

Ontario Regional Lily Society

an affiliate of the North American Lily Society

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Lily Show at the RBG: July 8, 9, 2000

Annual Picnic: July 16, 2000

Annual Bulb Auction: October 1, 2000

International Lily Show, hosted by the
ORLS next year: July 11 to 15, 2001

From the President:

Hello to all of our lily growing friends and a warm welcome to new ORLS members. It was good to meet some of these members at the ORLS Annual Meeting in April. We hope that they will again join us as we begin our lily growing activities for 2000.

Fast approaching is our annual show at the RBG on July 8-9th. There should be a good showing of stems. A mild winter and the absence of a late spring frost has given us ideal growing conditions. If you have never exhibited before, consider an entry this year. There is a special class for novice exhibitors which could earn you a hand painted lily plate and a place in the Court of Honour. Experienced exhibitors will be on hand to help you stage your exhibit. The show also provides an opportunity to view a variety of lilies before making selections for fall planting. Some of the bulbs of the varieties shown will be available at the ORLS bulb auction and sale in October.

The show is a great opportunity to socialize with lily growers. It will also be possible at the show to arrange for car pooling for those who plan to attend the ORLS picnic on July 16th. This year Tom Gratrix has invited us to his lily growing enterprise near Coldwater. From all reports, the spectacular display of lilies will make the drive worthwhile. For a sneak preview of Tom's operation, you can visit his web site at www.Bconnex.net/~gratlily/

As part of the show activities, we have arranged for the Garden Cafe at the RBG to open at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday July 9th, to provide a continental style breakfast for ORLS members, at a cost of about \$9.00. This will be staged as a round table chat session where we can discuss lilies, our show and the International Symposium in Clackamas, Oregon. Some of our members will have just returned from Oregon and will have some input. If you wish to attend, contact me by Wednesday July 5th, so that we can make reservations. We may have a special visitor at this breakfast.

Dr. Marina Baranova, a lily specialist from the Russian Academy of Science at Kanarov Botanical Institute in St. Petersburg will be visiting in Ontario, following her visit to Oregon where she is scheduled as the guest speaker at the NALS Symposium. We have invited her to attend the breakfast on July 9th and as well our picnic on the 16th. Neither of these invitations has been confirmed at this time but we hope that she will be able to attend at least one of these events.

We are happy to report that Penny Lipschik, from Harley, has agreed to be our social convenor. Florence Brown will lend some of her experience to Penny in carrying out this job. A big thank you to these ladies.

I know you will want to join me in extending to Mary Lynne Brown our sincere thanks for her term as President of the ORLS for the years 1998-2000. Mary Lynne has shouldered a heavy responsibility, serving as President as well as newsletter editor, while combining a career and family responsibilities. Well done Mary Lynne and thank you.

Dawn Suter

Thank you Dawn. I'll admit that I am happy to give up the post of president, especially with the International Show coming up next year.

The breakfast Sunday morning is a new venture. It sounds like a great idea, a chance when it will be a little quieter, and members can talk over the show. Good luck with this. Over the years, events have been added and deleted from the show programme, as some events prove to be more popular than others. Maybe the Sunday breakfast will become a tradition.

Thank you to Maureen Barber for typing the schedule again this year. You will find a new division on page 2, for interdivisional hybrids.

Olive Fowler is again painting our plates, mugs and eggs. To those who haven't won a ribbon at a lily show, this is your chance to win a beautiful hand-painted plate. If you entered last year, but did not win a ribbon, you may enter the novice class again.

Mary Lynne

PICNIC

Check out the picnic information on the last page. Tom Gratrix is one of our members who has made the hobby of growing lilies into a business.

LILY BUGS

Maureen Barber is wondering if anyone else has lily bugs. They are slightly longer and narrower than a ladybug, and no spots. More red than orange. The larvae have the habit of covering themselves in their excrement to avoid being eaten. They will make short work of your lily bed. Please let us know how far they have spread.

For those of you new to lily showing, I have copied an article from the Alberta Newsletter *The Bulblet*. It was written by Allan Daku, who is a member of the Alberta Society.

Grooming and Staging Lilies for Exhibition

- A. Selecting the Perfect Stem
 1. In the garden, choose stems typical of the clone.
 2. Stems must be sturdy and straight, with healthy dark green foliage.
 3. Choose stems with flower placement as near to perfection as possible.
 4. In order for a stem to be judged, only one flower need be open. However, a stem which has the bottom tier of flowers all open (with none showing aging) will generally create a better impression.

- B. Cutting the Perfect Stem
 1. Either the morning before the show or the morning of the show, cut the stems after the dew has evaporated. Cutting at this time of day will ensure maximum freshness. The presence of dew or raindrops can cause pollen stains.
 2. Cut the stem to obtain a balanced exhibit, the rule being 1/3 inflorescence, 1/3 stem with leaves, and 1/3 container.
 3. Label each stem.

- C. Conditioning the Stem:
 1. For local shows, place stems in tepid water and store in a cool location overnight or until you are leaving for the show.
 2. For distant shows with long transportation requirements, wilt down the stems simply by leaving them upright in individual containers without water.

- D. Storing the Stems:
 1. Place foil caps gently over all exposed anthers to prevent pollen smudges.
 2. Stems may be cut and stored in cool conditions for a week or more, but such stems do lose a certain degree of freshness, and long stored stems are generally quite evident on the show table.
 3. Try to avoid wetting the foliage, especially for long periods.

- E. Transporting the Stems:
 1. Cushion closely spaced blossoms to prevent chafing.
 2. Wilted stems are transported lying horizontally in large floral boxes, the individual stems well cushioned.
 3. For transportation of fresh stems, place each stem in its own container. Each container is then positioned so as to prevent flowers and leaves from rubbing one against the other.
 4. Do not forget your grooming kit. (*soft make-up brushes, Q-tips, manicure scissors, pruning shears, pen, ed.*)

- F. At the Show:
1. Wilted stems are carefully removed from their box, placed in their individual containers of warm water and allowed to rehydrate.
 2. Fresh stems should be brought indoors to the staging area as quickly as possible to avoid heat exposure in the vehicle.
 3. Locate your stems in the staging area provided at the show as near your workstation as possible.
 4. Respect the workspace of other exhibitors.
- G. Grooming:
1. Clean each stem meticulously, starting with the leaves. Remove dust, pollen, spider webs, taking special care to inspect the leaf axils and undersurfaces.
 2. With moistened tissue or Q-tip, gently wipe leaves to remove water spots.
 3. Insect or disease damaged leaves must be addressed. If few in number, these may be very carefully clipped from the stem. If so many are damaged that by complete removal their absence would be noticeable, very carefully trim each damaged leaf with sharp scissors.
 4. Dress or reposition the leaves after cleaning.
 5. Remove the cushioning from amongst the flowers.
 6. Clean the inflorescence after carefully removing the anther caps.
 7. Brush away loose pollen from the sepals.
 8. Using rhubarb stems, wedge each stem to stand rigid in its container.
- H. Staging:
1. Secure entry tags to each stem, after double checking classification and show schedule.
 2. In a small show, the exhibitor may be responsible for placing the stems in the appropriate table location. At large shows, a staging committee will take your entry and deliver it to its correct section and class.
- I. Seedling Florets:
- Seedlings are often shown as single florets displayed in floral pics. Take care with these as well, to clean and groom carefully.

Members who live in Southern Ontario will find a poster in with this newsletter. Please post it where lots of people will see it: your local post office, poster board, nursery, etc. Photocopy it if you have lots of locations!! Don't forget to ask permission for private property.

You will also find a free daypass to the Royal Botanical Gardens in this envelope. If you already are a member of the RBG, pass it on to a friend. If you aren't a member, then come out to the RBG and enjoy the 2700 acres of gardens, and consider joining. Public places such as the RBG face a financial struggle with the government's continual cutbacks. Becoming a member of the RBG indicates your support of such institutions.

NALS 2001 SHOW at the RBG

The 2001 show will be at the RBG where we hope to be a good host to NALS members and many visitors wanting to see the lilies growing at their peak in the RBG garden and those displayed in the auditorium. Many members of ORLS help to run our yearly show and the 2001 show committee will be welcoming any assistance to help make this show outstanding and informative to all the visitors.

A contract has been signed with the Sheraton hotel in Hamilton to have our banquets and host our out-of-town guests. Tours will be available for anyone wishing to enjoy on Saturday, July the 14th.

I hope everyone can extend a hand to make this a great show and bring new members into our society whereby many will learn more about growing and showing lilies.

SHOW AND CONVENTION COMMITTEE

Chairman: Peter A. Schieman
Planning Committee: Ross Martin Dick McQueen, Michael Homick, Gary Snelling, Marilyn Cornwell, Dawn Suter, Pat and Joe Smith
Brian Bergman, Maureen Barber, Gwyn Brundrett,
Lil Haworth, Ralph Suttell

Sincerely;

Peter Schieman

This year the North American Lily Society 2000 show will be held in Clackamas, Oregon, from June 29 to July 2. They have a busy few days planned, with speakers from Russia, Holland, and New Zealand. They offer workshops on tissue culture and floral design. For more information, call Mary Hoffman, 503-656-1575, or Madeleine Robertson, 503-873-4748.

If you are planning a trip out west this summer, maybe you can take in one of these lily shows:

ALBERTA Regional Lily Society has two shows. They have a MARTAGON show at the Devonian Botanic Gardens on the Yellowhead Hwy, July 8 & 9. Then on July 28 & 29, the Annual show at the Bonnie Doon Shopping Centre in Edmonton. Contact Lil McLean at 780-467-2660 for both shows.

CANADIAN PRAIRIE Lily Society Annual Lily Show at The Mall in Saskatoon, July 21 & 22. Call Barbara Adams Eichendorf, 306-947-2830.

SOUTH SASKATCHEWAN Lily Society Annual Lily Show at Victoria Square Mall, Regina, July 21 & 22.

MANITOBA Regional Lily Society's show will be in Neepawa, in conjunction with the Neepawa Lily Festival. July 21 & 22. Contact Barrie Strohmman, 204-476-3225.

VISITING THE LILY LADY

This was the headline on the front page of the *Ontario Farmer, Production Section*, in April of this year. Accompanying the article: an across-the-page view of Estelle Horner's lily garden, as well as Estelle working in her garden. Estelle is a member of our lily society, and recently served on the Board of Directors. She relates that it was her frustration with receiving the wrong bulbs, up to 50% of the time, that got her into selling lilies and daylilies. Like many lily growers, Estelle initially received a couple of lily bulbs as a gift, and got hooked. This blossomed into her own business, selling about 250 varieties of both the lilies and day lilies.

Congratulations to Estelle for the recognition.

SOCIAL CONVENOR

As Dawn mentioned above, Penny Lipschik has volunteered to be social convenor. Penny is a busy farmer, so we really appreciate that she has volunteered to help us out at this hectic time of the year. Thanks, Penny. (I'll bet that she will accept any offers of assistance: 519-449-2321)

NALS

Do you belong to the North American Lily Society? Dues are U\$20/yr or U\$55/3 yrs.

Contact the Executive Secretary, P.O. Box 272, Owatonna, MN 55060
You'll receive *The Quarterly*, an excellent publication containing lots of lily information, and a yearbook.

ST. GEORGE LILY GARDENS

Don't forget that every year the town of St. George has a lily festival that takes over the town. They celebrate lilies the week-ends of July 8 & 9, and July 15 & 16. St George is a thriving small town, with antique shops, restaurants, and, if you have kids, Willy's Ice Cream Bar. Located north of Brantford, on Hwy 5 just east of Hwy 24, it's just over an hour's drive from Toronto. Close to Paris and Cambridge. If you're coming from Toronto way, you can make a stop at Don Zver's Pottery shop in Troy. I hear that there's a fairly nice restaurant attached to the pottery shop.

Dick McQueen reports that they get about 800 people a day for the festival, with people coming from 8:00 a.m. and all day. If you're not one for crowds, head up during the week. The gardens are in the middle of town, open to the public, and well worth seeing.

MUSINGS BY SANDRA ROSS

(reprinted from the Ohio Regional Lily Society newsletter)

It is a cool, damp wet May day, but I am not complaining. We need the rain! I heard on television that if we do not get significant rain this summer, Lake Erie would be the lowest it has been in 160 years. Many people who live on the Lakeshore cannot use their own docks since they are mud flats, so every shower is a welcome one for everyone. The lilies in our garden are two weeks ahead of schedule. L/A's (L. Longiflorum x Asiatic) have well defined buds such as Royal Respect and Easter Splendor and Kiss Me Kate has opened two flowers. The martagons are tipping over with swollen buds just prior to straightening up for spectacular bloom. The L. martagon species, a lovely dainty soft purple has opened and completely reflexed. Slate Select, a martagon, has increased the most and has opened in several areas of the garden. We have Madison, a red-orange Asiatic blooming in a pot on the patio. June Fragrance opened yesterday and is as fragrant as its name. Silk Road and Empress are over 5ft tall The overture has begun before the full symphony of bloom.

David and I are most excited about the two stems of L. nepalense that are growing in a pot on the patio. L. nepalense doesn't like our wet winters or any moisture, so we packed the two bulbs we got from Mr. Hrebik in dry peat moss and stored them in the basement. We potted them up in March and now have two small stems. The probably won't bloom this year but we can wait for the intriguing green and black purple blooms.

The garden looks like a sea of green now that the daffodils are finished but here and there a wonderful splash of colour erupts. Carol, a single layer peony, shows off her hot red colour against the fluffy stamens and waves in the breeze above a white Camassia with both carpeted by Sweet Woodruff. I have heard that a wine is made of the blooms, or is it the stems, of Sweet Woodruff? If it is the blooms the wine makers sure are patient pickers since the blooms are about 1/16 inch wide. Sweet Woodruff makes a wonderful border, but it can be invasive, but you can take a shovel and cut it out like sod. Tree peonies were glorious this year courtesy of the mild winter. We have several, but don't know the names - just white, pink cerise, etc. The white one is now 6ft wide and about 5ft tall. It was just covered with tissue paper looking flowers. The last few hot humid days made short work of the blooms, but we have a new digital camera to record our gardening triumphs and failures. Each day we tour the garden early in the morning, coffee cup in hand, as we see something new. The cats Cinders and Bears join the parade as we inspect the new shoots, new blooms and scapes. This is a wonderful season, a period of suspense and wonder as to what will bloom next.

Checking the scale bags we found that so many of Pete's (Harrison Peters) lilies have produced good bulblets, so we will have his legacy to bring to future sales. Others we planted in the garden, which were too small to scale look good except for the bunny nibbles. Ran out of Thiram but we are using pine that we shredded up as a mulch in other areas and the rabbits have left those stems alone. Pete's legacy of great lilies and his generosity of spirit live on.

Sandra: I enjoyed reading your musings so much, that I wanted to include them in our newsletter. For our readers, Sandra and David are active members in the Ohio Lily Society, and are also members of the ORLS. You mention June Fragrance, this is a hybrid of our own Charles Robinson. I'm glad to hear that it is doing well for you.

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MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

At the Annual General Meeting in April 1999, we agreed to increase the **membership dues** to **\$10.00**, with the same fee for single or family membership. As the Life membership is set at 15 x the annual rate, that will now be \$150.00. Don't forget that your membership entitles you to a discount at the Bulb Sale (not the Auction). We just found that the old fee of \$7.00 just didn't cover the cost of the newsletter.

APPLICATION OR RENEWAL

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

.....

POSTAL CODE..... TELEPHONE..... E-MAIL.....

AMOUNT ENCLOSED.....FOR.....YEARS

Mail to: Michael Homick, above

Mike's e-mail: greyston@oxford.net

COME TO A PICNIC

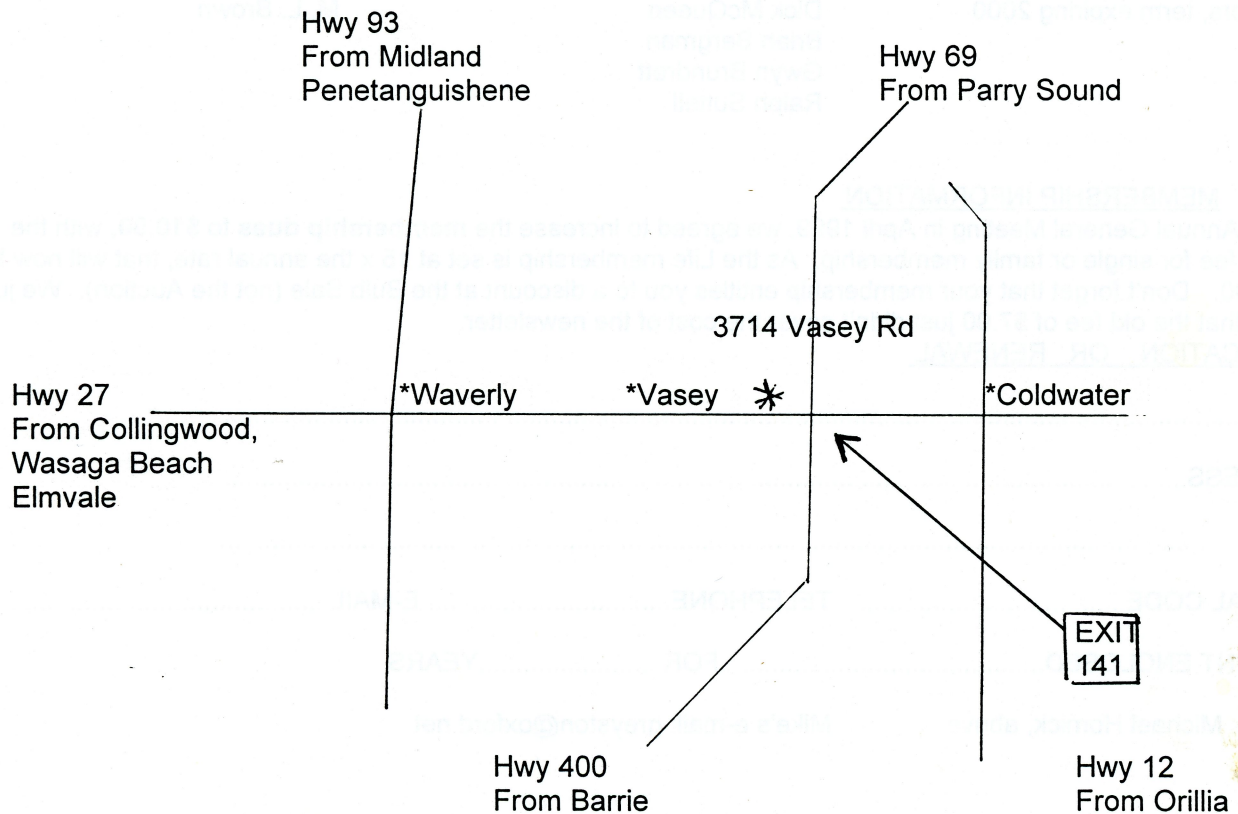
Sunday, July, 16th, 2:00 p.m.

The picnic will be held at the lily fields of Tom Gratrix, in Coldwater. Tom is another member who has turned the lily hobby into a business. Tom lives a little further north than a lot of us, so is quite happy when we have a "late" lily show, or an early summer. At last year's lily show, Tom won two awards given for the best unnamed seedling. He won the Isabella Preston award for the best seedling in Division I, and the E. Frank Palmer award for the best seedling in Divisions II through VII. I think a trip to Tom's lily garden will be a delight for the lily grower.

Tom has enough chairs for everyone, and will supply coffee and cold drinks. So, bring your own **utensils**, your choice of **food**, enough to feed 6 - 10 people (a dessert, cold cuts, potato salad, any of the usual picnic fares).

Dawn has suggested setting up car-pooling at the lily show the week before. It takes about an hour and 45 minutes from the R.B.G. to get to Tom's house, on the 400 series.

LOCATED IN THE HEART OF COTTAGE COUNTRY



Tom's ph numbers: house 705-835-6032, business 705-835-6794