

THE WASHINGTON DAFFODIL SOCIETY

FALL 2006

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2007 Spring Luncheon:**The WDS Newsletter**

is published in the Fall, Winter and Spring for members of WDS, with information on the activities of the Society, and of the American Daffodil Society when of local interest. Please send comments, ideas, and articles to the Editor: Mary Anne Barton, 3707 Burrows Avenue, Fairfax, VA 22030, or email: wbill@bellatlantic.net

President's Message

Dear Daffodil Friends,

At the time of the last newsletter, the traditional first annual Pie Eaters Show had not yet been held. It was an outstanding success, and will continue to grow in subsequent years. See the article in this issue of the newsletter. Plan some purchases of late bloomers to enter next year to give the Carneys a little competition. Hint : Division 9s tend to be later bloomers. Thanks to Chriss and Spencer Rainey and all who entered making it a beautiful show.

During the summer, we had a lengthy thread via e-mail involving most of the Board members on the subject of "How can we ensure that very good show bulbs brought to the exchange don't go home with someone who will just plant them unlabeled and never bring the bloom to the show?" Not that there is anything inherently wrong with that, but growers with cutting-edge bulbs are not as likely to share if people don't enter them. We kicked that around for a while but didn't come up with a solid conclusion. We'll discuss it at the Fall Board meeting and hopefully come up with a plan at that time.

Bob Huesmann, however, came up with an initiative that hopefully will get us started in the right direction. He has put together a collection of good show bulbs to be given (free) to the first person, who has not shown previously, to call requesting the collection. The understanding, of course, is that the winner will make a serious effort to enter some of the blooms in next year's show. Since Bob and Lina will be out of town for the next several weeks, I'll be fielding the calls. I'll note the names of those who call and maybe several other members can be convinced to contribute similar collections so we can have several winners.

At the last Board meeting, Lucy Rhame suggested saving money on postage by sending out the newsletter via e-mail. Kathy Welsh and Mary Anne Barton researched this and this issue of the newsletter is the result of their collaboration. In the future, this will allow us to publish photos in the newsletter, also. Of course, we will continue to mail the newsletter to those who want to continue to receive it by regular mail.

My thanks to all who have worked so hard for the Washington Daffodil Society these past two years.

Paul Botting, WDS President

pmbotting@comcast.net

WDS Fall Annual Meeting, Bulb Exchange & Bulb Order Pickup Saturday, October 28, 2006

Falls Church Community Center 223 Little Falls Street, Falls Church VA 22046
703-248-5020 / 703-248-5001

Meeting room on Second Floor of Community Center - labeled Senior Center - there is an elevator. Next door is the Falls Church City Hall and Cherry Hill Park

10 AM: WDS Board Meeting

All Members Welcome to Attend! (Board members - please bring a plate of something sweet or salty, finger food only, to serve the general membership during the Annual Meeting. WDS will provide drinks. Board members may wish to bring a lunch for themselves for the break between the two meetings.)

1:00 - 4:00 PM: WDS Annual Meeting

The Agenda includes voting for new Officers and Board Members, followed by discussion of upcoming events, bulb sales and raffles, ending with the Bulb Exchange. Bulb Orders may be picked up anytime during this meeting. Check out the article on the next page: **“Free bulb collection for first-time exhibitors”**.

Report of the Nominating Committee

According to the WDS bylaws as amended, President Paul Botting selected a nominating committee to be chaired by previous past president, Tom Taylor and composed of Lina Burton and Dorothy Sensibaugh. The following slate was presented at the Board Meeting held at the summer picnic in June.

President (1 year term) Kathy Welsh

Vice President (1 year term) Mary Semrad

Directors with three year term to end December 31, 2009:

Chriss Rainey, Dorothy Sensibaugh, Lina Burton, Ruth Ann McGrail.

All terms will start January 1, 2007. If you wish to run for an office or wish to nominate someone (with their permission only) contact: Tom Taylor. (703)698-8636/ email: tom1939@msn.com.

WDS Going Electronic: The Newsletter - E-Mail or “Snail” Mail? You Choose!

Did you receive an electronic version of the WDS newsletter? Are you willing to forego a hard copy to save our society the expense of printing and mailing one to you? If so, please email Kathy Welsh so she can keep track of those members willing to receive electronic correspondence. If you didn't receive an electronic newsletter it's because we didn't have a current email address for you. Please email Kathy at kathywelsh01@aol.com and she will send you the electronic version so you can see if you like it. Just think how great it will be to get your spring bulb order as soon as it is typed! This would be a huge benefit to our garden club members and to anyone who wants to pass along the bulb order list to a friend. Having a WDS distribution list will also allow the society to disseminate information between newsletters. Please know that you can be on the distribution list and still receive a hard copy of the newsletter. Those with dialup lines may find it too time consuming to download the newsletter. Please contact Kathy via email if you wish to be included in this exciting new project.

American Daffodil Society News

The ADS Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting will be held September 30th at the business of Brent & Becky Heath at 7900 Daffodil Lane, Gloucester, VA 23061 Coffee & registration are at 9:30 AM, Meeting 10:00 - 11:00 AM. Lunch (\$10.00 registration fee) to follow at the home of Brent & Becky. There will be a presentation by Brent Heath (it will qualify as a judges' refresher - \$3.00 for credit). Contact Evelyn Nock, Mid-Atlantic VP: senock@dmv.com or P.O. Box 111, Painter, VA 23420

Free Bulb Collection for First-time Exhibitors: Call Now!

If you are a WDS member who has not yet exhibited your blooms in our annual show, but would like to do so, here is an opportunity. Bob and Lina Huesmann have put together a collection of bulbs of 15 very good exhibition-quality cultivars which they would like to make available to a member who has not exhibited daffodils before and who is willing to commit the necessary time and effort to cultivate the bulbs and show the flowers in April, 2007. Some of these cultivars have won gold ribbons (best-in-show) and/or have been pictured on the cover of The Daffodil Journal. Of course, if the weather or varmints should damage the crop, that's understandable, but daffodils are pretty dependable, and several of the 15 should be showable. Add to that the other bulbs you can acquire at the bulb exchange, and you should have a real shot at winning the Novice Collection award. The collection comes with an offer of advice/consultation on any aspect of growing or showing, to further enhance your chances for some blue ribbons.

The collection, which will be available at the annual meeting on October 28, will go to the first eligible member to call Paul Botting at 301-869-3742. Although there are no guarantees, if more than one member calls, WDS will try to compile another collection or two for them. **So, call soon.**

WDS Bulb Order - Good & Not So Good News!

Mystery of the Missing Bulbs Solved by Mary Koonce, Bulb Order Chairman

On September 2, I received an empty box from Janis Ruksans in Latvia. Noting my panic-stricken face, the postmaster gave me a phone number to call to inquire about the package. An enclosed form stated that the box contained "514 unknown plant material for propagation purposes" and further stated that the bulbs were destroyed! Bob Huesmann and I are investigating what went wrong but we are still 514 bulbs short for the orders.

Janis Ruksans has no more to send from his list and refunds will be given for those orders. We will search for cultivars on the open list and if we do not find the exact cultivar, we will refund your money. Substitutions of equal value will be made in the collections. The cultivars affected on the open list are: Altruist, Angel Wings, Colley Gate, Delta, Earth Song, Eminent, First Dance, Jonathan, Kentucky Cardinal, Lime Chiffon, Northern Lights, Parterre, Ramada, Reggae, Ring of Namey, Sissi, Snowdew, Star War, Sunny Ring, and Trombonessa.

It is not unheard of to have items lost or destroyed in the mail. The oddest story I ever heard came from Ron Scamp in Cornwall. He mailed an order of daffodils to a customer, and when the box was opened by the buyer, it also contained several varieties of tulips! Needless to say, we are disappointed that we cannot deliver some of the varieties which were ordered in the spring. I will rest easy when we receive all of the orders from our suppliers. In case you are interested in the statistics: in 2006, 190 cultivars were offered from 7 suppliers, 2,448 were sold, including 324 special bulbs of the year, 124 collections, 120 in Div I, 259 in Div 2, 135 in Div 3, 37 in Div 4, 61 in Div 5, 108 in Div 6, 67 in Div 7, 86 in Div 8, 66 in Div 9, 46 in Div 11, 115 from Ruksan's list, 71 from Intermediates, 138 from Historics and 251 from Miniatures.

WDS 2006 Daffodil Show by Mitch Carney, WDS 2006 Show Chairman

The fifty-seventh annual Daffodil Show of The Washington Daffodil was held on April 15th and 16th at Brookside Gardens and was a wonderful success! It was a beautiful weekend and the crowds were large at times. The quality of the blooms was excellent and the competition was close.

Thanks to all who helped out including the Co-Chairman, Dorothy Sensibaugh, Judges Chair, Kathy Welsh, Awards Chair, Mary Koonce, Clerks Chair, Mary Anne Barton, Design, Dolores Felch and Charmane Truesdell. Bob and Marcelina Huesmann helped with Classification and Marcelina is the keeper of the dividing ribbons. Information was done by Tom Taylor. Tom's the main guy loading the truck also. Lucy Rhame set up a nice box lunch for judges and helpers. Donna Clausen did the judge's coffee. Records was done by Maxine Botting and Bob Huesmann. Paul Botting, as always contributed in many ways including staging, loading properties, Pictures and many other things. I shouldn't forget Spencer Rainey who also helped us with loading. Many others contributed to making this a good show and I thank them as well.

WDS 2007 Daffodil Show, April 14 & 15, 2007 at Brookside Gardens, Wheaton, MD

by Dorothy Sensibaugh, WDS 2007 Show Chairman / Lucy Rhame, Vice Chairman

The 2007 WDS show will be held at Brookside Gardens in Wheaton, Maryland, on April 14, and 15. Staging will begin on Friday, April 13. This is the most favorable location for the show at the current time. This location permits us to stage a beautiful show in comfortable facilities for our exhibitors and judges. The visitor's center is surrounded by beautiful gardens that attract thousands of visitors. If you have not visited the gardens you might want to make time to do so.

We do not anticipate much change in our schedule. We will continue to offer all ADS awards as permitted, as well as our local awards. Several members have requested that we add a photography section to our show. This year we will add the new ADS Aqua Ribbon for a collection of nine miniature daffodils or species from three divisions.

As always we welcome anyone interested in helping with the show. If you have not participated in the show before, this may be the year to do so. Helping with the show is a great way to learn about exhibiting. You do not have to exhibit to help with the show but we hope you will. If you have helped in the past we look forward to your help again this year.

Lucy Rhame has agreed to co-chair the show and it is my privilege to serve as the show chair. If you would like to help with the show you may contact Lucy at (703-836-3532) or by email at lrhame@aol.com. You may contact me at 410-799-9193 or by email at: mysunnydot@aol.com

2007 ADS Convention & National Daffodil Show in Tacoma

by Kirby Fong, 2007 ADS Convention Chairman

The American Daffodil Society's 2007 convention will be Friday through Sunday, April 20-22, in Tacoma, Washington. A local event, The Daffodil Festival, has been running in this area for 73 years, and next year the ADS convention will take you there to see their grand floral street parade. The parade is repeated in four different cities in one day, and we will see it at its freshest on Saturday morning where it passes only two blocks from the Sheraton Tacoma, our convention hotel. The hotel is also within walking distance of several museums. The Tacoma Museum has a permanent display of the glass artwork of the world-renowned local artist Dale Chihuly. The walkway over the Museum of Glass also has a public display of his work. The Museum of Glass has a working studio where you can watch glass blowers at work.

An ADS convention must have a daffodil show, and our show (and most other convention events) will be in a section of the Bicentennial Pavilion, an exhibition hall with brighter lighting than a ballroom. The Pavilion is only 150 feet across a courtyard from the hotel, and there is a covered walkway between them in case of rain.

The timing of the Festival and the show will allow those of you in the mid-Atlantic region to show your late season flowers. If you had flowers for King of Prussia, you'll have flowers for Tacoma. Do not worry about overwhelming competition from the Oregonians because the Tacoma show will be two weeks past the peak of the Oregon season. We need your flowers, so please bring them! As ADS seldom goes to the northwest corner of the country, you may want to spend a few extra days to see Mt. Saint Helens, Mt. Rainier, Seattle, or visit British Columbia

Second Annual Pie Eater's Show by Chriss Rainey

206 blooms may not seem like a lot, but it was a major feat for a first attempt by a society to mount two shows in one season, and especially when that season turned out to be an early one. But what we learned was this: the total number of flowers has little to do with the fun and camaraderie of good friends when given a box of tubes and an empty table. The excitement and the challenge is just the same.

At the first ever American Pie Eater's show held last spring in Reston, VA 206 blooms were staged

by nine exhibitors. Nine ADS ribbons were awarded, including the Purple, the Maroon, and the Havens. Five special classes that exhibitors competed for which offered them \$10 and a bottle of beer were also hotly contested. This show was held at a home for the elderly and disabled for the enjoyment of the residents. They were very grateful for the chance to view such beautiful flowers and for the opportunity to tell someone the stories about their own gardens from days gone by.

The 2007 show will be held at St. John Neumann Catholic Church, where our main show was held in 2005. And while there is always hope that the show will grow in number of blooms, WDS can hope the show will grow in the number who are able to participate in the fun of entering the last of the season blooms before we bid them farewell for another year. If you weren't there last year, promise yourself now that won't be the case this year. This "just for fun" show was truly that, lots of fun.

Five new special classes will be created this year, honoring another five WDS notables. The show schedule detailing these classes will be available at the luncheon in the spring. And because this new venue does not limit the types of "staging fluid" we are allowed to bring into the building, don't be surprised to see mimosa's added to the pie eater's brunch before judging. And who knows, we just might throw in an end of season dinner for all the participants and judges on Saturday night. So reserve the date on your calendar. The second annual American Pie Eater's show will be held on May 5 and 6, 2007.

"Pie Eater's Pie" Recipe by Kate Carney

The point of the Pie Eater's Show is to eat pie, right? So here is the recipe Kate Carney made for our '06 show.

Pie Eater's Bacon and Egg Pie**

1 box (2 sheets) Pepperidge Farm Puff Pastry, thawed

1 onion, chopped / 1 cup chopped bacon

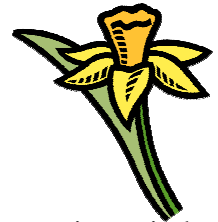
1 cup mixed vegetables / 2 tablespoons spicy chutney

6 eggs / Salt + pepper / 2 tablespoons Maggi green herb stock powder*

(This is a spice I brought back from N.Z.-it has parsley, corn starch, sugar and vegetable flavors-it reminds me of Knorr dried vegetable soup which could be used as a substitute.)

Use 1 sheet of pastry to line a greased 8" square shallow bake pan. Sprinkle onion, bacon, and mixed vegetables evenly over pastry. Dot the chutney on top. Break eggs evenly over, pricking the yolks so they run slightly. Season with salt, pepper and the herb stock powder to taste. Carefully lift the second sheet of pastry over filling. Brush top with milk. Bake at 400 degrees for 40 minutes or until well risen and golden. To serve, cut into squares. Serve hot or cold. Serves 6.

**This recipe was adapted from "Edmonds Cookery Book" of New Zealand and from what I learned from helping Marie Hunter make it for a brunch in Nelson, New Zealand. It was made for the first U.S. Pie Eater's Show in Virginia 5/6/2006. Kate Carney



Another installment in one of our most popular series on what to buy or pick-up at the Bulb Exchange:

"Higher" Budget Blues by Bob Huesmann

Some members who were kind enough to read my first list, and may be expecting financial windfalls, have asked that I expand the list to include cultivars that are somewhat more expensive than the ones in the original list. So, if you're feeling a bit flush, here are some ideas.

Div 1-- Y-Y Tuscarora, now \$14, is a must-have best-in-show quality flower. Same comment for Magic Lantern (Y-O, \$17). In the Y-O class, many new and rather expensive cultivars are being introduced, so keep your eye on the catalogs. Filoli (Y-P, \$15) was my most beautiful flower this year. American Heritage, also a winner, can be bought for about the same price. Reverse bicolor Trumpet Warrior is now only \$10; Lighthouse Reef and English Caye are now around \$15. All-white Neahkhanie, now only \$5, is a good collection flower. If you want a gold ribbon, get Quiet Waters (\$15 and worth it). Bridal Chorus, Chaste or Blue Danube (all around \$15) should also give you a chance at gold. In the W-Y class, POPS

Legacy is now under \$5 and seems hard to beat. For variety and different blooming seasons, try some of the smooth-perianthed Jackson cultivars from Mitsch, like Clubman (\$12). Add Cryptic (\$10) to the list. It is older, but still outstanding in the W-P class. For your next birthday, ask for Chanson (\$32).

Div 2--Get Clouded Yellow (\$20) even if you don't need another 2 Y-Y. In the 2 Y-O/R class, try Banker (\$22) if you want a good shot at gold. Supplement your older Y-O/R's with one of John Reed's cultivars-- Irish Rum, Picture Perfect (a gold candidate at the WDS show this year), or Irish Loch. Dynasty, now available for \$6 from Cherry Creek, seems to win frequently. For a Y-P, Oregon Pioneer is a must-have at \$17. There are so many W-P's now that it's hard to select. Note, however, that frequent winner Cherrygardens is now priced at about \$10, and if you have an anniversary coming up, ask for Cape Point (\$36). Pink rims Notre Dame (\$8) and Songket (\$6.50) are excellent. To augment your collection, Savoir Faire, Ethereal Beauty and Ice Dancer are available for modestly ascending prices. Homestead and Gull are now in the budget-priced range, so be sure to have them in your all-white collection. Phoenician and Lady Diana cost a bit more, but are worth it.. Emerald Empire (\$14) has a different and altogether beautiful shape. Harder to find Lissome (\$19 from Cherry Creek)

has been winning frequently of late. Also note that some of Bill Pannill's excellent whites are now listed by David Burdick.

Div 3--New Penny and Nonchalant are still the basics in the all-yellow class. Among the few new cultivars being introduced, I have grown John Reed's Haunting. It is large, light yellow with a very round and flat perianth. Although still expensive, I think it's worth it. In the Y-O/R class, Burning Bush (\$7) would be my first choice, but Little Karoo (\$11) has been successfully shown, and if you're really determined, go to Jake (\$18). Among the few reverses, Lyrebird (\$6) is lovely and a good collection flower. To the original list of W-Y's, add Cedar Hills (\$7). It was stunning this year, as was (for me, at least) Dunley Hall (\$9).

Engagement Ring (W-WWY, \$10) has won frequently in the past few years. There are so many good flowers in the W-O/R rim class that it's hard to choose. My original list was based mostly on excellent show records, but I also like Sweet Sue and Sugar & Spice (\$5-7). I don't think any collection should be without La Paloma but, alas, nobody lists it right now. Try to beg or swap for one. In the all-white class, Cool Crystal, High Cotton and Val d'Incles still do well in shows. Warmington (listed last year by Ringhaddy) was a gold candidate for me this year. Several promising new cultivars are beginning to appear, however. I'd consider Cool White, Silverthorne (\$9) and Emerald Stone (\$14). To spend more, try Vera Robbins from Oakwood, or one of the Jackson cultivars from Mitsch.

Div 4--Serena Lodge (W-Y, \$6.50) was shown in several winning collections this year. Crowndale (Y-O, \$13.50) was also outstanding. If you like to show doubles, as I do, Waldorf Astoria (\$10) and Dorchester (\$25, but less from WDS) are beautiful W-P's. Also consider some of the Jackson doubles, like Surewin (\$21) or Duration (\$24). And don't overlook Ron Scamp's newer introductions.

Div 5--New cultivars are being introduced by Mitsch, Scamp and Ringhaddy, but I am not familiar with them.

Div 6--To expand your collection beyond the budget range, try Arrowhead (Y-R, \$10), Articulate (Y-Y, \$9), Vineland (Y-Y, \$20) or the reverse bicolor Peppercorn (\$20). I have grown all but the latter.

Div 7--To add to your basic collection try Mowser (Y-R, \$19) from Scamp; Perpetuation (\$8) and/or Regeneration (\$9), two newer Mitsch reverses, and Pink Charisma (\$15), also from Mitsch.

Div 8--No suggestions here

Div 9--Unknown Poet (\$14) from Mitsch and Blisland (\$9) from Scamp were best bloom candidates for me this year. Frost in May also turned out to be a very good late season collection flower. Cherry Creek lists it occasionally, along with other Ballydorn flowers. In some years, they also list hard-to-find poets from Meg Yerger.

Div 11--In their 2006 catalog, Mitsch Daffodils has given us a handy list of their most show-worthy split coronas. I would use it. Of the Scamp splits, Menehay (\$8) and Jack Wood (\$14) are proven show cultivars. I added his Pampaluna (Y-Y) from the WDS list this year. Jackson's Prodigious (Y-Y, \$16 from Mitsch) is exhibition quality.

Daffodil Advice From Four Successful Exhibitors: Preparation, Planting, and Labeling by Kathy Welsh

Several years ago I wrote a series of articles which detailed the practices of several successful daffodil growers in the mid-Atlantic area. The articles were very well received and proved educational to both novice and experienced members of the WDS. In an effort to enhance the content of the WDS newsletter I have agreed to do the same thing again, gathering advice from a different group of people. In each of the next three newsletters a detailed description of tasks to be performed during that time of year will appear. The methods of four individuals, Bob Huesmann, Clay Higgins, Mary Koonce, and Kathy Welsh will be explained. They each do things a little differently which serves to illustrate that there is no single way of growing quality daffodils.

Take what you will from each of these exhibitors and modify their techniques with a few of your own. If you have specific questions you'd like answered, please email kathywelsh01@aol.com and I will include the information in the following newsletter.

Fall is the time for planting, but before you can plant you need to have your soil prepared and your bulbs sorted.

How do you prepare the soil? Mary has a very large commercial size rototiller which she uses to loosen the soil. She adds some peat moss to break up the clay and improve its composition. Clay prepares his soil at least one month in advance of planting. He amends his soil with peat and "garden chalk" purchased at Merrifield Garden Center or Southern States. This product improves the electrolytes in the soil as well as the drainage. Clay has also imported good topsoil so that some of his beds are raised 6" above the normal level. Once prepared, Clay soaks the soil so that it settles back into place. Clay refreshes his soil every time he digs. Kathy digs her ground approximately 10" deep using a shovel, then uses a Mantis tiller to break up the dirt. She adds bags of "Super Fines" purchased from Betty's Azalea Ranch or Merrifield Garden Center, rototilling these in, breaking up the clay and improving drainage. Super Fines is a bark mulch that has been shredded four times. Its composition is very light and fluffy. Claybusters is a similar product. This process is repeated several times and results in beds that are raised approximately 6" above the normal ground level. Bob Huesmann is writing an article on soil preparation which will appear later in this newsletter.

When do you begin planting? Everyone agrees that the soil should be 55 degrees or below before planting begins. Bob Huesmann usually starts much earlier than the other three. He often starts in the middle of September. Kathy and Clay never plant until the beginning of October, but generally towards the middle of the month and Mary usually begins planting in the end of October when all the daffodil meetings are over. Everyone shoots to complete their work by Thanksgiving (although most would admit to much later planting upon occasion). It is important to get the minis in the ground first when planting late. All bulbs need to grow roots before the ground freezes and this is even more important for tiny bulbs which are planted closer to the surface than their bigger brothers. If you have bulbs, then get them in the ground whenever you can. They can not survive being out of the ground for an entire year. Early spring planting is possible if the bulbs are still firm. Soft bulbs should always be thrown away.

Do you plant your bulbs in any particular order? Everyone agrees that getting your bulbs ready for planting is far more time-consuming than getting them in the ground. It is important to have your labels made and a planting order determined before you head out to your beds. Kathy plants her bulbs in alpha order by division. This makes it easier to find a particular variety at show time. She also makes sure that bulbs planted next to one another do not have similar color codes. This helps with identification when there is a mix-up. Mary does the same. This practice was learned from Delia Bankhead. Clay learned his planting method from Marie Bozievich. He plants in alpha order only for everything going in the ground during a given year. Clay feels that intermixing divisions reduces the risk of problems. Bob Huesmann doesn't plant in any particular order. He plants bulbs in the location he thinks they will do the best. Like Clay he feels mixing the divisions helps with potential disease problems. Bob makes sure similar color codes are not next to one another. Kathy has observed that division 6's prefer some summer shade and tolerate or even like some summer moisture. More on these observations in a later article.

How many bulbs do you plant of a particular variety? Most of these exhibitors only purchase one bulb of a given variety. A few are willing to shell out the extra bucks for something that has a really good track record. Once established, their methods are similar. More are planted back of varieties that have performed well, both in quantity and the number of locations. Really outstanding cultivars are often placed in two or three different places in the yard to vary blooming times. Kathy and Mary plant back 4-10 with 6 for an average cultivar.

Clay typically plants back 7 and places them on a grid. Bob usually plants back two per hole, but plants multiple holes of the things he really likes. Much of this decision is dictated by available land.

How do you plant? Mary plants 7-8 inches deep. She uses an auger and plants one bulb per hole. Minis are planted 4-5" deep in berry baskets. Bulbs are rolled in Banvel prior to planting, a dust to prevent basal rot. 5-10-10 fertilizer is broadcast over the beds after planting and watering is left to nature. Bob plants at a similar depth. He uses Captan, Bonide's Bulb Dust or another general purpose fungicide powder which prevents fusarium to coat his bulbs. Again this is extra protection against basal rot. Fertilizer is placed in the bottom of the hole, followed by dirt, sand, than the bulb. Bob usually waters unless it is a wet fall. He believes that consistent and ample water is one the keys to great blooms. Kathy digs 8 or more inches deep, places 5-10-10 fertilizer in the hole or trench, then dirt, then small or medium Gran-i-Grit from Southern States. (This is a recent change. It helps with drainage and makes it easier to find the bulbs when digging.) Kathy feels that fertilizing below the bulb at the time of planting is the most important time to fertilize. It places the nutrients at the roots, where the bulbs are able to absorb them. Don't let the fertilizer touch the bulbs or it will burn them. Kathy hasn't been using a bulb dust, but may start! When it comes to minis Kathy uses fertilizer sparingly and usually broadcasts it over the planted area. She waters in the fall when it is dry. Like Mary, Clay broadcasts his fertilizer on all bulbs after planting. He has started using soaker hoses after planting.

Do you mulch? Everyone answered yes to this one. Clay uses pine bark mulch because hardwood compacts too much. Kathy uses hardwood. Mary often uses hardwood, but pine needles when she can get them. Bob uses chopped leaves as mulch and suggests never using hardwood because it robs the soil of nitrogen. All four growers agreed that the use of mulch was essential to keep flowers clean and free of dirt during flowering.

Do you isolate new bulbs? The answer to this question varied by the amount of space available. All agreed that separating new bulbs until you know they are free of pests and disease is the optimum situation. Some lift their bulbs after the first year to make sure they look OK. Kathy often hot water treats new bulbs, depending on the source. Mary, Clay and Kathy have all experimented with hot water treatment which is used to kill bulb flies as well as nematodes. The temperature and length of treatment varies for these two problems. Hot water treatment will be explained in a later article.

How do you label your bulbs? All four growers label AND map their bulbs. In addition to labeling and mapping, Kathy buries a piece of plastic milk carton with the name of the bulb and the color code written with a sharpie. This provides verification when digging and can be kept in the mesh bag after bulbs are out of the ground. Bob uses plastic sticks and a sharpie and admits that heaving can be a problem. Mary uses 15" markers purchased from S-W Supply Co. with a label made with a P-Touch labeler (these last at least 5 years) Clay and Kathy both use the 12" EON markers sold by WDS. Clay uses the plates that come with the markers and a lead pencil. This holds up for about two years. Kathy makes an aluminum label with a Dymo label maker purchased from A.M. Leonard. The aluminum labels usually last 8-10 years. All four feel that a label AND a map are essential to keep track of their daffodils. Most make the map immediately and several keep track of how many bulbs they've planted. Once your bulbs are planted and mapped its time to kick up your feet and celebrate!

More Information About Soil by Bob Huesmann

So much of what a daffodil -or, indeed, most other plants- needs to thrive comes from the soil that whatever we can do to improve our soil should be rewarded. Much has been learned through research and experience, but unfortunately there remain large gaps in the research. My own thoughts have progressed along the following lines.

1. Soil Content and Texture: An "average" soil is half air and water. Surplus water forces out air, so the air/water ratio of this half at any point in time depends on how much it has rained lately. About 45 to 50% of the soil is mineral particles and the remaining 5% or less is organic matter. The mineral content consists of sand (coarse particles), silt (fine) and clay (fine to very fine). The relative proportions of sand, silt and clay determine the texture of the soil. "Loamy"-textured soils are a mixture of these. To get good drainage, I aim for a soil that is on the sandy side: Sandy Loam, Sandy Clay Loam or perhaps Sandy Clay. (These would be more than half sand.) The clay portion is no less important, because much of the nutrient content of soil attaches to the clay particles. Clay also holds moisture in a form available to daffodil roots. Despite its small proportion in the soil, organic matter is vital because it also provides much nutrient value and holds moisture. Moreover, organic matter is essential to make a well-granulated soil into which daffodil roots (and my trowel!) can readily extend.

2. pH: pH is a measure of the relative acidity/alkalinity of the soil. pH 7.0 is neutral, less than 7.0 is acid and over 7.0 is alkaline. For daffodils, the conventional wisdom is that about 6.5 (slightly acid) is about right, because at this point most of the nutrients in the soil (especially phosphorus) are at their maximum availability to the daffodil roots.

3. Soil Amendments: In my own garden, I started in 1990 with a thin layer of topsoil (sod) over yellow clay. Like much of the soil in the Washington area, the pH was rather acid--about 5.5. (No wonder that azaleas thrive!) In other spots around the house I think the soil was "fill" that had been trucked in when the house was built. Over the years, I have altered my soil to a depth of about 12" of what is probably Sandy Clay Loam with a pH (my guess) of about 6.5. To get to this point, I first subtracted some of the clay, replaced some of it with ordinary topsoil, then added lots of sand (I use "all-purpose"), peat moss and my own compost (leaves and grass clippings) for organic matter, plus gypsum to separate clay particles and lime (the pelletized is easier to use) to raise the pH level and to counteract the natural acidity of the peat moss and gypsum. Because organic matter and lime deplete over time, I think it is important to replenish these at least each time a plot is dug. I use chopped leaves for mulch, so some of that incorporates into the soil each year, and I should probably consider a modest addition of lime each year as well.

4. Fertilizer: Over the years, I have come to the conclusion that a complete fertilizer is the best way to approximate the optimum nutrient requirements of daffodils. However, I do wish there were more research on the subject. For example, we know little about the role of the "minor" nutrients (they are essential, but in minor quantities), and I think it is possible that the nitrogen requirements of daffodils may vary widely at over the growing cycle (perhaps less in fall and more in spring). In any event, I now use Bulb Tone almost exclusively. It is fairly economical, widely available, largely organic, has what seems to be about the right proportions of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium (4-10-6), and includes all the other major and minor nutrients. In early spring, I have usually used some soluble "blossom booster" (10-60-10 plus minors) to make nutrients more quickly available through the overlying mulch at a time when daffodils are growing fast. However, I think Bulb Tone, applied somewhat earlier perhaps, should serve the same purpose. It seems logical that the times daffodils need nutrients most would be to develop root systems in the fall, then during late winter/early spring to support leafing out and blooming, then after blooming when the leaves lengthen, the bulbs enlarge and next year's flower forms.

5. Water/Watering: Most plant tissue (like 95-99%) is carbon, oxygen and hydrogen. Carbon and oxygen come from the open air via photosynthesis (hence the importance of sunlight) and hydrogen is derived from the water in the soil. The small remainder of plant tissue is drawn from all the rest of the major and minor nutrients which, despite their small volume, are critical to proper growth. Since they are made available to

the plant roots through soil-water-root reactions, the importance of soil water is readily apparent. It seems reasonable that a steady, moderate supply of water would be needed during the rooting stage in fall, more in spring to support rapid leaf and flower growth, then continued moderate amounts during the bulb development stage after flowering up until the leaves yellow. We can't control rainfall, but by judiciously-timed watering I would aim at maintaining a steady level of moisture in the soil, with perhaps a higher level in the spring. I emphasize the steady factor because too much water displaces essential air in the soil and also leaches nutrients.

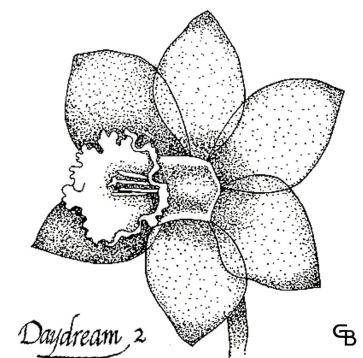
6. What else? We know a lot about growing daffodils, but plant and soil relationships are so complex that it seems there is even more yet to be learned. There are, for example, mycorrhizae. Many plants benefit from these fungi which attach "micro-roots" to the roots of plants, expanding their capacity to absorb nutrients. Natural soils contain mycorrhizae, but sub-soils which are often used for "fill" do not. I can find no research on mycorrhizae related to daffodils, so I think this may be an open issue, or even a non-issue. I wish I knew. In any event, mycorrhizae-producing fungi are commercially available if you want to experiment!

“Water Water Everywhere”, but what about the Daffodils? by Dorothy Sensibaugh

Reflecting on the past daffodil season I am reminded how each season seems to hold its own unique gardening experiences and lessons. As I write this we have experienced a spring and summer drought almost unprecedented. Hopefully the recent tropical depressions will cause the drought to abate, and will change the weather patterns so that we can look forward to normal rainfall. I look back to fall 2005 when we had record amounts of rainfall followed by a dry winter and spring drought. In spite of attempts to water it was difficult to make up for what nature had not provided. Many of us were pleasantly surprised at the wonderful large size and great substance of the daffodil flowers. We soon realized that the abundant autumn rain had played the major role in the quality of our flowers. We had long heard that daffodils in the spring demanded great amounts of water, but who would have thought what autumn rain was as important? We all know to water the bulbs when they are planted, but who knew, or would have thought that the bulbs demanded so much moisture in the fall? And I thought it was just another season. So this fall I will be watering the bulb beds.

BREAKING NEWS

Kathy Welsh filed the paperwork with the Royal Horticulture Society to name the Weston #13 selection as “Little Kibler” after the wonderful man who found this flower. I am happy to say that the registration has been accepted, so next daffodil season you will want to call the flower by its proper name.



Washington Daffodil Society Summer Meeting

Minutes June 3, 2006

Board meeting was held at 10803 Windcloud Court, Oakton, VA. Paul Botting called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. Also attending were board members Maxine Botting, Bob Huesmann, Mitch Carney, Mary Anne Barton, Rebecca Brown, Bonnie Mirmak, Kathy Welsh, Chriss Rainey, Spencer Rainey, Mary Semrad, Robert Darling and Lucy Rhame. Paul thanked Kathy Welsh for hosting the meeting. The minutes from the spring meeting were accepted as amended to reflect that Spencer Rainey was in attendance at the spring meeting and that Clay Higgins is not a board member.

Bulb Order: Mary Koonce was not in attendance but it was noted that there were 90 orders this year totaling \$12,000 in sales. Discussion was given to making arrangements with growers as much as three year out to ensure ample supply of bulbs to fill the order.

Membership: Maxine Botting reported that WDS has 193 members at this time of which 30 have not yet renewed. WDS had 27 new members last year. Bonnie Mirmak noted there are 25 club members of which 6 need to renew. Bonnie will call those that have not renewed membership. Newsletter: Mary Anne Barton plans to include more horticulture and 'fun' articles in the newsletter. A committee is to be established to discuss logistics of getting newsletter on email. Daffodil Show: Mitch Carney reported that the show at Brookside was not only very pretty, but well attended. All thanked Mitch for his hard work and leadership. The show in 2007 will be held at Brookside Gardens on April 14 and 15, 2007. Consideration is being given to revising the schedule, particularly in the wording of the collection classes, ie. Rimmed collection. The collection for garden clubs will be eliminated since this class has not proved a success due to limited participation. Consideration is being given to creating another class to encourage garden club participation. Chriss Rainey motioned, Tom Taylor seconded and all approved to include the newly established ADS Aqua Ribbon, 9 miniature flowers, cultivars or species from at least three divisions in the WDS show. In light of similarity to the Bankhead award (8 cultivars, 3 divisions), the criteria for the Bankhead award is to be reviewed. What the new Bankhead award will be, if revised, will be discussed at the fall meeting after further review.

Speaker's Bureau: Chriss Rainey had no report.

Spring Lunch: Lucy Rhame reported that 35 members attended the spring luncheon.

Treasurer's Report: Mary Semrad indicated that WDS is in good financial shape at the moment. Beginning checking balance as of 3/10/06 was \$10,024. WDS took in receipts of \$6,744 from dues, boutique sales, bulb sales and speakers fees. Expenditures total \$6,913 during the same period. Ending balance was \$9,873 as of 3/10. WDS has two interest bearing CD's totaling \$10,367, of which one is coming due 6/27. Mary will reinvest CD at better interest rate than currently earning. Not included in report is money received from bulb order and \$250 return of security deposit from Brookside. Issue with boutique at Brookside show this year. Had to be closed due to issue with recording and paying state sales tax. Will resolve by next year. Big thanks to Mary for all her work with the boutique at the convention which netted club over \$2000.

Storage and Supplies: Paul Botting stated a new storage facility has been secured at 12030 Parklawn Drive in Rockville. Mitch, Spencer, Tom and Paul all have access to facility which is full.

Website: Paul Botting would entertain any suggestions for improvement or addition to the site. Nominating Committee: Tom Taylor reported that his nominating committee consisting of himself, Lina Burton and Dorothy Sensibaugh has put forth the following slate for directors and officers to be voted on at the fall meeting. Nominations can also come from the floor at that time. President: Kathy Welsh / Vice President: Mary Semrad
Board of Directors to expire in 2009: Chriss Rainey, Dorothy Sensibaugh, Lina Burton, Ruth Ann McGrail.
Tom moved, Kathy seconded and all voted to approve the slate.

Fall Meeting: To be held October 28 at the Falls Church Community Center. Board to meet at 10 a. m.. General meeting to begin at 1 p.m. Thank you Susan Kroner for helping secure the meeting location.

Boutique: Nice note read from Jean Bowers, the artist for the daffodils on the glassware, thanking WDS for the sets of glasses and complimenting product.

Pie Eater's Show: Chriss Rainey reported that despite early spring, there were 9 exhibitors with 200 stems. All divisions represented except division 8. Very successful show which residents thoroughly enjoyed. Board consensus was that we should repeat the show next year.

Membership Brochure: Paul Botting will revise the brochure to correct Maxine Botting's address and include place to write email address. Members will promote mentoring program for new members in the future.

Annual Meeting: Much discussion as to when the new officers to take office. Currently the new officers are elected at the fall meeting and begin serving January 1 to coincide with the calendar year. Consideration to be given to having officers take office immediately upon election. Mary Semrad motioned, Mary Anne Barton seconded and majority approved with 2 nays and 1 abstention that new officers will be voted in at the fall meeting, new officers can have the floor at the fall meeting to address the membership, old and new officers will work together until January when new officers will take place. In the meantime, a committee will be created to review the By-Laws and revisit the issue of when officers should take office.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m., followed by a short General Meeting, refreshments, and garden plant or tool exchange, at the home of Kathy Welsh. Submitted by Lucy Rhame, Secretary

WDS Show Supplies- Your Help Needed

Paul Botting needs to make an Inventory of which members have what show supplies at their homes that they will be bringing back to next year's show. This will help us know what we might need to buy. Please let Paul know by phone: (301)869-3742, or by mail: 12901 Riffleford Ct, Gaithersburg, MD 20878, or by email: pmbotting@comcast.net. Thanks.

WDS Calendar --

2006

October 28

WDS Annual Meeting, Bulb Pickup & Bulb Exchange, Falls Church, VA

2007

Feb or March TBA -

WDS Spring Luncheon Meeting, TBA

April 14 & 15 - WDS Daffodil Show, Wheaton MD

May 5 & 6 -

WDS Pie Eater's Show, Reston, VA

June or July TBA

WDS Summer Social

Websites: WDS: www.washingtondaffodilsociety.org
ADS: www.daffodilusa.org
"plant societies" link at: www.gardencentral.org/ncafgc



MEMBERSHIP - New or Renewal

Name (s) _____

Address: _____

Phone No. (home) _____ (work) _____ email: _____

Would you like a mentor? _____

1 yr individual (\$10.00) _____ 3 yr individual (\$25.00) _____

1 yr household (\$12.00) _____ 3 yr household (\$30.00) _____

1 yr club (\$10.00) _____ 3 yr club (\$25.00) _____

Please mail to Maxine Botting, Membership Chairman, 12901 Riffleford Ct, Gaithersburg, MD 20878.