

# The Daffodil Rave

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Greater St Louis Daffodil Society Newsletter

Summer 2009

Beth Holbrooke, Editor

[www.stldaffodilclub.org](http://www.stldaffodilclub.org)

## Another Wonderful Spring...

By Lynn Slackman

Once again we were blessed with a cool spring, which led to an extended daffodil blooming season. This in turn gave us the ability to bring lots of quality blooms to the national convention in Chicago during late April. I'd like to congratulate members of the Greater St Louis Daffodil Society on their awards at the 2009 National ADS Convention. A special congratulation is extended to Beth Holbrooke...who won the "Best in Show" award this year! I'm really proud of the GSLDS members who attended the national convention.

Due to the tremendous GSLDS bulb sales and exchanges over the past few years, our collections and quality of daffodils have grown quite a bit. Some of us are running out of space and could use some help organizing our daffodils. Our July speaker, Michael Berrigan, has been growing and showing daffodils for a number of years. He currently grows over 800 cultivars on ¼ acre in Minnesota, that alone sounds like a tremendous challenge. Mike's presentation "How to Plant and What to plant...Managing your daffodil collection" sounds like that key bit of knowledge that could bring it all together for me. I hope all of you can find the time to join us at the July 12<sup>th</sup> meeting to welcome Mike back to St. Louis and learn some additional skills for managing your daffodils.

*continued on page 2*

## Guest Speaker July 12

By Cindy Haeffner

### "How to Plant, and What to Plant... Managing your Daffodil Collection"

When you buy a bulb, how do you know what to do with it? How you plant depends upon what type of flowers you are trying to obtain. During his July 12th presentation, Michael Berrigan will cover planting sites, types of plantings, and choice of bulbs for naturalizing, pots, showing or for mixed plantings. An approach to managing your daffodil collection with these aims in mind will also be presented. Considerations for purchasing new, old, and gifted bulbs will also be outlined. Michael Berrigan has been growing daffodils for over twenty years, and has been showing flowers for the last 15 years.

His first named flowers were from an Irish flower collection offered by Park Seed Company. The collection included 'King's Grove', 'Sportsman', 'Smokey Bear', 'Pink Paradise', and 'High Society'. Mike continues to grow these flowers decades later. Mike grows his flowers on 1/4 acre. The space restrictions forced him to carefully consider why he was keeping bulbs of the over 800 cultivars he actively grows on his property. He has trialed about three times that number over the years. He is an active hybridizer attempting to successfully make wide crosses resulting in fertile children. He grows his flowers in mixed plantings, cemetery plots, pots, and in a greenhouse.

Members of GSLDS are delighted that Mike has agreed to speak to our group, and look forward to visiting with him during July.

Please plan to attend, presented at the Missouri Botanical Garden, in the Garden Room of the Ridgeway Center, 1-3PM. Members, please bring snacks to share!!!!

Consider asking another gardening friend to join us in the fun, or even a NON gardening friend, this will get them motivated!!!! Mike's program will cover daffodils for the novice and the seasoned collector!!!

Hope to see you there!!!!!!!!!!!!

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Another Wonderful Spring – Lynn Slackman
- 1 Guest Speaker July 12 – Mike Berrigan
- 2 Minutes from Sunday, March 22, 2009
- 3 My Booty from SNR - Peter McAdams
- 3 Treasurer's Report – Peter McAdams
- 4 A Tidbit of Advice – Cindy Haeffner
- 4 Editor's Thoughts on Chicago Convention
- 5 Shaw Nature Reserve Report – Cindy Haeffner
- 6 Calendar of Upcoming Events

***Another Wonderful Spring*** continued from page 1

This time of year you are probably placing bulb orders for some of those daffodils from the "wish list" you made at the spring daffodil shows. But...it's also time to start digging and dividing daffodils for fall planting and to share with others. Some members have many historic daffodils, others have gorgeous pink daffodils, and still others have loads of those unique Division 11's. I know that some of your collection has sentimental value and have been your show winners, but sharing some of your prize daffodils at our annual Bulb Exchange will give you a chance to showcase bulbs from your own unique collections. Please consider sharing this year...and spreading some yellow fever.

**Minutes, Sunday, March 22, 2009  
Greater St Louis Daffodil Society  
Garden Room of Ridgeway Center at MOBOT**

President Lynn Slackman called the meeting to order by welcoming members and guests. The minutes of the previous meeting had been published in "*The Daffodil Rave*". Jean Morris moved they be accepted as published, seconded by Dave Niswonger. Minutes were approved. Treasurer Peter McAdams read the detailed record of the Treasurer's Report. Jean Morris moved that the report be accepted as presented and filed subject to audit. Dave Niswonger seconded the motion. (A copy of the Treasurer's report is included with the minutes of the current Meeting on file.)

The featured speaker for the meeting was the American Daffodil Society's Central Region Vice-President, Gary Knehan. Gary's topic, *Daffodils...from Garden to Show*, covered the selection and harvesting of daffodils and storing the harvested blooms. He presented a tutorial on preparing and grooming your many show entries, complete with demonstrations using actual blooms and show set-ups. Thanks to those who brought blooming daffodils for the demonstration.

**OLD BUSINESS**

New name badges for the current membership of the Greater St Louis Daffodil Society were made by Jackie Huber and handed out at the meeting. The members were very pleased and thanked Jackie for providing them.

Jean Morris reported on the 2009 Daffodil Show Design classes. She stated that 2 classes were still open and asked for anyone willing to sign up for these would be appreciated.

Gary Knehan, Chair of the Horticultural Classes of the show reported on the progress and reminded members that lots of help from members would be needed and asked that members contact him if they

would be able to help on the day of the show.

Gary also reported on the amount of show expenses to be budgeted for the show. Jim Morris moved that an amount of \$300.00 be allocated. Seconded by Beth Holbrooke, motion passed.

Cindy Haeffner reported on the status of the potted daffodils to be available for purchase at the show. A count was taken from members growing potted plants and instructions were given as to getting them to the show.

President Lynn Slackman reminded members that volunteers were needed for set-up, daffodil show, tear down and selling the potted plants.

President Slackman also stated that an Editor was needed for additional publications of "*The Daffodil Rave*", and estimated cost for printing and mailing the newsletter. Beth Holbrooke volunteered to serve as editor.

Jason reported on the status of the metal tags for GSLDS membership after discussing, it was decided to order a lesser amount and Jim and Jean Morris would pick them up to save the exorbitant postage costs.

Cindy and Jason announced the date for the 2009 Dig Daffodils Day at Shaw's Nature Reserve. This year we will have an alternative "Rain Date" in the event of inclement weather.

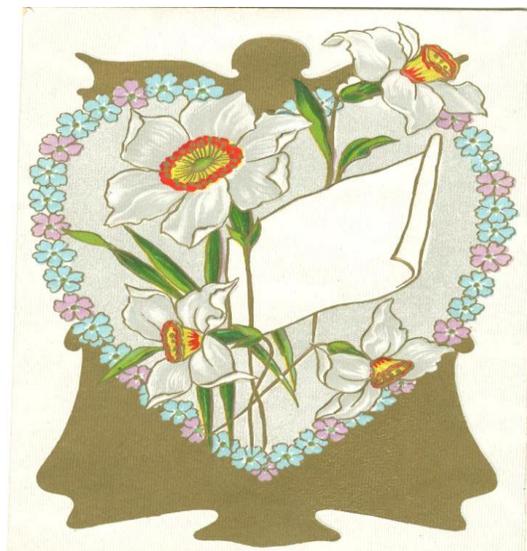
President Slackman presented the new membership brochures that she had printed. They will be available at our shows and sales and for other events that the members may wish to use them.

Cindy Haeffner gave a brief introduction to the powerpoint program to be given at our July 12<sup>th</sup> meeting by Michael Berrigan.

Announcements were made for up-coming events and several door prizes were drawn, with the \$25.00 gift certificate going to Lois Raley.

Meeting was adjourned at 4 PM.

**Secretary, Ann Henson**



## MY BOOTY FROM SNR

By Peter McAdams

Jan & I have been to all three Daffodil Dig Days at Shaw Nature Reserve and they have all been fun and rewarding, but tiring days. This year we had beautiful weather which seemed strange after two very wet years pulling daffodils out of the muck. We both look forward to next year, rain or shine.

In 2007, the first year of the Dig, Sunday, the day after the dig, I split clumps and planted about 800 bulbs individually along the edge of our yard and the edge of the woods using my drill and auger. Mostly 'Twin Sisters', 'Beryl', 2 W-Y, and some 6 Y-Y (I think). The rest I cleaned the mud off and hung in onion bags in the basement to cure and dry, and that fall planted individually in the yard and woods edge. Almost nothing bloomed in Spring 2008, and maybe 50% bloomed in 2009.

In 2008, I prepared a bulb bed before the Dig by rototilling an area in the fall with some composted manure. Then after the Dig I dug a trench, split up the bulbs into smaller clumps, and planted them all in the prepared big bulb garden. I ended up with two 100 ft rows. Only two divided clumps bloomed well this year. Most had one or two blooms, and some none.

This year, 2009, I again prepared my bulb bed before the Dig. And in the 2 weeks after the Dig I lined in the bulbs, this time trying to separate each bulb by about 2 inches. That ended up being 5 more rows of bulbs. A very few of the larger bulbs did bloom later in the spring, some poets and Div 8's. I should have quite a show in 3 years. Then I will transplant them in the fall throughout our woods, with some going to our fall bulb sale.

So where is this leading? This year about 50% of the 2007 year Dig bulbs bloomed. What did bloom were surprisingly vivid, and the 'Beryl' was precious. Only 2 clumps from 2008, last year, bloomed good, some not at all. The bulbs we dig are small and crowded and need time to rejuvenate. My experience seems to be that it will take at least two growing seasons to get blooming size bulbs, and probably 3 plus years for the smaller ones. So I would not recommend selling SNR bulbs in the same year we dig them, but grow them until they are freely blooming. We want to make a good impression to our customers at our fall bulb sale.

I look forward to next year's Dig and more bulbs. It's a really fun get-together, we get some neat bulbs, and I hope to see more of you in 2010. I guess there are half a million bulbs out there still to dig, and they are multiplying faster than we can dig.

## GREATER ST LOUIS DAFFODIL SOCIETY

### TREASURER'S REPORT - PETER MCADAMS

January 1 - June 1, 2009

|                                 |            |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| Checking Acct Bal Jan 1, 2009   | \$6,451.68 |
| Daffodil Society Income:        |            |
| Potted Bulb Sales to the Public | \$350.00   |
| Dues Received                   |            |
| 2009 Members Dues Received      | \$105.00   |
| 2010 Members Dues Received      | \$5.00     |
| 2012 Members Dues Received      | \$5.00     |
| TOTAL DUES RECEIVED             | \$115.00   |
| OTHER INCOME                    | \$3.50     |
| TOTAL INFLOWS =                 | \$468.50   |

#### OUTFLOWS / EXPENSES:

##### DAFFODIL SHOW EXPENSE

|                                       |          |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| Show Expenses                         | \$152.32 |
| Judge Expenses                        | \$191.35 |
| Program Speaker Expense               | \$50.00  |
| Supplies - Name Badges by Jacki Huber | \$19.59  |
| Gift Certificates for Show Awards     | \$100.00 |
| Newsletter Expense                    | \$206.56 |

|                |                   |
|----------------|-------------------|
| Total Outflows | \$719.82          |
| Overall Total  | <u>(\$251.32)</u> |

|                                      |            |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| Checking Acct Bal as of June 1, 2009 | \$6,200.36 |
|--------------------------------------|------------|

#### New Members (11) in 2009:

Fred & Jean Winterowd - 2/21/09  
Deborah Stopsy - 3/1/09  
Steve Schultz - 3/28/09  
Richard Corno - 3/29/09  
Doug & Vicky English - 3/29/09  
Alice & Rob Gamewell - 3/29/09  
Nadine Wallenstein - 3/29/09  
Mel Worley - 4/1/09  
Dennis & Jean McCarter - 4/4/09  
Katrina Farris & Cindy Schaeffer - 4/4/09  
Carol S Sims - 4/25/09

#### Bills Outstanding:

|                                       |            |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| A. YOUTH Memberships - seven @ \$7.50 | \$52.50    |
| B. Cost for 5000 E15 Plant Labels     | \$1,599.00 |

## A Tidbit of Advice - Cindy Haeffner

Very soon, our favorite daffodil will be fading, not to appear until next spring, sad but true. **Now is the time** to mark your daffodils, for lifting & sharing. While out there in the beds, **before** the daffodils and other spring bulb foliage disappears, those spare, precious spots can be also marked, ie...place a stepping stone or a flat rock on the spot, to indicate later this fall, the available space to plant. The size of the stepping stone, flat rock or garden accent used can also indicate the size area available to plant.

Often in the fall, we find that special, "one more" bulb of hyacinth, crocus, and of course daffodil, that we just can't do without. I, myself have gone to my perennial bed, shovel in hand, guessing where my existing bulbs are, only to slice through a clump, of sometimes my favorite daffodil!! **Don't let this happen to you!** Put some of those garden accents to work for you today, usually it is just a matter of rearranging them.  
**HAPPY PLANTING!!!!!!!**

*(Editor's Note...This is a GREAT idea. I have used flags to indicate where space was available, but then I use flags to tell me what to dig out. Very confusing and often wrong. I've sliced my share of bulbs. I've also run around with Dave Burdick's "squirrel mentality", holding a bulb and looking for an empty space to cram it into.*

*I recently donated 15 daylily plants to another group and put stepping stones in the space that is now vacant. I think I can figure out my plan this year!)*

*If anyone else has tidbits of what works – or even what didn't work, I'd like to start a short column on these ideas. It could help all of us in the future!*



## Chicago National Convention Winners! by Beth Holbrooke

What a time was had in Chicago! Every member of the St Louis Daffodil group that entered flowers at the 2009 national convention won at least one blue ribbon. With over 1600 blooms entered by people from all over the world, I am amazed that the silver ribbon was a three way tie of only 11 blue ribbons each. Cindy Haeffner and Beth Holbrooke of the St. Louis group tied with Naomi Liggitt for the silver. Blue ribbons were very evenly distributed with cultivars ranging from early to late blooming.

Cindy Haeffner also won the English Award (a medal and certificate) for 5 cultivars bred in England and Lynn Slackman won the best vase of three Historic cultivars. Gary Knehans won two hybridizer awards – the W.A. Bender Ribbon for a single stem and the Goethe Link Award for three different cultivars exhibited by the hybridizer.

I was asked to clerk for the show so I got to see the final voting procedure for Best in Show. I had two blooms under consideration (which amazed me!) out of a dozen or so, and after each secret vote my entry of 'Engagement Ring' was still standing! I won!

I had a silly grin on my face for a few hours, and I left the building for awhile so they wouldn't have to widen the doorways for my inflated head to pass through (just kidding). I actually had photos taken as if I had won my first Youth Ribbon. Without help from Pam Hardy, I would never have gotten everything entered that ended up on the tables.

After calling Elise Havens with the good news that her cultivar had won Best in Show, I got to thinking that other awards are far harder to win than my Best in Show. Gary Knehans had to wait over five years for a seed to produce a bloom that might or might not be any good. And he had to wait for three seeds to be good enough for the Goethe Link Award. The blooms also had to be better than any other hybridizer in the year they were entered. Amazing!

Entering flowers at a national convention is both fun and challenging. Growing seeds into winners is something I still have to look forward to. Congratulations to all of us!

## Shaw Nature Reserve Dig Report by Cindy Haeffner

The Greater St. Louis Daffodil Society held its 3rd Shaw Nature Reserve Dig, in Gray Summit, MO, April 4, 2009. Those members in attendance were as follows: Robin Gosnell, Robin's mom (Shorty or Flo), Beth Holbrooke, Pam Hardy, Jason Delaney, Joy & Cindy Haeffner, Jeannine Basta, Larry Force, Kam and Siu Li Fok, Peter & Jan McAdams, & grandson Jesse, Lynn Slackmann, Gary Knehans, and Valerie Mertz. New members in attendance: Katrina Farris & Vaughn Meister, WELCOME!!!

The weather was just great, and no snorkels needed like last year!!! HAHAHA!!

Many favorite "spots" revisited to remove more of the "favorites". To name a few: 'Golden Sceptre', 'Empress', 'Emperor' and 'Beryl'. The "poet" seedling area by the serpentine wall was the after lunch spot to be for digging. Jason Delaney, our daffodil adventurer, gave us many previews of some nice daffodils to be lifted in new spots for future years. Thanks so much Jason!!! Lunch was a brown bag style, but plain it was not, it was a gourmet style spread, thanks to all, and the featured dessert of the lunch was from Robin Gosnell, the Lemon Raspberry Trifle!!!! WOW!!!! This membership has great cooks, and members that enjoy good food!!!! Thanks to all!!!

One of the rare finds of the day was the "Chimera" daffodil found by Joy Haeffner. He came walking up the gravel road looking for me so proud, telling me he had found something for us to retire on!!!! As you can see in the picture, its color combination is unusual, to say the least. Following is an explanation from Wikipedia:

Chimeras (or "chimaeras") in botany are usually single organisms composed of two genetically different types of tissue. They occur in plants on the same general basis as with animal chimeras. However, unlike animal chimeras, both types of tissues may have originated from the same zygote, and the difference is often due to mutation during ordinary cell division.

Well, retire I doubt it, but it was exciting. Joy shared some pollen with Larry Force (Mississippi) and Gary Knehans (Missouri). Cindy planted the bulb at home, and will report next year if the unusual white/yellow combination will continue, or just a fluke!!!! The SNR Dig was another success, and as the following indicates, proved to be another way to spread that DAFFODIL FEVER!!!!!!

Following are some of the ways our members planted and/or shared their daffodil finds from the Shaw Nature Reserve:

1) Planted immediately to continue plumping up the bulbs, to be lifted for future GSLDS Public sale, Team Slackmann & McAdams.

2) Landscaping in members yards, and sharing them with neighborhood, fellow workers and family members, Team Yancey, Delaney, Schaefer & Hardy.

3) Planted on public grounds, ie... Marquette High School, Hermann High School, Team Mertz, Haeffner and Basta.

4) Planted in demonstration gardens at St. Charles Extension Center, Team Mertz.

5) Members also shared bulbs to be sold at our annual bulb sale, Team Farris, Holbrooke & Hardy.

6) One member had enough for 5 rows 100 ft long, Team McAdams & Jesse.

7) Selected daffodils for hybridizing programs, our own members, Team Delaney, Force & Knehans!!!



Joy's Big Retirement Plan Find (Pam Hardy Photo)



2009 Digging Group



2008 – What a Difference A Year Makes!

**"If we did not have the winter, the spring would not be so pleasant. If we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome"**

**Ann Bradstreet**

## Calendar of Events for 2009

| DATE                             | TIME/PLACE  | ACTIVITY   |
|----------------------------------|---|--|
| Sunday,<br>July 12, 2009         | 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Garden Room of<br>Ridgeway Center at MOBOT  | <b>Michael Berrigan</b> will tell us<br>"How to Plant and What to Plant", when managing a<br>daffodil collection.<br>For further information, check our<br><b>Featured Speakers Section</b><br><b>Members please bring snacks.</b> |
| Sunday,<br>September 20,<br>2009 | 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Missouri Room of<br>Ridgeway Center at MOBOT                                      | <b>Cleaning and Preparing of Bulbs for upcoming<br/>Exchange and Sale.</b>   |
| Sunday,<br>October 11,<br>2009   | NOON - 5:00 PM<br>Beaumont Room of Ridgeway Center<br>at MOBOT                                      | Annual exchange of "better" donated and purchased<br>bulbs from various sources. <b>Open to "active" members<br/>only.</b><br><b>Main Course and drink provided, "Side dishes &amp;<br/>Desserts" requested.</b>                   |
| October 17 - 18,<br>2009         | 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM or until sold out,<br>Orthwein Floral Display Hall of<br>Ridgeway Center at MOBOT | <b>Annual public bulb sale and our best fund raiser.</b><br>Cleaning party Friday night October 16th in the<br>Orthwein Floral Hall 5:00 PM until done.  |
| Sunday,<br>November 15,<br>2009  | 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM<br>Garden Room of Ridgeway Center at<br>MOBOT                                     | Wrap up of the year. <b>Slides and snacks brought by<br/>members with Holiday party theme.</b> A chance to<br>visit and exchange ideas for next year.  |

**\*\*Members need to attend at least one event or meeting, prior to the bulb exchange, to participate as an Active Member at the Daffodil Bulb Exchange on Sunday, October 11, 2009.**

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