

ADS Gold Medal

John Reed
Niles, Michigan



Mary Lou Gripshover photograph

The Gold Medal of The American Daffodil Society is given to someone who has done work of a pre-eminent nature in the advancement of daffodils. The recipient this year certainly fulfills that requirement, and the ADS is proud to present its highest honor to John Reed of Niles, Michigan.

John began breeding daffodils in 1977, collecting the best bulbs from breeders worldwide, and has planted thousands of seeds in all divisions and all possible color combinations, working to breed better daffodils that will grow and thrive in his harsh growing conditions. He has been very successful and he has many fine cultivars, with over 275 registered in all divisions as evidence. Most are standards, but there are some intermediates and miniatures as well. His 'Little Ruby' is a much admired intermediate. He has made significant advances in division 1 W-O, having registered six cultivars, and he has the only registered 1 W-R, 'Flaming Silk'. His flowers are now showing up in the pedigrees of other breeders.

He has been generous in sending pollen and bulbs to other breeders as well as other amateur hybridizers and those whom he serves as mentor. Each year the "bulb dig" at Oakwood is a much-anticipated event, when members of local societies help with the digging and take home carloads of bulbs for use by their groups.

John lives and breathes daffodils, but rarely makes it to shows. Last year, with the ADS convention being held in Chicago, his flowers were on exhibition for all to see. And they were the hit of the convention. His 1 W-Y 'Windy City', then under number, won the White Ribbon, the Rose Ribbon, and the Mitsch Trophy. After the ADS came calling at Oakwood Daffodils, everyone went home with a "wish list." Winning high praise were 'Millennium Orange' 1 W-O, 'Red Passion' 2 W-R, and of course 'Windy City'.

He has served the daffodil very well, and is a worthy recipient of the ADS Gold Medal. 🌷