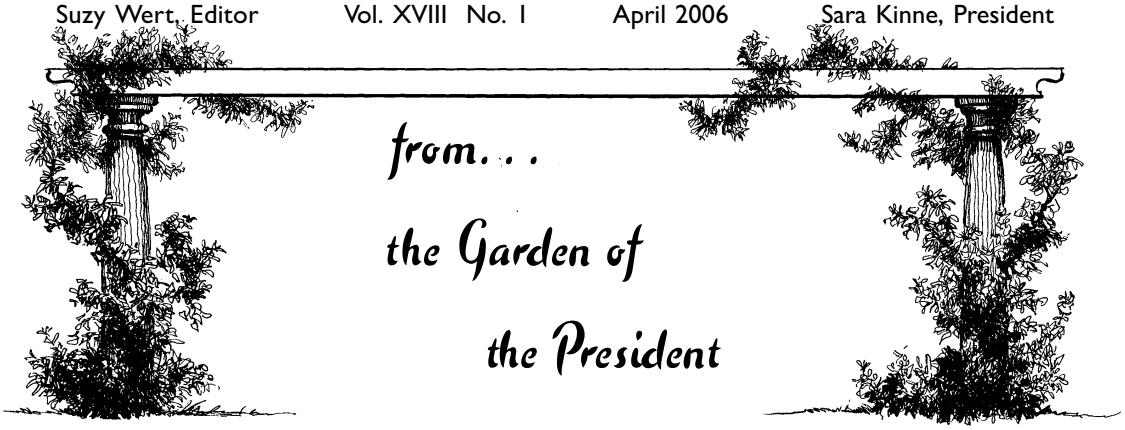
The Indiana Ledger

A Triannual Publication of the Indiana Daffodil Society
Suzy Wert, Editor Vol. XVIII No. 1 April 2006 Sara Kinne, President



from. . . the Garden of the President

Dear Daffodil Friends,

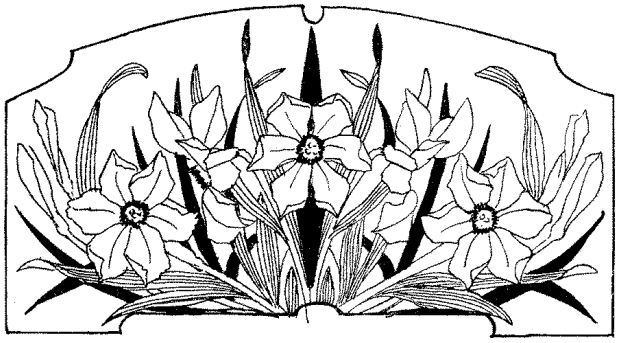
I'm thrilled to find our first daffodil of this season in bloom displaying a glimmer of spring on a south facing hillside. This little sweetie is from a clump lifted from Mrs. Link's sod three years ago precisely for its early bloom traits. Our mild winter has forced its bloom to a record early date this third week of February. Every winter teaches me more and more about what I don't understand and that is, how do the daffodils come through when we had a 5 degree night two days ago? Of course there will be buds that will be wiped out by plunging temperatures but I feel encouraged by this first display of color. Our other pleasing surprises were the winter aconites that opened on Valentine's Day. They too came from Mrs. Link's and remind me of a special gardening day with Joe Hamm last spring.

As I write this I am aware that spring visitation opportunities to Mrs. Link's property are less definite as time marches on. If you love beauty and the outdoors and have never seen her work of art, give yourself a treat make the drive to Brooklyn this spring. Life is short; time is passing.

Our upcoming spring meeting will be on **Sunday, April 2 at 2:00 p.m. at Nora Library**. Note the new location and the later start time of 2PM. The program will involve daffodils flown in from the Mitsch growers in Oregon. Not only will this allow us to see quality flowers but it will provide a visual opportunity in deciphering daffodil division differences and offer better understanding of color coding. I will contribute cut stems from my garden for grooming instruction in anticipation of more members exhibiting at our upcoming show. Please attend---the rewards are many including cut flowers to take home.

See you soon,

Sara Kinne



2006 Calendar

Sunday, April 2, 2006 2:00 Nora Library Meeting Room. Flowers being flown in from Grant Mitsch Novelty Daffodils in Oregon. Come see what all the fuss is about! We'll also talk about how judges judge and grooming flowers for the show

Sat., April 29th - Judges School I Niles, Michigan

This could be a leg up for any ADS member who maybe wants to be a judge, but isn't quite sure.

Sun., April 30 - Bertrand Barn Show, Niles Michigan.

Normally we wouldn't make a big deal out of a show at Oakwood, but this is the place where all the daffodils for our sale will be coming from, so maybe a trip up there to see them in bloom and take pictures would be in order. There are opportunities to dig for the club, too, and naturally if you dig them, you can take some home, too.

Sunday, July 30 & Sunday, Aug 27 - Bulb Sales - Holliday Park 11:00 am

August 26 Regular Meeting & Bulb & Plant Exchange. 1:00 Nora Library

October 7 - Regular Meeting & Bulb & Plant Exchange. 1:00 Nora Library

2006 Daffodil Show

The IDS show will be at Holliday Park April 13 and 14. This venue represents a challenge because it is smaller than what we are accustomed to having. The Easter season nixed a church locale but I am positive that we can make this work with your good help. I need workers to help set up for the show on Wednesday, April 12 from 2PM-5PM. We can accomplish much by working together as we fill test tubes with water, set up the tables, etc. Show up, be counted and remember, you get points for your hours donated to the club, which yield reward bulbs in October.

Our North Central High School Daffodil Society youth will be working with their flower entries Wednesday evening at Holliday Park at the same time the Sierra Club has their meeting. Utilizing a public building will also impact IDS members as we prepare for the show on Thursday - that is, other people will be coming and going as we make our preparations.

Workers for teardown of the show are needed Friday, April14 after 12 noon. If memory serves me correctly, teardown and cleanup go quickly if we have help.

Holliday Park will open at 7AM on Thursday, April 13 for IDS members to groom and stage their flowers. Since the kitchen at Holliday Park is petite and the refrigerator tiny, having a pitch-in as we normally have will not work, so we're having the luncheon delivered. **We need members to bring a *dessert only* for the Judges' & Members' luncheon around noon on Thursday.** Plan to stay and see the show.

A Tip from Jason Delaney Bulb Curator at the Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis.

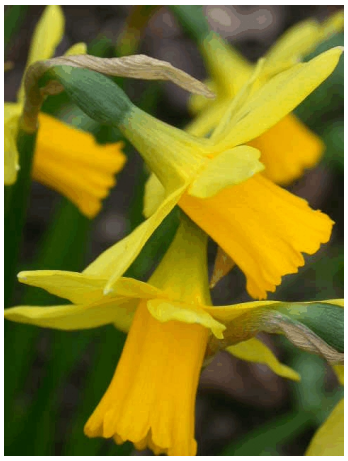
If you use liquid fertilier, add an all-purpose surfactant to the liquid feed, just be sure not to use too much. Usually the recommended rates are never enough, though, so adjust accordingly. Surfactants are available at most garden centers or hardware stores that carry a wide range of garden chemicals and fertilizers.

Another great, dual-purpose surfactant is castor oil. Very, very sticky, so be careful not to coat on too much, especially on a really hot, sunny day (typically not a spring day, more of a precaution for those who might use it in summer). Mix it with your liquid feed, and spray on. Feeds the bulbs and and repels the vermin at once. We have found that it works fairly well to repel rabbits, too.

ed. Note: You can meet Jason Delaney in person by volunteering to dig in Niles. Michigan this June. Several Daffodil Societies are there and it is a lot of fun. IDS ends up with a lot of bulbs for our sale. Let Suzy know if you want to be notified of the date: 317.259.0060

Daffodil Trivia Tete a Tete'

~by Jan Pennings, Breezand, Netherlands



About 30% of what we are growing in Holland is Tete a Tete, which means 600 hectare (1500 acres). Mostly used for potting.

Last year's figures of one flower auction were 17,000,000 pots. I also know that many pots are sold directly to Supermarkets. I think that 80% of the total crop is used for potting, and the rest for gardening. Most of the pots, about 90%, are on the market in January until one week before Easter. The number of bulbs of one acre is about 140,000-160,000, so you can understand what number we talking in total. Amazing!