

Greater St. Louis Daffodil Society

The Daffodil Rave



Fall 2018

Volume 17, Issue 3

Suzy Wert, Editor

Next Event: October 21 noon-5:00. Bulb Exchange and Pitch-In

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

GSLDS Bulbs for Sale

Greetings to you all.

We still have some 'Mount Hood', 'Yellow Cheerfulness', 'Compute', 'Sentinel', and 'Geranium' daffodil bulbs available for sale. These are very hardy daffodil bulbs that could be used as gifts for your friends and neighbors or become part of your garden. Just shoot an email to me dslackman@aol.com for your bulb order and I will be happy to bring it to the GSLDS Bulb Exchange scheduled for Sunday, October 21. Or you could coordinate a 'pick-up and pay' for bulbs "meetup at Mobot".



'Sentinel'
(garden.org)



'Yellow Cheerfulness'
(nicely fragrant)
(bluestone.com)



'Geranium'
(also nicely fragrant)
(gardenersdream.co.uk)



'Mount Hood'
Wister Winner 2018
(DutchGrown.com)



'Compute'
(daffseek.org)

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Bulb Exchange Rules:

- Members attending at least two events or meetings, prior to the bulb exchange, pay usual \$10 entry fee.
- Members attending less than two events or meetings, prior to the bulb exchange, pay \$25 entry fee.
- Non-members MUST become a member of GSLDS and pay \$25 entry fee.

Photographers for this issue: Cindy Haeffner, Lynn Slackman, Kam Fok, Arla Chevess.

2018 Bulb Exchange & Pitch-In

HAPPY HAPPY! Joy Joy!

Yes, it's true!

The annual Greater Saint Louis Daffodil Society's bulb exchange is almost upon us. Members are invited to attend this exciting, (almost free), event on October 21st from noon-5:00. To be eligible to participate, **members must be up-to-date on their dues** and have participated in at least one GSLDS event. The bulb exchange participation fee is \$10 for those who have participated in at least two club events, \$25 for those who have attended one club event this year. Rules are also listed on the front page of this newsletter.

A list of bulb varieties that will be available at the exchange will be e-mailed to members about a week before October 21st. If you're donating bulbs, or other items, garden or non-garden, to the exchange, please inform Cindy Haeffner by October 16th at chaeffner@haeffnerfamily.net, or at 636-221-7406.

This year, GSLDS ordered bulbs for the exchange from four daffodil growers--Dr. John Reed's Oakwood Daffodils, Jason Delaney's PHS Daffodils, Esker Farms Daffodils in Northern Ireland, and Choice Bulbs in England.

For many years, club members have benefitted from bulbs that John Reed has hybridized and from other hybridizers. He sometimes blesses us with bulbs of promising seedlings raised at [Oakwood Daffodils](#).

Our own [Jason Delaney \(PHS\)](#) also for many years has provided large-sized bulbs, ranging from daffodils of top show form to hard-to-locate classics and historic. This year's selections will include proven award winners like [Bouzouki](#), [Demitasse](#), [Independence Day](#), [Lawless](#), and jonquil, [Hope Taff](#). There will also be several Division 9's that are not readily available elsewhere.

[Esker Farms](#) is sending us many newer show-quality Northern Irish and British varieties. These will include [Prime Target](#), [Little Alice](#), [Contralto](#), [Sheskin](#) (pronounced Shesh' in), intermediate [Quiet Magic](#), and [Lyme Bay](#), just to name a few.

[Choice Bulbs](#) will be sending many of Brian Duncan's excellent newer introductions, including [Hyperbole](#), [Lilac Tones](#), [Roma Aroma](#) (so named because it's rose scented), [Robustian](#), and others. There will be two Division 2 winners--[Astrid's Memory](#) and [Jammin](#).

These bulbs are in addition to all the member-brought specialties we hope you will donate. Without a doubt, this will be our best bulb exchange offering ever. So, plan to be there on time, Sunday, October 21st, noon to 5 p. m., at CBEC (Missouri Botanical Garden's Commerce Bank Center for Science Education), 4651 Shaw Blvd, St Louis. Classroom 125, or just follow the food!

A main dish will be provided by the club, however the rest of the meal is comprised of delicious side dishes, salads and desserts brought by members. (Side dishes and salads are most especially welcomed as we usually have a surfeit of desserts.) Plugs for crock pots or warming trays will be available.

Daffodil Roots Need Air

~by Cindy Haeffner

Breathe in, breathe out, as easy as 123. All life needs air, ALL. I hadn't really given much thought about how much air I should be providing my daffodils, have you??

In 2016 during the WDC, a chance conversation with Franz Veul in my field, got me to thinking about how I should add the ingredients to enhance the soil, while adding the all important air. Franz explained that in Holland they add straw, etc. to the daffodil planting to help with the humus of the soil, which in turn helps the bulbs breathe, yes, breathe, this helps keep the bulbs happy.

We all know the basics of above ground composting, but what about underground composting??? Forever useful, but sooo underutilized in our daily gardening. Underground composting can be as simple as hand weeding, use your trowel to dig a hole, place a dead weed in hole, cover up. This useless weed will now provide humus and micro-nutrients to your flowers or vegetables, exactly where they need it. This method has been used for hundreds of years. American Indians placed a dead fish, or fish head) under a corn kernel, they also understood the most basic circle of life. Our forefathers wrote about placing an old leather boot under a peach or apple tree, for long term composting. Some gardeners think of composting as using fancy bins you can turn with a handle, or the 3 bin method, using a pitch fork to turn the materials. Both very good at making compost, but you can hit the "easy" button.

Whether you practice the "hole" or "trench" method of composting, adding the ingredients are the same. We all know the colors associated with composting, green, blue, & browns. The greens are grass clippings & weeds, blues, the water/moisture we add to the process. The browns, leaves, cardboard, sawdust and farm animal manures.

For several years, I have been planting my daffodils using a layering compost method in a trench, all underground. In the bottom of the hole or trench, way down deep, I add a layer of grass clippings/dry leaves, which I gather with my mower with a bagger. Next animal manure, cattle or horse. Next I add a thin layer of soil, adding the micro-organisms to start the decomposition process. The final layer is followed with another layer of grass clippings/dry leaves. I add 2 inches of soil, then plant my bulbs. As I fill in the trench to ground level, straw or grass clippings/leaves can be mixed in to help with the aeration of the soil. Now I have the composting materials where my roots need them, and I am adding micronutrients, vital to complete health of our plants. The ingredients are left to decompose and along with earthworm activity leave humus, which in turn allow small areas "air" mixed in with the humus/compost. These, combined with earthworm "highways", are the air pockets which helps in drainage and breaking up the compacted soil.

When planting your daffodils this fall, you needn't look very far from your yard to find the colors of composting. Have fun amending your soils!!!

July Speaker: Bob Skaggs

We were fortunate to have Bob Skaggs talk to us about new and exciting introductions to the iris world. The first portion of his talk showed us the wide variety of iris seen at the recent Oregon national iris show. At least one of his own seedlings was being grown on by Schriener's Iris Farm to be sold when enough are available. There were closeup shots of almost every color and several different shapes.

The second portion of his talk centered around his own efforts at hybridizing here in Missouri. He plants out about 3,000 of his own crosses every year and is considered an "up and coming" national hybridizer with several introductions. We're glad Bob had the time to talk to our group.

~Beth Holbrooke. Photo: Lynn Slackman



Cleaning and Bagging: Once a Chore, now a Social Event

~by William Cole

How do you make the cleaning and bagging of daffodil bulbs somehow enjoyable? Well if you are Joy and Cynthia Haeffner you transform it from a task into an Event, with a capital E.

First, comes location. The Haeffners generously agreed to hold it not in a windowless conference room when the cleaning is done by hand, but at their spectacular country home in Hermann, Mo. That would allow Peter McAdams, treasurer of the Greater St. Louis Daffodil Society, to use the large powerful air blower that he invented to clean off the bulbs, a somewhat dirty job that can be done only outdoors.

Then the Haeffners encouraged everyone to bring as much food and goodies as they could carry. They provided chairs, shade, their lovable kitties and dog to play with. They even shared hand-fans to cope with the heat.

Their grandson 4-year-old Alex, won the hearts of everyone by showing off the model dinosaur that he “hatched” underground and by telling folks how glad he was to see them. “What I liked most was the camaraderie that builds when people are enjoying themselves,” says Pam Hardy, who was among the guests bagging the bulbs. “It was a wonderful day. The food was fantastic. We had a great time.”

Speaking of food, lunch in the Haeffner house was more like a banquet, their dining room table groaning under the weight of meats, pies, vegetables and salads

Joy also showed his skills as a connoisseur by serving up a massive beef slab and producing a coffee that could outflank anything that international brands offer. If that were not enough, Joy provided some entertainment during a break from the work by expertly herding cattle with his four-wheeler in a nearby field.



Cleaning bulbs by hand could sometimes take a couple of **days**. “The blower cuts the cleaning time down dramatically,” says Peter McAdams, “and saves a lot of work. Doing it outside creates a social event. It’s a lot of fun.” Peter, Jason, Vaughn Meister and Alex.



In addition to Joy and Cindy (and Alex), eleven other members responded to the invite for the August 16 event. They were: Bob Skaggs, Jim and Jean Morris, Vaughn Meister, Lynn Slackman, Jason Delaney, Si-Lui Cheng and Kam Fok, Beth Holbrooke, Brenda VanBooven, and William Cole.

2018 Bulb Sale Review

~by Lynn Slackman



The Greater St Louis Daffodil Society, and the 2018 Bulb Sale Tribe, would like to thank everyone for their support during our Fall Bulb Sales at the Kirkwood Greentree Festival and the Missouri Botanical Garden. We really appreciate the support of our members, their friends and families, St Louis and surrounding communities, as well as the City of Kirkwood and the Missouri Botanical Garden.



William Cole and Dave Cheves, each in an obvious good mood, ready to sell at Greentree.



Pam Hardy and a Mobot employee work out the logistics of the sale booth. Photographer Kam Fok is the reflection in the glass.



Peter McAdams using his homemade mesh bag filling system at the Mobot bag n tag.

We had a weekend of good weather and good traffic at the Greentree Festival, as well as many return customers who look forward to seeing us each year.

We also experienced good weather during our Bulb Sale at the Missouri Botanical Garden, and visited with several customers who had attended our Spring Daffodil Show and wanted daffodil bulbs for their gardens. Due to other competing activities...our sales were not as strong at MoBOT... but our 2018 Bulb Sales were profitable and rewarding.

Thanks again for everyone's support and efforts throughout the Bulb Sale events, and 'Happy Planting'!

2019 ADS National Convention

~by Lynn Slackman

Once again, the Central Region is hosting the ADS National Convention! It's not a short drive for our GSLDS members, but it's an easy one, and we encourage you to support our sister society and attend. The best news is that for once the date is scheduled so we won't be missing any daffodil blooms in our own gardens.

The [Daffodil Society of Minnesota](#) is excited to invite all daffodil



lovers to the 2019 ADS National Convention on May 2-5, 2019. This festive event will take place at the Hilton Hotel Minneapolis/Bloomington located in Bloomington, MN.

The "Land of 10,000 Daffodils" convention is located in the Central Region of the country, but they have the last daffodil show on the ADS Daffodil Show Calendar. So they should not interfere with other scheduled daffodil shows or your daffodil blooming season.

If you haven't attended a National Convention, or need to refresh your Judging Certificate, this is your chance to see a fabulous Daffodil Show, attend some outstanding garden tours (Minnesota has marvelous gardens, parks, and natural wonders to behold), and listen to some local and national gardening experts.

But don't come just for the convention – plan to come early or stay longer to enjoy the many sights and experiences available!

Learn more about the 2019 National Convention on the ADS website at this link > <https://daffodilusa.org/events-show-calendar/national-convention/2019-national-convention/> <

Hope to see you in Minnesota next spring!

Delay Your Fall Mulching

Apply a layer of organic mulch to the bulb bed **after** the soil freezes in early winter so the mice and voles will have already found an alternate home for the winter.

After rain or manual watering, apply two to three inches of shredded bark mulch, dried grass clippings (those not treated with herbicides), or finely shredded leaves to your daffodil beds.

Mulch will help to retain moisture, reduce weed growth, and prevent soil heaving, but the biggest bonus is in the spring: Mulch will keep your flowers cleaner, and the weeds to a minimum! ~Suzy Wert

Arla Chevess's Tomato, Cheese and Fresh Basil Picks

- Cherry tomato halves
 - Mozzarella or other mild cheese cubes
 - Fresh basil leaves
 - toothpicks
- Delicious!



Arla & Dave Chevess are our dynamic new Hospitality Team. We are grateful for all their creative and hard work.