



# Narcissus Notes

*A Gloucester Daffodil Club newsletter*

**Vol 1, No. 2 – May 2019**



## Community Planting, continued

In our last issue, we printed a photo of the crew who planted 325 bulbs around the Fairfield Foundation— Gloucester’s Center for Archaeology, Education, and Preservation (CAPE). The landmark site is located at the intersection of route 14 and Main Street in Gloucester Courthouse.

Here they are in March (Ceylon is such a show-off), on their way to being beautiful in time for the Daffodil Festival. *(photo provided by the Fairfield Foundation)*

## Judging School held April 5

An American Daffodil Society Judges’ School I was held in the Chesapeake Lounge at Brent & Becky’s Bulbs April 5.



In addition to the 21 students taking the course to become accredited ADS judges, there were nine ADS judges attending for a refresher course and eight individuals auditing the classes.

*Maryann Hogge (L) and Marty Ross study the blooms. Judging I students must correctly identify 10 out of 15 cultivars and can study them the evening before and morning of the school.*

Students from the Gloucester Daffodil Club included Debbie Rollins, Maryann Hogge, Carla Stanley, Marty Ross, Daniel Hopkins and Dianne Spence. Auditing were Becky Horsley, Margie Borden and Kate Zullo.

The youngest student was 15-year old Erin Degnan from Richmond. Many attendees were accompanied by family members who stayed to enter the daffodil show and enjoy the festival.

## Three Daffodil Shows in Two Weeks

GDC members Debra Rollins, Debbie Burgess, Deborah Brooks and Judy Burlbaugh clerked at the Garden Club of Virginia show March 26 and the Virginia Daffodil Society show March 30, both held at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden in Richmond..

Debra Rollins also clerked at the Gloucester show April 6 along with Kathy Gierlak, Bonnie Bailey, Carla Stanley, Kristen Oney, Trish Reed, Judy Doyel and Kathleen Gillerlain. Clerking is a great way to learn about the judging process. Carla Stanley is already preparing teams for the 2020 show, contact her if you’re interested: [carlastanle@yahoo.com](mailto:carlastanle@yahoo.com)

Many members won ribbons—see back page.

## Katie and George!

Ceci Brown spotted these aptly placed exhibits at the Garden Club of Virginia show in March, both sporting blue ribbons and both bred by Brent Heath .

On the left is Pappy George, 7 Y-O (2000) named for Brent’s father and beside Pappy is Katie Heath 5 W-P (2002), Brent’s mom.



## A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Show

*In our last issue, we mentioned some of bumps we hit on the road to showing our blooms. Even skilled exhibitors have their challenges—ADS president Nancy Tackett shared adventures she had a few years ago when she entered blooms at her first World Daffodil Convention.*

This year was special in my Daffodil life because Oregon hosted the World Daffodil Convention. This meant old and new friends came from England, Northern Ireland, the Netherlands, Japan, Australia, and New Zealand, as well as friends from all over the United States. Some of these folks arrived early for the Northern California shows in Livermore, Murphys, and Fortuna, resulting in many weekends of fun! My sister and her husband from Iowa flew in for the Northern California Daffodil Society (NCDS) show at Ironstone Winery in Murphys (this has become an annual event for Sis!).

The grand finale was the World Daffodil Convention in Portland. I was very excited about attending an event of this magnitude for the first time, not to mention putting flowers in the show. Early Thursday morning, I walked around the garden and tagged the best looking flowers to take. My season was almost over, so there were only a few blooms left in my garden. Later in the afternoon, when preparing the daffodils, I tried to follow the instructions given at NCDS meetings about packing flowers for air travel. I carefully placed each stem in a box which was sitting on the banister of the deck. Everything was going well: cut, put in the box; cut, put in the box. Now, all the flowers that had been tagged earlier in the day were cut and in the box. As I walked toward the box to tape the flowers down, a gust of wind came up and blew the box over on top of a rose bush. I was HORRIFIED! Below were daffodils sprinkled throughout the rose bush. Delicately I tried to extricate each of them from the bush. Almost all of them looked fine, with the exception of one that appeared to be put through the garbage disposal. What could I do? I put the rest in the box and taped them down.

My husband loaded up the luggage and we were off to the airport. This was the fourth straight weekend of daffodil shows, driving to the first two and flying to the last two. Enroute, my husband asked for the time of our flight. Promptly, I pulled out our itinerary and announced, "5:05." The bad news was the current time was 4:58! There must have been a little confusion

between the previous weekend's and this weekend's flight time!

So, as my husband pointed to our plane which had just taken off while we were still a few miles from the airport, I was on the cell-phone trying to arrange another flight. We were able to get out on another flight 1-1/2 hours later.



Once we arrived in Portland and reached our hotel, I opened the box to find what looked like dead flowers.

Remembering the words of Bob Spotts ("Daffodils are practically indestructible."), I ran warm water in the ice bucket, broke off the ends (rather than surgically cutting them as prescribed) and put them in the bathroom with the light turned on. We then joined our new friends, the Jamiesons from Australia, for dinner.

When we returned to our room three hours later, a quick check in the bathroom, the daffodils looked as if I had just gone out to the garden and cut them. What a shock! Now it was time to enter them in the show—after all, it was only a little after midnight. So, with me cleaning and staging and my husband taking them out to the showroom, my eleven flowers were put in the show.

The award ceremony the next evening was very exciting as many people we knew won prestigious prizes. Then my husband started giving me a report about my flowers: one Blue ribbon, two Red ribbons, one Yellow ribbon and one White ribbon. You can imagine my surprise—five ribbons for entering eleven flowers!

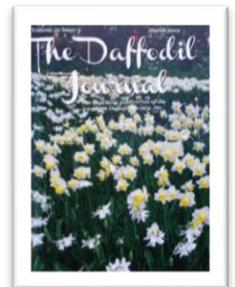
Despite the travel schedule confusion and probably breaking every rule for preparing daffodils for travel, somehow it all worked out and I attended my first World Convention/National show and won ribbons too! At work they think I missed my calling—to write my life events for episodes of I Love Lucy.

*This first appeared in the Daffodil Journal in 2000. Interested in attending the next World Convention? The next one is set for September 2020 in Canberra, Australia—the daffs will be blooming there then.*

*Photo of daffodils boxed for travel (not Nancy's!) taken from a Daffnet.org March 2010 posting.*

## Join the American Daffodil Society

The American Daffodil Society website is a treasured resource—DaffSeek for bloom IDs and DaffNet for online discussions and reports. Then there's the DaffLibrary, containing over 60 years of material that has been scanned and offered for reading and/or downloading. It's great fun to peruse old show schedules, convention programs and Journals, as well as daffodil-related articles from other publications.



But wait, there's more! The Daffodil Journal is a quarterly publication (mailed, not digital) loaded with photos and articles, including a regular feature, "Notes for the Newcomer."

If you are not yet a member of the ADS, please join. Dues are \$30 annually or \$75 for three years. It's easy, just go to the website: [www.daffodilusa.org](http://www.daffodilusa.org) or mail your check to: American Daffodil Society Membership Department, 8374 State Rd. 45, Unionville, IN 47468.

## Dogs and Daffodils

No dogs allowed at the Gloucester Daffodil Show but not to worry, Georgette Hurley and her volunteer dog sitters were positioned outside the school to watch the pups so the owners could visit the show.



Jean Duggan & Sandy Kuntzelman on dog duty at the show

Georgette reminds us that as much as we love daffodils, we should keep them out of our dogs' play areas—[dogwatchnewsletter.com](http://dogwatchnewsletter.com) (a Cornell University Veterinary Medicine newsletter) noted that the flowers, leaves and bulbs of daffodils can cause pain, vomiting and diarrhea, even heart and respiratory problems. Don't use bone meal when you plant bulbs, it attracts dogs.

## GDC Show Winners

### Horticulture:

Gold (best standard in show) – Nancy Fuchs, 'Banker' 2 Y-O  
Mini White (best vase 3) – Peggy Bowditch 'Angel's Breath' 5 Y-Y  
Best Historic collection of 5 – Julie Stone  
Lavender (Best 5 mini) – Nancy Choquette  
Hometown Heroes 5 bred by Brent & Becky Heath – Maryann Hogge  
Bozievich – 12 stems from at least 4 divisions – Nancy Fuchs  
Purple – Best collection of 5 yellows – Nancy Fuchs

### Artistic:

Best Miniature, Best Novice and People's Choice – Kristen Oney  
Best Moribana – Margie Borden



Debbie Rollins works on entries at Gloucester Daffodil Show



Kristen Oney won Best Mini, Best Novice and People's Choice Award.

Other top winners in the club were Sandy Pait, Dianne Spence, Daniel Hopkins, Marty Ross, Kathey Gierlak, Debbie Rollins, Judith Williams, Amelita Thomas, Nina Watkins, Bill Thomas and June James.

## Driving Tour

Carla Stanley is working with the club to create a local driving tour map of scenic daffodil plantings. When she posted her mission on "Gloucester 411," a Facebook page about the county, she received some great input. The map should be complete by the spring of 2020.

If you have a suggestion, email Carla ([carlastanle@yahoo.com](mailto:carlastanle@yahoo.com)) or check out the Gloucester 411 page on Facebook.

## Mark your Calendar!

Next meeting May 9, 4 p.m., Chesapeake Lounge, Brent & Becky's Bulbs.

After a summer break, the club meets again Sept. 14, same place and time.

Final meeting for 2019 set for Nov. 14, with a daffodil bulb exchange as one of the main features.

## Join the Club!

If you would like to become a member of the Gloucester Daffodil Club, just provide your name and contact information to Peggy Bowditch at [gloucesterdaffodils@gmail.com](mailto:gloucesterdaffodils@gmail.com).

There are no rules or mandatory tasks in the club—the only membership requirement is a love of daffodils and a desire to share that passion.

It is hoped that through regular meetings knowledge will be gained and new friendships forged as members share their knowledge and passion for daffodils.

Contributions, comments and questions for the newsletter are encouraged. Contact Nancy Fuchs, [nanfox@gmail.com](mailto:nanfox@gmail.com), 804-580-1952.