



THE WASHINGTON DAFFODIL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER, FALL 2013

www.washingtondaffodilsociety.org

Volunteer for Merrifield Garden Center in October**

OFFICERS:

President

Tom Taylor (703)698-8636

Vice President:

Donna Clausen (703) 751-6042

Secretary:

Lucy Rhame (703) 836-3532

Treasurer:

Tricia Goins (703)273-0639

Directors term ends 2013:

Judy Bruner (410) 730-1256

Ruth Ann McGrail (703) 779-2866

Donna Clausen (703) 751-6042

Directors term ends 2014:

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Martha Best (301)498-1329

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Directors term ends 2015:

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WDS WEBMASTER:

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COMMITTEES:

Arboretum:

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Bulb Order 2013:

Mary Koonce (304)725-5609

Membership:

Tricia Goins (703)273-0639

Newsletter:

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2014 Daffodil Show:

Glenna Graves (540)434-8587

2013 WDS Late Show:

Chriss Rainey (703) 391-2073

The WDS Newsletter

is published in the Spring, Winter and Fall 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

Message from the President:

Dear Daffodil Friends,

The Fall is always a much anticipated time of the year for me. I like the cooler weather, colors and Fall festivities. In this area we can “normally” look forward to very pleasant weather until Christmas. And for me it’s much more fun to plant daffodils than to dig them.

One of the highlights of this summer was a very enjoyable summer meeting and potluck lunch at the home of Karen Cogar. Everyone enjoyed the gracious hospitality, beautiful landscaping, good food, and stimulating conversation with friends. If you missed it, you should promise yourself to attend the next one.

**As in the last several years, we are obligated to help Merrifield Garden Centers explain the merits of daffodils to their customers in October. In exchange for this help they provide a place to store our show supplies and at the Fair Oaks store grounds. This is worth several thousand dollars to us each year. This year I am asking for volunteers for October 5, 6, 12 and 13 at the three Merrifield Gardens location at Merrifield, Fair Oaks, and Gainesville in Virginia. We agreed to be there from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. If we get more than 11 volunteers (I intend to be one of them) we can split up the times. Please let me know by telephone or email when you can serve.

After a lot of scurrying around and anxiety from learning that Brookside Gardens would not be available for our 2014 show because of parking lot construction, we finally located a suitable place for the show. Because of the difficulty and expense of having a show on a weekend caused by competition with higher paying weddings, we decided on a weekday show. The show will be held in the Fairfax American Legion 177 hall at 3939 Oak Street. I anticipate this arrangement working out well until we have the option of returning to Brookside Gardens in 2015.

Our next function will be the Annual Meeting and Bulb Exchange in Alexandria, Virginia. The agenda and location of the site are contained in this newsletter. I hope you all can be there.

Tom Taylor, President WDS, tom1939@msn.com (703)698-8636

WDS Annual Meeting, Bulb Exchange
& Bulb Order Pickup
Followed by ADS Judges Refresher –
Open to Everyone
Saturday November 2, 2013 in Alexandria VA
See Page 2 for Details

WDS Fall Board Meeting, Annual Meeting Bulb Order Pickup & Bulb Exchange

Saturday November 2, 2013

The WDS Annual Meeting, Bulb Exchange, and Bulb Order Pickup is scheduled for Saturday November 2, 2013 at Immanuel on the Hill Episcopal Church Parish Hall, 3606 Seminary Road, Alexandria VA 22304

10:00AM -12:00noon: WDS Board Meeting – All members Welcome to Attend!
Board Members please bring finger foods, chips, cookies, fruit etc. to share at the general meeting. Drinks are provided by WDS.

1:00PM – 2:30PM: WDS Annual Meeting, Bulb Exchange and Bulb Order Pickup

We will have a report of the WDS board meeting, a short report from the ADS Mid Atlantic Regional Director, Election of new officers, Bulb Sales, Door Prizes, Bulb Raffle and Bulb Exchange. **You do not have to bring bulbs to get bulbs!** This location has ample parking, is easily accessible, so please come and join us!!

2:30PM—3:30 PM: ADS Judges Refresher – Everyone may attend (Judges needing credits—see below)

Directions: 3606 Seminary Road Alexandria 22304.Immanuel on the Hill Episcopal Church Parish Hall. Seminary Road East exit off of I 395 North. Church is on right about a half mile past Inova Alexandria Hospital. If you have reached the intersection of Quaker Lane and Seminary Road, you have just passed the church. Large parking lot located on the side of the church.



ADS Judges Refresher: “Stump the Professor”

Richard Ezell and Anne Donnell Smith will field questions, plus discuss procedures to make final judging process more efficient. Mitch Carney will be the moderator.

For ADS Judges needing credit for this refresher, your charge will be \$3, please sign up with:

Kate Carney, Mid Atlantic Regional Vice President

Ph: 301 432 4728 Email: Mca1062357@aol.com

Address:

JUDGES REFRESHER REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Cost: \$3.00 with check made payable to **The American Daffodil Society**.

Report of Nominating Committee

According to the WDS Bylaws as amended, President Tom Taylor selected a Nominating Committee to be chaired by Past President, Glenna Graves, Newsletter Editor Mary Anne Barton and general member Kate Carney. The following slate of Board members is being presented for election at the November 2, 2013 Annual Meeting:

Tom Taylor, Pres. Second 1 year term to expire at the end of 2014

Donna Clausen, V. Pres. Second 1 year term to expire at the end of 2014

Directors:

Judy Bruner 2nd term to expire at end of 2016

Kathy Welsh 1st term to expire at end of 2016

Don Caton 1st term to expire at end of 2016

Mary Anne Barton 1st term to expire at end of 2016

Nominations (with the consent of the nominee) can be made by contacting Glenna Graves before the November 2, 2013 Annual Meeting at glennamgraves@comcast.net.

WDS Daffodil Show 2014

Glenna Graves, Show Chairman

Yes, we are going to have a Daffodil Show for 2014! The contract has been signed, deposit paid and now the exciting part comes in trying to mold our show to fit in the new space.

Our show will be held at The American Legion Hall – Fairfax Post No.177 –3939 Oak Street, Fairfax, Virginia 22030. The building is very attractive, easy access for handicapped as well as those carrying buckets of daffodils. There is plenty of parking space, good access to water, a covered porch that would be great for extra workroom providing we have good weather, and very accommodating people to work with. The location is also very close to Merrifield where our properties are stored.

The date for our show is April 16, 17, 18, 2014, which will be a Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. This is very different for us but I hope you will support the change and the show. Weekend dates are very hard to get and are VERY expensive. This week will be a busy daffodil show week but I do look forward to seeing a lot of you there to help with the show, entering your blooms and enjoying the fact that we are having another show. I felt sad not having a show last year and was determined that another year not pass without a show.

I will be contacting you very soon, if I haven't already, about your possible duties with the show. Many of you have agreed to continue with the position you had signed up for last year. Thank you. Please remember that setting up and taking down is also a very important part of any show so please offer your assistance. I would also like to have someone to be my co-chairman. This would be a good learning year and of course you would have lots of help for another year. A big Thank You to Tom Taylor and Mary Ann Barton for all their assistance in helping to find a new location and preparing for our 2014 show. We do anticipate having the artistic flower arranging section as well as the photography section.

Pictures of American Legion Post 177 in Fairfax, VA on next page.

American Legion Hall, Post 177, 3939 Oak Street, Fairfax, Virginia 22030



WDS BULB ORDER -- A COUPLE OF NEW WRINKLES

By Bob Huesmann

By the time you read this, most of the bulbs for the 2013 WDS bulb order should have arrived from our suppliers and our volunteers will be busy filling orders. Despite her illness, Mary Koonce has been very active in compiling the list and coordinating with suppliers. It will not surprise anyone to hear that she is itching to get busy using her eagle eye and vast experience to examine the bulbs as they arrive. Amelia Abrahams and Martha Best--what a team!-- have done a terrific job procuring the small bags for bulbs (over 1,500 of them) and printing and applying labels with buyer and bulb names for each, and placing them into order for those sorting and packing the bulbs. They did a lot of other stuff as well, and their work and mine was all facilitated by efficient and unstinting support from (no surprise here, either) Mary Anne Barton.

There were 1,463 bulbs ordered this year, a bit over \$10,000 worth, by 60 members. As usual, the various Bulbs of the Year received a lot of attention: more than a quarter of the total bulbs ordered, including nearly 50 each of Sugar Rose, Altun Ha Gold and Lauren. All of the Gibson bulbs sold out, and we had to increase our order for some of them. I was pleasantly surprised by the unusually positive reception (well-deserved, mind you) given several of the "connoisseur" bulbs despite their generally higher prices. (As an aside, is it possible that the greater emphasis on more recent registrations relative to older but still very competitive cultivars is a function of an aging membership? I wonder about that, and perhaps it's something WDS as an organization needs to work on.) Anyway--to continue: Intermediates, Classics, Historics and Miniatures all sold an average of 7 to (for intermediates) 9 of each cultivar/variety. The 112 cultivars in the open list averaged between 6 and 7 per. Generally, I thought the response was pretty well balanced. However, I was a bit surprised that Little Alice (5) and Ann Sonia (2) didn't garner more attention. Both are intermediate doubles which can be shown as standards as well, and Ann Sonia is something of a rarity as a 4 W-W. We didn't sell any Fiona McKillop, despite its established winning record in Britain. Descant 1 W-P, Dreamcatcher 2 W-P and Louise Randall 2 W-W didn't receive the attention I thought they deserved, either. A few of each of these are still available (see below), along with some of the more popular varieties, and should merit attention from members.

Please note the following two changes from normal procedure, both influenced by the late date of the Fall Annual General Meeting.

1. If all goes as expected, we should have orders packed and ready to go by mid October. Because the Fall Meeting is late (Nov 2) this year, some members who specified pick-up at WDS may wish to get their bulbs and start planting earlier than that. To facilitate this, I will store the completed orders at my house for Maryland and D. C. members, where they can be picked up by mutual arrangement. Tom Taylor will provide this service to northern Virginia residents. Any bulbs not picked up by Nov 2 will be available as usual at the Fall Meeting.

2. Every year we have a few extra bulbs available for sale to members at the Fall Meeting. This year, partly due to the late date of the Fall Meeting, I have decided to list some of the bulbs which I estimate at this time will be available. WDS members may reserve them now by email (bob@huesmannfamily.com). The bulbs can be picked up and paid for only at the Fall Meeting. Here are some that are likely to be available:

Cultivar	# Available	Price (each)
Sugar Rose 6 W-GWP	up to 4	\$11.00
Three Oaks 1 W-Y	3	11.00
Laughing Bird Caye 1 YYW-Y	4	11.00
Louise Randall 2 W-W	4	8.00
Altun Ha Gold 2 Y-Y	6	6.50
Berceuse 2 W-P	3	6.00
Mt. Ophir 3 W-R	2	20.00
Honeyorange 2 O-R	2	8.50
Lauren 3 Y-GYR	5	6.50
Descant 1 W-P	3	8.00
Fiona McKillop 2 W-Y	3	6.50
Blue Danube 1 W-W	2	9.00
Cosmic Dance 2 O-R	2	7.00
Ivory Gold 1 W-O	2	7.50
Hanky Panky 11a Y-Y	2	11.00
Little Alice 4 Y-O (intermediate)	2	16.00
Ann Sonia 4 W-W (intermediate)	2	16.00
Kholmes	7	6.00
Trelissick 7 Y-GYY (fragrant!)	5	3.00
Littlefield 7 O-GOO (Scamp, 2002)	5	7.00

Sugar Rose



Kholmes



Also, a few Blue Ribbon Collections are likely to be available, price \$19.00 each. Other bulbs will also be available at the Fall Meeting, as usual.

The Pointed End of the Bulb is the Top!

By Glenna Graves

We all have our own general methods of planting, watering, drying and storing bulbs but sometimes it is good to review and see if there are other ideas that may improve our efforts to growing bigger and better daffodil blooms.

Good drainage, proper sunlight, adequate watering and good soil preparation and soil maintenance are some of the main ingredients for having beautiful blooms.

- A well-drained area may be a hillside but for those of us that do not have a hillside perhaps we could

make a raised bed. A 2X4 elevation could be all that is needed to give that extra bit of drainage. Planting in pots is becoming more popular for the convenience, especially in urban living areas, as well as drainage.

- A sunny location is essential for good blooms and also for the growth of the new bulb at the end of the bloom season. Many times we plant bulbs in what is a good location only to have fewer blooms as time goes on. If bulbs are to be left in an area for several years make sure that the adjoining plants and trees have not overgrown the ‘sunny’ spot and now most of the day shade is present. Sun is essential for photosynthesis to occur – the foliage provides the food nutrients for the new bulb.
- Adequate water supply is essential. If Mother Nature does not provide at least a half-inch of water per week then we must have a watering program. This could be a hand held hose or a drip line but bulb growth is dependent on WATER. Automatic watering systems are great if used at the appropriate time but can be deadly if left to automatically water all summer long. Bulbs need the summer dormant months to rest. Remember how large the bulbs from Holland are when grown in the flooded beds?
- Proper fertilization is also another must. Knowing your soil pH is a wise move. Well-rotted compost would be the ideal soil amendment. We generally use some fertilizer – 5-10-10- or bulb tone, etc. – when planting but must remember not to use a high nitrogen content as this can provide beautiful leaves and not many blooms. Usually after the bulbs are planted you can top dress with 5-10-10 or such fertilizer, then again when the leaves begin to emerge and also could use 0-10-10 or 0-0-50 as top dressing when blooms appear.
- Proper soil preparation is also essential. We want to make sure our planting areas are cleaned off of all old foliage and debris from the summer growing season to prevent rot etc. The soil should be dug/loosened at least 12” deep to allow for good root growth space. The bulbs are planted about 6” down on average (2” for miniatures) with the pointed end up! Watering after planting is good for root growth to begin. November is generally a good time to plant in our area as the soil has cooled.

As noted before it is good to see what other successful people are doing to have their beautiful daffodil blooms. Any so-called short cuts can be appreciated. Brent and Becky Bulbs of Gloucester have developed their ‘new’ way of planting bulbs called No Hole Planting! They feel the first and most important approach to good bulbs is to feed the soil and not just feeding the bulb. We need to enrich new soil with rich organic matter. Compost is B & B choice of organic matter and they make it on site. “Black Gold” is the result and offers nutrients and loose soil for excellent drainage and root growth.



For a new planting area they put 3 to 6 “ of compost directly on top of the soil and place their bulbs about 6” apart on center, then cover the bulbs with three times the bulb height- about 6 inches- with compost made of aged small wood chips. This type of planting supplies the bulbs with optimal nutrients, excellent drainage and great weed control when topped with chips when needed.

I know we are not all able to have our own supply of compost for large areas but think about the process of doing this on a small scale for our small garden areas. You can get bagged compost called LeafGro at local Home Depot and Lowes stores as well as at Merrifield Garden Centers. Obtain good compost, place the bulb, cover and mulch ----no digging in that clay soil! I will give it a try in some small areas of my garden before frowning that this can’t work in my area. We often hear about using wood ash on our bed areas. Brent’s Father George was a believer in building and feeding the soil and would use wood ash to provide an excellent source of potash and other minerals and being alkaline would ‘sweeten’ the acid soil. New Jersey greensand is another excellent source of potash, which is very important to root crops. Epsom Salts (Magnesium Sulfate) was the third element used which Mr. Heath said enhanced the color of the pink and red cups. These are tried and true additives to help our soil structure and continue to be as important now as years ago.

WDS Meeting Minutes WDS Meeting – June 22, 2013

The June 22, 2103 meeting of the WDS was called to order by Tom Taylor at 10:40 AM at the home of Karen Cogar. Board members present were: Tom Taylor, Glenna Graves, Linda Smith, Judy Bruner, Mary Koonce, Donna Clausen, Mary Ann Barton, Martha Best, Amelia Abrahams, Ruth Ann McGrail, Lea Shuba and Tricia Goins.

The minutes of our February meeting were approved as published in the May Newsletter.

Newsletter– Mary Ann Barton reported on the last Newsletters mailed she added a reminder if membership dues were up to be renewed. She also stated she only sent out 57 hard copy Newsletters and thanked all those that are receiving it electronically. The **due date** for articles for the next Newsletter will be Friday, September 13, 2103.

Program - Donna Clausen reported our fall WDS meeting will be held on **November 2, 2013, at the church “Emanuel on the Hill” in Alexandria**. This meeting will be held in combination with the Mid Atlantic Region Daffodil Society, Kate Carney VP. A refresher class will be offered for those judges needing this requirement but everyone is invited to attend for culture education in growing and showing daffodils. Bulb orders may be picked up at any time, and we will also have our annual bulb exchange.

Website – Our WDS website is currently not working properly. Tom has been in communication with webmaster Phil Rappa to see how to remedy the situation. We hope to have that up and running very soon.

WDS Daffodil Show – Glenna Graves reported after receiving helpful suggestions and several personal contacts from many of you as to possible sites for our next daffodil show, she and Tom Taylor visited three sites last month. 1. American Legion Hall in Fairfax 2. River Side (headquarters of the American Horticulture Society) 3. MD Fair Ground area. After much discussion it was determined to present the Fairfax American Legion Hall location to our general membership for the location of our next show. At this venue our show will be on Wednesday-Thursday- Friday (not weekend) but the show room space is good, very accessible and would also have good area for artistic arrangements and photography exhibits. The workspace is good and depending on the weather a very large porch area could also be used. Another positive point is our show properties storage is just a few miles away. Weekend show dates –if available - prove to be very expensive, in the \$4000 range.

Treasurer – Tricia Goins gave the treasurer report. We have checking balance of \$11,754.88, CD of \$10,127.66. Our bulb order profit for 2013 was just under \$2000.00. A motion was made by Martha Best and seconded by Mary Ann Barton to accept the treasurer report as given.

Membership - Tricia Goins received several membership renewals following the Newsletter reminder but we do need to be more active in contacts to clubs and individuals to renew our membership base. A current membership list will be sent electronically to our membership. A hard- copy list will be sent out by Mary Ann Barton.

Glenna Graves gave a reminder sent out by the ADS for renewing your ADS membership dues before July 1, 2013. ADS dues will increase after that time. Both the ADS and WDS are trying to save \$ by not having to send out renewal reminders so please note date on your Journal label and WDS Newsletter when dues are due.

Nominating Committee – The slate for new directors will be sent out in the next Newsletter.

Bulb Order – Mary Koonce thanked Bob Huesmann for handling the bulb order information and receiving orders for this year. Everyone is encouraged to ask friends and other clubs to participate in our bulb order. This is our clubs main fundraiser to benefit future shows and educational materials and programs.

Being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM.

Following a covered dish picnic lunch, President Tom Taylor reported the minutes of the board meeting to our general membership present.

Karen Cogar and Mitch Carney gave a wonderful, detailed tour of Karen’s beautiful garden as our program. Karen’s garden was spectacular with current blooms and one can only imagine how it looks during the daffodil season.

Thank you Karen and family for your generosity in sharing your home and garden for our picnic and touring your garden.

Glenna Graves, Secretary

WDS Calendar -- check these websites for more information!

American Daffodil Society website:

www.daffodilusa.org

www.Daffseek.org

2013

November 2

WDS Annual Meeting, Bulb Exchange & Bulb Order Pickup Alexandria VA
ADS Judges Refresher, sponsored by ADS Mid Atlantic Region

2014

TBD

WDS Spring Luncheon Meeting

March 26-30

ADS National Daffodil Show and Convention, Little Rock Arkansas

April 16-18

WDS Daffodil Show, Fairfax VA

TBD

WDS Late Daffodil Show



Washington Daffodil Society
3707 Burrows Avenue
Fairfax, VA 22030

WDS Fall Meeting November 2, 2013
Annual Meeting, Bulb Exchange & Bulb Order Pickup