



Manitoba Lily Connection

Manitoba Regional Lily Society Newsletter

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Affiliated with the North American Lily Society

December 2004

President's Message

So, it seems that Winter is here to stay. No more gardening outside, but that does not keep us from plant books, indoor gardening, dreaming about & planning for next spring. Some of us have even started seeds. (You know who you are.) (Are they Lily seeds or do I need to ask?)

This was a wonderful year for the pond and bog gardeners. For the rest of us, we got our gardening done in between the drizzle, the rain, the heavy rain and the down pours, in our 'oh so wet!' gardens (mostly). I think I had to water once, sometime in July, when there was about three weeks of sun.

Oh yes, the lilies did bloom this year, about two to three weeks late. I saw them bloom, but I had to peer down at them through the high weeds. Then, I lost sight of them all together. It was a wonderful year for the weeds. Now, if anyone can find a way to use them or make something from them or turn a profit on them, please let me know.

As we gardeners like to say, "There is always next year." Aaah, next year, 2005! Another Lily season! By now you know, it is not just any Lily season. This is the year that we, the members of the "Manitoba Regional Lily Society", will host the North American Lily Society Show and Convention, in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada!

We will enjoy listening to speakers from Europe and the US, sharing their knowledge and joy of Lilies. There will be 1000 Lily stems to be seen at the show. Is that not right John? John will even help you cut your Lily stems, if there aren't enough for the show! :)

There will be floral displays to be seen, as everyone is welcome to put together a bouquet, a vase, or a display. (I will certainly bring in something and guess what? I don't intend to win anything.)

And best of all, there will be a chance to meet and make new lily friends, to share that same passion for our favourite garden plant, The Lily.

See you at the Spring Seminar, to learn more about Lilies and the Show this summer.

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and Season's Greeting to All.

Ted J.M. Sobkowich



**N.A.L.S. 58th Annual
Lily Show**
'Northern Horizons'
Hosted by Manitoba
Regional Lily Society
July 13th - 17th 2005
Canad Inn Polo Park, 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

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Manitoba Lily Fancier

Barrie Strohmman, Neepawa, MB

I was born at Neepawa on August 12, 1930, and I'm still there gardening on a small rural acreage. I retired from my work as a contractor in 1993. I was a carpenter, builder of houses and farm buildings.

My first recollections of gardens, flowers and plants center about weeding the garden on the family farm. That must have been one of my assigned chores. I also remember picking wild fruit with my grandmother and having her point out different native fruits and shrubs and having her identify various wildflowers in bloom. At that early time, I was admonished not to pick the prairie lily (*L. philadelphicum*) for my wildflower bouquets.

For many years I grew Asiatic hybrids, even before, I knew what they really were in terms of classification. I was introduced to *L. martagon* about 1982 or 1983 by Ed Robinson of Wawanesa, Manitoba. Ed, of course, is famous for his Gaybird Nursery in Wawanesa and for his pioneering work in bringing *L. tsingtauense* into the hybridizing of *L. martagon* hybrids. Another Manitoba *L. martagon* fancier, Alice Moger, had been hybridizing mainly with *L. martagons* and most specifically, 'Black Prince' and also 'Rosalinda'. She also "cultured" or inspired my interest.

My home gardening activities include growing over 1000 lily varieties and species. Of course, we have a vegetable garden and a small orchard for fresh fruit. Every year, I make scores of planned pollinations and collect the seeds with care every fall. I grow out the resultant seedlings, tend and look after them with devotion. My interests lie with Asiatics, species, *L. martagons* and polyploids. I also have been testing some early flowering Orientals and their hybrids involving Orientals. My specific hybridizing goals include among other things:

1. To create fragrant lilies in the Asiatic hybrid lines,
2. To produce some prairie hardy trumpet and Orientals

lilies,

3. To produce out-facing and up-facing hybrid *L. martagon* lilies.

We have a good sized collection of *L. martagon* hybrids that I amassed over the years. I have won a lot of ribbons at the international level with these special lilies at NALS shows and I have done well in our regional shows. I have a lot of the Frank Skinner *L. martagons*, some from Fred Tarlton and of course, Ed Robinson. Ed Robinson, at over 90 years of age, sensed his time on earth was coming to a close and gave me permission to rescue several hundred *L. martagon* hybrids from the grown over beds at his nursery. We sifted out of rather difficult situations between 400 and 600 *L. martagon* bulbs in various sizes and in various states of well being. We have years of evaluations of these Robinson seedlings and years of sleuthing as to the names of some of the already registered cultivars.

I have named and intend to register a few seedlings over the years. 'Mary Margaret', 'Plum Blossom', 'Alice Moger', 'Rosemary Margaret', 'Frances Ann' and 'Something Else'. More hybrid Asiatics have been tentatively earmarked for registration with RHS; 'Land of Plenty', 'Neepawa' and 'Good Question' to name a few. I have many, many other seedlings coming on in my garden. Showing lilies is a special interest of mine. A lot of people have visited my lily gardens.

In 1995 my son, Nigel, who has developed an interest in horticulture & lilies in particular, put out the Lily Nook's first catalogue. This retail business has really blossomed, shipping lily bulbs worldwide. With the increased tourism since our first catalogue was released, a local lady, Eleanor Nicholson noticed this and as a result spearheaded the town of Neepawa to adopt the lily as their town flower and host an annual lily festival that is held the 3rd weekend in July.

The Lily Nook has grown to have over 2000 named varieties spanning many different divisions. With many new and exciting varieties added each year it looks like there will always be lilies in my future.

What is Polyploidy

Notes from Dr. Bill Paton's presentation
at MRLS Spring seminar 2004

The word polyploid is a specific term which indicates that a plant has more than the normal quantity of genetic information. Almost all true lilies have 24 chromosomes on which the genetic information for that plant is located. In a typical plant, one set of 12 chromosomes will have been inherited from the female parent, and the other set of 12 from the male, or pollen parent. When the sexual cells (gametes) from the female plant fuse with the sexual cells from the male parent, the total chromosome number is restored to 24, and a normal lily plant is formed. Such a plant with 2 sets of chromosomes is referred to as diploid.

Alas, with lilies, as with humans, sexual reproduction is a complex process, fraught with hazards and complications. Occasionally, something will go awry, and instead of producing a normal gamete with 12 chromosomes, the egg or pollen cell will contain 24 chromosomes. Should these abnormal cells fuse to produce viable seed, that seed will give rise to a plant that contains more than the normal 24 chromosomes. Such a plant would be referred to as a polyploid. Polyploids may arise in other ways. Now and again, a plant will spontaneously double its chromosome number, usually the aftermath of a flirtation with a member of another species e.g. wheat which has 6 sets of chromosomes (hexaploid) is the result of a cross between a diploid and a species with 4 sets of chromosomes (tetraploid).

Also plant breeders can interfere with normal seed development in plants, and deliberately generate polyploids (colchicines).

Why are polyploids of interest to us. Well polyploid plants often possess a number of interesting and potentially valuable characteristics. Often polyploid plants are larger and more robust. They are also frequently sterile (flower but produce no seeds). From the point of view of the lily grower the most important aspects includes the bigger flowers, thicker petals and stronger stems. On the windswept Prairies, robust flowers on sturdy stems are very valuable. Many polyploids have been introduced in recent years.

NALS 2005 Update

By: John Remple

This is an invitation for everyone to mark their calendars for July 13th-17th, 2005 and "C'mon Down or Up" to Winnipeg for a great time with fellow lily enthusiasts from around the world.

The 2005 show to be held in Winnipeg at the Canad Inn at Polo Park promises to be a great event. We have lined up four great speakers for the afternoon sessions, 2 from Europe, one from Holland and one from the US. Registration for the convention has been set at \$60 and all tours and meal costs are being kept as low as possible so as to keep the convention affordable to all members.

I want to invite every MRLS member and all of your garden club friends to consider exhibiting their lilies in the lily show that is held in conjunction with the convention. As Ed Sullivan used to say "We are going to have a really great show".

Why exhibit? Well, the prizes are one reason. In the show schedule, Section A, Class 1, open to amateur growers only is "Collection of 12 different lilies, from any division or divisions, one stem each, identified". The prize is sponsored by our own club but has not been won for several years. I have seen and handled this prize. It is a heavy engraved crystal vase about 12 inches high and worth several hundred dollars. I intend to compete as does my friend JB. There are rumors that someone from Ontario wants to take it home this year.

You may be intimidated by the prospect of competing against people known to be frequent winners. Don't be intimidated! Often it is just pure LUCK.

Let me tell you of two of my experiences. The first time was the first time that I ever showed on our local MRLS show when it was held in Brandon. In the morning before traveling to Brandon with a friend of mine, I cut about half a dozen stems, staged them at the show and came back to find that my "Gold Lode" had placed best stem in show. The second time was at the NALS 1998 show in Saskatoon. It was my first NALS show. Again I cut a number of stems including one of "Robinson's Comet" In fact I

almost decided to leave the stem in the garden as I didn't think it good enough. After the judging was complete, I discovered that I had won three major awards with it. The Jan de Graff, Iowa Regional and the Ontario Regional Awards. So cut your lilies, bring them down and may the best stems win.



M.R.L.S. at Work

By: Barbara-Jean Jackson

A little known and brand new jewel exists for lily lovers outside the city of Winnipeg. Situated in the City of Brandon at Brandon University, the garden showcases liliaceae in a picturesque campus setting. 2004 was its first full growing season and despite the weather, a good (if late) show was put on for faculty, staff, students and visitors.

The garden currently houses about 200 bulbs representing more than 50 varieties many of which were donated by the Manitoba Regional Lily Society. Other bulbs were purchased by members of the university community and donated to the garden. Asiatics, LA's, Orienpets and other specialty lilies as well as numerous species are represented. As well, this fall a number of martagon lilies were added to the growing collection. Most of the martagons are the creations of prairie hybridizers and most were obtained from the MRLS fall bulb sales in Winnipeg, Brandon and Dauphin.

The 'species corner' was planted in order to show where the modern hybrids we take for granted originated. Species included are *L. davidii*, *L. leichtlinii* (both the yellow and orange forms), *L. henryi*, *L. martagon* and *L. martagon album*. *L. cernuum* did not survive its first winter but all of the others have done amazingly well. Other species will be planted as they become available and as space is found for

them. Already we are talking about expanding the garden, incorporating space outside the sidewalk that rings the existing location allowing for easy viewing.

Orienpets and other specialty lilies are proving to be the most dramatic additions to the garden. So far these include 'Northern Carrillon', 'Northern Beauty', 'Easter Morn', 'Easter Dawn' and several of the "Belles" series that were hybridized right here in Manitoba. While working in the garden I can't count the number of positive comments that were received particularly about Northern Carillon and Easter Morn. That said, however, every single lily bulb has been appreciated from the earliest blooming (Skinner's Orange) to the latest, (*L. leichtlinii* [yellow form]).

The garden is situated on the west side of 18th Street between Princess and Louise Avenues at the Lorne Avenue crossing. Surrounded by a large band of annual flowers (I never want to see another purple petunia in my life!!!), the Brandon University sign draws the eye back toward the garden proper which is surrounded by a low hedge that doesn't interfere with the line of sight to the lilies. Weeping caragana as signature plants strategically placed in the front (just behind the sign) and on the corners add additional visual interest when the lilies are not in bloom. The lilies themselves are inter-planted with a variety of daylilies that did not survive their first winter very well and will be replaced with donated ones next year. The design was done by Brandon University alumnus Russell Maloney.

This is what I like to call my 'other' life, that is, my life outside lilies. I work in the psychiatric nursing department of the School of Health Studies and I see this garden as a way to combine two things that are very important in my life, education and gardening. What started as an idea just two or three years ago has evolved to the full and glorious bloom experienced this past summer. Every single bit of labor involved in the development, planting and maintenance of this garden is accomplished through volunteers from the university community. Time, energy, bulbs and other materials... all are donated in order to make Brandon University a more beautiful place to live, to work, to study or to enjoy. Without them, the garden would not exist. Without them, this idea would not have got off the ground. With the help of the Physi-

(Continued on page 5)

cal Plant workers, the Beautification Committee (presided over by president Dr. Louis Visentin) and the university community, we have accomplished our goal to create something of which we can be proud. It was and is a true labor of love!

So come on down in 2005 and visit the garden and Brandon University. Feel free to walk around it and drink in the beauty of the lilies in full bloom. Hopefully the weather will cooperate this year and the garden will be at its best both before and after the NALS conference and show in Winnipeg, July 13 to 17 to encourage visitors to come early and stay late. If you are unfamiliar with the city of Brandon, e-mail me for further information at jack-sonb@mb.sympatico.ca .

JEAN LORRAINE ATTO
May 9, 1920 - August 27, 2004

Jean passed away peacefully on Friday, August 27, 2004 at Concordia Hospital. She was predeceased by her parents Mr. And Mrs. Gilmore, her husband, Jim, in 1975 and her sisters Annabell, Sheila and Connie.

She is survived by her son Jeff (Brenda) and her grandchildren Darcy, Magenta, Shyanne, Ashly, Brandon and Rachelle.

Jean was born in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan on May 9, 1920, married on February 25, 1953, moved to Winnipeg in 1954, living on Wentworth Ave., then moving in 1956 to Sargent and Beverly until 1959 and then moving to the present address in East Kildonan. Mom worked for PFRA in Saskatchewan. She worked for many years for The Manitoba Association of Urban Municipalities.

She loved flowers and held Executive positions with both The East Kildonan Garden Club (formerly The West Kildonan Horticultural Society and The Manitoba Lily Society. More recently, joining the Winnipeg Japanese Flower Arranging Society. She won countless prizes for her beautiful flowers and floral arrangements.

Jean Atto - Tribute

By Barrie Strohmman

Jean was a founding member of MRLS and served on the Executive Board as Secretary for the Lily Society from 1987-1995. This position is now filled by two persons, one as Secretary and one as Treasurer. Jean became Secretary when I was President and went on to serve through the tenure of three succeeding Presidents.

I remember Jean as a quiet, very capable lady always with a ready smile. She was a major worker when we held the NALS show in 1990 and her balanced way of approaching the things that were assigned to her along with her sunny disposition was an inspiration to all of us.

Her love of lilies was evident in that she was always on the lookout for heritage lilies in the various historical parks around Winnipeg, especially finding some martagons. I remember her joy when she obtained a Black Prince and her happiness when she found several clumps of Dalhansonii at Captain Kennedy's House.

The memory of her last visit to the Lily Nook with Professor Louis Lenz as we sat and visited on the patio beside the lily pond will always be with me. Her words as this gracious lady was leaving were "Thanks for a peaceful and colorful day that I enjoyed." Thank you Jean, for being such a gracious lady. In co-operation with the East Kildonan Horticultural Society, The Manitoba Lily Society will be assisting in planting of Martagons in memory of her in a Memorial Garden.

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 Strohmman, Box 846, Neepawa, MB R0J 1H0

Question & Answer

Q: What is meant by the term Polyploid?

A: See article on page 3

Bulb Sale Report

By Barbara-Jean (BJ) Jackson

The major fund raising effort of the MRLS, the fall bulb sales, were a huge success again this year thanks, in part, to the support of you all, our members and friends, who pitched in to get the job done at all three locations. A total of just over \$23,000 was made for the society. This amount was slightly down from 2003 but a respectable showing none-the-less. Dauphin actually showed an increase in sales. The expanded mail order section was popular again this year according to reports from Len Giesbrecht. Next year the September newsletter with the order forms will go out much earlier so better use can be made of this service.

In addition to our usual suppliers, The Lily Nook and Jeffries Nurseries, the Bulb Sale Committee brought in bulbs from other sources including S-W Gardens, Lisa's Lilies and Hillcrest Harmony Flowers. Thanks to Reg Gallup, The Lily Nook and digging from the established stands at the English Garden, there was an excellent supply of martagons available. Our members just can't seem to get enough of these beauties. The sales of the specialty orientpets weren't harmed one little bit by actually having a live stem of 'Albany' in bloom that was cut and brought in by Sandy Venton. Imagine having a stem to cut at the end of September! That one literally flew off the tables as did many of the others.

Rita Giesbrecht handled the beverage and food service for working volunteers in Winnipeg. From the comments we received it was obvious that she did an excellent job. Thanks, Rita, for keeping the coffee going and providing a place we could disappear to on break for a little bit of peace and quiet.

Bulb sale coordinators for the various sites include: Jennifer Bishop for Winnipeg, Joan Svenson for Brandon and Barbara-Jean (BJ) Jackson for Dauphin. If you have any comments or suggestions, we want to hear from you. Contact information is located on the Board of Directors listing inside this newsletter so get in touch with your thoughts and ideas.

Oh behalf of the Bulb Sale Committee we look forward to seeing you again in 2005!

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- Sandy Venton - 203 Vernon Road, Winnipeg, MB R3J 2W1
- Ed Czarnecki - 881 Laxdal Road, Winnipeg, MB R3R 1V7
- Lynn Collicutt
- Louis Lenz

Notices:

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



Lily Trading Post



Looking for 'Startling', a Ed Robinson lily. Any one with a bulb or two please contact Barrie Strohman at 204-476-3225.

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

Coming Events

Manitoba Horticultural Association Convention

Date: February 3rd-5th, 2005
Place: United Church Education Centre
475 Mountain Ave, Neepawa, MB

Manitoba Regional Lily Society 2004 Spring Seminar

Date: Saturday, April 2nd 2005
Place: Canad Inn Polo Park
1405 St Matthews Ave
Winnipeg, MB

Details to follow in the next newsletter!

North American Lily Society 58th Annual Lily Show

'Northern Horizons'

Hosted by Manitoba Regional Lily Society

July 13th - 17th 2005

Canad Inn Polo Park, Winnipeg, MB

THE TIME HAS COME FOR MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS!

(Membership expiry date can be found on the Address label after surname) i.e. Dec 04

M.R.L.S. Membership Renewal Form - Deadline

\$7.50 Year — Single Membership

\$10.00 Year — Family/Society Membership

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

POSTAL CODE _____ PHONE# _____

SEND TO: MARLENE PULS
99 MACALESTER BAY, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 2X6
Make Cheques Payable to MRLS

**The NORTH AMERICAN LILY SOCIETY, Inc.
Membership Application/Renewal Form**

Please enroll me as a member of the North American Lily Society, Inc.
for the calendar year/s 20_____. Membership term is from Jan.1 to Dec. 31.

Check desired class and duration of membership

	Class	Duration	US Dollars	Canadian Dollars	Overseas (U.S. Dollars)
	Junior (to age 18)	One year	\$10.00	\$13.00	\$25.00
	Junior (to age 18)	Three years	\$25.00	\$32.00	\$55.00
	Individual	One year	\$20.00	\$26.00	\$35.00
	Individual	Three years	\$55.00	\$75.00	\$100.00
	Sustaining	One year	\$100.00	\$130.00	\$100.00
	Sustaining	Three years	\$250.00	\$325.00	\$250.00
	Individual	Life Membership	\$350.00	\$450.00	\$350.00
	Household	Life Membership	\$500.00	\$650.00	\$500.00
	Fellow	Life Membership	\$500.00	\$650.00	\$500.00
	Patron	Life Membership	\$1,000.00	\$1300.00	\$1,000.00

Please print your name, address, and contact information, and indicate whether we may include the information in our membership directory

	Yes	No
Name(s)		
Street or P.O. Box		
City, State, Code		
Country		
Phone (optional)		
e-mail (optional)		
Is your garden open to other members on request?		

Indicate Method of Payment, and for credit card payment provide Number, Expiration date, and Signature

<input type="checkbox"/>	Enclosed is my check or money order (U.S. funds) Payable to The North American Lily Society	\$
<input type="checkbox"/>	Or By credit card. Signature:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	VISA #	Exp.(mm/yy)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Master Card #	Exp.(mm/yy)

Mail New and Renewal Memberships to:

North American Lily Society
c/o **Executive Secretary**
Robert Gilman
P.O. Box 272
Owatonna, MN 55060 USA

Canadians:
Please send new or renewal NALS
membership form and dues to:
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Regina, SK S4S 0P4