ADS Annual Convention. The 45 minute program will be presented on Saturday, January 25 at 10:00 A.M. in Jubilee Hall, Goodwood Plantation, which is on Miccosukee

Road just east of the hospital. If you have any questions, please call John at 878-9753.

## GOODWOOD GARDENS

Marge Orrick reports that the new bulbs for the trial garden are in the ground. Six new cultivars are being tested. **Abba**, which has white petals with orange-flecked segments, is a double sport of Cragford, a tazetta that does well here. Abba is in Division 4. The remainder of those planted were Division 2 (large cup). **Amber Castle** has yellow petals with a white halo; and the yellow cup has an amber cast to it. **Big Gun**, comparatively expensive at \$2.60 each, is American bred with white petals and a yellow/orange cup. **Delibes** has petals described as “yellow hearts,” and a flat cup with a crimson band. Friend and daffodil grower Jan McDougal reports that this flower does extremely well in Charleston, SC, where the climate is similar to ours. **Misty Glen** is an all-white with a “green eye;” it is a late mid-season bloomer that we hope will not have trouble with our heat. **Sun Heat** has soft yellow overlapping, recurved petals; the cup is soft yellow/orange with a green “eye,” and an extremely ruffled red/orange rim.

**\*\* AND THANKS TO AMARYLLIS \*\*** Our thanks go to the members of the Amaryllis Garden Circle for their continuing financial support of our trial garden. Ninety-one species and cultivars have now been planted in the test area. Eighteen have already been ruled out as being unsuitable for this area, and a few more don't look promising. However, many have done so well they have been moved to the display garden. This coming blooming season will tell us a lot.

We have been rearranging our garden space in anticipation of eventually phasing out the test garden in a few years. We've been given a new area near the display garden. Both the old and new beds will eventually be used to display heritage daffodils (pre-1940). Over 200 newly rooted boxwood have been planted to delineate both our new and old garden areas. The boxwood eventually will form a lovely walk between the beds.

## BITS AND PIECES

### A Surprising Tazetta

Small-flowered paper whites were in bloom by Thanksgiving, and as I was inspecting a small clump of them in the vegetable garden, I found some that had a yellow cup and a nice odor. I had never seen this particular tazetta before, so I had Frasier come over and inspect them. They were new to him, also. Many named tazettas have yellow cups, but none bloom this early. We'll try to find out what they are and work on propagating them so other folks can enjoy them, too!

### Intermedius in North Carolina

Speaking of early, I talked to my sister in the North Carolina mountains on Dec. 5, and some Intermedius I gave her a couple of years ago were blooming! They will no doubt freeze soon, but she appreciated flowers in December.

### Ashes, Ashes, All Fall ... On The Bulbs?

Got a fireplace? Great! Daffodils love hardwood ashes, as do all bulbs. Ashes are high in trace minerals, and they help raise the soil pH. You can put up to 1 inch of dry (and cold) ashes on your daffodils every year.

### Coffee Cup Daffodils

*Tazetta* originates from the Italian term (*tazza*) for the "little cups" of the blossoms which are centered like espresso mugs in the saucers formed by the surrounding petals. Tazettas are also known as *polyanthus narcissi* for their multiple clusters of scented blossoms.

### Eyes to the World

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Elsewhere, reference is made to "eyes." "Eyes" refer to a very small, brightly colored cup found in the poet daffodils (Div. 9). All red, orange, pink and green colors in daffodils arise from the poet daffodils. Poets are sometimes referred to as "pheasant eye" daffodils. They are exceptionally late bloomers in the north, and will not bloom here at all. If you see a daffodil advertised with some shade of red or orange, it usually will be a late bloomer, and the odds are it will not do well here. This is one of the reasons the Society maintains a "trial garden," and members are "testing" a bulb. Hope springs eternal!

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## TRIVIA FOR THE WEEK

Where did the word daffodil come from? It is an alteration of Middle English *affodil*, from Latin *asphodelus*, *asphodel*, meaning yellow lily. Romans borrowed the word from the Greek.

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## FEEL UNWANTED? NO FEAR — WE NEED YOU!

The Telephone Committee needs additional volunteers. Each member of the Committee is given a list of members to call to remind them of up-coming meetings, programs and other events. If you could help out by making just a **few** calls, please contact Chairman Virginia McKee at 878-5946. In an organization such as ours, a little participation by each member goes a long

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## TRANSPLANTING

Bulbs are best dug when the foliage is dying back. You should wait at least 6 weeks after blooming to dig bulbs for separating, etc. However, you can transplant daffodils just as you would anything else. A clump or an individual plant may be moved. Get as much dirt with the bulb(s) as possible. Keep the daffodils well watered for a couple of weeks until they are reestablished.

For years I thought there was something sacred about leaving a growing daffodil in place

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-- but surprise! They really are as forgiving and  
easy as I've always said.

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