



# Manitoba Lily Connection

Manitoba Regional Lily Society Newsletter

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*Affiliated with the North American Lily Society*

March 2007

## President's Message

Spring can't be far away if spring seminar is near. My dear sweet husband calls the MRLS Spring Seminar our 'Annual Lily Love-in' and for me, it is named right. I still remember my first seminar. I remember being so nervous as I walked through the door only knowing a couple of people and a bit fearful of being amongst so many strangers. The day was so much fun, the people were so warm and friendly and made me feel so welcome. I look back on the memory with happiness and it still makes me smile today. Now it is time for me to renew friendships, trade growing information, acquire more new lily bulbs, listen to wonderful and knowledge speakers and, if that is not enough, have a wonderful lunch with my friends, all for the modest price of \$20.00. Does it get better than that in my world? I think NOT. I encourage everyone to attend even if you have never been before, even if you don't know anyone....come and introduce yourself to me and we will go from there... you too can make a wonderful memory that will last your entire life. It is a wonderful way to start your lily season.

My term as President will end in April and I want to express to all the membership what an honour it has been to be of service to you and MRLS. I have enjoyed meeting so many of you and look forward to developing life long friendships with you.

Being President, for me, has been the easiest position I have held since becoming active in MRLS because the executive and directors were the hardest working group of people I have ever had the privilege of being a part. Each and every one of them never once

hesitated to step up to the plate to ensure that the member services were delivered and most times, stepped up without being asked just because that is the type of people they are. They LOVE Lilies and they care about the success of MRLS. I so want to say Thank You to them all for their support, work and above all their dedication to excellence.

I hope to see you all in Portage La Prairie on April 7<sup>th</sup> and I wish you all the best Lily growing season ever!

My Best Regards Always,  
Jennifer Bishop  
**President**

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# MANITOBA HERITAGE LILY CONSERVATION PROJECT

Report Feb. 8/07

## **Problem:**

MRLS is concerned about the loss or potential loss of genetic material, in genus 'lilium', developed by Manitoba hybridizers.

**Name of lilies:** Heritage Lilies

**Identify material:** Any Manitoba Hybridized Registered lily.

## **Manitoba Hybridizers:**

F. Skinner	Dr. Wilbert Ronald
E. Robinson	L. Collicut
P. Pierrepont	Agric. Canada, Morden
J. Russell	B. Harps
B. Strohman	S. Criddle

## **Aim of the Project:**

- We want to preserve Manitoba Hybridized Registered Heritage lilies (over 200 varieties).
- Even now many heritage lilies are little known because few lily suppliers propagate these exquisite gems.
- This will also allow MRLS to recognize and honor Manitoba lily hybridizers.

## **Method:**

- make a list of Manitoba hybridized registered lilies
- locate suitable lily garden sites to grow heritage lilies as they become available.
- plan for three sites.
- consider hardiness zone, soil type, rainfall and irrigation availability, accessibility and visibility for the public.
- plan for care and maintenance needs i.e. cultivation, disease and insect control, fertilizing and watering.
- consider cost of operation including rental of land, maintenance, purchase of bulbs, name markers, recording and PR costs such as signage.
- develop a contract with the land owner.

## **How to find and track heritage lilies:**

- provide a list of Manitoba Hybridized Registered lilies to all MRLS members, a list will be printed in the MRLS newsletter.
- members will be asked to assist in locating and/or gathering these lilies.
- lists to be made available at shows and educational meetings and to other societies.
- gathered information will be documented and updated as it becomes available.
- forms will be made to gather data i.e. lily name; owners name, address and phone number.

## **Statistics:**

Records will be kept as to names of hybrids and dates received, plus names of donors.

The number of bulbs at each garden site will be documented, plus extras and where they were distributed.

*(Continued on page 3)*

**Goals:**

1. develop one heritage lily garden site and working plan within one year.
2. in the future, two additional garden sites will be developed as bulbs and sites become available with a goal of three sites in total.
3. bulbs will be the property of MRLS.
4. contract to be developed with land owner, to include care and maintenance provided by the landlord (siteowner) Expenses (including rent) incurred to be paid by MRLS.
5. MRLS to provide volunteers as needed.
6. bulbs may be purchased by MRLS.
7. excess bulbs (over 12 at each site) may be sold. It is hoped that funds from the sale of excess bulbs will help cover expenses.
8. consideration to be given for the availability of pollen to other hybridizers.

**Heritage Lily Conservation Project  
Late Ed Robinson of Wawanesa, MB**

Ed Robinson originally started a nursery near the shores of Lake Winnipegosis in the 1930's. Later he moved to Wawanesa and established Gaybird Nursery where he sold trees shrubs and perennials. It was here that his interest in lilies grew to the point that he hybridized and registered 128 varieties of Asiatics. His most substantial work with lilies came with the cross he made between L. tsingtauense and known martagon hybrids His martagon registrants number over 30. These have proved to be the best of all the crosses made so far by others who made this same cross. Below you will find a list of Ed's lilies and if anyone or member has any of these please contact John Svenson at 728-9036 so that we can put them into a heritage garden of Manitoba breeders.

<p><b><u>Asiatics Ia:</u></b>          Amber Lights          Black Cloud          Desert Rose          Gaybird Gem          Grandstand          Harvest Moon          Lemon Glow          Lemon Jade          Orange Bedder          Orange Flare          Peach Pride          Pink Spire          Prairie Beauty          Prairie Fire          Prairie Midget          Radiant Glow          Red Orange Bedder          Red Spire          Russel Leslie          Shining Star          Startling          Sulphur Gem          Sun Valley          Tanglow          White Cap          Winered</p>	<p><b><u>Asiatics Ib</u></b>          Arctic Snows          Ben Red          Bloodstone          Centennial Pink          Copper Face          Copper Gold          Coral Seas          Cream Orchid          Fuchsia Swirl          Garnet Light          Green Glow          Ivory Snow          Ivory Supreme          Ivy Helen          Lavish Lady          Lemon Lode          Lightface          Lilac Chiffon          Lilian Gold          Lunar Landing          Lunar Look          New Snow          Northern Lights          Panned Gold          Pastel Jasper          Pink Change</p>	<p>Pink Floss          Pink Lady          Pink Lights          Pink Shell          Pink Skyline          Pink Triangle          Pink Wachea          Prairie Fawn          Prairie Fragrance          Prairie Gold          Prairie Harvest          Prairie Sands          Prairie Treasure          Radiant Pink          Red Elegance          Redcoat          Redmound          Rosy Amber          Rosy Light          Royal Beauty          Royal Robes          Snow Bunting          Snowbrite          Spotted Gold          Summer Gem          Summer Moon          Summer Pageant</p>	<p>Summer Tan          Tourmaline Red          White Shell          Winter Moon  <b><u>Asiatics Ic</u></b>          Burgundy Rose          Citrus Pride          Garnet Gem          Goldfind          Ivory Sands          Manitoba Centennial          Prairie Sky          Purple Robes          Ribbon Bows          Reta's Comet          Robinson's Comet    <b><u>Martagons:</u></b>          Autumn Color          Autumn Harvest          Blotchwood          Brotsing          Cadense          Dalhanse          Garnet Crystals          Gaybird          Golden Green</p>	<p>Hantsing          Ivory Gem          Ivory Jewel          Margaret Mauve          Morning Melody          Orange Marmalade          Orchid Gem          Pink Attraction          Pink Coral Belle          Pink Taurade          Prairie Gem          Raspberry Delight          Red Velour          Redpath          Redwine          Sontsing          Stormy Sunset          Towering Delight          Tsing          Tsingense          Whitewood          Yellowwood    <b><u>Trumpets:</u></b>          Primrose Beacon          Ottawa Gem</p>
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## MRLS TRIBUTE TO GENE FOX

I was introduced to Gene Fox and martagon lilies on the same day, a very hot July afternoon at the 1995 NALS Show in Edmonton, Alberta. I fell in love with the martagons instantly, but I wasn't terribly sure about Gene. He had wonderful clumps of martagons all over his property in Millet, Alberta, and I remember tripping over people trying to get a look at "just one more over there". Gene was slightly forbidding, probably due to the fact that hordes of people were tramping all over the place, and I am sure he was wincing inside each time someone trod too closely to any of the stems. There had to be other lilies there, but it was the martagons that held my focus.

And over the years, as I went to more NALS shows to judge, and then to Edmonton specifically to judge the martagon show, Gene became less distant. When I was asked to run for election as a director of NALS, Gene encouraged me, and when I was asked to take over as Recording Secretary of NALS, Gene gave me the final "push", as I was quite undecided.

Gene was passionate about lilies in general, but obsessed with martagons in particular, and it was the martagons that finally drew us together. Over the years at the various shows and meetings, we would seek each other out to discuss, compare, and judge the martagons which were entered in the shows. Because most of the shows in the north were later in July to enable all exhibitors to show their asiatics, trumpets, orientpets and others, the martagons usually got short shrift at the NALS shows.

I then discovered that the Alberta Regional Lily Society held an annual martagon show, and that did it for me. Each summer, for at least the past 4 years or so, I would go to Edmonton specifically to judge the martagon show, but also to visit with friends, shop at Hole's Nursery and see Marv Joslin and go through his fields evaluating martagons. When Gene found out that I was in Edmonton to judge the martagons, he invited me to visit him and go through his fields. And my collection of martagon cultivars grew and grew, and finally I gained enough of Gene's trust that he would provide me with his own martagons. You see, Gene was very fussy about selling his martagon bulbs, and, if I remember correctly, he would send the bulbs, together with a "Contract" that made the purchaser promise faithfully to look after the martagons! It was probably at that time that Gene and I started to correspond by e-mail, not only about martagons, but about life in general, random thoughts and pet peeves. For some reason I saved each e-mail, and I sometimes sit down and re-read them, laugh at some of his outrageous comments, and shed a tear for a lost friend.

Marv Joslin passed away just before the New Year, and I remember that Gene wrote to say that he and Gail had attended Marv's funeral, "to see old Marv off", and how touched he was at all the people who attended. Little did anyone realize that Gene would follow Marv two weeks later. The NALS Midwinter Meeting was about a week after that, and everyone there was in a state of shock at Gene's sudden passing. Although we knew that he wasn't in the best of health, none of us realized that he would be taken from us so quickly. I had so looked forward to seeing Gene at the Midwinter Meeting, and the thought that I would never see him again was hard to bear. I think that we were all in a state of mourning that weekend.

Gene was a friend, mentor, fellow martagon enthusiast and a person dear to me. I shall miss his friendship and the fact that I won't have the benefit of his knowledge, or have the ability to "pick his brain". His book on martagons sits on my living-room coffee table, and I frequently pick it up just to make sure that I'm not doing anything incorrectly, or have forgotten anything important.

I was very lucky to have visited Gene and Gail at the Fox Lily Ranch last July, and even luckier to have obtained several more of his named cultivars and seedlings, as well as some species that I had been dreaming about for years. I hope that Gene's newest creations become readily available and that all of his hard work hasn't been done in vain. And, I shall think of Gene every time I walk through my garden to see the martagons bloom.

Sandy Venton

**MANITOBA REGIONAL LILY SOCIETY  
SPRING SEMINAR AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2007**

**Saturday April 7th**

CANAD INNS – PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE - Phone (204) 857-9745

2401 Saskatchewan Ave West, Portage la Prairie, MB

**Registration - \$20.00 - Includes coffee breaks and hot lunch**

**PROGRAM**

**8:30 - Registration / Coffee / Socializing**

**9:00 - Welcome by President - *Jennifer Bishop***

**9:15 - Inter-specific Hybridization / Martasians- *David Sims***

**10:15 - COFFEE BREAK & SOCIALIZING**

**10:30 - Lily Beetle Control Efforts - *John Rempel***

**10:45 - Heritage Lily Program - *John Svenson***

**11:00 – Lily Breeding of inter-specific crosses in Manitoba – *Dr. Wilbert Ronald***

**11:20 - Growing Lilies from Seed – *Barrie Strohman***

**11:40 - Question & Answer Panel - (All your questions answered)**

**12:00 - LUNCH FOLLOWED BY SPRING BULB SALE**

**1:30 - MRLS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - (Nominations for Officers & Directors)**

**2:00 - Trumpet & Aurelian breeding, including black hearts and American species - *David Sims***

**3:00 - COFFEE BREAK & SOCIALIZING**

**3:15 - Live Auction/Silent Auction**

**4:00 - Closing**

**MRLS Spring Seminar — April 7th, 2007**

**Guest Speaker: David Sims**

David lives at Bonners Ferry in Idaho where he and his wife Stephanie have become quite involved with the North American Lily Society. David's work with lilies is getting world wide attention, especially with the interspecific crosses between asiatics and martagons which have been dubbed "martasians". His work along these lines and the work to make polyploids of martagons is very exciting and of intense interest to lily lovers the world over. Come see and hear the results of his work for you will be thrilled.

Your registration form can be found on the back page of this newsletter. Please pre-register if possible so we will have the numbers for the luncheon. (Although we will not turn you away at the doors!)

**Accommodation**

Canad Inns – 2401 Saskatchewan Ave West, Portage la Prairie, MB. Phone: (204) 857-9745

If you wish to stay over, book early at hotel as rooms fill fast. Rate is \$99.00 single or double occupancy. Mention you are attending the MRLS Seminar on the Saturday and ask for the Corporate rate.

## Notices:

### LIBRARY NOTICE:

To all who have library books out, please remember to bring them to the MRLS Spring Seminar or ship them ASAP to Barrie Strohman. The library will be at the Spring Seminar for your access.

The MRLS has one of the most comprehensive list of lily books that can be found that are available and is a real asset to one being a member. Enclosed in this newsletter is the list of books in the library. We are also on the lookout for any other publications on lilies that we do not have and would ask our members to also be alert to find any other books that are not on the list.

Librarian - Barrie Strohman

Ph: 476-3225 E-mail: barrie@lilynook.mb.ca

### NEWSLETTER BY E-MAIL

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

### Correction:

In the last newsletter it was reported that that Dauphin Garden Club provides volunteers for the fall bulb sale in Dauphin. This is incorrect! It is, in fact, the Dauphin Horticultural Society that has assisted us with the annual fall bulb sale in Dauphin and has since its inception in 2002. Please accept my apology for the error. B. J. Jackson"

### 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. (See article on page 1)

**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)

### 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 liliium.

## Note from the Editors Desk:

It is time for me to pass the torch of the newsletter editor on. I took on this task after the annual General meeting in 1999 from Gordon Danzinger. At this time Doreen Sage worked as my co-editor and helped me get the 1999—2002 issues out to the membership. A couple of more year went by with myself editing, printing and mailing out the newsletter until Barbara-Jean Jackson (known as BJ), offered to help with the printing and mailing aspects of getting the newsletter out. Once we had been able to get a system together of compatible software I was able to send BJ a copy for proofing. This arrangement was quite beneficial as she definitely could find all the mistakes in grammar and punctuation that I had missed. I have enjoyed working on the newsletter over the last 8 years but with my term coming up to be President, BJ has graciously (well maybe reluctantly) volunteered to take on the newsletter. I will still look after the MRLS web site which I should be able update more frequently. Any future article to be submitted for publication please send to Barbara-Jean Jackson; Email: jacksonb@brandonu.ca

## MRLS OFFICERS 2006

### OFFICERS:

- PRESIDENT:** Jennifer Bishop  
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E-mail:nigel@lilynook.mb.ca

## Coming Events

### 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 on page 5)**

### 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  
Ph: (780)467-2660 E-mail: lmclean@datanet.ab.ca

### Manitoba Regional Lily Society Annual Lily show held in conjunction with the Neepawa Annual Lily Festival

- Date:** July 20th - 22nd, 2007  
**Place:** B.P. Country Courthouse Yard  
282 Hamilton Street, Neepawa, MB  
(Details to be included with next newsletter)

**Manitoba Regional Lily Society  
Spring Seminar Registration Form**

Please pre-register by March 21st  
Registration - \$20.00 ea. - Includes coffee breaks and noon meal.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Ph: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_ Prov \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Send To: MRLS c/o Marlene Puls  
99 Macalester Bay  
Winnipeg, MB R3T 2X6**

**THE TIME HAS COME FOR MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS!**

If yours says December 06, this will be your last newsletter unless you renew as soon as possible. (Membership expiry date can be found on the Address label after surname)

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

**\$7.50 Year — Single Membership      \$10.00 Year — Family/Society Membership**

Newsletter delivered via:    \_\_\_\_\_ Post Mail                      \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail (adobe .pdf)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Ph: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_ Prov \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**SEND TO: MARLENE PULS  
99 MACALESTER BAY, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 2X6**