**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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**ADS Silver Medal 2007**

**Bob Spotts**

When Bob Spotts wants to pay the highest of compliments to someone in the ADS, he will say, “She/he thinks about daffodils most days of the year.” This statement truly applies to the 2007 winner of the American Daffodil Society Silver Medal for Service to the Society.

Bob served as Pacific Regional Vice-President and as Awards Chairman. The highlight of his term as President was the ADS’ hosting the 2000 World Convention at Portland, Oregon, America’s first and so far only World Convention, Bob’s idea and one which he worked unceasingly to bring off successfully.

Since those years, he has served as Hybridizers chairman, and presently as Membership chair, in addition to chairing the National Nominating Committee. He was co-chair of the recent ADS convention in Tacoma, Washington, and will be chairman in 2010 of the national convention to be held at Ironstone Vineyard in Murphys, California.

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Gold Medal Winners
(l) Ben Blake  (c) Nancy Tackett
Silver Medal Winner
(r) Bob Spotts

Daffodils were really on parade at the Daffodil Festival in Tacoma, which was shared with the ADS National Convention.
[Mary Lou Gripshover photo]
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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.

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Bob is deeply concerned lest the work of great daffodil hybridizers be lost, and he has been active in organizing bulb digs and planning distributions and putting in long hours of hard digging, first for the seedlings of Bob Jerrell, and then Manuel Lima, and assisting Steve Vinisky in the saving of Sid Dubose’s last seedling crosses. Exhibitors in future years will reap great benefits from these efforts.

He is a sparkplug of the Northern California Daffodil Society and of the entire Pacific Region. His frequent NCDS on-line newsletters are informative and challenging. He organizes and teaches Judging Schools up and down the Pacific Coast, and their roster of judges has increased considerably. He also helped to make possible the recent pair of shows in Utah.

He is a much sought-after judging instructor and frequent contributor of thought-provoking articles in The Daffodil Journal. He served for several years as our representative to the World Daffodil Council, and travels frequently to other continents to search out new daffodils and visit again with old friends.

Finally, as Phyllis Hess reminded us, “Don’t forget that it was Bob Spotts who was responsible for bringing Nancy Tackett and Ben Blake into the ADS.”