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## AMERICAN DAFFODIL SOCIETY (ADS) 2022 GOLD MEDAL RECIPIENT ANNOUNCED!

**Gettysburg, PA** – Joe Hamm of Washington, PA, was awarded the 2022 American Daffodil Society Gold Medal on April 29, 2022, at the American Daffodil Society Convention in Gettysburg, PA.

The Gold Medal of the American Daffodil Society may be awarded once each year in to recognize creative work of a pre-eminent nature in the understanding and advancement of daffodils. The ADS Gold Medal for 2022 was awarded to Joe Hamm for his work growing, sharing, teaching, researching, and preserving daffodils.



In the late 1980s Joe met Helen Trueblood, Libby Frey, Helen Link, and Doris Moore at a Daylily/Iris/Daffodil Sale, and quickly caught on to their interest in daffodils. Joe joined the Indiana Daffodil Society and greatly benefited from the mentorship of Libby and the two Helens.

Joe developed a special interest in the older cultivars. In collaboration with Scott Kunst of Old House Gardens, he initiated the “Historic Robin” which inspired more curiosity in the older varieties. As Joe’s interest grew, a group of ADS members pursued ADS approval to have cultivars registered prior to 1940 classified as Historic. As a result, exhibitors can show Historic daffodils at ADS shows in their own section to be judged on their own merits.



Joe served as President of the Indiana Daffodil Society for several years. When chairing IDS daffodil shows, Joe enhanced the publicity while reaching out to the community by coordinating with retirement homes to schedule bus trips to the shows. “You should have seen the look on their faces!” is how Joe described the elderly guests’ delight when handed their souvenir blooms to take home.

In both Indiana and Pennsylvania, Joe worked with local elementary schools to introduce children to daffodils, both to teach them the rewards of gardening and to help them learn science basics. Suzy Wert worked closely with Joe to create a junior daffodil growers club within the Indiana Daffodil Society; she describes Joe as “a natural born teacher, and an enthusiastic mentor.” The students looked forward each year to their sessions with “The Daffodil Man.”

Joe initiated a Daffodil Hortus in Indianapolis and moved it to Washington, PA. The collection consists of mostly Historics and Classics, with some modern cultivars, and features a number of Helen Link varieties. More than 340 hybridizers and 2000 different varieties are represented in the collection. Joe’s Hortus in Washington, PA, is one of only two official ADS Display Gardens in the state of Pennsylvania. Throughout the bloom season, late March to early May, the Joe Hamm’s Hortus Display Garden is open to a very appreciative public. Joe’s sister Georgine Materniak and longtime assistant Carol Stough maintain the garden and database, and gladly welcome and educate the visitors. Renowned garden

expert and television host Doug Oster features Joe's Garden each spring on his broadcasts, inspiring many more folks to travel to see the garden.

The last weekend of April, Joe chairs the daffodil show of the Western Pennsylvania Daffodil Growers South in the showroom of the 19<sup>th</sup> century barn which he renovated as his home. This show, which attracts exhibitors from many nearby states, is famous for its camaraderie and hospitality. On show weekend, visitors can see daffodils growing in the fields and just step indoors to view and learn about the daffodils entered into the show classifications.

With help of family and friends, Joe digs selectively each year to offer a mail-order sales list of many varieties which are difficult to find elsewhere in the trade. Joe also donates many bulbs each year to schools, clubs, public parks, and nonprofit organizations. Joe was one of the original contributors to the "Boston Strong" daffodil planting project in support of the Boston Marathon. Joe supports *The Daffodil Journal* with his advertisements, and sends many photos to Daffseek.

As one of the best ambassadors of the daffodil and of the ADS, Joe fully deserves the Gold Medal. "My whole purpose, really, is to see that daffodils continue on," Joe says. Joe's decades of effort ensures that they will.