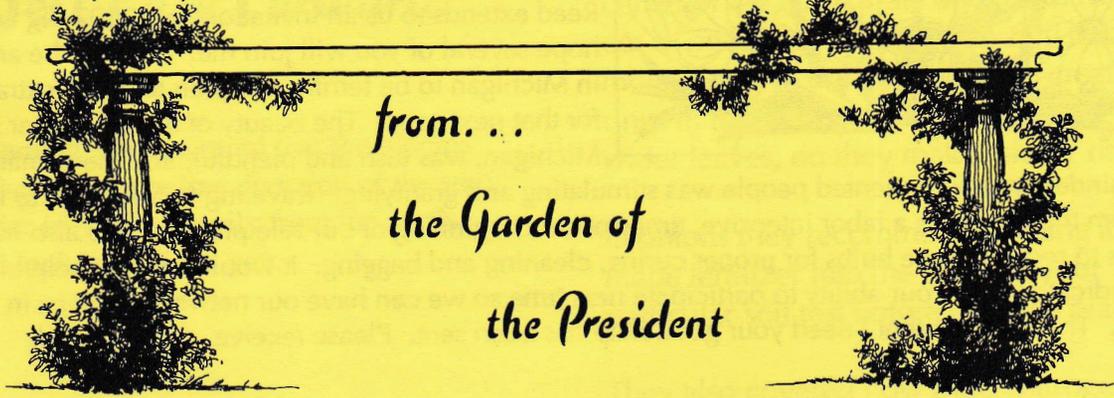


The Indiana Ledger

A Triannual Publication of the Indiana Daffodil Society
Suzy Wert, Editor Vol. XIV No. 2 Aug 2006 Sara Kinne, President



News from Her excellency, Madame President:

Greetings Daffodilians,

It is weather like this that reinforces my love of gardening in the fall and in the spring. I have a bit of trepidation about that confession because I wish it weren't true. At this time of year the garden gives me as much pleasure in my dreams of what will come as it does in its steamy, weed-choked reality. One long lived stroke of success and enjoyment has been the fragrance of lilies planted near our front door five years ago.

I'm pleased to report our show in April at a new venue, Holliday Park, was a big success. To the many members that participated I extend a huge thank you and kudos for a job well done. The concerns about the physical space

turned out to be a non-issue and the smaller size of the show display area resulted in a gorgeous visual. The Holliday Park staff was incredibly helpful and interested in our event and encouraged us to use the nature center for the 2007 show.. A partnership between Holliday Park and IDS has been established for our 2007 show date. It is lovely to feel wanted.

Our annual picnic was hosted by Libby Frey in Bloomington and her spectacular gardens made it feel as though we were strolling through a work of art. That feeling was enhanced by Gwen Gutwein who produced a plein air watercolor at her easel while we assembled lunch. The weather cooperated enough to hold off the rain until we were winding down. Frank Nyikos, owner of Walnut Grove Nursery in Unionville, donated door prizes of bulbs, a hosta, and a daylily.

As a club, the income of the IDS is in direct relation to the dollars we bring in at our two bulb sales. The bulbs sold at our first sale came entirely from the daffodil dig at John Reed's in Niles, Michigan this past June. As the only IDS member who was able to attend, I didn't know what to expect, but now I'm glad I



took a chance and did this. I found the whole experience enjoyable and educational, and now that I've done it, I want to influence other IDS members to consider taking a similar leap of faith. I hope John Reed extends to us an invitation to a 2007 dig and I hope several of you will join me. (I found the antiquing in Michigan to be terrific and plan to allow extra time for that next year.) The beauty of the area, near Lake Michigan, was lush and plentiful, and the camaraderie

of like-minded, mission oriented people was stimulating and gratifying. Traveling to Michigan to lift the bulbs from the ground is a labor intensive, time-specific beginning of our sale process. We also need members to receive those bulbs for proper curing, cleaning and bagging. It would be very helpful if you would indicate to me your ability to participate next June so we can have our network in place in advance. The message that I need your good help has been sent. Please receive. Enough said.

The bulb sale gained us 4 new members which is exciting and encouraging. My observation is that people who join IDS at a bulb sale are good participators with a genuine interest. Please welcome them as they are introduced at future meetings. Remember what it was like to not know anyone in the group when you were a newbie? You can help fix that for our newest members.

Our August meeting will have an informal program devoted to the handling and storage of bulbs, and best practices for planting. I'm looking forward to seeing you there at the Nora Library.

Sara Kinne

2006-2007 Calendar

Sunday, Aug 27 - Bulb Sale - Holliday Park
11:00 am. Bulb baggers come from 9:00-11:30.

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

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

April 12-13 2007 Daffodil Show at Holliday Park, with set up on the 11th. We are challenged with having lunch in the building, so some creative minds are needed!

Welcome New Members!

We hope you'll be able to come to our next meetings which are both bulb and plant exchanges!

Joyce Dagley - Indianapolis
Mike and Rosy Kowinski -
Indianapolis
Betty Pitt - Indianapolis

Put Your Best Face Forward

When planting, keep in mind that the blooms tend to face the prevailing direction of the sun; in a border viewed primarily from the north, they will look away from you.

Onions and Daffodils Have Much in Common

~by Keith Kridler, Texas

Soil structure is most important when it comes to holding nutrients. Nitrogen migrates through sandy soils or is flushed with water on down through the sand until it reaches a layer of impervious clay. Deeper plant roots take up nutrients on top of the clay layer and build leaves and stems with these building blocks and this is why mulch, especially leaves of trees are good to add to the top layer of your soil again. Leaves break down fairly quickly and these are "slow release" fertilizer pellets.

In our Master Gardener class I believe the PHD teacher said the reason to apply nitrogen to onions while they were rapidly growing was that each leaf above ground was connected to one ring in the onion bulb. The more leaves the onions had above ground the more rings in the bulb and the

bigger the onion.

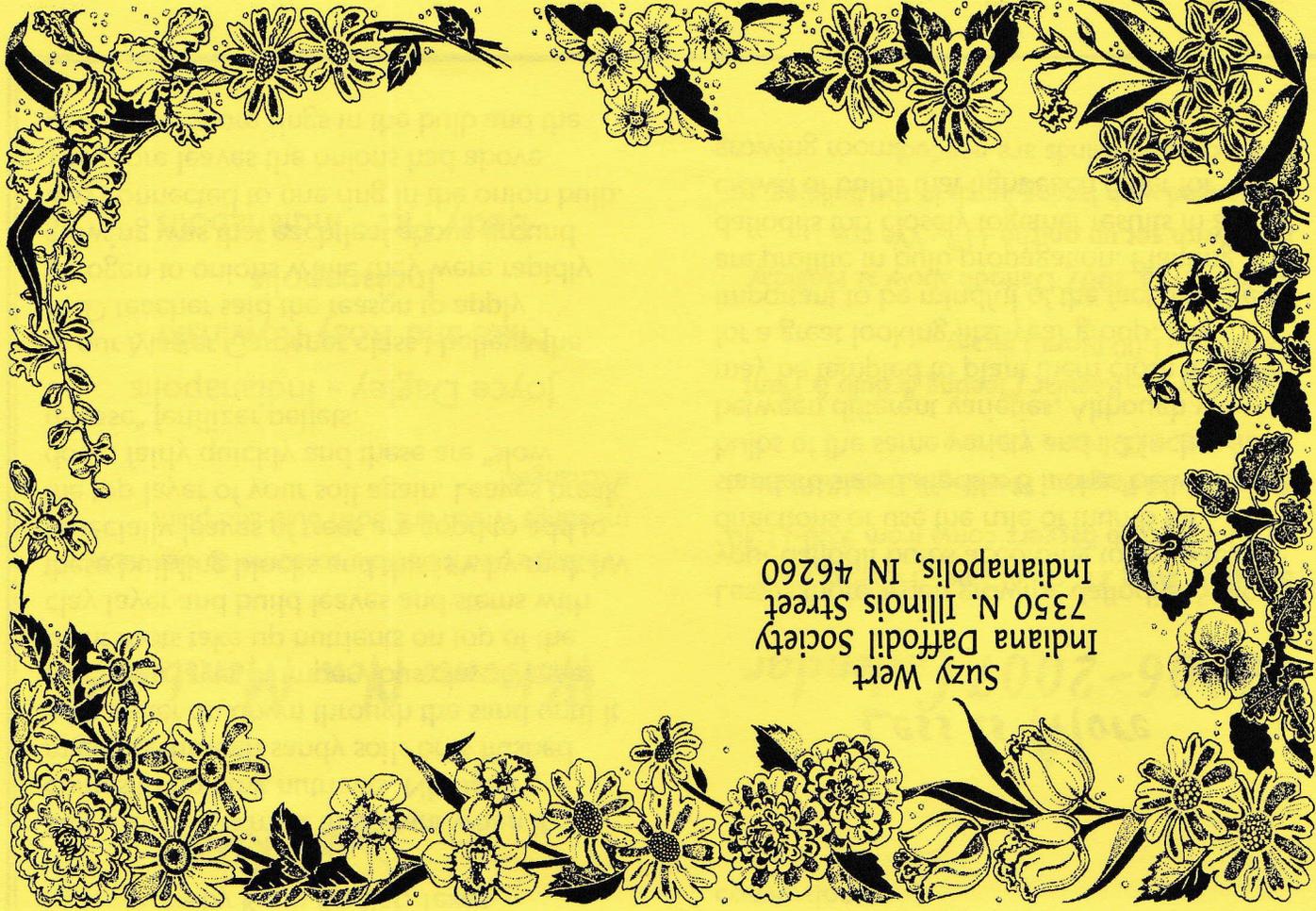
We can look at the rings in daffodils by splitting the bulb from the neck down to the center of the basal plate and make two bulbs out of one. It would be interesting to see if more leaves in the daffodils also create more rings in the bulbs. What about longer & wider leaves, do they make thicker rings?

In onions they recommend working a tailor made fertilizer into the beds for your particular soil test before or when planting.

They also covered how much nitrogen comes down in an average inch of rainfall but this was minuscule and an inch of rain washes the nitrogen that is already in the soil down further depending on soil structure. It also depended on how much lightning was in the thunderstorms as to the amount of available nitrogen was tied to this electrical conversion.

Less is More

Less is more when growing daffodils. Space your daffodil bulbs according to the package directions or use the rule of thumb for standard size daffodils: 6 inches between bulbs of the same variety and 12 inches between different varieties. Although you may be tempted to plant them close together for a great looking first-year group, it's important to be mindful of the fact that they are prolific in bulb propagation. Planting daffodils too closely together results in a crowd of bulbs that fight each other for growing room!



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Next Meeting:
Saturday, August 26, 2006
Nora Library, Indianapolis
1:00 p.m.

Bulb & Plant Exchange

Bring bulbs, plants and seeds to the exchange table and take home some really nice things!

Garden related items, produce, houseplants - they are all okay to bring, too!