



# THE ARKANSAS DAFFODIL SOCIETY

## Special points of interest:

- Argenta Neighborhood
- Revolutionary War West of the Miss.
- “glittering pebble”
- Jean-Baptiste Benard de la Harpe
- Continental Divide
- “history mystery”
- ...but a cow?

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## 2014 Daffodil Convention Up-date by Bonnie McClure

One month of 2014 is over, and our national convention in Little Rock is a scant six weeks away. All our planning and preliminary work is coming together nicely and on schedule. We expect to have a fabulous convention. In the following pages, we have provided historical information about sites and lore in Arkansas which were a part of the inspiration for naming the 2014 Photographic Division Classes in the show schedule. The divisions are shown inside this newsletter. Next month's newsletter will have more about *Daffodils in the Natural State*.

We have met at the DoubleTree convention hotel, with our local team to finalize the details. So far, 70 have registered for the convention and the hotel is filling up. If you have not gotten your registration in and your room reserved, now is the time. Only seven double rooms are left at the hotel. DO

NOT WAIT. There is still some room on the list to tour the home and gardens of P. Allen Smith and enjoy a lunch there, but, the interest has been high and some guests and family members of convention registrants have signed up for this tour. Make your arrangements now so you do not miss this special opportunity to visit the home of our celebrity garden and decorating expert.

Our Convention team has also dined at the DoubleTree on several occasions and can report that the food is outstanding and we hope you will find your meals are better than at any convention before. The restaurant at the hotel is very fine and prices are affordable. There are a great number of other restaurants in easy walking distance of the hotel in a very safe and interesting part of downtown on the river front.

For public transportation, downtown has the [River Rail trolley system](#). Little Rock has three replica vintage trolleys operating on the 2.5-mile route. The River Rail runs from 8:30 a.m. - 10 p.m. Monday through Wednesday and from 8:30 a.m. - Midnight on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. The River Rail goes all over Little Rock's River Market District and downtown [North Little Rock's Argenta District](#).

The River Rail route includes Verizon Arena, the Statehouse Convention Center, the River Market itself, both state houses, and the historic Argenta neighborhood. It passes by the [Starving Artist Café](#) and numerous other restaurants and hotels, the Historic Arkansas Museum, the Museum of Discovery, the main branch of the Central Arkansas Library System, the Chambers of Commerce, courthouses, the Robinson Auditorium Concert Hall, the Riverfront Amphitheater,

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ter and more. It cost \$1 per ride or \$2 for a day pass. You may also park for FREE at Dick-  
ey-Stephens Baseball Park, across the bridge in North Little Rock, and take the trolley to the DoubleTree Hotel.

Arkansas weather, as you are aware, has been quite cold this winter. Our own daffodils have barely shown above ground, so we are hopeful that southern growers will have a wonderful variety of daffodils at the end of March.

The Judging School II is being offered. Anyone interested in attending the school needs to contact Carolyn Hawkins, cell phone 770-855-4248. We encourage you to consider participating in the school just for your own information, if for no other reason. However, the ADS can really use more judges to assist with future shows. Gary and I just completed the series of schools last year and really enjoyed the three courses. They do not have to be completed in chronological order. In fact, we started with school two, then three, and lastly number one. If anyone who is already a judge needs the required refresher, you may avail yourself for an hour at this convention.

Please check out the speaker schedule in this issue. Make plans to attend all or pick and choose what is interesting to you. The cash bar will be open before the evening programs.

Gary and I traveled to Dallas in January, and, despite horrible

weather which caused accidents resulting in traffic delays, we arrived in time for the meeting, which was more than some of the Texas folks did. We did get to meet with Keith Kridler and his team who are handling the Convention Show, with Jim Russell as the co-chairman.

Do not wait a day longer to register for this exciting convention.



## Speaker Schedule

### **Saturday, March 29th**

8:00 a.m. Breakfast with Chris Olsen  
“Thinking Outside the Box”

9:00 a.m. First Morning Session:  
“Growing Miniatures” by Naomi Liggett

10:00 a.m. Second Morning Session:  
“Naturalized and Public Plantings” by Cindy Haeffner  
NOON Lunch with Janet Carson

“Daffodils in the Natural State”  
1:00 p.m. First Afternoon Session

“Historic Daffodils in & Around Natural State” by Keith Kridler

2:00 p.m. Second Afternoon Session  
“Easy Ways to Arrange Daffodils” by Susan Basham

7:30 p.m. Dinner featuring speaker Keith Kridler

*The Perfect Flower*

### **Sunday, April 14th**

8:00 a.m. Breakfast with Brent Heath  
“Walk on the Wild Side”

8:00 p.m. Dinner featuring speaker Ian Tyler  
*Daffodils, History and Pies*



## Starving Artist Cafe, North Little Rock, Arkansas

The Starving Artist Cafe is located in the beautifully renovated Argenta Neighborhood, and specifically the Argenta Arts District of North Little Rock.

The Cafe offers an atmosphere where art is king, and artists gather, combining energy. Presently, Starving Artist Cafe is running a "Tales from the South: Tin Roof Project No. 8 series", in conjunction with the William F. Laman Public Library.

Starving Artist invites submissions from Southern writers, to read stories of real things that have happened to them in the South. It is storytelling at its finest. The Tales storytelling is a time of good food, moving entertainment, and a unique experience that you will not find anywhere else. Southerners get a lot of grief, we are the butt of many jokes, and we are full of steaming, humid colloquialisms, but Southerners can impart an unusual sense of logic mixed with humor and tragedy.

Frustration, humor, heat, poverty, plenty, fishing, families, marriage, religion, Southernisms, and religion. All of these ingredients stain a Southerner like the red clay most of us know well, and produce art that is fun to observe, and will remain in a part of your mind for years to come.

Faulkner, Porter, Grisham and Twain have affected American Literature, movies and songs since they had to sweat out their first works.



The story telling series is available on-line, and on YouTube video. The University of Arkansas at Little Rock radio station FM 89 KUAR, airs the shows from the Starving Artist Cafe, and anyone is free to listen. They are archived.

Source, Little Rock Convention Bureau

We're on the web  
[www.arkansasdaffodilsociety.org/](http://www.arkansasdaffodilsociety.org/)

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## A Gathering Place

Located at the confluence of two rivers, **Arkansas Post** has served as a gathering place for many cultures throughout human history - it represents cultural cooperation, conflict, synthesis, and diversity.

### History & Culture

In 1686, Henri de Tonti established a trading post known as "Poste de Arkansan" at the Quapaw village of Osotouy. It was the first semi-permanent French settlement in the lower Mississippi River Valley. The establishment of the Post was the first step in a long struggle between France, Spain, and England for dominance of the Mississippi River Valley.

Over the years, the Post relocated as necessary due to flooding from the Arkansas River, but, its position was always of strategic im-

portance for the French, Spanish, American, and Confederate military.

Spanish soldiers and British partisans clashed here in the 1783 Colbert Raid, the only Revolutionary War action west of the Mississippi River.

Arkansas Post became part of the United States following the Louisiana Purchase of 1803. By 1819, the post was a thriving river port and the largest city in the region and selected as the first capital of the Arkansas Territory.

During the Civil War, Confederate troops tried to maintain tactical control of the confluence of the Arkansas and White Rivers, and in 1862 they constructed a massive earthen fortification, known as Fort Hindman, at the Post. In January 1863, Union troops destroyed the fort ensuring control of the Arkansas River.

National Park Service

## The rule is "finders keepers."



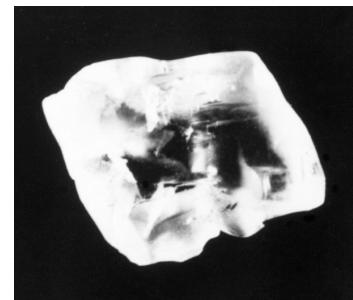
At Crater of Diamonds State Park in Arkansas, visitors can pay a \$7 admission fee, grab a shovel and try their hand at diamond prospecting. The rule is "finders keepers." Over the past three years, annual visitation has tripled to 170,000, and in 2011 tourists pulled more than 1,000 precious stones from the ground. Some visitors use a special screen known as a seruca to wash and separate the heavier diamonds from the lighter debris. Others just get down on their hands and knees, squinting for jewels in the furrows. The 800-acre park holds out the hope, however slim, that just about anyone can strike it rich.

Diamonds were discovered in Arkansas in August 1906, when a farmer named John Wesley Huddleston found a "glittering pebble" on his property. The next year the New York Times described "Diamond John's" treasure in epic

terms: "The story of the discovery of diamond fields in one of the poorest counties of the not over-rich State of Arkansas reads like a chapter of Sinbad's adventures."

More than 10,000 dreamers flocked to nearby Murfreesboro, filling up the ramshackle Conway Hotel and striking up a tent city between town and the diamond field. It was not an easy life, says Mike Howard of the Arkansas Geological Survey. "Many people came, few people found," he says. "Most were gone within a couple of years." The majority of Arkansas diamonds, then as now, come in at under ten points, or about 1/10th of a carat. But in 1924, one lucky miner pulled a 40-carat monster out of the ground. Christened Uncle Sam, it remains the largest diamond ever discovered in the United States and a twinkle in every miner's eye.

Crater of Diamonds State Park



## Le Petite Roche

French explorer Jean-Baptiste Benard de la Harpe is the one credited with naming Little Rock, and it was named for an outcropping of rock along the Arkansas River. Explorers and early settlers called it "Le Petite Roche" (the Little Rock) to distinguish it from the big rock upstream. Today, you can see a piece of the Little Rock at the north end of Rock Street near the History Pavilion in Riverfront Park.

Benard de la Harpe, who is believed to have traveled about 50 miles above the present sites of Little Rock and North Little Rock, described the area when writing about his journey.

He noted a landmark on the north bank of the Arkansas River, which he referred to as the "French Rock" (now known as "big rock"). The first outcropping of rock along the riverbanks above its mouth on the south bank came known as the La Petite Roche - "Little Rock." The plaza provides views of the actual "Little Rock" as well as historical panels that detail the history and photography of the La Petite Roche.

Archeological artifacts provide evidence of Native Americans inhabiting Central Arkansas for thousands of years before Europeans arrived. The early inhabitants may have included the Folsom people, Bluff Dwellers, and Mississippian culture peoples who built earthwork mounds recorded in 1541 by Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto. Historical tribes of the area included the Caddo, Quapaw, Osage, Choctaw, and Cherokee.

Benard de la Harpe marked the transition from the flat Mississippi Delta region to the Ouachita Mountain foothills. Travelers referred to the area as "the Little Rock," and the landmark name stuck.

Walking in Riverfront Park? La Petit Roche Plaza is between the Amphitheater and the Junction Bridge in a fence.

Source, Little Rock Convention Bureau



### 2014 PHOTOGRAPHY DIVISION CLASSES, CELEBRATING THE NATURAL DAFFODIL

- P 1. Arkansas Diamond – A close-up/macro of any single daffodil bloom, or multiple blooms of the same cultivar.
- P 2. Gone with the Wind, the Old Mill– Daffodils in the landscape or garden
- P 3. The Natural State – Daffodils in their native or natural habitat.
- P 4. Arkansas Razorback – Daffodils and any animals.
- P 5. Picture with President Clinton – Any still life including daffodils.
- P 6. Starving Artist Café – Abstract and manipulated photographs incorporating daffodils or daffodil elements.
- P 7. La Petite Roche Poeticus – Photograph featuring division 9 Poeticus daffodil (s).
- P 8. The Louisiana Purchase – Historic daffodils registered prior to 1940.
- P 9. The Heifer Project – Daffodils with people of all ages.

## The Arkansas River

The Arkansas River begins as a small trout stream at the Continental Divide just south of Fremont Pass and from there plunges almost 5,000 feet in its first 125 miles. Once out on the eastern Colorado plains, it mellows out and becomes a different river.

Beginning in the eastern Colorado-western Kansas region, the river is heavily utilized for irrigation, before it makes its final destination to the river mouth at Napoleon, Arkansas. The river runs for 1,469 miles, making it the 6th longest river in the country. It is also the second-longest tributary of the Missouri-Mississippi system.

### History of the Arkansas River Valley

The Arkansas River is one of the most historically and economically important rivers in the United States. The first recorded crossing of the Arkansas River at the ford of the later Taos or Trappers Trail was made by the Spaniard Ulibarri in 1706. Ulibarri was in command of a force comprising 20 soldiers, 12 settlers, and 100 Indian allies, all marching from Santa Fe to rescue a band of enslaved Picuris from the Cuartelejo Apaches of present-day eastern Colorado. The Spaniard called the Arkansas the "Napestle" for its muddy

color.

Native Americans hunted along the length of the Arkansas and early explorers followed it westward. The first man to explore the upper reaches of the Arkansas was probably Zebulon Pike in 1806 when he led an expedition west of Pike's Peak. On that trip and over the mid-winter period, he camped next to the Arkansas River at Squaw Creek, about four miles north of Poncha Springs, where a historical marker is now located. Pike was followed by General John C. Fremont, who also explored the upper Arkansas. From 1820 to 1846, the River formed the boundary between the United States and Mexico. It was named for the Arkansas Indians of Oklahoma and Kansas, through which the river flows.

The Arkansas River has three faces. It is initially a wild mountain stream full of rapids and, in Colorado, provides some of the best white water rafting in the country. It is part of the old Santa Fe Trail through Kansas, where it is transformed into a typical braided prairie river meandering across the flatlands. Then, further south and into Oklahoma and Arkansas, it becomes a significant river for barge traffic as well as for recreation. From there it travels through hardwood forests and empties into the Mississippi.

Source, Wikipedia



The skyline of Little Rock, Arkansas viewed from the north bank of the Arkansas River

Matthew Field, <http://www.photography.mattfield.com>

**North Little Rock** was once known as Argenta, a name currently applied specifically to downtown North Little Rock. In 1890, Little Rock annexed the unincorporated Argenta community as its Eighth Ward, preempting a competing petition to incorporate Argenta. A neighboring area was incorporated as the Town of North Little Rock in 1901 as part of a plan to reclaim the Eighth Ward from Little Rock. By 1904, the Arkansas Supreme Court allowed the town to annex the Eighth Ward; the modern City of North Little Rock considers this its founding date. The combined city adopted the Argenta name by 1906, but reverted to North Little Rock in October 1917. A remnant of the city's earliest years can be found in North Little Rock City Hall (constructed in 1914), which still contains plaques referring to "Argenta", and contains "C of A" (City of Argenta) ornamental designs. From Wikipedia

## Gone with the Wind (1939)

Source: North Little Rock Visitors Bureau

Perhaps the best-known movie location in Arkansas is the Old Mill in North Little Rock. In addition to being a stunning example of intricate work by Señor Dionicio Rodriguez, the authentic reproduction of an 1880s grist mill, the structure's claim to fame is appearing in the opening sequences of the 1939 blockbuster, *Gone With the Wind*. It is located in T.R. Pugh Memorial Park at the corner of Fairway Avenue and Lakeshore Drive and is now a North Little Rock city park. *Gone With the Wind* is considered by many sources to be the greatest motion picture of all time. It is ranked the #6 Greatest Movie of All Time by the American Film Institute.

No one knows for sure why the makers of the movie choose the Old Mill to be included in the opening credits. Cary Bradburn with the North Little Rock History Commission offers this explanation. "James P. Fauchette, North Little Rock's third mayor, lived in West Hollywood in southern California from 1917 to the

mid-1930s. Fauchette was a friend of Justin Matthews [builder of the mill] and the two men corresponded on a regular basis. However, I have found nothing concerning your question in the Fauchette papers at the Butler Center. Most of the personal letters are from the teens. I suspect that the Fauchette connection had something to do with it. So, I guess we still have a 'history mystery' but it just adds to the romance surrounding the mill."



2016 World Daffodil Convention. Join us in St Louis, Missouri, on April 6 – 10, for Show Me Daffodils. Daffodil enthusiasts from around the world will see a fabulous daffodil show, participate in interactive educational sessions, tour the world renowned Missouri Botanical Garden, and visit both commercial and private daffodil collections.

## Arkansas Daffodil Society Membership

Membership Year March 1 – February 28

Please Circle: NEW RENEWAL UPDATE ONLY

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

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Name

Address

City State Zip Code

## Heifer International

Dan West (1893–1971)

**Heifer International's mission is to work with communities to end hunger and poverty and care for the Earth.**

Dan West was a farmer from the American Midwest and member of the Church of the Brethren who went to the front lines of the Spanish Civil War as an aid worker. His mission was to provide relief, but he soon discovered the meager single cup of milk rationed to the weary soldiers once a day was not enough.

And then he had a thought: What if they had not a cup, but a cow?

That "teach a man to fish" philosophy is what drove West to found Heifer International. And now, nearly 70 years later, that philosophy still inspires their work to end hunger and poverty throughout the world once and for all.

