



The Daffodil Rave

Volume 13 Issue 2
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Greater St Louis Daffodil Society
www.stldaffodilclub.org

Early Spring 2013

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The President's Message March 2013

Brrrr....baby it's cold outside! On the first day of spring we had sun, snow showers and cold wind - not perfect weather for calving or to encourage daffodils to bloom. Mother Nature remains unpredictable, so to poke a little fun at us girls, it's no wonder Mother Nature is female, HA! The past 2 years we have seen extremes from an extra early spring to a late spring.

Our annual show is March 30 th, 2013, with setup on Friday, March 29 th. Please plan to participate in any manner you can, exhibiting in horticulture, photography, design, donating daffodil blooms, setup, or clerking.

We will have a special international guest visiting us from New Zealand, Graham Phillips, from the North Island during our show. Graham hybridizes and has a cut daffodil flower business. He and his partner cut and sell over 600,000 stems per year, that's a lot of daffodils!

This year our Dig Daffodils Day at Shaw Nature Reserve is scheduled April 2, 2013. This remains one of the most popular member events, so plan on attending! A Shaw Nature Reserve Dig article appears later in this newsletter, in which Jason provides us with some history of the Reserve from past to present.

I would like, along with all GSLDS members, to wish a daffodil welcome to new members. Welcome to our special club!!!!

*Cindy Haeffner, President
Greater St. Louis Daffodil Society*



THE BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL

By Dave Niswonger

It appears that ADS may have to revise its list of Divisions. There are so many new forms showing up from our hybridizers. In my case, I'm looking for the bold and beautiful.

I like those huge coronas that range from two inches to three in diameter. These could be red with a white perianth or yellow. I would even go for a pink perianth which I think is possible by converting the yellow to pink. And what about those split coronas that are taking all kinds of forms? What about those "naughty and bawdy" colors. I think a name like '42nd Street' would be appropriate. What do you do with a cultivar whose corona is larger than the perianth? Spiders in daffodils?

Yes, I think it may become necessary to expand the divisions. What do you think?



Dave Niswonger's '42nd Street'



John Reed Seedling

"In early March many and lovely are the flowering bulbs...It will be the daffodils that first come to mind" Emily Stackhouse

"No matter what changes take place in the world, or in me, nothing ever seems to disturb the face of spring." E.B. White

"In all the recipes for happiness I have ever seen, 'something to look forward to' has been given as an important ingredient. Something to look forward to! How rich the gardener, any gardener, is in this particular ingredient! For always (s) he looks forward to something, if it is only the appearance of the red noses of the peonies in the spring and the sharp aromas that fill the air in autumn after the frost has touched the herbage."

Louise Beebe Wilder (1887-1938, "America's Gertrude Jekyll")





SHAW NATURE RESERVE GSLDS DIG April 2, 2013

The members of the Greater St. Louis Daffodil Society have a rather unique event scheduled. Now, while many seasoned members have experienced this dig, our club has many new members and I would like to encourage them to attend. Also, I would like to explain this opportunity:

“The Missouri Botanical Garden’s land purchase in 1925 began the legacy of Shaw Nature Reserve. Originally set up as a safe refuge for the plant collection from the city’s smoke pollution of the 1920’s, its role in the community has evolved through the years. Shaw Nature Reserve has many roles—as a nature reserve, a place to walk and hike, and a good spot for relaxing and for studying nature. It has become a premier educational, research, habitat restoration and reconstruction site.

Over the years, tens of thousands of school children and adults have learned more about nature and the environment by observation and through the guidance of Shaw Nature Reserve’s educational and professional staff. Teachers themselves come to improve their teaching of ecological principles as well as to gain a greater appreciation of the natural world. In recognition of its worth as an educational resource, the Reserve was designated a National Environmental Education Landmark by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior in 1972.

St. Louis is one of very few metropolitan regions that can boast of a 2,441-acre natural asset such as Shaw Nature Reserve so near its city-based parent organization, the world-famous Missouri Botanical Garden. Through ecological restoration, the Shaw Nature Reserve is re-establishing and maintaining native biological diversity. Protected natural areas today are small and scattered compared to the land area occupied by natural ecosystems in the past. Natural processes and disturbances which once maintained biodiversity — climate, wildfire, animal migrations, burrowing, grazing, etc. — now function differently than did in the past. In addition, importation of invasive species and many other human activities have replaced natural ecosystems with biologically impoverished "human-made habitats."

Shaw Nature Reserve strives to restore or create habitats for as many Missouri native species of flora and fauna as possible. Management practices are undertaken with the ecological aim of creating self-sustaining healthy populations of native species, while taking into account educational, interpretive and aesthetic considerations.”

But what about the daffodils?

“There are likely millions of daffodils blooming around the Shaw Nature Reserve's Pinetum Lake and the one-mile road encircling it beginning in late March/early April each year, and beyond into the

Reserve. Many varieties of Narcissi have been accumulating around the Pinetum Lake for the biggest part of the 88 years the Reserve has been in existence”.

Daffodils got their start at the Nature Reserve through the efforts of Mr. John Rowe who lived and farmed close to the town of Pacific, Missouri. He was an amateur propagator of daffodils as well as of nuts, fruits, vegetables, and other flowering bulbs. Mr. Howe brought a bushel of daffodil bulbs to the Reserve to share during its fledgling years when the earliest planting was being done. Upon seeing Mr. Rowe's basket of bulbs, Dr. Edgar Anderson, then Curator of Useful Plants at Missouri Botanical Garden, wanted to know who produced these masterpieces of horticulture.

Dr. Anderson had the bulbs planted around Pinetum Lake where they are still the core of the naturalized bulb plantings at Shaw Nature Reserve. Although John Howe was an amateur gardener without formal horticultural training, learned gardeners, botanists, and directors of famous botanical institutions contacted him to see his collections and to ask his advice.

Dr. Anderson was especially fond of daffodils and devoted much time and energy to both the Botanical Garden's and the Shaw Nature Reserve's collections. Fortunately he had plenty of narcissi or daffodils to work with. At regular intervals after Mr. Howe's bulbs were first put in place, hundreds of additional varieties from the newest to the classic standards of the day were planted. The plantings were carefully studied, especially during the period 1938 and 1942. The goal was to have a continuous display of color lasting for a full two months using a mixture of early to late blooming varieties.”

In recent years, Shaw Nature Reserve has entered a partnership the Missouri Department of Conservation to begin restoring native prairies. Part of this process includes controlled burns, which brings back the seed bank still there. The goal is to return the habitat to the original, pre-European landscapes of native plants. Since daffodils are introduced plants into the North American flora, all daffodils beyond the Pinetum area need to be removed. This benefits not only the prairie restorations, but also our ability to acquire rare, unique, and lovely daffodils for our own gardens.

Luckily for us, we not only are adept at digging daffodils, we also have Jason Delaney of MOBOT. This allows us special access one time a year to rescue as many daffodils as we wish within our designated digging zones. Members are encouraged to dig, share, and enjoy as many as we can. We like to think of it as a “daffodil dig party/social event”, and this dig has become one of the favorite events of the year!

Compiled by Jason Delaney & Cindy Haeffner

NEW ZEALAND MEMORIES AND KIWI DREAMS (as told by Cindy Haeffner)

By Beth Holbrooke



We had a wonderful first meeting on February 24 of this year with both Cindy Haeffner and Jason Delaney as speakers in combination with the iris society (more on Jason's talk later). Cindy and her husband Joy were able to attend the 2012 World Daffodil Convention in New Zealand and seemed to have a terrific time there, if the photos they took are any example. We saw images of the latest and greatest hybrids from some of the most outstanding growers of daffodils in New Zealand.

There were also photos of the places where these daffodils originated and the beautiful fields where they were growing. After the convention, Cindy and Joy went travelling around the country to see more than just daffodils. A number of side trips were shown, along with many agricultural visits that also included daffodils, calves and native plants. The areas are still given over to pastoral settings, with lamb chops on the hoof and orchards under netting to keep birds away. Daffodil world convention are a great excuse to get away to a new country and visit wonderful people willing to share their joy of daffodils as well as pride in the country around them. Great show!

GREATER ST LOUIS DAFFODIL SOCIETY MEETING MINUTES

Sunday, February 24, 2013, 1:00PM
Garden Room, Ridgeway Center at MBG

The first portion of our February meeting was held in conjunction with the St. Louis Iris Society and was composed of presentations to the combined groups by two of our members. Cindy Haeffner spoke on "New Zealand Memories and Kiwi Dreams"; Jason Delaney shared with us the story of his "Altai Expedition". See the article by Beth Holbrooke on these presentations in our newsletter.

After these presentations, Cindy Haeffner called the Daffodil Society business portion of our meeting to order. Minutes of our November meeting were reviewed. Dave Niswonger moved they be accepted as written and Brenda Van Booven seconded. Peter McAdams presented the treasurer's report. Pam Hardy moved to accept the report subject to audit, and Lynn Slackman seconded.

Under old business, Cindy talked about working with the Springfield Botanic Garden trying to create an exhibition. The target date is March 22-24 and Cindy asked that we donate flowers. They do have vases so we won't have to bring ours. In preparation for our show on Saturday, March 30, Peter McAdams demonstrated the risers he has developed. We need help painting them when Peter has them ready. The group greatly appreciates Peter's work on the risers and got to see how nice they look with the black sheets draping them. In the last item of old business, Lynn Slackman reported that we do have a hotel contract for the world convention in 2016, with the Sheraton Westport Chalet. Also, we will be able to plant daffodils there in preparation for April 6-11 of 2016! Pictures of the hotel that has been selected are on the website now.

Plans for our March 30 show were discussed by Lynn. We will set up on Friday the 29th, but can't move into the Beaumont Room until after 5 PM. Layout will be similar to last year and we are trying to get a computer set up with Daffseek, so people can see how easy it is to use. Gary has qualified judges arranged and Brenda Van Booven, Pam Hardy and Vaughn Meister offered to be clerks. This is the ADS Central Region's show and will include the Tuggle Award (3 flowers each of 9 different cultivars) and the Mini Bronze (9 different stems of miniature varieties). We have the four ADS national ribbons for the new classics category (daffodils introduced between 1940 and 1969). Peter moved that we approve purchase of certificate gifts for judges, Pam Hardy seconded and the group approved the motion.

Cindy reviewed for us the fall projects we had done with the Golden Dawn Daffodils donated to us by the Garden. We sold some at our sales, some were sold at the Garden Gate Shop, and some were planted with the High School project in Owensville. We discussed some way that we might make a donation with some of the money we had made with these daffodil bulbs over the year. We decided to make the first ever donation from our Society. Peter McAdams moved that we make a \$1,000.00 donation to the Missouri Botanical Garden to be used for purchase of daffodil bulbs for their collection. Jim Morris seconded the motion. Jason explained that they can put the funds in a special restricted account for that purpose. The motion was carried unanimously.

Jason Delaney discussed the Daffodil Dig at Shaw Nature Reserve for this year. There were only a few possible dates available. The group preferred Tues, April 2nd and Jason will confirm the date and let us know.

Beth Holbrooke discussed the next issue of the Daffodil Rave, requesting an article from Dave Niswonger regarding his seedlings, and possibly something about bulb planting. Beth will cover today's presentations. We will also have something about the Springfield Exhibition of daffodils.

Several announcements were made: Peter McAdams is having an Open House the weekend before our Show, Mar 22-24. Anyone can come and hike the grounds. There will be no specific time or food, bring your own. Jason Delaney will have an open house at PHS in Flora, IL, the weekend after our show, April 5-7. The ADS convention is April 11-14 in Columbus, Ohio, with GSLDS member Jason Delaney as the keynote speaker.

This past weekend Brenda Van Booven lead the first annual "Brunch & Bloom" fundraiser for ground maintenance at Church of the Risen Savior in Rhineland. Each year they will have a presentation on one of the garden flowers and this year it was daffodils with Jason Delaney as presenter. The program was successful and our Booth sold \$170 in potted bulbs.

Cindy Haeffner gave her New Zealand presentation to the Master Gardeners. Deborah Pratt took daffodils to Anchorage and also planted some at Jefferson Barracks around Bldg 1. Suzanne Raymond asked that anyone with extra paper goods donate them to our regular supply. Our door prize was won this meeting by Beth Holbrooke.

Respectfully submitted,
Vaughn Meister



TREASURER'S REPORT for January – March, 2013

By Peter McAdams, Treasurer

Peter McAdams, treasurer for The Greater St. Louis Daffodil Society reports there is nothing very financial to report since the last printed report that ended December 31, 2012. We have received several membership dues from people who joined this year, but apart from those monies there have been no revenues or expenses.

Peter does want to remind everyone again that "**Dues Are Due**". With January 1st being the start of our fiscal year, anyone who has not renewed their membership will be technically a non member by now. If you did not renew at the bulb exchange last year, please get in touch with Peter to check on your status. (His information is on page one of this newsletter). Single memberships are still five dollars and family memberships are seven dollars. Thank you.



PLANT SURVEYING IN THE ALTAI MOUNTAINS (as told by Jason Delaney)

By Beth Holbrooke

The second featured speaker at our February 24th meeting was Jason Delaney, the bulb curator for the Missouri Botanical Garden. He travelled to the Altai Mountains in Russia to be part of a group surveying the plants there for future collection. Jason took with him mountains of luggage meant for collecting specimens and marking the areas where plants and seeds would be collected. As it turned out, this was the first of two or more trips. On this trip each plant left in place after studying was recorded with still photographs, videos and marked with the GPS coordinates of the area. Luckily, MOBOT paid for the overage charges on the baggage, which he left there for future use. With all the time taken to mark and photograph each plant, I am amazed that he had any time left at the end of a day.

He first visited the Moscow botanical gardens, which have old crumbling building that they are very proud in showing off. They have many daffodils and other bulbs with the RHS information clearly labeled. Jason was surprised to find that many plants hybridized by our fellow member, Dave Niswonger were also in the gardens. The people there were surprised that Jason would know such a famous plants man.

After the civilized greeting and the wining and dining, the actual trip through the mountains made close friends of everyone involved in the effort. Sleeping in tents, having no indoor – or outdoor – bathrooms and living in the same clothes for days had people working in very primitive conditions. Even the beautiful photos and great anecdotes wouldn't make up for the trials and tribulations of hardship camping, but I'm glad Jason went to being the report back to us.

Greater St. Louis Daffodil Society

Calendar of Events

2013

DATE	TIME/PLACE	ACTIVITY
Saturday March 30, 2013	9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Beaumont Room at MOBOT	"Daffodils are Springing Up" Celebrate Spring at the Greater St. Louis Daffodil Society's annual Daffodil Show. Staging starts at 9:00am on Friday March 29th in the Garden Room. Setup of Beaumont Rm. begins at 5:00pm.
Tuesday, April 2, 2013	9:00 AM - 3:00 PM Shaw Nature Reserve, Gray Summit, MO (Rain Day - April 3, 2013)	"Dig Daffodils Day" is open by invitation only to GSLDS members and other interested plant conservation and preservation groups. Members please bring your lunch.
Sunday, July 21, 2013	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Garden Room of Ridgeway Center at MOBOT	Talk by outside speaker to be announced... Refreshments provided by members
Sunday, September 8, 2013	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Garden Room of Ridgeway Center at MOBOT	Bagging and Tagging of Bulbs for upcoming Exchange and Sale.
October 26 – 27, 2013	9:00AM – 5:00PM or until sold out, Orthwein Floral Display Hall of Ridgeway Center at MOBOT	Annual public bulb sale and our best fund raiser. Setup Friday night October 25th in Orthwein Floral Hall from 5:00PM until done.
Sunday November 3, 2013	NOON – 5:00PM Classroom #125 at CBEC	Annual exchange of "better" donated and purchased bulbs from various sources. Please refer to participation guidelines below. Main Course and drink provided, "Side dishes & Desserts" requested.
Sunday November 17, 2013	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Classroom #127 at CBEC	Wrap up of the year. Slides and snacks brought by members with Holiday party theme. A chance to visit and exchange ideas for next year.

Participation guidelines for Daffodil Bulb Exchange on Sunday, November 3, 2013;

- * Members attending at least two events or meetings, prior to the bulb exchange, pay usual \$10 entry fee.
- * Members attending less than two events or meetings, prior to the bulb exchange, pay \$25 entry fee.
- * Non-members **MUST** become a member of GSLDS and pay \$25 entry fee.

CBEC Classroom #125 will seat 50 classroom-style and is equipped with a long counter with a sink.
CBEC Classroom #127 is a regular size classroom for seating 30 people.