

THE NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL LILY GROUP

AFFILIATED WITH

THE NORTH AMERICAN LILY SOCIETY

BULLETIN NO. 84

MAY 1971



NEXT MEETING: MAY 15, 1971, THE RICHARDSON'S, W. BOYLSTON, MASS. (See page 2)

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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).

MAY MEETING AND SPRING PLANT SALE

DATE: May 15, 1971

TIME: 11:00 a.m.

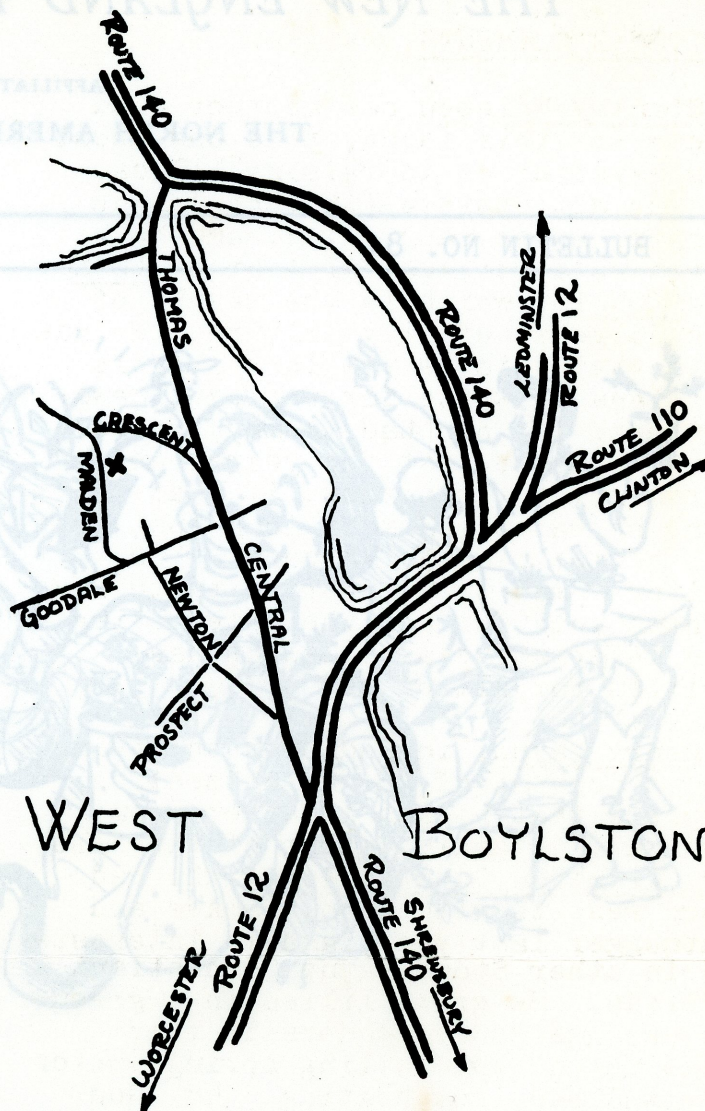
PLACE: At the home of--
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Richardson,
 62 Malden Hill Road
 West Boylston, Mass.
 (See map)

The Spring Plant Sale is always one of our more enjoyable get-togethers, and the home and hospitality of our hosts will provide a delightful setting for it.

The success of these sales and auctions depends entirely on all of us, both as buyers and suppliers.

Bring many different plants, rather than a large number of just one item. Look around your garden, dig and bring your surplus plants of all varieties.

And of course, bring your lunch, brings lots of money, and bring some friends. The more we raise for the treasury in this way, the less need there will be to raise the dues.

CALENDAR FOR 1971

May 15. Meeting and Spring Plant Sale (See above for details).

SHOW		
DATES	<u>June 16-17.</u>	Garden Club of Virginia, 29th Annual Lily Show, at Harrisonburg, Virginia
	<u>June 26-27.</u>	Middle Atlantic Regional Lily Group Show, Blake Hall, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey.
	<u>July 9-11.</u>	North American Lily Society Show and Annual Meeting, Horticultural Hall, Boston, Mass.
	<u>July 10-11.</u>	Michigan Lily Society Show (site to be announced).
	<u>July 17-18.</u>	Ohio Lily Society Show, Kingwood Center, Mansfield, O.
	<u>July 17-18.</u>	Wisconsin-Illinois Lily Society Show, Chicago Botanical Gardens, Glencoe, Illinois.
	<u>July 18-19.</u>	Ontario Regional Lily Society Show (site to be announced).
	<u>July 15.</u>	Worcester County Horticultural Society Lily and Delphinium Show at Worcester, Mass.

August: NERLG Annual Meeting and garden tour.)

October: Annual Bulb Auction.

December: Christmas party.

} Dates and final plans for these three meetings will be announced later.

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Stanley Woleben has another good piece for this issue, this one about his experiences in raising lilies, how he got started (through Jan de Graaff, as so many have), and he gives us a very useful list of DO'S and DON'TS, which is the result of his 25 years of lily culture. He has said that this is the last article he plans to write for regional newsletters. He has had twenty-two published in the last few years, and he certainly rates a rest, if that is what he wants. But it is a loss to all of the regional groups. Your editor takes this opportunity to say "thank you" for all the interesting and informative articles he has written for all of us.

Henry Payne, in addition to giving us an account of the March meeting, reports that he has a letter from the one Icelandic member of the NALS, Mr. Kristinn Gudsteinsson, who had good results with Conn. Yankee and Nutmegger last year, and is interested in other Stone-Payne Connecticut hybrids. He grows lilies in a greenhouse, and Henry wonders if they make use of the boiling springs which Iceland has, for heating. Mr. Gudsteinsson is receiving a copy of this issue of the Bulletin. Maybe it will move him to tell us something of lily growing in his country.

Eban Wood has cogent comments on lily growing and other horticultural subjects, plus a little bit of his recipe for the good life.

Has anyone seen Spring? Know where she is? Know when she's due in the New England region? That April 7th nor'easter with its 8+ inches of wet snow wasn't exactly encouraging, and it still persists in being cold and windy. This is not good for evergreens but the spring blooms seem to make it in spite of all: *eranthis* and *pulsatilla*, *hepatica* and *Adonis vernalis*, *crocus* and *chionodoxa*, *squill* and *arabis*, even four tough primroses; and during the last few days, *narcissi*--the old Von Sion, the earliest to bloom for Waterbury, and

Unsurpassable--that most dependable of them all--plus *iris Danfordii*, *iris reticulata*, Johnny-jumps, Martagon noses, and an Easter lily. So do not despair--things have got to get better!

Exchange Notes:

From THE MARLIN (Newsletter of the Middle Atlantic Regional Lily Group): Lois Lutz, Editor, writes about a method which she uses to germinate difficult seed. She sows on top of a vermiculite/sphagnum medium, does not cover the seed with the medium, covers the container with plastic to hold a uniform level of moisture, exposes the planting to light, and gets about 50% germination from seeds that refuse to germinate at all when planted in the usual manner. After the true leaves emerge, she sifts a covering of vermiculite among the plants to cover the little bulbs.

Lois also suffers from what might be called "Editor's Syndrome," a sort of wasting disease brought on by lack of material to publish. She printed a large blank space in her last issue, labelled "THIS SPACE RESERVED FOR ARTICLES BY MEMBERS OF MARLG." Surely hope it works.

From the NEWSLETTER OF THE ONTARIO REGIONAL LILY SOCIETY: Ross Martin, Editor, says so well why we appreciate and enjoy lilies: "Have you ever paused to watch how, day by day, the new sprouts stretch their stems and unfold another leaf with each warm rain and sunny sky? What potential there must be in that small, scaly bulb - planted in the cool October soil - that within two short months from first emerging in the early spring - can boast a stem so tall, so strong, and yet have strength still stored to produce a majestic flower head, each bloom so delicate, and in a range of colour and form so varied. Is it any wonder so many have found the lily a challenge with which to create new and better plants, a flower that in the midst of summer's heat can thrust its head so high as to look you in the face?"

SEE YOU ALL AT THE SHOW!

REPORT ON MARCH MEETING

By Henry Payne

Thirty-two members attended the spring meeting of the New England Regional Lily Group, held at the Connecticut Light and Power Building in Newington, Conn., on March 13. The meeting was called to order by President Thayer, and the minutes of the December meeting, as printed in the March Bulletin, were approved.

Ernest Stokes reported on progress being made on arrangements for the NALS Show in Boston. Things are going well, committees meeting regularly, and complete details will appear in the next two NALS Bulletins. Bob Haring, as Awards Chairman, spoke of a problem involving the Sweepstakes trophy, and is working hard toward a solution. He displayed a mock-up of the 1971 NALS Show Schedule.

President Thayer informed the meeting that the lily display at the Case Estates is a disgrace. After some discussion of who initiated the planting and who was supposed to care for it, it was suggested that the NERLG name be removed from the display and that the Case Estates be asked what can be done about maintenance.

The business portion of the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m., whereupon Ed Kelley took over as Forum Moderator, and did his usual good job in keeping the discussion moving.

There was considerable talk about disease control, one member announcing that mostly the growing of lilies is quite easy if the clumps are divided every two or three years to avoid crowding. The use of Benlate to control botrytis and basal rot was discussed, and another one, Daconal, recommended by Dr. Gustav Mehlquist of U. Conn. Benlate is expensive (up to \$21.00 for two pounds) and hard to get. Daconal costs \$7.95 for two pounds, but it is necessary to use more of it for the same results.

To the question "How long will a lily bulb last?" answers varied, but most members agreed that through new bulblets and splitting of bulbs, and separating of clumps, lilies will last almost indefinitely. Bob Haring said that in his experience, a lily bulb renews itself as it grows bigger, the outside scales slough off, and the bulb gets better and larger.

A request for a general description of "good soil for lilies" brought out the fact that much depends upon the species of lily to be planted. Ernie Stokes reported growing *Lilium tenuifolium* in almost pure sand. Ernie, and also Janis Langston, reported successful growing of *L. philadelphicum* that was moved with a huge ball of soil. It was brought out that many species lilies will grow under varied conditions if some of the soil from the original station is brought along.

About scale propagation, some said that a temperature of 68° F. is good, others said that placing the scales in a proper medium anywhere works: they develop slowly in cooler temperatures, faster in warmer temperatures. Scales must be in healthy condition, and should be dusted with a fungicide, like Arasan. Mediums for scale propagation which were suggested included damp milled sphagnum, damp unmilled sphagnum, and Harris's Jiffy-Mix.

It was suggested that since Benlate is so expensive, it might be a good idea for the Society to buy two pounds, divide this into small quantities and sell to the members to try out.

The last word was to spray and use soil disinfectants before disease starts.

[It is impossible to report all of the good thoughts and suggestions that come out of these forum-type meetings. It is a fine chance to exchange ideas and information, and is beneficial to all. Our special thanks to Ed Kelley, who runs these things so well.--Ed.]

MY TWENTY-FIVE YEARS GROWING LILIES

By Stanley H. Woleben

On Dec. 1, 1941, we moved into our newly-built home in Dearborn, Mich. During that early fall, the entire garden area was built up with new soil and the lawn-to-be seeded and mulched for the winter. Five different trees, together with selected evergreens, had been planted by a landscape architect as a background for future flower beds.

For the next four years I concentrated on roses and assorted daffodils, the latter from Jan de Graaff who, unknown to me, had commenced to turn his attention to the breeding of lilies. In due course, he sent me a small group of his first Mid-Century lilies, on a trial basis, together with cultural instructions. When in 1946 they flowered, so great was the neighbors' enthusiasm--and mine--that I decided then and there to become as proficient in growing them as any amateur could be with limited experience.

Year after year I added new varieties as they became available until the whole garden area, except for my roses, was devoted to them almost exclusively. Certain lilies flowered profusely, and the mother bulbs produced an abundance of small bulblets which were replanted elsewhere, sold to visitors, or given to neighbors.

Not so with some of the others!

I kept a detailed record of successes, as well as failures (If you would like a list of these, up to the year 1956, it will be found in the 1968 edition of the NALS yearbook, pages 87-92.). In those days we did not have the advanced knowledge of lily troubles that is now available. Mosaic and botrytis blight were the chief offenders, mostly applicable to certain species, but also to the Bellinghams, auratums and the Patterson hybrids, to name a few. Although today's hybrids are a vast improvement, disease problems are still with us.

Through the kindly cooperation of the late Dr. S. L. Emsweller, I learned to "live" with them. I had met him at the first convention of the American Daffodil Society at Kingwood Center, Mansfield, Ohio, at which time Jan de Graaff gave a fine illustrated lecture on the culture of his narcissi. Until his passing, "Dr. Sam" corresponded with me unselfishly on lily culture from time to time.

From the instructions on how to grow better lilies, I herewith present a list of DO'S and DON'TS. Much of these are fairly well-known to experienced growers, and are intended more for newcomers.

DO'S

- 1) Provide good drainage for the bulbs before planting. This is a fundamental requirement.
- 2) Prepare the beds at least 30 days in advance of planting.
- 3) Dust each bulb completely to guard against infection by handling; use Arasan or Spergon.
- 4) Buy bulbs only from reputable sources; they are usually disease-free.
- 5) Provide partial shade during midday for pink lilies to avoid color bleaching; L. Pink Perfection is a good example.
- 6) Feed nitrogen only at ten-day intervals until flower buds indicate color; then add potash and phosphate.
- 7) Mulch to keep soil moist and to reduce weeds.
- 8) Remove all faded flowers and any diseased leaves, and burn them.
- 9) Remove all seed pods when ripe unless they are to be used for propagation; in which case allow only one capsule to mature on each stalk. Mail the balance to the seed director listed in the Bulletin of the NALS, or give to friends.
- 10) If foliage becomes mottled after a rain, botrytis blight is usually responsible. If rain is predicted, a light-weight plastic cover

used by dry cleaners and draped over the whole plant, is a handy way to keep it dry. Otherwise, it will be necessary to spray the foliage with either Bordeaux mixture or some other repellent.

11) For the taller lilies that produce ten or more blooms, cypress stakes are ideal to hold them upright. Discarded nylon stockings, cut into two-inch wide strips, are soft and pliable, and will not injure the stems.

12) Label all lilies for identification.

13) Cut down all stems when winter approaches and consign them to the refuse container.

14) Cover all young shoots as they emerge as protection against late frosts. Avoid metal materials.

15) Provide compatible ground covers, for they add distinction to all lilies.

DON'TS

1) Never cultivate around stem-rooting lilies. A good mulch is beneficial. Should weeds appear, remove by hand.

2) Never water overhead; this may invite leaf-spot; use soil soakers instead.

3) Avoid disturbing bulbs unless they become so overcrowded as to warrant removal.

4) If flowers are wanted for indoor use, cut only two or three of the bottom ones.

5) When all flowering has ended, don't cut down stems. All lilies manufacture their carbohydrates for next year's blooms by means of the plant's foliage and stems. Wait until cold weather.

6) On really hot days, ants will crawl up the stems to feast on the nectar, but do no real harm. If too numerous, dust with 20% chlordane.

7) If you grow Madonna lilies, never mulch over the green leaves; instead put mulch under the foliage; otherwise they will rot.

We can sum up the culture of lilies by one simple statement: don't coddle them! Just give them what they require and let them grow naturally.

NOTES FROM EBAN WOOD

I'm just an old wornout farmer. Old enough to know that I am no great asset to anyone or anywhere. It is said that small minds are easily satisfied and that is probably the reason why I enjoy life so much. Every time I give a little water to my "impossible" lily, which now has its sixth leaf, I get a thrill from it. For mail, I have to go to the P.O. every day. Some times I meet someone there with whom to chat. Otherwise, most days I do not see anyone to speak with and yet, as my dad, an old salt-water sailor, used to say, "I'm busy as the devil in a gale of wind." And I am never lonesome.

At present the gloxinias are starting to bloom. On my dining table is a marvelous, deep purple with big fringed-edge blooms that is a joy. Most of the other windows are filled with others of many kinds and colors. In one southern window I even have a long swatch of real Spanish Moss that is growing nearly as fast as it did in the trees out in the garden last summer.

Upstairs, in an east window, are two potted lilies that bloomed so late that I could not use the pollen for crossing. These are now four feet tall and they will bloom in time for pollen to use on the many kinds of early blooming plants next summer. That is the way I tricked that one seed of Black Beauty to grow and develop. Black Beauty is a late bloomer as you know. [See Eban's comment on his Black Beauty x Copper King cross, in Bulletin No. 82, for December 1970--Ed.]

Today the March Bulletin came and there is one thing in it that puzzles me. With nearly a thousand dollars in the treasury, WHY talk of raising the dues? We don't need the money and we might lose some members. The NALS did when they jumped the dues

with nothing special added to their services. What can we offer any member for another dollar that we do not already offer? My suggestion would be to knock off that third dollar for the family membership, rather than collect an unneeded dollar from every member.

Still, I'm having a wonderful time and I HOPE to get to the SHOW in Boston next summer.

NALS SHOW NEWS

Tours. More information is at hand on the tours offered in connection with the Show in Boston, Mass.

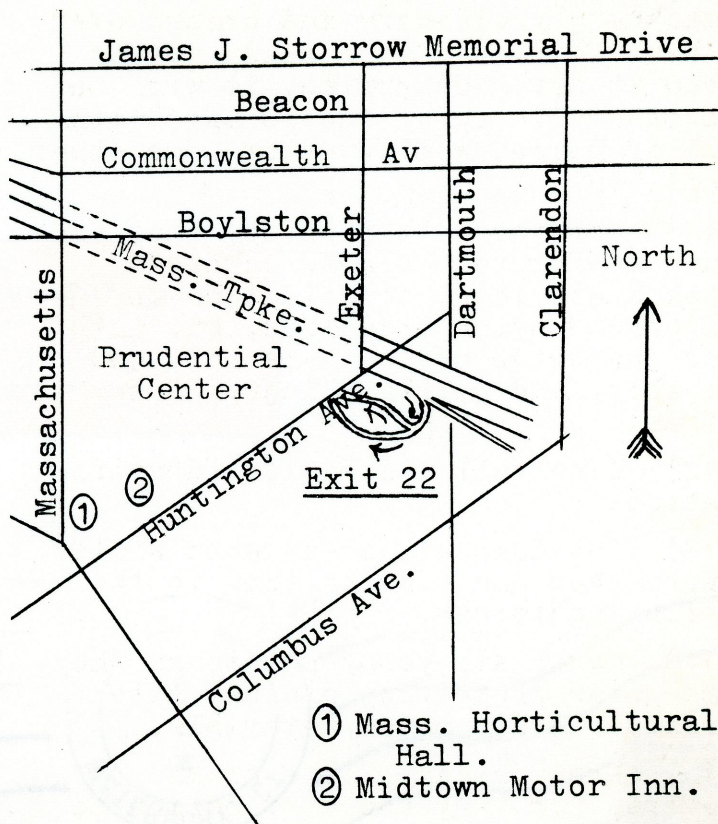
On Friday, July 9, from 2:30 to 7:00 p.m., there will be a tour of Boston Public Gardens, featuring the famous swan boats and specimen plantings; then along the "Freedom Trail" which includes such historic places as the Old South Meeting House, Old North Church, Faneuil Hall, the U.S.S. Constitution; then supper at a waterfront restaurant; return by way of Memorial Drive for a late-in-the-day view of Boston's skyline.

On Saturday, July 10, beginning at 9:00 a.m., a six-hour tour will include the Arnold Arboretum, Gore Place (a lovely historical home), Waltham Field Station where a buffet lunch will be served, and a stop to view the famous Glass Flowers at the Agassiz Museum.

Both tours will be by bus and will start from, and return to, Horticultural Hall.

Schedules. Copies of the official Show Schedule will be mailed, along with the June issue of the Bulletin, to all NERLG members who are not members of NALS.

Map of Show Site. Map at top of next column shows location of Horticultural Hall and the Midtown Motor Inn, headquarters for the Show. Take Exit 22 from the Massachusetts Turnpike, just after it passes under the Prudential Center, then left on Huntington Ave. for about four-tenths of a mile.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Dr. Daniel Chansky*
64-15 211th St.
Bayside, NY 11364

Mr. Frank Vargas*
27 East Center St.
Rutland, VT 05701

Mrs. Bernice L. Black
176 Hartford Ave.
Newington, CT 06111

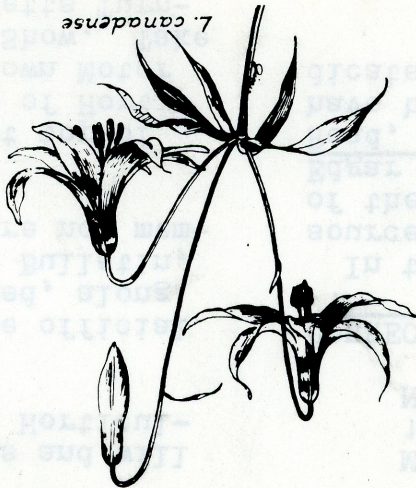
*Former member.

CORRECTION:

In the list of bulb and seed sources printed in the March issue of the Bulletin, the name of Edgar Kline, 17495 Southwest Bryant Road, Lake Grove, Oregon 97035, should have been double-starred (**) to indicate "Wholesale only."

SEE YOU AT THE SHOW?

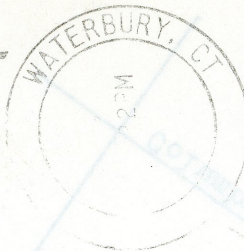
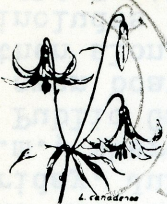
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THE NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL LILY GROUP
BULLETIN

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