Jill Griese's Daffodil Woods

2013 ADS CONVENTION
FIELD TRIP TO
GRANVILLE, OHIO
Sunday, April 14, 2013
Welcome to Granville Ohio, a Welsh settlement established in 1805 by pioneers from Granville Massachusetts.

You will be visiting the gardens of four ADS members, as well as spending time exploring the village.

We hope that you will enjoy our Midwest hospitality!

The 2013 ADS Convention Committee

Schedule

9:15 a.m.  Buses Leave Hotel for Granville and a Brief Tour of the Area
10:45 a.m. Tour Drew McFarland’s Collection of Historic Daffodils at Beinn Sloidh Farm
12:15 p.m. Board Buses
12:30 p.m. Lunch at the Granville Inn, Including a Whit’s Frozen Custard Treat, and Time Exploring the Village
2:45 p.m.  Board Buses to Tour the Gardens of Louise Denny and Jean Jankowski
3:55 p.m.  Board Buses to End Our Tour at Pau Hana Farm, Home of Jill & Paul Griesse, Where You Are Encouraged to Explore the Gardens
4:30 p.m.  Incoming ADS Board Meeting
4:30 to  Flute Duet in the Woods:
5:30 p.m.  Natalie Smith and Katrina Tijerina
5:30 p.m.  Complimentary Bar Entertainment by the State Farm Trio
6:15 p.m.  Dinner in the Tent: Welcome by Jill and Paul
            Convocation: The Reverend Karen Chakoian
            Keynote Speaker: Jason Delaney, PHS/MOBOT
            “The Allure of Garden Daffodils”
            Invitation to the 2014 Convention Hosted by the Arkansas Daffodil Society
7:45 to  Board Buses to Return to Hotel
8:15 p.m.
Drew McFarland  
Beinn Sloidh Farm, 5754 Lafayette Road, Granville, Ohio 43023

I purchased the farm in August of 1986, right after graduating from law school. Because of my Scottish heritage, I chose the name, which translates more or less to “Gathering Place Hill.” It’s taken from the MacFarlane battle cry Loch Sloidh, which is reference to Gathering Place Lake, a loch near Loch Lomond in Scotland. Beinn = hill/mountain; Loch = lake. It’s pronounced as “Ben Sloy.” I’m a direct descendant of the chiefs of the clan and their predecessors, the Earls of Lennox, in the region around Loch Lomond.

The farm is over 53 acres, and I have devoted about six or seven of them to my collection. I now have approximately 480 varieties. The first daffodils were planted about twenty years ago when my mother asked for a patch of land to plant some for the Granville Garden Club Daffodil Show. However, the major effort began in 2006 when I wanted a way to preserve my agricultural tax rate without the invasive effects of planting all grain crops. My mother suggested the daffodils and selling them as cut flowers, which is what has happened. I find the histories interesting, and they seemed more appropriate for Granville because of the historic nature of the village and its surrounding area. On occasion a Denison sorority has picked many to sell for their charity, and I also provide daffodil specimens to the Granville Garden Club for the Daffodil Show.

One is first greeted at Beinn Sloidh by a great, but quite hollow, White Oak at the corner of the drive. Nearby Dawes Arboretum has estimated its age at around 400 years – long enough that the road moves to get around it. Visitors are also welcome to walk the 1 1/2 miles of woodland trails through the property, some of which lead down to Cat Run, a stream running through the land. The farm contains a variety of both native and introduced species, including black and honey locust, beech, sycamore, sugar maples, many forms of dogwood, basswood, and witch hazel, to name a few.

The bright blue farm house, built about 1870, was painted to add some color to winter, as I have seen done in Iceland and Greenland. The small cottage dates to around 1900, and its tenant is Nina Harffmann, award-winning nature photographer, who was one of the vendors at this year’s convention. Be sure to get a look at the little block milk house and ring the brass bell which was brought from Scotland.

Louise Haag Denny  
41 Spangler Hill, Granville, Ohio 43023

My father, Rudy Haag, had a nursery in Kentucky, specializing in trees and shrubs. I was the second youngest of six children and tagged along after him, as he did his chores and tended the plants. I would do anything to keep from helping my mother inside. While I was still in elementary school, I took total control of the family’s vegetable garden. I was even permitted to include flowers, which my father never had in his nursery. I included some jonquils, which we called “Easter Flowers,” because many people used them to decorate graves on Easter.

Because of his job, my late husband, Walter, and I were transferred many times, so when we moved here we figured it would be another short-term residence. We purchased a double lot of about 2 1/4 acres and built our home. We took possession in March of 1976, and I set about designing the landscaping. That fall I bought a bushel of 100 labeled daffodils from White Flower Farm. When my neighbors saw them blooming the next spring, they determined that I would make a good member of the Granville Garden Club.

In 1984 I got wind that a store had over purchased daffodil bulbs. I got permission to buy them all at cost, and the club sold them to members and their friends for the same price. That sparked the idea of selling daffodils at our annual Daffodil Show, and a fund-raiser was born. It still continues today. As a result, hundreds of thousands of daffodils announce spring in Granville and surrounding areas. Profits are used to fund local beautification projects and scholarships for Granville High School seniors.

As it is with most gardeners, my aim was to create a garden with four seasons of interest, including flowering trees and shrubs. I think that incorporating companion bulbs makes a wonderful, ever-changing display in the spring landscape. Of course, milkweed and butterfly bush are tucked here and there throughout for the monarch butterflies. The back and side yard are reserved for daffodil specimens. As the deer population exploded, Walter built an electric fence, which the deer have now learned to crawl under and eat anything green that I haven’t protected.

Because of her thirty-year dedication maintaining the gardens at the Robbins Hunter Museum next to the library, helping with the Junior Gardener Program, supporting of the annual Daffodil Show, and planting daffodils in public spaces, including the Route 16 entrances to the village, Louise was presented with the Granville Garden Club’s Distinguished Service Award in 2006. A daffodil, Rudy’s Louise (?YYW-YYW, Havens), was named to honor the occasion.

Drew
Jean and Alan Jankowski
20 Carmarthen Way, Granville, Ohio 43023

When we moved here in 1989, there was a small grove of four wild cherry trees and half a dozen pines in the front yard, while the back yard had only one tree, a huge cottonwood. Beyond the grassed area, the two sides and the back of the property sported many trees, including ash, wild cherry, popular, and one maple, plus a mass of old barbed wire fencing, grape vines, honey suckle, poison ivy, and multiflora roses. There was a brick path from the drive to the front door that ran parallel to the house, allowing for a bed that was only about three feet wide.

Our efforts started in the front yard with a new path, a variety of trees, and several beds to shield us somewhat from the road. Next we attacked the street side yard, and finally it was on to the back where we added a deck, a brick patio and several more beds. The bed on the east side of the patio has been the most challenging. It is now in its fourth iteration. This is where my clump of Granville Beauties (2W-P; Mitsch Havens; 2003) resides.

My first real introduction to daffodils came in 1995, when I joined the Granville Garden Club. My objective has always been to incorporate bulbs into the landscape, so that when their curtain falls, other bulbs and perennials will take the stage. Hostas and daylilies used to be the plants of choice for this purpose, but now that the deer are a problem, my beautiful daylily collection is history, and our choices have to be more innovative. My perennials never get deadheaded until the birds have totally stripped them of their seeds.

Last summer’s storm drastically changed the small west-side and back woods. Many of the trees fell, taking some shrubs and understory trees with them, and many more were so damaged that they had to be removed. This has opened up a whole new canvas. You will see the beginning of our latest project. Some pines have been planted to eventually shield us from our back neighbor, and the tedious process of removing all the invasive plants is underway. This spring, a path will be incorporated and more trees, shrubs, and wildflowers will be planted. There will be a strong emphasis on native, deer-resistant plants, plus, scattered throughout will be daffodils and other bulbs, some of which will come from where they no longer get enough sun.

Jean

Jill and Paul Griese
Pau Hana Farm, 2640 North Street, Granville, Ohio 43023

Paul and I met when we were living in Hawaii. When we purchased our 52 acre farm in Granville 39 years ago, we named it Pau Hana, meaning “work finished” in Hawaiian. Prior to this, it had been a working farm and there was virtually no landscaping, aside from a small clump of daffodils at the back door that the farmer’s wife probably planted as an ode to spring. The property did have many trees, however, including sugar maple, dogwood, cherry, and walnut, along with tons of multiflora roses, grape vines, honeysuckle, and every other invasive you can name.

There was a swamp that we eventually turned into a pond. For my 40th birthday, Paul surprised me with 40 rhododendrons that, with extreme protection from the deer, still grace the water’s edge. As a reward for the several years of toil it took to clear the woods, I planted 2500 daffodil bulbs from Holland. When they bloomed the next spring, I was amazed to see they weren’t all yellow. But, it wasn’t until I joined the Granville Garden Club in 1987 that my love affair with daffodils truly ignited.

Daffodils are an intricate part of each and every one of my garden spaces, many of which have been designed by Roger Seely, who owns Seely Landscape Nursery in Hilliard, a Columbus suburb. The daffodils are naturalized; they are planted in clumps to use as specimens in the annual Granville Garden Club Daffodil Show; but most of all they are planted to enjoy and share. During daffodil season, I welcome guests to come and experience for themselves the joy I feel. They are often encouraged to pick bunches to take home for their own pleasure, or to brighten a friend’s day. Taking daffodils to local nursing homes brings me as much pleasure as it does to the recipients. And in the spring the farm becomes a venue for a variety of fund-raising events.

The number of daffodils increases annually by several thousand. I have purchased from hybridizers from all over the world. At this point there are nearly 700 cultivars. This could never be accomplished without the aid of several young men with strong backs to help me plant them. You will notice that my preference is for large, showy blooms, mainly because they are eye-catching from a distance. I am often asked which one is my favorite, and my answer, like many of yours, is always the same: “The one that I am enjoying at that moment!”

Jill
“My journey into the world of daffodils has given me such great pleasure. I am indebted to all of you in ADS who have embraced me, encouraged me, and educated me. But my greatest joy occurs while Paul and I tour our woods by golf cart. I find myself marveling at how these beautiful, enchanting blossoms can turn a placid wood into a symphony of peace and tranquility, while at the same time causing my heart to sing. Then there is the sharing that extends my joy beyond the farm and into the lives of so many people. I feel very blessed to be able to see my beloved daffodils again this spring. It gives me comfort to know that they will be my gift for generations to come.”

Thanks to you all,

Jill
Our heartfelt appreciation is extended to the following Angels who have made this day a reality:

Neil Cavanaugh
Marcia Downes
Fackler Country Gardens, Inc.
Linda Murphy-Ganger
Jill and Paul Griesse
Ted Handel
Jane Heller
John and Mary Hinderer
Jean and Alan Jankowski
Betty Reisher
Leslie Maaser, Denison University Music Department
Barbara McFarland
Joyce and Michael Morris
Jenny Reynolds
Sally and Bill Reynolds
Carol and Skip Salome
Holly Griesse Shai
State Farm Trio
and
The Host of Volunteers
Who Helped in Numerous Ways

Commissioned by John Sutphin Jones in 1923, the Granville Inn was built in the Jacobethan Revival style on the site of the former Granville Female College. The stone and half-timber structure was designed by Frank L. Packard, a prominent Columbus architect. All of the sandstone was quarried at Jones' nearby estate, Bryn Du.

While most of the Granville Female College was torn down for the Inn, a gymnasium building with classrooms was left standing. Today, it is connected to the main structure, and houses a garage with guest rooms on the second floor. It was reported by the local newspapers that the Inn's opening on June 26, 1924 was attended by as many as five thousand people.

Jones, a coal and railroad magnate, also known for building the Granville Golf Course on part of his vast holdings, died in 1927. His daughter, Sallie Jones Sexton, inherited the property, living at Bryn Du while managing the farm and the Granville Inn. Sallie became a local legend, famous for breeding and training show horses, and for her vivid personality and colorful language. It was Sallie's storied management style that led the estate into bankruptcy, and in 1976, Granville residents Bob and Joan Kent purchased the Inn and Golf Course at Sheriff's Sale. The Kents undertook a major renovation and modernization of the Inn's guest rooms, as well as the meeting and dining facilities.

In 2003, the Kents sold the Inn to Granville Hospitality, LLC, a group formed by several local businesspeople. They have always strived to maintain the sense of history and tradition that have been hallmarks of the Granville Inn for over eighty-five years. The Inn continues to be a vital cornerstone of the Granville community and a destination for travelers and diners worldwide.