



THE ARKANSAS DAFFODIL SOCIETY

Volume 4, Issue II

March 2014

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Little Rock ... in the Natural State Celebrating the 55th Anniversary for Arkansas Daffodil Society and the 60th Anniversary for the American Daffodil Society

For decades, Little Rock has been a hub for national and international news. From the 1957 Central High School Crisis to the Clinton Presidential Library, so much of American history has played out right here. That is why we add a dose of news and a dash of Hollywood to this convention. Not only will you visit the landmarks, you will watch and remember the news clips that made these sites famous. Highlights include "the Little Rock", Old Statehouse, Governor's Mansion, Quapaw Quarter, Central High, Clinton Library, The Old Mill, and many other stops! By the end of the convention, you will know why it is called sightseeing...in the Natural State.

The national daffodil show and exhibits will be open to the public, free admission on Friday March 28 from 1:30 pm-9:00 pm and Saturday, March 30 from 9:00 am-9:00 pm. This is the first time the American Daffodil Society has had a national convention in Arkansas in their 60 year history. There will also be a free daffodil photography division open to the public for participation as well as viewing. We encourage anyone who would like to enter the photography section, to go on line at our [website](#) or contact [Kristin Boone](#). Kristin can send you the schedule with rules and classes. The convention will be held at the Doubletree Hotel, 424 West Markham Little Rock, Arkansas. Please tell your friends about the convention and those who would be interested in entering their photos in the photography contest.

There is no admission charge to the 2014 ADS National Show and Convention. The show has no entry fee for entering daffodils in the show and is open to the public. However to be a registered participant you will need to submit a registration form and fee of \$319.00. The registration includes admission to the two luncheons and three evening banquets and four seminars. Also included in the registration fee are the Saturday and Sunday tours. The tour on Friday is optional at a cost of \$107.00. Saturday and Sunday breakfasts are available on an optional basis. Partial registration fees for Arkansas residents can be negotiated with the register. The registration can be done in advance to guarantee participation or at the time of the event providing space is available.

Continued on page two

Celebrating the 55th: Continued from page one

We are attaching a list for volunteers and a speakers schedule. You may access the registration form and time schedule [online](#). Please let us know if we can provide additional information.

Volunteer duties List

Placing of center pieces on tables
 Preparation of center pieces
 Set up and break down of show (Wednesday afternoon, Saturday night)
 Work on goody bags (Wednesday night, Thursday morning)
 Hospitality room Thursday, Friday, Saturday
 Hospitality room setup (Wednesday afternoon)
 Welcome newcomers (Wednesday, Thursday)
 Assist with photography show
 Photography records assistant
 Show set up (water - blocks - supplies)
 Work with show clerks (Friday morning thru noon)
 Tour guide (bus ride orator, Sunday)
 Van driver (Saturday afternoon)
 Multimedia assistant



PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST: Free entry in the American Daffodil Society Convention Photography Section for photography buffs (no professionals). Free Daffodil Exhibits also at the Double-Tree Hotel, Little Rock, AR: March 28-29: More Info: contact: [Kristin Boone](#) or [Char Roush](#).

AMERICAN DAFFODIL Show and Convention: March 27-30, at the DoubleTree Hotel, Little Rock. Free Exhibits 1:30 pm-9:00 pm Friday March 28: Saturday 9:00 am-9:00 pm March 29: Everyone invited to enter their daffodil photos or daffodils on March 28.

Coming of Age – Arkansas Daffodil Society turns 55

Organized in 1959, Carl Amason, a native plant guru, spearheaded a group of 32 members of the American Daffodil Society into forming the Arkansas Society. The first Arkansas Annual Daffodil Show was held in March 1961. By 1966, the membership had grown to 58, of which 22 were certified as ADS judges.

Carl Amason was a frequent contributor to the ADS Journal along with others from Arkansas, such as Laura Lee Cox who wrote about purchasing her home and garden site on Lake Catherine, in Hot Springs, while her husband was away during the war.

When he was no longer able to attend shows, Carl Amason continued to support the Arkansas Daffodil Society with financial donations. He was recognized throughout the state for his expertise on native plants. In 1989, the Arkansas Native Plant Society named a conservation award in his honor. In another tribute, a clone of native *Iris virginica*, which Carl found in southern Arkansas along the Ouachita River, was named the Carl Amason Blue Flag Iris.

Carl died at the age of 81, in Calion, Union Co., AR, on July 30, 2005.



Carl Amason Blue Flag Iris.

Wildwood Botanical Gardens

Wildwood is located in Western Little Rock and contains several garden areas. The Pavilion Daffodil Garden is an acre of woods around the open pavilion just north of the Lucy Lockett Cage Festival Theatre. First planted by Richard Butler in 1992-1993, it contains drifts of daffodils in many divisions, planted in a naturalized manner. It also has numerous native flowering trees and is an annual showplace in March and April. The Richard C. Butler Arboretum is a 10 acre garden of natural woodlands and nature trails with an understory of native azaleas and spectacular displays of seasonal daffodils and Louisiana iris. Walking paths have been laid throughout, and plans call for entry gates and a crescent pavilion on the center hill. The arboretum was designed by P. Allen Smith. Just south of the theatre is Hunter's Wildflower Glen, a one-acre garden where more than 150 species of wildflowers and ferns are on display. This unique garden is named for Carl G. Hunter, one of America's foremost garden authorities in the field and author of several horticultural texts. A walking path encircles the garden and a display sign identifies the most common of the wildflowers that are present.

An Asian influence can be seen in this garden located north of the theatre and pavilion. Developed as a memorial to one of Wildwood's well-loved patrons, the garden's display of native and weeping plants can be seen from a stepping stone path across a small stream. The Doris Carre' Gay Garden is a project of the Pulaski County Master Gardeners. There is also a Gazebo garden which overlooks Swan Lake on the opposite side of the botanical garden. Special note; Mr. Butler was the husband of one of our angels, Gertie Butler. Article by Susan Rose.

Tours of Little Rock

Optional tour have been arranged. This will be a unique opportunity to visit the home and gardens of nationally recognized gardener and landscaper, P. Allen Smith. For \$107, this bus tour will include lunch at [P. Allen Smith's](#), and two additional sites: [Wildwood Botanical Gardens](#) and the [Wye Mountain Daffodil Festival](#). All three of these gardens are amazing in their own special way. Unfortunately, this tour will take place during the judging of the daffodils in the show, so judges and clerks will have to forego this experience. Free tours are available on the [River Rail Trolley](#).



They include: Verizon Arena, the Statehouse Convention Center, the River Market, the [Historic Arkansas Museums](#), Robinson Center Music Hall, Riverfront Park and Amphitheater, the [Clinton Presidential Center](#) and the [Heifer Project International World Headquarters](#). Other tours include [Pinnacle Mountain State Park](#), [Little Rock Central High School](#), the [Arkansas Governor's Mansion](#) and the [Old Mill](#). On Saturday during the seminars, a small group of ten or twelve people will take a tour of the other sites. No cost; just spouses or other attendees who will not be attending the seminars. See Leianne McGinnis at the registration desk, for information.

AMERICAN DAFFODIL ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

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Second V-P: Michael Berrigan, MN
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2014 Convention up Date

If you are not registered yet, you need to get a move on! One hundred and seven are signed up as of the end of February, and there is less than a month to go now. We have met our minimum requirement for the P. Allen Smith Tour, a bus load plus additional vans.

Our weather in central Arkansas has been unusually cold this year so far, without the usual thaws and re-freezing. As a result, our daffodils, for the most part, are just showing their leaves. Only a few early clumps of flowers have been noted in ditches and sunny fields around town. With less than four weeks to go, we need a long spell of spring weather to get the blooms popping. When the convention date was initially planned, we were afraid that all our southern daffodils would be well past their peak, but, Mother Nature seems to have given us an extension of our flowering time that will coincide with the show.

The tour gardens should be magnificent at the end of March, and everyone will be enthusiastic that our long cold winter is finally over.

Wye Mountain

By [Amanda Galiano](#)

I think the Daffodil Festival at Wye Mountain (sponsored by the small United Methodist Church that owns the field) embodies everything I love most about Arkansas. It is more or less unofficial and held at different times every year. The Daffodils do not bloom according to a "schedule". The festival is held when the daffodils want it be held. That is the way it should be.

It is very informal. You will not find rock bands or have to purchase arm bands at the gate. You just show up. You can bring your lunch and mill around the field. They normally have a little shop open with handmade crafts you can buy. You can also purchase bulbs and daffodils so you can bring a little "Wye Mountain" home with you. The proceeds go to pay the church's minister.

It's not the most exciting festival in the world but it is something that everyone in Arkansas should attend at least once. It may not be "natural beauty" as it is obvious the field is well tended but it is a wonderful way to behold nature's marvels.

Those society members from the north will probably be more than happy for a trip south into Springtime. Some from there will likely still have piles of snow lying around and ice floating in the rivers.

The Show schedule and tour information are on the internet at our website the [Arkansas Daffodil Society](#) along with the registration application.

We also still have room for any vendors who have daffodil related wares. The only cost for vendors is the daily fee of \$30 per 72 x 30 inch skirted table; they retain all the profits from their sales. Any one interested in selling items should contact [Bonnie McClure](#) or by phone at 870-575-2444. You can pay for your table (s) when you arrive at the convention. We just need to know how many tables to plan for.

The hotel staff has been wonderful to work with at the DoubleTree in downtown Little Rock. Menus are finalized now and anyone with special diet requirements may meet with the chef on arrival to ensure that their meals will be prepared according to their needs. As I said in the last newsletter, the food is terrific, and the chef is very accommodating.

by **Bonnie McClure**



Breakfast, **“Sunday Tours”**, Board Meeting, Keynote Speaker, Good-By

The tours on Sunday will include three gardens in and near Hot Springs. One is publicly owned by the University of Arkansas and the other two are private gardens owned by members of the Arkansas Daffodil Society.

The first is White Rock Garden, owned Phyllis and Odie Kirtley. Phyllis began gardening in the early 1990s and she has over 400 different varieties of daylilies and 500 varieties of bearded Iris now and keeps adding more each year. The Kirtley's started this garden in 2004. The “backyard” is about 3 ½ acres and you can find her in her garden about six days a week from dawn until dusk.

Odie, resident bed builder, and retired farmer, likes to tell visitors just how many “last beds” have been added to the garden over the years.

Phyllis has been steadily adding daffodil varieties to her gardens over the past few years and she will have a vast array of varieties that will be both beautiful and intriguing. Her garden was featured in the Arkansas Garden Magazine this past year and she will have something green or blooming all times of the year. White Rock Garden is an approved garden by the American Daffodil Society Display Garden Program. Phyllis' garden is the only privately owned garden approved by the American Daffodil Society.

The second garden on Sunday schedule will be a docent guided tour of Garvan Woodland Gardens in Hot Springs. These knowledgeable docents will guide us through

the gardens while sharing information about its rich history and lush plant life. Garvan Gardens is a 44 acre landscaped display. **Persons with walking limitations will need to arrange in advance for a golf cart. These golf carts carry five people and cost \$10 per person.** The golf cart driver will serve as a docent. Lunch will be served in the Magnolia room. The Pratt welcomes Center with its natural stone walls and exposed Cyprus post and beams is a beautiful gateway to the 210-acre botanical garden.

Daffodil Days at Garvan Gardens will start in mid-February and continue on through March 31. Visitors will enjoy the dance of more than 250,000 daffodils in various shades of yellow when these happy blooms make their annual appearance in the gardens. Be sure and take time to see the Three Sisters of Amity Daffodil Hill. This impressive display welcome spring with true dynamic flair. March brings cheerful flow-



Three Sisters of Amity Hill

ers in white, yellow and pink, complemented by hyacinths and spring flowering shrubs. See 235 varieties of Narcissus in one of the Garden's most colorful shows of the year.

The third site is the Shearer home and is located on three acres on Carpenter Dam Road in Hot Springs, Arkansas. Kay and Charles purchased the property in 1997. They have been improving the bare open yard which consisted of rough turf and a few neglected fruit trees ever since. Their land posed many limitations to gardening due to the terrain. There was little top soil near the house. All the good soil had slid off the hill in the far part of the back yard. The gardens are located in the “Outback”, which is constantly changing to meet their needs. With her rolling hills she has planted daffodils in waves in several areas of her garden. The Shearer Garden will be beautiful in early springtime with lots of varieties of daffodils blooming along with her fruit trees.

Kay began collecting her show flowers a few years ago and most of those are located in her specialty beds, she adds a few new ones each year as space allows. Her collection now exceeds 300 cultivars from a wide variety of hybridizers. Kay and Charles are glad to welcome you to their home. Kay says “Charles never buys me flowers but he has dug a lot of holes!”

Moss Mountain – Roland, Arkansas

P. Allen Smith's Garden Home at Moss Mountain Farm sits on top of a ridge overlooking the Arkansas River Valley. Located just 30 minutes outside of Little Rock, Arkansas this idyllic setting blurs the lines between garden and home, heritage and modern.

Styled after 19th Century American farmsteads the Garden Home includes a Greek Revival "Green" cottage, terraced gardens, a rose garden, a one acre vegetable garden, orchards, daffodil hill, pastures, poultry, sheep and even a donkey named Moose. Moss Mountain Farm is designed around the concept of the garden home, a place where the garden and home are interwoven. The grounds are laid out much like a house with different garden rooms.

Each spring at Moss Mountain Farm in Roland, Arkansas, the stars come out twice—once at night, like everywhere else, and again in the daytime, when innumerable daffodils illuminate hills and meadows from horizon to horizon.

The plantings are the handiwork of the farm's owner—author, designer, and TV personality P. Allen Smith—who has loved these flowers since he was a boy. Allen believes the impact of a display depends on more than just numbers. How and where you plant bulbs is just as important as how many, no matter whether you have an acre or a 20- by 10-foot border. Allen also believes that daffodils should be planted in bunches. Three blooms huddled together look like lost children, but 50 together commands attention. At Moss Mountain there are dozens of different kinds of daffodils which represent early-, mid-, and late-blooming types. Moss Mountain Farm's daffodils flower from January through April, starting with 'Rijnveld's Early Sensation' and 'February

Gold' and concluding with the later 'Pheasant's Eye' and 'Geranium.' The paths are wide enough so that you can easily walk through the flowers. "We decided from the beginning there would be no straight lines at all on the hill," says Allen. "You enter the path and wind your way along it like a labyrinth. It feels like meditation." He also combines daffodils with old-fashioned spring shrubs, such as baby's breath spiraea, pearl bush, forsythia, and flowering quince. This tour will definitely be a MUST SEE on your trip to Little Rock.

By Susan Rose



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, March 30th

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

Other ADS March Daffodil Events

Louisiana Daft Dashers

The informal Louisiana Group, known as the Daft Dashers, has scheduled their annual daffodil tour for Sunday, March 9, 2014. The tour will include sites in the Sabine Parish, Louisiana area. Friends in Texas, Arkansas, Mississippi, and elsewhere should mark their calendars now. New ADS member Janis Anthony is opening her display garden for public viewing. Informative talks will be given by members Celia Jones and Annette Parker under Janis's lovely gazebo. Lunch at nearby Cypress Bend Resort and a garden tour there follows in the Anthony Garden. Finally, the group will tour historic Hodges Gardens, now part of the Louisiana State Park System.

The locations are near lovely Toledo Bend in the west central part of the state of Louisiana. These sites are all in the vicinity of Many, LA. More information will be posted as the date nears. Everyone is invited. Brings stems for discussion.

This is the Sunday after the Texas show so plan to attend both daffodil events. We are expecting to

have a great time and to see lovely blooms.

[Annette Parker](#)

The Mid-South Daffodil Society

Memphis, TN

Sat, March 22, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Dixon Gallery and Gardens, Winegardner Auditorium, 4339 Park Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee 38117

Contact: [Molly Hampton](#), 901 829-2598, or [Buff Adams](#), 901 834-0479.

Southern Regional Show

Dallas, TX, Texas Daffodil Society

Friday, March 7, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Dallas Arboretum, 8525 Garland Rd, Dallas, TX

Contact: [Mary Ann Moreland](#), 972 226-2787



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

Name (s) _____

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Make check payable to Arkansas Daffodil Society. Please mail to: Gary McClure
12 Stone Ridge Drive, Pine Bluff, AR 71603

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We're on the web
www.arkansasdaffodilsociety.org/

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Name

Address

City State Zip Code

Camden Daffodil Festival March 7th & 8th

By Rusty Mizell

The city of Camden will celebrate Spring at one of South Arkansas' largest and most beautiful events, the 21st Annual Camden Daffodil Festival, March 7th & 8th in Beautiful Downtown Camden.



Join thousands from all around the region and nation at this unforgettable weekend for the entire family at the 2014 Daffodil Festival!

Tour the amazing Daffodil Gardens, with over a million blossoms! Enjoy the rich History of South Arkansas with guided tours through Camden's famous museums, antebellum homes, and historical sites complete with costumed re-enactments. Or shop 'till your heart's content along the sidewalks of downtown Camden displaying a myriad of food, collectables, and crafts.

It's all at the 21st Annual Camden Daffodil Festival, March 7th & 8th in Beautiful Downtown Camden.

For information log on to www.camdendaffodilfestival.com