



Manitoba Lily Connection

Manitoba Regional Lily Society Newsletter

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Affiliated with the North American Lily Society

February 2001

President's Message

Well, the first two months of the year 2001 have almost come and gone. Seed catalogues started arriving at the end of November. The Lily Nook catalogue arrived this week (love those pictures, Barrie!). What I'm trying to say is that March is almost upon us and, with that, there are a few events to mark on your calendar.

The Home Expressions Show at the Winnipeg Convention Centre is on March 7th to 11th. M.R.L.S. will be hosting an information booth thanks to Ted and his committee. Tell your friends and family!

M.R.L.S. Spring Seminar - Check this newsletter for more information. Time is passing very quickly so, please send in your application as soon as you receive this newsletter. A big THANK YOU! to Susan for all her hard work planning this Seminar.

Membership Renewal - Have you allowed your membership renewal to lapse? Is your renewal form somewhere on the kitchen table? Don't fret!! Enclose your renewal with your Seminar registration.

Your executive is busy planning the summer activity schedule - Lily Show at St. Vital Centre, Neepawa show, home visiting and the Bulb Sale in late September. Finalized dates will be in upcoming newsletters.

On a personal note - Our daughter, Norinne, and her husband, Wes, presented Maureen and myself with a

late Christmas gift. Our granddaughter, EmilyAnn Cherise, was born on Boxing Day. Yes, another future "lily friend".

Wishing you good Growing weather and good friendship.

Gordon

Inside:

- ◆ Lily Breeding: Bert Porter - *Page 2*
- ◆ The Novice's Niche - *Page 3*
- ◆ Question & Answer - *Page 3*
- ◆ Notices - *Page 4*
- ◆ MRLS Spring Seminar Program - *Page 4*
- ◆ Coming Events - *Page 5*
- ◆ Registration & Membership Forms - *Page 5*
- ◆ Board of Directors List - *Page 6*

Lily Breeding: Bert Porter

2nd in a series on prairie breeders

(This article has been edited from the NALS 1978 Yearbook)

Mr. Porter was born in England, but his family moved to Canada in the spring of 1907, when he was six years old. He started his nursery in 1933 at Parkside, SK, in the midst of the Great Depression, after teaching school for twelve years. Those were the "dirty Thirties," and in Bert's words, "School teachers were a dime a dozen." At first he grew a general line of nursery stock, including an extensive collection of crabapples, as well as other fruit trees, shrubs, raspberries, and strawberries. 'Red Heart' crabapple, which he introduced, is hardy and resistant to fireblight; and it produces fruits of high quality for jelly and canning. He also introduced 'Honeywood' sand cherry, which is mildew resistant, provides a suitable understock for plums, and may be planted as an ornamental variety or for fruit.

It is as a breeder of hardy lilies, though, that Bert Porter is best known, yet that came about almost by accident. About fifty years ago, Percy Wright, another well-known Prairie horticulturist, had sent Bert some lily bulbs one fall and asked him to try them out. He did, and soon he became interested in breeding them. Today, his lilies are internationally known and grown.

Some of the leading varieties he has introduced include 'Delicious,' with upright, fragrant, orange-yellow flowers; 'Earlibird,' with out-facing vivid apricot flowers and one of the first varieties to flower each season. 'Golden Jubilee,' with upright golden yellow flowers. 'Redland', with non-fading currant red out-facing flowers. 'Pink Champagne', a vigorous *Lilium tigrinum* hybrid with out-facing yellow-pink flowers and copious stem bulbils. 'Firebright,' with non-fading vivid currant red, spotless, out-facing flowers. 'Rosabelle,' with up-facing deep rose flowers and with stem bulbils; and 'Flaming Giant,' an orange-red triploid that was used to further tetraploid breeding. His 'Red Carpet' was one of the most popular of the naturally short lilies; with its almost spotless, upright, deep red flowers and its long foliage. It is being used extensively as a pot plant for the florist trade, as well as a garden subject. Both 'Red Carpet' and 'Rusty,' another short lily but with smaller, rusty-orange flowers, were and

are being used by other breeders in the development of dwarf and miniature lilies. Mr. Porter continued his breeding of new lilies, working towards clear pink and truly white upright Asiatic seedlings. A clear white was introduced as 'Snowbird'. In 1977 he received a Silver Medal from the International Bundesgartenschau at Stuttgart, Germany, for a group of his lilies.

Mr. Porter was also active in acquainting the public with the Barber Lilies, varieties originating at Elfros, Saskatchewan. Mr. Porter worked very closely with the University of Saskatchewan, and had carried on the work begun by the late Dr. C. Frank Patterson, former head of the Department of Horticulture Science

A. J. Porter was one of a small group of plant breeders in western Canada, and despite the recognition they have gained, he and others like him were seldom destined to make even a modest fortune from their plant introductions. Indeed, their originations are often picked up by other nurseries and exploited, and the breeder gets nothing for his work. This fact prompted Mr. Porter to urge the Saskatchewan Nursery Trades Association, during a meeting of the C.N.T.A. National Growers Group in Saskatoon, to go on record as supporting some form of breeders' rights legislation to protect Canadian originators.

Honeywood Lilies wasn't a large operation as nurseries go. Bert Porter ran it mainly himself, employing up to five women as required during the busy season. One thing is certain, though. Bert Porter's name will go down in the annals of horticulture as a Canadian who dedicated his life to developing better plants for his fellow gardeners and who has enriched gardens all around the world.

Question & Answer

Q: What is a martagon lily?

A: A martagon is a lily characterized by whorls of spatulate leaves. The stems rise vertically from a round yellowish bulb with pointed scales to a height of 3-6ft with anywhere from 3-50 flowers. These flowers are fleshy and recurved, hence the name Turk's cap. The seed is heavy and hypogeal delayed. Ideal for shade areas.

THE NOVICE'S NICHE

WITH LILIES IN MIND . . .

By: Doreen Sage

Designing a flower bed featuring lilies takes some special planning. Whether you are starting a new bed or reworking an existing one --SOIL must be your first consideration. Plan on amending your soil by adding lots of peat moss, compost, and well-rotted manure. If you will be reworking an existing bed, it will be easier to just remove the plants to another area while you do the soil. Do this part as well as you can the first time and then you will just have to work at keeping it in shape.

Soil provides the nutrients and drainage. Drainage is important for all bulbs, especially lilies. Sometimes a raised bed is the best solution if you have a poor drainage situation.

Any shape of a bed will do as long as you like it --a border by a fence, an island bed, straight edges, and curves. Make certain that your lawn mower can follow the edge with ease.

Now that you know what you are going to do, get yourself some graph paper and put it all down to scale. It helps if you have someone hold the other end of the measure.

List, by number, all the plants, shrubs, spring bulbs, stepping stones, rocks and so on that you would like in this bed. Check to make certain that your plant choices will do fairly well in your location (sun/shade) and plant zone. Most plants will enjoy or tolerate some shade but many do not like a blazing prairie sun all day. Those that do, do very well in this growing condition.

Consider tall blooming plants that only have a rosette of leaves at soil level, such as Peach Leaf Campanula, with beautiful blue/white/pink bells up the flower stem at the same time as the Asiatics bloom. If dead-headed, campanulas will rebloom. Other perennials can be planted to camouflage the lily foliage once the lily blooms are spent. Perennial summer phlox comes in many colours. Penstemon grows well with shorter lilies. Blue and White Clips Campanula (6 - 8") do well with the Pixies. Alliums are airy and grow in yellow, white, blue, and pink. Read the catalogues for colour, times of bloom, height and for other possibilities.

Shrubs fill in the spaces and in many cases will provide spring flowers and fall foliage colour. A well-grown shrub will provide a fine focal point for your flower bed.

For many gardeners, colour is the most important

aspect of the plant and many plan beds with this in mind --shades of pink/purple. Some do all foliage plants with their many different shapes, textures and colours of green. Many do a combination.

Draw spaces on your graph paper flower bed --not all the same size and random. Some will be for one plant and some will be for several plants of the same kind. Fill in these spaces with a number that matches your list, keeping in mind colour, height, time of bloom. Taller plants will be more or less toward the back of a border or the center of an island. This can take some time but the results will be worth it.

Lilies bloom early, mid-season and late. They can face up, out or down and come in a variety of heights and most colours/bicolors, but no blue. This means that most blue flowers go well with lily blooms. All lily bulbs can be successfully planted in the fall but only some can be planted in the spring.

Since you are now working in good amended soil, all planting will be done easily. Plant all shrubs, perennials first before the bulbs, if possible. Even when well marked, bulbs can be accidentally dug up. To plant a bulb, dig a hole 6" deep, place a bit a gravel in the bottom of the hole and place the bulb on the gravel. This will help give the bulb the required drainage. Plan on planting bulbs fairly deep as this keeps them from growing too early in the spring and then suffering frost damage. Do label all bulbs and plant material carefully when planting. Lilies look best planted in groups of at least three bulbs about 6" apart and not in rows. The down facing, tall Martagons bloom first, with short, up facing Asiatic Pixies next. The main lily blooms come from the Asiatics, which bloom in July and early August. The L.A. Hybrids, Orientals and Oriempets bloom in August.

NEW LILY LIBRARY BOOKS AVAILABLE:

| Name | Author | Pages | Date |
|----------------------------------|---------------|-------|------|
| Garden Lilies | Macneil | 226 | 1946 |
| Lilies for Garden and Greenhouse | D.T. Magfie | 151 | 1950 |
| Lilies: the New Plant Library | A. Mikolajski | 64 | 1998 |
| Notes on Lilies | Dr. Wallace | 215 | 1879 |

NOTICES:

Anyone interested in learning to be a NALS accredited Judge?

Please contact Barrie Strohman at 204-476-3225 for further information and/or to sign up for the course. When enough names are signed up, a course date will be set. We need you!!

Congratulations to John & Joan Svenson from Brandon, who have finished their final level and are now accredited Judges.

LIBRARY:

To all who have Library Books out, please remember to bring them to the MRLS Spring Seminar or ship them ASAP to Barrie Strohman. The library will be at the Spring Seminar for your access.

Lily Questions?

If you have a question or thought on lilies just contact us, 'the editors' and we will publish it on a question and answer spot in the newsletters.

E-mail: nstrohman@techplus.com or Phone: 476-5908

MRLS SPRING SEMINAR 2001

Saturday, March 17, 2001

Holiday Inn (Portage West), Winnipeg, MB

Registration - \$25.00 - Includes coffee breaks and noon feast

Door Prizes

Door Prizes

PROGRAM

- 8:30** - Registration - coffee - socializing
- 9:00** - Welcome by President - *Gordon Danzinger*
- 9:05** - A Walk Down Martagon Lane. - *Terry Willowby*
- 10:00** - Coffee & socializing
- 10:15** - Retailing Lilies - Diane Putland (Hillcrest Harmony Flowers), Barrie Strohman (The Lily Nook), Dr. Wilbert Ronald (Jeffries Nurseries Ltd)
- 11:15** - Tissue Culturing - Jake Penner
- 12:00** - Lunch Break
- 12:45** - Spring bulb sale
- 1:30** - MRLS Annual General Meeting
- 2:00** - Hybridizing with Martagons - *Terry Willowby*
- 2:30** - Problem Panel: Lily Disease and Pests
- 3:00** - Coffee & socializing

Coming Events:

MARCH SPRING SEMINAR

Date: Saturday March 17th, 2001
Place: Holiday Inn (Portage West), Winnipeg, MB
Time: 9:00 am to 4:30 pm

See Details on Page 4!!

Home Expression Show

Visit the MRLS Booth!!

Dates: March 7 - 11th, Wednesday to Sunday

MRLS Lily Show 2001

July, 2001

Details to follow next newsletter

MRLS Seminar Registration Form

Please pre-register by March 12, 2001

Registration - \$25.00 ea. - Includes coffee breaks and noon meal.

Name _____ Ph: _____

Address _____

City/Town _____ Prov _____ Postal Code _____

Number Attending _____ Amount Enclosed \$ _____

THE TIME HAS COME FOR MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS!

THIS MAY BE YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER!!

(Membership expire date can be found on the **Address label** after surname)

M.R.L.S. Membership Renewal Form - Deadline Dec. 31/2000

\$5.00 Year — Single Membership

\$7.50 Year — Family/Society Membership

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

POSTAL CODE _____ PHONE # _____

SEND TO: MARLENE PULS

99 MACALESTER BAY

Winnipeg, Manitoba

R3T 2X6

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS, 2001

OFFICERS

| | | | |
|----------------|------------------|------------|----------------------------|
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Lynn Collicutt, Sandra Marks

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SEMINAR - Sandy Venton

HISTORIAN - Rose Lacey

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| | | | |
|----------------------|--|---------|---|
| DANZINGER, Gordon | 540 Mountain Avenue, Winnipeg | R2W 1K9 | 582-1110 Bus. 339-4655 Home |
| HUNTER, Brent | Box 1717, Neepawa, Manitoba | R0J 1H0 | 476-2108 Bus. 368-2346 Home |
| LeBLANC, Susan | 33 Morin, St. Francis Xavier, Manitoba | R4L 1A8 | 885-2284 Bus. 864-2254 Home |
| VENTON, Sandra | 203 Vernon Road, Winnipeg | R3J 2W1 | 956-0560 ext. 202 Bus. 888-2837 Home 957-0227 Fax |
| PULS, Marlene | 99 Macalester Bay, Winnipeg | R3T 2X6 | 957-3310 Bus. 269-3499 Home |
| RONALD, Wilbert | c/o Jeffries Nurseries, Box 402, Portage la Prairie, Manitoba | R1N 3B7 | 857-5288 Bus. 857-2877 Fax |
| SAGE, Doreen | Box 252, Neepawa, Manitoba | R0J 1H0 | 476-5772 |
| SOBKOWICH, Ted | 555 McLeod Street, Winnipeg | R2K 0B4 | 984-3003 Bus. 663-6404 Home |
| STROHMAN, Barrie | Box 846, Neepawa, Manitoba | R0J 1H0 | 476-3225 Home 476-5482 Fax |
| STROHMAN, Nigel | Box 846, Neepawa, Manitoba | R0J 1H0 | 476-5908 |
| SVENSON, Joan | 194 Clarke Dr., Brandon, Manitoba | R7B 0V4 | 728-9036 |
| WITHERSPOON, Barbara | Box 583, Carberry, Manitoba | R0K 0H0 | 834-2506 |