



florida daffodil society news

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OCTOBER 2012

THE BULB SALE COMETH

Date: October 20, 2012,
Time: 9:15 AM - 11:30 AM
Place: Goodwood - Direction signs will be posted.

REMINDER

The bulb sale is at Goodwood on October 20, 2012. **If you would like to help, we will start packaging the first week of October.** Call Linda Van Beck at 850- 878-9753.

UP AND RUNNING

The outreach talks began early this year. September 9, Linda visited the Palm Coast Garden Club in Bunnell (92 people attended). Nony is the flagship daffodil on the Palm Coast as it blooms so profusely there. The Quitman Garden Club, at their talk on September 10th, accepted a donation of 100 'Carlton' as incentive to help them find places in their community where they could put in daffodil plantings. The Master Gardener program in Jackson County in September included talks on daffodils, daylilies and amaryllis (29 attendees). The participants received free day lilies and bought daffodil and amaryllis bulbs.

Next on the agenda will be a sale in St. John County's extension office (October 6th) to participate in St. John County's home and garden show. This popular event includes the Datil Pepper Cook-Off Festival, complete with an amateur hot sauce competition. The FDS will be selling bulbs and handing out information.

On November 3rd, there will be a demonstration of Melissa Reading's pot culture at Tallahassee Nurseries. The nursery sells various mycorrhizal or fungus mixtures (for daffodils the beneficial trichoderma fungus) so we hope to be able to duplicate the product 'Die Hard Transplant' which we described in the 2011 newsletter. We will have to make a light

drainable soil, as Tallahassee's rain gauge is unbelievably high. And lots of water means lots of summer bulb rot if you don't have excellent drainage.

As some of you know, the Van Beck garden is a long 1000+ ft., narrow, 350 ft. of continuously sloping land with clay at the top and lake sand at the bottom. This year the rain was so heavy and continuous that the clay served as the bottom of a swimming pool. The daffodils drowned. When the soil got to be half clay and half sand, some daffodils survived. When handled, the bulbs appeared fine until pinched and they were full of water. Needless to say it was not a happy event. So we have to be careful that our pots drain well.

CHARACTERISTICS OF HISTORIC DAFFODILS

Source: Sara Van Beck

Historic daffodils are those registered before 1940:

1. Petals are often narrow, pointed and give a star-shaped form to the flower.
2. Petals are often twisted, curled at the edges and overlap slightly or not at all.
3. Petals are thin – often translucent – and many are ridged or lined.
4. Petals are often paler yellow than the cup, such as 'Carlton'.
5. Cups may be ridged and symmetrical or unsymmetrical. Sometimes the cup is uneven and even crinkled or serrated.
6. Color in general is not as saturated as modern daffodils.
7. Trumpets: with very old flowers the petals may cup or encompass the trumpet, such as with *N. pseudonarcissus*.

MORE NEWS FROM KEITH KRIBLER

Our Texas farmer and guru posted that all this time he has been "dipping his daffodils". Newly purchased bulbs become dry in storage as do

bulbs that are dug in the spring and languish in the garage. Dipping is a way of hydrating and lightly fertilizing the bulb before roots are formed and should get the bulb off to a good start.

The recipe must be made in a clean container and left-over liquid can be thrown over other plants. Recipe: Liquid fertilizer is added to water on a one-two basis. Any balanced liquid fertilizer will do. Err on the side of lightness as you will follow with your usual fertilizing for roots. The roots form in December and so you need to fertilize in November at the latest (so the fertilizer makes it through the soil down to the roots).

FALL BOARD MEETING

The Goodwood Relationship

Main item on the menu was FDS's future relationship with Goodwood Museum and Gardens.

The FDS was founded at Goodwood in 1994, at a time when grant money was available and everyone worked together to make the house and grounds presentable. The FDS recognized three distinct time periods when daffodils were planted and feels strongly that, **regardless of the ownership of Goodwood, these daffodils need continued care, protection and recognition.** This includes a no-mowing policy where daffodils are abundant until they have gone down, no picking and protection of original planting areas.

To date the FDS has paid for an iron decorative fence that keeps the mower and the public from walking in the West Lawn where daffodils and freesias were planted: Elizabeth Arrowsmith (1885-1911) and Margaret Hodges (1925-1978) are still discernible today. The Campenelle Walk was planted by Fanny Tiers in 1912-1913, and is particularly prone to damage. Only one-half of the walk is deemed protectable because the middle of the walk is covered by sand dumped many years ago to protect Rough House and the rest of the site is used for events. Recently FDS paid for stanchions that will protect the daffodils that line both side of the original clay walk going from the sand to the swimming pool. The original line along the roller rink still blooms and should be considered for protection. The FDS board will draft a statement of intent with Goodwood that includes scattered daffodils site on the property. Unfortunately we cannot guarantee garden help to keep up these sites.

OLD NEWS

In 2011, the FDS carried 'February Gold'. Linda Van Beck sold left-overs to her neighbor and FDS member Margaret Feaster. The bulbs were planted late and bloomed at Easter. Linda and Sara went over to see the show. There was just one problem - the daffodils were not 'February Gold'. Next an American Daffodil Society member in Mississippi said her bulbs too were not 'February Gold'. After some research all agreed that the bulbs were 'Rapture', which will not perennialize for us. An agreement has been reached between our shipper and his shipper, and the FDS will be reimbursed the cost of the bulbs. Those who ordered 'February Gold' and are participating in this year's bulbs sale will find 'February Gold' added to their order. If not participating, call Linda and we will arrange a bulb delivery. Any bulbs left over will be sold at the 2012 bulbs sale.

It is interesting that the FDS was the only customer to complain. 'Rapture' is a bigger, fatter, showier flower, which is why we think no one else minded the accident!

THE JOYS OF LIVING IN ZONE 8B

Commercial bulbs companies except for the Heaths have been a problem. "Someone in authority" told Dutch bulb companies that daffodils should not be sold to 9a and 8b until November because the soil is too hot to plant. No one has been able to determine who this mistaken authority is. Unfortunately few people complain.

Gradually over a ten year period, one company has been modernized to the point that they will deliver when we ask without our having to lie and say we need the bulbs early for chilling. This company is van Engelen (wholesale) and their retail company John Scheepers actually shipped bulbs on the 20th of September.

Unfortunately, we ordered 'Juanita' from Brecks (who say they are the oldest Dutch bulb company operating in America) and they have refused to send us bulbs on October 15th as previously arranged. We have canceled the entire order. And the news gets worse as Breck's recently bought out K. Van Burgondien & Sons, which is the sole supplier of 'Tresamble', a daffodil which does well for us.