



# 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

Well, the Lily season is progressing nicely, yes, the Lily Beetle is still here but does not seem as bad as previous years in my yard. We had quite a few early ones as soon as the Lilies poked their noses out of the soil, the beetle was waiting. We handpicked a hundred or so in the first few weeks and then they tailed off. Two weeks ago we had to go to British Columbia for eight days and I really expected it to be game over in my garden when I got back. We got back last week and it was with some trepidation that I walked into the back yard fully expecting to see stems stripped of their leaves. But no, it wasn't bad at all, yes there were some beetles but as we were weeding (the weeds were over a foot tall) we picked the ones that were there and everything seems under control. We haven't sprayed yet but now is the time to watch for larvae, the next generation.

On another note, I am asking for some help from our membership. I am looking for some new blood on our Executive. Not that there is anything wrong with our current Board but we seem to be recycling the same people and could use some fresh ideas. So if you have any interest in helping us on a Board of Directors level please contact me or any other board member and let us know. The time commitment is not that great, we have four Board meetings each year and a few other committees you can help with if you are

interested. You get to help determine the direction we go in as a Lily Society and have some fun along the way.

Don't forget our upcoming Lily Show, you can find the details elsewhere in the newsletter. If you have any stems you could enter please bring them. If you have never entered before and are unsure of what to do, bring them anyway and we will help you stage them. It is an educational and fun experience.

Len Giesbrecht

## *Inside:*

* <b>Spring Seminar Report</b>	<b>2</b>
* <b>Gardening Saturday</b>	<b>2</b>
* <b>Research Report</b>	<b>3</b>
* <b>Mother's Day Report</b>	<b>3</b>
* <b>MRLS Lily Show</b>	<b>4</b>
* <b>Lily Nook Lily Daze</b>	<b>4</b>
* <b>In Memory of Ed Czarnecki</b>	<b>5</b>
* <b>2016 Officers and Directors</b>	<b>6</b>

## **Gardening Saturday**

The MRLS was once again part of the Friends of Gardens Manitoba's Gardening Saturday event that took place again this year at the Victoria Inn in Winnipeg on March 19th. Crowds were down but many present stopped by the MRLS booth for a look at our offerings. Sales compared well with last years sales and many discussions on lily culture and the Lily beetle were had. Education is an important part of our presence at events like this. Volunteers are always needed for these events so come and join us next year. Thanks to all who helped out again this year.

## **2016 Spring Seminar Report**

The Spring Seminar was held at the Headingly Community Centre, a very nice, clean and comfortable place, with lots of parking.

We began the seminar with a moment of silence, in remembrance of Ed Czarnecki our late President. Len Giesbrecht our Vice President was the MC for the event.

Our first speaker of the day was Tim Zimmerman from just outside of Minneapolis, Minnesota. With a lot of lily pictures, Tim gave a lively, interesting talk of his trials and success with breeding of pollenless lilies, over the years.

Next up was our very own Fran Wershler who spoke on Martagons and Gardening in the Shade. Fran has a lovely garden and grows many companion plants with her martagons. She shared her gardening knowledge and extensive experience on this topic in an interesting presentation.

Ian Wise, a member of our research committee and retired entomologist spoke for a short time on the Lily beetle situation in Manitoba. He shared information on the beetle and its life cycle and the predator wasp *Tetrastichus setifer*, and its life cycle. A bit of info that stands out in my memory is that this stingless wasp is very tiny. In spring, from one overwintering beetle pupae, 5 to 7 wasps can emerge. They are tiny! For more information on the wasp see, <http://lilybeetletracker.weebly.com/biological-control.html>. Ian also spoke about the Society's efforts to have the wasp released into Manitoba. More information from the research committee on these efforts is included in this newsletter.

During lunch we were busy talking, buying lily bulbs and Pick-a-Prize tickets for some great prizes and signing out lily books from the Society's Library.

After a short business meeting to elect our new Board of Directors' (see page 6) members, Tim began his second talk with a view of Lily breeding over the years in Minnesota with pictures of the many registered Minnesotan varieties. He spoke extensively on the Minnesotan hybridizers and there have been more than a few from that area. From Hugh and Ruth Cocker to Tom Zimmerman and many in between, they represent both the distinguished past and the exciting future of hybridizing in Minnesota.

Our Lily Spring Seminar closed with the drawing of door prizes and the Pick-a-Prize draws.

A well spent day!

Ted Sobkowich

## Manitoba Regional Lily Society – Research Report

Three sites in Winnipeg and one near Stonewall will be used this year to test if *Tetrastichus setifer*, a parasitic wasp of the scarlet lily leaf beetle *Lilioceris lili*, is able to overwinter in Manitoba. The Stonewall site is located at the edge of a cultivated field and the three Winnipeg sites have differing levels of protection from the wind. At each site new bulbs were planted to supplement existing plants. Natural infestations of the lily beetle exist at all sites, and at two sites, beetles collected from Assiniboine Park and south Winnipeg will be added to assure high larval infestations. The parasitic wasp will be released at each site once second instar larvae begin to develop. Larvae will be allowed to feed and then drop from the plant to pupate.

Analysis of the ability of the parasitic wasp to overwinter will be done next year. Larvae on the plants in each site will be collected next spring and monitored for beetle emergence. If overwintering is successful only a portion of the larvae will pupate, with adult beetles emerging within a month of the larval collection. The remaining pupae will be exposed to conditions in temperature-controlled chambers known to be conducive to break diapause (a period of suspended development) of the larval parasites.

Many lily members have expressed an interest in being part of the study. At all research sites, however, severe damage is likely to occur to the lilies and beetle populations will greatly increase. This obviously could place great stress on these plants and nearby lilies. The active involvement of lily members will be requested in the next phase of the study when sites for the distribution of the parasite are required. At these sites, much smaller populations of the larvae are needed. These sites will serve as focal points for the natural distribution of the parasite to surrounding lilies in beetle-infested areas.

Ian Wise and Sandy Venton

### Mother's Day Bulb Sale

For the first time in my memory the MRLS sold a selection of martagons at this year's Mother's Day bulb sale booth at the Friends of Gardens Manitoba's annual Plant Sale. The martagons were almost sold out. The other potted asiatics and LAs also very well. In the future if we can obtain martagons you will be able to purchase them at this sale.

Many new to us varieties were also available in bagged form and these too sold well. All the bulbs that were not sold will be planted at the various research gardens that the MRLS has or is starting this year to further our Lily Beetle research.

## **MRLS 2016 Lily Show**

The 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Show of the Manitoba Regional Lily Society will be held at the St. Vital Mall in Winnipeg on Saturday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Entries must be in by no later than 10:00 a.m. that morning and judging will commence at noon. The show will remain open until the 6:00 p.m. closing time of the Mall.

Entries may also be made at any time after 9:00 p.m. on Friday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016, and it is suggested that if any entries are to be made that evening, that they be made right at 9:00 p.m., in order that they may be placed and show tags filled in earlier rather than later. On no account will entries be accepted after 11:00 p.m. that day.

Please try to bring as many stems as you are able, as the more stems that are entered, the better the show. If you haven't shown lilies before, don't worry – there will be people there who will help you fill in the tags and show you where your stems should be placed.

And if you have lily beetle damage, or hail damage, or any other plague that might hit, please bring in the best of the bunch. Without your stems, there would be no show at all.

I would encourage everyone to come and see the show, bring a pen and paper (or your electronic devices) so that you can record the names of lilies that you see, that you might like to have in your garden.

The design section's theme this year is Jewels in the Garden, Since lilies are the crown jewels of any garden there should be some wonderful entries for everyone to enjoy.

I am hoping that between the time I am writing this and the time of the show there are no late frosts, no botrytis, minimal lily beetle damage, no hail, no tornados, no earthquakes, no volcanoes or any other acts by Mother Nature that would prevent us from having a great show this year.

The 2016 Show Schedule is included with this newsletter.

Sandy Venton

## **LILY NOOK LILY DAZE**

*July 18th to July 24th*

*Neepawa, Manitoba*

*Hybridizing Course - July 22nd & July 24th, 11:00 AM*

*Second Annual Lily Daze Lily Show - July 23rd and 24th*

*Over 200 varieties of Potted Lilies to choose from  
A selection of Daylilies will also be available.*

*Visit [www.facebook.com/TheLilyNook](http://www.facebook.com/TheLilyNook) for further details.*

## IN MEMORY OF ED CZARNECKI



Long time MRLS member, fellow gardener, lily judge and dear friend Ed Czarnecki passed away on Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at the age of 77. He was a kind, gentle and caring man with a keen and inquisitive mind who loved his family, his flowers and his friends.

At the time of his passing, Ed was President of MRLS. He had been a director of MRLS for many years, and a former director of the North American Lily Society, as well as being an accredited lily judge. He was also an editor of *The Prairie Garden* from 2006 to 2014, co-chair from 2011 to 2015 and chair for the 2016 edition. He was a wonderful editor, and an excellent co-chair and chair, and his presence has been and will be greatly missed by both societies.

Ed could be found with pen in hand reaching for the index cards he kept in his shirt pocket to jot notes or questions or reminders to himself about almost anything that caught his attention.

Ed's interest in plants started many, many years ago. Not only was he a member of the Manitoba Regional Lily Society and the North American Lily Society, he was also a member of the Can-West Iris Society, and belonged to numerous other plant societies, as his interests were in anything botanical.

His main interests were lilies and irises; he was in the process of hybridizing with *L. amabile*, thinking that there might be some resistance to the lily beetle. He also hybridized trumpet lilies and had sent some of his material to one of the larger lily nurseries in Canada for increase. He was also in the process of updating his judging credentials with the American Iris Society.

Our heartfelt condolences are extended to his wife Thelma, daughter Diana and son Chris. Ed's work with plants may be done here on earth, but I'll like to think that he's busily dabbing pollen in the hereafter.

## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS – 2016

### OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	Len Giesbrecht	SECRETARY	Sandy Venton
VICE-PRESIDENT	Nigel Strohman	TREASURER	Marlene Puls
PAST PRESIDENT	Ted Sobkowich		

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Gwen Jamieson	Valerie Denesiuk
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RESEARCH COMMITTEE Dr. Wilbert Ronald, Nigel Strohman, Sandy Venton, Ian Wise

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