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# florida daffodil society news



ISSUE NO.

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OCTOBER 2005

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## COME GET YOUR BULBS!

**2005 BULB SALE**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29**

**9:15 AM – 11:00 AM**

**GOODWOOD MUSEUM AND GARDENS**

**JUBILEE BUILDING**

*(handicapped parking is in front)*

“Collection Bags” will be tagged with a surname and hopefully will be arranged in alphabetical order for you or your representative to claim. There will be a smattering of bulbs for sale. The lucky first fifteen “winners” of one Gold Coin daffodil bulb are as follows: G. Hardcastle, L. Johnson, T. Bourassa, B. Smith, W. Reed, D. Thomas, B. Denk, Schoenfelder, J. Turbidy, S. Nickolson, D. Jacobs, Portero, K. Folsom, J. Taylor, P. Porter.

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## WHAT'S NEW

Our new bulb information tags have pictures! Thanks to FDS member Martin Young, each professionally designed label carries a photograph. Martin saw the need to show people what they were planting and volunteered the services of his business, *Young Design*. As the FDS is in the process of expanding bulb sales to the general public, these new tags were sorely needed.

By October 1, 20,500 bulbs for FDS related bulb sales had been ordered. Public plantings include 250 bulbs to complete the Carlton bed at the Dothan Area Botanical Gardens, 1050 bulbs to match Carlton planted last year by the Washington County Master Gardeners around the “perfect” lake in DeFuniak Springs, and up to 1,000 Carlton to be planted near the entrance to Washington Oaks State Park. Bulbs will be added to our 5 joint demonstration gardens and new plantings made at the Discovery Gardens in Traveres.

Bulb Sales this fall include Garden Clubs of Andalusia, Alabama and Chipley, Santa Rosa, Escambia, Bunell Master Gardeners and the Friends of North West Gardens will be our partners in selling daffodil bulbs at their fall festival.

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## MILESTONE

A milestone for the FDS will be reached this month, when Linda Van Beck conducts a session at the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Florida Master Gardener Continued Training Conference. The byline reads “Learn how to have success with these bulbs even in Florida.” The road to IFAS recognition is a long one. The Van

Beck's book, Daffodils in Florida, will be for sale. Much research still needs to be done in Central and South Central Florida so the FDS hopes to gain master gardener volunteers.

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## NOTES FROM THE GARDEN

Yes, bulb buying time is here. Around the first of December the phone starts to ring: "I forgot to plant the dafs, now what should I do?" First, check the bulbs for soft spots, especially above the basal plate – an indication of lurking basal rot. Look for signs of desiccation, as small bulbs can quickly dry out. If all looks good, regardless of the calendar, plant and water in well and expect a late blooming. Recently, campnelli bulbs (N. x odorus) were examined. The 100 medium size bulbs had been indoors in a mesh bag for nearly a year. When the many layers of dried bulb tunic and parts were peeled away, a small ¼ to ½ inch live bulb was found. The guess is how many years it will take for the bulbs to reach blooming size – probably 4-5 years. The need to plant immediately after purchasing should be recognized especially as a help for bulbs to bloom close to their normal time. Bulbs usually bloom late the first year due to trauma caused by the shock of lighting changes in time zone and storage conditions. The late blooming makes some bulbs more susceptible to the blasting effects of early March heat waves.

A few years ago the warning went out not to plant single bulbs. This does not mean you can't plant one kind of bulb with a batch of another variety. A single bulb blooming ahead of its neighbors (such as a Carlton in a batch of Trevithians) can be very effective. Except for some species or old historic, solitary bulbs dwindle from lack of root contact and the chemicals let off by daffodil roots.

Thank goodness for weeds! This year high soil temperatures became a problem for shallow planted or over-crowded daffodils, and shade from the weeds was much appreciated by the dafs. Hopefully, no flower buds fried. In the Van Beck garden, weeds are pulled, dried in the garage and burned to make potash.

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## DUES

The FDS Board has tabled the issue of dues collection until November. All 04's as indicated on the mailing label are eligible to participate and pay dues at the bulb sale on Saturday, October 29.

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## WORDSWORTH

Joseph Cecil Wingard, retired english/history teacher with Andalusia Alabama High School, has made William Wordsworth's "vales and hills" a reality. For the last several years, he has organized the yearly planting of five hundred or more daffodils on a hill near the high school. Each daffodil represents a graduate of the high school. Some of the daffodils purchased at FDS bulb sales were donated to this cause.

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## ADS SANCTIONED SHOW

At the Annual Meeting, the Board approved an American Daffodil Society (ADS) sanctioned horticultural exhibition to be held in conjunction with the Annual Flower Show (March 4-5, 2006). That was the easy part. Somehow there is a feeling of planning a wedding not knowing if the groom and guests will show up. The first step was to submit our request before ADS and receive the official "how to do it" stuff. Later we will purchase the cards and ribbons.

As ours will be a small show, we need only two judges and the nicest and best have agreed to come: Bonnie Campbell, of Fayetteville, Georgia, and FDS member Jackie Turbidy, of Sea Island, Georgia. Tallahassee Nurseries is happy to "expand" our space in the greenhouse. The main problem is the rickety slats on their plant shelves. Emmett Owens solved that problem – sheets of plywood that fit over the stands. Then everything could be sheeted or painted.

Yesterday I saw a photo of the Texas Daffodil Society show – flowers falling out of soda bottles in their original wood crates. We will not look like Texas. Al Mead, one of our founding father, made a big batch of "proper" wooden holders complete with test tube hole and card slot. All we need to do is change

the color from teal to black. The Georgia Daffodil Society has offered to provide risers and flower holders. We supply the “stocking stuffers”, boxwood twigs that support stems.

FDS wants to nail down the first weekend in March as Daffodil Days, so we have an added attraction. Carolyn Hawkins, noted author, lecturer and flower designer, will demonstrate designs using daffodils. Due to lack of space, there will be no other flower arrangements. Our first publicity will be in the *Democrat's* Garden Calendar, when we will invite readers to attend daffodil lectures given by Donna LaGare, Native Nurseries, on October 12 and Linda Van Beck, Tallahassee Nurseries, October 22, and advise them to purchase February-blooming daffodils so they can participate in the horticultural exhibition.

To demystify the entry card, we will provide examples and review procedures in the next Newsletter. There are many ribbons offered for group displays. I doubt most of us will have 3 or more of the same variety blooming at the same time. The way of refrigerating dafs will be reviewed as we all know that without Mary Maude's flower refrigerator, we wouldn't have a March daffodil show.

The idea is to keep it all simple. No engraved platters or free lotto tickets will be given as prizes. The only rules are adults only and you must grow your own daffodils.

We do need lots of helpers – painting, assisting participants and judges, as well as our usual activities. FDS editor Phyllis Graham has offered to type and help prepare the flower guide. If you want to join in the fun, please leave a message at 850-878-9753, or sign up at the Bulb Sale. We will gear up in November!

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