



# Manitoba Lily Connection

Manitoba Regional Lily Society Newsletter  
www.manitobalilies.ca

Volume 18, Issue 3

Affiliated with the North American Lily Society

September 2001

## President's Message

Another summer of lily growing is coming to an end. Extreme heat and a two week hiatus in Ontario, which included the N.A.L.S. show in Hamilton, meant that many of my lilies had come and gone by the time we returned home. All the more reason I enjoyed our show at the St. Vital Shopping Center. This group grows some impressive stems. Congratulations and good work to all who participated.

It's almost time to consider dividing, re-locating and making room for new lilies. In the August/September issue of the Leaflet, put out by the Friends of the Conservatory, our Jennifer Bishop starts their fall programs on Thursday, September 27th with a discussion on lilies. A wonderful lead up to the bulk sales that same weekend.

For our Brandon and area friends, your bulk sale is Saturday, September 29th at Town Center and in Winnipeg our sale will have a new look this year as it will be a two day affair. In conjunction with the clean up of the English Garden, our bulk sale and their seed and perennial sale will be held in the conservatory. Bring a friend, a long list, and plan to enjoy yourselves.

Susan.

### 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.

Let us know what else you would like to see published in your newsletter

E-mail: [nstrohman@escape.ca](mailto:nstrohman@escape.ca) or Phone: 476-5908

### NOTICE:

Going to have a few spare bulbs after digging this Fall? How about donating them to the MRLS Fall Bulb Sales? All bulb donations welcomed!! Proceeds of the sales goes towards Lily research and development. Subsidizing guest speakers that are brought in from great distances for Spring seminars. Please contact Ted Sobkowick at 204-663-6404 for varieties that you have or bring them in to one of the bulb sales. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

### Inside:

- ? ? Lily Breeding: Ed Robinson- Page 2
- ? ? NALS Show Report - Page 3&4
- ? ? The Novice's Niche - Page 5
- ? ? MRLS Show Report - Page 6
- ? ? Neepawa Lily Show Report - Page 6
- ? ? Coming Events/ Notices- Page 7

## Lily Breeding:

### Adventures Of A Prairie Lily Breeder - Part 1

by the Late Ed Robinson of Wawanesa, Manitoba

In the early 1950's, I started hybridizing lilies with a limited number of Preston Hybrids, and Skinner's 'Maxwill' and 'Scottiae,' and was fortunate to have a few of the better varieties for crossing, such as 'Sovereign', 'Typhoon', 'Corsair', 'Phyllis Cox', but the main seed varieties were 'Coronation', 'Edna Keen', 'Sovereign' and 'Maxwill'. From crossing these back and forth and as they were simple hybrids, a good amount of seed was secured from which was raised two or three thousand bulbs which were planted out thickly in long rows. The results as could be expected were satisfactory, but not spectacular.

Ten yellow seedlings from 'Coronation' were numbered (this is all there was of this color) and they varied from pale yellow to deep, golden with no two flowers or spikes exactly alike. Only one was named - 'Goldfind'. Another golden orange was named 'Spotted Gold'. One of these and a 'Sovereign' seedling were sent to a nursery in the U.S.A. some years ago and are still listed.

'Sovereign' has given outstanding yellow seedlings, but some are prone to die. There were 10 yellow 'Sovereign' seedlings numbered and three were named and another should have been as it is very disease resistant and comes up year after year without any attention. The ones named were 'Citrus Pride', 'Lemon Lode' and 'Lemon Jade'. Three orange 'Coronation' seedlings were named because of brightness and size of spike - 'Grandstand', 'Orange Flare' and 'Evening Star'. A good copper bronze seedling showed up with exceptionally heavy substance and was named 'Copperface'.

'Edna Keen' gave a multiplicity of shades and facing in all directions, but my records show that only two were named - 'Tanglow' and 'Radiant Glow'; the latter proved to be the keynote in crossing with 'Edith Cecilia'.

'Phyllis Cox', the bright reddish orange, peculiar little lily with the flowers around the top, gave two seedlings, which were named at that time, 'Sunglow' and 'Candlebuds'.

There were several dark reds with magnificent spikes in the 'Maxwill' seedlings, but as they were nearly all pendent and tightly reflexed, very few were given a number, besides they were prone to disease and thus only one was named, 'Garnet Gem'.

So much for the first generation. I will only mention color and names for the second and probable pollen of the first Patterson hybrids that were brought out.

'Edna Keen'-First Generation; 'Radiant Glow', 2nd, 'Redspire'

'Phyllis Cox'-First Generation; numbered, 2nd, 'Orange Crown'

'Scottiae'-First Generation; numbered, 2nd, 'Black Cloud' ('Maxwill' pollen)

'Coronation' -First Generation; numbered, 2nd, 'Northern Lights' ('White Gold' pollen)

'Sovereign'-First Generation; yellow numbered, 2nd, 'Yellow Totem' (Buttergold pollen)

'Maxwill'-First Generation; 'Garnet Gem', 2nd, 'Bloodstone'  
This was about all the second generation that were named out of hundreds of seedling.

From this time on, four of the Patterson Hybrids were introduced: 'White Gold', 'White Princess', 'Jasper', and 'Apricot Glow', only the latter would produce seed, and from it came 'Pastel Jasper'. There were many more splendid seedlings from 'Apricot Glow', but not sufficiently different to name. However, I still have them under observation and one or two more will be named even though they have been growing for some years, the decision takes longer.

The first three Patterson hybrids were sterile, but peculiar seedlings have cropped up from the pollen and in one case an outstanding seedling is 'Northern Light'.

The next Patterson hybrid obtained was 'Edith Cecilia', the wonderful link for diversity of colors, but oddly enough its seedlings may give a range of colors while the form of the flowers and plant vigor leave much to be desired in many cases. I was indeed fortunate to hit on the right combination to get color, form and a good plant from the one cross that I am almost certain was 'Edith Cecilia' x 'Radiant Glow'. I haven't any record for this cross, but I do have for the reverse cross and the colors are similar, but brighter, and the plant is different as expected, more like the seed parent in each case.

There were about 200 'Edith Cecilia' seedlings in the first cross, but not realizing the value of them, they were planted out in a 30 foot row and being so crowded they came into bloom slowly and so it was a couple of years extra before most of them had bloomed enough to see their

# NALS 2001

By Barbara-Jean (BJ) Jackson

When I sat down to write this I had a hard time focusing. What would folks that hadn't been there want to hear about? The speakers? The people? The show? The venue? Just meeting and listening face-to-face to the 'gurus' of the lily world, seeing the magnificent grounds of the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton, the very logistics of gathering a large number of people from diverse backgrounds, experiences and even cultures together in one place to experience lilies, up close and personal, I have to admit for this first-timer, was more than a little intimidating and overwhelming. But, the people of the Ontario Regional Lily Society in conjunction with the Royal Botanical Gardens pulled it off with great style belying the innumerable hours of planning and organizing involved.

## The Educational Sessions

The educational sessions were diverse yet extremely informative.

Thursday, Scott Kunst of Old House Gardens in Michigan was entitled 'Heirloom Bulbs - 4 Seasons, 40 centuries' He provided us with a history not only of the lily, but also of other heirloom bulbs including tulips, narcissus, hyacinths, etc. The reasons he gave for growing heirloom bulbs were not unlike the reasons we grow lilies. They included toughness, adaptability, fragrance, distinctiveness, genetic qualities or attributes and period appropriateness. Lily culture, he noted, is relatively recent, only since the late 1800s. Indeed most of the advances in lily breeding has occurred mainly in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

John Lykkegaard of Denmark: 'Species Lilies of China'. Known to those who regularly visit the Liliun e-mail listserve, it was a pleasure to finally see John after 'talking' to him for many years via e-mail. With his keen wit and extremely dry humor, we sat enthralled as he outlined the trials and tribulations of a plant collecting expedition he ventured on recently to China. I'm sure many of us in attendance have a much different view of the species lilies and the people of the region after this presentation. Soft spoken and very forthright, John told the story as it

happened. Regarding the volume and variety of plant life in the area, he commented that more than 80 different plant species were counted in an area only one square meter in size. Truly remarkable.

Peter Schenk of the Netherlands presented on Friday with an exciting preview of what is to come in lily breeding. His presentation, entitled 'Future Hybrids' outlined the complexity involved in hybridizing oriental x trumpet, longiflorum x oriental and oriental x Asiatic. He then proceeded to show slides of many of the new hybrids, exacting gasps of pleasure at the beauty being achieved. I found the most interesting aspect of his presentation to be the quest for a short, upfacing trumpet shaped flower. The unfortunate part was the knowledge that most of the lilies pictured would never be seen in a garden setting. Hybridizing efforts in The Netherlands are directed primarily toward producing new lilies for the cut flower industry, not the garden. Still, some amazing work is being done and the presentation was very informative.

Finally, at the awards banquet on Saturday, John Lykkegaard thrilled us with a presentation on the 'Tango Hybrids' and what he and others have achieved in this line. He made particular note of the work done by Hank Ziuko of Niagara Falls, New York. Hank treated a small group after the banquet to a computer show of this season's photographs.

## The Show

A total of 457 stems were entered in the show's specimen classes by many local Ontario growers as well as those who had transported their stems many miles, some under very adverse conditions. The award winners included one of our own, Dr. Reg Gallop, who was awarded the Claude Shride Award for the 'best hybrid lily of Martagon derivation'. As well, the Earl Hornback Award for the 'lily showing greatest advance in hybridization' was won by Northern Carillon, hybridized by L. M. Collicutt and W. G. Ronald and shown by Warren Summers.

Manitoba Regional Lily Society Award *Class 1- Collection of 12 Different lilies from any Division or Divisions, one Stem Each, Identified* Brian Bergman

*(Continued on page 4)*

### **The Auction**

The NALS Research Trust auction raised approximately \$4,000 for the fund. One of the highlights of this event was Wilbert Ronald's winning bid for a tie featuring lilies that can only be said to be truly unique! The tie will be returned for auctioning to other lucky bidders in future auctions. Many wonderful lilies, both old and new were donated to the auction and found new homes as bidding was fast and furious throughout. Martagon 'Rose Tattoo' was successfully bid for by Sandy Venton on behalf of the MRLS and another, 'Winecup' was successfully bid for by a consortium of Manitoba and Alberta growers. There was also a silent auction in effect for many varied items from test tube lilies to books to art work. It was a fun and exciting event but you really had to watch where your hands were at all times!!!

### **The Tours**

Three tours were available to conference attendees including two lily tours and one to Niagara Falls.

The tour which featured the gardens of Gwynedd and Ewart Brundrett was exceptional. On their property, named Wanakiwin, the Brundrett's have an extensive lily field, as well as large perennial and vegetable beds surrounding the house. And, what a house it is! It was constructed from trees harvested during clearing the land and it blends right into the woods which surround it. An enjoyable morning was spent viewing the lilies (and collecting pollen for those so inclined) and wandering the various gardens, never knowing from one moment to the next what delight would be found just around the bend. Gwynedd and Ewart are also providing space for other area hybridizers to line out their lily seedlings which is highly appreciated by those involved. This tour also visited the small community of St. Georges and a garden honoring the late ORLS member Joseph Smith. Although small, the lily beds were immaculately cared for and a

number of beautiful specimens were noted.

The second lily tour was to the growing fields of Tom Gratrix of Coldwater, quite a distance to the north. Although we did not take this tour, we had the pleasure of visiting Tom earlier in the week and saw rows and rows of lilies and daylilies with no weeds in evidence anywhere! Tom is on the cutting edge of both lily and daylily hybridizing and his skills are now being rewarded in show ribbons.

The Niagara Falls tour was also enjoyed by those who participated. The falls are always a hit and an added treat was the Butterfly Conservatory nearby.

The RBG Auxiliary also provided tours of the gardens at various times. The Lily beds were in full bloom and I learned about an Asiatic of W. G. Ronald's of which I had never heard before, 'Morden Butterfly'. It is now at the top of my wish list. Amazing that I had to go all the way to Hamilton to find out about one of a local hybridizer's efforts. The Rose Garden was also amazing to see. So many different sizes and types.

### **Committee Meetings**

At the general membership meetings, business was taken care of, the presidency was passed from Ian Barber to Ron Chiabotta, new directors were confirmed (including an Albertan), next year's nominating committee formed (which includes this Manitoban) and a discussion was held regarding a conservation policy. Because of the diversity of opinions expressed regarding the policy a sub-committee was formed to study the issue further. The Species Lily Preservation Group also held two meetings during the convention.

So, that was the NALS 2001 as seen through the eyes of this relative newcomer. It was an experience I wouldn't have missed. The ORLS, the RBG Hamilton, the convention participants, featured speakers and activities all combined to make the 54<sup>th</sup> annual show one that will be remembered.

# NOVICE NICHE

## Want More of the Same?

By: Doreen Sage

Multiplying your supply of bulbs to blooming size is not difficult but does require time and patience.

This article will deal only with Asiatics as these are the easiest and everyone has some.

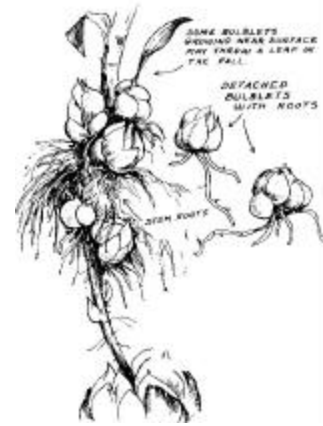
**BULBILS** — usually dark purplish about one to two cm (0.5”) in diameter. They are formed in the axis where the leaf joins the stem. Removing buds before flowering frequently induces the plant to form bulbils. Otherwise, collect the bulbils (use fingers and pick off) a few weeks after flowering. Plant in a well-prepared bed in a place that will not be tilled in the spring. Cover lightly (2.5 to 5 cm). Mark carefully where you plant with the name and/or description.

These bulbils will grow true to the parent bulb and should



produce a bloom in a couple of years.

**BULBLETS** — are produced on the underground part of the lily stem just above the bulb. Dig up the bulb(s) you have. You will find little bulbs on the stems of many Asiatics. Separate these little bulblets from the stem and replant as quickly as possible. Being so small, they will dry out. Plant bulblets in a well prepared bed and cover lightly. Mark well where you do your planting. These bulblets will grow into flowering bulbs in a couple of years and be true to the parent. Plant the main bulb back or move to a new



site.

**DAUGHTER BULBS** — offsets from the main bulb. When you dig up a lily(s), you should find more bulbs surrounding the main bulb. These can be readily removed from the main bulb and planted on their own, as you would plant any lily bulb. Replant main bulb. Many of these daughters will bloom the following year.



Using any of these methods will produce flowering size bulbs true to the parent bulb. If you find you have too many, they will make nice gifts or donate them to the MRLS or your local Horticultural Society for sale.

## Question & Answer

**Q:** I planted pink, white & yellow lilies. Why did they all change to orange after 2-3 years?

**A:** I would suspect that you planted them with the old *L. tigrinum*, which is orange with spots, with black bulbils in the leaf axils. Those little bulbs drop down and start new plants. This lily also carries a virus and so it ends up killing your other lilies. Plant your other lilies a good distance away if you want to grow *L. tigrinum*.

## MRLS 17th Annual Lily Show

Winnipeg, MB - July 27 & 28

Number of Exhibitors	15
Number of Stems	117
Number of Designs	10
Number of Display Stems	74

(The Lily Nook & Jeffries Nurseries)

### AWARDS:

Criddle Award (Best Stem of a Cultivated Species)

*Ted Sobkowich - L. Lancifolium Splendens*

Directors Award (Best Stem in Show)

*Sharon Ronald - Starburst Sensation*

Prairie Pride Award (Best Stem in the Show Developed by a prairie breeder)

*Sharon Ronald - Starburst Sensation*

Ed Robinson Award (Best Martagon in the Show)

*No Entry*

William Silversides Award (Best Named Asiatic in the Show)

*The Lily Nook - Winnipeg*

Dr. F. L. Skinner Award (Best Stem Grown from Seed & Exhibited by the Breeder)

*The Lily Nook - unnamed seedling*

Thomas and Lynn Smith Award (Best Trumpet in the Show)

*John Rempel - Moonlight*

Jean Erickson Award (Best Interspecific Hybrid in the Show)

*Sharon Ronald - Starburst Sensation*

Junior Design Award (Best Design in Section J)

*No Entry*

Design Award (Best Design in Section K)

*Susan LeBlanc - Reflections*

## Neepawa Lily Festival

### 2001 Show

*As reported by the Neepawa Lily Committee*

On July 21 & 22, on the County Court building grounds.

Thanks to MRLS members who judged & exhibited stems along with local exhibitors, who won many ribbons, making this another successful Lily Show.

### AWARDS:

Lily Nook Award ( Best stem of a cultivated species)

*Lilian Luky*

Beautiful Plains Hort. Society (Best Stem in Show)

*Lilian Luky*

Prairie Orchard Tea House Award (Best Named Asiatic Lily) -*Barb Witherspoon*

Westway Inn Motel Award (Best Stem Developed by a Prairie Breeder)

*Cecil McCullough*

Lily Fest Committee Award - (Best Trumpet Lily in Show) - *John Remple*

Neepawa Loyal Orange Lodge Award (Best Orange Lily) - *Lilian Luky*

Yellowhead Nursery Award (Best Stem in Division VI-IIb) - *Cecil McCullough*

Neepawa Lily Fest Design Award (Best Design in the Show) - *Barb Witherspoon*

Beyond The Garden Gate Junior Award  
- *Kayla Hunter*

Garden Path Bed & Breakfast Award (Best Stem from Seed and exhibited by the Breeder)- *Lilian Luky*

## Coming Events & Notices:

### Manitoba Regional Lily Society Annual Lily Bulb Sales

#### Winnipeg:

**Dates:** Saturday, Sept.29, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Sunday, Sept. 30, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
**Place:** Assiniboine Park Conservatory Lobby  
2355 Corydon Avenue, Winnipeg, MB.  
(Located in the Assiniboine Park)

#### Brandon:

**Date:** Saturday, Sept 29, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
**Place:** Town Centre Mall  
800 Rosser Avenue, Brandon, MB  
(Formally Known as The Gallery)

#### Dauphin:

**Date:** Saturday, Oct. 6, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
**Place:** Market Place Mall on Main Street Dauphin ,  
MB

### Annual Fall Bulb Sale

Once again, our bulb sale draws near. This year our **sale** is on **Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., September 29, 2001, the last Saturday of September.** No bulb sale the first Saturday in October (long weekend).

We will also be selling bulbs on Sunday, September 30, 2001, in mutual co-operation with the Friends' event - 'The English Garden Clean-up', held this year at the Conservatory.

I need people to assist with set up Friday evening, September 28, 2001 and staffing the sale on Saturday and Sunday. Set-up involves setting up tables, bagging bulbs, pricing, arranging the bulbs in categories, etc. Sale activities involve some security, cashiers, cashier helpers, and general lily advisor for any general questions the people may have. We will have lily experts on hand. If you can provide 2 or 2½ or 3 hours to help, Please phone me: Ted Sobkowich at (hm) # 863-6404 or wk # 984-3003.

Our **Bulb Sale in Brandon** will be held on the same day,

**Saturday Sept 29, 9:00 to 4:00.** It will be held at the Brandon Town Centre. Similar assistance will be needed. Please call Joan Svenson, in Brandon, at 728-9036 to offer your help and ask for more details.

This year, for the **First Time**, we will be holding a **Bulb Sale in Dauphin, MB** at the Market Place Mall on Main Street, on **Saturday, October 6, 2001** from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. So, members in Dauphin and surrounding area, spread the news and support your Manitoba Regional Lily Society's Bulb Sale. For more details and to offer your help, please phone Barbara Jackson, in Brandon at (hm) 725-4695 or (wk) 727-7409.

**The Event:** Lily Talk (with Slides)

**The Time:** Thursday, 7:30 p.m., September 27, 2001 (doors open at 7:00 p.m.)

**The Place:** The Assiniboine Park Conservatory, Assiniboine Park, Winnipeg, MB

We are the "Main Event" for the September meeting of the Friends of the Assiniboine Park Conservatory Society. The Manitoba Regional Lily Society was invited, we accepted, to give a talk and slide show on lilies. The talk will be given by Jennifer Bishop, with the assistance of Ted Sobkowich. There is an attendance fee of \$5.00 per person for non-members of the Friends. All are welcome.

### NALS accredited Judge School to Be Held!!

**Date:** February 16, 2002

**Place:** Royal Oak Inn, Brandon, MB

**More details to follow in December Newsletter**  
Please contact Barrie Strohman at 204-476-3225 for further information and/or to sign up for the course.

### International Lily Conference 2002

The New Zealand Lily Society invites you to the 70th Anniversary of their society at the international Lily Conference in Christchurch New Zealand January 11-14, 2002.

For more inf.email: mlleper@zfree.ca.nz