

NORTHEAST REGION
AMERICAN DAFFODIL SOCIETY
SPRING/SUMMER 2016

NORTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICERS

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NEW ADS MEMBERS IN OUR REGION

Lea Carty, NY

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Mark Gresh, PA

Len Lehman, PA

Alan Peacock, PA

Dan and Bernie Taylor, PA

John Fowler, PA

Cynthia and Paul O'Connor, MD

Augusto C Martinez, NY

MESSAGE FROM RVP REBECCA BROWN

I am excited to begin this new, for me, venture of sending a newsletter to a group of daffodil enthusiasts. I hope as time moves on, I will get to know more of you personally. For now, I am counting on our mutual interest in those wonderful spring flowers to help me to communicate with you in a relevant way. I am hoping to hear back from you as to your interests and needs for information so I can help you to maintain your enthusiasm be it for gardening or exhibiting, or perhaps both. I have selected an article from another newsletter for this edition in hopes it will be helpful to you. We are going into the hot, fallow months now – so don't despair. Read your catalogs, dig if you must, and hope for a good fall bulb exchange.

PANNILL MEDAL SELECTION OF TUSCARORA

Every year, a reliable bloom which shows itself to win in exhibits consistently, is chosen for the Pannill medal. Bill Pannill was an outstanding hybridizer, so it is in honor of him that the award was named. This year, the ADS Board, in a secret ballot, chose our own Tuscarora. I say our own, because it was bred by Dr. Bill Bender of Chambersburg, one of the founders of the daffodil group that bears the same name, Tuscarora. The flower is a yellow trumpet, classified 1y-y. It is fun to grow a flower bred in one's own region, and perhaps it is more likely to flourish as its genes are acclimated to us (one can hope.) Give it a try.



DIGGING DAFFODIL BULBS FOR BEGINNERS

By Clay Higgins

As a rule of thumb, daffodils should be dug six to eight weeks after the daffodil bloom season, while the foliage is still visible, has turned brown and fallen over. Daffodils may be separated and replanted immediately after digging, but are probably best replanted in the fall. If one takes reasonable care, daffodils are good keepers and can be successfully kept over the summer and replanted when it gets cool. Keeping them cool means, under shade where the air can move.

Daffodils are a cool weather plant, and are dormant in the summer. Digging is needed every three or four years to thin daffodils out so that they will continue to provide healthy blooms each year. I'm not an advocate of tying-up or tying-back the daffodil foliage because plentiful sunshine on the leaves promotes next spring's blooms.

DIGGING DAFFODILS: To insure that all the bulbs that are to be dug are located and properly marked and named, digging them should ideally be done before the foliage disappears. It is critical to keep bunches of bulbs separate. Once a daffodil bulb is dug, it looks just like any other daffodil bulb.

Mesh bags like "onion" or "orange" bags that you obtain from the produce department of grocery stores are the ideal type containers to hold freshly dug daffodils. The bags can also be obtained online from commercial sources. The second critical part of digging is having a reliable digging instrument. I recommend the flat tined garden fork over a shovel as less likely to damage the bulbs.

Most freshly dug bulbs will come out of the ground with foliage attached. Gently twist off the foliage separating the bulbs. Collect the foliage for removal from the daffodil beds.

However, do not place daffodil foliage in your compost pile for the same reason that you remove the foliage from the beds: it may contain disease that can be spread to others. The bulbs should be immediately placed into the mesh bags, one variety or cultivar to a bag, and the bags labeled.

DRYING THE BULBS: Freshly dug daffodil bulbs should be placed in a shady and airy place. Allow the bulbs to dry in the open air for approximately two weeks. Spread the bulbs out so that they are only one layer deep. After a couple of weeks of drying, the daffodils are ready for the next stage, storage.

STORAGE OVER THE SUMMER: The method many use, and I am one of them, is to store daffodil bulbs in an open air location under shade. I use lightweight 4 foot wide 2x3x8 fir wood frames covered with a ¾ inch wire mesh screen under a canvas carport. The wire mesh allows the bulbs to be open to the air on all sides.

IN SUMMARY: Dig daffodil bulbs about six to eight weeks after blooming. Take care when digging bulbs to maintain integrity of the variety and to have a name tag attached so that when fall planting comes, the variety will be known. Storage across the summer should be in shade, and in a place where the air circulates. Make a list of the bulbs that you are going to replant, and label the bulbs newly put into the ground. Good luck and good digging.

SHOWS IN OUR REGION

The show in Devon PA had 739 stems, the one in Pittsburgh had 306, in Chambersburg there were 966 and Washington PA had 623. More complete information in the fall newsletter.

Please send me your email address if you received this via snail mail and are willing to share. It saves time and money. Rebecca