

The Daffodil Rave

Newsletter of the Greater St. Louis Daffodil Society



SPRING 2024 VOLUME 23, ISSUE 2

Our Next Event



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24th Annual Daffodil Show
 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



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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>



N. 'Rapture'

2024 Activity Schedule

DATE	TIME/PLACE	ACTIVITY
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 th	12:00 pm to 10:00 pm	Set up and staging of Daffodil Show
Friday April 5 th	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 th	9:00 AM to 4:00 PM	GSLDS Daffodil show Open to the Public
*Sunday, July 28	1:30 PM - 4:00 PM	Speaker Sonja Lallemand <i>Old Garden Roses</i> Refreshments provided by members.
*Sunday, September 8	1:30 PM – 4:00 PM	Bagging and Tagging of Bulbs for upcoming Sale and Exchange. Refreshments provided by members.
September 13 - 15		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	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



Getting Organized and Focused for the Daffodil Show

By Lynn Slackman

First step: Bring in your cut daffodils **with the names on the stems** from outdoors, let them hydrate in a vase, and apply some initial grooming to each bloom. **Assuming** the bloom still looks good enough to proceed, the next step is looking up the cultivar on Daffseek.org and adding information about that daffodil into the columns on your spreadsheet. At the very least you need the cultivar name and color code. But you might also want to add additional columns for special classes, the hybridizer, and the year registered.

You have your blooms and your list of daffodils, now it is time to start thinking about where you want the blooms to be exhibited at the daffodil show. Using the requirements for the classes in the show schedule, look at the daffodils in your spreadsheet and start moving them around into viable candidates for Special Classes and Collections. Based on what

you have identified and arranged in your spreadsheet, separate your blooms into smaller vases **or bottles** for storage and transport. When you get to the daffodil show, the daffodils you need for each show entry are grouped together in the same bottle for easier assembly. *HINT:* Make sure you have a couple of backup blooms in your smaller vases in case your original blooms have lost their luster after transport.

If you have time...put the blooms in the refrigerator to hold them for the show.

Particularly important...Do not forget to print a copy of your spreadsheet and put it into your vehicle, with the daffodil blooms, before leaving for the daffodil show!

Because you have your potential entries listed in a spreadsheet, you can also pre-print your tags for entries in special classes and collections. If this does not seem feasible, or you just do not have time for this effort, you still have all the information you need to manually write out the little tags for each daffodil in the collection when you are staging at the show.

When you get to the daffodil show you already know the potential for your blooms. Collect the bases and tubes you need for each vase of daffodils you have brought to the show. Then start stuffing and labeling your daffodils as quickly as

possible. Any leftover blooms could be entered as single entries in the show or kept as a backup in case one of your original staged blooms decides to give up the ghost or surrenders to the show room elements.

I hope this short article provides some assistance to help you stay focused and moving forward while staging at the daffodil show. Looking forward to seeing you at the daffodil show this year!



N. 'Waltz'



Are your Daffodils Blooming as they Should?

Sonja Lallemand

There are many reasons to need to move and divide daffodils: overcrowded, lack of blooms, decline in bloom quality our bulb sale at Green Tree in September, and our bulb exchange in October.

Daffodils can be lifted year-round, even when the foliage is green. Moving them when still in bloom will result in a loss of bloom for next year. The ideal period for the job is late spring to early summer. The bulbs will have initiated the flower bud for next year and the declining foliage can guide you to their location.

Following are simple steps to help you be successful

- Use a shovel, pick, or fork several inches away from the clump and dig around, taking care not to damage the bulbs.



- Lift the clump, remove the extra soil attached to the bulbs so you can see them.
- Divide the clump by lightly tugging and twisting the bulbs to separate the roots.
- Throw away any damaged bulbs and any that look infected, or mushy.
- Keep some for yourself and yes, you can replant right away, expanding your collection in a new site.

To get the bulbs ready for the sale and exchange:

- Lay them out outdoors to dry on clean, dry newspaper for 7-10 days in bright light not in direct sunlight.
- Remove the leaves when they are completely dried, brown, and crisp.
- Gently brush off any soil that is still on the bulbs.
- No need to wash the bulbs to get them perfectly clean.
- Place the bulbs in an onion or other mesh bag, label the bag and store the bag in a cool well-ventilated location.
- Just before our "Bag and Tag" day, inspect the bulbs
- A soft bulb is a dead bulb, so dispose of them.
- Bring the good ones to our event.



Narcissus and Spanish Bluebells



A. 'American Dream'



A. 'Candy Nymph'

Synopsis of Jason Delaney's Talk at GSLDS Meeting, February, 2024

Marcella Hawley

We were treated to a fact-filled fling with noted bulb expert Jason Delaney! Jason shared a juicy slideshow of his past year's daffodil-related highlights, as well as 5 actual pots of big, blooming amaryllis - a mere sprinkling from his collection of hundreds.



Oakwood Daffodils,
Niles, MI

Amaryllis

Courtesy of Jason Delaney

Potting Mix

2 parts silty top soil
 2 parts potting media (BX w/myc)
 1 part Turface
 1 part leaf compost
 Topdress with thin layer of top soil

Feeding

Per 1-1.5G pot of planting, scratch into surface of soil: 2 T pelletized **AZOMITE®**

+ 1 Tbsp. granular Imidacloprid

During outdoor growing season

May-August: 1 Tbsp. monthly Osmocote all-purpose

May-October (once monthly): MiracleGro soluble tomato fertilizer

May, July, September: 1 Tbsp. pelletized Osmocote + 1 Tbsp. granular Imidacloprid

AZOMITE®

"A natural mineral fertilizer product mined from a unique deposit in Utah, USA. The combination and quality minerals found in

AZOMITE® are distinct from any other mineral deposit in the world"

-- from website

Imidacloprid

Systemic insecticide that belongs to a class of chemicals called neonicotinoids which act on the nervous system of all insects. It is the active ingredient in many insecticides sold at garden centers.

Fun fact: bulbs are classified as "geophytes." Jason shared his favorite daff sights from his own fields in Flora, Illinois, but especially thrilling, his top picks from further afield at Dr. John Reed's acreage in Niles, Michigan, and all the way to Holland. We got to see some of the world's most exciting new cultivars, lined out in the fields of Eric Breed and Jan de Winter. Jason is personally impressed by flamboyant ruffles, pink and red cups, and by unique color, size, and stamina breakthroughs in breeding. A particular pink-cup of Dr. Reed's of note was 'Pinkie Lee', which Jason hopes to get into production for a greater audience. 'Waylon', a double split-corona, knocked our socks off. Jason is working hard with Dutch growers to try to bring a much more diverse range of daffodils to the public. He is now partnered with the flower-farming social media phenomenon Erin Benzakein of Floret Flower Farm in Skagit Valley, Washington, to bring some of Dr. Reed's daffodils to market, and has named a perfect Div 3 pink-cup 'Floret' in her honor, after she selected it from hundreds of John's seedlings.

A few bits of interest: We should use Miracle Gro for Tomatoes as fertilizer, according to Jason, and Eric Breed uses **AZOMITE®** 3x a year for great blooming results. We are all encouraged to follow Jason's Instagram account, @phsdaffodils, as well as his business' website www.phsdaffodils.com for hundreds of marvelous photos (you know it's a Jason Delaney photo when you see his hand holding a big, beautiful bunch of daffodil stems!).



We have an open invitation to view Marcella's planting of daffodils at 216 North Old Orchard Ave, St Louis, MO.

Inspired by her mother Susan Smith, Marcella began with her front yard in the fall of 2018. Her love of flowers has created a blooming playland with other spring bloomers: tulips, peonies, hellebores.

Now that she 'cannot stop' planting' the selections also include Hostas, trees, and shrubs.



In regards to Amaryllis, we learned that you can grow them in pots in your basement with grow lights, bring upstairs at they begin to send up stalks, and set in indirect light to allow to bloom. Cut flowers will last much longer than they will on the plant (who knew?). After they finish blooming, place the pots outside in the garden (or plant directly into the soil) for the duration of summer, in indirect light. Your bulbs will increase in size even more dramatically if taken out of the pots, and the bigger the size of the bulbs, the more bloom stalks you will have. Bring back into the basement in mid-October, and allow the foliage to die back naturally.

Some of Jason's favorite sources for Amaryllis included:
www.bulbandblossom.com (best prices and based in Vermont),
www.johnscheepers.com,
www.vanengelen.com, and
www.whiteflowerfarm.com (great range of cultivars but very pricey).

What an interesting and lively presentation!! Thank you for sharing so much knowledge and enthusiasm with us, Jason. You are a gift to the world of daffodils and their appreciators.



Daffodil Tour

Vaughn Meister

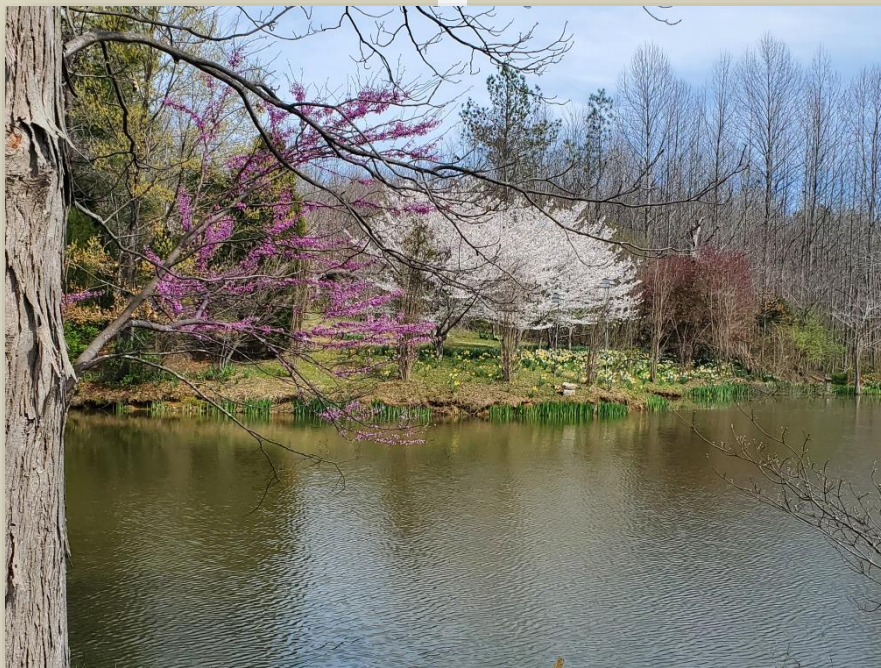
On Sunday, March 17, fifteen GSLDS members trekked down to member Tim

Brown's farm in Wycliffe, Kentucky and luxuriated in a world of daffodils. Tim and

his wife Heather have thousands of daffodils, many a single cultivar surrounding each fruit tree. We ate our picnic lunches by one of his ponds gazing at blossoming cherry trees in a field of daffodils. Daffodil heaven!

Charles Pickett won the storytelling award as we sat around the fire, but then you know Charles.

Great thanks to Tim and Heather, we had a wonderful day.





1936 Mercedes-Benz among the daffodils
Museum of Transportation ST. Louis, MO



Daffodils at Museum of Transportation

Vaughn Meister

Ever wonder what happens to daffodils left at the end of our sale? Here are some planted at the Museum of transportation

“Old Garden Roses and their Origins”,

presented by Sonja Lallemand

At the Greater St Louis Daffodil Society meeting on **July 28, 2024**, join us for an interesting and exciting talk from Sonja Lallemand about garden roses. In her presentation “Old Garden Roses and their Origins” she will look at the distribution, hybridization, and culture of roses through time until 1867. The early evolution of the rose is a matter of conjecture, but there is

good reason to suppose, from fossilized evidence that the rose has been in cultivation since remote prehistoric times.

More about Sonja Lallemand...

Sonja retired in 2015 from her position as Horticulture Educator with University of Illinois Extension. In 2020, coming out of retirement, she went to work for Plantscape Nursery. What was supposed to be a part-time job, became full-time with the pandemic. Again looking at 'Retiring' only working two days a week, Ms. Lallemand continues to lecture at Plantscape, garden clubs and IDNR Giant City Park.

A graduate from Missouri State University, Springfield, MO, Sonja holds a B.S. in Horticulture and a Master's Degree in Plant Science – Fruit Science. Her Master's research investigated the allelopathic effects of daffodils in the landscape, and its application in sustainable agriculture. While earning her degrees, Sonja operated her own landscaping business which offered a variety of services: garden restoration, pruning, landscape design and maintenance. The majority of her work has been in public parks for the Cities of Springfield and Battlefield, MO.

In 1996, Sonja became a Master Gardener with the University of Missouri Extension. For the last 25 years she has delivered numerous horticultural programs as well as organized conferences, workshops, and seminars. Ms. Lallemand is a member of the Belleville Area Rose Society, American Rose Society, and past-President of the Rose Society of the Ozarks.

Still growing things, Sonja enjoys selling at the Humpday Farmers' Market from April to October and the indoor winter Market from December to March providing customers with bread, jam, jellies, vinegar and spice blends and the occasional unusual vegetable and off course PLANTS.



R. 'Queen of Denmark, 1836'

