



Manitoba Lily Connection

Manitoba Regional Lily Society Newsletter

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Affiliated with the North American Lily Society

March, 2011

President's Message

As I write this letter in February, a warm spell lulls me into a sense of spring. The early heavy snow cover should help protect our plants from winter damage, however the threat of excessive moisture and spring time flooding looms over us.

If you are doing some propagating, you should be checking your bags of scales for sprouting and hopefully, if you have planted seeds, the seedlings are doing well. I did some major lily bed rebuilds last fall so I hope to find enough space to plant out a few more scales and seedlings.

The spring seminar will be held at the Holiday Inn in Winnipeg on April 2nd. Our guest speakers this year will be Brian Bergman from Ontario as well as Hugh Skinner from the Roblin area of Manitoba. It will be a great time to meet old and new friends, buy some new lily bulbs and have a delicious hot lunch. We had a great attendance last year, so let's keep it up. The registration fee is still only \$25.00 as it has been for the last 15 years.

Check out the dates for our activities this summer. Our Martagon and Winnipeg Lily shows have been combined this year due to conflicts with the NALS show in Hamilton, Ontario. I hope to see many of you at one of the shows.

This spring is the end of my term as President, so I would to thank all of you for your support. You are a great bunch of people and friends.

Have a great blooming season.



John Rempel

Think Spring!

Sooner than you think possible, this...



Will become this....



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COME & JOIN US IN 2011

MRLS EVENT SCHEDULE

Spring Seminar

April 2nd, Saturday - 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Winnipeg
Holiday Inn Airport West, 2520 Portage Avenue

Spring Bulb Sale

May 8th, Sunday - 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Winnipeg
Mother's Day Plant Sale with The Friends of the Assiniboine Park Conservatory
Canadian Mennonite University (North Campus) 500 Shaftesbury Blvd

Summer Lily Shows (two shows)

**more details in next newsletter & on the web (www.manitobalilies.ca)

July 9th, Saturday - Winnipeg

Kildonan Place Shopping Centre
Martagon Show in conjunction with Annual Show

July 22nd, Friday - Neepawa,
to coincide with the Lily Festival

Fall Bulb Sales

September 24th, Saturday - 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 pm, Winnipeg

MRLS Fall Bulb Sale
St James Civic Centre, 2055 Ness Avenue

October 1st, Saturday - 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Brandon

MRLS Fall Bulb Sale
Central Community Centre, 529 – 4th Street (off Victoria)

October 9th, Saturday - 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Dauphin

MRLS Fall Bulb Sale
Marketplace Mall

Pot Luck Supper & Awards, Winnipeg, 5 to 9 p.m.

October 15th, Saturday
Heritage-Victoria Community Centre
950 Sturgeon Road

**more details to come

2011 Spring Seminar - April 2, 2011

By: Deborah Petrie - Vice President MRLS

Cabin fever is at its height right now, but I have a remedy for that. Start looking forward to the MRLS Spring Seminar! This event kicks off the yearly lily season with a bang and this year it promises to be better than ever!

The Spring Seminar will be held on April 2nd, 2011, at the Holiday Inn, Airport West, in Winnipeg. So get those registration forms sent in soon (see insert included with this newsletter). As usual a FREE bulb is given to all that pre-register. The cost of the Seminar remains at \$25.00, with refreshments and a buffet lunch included.

Our featured speakers this year are Brian Bergman and Hugh Skinner. Brian is a member of the ORLS and well-known lily hybridizer. He will be giving us an overview of his hybridizing program and a glimpse of things happening in Keukenhof, Holland as well. Hugh is the President of the MHA and a well know speaker on many topics including lilies. He has agreed to speak to us this year about the "Skinner Legacy".

This year our bulb sale (taking place during lunch as usual) will have bulbs from Brian and Hugh for sale as well as bulbs from the Lily Nook.

Along with many other sponsors, Hugh and Brian have also graciously donated bulbs to our silent auction draws.

On behalf of the MRLS Executive and Board of Directors, I look forward to seeing all of you at the 2011 Spring Seminar.

Brian Bergman - A Brief Bio



Brian Bergman has won a number of awards in both the North American Lily Society and the Ontario Regional Lily Society.

He has won the Earl N. Hornback award recognizing new hybrid lilies showing the greatest advancement in hybridizing twice; first in 2006 for "Roy's Select" and again in 2008 for

a commercial variety "First Crown".

At Lilycrest Gardens he now has in excess of two acres in cultivation, the majority of which are his own seedlings.

He is hoping some of them will have sized up and be available for sale this fall. He is also working on OT's, trumpets and interdivisional varieties that will be more viable and fertile in the Canadian climate.

Hugh Skinner - A Brief Bio



Hugh Skinner has a Horticulture degree from the University of Manitoba and has worked in the nursery business for many years. He grows martagon lilies for a wholesale market.

He has received many awards including the Prairie Garden Award for Excellence and has judged in the Manitoba Communities in Bloom program since 2004.

Hugh has authored, with Sarah Williams, three books including *Best Trees and Shrubs for the Prairies*, *Best Ground Covers and Vines for the Prairies*, and new in 2011, [*Gardening, Naturally: A Chemical-Free Handbook for the Prairies*](#) (Coteau Books).

Active in the Manitoba Horticultural Association, Hugh currently serves as its President.

Bulb Sales Preview for 2011!

By: Ramona Crowther, Chair, Bulb Sale Committee



Northern Fire

Yes! Spring is on its way and we know that because we are planning the first bulb sale of the year at the Spring Seminar. To get in the spirit you must buy at least one bulb to get your gardening juices rolling.

This will be followed by the Mother's Day Sale held in conjunction with The Friends at the Assiniboine Park and culminate with the main event, the fall bulb sales!. Mark your calendars for the sale dates outlined in the calendar of events so you do not miss out on any of the great bulbs coming this year.

Once again, our great suppliers will be working with the Bulb Sale Committee to bring you the best of the best. And, we are always looking for something new just for you.

If you have seen a variety that you just have to have, let us know what it is by August 15th and we will try to bring it to a sale near you. Use the "Contact us" button on the MRLS website (www.manitobalilies.ca) and the message will be passed on.

For the Spring Seminar, here are just a few of the bulbs that will be available to tempt you: Asiatics: Forever Marjolien, Forever Susan, Stainless Steel, Summer Breeze, Rushmore, Pearl Jennifer, Ocean Breeze, Lion Heart as well as several pot or border asiatics including CrossOver, Push Off, and several new introductions in the "Tiny" series.



Forever Susan



Push Off

For those looking for the newest in Interdivisional hybrids, there will be: Nuance, Sunny Crown, First Crown, Invasion, Northern Fire, Pretty Woman, Red China, and Smoky Mountain. There will be a good selection from the other divisions, too, and something for everyone!!!

If anyone has a donation for the Silent Auction at the Spring Seminar please contact Deb Petrie at petrie@mts.net (204-726-0245) or John Rempel at jrempel@mymts.net (204-895-2212).

See you on April 2nd!!!

**MANITOBA REGIONAL LILY SOCIETY
SPRING SEMINAR AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2011
Saturday April 2nd**

**Holiday Inn Airport West
2520 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg MB**

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

Get your registration in early to receive a Free bulb!

PROGRAM

8:30 - Registration / Coffee / Socializing

9:00 - Welcome by President – *John Rempel*

9:15 - Keukenhof and Beyond – *Brian Bergman*

10:15 - COFFEE BREAK & SOCIALIZING

10:30 -The Skinner Legacy in Lilies - *Hugh Skinner*

11:15 - Question & Answer Panel - (All your questions answered)

11:30 – Research Report – *John Rempel*

12:00 - LUNCH FOLLOWED BY SPRING BULB SALE

1:30 - MRLS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - (Nominations for Officers & Directors)

2:00 - Quarks and Quirks (*my experiences in hybridizing*) – *Brian Bergman*

3:00 - COFFEE BREAK & SOCIALIZING

3:15 – Silent Auction Draws

4:00 - Closing

Manitoba Regional Lily Society Seminar Registration Form

Please pre-register by March 23, 2011 - 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

MEMBERSHIP NOTICE

Discussion Items for the Annual General Meeting at the Spring Seminar

At our last executive meeting, discussion arose about the amount that we have been charging for our annual spring seminar. We have been charging \$25 for the last 15 years. Today, this covers less than half of the actual costs of the seminar. A suggestion was to raise it to \$30. Annual bulb sales no longer bring us the income that we had 5-10 years ago and so we have been running a small budgetary deficit in the past years.

Our annual membership fee is \$7.50 a year. Should this be raised to \$10 per year? Many members get this back when they purchase their bulbs at a 10% discount.

These are just suggestions for the annual meeting and both will be open for discussion before any action is taken on either. So, plan on attending and letting yourself be heard!

John Rempel

Fred Fellner Lily Project

Editor's Note: The article which follows was originally written by Adam Yakabuskie for the Alberta Regional Lily Society (ARLS) "Bulblet" and is used with permission. Photos by ARLS's Arnold Semeniuk...BJ

Fred Fellner has lived on his family farm near Vermilion, AB for 70 years now, in an area noted for its cold, late spring frosts and long harsh winters. Born in 1931, he was a full time grain and cattle farmer until 2003 when he retired and took to lily breeding full time. This quiet, unassuming man breeds some of the finest Asiatic lilies in the world.

Fred developed an interest in lilies back in the late sixties, helped along by another well-known lily breeder named Robert Simonet. Fred realized early that he could build upon the genetics found in Simonet's seedlings, providing himself with a lifetime of hybridizing. There are more than 50 lilies in the RHS Lily Registry with Fred's name attached to them, and more yet of great garden lilies in circulation, which have never been registered.

Fred breeds for hardiness, disease resistance, high bud counts and fade resistant color. In his own words 'Beauty is much easier to come by, compared to the attainment of disease tolerance.' In his climate, Mother Nature lends a helping hand and culls those that do not measure up, resulting in the hardiest Botrytis resistant selections. As for bud counts – well, his lilies have always been known for this feature, and over the past 35 years they have certainly increased. In his seedling field, one can see hundreds of stems with 25 to 50 buds each! There are roughly 25,000 seedlings growing there, with 8000 to 10,000 new planted each spring. The advancement in Fred's lilies has been the greatest these past 4 years, and as he is fond of saying 'THE BEST IS YET TO COME!'

I have had the pleasure of visiting Fred's lily fields over the last couple of years, and on one occasion I asked where all his registered lilies were located. Fred's response was 'I gave them to people who liked them'. At that time, Fred had only 8 out of over 50 lilies registered to his name growing on the farm. Later I thought about this and thought to myself, this statement defines who Fred Fellner is. Like most lily enthusiasts, Fred brings joy to many people through his lilies. On many occasions Fred has talked about the people who have been touched by receiving his lilies. I believe this is the drive behind his successful lily breeding, with the great advancement in his breeding program a near second.

Because of Fred's generosity and dedication to so many individuals, I knew I had to do something special for the individual who asked for nothing in return. This is how the Fred Fellner Lily Project came to fruition. The goal was to collect as many of his registered lilies as we could find, and bring them back to the Fellner home-
stead. I could already envision the expression of happiness on Fred's face!

I approached the Alberta Regional Lily Society (ARLS), to help make this project possible, and received an overwhelming response to move this project forward. This is where the fun started! Fred has been breeding lilies for over 40 years, his lilies have been distributed far and wide, where do I start looking? I contacted many lily growers, from Alberta to Ontario in search of his registered lilies. I was very surprised to learn how many lily growers we have in Canada. I also contacted lily societies and placed ads looking for Fred's lilies.

I was able to collect 39 lilies, including the 8 that remained on the property. With such a successful outcome, a planting celebration was in order to commemorate Fred's achievements. On September 18th, 2010, approximately 20 people gathered at Fred's farm to celebrate and pay tribute to a friend, lily breeder, and mentor who has shared so much with others.

The morning started with a ceremony highlighting the lilies that were being returned to the farm. On ARLS behalf, I presented Fred with the collection of lilies, and a plasma-cut metal sign depicting a lily in the center. The Sign read ' THE BEST IS YET TO COME – Fred Fellner, from the Alberta Regional Lily Society 2010'. Speeches were given, highlighting Fred's achievements in breeding lilies, his kindness and generosity in shar-
ing with everyone, and the one thing Fred loves best, his lilies.

With tremendous joy on his face, Fred said a few words of thanks. I felt the world slow down for a few mo-
ments as Fred spoke to us. All I could think about was over 40 years of dedicated work, what a great achieve-
ment! I was reminded of a conversation we had a few months previous; today's grains of wheat could not
have been possible if not for the people who worked their lifetime to breed it. It then hit home, that I too
would be involved in lilies for years to come.



Adam Yakabuski (center) and Terry Willoughby (right) make the presentation to Fred Fellner (left)

In conversation after everyone left, I asked Fred which lily he was most excited to have back on the property. His response was "It would have to be Carol Jean, as many of my first lilies came from this breeder." He also said "I am very honored for individuals to come out to help and honor me with all the lilies and the sign. I am very pleased to see the lilies come home, it is so nice to be here with friends to celebrate this occasion together, rather than celebrating my achievements after I am gone."

I would like to thank the volunteers and lily nurseries who contributed to this project. I believe the success of this project was not because we were good at tracking down these lilies, but because Fred Fellner was so generous with distributing his lilies, they were easy to locate.

I am still looking for these Fellner registered lilies: Alice Moger, Apricot Cream, Brown Buttercup, Denise, Diana, Elenore Edna, Firefox, Golden Summer, Ice Cream, Lindsey Jennifer, Mary Margaret, Master's Touch, Melusina, Plumblossom, and Rosemary Margaret. If you have these lilies and would be willing to share a bulb or two please contact me at 1(403)244-9072 or email: martagon@shaw.ca.

NOTICE

The Ontario Regional Lily Society and Royal Botanical Gardens invite you to **NALS 2011**, July 13 - 17 at the RBG in Hamilton ON. Saturday tours include Niagara Parks School of Horticulture, Niagra-on-the-Lake and Brian Bergman's fields. Sunday tour is to S-W Gardens, home of Peter Schieman and Sandra-Pat Willis. A pre-convention tour is also being offered –“Wine Tasting in the Niagara Peninsula”. “Tourists” will visit a number of scenic and award-winning local wineries, and yes, tasting will be on the menu. For more information contact **Brian Bergman**, Show Chair, at bgberg@rogers.com.

MRLS Membership Renewals Are Now Due

If you receive a renewal notice with this edition of the newsletter, your membership has expired and it is time to renew. This will be your **last** newsletter!

We think we have finally worked out the expiry date problem for those who get their newsletter electronically. You should see your expiration date in the Subject Line of the e-mail from Nigel.

Please let us know if there is a problem with either method of delivery.

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