



Manitoba Lily Connection

Manitoba Regional Lily Society Newsletter

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President's Message

Hello All,

Warm spring temps have arrived finally! No more frosts or cold, cold mornings! My thoughts are turning towards gardening.

The squills, daffodils, pulmonaria and fritillaria are blooming. Peonies are emerging slowly. The martagon lilies are up almost a foot, as well as the Caucasian Lilies, all surviving the frosts last week.

Time to look forward to cleaning the lily beds and other perennial flowerbeds. As well as, keeping a watchful eye for any sign of that hated red beetle.

It is difficult to think about a lily show now, but in 7 to 8 weeks, we will be in the middle of lily flowering season. The Winnipeg show will be in the Kildonan Place Shopping Mall. Bring a stem or 2 or more! Visit, talk about lilies, and see what lilies are growing in our Winnipeg/Manitoba gardens.

Our Board of Directors is busy planning the events for this year – the Lily Show, the Fall Bulb Sale and The Fall Pot Luck Wind-Up. Watch the newsletters, checkout the web site and see you amongst the lilies!

Ted Sobkowich

President (Spr 2013-Spr 2015)

PS –Thank-you to our directors, whose terms expired in April 2014: Brenda Newton, Gwen Jamison and Brent Hunter and for your time and support. A big welcome to our new board members: Joyce Strohman, Jeannie Gilbert and Len Giesbrecht, whose terms began in April 2014.

Missing out on photos?

Get the Lily Connection by email and don't miss a thing! Bonus picture pages included in most issues.

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A Short Note on Species Oriental Section

By: Ted Sobkowich

The Oriental section of *Lilium* has perhaps 2 species for our Manitoba gardens. They may last for a few years, but if you find the right spot/microclimate in your garden, they should last longer. They are *Lilium auratum* and *Lilium speciosum*.

L. auratum is from Japan, at elevations of up to 5,000 ft. It has large out-facing white flowers, which have crimson dotting. Each petal has a central gold band of colour. The flowers are also very fragrant. Flower numbers are up to 6 in the wild and more in cultivation. Height is from 3 to 7 feet, probably on the short side, with our short growing season. Soils should be very well drained and neutral or acidic, as it dislikes lime. *L. a. var. pictum* has a red flush of various depth, rather than a band. In variety *platyphyllum*, the bowl shaped flowers have a sweet scent. The tips of the petals are recurved. Variety *praecox* flowers very early. Variety *rubrovittatum* has a deep crimson band instead of gold. Variety *virginale* has yellow spots instead of crimson.

Lilium speciosum is also from Japan, at elevations up to 3,300 ft. The flowers are strongly reflexed, fragrant, carmine spotted, have papillae and number 4 to 30. Height is 3 to 7 ft. The petals are delicate pink to crimson and have wavy edges. It also has some varietal forms; *album* is pure white, *gloriosoides* is strongly recurved, more scarlet in colour, variety *kraetzeri* is also white, but the tepals have a central green strip, and variety *rubrum* has carmine flowers. Soils are humus rich and lime free for this lily. A microclimate in your yard increases the likelihood of success. *L. speciosum* is also late flowering.

Section Dauricum

The literature gives 4 species names, but there are only 2 or 3 species! Very curious. The 4 names are *L. dauricum*, *L. maculatum*, *L. pensylvanicum* and *L. wilsonii*.

Ed McRae's 1998 book states *maculatum* is the correct name of *wilsonii*. He has *dauricum* as a species and no listing of *pensylvanicum*.

Jefferson-Brown's 2003 book states *dauricum* is a species or a form of *maculatum*, which should be called *pensylvanicum*. So, *pensylvanicum* is the correct name of *dauricum*. *L. maculatum* is a true specie.

L. wilsonii may be a late flowering form of *maculatum*.

The 2007 Lily Register and Checklist lists *dauricum* as a species, *pensylvanicum* as a synonym of *dauricum*, *wilsoni* is similar to *dauricum*, perhaps a variety of it, and no listing of *maculatum* as a species.

Wikipedia's 2014 *Lilium* article lists only *L. pensylvanicum* and *L. maculatum*.

Which one is correct? For now, let's use what we are familiar with and let the taxonomists decide for the future.

L. dauricum has red to orange-red up to out facing flowers, which number up to 6. The petals are narrow and clawed at the base. The flowers also have papillae and brownish red spots. Height is 2 to 2.5 ft tall. Plant in rich, moist, lime-free soils. Variant *L. d. var. alpinum* is 4 to 8 inches tall. *L. d. var. luteum* is pure yellow with or without black spots.

L. wilsonii has reddish orange, apricot flowers with a central golden strip. It blooms late with 6 to 12 flowers. The flowers have many large brown spots. This lily grows in well-grained, moist, acid soils. There is one variant- *L. w. var. flavum*. It is primula yellow, with a golden yellow zone in the middle of the tepals. The spots are red/purple.

No pictures? Change to email delivery of this newsletter and get the bonus picture pages for great photos and see what you have been missing.



In Remembrance Dr. Reginald Gallop June 27, 1924 - March 30, 2014 (By Deborah Petrie with the assistance of the MRLS BOD)

Always known as “Dr. Reg” to me, he was a kind and generous man. When others forgot your name, Dr. Reg always remembered. He was always willing to share his vast life experience with anyone who cared to ask. His abiding interest in lilies and other perennials was evident to all who cared to chat. Casual conversations with him frequently resulted in fascinating learning experiences for those involved. One MRLS BOD member wrote;

“Dr. Reg was a man who grasped science and technology but had his roots firmly and deeply grounded in his faith. When talking about his hybridizing of Martagons, faith played a large part. He never culled anything, saying that every seedling had special gifts and thus might contribute later on in his hybridizing efforts. He had this same belief regarding all people”.

Dr. Reg was a generous amateur hybridizer who loved to share his bulbs, pollen, plants and seeds both locally and internationally with fellow hybridizers and growers on the Lilium list, in the MRLS and with the NALS seed exchange which he ran for two years. He dedicated a large portion of his time and energy for many years to lilies, serving as President of the MRLS from 1995 to 1997 and as a director more than once over the years. He was a lily judge who volunteered at every lily show he could get to and hosted many a field day at his Victoria Beech property where his love of lilies (especially martagons) was evident to all. His presence in our lily family will be missed. Another BOD member wrote;

“At many of our lily shows, I remember Dr. Reg rushing in at the very last minute, hair straight back, with a shopping cart full of martagon lilies, at least 50 of them, all tangled up together. The most beautiful Martagons I had ever seen. He would look around wildly for someone to help him untangle them, put them into the stem holders, and make up the show tags. If the time for entries ended at 11:00 p.m., it wouldn't be unusual for people to be there until the early hours of the morning helping him get everything organized. The part that always drove me crazy was that he usually won most of the ribbons! He was very generous with his martagon bulbs and I'm pleased to say that I have a number of his hybridizing efforts blooming in my gardens. I will miss him.”



2014 Spring Seminar Report (By BJ Jackson)



Portage la Prairie was our destination for this year's spring seminar and the weather for the most part cooperated. No snow storm, no icy roads, no howling blizzard. Although the temperature was not warm by any stretch of the imagination, it did manage to get above zero for the first time in a long time and the atmosphere inside the CanadInn for the day was definitely warm and welcoming!

Our featured speaker was Terry Willoughby from Spruce Grove, Alberta. He gave us two presentations; one on his martagon breeding program and another on the asiatic hybrids of Fred Fellner. Terry dedicated his martagon presentation to the memory of Dr. Reg Gallup who passed away a few days before the meeting. The group was treated to a wonderful photo show of his breeding program and, along the way, he gave detailed explanations of the parents he uses as well as the traits he is looking for as the hybrids develop. The photos were all beautiful and we can surely look forward to the day when his named and registered hybrids are released and we can grow them in our own gardens. Many of us already are growing seedlings of Terry's that he has made available to us through our fall bulb sales so we have first hand knowledge of what he has already produced.

Terry's afternoon presentation about Fred Fellner's asiatic lily creations surely left some mouths hanging open at the beauties created by this soft spoken, modest man who hails from Vermillion, Alberta who is in his 70s. Early influences in his breeding program were Robert Simonet and Fred Tarlton and a few of his lilies were registered listing himself and Simonet as breeders. So what does he look for in an asiatic lily? Terry explained that Fred looks not just at the bloom but at the whole plant. Botrytis resistance is high on the list as are strong stems and bud count. From the photos Terry shared, he has surely attained his goal. Indeed, several that I have seen in Terry and Shauna Willoughby's gardens testify to their strength and floriferousness!

Also on the agenda was a presentation by President Ted Sobkowich and Sandy Venton on lily species. Sandy did the martagon species and all the others we can grow in Manitoba were covered by Ted and we all know how much Ted loves his species!

And when we weren't listening to the excellent speakers, there were lilies to buy from the sale table. The Bulb Sale Committee did an excellent job of selecting lilies many of us just had to have. There was a good selection of everything from Martagons to Oriempets and everything in between. The pick a prize table had some very nice groupings and I was lucky enough to win one. That is something that doesn't happen often.

Our general business meeting went off quickly and efficiently; but the socializing, the reconnecting with old and new lily friends is always the highlight of this event for me. Chatting with people you haven't seen since the fall before, ruminating over past seasons and the successes and failures we've all had as well as looking forward to the coming year. This is the best part of the annual spring seminar.

I hope everyone enjoyed the day because I certainly did. If you weren't able to attend, please try to come next year. You will definitely not regret it!

Thanks to all who had a hand in organizing the event and I am already very much looking forward to 2015.

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

Can-West Iris Society Show and Rhizome Sale

DATE - June 15th - Open to the public 1 to 4 pm.

LOCATION - Bourkevale Community Center, 100 Ferry Road.

Free Admission!

Do you grow iris? Would you like to show your friends just how well they do for you? The Can-West Iris Society's iris show might be just what you are looking for! All iris growers are welcome to try their hand at show exhibiting. Membership in the group is not required to participate. Experienced volunteers will be available to help you with staging the stem, filling out the show tag and placing your entry. Don't know the name of your iris? That's okay, too. We have a special class on the show schedule just for those special NOIDs (no ID) we all grow and want to show off. The hall is open to exhibitors at 9 am and judging starts at 10 am. Then at 1 pm you can come back and see how well you did! You can then visit the sale table where you can purchase new iris at very reasonable prices to add to your iris collection. For more information contact BJ Jackson, Show Chair, at jacksonb@mts.net.

Canadian Peony Society Peony Show & Annual General Meeting

DATE - June 14 – 15th, Saturday 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday 10 to 4 p.m.

LOCATION - Assiniboine Park Conservatory, Winnipeg, MB

The show is being co-sponsored by the Assiniboine Park Conservancy. There will be a design section as well as the horticulture section. National Gardening Day is celebrated on the Friday, June 13 the day before the show opens and the Conservancy is hosting events on that day focusing on peonies, the CPS show and the peony collection at the Assiniboine Park. This is a once in life-time opportunity to hear Saturday's keynote speaker Dr. Fangyun Cheng speak about his breeding program with hardy tree peonies.

Speakers Corner

The MRLS is compiling a list of members who do speaking engagements and presentations on all things connected with lilies. Be it talks on the lily beetle or presentations on the basic culture of lilies. If you are available or already do these types of presentations please contact Valerie Denesiuk at val-lie@mymts.net with your contact information and the topics you are willing to present on.

Q & A

If you have questions about any aspect of lily culture or are looking for a specific cultivar for your garden feel free to ask the MRLS experts and membership by contacting Deborah Petrie at petrie@mymts.net. Don't forget to look for the answers to your questions in future newsletters!

MRLS Annual Lily Show

(By Sandra Venton)

The 30th Annual Winnipeg Regional Lily Society Show will be held on Saturday, July 19th, 2014 at the Kildonan Place Shopping Centre, 1555 Regent Avenue West, Winnipeg, MB.

Entries may be made after 9:00 p.m. on Friday, July 18th, 2014, and between 7:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. on Saturday morning, July 19th, 2014. No entries will be accepted after 9:30 a.m. on Saturday.

The show will be open to the public from 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 14th, 2014. No entries may be removed from the show until after 6:00 p.m.

Although we had a very bad winter (polar vortex notwithstanding) and a very late spring, the martagons are up and running, some showing flower buds. However, because of the late spring, few asiatics, orienpets, trumpets and other interspecific hybrids are up, or are just showing their noses, so I hope that because our show will be held in the middle of July, that we have a decent all-round selection of stems from all divisions.

I encourage everyone to bring in as many stems as you can. It doesn't matter if the foliage has been attacked by the dreaded lily beetle. If it has a nice inflorescence, it deserves to be shown. I myself have martagon leaves that have small holes, however, that will not stop me from entering any stems.

Mothers Day Sale Report

This years Lily sale was well received by those in attendance at the Gardens Manitoba event. Many came to look but many more came to buy. There were bulbs and potted lilies for sale this year and the potted lily sale were brisk. Of course some questions about the lily beetle were asked but in general most commented that control was what they were after and they

MRLS Member Discount

Shelmerdine

Show your MRLS membership card at the time of purchase and receive a 10% discount on your purchases.

2014 Manitoba Regional Lily Society Events

North American Lily Society Show and Convention

“ALL STAR LILIES”

Bloomington, Minnesota

July 9 to 13th 2014

MRLS Annual Lily Show

Saturday, July 19th 2014

Kildonan Place

1555, Regent Avenue West

Winnipeg, MB

Neepawa Lily Festival Show

Friday and Saturday, July 25th and 26th 2014

Neepawa, MB

Fall Bulb Sales

Winnipeg

Saturday, September 27th 2014

Assiniboine Park Conservatory

Brandon

Saturday, October 4th 2014

Central Community Centre

Dauphin

Saturday, October 11th 2014

Market Place Mall

MRLS Awards & Windup Pot Luck

Saturday, October 18th 2014

Bourkevale Community Centre

100 Ferry Rd, Winnipeg, MB

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CZARNECKI, Ed	e-mail: eczarnecki@shaw.ca
DENESIUK, VALERIE	e-mail: vallie@mts.net
GIESBRECHT, Len	e-mail: lengiesb@hotmail.com
GILBERT, Jeannie	e-mail: jeanniegilbert7@gmail.com
PETRIE, Deborah	e-mail: petrie@mymts.net
PULS, Marlene	e-mail: mmp99m@mymts.net
RONALD, Wilbert	e-mail: wilbert.ronald@jeffriesnursery.com
SOBKOWICH, Ted	e-mail: ts23@mymts.net
STROHMAN, Joyce	e-mail: info@lilynook.mb.ca
STROHMAN, Nigel	e-mail: info@lilynook.mb.ca
TEKAUZ, Ruby	e-mail: artek@mymts.net
VENTON, Sandy	e-mail: felix1@mts.net