



Manitoba Lily Connection

Manitoba Regional Lily Society Newsletter

Volume 30, Issue 2

Affiliated with the North American Lily Society

June, 2013

President's Message

Well, Spring has finally arrived, with a few late snowfalls and storms. The lily noses were poking out of the ground, for some, at the end of April. The temperatures are warming. Everything is greening up and beginning to bloom, the Squills, the species Tulips, the Daffodils, and the fruit trees.

The Society got its early spring start at Gardening Saturday in March. The next Plant event was our attendance at the Mothers' Day Plant Sale. At both events, we answered questions, handed out information on the Society, its Lily show, fall bulb Sale, and about the dreaded Lily Beetle. Some of our members have already sent some beetles to their permanent rest.

Our summer celebration is the July Lily Show. This year we have a bright new location, at the Grant Park Mall.

Fall begins with our 3 bulb Sales, one in Winnipeg, one in Brandon and one in Dauphin.

Our Lily season ends in Fall. October is the month. The Pot Luck Wind-up is the Event.

If you need a little more Lilies this year, try the North American Lily Society Show and Conference, in West Des Moines, Iowa, at the end of June. Also, the Neepawa Lily Festival, the 3rd weekend in July.

For details on all the events, read the newsletter and check out the web sites.

We hope it will be a wonderful lily-growing season.

Ted Sobkowich

Help Researchers Track the Lily Beetle!

Researchers from the Department of Biology, Carleton University need our help. The lily beetle is on the move and they have set up a website to track it. The primary goal of this project is to map the North American distribution of the lily leaf beetle. The website below has a Google map that researchers hope to populate with input from lily growers everywhere. There is also a form for up-loading both the location of beetle sightings and photos. In addition, the site will provide news about our biological control effort based in Ottawa, as well as occasional musings on biological control in general. So head to this website <http://lilybeetletracker.weebly.com/> and help researchers study this lily nemesis.



Inside:

<i>Gardening Saturday Report</i>	2
<i>Mothers Day Sale Report</i>	2
<i>Spring Seminar Report</i>	3
<i>29th Anniversary MRLS Lily Show</i>	4
<i>A Short Note About Species</i>	5
<i>Directory of Officers and Directors</i>	6
<i>Show Schedule</i>	(attached)

Gardening Saturday

(By B. J. Jackson)

The first event of 2013. A chance for winter starved gardeners craving the coming of spring and the new gardening season to meet with like minded people and talk plants. The event was the very popular Gardening Saturday put on by the Friends of Gardens Manitoba on March 23rd at the Canadian Mennonite University. Once again, Manitoba Regional Lily Society partnered with the Can-West Iris Society to share a table.

The weather wasn't very spring like but it was definitely spring inside as volunteers talked lilies to anyone who ventured near. And come they did. Estimates put the number of people who ventured through the vendor area at more than four thousand and I think we talked to a goodly number of them. By the end of the day my voice was hoarse and several people became the proud new 'parents' of lilies that had been kept in the cooler for the winter. They were ready to grow!

My thanks to all the volunteers who came out to give us a hand during the day. Without volunteers we couldn't do what we do. Thank you.



Mothers Day Sale

(By Len Giesbrecht)

The MRLS took part in the Mothers Day Sale again this year. Thanks to Nigel at the Lily Nook we had a nice selection of bulbs and we certainly appreciated him adding a nice variety of Martagons to the mix.

Diane Putland provided some of her nice Aurelian seedlings that sold very quickly. The crowds this year seemed to be down a quite a bit and it did impact sales. We had approximately 240 bulbs and were left with only 60 at the end of the day. Thanks to Sandy Venton and Ted Sobkowich who agreed to grow them on in pots for the summer. We will see them again at the Fall Sale.

We talked lilies until we were hoarse and met many new and old lily friends. All in all it was an enjoyable productive and day.

Thanks to all the members who volunteered to help out at the Sale. We couldn't do it without you.

2013 Spring Seminar Report

(by Ted Sobkowich)

This year the 2013 MRLS Spring seminar was held at the CanadInn Polo Park, Winnipeg, Saturday, April 6th. The speakers were our very own John Rempel from Winnipeg, Nigel Stromann from Neepawa and Dr. Wilbert Ronald from Portage la Prairie.

One of the highlights of this year's seminar was the presentation of the 2013 NALS Service Medal to long time members Len and Rita Geisbrecht for their dedication and service to the MRLS. The award was presented by Sandra Venton and accepted by Len as Rita was unable to attend.

John gave his talk on 'Lily Hybridizing 101'. He made hybridizing lilies a possibility and fun. "Christmas in July" John called the resulting seedlings blossoms, from the previous crosses he made.

Nigel gave his NALS speech on the Ed Robinson martagon hybrids. He showed pictures of the current varieties, and possible future introductions. It is always nice to see new martagon hybrids!

Dr Wilbert Ronald was the last speaker of the day – 'Hybridizing 102'. Wilbert spoke upon his hybridizing work with the orientpets, the asiapets, and bringing together these 3 great groups (oriental, trumpet and asiatic lilies) to produce some great future lilies.

Lots of good food was available for lunch, followed buy a much desired lily bulb sale. The MRLS Library was there to lend out some good lily books.

The day ended with the Pick-a-Prize draws for some wonderful items donated by Manitoba gardening companies.

Thank-you to the speakers, Len Geisbrecht for having the library available and to all the volunteers who made the day both possible.



A huge thank you to all who donated to the Spring Seminar's Pick-a-Prize draw. They are; Jeffries Nurseries, Kackenhoff Nurseries Ltd., Lacoste Garden Centre, Lee Valley Tools Ltd, Pegasus Publications, Ron Paul Garden Centre, Sage Garden Herbs, Sheldine Garden Center Ltd., T & T Seeds, Deborah Petrie, B. J. Jackson, Valerie Dene-siuk, Lynn Collicutt, Prairie Garden, The Lily Nook.



ARE YOU UP FOR IT?

The MRLS needs you! We are looking for someone who has the energy and enthusiasm necessary to publish "The Connection". The Newsletter is published 4 times a year. Duties are compiling, publishing, printing and mailing the newsletter for our members. If you or anyone you know is interested in this position please email Deborah Petrie at petrie@mymts.net or call (204) 721-0297.

29th Anniversary
Manitoba Regional Lily Show

(By: Sandy Venton, Show Chair)

The 29th Annual Lily Show will be held on Saturday, July 13th, 2013 at the Grant Park Shopping Centre, Winnipeg. As there is no dedicated Martagon Show this year, if you wish to enter your martagon stems, they will be placed in the normal show categories.

Set-up will commence on Friday, July 12th, after the 9:00 p.m. closing of the Shopping Center, and entries may be brought in at that time. There is always security at Grant Park 24 hours a day, and therefore there is no set time that we must vacate the premises. However, that being said, I would appreciate everyone who wishes to bring in stems during the evening of the 12th, to do so prior to 11:00 p.m. As well, entries will be accepted on Saturday morning, July 13th from 7:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., after which no further entries will be accepted.

Judging will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, and the show will remain until 6:00 p.m. that day, at which time it will be closed and we will commence dismantling. If you wish to retrieve your stems after the show closes, please be there right at 6:00 p.m., otherwise all stems will be taken away.

Remember, this is your show as well, and the more stems that are brought in, the bigger and better the show. Even if you grow just a few lilies, please try to cut at least one stem. Without your stems, there would be no show.

At the time of this writing, the weather seems to have co-operated, and I anticipate a very nice showing of lilies. I look forward to seeing everyone there!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

MRLS Fall Bulb Sales

Winnipeg, October 5th;

Brandon, October 5th;

Dauphin, October 12th.

A Short Note about Species

(By Ted Sobkowich)

Section Candidum

The Candidum section contains about 8 species. The two that we can grow are *L. bulbiferum* and perhaps *L. monadelphicum*.

Lilium bulbiferum is from Central Europe. The species has light green bulbils in the leaf axils. The flowers are orange-red and face up. It grows 2 to 5 feet tall. A couple of variants that we can grow are *L. bulbiferum* var. *croceum* and *L. bulbiferum* var. *giganteum*. Variant *croceum* has no bulbils. It is orange in colour. Variant *giganteum* grow 5 to 6 feet tall. There is one subspecies: *L. bulbiferum* subsp. *bulbiferum*, 2 to 4 feet tall. It has round flattish, white bulbils. It is golden-orange and also faces up. Apparently, variant *chaixii* and *giganteum* are now considered varieties of variant *croceum*.

Lilium monadelphum comes from the Caucasus Mountains. It is 2 to 2 ½ ft tall, to 4 ft in cultivation. Its fragrant flowers are soft cream to pure yellow, with and without light spots. *L. monadelphum* var. *armenum* (also known as *L. szovitsianum* and *L. szovitsianum* var. *armenum*) does not have the fusion of the stamens into a tube around the ovary, like *L. monadelphum*. I wrote perhaps we can grow this species, because I have seen a few Caucasian Hybrids growing in a couple of Winnipeg gardens. I don't know if they are pure *monadelphum* or a hybrid with some other species.

Section Martagon

Of the martagon species, *L. martagon* has 8 or so variants: *L. martagon* var. *album*; *L. martagon* var. *albiflorum*; *L. martagon* var. *cattaniae* (also known as *L. martagon* var. *cattaniae dalmaticum*); *L. martagon* var. *caucasicum*; *L. martagon* var. *flora plena*; *L. martagon* var. *hirsutum*; *L. martagon* var. *pilosiusculum*; and *L. martagon* var. *sanguineo-purpureum*.

L. martagon varies in colour from white to grey pink to pink to bright and dark pink.. Spotting varies from fine to big, from none to many. The halo around the spots also varies from none to very noticeable. Height, from 3 to 5 feet. Leaves in whorls of 1 to 5 whorls, light to dark green. Flowers, leaves and stems can also have various amounts of 'fuzz/hair'.

Of the vast variation within the species, selected variants have been found, named and increased. *L. martagon* var. *album* is pure white, no spots. *L. martagon* var. *albiflora* is white with various amounts of fine pink spots. Variety *cattaniae* has a dark stem and a very dark purple flower, almost a black purple, but not quite. *Caucasicum* has rose-lilac, wide-open flowers, 2.5-5 foot stems, with short hairs, buds are very hairy. Variety *daugava* has pale-purple-red flowers with dark spots, tightly re-curved, 6 foot stems. *Flora plena* has double flowers. I've been waiting 4 years for mine to bloom, perhaps it will in 2 years. Then I'll know, if it is true to name. The *hirsutum* variety has buds, leaves and stem with lots of fuzz/hair. *Pilosiusculum*, smaller, stouter than *hirsutum* is supposed to also have hairy buds, leaves and stem, but not as much as *hirsutum*. Lastly, variety *sanguineo-purpureum* has dark-maroon flowers.

L. distichum, *L. hansonii*, and *L. medeoloides* have no variants.

L. distichum is pale orange-red flowered, with spots. Flowers of 3-8, in a raceme. Pollen is orange-red. Only 1 whorl of leaves, with some scattered leaves above the whorl. Stems to 3 feet.

L. hansonii flowers are orange-yellow, with spots of purplish-brown. Pollen is yellow. The petals are strongly re-curved, thick and waxy. Pollen is yellow in colour. Flowers are nodding, in a loose raceme. Stems to 5 feet.

L. medeoloides' flowers are orange to apricot in colour, pendant, in an umbel of 1-10. Flowers have spot of black. Pollen is red. *L. medeoloides* has up to 4 whorls. Stems to 2 – 2 ½ feet.

L. tsingtauense has 1-7 orange, sparsely spotted, open, up-right flowers, in a subumbellate inflorescence. Pollen is orange. Stems to 3 feet. *L. tsingtauense* has 2 variants: *L. tsingtauense* var. *flavum* – yellow flowers and *L. tsingtauense* var. *carneum* – red and unspotted flowers.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS – 2013

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	Ted Sobkowich	SECRETARY	Sandy Venton
VICE-PRESIDENT	Ed Czarnecki	TREASURER	Marlene Puls
NEWSLETTER	Deborah Petrie	PAST PRESIDENT	Deborah Petrie

DIRECTORS

Brent Hunter	Nigel Strohman
Brenda Newton	Valerie Denesiuk
Gwen Jamieson	Ruby Tekauz

HONORARY DIRECTORS Dr. Wilbert Ronald, Lynn Collicutt

LIBRARY Len Giesbrecht

HISTORIAN Gwen Jamieson

RESEARCH COMMITTEE John Rempel, Dr. Wilbert Ronald, Nigel Strohman, Sandy Venton, Ed Czarnecki

DIRECTORY OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

To contact the BOD of the MRLS please email the BOD member directly or call our secretary Sandy Venton at (204) 888-2837

Czarnecki, Ed,	email: eczarnecki@shaw.ca
Denesiuk, Valerie	email: vallie@mymts.net
Hunter, Brent	email: brenthunter@mts.net
Jamieson, Gwen	email: bowhill21@shaw.ca
Giesbrecht, Len	email: lengiesb@hotmail.com
Newton, Brenda	email: valleyrimgirl@inetlinkwireless.ca
Petrie, Deborah	email: petrie@mymts.net
Puks, Marlene	email: mmp99m@mymts.net
Tekauz, Ruby	email: artek@mts.net
Ronald, Wilbert	email: wilbert.ronald@jeffriesnursseries.com
Sobkowich, Ted	email: ts23@mymts.net
Strohman, Nigel	email: info@lilynook.mb.ca
Venton, Sandy	email: felix1@mts.net