

# The Indiana Ledger

A Publication of the Indiana Daffodil Society  
Sara Kinne, President Vol. XV No. 1 April 2008 Suzy Wert, Editor

Dear Daffodillians,

The 2008 spring bloom season is rapidly approaching and I am hopeful our warming trend will be gradual. After last year's damaging thaw/freeze cycles, I'm ready for a more natural spring that allows the earlies to be early and the lates to wait their turn. The Sandhill cranes are moving north and on clear calm days we hear their distinctive and exquisite chortle overhead. That is a harbinger of spring that I equate with the earliest daffodil blooms. I'm excited about our flower show at Holliday Park on April 17, wondering where the date will wind up in the season overall, and if the early flowers will prevail or the mid-season cultivars will be in full force at the time. At that show we will unveil a new visual display exhibit that was developed by ADS to educate the public about daffodils and to encourage membership in ADS and the local daffodil societies. The exhibit is expensive, so when Joe Hamm offered the chance to split the cost of one and share ownership with IDS, I made an executive decision and agreed on our behalf. The exhibit is self contained, and easily mailed, and I suspect that IDS will have more opportunity to use and benefit from it than Joe will. IDS, especially in 2008 when we have concentrated bulb harvesting, will find this portable educational prop especially helpful at our many sale venues.

In the continuing evolution of Helen Link's property, there will be an opportunity for members to volunteer as daffodil docents this April. The resurrection of Helen Link's gardens and daffodil growing beds is moving forward primarily due to local interest within Morgan County. Ideally this beautiful piece of land that is covered with naturalized daffodils and is adjacent to the Link Observatory will be preserved for public enjoyment. How this develops remains to be seen, but the plan for this spring is for a gardener representative to be on site to greet the public during the April weekends that the Indiana Astronomical Society has their open house. IDS and Master Gardeners of Morgan County will provide docents to meet the public and to share information about Mrs. Link and her bulbs. A packet of information will be provided to the docent, but more than anything we just need to show up and be counted. As you know, our Treasurer, Ruth Pelouch, is the IDS liaison for the Link property. She will be organizing a docent schedule for weekends in April. Please help us make this first joint effort in keeping Mrs. Link's gardens in the public eye and contact Ruth at [pelouch@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pelouch@sbcglobal.net).

I'm looking forward to seeing you at our Saturday meeting, March 29<sup>th</sup> at Holliday Park. We'll have daffodil door prizes for those who attend. Some good friends won't be with us because of a conflict with the daffodil growers' south show in Jeffersonville. It pains me to miss this show, but I hope to drive down on Friday and enter some flowers then. Call or email [skinne@kiva.net](mailto:skinne@kiva.net) if you are interested in accompanying me.

# IDS Summer Picnic and Plant Exchange!

Saturday, June 21 11:00 am -2:00-ish

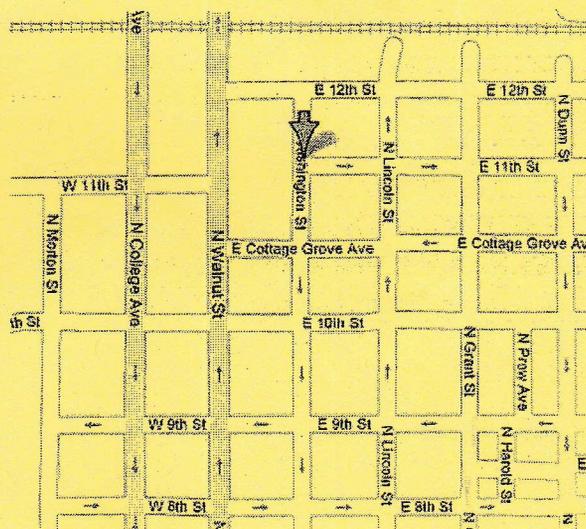
Eric & Sherry Holliday  
808 N. Washington Street  
Bloomington, IN  
812-332-5754

This year's annual meeting and picnic will be at Sherry Holliday's house. Sherry and husband Eric live in a 1927 craftsman bungalow home located within walking distance to downtown and the IU campus. They have lived in this student-rental/historic neighborhood for over thirty years and raised their two sons there. Sherry works as an early interventionist with young children who have developmental delays. She says her interest in daffodils stem in great part from her long-time friendships with former IDS President, Donald Sauvain, and current IDS President, Sara Kinne. Both, she says, have been kind enough to share bulbs with her over the years.

Please **bring a covered dish to share**. Sherry and Eric will provide meat and bread for sandwiches, plus condiments, drinks, plates and utensils.

There will be a **plant exchange**, too, so members should pot up those self-sowers that come up this spring instead of tossing them out! Naturally, plant divisions and cuttings will be equally loved by fellow members!

Most IDS members will take 37 into Bloomington which splits into a divided road and turns into N. College (southbound) and N. Walnut (northbound). Take College south into town to 10<sup>th</sup> Street and turn left. Go around the block using Walnut or Lincoln to point your car north, then use 12<sup>th</sup> to get to N. Washington St. Note that 808 is located between 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Streets, **not** 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Streets like you might guess. Look for parking on the street.



## Exhibiting Daffodils: Start Earlier than You Imagine

—by Suzy Wert; Some parts excerpted from the 2007 ADS Handbook for Growing, Exhibiting, and Judging Daffodils 5<sup>th</sup> Ed.

Winning ribbons at daffodil shows requires not only good culture and an understanding of what constitutes good form, but some advance planning, too. The 10-day weather forecast needs to be consulted so the exhibitor can make plans to protect the flowers he or she plans to exhibit. Cut Daffodils can be stored in the refrigerator or cold garage for about 4 or 5 days with few ill-effects. Keep the water changed, and always use tepid water about 90-100 degrees (bath temperature – if you can hold your wrist in the water, the temperature is not too hot.). Keep a wet bath towel in the vicinity to hold some humidity instead of misting, but either will work.

### PROTECTING FLOWERS FROM BAD WEATHER

Only a serious daffodil exhibitor would consider sunny skies and temperatures in the low 80s to be bad spring weather, but for the red, orange and pink cupped flowers, it is! These flowers tend to burn in hot sun, and need to be shaded somehow. There are little funnel-shaped caps that can be made and attached to a stake to individually shade each flower, but for most of us, a large cardboard carton will work. Naturally it would only be for a very special flower, but it can be done. A cardboard box will also prevent damage from high winds, frost, and make stems longer, just be sure it is large enough in girth and height to accommodate the clump. If you use a box for high winds, a brick or rock needs to weight it down so it doesn't go sailing off to the neighbors'.

If the forecast shows a lot of heavy rain and thunderstorms, the flowers need to be picked when they open and brought to size inside the house or if it's cool outside, in the garage or outbuilding. Daffodils do fine in inclement weather, but they will not be show quality if they are out in heavy rains.

If the forecast shows alternating freezes, thaws, freezes and thaws, it is bad news for the exhibitor, and except for an unpredicted hail storm, is one of the most heart breaking things to have happen before a show. There isn't really a whole lot you can do on a large scale, but a frost cloth that vegetable gardeners use can be useful. On a smaller scale, clean 5 gallon buckets and cardboard cartons can cover an entire clump with very good results. If you try to protect from frost you can do more damage to the flowers that the weather does. The bail of the bucket can knock down a flower and the cardboard flap of the carton can swing down, so be careful as you cover, and also uncover, the flowers.

### GROOMING ON THE PLANT

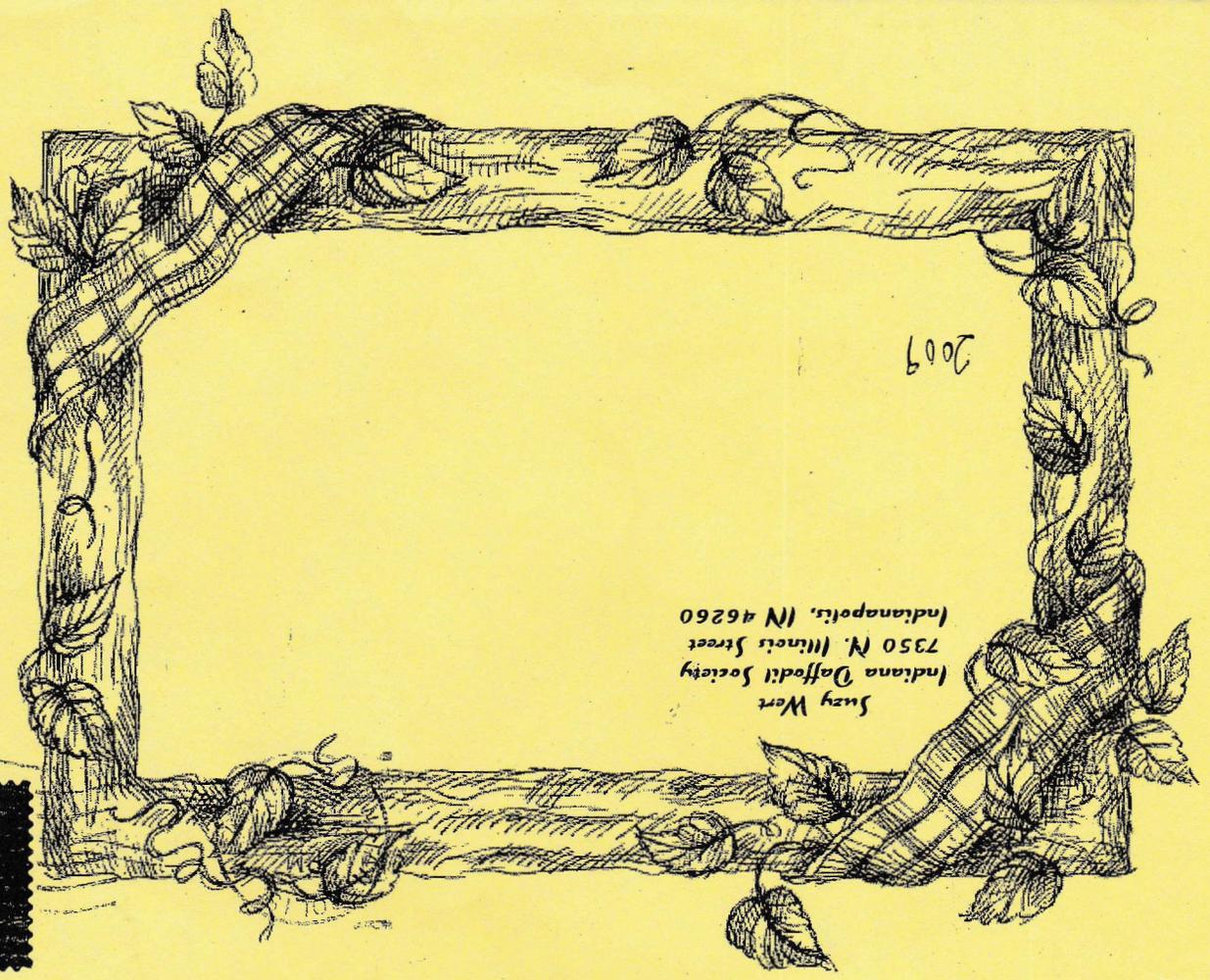
Ten days before the show, start wandering your daffodil plantings with an eye toward which blooms are show quality. The size of the flower bud will determine the size of the flower upon opening, and it's fairly easy to see which buds look like they will turn into really good flowers: these are the same buds you would choose at a cut flower market or florist.

Seasoned exhibitors do a lot of grooming while the flowers are still on the stem because the flowers are more pliable and easier to manipulate. Clocking is the most common example, and is simple a matter of twisting the flower a little to get a petal or sepal (doesn't matter which) going straight up at 12:00 and the lower petal or sepal going straight down at 6:00. We'll have some examples at the meeting.

Sometimes the mucro tip of one petal gets caught with the tip of another petal...a simple push will get them unlocked. And sometimes the flowers look ridged and need to be smoothed out with a warm finger tip. An exhibitor can also make sure the green spathe prevent the flower from fully opening. It can be peeled down the neck with no problem when it's green, but if it's brown it will crumble in your hand! Never remove the spathe, as this is considered mutilation and will be penalized more heavily than a torn spathe. If there is a big clump and some of the flowers look like they will rub or knock against each other in the wind, the "lesser" show flowers can be picked and put in a vase.



IDS Indiana State Daffodil Show  
Holliday Park, Indianapolis  
Set up: April 16, 2007 1:00  
Show: April 17-18, 2007  
Open to the Public 2:00  
Tear Down: April 18, 2007 at 3:00



2009

Suzy Wert  
Indiana Daffodil Society  
7350 N. Illinois Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46260



2008

## Indiana Daffodil Society 2008 Calendar

**Next Meeting:** Saturday, March 29 at 1:00  
Holliday Park Nature Center  
6400 Springmill Rd, in the left rear of the park  
Indianapolis, IN 46240

**IDS Show:** Holliday Park Nature Center, 6400 Springmill Rd., Indianapolis.  
Thursday April 17 & Friday 18. (Set up Wed April 16.)

**Summer Picnic & Plant Exchange:** Sat., June 21 from 11:00-2:00

**Bulb Dig:** at John Reed's, Niles, Michigan, over Memorial Day Weekend and also the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend of June.

### Meeting Dates:

all at Holliday Park Nature Center, 6400 Springmill Rd., Indianapolis.  
Lecture 1:00-2:00  
Meeting 2:00-4:00

Sat., March 29

Sat., Aug 30 Bulb & Plant Exchange

Sat., October 11 Bulb & Plant Exchange