

The Daffodil Rave

Volume 9 Issue 4

Greater St Louis Daffodil Society Newsletter

Soon to Be Winter 2009

Beth Holbrooke, Editor

www.stldaffodilclub.org

Rewards...

By Lynn Slackman

2009 has been a very rewarding year for the Greater St Louis Daffodil Society. Our recent Bulb Exchange and Bulb Sale were both very successful. Even in a down economy, we had a 23 percent increase in bulb sales from the prior year. Our Bulb Exchange had an extraordinary selection of bulbs and lots more bulb collections and auction items available.

We had three quality speakers that talked about Creating Winter Interest in your Garden, Showing and Staging Daffodils...from Garden to Show, and Managing your Daffodil Collection. Our November meeting will feature a panel of local hybridizers from the Greater St Louis Daffodil Society, which should prove to be a very interesting year-end segment.

We had wonderful weather for the annual Daffodil Dig at Shaw Nature Reserve this year. Everyone went away with loads of historic daffodils. We plan to add another section to the 2010 Daffodil Show Schedule for the historic blooms from Shaw Nature Reserve.

Last but certainly not least...the 2009 Daffodil Show in the Beaumont Room was spectacular! Even though we had an early daffodil show this year, we had 264 entries, 14 exhibitors, and 590 stems displayed for the horticulture portion of the show. We also had 10 separate adult and 4

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Missouri Hybridizers Panel Next Meeting: November 15, 2009

By Cindy Haeffner

On November 15, 2009, enter the world of the narcissus hybridizer. Not much is known about these rare creatures, but they **do** EXIST!!! Yes, right here in Missouri!!! These three gentlemen have much talent, PATIENCE and perseverance! I am pleased to announce the upcoming program for our wrap up of 2009 for the Greater St. Louis Daffodil Society – our own hybridizers. The event will be held at the Missouri Botanical Garden's "Garden Room" from 1-3 o'clock (Sunday).

Jason Delaney, Gary Knehans and Dave Niswonger will be presenting some of their favorite results, with pictures and verbal descriptions.

I was inspired by the Midwest Hybridizers panel discussion held this spring after the 2009 American Daffodil Society's convention held at the Chicago Botanic Garden in Chicago, IL. Many travelled to Oakwood Daffodils for the tour of John Reed's thousands and thousands of daffodil blooms. Along with the 'open house' of the growing fields was a Midwest Hybridizer's panel discussion. Jean Morris gave us information from her notes of the meeting which were printed in the Autumn 2009 *Daffodil Rave*. Her notes gave us a glimpse of the varied answers from one individual hybridizer to another – very interesting!!! Thanks, Jean!!!

Please plan to attend the November 15 meeting!!! I think you will find it very informative and entertaining.

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Speaking of Hybridizers...

By Beth Holbrooke

Sometime just after WWII, during an especially very hot and dry summer in England, Alec Grey (a very noted hybridizer in his day and even now) found a cyclataz seed pod that had been open pollinated. There was just the **one** seedpod from a cross that he had never been able to make – no one had – before or since. He planted the **three** seeds it contained and waited years to see what would bloom.

These **three** seeds from the **one** single pod grew into cultivars that he named 'Tete-a-Tete', 'Jumblee' and 'Quince'. They have since multiplied and spread across continents to become the most popular small daffodils in the world.

Extraordinary!

youth exhibitors in the design portion of our show, and three entries for photography.

I'm really proud of everyone for working together to provide this year of rewards to our membership. The old saying "Positive Thoughts Lead to Positive Results" is really paying off for the Greater St Louis Daffodil Society. I'm looking forward to another challenging, yet rewarding year during 2010.

MOBOT UPDATE

By Jason Delaney

The Missouri Botanical Garden just updated its Narcissus collection in the Samuels and Heckman Bulb Gardens, the primary bulb collection where the majority of the daffodils are grown, and where our ADS display garden designation lies. This was done by one of our summer interns, Rebecca Pledger, from Stephen F. Austin University in TX. It was the first time since 2004 we have update. Suffice it to say, there are over 650 distinct varieties in these two gardens alone; Garden-wide, over 800 in the collection.

Her project was no small task identifying the living from dead accessions, mapping each variety as it grows in the garden (no easy task when they're all dormant!), and researching a lot of miscellaneous information for Plant Records department.

Perhaps most exciting and beneficial to the ADS, a major component of Rebecca's project was to create an interactive map of the collection for online use; this will, when finished, be available from our main website (fingers crossed, spring 2010). It will feature maps of the Bulb Gardens, lists of the varieties grown sorted by bed, with specific points in the beds representing the specific daffodils. Tick the point and an image from our archives plus information on the flower will pop up (registration info, and a link to the ADS).

Included in the web feature will be short columns on hybridizing how-to, bios on our local Missouri hybridizers (Delaney, Knehans, Knell, and Niswonger), general culture recommendations, seasonal blooming times for daffodils here at the Garden and the Shaw Nature Reserve, local society and regional society links, MBG-endorsed resources, and of course, a link to the ADS.

Separate from this endeavor but very much related, we are also working on establishing our Narcissus collection as a recognized collection among the North American Plant Collections Consortium (red tape galore here...); this too would be featured on the site. When completed, this site would be a home page feature or 'Garden Gram' special announcement during peak bloom season, putting up front for all to see; otherwise, filed away in the off season under the 'Gardening and Horticulture' link.

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In the meantime, if you go to our website www.mobot.org, click on 'Explore', then, under 'Get the Facts', click on 'Conservatories, gardens, programs, and research facilities', then 'Bulb Collections', it gives a very generic media release overview, updated annually...for the average person it takes a lot of sleuthing to find, something we are more than aware of and something our Web Development department is working on making more easily accessible.

That said, as the scope of our institution is enormous, unless it is daffodil season and we are publicizing the bloom as a monthly feature, the site will never be a regular main page; sad but true, and completely understandable. The ADS website can link directly to it though, creating a direct portal and making it considerably more user-friendly.

So, stay tuned. Please mark your calendars to visit us in early April 2010 to see what we have to offer.

A Hybridizer's Poem

*"Be not discouraged, do the deed
Gather and sow your daffodil seed.
If you ask many folks, for methods to be used
As sure as a tangle, you'll get all confused.*

*Don't be impatient – or hasty be
And in no time at all, little flowers you will see
And the longer they take, the greater your glee
If you've been more selective than any old bee.*

*Make crosses with care, with an end point in view,
Pick parents well, perhaps only a few
With good colour, nice form and vigorous genes
Be canny and thoughtful, don't go to extremes.*

*The results may surprise you, both good and bad!
But that's not a reason to complain or be sad.
You sowed a few seeds, you raised your own Daff
And with ADS friends, you'll have many a laugh.*

Poeticus horridificus (Brian Duncan)



Growing Hippeastrum (Amaryllis)

By Kam Fok

"How to get your Amaryllis to grow and produce beautiful flowers"

Kingdom: Plantae
Order: Asparagales
Family: Amaryllidaceae
Genus: Hippeastrum

Introduction: Hippeastrum (Nickname: Amaryllis) is a genus of about 90 species and 600 hybrids and cultivars in the family of Amaryllidaceae, native to tropical and subtropical regions of Central and Southern America. They are popular for their showy flowers. I have grown Amaryllis for about 30 years and have about 100 pots in my backyard. I like Amaryllis because they are pretty and easy to grow. During cold gloomy winter, my potted Amaryllis blooms successively indoor when there are no flowers outside. Amaryllis flowers cheer me up when I come home.

I have a file of Amaryllis photo in a G-mail photo section. You are welcome to log in and take a look. I put captions under the photos for explanation when appropriate.

<http://picasaweb.google.com/fok.kam/Amaryllis2009#>

Commercial Sources: Amaryllis can be purchased at the local nurseries, Wal-Mart, Lowes, Home Depot, or Sam's Club during fall or winter seasons. You can also order from mail-order companies. I had good luck with the following suppliers: Brent and Becky's Bulbs, Virginia; McClure & Zimmerman, Wisconsin; White Flower Farm, Connecticut; John Scheepers, Inc. Connecticut; Van Engelen Inc., Connecticut; and Dutch Gardens, Vermont. The bulbs from these companies are usually quite good.

Classification: Just like daffodils, Amaryllis have single, double and miniature varieties. Among hybrid singles, 'Red Lion', 'Apple Blossom', 'Charisma', 'Hercules', 'Exotica', 'Hermitage' and 'Green Goddess' are popular. They are easy to grow and can multiply by themselves. For hybrid doubles, the popular ones are 'Aphrodite', 'Dancing Queen', 'Blossom Peacock', 'Elvas', 'Lady Jane' and 'Pink Nymph'. Nymph is a double Amaryllis hybrid that makes a spectacular showing. It was developed by Mr. Ton Peter van Nieuwkerk, an Amaryllis breeder in Holland. Measuring just 12" tall, Nymphs produce huge flowers whose rich texture and color set new standards of beauty for this elegant genus. Nymph has short and strong stems and does not need supports. Some Red, White, and Pink Nymph are

Available in the U.S.

Miniature hybrids produce 2 or 3 stalks to a height of 20". Their flowers are more compact, less formal, gently ruffled on the flower's edge, and only about one-half the width of the large flowering Amaryllis hybrids. I had good luck with the following varieties: 'Baby Star', 'Charmeur', 'Green Goddess', 'Lemon Lime' and 'Pamela'.

Cybister Amaryllis They are evergreen type varieties having slender, spidery flowers. They can be grown year-round in pots. The popular ones include 'Emerald', 'La Paz', and 'Ruby Meyer'. They are all pretty and easy to grow.

Christmas flowering Amaryllis: Some South African varieties are commercially available and can bloom in four to six weeks once potted. They are best planted from October through January for optimal root development and performance. If the timing is right, you may have beautiful Amaryllis flowers for Christmas. Some popular singles are 'Basuto', 'Candy Floss', 'Cocktail', and 'Merry Christmas'. For Double varieties, there are 'Ragtime', 'Rock's Roll', 'Rozetta' and 'Snow White'. Some miniature Christmas Flowering varieties are also available. They are 'Alfresco', 'Baby Doll', and 'Christmas Star'.

Potting: Amaryllis is hardy from zones 7 to 11. In Greater St. Louis area (Zone 5) they may be grown as houseplants. I grow them in pots because potted Amaryllis is more movable and less labor intensive. Some Amaryllis actually like to stay in pots and do not like to be disturbed. It is best to pot the bulbs up firmly in good potting soil. Add just enough soil so that the upper 1/4 to 1/3 of the bulb is above the soil line. Water sparingly until foliage or flower stalk emerges. At this time point, you can increase watering frequency (once or twice per week). After flower fades, you may cut off the flower stalk but let foliage mature. A weekly feeding of diluted water soluble fertilizer until the foliage matures will enhance performance later.

Growth in the summer: Potted Amaryllis can be kept outside in the summer. After the last frost risk is diminished (usually toward the end of April), I move all my potted Amaryllis plants outdoor under partial shade and let them enjoy a long summer vacation. It is best to avoid the hot direct afternoon sunshine. Some of the potted Amaryllis leaves may need support. I use bamboo sticks or tomato cages to support them. Alternatively, I just let the leaves lean against the metal mesh fence

Resting period Some Amaryllis need to have a resting period in order to produce flowers again. In mid to late October and before frost, I move the potted Amaryllis indoor. Some of the pots are put under dim light (such as under table or bench) and slowly withheld watering. That will induce their dormant status. After eight to ten weeks or even earlier, some buds should start to

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appear. At this time point, I move these pots under regular fluorescent lamps and resume watering them. I also replace some soil from the surface with good potting soil. After 5 to 10 weeks, I should get beautiful Amaryllis blooms.

Propagation: Offsets or small bulbs can be taken off and potted in other pots. They will flower in two to three years. You can hybridize Amaryllis easily and collect their seeds.

It is best to plant the seeds while they are still fresh. You can use seeding medium or regular potting soil and put the pots under fluorescent light. They will germinate in a few weeks. Propagation can also be done by cuttage technologies and tissue culture methods. However, these methods require special equipments and/or higher skills and I do not recommend for regular gardeners.

References:

1. Starr Ockenga, "Amaryllis", Clarkson Potter/Publishers, New York, ISBN 0-609-60881- 9, 2002. It is a good book. I recommend serious Amaryllis growers to read it.

2. <http://www.thegardenhelper.com/amaryllis.html>

An introduction of how to grow an Amaryllis.

3. <http://www.rochestergardening.com/bulbs/amrylcar.htm>

! It provides general information about year-round care of Amaryllis.

4. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hippeastrum>

From Wikipedia free encyclopedia: It provides some in-depth information about Hippeastrum (Amaryllis)

5. <http://www.usna.usda.gov/PhotoGallery/HippeastrumGallery/AmaryllisA-L.html>

From the United States National Arboretum Plant Photo Gallery. A lot of beautiful Amaryllis photos in this web site.



Planting Hope

by Maria Rodale

"I once read that planting bulbs is like planting hope: It's an act of faith that spring will come again, that you can somehow make it through winter's cold, dark days and survive. There is a good chance that everything you plant in the fall will sprout in spring.

It's amazing the way the little balled-up plants with their slender roots can hang out underground while the winter snow and sleet chills them to the core, and yet...at the first sign of warmth there are the green shoots, acting as if nothing had ever happened, starting over.

The process reminds me of some bad times I've had (believe me, I've had my share). When you are in darkness, everything can seem quite hopeless – as if life will never be good again. The interesting thing about bulbs is that they actually *need* that cold darkness; they won't grow without it. I can't help wondering whether bad times serve the same purpose for us – forcing us to bloom.

This fall, when my sun freckled hands meet the chilly soil, I'll be thinking about hope as I plant, and about the patience it takes to wait out the cold and the darkness that are necessary for spring blooming – both nature's and mine."

From *Organic Style*, October 2005



**GREATER ST LOUIS DAFFODIL SOCIETY
TREASURER'S REPORT –**

PETER MCADAMS

January 1 – October 24, 2009

Checking Acct Bal Jan 1, 2009		\$6,451.68
Daffodil Society Income:		
Annual Fall Bulb Sale	\$2,142.50	
Bulb Exchange Revenue	\$1,475.00	
Potted Bulb Sales to the Public	\$439.00	
Mitsch Discounted Club Order	284.40	
Dues Received		
2009 Members Dues Received	\$115.00	
2010 Members Dues Received	\$43.00	
2011 Members Dues Received	\$12.00	
2012 Members Dues Received	<u>\$17.00</u>	
		\$187.00
Plant Label Sales	\$502.50	
Other Income	\$3.50	
Donation	<u>\$5.00</u>	
TOTAL INFLOW		\$5,038.90
OUTFLOWS / EXPENSES:		
Show Expenses	\$152.32	
Judge Expenses	\$191.35	
Advertising	\$90.00	
ADS Youth Memberships	\$52.00	
Bulb Costs:		
Discounted Mitsch Bulbs to Members	\$284.40	
Exchange Bulb Costs:		
Mitsch Daffodils	\$425.00	
Oakwood Daffodils	\$450.00	
Larry Weir	\$100.00	
David Burdick	<u>\$300.00</u>	
		<u>\$1,275.00</u>
Charitable Donations – Komen	\$250.00	
Corporate Fees/Permits	\$10.00	
Postage	\$38.17	
Plant Labels (Zinc)	\$1,599.00	
Three Year ADS Membership	\$65.00	
Program Speaker Expense	\$170.00	
Meeting Expenses	\$122.62	
Misc Society Expenses	\$90.00	
	451.20	
	\$52.50	
Gift Certificates for Show Awards	\$175.00	
Newsletter Expense	\$206.56	
Total Expenses		<u>\$3,696.44</u>
Net Revenue Over Expenses		<u>1,342.46</u>
Balance in Checking account		\$6,646.34

Note: Fund raising activities generated \$262.50 more than last year and we spent \$625.00 less for bulbs resulting in a cash increase of \$887.50 over last year.

Sales of plant label/markers were \$502.50 with a cost of \$451.20 netting a small profit of \$51.30. We bought 5,000 labels for \$1,599.00 and currently have 3,590 label/plant markers on hand.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter McAdams
Treasurer



OFFICER INFORMATION

President: Lynn Slackman
 3758 Boatmans Point
 Belleville, IL
 Cell: 314-570-1136
DSLackman@aol.com

Vice
 President: Cindy Haeffner
 1944 Evergreen Lane
 Hermann, MO
 573-486-3495
chaeffner@internet.com

Treasurer: Peter McAdams
 1968 Seminary Rd
 Brighton, IL 62012
 618-372-0252
petermcadams@att.net

Secretary: Ann Henson
 6401 Cedar Road
 Iuka, IL 62846
erni@midwest.net

Past
 President: Beth Holbrooke
 1538 Ross Avenue
 St. Louis, MO 63146
 Cell: 314-640-4531
BethHolbrooke@aol.com



Calendar of Events for 2009

DATE	TIME/PLACE	ACTIVITY
Sunday, November 15, 2009	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Garden Room of Ridgeway Center at MOBOT	<i>Missouri Hybridizers Panel</i> will be our honored guests. Snacks brought by members with Holiday party theme.

Calendar of Events for 2010

DATE	TIME/PLACE	ACTIVITY
Sunday, February 21, 2010	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Garden Room of Ridgeway Center at MOBOT	Wrap up of the year. Slides and snacks brought by members with Holiday party theme. A chance to visit and exchange ideas for next year.
March 27 – 28, 2010	Beaumont Room of Ridgeway Center at MOBOT	Greater St Louis Daffodil Society Annual Spring Show. <i>Setup starts at 3pm on Friday March 26th.</i> Staging for Horticulture will be held in the Missouri Room.
Sunday, July 11, 2010	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Garden Room of Ridgeway Center at MOBOT	Talk by outside speaker to be announced... <i>Members bring snacks.</i>
Sunday, September 12, 2010	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Missouri Room of Ridgeway Center at MOBOT	<i>Cleaning and Preparing of Bulbs for upcoming Exchange and Sale.</i>
September 25 – 26, 2010	9:00AM – 5:00PM or until sold out. Orthwein Hall of Ridgeway Center at MOBOT	Annual public bulb sale and our best fund raiser. Setup Friday night September 24 in Orthwein Hall from 5:00PM until done.
Sunday October 17, 2010	NOON – 5:00PM Beaumont Room of Ridgeway Center at MOBOT	Annual exchange of “better” donated and purchased bulbs from various sources. Open to Active Members only. <i>Food and drink provided, side dish & desserts requested.</i>
Sunday November 14, 2010	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Missouri Room of Ridgeway Center at MOBOT	Wrap up of the year. Slides and snacks brought by members with Holiday party theme. A chance to visit and exchange ideas for next year.

****Members need to attend at least one event or meeting, prior to the bulb exchange, to participate as an Active Member at the Daffodil Bulb Exchange on Sunday, October 17, 2010.**

Beth Holbrooke, Editor
1538 Ross Avenue
St Louis, MO 63146

OUR WEBSITE: www.stldaffodilclub.org

