



florida daffodil society news

ISSUE NO. 43

May 2003

ANNUAL MEETING

The Society's annual meeting will be held in the Old Kitchen at Goodwood on Saturday, May 31, at 9:15 AM. Joval Smith will present the slate of officers. New business will include discussion of a not-for-profit status society in the eyes of the IRS.

2003 BULB SALE

Chairman Clara Jane Smith (385-3324) will get the committee together in early June. All comments are welcome. There will be first time offerings as well as the old standbys. Pre-order forms will go out in June.

THE MERRY, MERRY MONTH OF MAY

May is membership time, according to the by-laws. Tradition has modified this deadline as it is easier to pay dues when ordering bulbs. If you do not plan to order bulbs, DUES ARE DUE, unless your mailing label shows dues paid for 04 or later. Mail dues to Mary Maud Sharpe at 7020 Apalachee Parkway, Tallahassee, FL 32311-4122.

Welcome to the 41 new members! You will notice an 04 on your mailing label to indicate that you are paid for the 03-04 year. We now have 197 members!

E-MAIL

Enrollment in the e-mail club is open. If you would like to receive your society stuff by e-mail, contact Linda Williams at lindamwil@earthlink.net. If you wish to change your e-mail status, now is the time. We thank all e-mailers for helping the Society to "save a penny" (actually, 37 of them!).

THE CONVICT RETURNS

Dubbed the convict caterpillar by Thomas

County Master Gardeners, this black and white striped eating machine was found in the Van Beck garden on Thursday, May 1. This event was noted in the *Tallahassee Democrat* and the county extension offices were notified. As usual, all members of the Amaryllidaceae family were fair game with lycoris on the top of the list. Fortunately, five days of picking a half pint of caterpillars resulted in no bulb eating, but there was a 12 foot swath of mown foliage. The last visits of this invader were in 1996 and 1997. The moth, *Xanthopasts timas Cram* is small, has an irregular pink blotch on each forewing and is our only true pest.

TIDBITS

FDS member Mary Ann Tonnicleffe made an educational display illustrating the original daffodils brought by settlers to north Florida and south Georgia. The board was first displayed at the Annual Flower Show of the Tallahassee Garden Club.

Sarah Kinar's color illustrated article, "How to Plant Flower Bulbs in Central Florida", published on February 1, 2003, included information gathered from the FDS. The test gardens in central Florida and a phone interview with Linda Van Beck were the main thrust of the article. 'Twas great p.r. and well written information for Zone 9A gardeners.

Fla. Daff.com

In February, the FDS board authorized a new website and server. FlaDaff.com is up and running with just a few bugs to be worked out. Lots of bells and whistles — we look great!

ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW

March 1 and 2 were wet, damp days, but the dafs loved it. Not many visitors for the talk or show on Saturday, but lots of literature was passed out and 20 new members signed up. Volunteers included Lenny Kennedy, Marge Orrick, Weej Broderson, Lori Johnson and her mother, Mary Henry, Bob and Jean Denk, Kay Chastain, Jo Folsome, and Dot Roberts. Flowers were later taken to Big Bend Hospice, Westminster Oaks and Miracle Hill Nursing Home.

One important aspect of the show is the public record of daffodils exhibited. The daffodils exhibited will be listed in the next newsletter, which will deal with the Annual Bulb Sale of bulbs for this area.

The total of 58 different daffodils was the highest number exhibited to date. Without Mary Maud's great refrigerator, the total would have been greatly reduced as many February bloomers were preserved for the show.

DEDICATIONS

The **John C. Van Beck Memorial Garden**, a designated section within Guyte P. McCord Park in Tallahassee, was dedicated by Florida Daffodil Society members on March 8, 2003. The weather was lovely, and the dafs, walk and bridge looked great as did the white "pagoda" tent erected for guests.

Introductory remarks were given by Brenda Pratt of the Tallahassee Department of Parks and Recreation.

Donna Legare of Native Nurseries recounted John's (notorious) ways. Here tale of how he not-so-subtly had made his presence known when commenting on all the inappropriate cultivars for sale at her establishment caused many a knowing chuckle (including one from Gene Ellis). She elaborated on how, over the years, John had educated her, then subtly and expertly roped her into being his stand-in for giving talks and lectures on growing daffodils, carrying on John's goal of education.

Gene Ellis, former owner of Tallahassee Nurseries, lauded John's successes in public plantings across town. Gene dubbed him the "Johnny Appleseed of Daffodils" of Tallahassee, dropping daffodils wherever he went. He saw John's efforts as furthering a long-standing

Tallahassee tradition of civic involvement and beautification, essential to the town's character and sense of community.

Clara Jane Smith, garden designer, unveiled with great flourish the bronze memorial plaque set in a large lava rock. FDS president Linda Van Beck gave the closing remarks. Everyone received daffodil stems as tokens of the event.

Smith-Williams Service Center, 2295 Pasco Street, held a dedication ceremony April 1 in honor of **Mrs. Aquilina C. Howell**. Mrs. Queen Burton presided and music was provided by the Bond School Boys' Choir. The City's Parks and Recreation Department, Florida Daffodil Society, Friends of the Park, and Native Nurseries (who loaned Audrey Alessi) all worked with director Gloria Anderson and assistant supervisor Frank Holmes to prepare and install a beautiful public planting of daffodils, complete with a white wire garden fence.

ADS

The American Daffodil Society will celebrate its 50th anniversary in Washington, D.C. next April. The FDS belongs to the Southeast Region along with 3 other societies —2 in Tennessee (Knoxville and Nashville) and one in Georgia (Atlanta). There are a few members in North and South Carolina. The ADS Regional Vice President Bonnie Campbell (Atlanta) is assisted by regional directors Sandra Frank (Nashville), Lois Van Wie (Knoxville) and Sara Van Beck (Atlanta and member FDS). Lately, the FDS has not taken an active role in the ADS. We did petition and receive a medal honoring John Van Beck and historic daffodils and the current FDS president Linda Van Beck spoke at the last convention on public plantings.

The FDS has few ADS individual members and does not hold an ADS-sanctioned competition/exhibition flower show.