



SPRING 2024 VOLUME 23, ISSUE 1

# The Daffodil Rave

Newsletter of the Greater St. Louis Daffodil Society

## Our Next Event

Membership Meeting

Sunday, February 25, 2024 at 1:30pm

Commerce Bank Center for Science Education

4651 Shaw Blvd., St. Louis, MO Classroom #125

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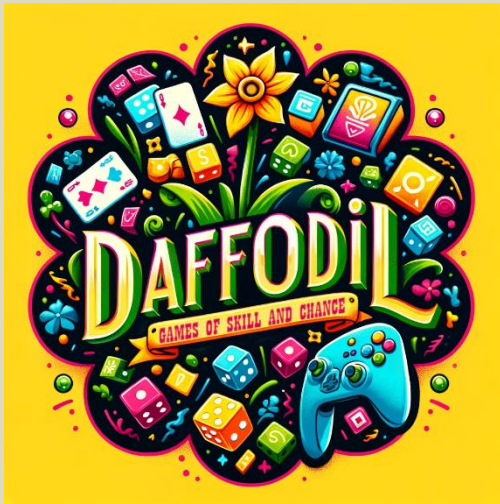
## From the President

Please plan to attend our first meeting for the new year on SUNDAY, February 25 at the Commerce Bank Center for Science Education (CBEC) Building, 4651 Shaw Blvd, at 1:30 PM in room #125. We have loads to catch up on and need some help i.e. officers, review of bylaws, planning for our annual

Daffodil Show, planning for the Green-tree Bulb Sale and our Fall Bulb Exchange. Please think about how you can help us continue to work together while moving forward.

Our speaker at the February 25 meeting will be Jason Delaney. He will talk about the previous year's daffodil interests. Jason has a collection of over 3,500 unique varieties grown on family land where he specializes in classic, historic, and novel daffodils for garden and exhibition. He has traveled the world for his work with daffodils, which has been his greatest passion. In this colorful presentation, he will take us on a digital tour of daffodils where we will see promising selections of garden daffodil cultivars and learn what lies ahead on the daffodil frontier. Our group has not heard from Jason since 2013, so

24th Annual Daffodil Show  
presented by  
The Greater St. Louis Daffodil  
Society



Daffodil Games of Skills and  
Chance

***"Open to the Public"***  
Design and Horticulture

Friday April 5, 2024 -- 2 PM to 5 PM  
Saturday April 6, 2024 - 9AM to 4 PM  
Show setup Thursday afternoon and  
Friday morning.

First Free Church  
1375 Carman Road, Manchester,  
MO 63021, Room 341

You can download the  
complete show schedule at:

[https://stldaffodilclub.org/pre\\_show2024.html](https://stldaffodilclub.org/pre_show2024.html)

we are thrilled that he found time in his schedule to visit with us. Please review our website at <https://stldaffodilclub.org/> for additional information.

Looking forward to seeing you soon.

Vaughn Meister  
Greater St Louis Daffodil Society President



## Officers:

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### Executive Board

**1-year Term member:**

Su-Li Cheng Fok (2023)

**2-year Term member:**

Gary Knehans (2023-2024)

**3-year Term member:**

Judy Graman (2023-2025)

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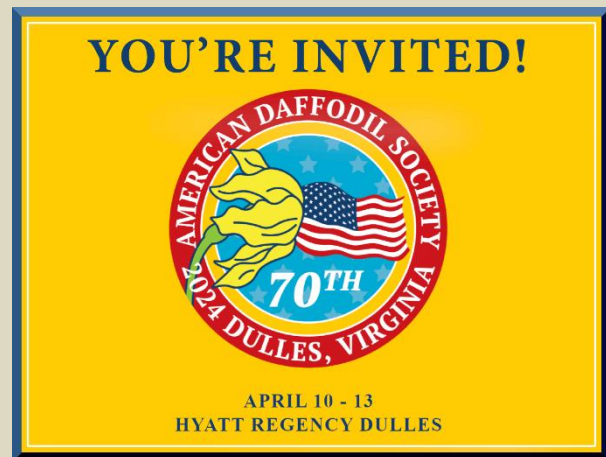
## New to staging daffodils for a show?



Exhibiting for the first time can be overwhelming. This is a perfect opportunity to learn from Cindy Haeffner how to do it!

At the next meeting on February 25<sup>th</sup>, Cindy will be demonstrating how to stage for a show. Join us and learn the tricks on how to make your flowers stand out, the ins and out of registering and placing your entries on the show floor.

If you happen to have blooms in your yard, bring them to the meeting.



April 10-13 at Hyatt Regency Dulles in Herndon, VA. To register visit the ADS website for additional information at:

<https://daffodilusa.org/events-show-calendar/nationalconvention/2024-national-convention>

# 2024 Activity Schedule

DATE	TIME/PLACE	ACTIVITY
*Sunday, February 25, 2024	1:30 PM - 4:00 PM	Speaker: Jason Delaney Refreshments provided by members
April 5-6, 2024	First Free Church 1375 Carman Rd. Manchester, MO 63021 Room 341	GSLDS Daffodil show "Open to the Public"
Thursday April 4 <sup>th</sup>	12:00 pm to 10:00 pm	Set up and staging of Daffodil Show
Friday April 5 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 AM to 10:30 AM, 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM	Staging in morning and GSLDS Daffodil show open to the public
Saturday April 6 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 AM to 4:00 PM	GSLDS Daffodil show open to the public
*Sunday, July 28, 2024	1:30 PM - 4:00 PM	Talk by outside speaker TBA Refreshments provided by members.
*Sunday, September 8, 2024	1:30 PM – 4:00 PM	Bagging and Tagging of Bulbs for upcoming Sale and Exchange. Refreshments provided by members.
September 13 - 15, 2024		Greentree Festival, Kirkwood, MO
Friday Saturday Sunday	5:00 - 10:00PM 9:00AM - 7:00PM 10:00AM - 5:00PM	Join us at the Greentree Festival to sell daffodil bulbs and spread yellow daffodil fever to residents of the Greater St Louis area.
*Sunday, October 27, 2024	NOON - 5:00 PM	Annual exchange of better donated and purchased bulbs from various sources.  Open to ALL members. Main Course and drink provided; side dishes & desserts requested.

Except for the Daffodil Show and Bulb Sale at the Greentree Festival, all meetings and activities will be held at:

\*Commerce Bank Center for Science Education  
4651 Shaw Blvd., St. Louis, MO  
Classroom #125

## **\*\*Fall Daffodil Bulb Exchange**

Participation guidelines for Daffodil Bulb Exchange on Sunday, October 27, 2024:

- 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.

I wondered lonely as a cloud  
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,  
When all at once I saw a crowd,  
A host, of golden daffodils;  
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,  
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

... For oft, when on my couch I lie  
In vacant or in pensive mood,  
They flash upon that inward eye  
Which is the bliss of solitude;  
And then my heart with pleasure fills,  
And dances with the daffodils.

*William Wordsworth*



# Go Native!!!

By Cynthia Haeffner

There are many compatible companion plants that love our beloved non-native daffodils. The list includes species and hybrid *Liatris*, coneflowers, *Echinacea*, and milkweed, *Asclepias*. Consider planting ButterflyWeed among your daffodils. While butterflies enjoy nectar from all of above and more, only milkweed is the link to their future, and here's why.

Monarchs are dependent on the *Asclepias* plants to complete their life cycle. Adult Monarch females lay eggs on milkweed leaves, and after incubation, a caterpillar emerges. The fledgling caterpillar chews its way through leaves, gaining not only size, but a built-in defense. By eating the milkweed, their body excretes a very distasteful flavor that is toxic to birds, a critical aspect. Next, a chrysalis forms, and if you are lucky enough to find one, you may see an adult Monarch emerge; a true miracle of Nature.

Milkweed is the new native buzz plant, due to the astounding benefits to the diminishing Monarch populations. The alarms have been sounded, and new habitats are being created, through private gardens and even USDA/NRCS pollinator cost share programs. In recent years, increased plantings of milkweed have been beneficial to the Monarch life cycle, but more is still needed.

All Milkweeds are perennials, except Tropical Milkweed, an annual in our region. The most



Monarch on Butterfly Bush (*Buddleia* spp.)



Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)



Monarch caterpillar



common is the *Asclepias tuberosa*. It is drought tolerant with beautiful orange blooms and hardy. It does have a large tap root, so plant them at least 18 inches away from your daffodil clumps. Many garden centers now carry milkweed, but milkweed is easy to start from seed. There is plenty of time to purchase seed for spring 2024. It is necessary to stratify the seeds by placing them in a zip loc bag. Keep the seeds in the refrigerator for 4-6 weeks and proceed to plant indoors. Another method is simply to plant outdoors and let nature take its course. The seeds are small, with fuzz attached, which in nature carries it airborne, and deposits itself on the ground. They naturally stratify, and with freezing and thawing, along with rain, enough soil is covered, so when planting keep this in mind, use a very light covering. The seedlings will emerge late spring, so be patient. Once approx. 3-4 inches tall, transplant into pots, or they may be transplanted into the garden. Be sure to water them in and continue to water during dry conditions the first year. Adding mulch will help retain moisture.

You will be amazed how easy milkweed seeds germinate and seedlings transplant. A large Colorado Blue Spruce was removed from my garden that created a large void. Asking Jason Delaney his recommendation for planting ideas, he mentioned, "Milkweed!" This past spring, 37 milkweed seedling transplants were installed, 34 survived. As a companion plant, the milkweed emerges later in spring, so it does not crowd out daffodils. Eventually the Milkweed will help hide foliage, shading daffodils, keeping dormant bulbs dry and cool. So, if you are looking for a native perennial, consider Milkweed, helping our Monarch!!!

