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**President’s Message, November 2022**

Over the past 6-8 years I’ve experienced a gradual deterioration of most of my container-grown daffodil bulbs. The scales appear to be eaten away, beginning at the neck, and proceeding downward. During this period, I searched through photos of daffodil diseases and pests but never found the type of damage I was seeing.

In 2017, while attending a workshop given to us by Brent Heath, I showed him photos of the damaged bulbs. He said he’d never seen that kind of damage and asked if I used pesticides. (He doesn’t.) I replied that I do use them; he opined that that may have been the cause. No, Brent, that wasn’t the cause, as I now know. But apparently, judging by Heath’s reaction, this malady must be a rare one.

Over the past few weeks, I've been removing and reconstituting all the soil from my nearly 100 containers. I was way overdue for doing that. Bad backs make it hard to work up the enthusiasm to tackle that kind of task. Well, no surprise, the potting mix was past its useful life and was retaining far too much water. Basal rot was rampant and only about a third of my containers had *any* bulbs. Most all that had survived had some degree of the scale problem described above.

Luckily for me, one bulb was missing the bottom portion, revealing a cross-section for viewing. And through a magnifying glass I laid eyes on the tiny little monsters. Bulb Scale Mites. They are less than 1/100 inch in size, and they infest the region between the bulb scales—a region unreachable with pesticides. The only remedy is the hot water treatment (HWT). You must cook the mites.

This treatment, also the only one appropriate for nematodes, is not a simple one. You need some specialized equipment: an immersion heater, an accurate controller or thermostat, and a circulating pump. Plus, you need some form of tank to hold 8-10 gallons or so of water that also is roomy enough for the equipment. And you need a inline GFCI cord to ensure you aren't electrocuted if the equipment isn't water tight. I heaved a deep sigh, bought the tools, and went to it. I did have an ice chest perfect for the job.

Here's the skinny on the HWT, at least according to Ted Snazelle in his 1986 booklet, *Daffodil Diseases and Pests*. (There are a few variations out there, both in treatment times and chemicals used.) The bulbs are given a pre-soak for three hours in cold water containing 0.5% formalin (a diluted version of formaldehyde) and a non-ionic wetter (adjuvant).

After the pre-soak, the bulbs are given HWT for three hours at 44.4 deg C (111.9 deg F) in 0.5% formalin containing a non-ionic wetter. Although the use of formalin gives some slight improvement in eradicating nematodes and other pests, its primary use is to prevent the spread of basal rot from diseased to healthy bulbs in the tank. The temperature must stay very close to 44.4 deg C because a temperature much higher than that will damage the bulbs and one much lower won't do the job.

Other than skipping the use of a wetting agent, I followed Snazelle's procedure. I set my controller at 111.9 deg with a plus/minus range of just 0.2 deg and everything performed admirably. After about 3 hr 15 min, I removed the bulbs (I had 35 mesh bags total) and hung up them up to dry overnight.

Have I eradicated the mites from my garden? Who knows. Time will tell, I guess. I've also sterilized the recovered soil and the pots with hydrogen peroxide. I'm too old for all this.

Steve Guynes



**Bulb Scale Damage**



**The equipment: immersion heater, temperature controller, and circulating pump.**



**Photo of the HWT Process**



**Golden Lycoris radiata coupled with a Farfugium japonicum.**



**The equipment in operation without bulbs**

**TEXAS DAFFODIL SOCIETY  
OFFICERS 2022 - 2023**

**November 9<sup>th</sup> TDS Meeting at North  
Haven Garden at 1 p.m.**

There will be a workshop “Planting Daffodils in Containers” by our president, Steve Guynes. Also, there will be test bulbs and other daffodils for sale.

This year there will be 9 different test bulbs in the bag. The cost is \$20.

The varieties include the following:

Anfield 7-Y-O Midseason  
Elka (Mini) 1 W-W very early 1967  
Heamoor 4 Y-Y Double 1996 Mid-Season  
Quail 7 Y-Y 1974 Mid-Season  
Colin’s Joy 2W-GWR 1976 Mid-Season  
Grand Primo 8W-Y 1780 Mid-Season  
N. poeticus var. recurves 13 1951 wild variants  
Sweet Desire 4 W-O 2016 Mid-Season  
Zinzi 1a W-YYP (this bulb is not in Daffseek.org)

For additional information on these bulbs, you can go to [Daffseek.org](http://Daffseek.org) for photos and more detailed descriptions on each of these bulbs.

President	Steve Guynes
1 <sup>st</sup> - VP (Membership)	Tom Pearce
2 <sup>nd</sup> - VP	Sarah Andry/ Annie Hibbs
Secretary	Lynn Hidell
Treasurer	Stan Aten
Third VP - Programs	Diane Pike
Parliamentarian	Patti Brown
Committee Chairmen	
Budget	Stan Aten
Hospitality	Gayle Allison
Membership	Tom Pearce
Flower Show Chairman	Sarah Andry/Annie Hibbs
Photography	Spencer Coffey
Properties	Keith Kridler
Communication Liaison	Sue John
Telephone Committee -	Stephanie Haggerty and Diane Ganter-Pike
Yearbook	Mary Ann Moreland & Karla McKenzie
Dallas Council Delegate	Sarah Andry/ Stan Aten
Web-Master	Dr. Eric Hibbs
Bulb Selection	Karla McKenzie

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2022-23**

**Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> – Dallas Council of Garden Clubs at Texas Discovery Gardens.**

**Nov. 4-6<sup>th</sup> – ADS Fall meeting – Newport, Rhode Island**

**Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> 1 p.m. North Haven Gardens – Steve Guynes will talk about growing daffodils in containers.**

**Dec 1<sup>st</sup> – Dallas Council of Garden Clubs flower show at Texas Discovery Gardens.**

**Jan. 11<sup>th</sup> 1 p.m. North Haven Gardens – Tools you will need to get your flowers ready for the March show.**

**Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> 1 p.m. – how to safely transport daffodils to the March show.**

**March 10-12 – ADS National Convention Atlanta, Georgia**

**March 17-18 – TDS Flower Show Dallas Arboretum.**

**More detailed information on each meeting is to come.**

**Social media sites are updated for upcoming daffodil season, Follow, Like, Subscribe!**

Web - <http://texasdaffodilsociety.org>

Facebook - Texas Daffodil Society

Instagram – texasdaffodilsociety

**From Spencer Coffey:**

**Coming Home to a Blue Ribbon**

As some of you have heard me mention, our oldest daughter is a pilot in the Navy. She has seen pictures of previous TDS shows, but each March for the past 10+years she was living outside of Texas. In 2020 she was on a short leave, so we all bundled up (remember how cold it was) and came over to see all of the entries for the ADS National show in Dallas. Two days later she left for Japan to live there and serve on the USS Ronald Reagan whenever the fleet was deployed.

In the Spring of 2022, her service in Japan was over and she had a month off before going to a new position here in the states. Knowing how much she appreciated seeing all the entries at National, I encouraged her to get an entry into our TDS show. With a few choices available, the selection was "Red Devon". It was a TDS test bulb from 2016.

Her entry was in that Friday and a few days later she was off to a new assignment. She's getting ready to plant daffodils at her own house, so it's "game on" for next Spring's shows.



Photo of Spencer's daughter's Blue ribbon.



Spencer's daughter at work.

## Notes from the October meeting

Keith Kridler stressed how important it is to get your soil tested because every area is different. It is important to add fertilizer. Fertilizer only stays in the soil about 10 days.

A good test of the soil is to plant radishes or onions to see how they develop. If you can grow radishes or onions, you can grow daffodils.

Keith then talked about using a hot water treatment to get rid of mites in your daffodils.

Keith also brought ox blood lilies, spider lilies and even some bulcodium to share with the membership.

## Using a Pressure Cooker to treat for mites

Here is an article from Daffnet.org which is on the ADS website discussing how home growers can treat for mites. Becky Fox Mathews from Georgia posted:

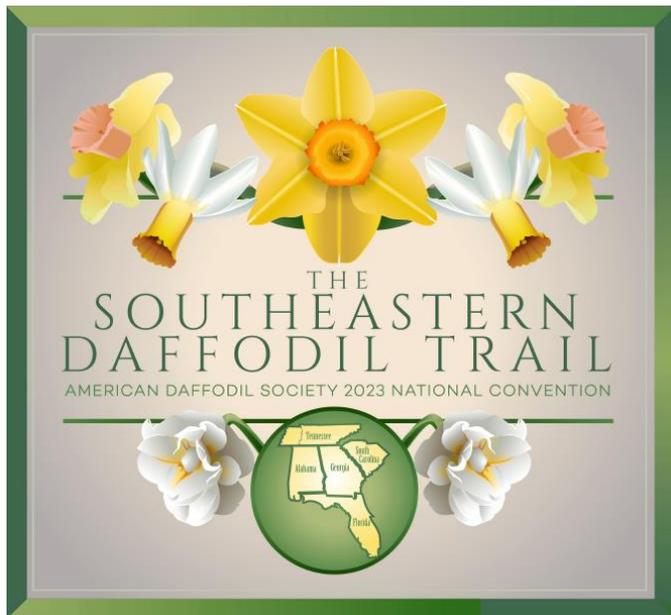
Anyone wanting to hot water treat their bulbs on a small hobbyist level might want to consider a sous vide machine like this one: <https://anovaculinary.com/>.

I've used the Precision Cooker one for 2 years now and am very pleased with how well it heats water quickly, keeps the water temperature exactly as set, and with the free phone app you can track the time and temperature even if you're not right there. I found a hack on YouTube for cutting

a small Coleman cooler lid, so the wand fits right through it. Suzy Wertz has used one, too, and gave me the tip to use a small organza gift/jewelry bag over the element so bulb trash doesn't get in it. I have yet to use it for what it's meant to be used — to prepare food. You cook foods (especially meats, it seems) in vacuum sealed bags or in jars in the water bath. Curious if anyone else has used one for bulbs — or for cooking.

### **Texas Daffodil Society Objective -**

The objective of this Society shall be to stimulate the knowledge of Daffodils; to share the advantages of association through conference and correspondence, and to encourage the planting and study of Daffodils, their propagation and identification characteristics.



The Southeast Region is thrilled to announce that they will be hosting the

Daffodil Convention at the [Crowne Plaza® Atlanta Perimeter at Ravinia](#) in Atlanta, Georgia from **March 9 – 12, 2023**.

Atlanta is the seat of Fulton County, the most populous county in Georgia. Situated among the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains at an elevation of just over 1,000 feet (300 m) above sea level, it features unique topography that includes rolling hills, lush greenery, and the densest urban tree coverage of any major city in the United States. Atlanta has a rich history of southern charm and grace and will be the heart of The Southeastern Daffodil Trail in 2023.

Attend our exceptional educational seminars and fun events, participate in our Spring Daffodil Show, take part in our LIVE Daffodil Bulb Auction, visit some world class local gardens, and don't forget to complete an accredited ADS Judges Refresher Course.

**Follow our progress in NEWS from the Trail ~**

[\*\*TRAIL NOTES NEWSLETTER – 10 JUL 2022\*\*](#)

[\*\*TRAIL NOTES NEWSLETTER – 5 JUN 2022\*\*](#)

*Join us in March of 2023 to explore new adventures with the American Daffodil Society on The Southeastern Daffodil Trail.*