



# Manitoba Lily Connection

Manitoba Regional Lily Society Newsletter

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Affiliated with the North American Lily Society

September 2006

## President's Message

The lily bloom started so early this year that it seems like it should be later than September since my garden calendar is based upon when my lilies bloom. The martagons start blooming on the 20<sup>th</sup> of June and have every year since I started growing them 10 years ago. This year they bloomed around the 1<sup>st</sup> of June and 'album' was not the first to bloom either like it was supposed to, one of the Skinner hybrids bloomed first instead. A consequence of this is that my world is turned upside down and I am out of sync with it. I will have to re-introduce myself next year when we hopefully will have a "normal" lily growing season. Ah... the lily gardener's mantra 'There is always next year'.

In spite of the early season, our annual Show in Neepawa was very well attended. We got to see some divisions that we would not normally see that early which was a wonderful bonus for the judges. I heard one of them say that they got to judge divisions they have never judged before. So it all works out. Our thanks to Joan and John Svenson for doing such a great job coordinating the MRLS portion of the show with the Lily Festival Committee. All reports I received were that it was very well organized, well run and everything went off like clockwork. Thanks Joan and John! We very much appreciate the work involved.

This year's NALS Conference and Show in Eau Claire WI turned out to be a wonderful time and another good Show from all reports. The Board of Directors of NALS has elected our own Nigel Strohman as a Director. This is a position that Nigel will hold for the next 3 years. Congratulations Nigel. They are lucky to have a dedicated volunteer like you to help with the good work that they need to do. Congratulations are also in order for both Barrie and Nigel Strohman as they have been asked to be the Classification Chairpersons for next years NALS Conference and Show to be held in Edmonton. Doing the classification portion of any show is a very big job and one that most times goes without thanks. Barrie, Nigel we all offer our heart felt congratulations on this appointment.

I have started to read Dr. Eugene Fox's newly released book on martagons lilies, and am finding it a very

interesting read. Martagons have become an addiction that I just can't seem to overcome (okay honestly I am not trying very hard) and I find I need to know everything there is to know about them and Dr. Fox's book is answering all those questions. I believe it should be required reading for the new martagon grower as well as the advanced. If you have not purchased your copy yet, I think you should consider it.

There is never a time in the Society when one committee or another is not hard at work to provide the membership with services and this season is no different. Len Giesbrecht and his Bulb Sale Committee have been working very hard to secure the latest hybrids and many of the perennial favorites so that you, the members, are able to increase your lily collection. I am so very excited about the martagon seedlings that will be available from Dr. Evans. I plan to purchase a few of those just to see what I get. I have seen his seedling material at a NALS Show and it is really eye-candy. The opportunity to acquire some trumpets bulbs at a reasonable price from the Bulk area to try in my garden is also very exciting. I have not had much success growing trumpets for some reason so I shall try again. John Rempel has the most outstanding collection of trumpets so I shall take his advice and follow his instructions on how to grow them and maybe I can have some luck with them. I encourage all of you to get out to one of the 3 locations either in Winnipeg, Brandon or Dauphin to make your choice in person and if you are unable to get to a location in person please use mail order. Member discount will again be 10% off your total order, no tax or shipping to pay if you shop in person. All good!

As we go into the fall and winter season and our lily patches start to brown off and we plant all our new bulb acquisitions, I wish you happy lily bulb planting, a long fall to facilitate the planting process and lots of snow before the real cold sets in so you don't have to worry all winter about the bulbs freezing.

See you all at the Bulb Sales!!!!!!

Best Regards; Jennifer Bishop

## Deer and Gardeners in Winnipeg

Over the last number of years, the white tail deer population in Manitoba as well as most of North America has exploded to levels that are causing conflicts between animals and people, especially farmers and gardeners. There are estimated to be in excess of 20 million deer in North America.

An aerial survey by the Province of Manitoba in the winter of 2005-2006 counted 1100 deer within the Winnipeg perimeter highway and at least 600 within the Charleswood limits.

I have gardened in Charleswood since 1969 and had no deer problems until about 5-6 years ago when they started to become more aggressive in their suburban browsing. Once they establish a feeding route, they tend to follow it daily and are not easily discouraged.

I tried all of the common control methods touted by Natural Resources and common folklore, soap, human hair, blood meal, electric fence, etc. None was satisfactory over the long run.

In October of 2005, I started to look at a fencing alternative called the "Benner's Deer Fence". The Canadian web site is [WWW.deerfencecanada.ca](http://WWW.deerfencecanada.ca). The fence is lightweight, made of UV resistant black polypropylene with a two inch mesh size. It can be attached to supporting posts with zip ties or attached to trees with staples. It comes in a width of 7.5 feet and lengths of up to 330 ft. The fence is easily installed by one person. Costs are comparable with other types of fences. The cost to enclose my whole back yard for all materials including two gates ran to about three dollars a lineal foot.

I made my fence 7 feet high with a 6 inch bottom wraparound to keep out most rabbits. One feature of this fence compared to residential chain link fences is that the fence is almost invisible from a distance. As there is no top rail, the deer have difficulty determining the height that they need to jump. A deer can jump an eight foot fence if it wants to.

Since I installed this fence in November of 2005, I have had no deer enter my garden area. It was worth the money for the peace of mind knowing that I could come out in the morning and not see my lily seedlings

trampled by sharp pointy hooves. They still occasionally browse the roses and petunias in front of the house as they travel along the front street at night.

Note: You will want to check with your neighbors before installing this non-conventional fence.

John Rempel

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## Deer and Gardeners in Cottage Country

Until last Fall, damage from deer-grazing in my lakeshore gardens at Sandy Bay, Rural Municipality of Victoria Beach, Manitoba, was negligible over the previous 30 years. Then they suddenly wiped out my green vegetables at harvest time and attacked some of my lilies and other floral plants in one weekend while I was absent. Many other gardeners nearby had also suffered serious losses from them. Their numbers seemed to have ballooned up in this region during 2004-05 in which many took refuge around the major Holiday Resort of Victoria Beach, where hunting is forbidden and there are no predators there for them. Our mild Winter last year gave them additional survival power; and so this year they have been an increasingly destructive nuisance to all our regional gardeners.

Even though there has been plenty of their normal bushland foods available, they have developed a preferred taste for most of our garden plants, especially lilies, hostas, phlox, pansies, impatiens, clematis, strawberry tops, beans, peas, broccoli/cauliflower; and surprisingly, even for tomato plants and potato tops, both of which have bitter potentially toxic alkaloids in them. In the early Spring of this year, overnight they ate about a quarter of the emerging fat Martagon spikes in my major bed of these lilies down to the ground, thus setting them back badly for at least a couple of years. And now, I dread that they may soon eat many of the lily stems loaded with precious maturing seedpods intended for global Seed-Exchanges, soon.

Putting high fences around our many small, irregularly-shaped gardens, around and amidst bushland

trees and rocks is not feasible. They are unsightly, costly and a real nuisance when doing gardening tasks in such places. But, fences are good and usually affordable, if one has an open block of garden to protect. Solar powered electric fences are ideal and used a lot in places like New Zealand. I also heard of some in British Columbia, where horizontal runs of reflective spiral ribbons or nylon fishing line strung above 6-8 ft (180-240 cm) high fencing served to confuse deer into not trying to jump over them. I visited a Manitoba farm garden recently that was well-protected by a cheap 6 ft (180 cm) high chicken-wire fence, topped with three horizontal strands of nylon line each about 8ft ( 20 cm ) apart. Inducing a state of dynamic uncertainty about what lies ahead, if deer try to jump such obstacles, is the key to their effectiveness. Another trick that I have learned, is to allow native shrubbery to grow high behind any fences, even comparatively low ones. This robs the deer of their need to see clearly what may lie ahead and also denies them an easy “springboard”, from which to launch their jumps.

And those who can accommodate a good, well-trained hunting dog near their gardens, can usually be well rewarded, in protection from destructive wildlife, including deer. In my case, of only part-time cottage residency, this is not a feasible option.

And so I have had to concentrate on trying to find chemical deterrents to minimize deer damage in my gardens.. It is well known that wild animals, with strong senses of smell, and taste, can readily recognize those kinds of odours that are acceptable to them, for safety, and nutritional reasons. For instance, deer can readily distinguish between desirable (e.g. fresh twigs, broccoli, etc) and undesirable (e.g. the urine of their predators such as foxes and cougars ) scents. And they are even more sensitive to synthetic odours and flavours Taking possible advantage of such sensitivities,, lies behind the common use of stale soaps, old human hair, animal urines from zoos, “moth balls “, paprika, and other smelly substances, as possible repellents for rabbits, deer and raccoons, rodents, and other wild-animal garden pests.. They are usually placed in mesh bags, or old pantyhose, on poles at frequent intervals around each garden area, to allow the stench from them to steadily diffuse into the air nearby. The more obnoxious the odour, the better repellents they are. Some people

make up very crude potions including rotten eggs, synthetic solvents and fragrances, peppers, garlic, etc, in their efforts to deter wildlife from invading and attacking their gardens. The animals seem to soon get used to most of these mixtures which usually soon lose their effectiveness, if any over time for this reason; and because of loss of the power of the active agents in them due to leaching, decomposition, and evaporation.

A gardener friend at Victoria Beach, Mrs Linda Fox, tried pinning strips of “Bounce” a strongly pleasantly odorous mixture often used in clothes dryers, to many of her exposed plants. This technique seemed to deter for a few weeks, the brazen regular deer-visitors that came anytime and were not afraid of humans so I also tried it with some success. I reported it on the Internet, per the Lilium group, and received a reply back from a fruit-tree Nursery owner in Washington State, USA who said that he had been using “Bounce” strips for several years, to deter rabbits, from attacking his saplings. But he had wisely mounted the strips in an upside down open zipper sandwich bag to protect them from leaching while allowing the odor to steadily escape. I tried this amongst my floral gardens and vegetable patches, with good success for a few weeks. I attached one bag to each of my precious lilies, and tall staked tomato plants, on alternate sides in each row and similarly, one every 2-3 ft (60-90 cm) length of my potato rows. Again, these worked well for a few weeks; and then the deer attacked these plants again even though the “Bounce” odour was still detectable by me. Presumably, they got used to the odour and not seeing any risk attached to it they have resumed munching my crops.

And so, it seems that without adequate fencing, like John and others have used successfully, we gardeners will continue to have problems from invading deer, rabbits, and other animals. But some chemical repellents like those mentioned above can offer us some temporary, at least partial protection. We should also continue to try to find more effective agents for future use.

Reg Gallop 31st August, 2006

## **New *Martagon Lilies* Book Garners Comment**

Following are a smattering of unsolicited comments of the recently released martagon book authored by Dr. Eugene Fox, Millet, Alberta. These words were sent directly by e-mail or regular mail from around the globe to the author since the publication in late June, 2006.

**“Hello, Gene,  
I just received your book and what a gem it is! I thought I’d just skim the parts that are interesting to me, but you’ve made it all so good I’m reading everything. GREAT JOB!  
My best,”  
Barb Small, Reno, Nevada**

**“Gene,  
I was just about to send you an email when yours arrived. I was going to tell you how much I enjoyed your martagon book. Your writing style is wonderful and refreshing. I always enjoy word derivation and found your possible explanation of “martagon” very interesting.”  
Ron Chiabotta, Kensington, Maryland**

**“Gene,  
I can’t imagine that there is anything to say but Wow! You have gone through everything very carefully, described the 5 species that belong in Div. II in great detail, greater than anything I’ve ever read, cited your sources carefully, inserted maps, drawings, diagrams and wonderful pictures, described everything about martagons...”  
Sandy Venton, Winnipeg, Manitoba**

**“Hello Gene,  
I had the luck to receive the Martagon Book I ordered from you. It seems to be remarkable work and contains a lot of very useful info. Thank you very much!  
My best,”  
Davids Hercbergs, Vecumnieki, Latvia**

**“Gene,  
I’ve just finished reading “Martagon Lilies” and wanted to congratulate you on a remarkable achievement. It’s just erudite enough to satisfy the critical botanist, and readable enough to hold the attention of the “lay reader” throughout. A great synthesis! I now know a great deal more about martagons than I did before.”  
Dr. W. A. Quick, Regina, Saskatchewan**

**“Gene  
... And speaking of good things, I am well into *Martagon Lilies* and have been enjoying it greatly, and of course learning much as well... I have already sent copies to South Australia, Tasmania and Scotland and they should be arriving at their destinations soon.”  
Charlie Kroell, Troy, Michigan**

**“Dear Gene,  
You may not believe that it felt like I had a birthday and Christmas all on one day when I got your book! It is the first good lily book since the one by Feldmaier. You have written from your own experience and did not copy existing authors.”  
Norgart Martschinke, Sulingen, Germany**

**“Gene,  
The books arrived, and all I can say is “Wow”! It really is a wonderful book, definitely worth the wait. I appreciate your candid style, and it is obviously written from actual experience, not the armchair kind. I am so pleased that you included information about martagons, and pleased and honored that you used some of my photos.”  
David Sims, Bonners Ferry, Idaho**

**“Eugene,  
Firstly, your new martagon book is going to be the definitive text on martagons for the foreseeable future. Secondly, you have also made me personally look very sage and knowledgeable and I thank you for that remarkable feat.”  
Fred Tarlton, Edmonton, Alberta**

### ***Editor’s Note:***

*The Manitoba Regional Lily Society has as a mission mandate, the promotion and growing of lilies, so from time to time we will bring available resources such as this book to our member’s attention.*

Persons interested in purchasing the Martagon Lilies book may do so through NALS web site at lilies .org and use PayPal or they may order directly for \$25 plus \$3 for postage by cheque or Money Order to:

*Eugene Fox  
R.R.2  
Millet, Alberta  
T0C 1Z0*



# Manitoba Regional Lily Society 22th Annual Lily Show

Held in conjunction with the  
Neepawa & Area Lily Festival 10th Anniversary Show  
Neepawa, MB July 21st - 23rd, 2006

Number of entries 139  
Number of Arrangements 10

## AWARDS:

**Criddle Award (Best Stem of a Cultivated Species)**  
Irene Besser- *L. tigrinum*

**Directors Award (Best Stem in Show)**  
Brent Hunter- *Fellner Seedling*

**Prairie Pride Award (Best Stem in the Show Developed by a Prairie Breeder)**  
Brent Hunter- *Fellner Seedling*

**Ed Robinson Award (Best Martagon in the Show)**  
Carol Begalke - *Paisley Hybrid*

**William Silversides Award (Best Named Asiatic in the Show)**  
Brent Hunter - *Nutmegger*

**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)**  
Barrie Strohman - *Emerald Temple*

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

**Gordon Danzinger Award (Best L.A. Hybrid from Division VIII)**  
Barrie Strohman - *Kentucky*

**Junior Design Award (Best Design in Section J)**  
Shelby Gillies - *When you wish upon a star*

**Design Award (Best Design in Section K)**  
Verna Buhler - *You'll never walk alone*

**Orange Lodge Award (Best orange Lily)**  
Brent Hunter - *Fellner Seedling*

## **Bulb Sale 2006**

Can you believe it? It is almost bulb sale time again! Seems like yesterday I was getting ready for the Neepawa show and now the summer is gone and it is bulb sale time again.

Len Giesbrecht, Chair of the Bulb Sale Committee is putting the final touches on this year's event, which promises to be another rousing success! The Committee has selected an impressive variety of lily bulbs to tempt both the novice as well as expert growers. There is something for everyone. Where else can you get this many named hybrids for such a great price and not have to worry about shipping charges???

Because of the success of last year's features, Len had decided to do it again. The Committee was able to purchase for this year only, a very special Asiatic lily called Plum Burgundy, which will be selling for just \$8.00. Doesn't that one sound just good enough to eat? Plum Burgundy is an upfacing, deep red lily that, I predict, will sell out fast so you had better get to the sale early to make sure you get one. Another asiatic special is the outfacing cherry red Morden Butterfly. Bred by our own Dr. Wilbert Ronald, it is a standout in the garden with its gently recurved petals and at just \$7.00, it is not going to last long either.

Two other features are also on for this year and are designed to introduce (or reintroduce) members to the wonderful world of martagons and orienpets, on the cutting edge of popularity in lily circles these days, without the high price tag many of the named varieties come with. After much haggling and high powered negotiating, the Bulb Sale Committee was able to purchase an amazing assortment of seedling martagons and an orienpet mix. The cost to you is just \$6.00 for the orienpets and \$10.00 for the martagons. Imagine that! You can try them out and see how they grow for you without signing your pay cheque over for the privilege. There are a variety of colors available in each. Martagons are the earliest of all lilies to bloom and the orienpets are the latest. If all you purchased at this year's sale is one of each of the features, you could have a lily in bloom from the end of June until the middle of August! How can you top that?

Mail order is again available for members who are

unable to visit the sale locations but not all varieties are listed for mail order, so it is in your best interest to try and make it down to one of the three sale locations. Please see page 9-10 for the full listing of available mail order bulbs and instructions. And, to entice you even further, the Bulb Sale Committee has decided to continue with the 10 per cent off member discount both for mail order and personal shopping. Please bring your colored coupon (also included in this newsletter) and present it to the cashier when paying for your purchases.

Also back by popular demand is the bulk bulb area. For a mere pittance you can take home some stunning asiatic lilies at unheard of prices. These were hybridized by a prominent Alberta grower and grown on here in Manitoba for the last few years. Many of his creations have won major awards in Western Canada lily societies' shows this year. In a variety of sizes, shapes and colors, who knows but that your purchase could end up a show winner in a few years! And, bulk trumpet lilies for just \$4.00 apiece. You won't find deals like this anywhere else, I can assure you of that.

So, have we piqued your interest? I certainly hope so because it is the bulb sale committee's only job to keep our members happy and bring in the bulbs they want to grow in their gardens. If there is something specific you are looking for and you don't see it there, let us know and we will do our best to bring it in for you next year.

This is the major fundraising event of the year for the MRLS and we hope you show us your support. Come on down and see us at the 2006 edition of the annual fall bulb sale. Sale locations are:

**- Winnipeg, Assiniboine Park Conservatory  
September 30<sup>th</sup> and October 1<sup>st</sup>**

**- Brandon, The Town Centre Mall, September 30<sup>th</sup>**

**- Dauphin, The Marketplace Mall, October 7<sup>th</sup>**

See page 7 for opening times and addresses.

See you there,

B. J. Jackson on behalf of Len Giesbrecht and the  
Bulb Sale Committee

## Coming Events / Notices

### MRLS LILY BULB SALES

#### Location 1

**Assiniboine Park Conservatory Lobby  
2355 Corydon Avenue, Winnipeg, MB  
(Located in the Assiniboine Park)  
Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> & Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006  
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

#### Location 2

***Town Centre Mall*  
Brandon, Manitoba  
September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2006  
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

#### Location 3

**Dauphin Marketplace Mall  
Dauphin, Manitoba  
October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2006  
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

Remember to bring your enclosed coupon  
or membership card for 10% savings

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### Manitoba Regional Lily Society Annual Spring 2007 Seminar

**Date: April 7th, 2007  
Place: Portage la Prairie, MB  
Info: Details to follow in next  
newsletter**

### 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."

Please contact Len Giesbrecht, at 261-9832 Home, e-mail: [lengiegsb@hotmail.com](mailto:lengiegsb@hotmail.com) for varieties that you will have, or bring them in to one of the bulb sales.

### Lily Trading Post

Looking for Manitoba Hybridized Heritage Lilies. Any one with a Spare bulb or two please contact M.R.L.S., The MRLS is planning to create a Manitoba Hybridized show bed to conserve these rare gems. More details to follow in next newsletters.

**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](mailto:nigel@lilynook.mb.ca)**

### NEWSLETTER BY E-MAIL

In order to put MRLS's money towards lilies, education and events instead of postage stamps, please consider getting your newsletter by e-mail. All you need is a computer, an e-mail account and Adobe Acrobat Reader to receive it in pdf format. Sign up to get your newsletter by e-mail by sending a message to the newsletter editor, [nigel@lilynook.mb.ca](mailto:nigel@lilynook.mb.ca)

**Thanks!**

## Notices:

### **MRLS Member & Family Lily Operation to be highlighted on a TV gardening series 'Recreating Eden'**

September 13, 2006 - "The Lily King"  
Barrie Strohman – Neepawa, Manitoba, Canada

Recreating Eden is currently scheduled to air on Wednesdays, starting September 6 at 8 p.m. ET/ 5 p.m. PT. with episode repeats on Saturdays, starting September 9, at 7 p.m. ET/ 4 p.m. PT. The series will air on Vision TV which is available across Canada as a part of most basic cable packages. If you have trouble finding the channel of your local Vision station, please go to:

<http://www.visiontv.ca/AboutVTV/howtoget.html>

### **You are invited to enroll in a judging school sponsored by the Manitoba Lily Society**

The MRLS will be offering (if enough interest is shown) a Judging School. For further info and to sign up please contact Barrie Strohman at 204-476-3225

### **Reasons to enroll in a judging school:**

It is the first step in becoming an accredited N.A.L.S. lily judge. This enables you to serve your regional societies and the N.A.L.S. in an important role. The course benefits you in your ability to show prize winning stems, i.e. the selecting of a stem that has the most opportunity to win, the grooming, the transportation and the do's and don'ts in showing. The course adds to your knowledge in growing your favorite flower, the lily to perfection and in the culture and understanding of its needs. As a hybridizer the course enables you to evaluate your seedlings as to what makes an outstanding plant. It helps you to select which parents to use in your breeding work to achieve your goal.

One of the reasons or perhaps all of the above reasons are incentives to attend a judging school and will give you a higher sense of achievement in knowing and understanding the genus liliaceae.

## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS 2006

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