



VDS Newsletter

Celebrating 30 years Virginia Daffodil Society

Late spring 2022

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From the President...

What great joy and fellowship we had at our 27th Annual Virginia Daffodil Society Show at Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens this year! To see all the members who could participate and volunteer was extraordinary.

From the Friday before the show, watching all the exhibitors get their blooms ready for the show table to the morning of the show, with so many people working together—helping one another with identification or finding properties, it was / heartwarming to see everyone come together and be part of such a wonderful event, represented by many people and families alike.



The atmosphere at this show reminded me of the first show I attended as an exhibitor and how exciting it was to win my first blue ribbon with 'Pistachio'. There was a buzz in the air and many in attendance were adorned with smiles on their faces and enthusiasm to learn more about the world of growing and showing daffodils, including many of our VDS Membership forms were taken amongst a captivated show audience.

Which brings me to a thought and hope for the future of VDS...We are celebrating our 30th Anniversary this year—and as we all take a moment to think about who or what got us started or introduced to VDS, let's follow in our rich history and keep the momentum of our Society going by reaching out to our family and friends and invite them to join us in the fun and fellowship of like-minded daffodil enthusiasts, especially including our next generation of youth!

Thanks to all who attended and volunteered to help make this possible. A successful show is reliant on many hands at work constantly and a good leader. Thanks to our Show Chair, Jennifer Potter, for her steadfast leadership. Thanks to Brian Trader, Executive Director of Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden and Phyllis Laslett, Show Coordinator of Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. Thanks to all VDS members for their countless contributions and efforts.

Kathleen Pender

Why they love daffodils...

We had some great responses when we asked members to share with others how they became interested in daffodils.

Margie Borden "...loved growing up in Gloucester where there were field after field (also in Mathews) of brilliant yellow daffodils! My first paying job, as a child, was picking daffodils for shipping to northern florists. The ones I planted in the mid 50's are still popping up, at the house where I lived on Hickory Fork Road. I think they are Twin Sisters."



Judith Williams engaged in some unauthorized digging in her youth. "My uncle got me hooked when I was 8. He frequently drove around to abandoned homes and dug up daffodils. He called it 'thiefing.' The first bulbs I bought were in 1978 with my Christmas money. 'Ice follies'. I still have them today. I've thinned them out, but they are pretty much in the same location even."

Longtime grower and arranger **Joan Holden Jackson** credits her love of daffodils to her mother. "She grew, exhibited and arranged daffodils and gave me the gentle push to do the same. I started with growing, exhibiting and arranging with miniature daffodils. I then began going bigger with larger daffodils doing the same. My first miniature ribbon was in 1991 and have received all colors of ribbons. Using all types of daffodils in my arrangements since 1991, I have been awarded blue, red, yellow and white and Best in Show twice."

Each year I purchase the GCV daffodil collection to help the GCG enter the GCV 12 specimen collection.

At daffodil shows I always look over exhibits to see something new to learn about and purchase. My last find was 'Itsy Bitsy Splitsy which is a unique miniature!"

Chris Catanzaro contracted his yellow fever in Tennessee: "I stumbled upon the local show of the Middle Tennessee Daffodil Society at Cheekwood in Nashville and I was immediately hooked."

Daffodils on a hillside in West Virginia caught **Karen Cogar's** eye. "My Grandmother was a farm girl from Pennsylvania, and moved to Charleston, West Virginia with my Grandfather when he became that state's first

orthopedic surgeon. They built a home on a steep, rocky hill, which Nana filled with daffodils—thousands of them. It's a spectacular memory. Years later, I joined a GCV garden club, and saw the incredible variety for the first time, and wanted to collect as many as possible. Growing inevitably led to showing and judging."

Erin Degnan credits the late and much-loved VDS member Margaret Ford for stimulating her interest. "I got into growing daffodils because of Margaret. I had the pleasure of coming to a tea party and arranging flowers with her through a program my school offered to us when I was about 11. I was surprised by the variety of daffodils and I have always been a curious person in addition to a gardener so I decided to try daffodils out and I discovered that I loved them. The fact that they are often the first sign of warm weather returning never fails to put a smile on my face. I remember that my first blue was also my first and only small growers ribbon. It was 'Gay Tabor' 4 W-O which I still grow and love even though it's not much of a show flower."

Clay Higgins had no choice but to get involved with daffodils—Marie Bozievich was his mother-in-law.

"Romany Red' 3 O-R was the first blue I won

but it was not my daffodil," he remembers. "Marie and I were grooming and staging her daffodils the year before I became a shower. It was late and the hall was closing for the day. Marie stated that there was only one not-so-worthy daffodil, Romany Red that was left for staging but she was going home tired—she was 88 years old at the time. She told me to either put it in or throw it out. I groomed 'Romany Red,' filled out an entry card with her name on it, and put it on the show bench as the hall was closing. The next day Marie was surprised and I was thrilled that her Romany Red had won a Blue Ribbon. I was hooked and started showing the next year."



When garden writer **Marty Ross** wrote her first story about daffodils for the Kansas City Star years ago, she "... had no idea that the mighty world of daffodils was divided into a dizzying number of divisions, and I remember asking someone if that was really true. I

learned a lot writing the story, which was published just after Labor Day. Our local garden shops were stocked with bins and boxes of daffodils, each with its portrait on a poster. Buying 50 daffodils was a huge investment. We planted them along the front walk.

“For my story, I interviewed local gardeners and professionals from near and far, including Brent Heath. After the story was published, I sent the Heaths a copy, and Brent and Becky sent me a box of daffodils, maybe 10 different kinds. The Netherlands FlowerBulb Institute also sent a package of bulbs, including daffodils. These wonderful flowers changed our garden and our lives. Our house was the neighborhood drive-by photo op in the spring. It was so much fun. Every fall, we planted more bulbs.

“Then when we bought our house in Gloucester, I came to a daffodil show, and, in the spirit of the event, I entered some flowers, with considerable help from locals. My ‘Rapture’ won a blue ribbon and the ADS Ribbon for Best Small Grower. I met so many interesting, encouraging, fun people — now friends. “For a few years, I was a member of the Historic group’s Round Robin, a package of letters sent from one person to another through the year. I was actually sort of kicked off for admitting that my labels were fading and I wasn’t that concerned about it. Scott Kunst (Old House Gardens) was an encouraging professional friend. Jason Delaney, who was in charge of the bulb gardens at Missouri Botanical Garden, introduced me to many, many cultivars. Our Gloucester Daffodil Club is like a family. There’s pretty much no end to the story, is there?”

When **Carla Stanley** and her family moved into their house on Burkes Pond Road (Gloucester) 20 years ago in the summer, they didn’t know what was in store. “The next spring we couldn’t believe it when hundreds and hundreds of daffodils sprang up and bloomed all over the entire property. Our son William, who was in second grade, begged us to pick some blooms and take them to the show which was then at Page Middle school. We picked a few that we thought were good ones and took them up to the show. There were many people there willing to help us including Brent Heath who over the next few years asked me every time I brought flowers to the show “where did you get these flowers?” I would tell him they just came up in my yard he would laugh and help me identify each one. Most of them were historic and very old. That first year we had 15 flowers and came away with 11 ribbons. We have never turned back. Yellow Fever...”

It was AFTER co-hosting a GCV Daffodil Show when **Glenna Graves** became interested. “I was co chair of the show hosted by the Spotswood Garden Club in 1993-94 but knew little about the actual daffodil. That year was also the first time a GCV show had been sanctioned by the ADS...lot schedule changes etc. I couldn’t believe the colors of the blooms. Of course I, too, thought they were all yellow or white. When an ADS student judging school was held at the home of Catherine Gillespie, I thought I wanted to know a little more about daffodils but no way would I be interested in being a judge.

“Well, you see what happened. The people turned out to be as interesting and colorful as the blooms themselves. I have enjoyed all the friendships I have made over the years and look forward to another show each year to see blooms and people!!!”



Welcome, new members!

Say hi to: August A. Dietz, Ashland; Anne Earman, Dutton (Mathews County); Nancy Hanna, Richmond; Kim Monroe, Ashland; Cynthia Sturke, Sterling (Loudoun County).

Note from Show Chair:

We did it! After a 2-year hiatus, we had our 27th daffodil show in person and it was enjoyed by all!

Thirty-seven exhibitors displayed 487 entries of daffodils, totaling 937 stems in the show! We had 11 photographers enter and display 57 photographs. It was wonderful to see old friends, make new friends and see so many daffodils and photographs.

I want to say a BIG thank you to all the VDS members for entering your beautiful daffodils and supporting our show. It takes a village behind the scenes to put on our show.

I would especially like to thank Carol Rush for handling registration, Vicky Eicher for heading up the photography section, Skip Ford for set-up and awards, Rick Simon for set-up and properties, Peggy Bowditch for recruiting new members during the show, Carla Stanley for the slide show, William Stanley for

tabulation and Kate Carney for recording the winning blooms.

Also, to Christy Brennan, Judy Durant, and Chris Catanzaro for helping with take down after the show, and finally to our VDS President, Kathleen Pender, for her ear and all her support.

Congratulations to those who won VDS Awards:



Harry F. Thompson Award/Gold Ribbon and LGBG Silver Ribbon Award – Dianne Spence (pictured) and Carla & Will Stanley
(Tie for most blues! This is a first for VDS and was discovered after the show.)



Founders Trophy/White Ribbon Award - Karen Cogar



Anniversary Award - Janet Hickman



Ford Cup, Best Youth Bloom Erin Degnan



ADS Cup – Best Youth Vase of 3 – Jackson Watkins

After experimenting with a one-day show, we decided to return to a two-day show (with Lewis Ginter’s agreement). 2023’s show dates are March 25-24, 2023 – mark your calendars!

If you are interested in learning more about the show side of daffodils and making the show possible, please reach out!

Jennifer Potter, VDS Show Chair

Convention Notes

VDS members attending the ADS 2022 national



convention in Gettysburg included Leigh Barth, Kate & Mitch Carney, Chris Catanzaro, Karen Cogar, Larry & Vicky Eicher, Nancy Fuchs, Glenna Graves, Janet Hickman, Clay &



Fran Higgins, Carol Rush and Carla Stanley. Karen won the gold ribbon for ‘Summer Breeze’ 2 Y-Y; Carla won the Dutch Trophy award—5 standards from 5 different decades

beginning with a zero and ending in 9.

Though it was late in the season, the show had many entries.

Sessions at the convention included turning daffodils around from one hemisphere to another, tips for newcomers, a special panel discussion on hybridizing, daffodils in gardens both public and private and a judges’ refresher that covered problems that arise during judging.

Field trips included the Gettysburg battlefield and visits



to two private gardens (not all the same day!)

The ADS 2023 convention is set for Atlanta March 9-12 at the Crowne Plaza which is north of the airport. Mark your calendars!

Show Results – March 26, 2022

Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, Richmond, Virginia

Horticulture Entries: 487

Exhibitors: 37

Stems: 936



Gold (Best standard) – ‘Terminator’ 2 Y-R *Dianne Spence*

White (Best vase of 3, standard) – ‘Williamsburg’ 2 W-W
Karen Cogar

Rose – (Best standard seedling) - #04-10-08 *Mitch & Kate Carney*

Mini Gold – ‘Englander’ 6 Y-Y *Dianne Spence*

Mini White – ‘Little Becky’ 12 Y-Y *Barbara Mertz*

Mini Rose – no entries

Best Intermediate – ‘Pink China’ 2 W-P *Carla & William Stanley*

Best Intermediate 3 stems–‘Treasure Waltz’ 2 Y-Y *Ceci Brown*

Best Historic – ‘Beryl’ 1901 6 W-YYO *Karen Cogar*

Best Historic 3-stems – ‘Praecox’ 1900 9 W-GYR *Jim Taylor*

Best Classic – ‘Ruth Haller’ 1968 6 Y-Y *Ceci Brown*

Best Classic 3 stems – ‘Andalusia’ 1961 6 Y-O *Karen Cogar*

Youth Best Bloom – ‘Pacific Rim’ 2 Y-YYR *Erin Degnan*

Youth Best 3 stems – ‘Golden Delicious’ 4 Y-Y *Jackson Watkins*

Brooke Ager Youth Challenge – no entries

Small Growers Ribbon–‘Electrus’ 11A W-GPP *Kathleen Pender*

Silver Ribbon (most blues) – Tie: 20 each *Dianne Spence; Carla & Will Stanley*

ADS ribbons for Collections of 5:

Best of the Best standards:

Karen Cogar, collection of Division 6

Field Mouse 6 W-Y

Rapture 6 Y-Y

Utiku 6 Y-Y

Vineland 6 Y-Y

Sugar Rose 6 W-GWR

Historic (before 1940): *Kathleen Gierlak*

Mrs. R.O. Backhouse 2 W-P 1921

Thalia 5 W-W 1916

Carlton 2 Y-Y 1927

Actaea 9 W-GYR 1919

Ti-Mar Tinsel 5 W-W 1927

Classics (1940-1969): *Janet Hickman*

Baccarat 11A Y-Y 1950

Agathon 2 Y-Y 1949

Rockall 3 W-R 1955

Honeybird 1 Y-W 1965

Perimeter 3 Y-YYO 1956

Intermediate: *Mitch & Kate Carney*

Exquisite One 1 W-W

Carney #04-10-08 2 W-Y

Carney #04-10-02 1 Y-O

Filly Milly 1 Y-O

Tayforth Gem 2 W-W

Red-White-Blue (5 USA-bred): *Karen Cogar*

Sonar 2 Y-YYR Havens

Ramallah 1 Y-Y Reed

Windy City 1 W-Y Reed

Williamsburg 2 W-W Pannill

Lara 2 W-O Pannill

Marie Bozievich Ribbon (12 from at least 4 div):

Nancy Fuchs

Who’s Who 2 W-W

Trevithian 7 Y-Y

Heamoor 4 Y-Y

Sportsman 2 Y-R

Great Joy 2 W-P

Chateau Impney 2 Y-O

Three Oaks 1 W-Y

Pacific Rim 2 Y-YR

Tycoon 3 W-WWY

Miss Primm 2 Y-Y

Sugar Rose 6 W-GWP

Hambledon 2 YYW-Y

Elise Havens Ribbon: (12 stems from at least 3 Div 5-10)

Janet Hickman

Circuit 7 Y-Y

Pueblo 7 W-W

Pentsraze 7 Y-GRR

Mida Anne 8 Y-O

Apache Tears 5 WWG-GGO

Storyteller 8 Y-O

Arrowhead 6 Y-R

Vineland 6 Y-Y

Sugar Rose 6 W-GWR

Koshare 8 W-Y

Velocity 6 Y-R

Lemon Drops 5 Y-Y

Tom Throckmorton Ribbon: (15 stems from 15 different RHS classifications)

Karen Kogar

Cabpchon 2 Y-O
Peaceful Hollow 6 Y-O
Katherine Jenkins 7 Y-R
Vineland 6 Y-Y
Sonar 2 Y-YYR
Surfside 6 W-Y
American Gold 1 Y-
Lara 2 W-O
Apache Tears 5 WWWG-GGO
Pompiere 2 Y-YYO
Polly's Pearl 8 W-W
Winter Waltz 6 W-P
Boyne Bridge 1 Y-O
Sugar Rose 6 W-GWP
I Love You 2 W-W

Carey Quinn Award (24 stems from at least FIVE divisions)

Janet Hickman

Miss Primm 2 Y-Y
Hope House 2 Y-O
Hermann 1 Y-Y
Billy the Kid 2 Y-R
Paeon 1 Y-Y
Great Gatsby 2 Y-Y
Boyne Bridge 1 Y-O
Sonar 2 Y-YYR
Renovator 1 Y-Y
Nessa 7 Y-O
Swampscott 2 Y-Y
Continental Divide 11A Y-O
Potomac Gold 1 Y-Y
Lennymore 2 Y-R
Katherine Jenkins 7 Y-R
Pampaluna 11A Y-Y
Jetfire 6 Y-O
Vineland 6 Y-Y
Utiku 6 Y-Y
Arrowhead 6 Y-R
Peaceful Hollow 6 Y-O
Bittern 12 Y-O
Rapture 6 Y-Y
Flint Arrow 6 Y-O

Lavender Ribbon (Best miniature collection of 5 stems)

Dianne Spence

Angel's Whispers 5 Y-Y
Yellow Xit 3 W-Y
Itsy Bitsy Splitsy 11A Y-O
Angel's Breath 5 Y-Y
Xit 3 W-W

Bankhead Ribbon (Best miniature collection of 9 stems from at least THREE divisions)

Karen Kogar

Pacific Coast 8 Y-Y
Little Kibler 9 W-YR
Itsy Bitsy Splitsy 11A Y-O
Minnow 8 W-Y
Early Louisiana 7 Y-Y
Big Baby 10 Y-Y
Englander 6 Y-Y
Jumble 12 Y-O
Seedling Koopowitz #2008-056

Harold Koopowitz Miniature Collection (Best collection of 24 different miniature cultivars and/or species from at least 5 divisions) Open only to ADS members.

Kate & Mitch Carney

Oxford Gold 10 Y-Y
AW2940-4-14 6 Y-Y
N. x. macleayi 13 W-Y
Jetage 6 Y-Y
White Petticoat 10 W-W
Minnionette 6 Y-Y
N. bulbo. Subspbulbo 13 Y-Y
Little Star 1 Y-Y
Cyclataz 12 Y-O
Mite 6 Y-Y
Pequenita 7 Y-Y
Tete-a-Tete 12 Y-Y
AW 2817 12 Y-Y
Fresh Breeze 6 Y-Y
Whitford Gem 7 Y-Y
Fairy Gold 6 Y-Y
Lemon Breeze 6 Y-Y
N. fernandesii Fluwell Gold 7 Y-Y
Baby Telle 1 Y-Y
Englander 6 Y-Y
Hummingbird 6 Y-Y
Snipe 6 W-W
Early Louisiana 7 Y-Y
AW 2940-1-15



Top: Kathy Gierlek with her purple ribbon collection of 5 Historics.



Below: Skip Ford, grand-daughter Kristie Price, and great-granddaughter Aubrey Price (named in Skip's honor) at VDS Show!