

# *THE SPECIES LILY*

The Newsletter of the Species Lily Preservation Group  
Affiliated with the North American Lily Society

Volume 1 2008



## SLPG GOALS

- \* Growing as many species lilies as possible, especially those rare and in danger of extinction.
- \* Making excess species bulbs available to members.
- \* Collecting, preserving, planting, growing and distributing species seed.
- \* Collecting all possible information on each species: its habitat, distribution, cultural needs, etc.
- \* Disseminating cultural information on each species.
- \* Assembling a slide and photo record of all species lilies.
- \* Identifying areas where specific species grow and seeking protection for these areas.

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Special Thanks to Proofreaders  
Janice Kennedy and June Taylor

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## President's Letter: 2008

Barbara Small, Nevada

Dear species friends,

It was with deep regret that I was able to attend neither the NALS nor the SLPG meetings this summer in Victoria. We have had several problems: taking care of my husband's 92-year-old aunt (including obtaining a stalking order to protect her), eye surgery scheduled for July 2 (which went very well), and continuing earthquakes (three weeks without one as of August 22).

But on to more pleasant things. Art Evans graciously chaired the meeting and Joe Nemmer gave an outstanding speech on *L. superbum*. In January I appointed Jim Ault, Director of Environmental Horticulture at the Chicago Botanical Garden, to be the new newsletter editor. Unfortunately, we had a misunderstanding concerning when he would take over: both of us thought the other one would edit the spring newsletter. From now on the issues will be titled "Volume 1" and "Volume 2." I promise that you will receive two newsletters each year.

During our last summer meeting, several people volunteered to become part of the 'Adopt a Lily' project. Calvin Helsley (trumpets), Francie Nelson, Art Evans (*L. superbum*), Gene Morrow (Western Americans), Joe Nemmer (*L. superbum* and *L. michiganense*) and I (*L. davidii* and *L. pardalinum*) will propagate and distribute bulbs to our conservators. We'd love to have more adoptive lily parents join us. If your expertise is one of the lilies already mentioned, please feel free to choose it too and let me know your intention.

In remembrance of Julius Wadkamper, The Lily Nook has offered to donate 10% of its sales of Julius' lilies to the SLPG. We received \$15.20 from the sale of 'Miss Alice,' 'Purple Reign' and 'Willow Wood' this January. If you want to support the SLPG



and also enjoy beautiful cultivars in your garden, please consider ordering these lilies (and 'Chocolate Canary') from The Lily Nook.

The NALS has been most generous to allow the SLPG to be a part of its Research Trust Auction. Last summer we collected \$335.00 for the SLPG trust fund. This summer we received \$150.00 from the sale of three *L. canadense* 'Ruth Clas' bulblets [see the article on pages 13 — 17]. If you have items (books, bulbs, pictures, vases or such) that you would like to donate for next summer's auction, please let me know.

I'd like to have an ongoing section in the SLPG newsletter to thank our Lily Heroes. If you know of someone – yourself or others – who has been able to rescue a species lily, please contact me or the editor Jim Ault.

Finally, we need YOU to provide articles for the newsletter. What grows well? What's your secret of success? What are your failures? How and why did you fail?

My best wishes for successful lily preservation!

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Drawing by  
Virginia Howie

## *California's Golden Foothills Revisited* June Taylor, California

It was summertime in California's golden foothills. Once again I drove from my northern Sacramento Valley home in the flat farm land where rice, walnuts, almonds, even pomegranates grow, toward the little town of Brownsville. It is there in the foothills that I hoped to find some of the *L. humboldtii* I have been visiting for over 20 years. As I drove along, I thought of the people who first told me about the lilies growing in the Brownsville District Cemetery.

Longtime Species Lily Group members may remember that I learned about these lilies from Sylvia and Austin Hulbert who were also members of the Golden State Lily Society located in the Bay Area near Lake Merritt. They confessed to having "Lily Fever" and took their own Lily Chase every year. Since Brownsville is only about 45 miles from my valley floor home, I have taken a pilgrimage there many times since 1986.

Brownsville is a very small town, founded in 1848 by Isaac Brown who had made his home there. He gave the land for the cemetery and it is his final resting place. Brownsville has a population of about 1,039 with perhaps 567 occupied homes and is often linked with nearby Challenge, another little foothill town largely populated with retired people. Brownsville has a great climate and I love to go there and smell the air filled with the scent of pine trees and see the tiny homes nestled among the trees along the road. Lilies also grow along the road to Challenge, among the trees and shrubs in the wooded area. The elevation is probably about 2,200 feet.

I had originally planned to travel there toward the end of June. Usually the lilies are at their best before July 4, but this year we had terrible fires in our foothills and smoke filled the air beginning on June 11. People were asked to stay out of the area be-

cause fire equipment was using the roads. Fortunately the area around Brownsville was spared the devastation that destroyed homes and forests close by.

As I drove up and parked under my usual tree, I noticed that most of the lilies had bloomed and their stems were drying up already. The previous year I had noted the gravesites and other locations near headstones in the cemetery where the lilies were growing. I counted the stems that I saw there so I could compare with what I found this year. The stem count now is about 40.

Perhaps you remember in 1986 when I first wrote about these *L.humboldtii*, which grew like small forests in many areas of the cemetery. The plants were at least three feet tall, grew close together and had lots of foliage. Then the maintenance person was given permission to cut the stems right after they finished blooming, not allowing the bulbs to get any nourishment from the stems. I guess no one realized they needed to keep their lily stems longer in order to flourish. The fellow in charge of the weed whacker just wanted things neat – fast. So over the years their numbers have decreased.

However, last year I was heartened to see that someone had begun planting them in the gravesites, some that have cement borders or metal fences around them, and their number seemed to be increasing. I am eager to go earlier next year to see how they look in their new locations. They should be beautiful inside those metal fences, even if they are no longer growing in what we might call ‘the wild.’ Many that grew close to trees also seem to be doing all right. I guess it is hard for the grounds keeper to get in there and cut them off.

I had written to the cemetery board hoping to get them to preserve the lilies, but I believe that the families and local people are the hope of these lilies surviving. None of the areas that had been set aside and labeled ‘Tiger Lily Renewal Project’ have been successful, probably because they are being cut off too soon. These

lilies are not 'Tiger Lilies' but that is what most people call a golden lily that has spots.

During the hour or so I was in the cemetery, I did not see another person. Only one or two cars passed by on the road, so it was a great opportunity to enjoy the peace and quiet of the area and to make notes of the status of the lilies growing there. Although this year I was counting mostly dry stems, I have hopes that if I return next year in mid-June, I will find their beautiful purple-dotted orange turk's-cap flowers there to greet me.

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### *Species Lilies on the Net*

The species group on the internet, moderated by Dr. Markus Hohnegger of Austria, wants to set up a North American/European seed exchange. We will be working closely with this group to cooperate in any way we can.

To join the list, go to the [\\_genus\\_lillium@yahoo.com](mailto:_genus_lillium@yahoo.com)

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### *Photography Information*

Front cover: *L. canadense* 'Ruth Clas' Larry Diehl

Back cover clockwise from upper left: *L. canadense* var. *flavum*, *L. canadense*, *L. humboldtii* at Georgetown cemetery, *L. canadense* var. *rubrum*, *L. canadense* var. *editorum*. Joe Nemmer for all *L. canadense* and Barbara Small *L. humboldtii*

*L. humboldtii* Barbara Small, page 11

*L. canadense* 'Ruth Clas' Kathleen Mingle, pages 15 and 17 (top)

*L. canadense* 'Ruth Clas' Larry Diehl, pages 17 (bottom) and 21



## *Lilium humboldtii*

Barbara Small, Nevada

Much has been written concerning the classification of the Western American lily species into wetland or dryland groups. While it is sometimes difficult to see where some of these lilies fit (for example *Lilium kelloggii* which grows in dry soil yet receives its summer moisture from fog), there is no question that *Lilium humboldtii* (not its subspecies *Lilium humboldtii* var. *ocellatum*) is a dryland lily. Find a hot, dry foothill location (2,500—3,900 feet elevation) under yellow pines or oak, partially shaded at least some times of the day and usually surrounded by grassy weeds and that's where *L. humboldtii* is likely to grow. Although Bolander wrote in 1874 that the lily grew in 'open parkland or land entirely cleared off,'<sup>1</sup> those *L. humboldtii* that survive today often spring from the middle of chaparral or Manzanita. Drive through the Sierra Nevada foothill gold country on a dusty road and you will often see spikes at the edge of the road cut. Other interesting places to look for *L. humboldtii* are foothill cemeteries, particularly those in Brownsville in Yuba County [see the article by June Taylor] and Georgetown in El Dorado County. Early pioneers, especially those descendents from miners during the California gold rush, wanted flowers in their graveyards, and *L. humboldtii* fit the bill since it needs no extra care or water. Settlers could find free local seeds, scatter them under the Ponderosa Pines, and feel confident that at least some of them would sprout. Those counties which meet the climactic requirements in Central California are Amador, Butte, Calaveras, El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Tehama and Yuba. [See map, page 10.]

The soil where *L. humboldtii* grows is often red, rocky, very hard and clayey. The bulb works its way down, deeper and yet deeper, in order to gain some relief from the sweltering sun and a bit of moisture. I have seen bulbs which have moved under a rock as much as 18 inches deep in El Dorado County. I wouldn't be surprised to find that the bulbs of those beautiful cemetery lilies have



moved under the headstones there. Note the picture on the back cover which shows the hard, dry ground and the large whorls.

Although A.M. Kellogg knew this was a new species as early as 1859 and presented his findings to the California Academy of Sciences about that time, A.M. Duchartre published a description from plant material provided by Theodore Roetzl who discovered it in 1869, the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of the German explorer and botanist Alexander von Humboldt. M. Leichtlin grew the lilies and later shared material with both public and private gardens in Europe. Elwes wrote in 1880 that the lily had become quite common in

Europe from large imports in 1872 and 1873,<sup>2</sup> but considering the lily's required growing conditions, I find it difficult to believe that the lilies lasted very long there.

The bulbs consist of yellowish white scales, not segmented as are those of the wetland lilies. The stem can grow up to about six feet in height. The most striking aspect of the plant is often its HUGE whorls, often shiny despite the dust surrounding them. The whorls grow successively smaller as they reach the top of the stem, giving way to a few scattered leaves before the bright orange nodding flowers at the top. These are not the typical turkscap flowers, but instead the ends of the petals and sepals often come to a point. Flowering time is usually in July. Derek Fox and Edward McRae wrote that there may be up to 15 or 16 flowers in a pyramidal inflorescence, but normally there are far fewer. If I'm not mistaken, the *L. humboldtii* on the back cover has 18! The purple or dark brown spots cover most of the orange but are not particularly large or close together as is the case for *L. humboldtii* var *.ocellatum* which grows in Southern California.



*L. humboldtii* produces lots of seed in September, germinating hypogeally in nature, but those of us who have attempted to grow the lily from seed usually fail because we just can't help being too kind to them. The cemetery seeds were probably just scattered on top of the ground and un-



doubtedly left completely alone. My friend Gerry Kennedy, who lives in the California gold country, tried for two years to germinate hundreds of seeds both by his front gravel driveway and farther into the pine forest. He watered the seeds only once after planting, but his biggest mistake may have been in providing plenty of duff to make them happy. His neighbor, hoping to make a profit from the bulbs, was able to germinate the seeds but was never able to produce large enough bulbs to sell. Thinking that perhaps the bulbs needed a colder winter, he planted several at Soda Springs, approximately 6,000 feet elevation farther up the mountains, but they all died. The secret appears to be neglect!

Many internet sources tout *L. humboldtii* as being one of the easiest Western American species to grow, yet most of us cannot even find *L. humboldtii*, let alone grow it successfully. However, its progeny are often available. The most famous crosses using this dry-land lily are the Bellingham hybrids, produced by Griffiths in 1933, 'Shuksan,' with its heavily spotted flowers, being one of the named varieties. To produce this hybrid, Griffiths used the wetland *L. pardalinum*. This combination makes for a more dependable garden lily and is available from several sources today.

*L. humboldtii* has been listed as an endangered species, generally because much of its habitat has been taken by bulldozers preparing for more houses for California's growing population. In addition, this summer's staggering number of forest fires in Northern California has decimated much of its growing area. One bright light, however, are two gardens that I know about – one outside of Murphy and the other outside of Georgetown – which each contain at least twenty beautiful, healthy plants. Let's hope more gardeners in the area copy this great idea.

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1. Elwes, John. *The Genus Lilium*. "Lilium humboldtii." 1880
  2. Elwes, *op.cit.*



*L. canadense* var. *immaculatum*

'Ruth Clas'

Larry Diehl, Ohio

Our story begins approximately two decades ago in the garden of Harrison (Pete) Peters. It is a well-known fact that a couple of decades can distort my memory, so please don't hold me to 100% accuracy for the beginning part of our tale.

I used to visit Pete's garden fairly frequently as he lived a scant 12 miles from me. Pete occupied the role of advisor, tutor and 'father figure' in the Ohio Lily Society (OLS) and every trip was worth its weight in gold for the knowledge gained. There was much to see and learn: magnificent stems, the newest results from his lily hybridizing and all sorts of other plant material. Pete's first love was lilies, but he admired and grew an amazing variety of plant material. It took me a few visits to realize that Pete was from the 'old school' that said my visit was not complete unless I took home some small token of plant material from his garden. But I digress; our tale is not of Pete but of a lily that at that time grew in his yard.

Growing in Pete's front yard was a colony of spotless yellow (I would say golden yellow) *Lilium canadense*. This grouping was situated in a gentle swale that existed between two large trees. I recall him saying that the swale was frequently wet, sometimes with standing water, in the early spring. Pete called this variety by the name 'Ruth Clas.' I never heard the story as to how this name came about — whether he obtained it from Ruth Clas (as I know they were friends and corresponded regularly) or if it was named or selected by Ruth herself. (Incidentally, if any of our readers can add insight into the correctness of this name or how the name came to be, I would be grateful to hear about it.) The colony was a sight to behold as I recall it being maybe three feet in diameter with perhaps two dozen stems in it. It appeared to

return faithfully every year until one fateful summer when I noticed the stems were perhaps half their normal height and showed substantially decreased vigor. Regrettably, the whole colony disappeared over the next winter as none returned in the spring. It was a sad event which Pete seemed to take in stride as he had become engrossed in hybridizing pink Asiatic and Oriental/trumpet hybrids. Little did I realize that a 'Ruth Clas' bulb given by Pete still lived in Ohio!

After Pete's death I was surprised to see the lily appear at an Ohio Lily Society show. A well-grown *L. canadense* always draws the admiration of judges and the spotless yellow form never fails to attract admiration. The owner of the lily is Charles Applegate. Charles is not a regular exhibitor at our shows; in fact, his real love is daylilies of which he is a hybridizer of note. I asked him about the lily and he said it had come from Pete and that he grew it in the midst of one of his daylily beds! Our story builds additional momentum at this point as we move to three years ago at the Ohio Lily show.

At the 2005 Ohio Lily Society show, there in all its glory was a stem of 'Ruth Clas' entered by Charles. Next to it was a stem of mine – a tetraploid trumpet seedling hybridized by Dorothy Schaefer. The *L. canadense* won best of show; the trumpet was runner up. Fast forward to the 2006 OLS show. On the table being judged for best of show was the *L. canadense*, again, and next to it the very same tetra trumpet seedling, again! Whoever could have imagined such a circumstance re-occurring? The results were the same as the previous year.

Later that afternoon I approached Charles, and with as serious a look as I could muster, I carefully explained a very obscure rule of the Ohio Lily Society that stated that anyone who won best of show two years in a row with the same lily was obliged to donate a bulb for auction at our fall bulb sale. Now Charles is a pretty serious fellow and he gave me a wry smile as if testing the veracity of my statement but said nothing. To my surprise and pleas-

ure two bulbs of the *L. canadense* showed up at our fall sale destined for the auction.

The bidding was vigorous and the price modestly expensive (but the cause justified the bids) and I walked away with one of the bulbs. But now came some serious reflection.

I have a well-deserved reputation as a *canadense* killer and I did not want that fate to follow this bulb! So I popped off a few scales from various locations (I had never attempted scaling a rhizomatous type bulb before), kept a few for myself and sent the rest to Kathleen Mingl. I had convinced Kathleen to attempt tissue culturing 'Ruth Clas' with the hope that enough bulblets would be obtained so that a distribution and preservation attempt could be made for this lily. As I understand it, Kathleen's attempts at culturing directly from the scales failed, but she suc-



What looks almost like a small rhizome  
growing out of the scale



ceeded in growing a few bulblets from the scales and when these were cultured she had success!

Kathleen and I began to draw up a list of individuals to receive the first bulblets. It did not seem to me that Kathleen should pay to mail tubes or decanted bulbs to growers, so I contacted Barbara Small and suggested that maybe the Species Lily Preservation Group (SLPG) might consider reimbursing Kathleen for her postage charges. Barbara polled the SLPG executives and got a very nice endorsement for the idea. So, that which in my mind had been dubbed a small-scale species preservation effort, was now fully underway. Numerous bulblets in tubes have already been distributed and Kathleen is going to attempt a second round of culturing to continue the distribution. Three tubes were auctioned at the show in Sidney and returned \$50 each for the SLPG.

It is my fervent hope that some of these growers will have success. Note that the SLPG Conservators and a few commercial growers that have had success growing *canadense* are part of the initial distribution. It is reasonable to expect that there will be some failures, as transitioning a bulblet from culture to a flowering specimen is not without some difficulties. However, I am looking forward to seeing this beautiful lily survive and maybe even reach a point where a few bulbs may become commercially available.

I think it is fair at this point to take the time to thank Kathleen Mingl for all the work she has put into this effort. For those who follow her postings on the Liliium Yahoo group, it seems clear that her energy for embryo rescue/tissue culture is fueled by different challenges. Working with *L. canadense* scales is something that was new to her and we exchanged several emails noting progress on the whole effort. Should you have the opportunity to talk or correspond with her, and are so motivated, please take the time to express a thank you for her most significant role in this preservation effort. [Please, also thank Larry for his efforts on behalf of *L. canadense* 'Ruth Clas!']





Above: Kathleen's test tubes containing *L. canadense* 'Ruth Clas' bulblets  
Below, Larry's bulblets growing under lights.



## *Lilium canadense*

Joe Nemmer, Pennsylvania

The first time I saw *Lilium canadense*, I did not know what it was. I was hiking in the Laurel Highlands of Southwest Pennsylvania and came across the most incredible flower I had ever seen: a red-orange bell with petals expanding outward. The inside was covered with chocolate-colored spots. I was so impressed by this wild flower that the next day I went to the library and found out what the flower was in a key to the wildflowers of Pennsylvania. It was *Lilium canadense*. Twenty years after I first saw *Lilium canadense* growing in the wild, I had my next opportunity to see this magnificent lily growing wild. I had purchased a home in rural Mercer County, Pennsylvania that had an area of woods. While walking in the woods the first July after I had moved to my new home, I came across *Lilium canadense*. After seeing this lily again, I was determined to grow it in my garden.

### ***Lilium canadense* morphology**

*Lilium canadense* grows from rhizomatous bulbs. There is always a mother bulb from which grows a rhizome that produces a daughter bulb, giving *Lilium canadense* bulbs a 'dog bone' appearance. At the end of the growing season and through the winter, the mother bulb slowly deteriorates. At the beginning of the growing season, the previous year's daughter bulb becomes the new mother bulb and produces a rhizome which will produce a new daughter bulb. The stem and subsequent flowers will grow from the new mother bulb.

*Lilium canadense* grows a few stem roots, but most roots grow from the base of the bulb and rhizome. There are some fine fibrous feeder roots and a few thicker support roots that anchor the bulb in the ground. The stems appear above the ground in Western Pennsylvania in early May. They are frost tolerant but will be harmed by temperatures below -2 C. They grow quickly and reach maturity by the end of June. The leaves are produced in



whorls around the stem. The heights of *Lilium canadense* can vary greatly. I have seen stems of variety *editorum* mature at 0.3 meters or less, but stems of varieties *coccineum* and *flavum* can reach over three meters. The stem will terminate in an umbel or raceme of flower buds. Younger *Lilium canadense* plants will usually produce an umbel of flowers, while mature plants may produce a raceme, but not all varieties will produce a raceme. It will depend on individual genetic background.

### **Varieties of *Lilium canadense* in Western Pennsylvania**

One of my favorite activities is hiking, exploring new areas and hopefully finding new colonies of *Lilium canadense*. Unlike the other indigenous lily of Western Pennsylvania, *Lilium superbum*, which can form huge colonies with hundreds of plants, *Lilium canadense* grows in much smaller colonies and is usually more isolated. I have found colonies of the varieties *canadense*, *coccineum*, *editorum*, *flavum*, *rubrum* and what I will call *roseum*. In general the variety name gives a description of the color of the *Lilium canadense* flower: *canadense*/orange, *coccineum*/red-orange, *flavum*/yellow, *rubrum*/red and *roseum*/pink. However, there are great variations and different combinations of the above color forms. Variety *editorum* is the only one distinguished by a distinctly different morphology: the leaves are more elliptical. The plant and flowers are diminutive compared with those of other *Lilium canadense*. *L. canadense* var. *editorum* is an "edited" form of the other varieties.

### ***Lilium canadense* habitat**

I always find *Lilium canadense* growing near water. Most colonies are found along the flood plains of streams where they can be inundated with water in the spring for days at a time, giving one insight into cultivating *Lilium canadense* in the garden. I have also found *Lilium canadense* growing on hillsides well above any flood plain; however, there is always a water source such as a seep or a spring nearby. By late summer the sites are drier, but there is moisture underground. The exception is variety *editorum*; the colonies of *editorum* I have found have been well above

the flood plain with no water source nearby. *L. canadense* reaches its full potential in full sunlight, as long as there is adequate moisture. I have found colonies in partial shade but their growth is not as vigorous as that of those in the sun.

Whenever I am searching for *Lilium canadense* I look for two more common species that enjoy the same habitat: *Toxicodendron radicans* (poison ivy) and *Arisaema triphyllum* ssp. *Stewardsonii* (Jack-in-the-Pulpit). If I see these plants growing in an area, I know that *Lilium canadense* could be there also.

### ***Lilium canadense* cultivation**

The most important aspect in cultivating *Lilium canadense* is water. Yes, they like moisture-retentive well-drained soil like most other lilies, but the bulbs can never be allowed to dry out. When in doubt DO water.

The best specimens of *Lilium canadense* that I grow are located in an area that receives overflow from my pond. Originally I built the area as a bog garden, but the liner was torn and it does not hold water any longer. In the spring during the months of April and early May, this area may be under water for a day or two after heavy rains. The area dries during the summer, but the overflow from the pond during summer thunderstorms always keeps the soil moist. I grow *Lilium canadense* in other areas in my garden, but I always water them whenever there is a dry spell. As long as *Lilium canadense* has adequate moisture, it grows best in full sunlight.

I have found the best compost for growing *Lilium canadense* in my climate to be 1/3 sand, 1/3 peat and 1/3 loam. I use Hollytone to acidify and fertilize the soil when I am preparing a bed and top dress with Hollytone every two years. I plant mature bulbs ten to twelve cms. deep. First- and second-year seedlings are planted six cms deep. I always mulch the seedlings to protect them from the freeze/thaw cycles that occur during the winter here.



If you live in a temperate climate, I encourage you to try *Lilium canadense*. Whenever I see a new *Lilium canadense* bloom, I still feel the same way I did thirty-six years ago when I saw my first *Lilium canadense* blooming in the Laurel Highlands of Pennsylvania.



*L. canadense* inflorescence

# *SPLG Species CD Project*

Dick Bayerl

Early in 2006 I received a CD from Kathleen Mingl which contained an interesting collection of photos and descriptive text submitted by Darm Crook. His intention was to document the species lilies grown by him in his far north location. The text which introduced the collection is titled "Climatic Conditions in Zone 1 (maybe 1.5), Hay River, Northwest Territories, Canada". The text described the species and how they propagate and grow in his climate. The disk also contained one or more photos of the following species:

<i>amabile</i>	<i>martagon</i>
<i>auratum</i>	<i>michiganense</i>
<i>bulbiferum</i>	<i>Nanum</i>
<i>canadense</i>	<i>pardalinum</i>
<i>cernuum</i>	<i>parryi</i>
<i>columbianum</i>	<i>pumilum</i>
<i>concolor</i>	<i>regale</i>
<i>dauricum</i>	<i>sargentiae</i>
<i>davidii</i>	<i>taliense</i>
<i>hansonii</i>	<i>tsingtauense</i>
<i>henryi</i>	<i>wardii</i>
<i>lankongense</i>	<i>wilsonii</i>
<i>leichtlinii</i>	<i>x hollandicum</i>
<i>longiflorum</i>	

The CD contained an HTML file with the images of the photos carefully embedded in the text. This work had been done by Kathleen's son, Jason. My reaction to the CD was one of amazement, seeing how much work had been done to create this resource. However, in reading through the text and photos, I came to the conclusion that some other way of accessing the information would be of value, so I went about the work of creating a new version of the CD. My new version operates on a single

screen which allows access to each of the species through a menu. Selecting a species name causes the text and related photos for that species to be displayed. All of the original material is included on the CD with a menu selection available to browse it.

When it was done I gave copies to Kathleen, Darm and a few other people. I didn't think much more of it until I attended the 2006 NALS in Eau Claire. There I had the opportunity to show it to SLPG President, Kristin Swoszowski-Tran. Her reaction was favorable and she asked if I'd be interested in chairing the Species CD Project. I agreed to co-chair the project with Vijay Chandhok. Since then we have accumulated photos of over 80 species from a number of sources, as outlined below.

Art Evans – *L. michiganense*

B&D Lilies - Around the World With Liliium Species

Barry Francis – *L. philadelphicum*

Charlie Kroell – Searching for American Western Lily Species

Charlie Kroell – Miscellaneous Species Lilies

Darm Crook – Many of his species (second edition)

Dick Bayerl – *L. michiganense* and *L. philadelphicum*

Joe Nemmer – Many different species

Kathleen Mingl – Species photos from PNWLS shows 2003-2005

Kenneth Hixson – Seven species

Maureen Jansen – Eau Claire 2006 show

McCrae slides – Organized by divisions

Parkdale Species – 2004

Patrick Brown – *L. michiganense*

QB Species articles – Many species related subjects

Richard Lighty – 1960-70s QB species articles

With all of this information in hand I've been trying to design a way to organize it similar to what was done for Darm's Zone 1.5 CD. I know we could simply put all of the files in folders on a disk (CD or DVD) and make them available to SLPG members.



That would be easy, but it would not provide an intelligent method of accessing the information, and that goes contrary to all I know about data access from my years of computer programming. It seems to me that there are several ways to access the species files:

- Alphabetically
- Geographically (native areas)
- Lilium division
- Source of information

If this organization were done on a web server using a database system, this accessibility would all be possible and feasible. The problem comes when doing the work on a stand-alone disk. Of course, putting it on a web server would also aid us in making the information available on a wider basis. But then there are questions of how to control access and of how to recover the project costs. But on the other hand, having the data online would make it possible to change and add the information on a regular basis.

When I was asked to write an article about the Species CD Project, I decided this would be an opportunity to open the project up to the membership, looking for some ideas and decisions about the completion of the project. So the door is open. My email address is [rjbayerl@ameritech.net](mailto:rjbayerl@ameritech.net) should you want to share your thoughts and suggestions. And I'd also say, as long as we're already swamped with information, why not pile on more. I'm already looking for photos from the fantastic Species Lily Chase of 2008. And I know, from all the 'species savvy' people weighing in on the Lilium Group, there are a lot more photos out there to be shared. I'd also like to offer a copy of Darm's Zone 1.5 CD for \$2.00 plus the cost of mailing. Just email your request me, giving your mailing address.

I remember the first SLPG meeting I attended in Hamilton in 2001. Eddie McCrae impressed me with the importance of preservation of Species Lilies. What an experience! That's why I care a lot about the part this project can make to reach that preservation goal. I can still feel the intensity of his caring.

# *Species Lily Conservators' Report:* Nigel Strohman, Manitoba

## Seeds started in 2008:

*L. amabile*

*L. amabile* var. *luteum*

*L. cernuum* (Baranova)

*L. concolor* (early)

*L. concolor* (late)

*L. davidii*

*L. formosanum* (Clas)

*L. henryi*

*L. lankongense*

*L. philadelphicum* (red)

*L. philadelphicum* (yellow)

*L. pumilum*

*L. pumilum* var. 'Golden  
Gleam'

*L. pumilum* var. 'Yellow'

We received a few species bulbs from Judith Freeman as well as some stored species seeds from Eddie. The species bulbs have been planted out and we will try to collect seed from them.

[Editor's note: both of our conservators David Sims and Nigel Strohman took over from Edward McRae with virtually nothing. The bulbs in Ed's fields had been sorely neglected because of his declining health, and when Judith went to collect what was left, she found very little salvageable material. Be sure to thank Judith for rescuing what she could and also both these fine men for their effort to provide you with quality bulbs.]

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## *The 2008 Species Lily Chase*

Vijay Chandhok, Pennsylvania

(with place names supplied by Wayne Hoffman, Oregon)

Joe Nemmer, Barry Francis and I started from Victoria, BC by car for the 2008 Species Lily Chase. We rode the ferry to Port Angeles, Washington with a great view of the Olympic range. From there, we started south to meet with Wayne Hoffman, Rainbow Francom, Jim Ault, Michael Homick and Paul Machado in Al-

bany. Joe spotted some *L. columbianum* on the side of the road, so we stopped to take pictures of the first species we saw. From there we saw several other colonies in areas which had been cleared for future development.

We headed south along the Oregon coast to the Shore Acres State Park at Charleston where we saw a big clump of *L. pardalinum*. From there we walked along a coastal trail where we located *L. occidentale*, which in some areas was protected by fences to keep animals away. The coastal trail was beautiful with a grand view of the Pacific Ocean. We also saw some natural hybrids of *L. occidentale* in this area.

After spending the night in Arcata, California, we traveled farther south and inland where we found *L. kelloggii* on the Kneeland Road and later *L. pitkinense* at the Freshwater Nursery. We retraced our steps north, and through the giant redwoods we saw large colonies of *L. columbianum* on the side of the road, ranging from orange to yellow in color. We drove on to Happy Camp, stopping for *L. washingtonianum* var. *purpurescens* and *L. wigginsii* along the way.

The next day we drove to Orleans. To avoid the major fire fighters' camp, we went up the west side of the loop (FR 13), first finding *L. rubescens* and then more *L. washingtonianum* var. *purpurescens*. Our next find was *L. bolanderi* in a very dry area. Where it was growing there was no source of water and the leaves of the plant resembled cactus, that is, thick leaves holding a lot of water. We checked out Wayne's Onion Lake hybrids and farther along we saw *L. kelloggii* and then a few *L. wigginsii*. We were now into the forest fire area of California with a lot of smoke. We met with some fire fighters on Lonesome Ridge and had to detour down FR 14 where Rainbow showed us more *L. bolanderi* and *L. washingtonianum*. Both Wayne and Rainbow had exceptional knowledge of what was blooming in the area and where to find it.

The next day we drove towards Mt. Shasta and saw large colonies



of *L. shastense* in Big Spring Park near the source of the Sacramento River. Following the road to the start of the trail up Mt. Shasta, we ran into *L. washingtonianum* in what Joe Nemmer described as a 'field of pain!' Everyone who went in there to photograph the flowers was bleeding due to walking through heavy brush. We also saw a lot of natural hybrids of *L. shastense* near a stream by the road. Some of us, myself included, climbed up to the snow on Mt. Shasta and got a good view of the forest fires far away.

After spending the night in Yreka, we drove to a place in the southern Oregon Cascades where another of Wayne's natural hybrids, the 'Beaver Dam Lilies' grew. The group then separated. Joe, Barry and I headed north via Mt. St. Helens and Mt. Rainier, took a helicopter ride to Mt. St. Helens crater, had a nice dinner at the old lodge on Mt. Rainier and headed for Seattle to take our flights back east.

You can see the photographs of the 2008 Lily Chase on two web sites:

[http://vijayc.smugmug.com/gallery/5469812\\_UvKnx/1/334407418\\_CrBuf](http://vijayc.smugmug.com/gallery/5469812_UvKnx/1/334407418_CrBuf)

[http://lilium.smugmug.com/gallery/5471851\\_56YH2#334588248\\_Er8Cd](http://lilium.smugmug.com/gallery/5471851_56YH2#334588248_Er8Cd)

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A VERY special thank you to the authors of these articles who willingly wrote on such short notice: June Taylor, Larry Diehl, Joe Nemmer, Dick Bayerl and Vijay Chandhok. It's so wonderful to know I can count on you! Thank you too David Sims for organizing the cover photographs so beautifully — also at the last minute!

