



Narcissus Notes

A Gloucester Daffodil Club Newsletter May 2026

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Karin Andrews

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Tammie Spivey

Daffodil Show Liaison

Carla Stanley

Fund Raising

Peggy Bowditch

Judy Burlbaugh

Bulb Exchange

Judith Williams

Hospitality

Cheryl Wingfield

GDC Bulb Collection

Julie Stone

GDC Visiting Gardens

Deborah Brooks

Upcoming Meetings—

- ♦ May 14, “Pink Daffodils” with Becky Heath
- ♦ September 10, Annual Meeting
- ♦ October 23 and 24, Middle Atlantic Fall Forum Regional Meeting

GDC Quarterly Meetings take place from 4:00—6:00 pm in the Chesapeake Room at Brent and Becky’s Bulbs, 7900 Daffodil Lane, Gloucester .

A Message from our President — Katherine Mazzocco

A May hello to all! Even Twin Sisters has finished blooming! Twin Sisters is a Division 13 (Species) hybrid that has naturalized in Gloucester. It has two flowers per stem and white petals/yellow cup. The Gloucester Daffodil Club has been so active with daffodil shows across the country, including the American Daffodil Society National Show in Chicago which concluded late April. Carla Stanley and Tammie Spivey will tell you more about that.

The best award, and the best story, is our new member, Harry Belvin, winning the Gold at the Gloucester Daffodil Show. As Peggy Bowditch said, some people wait 50 years for such an honor!

As promised, we will have Becky Heath, President/CEO, “Director of Harmony” of Brent and Becky’s Bulbs speak on PINK DAFFODILS for our May meeting. I have seen parts of her presentation, and it is stunning. As part of our focus on pink daffodils, I have included a newsletter introduction to Sarah Backhouse, who is credited with creating the first true pink daffodil. The daffodil was named, “Mrs. R.O. Backhouse”, (Sarah’s formal name) and she won the Peter Barr Memorial Cup in 1916 for her inaugural work.

This newsletter includes an order form for the 2026 Daffodil Collection which features 5 different cultivars and divisions of Pink Daffodils. Each collection contains 15 bulbs (5 cultivars of 3 bulbs each) and is available for \$20. Selection was headed by Julie Stone and Becky Heath-both known for their pink daffodil expertise. The collection will be available at our October meeting. We are asking that you order your collection at the May meeting and include payment for it- \$20 made payable to Gloucester Daffodil Club. Order deadline is September

**Please join us in welcoming our New Members and in remembering
Betty Zahn, a valued member of the GDC:**

Curtis Aumiller
John Porter

Vicki Kidder Clark
Lisa Popovich

Rick Clark
Mary Shipko

Ginger Peterson
Joanna Bousquet

Origin of the Pink Daffodil

“Sarah Backhouse: The 'genius' creator of the first true pink daffodil”—

"Sarah Backhouse (1857-1921) turned daffodils pink. The Quaker plantswoman was known for raising new varieties of red-cupped daffodils, and for the first true pink daffodil- her namesake, Narcissus 'Mrs. R.O. Backhouse', the most well-known and widely grown pink daffodil of the last 100 years. 'Mrs. R.O. Backhouse' is more of a salmon than a true pink, but the first to flower reliably pink and was named after Sarah by her husband Robert Ormiston Backhouse, in 1923, two years after her death."

Pink-cupped daffodils are unknown in nature, and their appearance as progeny of parents with no sign of this color must have baffled early hybridizers. Several decades after they first appeared it was discovered that the potential for pink flowers originates at the species level. It results from the 'dilution' of the red genes that naturally occur in species like *N. poeticus* when they are crossed with white species such as *N. moschatus*.

Such species do not occur naturally because the two species flower at different times. Early hybridizers overcame the problem by storing pollen in foil packets kept in cool conditions until the stigmas became receptive; nowadays the job is made easier with refrigeration." (Source: Caroline Thomson and David Willis, *The Hardy Plant Society's journal*, in 2020)

'Mrs. R.O. Backhouse' has probably done the most to popularize pink daffodils. Caroline Thompson says "The popularity, stability and vigor of this cultivar can be gauged by its ready availability today. It arose from the most unlikely looking parent, 'Lord Kitchener', another of Sarah Backhouse's cultivars, a prize-winning 'Leedsii', which was white and yellow". The pink coloring lies in the fact that 'Lord Kitchener' possesses genes from both *N. poeticus* and *N. muschatus* in its ancestry.

Treasurers Report — Linda Lemasters

As of March 31, 2026	\$9411.08
Balance in GDC Savings Account	<u>\$2,073.64</u>
Total Balance from all GDC Accounts:	\$11,484.72

A full copy of the Treasurers Report, is available upon request

GLOUCESTER DAFFODIL COLLECTION

2026 Bulb Collection & Order Form



Lorikeet - 1 Y-P - soft yellow petals with a halo at the base makes a glowing background for its long, flaring, salmon-pink trumpet, American bred by Grant Mitsch and part of his Bird Series; 16"-20"; mid-spring; 12/14 cm. Registered 1979.



Melodia d'Amore - 2 YYP-P - a beautiful name for this elegant flower; pale yellow petals with a deep pink cup and nice substance; 14"-16"; mid-spring; 12/14 cm. Hybridizer Karel van der Veek. Registered 2011.



Iwona - 6WWP-P - wide, overlapping and slightly recurved petals surround the cup that opens yellow and matures to salmon-pink; **fragrant**; hybridized by Jan de Winter; 10"-12"; mid-spring. Dwarf less than 32.5 cm or 12.8 in. Registered 2015.



Blushing Lady - 7Y-YY-P - soft yellow petals with a white halo surround a rich pastel pink cup; ; 2-3 flowers per stem; lovely, soft sweet **fragrance**; 12"-14"; mid-late spring; one of Brent and Becky's own hybrids. Hybridizer Brent Heath. Registered 2003.



Mallee - 11a W-YP - pure white petals with a frilled, broad pink cup colored in yellow at the base; beautiful in the garden and in containers; hybridized by Brian Duncan; 14"-16"; mid-spring. Registered 2001.

Name _____
Number Collections _____ @ \$20 each Total _____. Pay by
check at May or September 2026 meetings or send order and check to Julie Stone, 8715
Hickston Lane, Gloucester, VA. 23061. Deadline for purchase September 10, 2026.

2026 Spring Activities Recap— Carla Stanley

This spring has been a lively and rewarding season for GDC members, filled with learning opportunities, beautiful blooms, and memorable gatherings. The Daffodil Prep and ID Workshop on March 26, 2026, was both fun and informative. Eleven GDC members joined two experienced ADS judges, Catherin Gillespie and Fran Wall, to learn the fundamentals of exhibiting daffodils. A highlight of the workshop was the ID table, where Brent Heath provided invaluable help identifying blooms—an essential since only daffodils you grow yourself and know their names are eligible for showing. The event also welcomed special guests from the Oak Spring Garden Foundation.

Each garden offered its own unique charm, and all were truly stunning. A special guest, Alan Haas from North Carolina, joined the tours and generously brought thoughtful gifts to the hosts, including wonderful clippers and plant markers. The tours were made even more special by the personal touches from the hosts. Deborah Brooks shared her mother's apple cake recipe and Peggy Bowditch delighted attendees with festive Easter shaped tea sandwiches. A sincere Thank you to all the gardeners who opened their homes and shared their spaces with us. Special recognition goes to Deborah Brooks for her creative organization and coordination of this wonderful event. It was a great success!

Gloucester Daffodil Show—March 28-29, 2026

The Gloucester Daffodil Show was an impressive success, featuring 110 exhibitors in the horticultural classes, 1526 exhibits and 3,017 stems—The largest daffodil show in the country. The Best Standard Bloom (ADS Gold) in the show was “Fragrant Rose”, exhibited by new GDC member and first time exhibitor Harry Belvin, with 6 premier blooms entered. GDC members participated enthusiastically, earning numerous ribbons and awards for their entries. In the photography classes there were 158 photos, 25 photographers with the Best Photo by GDC member Judith Williams. A heartfelt “thank you” goes out to everyone who volunteered their time and energy to make the event run smoothly. Special appreciation is extended to those who prepared and shared delicious snacks and foods for exhibitors—you truly made the experience even more enjoyable. (Be sure to see Peggy's article for highlights from other ADS shows attended by our members on the next page).

Spring Garden Tours—

GDC's spring garden tours were another highlight of the season, offering members the chance to explore a variety of beautiful private gardens. Participation was strong across all visits:

- ◆ Debbie Burgess 22 Participants
- ◆ Deborah Brooks 21 Participants
- ◆ Genie Applegate 17 Participants
- ◆ Debbie Rollins 14 Participants
- ◆ Peggy Bowditch 13 Participants
- ◆ Katherine Mazzocco 15 Participants
- ◆ Group Lunch at the office 23 Participants



Gloucester Daffodil Club Members Win Major Awards in Numerous ADS Shows in 2026

While we want to celebrate the performance of our **Gloucester Daffodil Club** members we know that we may miss some. We apologize to those, in advance, before we begin.

Our **Gloucester Daffodil Show** had 3017 stems making it the largest show of 2026 and many other times. Members won the majority of the **American Daffodil Society** ribbons.

Winning the **Gold** for the best standard bloom in the show was **Harry Belvin** for **Fragrant Rose**.

Other members winning **American Daffodil Society** ribbons, in Gloucester were: **Genie Applegate, Susan Auman, Harry and Kelli Belvin, Amber Bridgeman, Wendy Calder, Anne Earman, Nancy Fuchs, Dianne Spence, Tammie Spivey, Carla and William Stanley, Bill Thomas and Judith Williams**.

In addition to our Gloucester Daffodil Show, club members attended the shows of the **Carolina Daffodil Society, Garden Club of Virginia, Georgia Daffodil Society, Maryland Daffodil Society, the National Convention, Tuscarora Daffodil Group Show, the Virginia Daffodil Society and the Washington Daffodil Society Show**.

They entered daffodils and some judged the shows. Our members didn't just attend these shows, they won many **American Daffodil Society** ribbons including the **Gold** at the **Garden Club of Virginia Show, the Upperville Show, the Virginia Daffodil Society Show and the National Show, in Chicago**.

A member also won the **Mini-Gold** at the **Virginia Daffodil Society Show**. We are especially proud that our President won the **Gripshover Award** at the **Garden Club of Virginia Show**.

Bringing home **American Daffodil Society** ribbons were: **Susan Auman, Curtis Aumiller, Peggy Bowditch, Ceci Brown, Kate and Mitch Carney, Anne Earman, Katherine Mazzocco, Dianne Spence, Tammie Spivey, and Carla and William Stanley**.

Also taking ribbon winning daffodils beyond Gloucester were: **Tal Ambrose, Ceci Brown, Wendy Calder, Debbie Cameron, Nancy Fuchs, Glenna Graves, Allen Haas, Dan Hopkins, Tina McManus, Debbie Rollins, Marty Ross, Kathy Schanze, Julie Stone and Judith Williams**.

The Gloucester Daffodil Club was well represented at all of the shows that our members attended and judged.

Daffodil Show, Awards and Pre-Daffodil Show Photos by Antonio Moura and others.





GDC at the Gloucester Daffodil Show—Photo by:
GDC Daffodil Garden Tour—Photo by:



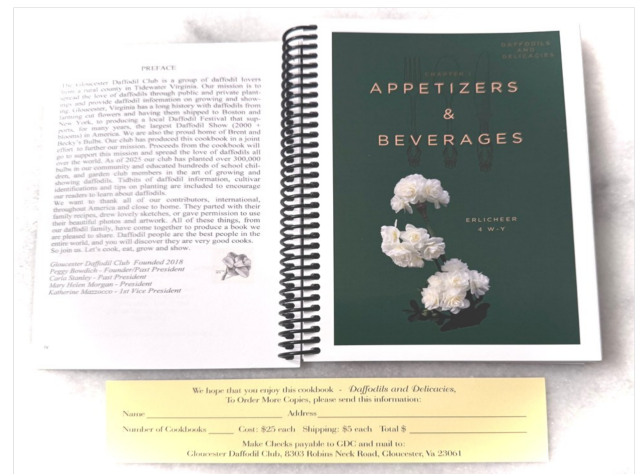
Fundraising: Peggy Bowditch “Daffodils and Delicacies” — Cookbook Sales and Distribution

One thousand copies of our cookbook for “Divine Dining” Daffodils and Delicacies arrived in Gloucester in March 2025. The cost of the delivered order cost \$9,108. We have distributed 786 books realizing a profit over \$8,000. I also show \$500 in receipts from mailing charges. We have 214 books in hand or with vendors.

If we sell 200 of the remaining at \$20 we will add another \$4,000 to our profit. We will sell a lot at \$25. I projected a \$10,000 profit. We should be successful. We need to sell the remaining books.

Eighty-nine (89) of our 131 members have contributed to the success of this fund raising project for the club. Maybe you didn't spend the hours Kathy did editing the book or contributing a recipe for a drink like Emily and Tal did or go to stores and talk them in to selling the book like Penney did and like Terri continues to do. But if you bought a book or worked at an event to sell a book, you contributed to the success of this fund raising

project. Thank you. If you are not one of the 89 contributors, it's not too late to join the list. Buy a book for Mother's day, a bridal shower or an “I Love You” gift. Perhaps you know a place that will sell our books. Join the list. Our club needs you.



<https://gloucesterdaffodilclub.com/gdc-cookbook>

Gloucester Daffodil Club Vice-President's Report

The Gloucester Daffodil Club is hosting the American Daffodil Society's Middle Atlantic Region's Conference on October 24th, 2026. This will be our regular club meeting, so our members will not be asked to pay to attend the meeting.

If you do plan to attend the Judges' Refresher Cours a fee of \$5.00 will be collected and sent to the American Daffodil Society (ADS).

Rooms have been reserved at the Hampton Inn for October 23 and October 24, 2026, for those wishing to come in early and not wanting to leave at the end of the conference. The cost is \$159.00 per night.

Gloucester Daffodil Club members will be asked to assist in making this the best conference ever.

There will be opportunities to help with food, gifts, venue preparation, clean-up, etc. Please let me know if there is a specific area in which you would like to serve or say “yes” when you are asked.

I am looking forward to working with each and every one of you!

Della Garrett

ADS MIDDLE ATLANTIC REGION FALL FORUM *LIVE!*

PRE-FORUM FOR EARLY ARRIVALS

FRIDAY 6:00PM OCT. 23

PARTY BARN AT WHITE HALL-DAFFODILS & DELICACIES

TASTING BUFFET

HISTORY OF DAFFODILS IN GLOUCESTER - JAY HUTCHINS

SAT. 8:30AM - 4:00PM | OCT. 24, 2026

FINE ARTS MUSEUM OF GLOUCESTER

6894 MAIN STREET, GLOUCESTER

- SILENT AUCTION - BULB EXCHANGE
- JUDGES REFRESHER ADD \$5
- GDC COOKBOOK TASTING LUNCHEON
- BRENT & BECKY'S BULBS
- WINE/CHEESE GARDEN WALK
- BULB SHOP OPEN - AND MORE FUN! FUN!

EVENT OFFERINGS:

MAKE & TAKE BULBS IN POTS - BRENT HEATH,

HISTORIC DAFFODILS - JANET HICKMAN,

ENGAGING YOUTH - MARY MALAVASE, W/PANEL

TAMMIE SPIVEY, CARLA STANLEY,

JUDGES REFRESHER -

ALL THINGS MINI - KATHY WELSH

REGISTER ONLINE: GLOUCESTER DAFFODIL CLUB

GLOUCESTERDAFFODILCLUB.COM

\$20 — MAIL YOUR CHECK BY 09/01

GLOUCESTER DAFFODIL CLUB

8303 ROBINS NECK ROAD

GLOUCESTER, VA 23061

Fundraising: “Treasures Galore” — Judith Burlbaugh / Silent Auction Items Needed

In 2026, we introduced a new fundraiser to the GDC to supplement proceeds from cookbook sales, in order to continue funding our daffodil bulb plantings.

We are counting on you to clean out your attic or other storage areas, to find treasures, preferably with a daffodil theme, that need a new home.

Those once treasured items can be donated to the GDC and become part of a silent auction held at our meetings. We’re calling it “Treasures Galore” and will be offering five to eight items at each of our upcoming meetings. Along with your item, you may have a story to share, that would be fun to include. We ask that each of your donated treasures have a

minimum value of \$20. For those who wish to buy rather than donate, your purchase is also a contribution!

How will it work? When you check in at the meeting you will get a number to use when you bid on an auction item. Please use the social time before the meeting and 30 minutes after the meeting adjourns to place a bid. The winning bids will then be announced. Winners may pay with cash, checks or by QR Code. Please contact Judy Burlbaugh if you have items you wish to donate.

Judy Burlbaugh

703-772-1733

Judyburlbaugh@gmail.com

For Honorariums—See Below**GLOUCESTER DAFFODIL CLUB HONORARIUM DONATION—Kathleen Gillerlain**

Please complete all requested information below to appropriately note your kind donation and wishes and return to Kathleen Gillerlain. For other special occasions, please note the date to be honored.

DONOR INFORMATION:

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Email Address _____

Phone _____

Acknowledge donation to individuals) as: Anonymous/self/etc. _____ DONATION AMOUNT (\$ _____)

RECIPIENT: “In Honor of:”

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

“In Memory Of”

Name of Deceased _____

Individual to Notify _____

Mailing Address _____

Additional Named Recipients, and information may be noted below. CHECK PAYABLE: Gloucester Daffodil Club

RETURN CHECK AND INFORMATION SHEET TO:

Kathleen Gillerlain, (757) 268-5124

2758 Frying Pan Farm Lane

Hayes, VA 23072