



florida daffodil society news

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FEBRUARY 2011

ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW

March 5 & 6, 2011
Tallahassee Nurseries
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Chairman: Lori Johnson

A Daffodil Talk will be given by Linda Van Beck at 11:00 Saturday, March 5.

There will be a space and materials for member to show their flowers. Set up times are from 8:30 - 9:45 on Saturday, March 5. To enter arrangements or flowers, please contact Lori Johnson at 850-321-4885.

Volunteers Needed: Want to learn more? Here is your chance to sit with experienced greeters and explore the varieties of daffodil available in this area and share this information with the public. We hope more people will become actively involved in the flower show and in the organization!

WHAT HAPPENED AT THE WINTER BOARD MEETING

The Annual Meeting date was proposed as May 7, 2011 at Goodwood Museum and Gardens.

A membership report was given by Mary Maud Sharpe:

Members:
265 (43 are families):
145 receive communication via email
77 only get U.S. Mail *

*If you are getting your newsletter by US Mail and wish to receive it by email, please contact Mary Maud Sharpe at 850-878-9625 or email her at wjmmshrape@aol.com.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer, Pete Millett, declared the FDS was solvent.

Bulb Sale 2010 report: The FDS handled nearly 30,000 bulbs, of which 1,500 went to public plantings. Thanks to Helen Tetrault, we were contacted by the Friends of AIA Scenic and Historical Byway Administration. The upshot was a meeting and donation of daffodil bulbs at the Bunell IFAS Center to two members of this group. If these trial bulbs succeed, the FDS will give more for primarily January blooming in park situations. The area begins in Ponte Vedra and ends at Flagler Beach. This is a great opportunity for the FDS to plant more daffodils along the Atlantic Seaboard.

There was discussion about the cost of doing business in terms of increased shipping and handling, especially the bulbs sent to the FDS in Tallahassee. We used to do a Texas roadside roundup, i.e., the semi parked at Wal-Mart and we had a fleet of trucks to carry the bulbs to the Van Beck garage. This may be our only solution. All in all, we think we will have to increase the bulb prices for vendors, but expect to keep the sale prices for members the same.

Web Site: Due to procrastination last year, the web site is still in need of improvement. A local person has been found who is willing to work on it and we hope to start soon.

STUFF

As some of you are sitting around waiting for bulbs to come up and bloom, we are including two items of interest that were posted on DAFFNET.

- Chris Rainey has two cats, one of which would like to be outdoors noshing on grass and his favorite variety is Lirope. While bound by a leash, the cat managed to chew on some miniature daffodil foliage that was up and green. "I thought he would have

some immediate dislike for it, but he managed to chew up a couple of leaves and was not affected. Until we got back inside, that is, at which time he began to howl and moan some really pitiful cat noises and look reallllly ill and then he threw up and he threw up and threw up again and moped around like we had never seen before. I would like to say he has learned his lesson, but the truth is it is I who have learned from the experience (not the cat) because he is just as keen on going back to the daffodils. I think maybe we are lucky the experience was not worse.”

- From Dennis Dailey: After reading the Florida Newsletter and finding out that Linda’s garden had been “strawed”. I was reminded of a story which happened in Minnesota (near Lake Wobegon) several years ago. In mid-October, the manager of the local nursing home noted an excessive number of residents were getting haircuts, permanents and good clothes dry-cleaned and pressed and on Sunday found them all decked out for Sunday afternoon visitors. The next weekend he found a lot of them had asked to visit the cemetery. He looked at the previous Sunday’s visitor list and found the local grave diggers had made a visit and made their decision as to which sites would be covered with straw to insure easier digging during the winter. The subsequent visits to the cemetery by the residents was to find out if they had been “strawed”. Apparently this had been happening for several years, or at least long enough for a noun to become a verb. The grave diggers were declared persona non grata at the nursing home. Hopefully, these were not the same guys who moved to Florida and “strawed” Linda’s garden.

GARDEN REPORT

In the urban fringe of East Leon County, the weather for daffodils has been wonderful. The weather for humans has been nasty. The four inches of rain have turned the garden into a green sea of foliage with daffodils blooming everywhere. In particular, Chinese and double Chinese Sacred Lily *love* to grow in water. The

blooms were huge. Due to the cold, all blooms have lasted twice their normal blooming time. Lack of freezing may mean fertile seeds, as many tazettas have green pods so far this year. *N. Italicus* and Bill Welch’s Autumn Colors look as if they are on steroids. His Autumn Pearl tazetta is into year two and we have a winner! The gardens will be open, by appointment, until March 7.

MELROSE BULB REPORT

Bobbie Elliot and her daughter Susan Elliot Muscau are long term FDS members. Bobbie has been keeping records in Melrose, Florida since 2003.

Always Blooms	Usually Blooms
Carlton	Kedron
Camperelli	St. Kerverane
Chinese Sacred Lily	Bridal Crown
Erlicheer	Nony
Golden Dawn	John’s Old Fashioned
Grand Primo	Travithian
Hawera	Avalanche
Monal	Modest Bloom
Silver Chimes	Bulbocodium
Soleil d’Or	Failed Blooms
Sweetness	Ice Follies

Comments: Bobbi probably bought Ice Follies the year we distributed bad bulbs. *N. Italicus* is sporadic. What shouldn’t bloom (doubles, late bloomers and trumpets) didn’t bloom. More cultivars will be added this year.

HOW OLD ARE YOU?

Sara and Linda Van Beck spend a lot of time trying to date daffodils by the age of the house. Sara’s recent article in *Magnolia* (publication of the Southern Garden History Society) reverses the process. She dated the layers of the garden’s plants at Mountain Shoals, Enoree, S.C., 1838 to the present. “I have concluded that the garden evidences three to four styles of bulb plantings, which, coupled with the bulbs employed, hint at the gardener responsible and the time frame of planting.” Sara visited the site and made use of oral history, bulb catalogs, letters, and aerial photographs.
