



# Manitoba Lily Connection

Manitoba Regional Lily Society Newsletter

Volume 28, Issue 4

*Affiliated with the North American Lily Society*

December, 2011

## President's Message

The garden is safely tucked away now and the snow has finally arrived. I'm hoping, of course, for more of that precious white mulch to protect all those new Martagons I planted this fall.

From the Spring Seminar to the Awards Potluck Windup it was a fast-paced and busy season with our usual two Lily shows and three bulb sales being the main focus of our year. Throw in some very unusual weather in the province and it only got busier with the added gardening challenges from floods and droughts. The many reports in this newsletter will bring you up to date.

My focus this winter will be the upcoming season and it will be an exciting one! The MRLS is once again hosting the NALS Show and Conference in 2012. It will be the largest event of the 2012 season and plans are coming together nicely for an exciting and enjoyable event. Our usual Martagon and Lily Shows will resume again in 2013 after the 2012 hiatus for the NALS show.

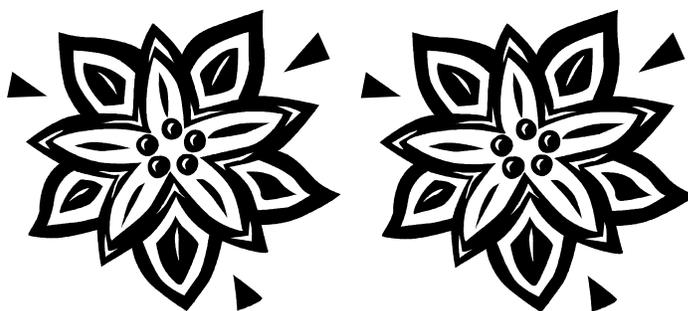
The NALS Show and Conference is buy no means the only event of 2012. Along with our usual three bulb sales in the fall we are also participating Manitoba Horticultural Association's conference in Steinbach at the end of January and in the Friends of Gardens Manitoba's Gardening Saturday in March.

Our Annual AGM and Seminar is being planned for April. Just in time for us all brush up on everything you need to know to get your lilies ready to show at the conference in July. We anticipate having presentations on lily showing and on designing with lilies as well as an interesting guest speaker.

As you can see even though winter is fast approaching there will a lot of things going on behind the scenes to ensure 2012 is another successful lily year both for you and the MRLS.

Merry Christmas and a Happy Hanukkah to all.

Deborah Petrie  
Fellow Lily Lover



### *Inside:*

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# **Coming in 2012!!!**

*(The 2012 NALS Committee)*

The Board of Directors of the Manitoba Regional Lily Society cordially invite you to attend the 65<sup>th</sup> Annual North American Lily Society's Lily Show and Conference which will take place in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The theme of the Conference is "Manitoba Moments". The venue is the CanadInn Destination Centre, Polo Park located at 1405 St. Matthew's Avenue from July 11<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

Wednesday evening will see a welcome reception hosted by the Manitoba Regional Lily Society for all conference registrants and guests. Speakers from North America and Europe are scheduled to educate and entertain you for Thursday and Friday. Friday will also see the Lily Show open to the public in the afternoon and the NALS Research Trust's Banquet and Auction in the evening. Our all-day tour on Saturday will be to the Lily Nook in Neepawa and the English Garden and Leo Mol Sculpture Garden at the Assiniboine Park in Winnipeg. The formal events for the week culminate with the Awards Banquet on Saturday evening. There will be self-guided garden tours hosted by local gardeners for your enjoyment on Sunday.

Our guest speakers will be Terry Willoughby from Alberta, David Hercsberg from Latvia, Sara Williams from Saskatchewan and Nigel Strohmman and Hugh Skinner from Manitoba.

For more information, please go to our website, [manitobalilies.ca](http://manitobalilies.ca).

We all hope to see you there for interesting and informational talks, tours, good food and companionship.

## **MRLS 2012 CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Gardening Saturday on March 31<sup>st</sup> at the Canadian Mennonite University, 500 Shaftsbury Boulevard, Winnipeg. The MRLS will be presenting "All About Lilies", a panel presentation and Q&A session. Check the Friends of Gardens Manitoba website for the schedule (<http://www.gardensmanitoba.com>)

Annual AGM and Spring Seminar will be held on Saturday April 14<sup>th</sup>. See the March newsletter for location and other details.

NALS 65<sup>th</sup> Annual Show and Conference, July 11<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>. Canad Inns Destination Centre Polo Park, 1405 St. Matthews Avenue, Winnipeg.

Fall Bulb Sales:

Winnipeg – September 22<sup>th</sup>, St James Civic Centre, 2055 Ness Avenue.

Brandon – September 29<sup>th</sup>, Central Community Centre, 529 4<sup>th</sup> Street

Dauphin – October 6<sup>th</sup>, Market Place Mall, 1450 Main Street South

Windup & Pot Luck Supper

Saturday October 13<sup>th</sup> from 2- 8 PM (time of awards to be announced) will be held at the Heritage-Victoria Community Centre, 950 Sturgeon Road, Winnipeg. Further details in the September 2012 Newsletter.

# 2011 in Review

*By John Rempel*

What an amazing year it has been. Many in Manitoba will be very happy when this year and the next are over. Depending on where you live, you will be happy or extremely depressed over the weather in 2011. In a review of my journal, the winter of 2011 started with good snow cover and milder than usual temperatures.

I started pumping the water from my garden area on April 1<sup>st</sup> and my yard was snow free by April 10<sup>th</sup>. By mid April, the flood of the century started to take hold. Large areas of western Manitoba and the Interlake region were affected by high water. The lake region will suffer for a many more years until water levels recede and housing can be replaced. Living in the Charleswood area of Winnipeg, I was unaffected by these events as I am probably 30 meters above flood levels.

So: how was my year? It started out very wet, in excess of 70 mm rain from April thru June. There was no late killing frost. Martagon's were up by April 19. Many lilies showed nutrient deficiencies due to the saturated soil. These improved over the course of the summer as we moved from wet to dry. July to October experienced above normal temperatures and we moved from flood to drought with almost no rain for four months. Daytime temperatures often exceeded 30 C.

In spite of the wet and heat, the lilies put on a great show. By July 18, on my return from NALS, the lilies were in full bloom. The OT's continued to bloom until September. I did some hybridizing again this year. When you start, it can be addictive even if you have no room left for seedlings and there are ongoing family discussions as to whether vegetables outrank lilies in importance. I recorded 44 attempted crosses, some with multiple blooms. Success rate was 50 percent. From the 22 successful crosses, results ranged from 1 to 400+ seeds. All were candled for embryos and packed and placed into cold storage. Selective seeding will start in December. All crosses were Trumpet or OT's except for one Asiatic cross (George Slate x Purple Reign). This cross will be completely seeded out. In addition there were 9 open pollinated crosses from seedlings that originated from Joe Hoell in Tasmania. These may have some value as they are probably sibling crosses as these plants were all in the same bed.

The beautiful long autumn was great for getting things done. I was able to replant a number of old beds and inventory each row. Including seedlings, there are about 500 varieties.

There were some interesting observations during the fall bulb dig, since we had such a dry summer. Asiatics were very small with poor basal roots, even though the stems were of normal height. This may well impact next year's bloom. Martagons, on the other hand, were as large and healthy as usual, even when dug in mid-August. The trumpets and OT's were a pleasant surprise. Bulbs were firm and healthy with long strong basal roots that seemed to bring moisture up from the subsoil. With the warm fall with almost no frost, stems senesced late in the fall, preparing the bulbs for great season of bloom next year.

Happy gardening in 2012. See you at NALS in Winnipeg.

PS. Anne and I continued our Monarch butterfly rescue in 2011. We released 41 monarchs that we raised from caterpillars. This year I did a sex count. 16 males vs. 25 females. Hopefully some of them made it through the drought in Texas to reach their Mexico wintering grounds.



# 2011 FALL BULB SALES

Part 1 – Winnipeg by Ramona Crowther, Chair, Bulb Sale Committee

Starting in Winnipeg, the folks were out to snap up the bulbs again this year, especially those martagons. On Friday night the St James Civic Centre was set up in record time with bulbs all out and the volunteers sat down to a nice supper and some garden gossip. On sale day, the smiling volunteers made for a lot of happy customers buying bulbs. Listening to the happy chatter of everyone made for a great noise in the hall.

Our committee cannot say a big enough **Thank You** to each volunteer who once again made this all happen. To our suppliers, we also send thanks for the great bulbs that we had to offer this year. They made a lot of customers happy. Personally, thank you to each member of the Fall Bulb Sale Committee who are great team players and share in making all the sales a success.

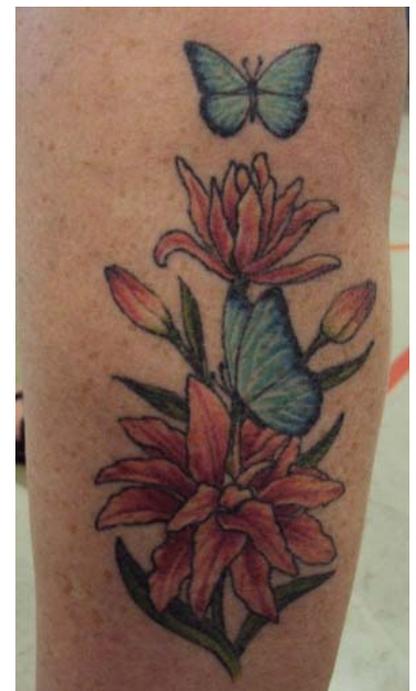


*Ed Czarnecki assists customers in Winnipeg*



**2011 appears to be the year of the lily tattoo!  
At least two customers showed off their lily-themed tattoos for us at the Winnipeg and Dauphin sales!**

**Unfortunately we were so taken with the tattoos, we forgot to get the customers names. Both did, however, consent to showing them off in this newsletter. Our thanks to you both!!!**



Part 2 - Brandon—Deborah Petrie, Coordinator

The 2011 bulb sale had a few challenges but over all was a success. Martagons sold in record numbers this year with named varieties and seedling going for rock bottom prices. The selection was varied with many martagon cultivars available that we have never offered before and a few exclusive to Brandon!



*Martagons Beryl Layton (left) and Sweet Betsy (right) were offered exclusively in Brandon and were hot sellers. (Photos from the gardens of B. J. Jackson)*



OT sales as usual were great too and we again purchased more from Jefferies Nursery to have on hand in Brandon.

Our MRLS volunteers in Brandon and area and the West-Man Gardeners club did an excellent job in helping our customers find exactly the right lilies for their gardens. My thanks to all who participated in the sale both customers and volunteers. Our success depends on you and you all came through for us yet again.

Part 3—Dauphin, B. J. Jackson, Coordinator

This year marked the 10th anniversary for the Dauphin sale and once again the people from Dauphin and surrounding areas were out in full force to support us. Several specials sold out completely including several freshly dug for us by the Lily Nook and available only at the Dauphin sale.

We could not do this sale if not for the Dauphin Horticultural Society headed by Louise Fiel. Once again, the club provided several volunteers to help us out and many stayed beyond their scheduled shifts to make sure all customers were taken care of well. Thanks to Louise and all the volunteers who continue to make the Dauphin sale more wonderful every year. Thanks to the Lily Nook and Nigel Strohm, too, for digging more bulbs for us into October. We hope to see you in 2012!



*Customers browse the sale tables above. At right, B. J. Jackson shows volunteer Gladys Bloomquist one of the anniversary specials.*

# AWARDS & WINDUP POT LUCK SUPPER

By: Deborah Petrie

This year's event was held on October 16<sup>th</sup> at the Bourkevale Community Centre. The turn out was a little disappointing as only a few new members attended. The Board of Directors, though, was well represented and our diehard, always to be relied upon volunteers were there to enjoy the evening.

At the suggestion of an award winning member from 2010 the awards this year were a selection of hand crafted porcelain lily ornaments combined with a certificate detailing the particulars of the award. The certificate was very well received. We plan to continue it in the future.

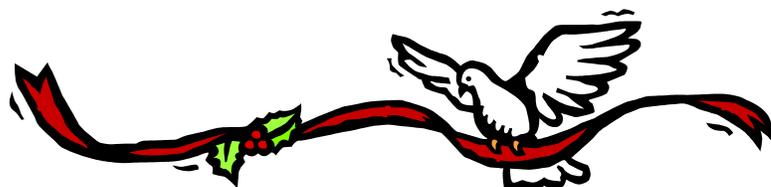
There was a good selection of bulbs left over from the bulb sales offered at bargain basement prices and those on hand went home with some excellent last minute deals for their gardens.



*Top Left:: Ramona Crowther accepts the award for the best martagon in the Winnipeg show; Bottom left: Gwen Jamieson receives the award for best in show at the martagon show; Center: lining up at the food tables; Top Right: Jennifer Bishop buys just a few more bulbs; Bottom Right: Bev Hooper accepts the award for the best design at the Winnipeg show.  
(Photos courtesy Gwen Jamieson, Ramona Crowther and Valerie Denesiuk.)*

The food (which as usual was plentiful and delicious) and fellowship was a great way to end another successful MRLS season. The only problem I saw was that it was over all too soon.

I urge all members to be on the lookout for the notice of this event in the September 2012 newsletter and plan to attend. As 2012 will see the MRLS host the 65<sup>th</sup> Annual NALS Show and Conference, next years windup event promises to be better than ever. Hope to see you there.



## **Your Questions Answered**

*(with Nigel Strohmann)*

**Q:** I was unable to plant my bulbs before freeze up, is there any way to save them for planting next spring?

**A:** Since true lilies do not have a protective outer membrane like other bulbs such as tulips or glads, they need to be stored properly so that the bulbs do not dry out! Bulbs are best stored in ziplock bags in fairly dry peat moss. The lilies will produce some moisture in the bag that will be absorbed by the peat moss. If the peat moss is too wet the bulbs will rot. Lily bulbs are best store just above freezing at 1 to 2 degree Celsius. You can store them in the crisper of your fridge but as lilies bulbs are never completely dormant and your fridge temperature may be more than 2 degrees you will need to check on them monthly for excessive moisture and sprouting. If they start to sprout over 1" you will need to pot them up indoors and then transfer them to your garden in the spring when the weather is suitable.

## **MRLS LIBRARY**

*By: Len Giesbrecht*

The MRLS has a great collection of Lily books in our Library, and I am not sure everyone is aware of this. I have taken on the responsibility of taking care of the Library and am going to try to expand its availability. Traditionally we could access the Library at the Spring Seminar, and members will still be able to do so, but I am going to try to ensure that more members can make use of it

Have a look at the list (next page) and see if there is a book you might be interested in reading. If you want to take a look at the Library, send me an E-Mail and we can set up a suitable day. I may look at a mailing option at some point but the cost may be prohibitive. If you are coming in to Winnipeg from the country, send me a message and I'll try to set up a meeting.

Contact me at [lengiesb@hotmail.com](mailto:lengiesb@hotmail.com) for more information. The list is a partial one at this point. We have most of the NALS Yearbooks and the Royal Horticultural Society Yearbooks as well but they will be added at a later date.

In a related matter, the Library is run on an Honour system and you may notice some of the books are checked out. I want to ask everyone to check and see if you have any of these books. There will be a small envelope glued to the inside with the HB number on it. I do have the names of some of the people and will be contacting them. I'm not pointing fingers. I found that I had checked out a book 2 years ago and not returned it so I can understand how this happens.

Finally, if you have any Lily books you would like to donate to the Library they would be greatly appreciated.

	Code	Name - Author	Date	Pages	Copies	
In	HB01	Lilies and Their Culture in North America		1928	144	1
In	HB02	Lilies for American Gardens - George Slate		1939	258	1
In	HB03	Lilies for Every Garden - Isabella Preston		1947	160	1
In	HB04	The New Book of Lilies - Jan de Graaff		1951	176	1
In	HB05	Lilies in Their Homes - Maxwell		1953	256	1
In	HB06	Garden Lilies - Their Selection & Cultivation - M.E. Leeburn		1963	139	1
In	HB07	Modern Lilies - M. J. Jefferson-Brown		1965	137	1
In	HB08	Horticultural Horizons - Frank L. Skinner		1966	158	1
In	HB09	The Book of The Lily - W. Goldring		(old)	89	1
OUT	HB10	Lilies - Garden Flowers in Color		1916	116	1
In	HB11	International Lily Register - 1969		1969	141	1
In	HB12	Lilies - Present Day Gardening - A. Groves		1915	116	1
In	HB13	Lilies - Kew Garden Guide - Victoria Matthews		1989	124	1
In	HB14	Growing Lilies - Derek Fox		1985	269	1
In	HB15	The Complete Book of Bulbs - H.G. Fogg		1974	158	1
In	HB16	Lilies & Their Cultivation - H.G. Fogg		1961	149	1
In	HB17	Consider The Lilies - W.E. Marshall		1927	80	1
OUT	HB18	Lilies - Woodcock and Coutts		1935	242	1
In	HB19	Lilies - Patrick Syngé		1980	276	1
OUT	HB20	A Book of Lilies - Mark Smith		1988		1
In	HB21	Bulbs for the Home Gardener - Bebe Miles		1976	208	1
In	HB22	The Complete Book of Lilies - Rockwell, Grayson & J. DeGraaf		1961	351	1
OUT	HB23	Bulbs - Roger Phillips & Martyn Rix		1989	255	1
In	HB24	The Bulb Book - Roger Phillips & Martyn Rix		1981	192	1
In	HB25	Lilies of the World - Drysdale, Woodcock & Stern		1950	431	1
In	HB26	The Lily - For Garden Patio & Display- M. Jefferson-Brown		1988	122	1
OUT	HB27	Lilies - Their Care and Cultivation - Micheal Jefferson-Brown		1990	144	1
In	HB28	Lilies - Jan de Graaff		1968	142	1
In	HB29	Lilies - Richard Bird		1991	128	1
In	HB30	Lilies of China - Steven Haw		1986	172	1
In	HB31	Lilies for English Gardens - Gertrude Jekyll		1901	72	1
OUT	HB32	Lilies for English Gardens - Gertrude Jekyll		1985	150	1
OUT	HB33	A Redoute Treasury 486 Watercolors		1989	228	1
In	HB34	Lilies - Carl Feldmair		1970	228	1
OUT	HB35	Best Bulbs for Temperate Climates				
In	HB36	The Gardeners Guide to Growing Lilies - M. Jefferson-Brown		1995	160	2
In	HB37	Plantsman Guide to Lilies - Micheal Jefferson-Brown		1989	127	1
OUT	HB38	The Complete Book of Bulbs - Readers Digest		1994	240	1
In	HB39	Lilies - A Guide to Choosing & Growing Lilies - M. Jefferson-Brown		2003	160	1
In	HB40	Garden Lilies - McNeil		1946	226	1
In	HB41	Lilies for the Garden & Greenhouse - D.T. Macfie		1950	152	1
In	HB42	Notes on Lilies 2nd edition- Dr. Wallace		1879	215	1
In	HB43	Lilies the New Plant Library - Andrew Mikolajski		1998	64	1
OUT	HB44	Lilies - A Guide for Growers - Edward McRae		1998	392	1
In	HB45	Lilies - Scott Appell		2000	175	1
OUT	HB46	The Lilies - Pierre-Joesph ReDoute		2000	493	1
In	HB47	Lilies - Pamela McGeorge		2004	96	1
In	HB48	Chromosome Atlas - Wylie		1945	519	1
OUT	HB49	Plant Propagation - Hartmann		1959	702	1
In	HB50	Garden Lilies - Isabella Preston		1935	128	1
OUT	HB51	Martagon Lilies - E. Eugene Fox		2006	174	1
In	HB52	In a Cold Land - Sara Willams		2006	56	1
In	HB53	Prairie Phoenix - Bonnie Lawrence & Anna Layton		2005	139	1
OUT	HB54	Prairie Gardener 2005 Featuring Lilies		2005	167	1
In	HB55	RHS Registry Book		2008	948	1
In	HB56	Know your Lilies - Richmond E Harrison		1971	84	1
OUT	HB57	Lilies in Australia - Wither				

# NOTICES

## MRLS Membership Renewals Are Now Due

If you receive a renewal notice with this edition of the newsletter, your membership will expire at the end of December so it is time to renew. Details are included in the renewal notice.

For those who receive the newsletter electronically, you should see your expiration date in the Subject Line of the e-mail from Nigel. There were several new members who signed up at the fall bulb sales who indicated they would like to receive the newsletter electronically, but did not provide an e-mail address. If you are one of these new members, please send your e-mail address directly to Nigel at [info@lilynook.mb.ca](mailto:info@lilynook.mb.ca) so he can add you to the e-mail list.

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

## Lily Trading Post

Looking for that special lily or lily related item????  
Just drop me a note and I will publish it in the next newsletter! Send to: [jacksonb@mts.net](mailto:jacksonb@mts.net) or call me at 727 6049 and leave a message

*Merry Christmas to all our lily friends from the  
MRLS Board of Directors.  
And a Happy New Year, too!*

2012

Neepawa & Area

Lily Festival

July 20, 21, 22

## WANTED

MRLS is looking to develop a list of members available to speak to garden clubs, plant associations, etc.

Information we need will include topics you are able to present and where you would be willing to travel to make a presentation.

Although lilies are the focus of this list, other garden related presentations you can do are also welcome!

Please contact Brenda Newton  
[valleyrimgirl@inetlinkwireless.ca](mailto:valleyrimgirl@inetlinkwireless.ca)

## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS – 2011

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Len Giesbrecht

### SEMINAR

Ted Sobkowich

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