

Greater St. Louis Daffodil Society

The Daffodil Rave



Next Event: Daffodil Meeting February 23, 2020 @ 1:00 (pg. 3)

22nd Annual Daffodil Show April (10) 11 - 12, 2019 (pgs. 2-3)

Read Online <http://stldaffodilclub.org/>

Spring 2020

Volume 19, Issue 1

Suzy Wert, Editor

President's Message

Dear Members,

Executive Board Directors

(New Officers, see right.)

1 Year Term Member: Judy Graman (2020)

2 Year Term Member: Dave Chevess (2020 – 2021)

3 Year Term Member: Pam Hardy (2018 – 2020)



Daffodils in The Big D

The Texas Daffodil Society is proud to announce that they will be hosting the American Daffodil Society 2020 National Convention in Dallas, TX on March 12 – 15, 2020. The weekend will be chockful of informational meetings and outings, including The Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden and the Ft. Worth Botanic Garden plus the Fort Worth Stock Yards to see a

cattle drive and mock shoot out. Our lodging and daffodil show will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Dallas – Campbell Center, Dallas, Texas. Link to all events and happenings> <https://daffodilusa.org/events-show-calendar/national-convention/2020-national-convention/>

The Greentree Festival date is September 18 - 20, 2020.

20/20 Hindsight

During the 2019 Daffodil Show...our first non-weekend show...we set a number of show records; the total number of stems exhibited, total number of exhibitors, most blue ribbons won by an exhibitor, a large and steady number of visitors to view the show, and some new personal accomplishments for some of our members.

“20/20 Vision”, our 2020 Daffodil Show, see page 2. Hope to see you there!

Vaughn Meister

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2020 Show Scoop

“A 20/20 Vision of Daffodils”

April 9 - 10, 2020

9:00 AM to 5:00 PM



Wednesday show setup 1:00 PM to 7:00 AM Thursday morning

“Open to the Public”

at Missouri Botanical Garden: Orthwein Floral Display Hall

Design, Horticulture & Photography at the Daffodil Show

The [2020 Daffodil Show Schedules](https://stldaffodilclub.org/pre_show2020.html) have been added to the GSLDS website at this link > https://stldaffodilclub.org/pre_show2020.html

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Our "A 20/20 Vision of Daffodils" Daffodil Show will be held in the Orthwein Display Hall at the Missouri Botanical Garden, April 9-10, 2020. This will be our last show at Ridgway Center, as construction crews will tear-down the building during 2021 to make way for the new Jack C. Taylor Visitor Center, the largest development in Garden history. We are looking for a new location for our Daffodil Show during the 2021 construction at MBG. Hopefully we can find a home with our friends at the Shaw Nature Reserve during MBG construction, and possibly beyond.

2019 Exchange Scoop

Photos Gary Knehans and Beth Holbrooke



Waiting for the Start of the Exchange.



Brenda VanBooven shares a table with visitors Welmoed and son, Bastiaan Breed



Vaughn Meister and Peter Mc Adams getting Organized for exchange with Kevin Hillemann supervising.



Audrey 3 From Little Shop of Daffodils Hungrily Eyes Lynn.



Gary Knehans and Joy Haeffner



Bob and Judy Skaggs choosing their loot from the list.



Visitors from the Netherlands make our hunky Jason Delaney look like a pipsqueak! L-R: Bastiaan, Welmoed Breed, Jason Delaney, Eric Breed.

'Dils in Windowsills?

~by Gary Knehans. Photos by Gary Knehans

'Dils in windowsills? That's the way to do it. All it takes is a sunny, southfacing windowsill to capture the most sunlight in winter's dimmer rays, plus a pot with drainage tray to protect window trim, potting soil, and the bulbs.

The first varieties of bulbs that come to mind are the paperwhites, such as Ziva and Nir, and a much different variety, the golden cultivar, Grand Soliel D'or. Unfortunately, indoor forcing of these cultivars leaves their bulbs exhausted and unable to produce similar results the next fall and winter. However, there are more sustainable varieties of fall blooming daffodils than these.

For me, *N. miniatus*, which quite recently has been renamed *N. serotinus var. deficiens*, has been very prolific and floriferous year after year. Bulbs repotted in fresh potting soil and watered in the fall will bloom in a sunny windowsill in three weeks.



Above: *N. serotinus var. deficiens*, formerly *N. miniatus*



Above: My collection of bulbs of this *miniatus* species includes several that are raised from seeds. Last fall there was one bloom whose form was so smooth and superior that I'm hoping this bulb will repeat this showing in the future.

Another reliable performer has been an 8 W-O seedling of mine that won the Rose Ribbon at the first fall daffodil show of the American Daffodil Society in Indianapolis. It was registered last year as 'Indy Fireworks'.



Above: 'Indy Fireworks' is very prolific, flowering dependably four weeks after repotting in the fall. Blooms exhibit a light, pleasing scent. There are three-to-seven blooms per stem.

'Dils in Windowsills? (Con't from p. 4)

~by Gary Knehans. Photos by Gary Knehans

Fall-blooming *viridiflora* hybrids also can be brought into bloom indoors. The variety that has been most successful for me has been 'Lima's Shooting Stars' with its fragrant, multiple green blooms per



Above: Lima's Shooting Stars. It really is a gray green.



Above: I also grow Autumn Fantasy Group with some success, but its twin-flowering display is not as pleasing to me as *miniatus* and *Indy Fireworks*.

After fall blooming bulbs have flowered, keep them growing with adequate moisture and light fertilizer from time to time. When April arrives, take your pots of daffodils outdoors and place them in a sunny site. When the leaves start to brown, remove the pots to a place where they're protected from rain and moisture to dry them out. The bulbs may be left in the pots until fall when they should be lifted and repotted in fresh potting soil.

The hardest part about growing fall-blooming daffodils indoors is acquiring the bulbs. Esker Farms in Northern Ireland has offered some fall-blooming cultivars in the past. There are some private growers on the west coast that might be persuaded to supply some bulbs as well.

Make 2020 the year when you enjoy 'Dils in Windowsills!

Welcome
New
Member!

Rebecca Hertwig

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2019 Calendar of Events

DATE	TIME/PLACE	ACTIVITY
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Sunday, February 23, 2020	1:30 PM - 4:00 PM Classroom #125 at CBEC	Presentation by Mike Rood Trees and more trees! <i>Refreshments provided by members.</i>
April 9 - 10, 2020	Thursday, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM, Friday, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Orthwein Floral Display Hall of Ridgeway Center at MBG	Celebrate Spring at the Greater St. Louis Daffodil Society's annual Daffodil Show. Setup and Staging starts at 1:00pm on Wednesday April 8 and continues until 7:00am Thursday morning.
Sunday, July 19, 2020	1:30 PM - 4:00 PM Classroom #125 at CBEC	Talk by outside speaker to be announced... Refreshments provided by members.
Sunday, August 30, 2020	1:30 PM - 4:00 PM Classroom #125 at CBEC	Bagging and Tagging of Bulbs for upcoming Sales and Exchange. <i>Refreshments provided by members.</i>
September 18 - 20, 2020	Friday, 5:00 - 10:00PM, Saturday, 9:00AM - 7:00PM, Sunday, 10:00AM - 5:00PM Greentree Festival, Kirkwood, MO	Join us at the Greentree Festival to sell daffodil bulbs and spread yellow daffodil fever to residents of the Greater St Louis area.
October 10 - 11, 2020	9:00 AM - 5:00 PM or until sold out, Beaumont Room of Ridgeway Center at MBG	Annual public bulb sale and our big fund raiser. Setup Saturday morning October 10 in the Beaumont Room 7:30 AM until done.
Sunday, October 25, 2020	NOON - 5:00 PM Classroom #125 at CBEC	Annual exchange of better donated and purchased bulbs from various sources. Open to active members only. Main Course and drink provided, Side dishes & Desserts requested.

Upcoming Events



February 23 Guest Speaker Mike Rood, Pea Ridge Forest

Mike Rood is president, co-owner and in-house arborist of [Pea Ridge Forest](#), which is nestled in the hills along the Missouri River in eastern Missouri. He came home from college at the University of Missouri-Columbia armed with his degree and a vision to begin the evolution of Pea Ridge, availing himself of every educational opportunity that came along.

Pea Ridge Forest is a family owned and operated tree farm. Growing quality trees has always been their mission, whether its Christmas trees from their "choose and cut" operation or balled and burlapped trees for their wholesale nursery. Pride in their work has been the cornerstone of the business. As such, Pea Ridge Forest has remained a source of quality trees since 1972.

Learn more about Pea Ridge Forest on their extensive website at <https://www.pearidgeforest.com/>

Go Native!

~by Cindy Haeffner

There are many easy native companion plants that thrive among our beloved non-native daffodils, *Narcissus*. From my list of favorites, the milkweeds or butterfly weeds as they are regionally known, *Asclepias* spp., take center stage.

Consider planting a few of the many species of milkweed among your daffodils—some are dwarf, some are bushy, some are tall, some run, some like it dry, and some like it wet—there's a perfect milkweed option for every garden. Most are sweetly to heavily perfumed, too! While butterflies enjoy nectar from many native and non-native flowers, only the milkweed secures their future: monarchs, for instance, are dependent upon milkweeds to complete their life cycle. Adult monarch females lay eggs on milkweed leaves, and the fledgling caterpillars chew their way through leaves, gaining not only size, but a built-in defense.



Consuming the milkweed's natural latex sap enables their bodies to excrete a bitter chemical unpalatable to birds, a vital defense enabling the caterpillars form chrysalides, and from there, hatch into the next generation of butterflies, a true miracle of Nature.



Milkweed is the new native buzz plant, due to its benefit to a rapidly diminishing monarch butterfly population. The alarms have been sounded, and habitats are being recreated in private gardens, parks, school gardens, and highway medians and roadside set-asides. Through the United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service, pollinator cost-share programs in rural areas are rebuilding habitat areas lost to the large-scale, monocultural agriculture practices that have largely destroyed the natural habitat along the monarch's migratory route from the southwestern United States into eastern Canada. In recent years, increased plantings of milkweed have benefited the monarch, but more is still needed.

Go Native! (Con't from page 7)

~by Cindy Haeffner

All milkweeds are perennial, except annual tropical milkweed, *Asclepias curassavica*, a popular summer bedding plant that is easily grown from seed.



Above: Classic orange butterfly weed, *Asclepias tuberosa*, a Midwest U.S. native, is perhaps the most widely recognized milkweed in gardens. It is drought tolerant and has beautiful orange or yellow flowers. Once established, it will persist indefinitely thanks to its large tap root, so plant them at least 12-18" away from your daffodil clumps. Photo: oaklandnaturalareas.com

Most garden centers and mail-order flower and native plant companies carry milkweed plants, but milkweed is also easy to start from seed. There is still plenty of time to purchase seed for spring 2020. It is necessary to stratify the seeds—assist their germination—by simply placing them in sealable container and refrigerating them or four-six weeks prior to starting in doors. Another method is simply to plant outdoors and let nature take its course. The seeds are small, often with fuzz attached, which in nature carries it airborne, and deposits itself on the ground. Out-of-doors they naturally stratify, and with freezing and thawing, along with rain, enough soil covers them to

effectively “plant” them; when direct-sowing outdoors, use only a very light covering of soil. The seedlings will emerge late spring, so be patient. Once they are a few inches tall, transplant the seedlings into larger pots, or directly into the garden. Be sure to keep them moist, and continue watering during dry conditions the first year. Adding a light layer of mulch will help retain the moisture.

You will be amazed at how easy milkweeds are in the garden, and how many beneficial insects they attract. As a companion plant, the milkweed emerges later in spring, so it does not crowd out the daffodils. Eventually the milkweed’s expanding foliage will conceal the daffodil’s senescing foliage, and its roots will help keep the daffodil bulbs dry during their summer dormancy. So, if you are looking to expand the floral interest in your garden and help save Nature at once, consider the perfect milkweeds.

