



NORTHEAST REGION FALL NEWSLETTER 2018

AMERICAN DAFFODIL SOCIETY

NORTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICERS

Regional Vice President Rebecca Brown Gettysburg, PA brownezell@earthlink.net

Regional Directors Barbara Mertz Quarryville, PA bvmertz@comcast.net

Judy Vehse Wyomissing, PA jvehse@verizon.net

Jocelyn Thayer, West Chester, PA thayer535@gmail.com

NEW ADS MEMBERS IN OUR REGION

Angelo Sacramento PA

Giada Sacramento PA

Molly Schneider NJ

Karen Schwarzbauer PA

Maya Speelmans NJ

Porter Sutton-Shehab NJ

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE AMERICAN DAFFODIL SOCIETY

Frank Nyikos

8374 E. State Rd. 45

Unionville, IN 47468

UPCOMING MEETING DATES IN THE REGION

Tuscarora, October 14, Bender Potato Farm, 1120 Lincoln Way East, Chambersburg, PA

Washington Daffodil Soc. Nov. 3, Trinity UMC church, McLean, VA

March 25-27 Garden Club of VA Daffodil Show, Richmond, VA

March 31-April 1 Virginia Daffodil Society, Richmond, VA

UPCOMING SHOW DATES IN THE REGION

April 6-7 Gloucester Daffodil Festival, Gloucester VA

April 12, 13, 14 Washington Daffodil Society Show
April 20-21 Delaware Valley (Northeast Regional Show) Devon, PA
April 27-28 Tuscarora/Chambersburg Garden Club, Chambersburg, PA

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

October 26-27, 2018 ADS Fall Forum and Photo Show, Cincinnati, OH
April 5 ADS Judging School 1, Gloucester, VA
May 2-5 ADS National Convention, Minneapolis, MN

Check the ADS website and the Journal for further information on these and other dates which are not currently determined as I write

THE WILLIAM G. PANNILL AWARD

This award is given annually to a bloom by an American hybridizer to recognize a named standard daffodil which has show qualities and that continues to live for a minimum of 15 years following registration. The winner must also have won at least one ADS Gold or White ribbon in the last five years. It must also be regarded as "showable" in a majority of ADS Regions. This year's winner is **Engagement Ring**, a 3w-wwy

NOTES FROM RVP REBECCA BROWN

I have received two interesting correspondences from Northeast Region members which I am passing on to you;

From Bliss McIntosh

I wondered if any other members know of the variety "Mrs. R O Backhouse." My father, Lyman White, was a seedsman his whole life, as was his father before him. He started out at Ferry Morse in Detroit where his father worked, but "came east" in the late 30's to take over the management of the Cambridge, New York office of the Asgro Seed Company. At that time seedsmen also connected with bulb growers around the world and we often had salesmen from Holland staying at our house. I particularly remember Andre Arenshorst, although I'm not sure which company he represented, and Nanni Sluice who represented Sluice and Groot. They were practically family and I'm fairly certain that the row of "Mrs. R O Backhouse" daffodils in front of our house came from one of them. I have since moved them into my own flower beds and given them to countless other gardeners. In my opinion they take the cake for pure loveliness, especially in a bouquet, perhaps with bleeding heart or mock orange. The only other reference that I ever saw to them was in a children's book by Natalie Savage Carlson called (I think) "The Orphelines" about an orphanage in France. The matron of the orphanage has an admirer who develops a new variety of cabbage and names it after her. The admirer says, "Well, if Mr. R O Backhouse can name a daffodil after his wife then I can name this cabbage after you."

From Carol Benedict Russell, youth Chair of The Garden Club of Shelter Island
I hold youth garden club classes every Tuesday Afternoon at the Shelter Island School; and we have a Daffodil Garden at the school as well, which was established in the Courtyard Gardens outside the school cafeteria where I hold our youth meetings. I am revising the courtyard gardens this year and am interested in continuing daffodil plantings at the SI school and within the courtyard too.

Last, but certainly not least, I give you words from my husband, Richard Ezell, much more the daffodil expert than I.

You Dried Out Yet? Cooled Off?

Here it is just past the middle of September. Daffodil bulbs have been for sale in open bins at Walmart, Home Depot, and lots of other of America's favorite horticultural suppliers since a week before Labor Day. Aargh. TOO SOON. Well, at least THIS year you and I haven't planted our bulbs too soon. I'd like to think the reason is that we all know better. But the reason, alas, is surely more likely because the weather has been almost one summer-long monsoon.

Let's hope that difficulty is finally over. But it's still too soon for reliable daffodil planting in our area. The big know-it-all guys say we must wait until our soil temperatures drop below fifty degrees, but I've not read how deep it is that we are supposed to measure the temperature, and how many of us own a soil thermometer. (If you do, could I borrow it please?)

Don't need it anyhow. Mid-October is plenty soon enough in most years, and a really good seat-of-the-pants guide is this: begin planting right after the first hard frost. (Which where I live is almost always closer to November than to October 15th.) In actuality I confess: November is my planting month. (And so long as I finish by Christmas I'm happy. Don't want to admit how many times I've still been breaking through an ice-crusting surface to plant in January.)

The One trick to success with later plantings is this: the bulbs must make good root growth before the ground freezes hard down at their base level. Should you be planting at a time you feel that hard freeze might come in two weeks or less, you will probably insure bulb safety by applying a thick mulch: lots of freshly raked leaves or numerous layers of that Sunday New York Times Donald Trump didn't want you reading.

One final suggestion: worry about fertilizing later. February and March are lovely times to get out and spread some low-nitrogen stuff atop your recently planted bulbs.

Now, I must go and fix him a special dinner...