



# The Daffodil Rave

Volume 15, Issue 1

Editor: Levi Donnelly

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www.stldaffodilclub.org

## On Growing Double Daffodils in the Deep South

Theodore E. Snazelle, Ph.D., 1987 (Taken from the *ADS Journal*)

Some of my friends feel that I have had some success growing double daffodils in in the Deep South. There is an element of truth in what they think; however, I am hard-pressed to give an intelligent response to their question, "How do you grow good doubles?" Suddenly, the talkative individual that I am becomes almost mute. No, I don't have any sure-fire secret method for success in growing doubles that I don't want to divulge. No, I haven't run any carefully controlled experiments to determine what factors are involved in getting doubles to bloom and not blast. Justifiably, the question can be asked, "Then what do you know about growing doubles?" I am not really sure that I know anything special; however, I have made several observations which perhaps should be scrutinized willfully in a controlled experiment.

1. It seems that the cultivars with the fewest petaloids bloom more regularly than those which are more fully formed. One of my favorite doubles is 'Eastertide' 4Y-Y. It has an enormous number of petaloids and it blasts for me every year. Cultivars like 'Tonga' 4Y-R and 'Tahiti' 4Y-R, with fewer petaloids,... **(continued on page 2)**

## From the President

Cindy Haeffner, President

I hope this newsletter finds everyone well. The abundance of seed catalogs showing up at my door remind me that spring is quickly approaching. As I flip through there pages I am reminded of the special place where I plant daffodils, Northern Holler. Northern Holler is our farm, two miles from home, a farm formerly owned by George Haeffner, my husband Joy's uncle. I began planting the area several years ago. The farm is located along a county road, which is sparsely traveled. As I am planting, I can hear little more than the water trickling in the creek, ... **(continued on page 5)**

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## On Growing Double Daffodils (cont.)

bloom reliably for me almost every year. Both of these cultivars came from the Lionel Richardson cross 'Falaise' x 'Ceylon'.

2. All daffodils seem to require a lot of water at the time of blooming; double daffodils are no exception. Thus, I water my doubles a little almost every day as the buds are swelling, beginning to show color, and coming into bloom. It seems that the perianth segments and petaloids must be fully turgid, i.e., full of water, in order to open properly. Watering appears to have been particularly helpful in getting white-perianth types, e.g., Lionel Richardson's 'Gay Challenger' 4W-R and John Lea's 'Achentoul' 4W-OOR, to open fully. However, I still have the problem of the backs of the perianth segments being greenish. Personally, I think that judges make too much of this fault as the green is usually most pronounced on the backs of the outermost petals which are actually petaloid sepals, i.e., sepals which are colored like the inner three petals rather than green as sepals usually are. Thus, why the concern about doubles having a little green on the backs of some of the perianth segments; it is in their genes.

3. Also, it appears to me that some of my doubles do better if they are lifted and replanted every year. Perhaps getting them out of the always hot, sometimes moist soil helps the new flower bud to

develop better in the bulb. My first evidence for the effect of annual digging and replanting came when I dug a clump of 'Van Sion' 4Y-Y; they bloomed well the next year with fully open blooms. Since, they have either blasted every year or have partly opened, giving that grotesque bloom that turned people away from doubles for years.

4. Lastly, double daffodils seem to be no exception from other daffodils grown in the Deep South; the earlier they bloom, the better they do. It does seem to get hot in the Deep South all too early each growing season, and the late blooming daffodils pay the price with blooms which at best open and pass within a single day.

In the final analysis, what can I say to would-be growers of double daffodils in the Deep South? Go ahead and give them a try. Who knows? You might even be successful.

*Editor's note: Many double daffodils thrive and open effortlessly in the lower Midwest; 'Tahiti', 'Queen's Day', 'White Lion', 'Cheerfulness', and 'Crackington' immediately come to mind as varieties worth growing. Give them a try!*



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**2014 GSLDS PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT**

	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE JAN 1, year	10,576.71	12,656.94
<b>INCOME</b>		
DAFFODIL BULB SALES:		
MOBOT ANNUAL SALE	783.50	1,320.30
EXCHANGE GROSS RECEIPTS	966.00	944.00
GREENTREE FESTIVAL	1,479.25	1,255.00
HERMANN MO FESTIVAL	574.00	513.00
POTTED BULBS	580.00	
OTHER BULB SALES	458.38	302.00
TOTAL BULB SALE RECEIPTS	4,841.13	4,334.30
DONATIONS RECEIVED-	170.00	445.00
DUES RECEIVED - curent & future years	178.00	202.00
OTHER INCOME		
BLOOMING BUCKS - Mostly Jason Delaney Purchases	529.57	1,049.24
MISC INCOME-	111.00	309.00
PLANT LABEL SALES	393.25	1,015.00
T SHIRT SALES - CLUB EMBLEM	90.00	124.00
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	1,123.82	2,497.24
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>6,312.95</b>	<b>7,478.54</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
BULB COSTS		
EXCHANGE BULB COSTS	1,218.60	1,300.00
DUTCH PURCHASED BULBS		743.25
TOTAL BULB COSTS	1,218.60	2,043.25
CHARITABLE DONATIONS:		
KOMEN	250.00	
MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN	1,000.00	500.00
CORPORATE FEES/PERMITS		20.00
GIFT CERTIFICATES	250.00	225.00
GREENTREE FESTIVAL EXPENSES	291.58	75.00
HERMANN MO BOOTH EXPENSE	67.50	67.50
MEETING EXPENSES	115.59	82.29
MEMBERSHIPS	420.00	380.00
MISC SOCIETY EXPENSES	90.00	190.00
NEWSLETTER EXPENSES	58.04	7.20
PLANT LABEL COSTS	240.00	930.69
POSTAGE		77.64
PROGRAM SPEAKER EXPENSE	25.00	150.00
SHOW EXPENSES	218.40	86.82
SUPPLIES	116.01	416.36
TEE SHIRT EXPENSE	112.00	104.00
WEB SITE EXPENSE		49.70
WORLD 2016 SHOW- digitize emblem		125.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>4,472.72</b>	<b>5,530.45</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>1,840.23</b>	<b>1,948.09</b>
<b>ENDING BANK BALANCE DEC 31</b>	<b>12,656.94</b>	<b>13,274.39</b>

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## A Little History of Our Flower

Taken from *Flora's Gems: The Little Book of Daffodils*

Pamela Todd, 1994

Daffodils are among the oldest cultivated plants, especially valued for their early flowers. The Greek writer Theophrastus listed and described many of the earliest kinds in his *Enquiry into Plants* written around 300BC, but we now have evidence to show that they began their spread from their origins in Spain and Portugal across Western Europe to the North of England in prehistoric times. A slightly less hardy group, known as the tazettas, were carried by man along the Silk Road to as far as Kashmir, China, and Japan, and spread

naturally along the shores of the Mediterranean and into Israel where they were to be found growing in gardens many hundreds of years before the coming of Christ.

Al-Himyari, an eleventh-century Spanish Muslim, reveals in his book *Novelties in Description of the Spring*, that *N. poeticus* was among the flowers most commonly grown in Spanish Moorish gardens. It rivaled the rose in the affections of the Arabs, who also admired trumpet daffodils and liked to plant them under fruit trees in their gardens.

John Parkinson, apothecary to King James I, describes in his 1629 *Paradisi in Sole: ...* **(continued on page 5)**



## February Speaker

For our upcoming February meeting, Brenda Van Booven will share her passion for gardening that led to the building of a seasonal high tunnel. The high tunnel, which extends the growing season and improves plant and soil health, allows Brenda to grow and sell fresh produce at local farmers markets. Brenda will also review her experience obtaining an EQIP grant from USDA- NRCS.

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## On Exhibiting Daffodils

Taken from *Handbooks of Practical Gardening: The Book of the Daffodil*

Reverend Eugene Bourne, 1903

Every exhibitor should make a point of showing his flowers clean and fresh and in the finest condition possible. To this end he should always gather them before the bud quite unfolds itself and open them under cover, uninjured by wind, dust, sun, and rain. Then again, very careful packing for their journey is of supreme importance. A good plan is to pack them in shallow boxes, each box just taking one layer of flowers, arranged in rows so that they mutually support each other, with little dry tissue paper

used to fill up empty spaces and keep everything in place. It is a great mistake to pack daffodils for a journey in damp cotton wool.

Of course additional flowers should always be taken, over and above those actually required for staging; and all that should be unpacked and revived in water several hours before they come under the judge's eye. In a matter of staging these additional hints may be useful:

Now that bulbs of so many very excellent varieties may be obtained at a moderate cost, none of those which are poor in form or color should be staged, unless it should be ... **(continued on page 6)**

## A Little History (cont.)

Paradisus *Terrestris*, or 'A Garden of Pleasant Flowers', about ninety different kinds of daffodil and relates how these new bulbs were brought by travelers and merchants from France, Holland, Spain, Italy, and North Africa. Parkinson also tackles the thorny question: What is the difference between a daffodil and a narcissus? The answer is—none. Narcissus is simply the Latin word for a daffodil, as Parkinson rather testily explains: "Many idle and ignorant Gardeners... doe call some of these Daffodils narcisses, when, as all that know any Latine, that Narcissus is the Latine name and Daffodil the English of one and the same thing."

## From the President (cont.)

and a red-tailed hawk calling from above; some days, two or three hours may go by before a car travels down the gravel road. I can close my eyes during the darkest days of winter and see those beautiful autumn evenings of planting bulbs. With that warmth and beauty, the days of winter melt away. In these cold and dreary winter days I hope that you, too, can remember back to your special days of planting.

## Our Special Daffodil Mixture

Known Throughout the Land



Three of the leading Daffodil growers in the world supply their choice crop of daffodils. Each of our superior seedlings has been to great variety of the combined named varieties are included.

In our constant striving for still greater production all of these seedlings are then subjected to a rigid and severe process of elimination. Only the best seedlings are selected and the better ones tested by trial in these years. A few of the very best and outstanding ones are chosen for growing on and introduction by mail.

**THE SPECIAL DAFFODIL MIXTURE SPECIAL MIXTURE**—100 BULBS, 1/2 lb. 100 BULBS, 1/2 lb. and 1/2 lb. of flowers in the mixture, which are the finest ever selected, cost only 25¢ per 100.

The very best seedlings which are added to the mixture are carefully selected from the crop of flowers that are being raised in the best of England.

The largest variety of daffodils is made up of a mixture of named varieties and has a unique look to the grower. The largest named variety of daffodils is the "Double Daffodil" which is a double flowered variety. The mixture is made up of a mixture of named varieties and has a unique look to the grower.

The "Special Mixture" is one of our best. It is made up of a mixture of named varieties and has a unique look to the grower. It is made up of a mixture of named varieties and has a unique look to the grower.

100 BULBS, 1/2 lb. Special Daffodil Mixture—\$2.00  
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 100 BULBS, 1/2 lb. Special Daffodil Mixture—\$2.00

Please see page 31 and also an extensive catalogue of named Daffodils.



## On Exhibiting Daffodils (cont.)

absolutely necessary to do so in order to make up the required number in the exhibit; but it is better to show fine, well-grown flowers of really good ordinary kinds, than flowers of expensive and scarce varieties in poor or doubtful condition.

The exhibit should be made as widely representative as possible. Most judges, other things being about equal, will give first place to the exhibit which shows the greatest variety of form and color, and which is best representative of the different sections. Such are a few of the secrets of success in exhibiting daffodils. Over and above these the golden rule must be followed—do everything carefully. Then it ought not to be difficult for an

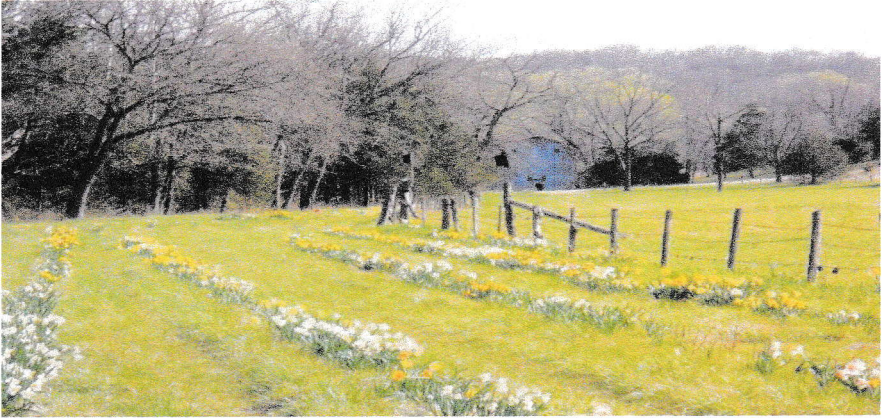
enthusiastic grower who has well-selected varieties to secure a medal or even a cup, in evidence of his skillful cultivation.



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## Board of Directors

<b>President</b>	Cindy Haeffner
<b>Vice-President</b>	Jason Delaney
<b>Secretary</b>	Vaughn Meister
<b>Treasurer</b>	Peter McAdams
<b>General Members</b>	Marlene Katz, Dave Niswonger, Pam Hardy



## Calendar of Events

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time and Location</b>	<b>Activity</b>
Sunday, February 22	1:30pm - 3:30pm Beaumont Room, MBG	Presentation: Brenda van Booven
Saturday and Sunday, April 4 and 5	Saturday: 12pm - 5pm Sunday: 9am - 5pm Beaumont Room, MBG	GSLDS annual daffodil show: <b><i>Focus on Daffodils</i></b>
Sunday, July 19	1:30pm - 3:30pm Beaumont Room, MBG	Presentation: TBA
Sunday, September 13	1:30pm - 3:30pm Beaumont Room, MBG	Bagging and tagging bulbs for exchange and sale

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## Become a member of the Greater St. Louis Daffodil Society

Are you familiar with new and historic daffodils? Do you know where to procure bulbs? What about their care and cultivation? We can help!

### Benefits of Membership

- Affiliate of American Daffodil Society
- Annual spring daffodil show
- Annual fall bulb sale
- Meet other gardeners and flower enthusiasts
- Guest speakers at various meetings
- Community outreach opportunities
- Quarterly newsletter
- Opportunity to have fun

### Application for Membership

Individual: \$5                      Household: \$7

Please make checks payable to:  
*Greater St. Louis Daffodil Society*

Mail payment and information to:

Peter McAdams, GSLDS  
1968 Seminary Rd.  
Brighton, IL 62012

Include your name, phone number and  
email address with payment.



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