



VDS Newsletter

53rd edition

Published by the Virginia Daffodil Society

Fall 2021

VDS 2020-2021

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Virginia Daffodil Society

Annual Fall Meeting

Saturday, Oct. 9, 2021

Manor Building, Covenant Woods, Mechanicsville

9:30 a.m. – Coffee and socializing

9:45 a.m. – Noon

- Business meeting
- Program: Thirteen reasons to love daffodils
- Raffle
- Silent auction
- Bulb exchange

Please bring a friend and plan to stay for lunch which will be available in Traditions, also in the Manor. More meeting details in this newsletter.

Covenant Woods: Manor Building, Multi-purpose room
7090 Covenant Woods Dr, Mechanicsville, VA 23111

Manor Building will be straight ahead on the entrance road. There is some parking in the circle in front and more parking on either side of the entrance circle. Sign in with the Concierge at the Manor front entrance and you will be issued a visitor badge and given directions to the meeting room.



Let's Celebrate! 1992-2022

As mentioned in the last newsletter, VDS will celebrate its 30th anniversary in 2022.

Please think about becoming a member of an "Anniversary-Outreach Committee" which would gather periodically in the Richmond area to discuss activities and projects to celebrate the society's birthday, as well as energize the club.

If you are a longtime VDS member, please share your memories and photos with us at the next meeting.

This gathering would also give us a chance to get to know one another a little better. We'll have more discussion at our Oct. 9 meeting and maybe at the lunch that follows...

Bulb Exchange, Raffle & Silent Auction

Bulb Exchange: If you have extra bulbs or bought more than you can plant, share them with VDS members at the bulb exchange. Place in



mesh bags or small paper bags (2-3 per bag) and indicate the cultivar and color code. Also indicate if the bulbs are minis, as they will be separated from the standard-size bulbs.

Raffle: We have set aside some very special bulbs for our raffle. Tickets are \$2 each or 6 tickets for \$5.

Silent Auction: Each year members contribute garden-related items for our silent auction. Items can range from gardening gloves and trowels to commemorative daffodil plates—and anything in between. Please bring your donations to the meeting.

If you're wondering why we need to fund raise, our primary expenditure is storage of our show properties. Show or not, "the storage must go on."

And don't forget Vicky

We wrote about VDS member Vicky Eicher in our last newsletter. Each fall she walks in the Charlottesville Women's 4 Miler to raise funds for breast cancer research and treatment. She rewards

those who sponsor her—and they now number in the hundreds—with daffodils.

Even if your daffodils are unknowns (we call 'em UNKs), that's okay. If they are known, Division 8's are especially appreciated for her Texas and California supporters. You can bring your bulbs to Vicky at our Oct. 9 meeting, or email her at whimoway@comcast.net. Phone: 434-975-4231.



Dues are due!

Members whose dues are up in October include: Leigh Barth, Margie Borden, Ceci Brown, Chris Cantanzaro, Barbara Covington, Judy Durant, Larry & Vicky Eicher, Kirby Fong, Jeanne & Tom Hughes, Joan Jackson, Becki Jones, Newfound River Garden Club, Dianne Spence, Carla Stanley, Bill Thomas, Kamdyn & Ailee Thomas (youth) and Trish Weichmann.

Pay at the meeting or mail to membership chairman Peggy Bowditch, 8303 Robins Neck Road, Gloucester, VA 23061. 1 year: Individual \$20; Family \$30; 3 years Individual \$50; Family \$7

2021 Hybrid ADS Fall Forum and Board Meeting

The High Desert Daffodil Society will host the 2021 Fall Forum, Fall Board Meeting and Fall Blooming Daffodil Show in Reno, Nevada at the Whitney Peak Hotel Oct. 21-25.

Zoom Virtual sessions will begin Oct. 9 through Nov. 20.

For full details, visit:

<https://daffodilusa.org/events-show-calendar/fall-symposiums/2021-fall-forum-fall-board-meeting/>



Show Business

Daffodil societies in the mid-Atlantic take turns hosting the mid-Atlantic ADS Daffodil Show. The show draws exhibitors and visitors from Virginia, Maryland, District of Columbia and West Virginia.

Gloucester will be the site of the 2022 Mid-Atlantic show April 2-3 and VDS will host the 2023 show. Our 2022 show is set for March 26,

The 2022 VDS show is set for Saturday, March 26 at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden.

The Three Faces of Van Sion

A few years ago a friend told me about some daffodils blooming at an old house in Callao (Northumberland County, Virginia’s Northern Neck)—she had never seen any like them.

The home was vacant so we took a closer look. All of the blooms had “stuffed” cups—single petals, but tight doubling inside the cup. Hmmm.

We returned with our trowels when digging time came. The soil was packed clay intertwined with tree roots. We managed to pry out a few and the following year there emerged in our gardens a mixture of blooms with stuffed and unstuffed cups. Huh? I dubbed them the ‘Callao’ daffs.

I took two samples with me to a Judging class in Dallas and daffodil expert Keith Kridler solved the mystery—they were Van Sions, a k a Telamonius Plenus and this was typical of their behavior.

He suggested I enter each of my blooms in the Texas Daffodil Society show—place one in the “Historic before 1850” class as Telamonius Plenus; the other in the Div. 13 class as Pseudonarcissus. One got a blue, one a yellow.



Same flower, two variations. Left entered as **Telamonius Plenus**, right: **Pseudonarcissus**

However, they have a third apparition—an unruly explosion of yellow, some-times streaked with green. And sure enough after another year or two, I saw the third version. “The flower resembles



a fairly mad and electrified giant dandelion,” wrote former Washington Post garden columnist Henry Mitchell.

The bulb first flowered in the London garden of Vincent Sion in 1620. According to daffodil historian Sara Van Beck, author of “Daffodils in American Gardens, 1733-1940,” “...It is a very old flower in American gardens. For all its unattractiveness, it’s about one of the toughest daffodils going; it grows as far south as Tallahassee. It is a wild sport double, domesticated at least by the early 1600’s...In some



Spotted at Cape Blanco, OR in 2018. pristine settings in the mountains of western North Carolina and eastern Tennessee it can be seen in its ideal form, with the perianth whole and the doubling all confined to the trumpet. It’s called the Easter Flower there.”

I can’t wait to see which face appears in 2022...

Nancy F.

VDS Membership Application

1 year Individual: \$20, 3 years Individual: \$50

1 year Family: \$30, 3 years family: \$75, 1 year Youth: \$5

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone _____ Amt enclosed _____

Make checks out to VDS and mail to:
Peggy Bowditch, VDS Membership Chair
8303 Robins Neck Rd, Gloucester VA 23061