



# Manitoba Lily Connection

Manitoba Regional Lily Society Newsletter

Volume 25, Issue 1

*Affiliated with the North American Lily Society*

March, 2008

## President's Message

As Spring is approaching, I am sure you are pursuing the many garden catalogues that have arrived in the winter months, picking out a few "I can't do without" perennials and of course LILIES!!

A full year of activities with our lily society is planned which started off with a NALS accredited Judging school on March 1<sup>st</sup>. I hope you have participated in the course, it is a great learning experience about just what is a lily, parts of a lily, lily species and pronunciation, showing and classification of lilies and of course judging lilies.

Next, I look forward to seeing you at the annual Spring seminar on March 29th. See page 4 for details!! The Spring seminar is always a good time to get together with our fellow lily enthusiasts to discuss gardening, favorite lilies of 2007, hybridizing ideas and growing techniques.

We have a superb guest speaker, Dr. Jim Ault from the Chicago Botanic Garden. His talks will definitely add to the enthusiasm of growing lilies. Also you can find out what is happening in your society, as many exciting projects are being fulfilled and more being planned! If you have any lily ideas or would like to participate in some of the projects or events, we will be happy to have you.

The spring seminar is also an opportunity to use the MRLS extensive library where there is a wealth of information spanning close to 100 years. I can't wait!!

After the excitement of the spring

seminar, we can look forward to a busy summer starting with our newest event, the Martagon show June 28th. In July there are the many lily shows to attend, from the NALS show in Victoria, BC, to the Neepawa Lily festival, and our own MRLS show which will be held in Winnipeg this year.

Hope to see you and have the opportunity to talk to you at one, or preferably all the events that are planned this year!

Nigel Strohman



*OT Northern Sensation at Brandon University  
Photo: B. J. Jackson*

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## Selecting and Preparing Martagons for Showing

By: *Barrie Strohman*

One should start to select a Martagon stem for the show when you first see them emerging in the spring. When you see a nose pushing up as big as a horse, so to speak, keep it under observation right up until show time. At the time it emerges and continues to grow this is when you may want to talk to it if you are so inclined. "Come on, you can do it. What a handsome spike you are going to become. My how tall and straight you are growing". You can do this as you are keeping it weed free, mulching it to keep its bulb cool and feeding it with a balanced fertilizer when it comes up and when its buds start to show.

As it grows, watch to see that it becomes a uniform, balanced spike carrying a good number of flowers. Check to see that the flower placement on the stem have equal space. Check its vigor and condition, keeping away any pests or insects because you want it as near a perfect stem as possible in order to garner that first place ribbon.

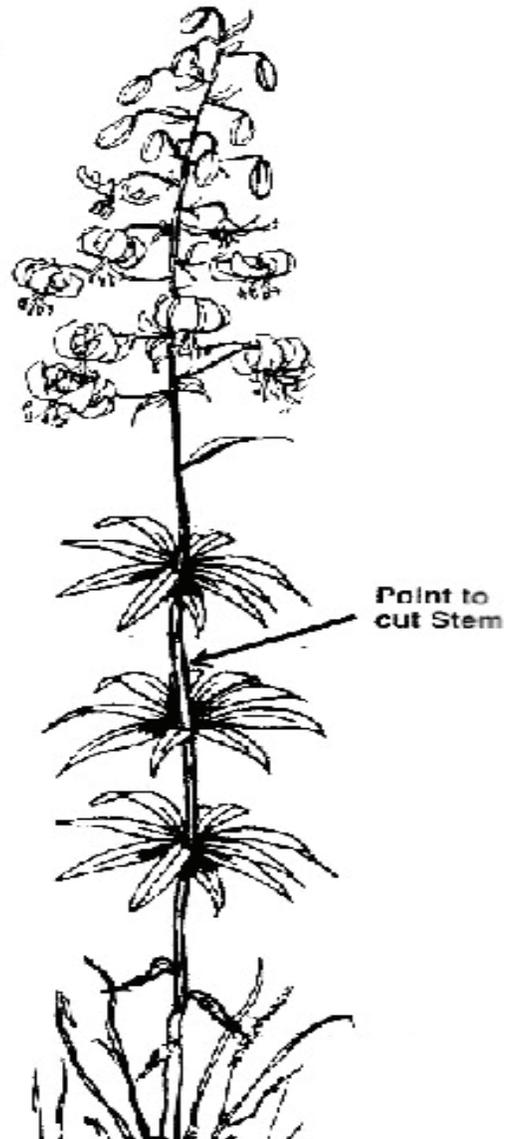
Now comes the time you are ready to cut the stem for the show. This is, of course, after you have shed a few tears, for you have become real close to this stem over the past two months. Where to cut this beautiful stem is most important. If one cuts the stem too close to the ground there will be no leaves left to feed the bulb and renew it for next years' growth. If one cuts it too high the stem will not be in good proportion to the inflorescence.

A good rule of thumb is to leave a third of the foliage on the plant. With a martagon, cut the stem so that you have at least one whorl of leaves. This means cutting it just above the second whorl of leaves from the flower inflorescence (see figure opposite). This will give a good stalk for the show container with a whorl of leaves nicely displayed one or two inches above to top of the container. Cut the stem with at least one floret open but the more that are open and are in a fresh state the better. Most exhibitors that live near the show site cut their entries after the first flowers have opened and bring them to the show in containers of water. Great care should be taken so that the blooms are not crushed, bruised or broken. Ideally pop bottles and their containers

prove a good way to transport the stems.

Before or at the show you will need to groom your stems so that they are shown to their best advantage. First, look for unwanted hitchhikers such as spiders, lady bugs or the like. Clean off tree fluff, dirt, bird droppings, or spray residue from the leaves with a soft brush or a wet Q-tip. If a leaf has a brown end trim it off with a sharp scissors so that the contour of the stem remains the same. Check to see that no pollen has dropped off onto the petals. If this is so then gently clean it with a soft brush or Q-tip.

Now fill out your entry tags and have your stems placed on the show bench. Then sit back, relax and enjoy the show and dream of a winning stem.



## BULB SALES IN 2008

*By Ramona Crowther, Bulb Sale Committee Chair*

Spring may not have sprung, but we are already looking towards the great bulb sales we will offer you this fall at three different locations in Manitoba. And, **NEW** for 2008, the Winnipeg sale will be ONE DAY only on Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup>. It will be held at a new location, too, the St. James Civic Centre on Ness Avenue. We will have more room to show the best bulbs ever, and there is lots of parking. On Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup> join us in Brandon at the Town Center. Or on Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup> take a trip to Dauphin, where the Marketplace Mall hosts the final sale of the year. We promise great bulbs to all sale locations.

I am starting to receive lists from suppliers and I know they will ensure that we satisfy all our enthusiasts. You have lots of time to let us know what you are interested in for this year. Looking for a special lily? What did you see or hear about that we can try and bring in for you? You have till August 1<sup>st</sup> to get your wish list in to us. There is a "Contact us" button on the MRLS website ([www.manitobalilies.ca](http://www.manitobalilies.ca)) which will pass on the message to us. Keep watch on the website as we update and let you know more about what we will be doing.

For the Spring Seminar, here are just a few of the bulbs that will be available to tempt you:

- **COCKTAIL TWINS** - (1a) Large double red/orange blooms with deeper intensity towards the center. 3'
- **DANCING EYES** - (1a) Pristine white flowers with a deep purple flame surrounded by large spots 3'
- **BLACK SPIDER** - (1a) Deep burgundy speckles combine at the center of ivory petals. 3'
- **MANGO** - (1a) Mango orange with dark brown speckles covering more than half of the petals. 3'
- **CECIL** - LA Hybrid- Creamy white with burgundy red speckles around center and up the edges. 3'
- **EYELINER** - LA Hybrid - Large side-facing white blooms highlighted with a dark penciled edge. 3'
- **HOLLAND BEAUTY**- OT - Huge blooms of soft red with creamy yellow edges and tips. 4'
- **PURPLE KING** - OT- Majestic purplish pink blooms highlighted by center flare of deep red/purple. 4'

And many more..... See you there and race you to the sale table!!!

## First Annual Martagon Show sanctioned by the Manitoba Regional Lily Society

*By Sandy Venton, Show Chair*

The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Martagon Show, sanctioned and judged by the Manitoba Regional Lily Society, will be held on Saturday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at the Assiniboine Park Conservatory. All entries may be brought to the Conservatory after 4:30 p.m. on Friday evening, but not after 8:00 p.m.. Further entries may be brought to the Conservatory after 6:00 a.m. on Saturday morning. Entries will be closed at 9:00 a.m., at which time judging will commence. The Show will be open to the public from 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m.

We request that if you have a martagon stem, please bring it to the show. There would be no show if stems were not entered, and we are therefore asking all members and friends of MRLS to make as many entries as possible. If you have a martagon that you wish to have identified, please bring it to the show on Saturday, and someone will try to identify it for you. If you have a martagon that was purchased at our Fall Bulb Sales in the past few years, and marked as a seedling, then it is not a named cultivar. If you wish to enter it into the Show, it must be entered in the seedling class. If you are unsure as to which area it should be entered, again, someone will be able to advise you.

Remember, this is our first judged Martagon Show. Last year we had a display only which wasn't judged. If we want this to be our first, but not our last Show, please make sure that you enter as many stems as you are able. Because this is just a one-day show, you may take your stems home with you at the end of the day.

And, it's not whether you win or lose, it's for the love of the flower.

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

**Saturday March 29<sup>th</sup> 2008**

Holiday Inn Airport West – Winnipeg - Reservations 1-800-665-0352

2520 Portage Ave, Winnipeg, MB

If you wish to stay over, Book early at hotel as rooms fill fast

**Registration - \$25.00 - Includes coffee breaks and hot lunch**

**PROGRAM**

- 8:30 - Registration / Coffee / Socializing**
- 9:00 - Welcome by President - *Nigel Strohman***
- 9:15 - Species Lilies Worth Growing - *Dr. Jim Ault***
- 10:15 - COFFEE BREAK & SOCIALIZING**
- 10:30 - Growing Lilies in Manitoba - *John Rempel***
- 11:15 - Reports (*Research, Heritage*) - Slide shows (*New Lilies*)**
- 11:45 - Question & Answer Panel - (All your questions answered)**
- 12:00 - LUNCH FOLLOWED BY SPRING BULB SALE**
- 1:30 - MRLS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**
- 2:00 - A Walk Down one Lily Breeder's Garden Path – *Dr. Jim Ault***
- 3:00 - COFFEE BREAK & SOCIALIZING**
- 3:15 - Tickets / Silent Auction**
- 4:00 - Closing**

**Manitoba Regional Lily Society  
Seminar Registration Form**

**Please pre-register by March 15, 2008 - All pre-registrations will receive a free lily bulb!!  
Registration - \$25.00 ea. - Includes coffee breaks and noon meal.**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

**City/Town:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Province:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Postal Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number Attending:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Amount Enclosed:\$** \_\_\_\_\_

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

## Notices:

### Lily Trading Post

**Looking for a Hugh Cocker asiatic called Dots 'n Dashes. If anybody knows where I can get it, please contact me at [jacksonb@mts.net](mailto:jacksonb@mts.net) or call 727 7409.**

### NEWSLETTER BY E-MAIL

Increasingly people want color in their newsletters. In order to see that color, because of the high cost of color printing, receiving your newsletter by e-mail will allow you to see any pictures, etc. in color. All you need is a computer, an e-mail account and Adobe Acrobat Reader to receive it in pdf format. The trees we save will thank you! Sign up to get your newsletter by e-mail by sending a message to : [nigel@lilynook.mb.ca](mailto:nigel@lilynook.mb.ca)

### Upcoming Events

**MARTAGON SHOW - Saturday, June 28, 2008**  
Assiniboine Park Conservatory, Show Chair Sandy Venton  
Show Schedule will be available on the website ([www.manitobalilies.ca](http://www.manitobalilies.ca))  
and included with your June newsletter so watch for it!

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**NALS 2008 CONFERENCE AND SHOW**  
Wednesday, July 2 to Sunday, July 6, 2008  
Location: Sidney, British Columbia at the Mary Winspear Centre  
For more information see [www.nals2008.org](http://www.nals2008.org)

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**24th ANNUAL MRLS SHOW**  
July 26th, 2008  
Kildonan Place, Winnipeg  
Further details and show schedule will be in the June newsletter

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**FALL BULB SALES**  
Saturday, September 27, 2008 - Winnipeg  
Saturday, October 4, 2008 - Brandon  
Saturday, October 11, 2008 - Dauphin

### LAST CALL FOR MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS!

(Membership expiry date can be found on the Address label after surname i.e. Dec 07)

**M.R.L.S. Membership Renewal Form**  
\$7.50 Year — Single Membership \$10.00 Year — Family/Society Membership

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

POSTAL CODE \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE# \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS – 2007

PRESIDENT	Nigel Strohman	SECRETARY	Sandy Venton
VICE-PRESIDENT	John Rempel	REASURER	Marlene Puls
NEWSLETTER	Barbara-Jean Jackson	PAST PRESIDENT	Jennifer Bishop
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	Fran Wershler	Deb Petrie	Reg Gallop

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RESEARCH COMMITTEE John Rempel, Ed Czarnecki, Barrie Strohman, Nigel Strohman,  
Sandy Venton

LIBRARY Barrie Strohman SEMINAR John Rempel HISTORIAN Gwen Jamieson

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