



Northeast North Carolina Daffodil Society Newsletter

Fall 2015



FALL 2015 MEETING



The 2015 Fall meeting of the Northeast NC Daffodil Society will be on **Saturday, October 31, 2015 at 10 a.m.** at the Currituck County Extension Center, 120 Community Way, Barco, NC 27917. Please

RSVP to Clay & Fran (252) 491-9268 and leave a message, or contact Debbie Kelso at (252) 232-2262 or send an email to Clay and Fran, clayhiggins@centurylink.net.

Invite your friends--You don't have to be a member to attend this meeting.

Message from the President of the NENCDS

Year 2015 started out colder than normal with cold front after cold front coming our way, but with our show being a week later we still have great daffodils for the show. We had a great Daffodil Show in 2015 with the most flowers in the show that we have ever had. It has been my pleasure to have served as the Daffodil Society President for the past two years. I will still be working with the Daffodil Society in another capacity.

Clay has a lot of daffodils to give away again at the bulb exchange held during the Fall meeting. The ideal is to have fun and enjoy ourselves while putting on a show and our meetings each year.

The Daffodil Society has a **Face Book** page created by Ken Ferguson. Search for it and click on "like."

Peggy Lilienthal
President

SHOW CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Our 2016 Daffodil Show date is set for the last weekend Friday and Saturday March 25-26, 2016. Please note this. We had a great year in 2015 at the show. There were 914 daffodil stems in the show, 412 exhibits and 41 exhibitors. This was our most

successful show since we started and a lot has to do with the local Northeast residents coming and showing their flowers. We thank you for that. We also had many more exhibitors outside our area than in a normal year, but success is success. People from Williamsburg, VA, Raleigh and Wilmington, NC areas, in addition to other towns like Edenton, Elizabeth City, and Manteo exhibited at our show.

Many thanks to Debbie Foster and the Master Gardener Volunteers of Currituck County again for carrying the heavy burden of setting up the show and providing the show Clerks, Registration and Information Desk personnel.

Additional thanks goes to James Fincher and his committee for performing the Design Section of the show. Thanks also go to Mechelle Murray for being the Show Reporter/Tabulator and to Peggy Lilienthal for all the work she did as the Awards Chairperson.

We need each year a lot of people to make the show work. **Thank you.**

Respectfully submitted:
Clay Higgins Show Chairperson

FALL 2015 PROGRAM

We are changing our format slightly for the fall program by featuring a panel discussion instead of a guest speaker. Katherine Beale, Nancy Fuchs and Thelma 'Timmie' Scott will be our panelists. Katherine, who has had tremendous success with miniatures in the Mid-Atlantic Daffodil Shows and elsewhere, will speak on that subject.

Nancy Fuchs is only a couple years from being a small grower with success in the daffodil shows across the Mid-Atlantic Region and will talk about how she prepares standards for the shows.

Timmie Scott has won several times the local "Wild Goose" Award for the most blue ribbons as a small grower in our show. She will discuss how she prepares for the show. I'm encouraging all to have pictures that we can show.

2015 Annual Raffle: We will have a bulb raffle for a \$2 donation or three for \$5. The donation supports our NENCDS expenses and our efforts to put on a quality show.

Bulb Exchange: With the help of Kerie O'toole, Clay did a lot of digging daffodils this year and has a lot of bulbs for the exchange. At the end of the meeting there will be a Bulb Exchange and Giveaway. Anyone who has named bulbs or plants (they don't have to be daffodils) that they would like to share are encouraged to bring them. You must be a member to participate in the bulb exchange. That's the membership advantage. 😊

New Member Bonus: As in the past, all new members of NENCDS will receive a minimum of three separate varieties of daffodils in addition to the bulb exchange/give-away.

NOTE! Please, new members, let Clay know you are coming so he can make up the proper number of bulb packages.

Pot Luck Lunch



The fall meeting runs to and sometimes through lunch, therefore we plan a pot luck lunch. Please bring a

covered small dish of your favorite food (to serve 5 or 6) to share with others. (photo taken October 2012)

Northeast North Carolina Daffodil Society Minutes of the June 6, 2015 Summer Picnic

President Peggy Lilienthal welcomed 15 members of the NENCDS to the summer meeting, held at Lesley Miner's home in Elizabeth City.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. The Fall meeting and bulb exchange will take place at the Extension building in Barco at 10 a.m. on Oct. 31. Members are reminded that dues are "due"-\$15 for individuals and \$20 for family membership.

B. Minutes from the Spring meeting were accepted as presented.

C. Clay plans on holding a design section meeting in August at Doris Flattum's home. The design committee will finalize plans for this portion of the daffodil show. Specifics about the theme will be decided and presented at the fall meeting. Members will be notified of the date and time. Peggy mentioned possibly involving the High School FFA members.

There was some discussion on whether to have separate youth categories or to let the kids enter regular classes if they so desire. Shelly reminds us that we must have 4 entries in each of the categories in order to qualify for judging. Suggestions were made to send fliers to Dunes of Dare, Roanoke Island Garden Club and Pasquotank MG to possibly get more participants in the design section.

D. Clay recapped winners of the March, 2015 Daffodil show and commented on how pleased he was with the growth of the club. Nancy Fuchs offered to be Clerk chairperson for the spring show and Nelly Healy volunteered to be the publicity chairperson.

NEW BUSINESS

Clay has made reservations with the Extension Building for our fall bulb exchange (October 31) and our 2016 Daffodil Show (March 26), as well as reservations for our Spring 2016 meeting the last Saturday in February and our fall 2016 meeting which is the last Saturday in October 2016.

Our slate of Officers for the coming year was discussed and will be voted on in October

President	Lesley Miner (1st Term)
Vice President	Ken Ferguson (2nd Term)
Treasurer	Clay Higgins (2nd Term)
Secretary	Peggy Lilienthal (1st Term)

Nominations can be made from the floor at the October meeting.

Members adjourned to the back yard for a demonstration by Clay on digging and storing daffodil bulbs, with help from Lesley Miner. Clay reminds us that show bulbs need to be divided every 2-3 years to continue to be show quality and all bulb clumps need to be divided eventually to continue to bloom. Clay shared net bags and labels with members present and reminded us to label our bulbs.

We cleaned up and shared a superb pot luck lunch-and with no further business, our meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted
Lesley Miner, Secretary

DUES DUE

NENC Daffodil Society Membership Renewal is due in October 2015. The small membership dues are \$15 individual, \$20 family.

New as well as existing members more than recover the \$15 membership fee with free bulbs

Directions to the Fall Northeast North Carolina

Daffodil Society Meeting: The Fall meeting is in the Auditorium in the County Cooperative Extension Agency center located within the Currituck Community Park, off of Aviation Parkway at 120 Community Way, Barco, NC 27917, at US Route 158.

Planting time: Late October, November and early December is the preferred daffodil planting.

Oldies but Goodies

In the last decades it became increasingly difficult for exhibitors to compete with the newer daffodil introductions. With petals that looked like they'd been freshly ironed and perfectly placed, these near-perfect hybrids held their heads high. But many were hard to find and often beyond the budget of the average daffodil grower. Some disappeared after a few years.



SPELLBINDER 1 Y-WWY 1944 And while the American Daffodil Society had a show category for Historic (through 1939), blooms from the 40s, 50s and 60s found it harder to land on the show bench. Thankfully the American Daffodil Society approved in 2011 the optional addition of a Classics Section to daffodil show schedules that would include flowers from 1940 through 1969. (It does not apply to miniatures, only standards.)

“The Society believed that such a section would interest a different segment of exhibitors and might encourage bulb growers to keep these post-war era cultivars available,” explains the ADS website. “The American Daffodil Historic Daffodil period ends at a milestone in history, World War II, when marketing and exporting



CAPISCO 3 W-GYR 1969

daffodils temporarily ceased. When trade resumed, daffodils were different, improvements in form were most noticeable.

“These daffodils of the postwar period have brilliant red-cups in many divisions. There was the elegance of vivid reverse bi-colors, the nicely-formed split coronas, the growing acceptance of doubles, and the appearance of ‘upper divisions’ in major collections. In other words, the daffodils we exhibit today. The year 1969 was selected as the cut-off date of this period in daffodil hybridizing development, and best marked their difference.”

Some of these classics can compete with recent introductions; others may have excellent color but a slight crinkle in the petals that could cost points in the regular exhibition class.



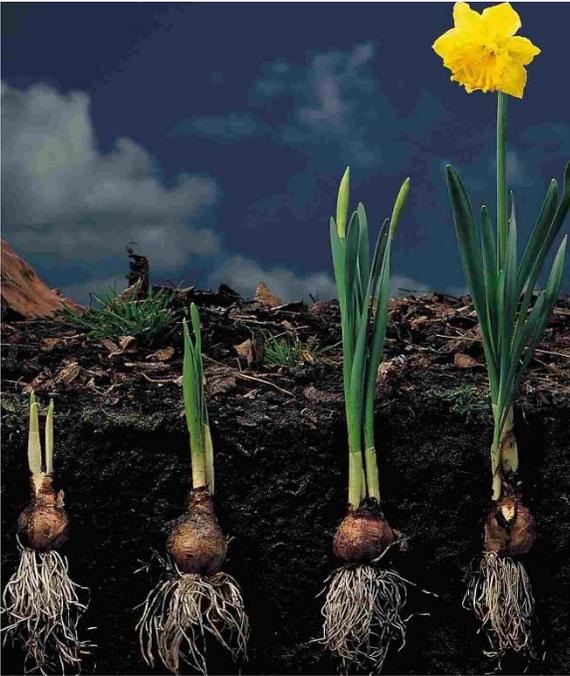
JACK SNIPE 6 W-Y 1951

Below is a small sampling of classics easy to obtain via mail order or garden center:

Accent – 1960
Acropolis – 1955
Ambergate – 1950
Angel – 1960
Avalanche – 1955
Barrett Browning – 1945
Bella Vista – 1959
Bridal Crown – 1949
Cassata – 1963
Ceylon – 1943
Dallas – 1942
Delibes – 1950
Fortissimo – 1964
Gigantic Star – 1960
Ice Follies – 1953
Ice Wings – 1958
Jack Snipe – 1951
Jetfire – 1966
Merlin 1956
Pipit – 1963
Rijnveld's Early Sensation – 1956
Roulette – 1959
Salome – 1958
Sir Winston Churchill – 1966
Spellbinder - 1944
Stainless – 1960
Tahiti - 1956
Topolino – C-1965

Planting Daffodils for the Beginner

By Clay Higgins



The daffodil is an early spring flower that needs a lot of water during the blooming season and needs to go dry and dormant during the summer. All daffodils do not like the same growing conditions. Learn to know the growing habits of the various divisions of daffodils. Division 9 Poeticus and single-head Division 4 Double daffodils do not like to go totally dry in the summer. Division 5, 7, and 8 do well in very dry conditions.

After being out of the ground all summer some bulbs have been known to sprout roots and foliage. If you bury that new foliage during the planting process, the daffodil may decline and not show the next spring. Specially watch out for Division 5 Triandrus, Division 7 Jonquils and Division 8 Tazettas as they may have started growing.

My advice is to prepare your planting beds to receive the daffodil bulbs at least three months before planting to allow time for the newly disturbed soil to settle down. If you can't do that, settle the soil by giving it a deep watering. Make sure the water reaches depths of 6 or 8 inches and let set for a couple of days to a week before planting.

I also recommend that any improvement or enrichment of the soil be done at the time that the beds are prepared. Add lime, fertilizer, organic matter, such as peat, ground pine bark mulch, etc., to the soil well before planting.

Do not add nitrogen-rich fertilizer as daffodils do not like high nitrogen; however a potash (potassium) rich fertilizer is worth adding. Some say add the fertilizer under each bulb as you plant them. I find that impractical and takes a lot of time to dig a hole deep enough that after adding fertilizer and putting back a couple inches of soil, there is still a hole 8 inches deep to plant the daffodil bulb. Even with the addition of fertilizer at the time of preparing the bed, I also top dress my daffodils with a 5-10-10 fertilizer after planting and before adding mulch.

A question often asked by newcomers is how to plant daffodils (plant all the bulbs together or keep them separate by name). One piece of advice that I give to the newcomer is to not mix the bulbs together and do not plant them as landscaping bulbs. Instead plant each single variety together as its own group or "bouquet", with a label for easy identification come spring.

Often I'm asked what pattern to plant daffodils in the ground. If you have five bulbs, use the domino blank five as your pattern for the planting, spacing the bulbs about six inches apart. If you have 4, 3, 2, bulbs etc., follow the domino pattern as you plant. I also recommend that a permanent label be placed on each planting and a "map" of each planting be made to identify where the daffodils are planted in the yard. However, I plant my daffodils seven in a row across a 4 feet wide bed, 6 inches apart.

The rule of thumb for planting daffodils is to plant them in relatively rich amended, well-drained soil at about 8 inches down for standards. For miniatures plant them about three times the depth of bulbs.

There are three methods that I know of for planting the daffodils in the soil, they are:

- 1 – Use an auger on a 3/8" drill to make the holes
- 2 – Use a bulb planter (a hollow tube on a handle that you punch into the ground and lift out the soil leaving you a hole in which to plant).
- 3 – With a shovel, dig a trench or hole into the soil to the depth that you need.

I have used all three methods successfully. The bulb planter is the slowest method but very accurate. Mostly I use the 3/8" drill with auger for standard daffodils, but I plant most of my miniatures by using the trench method.