



# Manitoba Lily Connection

Manitoba Regional Lily Society Newsletter

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*Affiliated with the North American Lily Society*

September, 2010

## President's Message - John Rempel

As I sit at my desk writing this report, days are getting shorter, the poplars are starting to drop their leaves and the fall chores in the garden are looming, bringing visions of aching backs.

At the top of my list today is a remembrance for our dear friend and a great grower of lilies, Barrie Strohman who passed away July 23, 2010. Barry will be remembered for his smile, his love of people and his vast knowledge of lilies that he was always ready to share with others. He was a founding member of the Manitoba Regional and served on the NALS executive for many years, including a term as Canadian President. Our condolences go to Joyce, Nigel and the family. He will be missed.

The lily season got off to an early start due to unseasonably warm spring. By early July when the first of the lily shows started, many lilies were past their prime. However, each of the three shows had a respectable number of entries. Congratulations to all who took time to exhibit and to those who won the awards. The shows are a great way to showcase lilies to the public. They are always amazed at the varieties that are available.

MRLS is planning to again hold the North American lily show in Winnipeg in 2012. The last time that we held the national was in

2005. The main committee chair people have been appointed. The venue is still pending. More details will become available later and opportunities will exist for many to participate in this event.

As this season comes to an end, we have two more events planned. We have the annual bulb sales in September and October. Details are available elsewhere in this letter. Finally join us on Friday, October 15 for our second pot luck supper and awards night. Left over bulbs will be for sale. Details are available in this letter.

Thank you to all that have worked so hard for the society this summer.

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# 2010 Shows Report

*By: Sandy Venton, Shows Chair*

It's that time again, when the lily shows are over, the results are tabulated, and we can all relax and get to the business of putting the gardens to bed for the year. And what a year it's been!

This year's shows, and there were 3 of them, were pretty spectacular, each in their own way.

The martagon show came first, on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, with 10 exhibitors showing 74 stems. I myself did not have all that many stems to choose from, even though we had a very early start to the year, and I want to thank in particular both Reg Gallop for bringing in a huge number of stems, and Hugh Skinner, for travelling many miles and bringing in many stems for our show. I also wish to thank everybody who did bring in a stem. Without you, there would have been no show at all. As MRLS brings in more martagon cultivars and seedlings for our bulb sale, I would expect that more and more people will enter stems. I hope that this is not just wishful thinking.

The second MRLS show was on July 17<sup>th</sup> in Winnipeg, with 18 exhibitors and 82 stems. This also was a smaller show than usual. I think that the weather had a lot to do with it – hot and wet. However, everybody showed up for the set-up, and although Barrie and Nigel Strohman were unable to look after classification, after a great deal of moving stems, discussions, many, many references to the Lily Register, and a great deal of running to and fro, the show finally got off the ground. I must thank everybody who came to show their lilies, the people who came just to help, and the people who came for the very first time to enter a stem or two. Again, without you, the show would not go on.

The third MRLS show was on July 3<sup>rd</sup> in Neepawa. It was a very difficult show, as our dear friend and mentor, Barrie Strohman, passed away early in the morning before the show started. Our Nigel came in to help with classification, but left shortly after, and a pall was cast over the entire proceeding. However, many stems did come in and as Show Chair, I held the show open until everybody had a chance to stage their entries. There was a bit of discussion about that, but it seems to me that a show needs all of the entries that it can get!

In closing, I would again like to thank the participants in the various shows, the people who brought stems to enter, came to help set up and take down the tables and clean up, the people who came to judge the shows and the judging students and clerks who all came to help. It may take a village to raise a child, but it takes a whole group of people to have a lily show.

Thank you all!

**MARTAGON AND SPECIES  
SHOW AWARDS**

**Best Lily in Show  
Sandy Venton – Attiwaw**

**Highest Bud Count Award  
Hugh Skinner – Helen Skinner**

**Sweepstakes Award  
Reg Gallop – 6 First Place Ribbons**

**Best Collection of Six  
Reg Gallop**

**Frank Skinner Award  
Sandy Venton – Black Prince**

**WINNIPEG SHOW AWARDS**

**Criddle Award  
*Best Stem of a Cultivated Lily Species*  
Wilma Maurice – *L. lancifolium***

**Directors Award  
*Best Stem in Show*  
John Rempel – L. Luky**

**Lillian Luky Award  
*Best Stem in the Show Developed by  
a Prairie Breeder*  
Ed Czarnecki – Seedling**

**Ed Robinson Award  
*Best Martagon in Show*  
Reg Gallop – T. Willoughby Seedling**

**William Silversides Award  
*Best Named Asiatic Lily in Show*  
Ramona Crowther – Elodie**

**Dr. F. L. Skinner Award  
*Best Stem Grown from Seed and Exhibited  
by the Breeder*  
Ed Czarnecki – Seedling**

**Thomas & Lynn Smith Award  
*Best Trumpet/Aurelian Lily in Show*  
John Rempel – Easter Morn**

**Jean Ericksen Award  
*Best Interdivisional (Div. VIII) in Show  
(excluding L.A. Hybrids)*  
John Rempel – L. Luky**

**Gordon Danzinger Award  
*Best L.A. Hybrid from Division VIII*  
Rita Giesbrecht - Kentucky**

**Design Award  
*Best Design in Section K*  
Bev Hooper - Amber**

**2010 MRLS  
Pot Luck Supper and  
Awards Evening**

Bring your favorite main dish  
and a salad or desert and join us  
to celebrate MRLS 2010

**Friday, October 15th  
at the**

**Heritage-Victoria  
Community Centre**

**950 Sturgeon Road**

**From 5 to 9 p.m.**

**Supper at 6 p.m.  
Awards presentations  
to follow.**



## NEEPAWA SHOW AWARDS

**Hunter Family Award In memory of Jean Hunter**  
*Best Stem of a Cultivated Lily Species in Show*  
**B. J. Jackson – *L. davidii* var. *willmottiae***

**Lily Festival Award**  
*Best Stem in Show*  
**Sharon Ronald – Scheherazade**

**The Garden Path B & B**  
*Best Stem in the Show Developed by a Prairie Breeder*  
**Ed Maza – Northern Beauty**

**Kerreen's Clothing Award**  
*Best Named Asiatic Lily in Show*  
**B. J. Jackson – Donna Sylvester**

**The Lily Nook Award**  
*Best Stem Grown from Seed and Exhibited by the Breeder*  
**Ed Czarnecki – Seedling**

**Westway Inn Award**  
*Best Trumpet/Aurelian Lily in Show*  
**Ed Maza – White Henryi**

**Westway Inn Award**  
*Best Interdivisional (Div. VIII)*  
*in Show*  
**Sharon Ronald – Scheherazade**

**Garden View Farm Award**  
*Best Design in Section J*  
**Soomin Han – Spirit of Manitoba**

**Beyond the Garden Gate Award**  
*Best Design in Section K*  
**Anne Noh – Happy Birthday Manitoba**

**Orange Lodge Award**  
*Best Orange Lily in the Show*  
**B. J. Jackson – Liberty Hyde Bailey**

**Photos this page**  
**Top:**  
**BJ's Liberty**  
**Hyde Bailey**  
**Center:**  
**Best in Show,**  
**Sharon**  
**Ronald's**  
**Scheherezade**  
**Bottom:**  
**BJ's Donna**  
**Sylvester**  
**Thanks to**  
**Deb Petrie,**  
**Brenda Newton**  
**and**  
**B. J. Jackson**  
**for sharing**

# FALL BULB SALES 2010

*By: Ramona Crowther, Bulb Sale Committee Chair*

Alas, September has arrived and as you view your garden, enjoy the beautiful colors of fall and see where you can plant your new lily bulbs. Yes, the Bulb Sale Committee has been busy selecting exciting new and “tried, true & requested” bulbs for the great sales in Winnipeg, Brandon and Dauphin.

We have **NEW** Asiatics Ay Caramba, Bariton and Rosella’s Dream; **NEW** LA Hybrids Indian Summerset, Moselle, Sulpice & Termoli – the names alone tell you they will be great. By popular demand, we have many of the “Tiny” series in again this year. Also, **NEW** Orienpets (OT) Belladonna, Cocossa and **NEW** Longiflorum x Orientals (LO) Miyabi, Nuance to expand your garden blooming time into August.

There is a great selection of Martagons and Species for those who want to grow something different. **Dauphin folks** – take note that you will have the exclusive offering of Asiatics Dusky Rose and Spanish Sunset for your sale.

Our bulbs are from suppliers who know the weather we have, so you are assured of prairie hardy lilies. As usual, each sale will have a crew of lily “people” with whom to share information and “ask questions”.

The mail order is available for those unable to visit; however, not all varieties will be on the list. Again this year, all MRLS members, both mail order & personal shopping, will receive 10% off (see coupon attached to newsletter). Please present your coupon to the cashier when paying for your purchases.

This is the major fundraising event of the year for the MRLS and we hope you show us your support.

## **Sale locations:**

**Winnipeg - St. James Civic Center, 2055 Ness Avenue  
September 25th**

**Brandon - NEW LOCATION—Central Community Centre,  
529 – 4<sup>th</sup> Street (off Victoria Avenue) - October 2nd**

**Dauphin - Marketplace Mall— October 9th**

**9 a.m. to 4 p.m. all locations**

## Slate McDaniels Award to Barrie Strohman

*Presented by: Wilbert Ronald, July 26, 2010*

Today, we honor an individual who has been a driving force in the lily world in the past 25 years. It's my privilege to be asked to say a few words about Barrie on behalf of the North American Lily Society.

This individual, our own Barrie Strohman, has in this time period, been both Director and President of the Manitoba Regional Lily Society and of the North American Lily Society (NALS) and a leader in the lily world. He has developed a world wide lily business here in Neepawa and put Neepawa on the map as the World Lily Capitol. These events could not have happened if he was not both a visionary spirit and an accomplished businessman. He has had the great support of wife and partner Joyce, who has supported his passion.

If we were to take Barrie Strohman out of the last 25 years of lily activities in Manitoba and North America, I do not believe we would have seen a fraction of the lily progress that has taken place in the last 25 years. He has inspired and elevated the progress of lily work in Manitoba.

Let me elaborate with two short illustrations:

In the early 1990's, Ed Robinson's lily work sat largely abandoned at Wawanesa Manitoba. Following the death of Mr.

Robinson, Barrie proposed that the Manitoba Regional go and rescue and preserve the Robinson lilies and seedlings. From this proposal has followed nearly 20 years of dedicated work recovering named cultivars and introducing the best of his seedlings. At the same time, Barrie's marketing prowess has really helped with a rediscovery of the Martagon group of lilies which had been somewhat eclipsed by the Asiatic and newer hybrid groups. Another side effect of the Martagon revival has come the revival in Dr. Frank Skinner's Martagon introductions and a revival in showing and breeding the Martagon lilies. Secondly, in the early 1990's the Morden Research Centre was closing down its perennial work including some significant lily breeding work, I had started in 1974 and which Lynn Collicutt had continued from 1982 until 1993. Barrie was influential in helping evaluate, introduce and commercially market the Morden breeding stocks. I do not believe this success story could have been written without his expertise, interest and drive. Again without "The Lily Nook" marketing base, these outstanding interdivisional hybrids would probably have languished but Barrie gave them worldwide exposure.

Barrie has been a tireless promoter of the genus *Lilium* and NALS. He has spoken to gardener groups, taught judging courses, exhibited lilies, managed shows and served as classification chair for numerous NALS shows. Some of the work of classification is low key and not glamorous but Barrie has done it even though he lost out exhibiting lilies due to his commitment to classification.

Barrie never outgrew his local friends in Neepawa and Manitoba as he rose to become a notable lily persona in the lily world. He faithfully helped the Manitoba regional with auctions, seminars and meetings.

One of their last field visits in August 2009 to Portage saw Barrie and Nigel looking over some new Orienpet and seedling crosses of Asiapets with Easterpets. Barrie could envisage hardier fragrant Asiatics in the future.



His vision for new plants as well as preserving our historical Robinson/Skinner cultivars was most unique and we honor him today with the Slate McDaniels Award from NALS for contributions to the society. Our NALS President Larry Diehl would like to be here today and make the presentation in person. He has conveyed NALS's appreciation for all that Barrie has contributed to NALS and for the bond of friendship he has made with NALS members.

Let us all salute our own Barrie Strohmman. Congratulations Barrie from us all. You are most deserving of this award and we know some of your wide circle of lily friends from Manitoba are here today.

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## A LEGACY TO REMEMBER FOR BARRIE STROHMAN

*By: Wilbert Ronald*



Barrie Strohmman was in his 50's when the Manitoba Regional Lily Society was formed in 1983. My friendship with Barrie developed as his interest in lilies grew and he began to take a role in the lily societies both regional and international. This led to a number of joint trips to international shows in various U.S. and Canadian localities and to working together on the 1990 and 2005 Manitoba sponsored NALS meeting and shows. In the mid 1990's, Barrie and his wife Joyce and son Nigel formed "The Lily Nook" to expand into a bulb marketing and tourist destination in the Neepawa locality. This business helped put Neepawa on the map and also made the company known as a source of fine lily bulbs for a world wide following of lily growers. NALS has lost a strong voice for lilies with the passing of Barrie.

Barrie's interest in lilies were very broad based from growing the bulbs. to marketing, judging flowers, classification, breeding and the organizations that served the lily specialist. He was a tireless promoter of all things related to lilies and rose to serve

as President of the Manitoba Regional and NALS. His status as a founding member of the Manitoba regional and his continual support led to his appointment as an Honorary Director. In the NALS, he had a standing role as the classification chair for lily exhibit entries and he was called upon to teach judging courses and to assist many of the Regionals with programs and seminars.

Neepawa, Manitoba, where Barry lived, was bravely put on the map as "The World Lily Capitol" and as one of the co-founders Barrie worked to make this title come to fruition. Neepawa became a tourist destination for dozens of tour buses and the gardens at the picturesque home was a drawing card as was the annual local show and the thousands of potted lilies and lily artworks. The Strohmans welcomed the 2005 NALS tour group but a passing heavy rain shower prevented the visitors from seeing the full extent of the fields.

Lily research in both the MRLS and NALS was always very important to Barrie. He saw the value of Ed Robinson's work with Martagons and was influential in reviving the production of many of Frank Skinner's important Martagons from the 1930 to 1960 era. He saw the value of the newly developing inter-divisional lilies and his support was very helpful in release of the Morden Research Station introductions. Through his catalogue he distributed these new strains around the world. His own breeding work did not have the years to develop its full potential and I believe he made more of a mark with his global vision of marketing good lilies regardless of the source of the breeding.

After a winter of feeling poorly in health, Barrie was encouraged by another spring and the future of hosting another NALS show in 2012. He spoke eloquently, at a May meeting, in favor of the Manitoba Regional's role as a host and had every intention of helping in the preparations. Little did we realize just how very unwell he was and how soon he would be gone. He will be missed from the many events in which he so strongly supported the genus *Lilium*. His family of Joyce and son Nigel and the three daughters will miss his counsel and leadership. His legacy is large, his leadership was inspired and "filling his shoes" will take several people.

## Memories of Barrie Strohman



*Left: Barrie smells the lilies at another MRLS event. Right: Barrie at the 2009 Awards Evening.*

From Dr Reg Gallop

I met Barrie when I joined the MRLS in 1985, and was then much impressed with his relaxed manner, courtesy, knowledge, and helpfulness in leading me, and many others, into the wonders of the Lily world.

Since then, Barrie and I remained close friends, in all aspects of lily appreciation, culture, and development. Like Barrie, under his encouragement, I soon came to give special attention to the handsome Martagons. Barrie and I worked together on these mutual interests including exchanging information, ideas about good crosses, seeds, the latest cultivars, both named and unnamed from our breeding and searching efforts, importing rare seeds and bulbs for each other, and working side-by-side at many MRLS Events.

He very generously shared his great, practical knowledge on lily matters with everyone he met, finally as a very capable Instructor for Lily Judging Schools in Manitoba and beyond. I will always treasure the high mark that he gave me for our recent Judges Refresher Course.

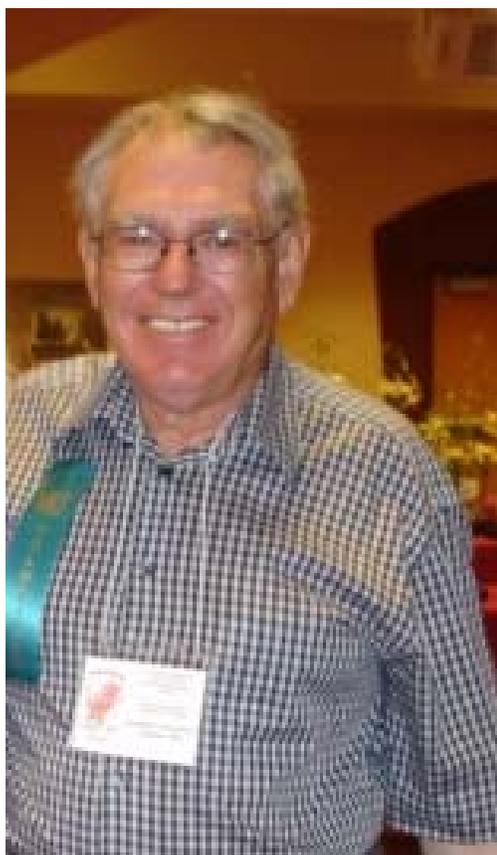
His great contributions to NALS, in many ways, have been deeply and widely appreciated, with matching Awards. And his founding and development of the Lily Nook, the best source and display gardens of lilies in Canada, to make Neepawa, the "Lily Capital of the World", has been a great boon to all Lily fanciers.

Barrie's unexpected passing recently, has left a great void in the lives of us who knew him well, as a husband, father, brother, friend, mentor, and colleague. He was a true gentleman, a rare, disappearing species now, whose life has deeply touched all of us. We will always treasure such memories.

I am confident that he is now taking exciting Graduate studies in lilies and other matters from the Creator whom he admired and faithfully served for a lifetime. He will always remain in our thoughts and prayers. May his family and friends be deeply comforted. R. I. P.



*From Recreating Eden "The Lily King"*



*At NALS 2005*

From Lynn Collicutt

My memories of this great man are...Barrie joining the MRLS early on and steadily developing knowledge, expertise and leadership over the years, as for the enthusiasm - he already had that! Always a welcoming presence for groups, he would greet me with a big hello and bear hug when I arrived...I shall miss this most of all.

My other two particularly fond memories are from the NALS show in Wpg. He and Nigel were calmly and efficiently verifying, discussing and in some cases moving lily stems when I arrived. They let me "tag" along rather than shooing me out as I wasn't officially on the committee! The NALS field trip to their nursery was so enjoyable, but the lunch really stays in my mind - the family's graciousness, Barrie personally welcoming everyone, the beautiful setting on their lawn, as well as the wonderful homemade food. It will be really difficult at the next MRLS events not seeing Barrie's smiling face, and we as a society will greatly miss his input and knowledge. How lucky we are that he decided not to just relax in retirement!

From Sandy Venton

He was a larger than life figure in the lily world, but to me he was "Barrie", always there with a kiss and a hug and a big smile on his face. The lily world just won't be the same without him. And my world won't be either.

From B. J. Jackson

I have to admit that when I first met Barrie Strohman, I was a little bit scared and a lot in awe. He knew so much and was willing to share his knowledge with me, a nobody, who knew so little about lilies. That was in 1996. Over the years Barrie continued to help me get to know the lilies. I remember lamenting the fact in Judging School that there was no way I was ever going to be able to identify so many lilies after scoring abysmally on my first identification test. Barrie came over, put his arm across my shoulder and said, “Don’t worry, kid, it’ll come”. I knew then I had arrived.

From Cindy Purvis

Barrie Strohman was a great man. He meant the world to me. He taught me to love lilies plus how to grow and look after them. But most of all he taught me to really enjoy and love something in life again. God bless, may he rest in peace.

From El Hutchison

I saw Barrie about once a year, so he really only knew me as the iris lady, but he always smiled at me like he'd been waiting all day just to see me.

### **OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS – 2010**

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