



Manitoba Lily Connection

Manitoba Regional Lily Society Newsletter

Volume 25, Issue 4

Affiliated with the North American Lily Society

December, 2008

President's Message

2008 Year in Review

It was a busy year with lilies. The MRLS started the year with a Judging School at the beginning of March. Under the direction and teaching of the dynamic duo, Dr. Wilbert Ronald and Barrie Strohmman, courses one and two were covered and reviewed. Seventeen participants paid close attention with several N.A.L.S. judges taking it as a refresher course and several taking it to start them on the road to becoming accredited lily judges. Fourteen responded by taking the exam with all receiving passing marks.

Next we had our annual spring seminar at the end of March. The seminar was held at the Holiday Inn Airport West in Winnipeg. Our feature speaker this year was Dr. Jim Ault from the Chicago Botanical Gardens. He gave several interesting and entertaining presentations on the use of species lilies in breeding as well as how he uses them in his own breeding work. Our other presenter was our seminar chair John Rempel who spoke on growing lilies in Manitoba using his own experiences of successfully growing many types of lilies in our zone 3 climate. The spring bulb sale is always an exciting part of the meeting as members scour the tables for "must have" additions to their collections. As usual, Barrie and Nigel did a great job on supplying lily bulbs.

The lily season started off slow with the cool weather in the Spring. As a result our next function, our Martagon show on June 28th did not do as well with only a handful of martagon stems to show. We did have more than a handful of Judges and student judges though, so everyone attending had a good time visiting with one another and answering questions of drop in visitors.

Between the martagon show and the next function many members of our society attended the annual North America Lily Society Show and Conference in Sidney by the Sea, Victoria BC. At the auction night we had the opportunity to present Lynn Collicutt with the Society's service medal. The MRLS donated in the spring \$500 to the NALS color fund and this winter another \$500 to the NALS Research.

Next was the Neepawa Area Lily Festival and Show in which the MRLS participated and judged on July 19th. We had 178 entries from 19 exhibitors. There was a lovely display of asiatics LAs, a few trumpets, many orienpets and a decent number of species. As well as the show stems, The Lily Nook had a large display of over 50 stems. The 3rd part of the Judges School course was given by Barrie Strohmman to 3 students.

The annual show in Winnipeg was the next weekend., on July 26th. It was well attended with the opportunity of members to show off some of the latter blooming material. It was held in the Kildonan Place Mall which gave us good exposure. There were 199 stems entered from 21 exhibitors. We had a huge number of interdivisional entries: OT's LA's, LO's, and OA's. It was discussed at the last board meeting whether to

(Continued on page 2)

have a show in Winnipeg every year, since it was a great success.

In the fall we had our largest function and perhaps the most anticipated one, the Fall Bulb Sales. This year the Winnipeg show was held at a new location, the St James Civic Center and was put on for just one day. Bulbs were acquired from many sources and an excellent selection of martagons were on hand. The next weekend the Brandon sale was on, although traffic in the Mall was down we did have decent sales. We are planning to move the Brandon sale to a new venue next year. Barbara-Jean Jackson looked after the Dauphin sale again on the long weekend. This venue gives the opportunity of our northern members to participate and purchase bulbs.

As we go into 2009 we can look forward to many more gatherings to get together and enjoy the fellowship of other member and friends who enjoy our passion of the Lily!!

Nigel Strohman



Merry Christmas!

(Used With Permission of the New England Lily Society)

Remembering Eddie McRae

By Barrie Strohman

I was deeply saddened when talking to Judith recently to hear that Eddie (Edward Austin McRae) had just passed away. Eddie was an icon in the worldwide lily community. He was a gentle soft spoken Scottish man who excelled without equal in the lily world. This was as a result of his knowledge of lily species and their hybrids, his own amazing hybridizing achievements, his contacts with amateur and world renowned lily breeders, his authorship of the book "Lilies: A Guide for Growers and Collectors" as well as his ongoing work in lily species preservation. In this regard I felt he was second to none in this day and age.



I believe that Edward McRae was the quintessential "Mr. Lily". He lived, breathed, and dreamed lilies. He was a man who shared generously with others lily seed, lily pollen, lily material, his time and knowledge, and his friendship to those of us who had the same interests. I feel honored to be able to say without a doubt that we were close friends.

It was at my first NALS show in Portland that I attended over thirty years ago that I had the privilege of meeting Eddie. As we talked he found out that I was from Manitoba and so he asked 'did I know Dr. Skinner'. When I told him that I knew the family quite well, he then mentioned that he as a young boy he grew up in the area where Dr. Skinner was born at Rosehearty and often played soccer there. When I told him that my mother's father and my father's mother were Scotch and so I was half Scotch this, I am sure, cemented our friendship that has lasted till this day.

Many of the MLRS members still talk about the time we had Eddie as a guest speaker at our spring seminar and the times they have met and talked to him since. For me there are many memories flooding into my mind. To mention only a few; the time Art Evans and I spent with him at Lava Nurseries viewing the beautiful long rows of *L. canadense*, *L. lankongense* and other species and hybrids that he had in cultivation there as well as evaluating various lilies both in the field and growing in pots; the time when his daughter Catherine gave birth to his first grandchild and his proud remarks "Bar r rie she is a bonnie wee girl". I of course just had to send him and to Judith a bulb of Juliana to commemorate the occasion. Or the times Eddie would say to me "Bar r rie would you do me a wee favor r r". How could one refuse that lovely Scottish brogue!

I would be remiss if I did not mention the many times we spoke about the need of good garden lilies and the work of Dr. North and the North hybrids and the time he proudly told me of the wonderful results that Lou (Judith) was having to this end when she crossed the two cultivars Ariadne and White Butterflies. The tall inflorescence and the different patterns and colors were very exciting to him. After getting a few from Judith I could feel Eddie's enthusiasm and I whole heartedly agree. Or the time I met Eddie's sister Pearl and enjoyed their hospitality was unforgettable and likewise the many times we shared in the classification of the NALS shows were always highlights of our time together.

My family and I had the privilege of attending a lily symposium in New Zealand where Eddie was one of the speakers. It felt like Eddie was part of the family as we toured around the one island for he shared a room with Nigel for the night stopovers. In the mornings it was only natural that Eddie would share breakfast with Joyce, Nigel, myself and my sister Jean as well as wander together around the various places we visited.

We marveled together at a lovely stem of *L. pardalinum* that was growing in the back of a garden and the wonderful trumpet seedlings and aurelians at another place. I really remember one place at which we stopped as especially poignant to us both. It was beside a little lake on a warm, sunny and calm day that we took a few moments together to enjoy a beautiful mirror image of the scene. Looking at the scene and seeing it reflected in the lake was a thing of beauty to us both.

There are so many more thoughts I have dear friend but suffice is to say that your footsteps have played a large part in my life as well as countless others in your passage through time.

Fall Bulb Report

*By Ramona Crowther, Chair
Bulb Sale Committee*

Fall has come and we are now into winter with all our bulbs safely buried below Mother Nature's covering of snow. The Fall Sales are once again past and many thanks to all the volunteers who support the Committee in Winnipeg, Brandon and Dauphin. Folks who love lilies are the greatest and we see this in all locations. To the members who enlist their friends to help and to buy – good work. I was also able to participate with the Brandon sale this year and enjoyed meeting all the volunteers, members and purchasers – it was a rocking sale this year.

Our suppliers once again gave us some great bulbs and we know you are enjoying some of the new and old varieties that we have been offering. Thank you for the feedback on your likes and wants – it is much appreciated.

Next year the Winnipeg and Brandon sales will be on Saturday, October 3rd, and Dauphin will be on Saturday, October 10th. Brandon will be relocating to a new location at the Shopper's Mall on 18th Street. Winnipeg will remain at the St. James Civic Centre. All information will be posted on the MRLS website.

Seasons Greeting from the Fall Bulb Committee – see you all at the spring seminar!

Ramona Crowther, Len Giesbrecht, Rita Giesbrecht, Jennifer Bishop, Deb Petrie,
B. J. Jackson, Gwen Jamieson, Sandy Venton, Ted Sobkowich, Marlene Puls



Spring Seminar 2009

By: John Rempel, Seminar Co-ordinator

Hello to all members of the MRLS. I trust that you had a good lily growing season and that you are looking forward to a fine winter's rest. The snow is probably up to your knees as you read your newsletter, but I want to prepare you for our 2009 spring seminar.

The seminar will be held on April 18, 2009 at the Holiday Inn, Airport West in Winnipeg.

Our featured speaker will be Darm Crook from Hay River NWT. He is a lily grower/hybridizer, who successfully grows many lilies in a zone 1 environment. He will be talking on his experiences on growing lilies in a harsh climate. Darm is a frequent contributor to the discussions on the Yahoo "Cold Zone" discussion group.

The fee for the entire seminar, including a fine buffet dinner is still only \$25.00. It is also your chance to meet with old friends and perhaps purchase a few more bulbs for your collection.

Advance registrants will once again receive a free bulb so be sure to send in your registration form that will be found in the March 2009 newsletter and look for more details there, too.

Notices:

Lily Trading Post

Let us know what you are looking for and we'll put you in touch with someone who can help.

Anything related to lilies is fair game, i.e. lily bulbs, lily books, lily art, etc.

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

Highlights from the Board of Directors Meeting, Nov 14/2008

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Marlene Puls presented the statement as of August 21, 2008. Membership stands at approximately 200. Financial Statement was up to November 13, 2008. Bank balance as at November 4 was \$5,549.11. Bulb Sale financial statement was provided. Total profit made at all 3 sales was \$4,574.76.

BULB SALE

Bulb Sale Committee Chair Ramona Crowther gave her report. The bulbs left over from the sales are in the cooler at Jeffries Nursery.

Next year's bulb sales in Winnipeg and Brandon will be October 3, 2009. The Winnipeg sale will be held again at the St. James Civic Centre. The Brandon sale is being relocated to the Brandon Shoppers Mall on 18th Street. The Dauphin sale will take place on October 10, 2009. in the Marketplace Mall

RESEARCH

John Rempel gave his report. He has received 17 reports from people regarding the lily beetle this year.

DISPLAY GARDEN

Deb Petrie is the permanent contact person for display gardens. It was suggested that MRLS ask members to visit the display gardens, If anyone has any donations, please speak to Deb. (see list of Board members last page and watch for the March newsletter for an article on the MRLS display gardens...Ed)

OTHER BUSINESS

Lily Judging Standards Handout for the Manitoba Horticultural Society – Deb Petrie has prepared a judging standards handout.

NALS Donation – Moved by Reg Gallop and seconded by Sandy Venton that MRLS donate \$500 to NALS General Research Fund. Motion carried.

What's new in your garden?

<http://www.lilies.org>

The North American Lily Society (NALS) was organized in 1947 to promote interest in the genus *Lilium*. The society has active members from almost every state and province in North America, as well as from many countries around the world.



International Seed Exchange

Quality Publications

Enthusiasts, Amateur & Commercial Growers



New members welcome!

NALS Executive Secretary
P.O. Box W
Bonners Ferry, ID,
83805

Spring Seminar – John Rempel reported it will be held on April 18, 2009. The fee will be \$25.00, and early registrants will receive a free bulb (see March 2009 newsletter for the registration form...Ed).

Annual Lily Shows – The Martagon Show will be held on July 11th, 2009. The Annual Show will be held in Neepawa on July 17th, 18th and 19th of 2009. Entries will be accepted on the evening of July 16th and early in the morning of July 17th. Sandy Venton was instructed to contact Kildonan Place Shopping Centre to see if it will be available on July 25th, 2009. If so, there will be a further Lily Show on that date in that venue.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, **February 14, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.** at Jeffries Nursery.



OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS – 2007

PRESIDENT	Nigel Strohman	SECRETARY	Sandy Venton
VICE-PRESIDENT	John Rempel	TREASURER	Marlene Puls
NEWSLETTER	Barbara-Jean Jackson	PAST PRESIDENT	Jennifer Bishop

DIRECTORS	John Svenson	Catherine Isbister
	Ramona Crowther	Fran Wershler
	Deb Petrie	Reg Gallop

HONORARY DIRECTORS Dr. Wilbert Ronald, Barrie Strohman, Lynn Collicutt

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

LIBRARY Barrie Strohman SEMINAR John Rempel HISTORIAN Gwen Jamieson

DIRECTORY OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

BISHOP, Jennifer - 23 Chopin Boulevard Winnipeg R2G 2C9; 954-2013 Business; 661-5036 Home;

E-mail: Jennifer@dataways.com

CROWTHER, Ramona - 4546 Roblin Boulevard, Winnipeg R3R 0G3; 897-7752 Home;

E-mail: rambo4546@shaw.ca

GALLOP, Reg - 191 Dromore Avenue, Winnipeg R3M 0H9; 475-4144 Home;

E-mail: ragallop@mts.net

ISBISTER, Catherine - P.O. Box 378, Austin R0H 0C0; (204) 637-2449 Home;

E-mail: catryi@mts.net

JAMIESON, Gwen - 21 Bow Hill Lane, Winnipeg R3R 0J4; 888-2150 Home;

E-mail: jamiesong@agr.gc.ca

JACKSON, Barbara Jean - 2421 McDonald Avenue, Brandon R7B 0A6; 725-4696 Home; (204) 727-7409 Business;

E-mail: jacksonb@mts.net

PETRIE, Deb - 22 Kasiurak Bay, Brandon R7A 6H8; (204) 726-0245 Home;

E-mail: petrie@mts.net

PULS, Marlene - 99 Macalester Bay, Winnipeg R3T 2X6; 957-3310 Business; 269-3499 Home;

E-mail: marlene99@mts.net

REMPEL, John - 590 Municipal Road, Winnipeg R3R 1J3; 895-2212 Home;

E-mail: jrempel@mts.net

RONALD, Wilbert - c/o Jeffries Nurseries, Box 402, Portage la Prairie, R1N 3B7; 857-5288 Business; 239-1818

Home; E-mail: wilbert.ronald@jeffriesnurseries.com

STROHMAN, Barrie - Box 846, Neepawa R0H 1H0; 476-3225 Home; 476-5482 Fax; E-mail: info@lilynook.mb.ca

STROHMAN, Nigel - Box 846, Neepawa R0H 1H0; 476-2536 Home; 476-5482 Fax; E-mail: info@lilynook.mb.ca

SVENSON, John - 194 Clark Drive, Brandon R7B 0V4; 728-9036 Home

VENTON, Sandy - 203 Vernon Road, Winnipeg R3J 2W1; 956-8699 Business; 888-2837 Home & Fax;

E-mail: felix1@mts.net

WERSHLER, Fran - 63 Northlake Drive, Winnipeg R2Y 1K2; 832-0123 Home; E-mail: fransays@mts.net