



# Manitoba Lily Connection

Manitoba Regional Lily Society Newsletter  
www.manitobalilies.ca

Volume 19, Issue 1

Affiliated with the North American Lily Society

March 2002

## President's Message

We may have more days of snow and cold ahead but winters is winding down. Our annual seminar is one month away and it promises to be both entertaining and informative. Mr. Dick Bazett, an award-winning grower and hybridizer, will be our guest speaker.

Ted and his committee have new bulbs ordered for the seminar and the Mother's Day booth at the Conservatory in Winnipeg. A note of interest - we will be featuring a wish list at the seminar for those of you looking for specific colours, species or cultivars. This will be a guide for those ordering for the Fall bulb sales.

Nine of us took the judging school class and proved a credit to our wonderful instructors Barrie and Wilbert. Thanks you both for the time taken from busy schedules. I look forward to the next phase.

Big news this week from the North American Lily Society executive, our invitation to host the 2005 North American show is confirmed. A great challenge and lots of opportunity to become involved with the many committees needed to run a show of this size.

Enjoy the spring, it starts with our seminar!

Susan

## Question & Answer

**Q:** I have a clump of lilies. Can I move and divide them this spring?

**A:** Lilies generally speaking are best moved in the fall at the lowest point of their growth period. However they can be successfully moved and separated in the spring. This must be done very carefully in digging them and teasing them apart. Dig them before new growth starts otherwise the new growth stems are most likely to be broken off and so you will lose the bloom of that bulb for

## Lily Questions?

If you have a question or thought on lilies just contact me, 'the editor' and I will publish it on a question and answer spot in the newsletters.

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

E-mail: [nstrohman@escape.ca](mailto:nstrohman@escape.ca) or Phone: 476-2536

Mail: Nigel Strohman, Box 846, Neepawa, MB R0J 1H0

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## Lily Breeding:

### Sequel To Ed Robinson's Successes In Hybridizing

by Barrie Strohman, Neepawa, Manitoba

I had hoped that Ed would have been able to write this portion himself. Even though he assured me I had knowledge of some of his later work, I am sure I will miss much history and points on this later hybridizing work for there are many good martagons and asiatics that Ed has introduced in later years.

The crossing of *L. martagon* and Martagon hybrids with the Chinese lily *L. tsingtauense* was indeed a notable achievement and brought Ed into the international spotlight. This was the first known cross and his efforts in crossing *L. x dalhansonii* with *L. tsingtauense* combined the height of the martagons with the orange of the Chinese lily. The hybrids show an outstanding range of colour and form retaining the three to five foot height of *L. x dalhansonii* and the substance and clarity of colour of *L. tsingtauense*. The combination of the bright orange and the colours inherent in *L. x dalhansonii* produced sparkling tones and colour combination, and even more so with the introduction of crossing 'Brocade' x *L. tsingtauense*. Clumps of these various clones from these crosses are truly breathtaking when in full bloom.

The first clone registered of *L. x dalhansonii* and *L. tsingtauense* was '**Sontsing**' made in 1963. It is a smoky light orange sometimes with a pink tinge carrying small spots in the center. Following this one was '**Tsingense**' and '**Hantsing**' in 1964. The former is a blazing tangerine orange with a height of 4 to 5 ft. The latter sports a coat of bright light red with pale yellow center and a few spots. '**Tsing**' was the next to follow in 1977. It proved to be a dark tangerine orange and a good increaser and seed producer. Another one yet to be registered is '**Tsinson**' which is dark red orange with no pollen and spots. This is an outstanding lily in my opinion and we plan to have this one registered for Ed in the future.

Besides the above cross Ed also crossed 'Brocade' x *L. tsingtauense* and '**Brotsing**' is now marketed. It has large pale yellow out-facing flowers on tall strong stems. Then came '**Pink Taurade**' which is pink tinged in yellow, tips white, throat pink with lilac spots. It has up and out-facing flowers.

Since then Dan Dale who received a number of

Robinson's martagon felt that several were worthy of being registered. The following seven are the ones that Dan registered.

**Autumn Color** - Deep yellow with a lime green throat and dark maroon spots.

**Cadense** - Light yellow, dark yellow margins, dark maroon spots.

**Morning Melody** - Mauve pink, pink throat outside totally mauve pink and unspotted.

**Pink Coral Bells** - Light lilac pink with lime green throat and tiny maroon spots.

**Raspberry Delight** - Raspberry rose pink light pink throat fine spots framed in cream.

**Red Velour** - Dark red throat lighter red over cream green. Medium sized dark red spots.

**Orange Marmalade** - As Tsinson could not be registered under that name, Dan had it registered as Orange Marmalade. A big thanks to Dan Dale in taking the time and effort to see that these were registered.

Other Robinson martagon hybrids as follows: Autumn Harvest, Golden Green, Harvest Gem, Ivory Jewel, Ivory Gem, Margaret Mauve, Orchid Gem, Pink Attraction, Prairie Gem, Redpath, Red Wine, Stormy Sunset, Towering Delight, Whitewood, and Blotchwood.

Many of Ed's martagons were transferred to the Lily Nook where identification is ongoing. Over 130 cultivars have been singled out and planted in separate plots. Undoubtedly a number of these are worthy of being named and registered. This will be done as time and quantity is sufficient to warrant it. So the hybridizing work of Ed Robinson has yet to have a finishing chapter written.



**Manitoba Horticultural Society honors  
Dr. Wilbert Ronald with  
Stevenson Commemorative Award**

The Manitoba Horticulture Association President Marg Senkbeil presented Dr. Wilbert Ronald with the prestigious Stevenson Commemorative Award at the MHA convention held in Steinbach on February 8, 2002. The Stevenson award honours a person who has achieved a career and lifetime of excellence in the field of practical horticulture. Wilbert was recognized for his contributions in plant breeding, selection of new plant introductions, propagation research, involvement in associations such as the North American Lily Society and his role in providing leadership in the horticulture and nursery industry.

This year's award was a watercolour painting titled "The Family Farm" by Winnipeg artist John Gaudef. An engraved golden strip bearing the visage of Mr. A.P. Stevenson was mounted inside the framed painting. Mr. Stevenson was a pioneer who dedicated his life to the development of better fruit varieties for the prairie region. Mr. Stevenson's pioneer work in the Morden area led to the government's founding of the Morden Research Station in 1915. This is the nineteenth time the Stevenson Commemorative Award has been presented since it was first awarded to Dr. Frank Skinner in 1932.

Wilbert worked as a researcher at the Morden Research Station from 1968 to 1982 and is credited for introductions such as 'Fallgold' Black Ash, 'Jacan' Japanese Elm, 'Mancana' Manchurian Ash, 'Tower' Poplar, 'Miniglobe' Honeysuckle, 'Prairie Cascade' Weeping Willow, 'Baron' Manitoba Maple, 'Northline' Silver Maple, 'Autumn Blaze' White Ash, 'Northern Beauty' Lily and 'Starburst Sensation' Lily. Many of these plants are widely grown in Canada and the United States. Wilbert was the breeder of record for later Morden introductions such as 'Prairie Sky' Poplar, 'Northern Treasure' Ash and 'Northern Gem' Ash. He is now celebrating his 20th season as owner of Jeffries Nurseries Ltd. in Portage la Prairie where he has continued his plant breeding efforts. The list of new cultivars introduced by his company include Northern Blaze® Ash, Harvest Gold® Linden, Golden Cascade Linden and Norlin Linden. He has assisted plant introduction by commercialization of Prairie Magic® Apple and two new University of Manitoba developed potentillas Pink Beauty® Potentilla and Mango Tango® Potentilla.

Wilbert has headed new joint industry-government research cooperation by financial support of new research consortiums in lily, poplar, monarda and rose breeding. These joint initiatives have brought a new means of research support and industry cooperation to plant breeding and have permitted projects to be continued or initiated that would otherwise not have taken place due to general government cutbacks and declining government nursery research. Cooperative projects have led to the release of 15 lily cultivars and many other advanced selections that are receiving final evaluations. Four of these lilies have won Hornback's Award in recognition of breeding advancement in lilies. Furthermore, the cultivar 'Northern Carillon' has been rated the most popular North American garden lily for the past two years.

Wilbert has given wide support to nursery industry by active support of wholesale growers groups, by assisting promotional endeavors that resulted in the widely acclaimed nursery poster set, by completing the 25 year history of the Manitoba Nursery and Landscape Association by sponsoring field days and by speaking to numerous trade conferences and international conventions. He has filled many leadership roles including serving as founding President of the Manitoba Regional Lily Society, North American Lily Society, Western Nursery Growers Group and the Canadian Ornamental Plant Foundation.



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## These Will Not be the Same - Part 3

By: Doreen Sage

Previous columns have been on multiplying your lily bulbs by collecting daughter bulbs, by bulblets, bulbils and scaling --always getting an exact reproduction of the original bulb.

Now, for the fun stuff --SEEDS, which you can produce yourself with the help of your lily blooms. No two bulbs grown by cross-pollination will be 100% identical to each other or to the parents.

There are many kinds of lilies and some seeds grow differently than others. This will be about Asiatics.

To grow seeds, the gardener has to get seeds. The best way is to produce your own -- hybridizing. Pick a parent lily bloom which will produce the seeds, then pollinate with pollen from some of your other lilies. Cover pollinated stigma with foil unless you want additional help from bees, bugs and wind.

The parent plant you choose to grow the seeds should be a good strong, sturdy plant and one that you like. Growing seeds will take nutrients that would otherwise go to the bulb. Do fertilize. The pollen can be from any lily, but usually like kinds work best --Asiatics to Asiatics.

Some gather pollen from many lilies and mix it together and even keep it until the lily they want to pollinate opens. Then there can only be a record of the one parent.

The seeds should ripen on the stalk and be gathered in the fall when the pods are mature, brownish and dry. When pods are completely dry, remove seeds from the pods. If an early frost threatens before pods are ready, cut stems and hang in a warm, dry place to finish the ripening process.

As you pollinate each pod, attach a tag stating where the pollen came from, if you know, and the date. When seeds are harvested, list parent plant and then the pollinator on label.

Some growers plant seeds outside in the ground as soon as the seeds are dry. Others keep seeds in the freezer until spring and plant in the spring. In Manitoba, it really doesn't matter much as frozen is frozen. Growers have many different methods of indoor planting and growing. Whether you plan to plant your seeds outside in the fall

they are gathered or the following spring, make certain that the space to be used is well-tilled and weed free.

Make a flat bottomed seeding space. This can be as wide as your hoe or whatever shape you like. Seeds can be candled for fertility before planting and chaff can be removed. You can do these things if you like or you can just plant all your seeds with large pieces of chaff removed. Seeds need to be covered with about one-half inch of soil. Remember to label planting area well.

For lily seeds to do well, plant in a well-drained area. If this is a problem repair a slightly raised bed.

Water sparingly at first, never allowing soil to become saturated. Soil must also never be allowed to dry out.

Keep an eye out for bugs and disease. If there are signs of either/both, spray appropriately.

The seed bed should be mulched with some fine material to help keep moisture even. Materials such as dried grass clippings or flax chives work well. First lily leaves must be able to come through the mulch, so it must be fine and even. You may notice that many first leaves have the remains of the seed at the tip.

The seedlings can be left in this bed for a couple of seasons. However larger bulbs could be removed after the end of the first growing season and allowed to go on without competition. Some will bloom the second year.

Do not be disappointed when most of your seedlings bloom and they are all a disappointing colour. Look closely, as there are one or two that are outstanding. When you are dealing with cross-pollinated seeds, the outcome is in the hands of God.

Grow your few special ones for another year and, with maturity, they could turn out to be quite lovely. You do have a problem as to what to do with the rest. Since you will repeat this exercise every season, you will quickly have many lily bulbs. Then, try crossing your crosses.

I have enjoyed writing these columns and hope that readers have found some useful information. Now it is time to say Goodbye.

**MANITOBA REGIONAL LILY SOCIETY  
SPRING SEMINAR AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2002**

**Saturday March 23, 2002**

Westward Resort Hotel & Conference Centre  
2401 Saskatchewan Avenue (Hwy 1A West)  
Portage la Prairie, MB

Registration - \$25.00 - Includes coffee breaks and buffet lunch

**PROGRAM**

- 8:30** - Registration / Coffee / Socializing
- 9:00** - Welcome by President - *Susan LeBlanc*
- 9:05** - Tetraploid Breeding - *Richard (Dick) Bazett from Kelowna, BC*
- 10:00** - COFFEE, TEA & JUICE BREAK & SOCIALIZING
- 10:15** - MRLS Research Report - *Shannon Berry* (U of M - Master Science student)  
- *Prof. William Remphrey* (Department of Plant Science)  
- *Campbell Davidson* (Morden Research Center)
- 10:45** - Orienpet Breeding - *Richard (Dick) Bazett from Kelowna, BC*
- 12:00** - BUFFET LUNCH FOLLOWED BY SPRING BULB SALE
- 1:30** - MRLS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
- 2:00** - New Zealand / Tasmania Report – *Dr. Wilbert Ronald*  
- *Barrie Strohman*  
- *Barbara-Jean Jackson*
- 3:00** - COFFEE, TEA & JUICE BREAK & SOCIALIZING
- 3:15** - Live Auction/Silent Auction
- 3:40** - Question & Answer Panel

**MRLS Seminar Registration Form**

**Please pre-register ASAP**

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Ph: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town \_\_\_\_\_ Prov \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Send To: MRLS c/o Marlene Puls - 99 Macalester Bay, Winnipeg, MB R3T 2X6

## Coming Events & Notices:

### MARCH SEMINAR and Annual General Meeting

**Date:** March 23, 2002, 8:00 a.m.  
**Place:** Westward Inn, Portage la Prairie, MB  
**Cost:** \$25.00 - includes lunch and coffee breaks

Guest Speaker - Dick Bazett of Kelowna, BC

### Notice:

Attention all members!! Our historian, Rose Lacey, is retiring after being our historian since MRLS conception. The Board is looking for a volunteer for this position.

Please contact Susan LeBlanc at 204-864-2254  
Many thanks to Rose for all her years of keeping track of the history of our Society!!

### LIBRARY:

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

### MRLS Lily Show 2002

**Date:** July 19-21  
**Place:** Neepawa, MB  
**Info:** To be held in conjunction with Neepawa's annual Lily Festival. More details to follow in the next newsletter.

### 2002 Lily Festival

Lily Capital of the World - Neepawa, MB  
July 18th-21nd.

Daily guided architectural and lily bed tours & kids

The M.R.L.S. held a judging school at the Royal Oak inn in Brandon on February 16th. Nine persons attended for a full day of instruction of course 1 and course 2. Two of our members took it as a refresher course and the remainder wrote the exam at the end of the instruction which was given by Dr. Wilbert Ronald and Barrie Strohmman. We are happy to report that all passed with exceptional marks in the high 80% and 90%. Congratulations to these prospective judges. The final course, course 3 will be held at our regional show to be held in Neepawa July 19-21.

THE TIME HAS COME FOR MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS!

**THIS MAY BE YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER!!**

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

### M.R.L.S. Membership Renewal Form - Deadline

\$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  
Make Cheques Payable to MRLS

**OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS, Jan 1/2002**

**OFFICERS**

PRESIDENT	Susan LeBlanc	SECRETARY	Sandra Venton
VICE-PRESIDENT	Ted Sobkowich	TREASURER	Marlene Puls
PAST PRESIDENT	Gordon Danzinger	NEWSLETTER	Doreen Sage/Nigel Strohman

**DIRECTORS**

Doreen Sage	Joan Svenson
Nigel Strohman	Barbara Witherspoon
Jennifer Bishop	John Rempel

**HONORARY DIRECTORS** - Dr. Wilbert Ronald, Lynn Collicutt, Barrie Strohman

**RESEARCH COMMITTEE** - Wilbert Ronald, Barrie Strohman,  
Lynn Collicutt, Sandra Venton, Ed Czarnecki

**LIBRARY** - Barrie Strohman

**SEMINAR** - Susan LeBlanc

**HISTORIAN** - Rose Lacey

**DIRECTORY OF OFFICERS & DIRECTORS**

BISHOP, Jennifer	23 Chopin Boulevard, Winnipeg	R2G 2C9	982-4020 Bus	661-5036 Home
DANZINGER, Gordon	540 Mountain Avenue, Winnipeg	R2W 1K9		582-1110 Bus. 339-4655 Home 338-2545 Fax
LeBLANC, Susan	33 Morin, St. Francis Xavier, Manitoba	R4L 1A8	895-7203 Bus.	864-2254 Home
PULS, Marlene	99 Macalester Bay, Winnipeg	R3T 2X6	957-3310 Bus.	269-3499 Home
REMPEL, John	590 Municipal Road, Winnipeg	R3R 1J2		895-2212
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		476-3225 Bus. 476-2536 Home
SVENSON, JOAN	194 Clarke Drive, Brandon, Manitoba	R7B 0V4		728-9036
VENTON, Sandra	203 Vernon Road, Winnipeg	R3J 2W1		956-0560 ext. 202 Bus. 888-2837 Home & Fax