

2025 Nantucket Daffodil Show
Show Chairs Annual Report

This was the **Forty-Ninth Annual show**, held at Bartlett's Farm, April 26-27. Set up was on the 24th and morning of the 25th. Entries were on the afternoon of the 25th and morning of the 25th, followed by judging. The show opened to the public at 2:00 PM on the 26th and ended at 3:00 PM on the 27th with take down from 3:00 until 6:30. It is important to understand that this is a four day undertaking, even though it is open to the public for viewing for two days. The theme this year was "**It's Daffy Time... Let's Dance!**", building on last year's show theme, "**Spring Sings...Let's Party!**".

The show was even more successful than last year, despite torrential rain on Saturday and the greenhouse leaking in more than one place! Visitors were in a good mood, ready to enjoy the show, taking the bad weather in good heart. One problem, however, was that the Nantucket Current mistakenly on social media showed the show opening time as 10:00 AM instead of 2:00 PM. A great many people tried to come to the show that had to be turned away, as judging was taking place. Fortunately, Jill Sandole knew someone at Nantucket Current and was able to have this information quickly corrected. Unfortunately, we lost a lot of visitors as a result.

- 1750 visitors were officially counted (1,353 last year). This number isn't close to being accurate (see above) and because the counter broke..
- Horticulture entrants: 265 Entries and 1296 stems.
- Youth horticulture entrants: 29 Youth Exhibitors showing 63 Stems, despite being school vacation week.
- Photography: 25 Photographs, 19 Photographers
- Youth photography: 3 entries included in above numbers (see youth)
- Floral Arrangements: 22 Adults entries 35 Youth Entries
- Education- Considerably expanded, see below
- Recording of entries needs to continue to improve.

Staging and Floor plan:

The Staging and Floor plan this year was even better than last, primarily, due to additional space immediately in front of the entry door. This made entry much more comfortable and efficient and housed greeters, two boutique tables and two vendor tables. However, we were warned by the farm that we won't be able to have as much space next year. As we discovered last year, having additional space for horticulture entries worked extremely well, encouraging entrants to submit many more entries. Once entries closed, the same space was used for both education and this year it was used for judges' school. It provided a place for Paulette Bolling's Saltmarsh presentation which was well received and attracted a great deal of attention. It also provided a space for people to stop, rest and even have lunch.

Staging this year was a considerable improvement from the two previous years since COVID, for which we experienced due to the following reasons:

- The new plan of action, see file.
- Storage was much easier and safer to access.
- Having the two storage chairs acting as two of the staging chairs made a tremendous difference as they understood where everything was stored, see their report.

Entries:

Registration of Entries was much more accurate this year. Recommendation- Particular attention needs to be given to having a particular individual whose specific responsibility is to gather all the entrant's information. This is required for both horticulture and floral entries.

Judging:

Horticultural judging worked extremely well. We had four teams of three judges for horticulture, plus three floaters.

Unlike horticulture, the artistic judges are not trained and experienced judges. We need to make a greater effort to ensure that artistic judges have a team leader with training in the area of both photography and floral artistry. Issuing guidelines is not enough.

Susan Balling graciously hosted the judges dinner at her home. This was catered by Island Kitchen

Mary Malavase again this year ran an ADS judges school with another trainer judge.

Publicity and Social Media:

Once again, Mary Malavase did a sterling job with publicity. The Chamber of Commerce and Bartlett Farm both increased their coverage. Marianne Stanton graciously wrote about NGC and the Daffodil Flower Show. Lynn Boyjain did an excellent job with instagram. The only hiccup was the Nantucket Current mistake mentioned earlier in this report.

Education:

This aspect of our show continued to be well received. This year we added two new posters. We increased the information in our brochures as well, doubling the number. A new project this year was to take the descriptions of each section of the horticulture division from our show schedule and place them in appropriate locations throughout the horticulture entries. This was especially helpful to our horticulture entrants as well as educating the general public.

Youth:

Another ongoing part of education is with our youth. Youth entries start in the fall, with the intermediate school bagging and delivering daffodil bulbs to all elementary, intermediate and private school children. Of course the bagging is the community service portion of Annie's lesson. The true education is the lessons on daffodils that she has incorporated into her fifth grade science class. These 1000 plus bulbs are donated by the Nantucket Garden Club and NGC members join the fifth graders in this project.

Our new youth team is excellent. They split up responsibilities but worked well as a team, coming up with new original ideas to reach out to our children, each team member using their individual strengths to the best advantage of all. Whereas this year's daffodil show fell on school vacation week, which often significantly impacts our youth entry numbers, our new young youth chairs reached out to the community to encourage youth participation. They visited private schools, still in session, the Nantucket Boys and Girls Club camp, Maria Mitchel and girl scout troupes.

Financials:

We had an operating budget of \$12,000 for the 2025 Daffodil Show and \$3000 for new equipment. Once again, we benefited from significant discounts and donations by several of our service providers and our various club chairs, which helped us stay within our operating budget for this year. We ended up spending \$4500 for new equipment as we needed more risers, test tubes and blocks than we initially anticipated when the budget was set in August. We spent \$9,630.21 from our operating budget. The equipment cost overrun of \$1500 was covered by this year's operating budget, totaling \$14,130.21 keeping us just within our total budget for the 2025 show. We received well over \$2460 in donations to the NGC daffodil fund.

Whereas the annual Nantucket Daffodil Show happens in the spring, it is important to note that spending for the daffodil show takes place beginning in the early fall and throughout the spring. Therefore it is important to look for payment requests to insure they are paid in a timely manner.

Community Involvement:

Sometimes it can feel that we, as a club, don't really get Daffy and how fundamentally important it is to the island community and their perception of us as an organization. The club talks a lot about our involvement in the community for example through the fountain, Hadwen and other gardens, many grants, and scholarships. These are fundamentally important. Perhaps though as a club, we underestimate what an important role the daffodil show plays in the Nantucket community - the daffodil festival launches the Nantucket season every year. Without the community, we wouldn't have a daffodil show.

Bartlett's donates the space. To hire a tent of sufficient size for 4 days would cost about \$100,000 alone. On our daffodil committee, a third of the chairs come from the

community. They are not members of the garden club. A similar proportion of our helpers and workers come from the community and are also not members of the garden club. 90% of entries come from the community. The budget for this last show would have been over \$20,000, if it weren't for the donations and steep discounts given by members of the community, including individuals who worked for us.

Conclusion:

The 2025 Daffodil show was an enormous success. Supporting all of this are the stalwart efforts of certain club members, who work on daffy in many different capacities, not once every year or so, but year after year after year. Without this dedicated group of very experienced and hardworking club members, daffy wouldn't happen. It couldn't happen. Our annual daffodil show is a community itself. It is a true Nantucket community event in so many real and tangible ways.

Submitted by Linda Fraker and Ann Maury, 2025 Daffodil Show Co-Chairs