



[www.MidwestDaffodil.org](http://www.MidwestDaffodil.org)

# Spring 2013 Another Challenge

*Will there be blooms for April 27-28?*

MDS Spring in Bloom Show  
Bernstein Room, Chicago Botanic Garden  
April 27-28

*Be there!, To enter!! To help!!!*

MDS Pre-show meeting  
Classroom 1, CBG  
April 21, 1 - 4 PM  
*Show cards available.  
Instructions for newbies.*

***Send money! Just your \$5  
for one year or a multiple  
more years in the Society.  
Treasurer Al Champ advises  
that it hurts him to have to  
drop folks for nonpayment.***

If you are on the web, go to: [www.dafflibrary.org](http://www.dafflibrary.org).  
You'll likely be amazed at this brand new resource  
from the American Daffodil Society for daffodil lovers.

## Fall Sale A Big Success

For the first time in memory we did not have a crew digging at Oakwood Daffodils last summer. This left us with too few bulbs for our sale, and we had to scramble to make up the difference. We usually have purchased some bulbs from commercial vendors, but we decided to expand this year.

We sent an open order with a very modest check to a number of dealers with the request to send us their remainder stock for sale bulbs or send only a few from their catalog which we would use in our bulb exchange. We didn't have a clue as to the potential of this approach, but the results were incredibly gratifying. We received bulbs from Mitsch Daffodils, Cherry Creek Daffodils, Oakwood Daffodils, Daffodils and More (David Burdick), and John Scheepers, Inc. In each case we received a wonderful mix with value far beyond the catalog value. Many of the fine and normally expensive bulbs were grabbed up at the sale, not just by our members.

In recognition of their support we displayed a small poster for each dealer showing a little history and something about their specialties and reputations among serious daffodil growers. Lots of sale visitors were seen studying the posters, which, we hope, will lead to more sales for them.

The three bulb collections, something else new for our sale, the Fragrant Selection, Wister Starters, and Show Bench Starters all sold out, one by noon Saturday, the others by noon Sunday.

We had a marvelous selection for our exchange from the leftovers, augmented by 100 bulbs from Nancy Pilipuf's garden. MDS Treasurer Al Champ reported that we spent more but we made more on this sale than in recent years.

Many thanks to those who helped out at the sale which was coordinated by Al Champ. Doing yeoman duty were Carol Champ, Lou Emmens, Bruce Eckersberg, Mary Dorner, Irene Vass, Nancy Pilipuf, Stephanie Lindeman, Lorraine Cook, Karen Johanson, and Cindy and Brian Powers, not even members - then! Now the Powers are!!



## We Have A New President

Nancy Pilipuf cheerfully stepped forward to assume the leadership role in the MDS at our Annual Meeting. Nancy is a founding member, longtime officer, and all-the-time outstanding grower and show stopper here. She is well-known among American Daffodil Society members as a grower in the top tier. She is an ADS judge and frequent instructor.

In a chat with Nancy in which she expressed her delight in serving as the President, we could only come up with two times that she has not been the recipient of the Silver Ribbon at our show, given for the most blue ribbons received. (But those years she was not entered.)

Nancy lives on an old farm property in Garden Prairie where she grows one of everything, it seems. She has an outbuilding dedicated to daffodils with a walk-in cooler.

Let's all step forward ourselves to help Nancy and the MDS by our suggestions, our volunteering, and our moral support.



*Kathryn Robinson makes a hard choice at the bulb exchange.*

**'Lake Zurich 3 W-Y' BULB DONATED TO GARDEN CLUB OF LAKE ZURICH**

Among the wonderful bulbs provided by Oakwood Daffodils for our sale was a single bulb of "Lake Zurich 3 W-Y (Evesham x Dayton Lake) Reed 2011." This bulb is not yet offered by Dr. John Reed. In the past, John, whose cultivars have often been given local or regional names, has asked for suggestions with a Chicago theme from our members. John went to medical school in Chicago and his father, who passed away only recently, lived just north of Chicago before moving to live with John and his wife, Sandy, near Niles, Michigan.

At our Annual Meeting we voted to give the bulb to the Garden Club of Lake Zurich, located in the northwest suburb. There are several mutual members of GCLZ and MDS.

The bulb was planted by the President of that Club and by George Dorner in the garden area at Ela Township Library which is tended by the Club. It would be ideal if we get the first photo of this cultivar for Daffseek from this bulb.



*President of GCLZ  
John Van Ostrand*

**THIS COULD BE THE YEAR FOR A BLUE RIBBON AT OUR SHOW**

Plan your potential entries for the show and keep an eye on those blooms as they peek out and develop. Put together the data for a show tag beforehand and keep cut blooms cool, in a refrigerator if necessary. We will have a nice list of what to do in more detail at the website, also at our April 21 meeting. There will be downloadable PDF files to guide you at [MidwestDaffodil.org](http://MidwestDaffodil.org).

**YOUR BEST OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND A NATIONAL SHOW**

This year's American Daffodil Society show will be in Columbus, Ohio on April 11-14. Who knows? With the weather we've had lately we may have blooms to enter. Convention Chair is Jill Griese, Co-Chair for the 2009 Convention here. See [DaffodilUSA.org](http://DaffodilUSA.org) for details.

**DAFFODILS AT THE BIG BOX STORES AND GARDEN CENTERS IN CHICAGO**

Folks interested in daffodils can't avoid looking at whatever may be offered from their local bulb vendors. The selection seems to be getting more narrow and the prices higher, but there still are bargains if you are just looking for color in the yard. Occasionally, one finds show quality bulbs. Often the wholesalers are the same for several outlets. I do a walk around each fall, both for my own interest and to assure that we are pricing bulbs for our sale correctly.

Walmart and Home Depot were similar this year. A dozen

Tahiti, Cheerfulness, Replete, or Red Devon were \$5 at Walmart and \$6 at Home Depot, where the bulbs carried Martha Stewart's name. (Last year they had Katie Heath at a great price, but this was not seen this year.) Walmart also had 14 Tete a Tete, Fortissimo, Pink Charm, or Cassata at \$5.88, but one of the better garden centers had 25 Tete a Tete for \$9. The same center had 5 Flower Record, Sir Winston Churchill, Minnow, Jack Snipe, or Actaea, all great yard flowers which often take ribbons, for \$5.

Everyone had Dutch Masters and "King Alfred type" at pretty good prices for those looking at the lowest denominator yellow in their yard, but there weren't so many Ice Follies, the favorite of landscapers around here.

A growing trend was the offering of collections such as Hawera/Tete a Tete/Jack Snipe or Actaea/orange Cassini tulips. Finally, you could get 60 Mixed Unnamed for \$17 at Home Depot, but few to enter in our show in hopes of getting an ADS blue ribbon.

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***Why don't you write something for the next issue?***

***I also tend our website. There have been some problems there***

***~which should be corrected by the time you get this.***