



The Indiana Ledger

A Triannual Publication of the Indiana Daffodil Society
Suzy Wert, Editor Vol. XVII No. 3 October 2005

From the Garden of the President



Greeting Daffodilians!

The big news is that our October meeting date and time have been pushed back to Sunday, October 17 at 1:30 so it doesn't conflict with the Auction down at Mrs. Link's which is on Saturday, Oct. 9. Her son, Goethe, reports that "everything must go" and I heard from so many IDS members that they wanted to go that I asked **Kay Cunningham** to see if we could get another date at Holliday Park. Mrs. Link's son, Goethe, has this to say about the auction: "old refrigerators, mowers, tractors, computers, projectors, beds, furniture, etc. There will be some daffodil plates and such."

Our sales were about \$600.00 each – down by half. **Sara & Pete Kinne** set up a beautiful booth at the Bloomington Farmer's market which made another \$300.00, and Sara has gone on to sell several hundred dollars' worth of bulbs on her own. This is the first year we haven't had **Joe Hamm** to command the bulb digging at Mrs. Link's, clean the bulbs, store the bulbs, plus set up and host the bulb packing parties, so unless we can think of an alternate source of income (or get a Joe Hamm clone!) this is probably the way of the future. Many thanks to the bulb cleaners, especially the people who helped me so much by storing them right after the dig at John Reed's: **Sonja Eaton, Sara Kinne, Joe Hamm & Pat Siegman**. It was such a huge help because I have no way to spread the bulbs out to allow them to dry! The cleaners & baggers will be getting a gift from the Society at the October meeting.

We have a new member who volunteered to do the IDS weeding at Holliday Park! Be sure to meet, and thank, **Stephanie Ellis** at the October meeting! She has single-handedly allowed us to continue meeting at Holliday Park by putting in the many hours weeding.

Our extra bulbs have gone to **Kay Cunningham's** Garden club in Bloomington, The Fall Creek Garden Club for their scholarship program, **Marion Harcourt's** First Congregational Church, and **Stephanie Ellis's** daughter's preschool this year. If you have a worthy cause for next year, please let me know.

Hope to see you Sunday, October 17th!

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 ammend your listing if
appropriate at the master list we have on the table.

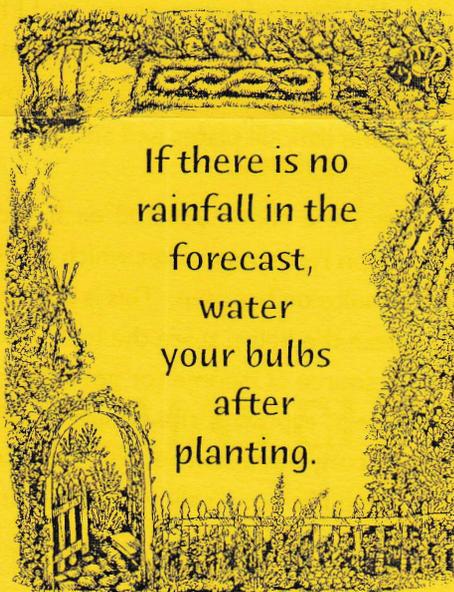
We have a **bumper crop** of good show quality bulbs
for Awards and for the exchange table.

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



If there is no
rainfall in the
forecast,
water
your bulbs
after
planting.

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?

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.

Meeting Date Change
Sunday, October 17
1:30 Holiday Park
See Inside!



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



MEETING DATE HAS CHANGED!

Next Meeting -

Bulb & Plant Exchange

Sunday, October 17th 1:30 PM

Read More ---- Inside!