



ISSUE NO. 68

# florida daffodil society news

FEBRUARY 2009

## ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW FEBRUARY 28 – MARCH 1 Tallahassee Nurseries 10 AM – 5 PM

The annual FDS Show kicks off on Saturday. If you would like to help, please contact: co-chair Lori Johnson 321-4885, greeters; co-chair Tiffanie Bourassa oceana\_12345@yahoo.com or 216-2818), Tracey Allen 386-1588, flower arrangements. A table will be set up 8:30-9:45 Saturday for arrangers and flower preparation. Members, including children, are encouraged to show off their daffodils. On Saturday, President Emily Millet and Linda Van Beck will be on hand to answer questions and will be happy to see you. We are not a secret society. There is no special handshake.

## IN THE GARDEN

It seems this season has gotten off to the earliest start since the Society was formed. The FDS Board is concerned about having flowers for the show. Yes, we do refrigerate blooms, but the following daffodils peaked before January 23: Chinese Sacred Lily, Nony, Double Chinese Sacred Lily, Paperwhites including Miss Linda, n. *panizzianus*, Soleil d'Or, Early Pearl, Rijnveld's Early Sensations, Autumn Colors, n. *italicus*, n. *canariensis*, and Autumn Sol, plus thousands of Nat Williams. Linda had planted many more white dafs. The daffodil parade was bunched and with all those whites blooming, Linda informally invited people to view the spectacular display. An understanding of how to present the garden has been gained and next year there will definitely be public programs during January to showcase tazettas.

All across the south daffodils and plants in general are blooming early. The shock of so much water in late September plus warm soil

temperatures in October-November meant that roots developed earlier than usual and kept on growing. In Louisiana, a gardener reported n. *italicus* peaking January 9 and he thought Campernelle would soon be in bloom.

You probably have noticed that, especially for early bloomers, its location-location-location. Sheltered areas that receive full morning sun stay warm and everything blooms early. Fortune mostly lives in a protected areas that gets full afternoon sun, started blooming mid-January. The biggest surprise was newly planted n. *obvallaris*. Facing east with tazetta foliage behind, the bulbs started blooming January 12. Picking different locations as well as planting times allows for an "extended season". One small floret Paperwhite bulb was accidentally dropped in the high grass. When recently found, there were 2" of roots lying on the grass, 5" of stalk and a nosegay of leaves and florets protruding from the stalk. Reminds one of those babies born on the way to the hospital. February bloomers have been impacted by the change of soil temperature. Keith Kriedler of Texas suggests probing with a thermometer to tell what's going on "down there." For those in Tallahassee, the Grand Primo in John's McCord Park Garden peaked weeks ago. Erlicheer is blooming now.

## FLOWER PICKING

Picking tazettas is a guessing game. The first florets to open fade fast. Flower exhibitors routinely pick them off. Tazettas tend to desiccate in the refrigerator, so a spritzing program will go into effect this year in hopes of having tazettas for the Flower Show. Linda Walpe (Cincinnati) wrote in the American Daffodil Society's Journal how she tries to pick flowers without nicks or mittens (little add ons). Once the flower has fully opened, or if a storm is coming, cut and place stems in water in a cool spot. Standards (non-tazettas) are "stored dry

in cardboard boxes, using tissue as padding, a spritzing with a little water, sliding the entire box into a plastic bag and tying it up.” Refrigerate. The day before showing, take the flowers out, trim the stems and plop them into water for a couple of hours. Throw out the nearly dead.

Even with extra watering, many stems “bent” with night temps of 19-20°. To restore bent stems, you can cut the stem at the base and place it in tepid water up to high on the stem to give the stem support. In a couple of hours, change the water. If you want to enjoy the bloom in the garden, tape the “bend” with masking tape – it breathes -- and water the bulb. Some *n. italicus* bloomed on their regular schedule, so the flowers were just opening out of the sheath during the cold snap. Some have been placed in water and refrigerated to see if blooms will open.

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## FDS NOTES

**2009 Bulb Sale** – The books are not closed, but we handled 46,700 bulbs of which 26,500 were sold by 7 garden organizations and Betty Ragland, our Macon, GA one-woman-band.

**SOS** – Martha Watson, Master Gardeners of St. John’s County, put out a call in November. She was planning a seminar in Ponte Verde on bulbs and needed help. We sent literature, Nony, Erlicheer and Early Pearl to the rescue. Carolyn Lindsay, past president of the American Horticulture Society, was the speaker and over forty gardeners attended the event. Some didn’t even know that bulbs would bloom in Florida.

### CALENDAR DATES

**May 16, 9:15 at Goodwood** – Annual Meeting.

**October 17, 9:15 at Goodwood** – Bulb Sale. The Bulb Sale has been moved forward in hopes that you will go home and plant.

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## GOOD NEWS

The FDS Florida Daffodil Farm demonstration bed has found a home in Orange Park. City manager John Bowles is a history buff and has agreed to let the Clay County 4H-Master Gardeners add a bed to their project at Clark Park. This small park is situated on a main highway near the center of town, and includes a young children’s play ground, the Clark’s house (open to the public) and original plantings. The garden projects are in the back of the property and receive full sun.

Everyone is excited and hopes by this time next year there will be daffodils and a pamphlet.

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## A MYSTERY STORY CONCLUSION

LeConte – Woodmanston Plantation GA.  
Synopsis: Last spring Linda Van Beck found a reference to this plantation and its bulb garden and notified daughter Sara. Later they visited the plantation south of Savannah, saw the garden outline, and learned the bulb list was lost but the plantation was becoming an active institution. Months later, Linda found a reference to the bulb list and Sara got it from the Cherokee Garden Library, Atlanta. Sara activated the hunt for donors and decoded the list of narcissus. The bed was made and bulbs planted.

This restoration is an important landmark in the history of American gardens, hence the recording of the list, comments and donors. The last question is where did the original bulbs come from? Again, Weej Broderson’s books come to the rescue. The revised edition of Thomas Jefferson’s Flower Garden in Monticello includes correspondence that lists requests by Jefferson and deliveries by Bernard M’Mahon, Philadelphia nurseryman (catalogues 1803, 1806) and author of an influential 1803 book, The American Gardener’s Calendar. Ann Leighton, author of American Gardens in the Eighteenth Century, calls M’Mahon “the greatest of American nurserymen at the turn of the century.” His book lists 3,700 plants. You wanted it, he got it. Of the 36 LeConte bulbs, M’Mahon had sold 10 to Jefferson. Leighton’s list of plants most frequently cultivated links M’Mahon’s name with 23 LeConte bulbs and other people with 6 bulbs that in our case have been listed as pass alongs. Daffodils were wide-spread. Everyone today knows Jefferson grew “daffodils, jonquils and narcissus.” There were local names, and customers could order Doubles, Singles, etc., but mainly everything was a species, variation of a species or a wild hybrid. What makes the LeConte list important is that, except for “tazetta” and *n. papyraceus*, there are specific Latin names for the bulbs.

Note: Jefferson and M’Mahon continued correspondence after 1805. Jefferson made a “few more purchases” and died in 1822.

## LeConte Woodmanston Bulb List 1813-1815

George Stritikus: GSA#6: *The 1813-1815 List of Bulbous Plants associated with the LeConte Plantation at Woodmanston* (with additional information supplied by Miss Clermont Lee, ASLA)

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>N. papyraceus</i>: "Small floret Paperwhite". Bulb donated for the restoration was "Snowflake", Mrs. Tom Bradley- Havana, Florida, donated by Mrs. John Bradley- Perry, Florida</li> <li>2. <i>N. papyraceus</i>: Bulb donated for the restoration was registered 'Miss Linda'. Palmer House 1830, Monticello, Florida, donated by Linda Van Beck, Tallahassee, Florida</li> <li>3. <i>N. tazetta</i>. Bulb donated for the restoration was <i>n. tazetta</i> var. <i>tazetta</i>: R.A. Scamp, Quality Bulbs, England. Donated by Linda Van Beck</li> <li>* 4. <i>N. jonquilla</i>: Alpharetta Garden, Georgia 1940, donated by John Lipscomb, Alpharetta, Georgia</li> <li>* 5. <i>N. x odorus.</i>: Alpharetta Garden, Georgia 1940's garden. Donated by John Lipscomb, Alpharetta, Georgia</li> <li>6. <i>N. incomparabilis</i>: A group term for intersectional hybrids and cultivars that is no longer used today. Sir Watkin - rescued and donated by Sara Van Beck, Atlanta, Georgia.</li> <li>7. <i>N. incomparabilis</i> (fl.pl.pal.): This is a pale double form, what would later become Sulphur Phoenix (1820), rescued and donated by Sara Van Beck.</li> <li>8. <i>N. incomparabilis</i> (fl.pl.lut.): yellow double form Orange Phoenix (1731) syn. "Eggs and Bacon" rescued and donated by Sara Van Beck, Atlanta, Georgia</li> <li>* 9. <i>N. pseudo-narcissus</i>, <i>N. pseudonarcissus</i> subsp. <i>pseudonarcissus</i> var. <i>pseudonarcissus</i>: Palmour House, Dawsonville, Georgia, donated by Bradley Weaver, Dawsonville, Georgia.</li> <li>10. <i>N.pseudo-narcissus</i> (fl.pl.): 'Plenus' found in England and sold by R.A. Scamp Quality Bulbs</li> <li>11. <i>N. minor</i> (fl.pl.): 'Eystettensis', syn. "Queen Anne's Double Daffodil" 1601. To be purchased.</li> <li>* 12. <i>N. poeticus</i> (fl.pl.) "Albus Plenus Odoratus" (now just 'Plenus'). Purchased by the Florida Daffodil Society</li> <li>** 13. <i>Leucojum aestivum</i>: Old Garden, Blakely, Georgia donated by the estate of Montine Martin</li> <li>** 14. "Crocus Sativus": Lee- Safferon crocus</li> <li>15. "Iris Xiphium: Lee, Spanish Iris, Iris Family" Donated by Georgia Iris Society.</li> <li>16. "Iris Xiphioides": Lee - English Iris. Donated by Georgia Iris Society.</li> <li>* 17. "Iris Persica": Lee - Persian Iris. Donated by Georgia Iris Society.</li> <li>** 18. "Gladiolus Segetum" Lee- Cornflag Gladiolus, Iris Family</li> <li>* 19. "Gladiolus Communis": Lee- Common gladiolus</li> <li>20. "Gladiolus Imbricatus": Lee- no common name</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* 21. "Hyacinthus Orientalis (fl.sem.coer)": Lee- Blue French Roman Hyacinthus</li> <li>* 22. "Hyacinthus Orientalis (fl.pl.)": Lee- Common Dutch Hyacinthus</li> <li>* 23. "Hyacinthus Muscari": Lee- this may be <i>Nuscari Moschatum</i>, wild, musk grape hyacinth [If <i>M. moschatum</i>, it is syn to <i>M. ambrosiacum</i> – Sara Van Beck]</li> <li>* 24. "Hyacinthus Racemosus": Lee-Starch Grape hyacinth (<i>Muscari neglectum</i> – Sara Van Beck)</li> <li>* 25. "Hyacinthus Botryoides": Lee- Common grape hyacinth</li> <li>* 26. "Hyacinthus Comosus": Lee- Tassel or Feathered grape hyacinth</li> <li>* 27. "Hyacinthus Comosus (mon.)": Lee- Feathered hyacinth</li> <li>** 28. "Lilium Candidum": Lee- Madonna Lily</li> <li>** 29. "Lilium Bulbiferum": Lee- The Bulbil Lily; also "Orange Lily"</li> <li>** 30. "Lily Superbum": Lee- Turkschap Lily, or a native lily</li> <li>31. "Scilla Hyacinthoides": Lee- Hyacinth squill (<i>Hyacinthoides hispanicus</i> – Brent Heath)</li> <li>* 32. "Ornithogalum Umbellatum": Lee- Star of Bethlehem</li> <li>* 33. "Amaryllis Formosissima": Lee- Jacobean Lily: Aztec lily (<i>Sprekelia formosissima</i> – Sara Van Beck)</li> <li>34. "Amaryllis Equestris": Lee-Barbados Lily (<i>Hippeastrum puniceum</i> – Sara Van Beck)</li> <li>* 35. "Pancratium Maritimum": Lee - Sea Daffodil Pancratium, also saw "Sand Lily"</li> <li>36. "Pancratium Mexicanum": Lee- Mexican Pancratium: "maybe the same as Hymenocallis rotatum, LeConte (fragrant)</li> </ol> <p style="margin-top: 20px;">Bulbs for items 18-36 were donated by members of the LeConte - Woodmanston Foundation</p> <p style="margin-top: 20px;">Notations from <u>American Gardens in the Eighteenth Century</u>, by Ann Leighton</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">*= Bulbs referenced to M'Mahon's 1805 Calendar</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">**= Bulbs are referred to as possible pass-along bulbs</p> |
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