



florida daffodil society news

ISSUE NO. 70

SEPTEMBER 2009

2009 BULB SALE

Saturday, October 17, 2009
9:15-11:30 AM
Old Kitchen

Goodwood Museum & Gardens.

Entrances on Surgeons Road and Miccosukee will be open. Orders will be bagged and labeled. There will be some extra bulbs for sale, some of which were not on this year's list. If you cannot arrange pick-up, call 878-9753 before Saturday the 19th.

COLORBLENDS COMPANY

This year's Grand Primo is grown in North Carolina and was purchased from Colorblends. We recommend their Catalogue for beauty and information. Contact information: 888-847-8637 and the web site is www.colorblends.com. At their request FDS will be co-trialing daffodils at the IFAS/Quincy site to see they would perennialize.

ATKINS FARM:

Our new supplier is David Atkins and his wife Cindy along with two children Shiloh and Sage who lived down a dirt road on a farm near Nathez, Mississippi. The family rescues "old timey daffodils and lilies" not by the patch but by the acre from lost and abandoned home sites. They ship what they can handle, sell mixed bags and haven't time to grade or sort, but they do have fields of John's Old Fashion aka Stella which they call Shiloh. This is the first time the bulb has been commercially offered from an American-grown source. As some of you know, this daffodil opens all pale yellow, petals enlarge gradually and fade to white and lift upwards.

A number of *N. Italicus*, Paper White Grandiflorus, Grand Primo, Early Pearl, and doubles will be planted in the Van Beck Garden

to test for similarities and compatibility as some of the doubles are all yellow. Next year the FDS plans to carry the Atkins mixture of *N.intermedius*, *N.jonquilla* Early Louisiana, and *N.odorus* (Campbelli).

ORANGE PARK PROJECT

At the annual board meeting the nominated slate of officers was accepted. After this meeting, incoming President Lori Johnson thanked Steve Howard, Orange Park Councilman for coming all the way to Tallahassee to express his and the city's commitment to a bed of Paper Whites and Grand Soleil d'Or in Clarke Park.

The FDS first proposed a planting similar to that used on Florida farms, but this information could better be explained by photographs and interesting signage so the current proposal is to make a bed similar to the beds already there. The garden is manned by the local 4H club. Bulbs have been donated and purchased and will be planted by the first of October. Paper Whites were donated by Ms. M. Martin.

"LOST NARCISSUS FARMS OF FLORIDA"

Florida Gardening, April-May 2009
Sara Van Beck

This article highlights six major narcissus farms that existed in Florida. The story begins with T.K. Godbey, who by 1910 was commercially growing Paper Whites and Chinese Sacred Lily in Waldo. He added *Gladiolus* in 1911. By rotating the bulbs, he reaped four crops off one field, two of bulbs and two of cut flowers. Real money could be made. Other farms highlighted are: W.V. Stephenson (Hastings), J.I. Triplett and Glenn Ryan Sr. (Doctor's Inlet), G.M. Randall National Gardens (north of Ormand Beach), Gilmore Plant and Bulb Company (Merritt Island) and Wyndan Haywood (Winter Park).

Illustrations include the Stevenson farm house and a small packing carton from Suwanee Gardens, Green Cove Springs. The images include a forcing bowl, Soleil d'Or and Chinese Sacred Lily, daffodils in bloom and a romantic view of a Florida narcissus bulb farm.

QUINCY GROUND BREAKING

A new large flower demonstration garden is on the way at the University of Florida/IFAS North Florida Research Education Center. The Gardening Friends of the Big Bend, under the leadership of President Jill William, are creating flower beds on humps and bumps that flow around an area of mature trees under which a farm house once nestled. The plan created by past FDS President Clara Jane Smith is taking shape, clump by clump under the pen of Bill Williams.

The FDS is providing early blooming tazettas for a bed that is situated on the edge of the garden and looks out over a large level field, Highway 267 and the I-10 intersection. The daffodils will make a big show in the spring. The curved bed will hold 500+ bulbs, have a weeding path which divides the bed horizontally and room for the leaves to spread out. Varieties include Paper Whites (small florets), *N. italicus* and Paper White Grandiflorus donated by Mr. & Mrs. John Brady, Nat Williams from the Van Beck garden and the following FDS purchased bulbs: Erlicheer, Nony, Early Pearl, Chinese Sacred Lily, Omri, Grand Soleil d'Or, and Welch Paper White Seedlings.

The only concern with this site is the possibility that the nearby trees will not break up the frost sweeping in from the fields. If you are interested in joining and participating in their events, the Big Bend Gardeners can be reached at 850-663-2280 or B419@aol.com. Gary Knox will be in charge of the FDS bulb trials – tazetta varieties from Bill Welch have already arrived.

A new garden, a new site and an old friend – Dr. Bob Stamps, who has extensively researched daffodils near Lake Apopka. This time the aim is to follow garden practices: pretty ample bed on a grassy knoll that will receive full sun, airy mulch, overplanting, no summer sprinklers, necessary amendments, and TLC. The tazetta bulbs are early bloomers and will duplicate the bulbs planted in Quincy. Data collected at both sites will include the usual data plus number of noses, peak blooming time and number of stems. Night temperatures will be collected during the eight weeks after blooming.

The new site of this IFAS research center is not far from the old site south of the town of Apopka. In essence, the aim is to grow and test daffodil bulbs in a normal garden situation and in particular determine the role of night temperature in the perennialization of daffodils in Central Florida. We are off to a good start.

POSTSCRIPT

This summer while visiting Honolulu, there was a newspaper item announcing that preparations were underway for next year's 61st annual Narcissus Festival Queen Pageant on January 9th. The Chinese community always celebrates the lunar New Year with hordes of Chinese Sacred Lily and the crowning of a Narcissus Queen. There are special displays of cut CSL bulbs that are forced in water with the bulb carved so that the stems will not come up erect but will form a shape instead. The Chinese have practiced this art form for many years.

The current Narcissus Queen, Lisa Wong, won her crown with her talent: a combination of speed painting, martial arts and dance. Her performance may be seen on www.youtube.com. Enter search "Narcissus Queen".

OTHER BULBS AVAILABLE

Tallahassee Nurseries has daffodils that FDS is not carrying this year: Mount Hood, Hawera, Geranium, Bridal Crown and Baby Moon.
