



Manitoba Lily Connection

Manitoba Regional Lily Society Newsletter

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President's Message

It has, to say the least, been a challenging spring in many areas of our province. "High Water Events" on top of already saturated gardens have prevented many members from getting into their gardens until recently and some are still dealing with standing water in the flower beds. Others have had to deal with stress and worry from these same events that may last for many more weeks to come! Despite the weather and water and weeds, the lilies are up and running and looking very healthy in my garden and I look forward to better gardening days ahead! Ah gardeners, we are eternal optimists aren't we?

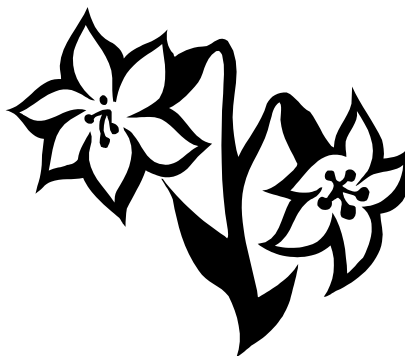
This year's Spring Seminar was an enjoyable success with both Brian Bergman's and Hugh Skinner's presentations being well received. You can read more about the seminar, including the special award presented there, in the Spring Seminar report included in this newsletter.

The MRLS has three shows again in July, one in Neepawa and two in Winnipeg at the Kildonan Shopping Centre. The Martagon show is being held in conjunction with the main show. See the events page of our website or refer to the upcoming events section of this Newsletter for information on all these shows. I look forward to seeing what stems our members bring to any or all of the shows. A change of venue is anticipated for the Windup event to be held in October so please check the fall newsletter for updated information.

NALS 2011 in Burlington Ontario is being held from July 13th to the 17th and has many interesting tours planned. There will be a lot to do and see in those five short days and I hope to see many of you there.

Keep in mind that the MRLS is hosting the NALS 2012 Show and Convention and volunteers will

definitely be needed. Contact one of our NALS co-chairs, either Sandy Venton at felix1@mymts.net, Fran Wershler at fransays@mymts.net or Ted Sobkowich at ts23@mts.net for further information or to volunteer your time (be it a little or a lot) to our effort. The theme for the 2012 show is "Manitoba Moments". We hope to showcase the past, present and future of lilies in this province.



Deborah Petrie
Fellow Lily Lover

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2011 Spring Seminar Report

Deborah Petrie, Seminar Convener

This year's seminar on April 2nd saw 54 people attending. I had the privilege of meeting at least three new members and hope to see them in the future at other lily events.

Our speakers, Hugh Skinner and Brian Bergman were both very well received by the crowd. It was very interesting to see so many new lilies from Keukenhof, Holland and from Ontario in Brian's presentations. The trip down memory lane via Hugh's presentation on the "Skinner Legacy" helped me understand the origins of many of our present days desirable lily traits.

The food presented by the Holiday Inn Airport South was, as always, plentiful and delicious with a buffet lunch and snacks throughout the day for all to enjoy.

The business meeting was short and sweet. Membership fees were discussed and a motion to increase the yearly fee to \$10.00 was passed. We elected four new Directors and they are: Brenda Newton of the Brandon area, Brent Hunter of Neepawa, and Gwen Jamieson of Winnipeg, for terms of one year and Nigel Strohman of Neepawa for the remaining year of Ted Sobkowich's term. Two existing Directors, Len Giesbrecht and Ed Czarnecki were reelected for a term of two years. Ted Sobkowich of Winnipeg became our new Vice President and I now have the privilege to serve as President.

Everyone had plenty of time to attend to the purchasing of the many great cultivars on sale from the Lily Nook and those offered by our two speakers as well. The "Pick-a-Prize" auction was a hit with a record number of donations to tempt the ticket holders.

The highlight of the event for me was presenting the NALS Service Medal to our Secretary, Sandra Venton, for her many years of dedicated service to the MRLS. This medal is usually presented at the Fall Windup but we chose to give it to her at the seminar so the surprise could be maintained and it was! She was literally speechless and for Sandy that is quite unusual.

Many thanks to all the members who helped make this event such a success. I look forward to meeting more new members next year.



M.R.L.S. Library

Those of us who attend the Spring Seminars are aware that the MRLS has a well stocked Library. It is always at the Seminars for members to check out books and is used by many.

I want to try to make it available to the rest of the members as well. Give me a couple of months to get it all organized. Send me an E-Mail request for the list, I send it to you, you make your choices and I will mail them to you. You pay for the postage, enjoy reading the book and send it back to me when you are done.

While there is a cost involved, you get access to a great selection of books on our favorite flower, the Lily. A reminder to any members with a book outstanding... please return your books so others can enjoy them as well.

Thank you.. Len Giesbrecht (lengiesb@hotmail.com)

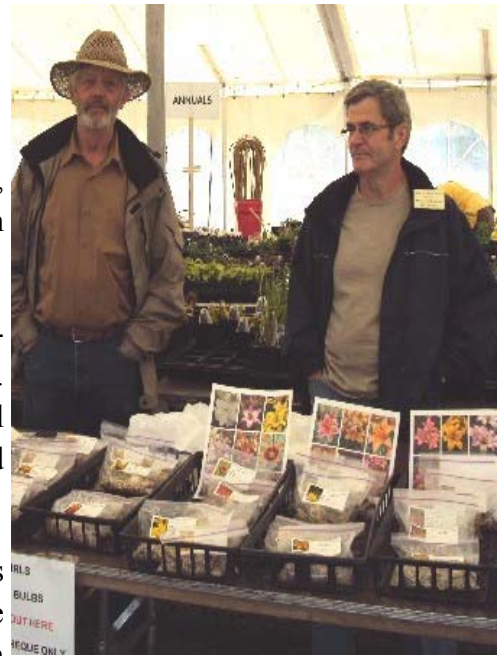
Mother's Day Sale Report

by Ramona Crowther

At the invitation of The Friends of the Assiniboine Park Conservatory, MRLS once again participated in their annual Mother's Day Sale on Sunday, May 8th at the Canadian Mennonite University North Campus.

The day started off cold and damp but the customers came and our volunteers answered the questions and promoted the lilies and the Society. The Lily Nook supplied a good cross section of great bulbs for this small sale and Gwen Jamieson, Thelma Czarnecki, Len & Rita Giesbrecht and Jack Kuhl filled the customer service roles most capably.

Promotion of the summer shows and fall sales was one of the main goals of the volunteers and I will call this sale a success. Thank you to The Friends of the Assiniboine Park for inviting us. again to participate with them.



Volunteers Len Giesbrecht and Jack Kuhl



In Memory of D. Grant Henderson



Word has been received of the passing of long time MRLS member (1987) and lily friend Grant Henderson at the age of 84 on April 1, 2011. Grant was an enthusiastic volunteer at both the fall bulb sales and the summer lily shows and was looking forward to the 2011 lily events.

A civil engineer by trade, Grant's artistic side came to the fore following his retirement when his love for wood carving and water color painting led him back to the University of Manitoba where he earned a Diploma in Fine Arts. Many times he spoke about his projects and he was proud of the harp and coffee table he created.

Other pursuits Grant enjoyed included time at the lake, cottage building, canoeing, gardening, growing prize winning lilies, bird watching, and Scottish Country Dancing.

He is survived by his wife Monique, of 59 years and his three daughters: Michele Henderson, Camille (Terry) Rowe, and Elaine and their children; a sister Anne, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Always friendly with a big smile and engaging sense of humor, he will be missed. Rest in peace, old friend.

**Report from the Annual Meeting of the
Manitoba Regional Lily Society
Held at the Holiday Inn, Airport West,
Winnipeg, Manitoba
Saturday, April 2, 2011 at 1:30 p.m.
(compiled by Sandy Venton)**

Treasurer Marlene Puls advised that there are 130 members of MRLS.

54 people attended the Seminar.

The speakers were Hugh Skinner, who spoke about the Skinner legacy of lilies, and Brian Bergman who spoke about Keukenhoff and beyond.

Deborah Petrie was elected President.

Ted Sobkowich was elected Vice-President.

Marlene Puls agreed to remain as Treasurer for a further 2 year term.

Sandy Venton agreed to remain as Secretary for a further 2 year term.

Len Giesbrecht and Ed Czarnecki were re-elected for their second 2 year term.

Nigel Strohman took over the last year of Ted Sobkowich's Director term plus 2012 for a total of 2 years.

Brent Hunter, Brenda Newton and Gwen Jamieson were elected for an initial 1 year term.

In the future, this will give us 3 directors to be elected every year.

Sandy Venton was presented with the NALS Service Medal which is given to a Regional Society to present to a deserving member.



Field Day and Open Gardens

Dr. Reg and Pat Gallop's Annual MRLS Field Day, SANDY BAY, R.M.V.B.

Date: Sunday, July 10th, 2011

This event takes place at Dr Reg and Pat Gallop's cottage and gardens in Sandy Bay. There will be many lilies, delphiniums, clematis, roses, other perennials, annuals and trees to enjoy in a quiet, beautiful bush land setting on the eastern shore of Lake Winnipeg. Members and friends are welcome to come about mid-morning, preferably in pooled vehicles since parking is limited. About 90 minutes from Winnipeg, proceed on Highway 59 north to Victoria Beach but do not turn in there. Instead proceed straight ahead on Highway 504 and turn left at McCawley Road, then left at McCord Drive and look for GALLOP at #23 on the lake side. Drivers will then be shown where to park as approved by the Victoria Beach Police. Lunch is part of the tradition and Reg and Pat will supply the barbequed chicken. Guests supply the rest. Dr. Reg asks that you arrange with your accompanying friends to achieve a good balance of items from salads, cooked items, drinks and desserts. Home cooked items are always welcome. Coffee, tea, plastic cutlery, glasses, paper plates, napkins, etc. will be supplied.

NOTE: In order to ensure enough supplies are on hand, please call 475-4144 in Winnipeg or 756-3788 at the cottage (both have answering machines) by July 15th if you expect to attend. Or, you can e-mail them at ragallop@mts.net

The Lily Nook Open Gardens—Neepawa MB

Nigel and Joyce Strohman invite you to visit the Lily Nook from July 1st to July 31st to view over 2000 named varieties in their peak bloom. Over 150 varieties of potted lilies are available at this time. The annual Neepawa Lily Festival is July 22nd - 24th. That week the Lily Nook growing fields are open to the public to walk through and enjoy the vast color range of the lilies. We are located in beautiful farm land, 4 km south of Neepawa on highway #5. We look forward to welcoming you this summer.

Upcoming Shows

27th Annual Show/4th Annual Martagon Show

Saturday, July 9th - Kildonan Place Shopping Centre, Winnipeg (and)

Friday, July 22nd - Neepawa,- in conjunction with the Lily Festival

Fall Bulb Sales

(9 a.m. to 4 p.m. all locations)

Winnipeg - September 24th, Saturday - St James Civic Centre, 2055 Ness Avenue

Brandon - October 1st, Saturday - Central Community Centre, 529 – 4th Street

Dauphin—October 9th, Saturday - Marketplace Mall, Main Street South

Pot Luck Supper & Awards

Winnipeg, 5 to 9 p.m. October 15th, Saturday - Location TBA

****Stay tuned for the final details in the September newsletter****

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS – 2011

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	Deborah Petrie	SECRETARY	Sandy Venton
VICE-PRESIDENT	Ted Sobkowich	TREASURER	Marlene Puls
NEWSLETTER	Barbara-Jean Jackson	PAST PRESIDENT	John Rempel

DIRECTORS

Brenda Newton	Ed Czarnecki
Gwen Jamieson	Len Giesbrecht
Brent Hunter	Nigel Strohman

HONORARY DIRECTORS

Dr. Wilbert Ronald, Lynn Collicutt

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

John Rempel, Chair: Dr. Wilbert Ronald, Nigel Strohman, Sandy Venton, Ed Czarnecki

LIBRARY

Len Giesbrecht

SEMINAR

Ted Sobkowich

HISTORIAN

Gwen Jamieson

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