

Welcome to Minnesota!

Daffodil Society of Minnesota members invite you to their beautiful metropolitan area for the ADS Fall Board Meeting October 2 through 4, 2015. See the detailed schedule of activities for more information about the weekend we've planned for you.

Arrive early or plan to stay late to take advantage of Minnesota's shopping for clothing—with no sales tax! The free hotel shuttle can get you to the Mall of America, Southdale Shopping Center and the Galleria Mall, as well as to area restaurants and attractions within a five-mile radius of the hotel. The shuttle will also get you to the Light Rail Terminal which gives you access to downtown Minneapolis, the University of Minnesota campus, and downtown St. Paul. Hotel room rates are guaranteed until September 2nd and will be valid for two days either side of October 2-4. Use the hotel code: ADS to book your room by telephone at 1-800-445-8667.

The hotel shuttle can pick you up at the Minneapolis St. Paul Airport or you can park your car free at our hotel, the Hilton Bloomington West (*warning: there also is an Airport Hilton hotel*). Your hotel room includes Hilton's famous hot breakfast buffet, included in the \$99 per night rate for one to two persons per room, with slight increases for three and four persons per room.

Bring your checkbook so that you can shop at the Denis Dailey Memorial Daffodil Motif Boutique from noon on Friday until dinner. You will also need your checkbook for the ADS Bulb Auction that evening. The cash bar opens at 5 p.m. and our dinner at the hotel will include speaker Don Engebretson "The Renegade Gardener" telling us how not to plant daffodils in the landscape. You may choose either a chicken or pork dinner entrée accompanied by chicken wild rice soup and carrot cake for dessert.

If you plan to sell bulbs or other items to your fellow ADS members, please hold off until after the ADS Bulb Auction is complete on Friday evening.

Get up early Saturday morning to enjoy the hotel's breakfast which starts at 7:30 a.m. on weekends so that you can be ready for the tag-team trio of Robert Darling, Michael Berrigan, and Harold Koopowitz who will put us through the strategic planning process. Beginning at 8 a.m., a brief formal ADS Board Meeting will be held, but the focus of the weekend will be on the future of ADS. High energy snacks and beverages will be available throughout the morning. A light lunch will be served in the planning session room at noon of turkey on focaccia accompanied by a salad and strawberry cheesecake.

Put on your party clothes for our Lake Minnetonka Sunset Dinner cruise on Saturday evening. While early October should have glorious weather, you may want to bring a wrap or jacket along as temperatures can be cooler on the lake, especially after dark. Our dinner menu entrée is a combination of filet mignon and chicken accompanied by a salad and multiple mini desserts. The QEII cruise boat has a full cash bar so you can sip an adult beverage watching the sun go down on the many-bayed and channeled, glacially formed lake.

Sunday's activities are included in your registration fee. Again, try to enjoy the hotel's breakfast at 7:30 a.m. so that you can be on the bus before it leaves at 8:10 a.m. for the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. You have two options for our approximately two hours at the Arboretum: (1) you may stay on the bus for the Three-mile Drive grounds tour; the bus will be stopping at the Sculpture Garden/Shrub Walk as well as the Grasses/Dahlia Trial Garden/Hydrangea Collection for 15 minutes

each, leaving free roaming time of approximately 45 minutes at the end; or (2) you may exit the bus immediately and have two hours to explore the Arboretum's gardens and grounds on your own. Either way, try to view the Japanese Garden and the perennial gardens which are easy walking distance from the main Visitor Center where our bus unloads and loads. There will be three brochures about the Arboretum's gardens and collections in your registration materials so you can plan your Sunday visit. There is a cafeteria on the second floor of the Visitor Center and a Gift Shop on the first floor. However, the Andersen Horticultural Library will not be open until later on Sunday, after our bus leaves the grounds.

The bus will then travel down to the Minnesota River Valley, through historic river towns to enjoy the fall color which should be at peak for our weekend. The Minnesota countryside is full of lakes and beautiful rolling farmland so the colors you'll see should include blue waters, tan farm fields, green evergreens, red maples, russet oaks, yellow ash, and hues in-between. We will arrive at our luncheon destination for a brief planning session wrap-up before our French cuisine lunch is served. Wine and beer will be available for purchase with your meal at Suzette's. You may choose either a chicken or seafood lunch entrée accompanied by a salad and squash soup.

You'll need your checkbook for our final stop at Jim's Apple Farm as they don't take credit cards! (If you forget, they do have a fee-based cash machine.) Located just across the highway from Suzette's and supplying the squash for our delicious luncheon soup, this is the place to find the candy or glass-bottled soda pop you remember from your childhood. They also carry the most extensive collection of jigsaw puzzles. They take the idea of a farmer's harvest market to a higher level by filling the store with the aromas of an in-house bakery and offer taste-testing of all the apples Minnesota can grow, including several developed at the University of Minnesota's Horticultural Research Center.

We will return to our hotel for farewells by 3:30 p.m., so you may catch a late flight, if need be.

We hope you will join us in Minnesota for one of the prettiest weekends we will have this fall!

Things to do and see in our Metropolitan Area:

Theaters: Guthrie Theater, Park Square Theatre, Artistry Theatre, Old Log Theater—plus many more.

Museums: Mill City Museum, Science Museum of Minnesota, Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Earl Bakken Museum, Walker Art Center, Museum of Russian Art, American Swedish Institute, Weisman Art Museum—plus many more

Parks, Gardens & Wildlife Preserves: Lake of the Isles, Minnehaha Falls and Creek, Mississippi Lock & Dam, Minneapolis Sculpture Garden, Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden, Lake Harriet Rose Garden, Noerenberg Memorial Garden, Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Como Park Zoo and Marjorie McNeely Conservatory, Minnesota Zoo, Sea Life Aquarium—plus many more.

Historic: Minnesota Historical Society Museum, St. Paul Cathedral, St. Paul Capitol, Landmark Center, Fort Snelling, Murphy's Landing Settlement, Ard Godfrey House, James J. Hill House and Bridge, Padelford Riverboats, Summit Avenue—plus many more.

Sports: Minnesota Vikings pro football, U of Minnesota Golden Gophers college football (Sorry, but Minnesota Twins and St. Paul Saints baseball seasons will be over and Minnesota Wild hockey and Timberwolves basketball won't have started their seasons yet.)

Attractions: Mystic Lake Casino, too numerous to list craft breweries and regional wineries, Streetcar Boat on Lake Minnetonka, Prairie Home Companion, Nickelodeon Universe—plus many more.