



# florida daffodil society news

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## !!!! BULB SALE -- NOVEMBER 9 !!!! Goodwood Museum and Gardens Old Kitchen 9 – 11 AM

For those who did not place a prior order for bulbs: while Golden Ducat and Grand Primo are sold out, we have lots of Thalia and Early Jonquilla. We will be reordering Carlton – if you want 25 to 100 or more, call 878-9753 right away. Fertilizer (6-24-24) will be available. Come pick up your previously ordered bulbs, or send a designee with a check. Photos of the sale daffodils will be on display.

## NEWS ITEMS

**October 11:** Daffodils at Goodwood – a lecture, slide show and printed material was presented at Goodwood. FDS is revamping its activities with emphasis being placed on original daffodil plantings by Goodwood owners. Elizabeth Arrowsmith (1885-1911) west lawn bulb garden; Fanny Tiers (1911-1924) Campernelle walk; Margaret Hodges (1925-1978) expansion of west lawn bulb garden. A demonstration bed of pre-1800 daffodils will be designed, complete with name tags. Featured emphasis will be the species and wild hybrids that John Van Beck identified as common to North Florida and South Georgia. Lifted bulbs will be placed in holding beds as part of the resource center. Work starts in November – stay tuned!

**October 16:** FIRST DAFFODIL! Petite (8w-o) – very orange cup. One of a population of Bill Welch's tazetta seedlings titled Autumn Yellows. Photos will be on display at the Bulb Sale.

**October 18:** Successful bulb sale and slide show with the Live Oak Garden Club.

**October 19:** FDS and the Daffodil Garden Circle participated in the Horticultural Extravagance to raise money for the Helen Lind Garden. 400 Carlton were sold and FDS got lots of good exposure.

## PUBLIC PLANTINGS

The FDS is completing the John Van Beck Memorial Garden at McCord Park with up to 2,200 Carlton (2y-y) and clumps of Trevithian (7y-y). There is a bridge – a wonder to behold – designed and installed by Emmett Owens, as well as a bench and a stone with a plaque. There has been some water under the bridge but mostly it is a dry run off bed. Next year we will celebrate with the daffodils.

We are working with the Tallahassee Parks Service, Walker Ford Center and the Smith Williams Center to place daffodils on a hillside near the Centers. Native Nurseries will plant the bulbs and Smith Williams will do upkeep and watering. The plan allows for a space along the bottom of the bed where members of the senior program can plant annuals. Clara Jane Smith is developing the design. Smith Williams plans to put up a plaque that will honor the late local educator Aquilina Howe.

## FDS TEST GARDEN

The mainstay of the FDS has been the test gardens. Started in 1994, the first gardens were at Goodwood Museum and Gardens, Dr. Frazier Bingham's garden and the Van Beck Garden. The main test garden at Goodwood was partially funded by the Amaryllis Garden Circle, FDS, and bulb contributions from Al Mead.

Gradually the first two gardens were phased out. John Van Beck continued to keep records (# bulbs, # noses, date up, peak bloom, # stems) on over 250 different daffodils in 2001. Unfortunately, a sizable group had died but were kept on the voting rolls. A few were represented by imposters. Thanks to this year's capricious blooming, some "dropped bulbs" bloomed that were living behind someone else's name tag.

There are about 150 cultivars that bloom often enough to keep, plus some still being tested and the tried and true. The others were dwindling, making grass or blasting. This group have found a new home at the Missouri Botanical Gardens (MOBOT), a nationally designated depository for bulbs in St. Louis. Over 300 bulbs made the trip.

We are expecting some new Israeli Jonquilla strains from Keith Kriedler, a Texas grower – some very early and some very late. Also a species tazetta, n. panizzianes (very small paper white) whose main home is the top of Gibraltar from Nancy Wilson, an Oregon grower.

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## VAN BECK GARDEN

There has been a lot of digging in the gardens. You wouldn't believe the roots! These invasive roots, and in some areas the increased tree shade, were culprits in some bulbs recent decline. Many bulbs that are found in commerce – Trevithian, Cragford (8w-o) and Sweetness (7y-y-) were dug. 200 Cragford went to Oven Park and a large quantity of small bulbs were given to Tall Timbers and Litchgate, and to American Daffodil Society members for hybridizing. Bulbs were sold in small quantities to Native Nurseries and donated to the FDS bulb sale. A smattering of small bulbs flew to Chicago to help the local daffodil society with their members bulb sale and a few stayed here and were given to butterfly gardens. All told, over 2,000 bulbs of descendents of the Edwin White's farm rescue operation in the late 90's, were dispensed.

When these bulbs were rescued, there were some that were the length and width of a human hair. Of course they had to be saved. Three transplantings later, the bulbs now crowd a 4' x 10' space and are 5" tall with a leaf width the size of a pencil lead. One bloomed this summer. Hawera 5y-y – a graceful miniature. Jean Cameron, volunteer in charge of the miniature section at the Oregon Gardens, Silverton, OR, had given up finding enough daffodils to make a drift. Next year, with paid shipping and handling, these bulbs will be dug and donated to this large official state garden.

Paper whites and Minor Monarque were dug and some given to Belleview House at the Tallahassee Museum of History and Natural Science and to the mansion at the North Florida Community College campus. FDS member Moffie Bidlingmayer donated the bulbs which she had purchased at a bulb sale years ago.

By now you'll be wondering why all the digging! There are two reasons. One is difficulty in

watering the last row of the garden and the other is overcrowding of Minor Monarque. It seems every time bulbs are dug, it takes twice as much ground- to plant back. The emphasis of the garden is shifting from testing to preserving the rare daffodils found in our area.

N. x intermedius has been lifted numerous times and by now takes up a lot of space. Counting clumps as one unit, I found 3,500 units of Georgia Ditch daffodils. Hope has appeared in the form of Roxanne Daniels, FDS member and FSU alum now living in Camden, Arkansas. Does she have daffodils!!!! Two to three million daffodils planted on a forty acre property of hills and dales, complete with blossoming trees, a seven acre Japanese garden (took 20 years to complete) and space for lots of N. x intermedius!

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## CAMDEN DAFFODIL FESTIVAL

There is an annual festival, complete with golf tournament. Roxanne's gardens are one of the highlights of this festival that she helped to start 8 years ago as a fund raiser to save the historic railroad depot. Each year firemen come to her gardens and lift/divide bulbs which they sell at the fire station. Other bulb gardens on the tour include the farm of Celia Jones and Jan Jones Grigsby – made famous by TV, magazines, etc. Wouldn't you like to go and see all this? Camden is a far north as Atlanta and to the west. Dates and events will be posted in the spring newsletter.

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## The BOOK Is Coming Along

In the February 2002 newsletter, editor Phyllis Graham put a nice heading *An Inheritance of Wisdom* on the item about the 40 page manual based on John Van Beck's research and knowledge. There have been some ups and downs since then, but Linda and daughter-editor Sara, are still writing. The "pamphlet" just keeps growing – it's now at well over 200 double space pages of text. The new goal is to finish by the year's end and find a publisher.

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## GOOD NEWS AT GOODWOOD

See our next newsletter for the full story on the FDS restoration of the Goodwood daffodil plantings.

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