



VDS Newsletter

52nd edition

Published by the Virginia Daffodil Society

Fall 2020

2020-2021 VDS OFFICERS

President

Nancy Fuchs
nanfox@gmail.com
804-580-1952

Vice President

Kathleen Pender
gardensunflower@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Rick Simon
rick.simon86@gmail.com

Recording Secretary

Carol Rush
cvrush4@sbcglobal.net

Corresponding Secretary

Erica Gilliam
erica.gilliam@comcast.net

Membership

Peggy Bowditch
gloucesterdaffodils@gmail.com

Historian

Vacant

Daffodil Show Co-Chairs

Jennifer Potter
jpotter890@msn.com
Lisa Robinson
gardenlisava@gmail.com

Fall Meeting and Bulb Exchange set for Oct. 10

We have reserved space Oct. 10 for our fall meeting and bulb exchange at Freedom Park, a James City County facility near Williamsburg.

We must follow the county's Covid guidelines which specify that only 25 mask-wearing people can be in the meeting room at one time. Please RSVP nanfox@gmail.com if you plan to attend. The first 25 to sign up will be allowed into the room—if the number exceeds 25, we will figure out a rotation plan.

HOWEVER, if the weather cooperates, the bulb exchange (and possibly the meeting) can be held on the deck just outside the meeting room; there is enough space for social distancing. The room has an adjacent kitchen and restroom.

There will be a board meeting at 9 a.m. (all members welcome), followed by a meeting and bulb exchange at 9:30. Program TBA!

Freedom Park is also the site of the Williamsburg Botanical Garden. Featured here are plants known to do well in our area—great place to get planting ideas. And it's free.

Some people are still not comfortable venturing out and that's understandable—we're navigating uncharted waters. But I hope to see some of our bulb-hungry members in October.

Nancy Fuchs

FREEDOM PARK:

GPS: 5535 Centerville Road Williamsburg, VA 23188
Exit 234 off I-64 for 299 East, then route 60W ramp toward Lightfoot. Soon take left onto rte 614 (Centerville Road). In 3 miles, make right onto Hotwater Trail, follow to park building.



ADS Fall Forum



Join members of the American Daffodil Society for their “Visionary Venture” at the 2020 Virtual Fall Forum and Board Meeting Sept. 12 to Nov. 8. For the first time ever, the forum is

open to *anyone* interested in learning about daffodils, not just members. For one flat fee you are can attend a number of lectures being held over several weeks.

Prior registration with payment is required for participation. members \$35; non-members \$45. Photographers take note: Share your photographs at the 2020 Fall Forum Daffodil Photography Show. **Entry deadline is noon Saturday, Sept. 26.** There is no fee to participate in the Daffodil Photography Show, but photographers must register to upload and exhibit their photos.

Full details on the forum and photography show can be found at: <https://daffodilusa.org/events-show-calendar/fall-symposiums/2020-fall-forum-fall-board-meeting/>

Latest Pannill and Wister Awards



‘Sir Winston Churchill’ 4 W-O (double) received the 2020 John and Gertrude Wister Award for Outstanding Garden Daffodil. Registered in 1966, the hybridizer is unknown. Daffseek notes it is a sport of ‘Geranium,’ an 8 W-O awarded a Wister in 2016.

‘Pogo,’ 3 W-GYO (small cup), received the William G. Pannill Award for a standard daffodil with winning show qualities. An Intermediate, it was hybridized by Helen Link and registered in 1989. Yes, she named it for that popular comic strip decades ago...



How the Bulb Exchange Works



If you have extra bulbs from a summer dig or you bought more than you should have, think about sharing them with VDS members.

Put them in mesh bags or small paper bags, usually 2-3 per bag, with clearly visible IDs. The bulbs will be sorted by division and laid out accordingly. Minis are kept separate, but are also arranged according to division. Members draw a number before the exchange and that number determines the person’s place in line.

New members are invited to the head of the line.

Each person chooses one bulb during the first round, two bulbs on the next, etc. until they are gone.

It’s great fun and often you’ll discover bulbs you hadn’t been able to find commercially.

Bill Pannill’s talk at ADS 1983 Convention

During the 1983 American Daffodil Society national convention in Williamsburg, Bill Pannill gave an evening talk. In prefacing what he was about to say, he noted there would be no useful information, just “meanderings.”

He claimed his first exposure to daffodils was when his country club, of which he was vice president, hosted a Garden Club of Virginia daffodil show. GCV was of the “highest order of garden clubs,” he said with his Virginia drawl. “They’re not ADS because they’re still loyal to the queen.”

A problem became apparent as the show prep began, he recalled—the ballroom upstairs and the golfers’ locker room downstairs shared the same



thermostat. Shivering golfers wanting to take showers turned up the temps—daffodil exhibitors wanting their blooms to stay cool turned them down. Bill finally pulled up a chair near the thermostat and as he carried out his guard duty, he looked around at the exhibits and made notes of the

ones he liked.

A few years later he acquired a GCV collection. He had six entries—five got blues; one got a red. “I

always wanted to be good at something, looked like a pretty wide open field.”

He became an “ardent show-er,” always waited until the day of the show to enter. He remembered being on the Petersburg Turnpike driving to a show, “squirtin’ water as I rode along. I asked myself ‘What are you doing this for? Are you crazy?’ I didn’t have a ready answer.”

“I swept the show. I knew everybody was happy for me. I got about 8 or 10 sterling silver cups.” A nice looking, fine looking blue-haired lady came up to me and said, ‘You’re Mr. Pannill, aren’t you?’ I said yes, waiting for my accolades.”

“We wish you hadn’t come,” she said.

“There was no humor in what she said,” Bill continued. “At that moment, I realized that made it all worthwhile.” (photo: Bill at Keukenhof, Dave Adams, Daffnet)

Join the American Daffodil Society

Listen to all 17 minutes Bill Pannill’s lighthearted talk at <https://dafftube.org/misc/meanderings-1983/>. It is one of many gems on the ADS website.

Also found on the website: a discussion forum, free online library, daffodil database with photos, and a daffodil presentation website. The Daffodil Journal is a quarterly publication (mailed,) 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. Website: www.daffodilusa.org, address: 8374 E. State Rd 45, Unionville, IN 47468.



Annual VDS Dues Due

It’s that time again—you can pay at the meeting or send a check to Membership chairman Peggy Bowditch (address below)

The Virginia Daffodil Society

Membership Form



Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

1 year Individual - \$20

3 years Individual \$50

1 year youth \$5

1 year Family \$30

3 years Family \$75

Mail form with check payable to Virginia Daffodil Society to:

VDS, c/o Peggy Bowditch, 8303 Robins Neck Road, Gloucester, VA 23061