



# Manitoba Lily Connection

## Manitoba Regional Lily Society Newsletter

Volume 24, Issue 2

*Affiliated with the North American Lily Society*

June 2007

### President's Message

With another growing season upon us it looks like a full summer of lily enjoyment is just around the corner.

The MRLS Spring seminar in Portage la Prairie was enjoyed by all who were able to attend. Our guest speaker David Sims gave a couple of excellent talks on his breeding work and growing lilies. With the Annual board meeting we have had a change in the executive board. The following members term on the board are now past. Len Giesbrecht who has done a great job with the bulbs sales. Ed Czarnecki who will continue to be a part of the research committee. Barbara-Jean Jackson (BJ), who will now take over looking after the newsletter. We welcome our three new board members, Ramona Crowther who will look after and work with Len on the Bulb Sales as well as Catherine Isbister and Fran Wershler who will be assets to our organization. John Rempel who is on the Research Committee and who has done a great job in educating the public on the lily beetle is our new Vice President. With Jennifer Bishop's term expiring as President I would like on behalf of the MRLS membership to thank her for all her work in the society and look forward to continue working with Jennifer. A Big Thank You! to all the officers & directors for your contributions in helping making the MRLS a great society to belong to. In the newsletter you will find a new list of Officers and directors and contact information. Oh, and yes I, Nigel Strohmman now look forward to serving our membership as President. If you have any comments questions, suggestions and complaints please feel free to contact me at 204-476-3225 or email [nigel@lilynook.mb.ca](mailto:nigel@lilynook.mb.ca)

The Martagon lilies are all looking healthy and some are over two feet now. Now if only Jack Frost will stay away we should have a good turn out for our

Martagon Exhibition Show to be held at the Winnipeg conservatory, July 1st. This martagon exhibition show will be an introductory and educational one that will not be judged, so bring in a couple of Martagon stems if you can to make this first show a real success so we can continue to make it an annual MRLS event.

The North American Lily Society show is in Edmonton July 11 -15<sup>th</sup>. Since the Alberta Regional Lily Society members brought ample stems and took many awards when we hosted the NALS show in 2005, if you can attend make sure you take some stems to enter so Manitoba Lily Society can return the favor. With informative talks, lots of fellowship with other lily enthusiast from around the world and some exciting garden tours on Saturday, if you can make it out west it will definitely be worth your while especially if you love martagons!

This year the MRLS Summer lily show will be in conjunction with the Neepawa & Area Lily festival July 20-22, so how about bringing some stems, making it a weekend as you will need a full day to check out the lily parks and the Lily Nook growing fields that are open for viewing that weekend. Make sure you mark on your calendar Dr. Reg Gallop's annual BBQ and garden tour. Also check inside the newsletter for other great garden tours you and some gardening friends can make to keep the lily lover in you satisfied.

Best wishes for a great lily growing year and I look forward to seeing you at some if not all of the summer events.

Nigel Strohmman,  
President

**Lily Beetle Report**  
**By: John Rempel, Chairman**  
**MRLS Research Committee**

It is the middle of May as I write this article, the lilies look like they enjoyed our winter and survived the drought of 2006. For gardeners with lily beetles their joy has quickly turned to sorrow. A number have given up the battle and destroyed their lily plantings.

This is the second year that the Research Committee has monitored the beetle's movements in Manitoba. The Portage la Prairie phone line (204-856-0844) was back in service as of April 1<sup>st</sup>. To date, I have received 15 reports. The first sightings were on April 14<sup>th</sup>. Most calls are from Portage and area as well as a few from Oakville. I reply to every call and offer information on beetle control. If requested I send out information via email or regular post.

This spring, Ed Czarnecki and I made up a new poster that was delivered to all of the major garden centres in Winnipeg. The poster has pictures of the beetle and larvae and a contact number as well as my email. So far I have not received any reports of the beetle in Winnipeg although we had 4 sightings last year.

Ted Meseyton, gardening columnist in Portage la Prairie has again taken it upon himself to highlight the lily beetle in his weekly articles. He is also known as "The singing Gardener" and is well known by gardeners in the Portage area.

To summarize the research we have done, the beetle ranges from Sidney to Oakville with 4 sightings last year in Winnipeg. It appears to be travelling in a west to east direction. It would take quite a bit of time to check small towns along Highway 1 to see how widespread the beetle really is. I had hoped that the cold April we had would have killed the beetles but they seem to be fully zone 3 hardy.

There is a new product on the market called Safer's "END ALL". It consists of Canola Oil and Pyrethrin. I have not tested it yet but it may turn out to be an Eco friendly way of controlling the beetle at the egg and larvae stage. Hopefully I will have the chance to test it somewhere.

Please call me if you have any tips to pass along.

Remember lily growers, be Vigilant and keep looking down.

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**A HERITAGE LILY STORY**

**By: John & Joan Svenson**

A number of years ago, we found a heritage lily. We noticed an unusual lily at the corner of the cottage next door. It had leaves that came from the stem in groups at intervals along the stem and it had beautiful delicate pink with soft yellow centre, down-facing flowers, and was about 3' tall.

The elderly cottage owners gave the cottage to their son and family. We watched this lily bloom, but each year it got mowed down. The number of stems gradually decreased. Then, one day we learned that the old cottage was scheduled for demolition and a larger new cottage would replace it. We knew the lily would be dug up by machinery and hauled away in the dirt removal truck. We decided to rescue this lily which we then knew was a martagon. With shovel in hand, we crept next door on a warm fall day. Now we had to remember where the lonesome lily was situated. There were no stems because of the frequent lawn mower visits. We picked a spot and dug. Two or three bulbs appeared. We took them to Brandon and carefully planted them in a special spot in our yard.

The next spring, when we returned to the lake, there was another sprout from a bulb we had missed last fall. The construction crew was expected any day. We decided to dig it anyway because it would only end up somewhere in a pile of dirt. Again with shovel in hand, we went to the corner of the old cottage and gently dug the lonely lily. With lots of TLC, we took it back to Brandon and settled it beside its sisters.

After a couple years of happy growth, it bloomed. With much research, we discovered it was a Skinner introduction. That wasn't a big surprise because our cottage is in the Duck Mountains and people who wanted lilies in that area probably went to Dropmore Nurseries (owned and operated by Frank Skinner) for their plants.

The heritage lily we were able to rescue was "Sunset Glow", registered and named by Frank Skinner, in the Skinner's Nursery catalogue in 1954.

The Heritage Lily Committee needs everyone's help in finding heritage lilies. We want every member and friend to keep their eyes open for old lilies in parks, old farm yards, seniors gardens, grandparents yards, etc. You do not need to know its name, but please contact someone on the committee, and we will send a MRLS member out to see the lily. If we identify the lily as a heritage lily, we would like to get some bulbs for the MRLS Heritage Lily Garden. Contact John or Joan Svenson at 728-9036, Jennifer Bishop @ 661-5036 or Nigel or Barrie Strohman at 476-3225 .

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## Open Gardens 2007

**The following Board of Directors have consented to have their gardens placed on the 2007 Open Gardens list. See below for dates and details**

### **Dr. Reg Gallop,**

Sandy Bay MB - **Sunday, 22 July 2007**

Proceed from Winnipeg via Highway 59N to Victoria Beach. Continue straight on Highway 504 and turn left at McCawley Road then left again at McCord Drive to #23 on the shores of Lake Winnipeg. Parking is limited. Features an array of many different named and unnamed martagon lilies, asiatics, LAs and a few species. growing mostly in mixed natural and bushland settings amid several different companion plants including delphiniums, clematis, hardy roses, aquilegias, etc. Call to confirm attendance. 475-4144 or e-mail: ragallop@mts.net

### **John Rempel,**

590 Municipal Road, Winnipeg - **By Appointment**  
Municipal Road runs off Roblin Boulevard in Charleswood (West Winnipeg), about 2 kms east of the perimeter highway overpass. Open hours - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call 895-2212. The garden can be viewed before or after the show by calling to make sure someone is home. Features a large open area with in excess of 200 varieties of lilies. There are also plantings of gladiolus, dahlias and New Zealand delphiniums. Other flower beds feature hardy Morden roses as well as an assortment of fruit trees.

### **Sandy Venton,**

203 Vernon Road, Winnipeg - **By Appointment**

From Portage Avenue East - proceed west and turn north on Vernon Road. #203 is on the east side of the street. The first light before Vernon is Mount Royal, and the first light after Vernon is Whytefold. Features include a variety of large perennial beds which consist of lilies, roses, peonies, daylilies, hostas, irises, cimicifugas, ferns, oriental poppies, heucheras, not to mention a disporum flavum, bloodroot, epimedium, and filipendulas. The lilies run the gamut from martagons to asiatics, with a smattering of orienpets and trumpets.

### **Brandon University Lily Display Garden,**

270-18th Street, Brandon - **Any time**

Two hours west of Winnipeg, proceed on the Trans Canada Highway (#1) to the second set of lights (18th Street) and turn left. Proceed down 18th Street, cross the 18th Street bridge and continue on south two sets of lights to the intersection with Princess Avenue.

Brandon University will be ahead on your right.

Access to the campus is past the first building (Health Studies) and parking is available. The garden is located behind the university sign straight ahead of the Clark Hall/Original Building.

Features a variety of martagon, asiatic, LA, orienpet and species lilies. The garden is accented with a hedge planting of alpine currant with specimen weeping caragana marking the boundaries.

Companion plantings of daylilies are interspersed throughout. The lily garden is usually surrounded by a large bed of marigolds and petunias.

### **Joan and John Svenson**

- 194 Clark Drive, Brandon - **Any time**

From Brandon University (see above), proceed south to Victoria Avenue. Turn west and continue past 26th Street to Clark Drive. #194 in on your left, 2nd house from the corner. Features - a large collection of Asiatic lilies including an extensive collective of heritage Patterson varieties.

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## **The Lily**

by William Blake.

**The modest Rose puts forth a thorn,  
The humble sheep a threat'ning horn:  
While the Lily white shall in love delight,  
Nor a thorn nor a threat stain her beauty bright.**

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## MRLS Spring Seminar 2007

By Deborah Petrie

Lily season this year began with the annual MRLS Spring Seminar held at the Canad Inn in Portage la Prairie on April 7<sup>th</sup>. There were over 60 registrants were treated to a very full day of great information, lily bulbs to buy and wonderful fellowship of old and new lily friends.

With Jennifer Bishops' warm welcome and the introduction of the program for the day the seminar officially began. First on the agenda was David Sims from Idaho and his presentation on the ground breaking work he is doing in "Martasian" breeding.

Now what is a martasian you ask? It is a cross between Martagon lilies and Asiatic lilies. He reported no success yet in transferring the whorled leaves of the Martagons to these hybrids but has had good success in increasing flower size and plant vigor. The pictures shown were mouth watering to say the least and David's style engaged the audience and made a somewhat confusing area of hybridization more understandable to me.

Then with coffee and socializing over we listened attentively to John Remple's report on the Lily Beatle control efforts resuming in Manitoba this season. See page 2 of this newsletter for John's report.

Next was a presentation on The Heritage Lily Program by John Svenson. The site for the first Heritage Garden has been chosen at the Lily Nook in Neepawa and work will proceed in gathering the Heritage Lilies to be planted there.

Dr. Wilbert Ronald then gave a presentation on present and future efforts in inter specific crosses being done in Manitoba. He spoke about his work with Griesbach Orientpets and also with tetraploid Aurelians. In the future he hopes this work will lead to the ability to produce lilies that will freely recombine the factors for the hardiness of the Asiapets, the fragrance of the Orientpets and the flower colours of the Asiapets.

Our last morning session was on starting lilies from seed presented by Barrie Strohman. He helped us to

untangle the maze of epigeal and hypogeal seed germination and demystified the whole process. Growing lilies from seed isn't something I have ever thought to do, but after listening to him I just might try it.

Lunch was next and following an excellent meal, had to walk it off while touring the bulb sale tables. There was a good selection of new to me lilies that of course I toured it repeatedly and ended up buying too many (but you can never have too many lilies can you?). The newest L/O's were a real hit with a lot of our members me included.

The afternoon began with the Annual General Meeting. The election of officers went smoothly and all vacancies were filled. See page 8 for the updated list of Officers and Directors.

David Sims final presentation then took a look at what is happening in his Trumpet and Aurelian breeding program. The black heart lily pictures delighted the audience. He also talked about his work with the west coast American lily species *L. humboldtii*, *L. parryi* and *L. pardalinum*. David included for our enjoyment, a few photos of his best work, his children.

Another coffee break and then the "pick a prize" auction prizes were awarded. Sandy Venton won the raffle of the quilt donated by Naomi Weibe entitled Jacobean Rhapsody and was much envied.

Sadly, that brought the seminar to an end for another year.

I would like to thank all the members who volunteered their time to help make yet another MRLS Spring Seminar a great success. As our past president Jennifer Bishop would say, "You Rock"!!

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### In Memory of Anna K. Storgaard By Reg Gallop

We are saddened to report the passing of member Anna Storgaard on 11 March 2007 at the age of 77 years. She was one of the earliest MRLS members and remained active, in helping with our Shows and other events, over many years.

She and her sister Inge were regulars at our Bulb Sales and grew many fine lilies at their Mulvey Street home in Winnipeg.

Anna was a dear friend and colleague of mine in the Faculty of Agriculture of the University of Manitoba as we worked together, in many ways, over about 25 years. She was always creative, positive, courteous, cheery and enthusiastic in whatever tasks were involved, and all very much appreciated her efforts to help them. Her devoted interest in her many students over her long career was outstanding; and gratefully remembered. I think that will be her greatest legacy, as we, and they, remember and emulate her ways in our lives.

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### **Barrie Strohman Receives Award**

Barrie Strohman, a founding member of the Manitoba Lily Society, was presented with the North American Lily Society's Regional Medal by MRLS President Jennifer Bishop at the MRLS Spring Seminar April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

This medal, provided by the North American Lily Society, is given for outstanding service to a regional society. Barrie has served as board member as well as president of MRLS, and is currently on the Research Committee as well as being our librarian. He has also served on the North American Lily Society Board of Directors as well as being a past president of NALS.

Since the MRLS inception, I believe Barrie has not missed a board meeting. At the annual lily shows, both MRLS and NALS, Barrie could always be found giving helpful advice. His dedication to the promotion of the genus *Lilium* is evident when one attends the annual bulb sales or the lily shows where he can be found in the forefront in the setting up and the operation of these events where he has served in classification, judging and in the dismantling of these events.

As an avid hybridizer, he has encouraged many others to enter this aspect of lily growing. He serves as an example of dedication for our membership.

Congratulations, Barrie, it is a well deserved honor!

## **New Event**

**Martagon Exhibition Show  
to be held**

**Sunday, July 1st—10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

**Set Up 8 a.m.; Take down 4:30 p.m.**

**Assiniboine Park Conservatory**

**No judging, for exhibition purposes only; experienced NALS judges and MRLS members will be on hand to answer any questions you might have about growing and showing martagon lilies.**

**So, come on down and bring your best martagon stems with you!**

**Martagons are usually long past by the time our annual show is held so the Board of Directors decided to try this out on an exhibition level.**

**If all goes well, we hope it will become an annual event.**

**Show schedules will be available to download from the website  
([www.manitobalilies.ca](http://www.manitobalilies.ca))**

**For further information contact  
Show Chair: Sandy Venton at 888-2837  
or Barrie Strohman at 476-3225**

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### **Judging School Up-date**

The NALS judging school is a go for late winter, 2008 in Portage la Prairie. Further details will be announced in the December newsletter.

If you are interested in the full or refresher program but haven't let anyone know yet, please contact Barrie Strohman at 204-476-3225. Accurate numbers are required to ensure availability of sufficient materials for all.

NALS has recommended that all accredited judges should take a refresher program to remain current in their status.

## Frank Leith. Skinner

Frank Leith Skinner (1882-1967) was born in Rosehearty, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, and moved to Canada at the age of eighteen. He eventually established a nursery near Dropmore, Manitoba, where he soon began breeding plants in the hope of increasing the number of hardy subjects for use in the prairie provinces. He brought many plants from the colder regions of the world to Dropmore to be tested and used in his breeding work.

Skinner's work with lilies was extensive, and he introduced a host of varieties from the early 1930s on. He received many honors for his plant-breeding achievements, including the Order of the British Empire and the E. H. Wilson Award from the North American Lily Society in 1964. He was one of the pioneer in the realm of prairie lily hybridizing.

### Division II Martagons:

Black Prince  
Glacier  
Guinea Gold  
Blush  
Helen Skinner  
Ivorie  
Juanita  
Moonbeam  
Prisilla  
Redman  
Rosalinda  
Sunset Glow

### Division VI Trumpets

Assiniboine  
Cupid  
Greenland  
Moonglo  
North Star

### Division I Asiatics

Amaryllis	Azalia	Dieppe
Dropmore Condor	Dropmore Gold	Dropmore rirole
The Duchess	Dunkirk	Evening Star
Flambeau	Glow	Golden Candlestick
Golden Purity	Helen Carroll	Lady Lou
Lemon Lady	Margaret Johnson	Maxwill
Orange Princess	Philada	Prairie Harlequin
Russet	Scottiae	Skinner's Orange
Yellow Bunting		

Please call John or Joan Svenson if you have or know the whereabouts of any of the above varieties. They can be reached at (204) 728-9036 (Ed.)

## Notices:

### **MRLS 2007 Fall Bulb Sales**

**Location 1 - Winnipeg,  
Assiniboine Park Conservatory,  
September 29 and 30.**

**Location 2 - Brandon, The Town Center,  
September 29**

**Location 3 - Dauphin, Marketplace Mall,  
October 6**

**Volunteers will be needed to help dig bulbs at the  
Lily Nook on September 22nd. If you can help,  
contact Ramona Crowther , Bulb Sale Committee  
Chair at [rambo4546@shaw.ca](mailto:rambo4546@shaw.ca)**

### **Lily Trading Post**

**Looking for that special lily! Just drop me a note or  
email and we will publish your lily desires  
- [jacksonb@mts.net](mailto:jacksonb@mts.net) or call 727 7409.**

### **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)

## **NALS Diamond Jubilee Show and Convention, Edmonton July 11—15, 2007.**

**Preferred pricing deadline in effect for  
registrations received before June 15th.**

**See your spring NALS Quarterly Bulletin  
or download the forms from the NALS website:**

**[www.lilies.org](http://www.lilies.org)**

**Mayfield Inn and Suites Trade Centre**

### **MRLS 23rd Annual Show**

**Held in combination with Neepawa & Area  
11th Annual Lily Festival Show**

**Friday to Sunday, July 20 to 22, 2007**

**Located under the Lily Tent at the Country Court House  
282 Hamilton Street, Neepawa MB**

