



# Manitoba Lily Connection

Manitoba Regional Lily Society Newsletter

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*Affiliated with the North American Lily Society*

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## President's Message

As I look out over the snow covering my gardens I realize there is more snow out there right now than fell all last winter! The Wind-up is over, the bulb sales all finished. The NALS 2012 Show is a shining point in my memory and the Spring Seminar just a distant echo. Yet another eventful MRLS year draws to a close. The Garden is tucked in, my gardening books laid out and my favourite list of lily websites updated. I am ready for the long cold Manitoba winter.

2013 will see the MRLS at the Friends of Gardens Manitoba's Gardening Saturday alongside last years partner the Can-West Iris Society. Sharing our volunteers worked so well last year we have decided not to mess with a good thing.

Planning has also started for the 2013 Spring Seminar and AGM in April and some interesting ideas are being considered.

Our lily show in 2013 will be combined with the martagon show in Winnipeg and we will also be sponsoring the Neepawa Lily Festival Show both taking place in July.

Of course our three bulb sales are also scheduled for the fall. Look for the events schedule in this newsletter for dates and stay tuned for more information on all our events in future newsletters.

The 2013 NALS Show and Convention will be held in West Des Moines, Iowa June 26-30, 2013, sponsored by The Iowa Regional Lily Society and I for one plan to be there.

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and the best of the season to all.

Deborah Petrie, Fellow Lily Lover



*From Our House to  
Yours!  
Merry Christmas  
from the  
Board of Directors*

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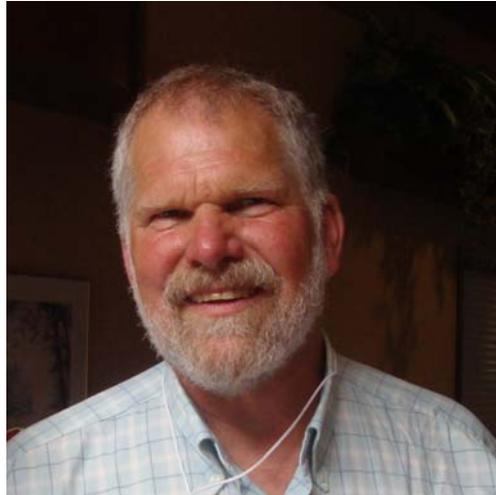
## Some Memories of NALS 2012

*By Ted Sobkowich*

*(Photos courtesy of Katharina and Suzanna Durand)*

This past July, the North American Lily Society Show and Convention was held in Winnipeg. I believe this was our third time hosting a NALS Show and Convention. 2012 was also the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of NALS. (The New Zealand Lily Society is older at 80 years old.)

We had local Manitoba speakers, some out of province speakers, from Saskatchewan and Alberta, and some out of country speakers, from the US and Latvia. Hugh Skinner, from the 'northern' community of Roblin, Manitoba, gave an interesting talk on the lily breeding work of his father, Frank Skinner.



*Hugh Skinner*

Nigel Strohmann, of the 'western' Manitoba town of Neepawa, was to be the other Local lily expert. He was to talk about the Ed Robinson martagons and their ongoing evaluation. Unfortunately Nigel was ill and unable to deliver his talk. Many thanks to Margaret Driver, of Saskatoon, for giving Nigel's talk. If you would like to hear Nigel speak about the Ed Robinson Martagon, come to the MRLS Spring Seminar, 2013.

Our out of province speakers were Sara Williams from Saskatoon, SK and Terry Willoughby of Edmonton, AB. Sara spoke about the interesting lives of four early Prairie hybridizers, who not only hybridized lilies, but many other plants, which have enriched our gardens over the decades. Terry Willoughby, who is one of the Alberta martagon hybridizers, talked about his experience, observations and results within his martagon hybridization program.

*Terry Willoughby*



Our out of country speakers were Art Evans and Davids Hercsbergs. Art Evans, from Gravett, Arkansas, US was the Awards Dinner speaker. With pictures and words, Art great a delightful review of his beginning hybridization program, which involves Orientpets, to where it has taken him now.

The other out of country speaker was Davids Hercsbergs. Davids is from just outside Riga, Latvia. He has been hybridizing lilies, (martagons, trumpets and asiatics), for many years. His lecture covered his work and the works of some other Latvian lily breeders.



Davids Hercsbergs with Ted Sobkowich

Of course, all the talks had pictures for the eyes to feast upon and the heart to fall in love with.

## **MRLS Heritage Garden Thank You!**



**To Shauna and Terry Willoughby of Spruce Grove, Alberta  
for the generous donation of Ed Robinson's martagon  
Ivory Gem to the garden this fall.**

**Nigel Strohman reports that the garden is doing well since being moved  
to its new location at the Lily Nook in the spring of 2012.**

## FALL BULB SALES

Ramona Crowther, Bulb Sales Committee Chair and coordinator of the Winnipeg sale reports “The great teams of volunteers helped make the sales in Winnipeg “the place to be” to purchase some fantastic bulbs. Everyone shared their knowledge and the days flew by. A huge Thank You to each of you and I hope you got all your own purchases planted safely into the ground. Thank you to our suppliers who had some excellent choices for us to offer this year. We hope everyone got that new one for that special place in their garden.”

Deborah Petrie Coordinator of the Brandon sale writes: “Martagons sold for excellent prices with seedlings leading the way. The selection of all varieties was varied with many cultivars available that we have never offered before. As usual our MRLS volunteers in Brandon and area along with the West-Man Gardeners Club did a great job 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.”

And finally, B. J. Jackson reports that once again the people of Dauphin came out to support the sale and the MRLS. She writes: “Without the dedicated volunteers from the Dauphin Horticulture Society the sale would not, no, could not happen and be the success it has been. Our thanks to Louise Fiel and her crew for coming out every year and supporting the sale.

And finally, Ramona writes: “As I leave the position of Chair for the Bulb Sales, I want to say a Big Thanks to each member of the Fall Bulb Sale Committee who share in making the sales so successful and all the best to my Successor.”



*Volunteers assist customers at the Dauphin sale on Thanksgiving weekend.  
(Photo courtesy B. J. Jackson)*

**Have a Happy Holiday Season from all the Bulb Sales Committee Members  
Ramona Crowther, Thelma Czarnecki, Len Giesbrecht, Rita Giesbrecht, B. J.  
Jackson, Gwen Jamieson, Deborah Petrie, Sandy Venton, Marlene Puls,  
Ted Sobkowich and Naomi Wiebe**

# MRLS Wind-up & Appreciation Dinner Report

*By: Deborah Petrie*

MRLS members were treated this year to a wind-up at the Victoria Heritage Community Centre on October 13th. The event was catered by Danny's Whole Hog of Stony Mountain. Our usual list of volunteers were joined by those friends and family who volunteered their time and energy or gave us their support throughout the organizing, planning and implementation of the 2012 NALS Show and Conference held this past July in Winnipeg.

A few new member friends were met and old friends caught up on news over the excellent meal provided. As usual there were half price lily bulbs to be had and this year our Librarian Len Geisbrecht set up the library for all to browse through.

There were a record number of attendees present and a great time was had by all. We hope to welcome more new faces next year to this now annual event. I think this photo says it all!



My thanks go out to:

Our MRLS Membership - they make us strong

My fellow members of the Board of Directors - who work together as a team to get things done

The 2012 NALS committee - who stepped up and made our latest international "Manitoba Moment" happen

The Bulb sale committee - whose chair, Ramona Crowther, is stepping down this year with our thanks for her determined efforts.

All our family members - who puts up with our obsessions and preoccupation during all our events and their planning

All our volunteers – who we couldn't do without and who make every event we host from AGM to windup a resounding success

# 2013 Events

**Gardening Saturday - March 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
**Canadian Mennonite University**  
**500 Shaftbury Boulevard, Winnipeg**

**MRLS Spring Seminar and AGM**  
**Saturday - April 6<sup>th</sup>**  
**Venue to be announced**

**North American Lily Society Show and Convention**  
**"Celebrating Lilies in the Heartland"**  
**West Des Moines, Iowa - June 26-30**

**MRLS Combined Lily Show**  
**Date and Venue to be announced**

**MRLS Lily Festival Show**  
**Friday and Saturday, July 19th and 20th**  
**Neepawa**

**Fall Bulb Sales**  
**Winnipeg, September 28th**  
**Brandon, October 5th**  
**Dauphin, October 12th**

**MRLS Awards Windup**  
**Date and Venue to be announced**

## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS – 2012

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