



ADS SOUTHEAST REGION—SUMMER NEWSLETTER, 2019
AMERICAN DAFFODIL SOCIETY OFFICERS

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SOUTHEAST REGION OFFICERS (GA, FL, SC. TN east of TN River)

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Bonnie Campbell, Fayetteville, GA shade007@bellsouth.net

WELCOME TO ADS SOUTHEAST REGION NEW MEMBERS

Linda Wimbrow, Knoxville, TN

Melanie Darst, Tallahassee, FL

Ann Reed, Rockford, TN

Tim Harper, Atlanta, GA

2020 DAFFODIL SHOW DATES

ROSWELL, GEORGIA: MARCH 7, Chattahoochee Nature Center. For more details contact Bonnie Campbell at email listed above. (Georgia Daffodil Society)

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE: MARCH 21-22 at Cheekwood Botanical Garden. For more details contact Becky Fox Matthews at becky@lostfrogs.com (Middle Tennessee Daffodil Society)

KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE: MARCH 28-29 in the Hollingsworth Auditorium, University of Tennessee. More details contact Lynn Ladd at lladd1701@bellsouth.net (East Tennessee Daffodil Society)

ADS SOUTHEAST REGION 2019 SHOW HIGHLIGHTS

ROSWELL, GEORGIA, MARCH 9, 2019 – Designs and Show Overview



Edwina Johnson, Designers Choice Top Award



Gretchen Collins, Blue Ribbon, Design, Class 2



Bonnie Campbell, Blue Ribbon, Designs, Class 1



Overview of the Roswell Show



Judges and Clerks at work during the judging



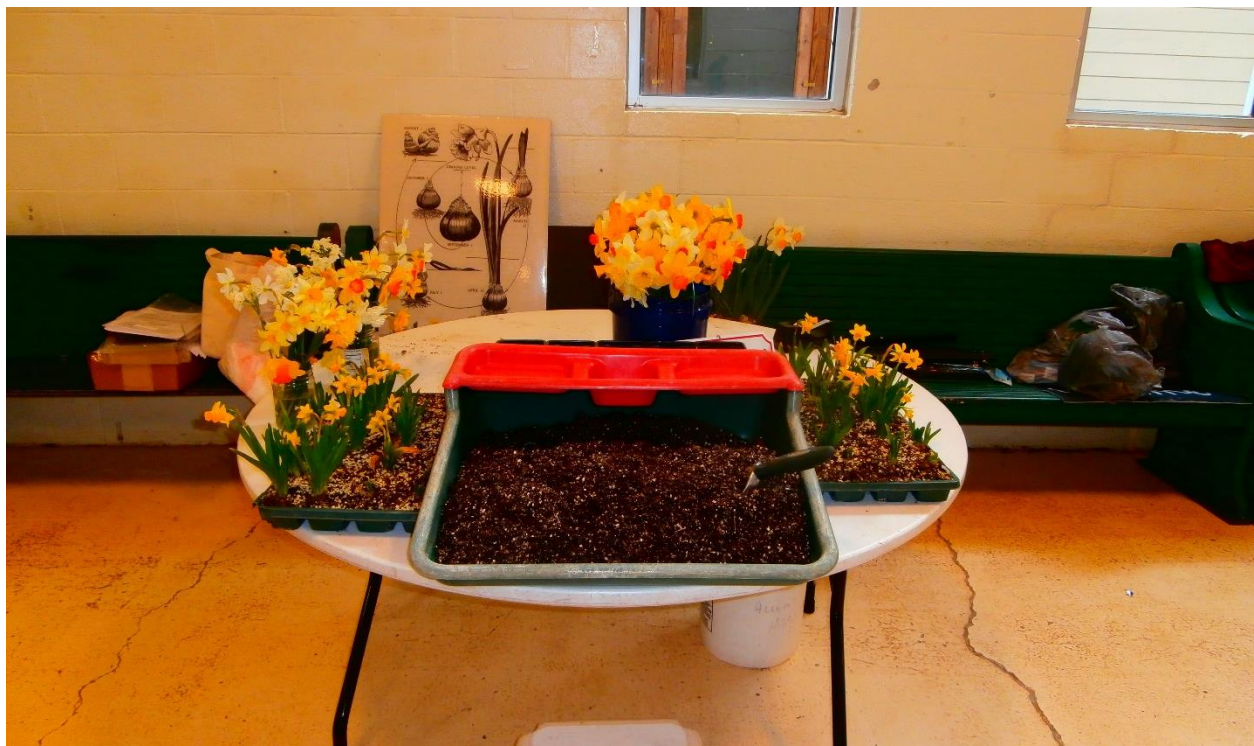
Head table winners for the Roswell Show



Gold Ribbon, 'Hot Gossip' by Susan Goodman



Greg Freeman, Rose Ribbon for Best Seedling



Allen Haas' planting station that he developed and set up for anyone interested. This is at the Georgia Daffodil Society Show but he also set it up in the Knoxville and Nashville shows.

KNOXVILLE SHOW, MARCH 16-17, 2019



Staging and preparation for entries



Head Table Winners, Knoxville Show



Gold Ribbon Winner, Knoxville Show. N. 'Stoke Charity' entered by Greg Freeman



Allen Hass giving planted bulbs to a youth visitor



Lynn Ladd, Knoxville Show

NASHVILLE, TN SHOW, MARCH 23-24, 2019





Head Table Winners, Nashville Show



WINNER OF SMALL GROWER AWARD at Nashville Show: 'Peach Cobbler' exhibited by first-time exhibitor, Christina Boys



ALLEN HAAS IN NASHVILLE DISCUSSING DAFFODILS AND PLANTING THEM

DESIGNS AT THE SHOW IN NASHVILLE



Blue Ribbon winner by Bonnie Dillingham



Best Design in the Show by Anne Owen

DIGGING DAFFODILS By Greg Freeman

I was requested to write some guidelines for digging daffodils. But do you know why daffodils should literally be dug from time to time or how and when to properly dig them or the best way to store them until fall planting? I know many daffodil enthusiasts who have grown our favorite flowering bulb for years, and they have asked me about my methods or ideas. So it's entirely okay if you are a novice and need to know the basics, and it is equally acceptable to ask questions, even if you have grown daffodils for a great length of time. Let's face it. Many of us have planted bulbs and thought little else about them until they are begging for attention. So I would like to discuss my approach to digging bulbs. As with anything else garden-related, you are bound to elicit as many variations of advice as there are advisors. That said, I am merely discussing what works for me.

Various Reasons for Digging Daffodils

There are various instances in which digging daffodils can become a necessity. To succeed with daffodils in the garden and on the show bench, it is not imperative that bulbs be "lifted" and replanted every year. However, as in my case this spring, the need might arise that some bulbs need to be moved because of an error in planting. In 2018, I unwittingly planted bulbs too close to other cultivars, in spite of my drawings and mental notes. At least one or two clumps need to be moved now that I've realized my mistake. Perhaps in your garden, you would like to simply relocate bulbs to another corner of the garden.

Sometimes overcrowding deems digging and dividing an absolute must. Jonquils tend to just "pile" on top of each other. One year, I promised a friend in Commerce, Georgia some bulbs of 'Kokopelli'. I knew my three clumps, which had resulted from just three original bulbs, needed to be divided. When I dug the bulbs, there was literally over a hundred bulbs in each clump. They were growing in layers. Perhaps the hard clay had prevented horizontal spreading, and they felt the need to force their way vertically. It was unreal!

After giving a talk to the Gwinnett County Master Gardeners Association in 2017, I had promised bulbs to everyone who signed up for my newsletter online at **GregFreeman.garden**. I kept my end of the deal and shared my excess bulbs of cultivars like 'Stoke Charity', 'Crackington' and 'Sugar and Spice', the kinds of cultivars the average gardener won't find at the big box stores or in most bulb catalogs. I had seen a reduction in flower size in spite of healthy-looking, lush clumps, and that was a red flag that the clumps of bulbs needed to be divided. The division served my bulbs well, as I won the Gold Ribbon in Knoxville in 2019 with a stunning bloom out of only about five good-sized 'Stoke Charity' bulbs I had retained. So there is proof that a good dividing is beneficial from time to time.



N. 'Stoke Charity'

Commercial growers and fastidious hybridists/exhibitors, particularly those who specialize in topnotch show bulbs, dig not only for retail sales purposes, but often they give their bulbs designated for replanting hot water treatments to kill off harmful nematodes. If you feel compelled to inquire what it is or how to administer a hot water treatment, please contact an experienced individual for assistance or advice—it is a serious effort. Perhaps you simply desire to dig bulbs to share with friends or family, and that's as good of a reason as any. Some of my most cherished bulbs were gifts from friends who are not professional growers. So with that, we move on to the next questions.

How and when should I dig?

The how is answered relatively easily. Bear in mind that some daffodils are planted deeply and others, particularly miniatures, are likely no more than a few inches below the ground surface. When I dig a clump of

bulbs, I use my shovel to dig a larger circumference than the bulbs actually occupy. With my foot on the shovel, I go straight down into the ground with the blade in a circle surrounding the bulbs. I generally go deeper than I might visualize the bulbs being planted. Why? When you lean back on the shovel to “lift” the clump, you are likely to have the blade squarely under the bulbs, not into the side of the clump where you are sure to slice through many of the bulbs. There is a price to pay for damaging bulbs, even if it is a mental one. If I plant a \$30 show bulb and five years later it has clumped and needs to be divided, the last thing I need to do is obliterate part of the increase of bulbs.

If the “how” is easy to explain, the “when” isn’t particularly complicated, but we are all guilty of breaking the rules on occasion. We have all probably had someone give us clumps of bulbs or even bulbs in bloom in the middle of daffodil season. Is that the best time to dig? Not really but there are some circumstances in which that seems to be the only available time.

Nevertheless, stuff happens. Just this spring, Brian White from the Knoxville area gave me a clump of daffodils in bud that were said to be a seedling bred by the late Dr. Frank Galyon, a noted hybridist. I planted them immediately when I arrived home, but my microclimate compared to that of East Tennessee is different enough that I predict it will take the bulbs a year or two to adjust to their new home, which is all the more reason why we should strive to dig and replant our bulbs at the ideal times whenever possible.

So when is the ideal time, you ask? Bulbs should be dug when the daffodil foliage has completely browned, which can vary based on where you live and which cultivar is under consideration. My fall-blooming daffodils frequently photosynthesize (stay green and thus nourish the bulb) as late as July, while many of my standards are just basically big sissies and begin to yellow on the first ninety-degree day. The brown foliage is your clue to where the bulbs are. Indeed, it is tempting to put off digging on those hot days, but procrastination will do you no favors, especially if you wait until late summer/early fall to dig, at which point bulbs might have already put down roots for the next season. Cooler temperatures are better for replanting and recommended (maybe target Thanksgiving as the time to replant). There are sources to check the soil temps on the Internet)

I’ve dug my bulbs....now what?

When I dig bulbs, I like to spread them out onto something flat like one of those aluminum pie plates you’re left with after eating that last slice of lemon merengue pie. I place them somewhere cool and dry and leave them for a while. If they had clay or dirt caked on them, it is generally dry within a few days or so. I then proceed to removing the dirt and returning the bulbs back to the plate where they are kept cool and dry. A damp, humid location will surely lead to rot. So make sure the bulbs do not get wet during this time of dormancy. A few weeks after I dig my bulbs, I even like to go back and give them a good brushing off. This might remove that outer skin, revealing a cleaner, healthier, shinier-looking skin underneath. I also like to gently brush the basal plate, the appendage at the base of the bulb from which roots emerge. (But don’t be too aggressive. The basal plate is easily scrubbed right off of some bulbs.) This allows the grower to inspect for unwanted hitchhikers, namely a narcissus bulb fly grub. If there is a “hole” in the basal plate, and it appears dark, rotten or draining within or visibly eaten into, you have an infected bulb. Bulb flies are not our friends. Seriously, do not dispose of it by tossing the bulb into the compost pile. Properly dispose of the bulb. Meanwhile, bask in the satisfaction that your other bulbs are beautiful and healthy and just biding their time until fall planting. As they are biding their time, keep them in a cool, dry place, perhaps hung in mesh bags (like those your onions came in from the supermarket) or placed on a flat surface (not piled on top of each other) like the aforementioned pie plate

Dig with confidence.

Certainly, we all have to dig at some point. Whether done so electively or by necessity due to overcrowding, digging daffodil bulbs does not have to be viewed as a daunting task. I hope my information herein equips you to take it on with confidence, the next time you find yourself with shovel in hand, and taking on your next daffodil dig.