

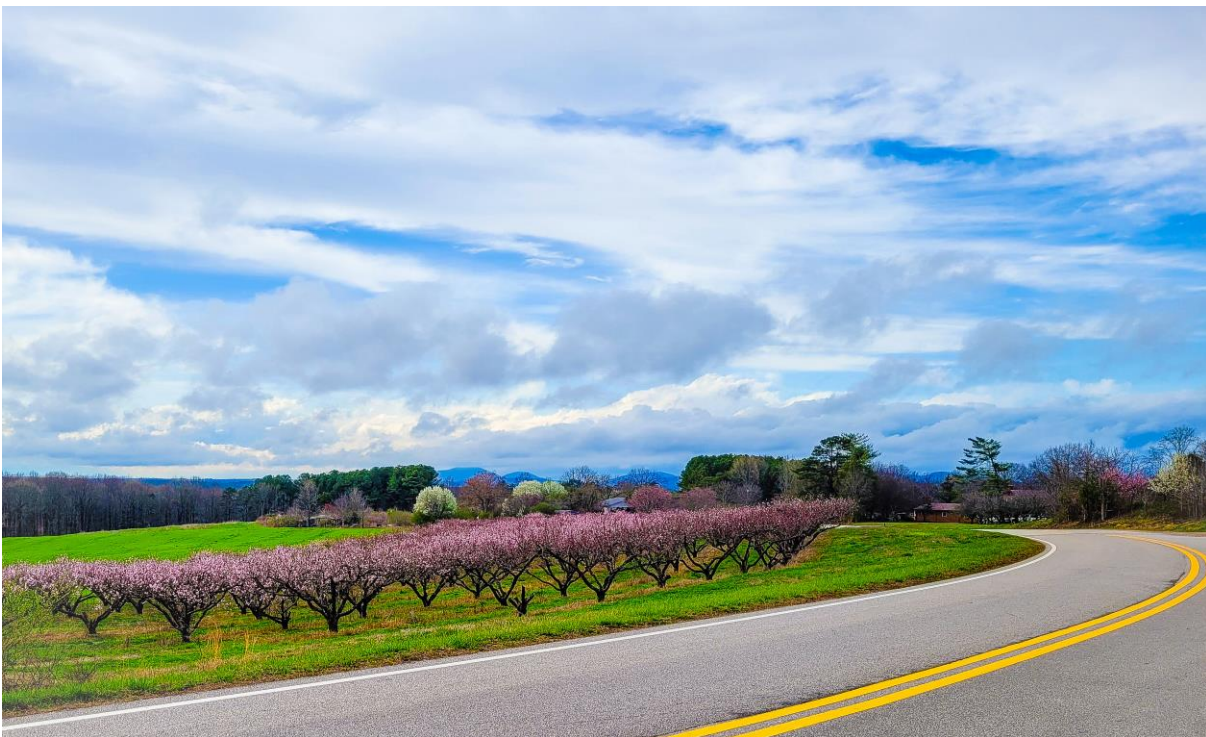
Greg Freeman's Garden Chronicle



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On previous page...Vaguely reminiscent of *Orchard in Blossom* (1889) by Vincent van Gogh (1853-1890), this photograph of a peach orchard in full flower near Jaemor Farm in Georgia was taken in March 2024 on the "scenic route" home from the American Daffodil Society Southeast Regional Show.

The spring of 2024 proved much more eventful for me than the previous six months reported in the last issue of this chronicle. I, as often the case, was asked to give a garden club talk. I was also able to exhibit and judge at three different daffodil shows. It was all great fun but, to be honest, I was quite tired when the dust had settled.

This year, the Georgia Daffodil Society hosted the American Daffodil Society Southeast Regional Show, for which I served as show chairman. Determined to have the show evaluated by National Garden Clubs, Inc., I ensured the show had all of the necessary components of a small standard-flower show: horticulture, design and education. A stand-alone photography show was also held in conjunction with the event, which was held in the Family Life Center of the beautiful Johns Creek Baptist Church near the Atlanta suburbs of Alpharetta and Suwanee. Additionally, daffodil-related talks were presented by Becky Fox Matthews, past American Daffodil Society president, and myself.

Overall, I was pleased with the event. Every show presents its own set of challenges, or learning opportunities, if you will, but things could have gone much worse. Instead, there were many high quality flowers in horticulture with Becky Fox Matthews winning the Gold Ribbon for her outstanding reverse bicolor seedling. The design division, supported by an immensely talented

cast of local and regional flower design aficionados, was quite stunning. And the photography show was supported by exhibitors from as far away as California. The jurors included my friend, professional photographer Selena Isbell Martin, Garden Club of Georgia First Vice-President Diane Hunter and Peachtree Garden Club President Audrey McMenamy.

With little effort or persuasion, our show had brought together quite an assortment of seasoned exhibitors, bright-eyed newcomers, regional daffodil society officers, American Daffodil Society movers and shakers and affiliates of both National Garden Clubs and Garden Club of America. Daffodils are loved by a diverse group of people and the ADS Southeast Regional Show proved that they have the unique ability to unite people as well.

I must admit the relief I experienced when I attended shows in Knoxville and Nashville. All I had to do was show up, enter my flowers and participate as a judge. I have a new appreciation for those who have previously planned our Georgia shows. It is not for the faint of heart!

Meanwhile, daffodil season has come and gone, and other plants and garden endeavors are on my mind now. As always, I will look forward to sharing my experiences, and I hope your summer provides hours and hours of gardening enjoyment. Happy Gardening until we meet again!

Greg Freeman, Publisher

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A Look Back at the Spring 2024 Daffodil Shows and Related Travels

The spring of 2024 turned out to be a busy one for me, as far as daffodil shows were concerned. While I had been invited to judge at all of the American Daffodil Society-approved shows in the southeast, as well as the ADS National Show in suburban Washington, D.C., I initially committed only to the Georgia and Knoxville shows. Unsure if I might make the trip to Nashville and certain that I would be unable to travel to D.C., I settled on two shows but wound up judging and exhibiting in Nashville after all.

My season, overall, was a successful one. I was able to exhibit a nice mix of standards and miniatures, and I even exhibited a seedling or two of my own breeding, as I often do. As a judge and exhibitor, I am always observant of what others are exhibiting. While I purchase additional cultivars virtually every year, many of them newer, more expensive varieties, I often win with tried and true favorites. I noted that many of my competing exhibitors were taking ribbons, quite often beating me, with proven, established winners. There is something to be learned of this, I suppose. On the other hand, I was most impressed this year with winning seedlings from my friends, Becky Fox Matthews and Tom Stettner. Both exhibited some truly spectacular daffodils, and Becky's reverse bicolour seedling was Best in Show at the Georgia show.

While I have lost some of my better seedlings in recent years – which, of course, is part of the natural selection process – I was happy for Becky and Tom and their successes because I came to realize a long time ago that hybridizing can bring both inevitable disappointments and immense rewards. To attain winning flowers that endure the test of time is commendable. To take it a step further and attain winning,



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www.GregFreeman.garden for original
video content and other helpful information.



Tom Stettner

Becky Fox Matthews' impressive reverse bi-coloured Seedling 16-02 won both the Rose and Gold Ribbons for best standard seedling and best standard daffodil in the show at the 2023 American Daffodil Southeast Regional Show.

enduring flowers that thrive in a variety of microclimates and prove name-worthy is the ultimate goal...something to which all hybridists aspire. Becky and Tom are much further along in the game than I can claim to be.

American Daffodil Society Southeast Regional Show

The Georgia Daffodil Society and the North Georgia Council of Flower Show Judges hosted the ADS Southeast Regional Show this year. After years of holding our shows at the Chattahoochee Nature Center in Roswell, we took our show to the Family Life Center of Johns Creek Baptist Church near the Atlanta suburbs of Alpharetta, Cumming and Suwanee. The show was well-supported, but one could always hope for more entries in horticulture. That said, it was a competitive show with many quality exhibits, including some from first-time daffodil show exhibitors and one of our newest GDS members, Dr. Gale Thomas, who is very active in other garden clubs and is no stranger to National Garden Clubs, Inc. members across the region.

As usual, I strive to focus on collections and vases of three, and my efforts were not in vain. My vase of three 'Mesa Verde' took a blue ribbon, and I took a blue with my Marie Bozievich Collection (twelve cultivars from at least four different divisions).

This year, the Georgia show was evaluated by a panel of capable National Garden Clubs judges, and I think we made a good impression overall. On the day of the show, our educational exhibit was awarded the Education Award by this panel, and I heard good things about other aspects of our show. I especially thought the design section was excellent. As I wrap up the preparation of the book of evidence needed to apply for Garden Club of Georgia and NGC awards, I am sure I will reflect on how we can make the 2025 event even better and more impressive.



Tom Stettner

Marie Bozievich Ribbon-winning Collection, 2024 American Daffodil Society Southeast Regional Show

Back row, left to right: 'Hot Lava' 2O-O, Vinisky seedling V00-78-5 2YYW-W, 'Double Play' 4Y-O, 'Pimento' 2Y-O;
Middle row, left to right: 'Archetype' 2Y-Y, 'Lemon Puff' 4W-Y, 'Mesa Verde' 12G-GGY, Freeman seedling GSF-10A-17-01 12W-GYR ('Katrina Rea' x Koopowitz seedling HK2-08)
Front row, left to right: 'Olathe' 3W-GYO, 'Erlicheer' 4W-Y, 'Little Lulu' 6W-P, 'Hot Gossip' 2Y-O



Tom Stettner

Betsy Abrams' stunning 'Pink Silk' 1W-P won the inaugural Deen Day Sanders Award for best pink in the show.

Deen Day Sanders

One of the joys of participating in the 2024 ADS Southeast Regional Show was that it afforded me the privilege of meeting Mrs. Deen Day Sanders. A staunch advocate for garden clubs and a host of causes, Mrs. Sanders has made an indelible impact on the Garden Club of Georgia and garden-related interests throughout Georgia and beyond. Following the passing of her husband, Cecil B. Day (1934-1978), noted hotelier and founder of the global Days Inn hotel chain, Mrs. Sanders has continued their philanthropic efforts.

Today, numerous buildings and facilities bear the Cecil B. Day name as a result of this generosity. A longtime friend of President and Mrs. Jimmy Carter, Mrs. Sanders was the benefactor for the Cecil B. Day Chapel at The Carter Center in Atlanta. Additionally, there is the Cecil B. Day Graduate and Professional Campus of Mercer University, as well as the Cecil B. Day Chapel at the State Botanical Garden of Georgia in Athens, Cecil B. Day Butterfly Center at Callaway Gardens in Pine Mountain and Day Hall at the Atlanta Botanical Garden.

A devout Christian, Mrs. Sanders has been committed to humanitarian causes and evangelistic missions, and the North American Mission Board headquarters in Alpharetta, Georgia is home to the Cecil B. Day Auditorium. Also, various houses of worship, including Dunwoody Baptist Church and Atlanta's Perimeter Church have been blessed by her generosity.

For the 2023 American Daffodil Society National Show, held in Atlanta, Mrs. Sanders quietly supported the show financially and donated the beautiful mural that stood as a stunning backdrop for the event.

At the 2024 American Daffodil Society Southeast Regional Show, held at Johns Creek Baptist Church, a church with which Mrs. Sanders is affiliated, we were honored with a visit by Mrs. Sanders. She graciously took time to speak with a number of old friends and new acquaintances alike, and was ably assisted by her attentive aide. Just before leaving, Mrs. Sanders kindly agreed to take a photograph with Jaydee Ager, my great-niece, Rebecca Campbell, and myself. As her



Becky Fox Matthews

Pictured are Jaydee Ager (past president of the American Daffodil Society, Garden Club of Georgia and Georgia Daffodil Society), Greg Freeman (current president of the Georgia Daffodil Society), Rebecca Campbell (Freeman's great-niece) and Deen Day Sanders (philanthropist and past president of Garden Club of Georgia and National Garden Clubs, Inc.).

aide departed the building to retrieve their vehicle, I walked with Mrs. Sanders to the exit. Interestingly enough, our conversation turned from daffodils and gardening to the goodness of God. It was a special moment I will cherish, as it not only revealed her great sense of humility but her dependence on the Lord. In that moment, I realized we shared much more in common than a mutual love for nature, gardening and daffodils.

East Tennessee Daffodil Society Show

Having missed the East Tennessee Daffodil Society show in 2023, I returned to Knoxville this year where, for the second year in a row, the show was held on the campus of the University of Tennessee in Room 124 at the South Greenhouse. Spring break was in progress, and we were able to utilize space that would otherwise be occupied by horticulture students.

The ETDS folks always put on a great show, and their hospitality is consistently exemplary. Lynn Ladd, Diane Cockerham and Stacey Wilson, in particular, are true assets to East Tennessee as well as to the American Daffodil Society.

While I missed seeing Brian White, who was absent and whose plant vendor stall often tempts me to bring home more plants, I was delighted to see Dwight and Colette Curtis from Kentucky. It was a pleasure to judge with Dwight, an ADS Student Judge at the time, who certainly brings a keen eye to the show bench, even this early in his judging career.

It was also great to meet and encourage actor, fashion model and first-time exhibitor Adam Stair, who owns The Stair Agency, a modeling agency in the Knoxville suburb of Clinton. Several of us answered his questions, identified some of his cultivars and demonstrated how to stage flowers. As I recall, his entries garnered some ribbons and he left as enthusiastic as he was upon arrival. Mission accomplished!

I, too, departed with a smile as my entries fared well. My Bozievich Collection (collection of twelve daffodils from at least four different divisions) was a first place winner (with formidable competition, I might add), and from it 'Narrative' and my own seedling GSF-14A-23-01 were selected for the Shirley Seib Award (for best pink daffodil in the show) and Rose Ribbon (for best standard daffodil seedling in the



Tom Stettner

'Alec Gray' 1Y-Y, exhibited by Dwight and Colette Curtis, was the ADS Miniature Gold Ribbon winner. Named after the famous English hybridist who brought us 'Tête-à-Tête' 12Y-Y and 'Minnow' 8W-Y, among many others, this photograph, though outstanding in its own right, fails to depict just how small this lovely flower really is. What a great specimen!



Tom Stettner

These lovely three stems of 'Aviva' 1W-W won the ADS Miniature White Ribbon for best vase of three miniatures in the show. They were exhibited by Dr. Mike and Lisa Kuduk.

show), respectively. Additionally, I won with single stems of ‘First Born’, ‘Splatter’ and the bi-coloured miniature, ‘Minnow’.

Dr. Michael and Lisa Kuduk from the Lexington, Kentucky area were a force with which to be reckoned, taking the Gold Ribbon (for best standard daffodil in show) on ‘Causeway Gem’, as well as the Throckmorton Ribbon (best entry of fifteen different classifications of daffodils), Red-White- and Blue Ribbon (for five American-bred cultivars), Purple Ribbon (for best standard collection of five stems), Lavender Ribbon (for best five miniature stems) and the Miniature White Ribbon (for best three miniature stems) with ‘Aviva’.

Miniature Gold Ribbon (best miniature in show) was ‘Alec Gray’ a superb little flower exhibited by Dwight and Colette Curtis. Lynn Ladd had the best intermediate daffodil with a lovely specimen of ‘Little Alice’, as well as the Best Classic Cultivar and Best Classic Single Stem with her ‘Golden Aura’. Best Classic Three Stems was won by Diane Cockerham’s ‘Golden Aura’. Corky Witt’s three stems of ‘Miss Primm’ won both the White Ribbon (for best standard three stems) and the John Lipscomb Memorial Trophy. Best Historic Single Stem went to Molly Adams’ ‘Erlicheer’.

The night prior to the show, I lodged at the Hilton Garden Inn Papermill Drive hotel, walking distance from the Warner Bros. Discovery office tower. Discovery, of course, is the company behind HGTV, Food Network and the DIY Network. While the company no longer houses its headquarters in Knoxville, it does maintain the office building near the Hilton Garden Inn. Needless to say, I neither ran into Guy Fieri nor the Property Brothers. Due to the hotel’s proximity to Bombay Palace on Parkside Drive, I had



Tom Stettner

Marie Bozievich Ribbon-winning Collection, 2024 East Tennessee Daffodil Society Show

Back row, left to right: ‘Narrative’ 2W-P (Shirley Seib Award winner for best pink in show), ‘Treasure Hunt’ 2Y-Y, ‘First Born’ 6YYW-GYP, ‘Olathe’ 3W-GYO;

Middle row, left to right: Freeman seedling GSF-14A-23-01 (‘Hot Gossip’ x Duncan seedling 3411), ‘Actaea’ 9W-YYR, ‘Stoke Charity’ 2W-W, ‘Erlicheer’ 4W-Y;

Front row, left to right: ‘Intrigue’ 7Y-W, ‘Katrina Rea’ 6W-WOO, ‘Little Lulu’ 6W-P, ‘Pimento’ 2Y-O



Tom Stettner

Lynn Ladd’s ‘Little Alice’ 4Y-O won the ADS Intermediate Ribbon. I am smitten by this cultivar, which was hybridized by my friend, Nial Watson, of Northern Ireland.

looked forward to indulging on some fabulous Indian cuisine, which I rarely get closer to home. To my disappointment, Bombay Palace is closed on Tuesdays. Sitar Fine Indian Cuisine, just down the street from my hotel, proved to be a wonderful alternative. The food was outstanding, and the dedicated staff made me feel like a regular.

Knoxville in springtime is lovely. While the redbuds and other early flowering trees and shrubs had already reached their peak back home in South Carolina, they were just coming into their own in Knoxville. The colorful display against a backdrop of beautiful mountains made the drive home a feast for the eyes.

Middle Tennessee Daffodil Society Show

Given my music business involvement and connections to recording artists and songwriters in Nashville, perhaps it is a bit odd that I had not been to Nashville since 2015. Nonetheless, I decided at the last minute to take off to Music City to exhibit in the Middle Tennessee Daffodil Society Show at the beautiful Cheekwood Estate and Gardens.

Since it is quite the drive for me, I made the most of my time, as I was only there for less than two full days and one night due to other obligations. Upon arriving in the Nashville area, I was caught in a chilly drizzle of rain, but the following day was gorgeous and sunny, perfect for a daffodil show.

Out of limited entries in Nashville, I took home two blue ribbons for miniatures. ‘Miss Chriss’, the subject of a December 2021 *Greg Freeman’s Garden Chronicle* [article](#), was a single stem winner for me. My winning collection of five miniature cultivars



Greg Freeman

Mooreland Mansion (circa 1838)

The Hilton Garden Inn Brentwood surrounds Mooreland on three sides. The main portion of the hotel is at the rear of the mansion, and two wings flank each side of the circa 1838 structure. The hotel was designed to complement Mooreland, which is a testament to planners’ determination to preserve the building rather than allow a developer to raze it and erect some hideous monstrosity. Modern office buildings, restaurants and boutiques are literally across the street or on adjacent blocks, standing to remind the preservation conscious of just how easily this house could have been wiped off the map.

The historical marker on the property reads thusly:

Mooreland is built on a land grant to Revolutionary War soldier, General Robert Irvin, upon which his daughter and husband, James Moore, settled in 1807. The original log house stood northeast of Mooreland, which was begun in 1838 by their son, Robert Irvin Moore. Mooreland, an outstanding example of Greek Revival architecture, was used by both sides as a hospital during the Civil War. It was occupied by the Moore family until 1944 and restored by Koger Properties, Inc. in 1985 and Boyle Investment Company in 2015.

Erected by Boyle and the Williamson County Historical Society 2017

or species contained Vinisky seedling V96-194-16, ‘Kokopelli’, ‘Miss Chriss’, *Narcissus x tenuior* and Vinisky seedling V90-60-32.

My visit included a first-time stay at the Hilton Garden Inn Brentwood, which was clearly designed to complement and quite literally envelop the historic and beautiful Greek Revival-style Mooreland house (circa 1838). My last few visits to Nashville have included stays in Brentwood, a suburb south of town, where several of my friends reside, good restaurants abound and hotels are far less expensive than the options in Downtown Nashville or the West End. This year, I tried an Indian restaurant, Amaravati Indian Cuisine, just minutes from my hotel. The vegetable pakoras were especially good, but the chicken biryani was most disappointing. When one measures anyone else’s biryani against that of Bombay Palace in Knoxville, it is difficult to be impressed. If I revisit Amaravati again in the future, I will try a different entrée.

Following the show, I ventured to Nashville’s downtown – which has grown exponentially since my last visit – for an obligatory stop at the Frist Art Museum. Occupying the stunning Art Déco building once used as the main post office on Broadway, the museum is adjacent to the old union station, now the Union Station Hotel Nashville. The Frist never disappoints, and I left with an arsenal of post cards, art-related books, stereo views and other odds and ends from the museum gift shop. I love art museums, but I might love art museum gift shops even more!



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“Jesus paid the price so [we] can have the change!”

Greg Freeman's Zucchini Fritte with Spaghetti alla Carbonara

Another Answer to an Age-old Question

When one inquires what others think of zucchini, one is likely to hear “I like it,” “I hate it” or “It’s okay, depending on how it’s made.” It is amusing that a vegetable with so many fans and detractors alike can be prepared in myriad ways...some of them deliciously. Even more interesting is the fact that culture has as much to do with its popularity as anything. After all, most any heirloom seed catalogue will offer multiple varieties originating in France and Italy, indicating the French and Italians have had no compunction about eating and preparing zucchini for generations.

I have found that when Southerners (that is, natives of the American South) speak of growing or preparing squash, most individuals (known as Yankees to Southerners) from above the Mason-Dixon line assume the topic is zucchini when, quite often, it is yellow squash. In fact, I will choose yellow squash over zucchini any day. It’s fabulous when fried, makes a great casserole and can be used to make some wonderful fritters. That said, when zucchini is given to me (since I rarely buy it), I am among those who seek unique ways to prepare it. In a previous article, I have shared my recipe for [Ronde de Nice Courgette Farcie](#), a stuffed zucchini recipe that incorporates the round French varietal, Ronde de Nice. Recently, the more typically-shaped elongated zucchini was shared with me, and I decided to come up with a different approach to cooking with it.

My sister-in-law creatively uses zucchini cut in thin, length-wise slices as an alternative to pasta when preparing a lasagna. She also uses zucchini in breads. A fellow church member has even shared with me some homemade muffins with all manner of interesting things in them, and I’m pretty sure one was a bit of zucchini. Not one to mimic what everyone else is doing, I recently set out to prepare zucchini in my own way, and I was rather pleased with the result.

Just before preparing the spaghetti carbonara (incorporating cream, cheese and beaten egg in freshly-cooked pasta), I sliced my zucchini in rounds, dipped the pieces in egg and coated them with panko Italian-seasoned breadcrumbs. As the zucchini fried in a skillet to suit my tastes in colour and consistency, I sautéed some mushrooms and garlic and roughly chopped some scallions. Served alongside a basic salad of Romaine greens, croutons and grated cheese with a homemade vinaigrette, the pasta dish with the zucchini was delicious. The contrast between the crunch of the fried zucchini and the creaminess of the pasta was satisfying. The minced clove of garlic and mushrooms added a nice undertone to the overall flavors without dominating, and the fresh, raw scallion was a nice touch. I pondered whether the dish might have been enhanced with the addition of some sliced jalapeño pepper along with the scallions. Perhaps I will try that the next time I am gifted with some garden-fresh zucchini and find myself asking the all-too-familiar question: “So, what shall I do with this *this* time?”



Greg Freeman

Greg Freeman's Zucchini Fritte with Spaghetti alla Carbonara

[John Scheepers Kitchen Garden Seeds™](#) is offering multiple zucchini varieties in 2024, including the Italian heirloom, Zucchetta Trombolina. Anderson, South Carolina, USA-based [Heavenly Seed](#) offers the heirloom, Costata Romanesco (which has its origins in Italy), as well as the French selection, Ronde de Nice.

Heirloom Tazettas

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and co-author of *Daffodils in Florida: A Field Guide to the Coastal South*



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Photograph: *Harbinger of Spring*



Greg Freeman (b. 1974), *Harbinger of Spring*, 2024, digital photograph

Consistently, the shrub honeysuckle, *Lonicera fragrantissima*, proves more predictable about spring's arrival than any groundhog of which I am aware. Generally, a few buds on the bush mean little, but when many blooms are present and plenty more blooms are coming along, I smile because I know daffodils are not far behind. Like many other honeysuckles, *L. fragrantissima* – or as the old folks called it, “Breath of Spring” – has a heavenly fragrance and draws pollinators such as this Italian variety of the domestic honeybee (*Apis mellifera*), pictured in flight. Bolt Farm, located a short distance from where I live, has the nearest beehives, and this buzzing, hard-working girl, laden with pollen, is undoubtedly from the Bolts.

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In addition to being an avid gardener and daffodil hybridist, judge and exhibitor, Greg Freeman is an author, editor, recording artist, songwriter, amateur visual artist and life-long horse lover. Freeman's nonfiction writing on a number of subjects has appeared in magazines, encyclopedias and books of academic and scholarly interest, as well as his various websites, including [Southern Edition](#), his digital publication devoted to the American South. Published academic/encyclopedic contributions by Freeman include a chapter in Nadine Farghaly's edited volume, *Gender and the Modern Sherlock Holmes: Essays on Film and Television Adaptations Since 2009* (2015), as well as multiple entries in: *Race in American Film: Voices and Visions That Shaped a Nation* (2017), edited by Dr. Daniel Bernardi and Michael Green; *The British Empire: A Historical Encyclopedia* (2018), edited by Dr. Mark Doyle; and *Music around the World: A Global Encyclopedia* (2020), edited by Drs. Andrew R. Martin and Matthew Mihalka. 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 broadcasts, radio airplay and commercial recordings, including the Collingsworth Family's GMA Dove Award-nominated album, *Just Sing!* (2021), on which his song, "I Owe You Everything," appears. His gospel EP, *Blessing and Blessing* (2018), features guest vocalists Babbie Mason, a Grammy-nominated artist, and Gospel Music Hall of Famer Calvin Newton. An owner of Belgian draft horses since 1987, Freeman's horse interests expanded into the world of Thoroughbred racing and breeding with the purchase of shares in Authentic in 2020. Authentic soon after won the Haskell Stakes, the Kentucky Derby and Breeders' Cup Classic before retiring to stud at Spendthrift Farm, Lexington, Kentucky, USA. Additionally, in 2023, Freeman acquired the proven Belgian draft sire and show champion, Remlap DVP, a son of Remlap Constance Edie Johne, a broodmare extraordinaire and undefeated show winner. Remlap DVP was bred by noted breeder Beth Palmer, Tottenham, Ontario, Canada, and named to honor her late father, the illustrious horseman, Douglas Victor Palmer.

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