



Manitoba Lily Connection

Manitoba Regional Lily Society Newsletter

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President's Message

At our last meeting we were introduced to entomologist Ian Wise who is going to work closely with our research sub-committee on various projects designed to control or avoid the lily beetle. For further information see page 4 for details of upcoming plans the committee has for this season.

A reminder of upcoming events:

Manitoba Regional Lily Society Annual Lily Show will be held this year at the St Vital Mall in the Centre Court. Details can be found along with the show schedule on page 5.

Other lily events this year include the North American Lily Society's Annual Show and Conference to be held this year in Calgary from July 15th to the 19th and hosted by the Alberta Lily Society.

Closer to home the Lily Nook in Neepawa is hosting "Lily Days" Date: July 20th to the 26th Come stroll through over a thousand lily cultivars during their peak bloom at the Lily Nook show gardens. The growing fields will also be open for public viewing for the week. Potted lilies are available for purchase. The Lily Nook is located in beautiful farm land, 4 km south of Neepawa, MB, 80098 on highway #5 south.

Have a great summer everyone!
Ed Czarnecki



Q: I am moving this spring and want to take my lilies along with me, can I move them in June?

A: You can move lilies anytime through their growing period as long as you take as much soil as possible with the bulbs and are very careful not to break the sprouts off. After digging the bulbs simply pot them up and transport as carefully as possible. You should replant them as soon as possible the in your new gardens. In general though, the fall after the first frost when the bulbs are going into their dormant stage, is the best time to move them. Be sure to water in after planting at any time so that the soil settles in around the bulb, leaving no air pockets.

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Gardening Saturday Report

The Manitoba Regional Lily Society had a great spot for the Gardening Saturday event put on by the Friends of Gardens Manitoba. This event has been going on for several years now and the MRLS has participated for the last few years. This year had big changes with a change in venue from the Canadian Mennonite University site on Shaftsbury, to the Victoria Inn Conference Centre on Wellington Avenue by the Airport. This is a much larger site that easily held the number of booths and participants. The MRLS was very near to the entrance so we had an excellent position with many visitors. We had an assortment of information about lilies displayed along side the lilies in pots and bulbs for sale we had for sale this year. Sales were generally steady in the morning but the afternoon did a booming business sale prices went into effect. At this time of year people are so happy to see green and think about spring planting. Needless to say there were many questions about the dreadful Red Lily Beetle, but even with that people are still looking for lilies in their gardens. Thank you to the volunteers who helped at the booth.

Valerie Denesiuk

Mother's Day Sale Report

The Manitoba Regional Lily Society once again had its booth at the Mother's Day Sale in Winnipeg. The Friends of Gardens Manitoba, for the second year, had the sale indoors at the Canadian Mennonite University on Shaftsbury after many years of being in that very cold, wet tent. The Hall is large and allows for much more room in a much drier and warmer environment that allows you to think about what you want to buy, rather than being cold and walking wet puddles.

The MRLS was one of several 'other' booths. As you may know most of the plants sold are from the Friends who either have ordered wholesale from various sources or have started the plants themselves in local green houses for sale.

The MRLS sold a variety of bulbs, and potted lilies already started for this event. It is fun to support the MRLS at events like this and gives you the opportunity to see what else is happening in the world of horticulture. If you have not volunteered in the past you may want to consider it in the future.

Thank you to our volunteers at this event and no, we did not force you to buy what you did while helping out both from us and from the other tables.

Valerie Denesiuk

2015 Spring Seminar Report

The Spring Seminar was held in Winnipeg at the CanadInns Polo Park in Winnipeg on April 11, 2015. We had a number of speakers, I think we sometimes forget we have some of the worlds leading authorities on Lilies in our Society.

Nigel Strohman of the Lily Nook is one of North America's premier suppliers of all types of lilies. This year they are featuring some new lilies from Warren Summers. "Purple Life" and "Trojan" both are now become must haves for me. "Lime Ice" is a great looker as well. Nigel also showed us some beautiful seedlings that he is evaluating for future release. It is well worth checking out their catalog online or taking a ride out to Neepawa to check them out.

We also heard from Wilbert Ronald of Jeffries Nurseries, a leading hybridizer in the Lily world. His Northern Carillon and the rest of the Northern series of Lilies have featured places in gardens all over the world. Wilbert spoke on a new tetraploid aurelian lily from the breeding work of Griesbach grown by Jeffries Nurseries. Its named White Amber, an improved "White Henryi" type. He also spoke about "Evening Glow" , a new Northern Carillon hybrid. These two lilies are both available from the Lily Nook.

Joel Penner's presentation was his second for our Society. I remember watching the first one a few years ago with a sense of unease. As gardeners we celebrate live, growing flowers, when the bloom fades and wilts we cut it off and throw it away. Joel takes that bloom and using computer scanners scans it many times an hour, then he compiles these images into time-lapse videos and adds music.. After the first surprise of seeing the bloom whither and twist as it degrades you see the beauty in the death of the flower as well. It is all part of the circle of life.

After lunch and the anticipated lily bulb sale, those in attendance had time to socialize, browse and borrow from the MRLS library that was on hand.

A very brief General Meeting was then held that included the election of two new directors, Brenda Newton for a two year term and Deborah Petrie for a one year term to take my place as our new Vice President. Valerie Denesiuk and Ruby Tekauz were also elected for their second two year terms as directors. See the last page of this newsletter for the complete 2015 MRLS BOD listings

Our last speaker was Brenda Newton who spoke on companion plantings with lilies. From her extensive garden just outside Brandon, MB she showed us many interesting and lovely combinations that help set off the garden when the lilies are and are not in bloom.

The day ended with the Pick-a-Prize draws for many wonderful items donated by Manitoba gardening companies and from MRLS members as well.

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Len Giesbrecht

From the Research Committee

The lily beetle appears to be having a major impact on the growing of lilies in areas where it is prevalent with a significant number of growers either cutting back or getting out of growing lilies all together. The MRLS is taking some steps to try and help with this issue. Ian Wise, an entomologist interested in both the lily beetle and its predators, has become the newest member of the MRLS Research Committee. The committee is involved in an exciting project with the aid of Naomi Cappuccino, Associate Professor at Carleton University who has indicated she is willing to share parasitic wasps with us next spring. The MRLS is currently in the process of establishing a test garden in the Winnipeg area for this purpose and has a stock of lily bulbs ready for planting.



Excerpt from the Lily Beetle Tracking Site:

*“The wasp is *Tetrastichus setifer*, a natural enemy of the lily leaf beetle that is native to Europe. This tiny wasp does not sting humans. It lays its eggs inside the body of the lily leaf beetle larva. Upon hatching, the wasp larva devours the beetle from the inside out. Before being introduced to North America, the wasp underwent thorough testing to be sure that it would not attack any native beetles (Haye 2000, Casagrande and Kenis 2004)”.*

In some of the MRLS research being done it appears that a few lilies seem to be tolerant to the lily beetle however extended testing will be required. Species *Lilium amabile* appears to be tolerant in addition to a derivative named Citronella which may be segregating for both tolerance and susceptibility. According to one of our growers, Katinka may be tolerant as well.

Lilium amabile has fine, downy hairs on the stem called pubescence and it is thought that this characteristic may be deterring the beetle from laying eggs in those areas. It is rumoured that *Lilium dauricum* is segregating for pubescence as well. The committee will try to obtain some plants from the heritage site of A J Bert Porter in Saskatchewan to test this theory.

Some lilies appear to have a tougher surface structure, an example of this would be the tetraploids, and it is thought that the beetle may find this a less attractive food source.

Ed Czarnecki

31st Annual Manitoba Regional Lily Society Show

The 31st Manitoba Regional Lily Society Show will be held this summer at St. Vital Shopping Centre, centre court, on Saturday July 25th, 2015. Entries will be accepted from 9:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. on Friday, July 24th and from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 25th. NO ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER 10:00 a.m. Judging will take place from 10:00 a.m. until noon on Saturday, and the show will open to the public from noon until 6:00 p.m., at which time all stems must be removed.

This has been a very difficult spring, lily-wise, and although the snow went quite early, late frosts in May managed to damage most of my martagons, which have come up blind. Luckily, the other divisions of lily cleverly stayed below ground until after the late frosts, and all look good so far.

Whether or not your stems are perfect frost damage notwithstanding, please bring in your stems for the show. Without our stems, there would be no show at all. I intend to bring in whatever I have that is flowering. Please don't make fun of my entries – but just remember that beauty is in the eyes of the beholder, and nothing is perfect.

I hope to see many stems at the show, perfect or not. The flower is what makes the show. Please bring yours.

Sandy Venton

From the Board of Directors

There have been discussions at our Board Meetings for the last few years regarding the annual Spring Seminar. In the Past our practice was to hold the Seminar in Winnipeg one year and the next in a rural location, usual Portage La Prairie. Due to declining attendance we are considering keeping the event in Winnipeg for the foreseeable future. Members opinions are important to the BOD . If the demand is there the BODs is open to keeping our Spring Seminar at a venue outside of Winnipeg to better serve our more rural members.

Please weigh in on this discussion by contacting Deborah Petrie at petrie@mymts.net or contact any one of the BODs listed on page 7 of this newsletter.

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