



# VDS Newsletter

54<sup>th</sup> edition

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## Message from the President...

*As we approach the fall season, I'm excited to share all the wonderful planning that has been made this summer for the Virginia Daffodil Society by the Board and many members! A small sub-committee has been busy working with Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden staff in efforts to help identify existing bulbs planted in the Bragdon Garden with plans for upcoming planting activities for continued partnership with VDS and Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. Additional details will be shared at the upcoming Fall Meeting, September 30.*

*Members have also been busy coordinating efforts with the Shiplock Park Planting in Richmond this Fall. This planting activity includes planting historic daffodils that were introduced around the time when the lock system was in operation there between 1850-1880.*

*We are thrilled to have many new members join following the Spring Show and this Summer. New members will be given new member bulbs when they attend the Fall Meeting, so mark your calendars for Sept. 30 as this is a great way to start your collection!*

*We are also grateful to members who have renewed their membership! All VDS members are invited to join us in the Annual Bulb Exchange at the Fall Meeting. This is a great opportunity to grow your collection. The Silent Auction and Bulb Raffle will also be underway during the meeting, so don't forget to bring a little cash or check so that you can participate in these fun activities that help support fundraising efforts for VDS. If you have bulbs that you have dug and want to share, these bulbs can be added to the bulb exchange (see note regarding this further in the newsletter) and/or donated to Vicky Eicher who is asking for bulbs to support her efforts in the fight against Breast Cancer with the C'ville 4 miler. \*I will be collecting these bulbs for Vicky at our meeting and will deliver them to her afterwards for this great cause.*

*We are thankful to our VDS Members who have agreed to speak at our Fall meeting and share their experience with growing and showing Daffodils. We are inspired by their extensive understanding of daffodils and can always learn something new from these folks! Please join us at the Fall Meeting - to meet new like-minded friends who enjoy growing and showing daffodils and to get involved with many planting opportunities coming later Fall 2023 and Winter 2024. We look forward to seeing you there!*

*Kathleen Pender*

## VDS Annual Fall Meeting

Saturday, Sept 30 - Covenant Woods



9:45 - Coffee and breakfast nibbles  
10 - 12 - Meeting: business, program,  
bulb exchange, bulb raffle, silent  
auction

Lunch available in Traditions,  
also in the manor building.  
Covenant Woods Manor Building  
7090 Covenant Woods Dr  
Mechanicsville, VA 23111

*Manor building will be straight ahead. Some parking available 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.*

7090 Covenant Woods Dr, Unit M210, Mechanicsville, VA 23111, noting that it is for Shiplock planting.

## ADS 2023 Wister and Pannill awards



'Delibes' 2 Y-YYO  
F.J Rijnveld & Sons, NL  
Before 1950, Wister Award



'Euphonic Bells' 5 W-W  
Richard & Elise Havens, USA  
2008, Pannill Award

'Delibes' earned the John & Gertrude Wister Award, which recognizes outstanding garden daffodils. They must be good growers, have many bloom stalks and vigorous disease-resistant foliage, long-lasting blooms, showy at a distance and reasonably sunfast.

'Euphonic Bells' received the 2023 William G. Pannill Award which recognizes a named standard daffodil that has demonstrated winning show qualities for a minimum of 5 years following registration. Cultivar must have been awarded at least one ADS Gold or White Ribbon within the last 5 years. Must be regarded as generally "growable and showable" in a majority of the ADS regions.

## VDS and LGBG working together



LGBG Vice President of Horticulture Danny Cox (far right) discusses potential locations for a future ADS Daffodil Display Garden with ADS President Janet Hickman (L), VDS President Kathleen Pender and VDS Show Chairman Jennifer Potter (behind Kathleen).

Last week VDS members met with the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden horticultural team to talk daffodils and make plans for rejuvenation of the George

## Public Planting Planned

VDS is working with the Capital Trail Foundation on a daffodil planting at the Great Shiplock Park, near Shockoe Bottom. Built in the 1850s, it is the eastern-most lock of the historic James River and Kanawha Canal locks. The Virginia Capital Trail Foundation, Capital Trees (they maintain the entire garden area), the



City of Richmond and others have transformed this once-neglected historic site into a beautiful riverfront park. The goal is to plant bulbs that were hybridized between 1850 and 1880, when the locks were operating.

It is hoped that planting at Shiplock can begin late fall 2023. If you dug any of these historic cultivars earlier this year and would like to donate to the project, they would be much appreciated: 'Emperor,' 'Empress,' 'Conspicuous' (3Y-YYO), 'Ornatus,' 'Sir Watkin' and 'Stella.' Contact: msauman@live.com. Volunteers are also needed to help plant the bulbs at a yet-to-be-determined date later in the fall.

If you would like to contribute toward the purchase of the bulbs, please send your donation to Rick Simon,

Bragdon Memorial Garden honoring the memory of VDS founder, George Bragdon.

Society goals are to confirm the identities of all currently planted cultivars, add select new cultivars, and achieve ADS Display Garden designation. It is hoped this project will be the first of many future joint efforts with LGBG to promote interest in daffodils.

### Still Growing Strong

The September 2004 ADS Journal included a lengthy list of show cultivar winners reported six or more times for the previous spring shows.

Many are still winning today. If you have some of those listed below, make sure they get mulched and watered this fall—they'll do you proud next spring, whether as single entries or part of a collection.

While many bulb merchants are probably sold out by this time, keep these cultivars in mind as you attend area bulb exchanges. The number in parenthesis is the number of mentions.

#### STANDARDS

- 'Rapture' 6 Y-Y (36)
- 'Intrigue' 7 Y-W (27)
- 'Conestoga' 2 W-GYO (21)
- 'Pacific Rim' 2 Y-YYR (21)
- 'Beryl' 6 W-YYO (19)
- [historic]
- 'Carib Gypsy' 2 Y-WWY (19)
- 'Geometrics' 2 W-Y (18)
- 'New Penny' 3 Y-Y (15)
- 'Sweetness' 7 Y-Y (15) [historic]
- 'Jetfire' 6 Y-O (14)
- 'Gull' 2 W-GWW (13)
- 'Killearnan' 9 W-GYR (13)
- 'River Queen' 2 W-W (13)
- 'Daydream' 2 Y-W (12) [classic]
- 'Golden Aura' 2 Y-Y (12) [classic]



'Rapture' won the most ribbons in 2004

#### MINIATURES

- 'Little Rusky' 7 Y-GYO (21)
- 'Segovia' 3 W-Y (20)
- 'Hawera' 5 Y-Y (17)
- 'Minnow' 8 W-Y (17)
- 'Pixie's Sister' 7 Y-Y (16)
- 'Yellow Xit' 3 W-Y (14)
- 'Clare' 7 Y-Y (13)
- 'Jumblie' 12 Y-O (12)
- 'Sun Disc' 7 Y-Y (12)
- 'Stafford' 7 Y-YYO (11)
- 'Toto' 12 W-W (11)
- 'Hummingbird' 6 Y-Y (10)
- 'Sewanee' 2 W-Y (2 W-Y)
- 'Snipe' 6 W-W (9)
- 'Spoirot' 10 W-W (9)



'Little Rusky' was top Mini ribbon winner.

Dues are due...



Is your name below?

Deborah Brooks	Erin Degnan
August Deitz	Vicki Dennin
Stephanie DuPaul	Judy Durant
Skip Ford	Sharon Francisco
Nancy Fuchs	Erica Gilliam
Clay/Fran Higgins	M. Ross/D. Hopkins
Kim Monroe	Anne Olsen
Kathleen/Jim Pender	Jennifer Potter
Debra Rollins	Sherri Sale
Tammie Spivey	Carla Stanley
Kit Tucker Sullivan	James Taylor
Bill Thomas	Patricia Weichmann
Sharon Weil	Judith Gail Williams

*Dues will be collected at the Sept. 30 meeting.*

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

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

### 2023 ADS Virtual Fall Forum October 20 – 21 2023

The American Daffodil Society's Virtual Fall Forum (on Zoom) is open to ANYONE interested in learning about daffodils. Prior registration and payment are required for participation and Oct. 17, 2023, is the cut-off date for registration.

The access code for presentations will be sent the evening prior to each conference day.

The agenda includes presentations on Backyard Science with Daffodils, Judging Youth entries, a two-night virtual bulb auction and more.

For full details and to register, go to:

<https://daffodilusa.org/events-show-calendar/fall-symposiums/2023-virtual-fall-forum-fall-board-meeting/>

#### Join The American Daffodil Society

Individual/Organization: \$30 1 year; 3 years \$75

Household: \$35 1 year; three years \$90

Youth \$10 1 year through age 20 at time of application

Individual Life Membership \$750

Membership includes quarterly issues of The Daffodil Journal, newsletters from your ADS Regional Vice President; daffodil growing advice unique to your region and much more.

Contact the American Daffodil Society Membership Department, 8374 State Rd. 45, Unionville, IN 47468 or use the form on the ADS website.

<https://stores.daffodilusastore.org/membership/>

Telephone: Frank Nyikos, 812-360-6242.

*When I decided to get serious about growing show daffodils, I began adding new beds each year. Space is at a premium now, despite much dividing and sharing. I must either join a 12-step program or learn to plant more efficiently. Who better to consult than four long-time growers and exhibitors who share my passion as well as similar plant zones.*

*Nancy Fuchs*

**Kathy Welsh** is a past ADS president and has probably held most positions at the Washington Daffodil Society over the years. She's part of the popular WDS Fall Bulb sale team, co-chairs the ADS National Washington, DC, April 2024 convention and is currently the WDS membership chair. She's won numerous top awards. Kathy digs in Oakton, VA.

**Clay Higgins**, who relocated to Howell, NJ, several years ago from Barco, NC and before that grew bulbs in the Maryland/Virginia suburbs outside DC, attributes some of his skills to tutelage from his late mother-in-law, Marie Bozievich. A prolific hybridizer, Clay generously shares his creations as well as those of others with area daffodil groups for their annual fall exchanges. He's also a frequent contributor to the ADS Journal.

**Bob Huesmann** has been one of the primaries in the WDS bulb sale and his comments and descriptions have guided many bulb shoppers. His collections are outstanding, as evidenced by his many awards over the years. Bob plants in Bethesda, MD.

Only ADS president **Janet Hickman** could pull off a major move *and* serve tirelessly at the helm of the ADS. She was able to draw on her past planting techniques as well as her current adaptation to smaller spaces. Janet oversees her downsized daffs in Lynchburg, VA.

## How many of one variety do you usually plant?

**Kathy:** It varies depending on how good I think the cultivar is and whether it can be re-purchased if I lose



Kathy Welsh's row of Standards

it. For cultivars I don't think are super, I plant back 4. For the average standard, 6. For really terrific ones 8, and I will often have them planted more than one place. For intermediates, usually 6 or 8, because for some reason a number of them are not as hardy. For mini's I use berry baskets and will plant as many as 4 baskets with 4-6 in a basket depending on the size of the bulb.

**Clay:** I plant a row of 7 of each variety (when I have 7 to plant). If I have fewer, I will plant all my bulbs, even if the count is 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6. If I have really good show winners with more than 7 bulbs, I will plant extra bulbs of the show winner in another section of my garden.

The microclimates often cause the two plantings to bloom at different times and allow me to show that daffodil in more than one show. Actually, I have used the microclimates when I only have, say, 4 bulbs of one variety that are particularly good, I'll plant them in two different locations. That also prevents you from losing ALL your show bulb winners if one area proves to have problems and the bulbs die. Chances are that one planting or another, when separated, will survive if the other dies.

**Bob:** First, a general comment. I think the soil and the microclimate where you plant your bulbs may be the most important factor in success. Daffodils will survive in the clay we have around here, or probably in sandy soils elsewhere, but they will thrive in soil that is a foot deep, drains well, and contains plenty of composted material and the microorganisms and nutrients that come with it. To that, add enough sun, and you should have root systems that are long and strong, and blossoms that approach their genetic potential.

If I'm introducing a new variety into my collection, I usually buy just one bulb. I think that gives me more potential flowers for the Throckmortons [collection of 15 from 15 different classifications] that I love to show. Folks who have more space and money have good reason to buy more than one. If a variety grows well and shows well, when I dig it, I tend to keep at least 3 bulbs. Frequently, I'll keep a few more and plant some in a different microclimate where they bloom earlier or later and thus may be more likely to produce a show bloom at the right time for our show or for another one.

**Janet:** Until this year, I was able to add new bed space regularly as needed. These beds were often in spaces my husband had used for other plants that I then took over; thus the beds were named "Cherry Bed", "Grape Arbor Bed", "Camellia Bed", etc. Adding beds allowed me sufficient space to mark off grids with 12" x 12" square planting spaces.

For the first planting in a bed, I would string nylon cord to mark the rows to keep planting fairly straight. I would plant 1 to 5 bulbs per square, depending on their size, rarity, (and expense). I make detailed maps of each bed, filled in by hand as I plant and then printed as Word documents saved on the computer. I also list everything planted in a more detailed spreadsheet. Each variety gets a metal Kincaid marker with a laser-printed label plus most get a buried plastic label as well.

### Single file or in small groups/clusters?

*Kathy:* My main show beds are planted in rows with 2 across. If I plant 6 bulbs, that is 2 across times 3 long. It looks like half of an egg carton. I use a metal stake and bury a piece of plastic milk carton with the name and color code next to the stake, underground. The label on the stake is made with an aluminum tape and a DYMO label maker. Recently I have started using weatherproof Avery labels on a metal plate. This way I don't have to bend over as much to read the name of the cultivar. My minis are not mixed in with my standards, I plant them on an outer row of each bed. My intermediates are also planted separately MOST of the time—this is so I can locate them more easily.

*Clay:* Marie Bozievich planted in single file straight across the width of the beds. She said she learned this many years ago when she visited English and Irish daffodil growers. They do it because many of them have very small spaces to grow daffodils. They called it thick planting the daffodils. Believe it or not Brian Duncan hybridized and raised his daffodils mostly in his front yard when he only had hardly 50' by 50' lot. He farmed many of his hybrids out to local farmers because he had no space to watch them grow for 7 or more years before blooming. He maintained ownership of those farmed out daffodils.

I have experimented with both methods, and I will state that you can get more bulbs planted in a 50' long bed, 4' wide if you plant in single file than if you put them in groups or clusters, that is, if you want to be able to determine where one variety of daffodil stops and another starts. Planting in groups and clusters is, however, best for beautification and/or naturalization.

*Bob:* If I'm planting a new bed or one from which I've dug everything, and if I'm planting new bulbs, I might plant them single file, but with alternate rows offset so the bulbs in adjacent rows aren't right across from each other. Same with clusters.

*Janet:* Adding beds allowed me sufficient space to mark off grids with 12" x 12" planting spaces. I would plant 1 to 5 bulbs per square, depending on their size, rarity (and expense). Now that I have moved and have more limited raised bed space, I am experimenting with planting in 6"x6" squares, using buried plastic berry baskets and "net pots" (pots with slits in sides and bottom) to separate varieties. For all but the smallest, I have planted just one bulb per square.

### How much space between bulbs?

*Kathy:* About 2 inches

*Clay:* When planted single file across a bed, space them 6 inches apart and the rows 10 inches apart. By the way, exact measurement is not mandatory, like in horseshoes and hand-grenades, close is good enough. I've seen some people out with a yard stick to measure

distance. Totally unnecessary. Between beds use an 18 inch-space to have a walkway. I've seen beds that were 10 feet wide and the owner trampled their own daffodils to reach those they wanted for a show.

*Bob:* For many years, I have tried unsuccessfully to allow enough space between bulbs, so my advice is not to follow my advice...

### How Often do you divide?

*Kathy:* Ideally, every four years. Sometimes it slips to five. I have four "main" show beds, so I try to dig one each year.

*Clay:* The daffodil tells me when it wants to divide. When the bulb off-shoots are as large as the original bulb, pull them apart. Many times when you are handling and cleaning a bulb, the off shoots will come off on their own. By all means, do not put back into the ground a large three-headed bulb. Take them off and make three bulbs out of it. Yearly you will have some bulbs that are ready to be divided, and some that are not. If the off-shoot is tight against the mother bulb, leave it.



Swampscott 2 Y-Y  
(Higgins Hybrid)

*Bob:* I dig for various reasons and after various intervals. They used to say three years, but I don't think that suits many or all reasons why you might want to dig. I just hope that every bulb grows and multiplies well, then I'll decide why and when to dig if I have the energy!

*Janet:* Usually every three years.

### Best Recording method?

*Kathy:* I have a spiral notebook. I record the year planted and then the name of the bed. I have beds 1-4. Other locations have names. "Bed by the Hamm's house," "Bed under the dogwoods," "large bed by the maple tree," "bed near the Borges," etc.

I do go from left to right with the row number and then I list all of the cultivars in order planted in a row. I usually have one page in my notebook for each row. I plant by division and in alpha order, but I never put like color codes next to one another. This lessens the chance of not knowing what something is.

For division 9's, I usually alternate those with division 11's since many of them look similar. I keep all of my old notebooks to help me identify stray bulbs that were missed when I dug. Each year I look at the flowers when they are blooming to make sure they are correctly labeled. I mark all misnamed bulbs and try to dig them out. These are given to Vicky Eicher for her cancer walk.

*Clay:* Every bed I make I either number or give it a name and a location (In relation of my yard, things like "At North Fence Bed #N-1," or at the "Driveway off the

kitchen #K-7,” “East bed behind the house, closest to house #E-1) on a piece of lined legal paper so that I can look at the paper and know where that bed is. I record that location on the legal pad (with school kid type Clip Board). On each separate bed I start with placing my planting board across the bed and determining a start point for the bed. I then record the bed name and if I’m planting from North to South, or East to West etc. Starting with row #1 on that bed, I first put down the Zinc Marker (label of any type) with the name, color code, origin of the daffodil. NZ, NI, Eng, Aus, etc. .

I record the row as #1 on the legal pad, the name of the bulb, color code, etc. I drill holes, and plant the bulbs and move to the next row which will be row #2 of that bed and repeat the process. Sometimes the row will have more than one variety in that row. I’ve planted up to seven separate varieties in one row, each with their own label with name, color code, etc

*Bob:* There is no substitute for a good map. Also, if I were starting over, I think I would bury a permanent marker with each clump. Markers that are on the surface tend to get moved. I think names for beds are probably easier to remember, since they are by nature idiosyncratic. I don’t plant alphabetically or by division. If you plant by division, you’re more likely to get varieties mixed up (poets, especially). Generally, why would you not plant each variety in the bed that has the most suitable soil and microclimate for that variety to reach its potential and provide you with the best show flower at the right time?

*Janet:* I make detailed maps of each bed, filled in by hand as I plant and then printed as Word documents saved on the computer. I also list everything planted in a more detailed spreadsheet. Each variety gets a metal Kincaid marker with a laser-printed label plus most get a buried plastic label as well. I take care not to plant varieties that look similar right next to each other. I usually plant miniatures by themselves or at the edges of beds so they are not shaded by taller foliage. In a bed with some shade, I’ve had good results planting divisions 6 and 9, as they tolerated a little shade.



**Janet Hickman, ADS president & retired dermatologist advises diggers to protect their faces from the sun. ADS 2020 Dallas Convention**

### Bring bulbs to the Bulb Exchange!

If you have extra bulbs from your summer digging, bring them to the Fall meeting. Label with name, color

code and division. Usually 2-3 per bag. Can’t remember the name? Just call them “Unks” (unknown).

## VDS Summer picnic July 8, 2023

Debbie and Nick Elam hosted the VDS annual summer picnic at their farm in Powhatan. Uncooperative weather kept us inside but the Elams were up to the task, providing tables and chairs for all.



**THANK YOU, Debbie and Nick!**

