



# florida daffodil society news

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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- FDS FLOWER SHOW: March 1, 2014- (10-5 p.m.)  
March 2 (10-4)- Tallahassee Nurseries – in the greenhouse. Chair Tiffany Bourassa. Volunteers needed! Contact her at 850-216-2818, or by email at oceana\_12345@yahoo.com.
- ANNUAL MEETING: April 12, 2014- 9:15-10:30 AM in the laundry cottage at Goodwood Museum and Gardens. We will celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a discussion of the FDS- past/present/future. We encourage everyone to attend or send comments to Linda Van Beck at lvanbeck@comcast.net or call her at 850 878-9753

## Winter Board Meeting

FDS has 129 active paid members. Bulb sale report showed that 11,685 bulbs were distributed. Vendors included Master Gardeners in Louisiana and Baker and Pasco counties in Florida; Georgia Daffodil Society, Garden Clubs in Palm Coast, Quitman, and Quincy (in Florida) and Macon, Ga., along with three Tallahassee Nurseries.

The Board sadly remembered our members who died last year. Marge Orrick and Annette Folsom were charter members who remained active in the society for many years. The board also voted to place a plaque in the John Van Beck Memorial Garden in remembrance of Emmett Owen, who designed and helped build the bridge in the garden that young bicyclists appear to appreciate as a launch deck. A report was given on the numerous historic gardens in the Tallahassee area that have received daffodils from the FDS. Their nemesis (same as for most of us) is trees – big ones that keep getting bigger and thirstier. As these ‘weeds’ extend their canopy – the daffodils are dwindling and many will be removed. We plan to visit other daffodil gardens in the state this year and have already been to the IFAS research center in Quincy.

## The Van Beck Garden-

The garden was opened to the public for two weekends. The earliest bloomers are now gone and the rest seem to be in a time warp. The weather to date has been neither hot nor freezing -- just like Mary Maud Sharpe’s refrigerator. The dafs are slow to open, blooms are taking twice the time to come to full size, and once there they just

sit. It is still weird to see Carlton, Erlicheer, and *N. Jonquilla* and others which have been in full foliage since early January. The best example is Golden Dawn 8YO. The foliage is a foot high because the bulbs think they are back home in California where they were bred. Here they are March bloomers. Then there is Gold Rain 8YY, that hasn’t bloomed in 12 years, but which produced two stalks of flowers this year. By the first of February, east-facing beds Grand Primo were blooming – a month early! It is obvious that the decisive factor in growing dafs in the coastal south is not just cool soil temperature in December, but also a hot dry spell in the summer. The magic word is drought which occurred in early August. All bulbs originating in the Mediterranean basin need a hot drought for floral initiation. Flowers can be initiated at abnormal times of the year because of alterations in weather pattern.

In January, many dafs were peaking and it was time to pick for the flower show. At the hottest part of the day, stems were cut, plopped in warm water, placed in a dark garage for a couple of hours, yanked up, trimmed to a uniform heights and put in clean water in a few large containers. After a short drive to Mary Maud’s, they were swaddled in heavy plastic wrap and left in her floral refrigerator. Last year, blooms held for five weeks.

Snow was predicted, but all we got was sleet and freezing. The dafs appeared to love it. Spring is coming! Miss Linda 8WW has already set seed.

The Van Beck Garden needs to be dug up and put back together. Many dafs have not been lifted since they were put in the garden in 1995. The rare and unusual bulbs are plopped here and there, and in some cases shade has encroached. The general intent is to shrink the large field, reinforce the initial beds and keep more bulbs around the house. “Left overs” will be available for FDS sale this year.

## Bob Spott’s Recipe for Cheap Fertilizer

Bob is a good daffodilian. Currently two of his bulbs are being trialed in the Van Beck garden. Recipe: Buy the cheapest 20 lb. bag of fertilizer that is high in potassium (high 3<sup>rd</sup> number) and low in nitrogen (low first number). Find granulated potash (a potassium-rich alkaline substance made from wood ash). Add a goodly amount to the fertilizer and stir. Apply before you start to water heavily for leaf and flower growth.

## Your Bulb Garden

Not to toot our own horn, but the basic bulb garden for North Florida and the lower portion of our southern sisters is really anchored by the bulbs we order every year. FDS has popularized bulbs that are relatively easy to find and purchase in catalogues and the internet. There are a few not on the market, which we have sold and we hope to feature this year

### Bon Mots by Scott Kuntz –

Too little sun means bulbs “can’t photosynthesize enough to develop their buds”.

When spring temperatures spike- roots cannot get water up the stem to replace water lost in transpiration. Hence buds blast.

Newly purchased bulbs planted late may have immature root systems that are inadequate to manage leaf and bud development.

Periodic dry stretches of weather may hamper bulb development.

## Basic Bulb Garden

Division	Flowers
1 Trumpet	Rijnveld’s Early Sensation, Flower Carpet (rare)
2 Large Cup	Carlton, Ice Follies, Monal, Gigantic Star, Ceylon, Fortune, Duke of Windsor (rare)
3. Intermediate	Barrett Browning
4. Double	Erlicheer, Bridal Crown, Double Chinese Sacred Lily, Double Campernelli
5. Triandrus	Thalia, Tresemble, Hawara
6. Cyclamineus	February Gold, Itsim
7. Jonquilla	Trevithian, Hillstar, Pueblo, Kedron, Waterperry, Early Louisiana,
8. Tazetta	Soleil d’Or, Nony, Ormi, Early Pearl, Grand Primo, Cragford, Golden Dawn, Avalanche, Silver Chimes, Scilly White and Geranium plus a herd of paper whites
10. Bulbocodium	Bulbocodium Conspicuous
13. Species	<i>N. Italicus</i> , <i>N. Jonquilla</i> , <i>N. x odorous</i> (Campernelli) <i>N. xintermedius</i> (Texas Star)
Miniatures	Baby Moon



A view toward the house



Nat Williams 8WY



Avalanche of Gold 8YO



Rijnveld’s Early Sensation 1YY