



Manitoba Lily Connection

Manitoba Regional Lily Society Newsletter
www.manitobalilies.ca

Volume 20, Issue 3

Affiliated with the North American Lily Society

September 2003

President's Message

Greetings lily People. How has your lily-growing season been? My martagons, orienpets, asiatics and species bloomed, but the martagons and orienpets were short!

It's been an interesting year so far. Two months of no rain, lots of grasshoppers, many musical (so they think) crickets (outside and even inside). Now with the recent rains, I have hope that next years' lilies will bloom abundantly.

This summer, there were a lot of beautiful stems in the Winnipeg and Neepawa shows, but far fewer stems in the Winnipeg show. It was fun to see people's expressions as they walked by or stopped to see the different colours and types of lilies.

Since Spring, the Bulb Sale committee has been busy planning and organizing this fall's sale. I'm looking forward to the many new varieties that they will have available. If you are transplanting/dividing any of your lilies this fall, and you have some extra bulbs which you would like to donate to the Sale, please contact Jennifer Bishop.

As the sunlight diminishes, the temperature cools, the time approaches for getting the garden beds ready for winters' sleep. May you all have fun planting your new lilies, new perennials and transplanting/dividing your old garden friends.

Happy Gardening
Ted Sobkowich

Lily Questions?

If you have a question or thought on lilies just contact me, 'the editor' and I will publish it on a question and answer spot in the newsletters.

Let me know what else you would like to see published in your newsletter

E-mail: strohman@mb.sympatico.ca or Phone: 476-2536

Mail: Nigel Strohman, Box 846, Neepawa, MB R0J 1H0

Question & Answer

Q: Should I fertilize my lilies this Fall?

A: If you feel the need to fertilize your lilies this Fall, do it very sparingly. Bone meal is a good choice. Heavy fertilizing in the Fall can cause the bulbs to go soft and rot over the winter. The best time to fertilize is when they are coming into bud and after they have finished blooming. At this stage they are putting down new roots and will take advantage of the additional food. Fertilize with a even numbered fertilizer such as 14-14-14 or a 20-20-20.

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Half a Century of Martagons Fred Tarlton, Edmonton Alberta

Eugene Fox, Millet, Alberta
NALS 1994 Yearbook

I bet it was good fun to be in a class offered by Fred Tarlton. He was a teacher of mathematics and did stints as principal as well before he retired. It is always a pleasure to be in the audience whenever Mr. Tarlton talks about lilies. He has such a great backlog of lily information and weaves humor galore into his lively presentations. Often his anecdotes are about himself or Helen, his life and gardening partner. Fred and Helen live in Edmonton, have a big backyard garden and since Fred sold his country acreage, even the front yard has become a perfect large garden of lilies.

Fred was born in 1910 in Derbyshire, England, but has been a Canadian since the age of three. His father became a hardware merchant and tinsmith in Canada as a result of purchasing such a dual business on his arrival. Fred worked in the family business from an early age and prior to going to university. He often still creates exquisite trays and pots in galvanized tin to use to grow his seeds. Fred credits two local plantsmen and hybridizers with igniting his passion for horticulture. These two were Georges Bugnet of fame for hybridizing roses and Robert Simonet of fame for many things, including creation of the double hollyhock and for Asiatic lilies. Fred thus had Asiatic lilies growing in his garden by 1950. He obtained some *L. martagon* var. *album* seed from an Eastern Canadian mail-order firm in 1953. By the time 10 years had elapsed Fred had a very creditable collection of martagon species and martagon hybrids. He never neglected his Asiatic hybrids and continued to hybridize a few every year. He also pioneered growing various non-native species lilies in Alberta from both purchased bulbs and seeds from NALS and other contacts. On the country acreage he also owned for a few decades, naturalized in among the trees of a small fruit tree orchard were healthy *L. michiganense* lilies. Beyond that, a colony of *L. duchartrei* flourished and increased. Yellow and coral forms of *L. pumilum* often appeared. Right into the aspen or poplar woods on the property, some *L. martagons* volunteered from strewn seed. Other species grew there over the years such as *L. canadense*. Some of the other species he managed to flower from either seed or bulb acquisitions were: *Ll. cernuum*, *concolor*, *davidii*, *lankongense*, *candidum*, *wilsonii*, *formosanum* var. *pricei*, *szovitzianum*, *monadelphum* and *kesselringianum* to mention but a few.

Before Mr. Tarlton's efforts with species no one had any idea what would persist in Alberta where winter temperatures can plunge to 45 below zero F. or C. At the

acreage, rows of Asiatic seedlings were in a constant state of flux always as bulb increases were dug and given away to gardening friends or in later years to the bulb sales of the Alberta Regional of which Fred was a founding member. Since there was no home on the acreage Fred had constructed a garage to provide cover and storage for his tools and rotovator and under which to escape summer rain squalls. Martagon hybrid beds were likewise changing constantly. They varied in location and quantity and type as Fred planted new seedlings yearly and selected some exquisite hybrids for registration or prolonged observation. For a few years, a huge bed of trumpets graced that property while Fred pursued isolating some healthy and hardy trumpet stock. Diligently, he gathered trumpet seed from many sources which he grew and planted out. Those that survived the winters were crossed and eventually some very hardy trumpets were created. This observer can still close his eyes and see Fred standing beside a large bed of 6 feet tall pink trumpets with startlingly deep coloring and sweet fragrance. Fred has registered several Asiatic hybrids and several martagon hybrids. His yellow upfacing lily, 'Amulet', is a clean sulfur yellow not exactly duplicated in any other modern yellow. When Fred was doing the breeding work on 'Amulet', it is worth noting that there were no widely available yellow upfacing Asiatic hybrids on the market. Another fine Asiatic clone that many enjoyed over the years was 'Corianne'. 'Corianne' is a white with cherry pink petal tips. The aspect is upfacing and the petals are broad and flat. In the martagon lines, the blackberry red, 'Sarcee' is incomparable in deepness of flower color and in the decorative foliage whorls. He has many others such as the pink, 'Attiwa', which will attain 6 ft and yield 30 or more blooms when established. Another favorite is 'Charlene' which is a tall yellow martagon hybrid that has all the graces and purity of color.

It was a long drive from his city residence to the country acres and the time came a year or more ago to consolidate. Fred sold his rural holding and moved everything he could to his city yard and to the commercial fields of Marvin Joslin at Spruce Grove. Fred continues to hybridize martagons and to make crosses on a few other types of lilies and plants as well. One of his aims is to breed some martagons which regularly have secondary buds. Hearing of such a lily in a grower's garden, Fred hopped in his vehicle and drove more than 80 miles to secure some pollen from that promising martagon. Once back home, he pollinated some of his own martagon hybrids with the newly acquired pollen. Consider that Fred had to wait for the seeds to form, await the pods to dehisce, then plant the epigeal seed. He also had to give the seed a warm, simulated summer, a cold, simulated winter and then caretake the vulnerable baby seedlings for 5 or 6 years before the first bloom. It is quite a 7 or 8 year undertaking.

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Given the fact that Fred was 80 years old at the start of the project gives a perspective on this dynamic lily man. Fred is still an agile, compact man who double- spades parts of his yard to make ideal lily beds. He knows the genus and species names of every plant he grows on sight. His generosity with plant material is delightful. He was given the "Mentor Award" by the Alberta Regional Lily Society in recognition of his huge role in giving a start in lilies to so many.

Editors Note: Fred Tarlton was awarded at the NALS 2003 show the E. H. Wilson Award for outstanding contributions to the genus *lilium*. Congratulations!!

Lilium Delirium Minnesotum
by Barbara-Jean (B. J.) Jackson
jacksonb@brandonu.ca

The North American Lily Society's 56th Annual Lily Show and Symposium was held July 2 to 6, 2003 in Bloomington Minnesota. Co-hosted by the North Star Lily Society and the Wisconsin Regional Lily Society, participants were invited to experience a "Towering Delight" of a good time by North Star Society member Frans Officer. Along with 120 plus registrants, we were treated to an abundance of lily blooms, diverse educational sessions, delicious banquet fare and marvelous sights and sounds over the course of the event.

The Program

Wednesday evening's hospitality meet and greet was very well attended by many tired travelers looking for lily conversation and light camaraderie prior to the beginning of the formal events. The hospitality committee certainly out did themselves with great food and a wonderful punch, of which I am still trying to figure out the ingredients. Lots of local members were on hand to answer the questions of those unfamiliar with the territory.

The first full day of events on Thursday included all day registration as well as two afternoon sessions given by Ardith Beveridge entitled "Lilies by Design" and Ron Weinhold entitled "River Glen Gardens through the Seasons". By all accounts both sessions were well received. Design has never been my strong suit so the tips, tricks and other information shared are always welcomed. It also appears that River Glen Gardens is one place I will just have to return to see in person. The photographic tour of Ron's garden creation showcased the 75 acres of trees (including numerous lilacs), planted and wild growing flowers, grasses, cacti, a Japanese garden and a private lake located along the winding Sauk River. Truly amazing what he has accomplished since starting out.

The Thursday evening outing was listed as a trip to the Science Museum of Minnesota. This certainly turned out to be the biggest understated event of the 2003 NALS Show. All those I spoke to who attended this event called it one of the main highlights of the entire symposium. Ben Gowen and Dean Hartle acted as tour directors on the bus ride. Ben shared adventures of growing up in the Twin Cities and Dean added history lessons as the bus meandered through the stately homes and the Capital Buildings that lined the route.

The Science Centre had a large number of 'hands-on-displays' including a large floor puzzle of the Mississippi River's drainage basin, the Human Body Gallery and The Collections Gallery. The dinosaurs were a popular display where an authentic mummy attracted a good deal of attention.

The sixth floor had been made into a private dining salon complete with beautiful lily floral arrangements. A large outdoor patio, which overlooked the Mississippi River, gave a ringside seat to the "Taste of Minnesota" festival. After a brief introduction to our hosts a buffet supper was enjoyed. Attendees were then treated to a fiery display of color and sound as spectacular fireworks ended the evening.

The show was the main attraction of the second full day. Bright and early Friday morning judges, students and clerks gathered together to begin the task of judging almost 250 lily stems entered by about 30 individuals from far and wide. This was a particularly significant day for me in that it was the last of my student judging obligations. Indeed, David Diller made my day after the paperwork had been taken care of. On completion of the judging he presented me with my official judges card and I have the photographic evidence to prove it. I had the pleasure of completing this part of my lily education in the company of senior judge Ed McRae. Seeing the show room with lilies staged to perfection under the best lighting conditions next to Mother Nature took my breath away as it always does. So many fine lilies in all shapes, sizes and colors including about 30 stems of my favorite lilies, the martagons. All divisions were well represented.

Friday afternoon, in addition to the show being opened to the public, were educational sessions entitled "Combining Lilies in the Perennial Garden" by Mike Hager of Ambergate Gardens and the session I most anticipated, "Shoot that Lily" by Frans Officer.

Mike gave a great presentation on companion perennials for lilies. Most important, he said on more than one occasion, was that companion plants be chosen that have cultural requirements similar to that of lilies. Some that he suggested included achillea (Yarrow), artemesia, echinacea, hardy geraniums, heucheras, knautia, monarda, penstemon, phlox, salvia, solidago

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(Golden Rod), thalictrum (Meadow Rue), veronica and veronicastrum (Culver's Root). It was a very informative presentation that was very well received.

Frans' presentation on lily photography was presented with his unique brand of humor liberally intermingled with practical tips. His explanation of depth of field finally made the concept make sense to me. He is a dynamic, humorous, knowledgeable lily grower and photographer skilled at the techniques he was only too happy to share with us. He seemed to have so much fun giving the presentation that his enthusiasm was infectious and we all vowed to try out our newly acquired knowledge while visiting his garden.

Research Trust Auctions

According to Ed Soboczenski who was in charge of the auctions this year, over \$3,000 was raised in aid of the research fund. Items in both the silent auction and the live auction were as diverse as peonies, stained glass, lily bulbs from donors all over the US and Canada as well as books, test tubes of various tissue culture crosses, beautiful art works, crystal, etc. The bidding was fast and furious for most items and the floor spotters were kept on their toes keeping track of who was bidding how much.

The Tours

The event we had been waiting for, the full day of touring on Saturday was certainly worth the wait. In total, four wonderful gardens were visited including Noerenberg Memorial Park, Arneson Acres Park, and the home gardens of Barbara and John Sautner's and Frans and Sandy Officer.

Noerenberg Memorial Park is located on the north shore of Lake Minnetonka. Although we weren't able to get right down to the shores because of the turtle nesting areas, the view from the boathouse of Crystal Bay was outstanding. The gardens were spectacular. They featured a annual and perennial flowers, ornamental shade trees, an outstanding stand of conifers, grapes, azaleas from the 'Northern Lights' series, ornamental grasses and much more. The daylily collection is huge, with about 1,000 different cultivars represented. The grape covered arbor provides a shady place to take a rest and given the searing heat and humidity by mid morning, the bench was well used.

Arneson Acres Park was next up. What a beautiful place with a majestic fountain and numerous gardens (26 in all I'm told) encompassing a variety of sun and shade perennials, including many lilies. Asiatic lily "Dots and Dashes" garnered a lot of attention and I am now on a quest to find a source for this lily. Lunch was served from the Tea House where we were treated to another magnificent view. From the hot colors of bedded annuals to the cool shade of a hosta glen, it was well worth the trip.

For the home gardens of the Sautner's and Officer's our buses broke up and alternated between the remaining destinations. Frans and Sandy Officer's garden is truly unique. From the garden art that is tucked away almost

invisibly to the frog sculptures that grace nooks and crannies around the property to the scrumptious lilies, it is a testament to Frans' love of the garden and of lilies, particularly the martagons. Impeccable landscaping complete with a front and back waterfall provide a backdrop to the many lilies that were putting on a spectacular show for our visit. The hours of work involved in the design and implementation of the gardens on a significant slope was evident. Of course, this was where my camera died so I was unable to test out the tips from Frans' presentation but I will always have the memories and the pictures in my mind's eye to remind me of the beauty I witnessed. Frans commented that it was truly fascinating to see his gardens through the eyes of others.

Last but certainly not least for our group was the home garden of Barbara and John Sautner. The first word that came to mind after we found the house was "intense". I can't remember ever seeing another garden so intensively planted with assorted collections including iris, miniature hosta, daylilies and lilies along with other perennials interspersed throughout. Colorful and unique planters line the front of the property. Well-defined pathways lead you from one area to another and from one wonder to another. It was all quite overwhelming and I'm sure that vacant lot next to their home must certainly soon be in jeopardy of a garden expansion. The art of the cottage garden taken to the next level, what they have achieved on their average city lot is amazing.

Following the completion of the tours it was back to the hotel to get ready for the highlight of the show and symposium, the awards banquet.

The Awards Banquet

After a full day of garden touring one would think that we all would be too tired to keep awake for the awards banquet. Such was not the case. Following a short rest and relaxation break we were all together again to honor the award winners of the NALS 56th Annual Show and Symposium and enjoy one final night of lily talk before heading home. Newly elected officers were introduced and included Dr. Gene Fox of Alberta Canada as president, Dolores Nelson of Saskatchewan as Canadian Vice-president, Barbara Holland of Virginia as Secretary and Kathy Andersen of Delaware, Barbara Adams-Eichendorf of Saskatchewan, Jayne Venard of Iowa and Sandra Venton (Marks) of Manitoba as directors. Ron Chiabotta moves to 1st Past President and Linda Smith remains US Vice-president

At the top of the list was the presentation of the E. H. Wilson Award, the highest award given by the North American Lily Society. This was awarded to Alberta lily hybridizer Fred Tarlton for outstanding contributions to the genus *lilium*.

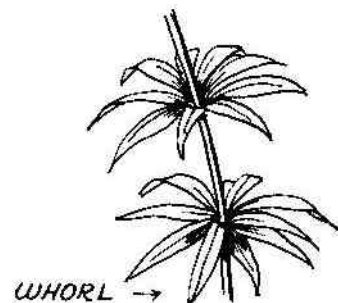
Final Thoughts

So, that was it. The 56th NALS Show and Symposium
(Continued on page 5)

now goes down in history. Eyes turn to next year's show hosted by the Mid America Regional Lily Society in St. Louis, Missouri, USA. Other future shows include: 2005 - Manitoba Regional Lily Society - Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada; 2006 - Wisconsin Regional Lily Society - Eau Claire, Wisconsin, USA; and 2007 - Alberta Regional Lily Society - Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of those who registered and participated in "Lilium Delirium Minnesotum" in congratulating the North Star Lily Society and the Wisconsin Regional Lily Society on a job well done. The show committee, headed by chairperson Marsha Hartle, are to be commended for organizing a stellar event. Because of the excellent publicity the event received in the media, it has been estimated that well over 300 members of the public went out of their way to visit the show and view the lilies which are our passion.

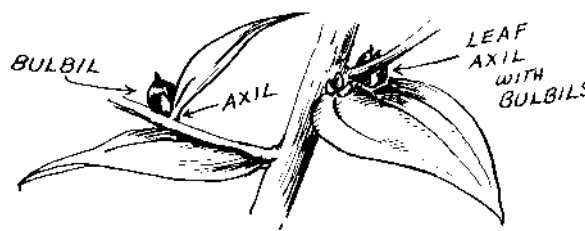
It was, indeed, a "Towering Delight" of a good time! I'll not soon forget it or the wonderful people of Minnesota and the North Star Lily Society.



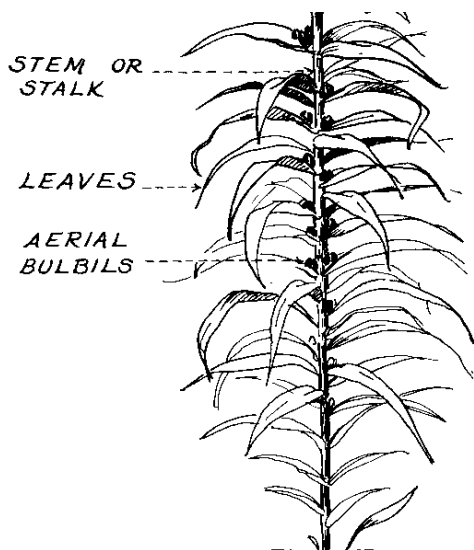
WHORL - A ring of leaves arising at the same level on a stem; typical of *L. martagon* and most native American species

In some species small, bulb like structures are produced in the axils of the leaves. These are called bulbils and are a natural method of propagation and

Novice Niche
LILY STRUCTURE - Foliage
 Source: NALS Judging Handbook, Let's Grow Lilies
 Artwork: Virginia Howie



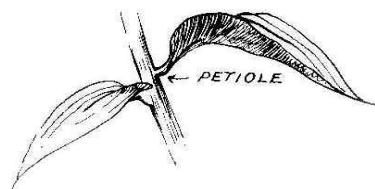
The stem, sometimes called the stalk, varies greatly in height and sturdiness, according to the variety. The leaves in most species are arranged on the stem alternately (sometimes giving a spiral appearance) or in whorls. For the most part, the leaves are narrow, varying from grass-like in some species to short and/or broad in others.



close-by dissemination.

AXIL (of leaf) - Angle between upper leaf surface and stem.

BULBIL - Aerial bulbs born above ground in Axils of the leaves. (i.e. *L. tigrinum*, *L. bulbiferum*)



PETIOLE - The stalk of a leaf. Some species (*L. auratum*, and *L. speciosum*) have quite pronounced petioles.

Sometimes the stem may be flattened and thickened toward the top and in severe cases may interfere with the normal arrangement of the flowers. This condition is known as fasciation. Its cause has not been completely established but it appears to be associated with the nutrient level, soil moisture, or other cultural conditions. It also appears that there is an inherited tendency for greater susceptibility to fasciation among some species and cultivars.

Lily Addicts Anonymous

Hello it's ... me again. The lily addict. It's been awhile. I've fallen off the lily wagon into many lily beds. I think, last time I had mentioned something about "Lilies in Winter".

That lily attack took me to New Zealand, for six weeks, in January and February. After flight stops in Vancouver, Hawaii, Wellington (north Island of New Zealand), I finally arrived in Christchurch, a beautiful garden city on the east coast of the south Island. (If you really want to see roses, visit Christchurch. There are roses almost everywhere.)

The New Zealand Lilium Society was holding an international convention and show, to celebrate their 75th anniversary. The group is the oldest lily society in the world. Of course there were other lily enthusiasts (actually other addicts, but let's not go there) from Canada.

I was met by Lane Spence, a lily species grower and lily hybridizer, who took me to the garden of Ted Alexander, another lily grower and hybridizer. Imagine, not two hours off the plane and I'm in a garden of beautiful lilies.

After a couple of days with Lane and his family, viewing his garden, his species and hybrids, I returned to Christchurch for the pre-convention tour around the south Island, visiting tourist sites, the country side, public gardens and private gardens.

The lily show had many stems. They also had a cut lily floret category, as part of the competition, as well as a photo contest. Speakers were local and from around the world. They even sold lily seeds at the show. How could I not buy a "few" packages! (I couldn't take any bulbs home!).

After the show and conference, I was off

for more site seeing of the south Island and then of the north Island. On the North Island, I attended two lily shows. More food, more gardens, more countryside and of course more lilies!

Some of the lily varieties I saw there were familiar and sometimes surprising. To see some of the recently introduced orienpets growing there and growing well was great. There were even some varieties that have not been around here for years. To see some lily species growing well in New Zealand and even growing in the wild was wonderful. The highlight of the trip was seeing the oriental hybrids of the Bowens and of Frank Chambers. Such colours, fragrance and heights! Wow!

It was good to see people, who I had met in Australia and to meet new lily people.

Just think of this: to grow lilies in New Zealand for six months and then return to Canada to grow lilies for the other six months! Isn't that worth considering?

It was fantastic to see lilies growing in wintertime, down under!

MRLS Fall Bulb Sales Volunteers needed for everything!

If you can help out just contact one of members below.

Contact List

Winnipeg Sale - Jennifer Bishop
(204-885-1515)

Brandon Sale - Joan Svenson
(204-728-9036)

Dauphin Sale - Barbara Jean Jackson
(204-725-4696)

MRLS 19th Annual Lily Show

St. Vital Center, Winnipeg, MB
July 25th & 26th

Number of Stems Approx 200

AWARDS:

Criddle Award (Best Stem of a Cultivated Species) Barrie Strohman- *L. leichtlinii*

**Directors Award (Best Stem in Show)
Barrie Strohman- *L. leichtlinii***

**Prairie Pride Award (Best Stem in the Show Developed by a Prairie Breeder)
John Rempel - Northern Carillon**

**Ed Robinson Award (Best Martagon in the Show)
*Not Awarded***

**William Silversides Award (Best Named Asiatic in the Show)
John Rempel - Pink Pagoda**

**Dr. F. L. Skinner Award (Best Stem Grown from Seed & Exhibited by the Breeder)
Barrie Strohman - Seedling**

**Thomas and Lynn Smith Award (Best Trumpet in the Show)
John Rempel - White Henryi**

**Jean Erickson Award (Best Interspecific Hybrid in the Show)
John Rempel - Northern Carillon**

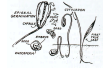
**Junior Design Award (Best Design in Section J)
*No entry***

**Design Award (Best Design in Section K)
Susan LeBlanc - All Alone**

Notices:



Lily Trading Post



Searching for people who are interested in trading /selling species lily bulbs or seed.

Looking for that special lily! Just drop me (the Editor) a note or email and we will publish your lily desires. Ph:204-476-3225
E-mail: nigel@lilynook.mb.ca

NEWSLETTER BY E-MAIL

If you wish to receive your future newsletters by e-mail, sign up by e-mailing the Newsletter editor, nigel@lilynook.mb.ca
Your newsletter will be sent to you in Adobe .PDF format.

Bulb Sale Notice:

Going to have a few spare bulbs after digging this Fall? How about donating them to the MRLS Fall Bulb Sales? All bulb donations welcomed!! Proceeds of the sales goes towards Lily research and development. Subsidizing guest speakers that are brought in for Spring seminars and NALS 2005 Show in Winnipeg. Please contact Ted Sobkowick at 204-755-2827 for varieties that you have or bring them in to one of the bulb sales. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

CONTEST!!

Inviting all members, get out your thinking caps! A theme is needed for the NALS 2005 Show we will be hosting. If your Idea is chosen, you will win a collection of 10 Orienpets!

For further information or to submit your ideas to our show co-chair contact;

John Rempel - 590 Municipal Road, Winnipeg R3R 1J2.

Phone:204-895-2212

E-mail: jrempel@mb.sympatico.ca

Coming Events:

MRLS Fall Bulb Sales

Location 1

Assiniboine Park
Conservatory Lobby
September 27th & 28th, 2003
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
2355 Corydon Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba
(Located in the Assiniboine Park)

Location 2

Town Centre Mall
Brandon, Manitoba
October 4th, 2003
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Location 3

Dauphin Marketplace Mall
Dauphin, Manitoba
October 11th, 2003
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Remember to bring your enclosed coupon or membership card for 10% savings

N.A.L.S. 58th Lily Show

Hosted by Manitoba Regional Lily Society
July 2005 Winnipeg, MB

We need YOU!! If you are interested in volunteering and helping out contact John Rempel at 204-895-2212
E-mail: jrempel@mb.sympatico.ca

We welcome you to host a NALS Garden Tour in 2005. If you feel you would like to open up your yard for our visitors to view, please contact Barbara Jean Jackson (B.J.) at 204-725-4696
E-mail: jacksonb@mb.sympatico.ca

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS 2003

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