



# The Daffodil Rave

Volume 12 Issue 3 1/2  
Editor: Beth Holbrooke

Greater St Louis Daffodil Society  
[www.stldaffodilclub.org](http://www.stldaffodilclub.org)

Autumn Supplement 2012

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*"When you plant daffodils you are planting for your children, and for their grandchildren. Because daffodils, like diamonds, are forever."*

Gloria Coles, DavesGarden.com

## Twice as Nice: A Year End Review of Daffodils in the Midwest and in New Zealand

Please join us on Sunday, **November 18th at 1:00pm**, in the Garden Room of the **Missouri Botanical Garden**. Jason Delaney, North Gardens Supervisor and Bulb Collections Specialist at the Missouri Botanical Garden, and owner of Professional Horticultural Services (P.H.S.) will review the notable flowers and events from his *two* Springs during 2012, at P.H.S., Shaw's Nature Reserve, Oakwood Daffodils, and of course, New Zealand's north and south islands.

P.H.S. will also have a 'Boatload of Bulbs' Sale at our November 18th meeting. Jason anticipates a minimum of 200 varieties, each bag will contain 3 multi-nosed, or 4 to 5 singles—the bulbs are very large this year. All bags will be \$5 each, and there will typically be only one bag of each variety, this includes bulbs that might sell for \$20 each... what a bargain! P.H.S. will donate 50% of the proceeds to GSLDS, earmarked for 2016 convention funds. We will send a complete list of available bulbs to our members via email.



## The President's Message

November, 2012

Fall is upon us, warm days, cool nights beckon us to our planting endeavors. Bulbs sales are over, and our bulb sale events have set the bar very high!!!! The totals this year have topped over \$3,000!!!! Thanks to all who helped in any part of our biggest fund raiser, digging, cleaning, bag & tag, and selling!!!!!!

The annual bulb exchange has passed with 23 participating members, and great fun and food enjoyed. Everyone left with their treasures, happy with their selections and anxious to make their way home to find the perfect place for the bulbs. Reflecting back to the question asked of me about daffodils, "after the bloom season, what do you do"? Planting for me is a very relaxing part of daffodil culture. Spending time in the valley which I plant the majority of my bulbs is a time I look forward to each year. I am sure everyone has their own ritual method of planting.....perhaps an article from members could be a featured article in our newsletter, hmmm????? Enjoy the season only our unique group understands, planting the hope for the spring ahead!!!!

Cindy Haeffner  
President, GSLDS

## GREATER ST LOUIS DAFFODIL SOCIETY MEETING MINUTES

Sunday, September 9, 2012, 1:00PM  
Garden Room, Ridgeway Center at MBG

Vice-President Gary Knehans called the meeting to order at 1:12pm. With the absence of the last meeting minutes from the *Daffodil RAVE* newsletter and absence of our club Secretary due to illness, the reading of the minutes was postponed until the next meeting.

Gary Knehans then asked for the Treasurer's report, and Peter McAdams reviewed his report from a printed handout. We have \$7816 in the bank with a total net income for 2012 of \$1152 and total expenses of \$2387 leaving a loss of \$1234.31 for 2012. We still have the upcoming bulb sales and bulb exchange to help with our 2012 Income Statement. Suzanne Raymond moved that the treasurer's report be accepted, subject to audit. Pam Hardy seconded the motion and it was passed.

### OLD BUSINESS:

**The Daffodil Rave;** Lynn Slackman received the first draft of the autumn edition of the *Daffodil RAVE* in her inbox on Sunday morning. After reviewing and reformatting it, the newsletter was then sent back to Beth for final approval. After final review, the autumn newsletter should be available for our members during the next week. For the next edition of the newsletter Beth would like to feature an article from Brenda VanBooven about her 'first time' experiences at the Shaw Nature Reserve dig, and an article from Ann Henson about her family daffodil business. Both of them agreed to write and send Beth the articles.

**2016 World Daffodil Convention;** Lynn Slackman showed everyone the 2016 World Daffodil Convention magnets and passed-out magnets to member who had not received them yet. Lynn also informed the group that the initial 2016 World Daffodil Convention website was in place and encouraged everyone to take a look at it. Gary Knehans then reassured everyone that the next World Daffodil Convention would take place during April of 2016, and we would need member participation in this monumental event.

**Bulb Sales;** The Greentree Festival is Sept 14-16, (Fri-Sat) in Kirkwood. Vaughn Meister is coordinating this sale, but in her absence Lynn Slackman & Pam Hardy encouraged everyone to participate as a sign up sheet was passed around the room for people to help man the booth. Gary Knehans encouraged participation citing past Greentree sales as money making for our group. Peter McAdams confirmed this statement with figures from past bulb sales at Greentree. In Cindy's absence, Brenda VanBooven talked about the bulb sale at the Hermann Brush & Palette Club, Arts & Crafts Festival on Oct 13-14. Brenda explained that this event is held indoors and they would need 2-3 people per work shift of 9:00-1:00pm and 1:00pm to 5:00pm on both Saturday and Sunday. Brenda then passed around a sign-up sheet to the membership. Our final sale of the season will be held at the Missouri Botanical Garden Oct 20-21. We will be in Orthwein Floral Hall and we have notified MOBOT facilities management and the Lily Society that we would be happy to share the space with them. Lynn Slackman will setup on Friday evening, but would *greatly* appreciate any member participation on Saturday or Sunday during this event.

**Bulb Exchange;** Gary Knehans gave the report on the upcoming Bulb Exchange. The 2012 Bulb Exchange will take place on Sunday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, in Classroom #125 at CBEC building located at the northwest corner of Shaw and Kingshighway. They have a large "free" parking lot adjacent to the building. We have a budget of \$1000 this year with majority of those funds going for bulbs from John Reed, who gives us good value for our monies. We will also spend \$300 with Mitsch Daffodils, were we have made some suggestions on bulbs we would like selected, and we will spend \$100 with Larry Weir who will include 'Makers Mark' in his selection, as this is one of our club challenge bulbs. Gary Knehans also encouraged our members to donation bulbs they have lifted this spring for bulb collections, and reminded members that we accept other donated items such as plants, craft items, tools, other bulbs, homemade food items, and a variety of other items at the Bulb Exchange.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

**Announcements;** The MBG Daylily Sale will take place on Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup> starting at 9:00am and usually wrapping up around 2:00pm. They will be selling daylilies dug from the Jenkins Daylily Garden at the Missouri Botanical Garden. Members start setting-up at 7:00am that morning, those members and volunteers then have first choice at the daylilies before the general public. All proceeds from this sale are returned to the Missouri Botanical Garden.

The Beardless Iris Auction will take place on Sunday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 2:00pm. Please contact Bob Skaggs at [roberteskaggs@worldnet.att.net](mailto:roberteskaggs@worldnet.att.net) for more details.

**Drawing;** Ellen Henson won the \$25 gift certificate for bulb purchases.

Gary Knehans adjourned the meeting at 1:38pm. Everyone then commenced with daffodil bulb bagging and tagging for our upcoming bulb sales.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lynn Slackman

## 2012 GSLDS PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT COMPARISON

1/1/12 THRU 11/12/12

2011

2012

CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE JAN 1, 2012 \$7,408.66

### INCOME

DAFFODIL BULB SALE INCOME		
MOBOT ANNUAL BULB SALE	\$1,190.00	\$1,635.25
EXCHANGE INCOME	\$1,056.00	\$1,487.00
GREENTREE FESTIVAL SALES	\$578.00	\$1,287.00
HERMAN MO SALE	\$624.11	\$775.00
POTTED BULB SALES - TO PUBLIC	\$638.00	\$25.00
TOTAL DAFFODIL BULB SALE INCOME	\$4,086.11	\$4,909.25
DONATIONS RECEIVED	\$213.00	\$1.40
DUES RECEIVED		
2011 Members Dues Received	\$111.00	\$0.00
2012 Members Dues Received	\$84.00	\$66.00
2013 Members Dues Received	\$26.00	\$99.00
2014 Members Dues Received	\$0.00	\$31.00
2015 Members Dues Received	\$7.00	\$14.00
TOTAL DUES RECEIVED	\$228.00	\$210.00
OTHER INCOME		
BLOOMIN BUCKS - BRENT & BECKYS	\$0.00	\$557.20
MISC INCOME	\$8.50	\$22.50
MEMBERS MITSCH DISC BULB ORDERS	\$368.00	\$451.50
PLANT LABEL SALES	\$401.00	\$105.00
T SHIRT SALES - CLUB EMBLEM	\$252.00	\$191.50
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TOTAL OTHER INCOME	\$1,029.50	\$1,327.70
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<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$5,556.61</b>	<b>\$6,448.35</b>

### EXPENSES

ADVERTISING	\$215.00	\$0.00
BOOTH FEES - HERMAN MO	\$67.50	\$65.00
EXCHANGE BULB COSTS	\$1,050.00	\$1,000.00
MEMBERS MITSCH DISC BULB ORDERS	\$363.20	\$451.50
CHARITABLE DONATIONS - KOMEN ST LOUIS	\$250.00	
CORPORATE FEES AND PERMITS	\$10.00	\$20.00
DAFFODIL SHOW EXPENSES:		
JUDGE EXPENSE	\$250.00	
SHOW SUPPLIES	\$754.44	\$112.61
GIFT CERTIFICATES	\$50.00	\$70.00
GREENTREE FESTIVAL EXPENSES	\$60.00	\$60.00
MEETING EXPENSES	\$101.85	\$146.79
MEMBERSHIP – MOBOT	\$390.00	\$375.00
MISC SOCIETY EXPENSES	\$135.00	\$220.00

OFFICE EXPENSE	\$18.55	
PLANT LABEL COSTS	\$356.00	\$96.00
POSTAGE and DELIVERY	\$108.80	\$18.00
PROGRAM SPEAKER EXPENSE	\$150.00	\$354.00
SUPPLIES	\$79.52	
TEE SHIRTS - CLUB EMBLEM	\$195.00	\$131.50
WORLD 2016 DAF SHOW EXPENSES	\$0.00	\$246.90
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$4,604.86</b>	<b>\$3,367.30</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>\$951.75</b>	<b>\$3,081.05</b>
ENDING BANK BALANCE DEC 31, 2011	\$7,408.66	
ENDING BANK BALANCE NOV 12, 2012		\$10,460.71

## New Zealand Memories

by Cindy Haeffner

There were three pinnacle moments I am so happy I experienced.



Early on, I had the chance to visit John and Marie Hunter's home and garden. While there, I became transfixed on a 2W-YYO selected seedling in his garden that had me mesmerized, from ('Polar Flame' X 'Shaz') (Ed. note – see photo)! Also, what an experience to see how John and Marie were so involved together with the care and enjoyment of their daffodils.

One evening while at the Best Western 555, my husband, Joy, and friend Jason Delaney and I visited a room of friends. As a conversation of hybridizing started, and I did not recognize one of the gentlemen, I asked Jason if he could introduce me to this nice fellow, and he did: "Cindy, this is Wilf Hall. You've heard of 'Fencourt Jewel'?" Well, yeah!!!! Later, a gentleman by the name of Spud Brogden sat next to me, and the pros and cons of line breeding continued. I listened intently. Spud gave me advice on hybridizing and stories to go along with them. I decided I was going to sit there and enjoy every minute, until the group decided to call

it a night, which was 2:30 am. What a night to remember!!!!

On the final evening of the 2012 World Daffodil Convention in Dunedin, Graham Phillips and his wife, Bronwyn, joined us at our table. I sat next to Graham, and of course the conversation was drawn on daffodils. Graham also gave me hybridizing advice and suggestions. Peter Ramsey was giving a presentation that evening on the history of New Zealand's famous hybridizers, including Graham's father, Phil, whose picture was on the screen. Peter went on to explain the significance of Phil Phillips and 'POPS Legacy', an acronym for "Phillips Open Pollinated Seedling". I was so surprised, and Graham sat there beaming with pride!!! (By the way, Graham had his shoes off during dinner... Hot feet, I guess! Ha!)

What fun New Zealand was, the friendly people, friends old and new, and a second daffodil season in one YEAR!!!!



## Daffodil Labels

For GSLDS members only, Eon E-15 Nursery Markers are available in minimum lots of 25 labels at \$8.75 per lot (\$.35 each). There are no restrictions on how many lots you may purchase.

Labels may be acquired two ways: at GSLDS functions, or by special pickup appointment at the Missouri Botanical Garden (MBG) ticket counter, Mon-Fri only. No deliveries or other special arrangements will be entertained.

Please e-mail Jason Delaney at [jason.delaney@mobot.org](mailto:jason.delaney@mobot.org) (subject line “daffodil labels”) to request your labels at an upcoming GSLDS function, or for scheduled pickup at MBG, no later than two weeks in advance of scheduled date. Payment by check or money order only, made payable to GSLDS must be submitted upon receipt of goods.

## The All Too Social Bulb – *Alliums Tuberosum*

By Beth Holbrooke

Most of the flowering plants in my garden behave themselves – well, we won’t go into detail about the violets that spread their short little selves by seeds, runners and every other means they can think to make the world purple. Most of the time they can be considered “green mulch” and aren’t bulbs anyway. No, there is one bulb that started as one little clump and has spread itself over my entire front garden and somehow got into the back retaining wall garden. For a while my late season garden had the coneflowers faded away to nothing and a few Russian Sage barely hanging on. Suddenly an entire sea of white balls of flowers standing on stalks about two feet high sprang into view. They were straight and tall - in huge clumps everywhere because I didn’t dig them out last year. It was like a foaming seaside of white over my entire garden. Fifty five feet by thirty feet of noxious bulbs – society garlic. A much too social bulb politely called *allium tuberosum*. Not the purple and well behaved *pulvaghia violacaea* that knows its place. No, this is a bulb that spreads to cracks between my sidewalk bricks and pops up in my gravel walkway and encroaches into my daylilies and iris.

The only redeeming virtue for this obnoxious fast spreading bulb (the kind catalogs would call “vigorous grower”) is the attraction it has for butterflies, tiny moths, bees and other bugs. Each ball of white flowers seems to have at least three eagerly feeding creatures and grows in a time of few flowers for insects to feed on. I almost hate to dig them out, but it seems to be either them or the rest of my bulbs – the ones I paid money to plant. As I dig them out, they are growing INSIDE the clumps of iris and daylilies, so those must be dug and replanted. I think I truly dislike “vigorous growers”. Well, even digging all I can find will not stop its spread. I will dig out at least two yard waste bags full of them and only then will I plant the four boxes of daffodils waiting for the space!



## MORE PICK AND SHOW

By Cindy Haeffner

I completely agree with Gary (see last newsletter article), he has selected some great show winners. Wanted to explain what the “pick and show” term means. Simply, the blooms are perfect and need no grooming or further staging preparation for the show/judging and precious time saved.

I would also like to share with you some of my favorites I like to have with me, tucked away in those vases on that ride to the show.

One of my top picks would have to be ‘Cinnamon Ring’, a John Reed cultivar. Many members had the opportunity to select ‘Cinnamon Ring’ at last year’s bulb exchange, so be sure to bring them to next year’s show.

‘POPS Legacy’ always seems to find its way into a collection or 2, and to poke fun at myself, I liked it so well, I put two ‘POPS Legacy’s’ into a Quinn Collection at Indianapolis last year .....I did not notice it, but the judges did, HA.

Another readily available variety from Mitsch Daffodils is ‘Emerald Stone’. The variety not only shows well, but increases well and remains healthy.

‘Royal Marine’ is right up there on my list, most likely because it is my favorite color code, but a fresh bloom looks stunning as an anchor in a collection.

Ok, I tried to keep it to 5 like Gary, but I had to add ‘Geometrics’, the cultivar I await for bloom arrival, so I can watch it transform itself. Stunning to look at, show and valuable to own for hybridizing, as it is fertile both ways, seed and pollen.

Last, but not least, ‘Avenger’, an old Richardson 1957 variety. When the September ADS Journal arrives, I am always amazed how often this variety is listed in winning collections, proving the “latest, new expensive” is not necessary to win. Also, selected as one of the GSLDS Club challenge bulbs for 2012!!!!



*“I long for the bulbs to arrive, for the early autumn chores are melancholy, but the planting of bulbs is the work of hope and always thrilling”*

*May Sarton, New England poet, author and feminist 1912 - 1995*



### Gardening with Spring Bulbs 101: An interview with Jason A. Delaney, Bulb Collections Specialist, Missouri Botanical Garden

#### **Question: Are there any special tools and techniques required?**

The best tools for bulb planting are a strong back, a strong wrist protected in an adjustable wrist brace or wrist guard, a shovel, a hand trowel, a 12” ruler, and a fifth of Maker’s Mark.

Proper drainage, and appropriate depth and spacing are the three most critical factors for success. Because bulbs –especially perennial bulbs that need to be situated for the long haul– require deep underground planting, it is of utmost importance that the soil is cultivated *below* the level of planting to ensure the bulbs will have adequate drainage and room to develop a strong root system for access to nutrition, as well as for better above-ground plant support.

Ideally, about a month before planting to give the soil time to settle before planting, turn the soil over with a shovel or spade, add the necessary soil amendments (fertilizers, structural enhancement components, etc., based on soil analysis and amendment recommendations), then mix it all together with a tiller or shovel. An inert ingredient I highly recommend for all gardening and especially for bulbs is a product called Turface, or calcined clay. It provides ideal structure to every soil, and its particles enable a superior balance of drainage and moisture retention, and gas and nutrient mobility through the soil. For new sites, I strongly recommend one 50# bag for every 6-8 square feet of space, worked in as deeply as possible. Remember: amended, friable soil needs to be *below* the bulbs, not on top.

Once the soil is prepared and ready for planting, I prefer laying out the bulbs on top of the ground in their desired locations and planting each with a hand trowel. Spacing and depth for bulbs should be, as a general rule, three times greater than the bulb's diameter, though it is always wise to plant a little deeper than too shallow. Hand troweling them into the soil at the proper depth is easiest for me; in situations where the soil has been cultivated, traditional hand- or foot-operated bulb planters can be cumbersome and ineffective in finely worked soil, so I generally discourage their use. For naturalizing lawns or wooded situations, where deep soil preparation is not possible, one can employ a shovel or a heavy-duty drill with a bulb-planting auger attachment to create each hole.

Based on the soil analysis and recommendation, if fertilizing is necessary, the best times to do this are during soil preparation, mixing it in as an amendment; or, apply it atop the soil immediately after planting, before mulch is applied. In subsequent years, the best times to fertilize bulbs are in the late autumn or in early spring when bulb roots are actively growing. Once the flower spikes are present on ephemeral bulbs, it is generally too late to fertilize for that season. Fertilizers can hasten floral duration and even cause burn to floral tissues, so avoid fertilizing when the plants are flowering; also, always avoid high nitrogen fertilizers which encourage bulb rot. Generally for bulbs, a fertilizer analysis of 1-2-3 is preferred; most vegetable fertilizers are best.

**Question: How many bulbs should I plant, and are there any special tips for making the most of my display?**

As general rules, for both spacing and depth, a bulb should be planted three times greater than its diameter; and, always plant the pointed side of the bulb up and the flat part down. For strictly annual displays (or one-time, as many gardeners treat tulips in our region), spacing can be reduced to create a fuller effect. For longer term perennial displays, it is very important to maintain adequate spacing and depth. If one is designing extensive, commingled perennial bulb plantings (three or more types of plants occupying the same area), increase spacing two-fold.

Don't be intimidated by numbers: little corms and bulbs such as crocuses, scillas, and snowdrops should be planted in larger quantities to ensure a fuller display from the beginning—purchase these in multiples of fifty, one hundred, or more, planting two or three bulbs per hole. Their corms and bulbs are often no larger than a dime or nickel.

Many bulbs can be commingled to extend the life of a display. For example, a bulb “lasagna” of late winter flowering crocus and snowdrops; spring flowering daffodils and hardy gladiolus; late spring flowering giant onions; early summer flowering Asiatic lilies; late summer flowering surprise lilies; and fall flowering crocus and colchicum are well suited for planting together to provide continuous interest from late winter through fall. Such a mixed planting should grow without overcrowding issues for many years if properly spaced when initially planted. Perennials, biennials, and annuals are also excellent companions for connecting the

displays and for extending interest throughout the year. Just be sure the companion plants have similar cultural requirements as the bulbs, especially pertaining to water needs.

When planting formal displays, it is especially critical that uniform planting depth is maintained to ensure blooming time and stem height are uniform throughout the entire display.

In lieu of labels, use bulbs as functional companions. Because the foliage of grape hyacinths (*Muscari*) emerges in the fall (usually mid-August in Saint Louis), it can be comingled with other spring-flowering, fall-dormant bulbs to clearly mark the spot where something else is already planted. Its blue, white, purple, or yellow flowers beautifully compliment other spring flowering bulbs when planted together.

Always plant a few extra bulbs for cut flowers to share with family and friends, and don't forget: an assortment of perennial bulbs makes a wonderful gift to new and experienced gardeners alike.

**Question: How late can I plant my bulbs?**

Mid-October through early November is the ideal planting time for the majority of fall-planted, spring-flowering hardy bulbs in the Saint Louis region. However, as long as the ground can be worked and outdoor temperatures are above freezing, bulbs can be planted through the winter months to still provide a beautiful display in spring, if later. Some of our best spring displays were planted as late as mid-January at the botanical garden.

**Question: Is there any special care needed during the winter?**

A fine mulch of leaf mould or compost applied 2"-3" inches thick following planting is all that's necessary. If your garden is tormented by squirrels and other digging creatures, you can lay vinyl-coated chicken wire over the planted site prior to mulching. Just remember it's there if you intend to cultivate the soil later on.

**Question: Are any bulbs animal resistant?**

Yes! This is where your research pay off. Most reference books list the plant's *family*, which is very important for knowing which plant is animal resistant. All bulbs in the *Amaryllidaceae*, or amaryllis family (daffodils, snowdrops, snowflakes, surprise lilies, crinum) are poisonous to animals. Most bulbs in the *Hyacinthaceae*, or hyacinth family (hyacinths, glories of the snow, squill, summer hyacinths) are also poisonous. Many bulbs in the *Liliaceae*, or lily family (lilies, tulips, fritillaries) are edible. Most catalogs and bulb packaging also list which bulbs are inedible. This information can save you much frustration and money in the long run.

(The second portion of this talk will be printed in a later issue of *The Daffodil Rave*)

## Calendar of Events 2012

DATE	TIME/PLACE	ACTIVITY
Sunday November 18, 2012	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Garden Room of Ridgeway Center at MOBOT	Presentation by Jason Delaney <b>"Twice as Nice: A Year End Review of Daffodils in the Midwest and in New Zealand"</b> <i>Snacks brought by members with Holiday party theme.</i>