

The Daffodil Journal



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For a list of ADS publications and merchandise, see inside back cover.

DUES YEAR IS JULY 1 – JUNE 30

MEMBERSHIP DUES **American Daffodil Society**

Individual per year, \$20.00; three years, \$50.00

International members may wish to consider paying for additional air mail postage. Contact the Executive Director to make arrangements.

Household/Family per year, \$25.00; three years, \$60.00; one copy of the *Journal*.

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‘Fencourt Jewel’ – Wilf Hall’s “the flower my name will forever be associated with.” *Richard Ezell photograph*

Back Cover:

The Murphys, CA, convention logo *Rebecca Brown drawing*

The Most Successful Tazettas



'Falcone' 8 Y-R 1979
The top winner and the only
tazetta which has won
a Wister Award
Tony James photograph



'Silver Chimes' 8 W-W 1976
Wells Knierim photograph



'Chinita' 8 Y-YYR 1922
Ben Blake photograph



'Avalanche' 8 W-Y 1955
Tony James photograph



'Motmot' 8 Y-R 1979
Tom Stettner photograph

in ADS Shows in 2009



'Bright Spot' 8 W-R 1993
Nancy Tackett photograph



'Castanets' 8 Y-O 1985
Hein Meeuwissen photograph



'Geranium' 8 W-O 1930
Ian Scroggy photograph



'Hoopoe' 8 W-O 1977
Tony James photograph



'Avalanche of Gold' 8 Y-Y 2000
Kirby Fong photograph

Respected Hybridizer of a Neglected Division

Wilf Hall

Levin, New Zealand

My interest in hybridising tazettas began in the early 1970's when I discovered a flower stem with several seed pods attached. The cultivar that produced these seed heads was an old tazetta called 'Bathurst'. I collected and sowed the seed, obtained other winter flowering tazettas and collected more seed. As a person who dislikes the winter months, I appreciated the warm colours and lovely scent during that time. One of my all time favourite daffodils is 'Soleil d'Or'. I think its colour and glorious scent was a major factor in my developing a love of tazettas. However, these winter tazettas, while heralding the promise of spring with warmer temperatures and the arrival of the more traditional daffodils, are but a memory by the time daffodil shows are underway.

When 'Matador' became available at a reasonable price, I bought bulbs and started doing some crosses. However, I could see that I needed some more parents that flowered during the main exhibition flowering period in New Zealand, that is September. There appeared to be no suitable candidates. Nothing set seed as far as I was aware. In the late 1980's John Hunter suggested I use the very old variety called 'Grand Monarque', as this had set seed for him. He explained that I would have to open up the florets as the stigmas were included in the corollary tube. Armed with this knowledge, a whole new emphasis resulted and the winter flowering tazettas were relegated to the background.

Up until 1990 I had also been undertaking crosses between daffodils from mainly Divisions 2 and 3. I had raised some useful seedlings, but the parents I was using were not the latest and greatest, and my flowers could not compete with those of Spud Brogden, John Hunter, Peter Ramsay and others. I decided then that I would concentrate on tazettas and with the addition of bulbs of 'Avalanche' to my very small armoury, I set forth where others feared to tread. Over the ensuing years I learned why so few people attempted to hybridise tazettas and why those that did try, often pulled the plug when the successes were hard to come by.

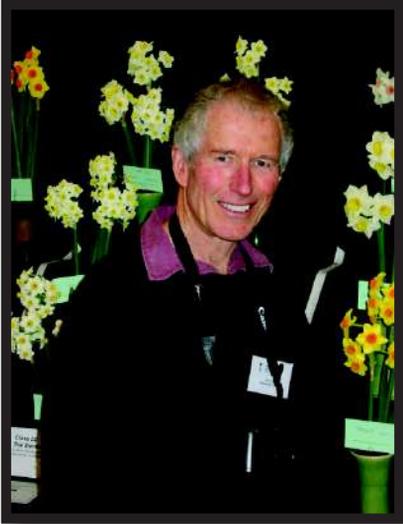
Why are tazettas so hard to breed? Simply, their chromosomes. Most modern daffodils are tetraploids with four matching sets of seven

chromosomes. Because of these matching sets they are able to produce viable pollen and ovules and seed set is generally easy to achieve. The tazettas are oddities. Not only do they not have sets of seven chromosomes, there are two groups of species, one with sets of ten chromosomes and one with eleven. Hybridists have complicated things further by undertaking all manner of crosses between tazettas and other daffodils and between the two groups of tazettas. The result has been a collection of hybrids with an array of different chromosome numbers. The vast majority of them cannot produce viable gametes, because of the odd combinations of chromosomes in their cells.

I did not understand this situation fully when I set out on my new path, blithely dabbing pollen from a variety of Div. 2 and 3 daffodils and the odd poet, onto the stigmas of 'Grand Monarque' and 'Avalanche'. The first seedling flower was eagerly awaited in the spring of 1995. It was from the cross of 'Grand Monarque' with the pollen of 'My Word'. It was no world beater, had no sign of pink in the corona, but it did have four florets and growth characteristic of its seed parent. I was spurred on with the knowledge that I could obtain some viable seed from 'Grand Monarque' and 'Avalanche', despite the fact that they each had the odd number of 31 chromosomes. I compensated for the naturally low level of seed set, by pollinating large numbers of florets.

To me, the year 1998 was a turning point. I staged a maiden entry of six tazetta seedlings in a class for six seedlings raised by exhibitor at the North Island National. I was quite proud of this entry and it elicited praise from other growers. One seedling in particular (GMX-25), took the eye of Dutch visitor Wim Lemmers, who was keen to obtain 'the stock', which of course at that time was one bulb. But a greater thrill awaited me on my return home. A trip to the seedling beds led to the discovery of the first flower stem of 'Fencourt Jewel'. I realised the significance of this flower as soon as I set eyes on it, and it will no doubt be the flower my name will forever be associated with.

So what have I been doing in the years since 1998? Hybridising tazettas leads one on a never ending learning curve. One reads the literature and the notes and letters of other hybridisers. One has to develop new strategies and be on the lookout for any new opportunities. I have been doing that in the last eleven years and despite increasing age, I am excited at the many possibilities still there to explore. What avenues am I currently pursuing?



Wilf Hall in front of the Tazetta class at the New Zealand National 2008

Peter Ramsay photograph



GMX-10 (The name 'Ashlini' is pending.)

Premier Tazetta at the
South Island National 2009

Trevor Rollinson photograph



'Fencourt Jewel' 8 W-P 2003 – Six-time Premier Division 8 winner at national shows.

John Castor photograph

1) – I am continuing to hybridise ‘Grand Monarque’ and ‘Avalanche’ with pollen from Div. 2 and 3 flowers that exhibit the characteristics that I hope to impart in their progeny. I am also increasingly using poet pollen as it gives progeny with more and generally neater florets.

2) – I am continuing to use pollen from other late winter flowering tazettas with white and yellow perianths and coronas of deep yellow and orange, on to ‘Avalanche’ and ‘Grand Monarque’ and on to some of their non-poetaz progeny, to hopefully provide an even wider range of parents and genetic material to breed from. Practically all of these pollen parents are now my own seedlings, selected for the strength and clarity of their colours and their corona form.

3) – I am increasingly using my own seedlings as seed and pollen parents. All of these are non-poetaz tazettas, the true multiheads. The vast majority have included stigmas and like their seed parents, they rarely set seed if left to their own devices.

4) – Up until this year I avoided using those seedlings with exerted stigmas (where the stigma is visible), as they often have a tendency to self pollinate. However, a number of these seedlings are quite fertile and I have decided that I could be missing something by not using them. Instead of spending time pulling flowers apart, I will instead spend about the same time removing anthers before they dehisce.

5) – Since 2007, I have been very interested in a group of seedlings and their progeny, which all trace their ancestry back to a rather plain tazetta yet to be named, which seems to be able to pass on to some of its descendents, soft yellow perianths. I used the pollen from this flower onto ‘Grand Monarque’ in 1994. The resulting seedlings were vigorous growers and a number were selected. My interest in this group is fueled by my lack of seedlings with yellow perianths.

While hybridizing tazettas is my passion I also dabble on the margins with poets, jonquils and intermediates. I obviously appreciate small flowers more than the large ones. I have always appreciated the purity of colours of poets. My limited work with jonquils has been with ‘Limequilla’.



Wilf Hall has chosen from his photos some of his best new tazettas, presented along with Wilf's impressions.

Richard Ezell photograph



#AVZ-27 'Avalanche' x 'Rondo'
"I consider this one of my best."



#AVX-108 'Avalanche' x a late winter tazetta seedling,
"...which gave it the coloring of the florets."



Three 'Nickelodeon' 8 W-W 2003
 ('Grand Monarque' x poet seedling)



#AVX-155 ('Avalanche' x 'Pismo Beach') "Jan Pennings was really taken with this first year bloom."



#GMX-239 ('Grand Monarque' x #98T5) "The deep chrome yellow coronas are a real improvement."



#GMX-239 ('Grand Monarque' x 'Basra') "A Wim Lemmers choice."



#GO-1 "Actually an 8 Y-Y - The photo does not do it justice."



#AVX-21 "Registration as 'Avataz' is pending. The corona colour holds well as it ages."

Some tazetta favourites of my own raising:

‘Fencourt Jewel’ would have to be on the list, simply because of its colour and its success on the show bench, having been chosen six times as Premier Div. 8 at national shows.

AVX-27 (AVX denotes an ‘Avalanche’ seedling;

GMX a ‘Grand Monarque’ seedling.) One raised from pollen of the N.Z. raised poet.

‘Rondo’. Back to back Premier Div. 8 at our North Island shows 2008 and 2009. The 2009 stem had 11 florets. Nice form but the colour can be variable with some flowers having more orange in the corona.

AVX-155 (pollen parent ‘Pismo Beach’) Maiden flower 2009. Good perianth substance typical of ‘Avalanche’ seedlings, with pale cream coronas having an outer band of soft pink.

AVX-21 Nothing out of the ordinary as it looks just like its seed parent (pollen parent unknown) but for coronas in a deep yellow that does not fade. Has spectacular growth and sets seed though the set can be variable. Registration underway.

GMX-239 (seedling pollen parent) Nice form and rich gold coronas. A distinct improvement on its seed parent.

AVX-108 (seedling pollen parent) Forms a nice ball head of florets. Florets nicely formed but smaller than those of its seed parent. Colouring the same.

G0-1 (8Y-Y) This selection came from one of the seedlings raised from that 1994 cross noted earlier. I kept no record of which seedling the seed was collected from. Strong grower with rather small but very neat florets in a pale yellow colour with green eyes. So far has shown a reluctance to become a parent, but some of its sister seedlings are obliging.

‘Nickelodeon’. Always an eyecatcher with its icy white florets. Often rough at the beginning of the season, but late flowers off side bulbs are often a lot smoother.

Hybridising tazettas is not for the faint-hearted. It involves hours of painstaking work for small rewards. My friend John McLennan, says I have the patience of Job, but my joints are beginning to complain. Seed set is often poor and variable. Germination rates can also be poor and the survival rate from seed to bulbs lifted at two years is generally lower than

50%. However, there are rewards for persistence. It is a thrill for me to see others exhibiting my ‘babies’ with success at shows and this is happening more and more as stocks build up. It is also a thrill to see them get to the top table – 14 of the last 20 premier tazettas at national shows in N.Z. have come from my stable. The hours of painstaking work have certainly reaped rewards. ❁



THE DAFFODIL SOCIETY

Was established in Britain in 1898 to cater for the needs of all daffodil enthusiasts and now has members in all the countries where daffodils are grown seriously.

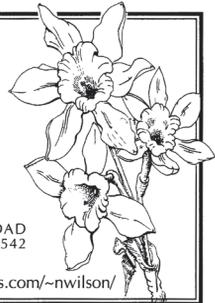
The Society issues two publications each year to all members and welcomes contributions from all growers on the complete range of topics. Subscription rates, by Airmail, are 1-yr, £ 21.00/\$40.00, 3-year £ 60.00/\$115.00. Payments in US\$ to be made to the ADS Executive Director: Payment in UK £s to Keith Boxall: The Daffodil Society, 13 Astor Crescent, Ludgershall, Andover, SP11 9RG, UK.

Narcissus

EXTENSIVE LISTING OF
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Nancy R. Wilson

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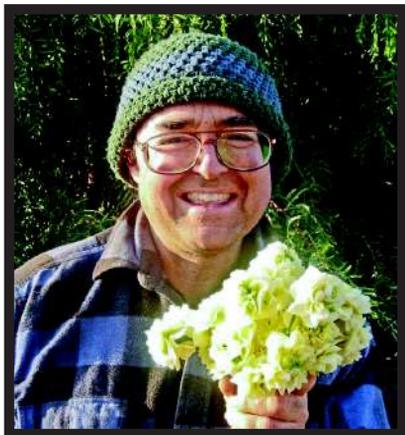


Notice of the Annual Meeting of the ADS

The annual meeting of the American Daffodil Society, Incorporated, will be held Friday, March 12, 2010, in the Ironstone Music Room, Murphys, CA, following the convention dinner, for the purpose of electing officers and directors as provided by the By-Laws, and to take action, on and transact any other business which may properly and lawfully come before the meeting.

*By the Order of the Board of Directors
Sally Nash, Secretary*

Bill Welch: His fields and some of his newest introductions



Bill with 'Amazing Alexis'

Jaminia A. Colliard photograph



'Ruc' 8 W-W 2006

Kirby Fong photograph



Jaminia A. Colliard photograph

'Kerry's Favorite'

Jamina A. Colliard photograph



'Deluna'

Bill Welch photograph

Bill Welch photograph



Tazetta Wizard - Bill Welch

Nancy Tackett

Martinez, CA

Most of us remember the single event in our lives when we caught “daffodil fever.” For Bill Welch, it was January, 1972 when he was 13 years old. ‘Chinese Sacred Lily’ tazettas had been planted around one of the oak trees long before his family’s new home was built in Carmel Valley. The Welch family had just moved into the house in 1971 and Bill noted these flowers’ scent. To this day, he says it is the finest scent he has ever smelled. His mother remembered tazettas from her childhood in southern California and referred to them as “jonquils.” Bill was very impressed with the fact that these flowers were thriving on their own, with no watering or weeding, along with the added bonus that gophers and deer did not bother the bulbs.

In the Beginning...

In his early days, Bill tried growing various other bulbous plants, such as lilies and gladiolus, but found that they all too often would give him grief. The lilies rotted during the winter and the gophers loved the gladiolus. He needed to feel a sense of security that his bulbs, more like his children, would be back to greet him each year, something he could count on.

Spurred on by his interest in the ‘Chinese Sacred Lily’, Bill investigated the possibility of obtaining more tazetta varieties...and found virtually none – there were pathetically few available. To find out more, Bill contacted Les Hannibal in Fair Oaks, California, and read a number of his articles. Thus, he became aware of the catastrophic loss of tazetta varieties that had occurred over time. This was quite a revelation knowing that hundreds of tazetta varieties were readily available in the 1800’s and very early 1900’s. Bill could not find anyone who was actively addressing this problem, either collecting bulbs from old gardens or actively hybridizing new cultivars from among the very few varieties still in existence.

Being a self-proclaimed daffodil “nerd” as a teenager, Bill had plenty of time during high school to establish a noteworthy tazetta collection. He started his bulb collection with the ‘Chinese Sacred Lily’ that were already naturalized on his home property. In the fall of 1972, he acquired ‘Erlicheer’ and ‘Golden Dawn’ from Grant Mitsch, along with some French-grown paper whites and some of the very few miscellaneous tazettas that were available back then. During the bloom season, he collected more tazettas from old gardens in the Santa Cruz, California area. This collection was

largely completed by the time he graduated from high school in 1976. To the best of his knowledge, it is the most genetically diverse tazetta collection in the world!

Big Plans

Mid-way through high school, Bill informed his parents that hybridizing, growing, and selling tazettas was going to be his lifelong occupation. By the end of high school, it was clear to Bill that he needed a job that did not require a precise schedule, all day every day. He also discovered, that if he was going to hybridize tazettas, he needed to be able to make repeat pollinations on a daily basis. This enabled him to get seeds with a degree of reliability, especially from the polyploids. He needed to be home every day. He knew he needed to be in the field during the middle of the day on any day of the week when it was warm enough for the crosses to take place successfully. Also, he wanted to be there in succeeding days for repeat pollination, which would be essential for the successful formation of seed. It made no sense to Bill that he should have a world-class collection and be deprived from making use of it due to some form of a “day job.”

So, he started building up stocks of a number of cultivars while still in high school. In January 1979, he bought 10,000 ‘Erlicheer’ from Harrison’s in New Zealand, as well as many bulbs of ‘Grand Primo’ and other commercially available tazettas.

When Bill first started growing tazettas, with only a few varieties in existence, it was impossible to produce a steady stream of blooms from October thru March/April. He realized that in a viable flower business, there needed to be more tazetta cultivars developed, to support a steady cut flower production over a long period of time.

In the California warm, dry-summer climate, tazettas grow prolifically because they are drought-resistant and will thrive in any type of soil. Tazettas, as a group, have an exceptionally long blooming season: from September/October through March/April. In Bill’s opinion, tazettas are by far the most desirable cut flower because they have the widest, and best range of fragrances. His motto, validated by his years of sales experience at the farmers markets is, “If it smells, it sells.”

Initially, Bill cut and sold his tazettas to local florists, but this took too much time just to deliver orders. So, he began to sell only to a couple of local wholesalers, and eventually started going to farmers markets where he could sell flowers and bulbs directly to the public. Eventually, as his bulb quantity increased, Bill set up a “pick your own flowers” business at his field in Carmel Valley.

It's Bill's experience, that from a commercial standpoint, there is no other flower in our Northern California climate that has as many good characteristics and as few bad ones as do tazettas. In Bill's opinion, there are no other plants as easy to grow, work with and harvest commercially – not even the amaryllis belladonna hybrids, which are Bill's secondary interest and commercial crop.

Hybridizing Goals

Bill is known worldwide for his tazetta hybridizing and to date has 36 daffodils registered with the RHS. With the exception of 'Mogley's Favorite' 7 O-R, all of Bill's registrations are tazettas. Many of Bill's daffodils are named after his friends.

Interestingly, five of his tazettas are named for Maori numbers one thru four. Bill sent tazetta seeds to Max Hamilton in New Zealand. Max grew and evaluated the seedlings and registered five tazettas using the Maori numbering system for the first four integers. Since the Maori word for five was already named for a daffodil in the RHS registry, Max named the last one, 'Fifth One'.

Hybridizing tazettas was Bill's greatest early interest. He started with a few crosses in the summer of 1979, using bulbs that had been imported that spring from Lindsay Dettman in Australia, such as 'Odoratus' and 'Grand Monarque'. In the winter of 1980/1981, he made the first significant number of crosses, mostly crossing many tazetta pollens onto 'Avalanche' and 'Grand Monarque'. One of these was to become 'Avalanche of Gold'.

Bill believes he may be one of the few in the USA who hybridizes with a focus for commercial and garden usefulness, that is for "functional" purposes rather than for aesthetic perfection. His hybridizing goals do not include breeding exhibition daffodils. However, when his daffodils do arrive on the show bench they are awarded ribbons in today's daffodil shows!

When developing his hybridizing goals, Bill saw that there were many breeders working with the other daffodil divisions. He believed there is much to be done to make full use of the tazettas' garden potential. He realized that he had an unique opportunity, since not many daffodil hybridizers live in a mild climate, suitable for tazetta breeding (tazettas will not set seed in the cold).

Daffodil Mentors

Like many of us, Bill was fortunate to have "daffodil mentors." Some of Bill's mentors are in the "Who's Who" of the daffodil world! After initial contacts with Alec Gray and Grant Mitsch, Bill was referred to Les

Hannibal and Barbara Fry. Over the years, he corresponded with Barbara while she held a position at the Rosewarne Experimental Horticulture Station. It was at this time Barbara was starting to breed for yellow tazettas to supplement or replace ‘Soleil d’Or’. Later, when she began working on white- perianth tazettas, Bill helped to contribute material to her collection. Unfortunately, although it has been 30-40 years since the original crosses were made at Rosewarne, only a few of her tazetta cultivars are now available. A number of her seedlings have been named but many seem to be held very closely for commercial purposes by a consortium of growers in the Isles of Scilly.

The future for tazettas

Today, Bill is determined that the tazettas not be turned into another pampered show flower. Bill believes the practical improvements we should be working on in breeding are largely things a show cannot measure. For example, how can a show demonstrate earliness or lateness of bloom? Cultivars which excel in these seasons are unlikely to be found in a show because out of necessity most shows occur near the midpoint in the season. Also how can a show measure lasting quality, popularity of the specific fragrance the flower possesses, and resistance to basal rot and other diseases? In hybridizing, Bill values plant vigor (both under commercial growing conditions as well as under conditions of garden neglect) and vase life once cut - areas that are near and dear to Bill’s heart.

When asked which of his tazettas is his favorite, Bill’s reply was quick, “it would be different ones in different years, mostly depending on which ones perform the best in that particular year or, should I say, happened to bloom when the weather is most conducive. All my tazettas can do well, or I would not have named them in the first place.” [Writer’s Note: One of my favorites here in the Pacific Region is ‘Autumn Colors Group’. These are great prolific bloomers and set seed quite easily. One of Bill’s seedlings from the ‘Autumn Colors Group’, when flowering for the first time in 2009, had 44 florets on one stem!]

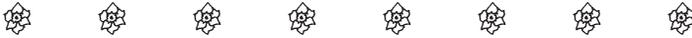
Recognized internationally as a leading tazetta expert, Bill freely shares his knowledge on DaffNet and by contributing identification clarification on DaffSeek. He supports the Northern California Daffodil Society and daffodil-planting projects at schools within California with generous gifts of daffodil bulbs.

Bill’s business is aptly named, “Bill the Bulb Baron”, because by building up large commercial stocks of tazettas and hybridizing new

tazetta varieties, this is what Bill has become! Despite the large amount of time he devotes to his business, he attends many events in Northern California.

As a speaker on daffodils in the garden, Bill is in high demand with Garden Clubs and makes room in his schedule to support their programs. If you are in Northern California, check out Bill's website (www.billthebulbbaron.com) to see which farmers markets he plans to attend. He sells cut flowers and bulbs as far north as Oakland, and to the south as far as Monterey. Meet him there!

Looking into the future, Bill wants his life to have lasting significance, an importance extending beyond his lifespan. He knows that a good tazetta variety can live on for years, and end up in literally millions of gardens worldwide. For example, those very same 'Chinese Sacred Lilies' in his childhood home garden were a clone that has been around for over a thousand years. Surely, there is a need for new tazetta varieties and a golden opportunity to make his mark in the world. If Bill has his way, he will develop tazetta varieties that will provide blooms year round! But more importantly, Bill's goal is to help restore tazetta daffodils to their rightful glory! ❀



A Puzzle

You are mentoring a new Youth member in your local society? What one cultivar could you order, in a quantity of ten bulbs, at a reasonable price, that would give them a chance at the most ADS blue ribbons in your show.

Of course you would need to assume that every bulb would put up two bloom stems, and that they would all bloom within the same few days right before your show.

My best answer appears on page 209? If you have a better one, email it for sharing in the June *Journal* ❀

lmckdaffodils@aol.com



My Thoughts and Dreams for Tazettas

Bill Welch
Santa Cruz, CA

When first starting my collection of tazettas, in the early 1970's, I was startled by the lack of tazetta varieties available. After all, there were hundreds of tazetta varieties available at the turn of the century. It would have been beneficial if even one person had been interested enough to maintain a substantial collection of these older tazetta varieties from around 1914 until the late 1940's. This is when I decided it would be necessary for me to take on collecting these older tazettas myself. However, too much time had already passed and most of the old varieties were long lost. No one was alive who remembered, or had even heard, of most of these older tazettas. So, I would have to take the few surviving remnants and try to develop out of them some latent diversity. Thus began my focus on hybridizing tazettas.

In terms of hybridizing, I am determined that tazettas do not evolve into a "show flower." The criteria for exhibition daffodils and commercial daffodils are worlds apart. Speaking from a commercial point of view, we want cut flowers with a wide range of seasons and a wonderful long-lasting scent. These are not important attributes for exhibition daffodils. Certainly, a "People's Choice" award would be a good start to have as a class in a show.

Let me give an example. After all these years that 'Matador' has been available, how many breeders have crossed its pollen onto a broad range of all the numerous varieties of daffodils in their collections? What great potential there is with this flower...but, breeders for exhibition daffodils will not use 'Matador' as a parent very often. Some reasons are, in addition to "roughness" issues with 'Matador' offspring (not a concern to the non-show hybridizer like myself), the resulting offspring are likely to often have only one or two florets. In the show world, exhibitors may say a hybrid with two florets does not fit the "tazetta" definition. I say that we humans seem to love to hold back our progress with rules and definitions! I believe a beautiful flower is still a beautiful flower, regardless of the criteria for winning blue ribbons. And I do know what is useful to humanity as a whole, from seeing what appeals to the literally thousands of customers I have sold flowers to in the farmers' markets over many years.

At this time, I would like to share with you an explanation of some of the parent material I am working with, and after that some of my results:

First, an important discovery, contrary to much published information in China and elsewhere. The well-known variety, 'Chinese Sacred Lily', which I commonly refer to as 'Single Chinese', is NOT STERILE. It has the fertility level typical for a triploid, a few seeds of varying sizes per pod, but MUST be re-pollinated 2-3 days in a row, during weather at least in temperatures in the 70's, to get any seed.

During the 1980's, I did a lot of work treating twin-scales with 0.1% colchicine. From this, I developed successful conversions of 'Chinese Sacred Lily', 'Newton', 'Cragford', my first ('Autumn Colors Group' x 'Paper White'), my ('Newton' x wild form from 'Delos', Greece), 'Australian Paper White', and at least one other form of 'Paper White'.

The tetraploid form of 'Australian Paper White' is an incredible improvement upon the original diploid form. The flowers are much larger, they have vastly better substance, and seem much more rounded in shape as well. This is the most likely pollen parent (otherwise it was another tetraploid 'Paper White') of 'Toru' and the other siblings registered by Max Hamilton in New Zealand. Max grew them from a quantity of seed I sent him one year from 'Autumn Colors Group' x various pollens, the tetraploid paper whites being the only tetraploid pollens used that time.

Last year, I flowered my first seedling from 'Autumn Colors Group' x hexaploid 'Chinese Sacred Lily', creamy with golden cup. This year another has bloomed also. This is light yellow with light orange cup, both flowering in December 2008. Then a third has flowered in early January 2009. This third one is by far the best as there are already 3 flowering shoots, as well as a couple more side-shoots. Like the other two, they have large florets with a thick wide crown of the Chinese type, and very heavy substance. They have very abundant pollen and inherit the incredible scent of the Chinese type.

'Bright Spot', although a back-cross of 'Matador' with the poet or Division 3 W-R type, bears abundant fertile pollen. I have bred 'Jojo' from 'Altruist' x 'Bright Spot'--really an amazing late-blooming plant, like a glorified 'Bright Spot', this is later, larger and taller in all respects, with more yellow in the perianth and a much more intense color in the cup. It is very distinct from any I have bred using 'Matador' or 'Yellow Butterfly' pollen onto Division 3's.

As I make crosses, these are some of the goals I keep in mind:

Tetraploidy:

I am working for more widespread tetraploidy in tazettas, just as we see in the modern hybrid daffodils. Tetraploid plants have larger florets,

thicker substance to improve lasting quality, and the ability to give fertile offspring in crosses with regular daffodils.

Different fragrances:

Certain varieties, such as ‘Chinese Sacred Lily’, and related wild forms, especially from the eastern Mediterranean, have a range of exceptionally nice fragrances. Currently these are all bicolors--white with a golden yellow cup. I would like to breed this scent into the yellows as well as into the ‘Matador’ hybrids.

Doubles:

First, some bad news... ‘Golden Rain’ when used as a pollen parent onto other tazettas usually (but luckily not always) gives either singles or “bullheads”. Normally, I used ‘Golden Rain’ on diploids such as the ‘Autumn Colors Group’. Bullheads are deformed monstrosities that are mostly or entirely green in color with no scent and make huge buds of countless petaloids that do not open. I have seen this deformity occur very rarely in other varieties, twice in my life as a mutation in ‘Double Chinese’, and it is reported to occur occasionally in commercial stocks of ‘Cheerfulness’.

And now for some very GOOD news. ‘Constantinople’ routinely bears powdery, fertile pollen on the tips of the many little segments in its tightly filled double center, and often some fairly normal anthers down in the tube as well. So far, I have flowered a couple of seedlings for the first time this year, from crossing onto the ‘Autumn Colors Group’. These appear to be diploid, so should be fertile. These also bore abundant pollen and had normal-looking stigmas as well. These were picked to facilitate pollen collection so I won’t know about actual seed-fertility until next year.

I am fortunate that ‘Erlicheer’, especially when newly planted, often bears florets with two or three good anthers in the center. This year I have been using this pollen onto ‘Matador’ as well as onto numerous true tazettas. I have one seedling that appears to be from ‘Matador’ x ‘Erlicheer’ which is quite promising.

Larger clusters:

One of the ‘Autumn Colors Group’ seedlings flowering for the first time this year had 44 florets on the stem – this was not merely a case of fasciation with 2 stems grown together either!

Giant yellow versions of the ‘Grand Monarque’/‘Avalanche’ type and deeper yellows of the ‘Sugar Cups’ or ‘Avalanche of Gold’ type are definitely needed.

Very intense orange-yellow perianths with orange-red cups:

These are a very welcome sight on a cloudy or rainy autumn day when customers want to see flowers with a brilliancy of color! The true ‘Soleil d’Or’ is not the most intense color possible in the true tazettas. ‘Princess Hallie’s Gold’ has a more intense color in the perianth and I have seedlings that are deeper colored than that and which also have a very good intense orange-red in the cup. Not counting ‘Royal Connection’ and others with mixed ancestry, the potential is great for intense colors, as the genes are certainly there in ‘Soleil d’Or’ and in the ‘Autumn Colors Group’. And the seed-fertility present in ‘Royal Connection’, ‘Joy’s Favorite’, and some of my other unnamed yellow/orange ‘Matador’ crosses is a good way to get larger floret size into this coloration as well.

Earliness:

For example, I picked the first ‘Autumn Colors Group’ this year on September 10, and now 4 months later in January, other clones of this cultivar are still coming into bloom as the first group winds down. A long flower season at the markets is critical and it helps sell bulbs as well. I would like to get the ‘Matador’ genes into the very earliest time frame. Currently, the first that I see are ‘Marisol’ starting its first crop of bloom by late October, finishing its second crop in mid January, along with ‘Joy’s Favorite’, which also customarily starts in October (some years established bulbs, even without watering, have started in August!) and has very nice secondary stems still present in mid January.

Tall stems:

Cold weather and first-year planting (or late planting) can cause horribly short stems in tazettas, especially ‘Erlicheer’, and overly short stems here are known (not affectionately I might add!) as “twerps”, as they are hated at all stages of the process, picking, bunching, and by the ultimate customer as well who feels they are not getting their money’s worth. A big tall stem like on ‘Sugar Cups’ or the ‘Matador’ hybrids is what is wanted. Miniatures are definitely not of interest, neither to me nor the customer, so I am breeding for the opposite. The only smallish thing I bother to grow is ‘Odoratus’, for its unique scent, but it is inefficient as it takes a lot more of them to make a decent-sized bunch!

Large florets:

Some of my second generation 'Avalanche' hybrids, bred from 'Hilary Marea', can be over 2 inches in floret size, but most true tazettas don't get much over about 1 3/4", which is still quite good, and the average floret size in the newer batches of the 'Autumn Colors Group' is vastly bigger than it was just a couple of generations earlier. However, the 'Matador' hybrids tend to be noticeably larger; they make quite an impact with their tall stems and often more colorful cups. Large florets are definitely a characteristic worth breeding for.

I have a truly huge crop of seeds from the 'Autumn Colors Group' this year, from the latest generation which are by far the best, so would like to make these available to others who wish to try their hand at hybridizing tazettas. They can also go overseas at recipient's risk.

Contact me at billthebulbbaron@aol.com. 

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Tazettas 50° North

Andrew Tompsett
Cambourne, Cornwall,
United Kingdom



Barbara Fry

Andrew Tompsett photograph

That tazetta narcissi, natives of warm Mediterranean climes, thrive in West Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, at 50°north, is remarkable, bearing in mind that this line runs through Winnipeg, Vancouver Island and Kiev in Russia. Let us hope that the warm North Atlantic Conveyor continues to bless us here as it has done down the ages.

True tazettas demand a relatively frost-free winter and a warm Mediterranean summer to ripen the bulbs and ensure flower initiation. As a race of daffodils, with these limitations, they have been referred to as the ‘Cinderella of all the divisions’ and few breeders have been attracted to them. This is despite the fact that ancient trade routes distributed them from the old-world of the Mediterranean as far as China and in many countries they had religious significance.

At the end of World War II the British Government invested in building up the country's food producing capacity by establishing two chains of development stations, one for agriculture and one for horticulture. The author of this article began his horticultural career at one of these, located near Stratford-on-Avon, in the Midlands and was involved in fruit trials. After several other postings he moved to Rosewarne in West Cornwall in 1969. Being wet and windy, there is not much fruit there but, with its mild climate, it continues an important area for vegetable and flower production, especially narcissus.

An immediate colleague at Rosewarne was Barbara Fry, a person with so extensive a knowledge of daffodils one could not help but absorb her enthusiasm and dedication. Barbara was then already 4 years into a breeding programme seeking early flowering daffodils. This was initially based on the, little known, but remarkably early-flowering cultivar, 'Rijnveld's Early Sensation', which despite its Dutch Registration was raised in England. Its parentage is not known. Later, several other objectives were added to the programme, since when it would be no exaggeration to say that the British daffodil industry continues to be transformed by the Rosewarne stocks many of which are early flowering and most basal rot resistant, at least under UK conditions.

By 1967, the Ministry of Agriculture still had a paternal attitude to horticultural production and it was persuaded that the industry in the Isles of Scilly, based on the growing of tazettas, principally 'Grand Soleil d'Or', had very different needs from those of the mainland daffodil crop. The Isles, 28 miles off the Cornish coast, have a uniquely balmy climate and a gritty, granitic soil and so provide the frost freedom and warm summer soils required by these bulbs. A small sub-station of Rosewarne was set up on the island of St. Marys specifically to study 'Soleil d'Or' and its little understood relatives in Division 8.

This marked the beginning of a period of considerable progress with cultural trials in the Isles and with Barbara Fry extending her breeding interests to the tazetta family.

On the cultural side a traditional practice on the Isles of burning-over the bulb fields in summer, which improves growth and advances the ensuing crop, required an explanation. The practice dates from early in the 20th century and, before the advent of herbicides, was used to clean the land. Though a laborious business requiring the spreading and burning of straw, furze trimmings (*Ulex*) or bracken (*Pteridium*), the effect was very worthwhile since it advanced flowering by 10-14 days, an important factor

at a time when the earliest flowers sent to London made high returns. There were, of course, no imported flowers in those days! Another crop on which burning was employed was Dutch Iris where similar advantages were demonstrated.

A series of trials studying soil temperatures, soil moisture and potash content of the ash produced no positive leads and the burning-over phenomenon remained a puzzle to both British and Dutch researchers for some time. The issue was finally resolved when Hideo Imanishi in Japan reported that tazetta narcissi, irises and freesia corms stored in smokey buildings produced rapid and improved growth. Today, in Scilly, a tazetta crop may remain un-lifted for up to 5 years and can be advanced or retarded according to need to produce flowers over a six-month flower season. The earliest flowers are picked in September by applying advancing treatment to the earliest varieties such as 'Paper White' whilst the latest flowers in March are from retarded 'Avalanche' and 'Golden Dawn'. During the middle season in addition to 'Soleil d'Or', important varieties are 'Grand Primo', 'Island Pride', 'Erlicheer', 'Silver Chimes' and several of the 'Matador' hybrids. The virus-tested 'Soleil d'Or', produced in the UK, is still being retained under quarantine conditions and issued as a feeder stock to insure against the virus deterioration that occurred around the middle of the last century.

Advancing employs solar heat from clear polythene coverage beneath which smoke is pumped in early summer. This is followed by burning-off the crop debris using propane gas burners. Smoke and burning are not used in retarding. For this, late summer and autumn polythene coverage, which keeps the ground hot and dry, depriving the bulbs of autumn rains, delays growth. Soleil d'Or is still the principal variety and responds well to both advancing and retarding so giving it a 3 month season. The work on what we called 'in situ' advancing and retarding proved very profitable for Island growers. The role of smoke, containing ethylene and other gasses is particularly interesting. The phenomenon is seen at its most dramatic in many South African geophytes which often only flower following bush fires. The evolutionary response to fire is clearly very important in fire-prone habitats and though the effect is much less dramatic in tazettas it is clearly present to some extent. It is worth stating here that smoke has no effect upon standard daffodils and warmth above 20°C generally increases basal rot problems, something that tazettas resist.

Meanwhile, at Rosewarne, Barbara Fry, ever an active correspondent with daffodil enthusiasts throughout the world, conferred frequently

with Bill Welch of Carmel Valley, L. Hannibal of Fair Oaks and New Zealand growers from whom she acquired a few bulbs of 'Autumn Sol', an October flower. There was frequent exchange of bulbs, seed and pollen with growers and breeders and it was through a close, but all too brief an association, with Harry Tuggle, Jr. of Virginia that she learned of the exceptional qualities of 'Matador'. Harry Tuggle himself admitted that he had problems with tazettas and poetaz at Blue Ridge and yet his contribution was considerable in producing results at Rosewarne, which, sadly, he never saw.

The two cultivars, 'Autumn Sol' and 'Matador', together with 'Newton', 'French Sol' and *N. tazetta aureus* formed the basis of the early and colourful seedlings which followed. Progress was initially slow, due to low seed production but in 1969 there was a good set and events gathered pace when Barbara switched to raising the plants under heated glass. With year-round warmth and constant watering it was found that there was no dormancy or cool requirement. This may have been the first time this had been done.

Today, some 30 years later 'Innisidgen' ('French Sol' x 'Autumn Sol'), a flower not unlike that of 'Soleil d'Or' supplies the first flowers of the season. From Harry Tuggle's executors came seeds and bulbs, of 'Matador' x 'Soleil d'Or' crosses, amongst which we subsequently registered 'Hugh Town', the capital town of the Isles of Scilly, 'Martinsville' (Harry Tuggle's home), 'Royal Connection', for Prince Charles, Landlord of the Isles, 'Martinette' and 'Scilly Valentine'. Many others of 'Matador' parentage were subsequently raised by Barbara Fry before she retired in 1987 including 'Matador' x *N. jonquilla* hybrids 'Rosemoor Gold' and 'Andrew's Choice', a stock which the author was privileged to select and name. Also, from the legacy of Harry Tuggle came a stock which may, one day, challenge 'Tête-à-Tête' in the huge garden and pot daffodil market. Registered by Cornish growers as 'Cornish Chuckles' this 'Matador' x *N. cyclamineus* hybrid is compact and very free flowering.

Barbara won many awards including the British Empire Medal (BEM) and the American Daffodil Society Gold Medal when she attended the conference in California in 1981.

Research continued until the era of Prime Minister Mrs. Thatcher, when a change of government policy demanded the closure of most of the horticultural experimental centres in the UK. This saw the loss of Rosewarne in 1989 and other research centres followed. The work was deemed to be 'near market' and as such no longer the responsibility of government. Very recently, issues of food security are again being raised in the UK but the resources that once existed will be unlikely to return.

Fortunately, the findings of earlier research still stand and can illuminate some aspects of tazetta physiological. We found that, unlike standard daffodils, which initiate best their single flower at 17 °C in June / July, tazettas need a period at 23°C to fully initiate the multiple head. Florets are laid down, one every few days or each week, during July / September and so conditions over quite a long period determine how many florets will form. This, in turn, determines the weight and quality of the stem (a low floret count equates with a light stem and vice-versa), an important matter in flower marketing. With bulbs in store temperature control presents no problem but with the ‘long-term’ cropping practised on Scilly the climate does not always produce optimal results. Although the Isles have a relatively low summer rainfall due to their low elevation, temperatures seldom maintain 23°C for long and cool weather with rain in July and August can start tazettas into growth before a good flower head has initiated. For this reason, polythene coverage, in addition to its other functions, has proved invaluable. In one experiment 8 weeks polythene coverage boosted the yield of ‘Paper White’ flowers ten-fold. If only all trials produced such results!

Today, Isles of Scilly growers no longer have the monopoly of tazetta growing since with milder winters, ‘Soleil d’Or is being grown commercially on the Cornish mainland and in gardens offering shelter they are increasingly to be seen throughout much of southern England. Perhaps with rising interest and bright new clothes Cinderella may, one day, have a ball. 🌷

[Andrew Tompsett is the author of *Golden Harvest*, the story of the daffodil bulb trade in southeast England. This book is available from: Allison Hodge, 2, Clarence Place, Penzance, Cornwall, TR 18 2QA, UK]



{Reprinted from the 1966 American Horticultural Society Magazine, in the special issue, The Daffodil Handbook}

Tazettas

Lester S. Hannibal

Fair Oaks, California

and

George S. Lee

New Canaan, Connecticut

“Tazetta” is an Italian word meaning “small cup.” The tazettas are the most widely distributed and the oldest known forms of the entire genus *narcissus*. They grow well from the Canary Islands, along both shores of the Mediterranean, on through Syria, Persia, India, and as far as China and Japan. There is little doubt that they are the *narcissus* known to ancient writers.

The tazettas came into garden use around the shores of the Mediterranean many hundreds of years before the coming of Christ. Numerous forms existed and some of the bulbs were conveyed into quite remote localities. Then in the 15th and 16th centuries, the Dutch and English gardeners found the bulbs, and their popularity soared almost as greatly as the tulip. Vast quantities of the bulbs were imported by the thrifty Dutch, so much so that many native haunts were completely denuded long before the end of the 19th century. In 1880 some 50 different variants had been recorded, and as recently as 1907 A.M. Kirby listed 75 named garden forms. Then World War I brought about the devastation of the flower gardens of the Channel area.

Two harsh winters practically wiped out all tazettas from the Channel area. Lost stock could not be replaced. The many native colonies around the Mediterranean had long been stripped – just as many haunts of the wild daffodil are being pillaged today – and to top it off, ‘King Alfred’ and other hardy daffodils swept into the vacuum and captured the gardeners by storm. Because of their hardier constitutions, the hybrid daffodils soon displaced the fickle, frost-sensitive tazettas in all areas but the Scilly Isles. Thus what we have today are the barest remnants of a vast vanishing race.

Currently there are barely half a dozen tazetta types to be found growing in the United States, and only three or four of these are commonly in the trade. The natural habitat of the tazetta species is about the Mediterranean

and in Turkey, and, consequently, tazettas insist on growing conditions which are Mediterranean in character. There is little use in trying to fight Nature.

Thus we find 'White Pearl', 'Paper White', and 'Grand Primo', (very commonly called 'Grand Monarque' in error), all growing in the milder parts of the South and the Gulf area. And in the Far West, bordering the Pacific Ocean in Oregon, Washington, and California, the most likely garden types are 'Paper White', the Chinese 'Grand Emperor', 'Grand Primo', 'Soleil d'Or,' and occasionally the "Minor Monarque" or *italicus*. Once in a blue moon, a true 'Grand Monarque', the dwarf 'Canaliculatus' or a *tazetta aureus* may turn up.

Introduced forms of tazettas have become naturalized in the United States along the South Atlantic and Gulf Coast states, and are known by such delightful names as "Christmas Star", "Seventeen Sisters", "Golden Dollars", "Twin Sisters", and "Pearl". Other equally uncertain forms are found in California and came from China.

'Grand Monarque', which was originally described as *Hermione floribunda* came into garden use about 200 years ago, so we have no means now of establishing its original habitat other than that it must have been from a very warm locality. The same applies to the Chinese 'Grand Emperor'. True, the bulbs are Chinese in origin, but man could have carried them there from the eastern Mediterranean back in Marco Polo's time. ❁

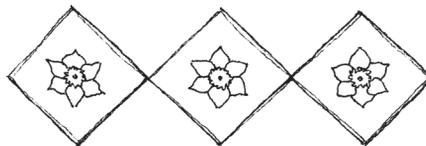


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Seed-Planting Depth

Fred Silcock

Mt. Macedon, Victoria, Australia

The discourse on seed planting featured in last June's issue of *The Daffodil Journal* I found particularly enjoyable. Writings on all facets of daffodil culture interest me, including the growing from seed. When it comes to planting seed, probably I've made more mistakes than most growers.

The emphasis in the June article was on planting depth. In this regard, the worst mistake I ever made was to plant too shallow—less than half an inch, maybe nearer a quarter of an inch. I don't detail what went wrong. My reasoning at the time was that in nature, seeds germinate and grow from the surface of the soil. This may be true, but in the context of what I was trying to do, the reasoning was faulty, for most of the seeds shed by plants, any plants, are lost due to their falling on ground not conducive to termination and growth. A nurseryman trying to grow valuable seeds in this way would soon go out of business.

The question in the June article was: how deep should you plant? My best results have come from planting with about an inch of soil over the top. This top layer is of a slightly lighter or more friable nature than the soil underneath.

Not all baby bulbs want to pull themselves down to three inches. In my conditions, more don't than do. For bulbs that do not want to go a depth of around three inches, deeper planting might disadvantage them. This is one matter I like to leave for the plants to decide. Shallower planting, less than three inches, and in friable soil that they can easily move about in, gives them a choice.

Larry Force's question on the expenditure of energy in sending up a shoot as compared to that required in drawing the bulb downwards is an interesting one. I tend to think that the plant is better served by being able to get its shoot above ground in the shortest possible time. The sooner the plant becomes nourished from both ends – the top by photosyntheses – the better, I believe. Two food sources are better than one.

Heaving under freezing conditions is a greater hazard for seeds planted more shallow than deep. Many have been the times that I've covered beds with thick shade cloth or Hessian on freezing nights; or next day sprayed water to settle the soil back around the seedlings. That was in the days when Mt. Macedon was a place of ferocious winter and spring frosts. These days a frost of any kind is a rarity.

Over the inch of soil on top, I place a thin but full layer of coarse sand (not brick-layer's sand, which has additives to make it "fatty"). A sand mass is a collection of individual units lying loosely against one another. Such sand is fluid, so to speak. A mass of sand is mobile and shock-absorbing and provides excellent protection against heavy rain that otherwise might dig out the seeds.

I found that the bulbs (growing from seed) most likely to pull themselves down much farther than others are the cyclamineus hybrids. Usually I plant seeds of this kind in boxes about seven inches in depth. At two years, the age at which all my seedlings are turned out of their beds, some of these cyclamineus devils would have exited the boxes through the drainage holes if the sides of the holes hadn't prevented them.

Another bitter lesson learned is that young seedlings are very sensitive to iron deficiency that is so easily produced by the excessive use of lime in the soil mix. Calcium is important to healthy plant growth, but daffodils, particularly the very young, can be completely bowled over by the addition of more lime than enough. The pH liked best by baby seedlings is a little on the acidic side of neutral.

In 2007, an addition to the soil mix for the first time was crushed charcoal. A comparative test was done and the charcoal-treated seedlings, appearing now as two-year-olds, show taller and stronger growth than those on which no charcoal was used. It was a hit or miss test, in boxes, and the quantity of charcoal used was not recorded. The amount used was generous. I used charcoal again in the entire seed planting last summer (December to February) and seedlings appearing now seem very healthy.

There are increasing reports by scientists on the good effects of charcoal in soil mixes. Informative papers on charcoal may be found on the Internet. Some reports tell of old deposits of charcoal-

enriched soil “mined” in South America and spread on fields as fertilizer. It seems there is more to charcoal than merely black, burnt wood. The type of wood used might be a factor in determining the quality of charcoal. I make my own, from the hardwoods *eucalyptus* and *acacia*. A 44-gallon drum turned on its side and partly buried in the ground, and with earth and stones heaped around it to hold in the heat, makes an adequate retort.

Care needs to be taken to ensure that the charcoal doesn't burn to ash. Ash was exactly what resulted at my first try. Charcoal and ash are two different things. For one thing, ash is considerably alkaline. Small amounts of charcoal can be crushed with a homemade ram of one kind or another. When I want to do large amounts, I take the material to the local lawn-bowls club and am allowed to use one of the big rollers. ❁

Fred Silcock in his daffodil fields.

Richard Ezell photographs



A Future Wth Daffodils

Kate Orme Carney
Youth Chairman



Bradley Weaver, the youngest child of Karen and Tony Weaver of Dawsonville Georgia, has outgrown the Youth division of the Georgia Daffodil Society as he now enters college. But his participation in the Daffodil Society with his entries in the Youth section had a unique role in shaping his future.

Brad's interest in daffodils started when, at age 13, while clearing kudzu on their 100-acre farm, he found thousands of the historic double daffodil *N.telamonius plenus* (Van Sion). He took a few blooms to the Atlanta show on its last day, and Jaydee Ager and Sara Van Beck helped him identify it and told him to come back next year and enter the show. This was the start of his venture into historic daffodils, which are his favorites; and he began to seek out more kinds for their historic home site.

In a thank you note Brad sent to Jaydee Ager, Sara and Linda Van Beck and John Lipscomb (which I received as a forwarding), he had most exciting news to tell them. This past October he won first place from the National Future Farmers of America for Agricultural Sales. His story has been published in *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* and the magazine *Taste of the South*. Brad had a vision at age four to grow pumpkins on their farm. (His parents are both teachers, not full time farmers). At age five he started with a roadside stand of pumpkins that has now blossomed into Bradley's Pumpkin Patch. From their 100-year-old barn they sell toys and gifts from local Georgia craftsmen. When a nearby daylily nursery was going out of business Brad bought their stock and now sells both registered daylilies and daffodils. He also runs a landscaping crew.

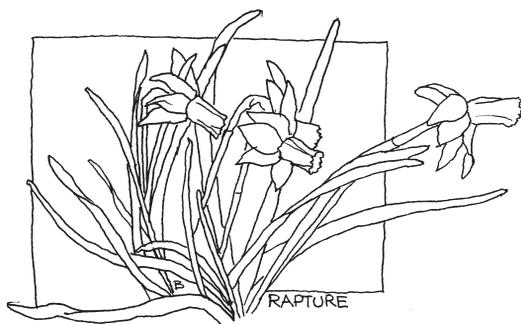
But being picked top winner by the Future Farmers of America is no easy task. He had stiff competition from the mega farms in Texas, Oklahoma and Nebraska. But this is where our dear daffodil came into play. As he wrote in his thank you note to his Georgia daffodil mentors: "one of the things that made a difference, I was told, was the fact that I had

award winning daffodils (he won Best Youth Bloom with ‘Bobwhite’ in 2007) and that I had taken the time to enter them in the state competition. Even though most were from the Youth category, it still documented that I must have done something half way right and wasn’t just making stuff up. Anyway, it’s those sorts of things you don’t think about when you’re just a teenager, but later on in life it seems to matter. I was glad my parents encouraged me to participate, but more important, that all of you took the time to teach me the correct way of showing daffodils so I could win.”

Bradley plans to continue with daffodils and is hoping with his college studies to become an arborist. He also regularly donates his daffodil bulbs to the local hospital for their horticultural therapy program as well as planting multitudes in their landscape. He has also donated 2,000 daffodils to the Oakland Historic Cemetery in Atlanta. In addition, the Smith-Gilbert Arboretum in Kennesaw, GA received a 3,000-bulb donation from him. He gave the Georgia Daffodil Society 3,000 bulbs for their use at historic sites, hospitals, and botanic gardens and for general fundraising.

Agriculture and land preservation will always be a part of Brad’s life. So will sharing his love of pumpkins with local families, church groups and school children that come to visit their farm. He is such a good influence on the local kids and I now hope he will stir your heart as well. You just never know how such a simple act as teaching a youth the basics of showing and growing daffodils might help shape a life. Go to his website: www.bradleyspumpkinpatch.com and you can read more of Bradley’s amazing story.

As Youth Chairman I would love to share your youth story too. So please send it to me at Mcal1062357@aol.com or by mail to my home at 5906 Clevelandtown Rd., Boonsboro, MD 21713. And this spring take time to be a mentor for the youth of your local society and may it be as fruitful as this example has been. ✿



.... *From the President's Desk*

Writing about daffodils at the end of January in Chicago is problematic. The ground is covered with snow, the drifts at the end of my plowed driveway over a yard deep, and the temperature in the twenties. Add the debate on health care, other current news, and the fact that this is to be my last column as President and it makes for a tempered enthusiasm. I can check Daffseek for photos and info about the new bulbs I got down in November, later than usual for our area, and I can browse Daffnet, live vicariously with others' blooms shown there, and maybe even contribute to the palaver. That's some respite for the less-than-uplifting conditions.

That's what I told a stringer for a local newspaper in November when asked what gardeners do in the winter. I was pleased that she chose our Society, among others, to highlight in her article. But I was pretty surprised when a different stringer called just a few minutes ago, asking if I would contribute to her article on why people join garden clubs. She was calling after seeing my name in some Midwest Daffodil Society connection. The questions asked of me were some of the enduring themes of our Society and of those like ours. "Why did you get into daffodils?", "How many do you grow?", "How many members do you have?", She asked several I have pondered for a while and as recently as moments before her call: "Is your group growing?", "How do you get new members?", and "Are you a chapter of a national organization?"

It hurts to give the answers to some of these. I wasn't the first club representative she had spoken to, though. She followed up with what I already knew: "Young people seem to have so many time demands and are so plugged into the web for communications. How are you addressing that?"

What to say? That one is still on our table, and we haven't addressed it very well yet. It is tops on my SWOT list.

What's SWOT? It is reflecting on what we are doing well, where we are weak, where are the opportunities, and where should we be wary? Reread last month's issue and take part in this group exercise to point the way for the future of this organization. Or, just send an email with your ideas and opinions to ADS-President@daffodil.org. If there are answers to the questions and remedies to the implied problems, it will be up to all of us, working with the next President of the ADS. Thanks for tolerating and supporting the current one. 

George Dorner

PLEASE CHECK THE BACK COVER OF THIS JOURNAL FOR YOUR DUES PAID-THRU DATE – AND RENEW YOUR DUES RIGHT AWAY IF YOU ARE PAST DUE.

We don't want you to miss a single issue of this award-winning *Journal!* Contact me if you have questions. We no longer send individual dues notices in order to save money so that we can keep dues as low as possible. We want to convert everyone to pay dues on July 1st, so please align with that payment date by figuring that each *Journal* has a value of \$5.00 and pro-rate as necessary.

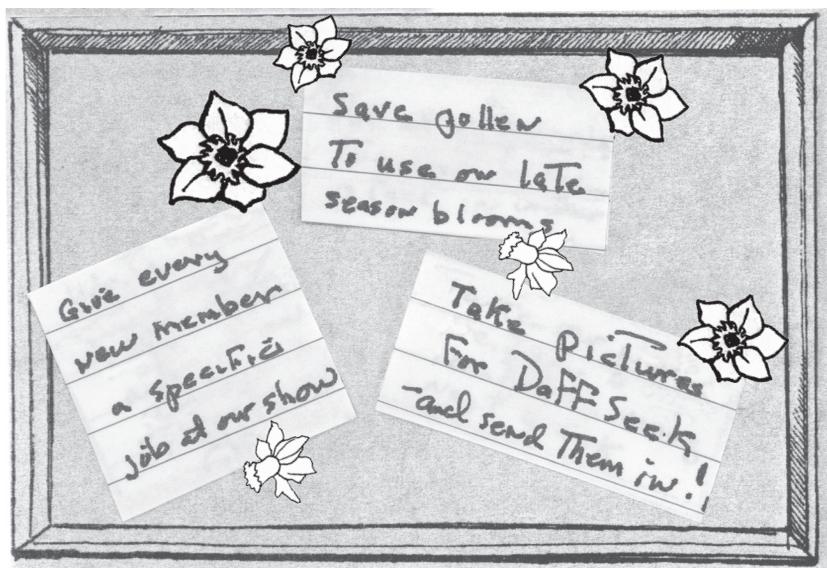
DUES CHECKS ARE MADE PAYABLE TO ADS AND SENT TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE: PO BX 522, HAWKINSVILLE, GA 31036-0522. You can also renew dues online at our ADS webstore: www.daffodilusastore.org. Check the inside front cover of this *Journal*, for the various dues rates offered. If you have any questions about the alignment with JUL 1, please contact the Executive Director. If for some reason, you no longer wish to remain an ADS member, would you please communicate that to the Executive Director? Your response will save costly postage to send additional communications. We love to retain our members, and really hate to drop someone without knowing their wishes.

Some publications you might have interest in are: the 2010 ADS *Throckmorton Daffodil Data Bank* is available for \$35, and includes USA shipping. There are only three remaining in stock. The 09-10 *RHS Daffodil Yearbook*, which is \$24, includes USA shipping, and is available now. We have three remaining 2008 *RHS International Daffodil Register and Classified List*, available for \$78, which includes USA shipping. For those living in the South, consider the VanBeck book listed on the back inside page of this *Journal*. Do you have the latest *Daffodils to Show and Grow -2008*? It has a sky blue cover and the price is \$8. And the *Handbook for Growing, Exhibiting, and Judging Daffodils* is an essential resource. Orders for publications are sent to the Executive Director and can also be processed at our ADS webstore.

Please check the DEC 09 *Journal*, pg 92, for a listing of new CD programs and other educational or archival e-media available. Order those from the Executive Director.

How can I be of assistance to you? Phone me at my residence office, 478/783-2153, e-mail me: jager@dishmail.net or snail me at the address above. I'm eager to help. ☘

Your daffodil concierge,
Jaydee Atkins Ager



June 1 is Deadline for Registering New Daffodil Cultivars

Any hybridizer who plans to register a new daffodil cultivar during the 2010 show season must send complete information to the Information Management chairman, Mary Lou Gripshover, on or before June 1, 2010. The application form can be ordered by mail from Mary Lou at 1686 Grey Fox Trail, Milford, OH 45150, (513)-248-9137, or from mgripshover@cinci.rr.com. Be taking pictures and making final measurements during this bloom season. A slide or a photograph (which will be returned) is helpful but not required.



Fall Board Meeting Features Intermediates Symposium

The Fall Board Meeting October 1-2, 2010, to be held in Tysons Corner, Virginia, will also include a special Symposium, this one focusing on Intermediate Daffodils. All ADS members are welcome to attend. The Sheraton Premier Hotel, site of the 50th Anniversary Convention in 2004, will be the location. Rooms are \$79 per night, and the weekend includes garden tours, auctions, and parties – and of course the business meetings. Mark this weekend on your calendar. More information will appear in the *June Journal*.

In Memoriam

ADS Life Member Bonnie Hohn, of Staunton, Virginia, died on December 10, 2009. She was a Professor of Biology at Mary Baldwin College in Staunton until 2003. Bonnie and her sister Sally, also a Life Member, who died in 1995, attended conventions when they were held on the East Coast. Richard Ezell remembers that they formed firm friendships with some of our international members. Matthew Zandbergen, the great Dutch grower, was late to a panel discussion in which he was taking part because he was happily swapping daffodil stories with Bonnie and Sally. Lindsey Dettman was so impressed by the sisters on his one lengthy visit to the United States that he named two of his poeticus hybrid seedlings after them, 'Bonnie Marie' and 'Sally Ann'.

Our sympathy goes to Lois Van Wie on the death of her husband Nelson, who attended ADS conventions and Southeast Region shows with Lois, and was very supportive of her daffodil activities.

Memorial Gift:

A memorial contribution to the American Daffodil Society for Delia Bankhead has been received from Tom Stettner.



Judging Schools for 2010

School II will be held in Dallas on Saturday and Sunday, March 6 and 7, following the Texas Daffodil Society show on March 5-6. For further information about the school, which will be held at the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Gardens, 8625 Garland Road, Dallas, TX, contact Mary Ann Moreland, 528 E. Tripp Rd., Sunnyvale, TX 75182; 214-802-6777(cell) or 972-226-2787, geray@aol.com.

School III will be held in Atlanta, Georgia. The ID portion of the test will be held on March 20, after the judging ends for the Georgia Daffodil Society Show. School III will be completed on Sunday, March 21. For details, contact Carolyn Hawkins, 7329 Kendel Court, Jonesboro, Georgia 30236-2512; (770) 855-4248; or email her at Carolyn9999@comcast.net.



SEGOVIA

New ADS Display Gardens for Spring 2010

Jill Griesse

Display Gardens chairman

Spring Grove Cemetery, Cincinnati, Ohio

Spring Grove Cemetery and Arboretum in Cincinnati was chartered in 1845, and is the second largest cemetery in the nation. The property is 730 acres, 450 of which are developed. From the start, the cemetery grounds were used as an arboretum for the study of plants. The Cincinnati Horticultural Society annually reported the new varieties planted and their growth in the arboretum. By 1850, the horticulturists listed 4,300 ornamental plant varieties and a stock of 11,300 nursery plants, many of which were donated.

In 1915, the number and size of ornamental flower borders and beds were greatly enlarged. More flowers were introduced, particularly tree peonies, orchids, iris, and daffodils. The Arboretum now has a plant collection of over 1,200 labeled plants. This collection includes a mixture of trees, shrubs, and perennials and natives and non-natives. The entire property is the garden. There are several plantings of naturalized daffodils throughout the grounds, to which at least 500 daffodils are now added to annually. Of particular note is a large drift of historic daffodils planted in the late 1800s. While daffodils were often planted in the Victorian period by family members within their family plots, this is one of the few examples of an extensive Victorian public planting of daffodils.

**Spring Grove Cemetery & Arboretum 4521 Spring Grove Ave.
Cincinnati, OH 45232, www.springgrove.org**

The Eudora Welty House, Jackson, Mississippi

Readers of Eudora Welty's fiction know that she was an avid and knowledgeable gardener: the names of flowers and plants – wild and domestic – abound in her prose and correspondence. The garden, created by Eudora's mother, Chestina, and tended by Eudora for years, has been carefully restored to its former and highest glory, the period of 1925-1945. The ¾ acre garden features a perennial border and rose garden, reconstructed trellises and latticework, a woodland garden, and camellia collection.

Chestina worked to lay out and plant the garden according to the style of the day, which called for outdoor rooms and flower borders. Eudora loved bulbs both large and small-flowered, and the upper garden is filled with them. Her special favorites, camellias, are the major feature of the front yard garden.. She collected crocuses, zephranthes, surprise lilies, milk-and-wine lilies, spider lilies, her favorite hyacinthus or French Roman hyacinths, and many daffodils, ordering them both from established nurseries and from farm women who advertised in the Mississippi Market Bulletin. Narcissus in the Welty garden include ‘Campernelles’, ‘Beersheba’, ‘Sweetness’, ‘Silver Bells’, ‘Grand Primo’, ‘Avalanche’, ‘Thalia’, ‘Twink’, and ‘Twin Sisters’.

The Eudora Welty House 1119 Pinehurst Street, Jackson, MS 39205, www.eudoraweltyhouse.org.

Filoli Center, Woodside, California

Filoli, owned by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, is considered one of the finest 20th Century American country estates. Located 30 miles south of San Francisco, it was built in 1915-1917 for Mr. and Mrs. William Bowers Bourn; he was the owner of the Empire gold mine. The English Country estate landscape design boasts daffodils planted soon after construction to the present day. Approximately 60 varieties are grown and displayed in pots around the grounds, with another 140 or so varieties planted across the estate grounds. It is estimated there are approximately 15,000 daffodils enjoying the California life in this magnificent setting.

Filoli Center, 86 Cañada Road, Woodside, CA 94062, www.filoli.org.

For a photographic tour of Filoli, see pages 100-101 in the December Daffodil Journal.



On the following page, alphabetically by states, is a list of the ADS Display Gardens. Complete contact information can be found on the ADS website, www.daffodil.usa.

Visit one of the ADS Display Gardens during your travels this spring:

California:

Filoli Center, Woodside

Florida:

Goodwood Museum and Gardens, Tallahassee

Van Beck Garden, Tallahassee

Georgia:

Smith-Gilbert Arboretum, Kennesaw

State Botanical Garden of Georgia, Heritage Garden, Athens

Illinois:

Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe

Massachusetts:

Tower Hill Botanic Garden, Boylston

Missouri:

Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis

Mississippi:

Eudora Welty House, Jackson

Ohio:

Fellows Riverside Garden, Youngstown

Spring Grove Cemetery and Arboretum, Cincinnati

Pennsylvania:

Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square

Rhode Island:

Blithewold Mansion, Gardens, and Arboretum, Bristol

Tennessee:

Historic Carnton Plantation, Franklin

Cheekwood Art and Gardens, Nashville

Virginia:

Brent and Becky's Bulbs, Gloucester

Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, Richmond

Old City Cemetery, Lynchburg

Utah:

Durtschi Garden, Stockton

Thanksgiving Point Gardens, Lehi

“Unwanted Daffodil Bulbs? Never!”

Vicky Eicher,
Charlottesville, VA

Your daffodil garden looks beautiful, but it includes flowers that are mis-identified, not what you expected, bulbs desperately needing to be dug and divided, or otherwise bulbs that you do not wish to keep. And down the street there’s a field full of daffodils that’s about to be bulldozed and the owner has no desire to rescue the bulbs first. What do you do?

Naturally, properly named bulbs can always go to your club’s bulb exchange table, or special projects. But the rest – the “orphans”? Whatever you do, do not throw them out. Plenty of folks would treasure these bulbs and give them loving homes in their yards, regardless of division, color code, name, etc. Here are some ideas:

1. Use them for charity fund raisers. My extra bulbs are part of my “thank you” to friends who support my efforts to raise money to fight breast cancer. Daffodils are used by the American Cancer Society as a symbol of hope. You or your club could work with your local chapter and use bulbs to raise funds to fight this terrible disease, and/or to beautify the local chapter’s grounds.

2. Donate bulbs to your local Hospice House. The Hospice House in Charlottesville, VA, gives my surplus bulbs to families of former residents in memory of their loved one, and plants others in the House’s front yard to delight visitors each Spring. Those bulbs should be among the best you wish to give.

3. Give some of your best bulbs as part of a condolence note to the family of someone who’s died.

4. Give them to newlyweds, or friends who have just moved into a new home, or anyone else who is celebrating a milestone, has some land, and would appreciate flowers in the spring.

5. Do you have long-term/extended rehabilitation facilities or Senior Daycare facilities in your area? Ask if they would like to receive bulbs for patients and visitors to plant in the autumn in the ground or in pots, and then watch the flowers bloom in the spring.

6. Donate extra bulbs to your community or housing development, for use in public areas. Those who live in Washington, DC, can attest to the visual delight of fields of golden daffodils along the highways each spring. Peter Ramsay and our other Kiwi friends have encouraged local

bodies or voluntary groups to request bulbs that were used in Centenary Celebrations and to welcome participants in the 2012 World Convention.

7. Donate them to a youth group. Last year the Virginia Daffodil Society's annual show in Richmond, VA, included lovely Easter Baskets made by local Girl Scouts who used flowers donated by members. The girls had a wonderful time making the baskets, and everyone enjoyed seeing the results. As a follow-up, participants and the others in their Scout troupe might appreciate receiving surplus bulbs so they could grow their own flowers.

8. Budgets continue to be tight, and your place of worship, local school or other facility with public garden projects might appreciate receiving low maintenance bulbs that produce a beautiful floral display in spring.

9. Include bulbs in a yard sale, whether in your yard or in a fund-raising yard sale for an organizational support. For years the Central Mississippi Daffodil Society had a test garden at Mississippi College in Clinton, and used the annual bulb sale to keep the society solvent.

10. Do you and/or your local plant society give educational programs for children or adults? Keith Kridler, in Texas, uses daffodil photos in his nature/bird/plant/insects programs, and suggests giving students bags of daffodil bulbs for planting around their school. In New Zealand there is a Country Schools Daffodil Challenge which supplies exhibition bulbs to schools and club members to mentor the students in both growing and exhibiting daffodils.

11. Have you heard about "Daffodil Rescues"? Discarded bulbs are rescued and then replanted along the road near the diggers' homes to produce beautiful naturalized landscapes. Other stray or damaged bulbs get tossed into a slightly wooded area to naturalize. Some rescuers go to future new highway or building sites to retrieve bulbs, to plant them anywhere they can. It adds excitement if the bulldozers are chugging away behind you as you hastily wield a shovel! The Georgia Daffodil Society members have rescued historic sites slated for redevelopment and given these bulbs to historic house properties that have period landscapes.

12. Finally, do you have bits and pieces of bulbs? Even those have value. We have a deer problem, but last spring we had tulips in bloom for the first time in years. We liberally sprinkled the beds with chopped-up daffodil bulbs. These pieces came from bulbs that had been inadvertently cut up during the "dig and divide" season and soft bulbs that proved to be bulb-fly free. I don't know how long this will work, but we have a beautiful display of tulips for at least one year. 🌷

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Is Your Show “Beginner Friendly”?

Donna Dietsch responded vigorously to a recent DaffNet discussion:

A beginner friendly show is not one where there is a class for unnamed cultivars. It is not a show where the schedule has the beginner classes at the beginning. It is a show where every member of the host club is dedicated to telling everyone who visits about daffodils.

Cecile Spitz of Columbus, Ohio, was the most beginner friendly person I ever knew. Once she got hold of you, you would get into growing daffodils – and many of us became interested because of her, including me. She never failed to watch the visitors at the show and, when she saw them lingering on anything, she would go over and tell them more about what had piqued their interest. I still do the same thing she did and love to take someone who leans over to smell a bloom to the tazettas and jonquils, and let them sniff something with real scent.

You have to become beginner friendly in order to make your show the same. ❁

Making Miniature Show Blocks

Clay Higgins

Harbinger, NC

When Fran and I started talking about creating a new daffodil show in Northeast North Carolina, the subject of properties and test tubes was always one of the first subjects that came up; over and over again by my daffodil friends. However, that was a subject that was not unknown to me as I have always worked with wood since I helped my father build houses when I was a teenager in high school.

Many of you have seen me around your Daffodil Shows across the eastern USA; therefore I had exposure to a large number of properties used by the various shows. I have to admit that I was more of a “standard” daffodil exhibitor than a miniature exhibitor. Now that Fran and I were getting ready to put on our own show, I had to have both standards and miniatures. The block for standards was easy; get a piece of 2X4 and drill holes in it. Piece of cake.

After being with the Washington Daffodil Society, known as the WDS, for over 10 years, I liked the way the WDS did their properties. I had obtained my own WDS properties and made a few replicas for my own use. I interchanged these with the properties of WDS so that I could keep enough at home to stage my larger collections before I took them to the show. I decided to use WDS properties as a template, and the WDS test tube sizes; miniatures 13mm, and standards 20mm. The miniature properties I found to be the most intriguing of all to build.

The WDS miniature properties were blocks of 5 for the Lavender Ribbon, blocks of 9 for the Aqua and blocks of 12 for the Watrous. I took one look at the block of 12 and realized that it was the perfect template of all the miniature properties. The WDS Watrous property is stair-stepped with the back and tallest row containing 5 test tube; the middle row set slight below the top and containing 4 test tubes: the front and shortest row holding 3 test tubes.

The Watrous was the perfect building block using 2x2 lumber strips held together with wood screws. Three strips in the back row, two strips in the middle row and one strip in the front row. The Aqua ribbon has the back two rows consisting of the back row with two 2x2 strips and the middle row with one strip giving me the stair-step. The front row of three was perfect for showing three miniatures together. The back row of 5 makes a perfect block to show a Lavender ribbon.

After that it was a matter of cutting the strips to measurements, drilling the 13mm holes, and putting the patterns together with screws to hold them in place. I used a flat black spray paint to color them, and they were ready for the show bench. I was surprised at how quickly I could make all the properties that I needed to show miniatures. It took all of about 5 hours from starting to measure, to painting. My result was 4 Watrous blocks, 4 Aqua blocks, 30 blocks for three and 12 blocks of five for the mini Lavender ribbon. ❁

One answer to the Puzzle on page 180:

Give your Youth mentoree a ten-bulb pack of 'Dreamlight'. 11 stems could possibly win, or be included in, a total of 12 ADS awards. 1 stem could win the Youth Blue, and go on to win the Gold Ribbon (unless it was defeated there by the Division 3 single stem blue ribbon winner). 3 blooms could win the Youth three stem award and go on to win the ADS White Ribbon, if it did not lose here to the Division 3 three stem blue ribbon trio. 2 other blooms could win the Intermediate and Historic blues. A trio could win the Historic three stem blue. One more could be a part of a winning Purple Ribbon collection which was given to the Division 3 five-stem blue ribbon winner. With one last stem, he or she could have a blue ribbon winner in the Small Growers class. Not likely, but it's possible.

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Around the Regions

The Midwest Region



The Indiana Daffodil Society is a fine example of cooperation with other horticultural groups, in this case the Indiana Garden Clubs, and in community outreach. The Indiana chapter of the National Council of State Garden Clubs is highlighting the wonders of the daffodil and has invited the IDS to stage their ADS Midwest Regional show on April 12-13 in conjunction with the Indiana Garden Club's state convention at the Hilton Indianapolis North Hotel.

After the competition, with permission of the exhibitors, the blooms will be moved to the regular venue of the IDS show, Holiday Park Nature Center, for a flower exhibition April 13 and 14.

The members of the Indiana Daffodil Society, according to IDCS Newsletter editor Mary Milburger, "jumped at the opportunity to share their enthusiasm for and knowledge of daffodils with like-minded gardeners," and build a connection between the two groups. Suzy Wert, 29-year IDS member and former ADS Youth chairman, will be a speaker at one of the breakout sessions of the Garden Club of Indiana's convention.

The president of the Indiana Garden Club, Renee Blasche, has chosen the daffodil to be their special project flower, encouraging members to plant daffodils and calling their project "Golden Days." And they are doing mass plantings at senior housing facilities. Mary Milberger will send invitations to the various senior communities to visit the Midwest Regional show and IDS exhibition, perhaps even as an organized "field trip."

The Indiana Daffodil Society members also participate in booths at Master Gardener exhibits, the Indiana State Fair, and Home and Garden Shows, and speak throughout the state to educate and share their enthusiasm for daffodils. ❁

Landscaping With Daffodils

Elizabeth T. Capen
Boonton, New Jersey

Elizabeth Capen, known to her friends but never in her writings for publication as “Lib,” was a highly knowledgeable member for more than four decades of the American Daffodil Society.

She was a charter member and one of the founders of the American Daffodil Society, and a Life Member.

She served as Regional Vice President for the Northeast Region in the 1950s, and was the ADS 2nd vice-president at a time when the “glass ceiling” meant that was the highest office she achieved.

Elizabeth and her husband John made their home in Boonton, New Jersey, where they welcomed friends from America and overseas to “Springdale Gardens,” a beautiful landscape which also included an ADS Test Garden.

She had an extensive collection of the Alec Gray bulbs, and was the first to grow many Guy Wilson introductions in the United States. She and John traveled widely, making many visits to the daffodil gardens in the United Kingdom.

Ten of her articles appeared in The Daffodil Journal from September of 1981 through December of 1986. The article reprinted below dealt with a subject of very special importance to her.

Rebecca Brown of Gettysburg has created drawings to illustrate the different levels of the landscaping which Lib Capen planned.

LMCK

As we move into the major weeks of spring, it seems high time to agree on some definitions. The prime question to be considered is of course, “What is a landscape?”

Landscape: a definition

In our opinion, a landscape is a composition, a three-dimensional picture, made from elements at hand outdoors, modified and augmented to create a pleasing element, which cannot be static, as are the scenes created by such famous landscapists as Constable, Innes, Corot, or Monet, because

our scene must be viewed from ever-changing vantage, as we move about the garden. And then, we must add another dimension – TIME – for we shall want to enjoy our garden through the year.

Non-Landscape – Example 1

There are two types of daffodil plantings commonly seen that defy our definition and illustrate our point. The first type we shall just call “conglomeration.” Such stems from the combinations of many bulbs and lots of space. Sometimes the bulbs come from purchases of unlabeled miscellany but often represent cast-offs of an ambitious exhibiting program. From either source, un-named mixed bulbs, planted with no regard for composition or future, lead to our first picture of “Non-Landscaping,” a type which I am sure most members have seen. Sometimes this kind of landscaping is euphemistically called “naturalizing.”

Non-Landscape – Example 2

The second type is less common, but no less unfortunate. This is what happens when Dutch landscape architects impose on a magnificent woodland of gently rolling hills, mature oaks, and elegant huge granite outcrops an entirely plastic design, completely unrelated to the terrain. It is, in other words, an imitation of the famous Keukenhof display in flat Holland, wherein each exhibitor stuffs his spot to its fullest, planning, of course, to dig up all the bulbs after blooming and to plant others for the next display.

I must admit that the very first viewing of this type I saw was spectacular, as certainly is Keukenhof, but I watched the American interpretation deteriorate until now it is no more.

While few of us have Dutch landscape architects on call, some of us are using their techniques. When planting for that community project or for yourself, do first study the terrain, plan your design to conform to what nature has provided, and then, think of the future. Of all plants, daffodils do have a future.



Elements of a Daffodil Landscape

A second question will follow immediately: “What are the elements of a daffodil landscape?” One way to answer this question and so to provide sort of a definition of what we mean by a landscape featuring daffodils could be to observe its several levels.

1. Ground Level

The base, with the sky at the top, makes a frame.

In formal scenes, a lawn usually provides a base.

Sometimes a paved area serves.

Water can be the first element of the scene.

In more casual areas, our palette extends.

A host of ground covers are available.

Early growth of later blooming perennials, such as iris and hemerocallis, functions as ground cover in spring.

As we move to woodland, forest duff becomes the base.



2. The First Foot

The first foot adds the interest of complementing color and contrasting size.

The so-called “minor bulbs” add shades of blue. Muscari, scilla, chionodoxa, and puschkinia come first to mind.

For those without a mole-mice-deer problem some of the tulip species are great with daffodils. Our favorite is *T. princes* which just matches the yellow-red found in most of the daffodil red-cups.

The hyacinth Borah and its imitators (that is those treated to produce sprays rather than spikes) will last for many years in ground rocky enough to discourage moles, adding an early splash of blue and the scent that overpowers even the jonquils.

Some ground-covers contribute color at this time, notably vinca, arabis, waldsenia, viola, iris, most in some variety; *Galium odorata* (formerly *Asperula*) is great for rough terrain; the heaths (*Erica*) and the heathers (*Calluna*) are splendid but mostly for warmer areas than ours, as are the anemones and triteleia. Almost anyone can grow *Phlox subulata* if you just don't care.

Wild flowers share the daffodil season and are especially appreciated in less formal, semi-woodland areas. We urge exploring.

A few perennials, neither groundcovers nor wild flowers, cannot be dismissed at this time of year. Among them, we especially savor the epimediums, primulas, alyssums, polemoniums, some in variety, fun to explore.

A final group, especially appreciated by rock garden and alpine enthusiasts, and nice with dwarf daffodils, includes the dwarf shrubs such as daphnes and prunus and the tender hebes.



3. The Second Foot

The second foot of the spring scene belongs to the daffodil. As it is an informal plant, we must create for it a plan of fluidity and grace. Herein our sense of proportion and scale directs.

There are a few spring-blooming plants of near daffodil height too valuable to ignore. We use camassias, the tall western erythroniums, the well-named and popular *Dicentra spectabilis*. We are nursing at brookside the *Lysichitum americanum* that astounded ADS visitors to the Savill Gardens, where its arum-like spathes made brilliant yellow clusters along the stream. Certainly any plant of this range to be placed in a daffodil landscape must have spectacular individuality.

4. Two to Four Feet

Daffodils bloom at a stark time of the year. They need a background. For most of us that means evergreens. An alternative may be well-placed rocks.

As daffodils prefer sun, the best medium-height needle evergreens prove to be the junipers, which are available in many forms from the collected to many new hybrids and selections.

Others, such as *chamaecyparis*, *cryptomeria*, *taxus*, *tsuga*, *thuja*, can be used, especially when young – and inexpensive – to start a new garden cheaply, as long as one understands that these are all forest trees and one has the intestinal fortitude to move them to their proper sphere when necessary or to cut them down.



Forest trees of the north that will accept almost indefinite hacking are, of course, the hemlock and the yew.

I am reminded of when we were fortunate to be shown about the Biltmore Gardens, Asheville, by the director, Mr. Cecil. He showed our group – “cognoscenti,” all but me – a beautiful dwarf hemlock. The most knowledgeable of us immediately assumed it was *Tsuga sargentii* (a famous dwarf form named for that famous arborist who considered the hemlock the greatest of American conifers.) It was an elegant, symmetrical mound under five feet, framed overall with feathery wisps of new growth.

“Not so,” said Mr. Cecil. “this is just Canadian hemlock. We keep pruning it.”

Ever since, I have been practicing Mr. Cecil’s technique. While we have not yet achieved a pseudo *T. sargentii*, Jack has often performed major surgery on large hemlocks with success. I recommend it when needed.

Broad-leaved evergreens in this two-to-six foot range are very important to daffodil gardens. In the north, the sine qua non are pieris, kalmia, leucothe, shrub forms of ilex, and rhododendrons.

In warmer areas, many of these serve, too, but this is a group that thrives from Zone 6-9 which is the despair of those in Zone 5 – genista, daphne, aucuba, buxus, skimmia, ligustrum, and some rhododendrons. Grow these at your risk, if you garden in Zone 5.

Further south, where the magnificent *Magnolia grandiflora* dominates all plantings, a few important shrubs especially contribute: crepe myrtle, hardy from Zone 6 south: loquat (*Eriobotrya*), *Ilex bufordii* and *cornuta*, perhaps not shrubs, but wonderful for hedges, nandina, *Cunninghamia lanceolata*, an unique tree-shrub recommended by our best from the South.’

While I have friends who gloat in growing a Southern magnolia against a warm north garage wall, I have learned to “stick to my last.” There are too many wonderful plants that actually prefer what any gardener has for him to contort his growing to conform to the requirements of any plant. Learn your own.

Deciduous ones are spear-headed by the quinces, now available in many luscious colors. Also useful in a planting of small scale are several dwarf forms of standard spring shrubs.

5. Six to Twenty Plus

Here come some of the loveliest of spring flowers. The palette is endless, and no daffodil gardener has a landscape until adding some.

To call the roll: magnolias, cornus, forsythia, rhododendrons, viburnums, prunus, corylopsis, fothergilla, salix, amelanchier, lonicera, cersis, halesia, salvia, spirea, deutzia, malus, enkianthus, hamamelis to start the season; and

to extend the season, the fringe tree, the smoke tree, the golden rain tree, the American cranberry, featherleaf viburnia, and stewartia all add interest, but we have never had success with the franklinias.

To elaborate on comparative values of these plants, most of which are available from several to many varieties, is beyond the scope of our study here. I urge anyone planning a daffodil garden to see not only as many varieties of growing daffodils as possible, but to visit other gardens in the spring. Botanical gardens and long-established plantings of collectors in your area will let you see mature specimens from which to choose.

6. The Step Below the Sky

Only majestic trees provide this final element, and that often means a 300-year start. Too true, but not insurmountable. We urge gardeners to work with what is there and to prune it – up, up, up. Study every spring which trees have the future that YOU want, knowing that every tree or plant is determined to proceed to its destiny, its ecological Shangri-La – which may not be yours. A few trees reach this status sooner than most. I shall just hint. Try hemlock, tulip, and some oaks. ❁



2010 American Daffodil Society Shows

Chriss Rainey
Awards Chairman

Welcome to show season, once again. Dallas, Texas, has the privilege of starting things off on March 5, followed a day later by Ridgeland, Mississippi. After that is the much-anticipated National Convention in Murphys, California, which has attracted the attention of daffodil enthusiasts from around the globe. Thirty-eight more shows will follow this event, stretching across the country to Boylston, Massachusetts, on the East Coast, and ending on May 15, in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

There have been a few changes in the data listed below since December for a couple of the shows, so if you plan to travel outside your own local area, be sure you have the correct date, time and address of the show you are attending. (Princess Anne, for instance, has moved to a new site since the *Journal* was published in December.)

If the weather seems threatening, and you are unsure about whether a show has been canceled or not, first check the ADS website which we hope to keep accurate up to the minute, and then first call the contact person, and next call me, if you still have questions. I can be reached at 703-391-2073.

If you are a show chairman and find that conditions require you to cancel, contact Nancy Tackett right away so that she can update the ADS website, and then let me know as well. Before you cancel, however, remember that while your own collections may have suffered from poor weather in the days prior to your show date, others planning to attend from a distance may have wonderful blooms to bring.

Many shows have added new classes to their schedules which increase the exhibitor's opportunities to win some recently created ADS ribbons. And some shows have dramatically changed the way their schedules are written, so pay particular attention to the schedule at each show when placing entries.

If you are the person who is given the task of filling out the show report form, I hope you will honor the responsibility of recording the required information thoroughly and without error so that those who have won awards can receive the credit due them in the published results of the show season in the September 2010 *Journal*. Show chairmen should make sure that whoever takes on this job for a local show is a person who fully understands how important this data is to not only the winning exhibitors but also to the people across the country who track cultivar popularity

and success rates. These reports should be filled out as soon as judging is complete and returned to me within two weeks of your show date. Using class record cards is the most helpful way to establish a backup for the information after the flowers are gone, should an error in the show report be discovered upon review. I encourage every show to use these cards and to save them for one year following the show.

Good luck to all exhibitors hoping to win a favorite or a much-sought-after award this season. Thank you, to, to all those who participate in a hundred different ways to keep yellow fever alive and well, chairing shows, writing schedules, setting up benches, talking to the public at shows, handing out membership brochures – just all the things that make a difference. ✨

March 5-6, 2010, Dallas, Texas, Texas Daffodil Society, Dallas Arboretum, 8617 Garland Rd, Dallas, TX. Contact: Rod Armstrong, 7520 England Drive, Plano, TX 75025, 972 517-2218, rla1944@verizon.net

March 6, 2010, Ridgeland, Mississippi, Central Mississippi Daffodil Society, Centre Court, Northpark Mall, 1200 East County Line Road, Ridgeland, MS 39157. Contact: Loyce McKenzie, 249 Ingleside Drive, Madison, MS 39110, 601 856-5462. lmckdaffodils@aol.com

March 12-14, 2010, Murphys, California, American Daffodil Society National Show, Northern California Daffodil Society, Kautz Ironstone Vineyards, 1894 Six Mile Road, Murphys, CA. Contact: Bob Spotts, 409 Hazelnut Dr., Oakley, CA 94561, 925 625-5526, robert_spotts@comcast.net

March 20, 2010, Barco, North Carolina, The Northeastern North Carolina Daffodil Society, NC Agriculture Cooperative Extension Facility, 120 Community Way (at US Rt 158 & Avion Pkwy) Barco, NC. Contact: Clay Higgins, P.O. Box 369 Harbinger, NC 27941, 240 632-0002, chiggins@comcast.net

March 20-21, 2010, Atlanta, Georgia, Southeast Regional Show, Georgia Daffodil Society & East Tennessee Daffodil Society, Atlanta Botanical Gardens, Day Hall 1345 Piedmont Ave., NE, Atlanta, GA 30309. Contact: Bonnie Campbell, 590 Sandy Creek Rd., Fayetteville, GA 30214, 770 461-7066, shade007@bellsouth.net & Lynn Ladd, 1701 Westcliff Dr., Maryville, TN 37803-6301, 865 984-6688, lladd1701@bellsouth.net

March 20, 2010, Conway, Arkansas, Southern Regional Show, Arkansas Daffodil Society, Library of Faulkner County 2900 Tyler St., Conway, AR 72034. Contact: Kay Mayes, 7 Deerwood Dr., Conway, AR 72034-6112, 501 329-8201, mkcalvert@earthlink.net

March 20-21, 2010, Fortuna, California, Fortuna Garden Club, Fortuna River Lodge Conference Center, 1800 Riverwalk Dr., Fortuna, CA.

Contact: Janean Guest 707 498-3241, janean@hotmail.com

March 27-28, 2010, Albany, Oregon, Oregon Daffodil Society, Heritage Mall, 1895 East 14th St., SE Albany, OR 97321. Contact: Peggy Tigner, 27861 Pine View Rd., Brownsville, OR 97327, 541 466-3429, tigner@centurytel.net

March 27-28, 2010, Gloucester, Virginia, Garden Club of Gloucester, Page Middle School, Route 17 South, Gloucester, VA. Contact: Sandy Geiger 804 642-6212, sgeiger2@cox.net, Jaye DuPaul 804 693-6742, waresjaye@aol.com

March 27-28, 2010, Nashville, Tennessee, Middle Tennessee Daffodil Society, Cheekwood Botanic Gardens, 1200 Forrest Park Dr., Nashville, TN 37205. Contact: Ann McKinney, 5134 Remington Dr., Brentwood, TN 37027, 615 377-6848, annmckinney1@aol.com

March 27-28, 2010, St. Louis, Missouri, St. Louis Daffodil Society, Missouri Botanical Garden, 4344 Shaw Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63110, Contact: Lynn Slackman, 3758 Boatmans Point, Belleville, IL, 62221-0435, dslackman@aol.com, Gerard Knehans, gwk@fidnet.com

April 3, 2010, Princess Anne, Maryland, Somerset County Garden Club, Somerset Avenue, Fire House Hall. Contact: Elisabeth Walker, 410 651-3803, liswalker@verizon.net

April 3-4, 2010, Richmond, Virginia, Middle Atlantic Regional Show, Virginia Daffodil Society, Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, Edu. Bldg., 1800 Lakeside Ave., Richmond, VA 23228. Contact: Linda Simon, 10020 Stone Path Drive, Ashland, VA 23005, 804 752-7598, linda.simon@comcast.net

April 7, 2010, Cambridge, Maryland, Dorchester Garden Club, Immanuel United Church of Christ, 5401 Whitehall Rd., Cambridge, MD 21613 Contact: Joanna Tilghman, joannasdaf@aol.com

April 6-7, 2010, Charles Town, West Virginia, The Shenandoah-Potomac District of WV Garden Clubs, Inc., Episcopal Parish House, 221 E. Washington St., Charles Town, WV 25414, Contact: Mary Koonce 304-725-5609, marykoonce@frontiernet.net

April 7-8, 2010, Sweet Briar, Virginia, Garden Club of Virginia, The Florence Elston Inn and Conference Center at Sweet Briar College, 450 Sweet Briar Drvie, Sweet Briar, VA 24595 Contact: Melanie Christian 434 384-1881 mschristian@gmail.com

April 9-10, 2010, Edgewater, Maryland, Dist. II, Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland, Historic London Town House and Gardens, Edgewater, MD. Contact: Marie Coulter, 342 Prestonfield Lane, Severna Park, MD 21146-1512, 410 647-8971, Frankandmarie@verizon.net

April 10-11, 2010, Amity, Oregon, Pacific Regional Show, Oregon Daffodil Society, Amity Elementary School, 302 Rice Lane, Amity, OR. Contact: Nancy Ellis, 16501 SE Fairview, Dayton, OR 97114-8620 503 868-7507 ellis@onlinenw.com

April 10-11, 2010, Cincinnati, Ohio, Southwestern Ohio Daffodil Society, Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden, 3400 Vine St., Cincinnati, OH 45220, Tree Tops Room. Contact: Linda Wallpe, 1940 Gregory Lane, Cincinnati, OH 45206,,513 221-4140, lwallpe@gmail.com

April 10-11, 2010, Wheaton, Maryland, Washington Daffodil Society, Brookside Gardens, 1800 Glenallan Ave., Wheaton, MD 20902. Contact: Tom Taylor, 8102 Bright Meadows Lane, Dunn Loring, VA 22027, 703 698-8636, tom1939@msn.com

April 10-11, 2010 Wichita, Kansas, Wichita Daffodil Society, Botanica, the Wichita Gardens 701 North Amidon, Wichita, KS Contact: Margie Roehr, 594 North Broadmoor, Wichita, KS 67206, 316 682-3519

April 12-13, 2010, Indianapolis, Indiana, Midwest Regional Show, Indiana Daffodil Society, Hilton Indianapolis North, 8181 N. Shadeland Ave., Indianapolis, Indiana. Contact: Sara Kinne 8899 Baby Creek Rd., Bloomington, IN 47408 812 332-5603 skinne@kiva.net

April 13, 2010, Upperville, Virginia, Upperville Garden Club, Buchanan Hall, 8649 John S. Mosby Hwy, Upperville, VA. Contact: Diane Ingoe 540 338-5610, dianeingoe@rstartmail.com

April 15, 2010, Mt. Airy, Maryland, District V of the Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland, Inc., St. James Episcopal Church, 1307 North Main St., Mt. Airy, MD, Contact: Marjorie Scheibel rmschiebel@aol.com, or Mary Ellen Bay, 910 848-1015.

April 16-17, 2010, Lehi, Utah, Thanksgiving Point Daffodil Show, Thanksgiving Point, 3003 North Thansgiving Way, Lehi, Utah 84043. Contact: Mary B. Durtschi, P.O. Box 88, 1295 Stockton, UT 84071, 435 843-1422, Marybdurtschi@msn.com

April 17-18, 2009, Salt Lake City, Utah, Red Butte Garden Daffodil Show, Red Butte Garden, University of Utah, 300 Wakara Way, Salt Lake City, UT 84108. Contact: Mary B. Durtschi, P.O. Box 88, 1295 Stockton, UT 84071, 435 843-1422, Marybdurtschi@msn.com

April 17-18, 2010, Columbus, Ohio, Central Ohio Daffodil Society, Franklin Park Conservatory, 1777 East Broad St., Columbus, OH. Contact: Phyllis Hess, 3670 East Powell Rd., Lewis Center, OH 43035-9530, 614 882-5720, *daffyphyll@hotmail.com*

April 17-18, 2010, Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, Delaware Valley Daffodil Society, Longwood Gardens, 1001 Longwood Road, Kennett Square, PA 19348. Contact: Jocelyn Thayer 610 399-0903, *j.thayer179@verizon.net*

April 17-18, 2010, Washington, Pennsylvania, Daffodil and Hosta Society of Western PA, Contact: Mark Gresh, 284 Fords Corner Road, Nanty Glo, PA 15943, 814 418-2380, *gresh101@hotmail.com*

April 20, 2010, Rye, New York, Little Garden Club of Rye, The Osborn Retirement Community, 101 Theall Road, Rye, NY. Contact: Robin Russell, Two Flagler Drive, Rye, NY 10580, 914 967-8044, *rdhr@mindspring.com*

April 20-21, 2010, Towson, Maryland, Maryland Daffodil Society, The Shops at Kenilworth, 800 Kenilworth Drive, Towson, MD 21204. Contact: Nicki Schwab 410 437 6979 *mako261mom@aol.com*

April 23-24, 2010, Morristown, New Jersey, Northeast Regional Show, New Jersey Daffodil Society, Frelinghuysen Arboretum, 53 East Hanover Ave., Morristown, NJ, Contact: Ray Rogers, 503 Lee Ave., North Brunswick, NJ 08902, 732 249-9282, *rayro@optonline.net*

April 24-25, 2010, Chambersburg, PA, Chambersburg Garden Club and Tuscarora Daffodil Group, First Lutheran Church 43 West Washington St., Chambersburg, PA 17201. Contact: Richard Ezell, 334 Baltimore St., Gettysburg, PA 17325, 717 334-2304, *brownezell@earthlink.net*

April 24-25, 2010, Wadsworth, OH, Western Reserve Daffodil Society, Sacred Heart School, 240 Humbolt Ave., Wadsworth, OH 44281 Contact: Dan Bellinger 341 Akron Rd., Wadsworth, OH 44281 330 336-6314 *cuyahoga@neo.rr.com*

April 24-25, 2010, Glencoe, Illinois, Midwest Daffodil Society, Chicago Botanic Garden 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, Illinois 60022. Contact: George Dorner, 20753 Buffalo Run, Kildeer, Illinois 60047, 847 438-5309, *george@dorners.net*

April 24-25, 2010, Nantucket, Massachusetts, Nantucket Garden Club, The Coffin School, 4 Winter St., Nantucket, MA. Contact: Mary Malavase, P.O. Box 1183, Nantucket, MA 02554, 508 228-4097, *mmalavase@comcast.net*

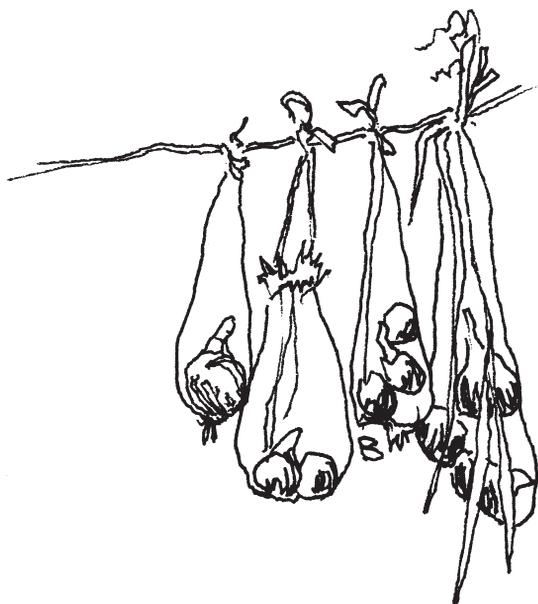
April 24-25, 2010, Youngstown, OH, Fellows Riverside Gardens Daffodil Show, Fellows Riverside Gardens, Mill Creek MetroParks, 123 McKinley Ave., Youngstown, OH 44509. Contact: Keith Kaiser, 123 McKinley Ave., Youngstown, OH 44509, 330 740-7116, kkaiser@cboss.com

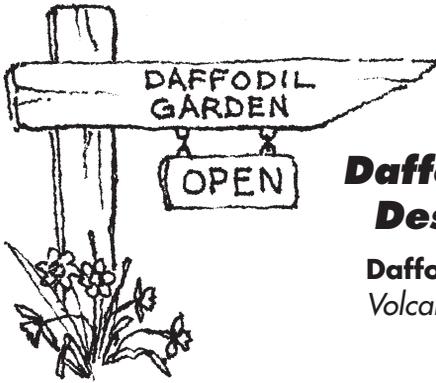
April 28-29, 2010, Greenwich, Connecticut, Greenwich Daffodil Society, Christ Church, 254 East Putnam Ave., Greenwich, CT, Contact: Susan Schieffelin, 42 Bruce Park Dr., Greenwich, CT 203 861-4130, sustps@aol.com

May 1-2, 2010, Reston, VA, Washington Daffodil Society Late Show, St. John Neumann Catholic Church, 11900 Lawyers Rd., Reston, VA 20191, Contact: Chriss Rainey, 2037 Beacon Place, Reston, VA 20191, 703 391-2073, triller7@verizon.net

May 1-2, 2010, West Boylston, Massachusetts, New England Regional Show, Seven States Daffodil Society, Tower Hill, West Boylston, MA, Contact: Nancy Mott 38 Perkins Rd., Greenwich, CT 06830, 203 661-6142 grancymott@aol.com

May 15-16, 2010, Central Region Regional Show, Minneapolis, MN, Daffodil Society of Minnesota, Bachman's Heritage Room, 6010 Lyndale Ave. South, Minneapolis, MN 55419, Contact: Margaret Macneale, 4530 Douglas Ave., Golden Valley, MN, 55416, c. 612 581-3426, maccohen@comcast.net and mmacneale@jfcsmpls.org





Daffodil Destinations

Daffodil Hill
Volcano, CA

Daffodil growers know that peak bloom season cannot always be predicted. So they completely understand why Daffodil Hill, a popular tourist destination near Volcano, California, cannot accurately predict its opening and closing dates in any given season.

But the gorgeous vista of 500,000 daffodils covering six acres makes the trip worthwhile, so visitors need to call (209) 296-7048 to see if the gates are open yet.

Daffodil Hill opens when 25% of the flowers are in bloom, and closes when only 25% of the flowers remain. After that, it once again becomes a working ranch.

Daffodil Hill, which makes up 540 acres of the McLaughlin Ranch, is an hour's drive north of Murphys, the site of the 2010 ADS convention, and 3 hours from San Francisco. At an elevation of 3,000 feet, higher than Murphys' 2,200, the bloom seas on is often a week later, so this would be a good post-convention trip, especially if you are especially interested in historic plantings.

In 1887, Arthur and Lizzie McLaughlin bought the ranch from Peter Denzer, a Dutchman who had already begun planting daffodils from the Netherlands on the site. The bright yellow blooms were Lizzie's most prized possessions, and they continued the planting each year. The property has remained in the family ever since.

Amador County Historical Society president Larry Cenotto says, "Daffodil Hill attracts more tourists than any other spot in Northern California."

During peak season, nearly 4,000 visitors come each day. They bring picnic lunches or buy snacks from the shop run by the Soroptimist clubs to fund student scholarships. Admission is free but donations are welcome. ❁



'Banker'

2 Y-O



'Tao'

3 Y-O

Visit us at

www.jacksonsdaffodils.com.au

Colour catalogues and bulbs are available from

Jackson's Daffodils

PO Box 77

Geeveston, Tas 7116

Australia

Acclimated bulbs are available from:

Mitsch Daffodils

PO Box 218-ADS

Hubbard, OR 97032

Photographers, from left: Kirby Fong, John Castor



Londonderry Vase

Art Institute of Chicago

Kirby Fong photograph



Even the postal service is celebrating the tazetta this year.

A Living Three-Dimensional Painting Doesn't Just Happen

Gene Bauer, Running Springs, CA

[Gene Bauer is a talented artist and teacher, a landscape designer and daffodil planter on an incredibly large scale, a writer and a lecturer. Her art work and illustrated articles have enriched *The Daffodil Journal*, especially in the 1970s and 1980s. But too few of us know this Southern Californian personally or have had the pleasure of visiting her hillside garden in Running Springs, California.

She and her architect husband Dale, more than fifty years ago, began the planting of their mountaintop while still living in Los Angeles. Gene credits Dale with much of the design; he replies that Gene is “she who has planted each bulb.”

After a disastrous fire in September of 1997, Gene and Dale persisted in the rebuilding of their home and garden. But the daffodils, safely underground, were undamaged. Another fire, two years ago, came within three feet of their house – and just stopped.

For more than fifty years, the garden was open to the public for a few weeks every spring. Now it is closed. But through this article and Dale’s photographs on pages 228 and 229, all of can share the floral tapestry they created. Gene and Dale are shown in front of their second home.

Gene has graciously consented to share their story with us, from an article she wrote in March of 2006 for the Fortnightly Club of Redlands, California.]

It was the spring of 1957 and I was teaching art on the secondary level of the Los Angeles City School system. I spent Easter Vacation at our newly built cabin in Smiley Park. I saw perhaps a dozen daffodils blooming in the yard of a neighbor. That fall I purchased about 50 daffodil bulbs. All were chosen because of the attractive photograph accompanying each bin of bulbs. I was so ignorant of what I had just purchased, I pondered the brown, seemingly lifeless objects shaped like electric light bulbs and finally had to ask, “Which way is up?”

We were living in Los Angeles but I planted the bulbs at our weekend retreat in the mountains. The planting was accomplished in October. By early December, the suspense was almost unbearable so I thrust a trowel into the moist soil beneath a bulb to see what was happening. Aha! Roots

five inches long. The rather rough and forlorn-looking dry object had suddenly come to life. Dormancy had been broken. . . .

The first spring was so successful I continued planting bulbs each succeeding year. From 50 the first year, then 500, then 1,000, then 10,000. The most I have planted was 35,000 in 1993. These have all been large new bulbs. I have never dug and divided any of the bulbs.

I probably have over 100 different named daffodils, some only one or two bulbs of each. The large drifts are composed of about 20 different kinds, sometimes repeated but only one kind of bulb to a drift. The bulbs in the large drifts are: 'Binkie', 'Bravoure', 'Camelot', 'Chromacolor,' 'Decoy', 'Fortissimo', 'Fortune', 'Geranium', 'Hawera', 'Hillstar', 'Matador', 'MartINETte', 'Peeping Tom', 'Pink Charm', 'Quail', 'Rustom Pasha', 'Tahiti', 'Tete-a-Tete', 'Thalia', 'Tunis', 'Unique' and 'World's Favorite.'

Much time is spent in deciding where to plant the bulbs. This mountainous land was formed long before my arrival. I am fortunate in having interesting terrain to contemplate: ups and downs, undulations, rock out-croppings, ledges, superb valley views, magnificent mature trees and a southerly and westerly exposure.

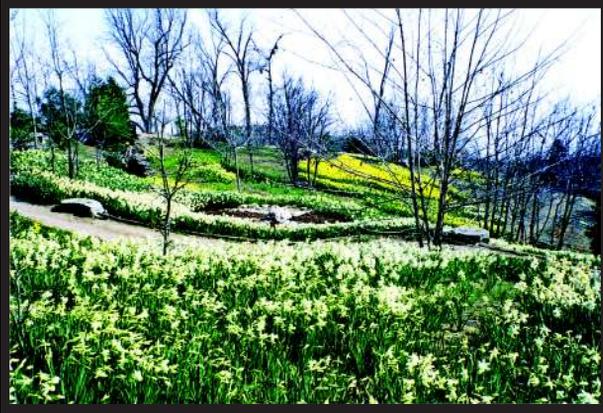
It is important to me that the drifts of bulbs I plant conform to the contours of the terrain. Never are they planted in rows, nor are they just tossed out and planted where they fall. They are planted in planned drifts composed of one cultivar (all yellow, all white, all bi-colored, etc.) so that the drift of perhaps 3,000 bulbs will all bloom at the same time and be of the same height. "Hodge-podges" are never attractive. Sometimes a drift is planned to go around a single tree or through a cluster of trees. I would never cut or destroy a tree or shrub to accommodate a drift of flowers.

In addition to considering the terrain, color and sequence of bloom must also be anticipated. I am not trying to change the natural beauty of the area, only enhance it.

I have never artificially watered the bulbs in the ground. They have never been fertilized and have never been over-planted in the summer. Their simple requirements are cold, wet winters and dry, warm summers. A south and west exposure is to their liking and at least a half day of sunshine. An absolute must is well-drained soil. Rodents and animals are not attracted to them because all parts of the plant are toxic.

The first year a single bulb produces 1-3 flowers. The bulb divides itself, and the second year 4-6 flowers appear. It further divides and the third year it produces 6-7 flowers. The most flowers I have observed from

Scenes from the Bauer Garden



in Running Springs, California



one bulb is 28 blooms. The bulb continues to divide and increase in flowers until it becomes overcrowded and the blooms decrease in number. Over the years the quantity of flowers increase and the quality decreases. I am interested only in color masses, not show flowers.

Some of the bulbs have been in the ground 40 years and still bloom. Others, not so healthy or vigorous to begin with, succumb in 3-4 years.

When I have decided where a drift will be planted, I use a shovel and turn over the soil to a depth of 8-10 inches, removing rocks, stones, branch remnants, pine cones, acorns and miscellaneous debris. I then rake it. I place the bulbs on the ground where I want to plant them.

Drifts are composed of from 5,000 to 6,000 bulbs. If I am planning to plant 1,000 bulbs in a day, I place 200 on the ground so as not to overwhelm myself. I sit on the ground and, using a trowel, plant them. They are spaced about 6 inches apart. My left hand picks up the first bulb, my right hand holds the trowel that digs the hole, then the bulb is dropped in and covered with soil dug from the next hole. I always begin at the bottom of the slope (nothing is flat here) and work uphill, sitting on top of the already planted bulbs. I always plant left to right. I try to plant 600 before I stop for my mid-day nourishment. That leaves 400 to plant after lunch and it's always nice to know I have completed over half the task for the day.

The Mill Fire on September 13, 1997, swept over the entire area but did no damage to the bulbs, because they were dormant at the time and safely tucked 6 inches under the ground. The only bulbs destroyed were those in the path of heavy equipment used to remove huge dead trees after the fire. That area has been re-planted. Two aspects of the fire were beneficial to the bulbs: the resulting ash acted as a soil nutrient, and the unfortunate loss of huge dead Ponderosa and Coulter pines allowed more sunshine into the area.

Spring 1998, six months after the fire, was certainly one to remember. It was both refreshing and thrilling to watch the charred hills come alive with the leaves varying in shades of green, yellow-green and blue-green. Surrounding blackened ruins, the flowers opened and the slopes were transformed into an exquisite tapestry of cool and warm values of the colors white, yellow and orange...

We rebuilt our cabin. In September of 2008, forest fires again threatened our mountain retreat. They burned within three feet of the house.

After a long, hot Summer, a Fall filled with all-day digging and planting, a Winter of anticipation, what a joy for Spring to finally arrive. Each spring seems more exciting than the previous one. From the entrance,

a pathway directs a garden visitor through a five acre forested setting, drifts of daffodils, and past featured overlooks and sitting areas.

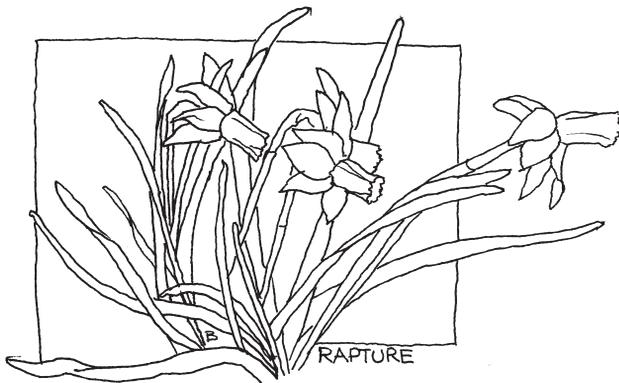
What began in ignorance expanded into a 49 year educational odyssey. Forty-nine years ago it was all mine. Today it seems to belong to the world.

Over the years I have had many memorable encounters with visitors. Here are two of them.

A young man, about 35 years old, with dark brown eyes and a naturally tan complexion approached me in the garden. He was quite excited. He began the conversation, "So, these are daffodils!" I said, "Yes." He continued, "Oh, I've waited so long to finally see them." I was puzzled over this statement. He then told me he had been born and grew up in Bombay, India. His English teacher, of course, was from England. It was a requirement for him to memorize William Wordsworth's poem that immortalized this flower, "Daffodils." He had never even seen a daffodil and could not imagine what one really looked like, let alone 10,000 that Wordsworth had seen "at a glance." I was pleased that it was I who gave some color and life to the word "daffodil" for this young man.

One of the most astounding comments occurred about 30 years ago. I came home from picking up the mail one day and there was a motorcycle parked in front of our house. A couple, perhaps in their late 40s, soon appeared; then the woman asked me, "Do you live here?"

I answered "Yes." She then asked, "Are all these flowers yours?" I replied "Yes." She seemed overwhelmed and at a loss for words as she groped to exclaim, "They're so beautiful. Did they, did they....just happen?" ❀



Juliette and ‘Juliet’

Margaret Macneale

Golden Valley, MN

The world of daffodil lovers provides many opportunities to touch and be touched. This is a story of sharing my daffodil passion with some special neighbors.

About six years ago, two wonderful men moved into the house next door to us. Since then, they have transformed a boring 1950s suburban home and yard by adding gardens, planting vegetables, and generally loving their home and landscape. Along the way, Bill and Henry have included daffodils in their gardens, have bought bulbs from our local group, and have visited our Minnesota spring show several times. (I have not yet been able to convince them to enter blooms, but I’m working on it.)

As we got to know each other, they shared that they had applied to adopt a child. We were thrilled for them, and shared their highs and lows as they waited for birth parents to choose them through a process called ‘open adoption’. After several false starts and tragic “almosts”, a young couple selected them, and on Father’s Day 2009 Bill and Henry got the call that daughter Juliette had just been born! Everyone rejoiced with them, and welcomed Juliette with a neighborhood-wide baby shower.

During the summer, I wondered if there might be a daffodil named ‘Juliette’ or ‘Juliet’ that I could get for them. I searched the RHS and DaffSeek databases, and sure enough, both names are registered. A friend put a posting on DaffNet for me, seeking either spelling. Beth Holbrooke from St. Louis quickly responded and this fall sent me four bulbs of ‘Juliet’ 9W-YJR. When I gave Bill and Henry two bulbs, they were touched beyond words, and we consulted on the best place in their gardens to plant them. I planted the other two myself, where Bill and Henry can see them from their kitchen window.

Now we all wait together for the floral ‘Juliet’ to join the toddler Juliette in the spring, and we hope she will grow to love gardening, and daffodils, as much as her neighbors and her dads do. 🌷



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International and Club Memberships Are Added

Edie Godfrey
Membership Chairman

Membership growth is really only contingent on two things: fun times and valuable plant material. People will show up in droves to collect their free bag of bulbs by signing on as a member. But they often don't stick with their membership. In other words, you never see them again and they don't renew in a year or two. Unless, of course, you offer another free bag of bulbs.

The step that is missing is a personal invitation to come join in the fun. Since new members often don't know much about your local group they don't know the fun that they are missing out on. It takes an invitation from YOU to encourage a new member to come to your group's next event. It doesn't matter what that event is, but it does matter that you make the telephone call to personally invite the new member.

The enthusiasm in your voice on the telephone will provide that spark of encouragement for the new member to get over their shyness about just showing up. They will have at least one person, you, whom they can seek out to greet. And this starts the process for the new member to feel at home in your local group.

Check the listing below, alphabetized by states, of the individuals and groups who have joined the ADS in the last two months. If they are anywhere near your show, call and invite them, to the show or to your local meeting. ❀

Lucy & Jonathan Tolmach, 86 Canada Rd, Woodside, CA 94062,
ltolmach@earthlink.net

Carroll Garden Club, P.O.BX 1649, Westminster, MD 21158

Mt. Airy Garden Club, 8129 Bennett Branch Rd, Mt. Airy, MD 21771

Sally Rankin, 601 North Park Dr, Salisbury, MD 21804,
sallyrankin@verizon.net

Margaret Wolff, 1707 Marshall Court, Annapolis, MD 21401

Allen & Debra Haas, 51 Forest Ridge Ave, Brevard, NC 28712,
haasallen@yahoo.com

Susan Stanko, 4411 Ridge Rd., Wadsworth, OH 44281

Denise Dunn-Kesterson, 1308 Edwards Dr, Downingtown, PA 19335,
urbforest@aol.com

Stan Raugh, 4217 8th Ave., Temple, PA 19560-1805

Pam Lindholm, 14226 Glenkirk Rd, Gainesville, VA 29155
Stanley Heller, PO BX 0894, Centreville, VA 20122,
spheller@me.com
Rodney Webster, PO BX 22196, Green Bay, WI 54305-2196

International Members:

Richard Marshall, Valleyhaven Farm, 196 Glenholme Ave,
Toronto, Ontario M6E 3C4, CANADA
Margaret Serrao, 266 Arlington Ave., Toronto, Ontario M6C277
CANADA, *mserral3@yahoo.com*
Jamie Vande, Carl-Schurz-Str6, Cologne 50935, GERMANY,
Vande.jamie@googlemail.com



ADS Internet Additions

Nancy Tackett
Internet Services

The American Daffodil Society has joined the popular Internet social network, Facebook. For those of you who are on Facebook, check out the ADS and become a fan. Phyllis Hess, our ADS Publicity Chair, is the primary contributor and sends out timely information along with ADS awards accompanied with photos. The ADS is also on Twitter, so consider adding this as a item under “following”. The ADS Twitter account name is DaffodilUSA.

DaffSeek has a new feature. Now, on the daffodil cultivar detail page is a small printer icon located by the “New Query” button. When you click on the printer icon, a second web page will launch which is titled “DaffSeek – Detail Print Page”. This page will have fewer graphics and display the first four photo thumbnails. 

if you have any questions or suggestions, please send me an email at *nancy@tackettblake.com*

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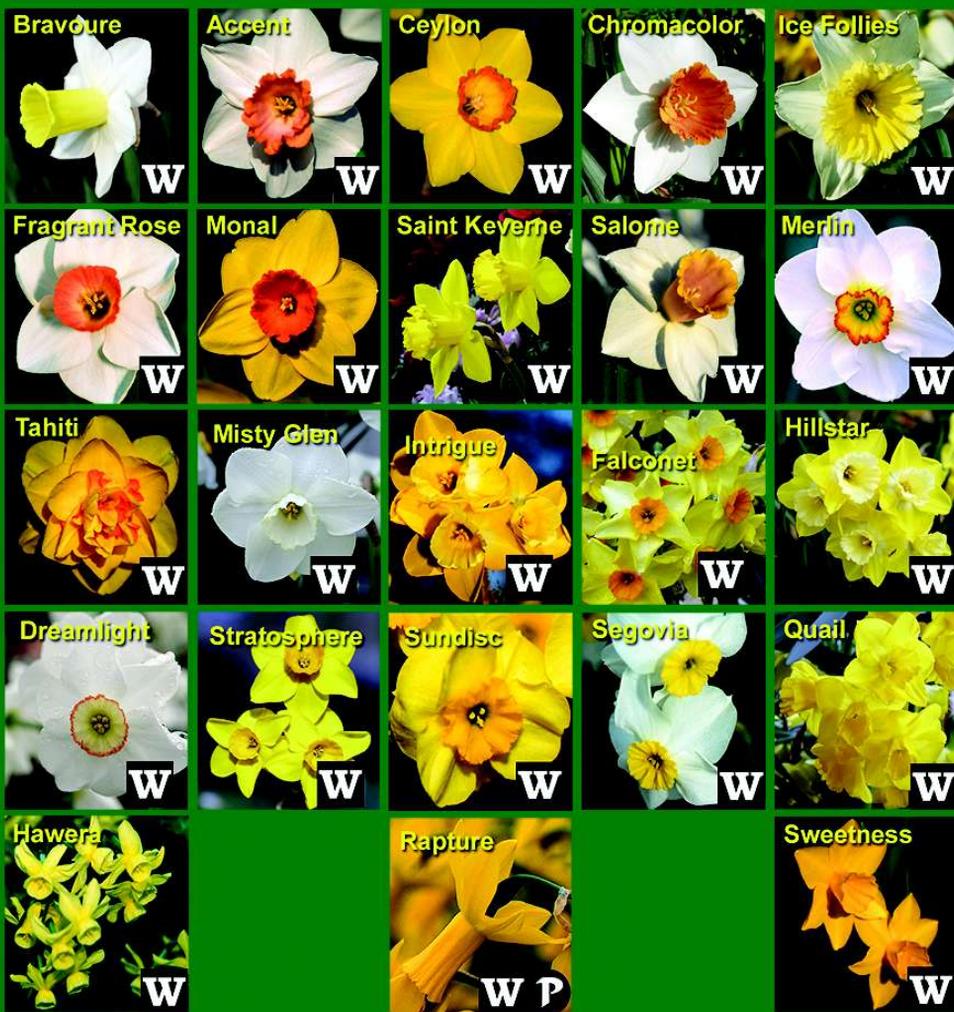
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* So we are told...!

...From the Editor's Worktable

"Just pick up the phone!"

I've said that so many times, often impatiently, to a writer who can't finish a story or a chairman who can't send in a report because someone hasn't answered an email request for information.

In these high-tech days in which we live, we often forget that a simpler, old-fashioned approach can be best. People can ignore our emails, but they have to say something when we call, if it's just "No," which is really the second-best answer they can give.

Phone calls are rather efficient. Of course you need to have a set price for unlimited calling on your phone plan. Six years ago, beginning to edit the *ADS History*, I realized what I needed. When one of these persistent solicitors, trying to switch me to their company, asked, "What would it take for you to transfer to us?" I was ready. "I want unlimited calling 24/7 all over the United States, and I want it at a reasonable price." Voila!

Phone calls have a personal element that works magic. Even when emailing with someone who's always online, and with whom you have one of these on-going, perhaps color-coded, interlining conversations, it's not as good as just hearing a voice, going off on interesting tangents, sometimes provoking amused responses.

And a phone call can make someone happy, beyond other forms (except the handwritten note, and that's slow arriving). Pick up the phone and say "Congratulations!" or "Thank you" or "I tried what you suggested and it worked."

Sometimes we don't make a phone call because we're afraid.

I've had a convincing experience recently. For years I'd been reluctant to ask for a particular article from someone I highly respected without ever having met them. Finally, circumstances forced to me "pick up the phone!" and I got affirmative results and support far beyond anything I could have imagined.

And right now, if you ever travel to exhibit your daffodils, and you're thinking about visiting a show you've never attended, you have a double-barreled seasonal specific to pick up the phone: once several weeks before a show, requesting a schedule (why waste effort preparing a big collection if it's not on their schedule?), and the day before, just because – weather happens, and other disasters, and if you've never been to their show before, they might not dream of letting you know the show's been cancelled. ❀

Loyce McKenzie

Media Programs

Below are programs in PDF that can be purchased on CDs for \$10.00, direct from the Executive Director at the ADS webstore: View short program descriptions on the ADS website.

- A Guide to Daffodils** (2005 D. Bankhead)
Outstanding American-Bred Daffodils (2005 D. Bankhead)
Daffodils in the Landscape (2005 D. Bankhead)
Miniatures (2005 D. Bankhead) **Miniatures** (2006 Photos)**
New Developments in Miniature Breeding from Around the World (2008 D. Bankhead)
Intermediates (2006)** **Historics** (2007)**
More than You Ever Wanted to Know About Daffodils (2006 P. Hess)
Down Under Holiday (2004 K. Fong)
New Zealand Holiday (2007 K. Fong)
World Daffodil Tour (2008 K. Fong)
Show Winners 2004 & 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 (Daffnet-4 CD's)
Exploring Bulbocodiums (2004 L. Trevanion)

**These programs are reference programs only and not for presentation.

For the previously available slide programs, contact:
Kirby Fong, 925-443-3888, kfong@alumni.caltech.edu

Publications ~ Services ~ Supplies

Available from the ADS Office of the Executive Director

Please allow a minimum of three weeks for orders to be processed and sent to you.

ADS History: The First Fifty Years	\$10.00 (10 or more, \$9.00 each)
Miniature Daffodil Cultivars-A Guide to Identification, Illustrated in Color	\$20.00
Handbook for Growing, Exhibiting and Judging Daffodils (with binder)	\$20.50
Handbook for Growing, Exhibiting and Judging Daffodils (without binder)	\$8.50
Daffodil Data Bank*	\$35.00
<i>*Limited seasonal availability - current version available DEC-APR by advance order</i>	
Miniature List	found on ADS website
List of Judges	request from: julesmin@gmail.com
Daffodils to Show and Grow 2008	\$8.00
Daffodils for North American Gardens* , Heath (new edition, signed by authors)	\$12.00
<i>*Additional USPS library/media rate postage of \$5.50 necessary</i>	
Daffodils in Florida: A Field Guide to the Coastal South* , Van Beck	\$24.00
<i>*Additional USPS library/media rate postage of \$5.50 necessary</i>	
Daffodil Pests and Diseases , Snazelle	\$5.00
Daffodil Culture (1996) Merrill	\$7.95
Journal binders	\$12.50
Show entry cards -standard or miniature (<i>specify size</i>)	500 for \$30.00 or 1000 for \$50.00
RHS Yearbook (2009-2010 available)	\$24.00
RHS 2008 International Daffodil Register and Classified List	\$78.00

Georgia residents add 7% sales tax

Unless otherwise shown above, prices include postage in USA. Make checks payable to American Daffodil Society, Inc. and mail to address below. Most items above can also be ordered at the ADS webstore: www.daffodilusastore.org. Communication is invited concerning out-of-print publications on daffodils. Copies of these are sometimes available, or names will be placed on a want list.

American Daffodil Society: Jaydee Ager, P.O. Box 522 Hawkinsville, GA 31036-0522,
478-783-2153, jager@dishmail.net

ADS Homepage: www.daffodilusa.org • **ADS Web Store:** www.daffodilusastore.org

ADS Daffodil Database: www.DaffSeek.org

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