



Manitoba Lily Connection

Manitoba Regional Lily Society Newsletter

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Affiliated with the North American Lily Society

December 2006

President's Message

As I sit looking at a blank screen waiting for the sounds in my head to form into a coherent thought pattern and become a Presidents message, I can't help but look back with pride at what a wonderful year 2006 was for MRLS and how exciting the lily season was this year since it went so fast in the heat we had this past summer.

The Annual Seminar in Neepawa was just great and so well organized with a nice turnout. Our main speaker, Judith Freeman of The Lily Garden was very interesting. The annual show in Neepawa had a good number of entries in spite of the heat and the Bulb Sale Committee organized and ran 5 exception bulb sales again this year which were a big success. Our thanks go to all the Committee Chairs, volunteers and members who participated in all the events.

I encourage all of you to check the label on your newsletter to see if it is time for you to renew your membership. Membership in MRLS has many privileges and should not be allowed to lapse. Should you have questions before you renew, please feel free to contact me either by e-mail (jb@dataways.com) or telephone (204) 954-2013 and I would be pleased to discuss it with you.

Nigel and his Seminar Committee have organized a great upcoming seminar to be held on April 7, 2007 in Portage La Prairie. Mark your calendar, as it is not an event that you will want to miss. Our main speaker, David Simms, got great reviews when he spoke at our NALS2005

Conference. I was too busy working at the conference to be able to hear him speak so you all just know I am so looking forward to his presentation.

However wonderful 2006 lily season was, I also find myself somewhat sad that a number of my true lily heroes have passed away. Herb Sunley who introduced one of the first lilies I ever grew ('Bold Knight') passed away at the end of June this year. I did not know Herb personally but in my heart I 'knew him' because he had a love of lilies that I admired. Next was Peter Abel. I met him at the very first Seminar I ever attended in Neepawa and he was very kind and generous with his knowledge. Finally, Lillian Luky. She will remain in my memory always for her enthusiasm and willingness to share her lily bounty with me. Lillian understood my obsession with collecting Heritage lily material and continued up until last year when she was no longer able to work outside to provide me with propagation material whenever she had extra. I would like to send out my heart felt condolences to the families and proclaim that I will miss them all and I am sad that they will no longer wander through our earthly Lily Patch!

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and Happy New Year to each and everyone you. Enjoy the Holiday Season!

Talk to you all in 2007!

Best regards,
Jennifer Bishop



Growing Lilies from Seed

Barrie Strohmman

You can have many fine lilies in your garden at very little cost if you raise them from seed. You can most certainly enjoy many expensive lilies at no more expense than the initial cost of the seeds. The great variety of seeds available today makes this distinct possibility and a wonderful opportunity today. The quick growing kinds will flower the first or second year after planting. Slower varieties may take a year or two more but are surely worth waiting for. The quick ones will hold your interest while the slower ones are developing. The joy when they do flower is far greater because you grew them yourself. A significant benefit also is that seedling lilies are free from all disease unless infected from outside sources.

Seedlings from seed of species lilies will be true to the species whereas seedlings from seed of hybrid lilies being of mixed parentage will produce a variety of results. The technique of producing lilies from seed is relatively simple. The various species and hybrids naturally divide themselves into several groups depending on how quickly they may germinate and develop.

The method you follow in planting seed will depend on whether you have a greenhouse or simply grow them in outside beds. A greenhouse is ideal because you can plant in the fall as soon as the seed matures and growth will then continue right through the winter. Or you can plant in February or March and quickly grow the seedlings on so that they can be transplanted out in summer to continue their growth. You might gain considerably this way by planting the easy or quick germinating varieties in flats and setting the flats outside as soon as it is frost free. You may want to plant seeds outside in prepared seedling beds growing your seedlings in a complete outside environment. In all these methods though you need to definitely keep the seeds and the seedling beds from drying out but kept moist at all times.

With the easy or quick growing lilies the seed germinates usually in two to three weeks and then the cotyledon, the true leaf, appears. From then on the seedling makes considerable growth. The slow group of germinating seeds produces tiny bulblets within or just outside the seed coat but needs a period of cold before having the ability to produce leaf growth. Some only put up a single leaf the second year and wait till the third year to make much growth and so will take longer before they flower.

Seedling lilies need a small amount of plant food as soon as they begin producing true leaves. A tablespoon of water soluble seedling fertilizer to a gallon of water is sufficient at this time. When planting seeds, flats, pots and tools must be clean to avoid soil borne diseases such as damping-off and basal rot caused by fungi. Disinfect all things used as well as soil medium. Vermiculite has proven valuable as a seed starting medium for lilies that are epigeal, ones that germinate immediately. Vermiculite is completely sterile, being prepared in a steam pressure of about 2000 pounds. It is also completely without plant food so that the seedlings started within it must be feed regularly if they are to make satisfactory growth.

When you start growing lilies from seed you can obtain seed from lily seed exchanges but as your interest develops you will want to grow your own. You may want to go into hybridizing. This phase of lily growing can easily become a lifetime hobby. But that is another story.

Companion Plants for Lilies

By B. J. Jackson

An all lily garden is absolutely glorious when it is in full bloom. Unfortunately, at other times, it can look just plain boring. Once the blooms are gone, you are left with a sea of green that provides little interest and not a heck of a lot to look at. I discovered this early on in my lily growing addiction. Then I discovered that many other plants do well when planted with the lilies and can actually help by

keeping the ground cooler in summer heat, especially in a full sun area.

I interplant the lilies primarily with daylilies. The daylilies are usually just coming into bloom when the lilies are finishing up. Some people say that daylilies require more water than lilies and therefore shouldn't be planted together. I haven't found this to be the case and they co-exist together quite well in all of my gardens. Other good perennial plant companions can include peonies, roses, delphiniums and iris to name just a few.

Martagon lilies can take some shade and do well inter-planted with irises, hostas and heucheras. I like to use plants with short to medium height to let the martagons stand out and become the focus of the semi-shaded area. The iris in these areas will bloom a bit later and may not look quite as spectacular as those in the sunny areas, but they will grow and bloom well providing much needed spring color.

Some things to consider when deciding which companion plants to use with your lilies include:

- * Be aware of the eventual height and spread of anything you put near your lilies.
- * Make sure the watering requirements of the plants you are considering are similar since lilies do not tolerate excessive summer watering well.
- * Don't plant pest magnet plants too close; you don't want to invite them all to the same place.
- * Remember that "flowers attract, leaves repel": strongly aromatic foliage can help deter certain pests that like to chew on plants without such a defense when planted together.
- * If you have bulb beds, which you constantly replant and change, you won't want permanent companion plants; consider using annual flowers instead, i.e. marigolds, cosmos, clarkia, nicotiana, zinnias, etc.

Fall Bulb Sale Report

Our Fall Bulb Sales were a success once again this year. We had a great selection of bulbs from a variety of sources including Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and the U.S. There were a number of featured lilies, including a good number of martagons at very reasonable prices. We are trying to introduce this lily to more of our members and the way they flew off the shelf, it worked. Thank you to all the members who helped with the three sales. We could not have these sales without all the help you give us. In addition, B. J. Jackson would like to thank the Dauphin Garden Club and other volunteers who turned out in Dauphin to make it the greatest day for that sale's 5th anniversary

I would like to ask our membership for some help regarding the Mail Order part of the sale. This was started so our out of town members would have the opportunity to purchase some of the bulbs available each year but who were unable to personally attend at the Brandon, Winnipeg or Dauphin venues. It seemed to get more popular each year but has since leveled off or decreased lately. Please let us know if you have any ideas regarding the Mail Order side. What are we doing wrong, or doing right or any new ideas you might have. We want to hear from you and we definitely don't want to lose it.

I want to introduce Ramona Crowther to you as our new Bulb Sale Chairperson. Ramona is a member who has helped out at the Winnipeg Sale for some time. She has graciously, (or should I say courageously) agreed to accept this position. I will be helping her out for the next year but am fully confident will be a great Chairperson on her own. Thank you, Ramona.

Remember, we have the Seminar coming up, details elsewhere in the Newsletter (see page 7). We always try to bring in some special bulbs for this. For those of you who are concerned about what to do with the bulbs this early, I store mine in the fridge for a while and then pot them up in 6 inch pots. After it has warmed up outside, I just bury them in the garden until I find just the right spot to put them. Usually these potted lilies are a little earlier than the garden ones so this lengthens your bloom season.

Len Giesbrecht

HERITAGE LILIES

Members of the MRLS are finding that some of our "older" lilies are beginning to disappear. These "older" lilies still have much to contribute to our gardens.

MRLS has decided to collect and honor Manitoba hybridized lilies and to call them "Heritage Lilies". We want to develop an illustration garden, growing heritage lilies. These are lilies from any division, developed by a Manitoba Hybridizer.

In Manitoba, we have lily hybridizers who have made significant contributions to the world of lilies.

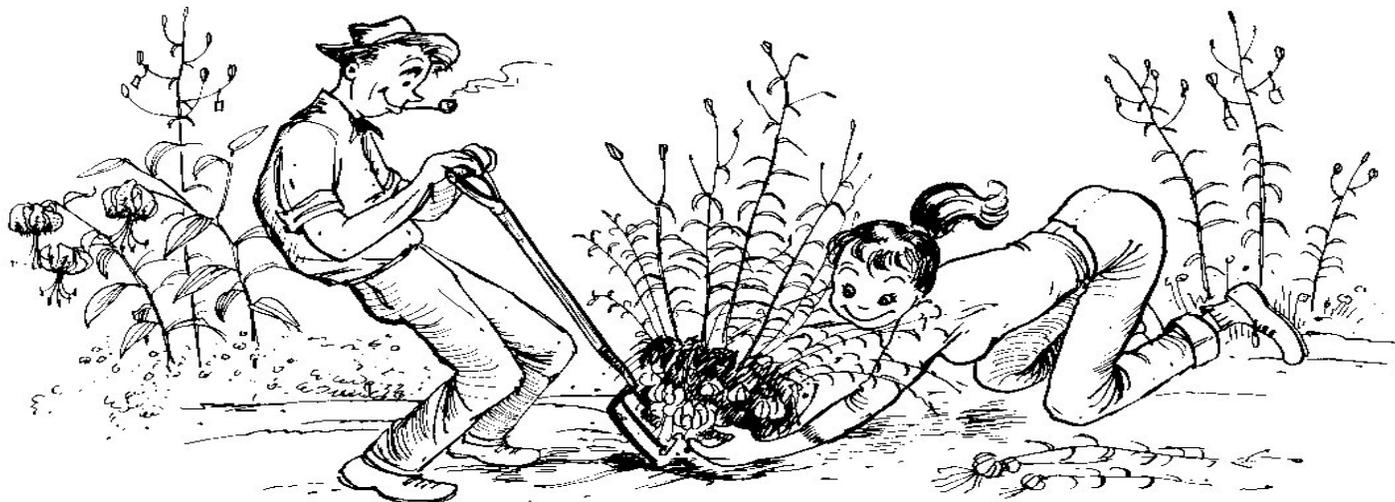
Manitoba hybridizers include: F. Skinner, Dropmore; Ed Robinson, Wawanesa; P. Pierrepont, Bowsman; J. Russell, Winnipeg; B. Strohman, Neepawa; W. Ronald. Morden/Portage; L. Collicut, Morden; Agric. Canada, Morden; B. Harp, Morden; S. Criddle, Treesbank. Over 200 lilies have been hybridized by these people.

This is an exciting project and MRLS needs every member and their friends to help with this project. Think about any old lilies in your yard or a friends or relatives garden. If you think there is something of value for this project, please let us know.

Futher information will follow in future newsletters.
John & Joan Svenson ph: 204-728-9036
Barrie & Nigel Strohman ph: 204-476-3225

What you should know about Hybrid Lilies

1. True lilies (genus *lilium*) are never dormant and must be treated as perennial plants.
2. As perennials, there is no need to lift and separate until they show loss of vigor, usally every three or four years.
3. Once established they are winter hardy under most conditions with a proper mulch.
4. Plant in full or partial sun but keep their roots cool.
5. They bloom over long periods (depending on the varieties) from May to September and can be forced all winter under glass or in a sunny window.
6. As hybrids, disease resistance and vigor has been bred into them.
7. Plant in clumps of three or more in a well drained location or in raised beds
8. May be planted in spring or fall but late flowering varieties (late August and September) are best planted in the spring.
9. Their versatility makes them popular as a garden plant, for cut flowers in arrangements and use in container for porch or patio.



Obituary Notices:

A Celebration of the life of Lillian Luky

by Barrie Strohman

We are saddened to report that Lillian Luky passed away Oct. 17, 2006 at the age of 71 after a courageous battle with cancer.

Lillian has been a member of our society practically since it was formed joining it in 1985. For over twenty years she has had an impact on our shows and bulb sales winning several awards for her breeding work and for her expertise for her lily growing. One of her hybrids was a yellow side facing tango that she called "Tanetz" ('The Dance' in Ukrainian) and another one was a tall black red seedling of a cross of *L. davidii willmontiae* and Black Butterfly. She was a member of the North American Lily Society, the Royal Horticultural Society, and the three other prairie societies, the Alberta Regional, the South Saskatchewan and the Canadian Prairie Lily Society. You could always see her happy smiling face where ever a lily function or show.

Lillian and her husband Nick farmed north of Gilbert Plains where they raised three children Zanolvia, Dennis, and Lisa

Lillian was noted for her creative pursuits. A few of these were painting, wood carving wood turning pottery and flower arranging. She was skilled in many of the Ukrainian arts such as wheat weaving embroidery and especially in psanky (Ukrainian designs painted and etched on eggs) and of course her culinary ability in her national dishes. She was noted for her large vegetable garden and in her hospitality where one would always enjoy a meal with her that would most surely be made up of the things that she grew. In her lily gardens could be found many lilies from Jean Ericksen, Ed Robinson and Chris North as well as many cultivars both from older and most recent releases. I remember a big lily bed of her dark red seedlings and her many other lily treasures. As a gifted artist who painted scenes of her home community she proved most capable with the use of her tal-

ent in figuring out and making a goodly number of successful and eye catching crosses in her lily patch, her lily canvas. Her Passion for lilies was demonstrated in that she always had 2 or 3 books out from our lily library and would drive down to return these and take out a couple more. This would always end with a tour of the lily field a sharing of lily pollen and ideas as to what would make some good crosses. Further as a love that she had for lilies several members of her family are also keen enthusiasts

We will certainly miss this cheerful happy lady this wonderful person who referred to herself as a "Ukrainian Baba", a Ukrainian grandma.

PETER MACDONALD ABEL 1928 - 2006

Peter Abel of Winnipeg, Manitoba, passed away at his home on October 1, 2006. Peter, a Professional Engineer, was highly regarded as he built his career with Manitoba Hydro. Upon retirement, Peter followed his hobby of model railroading with zeal. He could build anything for HO gauge models, but his love was for the Assiniboine Valley Railway. The AVR, is a model train and rail system where the club members delight in making exact models and taking the public for rides. Situated in Charleswood, it has many examples of Peter's handy work.

The loss of dear Peter Abel will be deeply felt by all of us. He was a great Professional Engineer, a fine lily grower at his Birds Hill property near the floodway, a very helpful MRLS member, and a whimsical, gentlemanly friend. We met regularly over snacks at Interval, during the annual Famous Organist series, at Westminster Church. And his work with the Vintage Railway people, was exemplary. We will miss him very much, as we treasure our memories of him. R.I.P - *Dr. Reg Gallop*

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- Barrie Strohmman- Box 846, Neepawa, MB R0J 1H0
- Lynn Collicutt

Notices:

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



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 Strohmman 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 liliun.

Coming Events

NEWSLETTER BY E-MAIL

Making any New Year's Resolutions this year??? If so, why not save a tree or two in the process and 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. This will allow us to put our money into lilies, education and events instead of postage. The trees we save will thank you, too!"

Sign up to get your newsletter by e-mail by sending a message to the newsletter editor, nigel@lilynook.mb.ca Thanks!

Manitoba Regional Lily Society Annual Spring 2007 Seminar

Date: April 7th, 2007
Place: Portage la Prairie, MB
Info: Guest speaker - David Sims of Bonners Ferry, Idaho
Topics; Hybridizing work of martagons with asiatic lilies.
(Details to follow in the next newsletter)

North America Lily Society Annual Seminar & Show Invitation To Edmonton 2007

It seems like only yesterday but it was 1995 when The Alberta Regional Lily Society hosted the North American Lily Society Show and Convention. Well, mark July 11-15 on your 2007 calendar as we are hosting the 60th Anniversary NALS Show and Convention.

This "DIAMOND JUBILEE" Celebration will be held at the Mayfield Inn and Suites (Trade Center) in Edmonton. We have a multitude of activities planned to accompany the Convention; lectures, tours, entertainment and a floral design workshop. Maybe a few dinner theater tickets could be made available as well. The highlight of the convention will be "THE MARTAGON QUILT" featuring martagons by Alberta/Canadian hybridizers.

For further information contact:

Lil McLean
10 Hummingbird Rd., Sherwood Park, Alberta T8A 0A2
(780)467-2660 email: lmclean@datanet

Neepawa Annual Lily Festival & Lily Show

Date: July 20th - 22nd, 2007
Place: B.P. Country Courthouse Yard
282 Hamilton Street, Neepawa, MB

THE TIME HAS COME FOR MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS!

(Membership expiry date can be found on the Address label after surname) i.e. Dec 06

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