

Midwest Region Newsletter

July, 2020



From your RVP—

Welcome to our eighth short newsletter.

Happy daffodil processing season to all! It is comforting in a way to see our gardens and our work around them going on mostly as usual, amidst a world that is in many ways in disarray.

It is heartening to see the flexibility and adaptability of our members, and the steps everyone is taking to move forward in every way we can.

I'll once again urge all of you to contribute your own daffodil biographies or even little stories from your own daffodil life. Even though we need to be physically distant for a while, we can still take advantage of opportunities like this little newsletter not to be so socially distant.

Hopefully all of our bulbs due for digging this year are now being readied for replanting or distribution. What will we do? A few ideas are here.

--[Jim Wilson](#)

I never saw daffodils so beautiful. They grew among the mossy stones about and above them, some rested their heads upon these stones, as on a pillow, for weariness.

--Dorothy Wordsworth

Fall Planning

Because it seems unwise to congregate indoors this fall, our best course of action is to cancel our fall regional meeting. Hopefully the situation will improve by next year and we can again enjoy all the benefits of getting together.

We will plan to conduct our regional elections by e-mail or regular mail. We need to choose a Regional Director to replace Dan Bellinger, and an RVP. I've enjoyed being your RVP the last two years—thanks to all who mentored and helped me along the way. Please send all your input to [Tom Stettner](#), our nominating committee representative. We hope to present nominees in a future newsletter.

Without our traditional regional bulb exchange, we need to be creative about finding other ways to share. Certainly, sharing with friends can continue as always. We may want also to consider donating to youth or community organizations. Some of our choicest bulbs, especially those not in commerce, can be donated to the ADS fall auction, described below. (Contact [Janet Hickman](#) regarding these.) If members have other bulbs that they would like to make available to the region, either as gifts or trades, I will be glad to publicize lists of available bulbs in this newsletter—just send the lists to [me](#), and those interested can contact you to make any further arrangements.

Midwest Regional Directors:

- [Daniel Bellinger](#), 2021
- [Tamara Mitman](#), 2022
- [George McGowan](#), 2023



ADS faces the same situation nationally that we do as a region. Their new way to conduct the Fall Forum makes it possible for virtually all of us to participate, when in previous years travel may have been a complicating factor.

This meeting will be conducted through the ZOOM application. If you aren't already familiar with it, there is a video available to answer your needs and concerns:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9isp3qPeQ0E>

Early bird registration for ADS members - up until 31 AUG is only \$25 - which is a FAB bargain! Effective SEP 1 the registration for ADS members increases to \$35 and registration **will not close**.

Here is the link to **Visionary Venture**, the ADS' first ever virtual national event:

<https://daffodilusa.org/events-show-calendar/fall-symposiums/2020-fall-forum-fall-board-meeting/>

Highlights include many great presentations, a photography show, a bulb auction, and an outstanding Judges Refresher, on SAT NOV 7 @ NOON EST.

The final *Grand Finale* event of **Visionary Venture** will occur on SUN afternoon, NOV 8 @ 3P EST. ADS Photography Show Chair, Robert Darling, will reveal all the winners in the **Photography Show**.

[Jaydee Atkins Ager](#), the chair of this event, has done a great job getting ready, and welcomes any questions.

Photography

ADS Photography chair, Robert Darling, has formed a committee with representation from each region, to promote and coordinate photographic efforts. Jeanne Lager has agreed to represent the Midwest Region on this committee. An article from her follows:

Virtual Fall Forum Photography Show Competition

This year's Fall Forum Photography Show will be a virtual competition. Participants will be able to upload their photographs to the photography show website. This eliminates the need to print and mount photos which will make entering quite easy.

Photographers must register to participate in the photo contest by completing an application form which is found on the photography show website. This registration is separate from the registration required for the Fall Forum. Photography show registration will begin August 20 and the deadline for entering photographs is September 26, 2020 at 12 PM EDT.

Now is the time to look at all the pictures of daffodils you have been taking and pick out what you would like to enter. Let us make sure that the Midwest is well represented in the photography show!!!

Materials for the photography show are still being developed but there is more information on the American Daffodil Society website. Once on the website go to the News and Events Tab and click on "Fall Forum and Board Meeting". Inside the section that explains the photography show is a link to the "Fall Forum Photography Show Rules and Classes".

All are encouraged to view the Daffodil Photography Show website from October 1-21 to enjoy the daffodil photos and vote for your favorite. Based on your votes, a 'Virtual People's Choice' will be awarded.

Spring Planning

Recognizing that many ADS members may still be reluctant to travel for the spring 2021 convention, ADS has decided that it would be unwise to go ahead with the 2021 convention in the Gettysburg, PA area as planned. Because of contractual obligations involved, it was decided to move that convention to 2022, rather than incur the penalties of canceling it altogether. This move necessarily disrupted the planned sequence of regional convention hosts. The ADS Executive Committee recommended a solution of switching the 2021 and 2022 hosts, and holding a virtual convention in 2021, with the Midwest region as host.

Fredrica Lawlor has agreed to chair our virtual convention, along with her other duties in ADS and otherwise busy life. As with our previous 2022 plan, this convention will be an all-region effort. We need lots of ideas and people to implement them. Jeanne Lager has volunteered to chair the photographic component. Fortunately, doing the Fall Forum this year as a virtual convention will lay groundwork and teach us a lot about doing this.

Please Welcome Our New Member

Saginaw Branch,
Women's National Farm and Garden Assoc.
Cinda Schantz
802 Adams St
Saginaw, MI 48602
Ph# 989-790-9007
email: cwrschantz@gmail.com



Janet caught me calling in help for the little bit of bulb cleaning that we do.



Some of our more serious members, like Kathleen Simpson, have developed innovative methods to cure lots of great bulbs—leave it to an engineer!

IDS Scholarship Awarded

The Indiana Daffodil Society continues to use a major portion of its revenue from bulb sales to award scholarships. Jeanne Lager shared the following information on a recent recipient and her acknowledgement of the award:



2019 Sarah Elizabeth Frey Indiana Daffodil Society Scholar Lekeah Durden

Education

Indiana University, Ph.D. Candidate in Evolution, Ecology, and Behavior. (2014–present).
New Mexico State University (NMSU), Las Cruces, NM, B.S. in Biology. (2011).

Experience

Ph.D. Research—Professor Emeritus Keith Clay's laboratory. (2014–present).

- The interaction of a fungal endosymbiont of *Ipomoea tricolor* (morning glories) with plant pests.
- Examining community consequences of host protection by fungal endosymbiosis in morning glories.

Associate Instructor for Senior Lecturer Pamela Hanratty. (2016–2017)

- Biology Q201 Biological Science for Elementary Educators.

National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Intern at U.S. Geological Survey, Southwest Biological Science Center, Tucson, AZ (2018).

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship – Ecology. (2015).

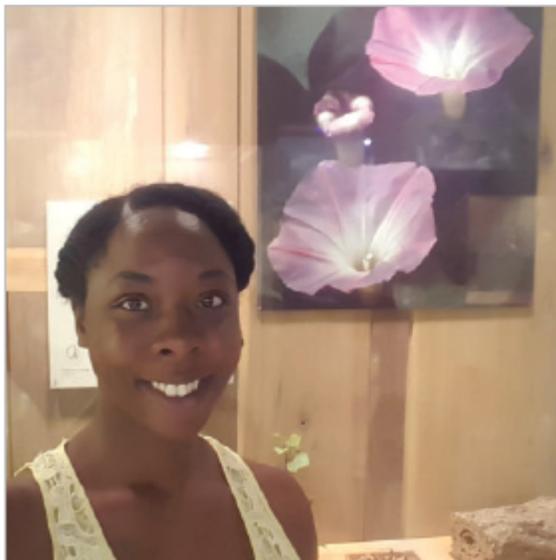
National Institutes of Health (NIH) Maximizing Access to Research Careers Scholar/Researcher, NMSU, Las Cruces, NM. (June 2009–May 2011).

NSF Summer Research Opportunity Program (REU–Microbiology), University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI. (June 2010–Aug. 2010).

NIH RISE Medicinal Plants of the Southwest Summer Researcher, NMSU, Las Cruces, NM. (May 2008–July 2008).

Publications

- Durden, L., Wang, D., Panaccione, D. et al. "Decreased Root-Knot Nematode Gall Formation in Roots of the Morning Glory *Ipomoea tricolor* Symbiotic with Ergot Alkaloid-Producing Fungal *Periglandula* Sp." *Journal of Chemical Ecology* (2019), pp 1–9.



Lekeah Durden studies morning glories. (Courtesy photo)

Community Engagement and Science Outreach

IU Biology Outreach at local elementary schools.

Indiana High School Science Olympiad.

Indiana University Annual Science Fest.

Center for Women in Technology.

Graduate and Professional Student Government–Diversity Committee.

Career Goals

Mentoring young scientists, possibly with an academic appointment at a minority–serving institution or a career as a research scientist addressing issues in food production and sustainability.



DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

INDIANA UNIVERSITY
College of Arts and Sciences
Bloomington

Lekeah A. Durden
Sarah Elizabeth Frey Indiana Daffodil, Inc. Scholarship

April 17, 2019

Dear Indiana Daffodil Society members,

I am honored to be the 2019 recipient of the Sarah Elizabeth Frey Indiana Daffodil, Inc. Scholarship. I am so grateful for your contribution to support my doctoral research with this award in Dr. Sarah Elizabeth Frey's memory.

This award is extremely special to me, especially after I read the biography of your dear friend, affectionately known as "Libby". I see many parallels between her passions and my own. Early in my science career, I spent an undergraduate summer at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the place where Libby received her PhD in Zoology and met her husband. I also love her commitment to community and volunteer work. Because of my affinity for science and people, I regularly volunteer with community members of all ages and combat myths about science to help foster a more scientifically literate society. Additionally, I share a love of traveling the world. Several places that she went I have also had the pleasure to visit (Dublin and London) while many other countries I'd like to see one day.

Your summer award will help fund my dissertation work, which use ornamental morning glories as a non-traditional research system. Besides beauty, some plants in the Convolvulaceae family have fungal symbionts in some members of the *Ipomoea* genus. This particular symbiosis is known as a "defensive mutualism" because the fungal symbiont receives benefits and the plant host receives some protection, too. Advised by Professor Emeritus Keith Clay, I use cultivars of *I. tricolor* to study the coevolution of this plant-fungal interaction. My research helps exemplify how commercial varieties of flowers can be useful tools for studying ecological and evolutionary questions. By independently developing this system using natural plant-breeding techniques. I am studying coevolution in a more expansive way outside of traditional systems.

While I complete the last year of study at Indiana University, and prepare to transition from graduate student to professional life, I send this letter to remember your loved colleague, peer, and friend, and to thank you for the dedicated financial support that the Indiana Daffodil Society, Inc., has provided budding researchers, like myself. Thank you also for supporting the local Indiana community that you serve. I look forward to participating at the Bloomington Farmer's Market for one of the Indiana Daffodil Society's events this upcoming year. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Lekeah Durden