



# THE WASHINGTON DAFFODIL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER, FALL 2014

[www.thewashingtondaffodilsociety.org](http://www.thewashingtondaffodilsociety.org)

## Volunteer for Merrifield Garden Center in October\*\*

### OFFICERS:

#### President

Tom Taylor (703)698-8636

#### Vice President:

Donna Clausen (703) 751-6042

#### Secretary:

Glenna Graves (540) 434-8587

#### Treasurer:

Tricia Goins (703)273-0639

#### Directors term ends 2014:

Susan Kroner (703)536-3302

Martha Best (301)498-1329

Amelia Abrahams (301)869-0165

Dolores Felch (703)780-0766

#### Directors term ends 2015:

Suzi Worsham (703)669-396

Holly Ruffin (703) 248-0278

Lea Shuba

Linda Smith (410) 461-5951

Directors term ends 2016:

Judy Brunner (410)730-1256

Kathy Welsh (703) 242-9783

Don Caton (301) 432-4728

Mary Anne Barton (703) 273-8641

#### Immediate Past President:

Glenna Graves (540)434-8587

#### WDS WEBMASTER:

Phil Rappa (703)960-7445

[rappa3@gmail.com](mailto:rappa3@gmail.com)

#### COMMITTEES:

##### Arboretum:

Robert Darling (202)483-2126

##### Bulb Order 2014:

Mary Koonce (304)725-5609

##### Membership:

Tricia Goins (703)273-0639

##### Newsletter:

Mary Anne Barton (703)273-8641

[wbill@bellatlantic.net](mailto:wbill@bellatlantic.net)

##### 2014 Daffodil Show:

Glenna Graves (540)434-8587

### Message from the President:

#### Dear Daffodil Friends,

All of a sudden it is September and summer is over. Most of us have finally finished digging our daffodils (or as close as we are probably going to get) and are getting anxious to plant our much-anticipated new bulbs hoping for an outstanding blooming season next year. After the disappointing season we had last spring, we may be naively inclined to think that we are entitled to a good one next year. We always seem to fret right up to blooming time, but the daffodils will not give up their blooms until they get good and ready in spite of what we think. Fortunately, we always seem to have enough terrific blooms to have a fine show. I was pleasantly surprised last spring to see all the beautiful daffodils that showed up at our show after our nasty winter.

Several weeks ago, I sent an email to all members that I have addresses for, asking for help doing daffodil outreach at the Merrifield Garden Centers in exchange for storing our show properties at their Fairfax Center. They have allowed us to build a storage shed on their property and asked that we help explain growing daffodils to their customers. **This year we need helpers on October 4, 5, 11 & 12 from 10 am until 3 pm. If you can help please email me at [tom1939@msn.com](mailto:tom1939@msn.com) or call 703-698-8636**

This is my last newsletter as President of the WDS so I want to express my sincere gratitude to the membership for allowing me to serve in this capacity and for your cheerful help in overcoming our challenges. We have experienced some major disappointments during the last few years starting with loss of an adequate sized location to stage our 2013 show. Finding a new location took the help of many of our members and I was proud of the way the Board and members pulled together to solve the problems. We are very fortunate to have so many dedicated and talented members and I have been honored to be your President.

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

### 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

## WDS Annual Meeting, Bulb Exchange & Bulb Order Pickup

### Open to Everyone

Saturday November 1, 2014 in Alexandria VA

See Page 2 for Details

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

Saturday November 1, 2014

The WDS Annual Meeting, Bulb Exchange, and Bulb Order Pickup is scheduled for Saturday November 1, 2014 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 – 3:00PM:** 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!!

**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.

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### **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 1, 2014 Annual Meeting:

President – Karen Cogar; Vice President – Mary Koonce;

Directors for three year term to end 2017

Joy Duncan, Mary Schwegler, Susan Miller and Lina Burton.

Nominations (with the consent of the nominee) can be made by contacting Glenna Graves before the November 1, 2013 Annual Meeting at [glennamgraves@comcast.net](mailto:glennamgraves@comcast.net).



### **WDS 2014 Summer Social**

We had a lovely time at the home of Tricia Goins at our June picnic that included good friends and a lovely talk about the history of WDS by Katherine Beale. In this picture, Katherine is showing off the Watrous Bowl that was won many times by her parents and which she has donated back to WDS.

## WDS Needs Your Help!!!!!!

The Washington Daffodil Society has had a cooperative project with the Merrifield Garden Center for several years. They have welcomed our use of their Fairfax location to store all our Society properties in exchange for our help answering questions about daffodils during two weekends in October. By allowing us to have a storage shed on their property free of charge, we have saved thousands of dollars that we would have had to pay for storage.

This year we have arranged to meet our obligation on the first two weekends in October. We will need volunteers at the Merrifield, Fairfax, and Gainesville locations from 10 am to 3 pm on October 4,5,11 and 12. If we have enough volunteers we can divide the time.

This duty does not require that volunteers have an extensive knowledge of growing daffodils – most of the questions are very general. The Garden Center staff is very capable of answering any question we are asked. This can be a very pleasant experience as many of our volunteers in the past have enjoyed sharing garden talk with the customers and staff. Most purchased bags of bulbs.

Please call or email me if you are willing to help so that I can compile a schedule as soon as I can. I realize that not everyone can help for many reasons, but if you can spare the time, contact me at [tom1939@msn.com](mailto:tom1939@msn.com) or 703-698-8636 so we can get organized.

Thanks, Tom Taylor

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### WDS Daffodil Show 2015

Mary Anne Barton, Show Chairman

We are going to have our Daffodil Show for 2015 again at The American Legion Hall – Fairfax Post No.177 – 3939 Oak Street, Fairfax, Virginia 22030. The response from exhibitors and the public was very favorable and we are hoping for another good show. 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 dates for our show is April 15, 16, & 17, 2014, which will be a Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. 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 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 a chairman in training for the 2016 show. This would be a good learning year and of course you would have lots of help for another year.

We do anticipate having the artistic flower arranging section as well as the photography section.

I especially need one or two people to be in charge of the horticulture clerks during the judging period. Please contact me at: 703-273-8641 email: [wbill@bellatlantic.net](mailto:wbill@bellatlantic.net).



**From the Editor:  
A couple of sad notes to share:**

**William Pannill**, former president of American Daffodil Society, hybridizer of many of our favorite and best daffodils, and wonderful person, passed away in June at 87. I only met Bill once at a daffodil show when he was judging. He showed me, a stranger, great kindness by sharing his exhibiting and judging knowledge. He will be missed by his family and many friends.

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**Nancy Tackett of NCDS sent out the following notice about the closing of Mitsch Daffodils. This company will also be greatly missed.**

Dear All,

Some of you may not know yet, that this is the last year Mitsch Daffodils will be in business and they will not be producing a printed 2014 catalog. Elise put a short note up on Daffnet about their 2014 catalog being ready and available on their website: <http://www.mitschdaffodils.com/> Below is an excerpt from the Summer NCDS newsletter Bob Spotts sent out yesterday:

***News Release from Elise and Richard Havens of Grant Mitsch Daffodils:***

*We greatly regret that, due to age and health, this is our last catalog. This year we have made a considerable change by placing all of our items on our website instead of a paper catalog. Many cultivars are illustrated in our site, and for the others, please go to [www.daffseek.org](http://www.daffseek.org) or check previous catalogs. We cannot begin to express our appreciation for the many years of wonderful interest and support for our business and hybridizing program. So many of our customers have become personal friends and that will never end.*

**Editor's Note:** For forty-plus years Mitsch Daffodils has been a principal American source of new and proven garden and show daffodils. Visit their website to see their offerings on this, their final year.

The NCDS summer newsletter is where the author encourages our members to order their bulbs and includes a list of bulb vendors, the same list we have on our NCDS website. However, Bob took the extra step to let our members know the destiny of a business that has supported ADS and NCDS bulb auctions and shows for many years.

If you have yet to write your local and regional newsletters, please consider including advice about ordering bulbs and featuring our American bulb vendors.

I hope you are all having a happy summer, Nancy

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**It is time to start your plans for next year. Below is an article from the ADS website on putting your Daffodils in pots. This is a great way to have your blooms where you want them, especially if your space is small.**

**Growing Daffodils in Pots      Wayne Steele**

*Livermore, California*

The following information is how I grow daffodils for competing in daffodil shows. For everyday growing, you can probably increase the number of bulbs placed in a pot. It is preferable to use 2 gallon pots for standard size daffodils and 1 gallon size for miniatures and small bulbs. Sterilize used pots with Clorox and let them drain.

The soil mixture I've developed is a ratio of 1 part perlite to 3 parts sterilized soil. In the bottom of the pot, over a little soil, place a pinch of 0-10-10 fertilizer. Do not let the bulb come in contact with the fertilizer. Try to place the bulb about 1/3 of the way from the top of the pot. If you plant too close to the surface, the new roots will push the bulbs above the ground. Place only one medium size bulb in a 1 gallon pot. Depending on the size of the bulbs, place 3 to 4 in a 2 gallon pot. If the bulbs are on the small side, maybe plant 5 bulbs. If you see a bulb raising its head out of the ground, dump out the soil and carefully replant the bulb or bulbs at a lower level in the pot. For show bulbs, I prefer they do not touch each other. My rule of thumb is to place them at least the diameter of the bulbs apart with the same distance from the side of the pot.

After the 1st of November, heavily water the pots as it takes time for the peat moss in the super soil to completely saturate with water. Water every day for the first week. If you see pots drying out on top, give these extra water. Since our tap water is alkaline and daffodils prefer an acid soil, add about 1 teaspoon of Ironite (TM) for 1 gallon pots and 2 teaspoons for 2 gallon pots. This helps keep the soil acidic. After blooming, add a pinch of 5-10-10 fertilizer to the pot. This gives the plant a little added potassium and helps build the bulb for next year's bloom. If a daffodil dies in one of the pots, I do not use that soil for daffodils again, but for other plants.

Happy Daffodiling...Wayne

*Please note: Wayne was an award winning grower who planted all his daffodils in pots.*

***Additional Notes from Nancy Wilson of Garberville, California:***

Narcissus appreciate a summer baking. They do well in pots and containers deep enough to let their roots run. Six weeks after blooming turn the pot on it's side and place out of the way. Turn it up again in the fall to start another year of bloom. You can keep bulbs in a pot for two or three years, then dry them off, clean the bulbs and store them in a nylon stocking or paper bag, label and put in a dry place until fall.

For those of you who live in an area where there are severe winters, (temperature drops below freezing), you will need to store your potted daffodils either in a green house or garage. When the temperature is not dropping below freezing, bring the pots out of storage, place in a location where they will receive full sun and water the pots thoroughly.

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## **ADS Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting**

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**November 8th The Maryland Daffodil Society & Mid-Atlantic Regional Fall Meeting and Bulb Sale**

There will be a panel discussion about keeping your bulbs healthy & producing. Veteran hybridizers, growers and ribbon winning exhibitors will be part of this discussion. Anne Donnell Smith, Kate & Mitch Carney will be on hand to lead this discussion.

Bulbs from South Mountain Flower Farm will be part of the bulbs sale this year. Mary Koonce will be bringing some bulbs for a Chinese auction. Come find a gem or two to add to your garden. Everyone is encouraged to bring some bulbs to add to the sale. Please be sure to make your bags with the name of each cultivar and include its division and color coding.

10 AM at the Maryland Agriculture Center, 1114 Shawan Rd. Cockeysville, MD 21030. Contact Hilles at [hwhedbee@ix.netcom.com](mailto:hwhedbee@ix.netcom.com)

## **WDS Meeting Minutes** June 22, 2014 -WDS Daffodil Meeting

The June 22, 2014 board meeting of the Washington Daffodil Society met at the home of Mrs. Tricia Goins.

Present were: Tom Taylor, Linda Smith, Judy Brunner, Mary Ann Barton, Mary Koonce, Karen Cogar, Donna Clausen, Lea Shuba, Don Caton, Glenna Graves, Susan Kroner, Susan Hedrick, Jim Taylor, Amelia Abrahams, Martha Best, Jim Taylor.

President Tom Taylor called the meeting to order at 10:40 A.M.

It was moved by Mary Ann Barton and seconded by Mary Koonce, that the minutes of the February WDS meeting be approved as printed in the May Newsletter.

Treasurer Report – Tricia Goins. As of 6-20-14 the checkbook balance is \$11,012.68, and CD is \$10,192.87. Membership income from January 1 – June 20, 2014 was \$2,237.50. Expenditures were \$4,897.93.

The 2014 Daffodil show expense was \$4833.45. It was noted our big -ticket items were show venue being more expensive than previous venue, cost for property movers/truck had increased and we also had table rental expense as well.

Bulb order- Mary Koonce has extended the bulb order deadline until June 30, 2014. We are down in number of orders placed and we encourage all members to support our bulb orders to help finance our daffodil shows in the spring. Lea Shuba will become our garden club liaison to better communicate society activities and bulb order information in the future.

Newsletter- Mary Ann Barton is very pleased with the number of members accepting our Newsletter electronically. This enables us to have more photos, more color, and more pages' as needed with much less postage for mailing. Tom Taylor requested that if you know of someone who is not getting the electronic mailings but would like to please let him know so the matter can be looked into. We want everyone to get a copy of our Newsletter either electronically or postal mail.

Website- The website is up and running. Please check it out and don't forget to add the "the" at the beginning of the address.

[www.thewashingtondaffodilsociety.org](http://www.thewashingtondaffodilsociety.org)

Suggestions are welcome for what you would like to see added to our webpage.

Daffodil Show - There was much discussion of the daffodil show held at the American Legion Hall. Everyone seemed to like the venue and we have reserved the same location for the April 15-16-17, 2015 show...Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Mary Ann Barton will be the Show Chairman for 2015. Lea Shuba will be the Artistic Design Chairman .

It was recommended we establish a "Help Table" for those entering a show for the first time. We can all be helpers for those needing assistance. Also in consideration for those trying to get their blooms to the show bench we are reminded not to stop in the middle of the aisles to 'visit' as this congests the traffic flow. We thanked everyone who came and helped in so many different ways and were reminded there are many jobs available. At the November meeting there will be a sign-up sheet passed for those present to list the area you prefer to 'help' with at the show as well as other areas and/or positions of the WDS. We plan to improve our outdoor signage especially for the entry doors. Karen Cogar and Susan Hedrick offered to help Holly Ruffin with laminated signage information for the show floor.

Nominating Committee- The proposed slate for new officers of the WDS are:

President – Karen Cogar; Vice President – Mary Koonce; Directors for three year term- Joy Duncan, Mary Schwegler, Susan Miller and Lina Burton. The slate will be voted on at the fall WDS meeting.

Merrifield Garden Centers – As WDS members we have a joint venture with the Merrifield Garden Center. We are provided with free 'rent' for our storage building (show properties) on the grounds of the Fairfax Garden Center. In return we are asked to provide a few hours on Saturday and Sunday for two weekends in October to assist in the bulb department of the three garden center stores. This usually is the second and third weekends of the month and involves the hours of 10AM until 3PM. Provided we have enough volunteers this is divided into two or three hour shifts. The going rate for storage rental space is around \$5000.00 per year so you can see this is a great savings for the WDS and is well worth our assistance each year. Please volunteer to help when Tom asks for your assistance. We are there to answer questions about general bulb information, color, how to plant etc. It is not difficult and you meet many new people. This is also a way of letting people know we do have a Washington Daffodil Society and can offer membership information.

Unfinished Business- There was discussion about a Facebook page being established for the society. It was felt this could be a good way to inform public and members of the WDS activities and present new information. Susan Kroner will pursue this matter.

New Business – The fall meeting will be held on Saturday, November 1, 2014 at the Immanuel on the Hill Episcopal Church Parish Hall , 3606 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA 22304 – same location the fall meeting was held 2013.

The need, or not, of a WDS permanent address was also discussed. This matter will be continued to another meeting.

Mary Koonce recommended presenting each new youth member with a starter bulb collection. This would involve about 6 to 8 youth and would be a great incentive to encourage their continued involvement in growing and showing their blooms at our show. A motion was made by Mary Koonce and seconded by Linda Smith to give this collection for the 2014 year.

General business discussion was held concerning our Articles of Incorporation (Tricia Goins has), 501c3 status, society seal (Tricia Goins has).

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15PM

### **General Membership Meeting-**

26 members present.

Following a picnic dinner, Tom Taylor presented an up-date to the membership of the previous board meeting information.

Robert Darling gave a summary on the current status of the daffodil collections at the National Arboretum and a desire to make the Arboretum an ADS display garden as well. There are certain criteria that must be met for an approved ADS garden. Robert would also like to have an assistant in working with the Arboretum project. Many of the daffodils there are from the 1950's and are the only know source at present. We would like to make sure they are maintained for the future.

Glenna Graves, past show chairman, presented Jim Taylor with a gift for being The Most Valuable Worker at our Daffodil Show. Jim always shows up for the shows and offers help in MANY different areas. He comes early and stays until it is over. Helps with setting up and taking down and is busy the entire time. Jim is wonderful with classification before the judging and following the show can be found giving detailed information/tours to the general public explaining what the show is all about. Thank you Jim, we appreciate you coming to our show and all that you do.

Katherine Beale of Norfolk, VA presented a most interesting program on her Daffodil Memories of the Washington Daffodil Society. Katherine is the daughter of Richard and Betty Darden, names you may have seen on many trophy cups during years past. Betty Darden was an avid daffodil grower and developed very close ties with many of our WDS founders. Roberta Watrous and her husband were very close friends with the Darden family as were other very familiar names we all know from our association with daffodils – Throckmorton, Tuggle, Pannill, Bosevich....The founders of the WDS were growers, showers and friends. Katherine grew up knowing and learning from them and certainly has done her share of hybridizing, growing, showing and winning a lot of BLUE! She is currently an ADS judge and two years ago presented the WDS with a silver bowl her parents won at the WDS shows after winning seven of the eight years the Watrous bowl was awarded- then it was theirs to keep. Thank you Katherine for you 'history' of the WDS friends and also for the Watrous bowl for our keeping.

Thank you is also to be given to Jane and David Vaughn of Lynchburg for bulbs sent with Janet Hickman to share with those present at our meeting. The bulbs were all Rim Ride 3W-GYO, hybridized and registered by Bill Pannill in 1976. Jane is a nie ce of Bill Pannill and she wished to share his memory by sharing his bulbs. Mr. Pannill passed away on June 10, 2014 and his legacy as a Daffodilian will always be remembered.

Glenna Graves, Secretary

**BE SURE TO BRING YOUR  
DAFFY PHOTOS TO THE SHOW!**



**WDS Calendar** -- check these websites for more information!

American Daffodil Society website:

[www.daffodilusa.org](http://www.daffodilusa.org)

[www.Daffseek.org](http://www.Daffseek.org)

2013

November 1  
November 8

WDS Annual Meeting, Bulb Exchange & Bulb Order Pickup Alexandria VA  
ADS Mid Atlantic Regional Meeting, Cockeysville MD

2015

TBD  
March 26-30  
April 15-17  
TBD

WDS Spring Luncheon Meeting  
ADS National Daffodil Show and Convention, Williamsburg VA  
WDS Daffodil Show, Fairfax VA  
WDS Summer Social

**2015 National Daffodil Convention.** Join us on April 9 – 12, for an historic visit to Williamsburg, Virginia. Enjoy a beautiful daffodil show, visit with featured educational speakers, tour Horticulture at Colonial Williamsburg, and visit **Brent and Becky's Bulbs** for a tour and seminars.

**2016 World Daffodil Convention.** Join us in St Louis, Missouri, on April 6 – 10, for *Show Me Daffodils*. Daffodil enthusiasts from around the world will see a fabulous daffodil show, participate in interactive educational sessions, tour the world renowned Missouri Botanical Garden, and visit both commercial and private daffodil collections.



Washington Daffodil Society  
3707 Burrows Avenue  
Fairfax, VA 22030

**WDS Fall Meeting November 1, 2014**  
**Annual Meeting, Bulb Exchange & Bulb Order Pickup**