

Greg Freeman's Garden Chronicle



Inaugural Edition

April 15, 2016

Hello, Fellow Gardeners!

Thank you for checking out the inaugural issue of my garden newsletter! As many of you know, for a decade now I have published [Southern Edition](#), a digital publication devoted to the American South, and I served on the Board of Directors of the [American Daffodil Society](#) as editor of the society's quarterly magazine, *The Daffodil Journal*, beginning with the June 2014 issue and ending with the recently published March 2016 edition. Busying myself with creative pursuits – writing, singing, songwriting and the visual arts – I have always managed to find time for gardening.

While I am particularly interested in the American South and daffodils, neither *Southern Edition* nor *The Daffodil Journal* have afforded me the opportunity to write about plants and garden-related fare outside those topical constraints. Southern gardening and daffodils will inevitably appear here, but I can also engage readers with myriad articles that inspire them to enjoy gardening to the fullest extent, whether one lives on the other side of town, across the country or around the

globe. And a little garden-related culture and history is a nice diversion, too, isn't it?

Thanks, again, for reading. I hope you enjoy!

[Greg Freeman](#), Publisher & Editor

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Tulip Fever Slated to Release in 2016



Perhaps you have read Mike Dash's critically acclaimed *Tulipomania: The Story of the World's Most Coveted Flower & the Extraordinary Passions It Aroused*, but did you know a British film set during the Dutch Golden Age is releasing later this year? *Tulip Fever* (2016), Sir Tom Stoppard's screenplay adaptation of Deborah Moggach's 1999 novel, features an impressive cast, which includes acting extraordinaire Dame Judi Dench. Originally set to star Jude Law and Keira Knightley with John Madden directing, *Tulip Fever* has seen its film rights change ownership at least once, and production or release of the movie has been halted or delayed on more than one occasion due to various circumstances, including a change in tax laws regarding film production in the United Kingdom. That said, the final product (or at least a semblance of it), directed by Justin Chadwick and produced by Alison Owen, was screened at France's Cannes Film Festival in 2015, prompting *Vanity Fair* magazine to declare, “*Tulip Fever* looks like the acme of artsy period prestige” (Lawson and Miller). In *Tulip Fever*, an artist (Dane DeHaan) falls for a young, married noblewoman (Alicia Vikander) while he's commissioned to paint her portrait during the tulip mania of 17th century Amsterdam.

[Old House Gardens](#), of Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA, is a specialist in heirloom flower bulbs, offering 'Lac van Rijn' (1620) and 'Zomerschoon' (1620), two tulip cultivars that date to the tulip mania, a period during the Dutch Golden Age when entire fortunes were gained and lost in tulip market speculation.

Lawson, Richard and Miller, Julie. “Harvey Weinstein Really Wants Jake Gyllenhaal to Win an Oscar, and More Lessons from Cannes,” *Vanity Fair*. May 14, 2015.

A Lesson in Faith

The Symbolism of Job's Tears in One Gardener's Journey

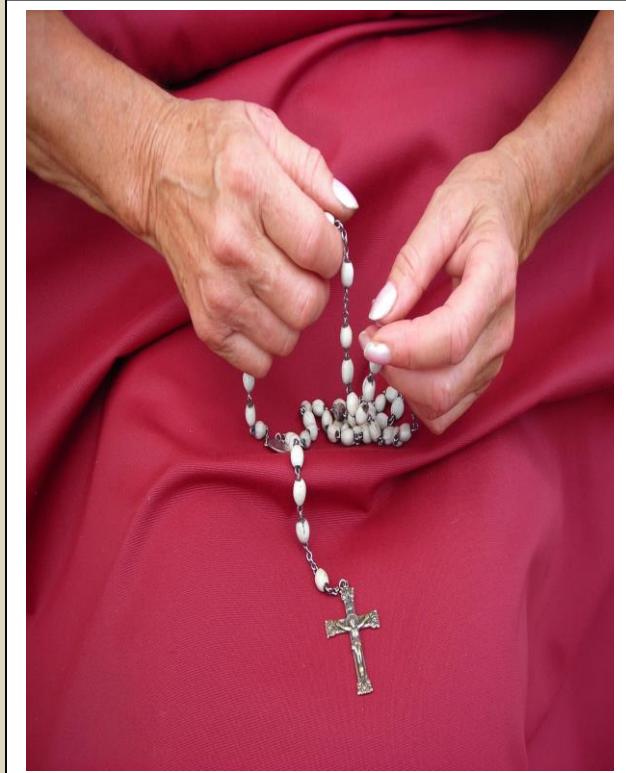
In July 2011, my friend and fellow garden enthusiast, Mrs. Leslie Hicks, shared a most touching story with me.

A client of my family's upholstery business, she and her husband, a retired commercial airline pilot, had lived in Chicago for decades before relocating near Greenwood, South Carolina. Though Greenwood County is well over an hour from where I live, Mrs. Hicks was a frequent visitor due to the proximity of her brother and several friends to our business.

An avid bargain hunter, Mrs. Hicks would occasionally share her latest finds, surprising me with everything from garden wire bought in bulk at a discount store to plants acquired on-sale at Greenwood-based [Park Seed](#). She enjoyed strolling through my garden, graciously complimenting whatever might be in bloom...even if the weeds had waged a full-scale invasion and the garden appeared disastrous. And we often talked about plants we would like to acquire or interesting things that we had read.

Somehow, the subject of Job's tears (*Coix lacryma-jobi*) came up in conversation one day, and I indicated that I wished to order some seeds from [Nichols Garden Nursery](#). Moments later, she retrieved from her purse a rosary adorned with "beads" from the plant commonly known as Job's tears and proceeded to tell the story of its origins.

Father Philip Grushetsky (1893-1980), a native of Ukraine's Galicia region, had been ordained into the Ukrainian Catholic priesthood in New York City in 1929, eventually serving as pastor of churches in Pennsylvania and Ohio before moving to Upstate New York. From 1959 to 1976, he served Saint Basil's Ukrainian Catholic Church at 3657 Walden Road in Lancaster, New York, just outside Buffalo. He and his wife, the former Anastasia Zuk, had four daughters and a son, and his firstborn, Luba, was given the rosary (pictured) as a symbol of the difficult times she would inevitably face. As an immigrant, Father Grushetsky had endured much adversity and predicted the same fate for his children. He knew that, like Job, their faith would be tested from time to time, but he believed that they, too, could boldly trust God and be victorious in their spiritual walk. After all, even Job – who had lost his family, possessions and health – had once proclaimed, "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him" (Job 13:15 KJV).



Luba Grushetsky (1918-2007) married Nicholas Bashnan (1914-2004), and they wound up living the latter part of their lives in Seneca, South Carolina, where they were long-time customers of my father's upholstery shop just minutes away. It was their daughter, Leslie Bashnan Hicks, to whom the rosary was passed down.

As a Southern Baptist of predominantly British ancestry, I personally relate neither to the Ukrainian nor Catholic elements of this story, but, as a Christian, I appreciate the spiritual aspect of the rosary. In Catholicism, there is the *Rosary*, a form of prayer named for the string of prayer beads used to count the succession of prayer components, and there is the *rosary*, the mere physical object. Still, the crux of this story is that of an unwavering clergyman who passed on both the rosary and a valuable lesson to subsequent generations, and they have honored his memory by continuing his legacy of faith. Meanwhile, some lowly seeds play their part in reminding the devout that there is strength for the journey and hope for those who remain faithful in prayer.

Brink, M. and Belay, G. (Editors). *Plant Resources of Tropical Africa: Cereals and Pulses*. Wageningen, Netherlands and Leiden, Netherlands: PROTA Foundation & Backhuys Publishers, 2006.

"Obituaries," *The Evening Times* (Sayre, Pennsylvania), April 22, 1980



Royal Collection Trust, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, London, England, United Kingdom

Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519), *Coix lacryma-jobi*, c. 1510, black chalk and pen and ink

An edible grain, *Coix lacryma-jobi*, or Job's tears, is grown in Asia for human consumption and medicinal purposes, but gardeners in the West typically grow the plant as a novelty, harvesting the seeds for rosaries, necklaces and other ornamentation. The seeds germinate readily, and the center parts remove easily to allow drying and the insertion of string or chain. Try growing some of your own!

Terrariums Easy, Affordable Indoor Garden Projects for the Young...and Young at Heart

Many hours of my childhood were spent being mesmerized by a world often overlooked by busy adults. Plants, large and small, and all manner of insects and small animals were at my beckoning, not in a vast botanical garden or protected national forest, but in my own yard!

I observed the ants toiling along their network of highways between the Bermuda grass and bean patch. I watched in awe as touch-me-not flowers (*Impatiens balsamina*), products of last year's inadvertent seed distribution, launched their seeds like missiles at the touch of my fingers. And I curiously witnessed my father's honey bees indiscriminately visiting virtually everything that bloomed. It is from these experiences, along with the lessons learned in the family vegetable garden, that I cultivated my own appreciation for plants and came to understand the vital relationships shared between living things. As a grown man, even now I find myself getting down to earth, taking a moment to sit on the ground, to feel the warmth of the sun-drenched soil through the seat of my pants, as I view my plants and the activity of birds and insects from the intimate vantage point through which I viewed them as a boy. I cannot help but see so much more than one would see if merely standing.

Perhaps that is why terrariums can prove so rewarding. One can truly enjoy plants – in their varying textures, shapes and sizes – at eye level, and the plant lover has a vast palette from which to render these unique indoor gardens. With the arrival of spring, I recently took note of all the tiny blooming wonders in my garden and front lawn, and it made me reminisce of my boyhood terrariums. Of course, at nine or ten years of age, despite my mother's impassioned protests, I filled empty ten-gallon aquariums with all sorts of plant life, as well as insects, spiders, snails, worms, stones and bits of driftwood, but I found renewed inspiration just weeks ago when I bought a container filled with fresh strawberries, blueberries and pineapple at my local supermarket. The clear plastic container would be a perfect miniature terrarium, I thought. So days later, when all the fruit had been consumed, I cleaned the container and set about to create a small world like the ones I thoroughly enjoyed as a child.

My choice of plants were all collected from the yard, and some stones and wood material were added for good measure. The photos below display my choice of plants, proving that these projects need not be laborious and expensive. Exotic, fussy plants from far corners of the world are not necessary. And terrariums like this one make great school projects or summertime hobbies for those sedentary youngsters who starve for stimulation and complain of being bored. Encourage those young people! One of them could become the next George Washington Carver or Frederick Law Olmsted.





Viola sororia (blue violet), native to Eastern North America, grows like a weed, blanketing sunny to partially shaded spots with patches of lush foliage, punctuated by blue to purple flowers.



One of my all-time favorite botanical miniatures, *Houstonia pusilla* (bluets) can be found in a variety of locations....lawns, along nature trails and even in lovingly tended gardens where its seeds always manage to find distribution. I once painstakingly collected some specimens to plant, hoping they would flourish and eventually self-sow in a terra cotta garden container, only to have the squirrels dig them up in search of last year's hidden nuts!



My boyhood terrariums frequently housed small tree seedlings. Here is *Juniperus virginiana*, widely known as Eastern red cedar. Of course, tree seedlings will outgrow the terrarium, but some can become bonsai tree projects or grow into specimens suitable for use in the landscape. Small cedars like this one are found along my pasture fence line and underneath other trees and shrubs, evidence of their spread through undigested seeds in bird droppings.



Seeds of *Viola tricolor* (Johnny jump-up) were originally sown in select locations in my garden. Since then, various *Viola* plants have appeared every spring, most predominantly white, others displaying purple or blue blossoms. While some might liken them to weeds, I look forward to these tiny flowers every year. A little color and cheer can come in all sizes!



To stay true to the “native” integrity of my terrarium, I opted to add a few bulbs of *Allium canadense* var. *canadense* (wild onion), which is actually regarded as an annoying pest in the garden and lawn. Also, a clump of young, tender grass (species unknown) was selected. Both of these plants contribute to the overall diversity of the terrarium, adding texture and filling gaps. Some moss and sedimentary stones as well as a small piece of decaying wood allowed me to add a terraced level to the terrarium’s landscape. As for the meticulous task of planting and placing items in a quart-sized container, I used a broken twig or two to “dig” holes and insert the plant roots. The result is an attractive display of plants that will thrive for months to come in a sunny window. All that is required is an occasional watering with a misting bottle and perhaps the removal of spent blooms or browning leaves. And the best part is that the pleasure derived from keeping such a fascinating little landscape did not cost a dime!

Hidden Botanical Treasures

As with every other area of my life, I march to the beat of a different drum where my gardening is concerned. I do not like cookie cutter gardens and rarely buy the latest mass-propagated and well-marketed plants offered at the local box store. Quite honestly, I prefer heirloom, pass-along plants over some of the cultivars that receive so much hype from some so-called garden magazines. Still, I must admit that I become as giddy as a schoolgirl every time I am able to acquire something new, rare or unique from a serious plant hybridist or collector.

My eyes have been opened to a world of possibility, thanks in large part to a fellow daffodil lover. On a number of occasions, Steve Vinisky, of [Cherry Creek Daffodils](#) in Sherwood, Oregon, USA, has made it possible for me to acquire and experience both daffodils and other plants that are not offered commercially or produced by the acre. Some of these plants have found my South Carolina garden unwelcoming, but others have thrived beautifully, including a lovely silver leaf cyclamen and a wonderfully distinctive primrose, each one with its own story to tell. Due to my full sun garden, these plants are tucked away beneath the partial shade of a tree and shrub, which anchor one end of the garden. I consider these plants my hidden botanical treasures, reserved only for the gaze of those who appreciate them. Plants like these are worth watching for, and opportunities abound for collectors of rare plants to obtain specimens as well as seeds. Some

recommended options are to join applicable plant societies or connect with sources on social media.

Silver Leaf Cyclamen

Silver leaf cyclamens are frequently coveted by connoisseurs from around the world.

The unpredicted beginnings of the *Cyclamen hederifolium* ex. ‘Silver Leaf’ I obtained from Steve Vinisky took place decades ago during the 1990s when Vinisky received “five ‘killer’ silver leaf seedlings when they were selling for 25 pounds each” in the United Kingdom. The plants were gifts from noted alpine garden authority Mrs. Kathleen N. “Kath” Dryden VMH,

Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire, England, with whom he had previously shared some miniature daffodils and other small rock garden plants. In the meantime, Sidney DuBose of Melrose Gardens fame had been a member of the [Cyclamen Society](#) for 25 years or so, and had applied for silver leaf cyclamen seed in the society’s exchanges and had never received any. When he finally received two packets containing six seeds each, he sent his best resulting plant to Vinisky. “From careful hand pollination of [his] two best silvers” (Vinisky), namely the Dryden and DuBose specimens, Vinisky produced an array of choice cyclamen seedlings which were offered in the 2005 Cherry Creek catalogue. My plant was acquired in 2009.

Native to woodland and rocky locales of the Mediterranean region, from the south of France to Western Turkey, *Cyclamen hederifolium*, the recipient of the Royal Horticultural Society’s Award of Garden Merit, is a tough, long-lived plant. “If I could grow only one cyclamen in my garden,” one author boasts, “it would without doubt be *C. hederifolium*” (Grey-Wilson). That said, these silver leaf cyclamens have proven to be a good choice and should remain vibrant for 50-75 years. Thus far, they are the only cyclamens occupying my garden.



Visitors of horticultural bent to my garden often admire the hastate or “Christmas tree” pattern of the leaves of these cyclamen. The green marking seen in the center of the leaf near the point is especially desirable and not always present in forms of *Cyclamen hederifolium*. This photograph was taken on April 8, 2016.



This photograph was taken on September 10, 2010. The blooms appear in early fall. Foliage emerges following the blooming period and becomes dormant during the heat and humidity of summer.

Did you know?

- Harvester ants are integral to the spread of cyclamen. Gardeners often observe cyclamen plants coming up in the unlikeliest of places. Ants collect the seeds and carry them to their nests to savor the sweetness of the outer portion of the seeds. Once they've consumed the tasty part, they discard the seeds, and the seeds (with the outer, protective casing no longer hindering germination) are able to sprout and grow.
- Kath Dryden was a recipient of the Victoria Medal of Honour in 1984. Awarded by the Royal Horticultural Society to British horticulturalists residing in the United Kingdom whose work is deserving of special recognition, the Victoria Medal of Honour can be held by no more than 63 horticulturalists at any given time, in commemoration of Queen Victoria's 63-year reign. As a side note, HRH The Prince of Wales was awarded the VMH in 2009.

Primrose 'Blueberry Swirl'

I never considered growing primroses until Steve Vinisky's glowing comments on his exciting double piqued my interest, and I got around to getting one. After several years in the garden, the plant is flourishing, multiplying and blooming impressively. Just two weeks ago, Vinisky posted a photograph of the plant on social media, and explained how the primrose was produced:

I've grown 'Dawn Ansell' for many years and [had] never seen a stigma. One year in June (very, very late), a side offset put up two weak, straggly looking flowers, both of which were single flowers with stigmas. I slapped some pollen from a selection of the [Barnhaven](#) 'Midnight Strain' onto these single flowers. One flower set seed, and 'Blueberry Swirl' is the result!



***Primula acaulis* hybrid 'Blueberry Swirl'**
(Primula acaulis 'Dawn Ansell' x Primula Barnhaven 'Midnight Strain' selection)

Not marketed on a large scale, *Primula acaulis* hybrid 'Blueberry Swirl' is one of my prized plants, and I am delighted that it is finding my garden conducive to its success.

Gardeners' Chronicle & Horticultural Trade Journal: The Horticulture & Amenity Weekly, Volume 197, 1985.

Grey-Wilson, Christopher. *Cyclamen: A Guide for Gardeners, Horticulturalists and Botanists*. London: Batsford, 2002.

Vinisky, Steve. *Cherry Creek Daffodils: Modern Hybrid Narcissus, Plants and Bulbs for the Collector*, 2005.

Ronde de Nice Courgette Farcie (Stuffed Zucchini Ronde de Nice)

One of the great pleasures of gardening is the lifetime of discovery it affords those who are eager to learn, willing to labor and open to change. After all, the methods of our ancestors have often been superseded, and plant breeding has transformed everything from the roses we plant along our walkways to the tomatoes we harvest on a balmy, summer afternoon. That said, there is much to learn from our past, and all that is new is not necessarily better.

From an [article](#) I wrote several years ago for *Southern Edition*, I came to understand the importance of preserving and sharing heirloom vegetables, and my conversation with Dr. David Bradshaw, Clemson University Professor Emeritus of Horticulture, and Mike Watkins, owner of [Heavenly Seed, LLC](#), was most enlightening for me...and, hopefully, for my readers. Since the publication of that article in 2010, I have made several purchases from Heavenly Seed. One of my seed purchases led to a generous yield of zucchini one summer from just two or three plants, prompting me to create a zucchini dish that, fortunately, even picky eaters have found irresistible.

Zucchini Ronde de Nice (40 seeds/\$2.00, 2016 Heavenly Seed catalogue) is originally from the south of France. This heirloom is distinguished from the common cylindrical, elongated fruits seen on produce market counters due to its small, globular ('ronde' meaning round in French) fruits, which are typically pale green with attractive markings. The plants are easy to grow, and zucchini is quite versatile, making a great substitute for pasta in lasagna dishes or a delicious addition to soups and hearty sauces. Given that the Côte d'Azur city of Nice is located near the Italian border, perhaps it is fitting that my recipe incorporates elements of both French and Italian cuisine.



Stuffed Zucchini Ronde de Nice

3-4 medium-sized (about 3-4" in diameter) round zucchinis, halved (cylindrical fruits can work, but will hold less stuffing)

1 small-medium onion (finely chopped and sautéed)

1 clove garlic (minced and sautéed with onion)

16 ounces chopped spinach

8 – 10 ounces seasoned bread crumbs or 1 box Progresso Panko Crispy Bread Crumbs (Italian Style)

½ lb. grated Gruyere, Parmigiano Reggiano or Piave cheese

4 strips cooked bacon (fried, blotted onto paper towels and crumbled) or guanciale (cured pork cheek)

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Wash zucchinis and cut in half. Spoon out and discard seeds. Brush or drizzle olive oil inside the zucchinis. Place zucchini halves in casserole dish or pan (that has been drizzled with olive oil), cover with foil or lid and bake for fifteen to twenty minutes to soften them.

Meanwhile, cook bacon or guanciale and put aside. Coat bottom of nonstick skillet or sauce pan with extra virgin olive oil and add a tablespoon of butter. Pour in fresh or frozen (thawed) chopped spinach. On medium-high heat, cook the spinach until desired texture has been reached and any liquid has been reduced. Fresh spinach will wilt rather quickly, and need not be overcooked. Add sautéed onion and garlic and crumbled bacon or guanciale, and pepper to taste. Thoroughly mix in bread crumbs, adding a bit more olive oil if consistency is too dry. If too moist, extra bread crumbs will absorb any excess moisture.

Lightly drizzle some white wine over the zucchini halves, allowing some wine to collect at the bottom of the casserole dish. Any good white wine (e.g. Pinot Grigio, Riesling) or perhaps some dry vermouth (sparingly) will suffice, and it need not be expensive. Spoon the spinach mixture into the zucchinis, and round them generously. Top the stuffed fruits with grated cheese, and return to 350 degrees oven and bake until cheese becomes melted and golden.

Van Gogh Paintings Spring to Life in New Film

Tormented throughout his short life with bouts of mental illness, Vincent van Gogh (1853-1890) was pure genius, creating some of today's art world's most treasured and priciest works. The second most visited museum in the Netherlands, in fact, is Amsterdam's Van Gogh Museum, which houses *Sunflowers* (1889) and *Almond Blossoms* (1890), as well as *Self-Portrait* (1888) and *The Potato Eaters* (1885), the first significant work by the post-impressionist painter. Flowers and landscapes were the subjects of many of his paintings, and he executed some of his works



National Gallery of Art, Washington, District of Columbia, USA

Vincent van Gogh (1853-1890), *Bulb Fields (or Flower Fields in Holland)*, c. 1883, oil on canvas on board

en plein air. “Van Gogh’s first garden subject as a painter was entitled *Bulb Fields* (1883)” (Fell). Works that followed have set auction records, including \$39 million for *Vase with Sunflowers* (1889), \$54 million for *Irises* (1889) and \$82.5 million for *Portrait of Dr. Gachet* (1890), which includes a foxglove.

Recently, as art lovers paused to reflect on what would have been van Gogh’s 163rd birthday, Gdańsk, Poland-based Breakthru Productions globally publicized a trailer for its forthcoming film, [Loving Vincent](#) (2016), the first fully painted feature film ever made. The narrative is derived from some 800 letters written by the artist himself, and his paintings are animated, dramatically and innovatively bringing new life to his canvases. “The film, directed by Polish painter Dorota Kobiela and filmmaker Hugh Welchman, is told entirely through the images and characters van Gogh brought to life — the starry nights, the snow-covered fields, the gloomy absinthe drinkers, the hardworking postmen” (Frank).

Van Gogh loved gardens, and is particularly revered for his sunflower paintings. Sunflowers (*Helianthus annuus*) make an eye-catching addition to the garden. Consider planting these distinctive varieties: the spectacular double, ‘Giant Sungold’, from [Park Seed](#); the stunning bicolor, ‘Helios Flame’, from [Thompson-Morgan](#); and the late nineteenth century heirloom, ‘Mammoth Grey Stripe’, from [Heavenly Seed](#).

Fell, Derek. *Van Gogh’s Gardens*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2001.

Frank, Priscilla. “Van Gogh Documentary To Be First Fully Painted Feature Film Ever Made,” *Huffington Post*. March 1, 2016.

Winners from 2016 Atlanta and Knoxville Daffodil Shows

A long-time member of the Georgia Daffodil Society, I look forward to our spring show near Atlanta every year. Held at the Chattahoochee Nature Center, our show regularly attracts exhibitors from as far away as Nashville and Cincinnati and, on at least one occasion since I have been exhibiting, we have welcomed a judge, namely England’s Ian Tyler, from across the Atlantic. My first experience showing daffodils (a flower of the genus *Narcissus*) took place at the Georgia show in 2004. As I became more serious about exhibiting, hybridizing and judging daffodils, I added other events to my schedule, including the East Tennessee Daffodil Society’s show in Knoxville, as well as the occasional appearance at the Middle Tennessee Daffodil Society’s show in Nashville. While serving as editor of *The Daffodil Journal*, I exhibited at two national shows: Little Rock in 2014 and Williamsburg in 2015. With limited entries at each show, I always fare well, and on occasion I have taken honors such as the American Daffodil Society’s Gold Ribbon (for Best in Show) and the White Ribbon (for Best Three Stems). The subsequent pages contain some of my most recent winners. Meanwhile, congratulations to my friends and fellow competitors, Tom Stettner, Dr. Mike and Lisa Kuduk (who have taken the daffodil shows by storm!), Molly Adams, Bonnie Campbell, Becky Fox Matthews, Jaydee Ager, Darrin Ellis-May, Lynn Ladd and many others, who help make our daffodil shows such a pleasurable experience. If I must be beaten, I do not know of anyone else to whom I would rather take a second (or a third...or Honorable Mention!).

2016 Georgia Daffodil Society Show, Chattahoochee Nature Center, Roswell, Georgia, USA



***Narcissus 'Wild Women'*, 1st in class**

This comically-named cultivar, bred by Rod Barwick of Glenbrook Bulb Farm in New Zealand, was first place in its class and a Gold Ribbon contender. This trumpet daffodil consistently rewards me with show quality blooms, and it has been used in my hybridizing program.



***N. 'Hot Gossip'*, 1st Vase of Three**

My winningest daffodil cultivar, 'Hot Gossip' has won many large-cupped yellow-orange single stem classes and vases of three for me. A Best in Show winner for me in Atlanta (2011) and White Ribbon winner in Nashville (2015), it has figured prominently in my hybridizing. Bred by John Pearson of England, this flower, though disliked by some daffodil exhibitors because of its texture, maintains color intensity in spite of my full sun South Carolina garden. The cup actually intensifies in color with age, and the flowers regularly beat newer cultivars touted for their "sunproof" coronas. I have thought of crossing 'Wild Women' with 'Hot Gossip', primarily because it would be so amusing to name their offspring!



Down Under Collection, 1st place

Comprised of cultivars from Australia and New Zealand, this collection includes: Back row – *N. 'Wild Women'* (Glenbrook Bulb Farm, New Zealand), *N. 'Terminator'* (David Jackson, Tasmania, Australia), *N. 'Coobar'* (David Jackson); Front row – *N. 'Erlieheer'* (M. Gardiner, New Zealand) and *N. 'Splatter'* (Glenbrook Bulb Farm).

2016 American Daffodil Society Southeastern Regional Show, East Tennessee Daffodil Society, University of Tennessee, Ellington Plant Sciences Building, Knoxville, USA



N. 'Hot Gossip', 1st in class,
contender for Gold Ribbon



N. 'Hot Gossip', 1st Vase of Three



N. seedling (DuBose), 1st Vase of Three

This delightful miniature daffodil is quite diminutive (less than a nickel coin in diameter) and always comes well-formed. Extremely fragrant, these jonquil-related daffodils have been used in my breeding program, and I have high hopes for a cross I made between this seedling and the tiny species, *Narcissus calcicola*. This is a consistent show flower from the late Sidney DuBose, Stockton, California, USA.



N. 'Mesa Verde', 1st in class

Hybridized by Robert Spotts, Oakley California, USA, this groundbreaking cultivar came on the scene as a spring-blooming green descendant of the all-green, autumn-blooming species, *Narcissus viridiflorus*. The photograph does this daffodil little justice, as the entire flower, except for the yellow rim around the cup, is green!



N. 'Sammy Girl', 1st in class

The first pink-cupped tazetta daffodil ever registered, 'Sammy Girl' was hybridized by Dr. Harold Koopowitz, Santa Ana, California, USA.



N. 'Actaea', 1st Vase of Three

A pre-1919 flower, 'Actaea' is classified as a Historic daffodil by the American Daffodil Society. This particular cultivar performs very well in the American South, a region noted for being unkind to poet-type daffodils (descendants of *Narcissus poeticus*). In an article for the June 2008 issue of *The Daffodil Journal*, Sara Van Beck, author of *Daffodils in American Gardens: 1733-1940* (Columbia and London: University of South Carolina Press, 2015), wrote, "Poets who write are generally well-regarded in the Deep South, whilst those that put up narcissus flowers are not. Few cultivars are ever recommended, with the workhorse 'Actaea' topping the list."



N. seedling GSF-05A-11-01 (Freeman) ('Stoke Charity' x 'Crackington'),
1st in class, contender for Gold Ribbon



Photo by Tom Stettner

In 2015, I won the coveted ADS Rose Ribbon with one of my seedlings. In 2016, I was privileged to exhibit a bloom of the first seedling I ever flowered. Pictured in the two photographs above, this result of a cross between John Pearson's 'Stoke Charity' and the beautiful double, 'Crackington', was shown against named doubles rather than other seedlings. To my delight, it won its class.

Daffodil Seeds For Sale

Each year, I retain and plant seeds from my deliberate daffodil crosses. While I generally meticulously “dead-head” spent flowers, some cultivars and species, which readily set seed from open pollination thanks to wind and insect activity, escape my gaze. I am also ever mindful that many of our favorite daffodils – including ‘Tête-à-Tête’ and ‘Sundial’ – resulted from open pollination. Therefore, I am pleased to offer seeds from time to time from some of my *Narcissi* that are particularly well-suited for the serious daffodil grower/exhibitor and the alpine garden connoisseur.

Seeds are easily grown in a sunny, well-drained location. Plant right away at a depth of three inches for best germination rates (which will take place next year). The seed-to-flowering bulb process usually takes about five years.

Remember the following are merely the seed parents. Open pollinated seedlings could resemble the seed parent, but they might not!

1. ***Narcissus jonquilla* 13Y-Y 15 seeds/\$3.50**
Miniature species native to Spain and Portugal, naturalized elsewhere. Carl von Linnaeus (1707-1778), *Species Plantarum*, Page 290, 1753
My bulbs were the result of years of selective breeding by American hybridists Sidney DuBose, Richard and Elise Havens and Stephen Vinisky. The attempts of these individuals to improve for show quality form within the species has certainly paid off!
2. ***Narcissus jonquilla* var. *henrequesii* 13Y-Y (see photo below) 10 seeds/\$3.50**
Miniature species native to Portugal. Julio Augusto Henreques (1838-1928), Professor of Botany and Director of Botanical Gardens, University of Coimbra, Portugal
 - Part of 1st place Collection of Five Miniature Cultivars or Species, Atlanta (2015)
3. ***Narcissus* ‘Actaea’ 9W-YYR 10 seeds/\$3.50**
Historic standard poet-type daffodil. Pre-1919, G. Lubbe and Son, The Netherlands
 - 1st Vase of Three, Knoxville (2016)
4. ***Narcissus* ‘Tanagra’ 1Y-Y (see photo below) 10 seeds/\$3.50**
Miniature trumpet daffodil. 1946, Alec Gray, England, *Narcissus asturiensis* x *Narcissus obvallaris*
 - Part of 1st place Collection of Five Miniature Cultivars or Species, Atlanta (2015)



1st Collection of Five Miniature Cultivars or Species, Atlanta (2015), Exhibitor: Greg Freeman
Left to Right: ‘Mite’, ‘Little Beauty’, *Narcissus jonquilla* var. *henrequesii*, ‘Tête-à-Tête’ and ‘Tanagra’

International shipping of seeds is generally not a problem, and I will ship anywhere upon request. However, I have heard of some challenges encountered by those who have attempted to import seeds from non-commercial sources into Australia.

Contact Greg at gardenchronicle@outlook.com to inquire about seed availability before placing an order. Credit card payments accepted via PayPal.

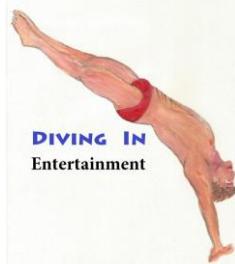


Greg Freeman (b. 1974), *Botanical Identities*, 2015, Digital still-life photograph

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In addition to being an avid gardener and daffodil hybridist, judge and exhibitor, Greg Freeman is an author, editor, singer, songwriter and amateur visual artist. His nonfiction writing on a number of subjects has appeared in magazines, encyclopedias and books of academic interest, as well as *Southern Edition*, Freeman's digital publication devoted to the American South. A fan of fictional British detectives, particularly Agatha Christie's Hercule Poirot and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes, Freeman contributed a chapter to Nadine Farghaly's edited volume, *Gender and the Modern Sherlock Holmes: Essays on Film and Television Adaptations Since 2009* (Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland and Company, 2015). In 2015, Freeman released a country music radio single, "Sunlight and Shadows," garnering international airplay, and his gospel music has received national exposure through television and radio.

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