

## **McLaughlin's Daffodil Hill**

**Volcano, CA**

**Gold in Bloom**



### *A Flowering Paradise*

Precious metal may be hidden deep in the creeks and hills of Amador County, but each spring the hills of the Mother Lode bloom in gold.

An historic private ranch most of the year, McLaughlin's Daffodil Hill is transformed into a flowering paradise that is shared with thousands of visitors for about four weeks each spring.

The six-acre grounds display blooming almonds, crocuses, tulips, hyacinths, violets and lilacs in a farm setting. However, it is the blanket of daffodils that hold center stage each spring.

### *Over a Century of Nurturing*

Not a commercial enterprise, nor formally publicized or promoted, Daffodil Hill has been owned by the same family since it was acquired in 1887 by pioneers Arthur McLaughlin and Elizabeth "Lizzie" van Vorst-McLaughlin. The several hundred acre property was purchased from Dutchman Pete Denzer who planted a few daffodils around his residence in remembrance of his home country.

In the early days of the Gold Rush, Daffodil Hill was a regular stopping place for teamsters hauling timber from the Sierras down to the Kennedy and Argonaut Mines, and for eastbound travelers heading for the Comstock Lode on the Amador-Nevada Wagon Road. (Highway 88).

In 1887, after coming west from New York and Ohio, Arthur's wife, Lizzie, began to plant additional daffodils to beautify the ranch. The bulbs have been lovingly nurtured and added to by subsequent generations as a memorial to their ancestors.

### 300,000 Blooms of Beauty

Today, much of the landscape around the old homestead is covered with several hundred named varieties of daffodils. For the last 20 years, the McLaughlin's descendants have continued to personally plant several thousand new bulbs a year. In the past several years an average of 16,000 daffodil bulbs per year have been planted by the Ryan brothers and their families, great grandchildren, great-great grandchildren, and great-great-great grandchildren of Arthur and Lizzie. It is estimated that today, Daffodil Hill is carpeted with approximately 300,000 bulbs when in full bloom.

Daffodil Hill is situated in a beautiful mountain setting at the 3,000 foot elevation in Amador County. With pine trees, the original 1880's barn, wagon wheels, gold rush era mining equipment and antique farming implements, it appeals to anyone with a love of nature and history. Flowers are everywhere and peacocks, chickens, miniature donkeys (Rosie and Sunshine), and a horse (Hannah) are also there for young and old alike to enjoy.

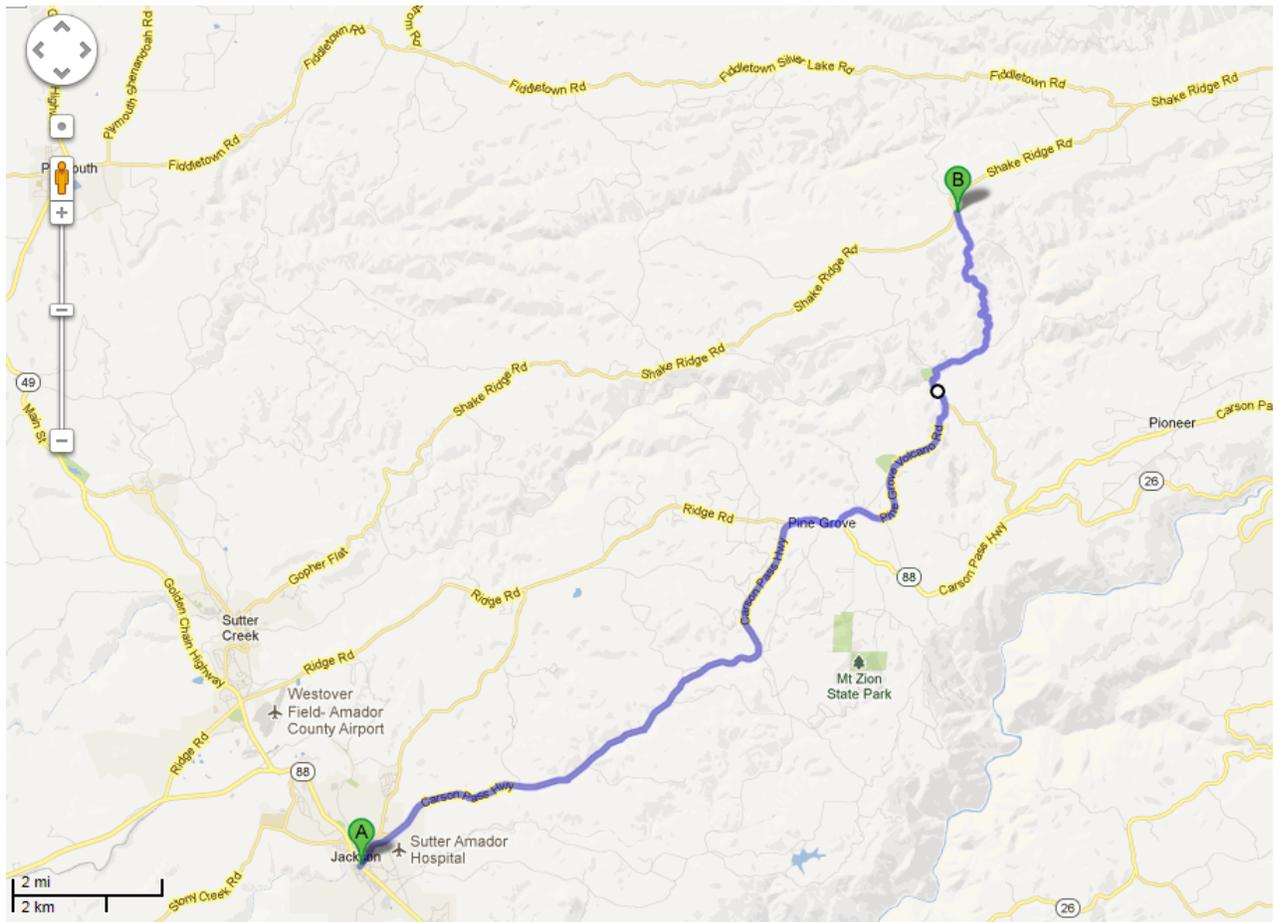
### Season and Hours of Operation

Daffodil Hill is open only in the spring, usually from mid-March through the first weeks of April. After that it goes back to a working ranch and is not open for visitors. Mother Nature determines the length of the blooming season each year, and the Hill is not open during or immediately after inclement weather. Visitors are advised to call the Hill before they visit to make sure it is open. The Hill is open seven days a week during the season from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM, weather permitting. Admission and parking are free, although donations are gratefully accepted. McLaughlin's Daffodil Hill is a family operated and funded operation and any donations help fund new bulbs for the following year.

### Special Requests

The family requests that all visitors stay on the paths at all times and do not enter the planting areas or pick the blooms. In an effort to preserve the tranquility of Daffodil Hill, no pets are allowed on the main grounds. However, visitors are welcome to walk their pets across the road in the parking lot area.

## Driving Directions



From **Jackson**, turn East on Highway 88 for 8 miles to Pine Grove. Turn North on Pine Grove-Volcano Road. Follow Pine Grove-Volcano Road until it turns into Rams Horn Grade. Follow Rams Horn Grade to Daffodil Hill.

## INFORMATION

McLaughlin's Daffodil Hill: (209) 296-7048

Amador County Chamber of Commerce: 1-800-649-4988