



The Indiana Ledger

A Triannual Publication of the Indiana Daffodil Society
Suzy Wert, Editor

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June 2004

From the Garden of the President



Greetings Daffodillians

The daffodil season was rather compressed this year, I remember leaving for Washington DC and coming back to a garden which must have hit full bloom and burned out the same day, but our show was beautiful, in part because of the beautiful arrangements by the Fall Creek Garden Club members. Congratulations to all the winners and new exhibitors! We have too many people to list here to thank for the set up and tear down of the show, but one person should be mentioned: Don Cunningham, Show Chairman Kay's husband, who helped put away tables and boxes to the bitter end, and suffered a gall bladder attack the same night! Apparently he was in pain the whole afternoon! Thanks, Don! (And don't do it again!!!)

Our summer picnic will be at Mrs. Link's property on Sunday, June 27. I'm not sure of the status of the property, but there is every chance that this will be our last time there before Indiana University takes over. I was stopped in the garden this spring by Mr. L.K. Alexander of I.U. and he told me the School of Parks and Recreation would likely be taking over the property to make a Bed and Breakfast to be used as a real-life learning situation/commercial venture. The Astronomy Department would have the Observatory, and the Botany Department was looking into the possibility

that it would use part of the acreage as an outdoor learning lab. All this was quite up in the air when I talked to him in April, but that was the plan as of then.

I went to Dr. John Red's in Niles, Michigan in late May and dug bags of named bulbs for our sale. Serious thanks go to members Beth Holbrooke & John Beck who graciously dug part of the bulbs for their home Society in St. Louis, but also dug for the IDS. Also, I must tell you if it weren't for members Sara Kinne, Sonja Eaton, Joe Hamm and Pat Siegman, the bulbs would be rotting away in my shed! They took large quantities to dry out in their sheds so I wouldn't be overwhelmed. Now it's time to bag them up for the sale!

The bulbs will be available at the picnic. The easiest way to handle it all is for each member to take a bag and a handful of net bags and bag them up for the sale. We'll give you (loose) guidelines as to pricing and you do the best you can do. All work is worth points toward some good bulbs at the October meeting, plus you get to keep a couple of whatever you bag up. Not too shabby!

Hope to see you all at the picnic!

Suzy Wert, President

Summer Pitch-In Picnic at Mrs. Link's

The picnic this year is at the property of Helen Link, Sunday, June 27 at noon. Bring a covered dish – salad, fruit, vegetable or dessert and the club will have meat, bread, drinks and service. Go to Mapquest if you've never been there before, but as a refresher the directions from Indianapolis are: On the south side of town, take 67 south from 465. Go through new construction, development, and strip malls until it all thins out and it's just countryside again. Look for the 'Brooklyn' sign pointing left, but take the OBSERVATORY Rd. To the right. You go up very steeply. Continue for about 1 1/2 miles on Observatory Rd. Mrs. Link's is on the right and we'll put a sign up.

Your IDS Officers	
President	Suzy Wert 317-259-0060
Vice President	Kay Cunningham 812-876-7947
Corresponding Secretary	Helen Merrill - 317-255-3433
Recording Secretary	Mary Kraft - 317-773-5361
Treasurer	Sonja Eaton - 317-844-5292

Earn Your Bonus Bulb!

There is still time for earning points for bonus bulbs. Projects still to be worked on are: 1.) digging at Helen Link's, 2.) bagging bulbs, 3.) digging and bringing your surplus bulbs for the two sales, 4.) working at the sales, 5). donating time to weeding at Holliday Park.

2004 Meeting Dates

Sunday, June 27 - Picnic at Mrs. Link's --Also, Mitsch orders due to Sonja Eaton. Look for the "D" after the price for a 25% discount. (See article left)

Sunday, July 25, Bulb Sale 9:00 a.m. setup Holliday Park Nature Center

Saturday, August 12 - Meeting & Bulb and Plant Exchange HOLLIDAY PARK Nature Center 1:00

The original meeting was supposed to be "Personalities in the Daffodil World", but we're having trouble locating slides.

Sunday, August 22, 9:00 a.m. setup Holliday Park Nature Center

Saturday, October 9 - Meeting & Bulb and Plant Exchange HOLLIDAY PARK NATURE CENTER 1:00

Lisa Atwell, "Garden Design after the Daffies Die"

Blossoming Bargains

Mitsch Daffodils Sold at a Discount to
IDS Members!

Don't forget, we have a club order going in to Mitsch Novelty Daffodils on June 30th. You'll get a 25% discount on bulbs that are marked with a "D" in their catalog. Don't have a Mitsch catalog? Call, e-mail or write for one – they've got color pictures! Mitsch Novelty Daffodils, P.O. Box 218 Hubbard, OR 97032 Phone 503-651-2742, Fax 503-651-2792, e-mail havensr@web-ster.com.

Attaining Better Drainage

~by Richard Windsor, Australia

There are many types of clays in soil profiles, the primary distinction may be made between what are known as **dispersible** and **non-dispersible** types. If a dry clod of clay is placed in a shallow dish and partly covered with relatively pure water, the clay will absorb water. If the clay slakes and slumps across the bottom of the plate in a fine layer of mud it is termed dispersible. If on the other hand, the clay slakes forming soft almost gel-like small lumps and tends to retain its original shape it is considered non-dispersible. Clods of soil may contain varying amounts of dispersible and non dispersible components, although it is normal for one type to predominate.

The treatment of each type is different. Non-dispersible clays respond well to both sand and organic amendments but dispersible clays do not. Dispersible clays have an excess of leachable metallic ions, the usual is sodium but magnesium-rich clays are also common. These can be improved with organic matter but not with sand. The normal treatment is to displace the soluble metallic ion with an insoluble ion. The best source is gypsum which is an impure form of calcium sulphate. The calcium displaces the sodium or magnesium and converts the dispersible clay into a non-dispersible form.

In order to establish the optimal treatment it is necessary to first determine the type of clay. However, as gypsum is not toxic, does not alter soil pH, and is relatively cheap it is feasible to incorporate it into the soil at a rate of 1 to 2 kilograms per square meter (2 to 4 pounds per square yard). The heavier rate is applicable if the clay is dense pale and appears to be dispersible. Organic matter and sand then become useful.

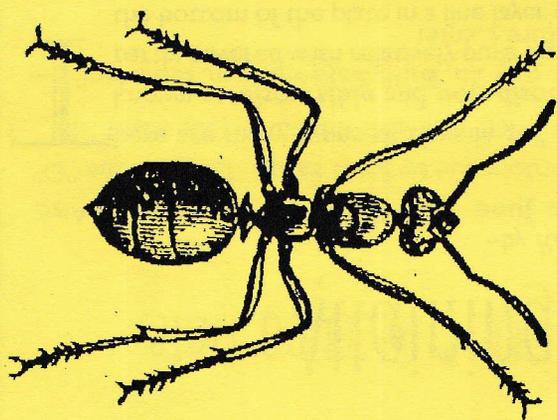
Percolation tests are useful, details of test procedures can be obtained from the engineering departments of municipal authorities or texts on soil testing. The essence is to compare the rate of infiltration of two soils in situ, the soil under question and a soil of known or presumed good characteristics. The simplest techniques involve the time taken for a given volume of water to be absorbed by the soil. It is essential that the soil be undisturbed so two methods spring to mind, the first is to dig a hole to the chosen depth, the diameter is irrelevant, I use a 4 inch soil auger as it removes the minimal amount of soil and causes minimal compaction of the walls of the hole, the other is to use a 1 gallon can with both top and bottom cut out to form a tube which is then forced into the soil to form a reservoir to contain the water. If the second is used the can must be forced through the most permeable topsoil in the better drained soil and to a comparable depth in the soil under question.

If there is some slope, then sub-soil drainage can be installed to take excess water to a lower part of the garden. Otherwise it may be possible to divert the water into the municipal stormwater system. The use of rototillers in this case can also be highly detrimental as it destroys soil structure and makes the soil fragments (peds) smaller and in fact mimics the characteristics of a dispersible soil.

I have dispersible soils and in fact, use a number of techniques. I use subsoil drainage with slotted plastic agricultural drainage pipe which is available in diameters from 2 to 4 inches. I use gypsum and sand or gravel and as much organic amendment as I can manage. I make, and use, as much compost as I can. My soils are now free draining but moisture retentive.

INVITATION

Indiana Daffodil Society • Suzy Wert • 7350 N. Illinois Street • Indianapolis, IN 46260



Summer Pitch-In Picnic at Mrs. Link's Garden

Sunday, June 27 at Noon

Mrs. Link's Garden

1660 Observatory Rd.

Brooklyn, INDIANA