The highest honors bestowed by the American Daffodil Society are its Gold and Silver Medals. These may be awarded annually to individuals deemed exceptionally worthy by the ADS Honors Committee. It is my distinct pleasure as ADS President to award the ADS Silver and Gold Medals this year.

**ADS GOLD MEDAL**

The ADS Gold Medal is awarded for exceptional service in extending the knowledge of the daffodil. The recipient this year has a 30-year history of active service in the American Daffodil Society. Already she has received the ADS Silver Medal in recognition of unselfish service to our Society.

Her dedication to the ADS is unquestionable, but always she has maintained a larger focus: extending the worldwide knowledge of daffodils. As Editor of *The Daffodil Journal* she took the quality of that publication to new heights. She set the standard for publications of all societies to meet. Under her guidance the *Journal* became truly an international journal for the dissemination of daffodil information.

In 1989, while she was the ADS Second Vice-President with future succession to its presidency, the position of ADS Executive Director became open. She decided she could make greater contributions to the ADS and the world of daffodils in this arduous position than as ADS President.

As the ADS Executive Director, she established a cooperative relationship with the Royal Horticultural Society and especially with its International Daffodil Registrar. Working together, they have eliminated the discrepancies between RHS and ADS data banks. That was a major assist toward the compilation and recent publication of the encyclopedic RHS *International Daffodil Register and Classified List*. She has published a revised *Daffodils to Show and Grow*, the essential handbook for American exhibitors and a valued show resource overseas. Through her efforts, the *DTSG* included registrations worldwide through 1998, just a few months before its issuance.

Her accomplishments have long been recognized worldwide:
- Recipient of the Peter Barr Cup from the RHS in 1993
- Vice President of The Daffodil Society
• Full member of the RHS Narcissus Classification Advisory Committee

To balance her activities she hybridizes daffodils, promotes daffodils though a column (Suite101.com) on the Internet, judges and exhibits in shows, and travels to see her many daffodil friends overseas.

Worldwide, should one ask what current American is the most significant contributor to the daffodil world community, the answer might well be unanimous: Mary Lou Gripshover!

Mary Lou, please accept this prestigious and most deserved award.

**ADS SILVER MEDAL**

The Silver Medal is awarded to an individual for distinguished service to the American Daffodil Society. This year's recipient has a unique record of exceptional, continuing service to our Society. Amid a busy professional life, he has served as Regional Director, Regional Vice-President, and Board Parliamentarian. But his most critical contributions have been as ADS Legal Counsel, a position he has held for thirty years! He has never asked for compensation for his legal advice, advice which has certainly smoothed the rough terrain over which the ADS has sometimes traveled. Every ADS President, the ADS Executive and Finance Committee, and the ADS Board have sought his expertise to cope with myriad legal and financial issues.

Still, it is not only his legal knowledge that is valuable to the Society. He is a natural "facilitator" of group action. He has a knack for distilling an issue under discussion into its essence--assimilating the pros and cons--and succinctly proposing a course that all can accept. How much lengthier our Board Meetings would be without his participation!

Dick Frank--Richard H. Frank, Jr--recognition of your service is long overdue. The ADS Silver Medal is a small measure of thanks for your contributions to the ADS.

**CONVENTION VIDEO**

Rich Noel, a member of the Daffodil and Hosta Society of Western Pennsylvania, made a memorable video tape of the 1999 Pittsburgh convention. You can order a copy directly from him for $20.00 Postpaid. To order, you can contact him directly: Rich Noel, 2280 Cremona Drive, Pittsburgh PA 15241, or phone him at: 412/835-3254. Checks should be made payable to Rich Noel.