



florida daffodil society news

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THE SEASON HAS STARTED

If all goes according to Hoyle, all the bulbs will be delivered by October. If anyone is interested in helping bag daffodils, call Linda at 878-9753. It is LOTS OF FUN!

Would you believe that Monal arrived September 10? Bulbs are being evacuated from Europe to America by the ton. The reason for the rush is constant rain and the bulbs are not drying so to prevent storage rot, companies who pride themselves on late delivery, i.e., well-aired bulbs, have joined the stampede. In the Northern California Daffodil Society Newsletter, Melissa Reading states she always teds new purchases complete with rotating fan. So the Monal, 50 to a mesh bag, were left in the airy garage at 80+ degrees for a couple of days and are now inside the house loose in their plastic baskets so they can be rotated. They feel fine. It doesn't take long in this heat to shrink bulbs, but the idea of tedding all the new bulbs is a challenge. Our largest order this year comes from Terra Ceia Farms. The delivery semi will unload in a bowling alley parking lot and bulbs will be downloaded into trucks. Some will spend a day or two at the adjacent Budget Rental (we did find a commercial address just off a major highway!).

2011 BULB SALE

The FDS bulb sale is slated for Goodwood, Saturday October 29 from 9:15-11:30.

The idea is that any bulbs leftover after filling preorders can be sold at the members' sale.

Waterperry is NOT available this year, as our supplier is now only digging every other year. Each order of Waterperry will be canceled unless the orderer contacts Linda Van Beck (850-878-9753) and requests

substitute bulbs. We will have Waterperry next year.

If local members wish to pick up their bulbs before October 29, call 878-9753 to arrange a time and you may bag your purchase.

You may also wish to pick up some fertilizer. This year we are planning to purchase a one-half ton of 6-24-24, plus trace minerals. Price is \$18.00 for a 40 lb. bag and \$1.00 for a quart bag.

Daffodil shipping will start early in October. You will be contacted before the bulbs are shipped.

DAFFODIL GARDENS

Tallahassee: The hill occupied by the Leon County Extension Office in Tallahassee was only a turfed area with few trees, barren of flowering plants. FDS was the first to colonize the area near the main parking lot. Over time this area acquired a sprinkling system, amended soil and perennial flower beds, which hid and hurt the daffodils. So we have been planning a new bulb garden in what is now a beautifully landscaped campus. A sunny well-drained area has been agreed upon and will serve not only to showcase daffodils, but will demonstrate how to plant and design with compatible true bulbs such as leucojum, aestivum, lycoris radita and zepheranthes. All are common pass-alongs in this area. Z. candida, citrinia and robustus are now blooming in local gardens.

Levy County: Levy County had difficulty with first bulb bed, but now the landscaping is complete and a new bulb bed will be planted this fall. Daffodils should be right at home in the rolling hills that surround Bronson. We are lucky to have Agent Barbara Edmonds, who is really gung ho about saving gardens and

daffodils, in charge. The FDS will give a planting demonstration along with a bulb sale/show on October 19.

University of Florida: On the campus there is a five acre section that surrounds the old student health care building. Under the direction of Linda Luecking, planting will get under way in October. Linda Van Beck will be in the area staffing a sale and information booth at Kanapaha Botanical Gardens' Fall Festival on October 15-16.

Mobile, Alabama: The Cemetery Movement in America was big stuff and really took off in the 1800s. With municipal and robber baron funding, large park-like cemeteries with elaborate mausoleums, obelisks, or beautifully sculpted monuments were created and became de rigueur tourist sites. Magnolia Cemetery was a major attraction, with travelers in making the hike up from the Gulf to see this cemetery where art and gardens coexisted. Rare and imported sculpture and fancy Mausoleums were the conspicuous consumption of the rich. The FDS is helping to replenish daffodil plantings at Magnolia Cemetery by gifting 50 *N. Italicus* and 100 Grand Primo.

Flagler and St. Johns Counties: The Friends of A1A Historic and Scenic Byway are continuing their daffodil plantings. This year FDS will donate 100 Erlicheer, 100 Nony and 100 Soleil d'Or for two libraries and a city hall. The Friends have promised to provide a real gardener to plant and care for this project.

Art Beyond Camera – Daf in Paint

Did you go daffodil hunting this summer at any art museums or old churches? 17th and 18th Century paintings are best. Regardless of size, all daffodils have six petals. You would be amazed at how many five petal flowers there are! Often skinny petals- usually white- are dashed off with a dab of orange in the middle, but the characteristic windy pose of poeticus is still there. Sometimes you see the flowers and leaves. Such was the case in Lima, Peru. The Monasterio de San Francisco has it all. The "jewel of colonial Lima" is still yellow, slightly shaken by earthquakes (the

catacombs provide support) and in the cloister mural size fresco paintings by 17th century Spanish artists have been restored. The restorers removed eight coats of paint which had preserved the frescos. In a mural at eye level, there was a painted huge pile of brown mud in which there were three forlorn clumps of daffodils. They were the saddest looking wildflowers, but easily identifiable with one cluster of polyanthus, two yellow bulbicodium and one poeticus. Maybe the artist was homesick since they did not relate to anything in the picture.

The Mary Brogan Museum of Art and Science recently hosted a unique exhibition of "Baroque Painting in the Lomvary Region from the Pinacoteca de Brera". There were 50 masterpieces. One painting had two artists. Gioacchino Affere painted "St. Joseph with Child and Cherubs" and the other painter, Stefano Camogli, painted a garland of mixed flowers to border and surround the figures. There is no apparent symbolism in the cultivars, but the garland serves to glorify the Saint. This painting was produced between 1640 and 1650. The guide book listed some flowers, but omitted daffodils. Two big floppy petaled yellow trumpets are readily seen and look as if they just stepped out of an early herbal. In the same area tucked between large flowers is a polyanthus with a bright orange center and a stray poeticus. The large yellow trumpets held on in the Italian Alps until heavily rescued in the 18th and 19th Centuries.

ADS News

The American Daffodil Society's Fall Meeting is in Atlanta, September 23-24. Program focus is on the cultivars, hybridizing and garden history of old daffodils. It will include:

- History of Daffodils in Colonial Times – Sara Van Beck;
- Historical Daffodils as the Building Block in 20th Century Hybridizing; Jason Delaney;
- Oakland Cemetery – Sara Henderson and
- Sisters Bulb Farm, Louisiana (DVD Work in Progress) – Celia Jones.

The next FDS Newsletter will share the news.
