

ADS Gold Medal 2007

Nancy Tackett and Ben Blake

This honor was a landmark in American Daffodil Society history: the awarding of the Gold Medal for service to the genus *Narcissus* to a couple: Nancy Tackett and Ben Blake. But when the contribution of a couple working together to make a vision a reality is unprecedented, it is time to set a new precedent.

Peter Ramsay termed their work a “truly outstanding and daffodil-world-changing achievement,” declaring that “Martinez, California, has now become the Information Base of the Daffodil World, all in Nancy’s and Ben’s basement.”

Their names were already household words for computer-literate daffodil lovers for their individual achievements. Nancy was the maintainer and updater of the ADS Website, the ADS window to the world, as she chaired the Internet Services Committee. Ben was the master of Daffnet, dealing with myriad security and technology issues seamlessly, to keep the daffodil information flowing.

Then they took Steve Vinisky’s Daffodil Data Base and translated it onto the Internet, an endlessly expanding visual and reference tool whose ultimate uses and possibilities have not yet even begun to be realized, except perhaps in Ben’s imagination.

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Gold Medal Winners

(l) Ben Blake (c) Nancy Tackett

Silver Medal Winner

(r) Bob Spotts

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DaffSeek is a powerful tool for daffodil growers world-wide.

Nancy and Ben not only have sent more than 20,000 daffodil pictures around the globe, but they are also becoming travel ambassadors themselves across two oceans. Before the end of next year's daffodil season, they will have visited, with laptop and cameras always working, five countries on two continents.

They bring that same boundless enthusiasm to daffodils and the organizational structure of their local society and region, and to their difficult-climate steep hillside gardens. They have worked hard on the tasks involved in regional meetings (which has included superb cooking), and at the recent Tacoma convention. And both are judges.

Ben and Nancy have also expressed their love of daffodils through the lens of their cameras, winning awards in ADS Photography shows and contributing much to the color pages of the *Daffodil Journal*. Ben is also presently a Pacific Regional director. ❀