



A JOURNAL FROM THE GARDEN AT FILOLI

style estates. Whole hillsides and fields were planted with the new bulbs. Daffodils, as we know them today, were actually a hot new plant then and wealthy collectors were paying large sums for single bulbs.

Daffodils have not been around horticulturally all that long, and it wasn't until the mid-19th century that daffodils were used much as garden plants. The old fashioned ancient types like the Tenby Daffodil (*Narcissus obvallaris*), Lent Lilies (*N. pseudonarcissus* subsp. *pseudonarcissus*), the yellow trumpet 'Maximus', and the species narcissus which naturalized throughout the English countryside, grew more like wildflowers. William Backhouse, Peter Barrs and Edward Leeds are all given the credit for popularizing daffodils. These men were country gentlemen and nurserymen and absolutely devoted to the passion of "improving" daffodils. The seedlings they developed between 1840 and 1860 eventually became important parents of the daffodils we grow in gardens today. These early English hybrids were classified in horticultural groupings and listed in catalogs as *Narcissus Leedsi*, *Narcissus Barri*, *Narcissus inconspicuus*, and star daffodils and were shipped to America for planting in public parks and in private estates like Filoli.

Filoli's Daffodil Collection by

Lucy Tolmach
Director of Horticulture

Introduction

No other flower says spring like the daffodil, and the pleasure of seeing a whole field of bright yellow trumpets planted *en masse* is a heartwarming and exhilarating experience. What better way to start the new year, and the daffodil season, than to visit Filoli in late February and March, to enjoy our daffodil fields and learn about Filoli's amazing collection!

English Tradition

Many of Filoli's daffodils were in existence when Filoli became a property of the National Trust for Historic Preservation in 1975. They were planted almost 100 years ago during the "Great Daffodil Renaissance," when estate owners like the Bourns, the DuPonts and the Rockefellers were planting a modern, new type of daffodil from England in masses on their English

As the process of improving daffodils continued during the early 20th century, another important English hybridizer, Percival D. Williams, hybridized and ultimately registered 242 daffodils with the Royal Horticultural Society. Four of his daffodils, 'Cragford', 'Halvose', 'Peeping Tom' and 'Trevithian', are extant bulbs and grow in various places throughout the garden and on the grounds at Filoli.



'February Gold' on the bulb slope. Photos by Author.

What makes Filoli's daffodil collection so significant is that the original bulbs are still here, growing exactly in the same spots where they were once planted by an earlier generation of gardeners. Many cultivars have survived the test of time. When the modern English daffodils were created, daffodils were brand-new and just coming into popularity as important garden plants. What was modern then has become historic now, and today Filoli, with its strong English traditions, serves as a repository for preserving this special daffodil germplasm. Many of Filoli's daffodils, which are yet to be identified, are still waiting like hidden treasure to be rediscovered and maybe even reintroduced back into gardens of the future.

How Many Bulbs?

People always ask how many bulbs we have in our collection and how many are planted each year. Last fall 72,000 daffodil bulbs arrived from bulb suppliers for this year's daffodil display. Of that total, 22,000 were planned for containers while 50,000 bulbs of 'Golden Dawn' were ordered to complete the new daffodil field west of the main house. Of the total planned for containers, 60 different cultivars of daffodils were potted up into 914 clay pots, which will be rotated in and out of the garden this spring as the season progresses. A new feature at Filoli this year will be a display of miniature daffodils, representing 13 different cultivars. These miniatures were planned for our Daffodil Daydreams event, as a special display just for kids, but we expect that adults will be just as fascinated by their size and tiny flowers. These little leprechauns of the daffodil world will be planted in containers and placed on the brick seating wall outside the Visitor and Education Center gallery where they can be appreciated close-up and together in one group. To accompany the miniatures, several new dwarf daffodils, which grow less than 12" tall, have been planted in the bed on the other side of the wall including 'Baby Moon', 'Canaliculatus', 'February Gold', and 'Jack Snipe'.

In total, there are 122 different daffodil cultivars planted within the gardens, in the fruit garden, on the bulb slope, in shrub borders, along roadsides, in pastures, at the picnic grounds, the gardener's quarters, the cottage, and the Visitor and Education Center. There are many more daffodils that still need to be identified so they can be added to the list. There are well over 500,000 bulbs planted between the rows of trees within the fruit garden located west of the yew allée, representing at least 46 different cultivars. The lower portion of this orchard contains rows of daffodils planted by the original owners. The rows planted south of the fig trees were all planted after 1977 using bulbs that were recycled from pots from the previous spring's display. This daffodil field is typically in peak bloom the first two weeks of March.

Since one daffodil field is clearly not enough, we started the process of planting another daffodil field in the former horse pasture west of the main house in 2008. This new addition to the garden was made possible by the generosity of Linda Caruthers, one of Filoli's past garden volunteers. After planting 50,000 more bulbs there last September, it now contains a total of 65,000 'Golden Dawn' daffodils. This fragrant award winner, with its glowing pale yellow and pale orange flowers, is



An exciting find, 'Hollandia'. This variety is a lost treasure and extremely rare!

Award-Winning and ADS Historic Daffodils

Filoli's collection contains 19 of the 32 American Daffodil Society (ADS) Wister Award-winning cultivars including some favorites like 'Ice Follies', 'Camelot', and 'Chromacolor'. The emphasis of the ADS award is garden performance, although the winners may also be of show table quality. To meet the criteria the cultivar must be a strong grower, with showy, long-lasting sunfast flowers, excellent disease resistance, and must be available commercially.

Our collection also contains 37 cultivars on the ADS Historic Daffodil list. ADS Historic daffodils had to be registered with the Royal Horticultural Society before 1940. Members of the ADS Historic Daffodil Committee have grown all the cultivars on the list in side-by-side growings for verification of their identification.

The New Filoli Daffodil Table

The new Filoli Daffodil Table (*see page 4*) included in this issue of the *Sundial Times* contains all the known cultivars currently being grown in the garden and on the grounds. It has been challenging getting the daffodils identified for a variety of reasons. There are not very many people around who can identify daffodils and there are 25,000 cultivars to sort through. Adding to the difficulty is catching the cultivar in bloom, because identification is based on flower characteristics as well as season.

Members of the ADS Historic Daffodil Committee have been very instrumental in moving this process forward and we are indebted to experts from all over the world who have been helping to identify Filoli's bulbs by responding to postings on DaffNet, the ADS list server. New technology, including the use of the internet and digital cameras, has really sped up the process. The ADS DaffSeek database DaffSeek.org



The ancient 'Maximus', one of Filoli's extant varieties, was grown by the Roman Emperors.

is a powerful tool for searching over 18,000 daffodils and contains the correct, up-to-date information for each cultivar. William Welch, who hybridizes tazetta-type daffodils in Santa Cruz, California is a real hero, and devoted many hours of his time last spring to get all of our tazetta-type daffodils straightened out. He also grew and supplied the 65,000 'Golden Dawn' bulbs we planted in the new daffodil field.



An unidentified star daffodil growing along one of Filoli's back service roads.

The new daffodil table lists only the daffodils permanently planted in the garden and on the grounds, as compared to ones grown specifically for display in containers. The ones grown for display are listed in the 2010 Spring Display List which will soon be posted on the Filoli website. The daffodil cultivars are listed alphabetically and information about their planting locations is also included. Extant daffodils are the ones in existence on site at the time Filoli became a property of the National Trust for Historic Preservation in 1975. They are marked as extant. The ones on the ADS list are marked historic. The ones that have received the Wister Award are marked as Wister Award winners. This new table is designed to provide information to help staff, interns, house and garden docents, garden information docents, and garden volunteers in answering visitors' questions and in making good decisions concerning daffodil maintenance and preservation.

Conclusion

No English garden should ever be without daffodils! They have been immortalized by the greatest English poets and playwrights and are beloved by English gardeners everywhere. Filoli has a significant collection, which includes extant cultivars, ancient cultivars, English cultivars, historic cultivars and award winners. They are the perfect plant for California's Mediterranean climate, with many uses and many cultivars from which to choose.



'Chromacolor', an American Daffodil Society Wister Award-winner.

There are also plenty of brand-new daffodils in Filoli's collection for our visitors to enjoy in our naturalized fields, in containers, in garden beds, and in flower arrangements. Photographers and botanical artists can come to Filoli and capture award-winning flowers, or illustrate endangered heirlooms from the past. There are many opportunities for learning about daffodils at Filoli, like the Daffodil Daydreams event, scheduled for February 26-28, 2010, which officially opens the daffodil season. Filoli became approved as an official daffodil display garden for ADS last year, and is the only one located on the West Coast. There are many benefits

to this new collaboration. We are thrilled that daffodil experts from the ADS will be here participating in the event, answering questions and leading a daffodil walk in the garden. Visit the ADS website for the best information available about daffodils and for the last word on daffodil classification and nomenclature at www.daffodilusa.org.

Daffodils ... I wandere'd lonely as a cloud when all at once I saw a crowd, a host, of golden daffodils ...

William Wordsworth (1804)

Daffodils that come before the swallows dare, and take the winds of March with beauty.

William Shakespeare, *The Winter's Tale* (1623)



'Cragford', one of Percival Williams' early varieties, was named after the famous racehorse, Cragford, who always came in first!

The Sundial Times

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Lucy Tolmach, Editor

Jim Salyards & Alex Fernandez, Managing Editors

Paul Littlepage & April Wallach, Proofreaders

Lucy Tolmach, Contributing Writer

Filoli, 86 Cañada Road. Woodside, CA 94062

(650) 364-8300

Website: www.filoli.org; Email: ltolmach@filoli.org

Filoli Daffodil Table

Gardens and Grounds

Cultivar	Locations		Cultivar	Locations		
4U2	Fruit garden, olive walk		King Alfred	Fruit garden	E	H
Angel Eyes	Cottage		Kokopelli	South drive		W
April Queen	Cottage		Laurens Koster	Bulb slope	E	H
Ara	Cottage		Lemon Cups	Cottage		
Australian Paperwhite	VEC olive walk. cottage		Lemon Glow	Fruit garden		
Avalanche	Cottage	H	Little Princess	Adm. walk bed,olive walk		
Avalanche of Gold	Cottage fruit garden		Martha Washington	South drive		H
Baby Moon	VEC gallery bed		Matador	Cottage,West field		
Barrett Browning	VEC olive walk		Maximus	Olive walk, W. fenceline	E	H
Beersheba	Fruit garden	H	Merlin	Cottage		
Camelot	Fruit garden	W	Minnow	VEC Olive walk by placque		
Canaliculatus	VEC gallery bed	H	Monal	Parking Lot, fruit garden		W
Carlton	Fruit garden	H	Mount Hood	Fruit Garden, West bal		
Cassata	Fruit garden		Mrs. R.O. Backhouse	bulb slope	E	H
Ceylon	Fruit garden	W	N. odoratus	Cottage		
Chinese Sacred Lily	Bulb slope,cottage, fruit garden	E	N x intermedius	Cottage		
Chromacolor	Fruit garden, VEC	W	N. x medioluteus	Persian Ivy by VEC	E	
Constantinople	Bulb slope, roadsides	E	Nazareth(Yael)	Cottage		
Copper Queen	Cottage		New Glory	Cottage		
Cragford	Olive walk	E H	Nicole's Favorite	Cottage		
Cum Laude	Fruit garden		Nir	Ivy yard, parking lot		
Daydream	Fruit garden		obvallaris(The Tenby)	Fruit garden,roadsides	E	H
Delibes	Fruit garden		Pay Day	Fruit garden,VEC		
Double Campernelle	Bulb slope	E	Peeping Tom	South drive by GH	E	H W
Dreamlight	Fruit garden	W	Pentewan(California)	Cottage		H
Early Splendour	English laurel hedge by RG	E H	Pipe Major	VEC olive walk by placque		
Elizabeth Ann	cottage		Pipit	Swimming pool by steps		
Erlicheer	Fruit garden,VEC	H	Pistachio	Cottage		
Exception	Cottage south Drive		Rugulosus	Bulb slope,lower fruit	E	H
Falconet	Fruit garden	W	Sagitta	Cottage		
February Gold	Bulb slope,VEC gallery	E H	Saint Keverne	Fruit garden		H W
Flore Pleno	Bulb slope, fruit garden	E H	Salome	Cottage		W
Flower Drift	Fruit garden		Serola	Fruit garden VEC olive walk		
Fortissimo	Fruit garden,VEC		Silver Chimes	Area one shop wall		H
Fortune	Fruit garden, bulb slope	E H	Sir Winston Churchill	Cottage		
Fragrant Rose	Cottage	W	Soleil d'Or	Roadsides,fruit garden,bulk	E	H
Fruit Cup	Cottage		Sound	Fruit garden		
Galilee	Cottage		Spellbinder	Fruit garden,olive walk		
Geranium	Bulb slope	E H	Spring Pride	Cottage		
Gipsy Queen	Walled garden		Stella	Cottage		H
Golden Cups	Cottage,fruit garden		Stint	Fruit garden		
Golden Dawn	Cottage,West daffodil field		Stratosphere	South drive		W
Golden Harvest	Fruit garden	H	Sugar Cups	Cottage,fruit garden		
Golden Rain	Cottage		Sweetness	Vec lower landing		H W
Grand Monarche	Cottage	H	Tahiti	Fruit garden		W
Grand Primo	Bulb slope,cottage	E H	Telemonius Plenus	Field South of corp yard be	E	H
Halvose	Bulb slope	E H	Thalia	Fruit Garden		H
Hawera	VEC olive Walk	W	Toby The First	VEC oLive Walk		
High Society	Cottage		Tommy's White	Cottage		
Hollandia	Olive walk	E	Trevithian	Bulb slope,fruit garden	E	H
Ice Follies	Fruit garden, pk.lot	W	Tripartite	Fruit garden		W
Inbal	Parking lot		Twink	Picnic grounds	E	H
Intrigue	Fruit garden	W	Unsurpassable	Fruit garden		H
Israel(Omni)	Cottage		Welch's Paperwhite	Cottage		
Jack Snipe	VEC gallery bed		White Medal	Cottage,fruit garden		
Jamestown	Fruit garden		White Owl	Cottage		H
Jamina	Cottage		White Pearl	Cottage		
Jonquilla Simplex	Cottage		Wintersun	Cottage,fruit garden		
Jules Verne	Fruit garden		Yellow Cheerfulness	Olive Walk	E	H

E=Extant H=ADSHistoric Pre-1940 W=Wister Award L.Tolmach 01/14/2010