



florida daffodil society news

ISSUE NO. 38

May 2002

ANNUAL MEETING

JUNE 1, 2002 at 9:15

Old Kitchen at Goodwood

Clara Jane Smith chaired the Nominating Committee, composed of Marge Orrick and Annette Folsom. The proposed slate of officers is as follows:

President:	Linda Van Beck
Co-Vice Presidents	Robert and Jean Denk
Secretary:	Lennie Kennedy
Treasurer:	Georgia Murphy
Past President	Dot Roberts

Goals for 2002/03 will be set and minor refreshments served. You are all welcome!

A BIG THANK YOU

Many of you probably thought that John Van Beck was the FDS, but there is always a power behind the throne. The voice that reminds you that annual meetings are supposed to be in May and not June. The voice of reason and fiscal conservatism – the voice of the Treasurer. The first FDS Treasurer, Mary Adore Coloney, was so dedicated that when she left the post she recruited her best friend, Janie Smith. Janie was elected Treasure in 1997. Her son, Jay, put together the FDS website and in 1998 Janie placed all the FDS financial records on computer using Quicken software. She has helped design brochures and has served as Membership Chairman as well. Needless to say, she will be missed and all of FDS wishes to thank her for all her support and good work.

ANNUAL DAFFODIL SHOW

'Twas a dark and stormy weekend. Visitors were sparse but a few hardy souls joined the FDS. The display was truly beautiful and the volunteers under Lennie Kennedy's guidance were great. Bob and Jean Denk (Vice Presidents) and Dr. Frazier Bingham helped hold the fort as we were bombarded by pine cones hitting the plastic roof at 50 miles per hour. Tallahassee Nurseries duplicated the FDS brochure and provided liquid and goodies. This year's daffodils were:

Division 1 (trumpet)

Emperor 1y-y; Flower Carpet 1y-y

Division 2 (large cup)

Binkie Like 2y-y; Bryanston 2y-y, Carlton 2y-y, Ceylon 2y-y; Fortune 2y-o; Gigantic Star 2y-y; Heirloom; Heirloom 2w-y
Ice Follies 2w-w; Monal 2y-r; St. Keverne 2y-y

Division 3 (small cup)

Barrett Browning 3wwwy-o

Division 4 (doubles)

Butter and Eggs 4y-y; Butter and Eggs w-y; Double Campernelle 4y-y; Erlicheer 4w-y; Telemonius Plenus 4y-y

Division 5 (2 to a stem)

Frosty Morn 5w-w; Ice Wings 5w-w

Division 6 (reflexed)

February Gold 6y-y; Item 6y-r

Division 7 (jonquilla)

Orange Queen 7y-y; Sweetness 7y-y;
Trevithian 7y-y

Division 8 (Tazetta)

Avalanche 8w-y; Cloth of Gold 8y-y;
Cragford 8w-o; Grand Monarque 8w-y;
Grand Primo 8w-y; Minor Monarque 8w-y;
Miss Sara 8w-y; and Soleil d'Or 8y-o

Division 10 (hoop skirt)

Smarple 10w-w

Division 13 (Latin names)

N. Jonquilla; N. pseudonarcissus subsp. pseudo narcissus; N. x gracilis; N. x incomparabilis; N. x intermedius; N. x odoratus.

ADS CONVENTION IN 2002

"Fun Knights and Daffodil Daze" was supposed to be in Cincinnati, Ohio, but the Drawbridge Inn, complete with medieval style décor was located in Kentucky. The SWOD (South West Ohio Daffodil Society) is a swinging group complete with medieval costumes, parades and shenanigans. The main event for the FDS was the first time awarding of the John C. Van Beck Historic Daffodil Medal. You will remember how Mary

Ann Van Kleunen (past president of FDS) got the idea and in short order achieved the impossible. One side of the medal is a circle of tazetta florets. The many faceted flowers catch the light and make for a beautiful bronze bas relief. Linda Van Beck made a short speech. She explained that when you are transplanted to the South the first thing you learn is "old is better." Ribbons at ADS sanctioned show were also given in John's name for the best historic daffodil hybrids.

The first winner of the Medal is a longtime friend and chairman of the convention—Linda Wallpe. The winning cultivar: Ace of Diamonds 9w-r, 1921, England, hybridizer Reverend G. H. Englehart.

In all there were 32 Historic Classes, 77 entries, 85 stems including 2 collections of 5 stems. The entered classes were arranged in chronological order.

The ADS list of historic daffodils is still expanding. The current master list of pre-1940 daffodils grown by members of the ADS Historic Daffodil Round Robin is 343.

Next year, Mary Lou Gripshover (FDS member as well as past executive director of ADS) will chair the ADS convention in Asheville, N.C. Let's get up a contingent from Florida! The main attraction will be the Biltmore House. John and Linda Van Beck saw the daffodil beds in the parterres years ago. It was a spectacular sight: masses of Winston Churchill, Tahiti and Golden Ducat, to name the ones Linda can remember. Daffodils were also growing in other areas on the large estate.

THE WEATHER

Let's hope there will never be another season like this one. The daffodils that bloomed early were fine. February Gold 6y-y, Ice Follies 2w-w, Soliel d'Or 8y-o, and Itzim 6y-r all had a banner year. In the Van Beck garden, half of the Carlton bloomed on schedule and the other half was struggling to open on short stems in late March-early April. Daffodils that hadn't bloomed in years were seen whereas predictable late bloomers only sent up 1 or 2 stems.

My first analysis was soil temperature. A few hot days did not penetrate the cold soil, especially when partial shade was present. As you all know, John Van Beck was adamant on the issue of heat waves. Quote: "we would always have one when the mid-to-late bloomers were in bud, resulting in blasted blooms." So I took up the challenge: when

the first heat wave was predicted I flooded the daffodils the day before on the rationale that if water in the stem prevents bent stems in cold temperatures, maybe water would offset the loss of water and cooling in the flower bud. I also, à la Helen Lind (she used to add humidity to the air for LeMoyné's azaleas) threw water up in the air in midday and early evening.

Except for division 4 (doubles), it worked! The few daffodils I missed promptly blasted. Unfortunately, there were a lot of heat waves so all were not saved but heavy watering did make a difference. Meredith McKinney (photographer) came over early one morning after a drowning session the day before and the Tresamble 5w-w were actually oozing water and the petals looked transparent. The flowers survived and looked normal by midmorning despite the 88°.

The big concern is next year. All the stress (a new buzz word among daffodil growers) may mean a "sit-out" year while the bulbs have R and R (rest and relaxation). To help the bulbs recoup, boron and potash are essential, so the FDS will have John's 6-24-24 fertilizer with trace minerals available at the bulb sale next fall. By the way, Clay Higgins mother-in-law said "hit the daffodils with potash about five weeks before bloom time" for strong stems, so save those wood ashes! The rule says don't water after blooming. As I watched the foliage on N. x incomparabilis immediately turn white in the frying sunshine, I started to water green foliage in the hopes it would last long enough for the bulb to make use of the leaves.

FDS BULB SALE – NOV. 9

We will have a pre-order form again, but will not take money ahead of the sale. If the bulbs are not picked up or arrangements made, then the Society can promptly sell the bulbs. Our major supplier's catalogue will be out the end of June. We will offer the basics plus early N. Jonquilla. Would you like N. obvallaris (y-y) that does so well at Rough House at Goodwood or Telamonius Plenis (4 y-y) (1620) our "dirty mop" which doesn't get its act together every year but when it does is a great yellow mass? Any questions or ideas, leave a message on Linda Van Beck's

answering machine (877-9753) and any information
will be passed on.