



Manitoba Lily Connection

Manitoba Regional Lily Society Newsletter

Volume 27, Issue 1

Affiliated with the North American Lily Society

March, 2010

President's Message

As you receive this newsletter, you will undoubtedly becoming aware of the promises of spring and the prospects of the earth springing back to life. My primary focus will be to continue to nurture my new seedlings started in December of 2009 and then to watch for new growth to see how much damage has been done by the cold autumn that we had with so little snow.

Like me, you have probably been checking the catalogues to see as to what plants you must have to fill up any holes appearing in your plantings. My dear mother, who is a young 93 years, has placed an order with me for three pots of oriental lilies for her patio. So, does gardening help keep you "young"?

I hope to see many of you at the spring seminar on April 17th at the Holiday Inn, Airport West in Winnipeg. Our featured speaker will be Frans Officer from Bloomington MN. He is a well-known grower of martagons as well as an accomplished photographer. I have had the pleasure of touring his vast plantings of martagons and working with him at the NALS 2005 show in Winnipeg.

As you read your newsletter, please be sure to take notice of our three lily shows this summer. They are a great occasion to showcase some of your best lilies and to share ideas with fellow lily enthusiasts.

I am looking forward to meeting many of you at the spring seminar. Be sure to book in advance to receive your free bulb. Seminar costs remain at \$25.00 with a delicious hot buffet.

Regards and good growing

John Rempel

2010 Events Schedule

**Spring Seminar—Saturday, April 17th
Holiday Inn Airport West**

**Mothers Day Sale - Sunday, May 9th
Assiniboine Park Conservatory, Winnipeg**

**Martagon Show - Saturday, July 3rd
Assiniboine Park Conservatory**

**Winnipeg Show Saturday, July 17th
Kildonan Place Shopping Centre**

Neepawa Show - Friday, July 23rd

Fall Bulb Sales

**Winnipeg – Saturday, September 25th
St James Civic Center**

**Brandon – Saturday, October 2nd
Brandon Shoppers Mall**

**Dauphin – Saturday, October 9th
Marketplace Mall**

Inside

<i>President's Message</i>	1
<i>2010 Events Schedule</i>	1
<i>China Oddessy, Part 2</i>	2
<i>NALS News</i>	3
<i>Spring Seminar Program</i>	4
<i>Spring Seminar Invitation</i>	5
<i>2010 Bulb Sales</i>	5
<i>Seminar Registration Form</i>	Insert
<i>Membership Renewal Form</i>	Insert

China Odyssey 2

(continued from December Newsletter)

By: *Barrie Strohman*

After having experienced a life long dream of climbing the great wall, the next morning we set off to visit the summer palace of the emperors of China that proved to be 10 miles from the center of Beijing. It is surrounded by the largest royal park that contains examples of ancient art, graceful landscapes and magnificent constructions thus making the summer palace the archetypal Chinese garden so that is ranked amongst the most noted and classical gardens of the world. Constructed in the Jin dynasty (1115-1237) it continued down through time to the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) it became a luxurious royal garden proving the royal families with rest and entertainment. The summer palace occupies a area of 726 acres and consists of over 3000 structures including pavilions, towers, bridges and corridors.

After walking all around the summer palace complex, it was a pleasure to get into a peddy cab, (a bicycle cab) and pedal through the narrow street of Beijing where the majority of people who had their own homes lived and worked. Here we ended up at a typical home where we met a retired Chinese gentlemen and his wife. On entering the street door we came into a small, well kept court yard. Here we were ushered into his home and made welcome with a cup of tea. It was a small two room home with a living room and a small bedroom and had an attached kitchen. We spent a pleasant 20 minutes asking him any questions and found out he was a retired scientist who did carbon dating on ancient artifacts and fossil remains. He and his wife lived there as well as at the back of the court yard his eldest son and family lived in a additional home. He and his wife were very gracious and talked to us showing us a Persimmon and Almond tree, a small pond and chickens that they had in the court yard. After taking many pictures of him and his wife we left their happy smiling faces and set off with our tour family for a Chinese noodle supper.

The following morning proved to be exercise morning and off we went to see the local people gather in special groups in the park along the city wall. Here young and old were found in small groups, some doing a dance to music, others playing with something like a large badminton bird keeping it in the air with their feet. Others were standing in lines clapping to music with each group doing something different for all over a mile. As we passed along at one place I was clapping my hands in time with the group and I looked up to see a couple of older Chinese women grinning away nodding and giving me the thumbs up. Of course I did a little hop, skip and jump and they laughed and clapped us away as we continued on. As our tai chi master was leading us we finally came to an open space were we would be taught a couple of movements of tai chi. Here she worked with each of us and at the end of a half hour work out took off her ceremonial tai chi costume and had Jamie, my grand-daughter put them on and do tai chi with her.

That morning we left Xian which was one of the six ancient capitals in China. Xian served as a seat of twelve imperial capitals for 1120 years and so is known as the cradle of Chinese civilization for its centuries old history archeological treasure and rich culture heritage. It is now the capital of Shaanxi province and has become a world famous tourist city, a treasure house of culture relics. Xian was the starting point of the old Silk Road. My excitement was at a fever pitch for now I was going to view for the first time with my own eyes the Terracotta Soldiers. The vaults or pits containing Qin Shihuang's terracotta army are located just outside Xian. The army of more than six thousand life size terracotta soldiers, with horses and chariots lined up facing east is one of the world's most remarkable archaeological finds.

The terracotta warriors were made for Quin Shihuang (259-210BC) also known as the first emperor and with his mausoleum lying only under a mile away it is assumed the army was made to accompany him on his journeys after death. The statues were built over 2000 years ago from the local clay. Each warriors face was carved individually and no two faces are the same. Many warriors clearly belong to China's minority groups. After standing and waiting underground in their forgotten vault for over 2000 years the terracotta army was uncov-

ered by chance in 1974 by some local farmers trying to sink a new well. Since then three pits containing soldiers and artifacts have been slowly and carefully excavated. The three vaults or pits are protected by large hangar type structures and the process of excavating the army is an ongoing task. Pit I has an area of 14,600 sq. meters and has the largest group of terracotta soldiers at the site on parade in 210 meters (689 ft.) long trenches. There are also exhibits of the armies' terracotta horses, bronze swords, spears, cross bows and other weapons .

Leaving this outstanding archaeological finds we returned to Xian and climbed and walked the city wall. The wall is 40 feet tall and 46 feet wide at the top covering 8.5 miles with a deep moat surrounding it, as we stood on top we looked down over the edge and spotted a local farmer's city market at the bottom. Naturally we had to investigate and buy some oranges and pecan nuts.

In the afternoon we flew on to Guilin in southwest China to stay at the Waterfall Hotel and ready ourselves for the LI River Cruise where we were enchanted by the breathtaking scenery. Chinese poets and painters have been fascinated by the karst (limestone) scenery of Guilin since the Tang Dynasty. Han Tu a tang wrote "the river forms a green gauze belt; the mountains are like blue jade hair pins." Much of the fantastic and perpendicular of Chinese paintings has been inspired by the river and limestone peak scenery of the Guilin area

Forced upward by the movement of the earths crust, layers of limestone were weathered by wind and water into eccentric, disconnected shapes of great beauty . We boarded our sampan cruise ship and off we went followed by over 20 other like ships, each with 100 or more passengers. The river was low and the captain had to sail along it very carefully, for we saw the odd ship grounded. As we passed along we saw local Chinese peasants in various activities on shore and in the river, we saw a Chinese farmer bring his ducks down to the river to feed. They would follow him down all in a row and there he left them till later. He would come and call them and they would follow him home. The ducks would follow only their owner. The same with the water buffalo, which they used to plow their fields. The river passes feathery bamboos lining the banks, cormorant fishermen in small boats, local people selling tropical fruits and picturesque villages as well as rocky crags and peaks. We were treated on board to an Emperor's dinner of steak, duck and fresh fruit and vegetables as the spectacular scenery slid quietly by.

At the end of the cruise we visited the Reed Flute Cave. The cave got its name from the verdant reeds growing outside it of which people make flutes. This water eroded cave is a spectacular world of various stalactites, stone pillars and rock formations created by carbonate deposition. Inside the cave there are more than 70 inscriptions written in ink which can date back to 792AD during the Tang Dynasty over 1000 years ago.

Next we visit the zoo with the Pandas and get ready for the cruise up the Yantsem River.

Stay tuned for the conclusion next time!

NALS News
Submitted by Marianne Casey,
Lily Odyssey: Excursion to Mars!

The Mid-Atlantic and Ohio Lily Societies are cohosting the 63rd annual NALS Lily Show and Symposium in Mars, Pennsylvania July 7 - 11, 2010 at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel and Convention Center. In addition to respected speakers and the lily show itself, there will be a day of garden tours and lunch at an historic house in the Amish countryside. Visit the website: www.nals2010.org/ for updates on registration and schedule details. The program for the NALS 2010 Convention will be fun yet low-key so attendees can focus on meeting one another and talking about lilies. The artistic design section, "Fantasy Excursion to Mars" promises to be creative and colorful. If you have any questions, please contact the Show Chair Vijay Chandhok at: vc2m@mac.com or Marianne Casey at marianncasey@verizon.net. We hope to see you in Mars!

**MANITOBA REGIONAL LILY SOCIETY
SPRING SEMINAR AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2010
Saturday April 17th, 2010**

Holiday Inn Airport West – Winnipeg - Phone (204) 885-4478
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

Pre-Register by April 7th and receive a free bulb!

PROGRAM

- 8:30 Registration / Coffee / Socializing**
- 9:00 Welcome by President - John Rempel**
- 9:15 Martagons Lilies - Frans Officer**
- 10:15 COFFEE BREAK & SOCIALIZING**
- 10:30 Martagons & Questions - Frans Officer**
- 11:00 Reports (Research, Heritage)**
- 12:00 LUNCH FOLLOWED BY SPRING BULB SALE**
- 1:30 MRLS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**
- 2:00 Garden & Flower Photography - Frans Officer**
- 3:00 COFFEE BREAK & SOCIALIZING**
- 3:15 Live Auction/Silent Auction**
- 4:00 Closing**

2010 Spring Seminar - April 17, 2010

By: Sandy Venton, Secretary, MRLS

I always get itchy fingers about this time of year, and can't wait to get back into the garden. The past summer, is but a fading memory, and I have put all my hopes and dreams into a wonderful, warm spring and even nicer summer. Hope always springs eternal in those of us whose passion is gardening.

Our 2010 Spring Seminar will be held on April 17th, 2010, and it is now time to think about attending and sending in your registration (see insert included with this newsletter). The cost of the Seminar will remain at \$25.00, and a buffet lunch will be served. And, as last year, all pre-registrants will get a free bulb. The venue is the Holiday Inn, Airport West, in Winnipeg. I would also add that we have a "small" bulb sale during the lunch break. In the past, we have been able to obtain lily cultivars not commonly offered either at our bulb sales, or in catalogues, and for this reason, if for no other, it is worth the price of admittance.

Our featured speaker this year will be Frans Officer from Bloomington, Minnesota. Frans is a member of the North Star Lily Society, and a grower, and hybridizer of martagon lilies, of which he has a huge collection. Frans also grows a number of other species lilies. As well, he is a noted lily photographer, and an entertaining speaker who will discuss those subjects dear to his heart.

On behalf of the MRLS Executive and Board of Directors, I invite you all to attend the Seminar, renew old friendships, make new ones, and be entertained by our guest speaker. I'm sure that you won't be disappointed.

2010 Bulb Sales

By: Ramona Crowther, Chair, Bulb Sale Committee

Spring is coming very soon so pull out your bulb lists and come and check out the Bulb Sales coming to your area this year. The Spring Seminar will offer a nice selection of bulbs to start a new display in the garden. Keep tuned for the Mother's Day Sale held in conjunction with The Friends at the Assiniboine Park and pencil in the big Fall Sales so that you do not miss out on any of the great bulbs we will have coming in. Our great suppliers are working on their lists and the Committee is ready to ensure we bring you the best, always looking for something new selected just for you. Between now and August 1st get your wish list in to us by going to the "Contact us" button on the MRLS website (www.manitobalilies.ca) and the message will be passed on. 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:

Asiatics: Annamamie's Dream, Ay Caramba, Bariton, Belo Horizonte, Ocean Breeze, Red Sensation, Rosella's Dream, Valley Nappa, Valley Orange, Valley Sun

Pot or Border Asiatics: Cross Over, Initiator, Push Off, Tiny Icon, Tiny Hope, Tiny Ghost, Tiny Todd, Tiny Snowflake

L.A. Hybrids: Bach, Moselle, Sulpice, Indian Summerset, Termoli

L.O. Hybrids: Nuance, Miyabi, Polar

O.T. Hybrids: Belladonna, Candy Club, Cocossa, Purple Prince, Time Zone

And a selection of Orientals

If anyone has a donation for the Silent Auction at the Spring Seminar please contact Ramona Crowther at rambo4546@shaw.ca or 204-897-7752. We like to promote all local businesses.