



•Spring 2014• Bring It On! Please!!

MDS Spring in Bloom Show - We hope!

Bernstein Room, Chicago Botanic Garden - April 26-27

Be there!, To share! To enter!! To win? To help!!!

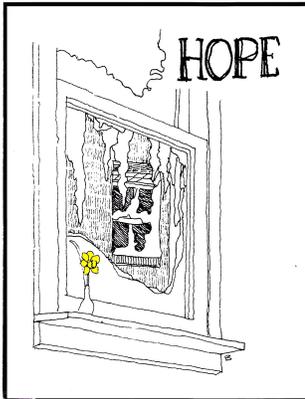
We'll have a pre-show get-together at the CBG, Sunday April 13, Annex 2. You may pick up show cards or get some tips on taking part in the show 2 weeks later.

Will there be blooms for April 26-27?

(Didn't we say something like that last year?)

Award for First Sightings

Anyone seen anything green peeking up yet? Probably not. Just last week, with the spate of 45 degree weather, we saw some patches of brown pop out where we used to see green grass. The snow is receding. It gives one hope, but it's in the 20's today.



So we're offering real awards for spotting the first of our favorite harbingers of spring this year. The rules are simple and their enforcement is based on that sense of rectitude and fair play that comes from being a daffodil hobbyist. (?) Read the following fine print rules, keep an eye on your yard, and reap one of the fantastic awards:

1. For the first sighting of a daffodil greenery emerging in your yard this spring to a height of at least 4 inches, recognition at the CBG Show in late April, on our website, and on our Facebook page, a free cup of coffee, and your choice of a fine bulb from the fall sale. If the greenery emerges

through snow, a sweet roll will be added.

2. For the first sighting of a full daffodil bud on a stem at least 4 inches tall, the same magnificent awards.

3. For the first fully open daffodil bloom spotted in your yard, a set of the neat daffodil note cards we will use for judges favors this year. These are by Rebecca Brown, the de facto official American Daffodil Society artist. They will be treasured by anyone who receives one and will be useful for correspondence or just to look at when the real blooms are not around.

In each case, notification must be by email or phone message. If you can snap a photo and send it along, it will bolster the credibility of your entry. Decision of the judge is final. Ex-President Mary Dorner has agreed to be the judge, as soon as we ask her.



2013-2014 Officers

- President George Dorner
- Vice-President Nancy Pilipuf
- Secretary Carol Champ
- Treasurer Al Champ
- Directors:
 - Gail Raith
 - John Zimmie
 - Rose Finnegan



www.MidwestDaffodil.org



New President ... Same Old, Same Old

Nancy Pilipuf did a fine job as the president last year, and she's back as VP. Thanks, Nancy.

I enjoy doing what I do for the MDS, but it feels and looks to be a bit worn. New ideas and blood would be cheerfully and gratefully accepted. Give me a call if you care to step forward to assume a helping role in the MDS or if you just want to chat about it.

We'll be reviewing the by-laws this year. Copies with recommended changes will be posted and forwarded soon, as will final info on the show and sale. See us on the web and on Facebook. Rose Finnegan has put up some nice pics there and we have had some lookers.

The Indy show has just been moved two weeks later. I hope we have blooms on the 26th. ...GCD

In Memoriam - a Longtime Member and Two Good Friends of the MDS

In 2013 daffodil fanciers lost two good friends, each of whom had a particular connection with the Midwest Daffodil Society. Libby Frey traveled from southern Indiana to the MDS Show in its early years, bringing a carload of blooms to help fill the hall as well as to garner ribbons for her fine flowers. Jill Griesse, Granville, Ohio, stepped forward to co-host the 2009 ADS Convention held at the Chicago Botanic Garden, helping to achieve arrangements our group just couldn't muster.

Gail Schaffner of Highland Park passed away in October. She was for a long time the provider of the refreshments at our meetings, shows, and sales. We frequently met at her house which was full of wonderful antiques and art works, many collected when she lived in Europe and which was surrounded by a yard hosting many beautiful varieties.

***Last Fall's Bulb Sale ... Where are those extra bulbs?***

We had a good sale last October, offering 13 different collections of 5 bulbs each and quite a few nice singles, too. We were supported this time by nice contributions from four vendors: Bill (Dr. William Welch) the Bulb Baron, Joe Hamm, Brent and Becky's Bulbs, and Colorblends. be sure to think of them when you are buying for next fall. We also got bulbs from John Scheepers and Oakwood Daffodils (Dr. John Reed), and Nancy Pilipuf. We had some left over. They are planted in the Dorner yard and will be brought out in time for this year's sale. I'll let you know when they are in bloom and you may stop by and shop ahead. Or, come in late May, help dig them, and prep them for sale at our October sale.

NEW RULES AND CATEGORIES AT THIS YEAR'S DAFFODIL SHOW***Consider Other Options for Blue Ribbons***

Our show schedule is based on the national ADS template for their approved shows, on past practices here, and on some personal ideas by the show committee.

Each year we submit the proposed show schedule to an ADS officer whose job it is to see that ribbons awarded by the ADS are done so on a consistent basis across the country. Last year, Chriss Rainey of the Washington (D.C.) Daffodil Society, did a super summary of the history of ADS awards, and she proposed some changes and future additions. This was presented at the ADS Convention and just appeared in the latest Daffodil Journal. I'll be glad to send a copy to those who request one.

The only local awards we currently give are the recognition of the special awards for Best Daffodil in Show, Best Daffodil in Small Growers Section, Best Miniature Daffodil in Show, and Best Vase of Three Stems. When the MDS was founded and for some years thereafter, a piece of silver flatware in a daffodil pattern was given

to each of these winners. This practice was abandoned, but we now give merchandise certificates or daffodil themed gifts. This year we will present a nice set of notecards with a daffodil theme.

The Design Section is not a part of the approved ADS schedule. We give two awards in that section, as well.

For our own show, take a look at the schedule which is posted on our website and which will be sent by mail on request or as a PDF by email. What is new or deserving of special attention?

New entrants tend to concentrate on single blooms and overlook the small collections and combinations which are interesting and often easy to put together. When you are looking over your blooms to decide what to enter, think also about where you have three of a kind which deserve to be seen together. This year our schedule groups collections of five blooms in a different way, easier to think about when you are planning for the show. Don't overlook the special categories

for Historic (before 1940) daffodils and now the Classic (1940-1969) blooms which may make up most of the holdings of recent entrants to the hobby. Look over the Intermediate list to see if you have forgotten to note some of these smaller, graceful blooms. We'll post and distribute the ADS Approved lists for these special categories before the show. And, they'll be available at our meeting on April 13 with show cards. Of course, all this information is available at DaffodilUSA.org.

Take photos of your best this year and enter them in Section P. Or, process them over next winter and enter next year.



NOTE: The beautiful illustrations here are representative of Rebecca Brown's artistry and are available as notecards from her. Inquire of the Editor.

Last but not least ... send money! Just your \$5 for one year or a multiple for more years in the Society. Treasurer Al Champ pines

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What are your latest experiences with daffodils? Write 'em up, and we'll share them here next time.