The term "marginals" is applied to daffodils that need lots of cold for blooming and color and don’t rot, but hang on through our generally warm winters. Some even multiply when you are not looking. In 1998-99, FDS sold bulbs that bloomed again this year in Melanie Darst’s garden -- Topolino 1 Y-Y, Delibes 2 Y-O, Fortissimo 2 Y-O, Jet Fire 6 Y-R, Flower Record 2 W-OR, Pink Charm 2 W-WWP along with 38 other daffodils. In the Van Beck garden, Accent 2 W-P, Falconet 8 Y-R, Xerxes which is an 8 W-0, Golden Aura 2 Y-Y, Miss Prim 2 Y-Y, Gold Coin 2 Y-Y and numerous other daffodils bloomed. Some had increased in size and number of stems. Pink Charm held on for years until transplanted to a location it disliked. Hopefully, the bulb has been successful for other members.

To top off this season, a very late blooming unknown daffodil came up in many areas of the Van Beck Garden for the first time in eleven years - - big white variable size large petals and crinkly, frilled yellow-turning- orange cups. One even looked like a split corona. John had previously tried to identify this rescued daffodil by comparing the flower to Francis Drake and Dick Wellband, but it didn’t match. Linda thought it might be Will Scarlett, but the cup size is wrong so we’ll send a photo to Jason Delaney, bulb guru of the St. Louis Botanical Garden. The problem with a large garden and various blooming times is that you do not always notice that clumps of daffodils are not blooming.

One-third of the old garden section was awash in blooms, the rest had none. The fault was sprinkler heads that didn’t spread water evenly. Hand watering this area heavily every day for four days woke up the bulbs and two weeks later stems appeared and now flowers are coming. We don’t water enough during the critical bulb growth period. Remember it is not just the water, but the oxygen that encourages bulb growth and root development. The common saying “in the south we shrink them” may be as much from lack of water as from heat.

The Van Beck’s Garden tally is 145 varieties bloomed, one variety blasted, two unknown bloomed, two missing and five didn’t bloom either from too much shade or sheer stubbornness. This spectacular blooming year is coming to a close. We hope ya’ll enjoyed the ride.

OTHER OBSERVATIONS

Split Cups -- In the South, Campernelle 13 Y-Y is known for having split half cups. Last year Flower Carpet 1 Y-Y produced very large and often split cups. This year Mrs. R.O. Backhouse split. The culprit is high temperatures. As soon as the temps abated, so did Mrs. R.O. Backhouse’s deformities.

Big Flowers means that you have been watering. Tressemble’s 5 W-W were huge, but as the heat increased and the rain decreased so did bloom size.

Lifting -- Many tazettas, especially historic Paper Whites, tend to get lazy and produce tons of foliage but little bloom. This condition was noted by early Florida bulb farmers, who lifted all the bulbs annually, snapped off slabs and replanted all except those of marketing size. The FDS originally thought that Rijnveld’s Early Sensation 1 Y-Y needed lifting (shocking) to produce annual blooms, but good soil and full sun can do the trick, too.

ADS CONVENTION REPORT

American Daffodils Society (ADS) held its annual convention in Jackson, Mississippi in March. At the last Jackson convention in 2000, Michael Jefferson Brown, noted British author of daffodil books, encouraged John and Linda to write about their daffodil experiences. This time Sara Van Beck,
who chairs the historic daffodil committee, organized the first judges “refresher” course/breakfast on historic daffodils. Donna Dietzsch judged the power point images. This was a great start in the long road to train the judge’s eye to see the grace and variability in histories. The other group of daffodils judged on grace are miniatures.

Linda Van Beck was on the tazetta panel. She gave a short history of the FDS’s bulb sales program. The early FDS bulb sales had no tazzetas except rescued Paper Whites. Bulbs were sold, as most are today, at five for $2.50. By 1999, we sold 9,100 bulbs of which 800 were tazzetas. In 2005 the Master Gardener/Garden Club vendors in the FDS outreach program pushed the total to 14,965 bulbs of which 8,500 were tazzetas. In 2009, the FDS handled 42,000 bulbs of which 10,000 were tazzetas. Last year we handled 30,000 bulbs of which 4,500 were tazzetas. Without Bill Welch’s tazzetas (Chinese Sacred Lily, Double Chinese Sacred Lily, Early Pearl and recently Autumn Colors and Seedling Paper Whites, the FDS could not serve central Florida. Tazzetas are the unofficial daffodil of Florida. Bill The Bulb Baron, as he is usually called, has over 40 registered tazzeta hybrids. The FDS trials his tazzetas, but only a few are compatible with our hot nights and our budget, which doesn’t include $40 daffodils. The new good news that Linda was able to give is that Bill is on the brink of hybridizing more floriflorous bulbs with the advent of Rachel’s Magic Spell, his latest cross (Matador x Erlicheer).

Linda presented a program aimed at local Mississippi gardeners. There were the usual bulb culture issues, but emphasis was placed on the need to know and communicate the names of the common species and historic daffodils that range across the south. The handout included pictures of daffodils with the botanical and common names. Everything white is not a Paper White and all yellow daffodils are not jonquils. The FDS plans to print a similar sheet as well as a primer to include the daffodil’s division number and how to read the color code. We also intend to overhaul the list of cultivars in the FDS flyer.

11th ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW

Two days of almost perfect spring weather brought out the crowds at what may have been the most floriferous flower show to date. The Tallahassee Nursery greenhouse was full of orchids. Dark green cloths set off a huge array of daffodils, including green vases holding 300 Trevithian and other yellow daffodils on one table. The other round table had white daffodils crowned by a raised small platform in which sat a white china pitcher crammed full of Erlicheer 8 W W. This Erlicheer had very large, heavy water-filled cascading florets, unlike anything we had seen before. With good soil, fertilizer and a ton of water, Erlicheer thought it was back home in New Zealand

The daffodil arrangement display was anchored by Guenella Truell’s light airy designs. Other members contributing were Eleanor Houzfous, Virginia Walker, Mary Maud Sharpe and Charlotte Watkins. Charlotte used first time bloomers including a gigantic Double Campernelli. Brent Heath, who sold the bulb, thought it would shrink -- we’ll keep you posted.

Chairman Lori Johnson, assisted by Janet Cornell, organized the show into four groups--species, historic (pre-1940), moderns, and test gardens. We had a record number of varieties. Greeters included Mr. & Mrs. Bob Denk, Lennie Kennedy, Mary Anne Tonnicliff and Tiffany Bourassa.

DAFFODILS IN WINTER PARK

The April 2010 issue of the FDS newsletter showed a color photo of a Tiffany designed glass column capital and related how much Tiffany loved daffodils. The permanent exhibit has opened at the Morse Museum in Winter Park, Florida. The daffodil capitol of cast favrili glass and concrete circa 1905 is the poster child of the daffodil terrace, now installed in the new Laurelton Hall Gallery at the museum. The poster is 23” x 18”, and is available by mail for $15.90, which includes shipping and handling (mailed in a hard tube). Telephone 407-645-5311 to order.

There is no mention of Tiffany’s loving and growing daffodils in the museum’s literature or in the article published in the current issue of Southern Garden magazine. If you want a quick peek at the grocery store, the article is located at the very back of the magazine. If you go to see the Daffodil Terrace, you will also find the Daffodils window, which shows a profusion of yellow garden daffodils against a dramatic sky of blue, orange and yellow. Though small by comparison to many other Tiffany windows, it is a tenderly rendered image from the floral themes Tiffany so loved.

THE BULB SALE COMETH!

The order forms for the 2011 Bulb Sale will be sent out by the end of April. The Bulb Sale will be Saturday, October 29, 2011.