THE NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL LILY GROUP

AFFILIATED WITH

BULLETIN NO. 82

THE NORTH AMERICAN LILY SOCIETY

DECEMBER 1970



DECEMBER MEETING AND CHRISTMAS PARTY - December 5, 1970 - Details on page 2

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Mrs. Milton S. Mulloy

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Membership in the New England Regional Lily Group is open to all residents of New England and New York State, and to North American Lily Society members in other states and countries. Dues are \$2.00 per calendar year (family - \$3.00).

DECEMBER MEETING AND CHRISTMAS PARTY

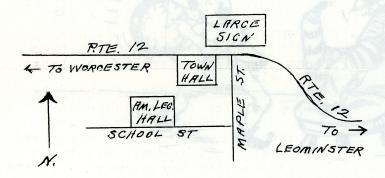
DATE: December 5, 1970

TIME: 12:00 noon

PLACE: American Legion Hall, Sterling,

Mass. (see map, below)

This meeting is being arranged for us by Ruth and Arthur Turnbull, and for that reason, is sure to be a good one. Bring a picnic lunch; coffee will be available. The program will include a business meeting, a slide showing, and a social hour with refreshments and a Christmas grab-bag (bring an inexpensive present; couples bring two). The Hall is located on School St., just off Maple St., which runs south from Mass. Rte. #12, as indicated on the map. Art has promised signs directing us, so look for them. If you wish to have dinner with the group after the meeting let Art know, and he will arrange it for about 5:00 pm at a local restaurant.



OCTOBER BULB AUCTION AND MEETING By Henry Payne

This meeting was held at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Henry Marshall, in Melrose, Mass., on Oct. 3, 1970. After a greeting by our hosts, a picnic lunch, and the business meeting (reported below), inspection of offerings began.

Material on display was of high quality and included a large package sent by Bill Horsford of Charlotte, Vt.
This contained several different kinds of ferms, some very rare native orchids (Ladies Tresses, Cypripedium spectabile, C.acaule), Goats Beard (Arientinum), trillium and other wild native plants from the hills of Vermont.

There were lily bulbs, of course, good varieties, some of them rare: Conn. hybrids, Mystic hybrids, Canadian varieties, West Coast offerings, and species. At the rate Black Beauty was auctioned, every member and his neigh-

bor will soon have this hardy, beautiful hybrid. There were hostas, hardy pinks, several forms of ajuga, and Merritt Cutting brought (in addition to L. Canadense) native, wild cranberries, and Russett potatoes.

Ernie Stokes and Bob Haring were the auctioneers and they did a fine job; the final tally of sales was \$323.10!

We are all most grateful to Marge Marshall for hosting one of the most successful auctions we have ever had.

Business Meeting. The meeting was called to order by Pres. Thayer at 1:30 pm. The Secretary-Treasurer's reports were read and accepted. Bob Haring reported that we have returned 150 copies of "Let's Grow Lilies" to the NALS, leaving us with 57 on hand. The NALS supply is zero. It was voted to urge NALS to reprint this publication. Pres. Thayer reported that the Worcester Co. Hort. Soc. has asked our support of their lily show, which takes place the week after the National Show. (Merritt Cutting said that lilies may be shown at any of the Worcester Hort. shows.) It was voted to support this show which will be a good chance to enter Orientals. It was voted also to hold our 1971 Annual Meeting as part of our August meeting, rather than at the National Show in July.

It was announced that the NALS Show Committee (Andrew Simoni, Chairman, Connie Thayer, James Cass, and Ernest Stokes, so far) has been meeting to consider the questions of accommodations, banquet site, tours, speakers, awards, etc. The Show will be held in Boston, at the Massachusetts Hort. Soc.

Hall, July 8-11, 1971.

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

In addition to the social aspects of our December meeting, it is important because it is also the meeting at which plans for next year will be discussed and decided upon. Think about what you would like to see the NERLG do and make your wishes known. If you cannot make the meeting, send your suggestions to Pres. Thayer, or to our new Program Chairman, Mrs. Edward Richardson, who has taken over from Ed Kelley. And our thanks to Ed for the splendid job he has done for us in this important and demanding assignment.

The Fall Bulb Sale was a great big success, as reported elsewhere. Connie Thayer writes, "For the auction, Marge Marshall received a box of seedling bulbs of ORCHID QUEEN from Oregon Bulb Farms, courtesy Ruth Clas. They did not arrive in time for the auction, so I have confiscated space from the vegetable garden and planted them.

Next year! ... As for Earl Cromack -- we went to dig his bulbs -- Ernie and Eve Stokes, Ralph, Rodney and I. We dug and dug -- he was so generous and helped make our auction such a success."

DUES, DUES, DUES. Henry Payne says the time has arrived and he will be much gratified if you will use the convenient form at the bottom of page 7, and pay your 1971 dues promptly.

Stanley Woleben has some suggestions for rodent control, Eben Wood brings us up to date on his experience with L. Maritimum, there is a charming item by Sarah M. Bucknell (reprinted by permission from the MARLIN, the newsletter of the Middle Atlantic Regional Lily Group) on an unusual use for Stone and Payne lily bulbils, and a current listing of members names and addresses.

CONTROL OF FIELD MICE AND RABBITS By Stanley Woleben

When, in 1940, I first embarked on a lily-growing venture with some of the species lilies, it was my misfortune to lose many bulbs to field mice and rabbits.

My garden was situated in an area not far from the Rouge River that bisected part of the vast acreage owned by Henry Ford, now within the corporate limits of Dearborn, Mich. Some of my neighbors lost many of their tulips so a committee was formed to find a possible solution. Officials were contacted at the University of Michigan, Michigan State, and the City of Dearborn, plus the grounds-keeper in Dearborn. What we eventually learned was to use a poison bait containing strychnine, to which most of the home-owners objected because of the danger to birds, dogs, cats and other animals, and to themselves. We all voted against its use.

The Audubon Society was consulted next, and a representative surveyed the situation; but all we got was a recommendation to bait mouse traps with raw bacon-rind and place them in the runways where birds could not reach them.

My neighbor from England was a cat lover and raised the kittens, keeping only one male, but all the females. It seems that the latter are better mousers than the male, who is too lazy. At any rate, as soon as the females began to hunt, a decided drop in the mouse population was noticed.

The rabbit menace then became a No.

One priority.

Henry Ford often visited our new subdivision to see how many new homes and gardens were developed. On one of these rambles, I asked him for advice on how to get rid of the rabbits. Mr. Ford raised huge quantities of soybeans on his vast acreage. He suggested the inclusion of a few plants in our gardens, and offered to have one of his men bring over a selection and plant them in strategic areas. When this was done, adjacent to the flower garden, the rabbits then feasted on the soybeans and ignored the lilies entirely! Rabbits are so passionately fond of soybeans that they will eat them in preference to almost anything else.

Another way to get rid of them, is to fill a salt or flour shaker with powdered aloe and dust lightly over lily plants, the application being repeated after heavy rains. Rabbits will seldom bother any plants — lilies or others — which have been thus treated. Aloes are liliaceous genera and yield a drug containing a bitter purgative. Any drug store can supply powdered aloe.

SEED EXCHANGE

The new chairman of the NALS Seed Exchange is Mr. Kurt Kopitz. He replaces Mrs. Lilye Mason, who handled this very difficult job so well for so many years. Send your excess seed, carefully cleaned and accurately labeled, to Mr. Kopitz at 8 Crossman Ave., Middleboro, MA 02346.

MORE ON MARITIMUM
By Eben Wood

Picking up where we left off in the last issue, that Maritimum did bloom, but I find that another Maritimum is being grown by a lady who lives where the thermometer goes down well below zero several times in winter and stays for days. BUT, she is growing it in a pot in her bedroom. It hasn't bloomed as yet but lives

ed as yet, but lives.

The night that mine opened, there was a deluge here and next morning, what should have been a flower was only a draggled bunch. From what I saw, it seemed to be much like L. Grayi. I brought the soaking wet mess into the house and dried it out for a few days, then tried to use what little pollen might be stuck in it, or on it, on some L. Canadense flowers. From three that I used the pollen on, I got several good-looking seeds. Of course, they will be Hypos, so it will be next summer some time before I can tell if they are really fertile. The plant continued to grow tall until it was three feet and held its green, fresh looks until well into September.

I have one bulb that I shall watch closer than any other I ever grew. It was from a flower on BLACK BEAUTY and pollen from COPPER KING. I repotted it this fall and it is small, but nice and solid and white and clean. Nothing that I enjoy so much as doing the impossible. I had 19 good-looking seed pods from many BLACK BEAUTY crosses but only one seed ever showed any sign of life. It is now about the size of your finger end, if your fingers are not too big. It died down in mid-summer and now it is in the frige for its winter cold season and will come back to the warm world, first of January if it does not start while still in the cold, as some do.

We have had a good season for lilies, especially for the hybrid Auratums. One was nine feet tall and carried 21 blooms; it grows under trees where it has about half a day of light sun.

A GOURMET TREAT

or

Stalking the Connecticut Hybrids
By Sally M. Bucknell

Besides weeding lilies this summer, I have been pickling lilies. The yellow hybrids had so many stem bulbils I wondered if they could be eaten. They were bitter just raw, and, as I was making cucumber pickles, I decided to try to pickle some bulbils.

I soaked them in salt water over night (1½ Tbsp. of salt to 1 cup water) then drained and rinsed them. Some I put in hot vinegar with some sugar (3 Tbsp. sugar to 1 cup weak vinegar), holding them just under boiling for 3½ minutes. This process eliminated the bitterness and I like the pickled lilies in tossed salad - they gave it a nut-like flavor.

I also fixed some for freezing raw by using the same method I do for peas - soaked in the salt water overnight and blanched for two minutes, chilled and put in containers for the freezer. These are especially nice

in tossed salads.

Euell Gibbons [author of "Stalking the Wild Asparagus"—Ed.] says you eat just enough to know whether they will poison you or not. I have eaten plenty now and treated my friends, so I'm sure the pickled lily bulbils are all right to eat. After all, people have subsisted on lily bulbs through the ages. Why not try something new? (Reprinted from The MARLIN, Sept.'70)

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. Jean Aldred, 12 Lynbrooke Ave., Blockhouse Bay, Auckland 7, N.Z. Miss Helen E. Hixon, 47 Summer Ave., Braintree, MA 02184 Rev. Paul John Rich, 234 Central St.

East Bridgewater, MA 02333

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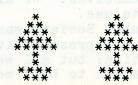
Mrs. Edwin Thorne, 128 Round Hill Rd. Greenwich, CT 06830

Mrs. Wellington Wells, Jr.

16 West Cedar St., Boston, MA 02108



A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND
A MOST HAPPY NEW YEAR

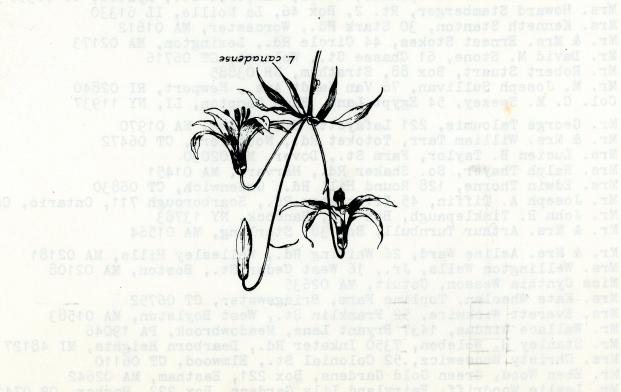


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¥		TO:	Mr. F. Henry Payne, Treasurer New England Regional Lily Group 533 Piedmont Street Waterbury, CT 06706 Date
			I enclose herewith \$2.00 (\$3.00 for a family membership) for my 1971 membership in the New England Regional Lily Group.
			Name
			Street
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THE NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL LILY GROUP

BULLETIN

90 Pierpont Road Waterbury, CT 06705

FIRST CLASS MAIL





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