

BITS AND PIECES

This has been the best year ever for daffodils: no heavy freezes but lots of chilly weather. Mildred Kelly invited me by to see her garden. It is quite charming, but the charm was overwhelmed by the size of her blooming daffodils! Her Ice Follies looked almost as big as saucers and Gigantic Star was truly gigantic. Mildred puts a handful of bone meal in the bottom of each planting hole. Maybe that's the secret.

In the bulbs rescued from Edwin White's garden, two large doubles bloomed that I thought would never get identified. One, the size of a large carnation, was white with light yellow petals in the center. It first bloomed in the "back 40" at Goodwood. Folks were really excited, and so was I. I subsequently had some bloom in my back daffodil patch, including a labeled one that Frasier Bingham had given me a couple of years ago that bloomed for the first time -- White Lion. The flowers were identical! Unfortunately, it is too "new" to fit the historic garden scheme at Goodwood.

The other was a huge yellow one. Talk about blind luck -- I went to visit Jack and Mary Ann Van Kleunen in Monticello, and there was a bed full of daffodils Jack had ordered from a catalogue with exactly the same type of buds. They turned out to be the same as those I had been trying to identify, namely Golden Ducat. Both of these bulbs appear to be long term, late bloomers in this area. Whether or not they bloom every year or need a cool spring remains to be seen.

Jack also bought Rinjveld's Early Sensation, and had this to say: "I planted them in an effort to get some early color and relieve the winter blahs of January and February. According to The Daffodil Mart's catalog, they bloomed in January and February in Virginia -- but you know catalogs. I tried 25 bulbs and planted them in mid-October, subsequently top dressing them with 6-24-24.

"The first green tips broke ground in mid-December and on January 7, 2 were in bloom. On Jan. 25, all 25 bulbs were up and blooming. All blooms were crisp with bright yellow colors. When fully open, the height is 12-14 inches. The flower

has yellow petals with a spread of 2 ½ - 3 inches. The trumpet is yellow, ruffled and 1 inch long. On February 6th some blooms were starting to fade and by the 11th all blooms had faded except one.

We have had a relatively benign winter this year, but it would appear that these Rinjveld's **are** an early sensation. They are bright, reasonably sized and give a good blooming period. Of course, the proof will be next year when we look for their return after New Years. Daffodil Mart does recommend Rinjveld for plant in Zones 8-9, so we look forward with optimism.

Melanie Darst came over on March 20 to see the late blooming daffodils. I had told her that I thought there were still 20 or 30 to look at. She brought along her note book and listed most of those she saw. When the "tour" was over, Melanie counted the names she had entered and found 59!

My daughter and her husband spotted a tazetta blooming in a vacant lot in Boston GA on their way to Atlanta. When they got home, they called into tell me about it. Linda and I drove up and dug 11 bulbs. Never saw the flower before! The flower buds are yellow and the mature florets have white petals and a yellow cup. They smell super sweet. Some single-nose bulbs put up 2 flower stems. It was still blooming on March 25. I sent a flower by Fed X to Bill Welch in California to identify. He is **the** leading authority on tazettas. He had never seen one like it. How about that, boys and girls??

LONESOME GEORGE

There was an article some time back about "lonesome daffodils." Someone observed that bulbs planted all by themselves tend to just sit there and languish. They often will not multiply and often disappear after two or three years. This is particularly true of the smaller bulbs. In my garden, daffodils seem to do much better in clumps rather than

strung out in rows. Speaking of observations, Jack, Frasier and I have noticed that many daffodils do better with a bit of shade. I planted 3 long leaf pine trees in the garden to provide some shade in the future. Don't worry, the really early daffodils don't need any shade!

AUTHOR! AUTHOR!

John Van Beck has been doing a series of articles for the *Journal* of the American Daffodil Society. Three have been published so far, and he is currently writing the fourth, which will deal with performance of a more than two hundred daffodils in the "Live Oak and Spanish Moss Belt." It will combine data from Frasier Bingham's garden, the Society's trial garden at Goodwood, and John's own garden. Photos taken by Linda Van Beck of daffodils in their gardens appeared on the back covers of **both** the December 1997 and March 1998 issues of the *Journal*.

TALLAHASSEE MEMORIAL

Dot Roberts had great success on the proposed daffodil garden at TMRMC. Ron Brafford, Senior Vice President of the hospital, was delighted with her offer and can't wait for Clara Jane Smith to contact him and finalize the design plan for the garden. Clara Jane is a landscape designer who has done a great job of laying out public plantings for us. The hospital's auxiliary donated \$100 to match the \$100 pledged by the Society. In fact, Dot, who is President of the Hospital Auxiliary, already has the check for delivery to our treasurer!

MY FAVORITE DAFF by Annette Folsom

Mrs. R.O. Backhouse is my favorite daffodil. The tint of the corona changes daily the same way as the old garden rose Mutabalis changes each day. Both have soft pastel colors. I have only a small patch of Mrs. R.O.B. this year, but hope to have lots more next season. I want Accent and February Silver, also, to blend with Mrs. R.O.B. For me, Accent has a soft apricot corona and February Silver has a pretty pastel yellow corona. All bloomed at the same time this year. I love Hawera, too, but that's another story.

DAFFODIL PROGRAMS

Mark your calendar! Saturday April 11, John Van Beck will present two programs at

Jubilee Hall, Goodwood, just off Miccosukee Road. The first will deal with basic information on where to plant, how to plant and how to fertilize and care for your daffodils. This program will begin at 9:00 am.

At 10:15, John will discuss the 12 daffodil divisions and their flower and foliage forms, color coding, and selecting the right flowers for your garden. This program will be illustrated with a number of slides, most of which were taken by Linda Van Beck. Attend one or both and have coffee, donuts and orange juice with fellow daff-nuts.

LITCHGATE

Thanks are due to John and Linda Van Beck for their generous gift of 75 Sweetness daffodils for the Litchgate on High Road supporters attending the Florida Historic Grant reception. These daffodils dignified the name tags of the Laura Jepsen Institute attendees. Also for this event a beautiful bouquet of Gigantic Star and Sweetness daffodils and leather leaf fern was given to the Florida Department of Historic Preservation by The Florida Daffodil Society. The Laura Jepsen Institute sends a warm thank you to the Daffodil Society for their continued support and enthusiasm.

Poetry in Yellow: Every spring the Campernelle jonquil is the first yellow daffodil to open. It has a carefree look about it and a light sweet smell that lets you know it's wonderful to be alive. The botanical name of this wild hybrid is *N. x odorus*. Walt Whitman wrote in his poem "Give Me the Splendid Silent Sun"

"Give me odorus at sunrise
a garden of beautiful flowers
where I can walk undisturbed."
