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President's Message June 2017

Happy summer, spring is past.

I mark this season change by the simple fact that our beloved daffodils are over blooming, and the foliage is fading away.

**Greater St. Louis Daffodil Society** 

The Daffodil Rave

It makes me sad, yes, but knowing that planning for our next year begins. I have marked several rows for digging to share at our annual bulb exchange. Many of these cultivars were obtained from previous bulb exchanges: exciting daffodils from Ringhaddy in Northern Ireland, Mitsch Daffodils, USA and Ron Scamp from England.

This particular row was planted in 2011 and increased nicely with healthy tall, wide foliage. My underground labeling will come in handy for accurate verification while digging to assure I am sharing the correct cultivar. I am excited for our July 16th meeting, featuring our guest speaker Kyle Cheesborough from Bellefontaine Cemetery as Horticulturist Supervisor. He will share with us he knowledge of natural ecosystems thru his presentation of 'Gardening for Biodiversity'.

Later the same day, we are delighted to announce that we are invited to the private garden of Bruce and Chick Buehrig. Bruce was our featured speaker in February 2017. Hostas was his topic, but their garden is so much more. Bruce collects not only hostas, but rare conifers, his wife Chick along with sister Lois Raley grow a vast number of daylilies, which will be in bloom for us to see thru out the garden. Be sure to mark July 16, 2017 on your calendar!

Happy Summer

Cindy Haefffner, President

Suzanne Raymond Best in Show, Nowra



Dreamlight, Best Historic Lynn Slackman

# **A Blooming Success**

### Unusual spring weather fails to defeat Daffodil Show

By Gary Knehans

Despite early concerns that daffodils might be bloomed out by the Greater St. Louis Daffodil Society daffodil show on April 9 because of unseasonably warm temperatures, cooler weather settling in around the middle of March assured there would be ample blooms for exhibiting.

As it turned out, fifteen exhibitors placed 524 stems in competition at the show held at the Missouri Botanical Garden.

"We had a great response from the public who came to view our blooms during the afternoon," said GSLDS President Cynthia Haeffner. "Our members did a terrific job in putting the show together."

The Best in Show Gold Ribbon was won by **Suzanne Raymond** for a stem of *Nowra* taken from an excellent vase of three. **Cindy Haeffner** secured the Silver Ribbon for winning the most Blue Ribbons (26) in the show. Cindy additionally had the best intermediate, Reed seedling 95-67. She was this year's Club Challenge winner with *Killearnan*, won the historic collection of five ribbon, and the much coveted Elise Havens Ribbon for 12 daffodils from divisions 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10.

**Suzy Wert** took the Mini Gold Ribbon with a stem of *Little Kibler*, the Mini Rose for seedling *19*, and the Watrous Ribbon. Her most distinguished achievement was staging a winning *Throckmorton* collection of 15 blooms of different color codes, and doing it solely with division 7 cultivars.

**Lynn Slackman** secured the Mini White Ribbon for three perfectly matched stems of *Segovia*, the Red White and Blue Ribbon for a 5-stem collection of American-bred daffodils which also won the Purple Ribbon for the best 5-stem entry in the show, the Mini RWB Ribbon which also won the Lavender Ribbon, best intermediate collection of five, and received the best historical award for *Dreamlight*.

Gary Knehans won the Rose Ribbon for the best standard seedling, 9-03, in the show, the White Ribbon for the best vase of three with *Dimple*, classic best bloom with *Shining Light*, Intermediate White Ribbon for three stems of *Brooke Ager*, the Container Standard Ribbon for *Ziva*, the Maroon



Pam Hardy, Best Design



Reed 95-67 Best Intermediate, Cindy Haeffner



Bill Cole, Blue Ribbon winners, Cedar Hills and Lemon Cocktail

Ribbon for a 5-stem collection of reverse bicolors, and the Bozievich Ribbon.

**Pam Hardy** also was a show winner, securing the Classic Best Single Stem Award for *Sunset Serenade* and the Classic Three Stem Ribbon for *Tahiti*.

Congratulations also to **Eileen Swofford** for winning the Youth Best Bloom Ribbon with *Cinnamon Ring*. **Mary Greenwalt** took the Small Growers Award with *Twin Towers* and **Peter McAdams** won the SNR award for a green-eyed *Poet* and the Historic *Vasae* of Three Award with *Elegance*.

The design division of the show was well supported by ten exhibitors creating 26 artistic designs. **Pam Hardy** won the Best in the Show with her first ever design entry. **Jean** and **Jim Morris** also took first place awards in individual design categories.

The photographic section had 18 entries with the top award, the Wells Knierim Ribbon, going to **Cindy Haeffner** for her "Daffs By the Barn" entry.



Lynn Slackman's Red White and Blue winning entry.

L-R Back Row, Tristan's Memory 2Y-Y, Weber's Electric 2Y-R, Front, Pink Flush 2W-P, Peggy MacNeale 2W-GWW, Edie 2W-P All cultivars hybridized by John Reed of Oakwood Daffodils

Eileen with her winning youth cultivar, Cinnamon Ring, the ADS 2017 Pannill Award winner

Elegance, 3Y-Y, 1908 Peter McAdams winning Historic 3 Stem Entry

# Top horticulturalist to address July meeting



**Kyle Cheesborough** 

Kyle
Cheesborough,
horticulture
supervisor at the
Bellfontaine
Cemetery
Association in St.
Louis, will be the
guest speaker at the
July 16 meeting of
GSLDS. His topic:
Gardening for
Biodiversity

Members can expect a fascinating

presentation and discussion. Cheesborough has had an extraordinarily distinguished and active career, which has included a plant collections trip to the Altai Mountains in Siberia.

Cheesborough developed an affinity for horticulture as a young man in Augusta, Ga., helping his grandmother in her garden. He attended the University of Georgia, receiving a Bachelor's in Science of Agriculture, majoring in horticulture while working for Goodness Grows, a wholesale and retail nursery specializing in rare, old-fashioned shrubs and perennials.

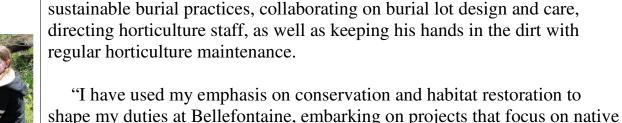
He then spent a short time with an annual liner production facility in Mt. Vernon, Wash., working in its research and development department before accepting the position of Horticulturist I-Conservatories with the Missouri Botanical Garden.

Cheesborough's career with MBG saw a quick maturation of his abilities as a public gardens horticulturist and included his trip to Siberia. In 2013 he took the position of horticulturist with Bellefontaine Cemetery and Arboretum. Under his care the arboretum has grown in breadth and depth. He was instrumental in the execution of Evergreen Meadow, the cemetery's dedicated green burial section.

In 2016 Cheesborough became BCA's horticulture supervisor overseeing



Peter McAdams team, train them young!!!



**Hot Diggity Daffodils** 

horticultural destination."



**Bill Cole with SNR** treasures



the arboretum collection, designing themed planting beds, consulting on

"I have used my emphasis on conservation and habitat restoration to

plants and those that provide some benefit to local wildlife," he says. "The Bellefontaine landscape is one of supreme beauty, and I hope to serve the

cemetery in the coming years by developing this urban green oasis into a

Yes, we all really dig the Nature Reserve



Team McAdams family at SNR, 2017, enjoying lunch at the Trailhouse

They came armed with shovels, trowels, picks and bare hands to dig up as many daffodils as they could at the Shaw Nature Reserve.

Or they came simply to keep an eye out for that one rare historic cultivar no longer available to the public.

Each year the Reserve allows members of the Greater Saint Louis Daffodil Society to dig up daffodil bulbs on one day from a predetermined



Valerie Mertz, SNR 2017



Sweet Williams at SNR Pic by Joy Haeffner



Cindy and Bill, SNR 2017

area that the Reserve, in Gray Summit, Mo., wants to restore to native prairie or woodland.

So, on April 2, a large group showed up for the dig, and soon, under sunny skies and with nice spring temperatures, scattered out over the terrain much like amateur plant explorers.

GSLSDS vice president Jason Delaney scoured the entire area available to the diggers and was ecstatic when he came across some rare *Poeticus* hybrids.

Gary Knehans was among those who came across eagerly liberated clumps of the highly sought *Beryl*, a desirable historic cultivar.

"I had always wanted that particular cultivar," said Knehans. "Among others discovered were bulbs of *Empress*, *Narcissus* pseudonarcissus, a myriad of *N. x Poeticus* seedlings, and hybrids of all shapes and forms."

Back in 2012, GSLDS member Brenda VanBooven, who was among the diggers, said the daffodils at Shaw were "unique and incredible."

An apt description then and now.

The Reserve's history goes back to 1925 when the Missouri Botanical Garden began land purchases at the site and began setting it up as a safe refuge from the smoke pollution of that era. It now occupies 2,441 acres and has since become a major habitat restoration site with multiple walking and hiking tracks.

For more information about the Nature Reserve go to missouribotanicalgarden.org



**Haue Valley Poet** 

Over generations, the original daffodils remain in full floral glory.



L-R, Joy Haeffner, Bill McLaren of Haue Valley and Jason Delaney



Many historics grace the hillside at Haue Valley



SNR blue bells, photo by Joy Haeffner



A Spellbinding Visit To Haue Valley Farm Historic daffodils leave GLSDS members in awe

By Jason Delaney

Following the exciting day digging daffodils at the Shaw Nature Reserve, participants from the dig, as well as other GLSDS members who came for the evening's activities, met at Haue Valley Farm, in Pacific, for an enlightening tour of a relatively unknown yet significant, generations-old



Another Haue Valley beauty



**Haue Valley Tour** 



Bill Cole's blue ribbon 3 stem entry, Cedar Hills



Photo display , GSLDS SHow, 2017

collection of historic daffodils.

Upon entering the farm, a cheerful reception of gorgeous mixed daffodils in full bloom lined both sides of the long driveway to the top of the hill where, upon getting out of our vehicles, we were cordially greeted by the owners, Bill McLaren and his mother, Edith, who welcomed us to his family's property.

Members assembled in the reception hall where Bill delivered an overview of the farm's long history, replete with a special display of family mementos for us to enjoy. In the late 1800s, the original Haue family left Europe for America. Upon entering the country, their Danish name of Haue was changed to Howe. In 1889, Fred and Caroline Howe purchased the original 80-acre farmstead, which was passed down to the Howe children. Their son, John Howe, loved and cared for the farm deeply throughout his life. John grafted trees and planted thousands of daffodils that can still be seen on the farm today. He even won a silver medal in the 1904 World's Fair for his wine grapes.

John eventually passed down the farm to his niece, Edith, who is still involved in the farm's activities. Today the farm has grown to include 246 acres and is meticulously tended by Edith's son and daughter-in-law, Bill and Linda McLaren, and grandchildren Kristin and Derek Binford and Kesha and Ryan Nichols. On many days you can also find the sixth generation of the Haue Valley Farm team, Cole, running around at nearly three years of age.

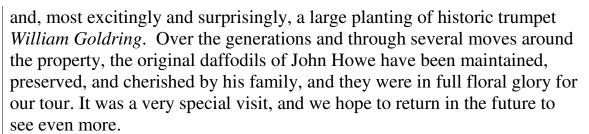
To date, Haue Valley Farm has hosted more than 100 large celebrations at the farm. In addition to hosting weddings and corporate and charity events, Haue Valley Farm is home to a herd of cattle cared for by the McLaren family.

Of special interest to GSLDS members in attendance was the story of the farm's daffodils. Though the visit to Haue Valley Farm was a first for most of us, the daffodils were quite familiar: John Howe was one of the most significant suppliers of daffodil bulbs for mass plantings at the Shaw Nature Reserve where, even today, his daffodils still flourish.

As Bill and his mother Edith guided us through the rows and swaths of daffodils flanking the steep north and east slopes of the main event hall hill, dotted with specimens of John's original nut trees and a new installation of wine grapes paying homage to the John's award-winning grapes, familiar daffodil faces beamed upward, including numerous *poets* 



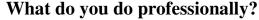
Gary Knehans, Best 3 stem Intermediate, KN 02-2, 3W-Y



Following the tour of Haue Valley Farm, GLSDS members drove to historic downtown Eureka for a hearty and delicious dinner at Joe Boccardi's. The dinner, hosted by GSLDS, was given in honor of our members for the fine success of last year's World Daffodil Convention. Food, drink, and conversation abounded, and a wonderful evening, following a wonderful day, was had by all. To learn more about Haue Valley, visit hauevalleyweddings.com and CrookedCreekBeef.com.

# **Member Spotlight**

New members Mary Susan and Allen Greenwalt are having a blast since they joined the society



**Mary Susan:** I am a retired elementary school counselor for the Lindbergh School District in St. Louis.

**Allen:** I am a presales system engineer for Cisco Systems, a large communications and IT company.



How did you become involved in gardening and long have you been involved?

Mary Susan: I come from a family of gardeners and have been gardening since I was a child.

**Allen:** I began backyard vegetable gardening as young adult and decorative gardening later.

Do you have a favorite plant group and gardening style?

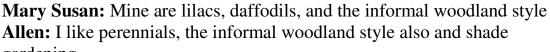


Best Small Grower Award Mary Susan Greenwalt Twin Towers 2W-P Pic by Rose Finnegan

"With a little encouragement Mary Susan picked flowers to enter the show", "so happy she did!" Cindy Haeffner



Pam Hardy , GSLDS Show, 2017. The "extra" daffodils . Sold in bundles and used for the "Kids Corner"



gardening.

## When and how did daffodils enter into your gardening interests?

Mary Susan: I've loved daffodils since I was a child.

Allen: Always liked daffodils and had some, although was not

knowledgeable until joining GSLDS.

## Do you have a favorite daffodil or division of daffodil?

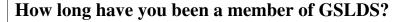
Mary Susan: I love them all.

Allen: Not at this time; maybe when I learn more.

## Do you prefer growing or exhibiting, or a little of both?

Mary Susan: I prefer growing.

Allen: Me too. Growing



Mary Susan: Just over one year.

Allen: Same here. We joined at the same time

## What do you like best about your membership in GSLDS?

**Mary Susan:** I enjoy learning about daffodils and meeting people who share my interest.

**Allen:** Opportunity to socialize with knowledgeable, friendly, and fun people doing interesting and fun things. Physical exercise and exploring outdoor environments.

## What advice can you share for new members?

Mary Susan: Participate and ask questions.

**Allen:** I agree. That's good advice.



GSLDS Horticulture Show 2017, Missouri Botanical Garden



Reed Precocious seedling, from Haeffner Farm

# **Special Offer for Society Members**

If you haven't seen *Garden Design* magazine yet, the current issue is a great one to start off with. The new Spring 2017 issue features eight stunning pages on daffodils, including over 20 varieties.

More akin to a bookazine, *Garden Design* is like a book because there are no ads, and like a magazine because it is published seasonally—four times a year. The magazine is completely reader supported which allows them to give 148 pages of beautiful gardens and plants in every issue.

## To subscribe to Garden Design go to www.gardendesign.com/2017



Pictured: Narcissus cultivars—*Katie Heath*, *Minnow*, *Prototype*, *Merlin*, *Cheerfulness*, *Sweetness*, and *Suave*, as well as *N. poeticus* show a range of colors and forms available. "I grow many, many daffodils—and purposely plant extra for cutting," says Seattle-area floral

arranger and photographer Georgianna Lane. "I selectively cut and arrange them on a variety of backgrounds to show off their exquisite diversity." Photo by Georgianna Lane

### Plant lovers will love this issue:

Daffodils: Here's what you need to know about planting, growing, and enjoying daffodils. Wait until you see the photos.



Flowering branches: The parade of blossoms from flowering branches starts in February and continues through May and beyond. Get tips for growing, arranging, and harvesting them.

Succulents- Tips for using and designing with succulents. Add beauty, drama, fun.

Plus pages and pages of small garden ideas, a world traveler's kitchen garden, three Great Gardens, and more.



Gary Knehan's, Pink Swallowtail, his own hybridized cultivar, also a Greater St. Louis Daffodil Society Club Challenge cultivar.



Pictured: Narcissus cultivars *Ambergate*, *Sherborne*, Ice Follies, Dutch Master, Thalia, Bridal Crown, Pink Charm, Tahiti, Geranium, Barrett Browning, Sir Winston Churchill. Photo by Georgianna Lane

Society members will get their first issue free when they subscribe. Go online to <a href="https://www.gardendesign.com/2017">www.gardendesign.com/2017</a> or call

(855) 624-5110 Monday - Friday, 8am - 5pm PST.

Garden Design's Spring 2017 Issue Now Shipping - Get Yours!

## **Going Underground**

Daffodil enthusiasts in Missouri and Indiana have a novel new way of tracking bulb IDs

By William Cole

How can some daffodil growers gaze across a rippling quilt of yellow and identify with certainty every bloom and bulb on their grasslands without a sign or marker in sight?

The answer lies under their feet.

Underground tags that precisely reveal what lies on the surface are fast becoming tantamount to buried treasure.

Subterranean solutions along with indoor maps are gaining in popularity as gardeners try to deal with the practical problems of mowing around or over the metal signs that have long accompanied their bulb locations. How many of us have found our traditional metal markers destroyed, missing or mangled because of heaving ground caused by frost and wind?

Buried cut-up mini-blinds and vinyl siding hold the ID secrets of unknown cultivars.

Resourceful growers are using such indestructible home-made items as old vinyl mini-blinds and cut-up house siding as well as traditional plant labels and burying them three to four inches deep—a couple of inches above the level of the bulbs. Paint pens or industrial Sharpies are used to record the bulb info on the tag. A baling twine attached to the tag leads the gardener to the identities of the bulb and the bloom. The twine can be located slightly below or in some cases protruding slightly above the surface.

Sara Kinne, Indiana Daffodil Society

Cindy Haeffner started using attached twine after she spent "more time looking for the label than the bulbs." "The tags can be buried to one side of the clump of bulbs that you want to identify," says Suzy Wert, a member of both the Greater St. Louis Daffodil Society and the Indiana Daffodil Society. "I always place mine to the right-hand side of the clump. The tags also need to be placed horizontally because vertically placed tags are more likely to pop to the surface via ground surges."

Colleague Sara Kinne always places her tags on the north side of the clump because her beds are more free-form and the "right" side is sometimes hard to determine. The key, they agree, is consistency.

The twine can be brought closer to the surface, she says, and can be placed in a horizontal circle making it easy to locate and dig up.

Wert and Kinne, who are active members of the American Daffodil Society and the IDS, have become experts on the topic of buried and mapped information. Their exhaustively detailed and illustrated treatise on the subject, an inspiration for this article, can be seen at the websites below.

Several other GSLDS and IDS members are using one variation or another of the IDS recommendations, including the use of maps for freeform plantings.

"To create a map," says Wert, "go the highest floor of your home and shoot a picture of the area that shows your daffodil groupings. You can then transfer that information to your hand-drawn map."

She and Kinne recommend that maps should show north at the top; that gardeners should pace off in feet the area that the map represents; use a title for the map, and make sure it's dated.

"Landmarks such as boulders, trees, utility poles, bird feeders, barns, even stumps and swing sets," should be included, they say. Maps can then be saved in a safe place indoors for reference later.

GSLDS president Cynthia Haeffner has an ingenious system of identification--similar to that used by internationally known hybridizer John Reed--on her sprawling farm in Hermann, Mo.

In one particular field, her many bulb clumps are planted in rows. At every fifth clump she identifies the relevant five cultivars onto a

weatherproof label, which she attaches to a metal label. That is then inserted into a PVC pipe, which is buried vertically with its top at ground level. Size of PVC pipe varies, but is generally large enough for a hand to easily access the metal label with names of daffodils, she says. In the past, Haeffner used vinyl siding to attach the weather-proof label. However, she discovered that the deer love to pull the labels out of the pipes and chew on them, and turkeys find it hilarious to pull out and fling about, not funny.

"It works wonderfully," she says, "and the weather doesn't affect them."

However, she came across one wrinkle: it turns out that deer like to chew on the vinyl tags she was using. So now she's returned to dropping metal tags into the pipes.

GSLDS hybridizing veteran Gary Knehans, doesn't use twine with his tags but he identifies clumps of blooms growing in freeform across his property with buried discount-store plastic teaspoons.

"They are inexpensive, plentiful and remarkably durable," he says. "I write the name of the bulb and other info with a paint pen or industrial Sharpie on the inside curve of the spoon. And then just in case of possible breakage I enter the information again on the stem of the spoon. Amazing as it seems, the markings withstand any amount of moisture or heat and cold."





Cindy displaying KT Marker and vinyl siding label



Close up view

Photo to right, Weatherproof Avery label on metal, in PVC pipe. Enables Haeffner to mow over field during dormant time of year. For added insurance Knehans, who estimates he has about 1,000 cultivars, also creates maps of each grouping in a notebook at the time he buries his tags. He protects the maps in a plastic folder that he keeps in his home. So far, he has only used the buried tags when he is moving daffodils to another spot.

Gary Knehans says buried discount-store plastic spoons are "cheap" and "indestructable."



Lynn Slackman, admiring large white oak at Haue Valley

# A spoonful of info helps the first prize go down

Looking at a beautiful greenish-yellow clump of daffodils on his property, Gary Knehans realized to his disappointment that he couldn't identify them.

It was the day he was due to take his entries to the GSLDS Daffodil Show at the Missouri Botanical Garden and he badly wanted to enter them.

No problem. He took his shovel and dug up the 2-cent plastic spoon with the bulb's ID written on it that he had buried alongside the clump [see accompanying article on buried labels].

The blooms turned out to be *Star Cluster*, a division 7 *Jonquilla* hybridized by John Taylor of New Zealand.

"I took three stems to the show and won a first-place Blue Ribbon with them," says Knehans. "I guess you could call it spoon-fed success."

Cynthia Haeffner also uses buried tags and attached poly twine in the freeform areas on her property. On the label is written the cultivar name, color code, year planted and in () parenthesis the # of bulbs. I use the KT industries paint marker, pictured to left. Jason Delaney recommended this to me, and it's the only one I use now, can be found at Orscheln's in the welding supply department.

"When I first joined the daffodil society I heard about using planting tags with my bulbs," she says. "I thought easy enough, mini-blinds it is. I wrote the name of the cultivar on the label with a Sharpie. A few years later, I wanted to dig and share this cultivar. Although I have a map, I intended to use the underground label for verification. Well, I found the bulbs just fine, but spent more time looking for the label than the bulbs."

That's when she decided to use the twine as a connection to the tags.

"I now use vinyl siding sized to my liking, cut with a tin snips," she says. "I drill a hole in the label and attach poly twine. On the farm I have access to large amounts of baler poly twine, and I invite members to just let me know if they want some. When I plant the bulbs, I lay the label with twine attached above the bulbs, spread out in the hole I have prepared."

GSLDS vice president Jason Delaney is able to get instant access to his tags from the loose soil in the front of daffodil clumps at his house in St. Louis. He buries tags with a connected looped twine that he can just pull from a shallow level.

"This allows me to avoid above-ground labels but still quickly ID my bulbs," he says.

This new method of burying tags is a failsafe way for all enthusiasts to record their bulb info, says Haeffner, and as it becomes more refined will likely be the adopted process of the future for more and more growers.

For the IDS examination of tags and maps see: <a href="http://www.indianadaffodilsociety.org/">http://www.indianadaffodilsociety.org/</a> or go directly to the article at: <a href="http://www.indianadaffodilsociety.org/InsurancePlan.pdf">http://www.indianadaffodilsociety.org/InsurancePlan.pdf</a>

### **Calendar of Events 2017**

DATE	TIME/PLACE	ACTIVITY	
Sunday 16 July 2017	1:30 p.m3:30 p.m. Classroom 125 Commerce Bank Education Center 5:30 pm Tour Bruce and Chick Buehrig's Garden	Speaker: Kyle Cheesborough horticulture supervisor at the Bellfontaine Cemetery Association  Please bring refreshments	
Friday-Sunday 15-17 September 2017	Friday 5:00 p.m10:00 p.m. Saturday 9:00 a.m7:00 p.m. Sunday 10:00 a.m5:00 p.m. Greentree Festival, Kirkwood, MO	Join us at the Greentree Festival to sell daffodil bulbs and spread yellow fever to the greater St.  Louis area	
Saturday and Sunday 30 September -01 October 2017	9:00 a.m5:00 p.m. or until sold Beaumont Room, Ridgway Center Missouri Botanical Garden	Annual public bulb sale and our best fundraiser. Setup on Saturday morning  Annual Bulb Exchange Please bring side dishes and desserts	
Sunday 22 October 2017	12:00 p.m5:00 p.m. Classroom 125 Commerce Bank Education Center		





