
florida daffodil society news



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WEATHER

Although the Florida Daffodil Society is set to run on the fiscal year, it still seems right to “tidy up” old business before the 2006 year’s end. The oldest leftover is our annual list of stems exhibited at the March Flower Show, followed by the list of public plantings and number of donated bulbs.

The daffodils in the 2006 show were:

Daffodils Prior 1940 (Historics)

Avalanche	N. tazetta odoratus
Bryanston	Orange Phoenix (Butter & Eggs)
Carbineer	Orange Queen
Carlton	Polindra
Cloth of Gold	Scilly White
Cragford	St. Keverne
Double Campernelle	Sweetness
Erlicheer	Telemonius Plenus
February Gold	Trevithian
Fortune	Tunis
Golden Perfection	Vulcan
Maximus Superbus	White Pearl

Registered Daffodils 1940+

Abba	Ice Follies
Agathon	Innisdgeon
Barrett Browning	Itzim
Brackenhurst	John's Old Fashioned
Ceylon	Logan's Rock
Dwarf Avalanche	Miss Linda
Early Pearl	Miss Sara
Flower Carpet	Monal
Frosty Morn	New Baby
Gigantic Star	Pango
Gold Coin	Polly's Pearl
Hoopoo	Tête-à-tête
Hughtown	Waterperry

Species & Wild Hybrids

N. italicus	N. tazetta var. tazetta
N. jonquilla Louisiana	N. x intermedius
N. pseudonarcissus	N. x odorus

PUBLIC PLANTINGS 2006

Dothan Area Botanical Gardens – 420 Carlton
Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens – 350 Carlton, 350 Ice Follies
DeFuniak Springs Lake Project – 250 Carlton
Florida State University – 350 Ice Follies
Live Oak - Grandmanor Restoration – 50 Grand Primo

McCord Park – John’s Garden – 50 Ice Follies
Demonstration beds at IFAS Extension Centers in Columbia, Duval, Escambia, Flagler, Okaloosa, St. John’s, Santa Rosa, Wakulla, and Jackson Counties – 960 bulbs
Cypress Lake Park, Thomasville, GA – 250 bulbs
Leon County Schools – 100 Carlton

The Thomasville Garden Club and Hands On Thomasville co-sponsored the public planting in Thomasville. The bulbs were planted by a group of high school students, chosen “future leaders”, as part of their hands on experience. The county grounds keepers made a circular bed so we divided the area into pie slices, two students to a slice, complete with a cardboard mat, trowel and bulbs. Most students had never dug a hole, let alone planted a bulb, so lots of fun was had. So much fun that there may be a bare spot in the middle!

The Bunnell IFAS Center in Flagler County is expanding the garden beds and wanted large plantings of daffodils to give winter color. Master gardeners planted 100 Nony, 85 Soleil d’Or, 75 Silver Chimes, and 100 Cragford. It was a big surprise to learn that Cragford had never been trialed there, so we will keep our fingers crossed.

Master gardeners are on the move! New landscaping with garden beds is sprouting up in Marianna (Jackson) and Crawfordville (Wakulla) and Crestview (Okaloosa). To date, the FDS has 10 public demonstrations across North Florida and 2 established gardens in Gainesville and Bunnell. John Van Beck’s goal of a “sea of daffodils from coast to coast is off and running”

The jewel in this sea could be the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens. The FDS is presenting a proposal that would include a facsimile of a Florida Bulb Farm, a bed of pass-a-longs, and a bed provided by a professional bulb company of commercially available bulbs including daffodils. The botanical gardens are in the planning stage.

FALL BOARD MEETING

ADS Flower Show

Carol Allen and daughter Tracey will co-chair our second effort to have a successful American Daffodil Society sanctioned flower show and Lori Johnson will chair the garden show March 2 and 3 at Tallahassee Nurseries. Diana Norwood is publicity chair. The board voted to buy boards so that all the area will be covered. Each year it gets harder to set the vases on the slats.

FDS family member Marshall Bourassa, a first grader, asked if he could exhibit his daffodils. Well, we just couldn’t say no, so there will be a “youth division” ADS ribbon open to all pre-adults who dug a hole, put in a bulb and cared for it. Publicity was discussed and a flyer was made. Out of all this discussion new projects were born at Gilchrist Elementary School (second grade curriculum project funded by Emily Millett) and Weej Broderson donated bulbs to Grassroots School. Bulbs were donated by FDS (100 Carleton) to a pilot program at Lincoln High School. Jim West’s horticulture class meets with Buck Lake Elementary special needs students to work in the butterfly gardens and learn about flowers and bugs. Other teachers at Buck Lake became interested. Some of the bulbs will be planted on their campus. Whether any flowers are in bloom at show time is a moot point. Getting into school curriculums is wonderful. Sally Scalena, horticulture agent in Cocoa, had her 4H group planting dafs for the FDS trial garden.

ADS Board Meeting

The FDS is hosting the fall 2007 board meeting of the American Daffodil Society. Lori Johnson agreed to coordinate our efforts, which seem to depend on football games, space at Goodwood and what to do with 60 people late Saturday afternoon and evening. The finance committee meets Friday afternoon and the full board comes into session early Saturday morning. Lori suggested we apply for a bus grant and Linda offered her house and garden for Friday night. Although we are not a social

organization, some of you might like to see what a real daffodilian looks and sounds like. Lori welcomes any participation or suggestions for the weekend. Please leave a message at 877-5177 if you want to offer either!

BULB SALES

Linda Van Beck had a busy fall, giving talks, selling bulbs and delivering bulbs. The FDS has been developing an educational program with Master Gardeners (MGs), which culminates in the MGs feeling comfortable selling bulbs to the public as an outreach program. Duval, Escambia, Santa Rosa and Flagler took advantage of the offer. Other MGs and garden clubs took out a membership in FDS and sold bulbs to their members. The FDS conducted bulb sales in Crestview and garden clubs in Havana, Fanning Springs, Palm Coast and Destin. After the talk/sale in Crestview, Sally La Chapelle picked up bulbs for Destin. Linda Van Beck met Dara Dobson on State Route 279 and delivered bulbs for DeFuniak Springs Garden Club sale and public plantings, stopped at the IFAS Center in Marianna to deliver Jean Meyer's MG bulbs, found a planting committee in session and ended up leaving bulbs for a new demo bed.

Linda Van Beck visited 7 of the 10 counties participating in the Central Florida Daffodil Study, where she met with IFAS Center agents and home growers Christine Young, Ed Thalls and Sally Scalena. They were all doing well and keeping records. Most of the extension center gardens were okay. Other counties will be visited in the spring.

Many FDS members assisted in daffodil activities. Joyce Dennis, Lake City, coordinated a pre-order sale and a program for the MGs of Columbia County. Peg Senecal prepared the Palm Coast Garden Club (Flagler County) to think of daffodils and FDS member Helen Tetrault magically made the bulb sale work and handled the money like a pro. One of the hardest working FDS members is Claire Thomas of Thomasville, GA. Not only did she and her husband package all the bulbs, she literally convinced the garden club members they needed hundreds of daffodils and that by doing this, money would be raised for clubhouse repairs. She was instrumental in getting the Thomas County Historical Society to put on a luncheon/daffodil program that attracted many gardeners from other parts of Georgia.

Last, but not least, has been the enthusiastic support of the horticulture agents. Ruth Micelli (Flagler) is always cool and Terry Del Valle (Duval) sold 2,500 daffodils and put on a big show without blinking an eye. Carla Chapman is revving up Marion County. Larry Williams and Don Goode were great help. The FDS board wishes to thank everyone who helped spread daffodils!

GARDEN NEWS

As usual, it is all in the weather. September – October, hot and dry, although still cool 6” down. No autumn yellows were up, let alone in bloom. Then there was a big hard rain and everything came up. By mid-November there was another rain a cold spell. The Autumn Yellows just kept opening and the greenery was everywhere. When you have a variety of tazettas you need to be able to identify them by their odor. A Paper White with huge florets opened on a 24” high stem. The sign said Sheleg, and when I sniffed I confirmed it was “old stinky”. Sheleg gets ½ sun and after a poor showing (10 years ago) it enjoys life in a sheltered southeast location. When Miss Lindsay starts to age, the florets are very similar but smaller than nearby Nony. The fragrance is entirely different. Nony has a slight tazetta “bite” whereas Miss Lindsay has sweet “jonquil” overtones. December 1: A number of January bloomers are showing buds while Soliel d'Or hasn't broken ground. The big surprise is a Chinese Sacred Lily in full bloom. Large and small floret PWs are in full swing.

Starting in January, the Van Beck Garden will be open to the public at any time. Just drive in and stop at the space provided. Any questions, call 850-878-9753. Going out to Perry on US 27, the

top of the hill entrance (Windwood Hills) is on the left 1.1 miles past Mom's and Dad's Restaurant. Drive to the top of the next hill. Weeping Willow Way takes off to the left, and go to the end (6061)

REMEMBERING

It doesn't seem possible that Muriel Crusoe is gone. The FDS owes her a big thank you. Many years ago, the Rose Circle Garden Club toured the Van Beck gardens. Muriel pointed at Ice Follies, and announced in a booming voice, "I've grown those things for years at my place down at the coast." Who would have guessed that modern dafs would grow near the beach? Muriel was a real pioneer and adventurer. She went bungy jumping in her mid 80's!

Recently the FDS lost one of its most ardent supporters. Mary McLeod of Monticello, FL, did everything at full throttle, especially when it came to flowers. A founding member, she embraced daffodils, though camellias always came first. Mary never missed the annual bulb packaging. When she could no longer drive, she would commandeer someone to drive her to Tallahassee and spend the morning packaging bulbs. Every year she bought lots of bulbs as gifts for her family and friends. She will be missed.

<http://Daffseek.org>

This is the address of the American Daffodil Society's (ADS) new online daffodil photobase. The California creators are Ben Blake and Nancy Tackett. She is also the web master for daffnet.com, which can be located at the ADS site <http://daffodilusa.org>.

Daffseek is primarily based on three sources, the ADS's Daffodils to Show and Grow where the most commonly grown cultivars are described by name, classification code, color, season (in the North), height, hybridizer, country of origin, registration year, and variability (if noted). The Royal Horticultural Society's The International Daffodil Register and Classified List also carries information about fertility, pollen parent and seed parent. The last source is the legion of flower photographers headed by Kirby Fong who contributed over 3000 photographs from his personal collection. 120 photographers from 13 countries are currently represented.

In the near future, special classes will be added such as miniatures, historic, and, eventually, species. To date there are approximately 1,700 records of named cultivars and 8,000 photographs. The Daffseek query screen has fourteen fields you can use to customize your query. To quickly build a query, there are six primary dropdown boxes and two radio buttons.

LINDA VAN BECK'S TRIP -- Continued

The tourist shop next door to Wordsworth's first home carried a brochure with a romantic photo of golden pseudonarcissus. By paying 10 to 145 £ to a local consortium, you can buy a bulb and "put down wild daffodil roots in Grasmere" for yourself or a loved one. In this one swoop, you help William Wordsworth have "ten thousand" daffodils near his grave in the churchyard and help St. Oswald's church refurbish the fabric of the building to withstand the onslaught of 100,000 annual tourists, and assist various area Trusts, and, of course, yourself noted by bricks, benches, plaques as well as recorded in the Book of Friends.

The main reason for this concerted effort is tourism. Tourists come to see the wild daffodils that have dwindled to a scattering. The new "carpet" of pseudonarcissus daffodils will be in a garden that backs up to the churchyard. For more information, contact Friends of Grasmere, The Wyke, Grasmere, Cumbria, LA226PY England. Visa and Mastercard accepted.

After a morning of William Wordsworth and an afternoon of riding around meres in the rain, the bus slid down a mud hill and stopped at a sheep farm complete with the oldest house in the

district and a larger-than-life bachelor with wild white hair. His mom had brought a homemade delicious tea and before long we were settled around the fire listening to English tall tales. Out a small window I saw them – small white dafs on shaggy clumps of leaves – the last to bloom, England’s famous daffodil, the Pheasant’s Eye. .

John Blanchard (Narcissus: A Guide to Wild Daffodils) states N. Poeticus variety recurvus, commonly called the Pheasant’s Eye, was introduced into England in the 19th century as a garden cultivar. This daffodil turned out to be a species that on the good side didn’t mind being out of the soil and planted in a garden. On the bad side, the bulb -- once it got a new home that was damp in the summer, wet in the spring, situated away from the mowers, and had lots of sun -- didn’t want to move again. Michael Jefferson Brown commented on the powerful scent, long lasting blooms and that it never dies, accounting for why it is the most widely grown daffodil in England. By the way, the “eye” is a citron colored disc shaped cup rimmed in crimson.

The next sighting, a day later, was at Hadrian’s Wall. After that, every day for nearly three weeks touring Scotland by coach or foot, the Pheasant’s Eye was spotted. Remote western isles to downtown Edinburgh, lochs and bens, hills and dales, gardens and pig sties, castles and cemeteries, high roads and low roads – there it was – I saw the wild foliage, twisted petals, the white dots – the never die Pheasant’s Eye

DAFFODIL DAYS

The American Cancer Society has joined Canada and other countries in using the daffodil as a symbol of hope in connection with spring fund raising. The Tallahassee society tried the idea for one year. Currently, there are no Daffodil Days in Florida. Basically any fund raiser will do. The daffodils are provided to cancer patients by a national sponsor (TeleFlora) and coordinated by the National Cancer Society. For more information, call 1-800-ACS-2345.

