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## AMERICAN DAFFODIL SOCIETY (ADS) 2024 PRESIDENTS' MEDAL RECIPIENT ANNOUNCED!

**Herndon, VA** – Frank Nyikos of Unionville, Indiana was awarded the American Daffodil Society Presidents' Medal on April 12, 2024, at the American Daffodil Society Spring Convention in Herndon, VA.

The American Daffodil Society Presidents' Medal is awarded to people who can only be described as exceptional. They continue to make substantial contributions to our daffodil world above and beyond what is normally expected of any one person. Because of their presence we have a far richer environment than would have been possible without their participation.

The ADS Presidents' Medal is awarded very infrequently and only if a worthy recipient can be found. This gold vermeil medal needs NO letters of nomination because the worthiness of the recipient must be self-evident.



Frank Nyikos joined The American Daffodil Society (ADS) in November of 2000 and has been a long-standing member of the Indiana Daffodil Society. He grows his daffodils in Unionville which is in Monroe County in the State of Indiana, USA. Frank was described by Libby Frey as a 'true plantsman'. His interest in perennial and herbaceous plants has led to the composition of a couple of published books,

"Hybridizing A B C's" and "The Grocery Store Gardener."

He has also hybridized and registered hostas, including the very lovely 'Awakening Angel.' In the past Frank was the co-owner of a small business that sold supporting products to gardeners, and he currently runs a business, Walnut Grove Nursery, in Bloomington, Indiana, where he grows and sells daylilies and hostas to the public.



In July of 2017 Mr. Nyikos became the Executive Director for the American Daffodil Society. In this role he not only processes daily transactions and pays the bills for the ADS, but he is also the public face for the ADS and corresponds with members and the general public with tactful, courteous, and helpful communications. He keeps the ADS President informed on important ADS business and serves as an indispensable member of the Executive/Finance Committee, faithfully attending all meetings and offering advice.

Our Executive Director, Frank Nyikos, contributes so much more time and personal care than his part-time job description. When someone contacts the ADS, they don't get a form response—a *"your call is very important to us"*—type response; instead, they get a warm, personal welcome with information about others in their area to meet, links to answer their questions, and other details. A new ADS member recently commented, *"It was so different from other groups I've tried to join: I really felt like I was being welcomed into a community."* That's Frank's gift to the ADS: he sets the tone of ADS as an inviting community that enfolds all who enjoy and celebrate daffodils.

The American Daffodil Society has a tradition of honoring individuals who have contributed to the betterment of daffodils and the American Daffodil Society. Mr. Nyikos is an exceptional individual who cares and continues to give his superior meritorious service to the American Daffodil Society.