

# florida daffodil society news

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## VAN BECK GARDEN REPORT

Florida daffodils had a fast start. Thanks to a hot drought, ended by a heavy rain, greenery was up everywhere in early October. Now the pace has settled down, November slipped into December and every day there are more and more white spots in the garden. On a hot afternoon, the air is filled with tazetta fragrance. Autumn yellows have started, and some are *all* yellow. If you want to visit the garden, call 850- 878-9753. The garden will be open January 2, 2012.

## 2011 BULB SALE RESULTS

The 2011 bulb season is over. FDS ordered close to 25,000 bulbs and donated 1,350 bulbs to public gardens. Added to the list in the last newsletter is 350 Erlicheer to Florida State University and small amounts in Tallahassee to: City Parks, Cobb Middle School, a church and the Knott House, which is owned by the State.

Although we are the *Florida* Daffodil Society, we have always had a close relationship with south Georgia. A popular stop/field trip destination is the Callaway Estate in LaGrange, Ga. called "Hills and Dales". The public gardens have daffodils which the FDS augmented with 350 Erlicheer and 150 Rijnveld's Early Sensation. The original boxwood garden was planted in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century by Sarah Ferrell. FYI: Remember FDS loves to give bulbs for public plantings. All we need is a guaranteed caretaker and lots of sun.

Our outreach program would not have been a success without the help and hard work of our FDS members. Our hardy thanks to all and especially: Lori Johnson (President FDS), Mary Henry, Anne Beasley and Tiffany Bourassa of

Tallahassee, Barbara Edmonds of Bronson, Vicki Fuqua of Marianna, Julie Groce and Betty Ragland of Macon, Deb Hamilton of Dade City, Ruth Johansen of Orange City, Sally O'Hara of AIA St. Augustine, Helen Tetrault of Palm Coast, Mary Silas of Ponte Vedra, and Sue Warren of Pensacola.

Linda gave speeches/book sales to Master Gardeners in Chipley and Levy County, Garden Clubs in Macon, Quitman, Tallahassee and Orange Park. Two whole days were spent at the Kanapaha Botanical Gardens in Gainesville.

## ADS FALL MEETING

The American Daffodil Society's Fall Meeting included three speakers on Historic Daffodils.

**Jason Delaney's** hybridizing is all about genealogy. With their genetic diversity and strengths, historic make excellent grandparents. Jason showed how he produced a good looking, healthy offspring with color and form. It took three marriages. The resulting seeds take five to seven years to mature and be marriageable, so you see it takes a lot of patience to make a new daffodil. **DAFFODILIAN TRANSLATIONS:** Jason is a hybridizer who made a cross that yielded a seed that produced a seedling (a non-named cultivar grown from seed) which he crossed (transferred pollen from one plant on to the stigma of another). The no-name seedling is described by the female recipient name first followed by an x, then the name of the male pollen donor. The resulting cultivar is termed a hybrid. It took Jason three times to do this before he achieved a cultivar worth naming and registering.

**Sue Henderson**, Oakland Historic Cemetery Foundation, told how they are keeping with the original role of the public park while functioning

as an active cemetery. Remember this is “Driving Miss Daisy’s” favorite destination. In May “Tunes for Tombs” featured almost 100 bands. The Garden Club of America donated a garden tour/cell phone system. Three years ago a daffodil rescue and replant was started. Recently the Van Beck gardens sent bags of *N.x Intermedius*. Sara Van Beck planted 2,800 bulbs rescued from a 1920’s nursery’s daffodil test bed. At the current rate of planting, the cemetery will be a very large daffodil garden.

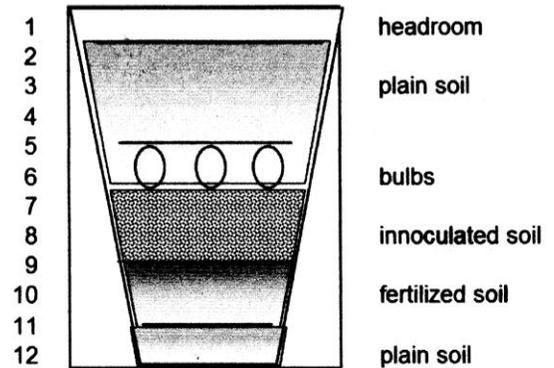
**Sara Van Beck**, Georgia Daffodil Society, showed photos of daffodils and gardens which highlighted the colonial period. Although wealthy colonist had daffodils in the 1600s, it wasn’t until 1730 when William Bartram (New England) and Peter Collinson (England) started corresponding and exchanging “roots” (bulbs) and plants that the everyday scene comes into focus. The first daffodil mentioned is *N. minor* (small all yellow), followed by a double white (*N. poeticus*), *Telemonius Plenus* and *N. Jonquilla*. Sara noted the importance of the passing on of the love and practice of gardening to the next generation.

The Program ended with a video of Sister’s Bulb Farm, located in northwest Louisiana, written and produced by Celia Jones. *Southern Garden* magazine made the Sisters famous and this documentation will make the farm an important part of Americana.

## DAFFODIL POT CULTURE

Despite many attempts, perennialization of daffodils in pots has been unsuccessful in Florida. Although the FDS recommends daffodils that are basal rot resistant, the fusarium fungus is lethal in pot soil. Last year, at the ADS convention, Melissa Reading of Livermore, California, won many prizes with her pot-grown daffodils. She described her garden as “nursery style” – 1,102 pots in her back yard over the shale, clay and cobble that passes for “soil” in Livermore. Her recent article in the ADS journal fully detailed her technique. Livermore receives little rain, temps range from 110° F (pots are moved to shade) to 22° F (when pots are covered). Obviously, we in Florida would need to experiment with her methods, but the core of her work is sound.

Readings states that “for each type of vascular plant there is a specific type or types of fungi with which it grows in happy symbiosis.” For narcissus, the appropriate mycorrhizal associate is trichoderma fungus which loves to feed on fusarium in the soil and won’t let it get next to the bulb. One can purchase a product – DIE HARD TRANSPLANT – from Horticultural Alliance in Sarasota. For good measure, Reading inoculates the bulbs’ basal plates as well as putting DIE HARD in the soil mix.



plain soil in bottom:	0.28 gallon
fertilized soil	0.64 gallon
inoculated soil	<u>0.64 gallon</u>
	1.56 gallon

Bulbs: 3 to a pot – medium size  
 Pot: plastic, #4 egg can/3.25 gallon, 12” deep x 10” wide, plus large slits which are covered with nylon mesh. Available at [www.chulaorchids.com](http://www.chulaorchids.com) and others.  
 Parfait – soil layers must be kept separate.

Comments:

- if pot is to be moved, reduce amount of plain real sand.
- pumice is important and can be purchased at feed stores as “dry stall pumice” intended for horse stalls.
- fertilizer is quickly flushed so pots require more fertilizer. Topdressing after leaves appear with potash is a must for root development.

Pot culture is an exciting prospect for the land of hot, wet soils. FDS trials could be established with members using varying amounts of fertilizer, sunken vs. patio containers, etc. If interested in participating, please let us know so that we can provide bulbs for 2012 season trials.