

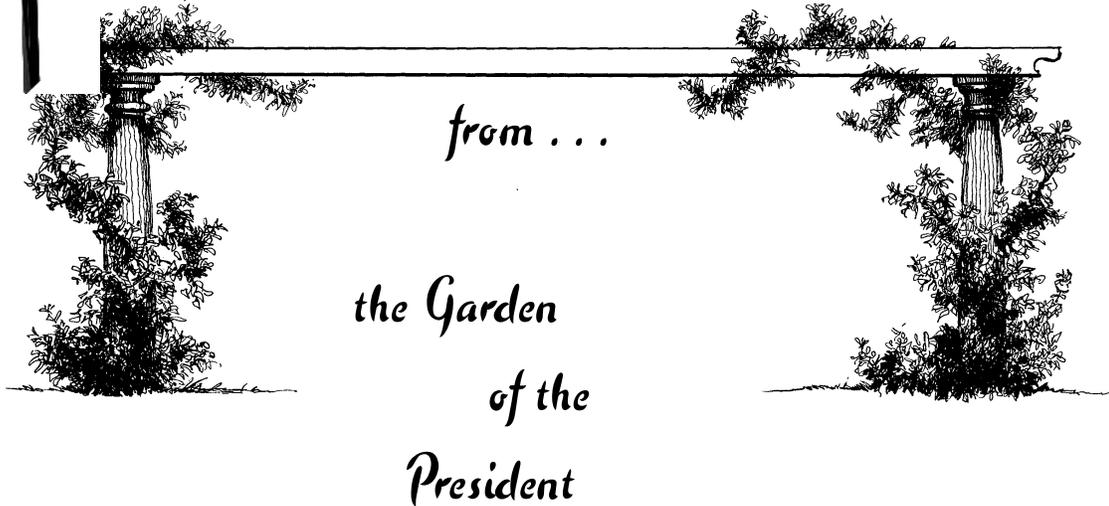


The Indiana Ledger

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

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from . . .

*the Garden
of the
President*

Greetings to you daffodil enthusiasts.

I. This is a year of change within our organizations and a time of turmoil with the disaster that Katrina dealt. In a more normal (although that is getting harder to define) time, I would be fondling my soon-to-be-planted bulbs in a loving and obsessive way, dreaming of the flowers to come. To be honest, my attention and thoughts aren't with my bounty this fall as my mind returns to the monumental losses the people of the gulf states are experiencing. I desire leadership and direction for these refugees.

In plain language, as your new IDS president, I want to spell out for you what you can expect from me: I can be good at listening and hearing what you have to say but first you have to speak. I believe in a participatory club and I have learned that lesson through a long and arduous way. Nobody really asked me to do much the first five years I was in IDS. I didn't think to ask what I could do, and they didn't tell me. Eventually I learned that it was much more enjoyable when I gave back to the club and took on some responsibility. Current members, get ready, because I no longer have a problem asking for what I want or need. What I expect of you is to be able to trust your "yes" as much as your "no". Please do not give a "yes" when asked to help and then drop the ball. Let us build our new relationship on consensual decisions and trust. I value you people as respected members of IDS and look forward to working with you in the club. Without you, there is no IDS.

I am sending out a call to action to each and every one of you to become active in some way in our Indiana Daffodil Society. I will be a different kind of president than Suzy and Joe were. Being the kind of person who normally "doesn't run for office" has been my mantra. However, with Joe gone and Suzy pulling back after serving extended terms as president, I realize that I can step up to the plate with your help. We are coming together as a team and I am hopeful that these bonds are strengthening. I don't have the answers, but with your good help, I bet we can find the answers.

Discussions I hope to have with you at our October meeting include ways to share more of the responsibilities involved in our club. At the present, key players seem to be the same people the majority of the time. A suggestion I have has evolved out of my own hospitality chairship role (which is available at the October meeting) and my involvement at our bulb sales these last 3 years. I have written tentative guidelines for use by a chairperson overseeing our bulb sales. This is not hard; what is important is knowing what needs to be done and pulling willing workers on board and then delegating the tasks. No one should ever be doing this alone. We also need a publicity chair. Traits that make for successful publicity for the club involve seeing the big picture, characteristic promptness, and perseverance. We need to reach out and publicize not only our bulb sale dates and show date, but also our meeting dates. Get the idea?

Our objective of the Indiana Daffodil Society as printed in the 2004 yearbook is “to increase the general interest in the use of daffodils through:

1. Exchange of interest and experience
2. Study and testing of varieties and cultures
3. Promoting and encouraging wider use and appreciation of daffodils
4. Encouraging breeding and improvements of daffodils particularly for the mid-west climate
5. Study of means to promote the health of daffodils
6. Setting standards for showing and judging of daffodils in shows

Our organization has a commitment from the eighties to keep \$7000 in our treasury bank account. When hurricane Katrina struck, there was some discussion among your officers of IDS regarding a donation by the club. To give directly to a relief fund rests with us as individuals. However, Suzy Wert is aware of a daffodil community in Arkansas that is heavily involved in giving emergency aid to hurricane victims. She will tell you more about these generous people elsewhere in this letter. What we might do as a club, can be discussed at our upcoming meeting.

Thanks for staying with me and reading this first “message from the president” Subsequent notes will be less involved. I am looking forward to the ADS board meeting in Ohio at the end of this month and I want to remind new members about the Midwest regional meeting October 22 in Dayton Ohio. It’s an opportunity to reach out and expand your flower connections.

Finally, I’m proud of the multi-page spread in the current Midwest Living Magazine featuring Burnham Woods Nursery. This is a jewel of a place right here in Bloomington that is a joy to visit. Last days for business this year are September 29 & 30.

See you soon.
Sara Kinne, IDS President

MEETING DATE CHANGE!
FROM OCTOBER 9 to
Sunday, October 17th

HOLLIDAY PARK NATURE CENTER 1:30
Sun. October 17th - Bulb and Plant Exchange, plus
Lisa Atwell speaking on companion plants.

Bring. \$5.00 for 2005 dues and a satchel for all
your goodies. Bring anything you have that's
garden related for the exchange table, and if you
have a Show and Grow, you might bring that so
you can determine which of the bulbs on the
exchange table you'd like to pick first.

Dues. You might want to take advantage of paying
your dues at the October 17th meeting. Dues are
to be paid by January if you wish to be listed in the
2005 directory.



Yearbook. The yearbook has some typos in it and
Mary Kraft went through to highlight them at our
August meeting. Please amend your listing if
appropriate at the master list we have on the table.

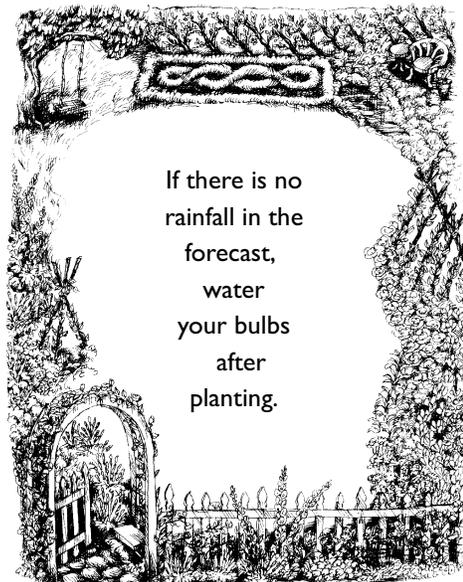
We have a bumper crop of good show quality
bulbs for Awards and for the exchange table.

Meeting Ideas. If you have an idea of what you
would like for a 2005 meeting please let us know.

Welcome New Members!

We have a nice new crop of new members, please
welcome them at the October meeting!

Stephanie Ellis - Indianapolis
Joy Snyderman - Ft. Wayne
Jeanie Foster - Greenfield
Francesca Levitt - Indianapolis
Lucinda Dunaway - Plainfield
Cathy Dwyer - Westfield
Connie Milan - Roann
Martina Goodwin - Zionsville
Miss Chelsea Hutchinson - Zionsville
Peg Powers - Indianapolis



Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee will be putting
together the slate for the October 2005 meeting.
They've been assigned the task to come up with a
full slate as outlined in the By-Laws or a By-Law
revision if they are not able to fill the slate. Please,
if you are asked to serve, say **yes!**

Nuts and Bolts of Planting - Rows or Squares?

~by Suzy Wert, Indianapolis, Indiana

Chriss Rainey, from Virginia, and I used to write dueling articles for the ADS Journal on the methods of our madness. I wrote that I planted in the 'block method', which is planting up to five bulbs of a variety in a one-foot square, or block. Chriss argued on the opposing page of the Journal that she planted in the 'line method', which is to take all the bulbs of a variety and plant them in a line (row), then planting a marker for the next variety and the bulbs of the next variety in the same line until the end of the row. At that time, I had reasons I felt the 'block method' was far superior, namely the daffodils looked better and are more attractive growing in clumps, but a couple years ago I started planting using the 'line method' because at digging time, I was worried that I made too many mistakes where clumps had grown together using the 'block method'.

Chriss basically said in her article that the line method is preferable because the bulbs are easier to handle for show. I have maps showing each method, but the line method has an unexpected positive that Chriss didn't mention in her article: It's easier to slip a few extra bulbs in a line than it is a clump. Two years ago, I started planting in a line. I redid beds deeply with a tiller and then dug long trenches and planted within each trench. Once the entire length of the trench is opened, I added better soil at the bottom, made it slope slightly for drainage, patted it down, added a layer of perlite, and set the bulbs down. For each variety, it would be: A little space, marker, bulbs from largest to smallest, and the plastic yogurt name tag along the side of the bulbs. Then it would be a little space and then the marker for the next variety until the entire length was planted. This year, I got some bonus bulbs from Mitsch and they were ones I already had. I just went to the place where I already had the bulbs, moved the tag for the next variety slightly and tucked the new Mitsch bulb

in at the end of the row. If I had sliced into a bulb, it would have been a little baby bulb and worth the sacrifice to get one straight from Mitsch in Oregon. This year I also got some more 'Stanway' from John Reed. I was able to plant about 5 bulbs along the side of the line, thus making a double row of Stanway. I didn't get too close, I know, because I barely saw the layer of perlite from the trench. The other factor Chriss didn't mention in her article



was the ease of making the map and the ability to store it in the computer. If you use maps on the computer, it's important to keep the name of the bed the same, but you need to have another file name to store multiple year's worth of maps. Little England stays the same, but it's Little England 2001, Little England 2002, and Little England 2003 on the map titles and file names.

Before I was able to say whether lines or blocks were superior, I needed to wait until I dug a full bed of bulbs planted in a line, and this summer I did that in two different beds. The verdict? The square method is easier, but not by a whole lot. The bulbs planted in the line method are difficult to keep straight if you plant just a teeny tiny bit too close in the first place or the rows aren't exactly parallel, and I can say I had both problems. And, it's important to mark the bulbs somehow on a map so you know if there are spaces or gaps. All-in-all, I think the block method is preferred, both because there seem to be fewer mixups and because they look a whole lot better in bloom! Less like a vegetable garden and more like a flower garden.