

SILVER MEDAL 2003: RICHARD EZELL



The Silver Medal of the American Daffodil Society is awarded to an individual deemed worthy by the Honors Committee for recognition for outstanding service to the American Daffodil Society. The Silver Medal for 2003 was awarded to Richard Ezell of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

Richard's years in the ADS have been an example of all that a member can mean to the American Daffodil Society, from his beginning more than three decades ago as a novice exhibitor in local shows on through to the Presidency of the ADS, and many other contributions in the years since that time.

Not only has he been a fine grower and exhibitor of daffodils, but he is generous in the sharing of bulbs and of kindly-worded constructive criticism. He is also a much-in-demand Judging Schools instructor, witty, succinct, and realistic.

Dr. Bill Bender, of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, introduced Richard to serious daffodil growing, and also led him into increasingly active ADS membership at the local, regional, and national levels. In Dr. Bender's later years, Richard made it possible for him to continue traveling and exhibiting, culminating in encouragement to create a winning Mitsch trophy entry at the last convention Dr. Bender was able to attend. Richard also continues to

work to ensure that many promising seedlings, unnamed at Dr. Bender's death, are tested in various growing conditions, and are slowly finding their way into most receptive commercial markets.

Richard has always worked very hard in support of the Chambersburg Garden Club's annual Daffodil Show, one of the three oldest in the United States. This support has expanded to the organization of the Tuscarora Daffodil Society. He has also been very active in the Mid-Atlantic Region. People remember his hilarious speeches and his incisive judging school instructions; they rarely notice the dozens of small tasks he quietly takes care of in support of these groups.

Several regional and committee offices in the ADS culminated in the four-year progression to the presidency of the American Daffodil Society in 1992-1994. Richard handled the work of the Society efficiently and with a vision for the future, as well as, in the words of one long-time member, "making Board meetings a happy time." He made us laugh, and at times, made us feel better when we wanted to cry, such as his opening speech at the 1993 convention, when we listened to a memorial roll of thirteen of our valued members. In recent years he has served as Parliamentarian, deftly keeping meetings on track and running smoothly.

Richard's talents as a public speaker have been used often for the ADS, as those who have heard him delineate the search for the "Wild Daffodils of Arkansas" will not forget. His writing talents have enriched the pages of the *Journal*, and through his photography, he has taken us places we may never go in person. He has been a fine ambassador for the ADS in many trips across both oceans, most recently in a pair of "Down Under" journeys. His newest possession, a digital camera, promises an ever greater sharing of daffodil experiences.