

Greater St. Louis Daffodil Society

Sunday, November 15, 2015
Beaumont Room, Missouri Botanical Garden
1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

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President Cindy Haeffner called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM at the Missouri Botanical Garden's Beaumont room.

Jason Delaney was our speaker sharing with us his experience traveling to Holland this past June to see and work the daffodil bulb harvesting season. He visited with the family of Kees Breed and his son Eric who runs the business now. There were several unique things about the Dutch Bulb trade, not just tulips but thousands of daffodils. The fields give four crops a year, cut flowers as well as bulbs, and Jason showed us how the digging is done both in the Breed's fields where digging is manual as well as in the larger fields where machines are used. We saw the bins in which the bulbs are stacked and ventilated to assure they air out well. They stack the bins to the ceiling and vent warm air from the roof of the building down to the base and up through the bins, creating a natural drying system. The soil is almost pure sand, most of the fields being below sea level on land reclaimed from the sea. All the locals, including school children, help with the harvesting and sorting of the bulbs.

Some other details Jason shared with us are the planting machine, in which people lie on their stomachs and that the Dutch do treat the fields for nematodes by flooding them for two weeks then draining them. After Jason's presentation we had a break and snacks.

July meeting minutes were reviewed. Pam Hardy moved that we approve them and Dave Niswonger seconded the motion. It was passed by a voice vote.

Peter McAdams gave the treasure's report. Beth Holbrooke moved that it be approved subject to audit, and Pam Hardy seconded the motion. Again the motion was passed by a voice vote.

Jason asked that we submit any articles for The Rave.

Old Business—Member Development. Cindy and Sonja Lallemand have been working on a booklet and Sonja is contacting members that have not been renewed.

Audit—Joy Haeffner conducted an audit of the books and submitted his report stating that the financial records of the Society are in good order.

New Business—

World Daffodil Convention 2016- we had lots of updates. We will have a meeting the third or fourth Sunday of January to go over all our convention plans. A reminder notice will be sent out. Lynn told us that the hotel has got reservations for most of the rooms already set aside for the convention, so if you want to stay there make your reservations soon. Peter reported that the risers are all painted and done. Pam got twin sheets for the small risers. Margaret MacNeal

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of the Minnesota chapter is working with Kirby Fong on tabulation. Our schedules are printed and judge's gifts received.

There will be an exhibit at the Home and Garden Show March 3-6. We got a complimentary advertisement in the American Horticultural Society magazine, the American Gardener. Lynn has also contacted the Gateway Gardener regarding an advertisement. We still need \$5000 in sponsorship to reach our goal. Central Mississippi chapter has pledged \$250 and Mid Atlantic chapter \$1400. Letters will be sent to them. Speakers are all confirmed and we are awaiting bios and photos. Bob and Judy Skaggs are doing the bus coordination. Bellefontaine has 64,000 daffodils planted.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Vaughn Meister