

# **Canadian Prairie Lily Society**

## **Newsletter**

December 2003

Number 103

### **Fall Dig .....Art Delahey**

At the 2003 Gardenscape in Saskatoon, a northern Saskatchewan nursery operator left a note saying that he was interested in selling all of his lily stocks. Your Executive saw an opportunity to reduce the amount of stock needing to be dug from the CPLS plots for the Fall'03 sale and the spring '04 Gardenscape, our plots having been set back somewhat by the dry summers. An offer was made for the removal of all varieties and it was accepted.

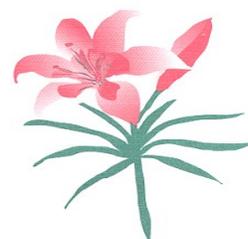
In blooming season John Bond, Bob Caldwell and I went to the nursery to check out his claim that there were 50-60 varieties (some unidentified) and about 6,000 bulbs. We were pleased to see most varieties in bloom, were able to identify a few unnamed and misnamed, and verified that there was a large number of bulbs. Recognizing that 6,000 bulbs was a big bite for CPLS we approached The Lily Nook to see if they would consider taking half of each variety's yield. Barrie Strohman agreed to share in the endeavour.

September 13 was set as the date for the GREAT DIG. At 9:00 a.m. John Bond, Stan Dunville, Frank and Carmel Dodd, Koren Vangoon and her mother Bernadette, and the writer, all of CPLS met the owner, three hourly-employed young fellows, and Barrie and Nigel Strohman at the nursery. It was around 10C and heavily overcast with a stiff northwest breeze blowing unimpeded across the plots. Just as we moved into digging positions a cold rain started to fall. What to do??? Pull on some extra clothes and dig, of course!

The owner operated a small tractor and a U-shoe that gently lifted the lilies and made it relatively easy to pull

the stalks and bulbs out of the soil. The three hired fellows worked with forks to turn out the stubborn bulbs. With some digging, some moving the bulbs to the trucks, and some counting and recording we managed to lift, sort, count and bag 5487 bulbs in three hours! We surprised ourselves with the speed and efficiency displayed, albeit encouraged to no end by the cold rain that only managed to stop near the finish. It was a muddy and chilled group that gathered for lunch in the warm lunchroom.

Thank to our efforts CPLS realized 2846 bulbs at a very reasonable price. Many were sold in the fall sale, some are in storage for sale at Gardenscape in March 2004, and the excess of six varieties (some are unidentified martagons) were planted into the CPLS plots for future use. As a result of this venture the CPLS plots are full and many varieties were allowed to remain undisturbed until next fall, and the fall sale paid for the purchase and even put some funds into the bank for our scholarships. A nice bit of volunteerism!



## ***NALS Membership Renewal time !!!***

NALS (North American Lily Society) appreciates the support regional members have given during this past year. Once again NALS extends an invitation to CPLS members to renew or take out a first-time membership in NALS. NALS members receive four quarterly bulletins, a membership list, a hardbound yearbook, low cost seed exchange, round robin letter exchange and library privileges. Canadian residents may make payment in Canadian funds of \$26.00(1 year individual or family) or \$75.00(3 years individual or family). Please print your name, address and

contact information and indicate whether we may include the information in our membership directory. Payment or renewal can be made by check or money order payable to NALS. Mail to Dolores Nelson, 3820 20th Avenue, Regina, SK, S4S 0P4. (306)586-3697. Email: dolbert@sk.sympatico.ca

## ***Passing Lilies***

This fall two long time members of CPLS passed away. **Daniel (Dan) Thomas Dale, 1920-2003** and **Jean Ericksen, 1908-2003**. Both were stalwarts in the world of lilies not only in growing our favourite flower the lily and hybridizing it so we all could enjoy a greater variety of lilies in our gardens but also in encouraging

the growth of viable lily societies in the Canadian Prairie region. The contributions of Dan and Jean to the world of horticulture were numerous. Their great lilies will keep them in the eyes and hearts of all gardeners now and in the future. [MED]

## ***CPLS Photography Project***

For a number of years CPLS has been working on a PHOTOGRAPHY PROJECT. This project evolved casually with several members taking pictures of their named lilies. The "project" gained steam - Milt Bell, Stan Dunville, Art Delahey, Ken Agnew all took an active part in the early developing years and the project like Topsy grew and grew and grew! Presently, the project is headed by Frank and Carmel Dodd.

The idea behind the project was to have a visual record of the various lilies that are grown on the prairies. The project to date has recorded a large

number of lilies grown in Saskatchewan and the prairies in general. Material from the project - 35mm slides are used in talks about lilies and the photographs are put in albums for display at our lily shows and bulbs sales. These photos/slides have been a great help for those who wish to identify their "UNKNOWN"! The photographs can be a great help when judging at lily shows.

Recently, one of our members in North Battleford, Arnie Pittao volunteered to record the photos in CDs (compact discs). Sharon Newton organized the numerous photos, shipped them off to Arnie and the

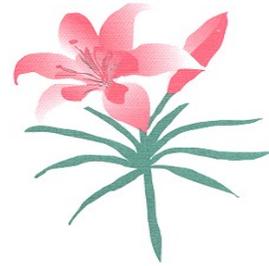
next leg of the project is underway. CDs make storing large amounts of material very easy and provide a good backup to slides and photos.

The project is always in need of photos. If you have any photos to spare of the lilies listed below we would greatly appreciate you sharing them with the project. The lily must be identified and should dominate the field. Please indicate if you need the photo returned. Send the photos to : S. Newton, 1615 Alexander Avenue, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7K 3C4.

#### LILY PHOTOS NEEDED.....

'Ben Dyke'(martagon), 'Black Jack', 'Black Out', 'Brenda Watts', 'Connecticut King', 'Dani

Arafin','Destiny','Eleanor Yates', 'Honey Bear', 'HoneyBunch', 'Lyric', 'Petit Pink', 'Prairie Pink', 'Red Strap', 'Royal Love', 'Roter Cardinal(Red Night)', 'Savannah', 'Scarlett', 'Shrimp','Sorbet', 'Sundial', and 'Yellow Blaze'. Thank you for your participation in this project.



## *From the Editors Desk*

This could be another unpredictable winter based on the weather we have had to date. October for the most part was not too bad but got cold toward the end with a little snow. The snow was useful when the temperatures dropped to -20C for a while. Things perked up and today Dec. 3 it is sunny and warm about +5-3C with possible rain!. All the snow cover is essentially gone. It would be nice to have some more before we drop into the deep freeze again. But that is the prairies.

This will be my last edition of the CPLS newsletter. After 14 years it is time to turn over the pencil, pen, and keyboard! Special thanks to my husband Ed who has manipulated the keyboard to lay-out the newsletter and envelopes for me and whip the words into shape!

Good gardening to you all in 2004. Hope to see you all at meetings and the lily shows. [MED]



## *Presidents message*

Gardens have been put to bed and winter has arrived. This is a time to read and plan and dream for next summer. In my desire to be surrounded by green, I have found myself acquiring more and more houseplants. On frosty winter morning it is very uplifting to enter the living room and see a gorgeous, red-centred yellow hibiscus opening yet another stunning blossom. The huge leaves of the banana plant (*Musa velutina*) lend a tropical touch to the room, and the stalwart jade (*Crassula argenta*) in the east window has survived fifteen years of sometimes inattentive care. My indoor garden gives me as much pleasure as the outdoor one, with less damage caused by the whims of the weather.

Our Fall Bulb Sale was well attended again this year. Thank you to our Bulb Sale Chairperson, John Bond for his long and dedicated service in organizing this event, and to John and his crew for digging, packaging and labelling. Thanks also to Bob Caldwell for organizing volunteers to tend the sales tables, and of course to the volunteers for their time and effort.

Our Society had an opportunity to acquire bulbs from a gentleman in Henribourg, Saskatchewan, who wanted to dispose of several thousand bulbs. Our thanks to Art Delahey for organizing a group of volunteers to drive to Henribourg and dig and package the bulbs. Thanks Art and crew for all of your hard work.

I have one more person to thank, and "thanks" just

doesn't seem adequate. Margaret Driver has been our newsletter Editor for the past 13 years and is now giving up that job. Many Thanks, Margaret for all of your years of service as our Editor. We appreciate the dedication to our Society!

On a sad note, the lily world lost one of its champions in September with the passing of Mrs. Jean Ericksen. Mrs. Ericksen was a well know hybridizer and long time member of our society. She was well into her nineties and still had boundless enthusiasm for lilies. She wrote many of us long, rambling letters and included wonderful hybridizing suggestions and showed a keen interest in happenings in the lily world. As is our practise, the Lily Society made a donation in her memory, and will have a more in-depth article about Mrs Ericksen in a future issue of the newsletter.

On behalf for the Executive, I wish each of you a joyous Christmas Season. I hope that each of you will relax and enjoy time spent with family and friends, and I extend our wish that 2004 will be a year of peace and happiness for all.

