

# *Canadian Prairie Lily Society*

## *Newsletter*

June 2008

Number 120

### *President's Message*

Today was a rather nice day – sunny with only a light wind. Even better was the much needed rain that came yesterday. This spring has been very cool, dry and windy. The lilies in my yard are much shorter than in past years and some are just poking up (June 5<sup>th</sup>) - unlike last year when the lilies were way ahead of schedule. With some consistent warm, sunny weather and RAIN things may improve. One must be optimistic when gardening on the prairies.

Since our last newsletter in March the Society has been involved in several activities. We were finally able to hold our Annual General Meeting (AGM) on May 20<sup>th</sup> at the Rusty McDonald Branch Library. The original date was April 20th but that meeting was cancelled due to a weather warning of blizzard conditions etc. There were a variety of attempts (email, public announcements on the radio, telephone) to contact members of this change. We do not have a phoning committee so we did not have total success in contacting all members and apologize for the inconvenience for those who were not contacted. Once a new date and venue for the meeting was set a notice was mailed out to all members.

The **AGM** was a success there were a number of “new and old” members out to enjoy the program and deal with the business of the society. More members in attendance would always be welcome.

The meeting was opened with a moment of silence in remembrance of **John Bond** who passed away on May 14<sup>th</sup>.

*Bonnie Lundgren* was the featured speaker and gave an excellent talk and demonstration on how to use lilies for floral arrangements. Bonnie provided a handout on basic design and answered many questions. Her presentation was greatly appreciated.

After a short coffee break the business meeting was called to order. The treasurer's report was given and copies of the report were available at the meeting. Our finances are in good order thanks to our long serving treasurer Art Delahey. Reports submitted by the Chairpersons – Gardenscape/Jim Sullivan, Bulb Sales/John Bond, Newsletter/Margaret Driver & Ed Driver, Lily Plots/ Stan Dunville, Art Delahey & John Bond, Annual Lily Show/Barbara Adams-Eichendorf, Library/Dorothy Bird, Special Projects/Art Delahey, and Web site/Ed Driver were read by Margaret Driver; the written reports were given to the secretary- Sharon Newton. Elections were held and the results of the elections can be seen in Executive/Directors list published in this newsletter.

I would like to thank those members who have completed their “tour of duty “as directors – Jim Sullivan, Koren Vangoool and Liz Delahey; welcome the new ones as directors – Dorothy Bird, Leona Domshy, and Natalie Threlfall.

After a short coffee break Barbara Adams-Eichendorf and Margaret Driver did a short presentation on ‘How to Show Lily Stems’, ‘what the judges are looking for and more’.

The doors prizes – potted lilies, 'Butter Pixie' and 'Mount Duckling' were won by: Judy Chiki, Carmel Dodd and Sharon Newton.

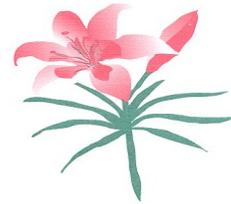
**Gardenscape 2008** was a success again. Thanks go to the co-coordinator Jim Sullivan and to all the volunteers who once again helped to make Gardenscape'08 a success.

**The Annual Lily Show** will see two new awards this year - The **John Bond Award** for the Best Three Stem Collection...Class 41 and the **Phyllis Pierrepont Award** for the Best Species Lily ...Class 32, 38, 41. For more information about this year's show see the show schedule in this newsletter.

There are a number of activities coming up this

summer- see the Coming Events Column for details. Make sure you have time for some of them

Best of Gardening and See you all at the Show.  
Margaret



## Volunteers We Need You!!!!!!

***Volunteers the life blood of the society are NEEDED to help keep CPLS events going!***

**CAN YOU HELP NOW?** As mentioned in past newsletters CPLS is as good as its membership/volunteer base. **Without active participation of MORE of our members our society will NOT be able to carry out its activities and responsibilities adequately this year.**

**The greatest need for help is in PLOT MAINTENANCE AND BULB SALES.**

### LILY PLOT MAINTENANCE:

The current **U of S Lily plot** will be moved this year to a new area nearby. The move will require a lot of **digging/planting of lily bulbs** this fall. The digging and replanting can be done simultaneously; any bulbs not replanted will go into the Fall bulb sales.

The **Smart Plot** is being discontinued as of this fall. Bulbs will be removed this fall and if they are of good quality some will be transferred to the U of S plot and the others will be sold in the bulb sales.

The **McKercher Plot** is being monitored this year and a

final decision about further maintenance will be made this fall. Some bulbs may be removed from the plot this fall.

**All this work must be done this year if the plot(s) is to remain viable. DIGGERS and PLANTERS will be needed late August to September.**

**To help in the plots** Contact: Stan Dunville at (306)343-1963; leave your name and telephone number so you can be contacted when digging/planting times are set.

**BULB SALES:** Ted Markus will be looking after the Bulb Sales this year. Help will be needed in packaging the bulbs and preparing orders. **This activity will not take place until early September so more detailed information regarding this activity will appear in the September newsletter.**

**Contact:** Ted Markus (306)249-1654. Email: [markus@sasktel.net](mailto:markus@sasktel.net)

**ANNUAL LILY SHOW:** Help is required to set-up and take-down the show, ensure there is water in the lily stem holders during the show, etc. Show clerks are also needed.

**To help with the CPLS show** Contact: Barbara Adams-Eichendorf at (306)947-2830;  
E-mail: [barbae@sasktel.net](mailto:barbae@sasktel.net)

Your help in these projects is essential and will be appreciated. **Margaret Driver.**

**INFORMATION DESK –GARDENSCAPE, LILY SHOW & BULBS SALES:** members are needed to work at the information desks, show/sales tables at these events. The work period is 2-3 hours and the time slots vary. If you can help out it is greatly appreciated.

**To help in this area** Contact: Leona Domshy at (306) 382-5148 or Email: [domshyl@shaw.ca](mailto:domshyl@shaw.ca)

## **In Remembrance ..... John Bond ..1922-2008**

John Bond peacefully passed away after a short illness, May 14<sup>th</sup> 2008 at City Hospital in Saskatoon. John was an integral part of the Canadian Prairie Lily Society and will be greatly missed. John served as co-chairperson on the lily plot committee and was the chairperson of Bulb Sales committee. Serving on that committee was not for the faint-hearted, it wasn't all paper work – it was getting to the plot sites, then planting & weeding the plots. For the bulb sales John set up his garage as bulb sale central, arranged for diggers [not an easy task], digging & packaging bulbs, receiving bulb orders then filling, packing & mailing out the orders. If that wasn't enough John helped with Gardenscape (bringing the bulbs for the sale; setting up the sales tables and taking a turn at manning the booth ) and helped with the Annual Lily Show ( setting up the tables vases, filling the stem holders with water during the show – lilies drink a lot of water during Showtime then helping dismantle the show). John simply helped out where ever help was needed – always with a cheerful smile and a word of encouragement. Everyone who worked with John greatly appreciated his efforts.

John always signaled the start of spring (spring bird counts and lily time) by appearing in his Tilley shorts and hat and knee-high socks – one always knew summer was just around the corner.

John was not only an avid lily grower and hybridizer but also shared his love and knowledge of lilies with all. He registered a beautiful yellow lily called 'Brienne' which can be found growing in many prairie gardens. However, many of his seedlings were not named or registered but were simply shared with other gardeners with a fondness for lilies. I have a beautiful yellow seedling of John's I like to call 'Golden Giant'. It grows where ever you plant it, produces many lovely golden yellow blooms and in good years reached 5-6 feet tall- it reminds of John –reliable, a sunny disposition, one you can always depend on. I also got several *Bergenia* plants from John as well as some *Rudbeckias* - they have been standouts in my garden every year and this year the *Bergenia* are especially showy this spring; the *Rudbeckias* and Liliium 'Golden Giant' look like they will also do their part in making my garden especially showy this summer.

John will be greatly missed.

CPLS is naming one of the University of Saskatchewan scholarships (Horticulture) funded by CPLS –'The John Bond/CPLS Scholarship. John was a graduate of the University of Saskatchewan- Bachelor of Agriculture 1943. The CPLS Annual Lily

Show will also have a John Bond Award for the Best Three Stem Entry ....Class 41.

Margaret Driver.

## **CPLS Executive 2008**

### **PRESIDENT**

Margaret Driver, 182 Dore Crescent, Saskatoon, SK, S7K 4X7  
(306) 242-5329; [mlily@sasktel.net](mailto:mlily@sasktel.net)

### **PAST PRESIDENT**

Barbara Adams-Eichendorf, P.O. Box 371, Hepburn, SK, S0K 1Z0  
(306) 974-2830; [barbae@sasktel.net](mailto:barbae@sasktel.net)

### **VICE-PRESIDENT**

### **TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP**

Art Delahey, 102-803 Heritage Crescent Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7H 5R4  
(306) 374-0494; [delahay@shaw.ca](mailto:delahay@shaw.ca)

### **SECRETARY**

Sharon Newton, 1615 Alexandra Ave., Saskatoon, SK, S7K 3C4  
(306) 653-0819; [s.newton@shaw.ca](mailto:s.newton@shaw.ca)

### **DIRECTORS**

Dorothy Bird, #5 Valens Drive, Saskatoon, SK, S7L 3R8  
(306) 382-3650

Leona Domshy, 383 Bowman Cres., Saskatoon, SK, S7L 6P7 [2008-2010]

(306) 382-5148; [domshyl@shaw.ca](mailto:domshyl@shaw.ca)

Stan Dunville, 12<sup>th</sup> Street East, Saskatoon, SK, S7H 0E5

(306) 343-1963; [sdunville@shaw.ca](mailto:sdunville@shaw.ca) [2007-2009]

Phyllis Elder, P.O. Box 575, Langham, SK, S0K 2L0

(306) 283-4275; [mureld@sasktel.net](mailto:mureld@sasktel.net) [2006-2009]

Cecilia Kachkowski, 126 Simon Fraser, Saskatoon, SK, S7H 3T1

(306) 374-7675 [2006-2008]

Diann Putland, P.O. Box 24, Churchbridge, SK, S0A 0M0

(306) 896-2992; [putld@sasktel.net](mailto:putld@sasktel.net) [2007-2009]

Natalie Threlfall, 342 Auld Place, Saskatoon, SK, S7H

4X1 (306) 374-7520 [2008-2010]

### **LIBRARIAN**

Dorothy Bird, #5 Valens Drive, Saskatoon, SK, S7L 3R8  
(306) 382-3650 [2008-2010]

### **NEWSLETTER EDITORS**

Margaret/Ed Driver, 182 Dore Crescent, Saskatoon, SK, S7K 4X7  
(306) 242-5329; [mlily@sasktel.net](mailto:mlily@sasktel.net)

### **WEB MASTER**

Ed Driver, 182 Dore Crescent, Saskatoon, SK, S7K 4X7  
(306) 242-5329; [webmaster@prairielily.ca](mailto:webmaster@prairielily.ca)



## Coming Events

**JUNE 20, 21 & 22, 2008**

**'EXPANDING OUR BORDERS'. "A Gardening Event".**

This gardening event will be held at the Cliff Wright Branch of the Saskatoon Public Library on June 20 (7p.m.) and June 21 (10 a.m. - 4 p.m.) and June 22 at the Tea House/Saskatoon Forestry Farm (Noon – 4 p.m.) There is no charge for attendance other than the Sunday Luncheon at the Tea House (\$12). Check your local library branch for more information (a poster listing all the topics and speakers). You must register for this event by June 10.

Please call **Bernadette at 306-343-7707** or email: [bernievangool@sasktel.net](mailto:bernievangool@sasktel.net)

**JUNE 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

**MANITOBA REGIONAL LILY SOCIETY MARTAGON SHOW.** The show will be held at the Assiniboine Park Conservatory, Winnipeg, MB. Show Chair: Sandy Venton. Show schedule is available at [www.manitobalilies.ca](http://www.manitobalilies.ca)

**JULY 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

**NALS CONFERENCE & SHOW**

**Victoria Lily Society** is hosting the North American Lily Conference & Show in 2008. The event is located in Sidney, British Columbia at the Mary Winespear Centre. For more information see [www.nals2008.org](http://www.nals2008.org) or contact Sharon Flucker, Registrar, 6956 Central Saanich Road, Victoria, BC V8Z5V8 ; [Sharon.flucker@shaw.ca](mailto:Sharon.flucker@shaw.ca)

**JULY 12 & 13, 2008**

## Editor's Desk

Once again your editors of this newsletter are requesting articles, letters etc, from the membership to help make the newsletter an informative one. We know that many of you have a good deal of

**ALBERTA REGIONAL LILY SOCIETY 13<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MARTAGON SHOW.** The show will be held at the Devonian Botanic Gardens, Parkland County, AB.

**JULY 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

**CANADIAN PRAIRIE LILY SOCIETY 42<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL LILY SHOW.** The show will be held at The Mall at Lawson Heights, 134 Primrose Drive, Saskatoon, SK. Show Chair: Barbara Adams- Eichendorf. For detail see the show schedule included in the June newsletter.

**SASKATCHEWAN REGIONAL LILY SOCIETY ANNUAL LILY SHOW.** The show will be held at the Golden Mile Centre, Regina, SK. The show will set up the evening of July 17<sup>th</sup> and will open for viewing Noon – 5 p.m. on Friday, June 18<sup>th</sup> and from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Saturday, June 19<sup>th</sup>.

**JULY 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

**ALBERTA REGIONAL LILY SOCIETY 23<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL LILY SHOW.** The show will be held at the Westmount Mall, Edmonton, AB.

**MANITOBA REGIONAL LILY SOCIETY 24<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL LILY SHOW.** The show will be held at Kildonan Place, Winnipeg, MB.

knowledge to share with your fellow lily growers about growing, showing and/or hybridizing lilies. The one fast and easy way to share this knowledge is through this newsletter. So get your thoughts on paper or send them flying through cyberspace so we

can share and enjoy your experiences with lilies.

If you have any questions regarding lilies you would like answered please send them. We will do our best to help you out.

We would also appreciate hearing from you about what you would like to see/read in your newsletter.

All articles, letters, etc., will be considered for publication. Please include your name and complete address with your article. Newsletter **DEADLINES** are February 15, May 15, August 15 and November 15.

Mail to: **CPLS NEWSLETTER EDITORS**  
**Margaret/Ed Driver**  
**182 Dore Crescent**  
**Saskatoon, SK, Canada**  
**S7K 4X7**

Email to: [mlily@sasktel.net](mailto:mlily@sasktel.net)

## Red Lily Beetle

Once again lily growers are asked to be on the look out the **Red Lily Beetle** (*Liliocerus lili*). It was first discovered in Montreal (1945) and now has spread west into Manitoba (2004) and has been reported in Calgary, Alberta (2007).

The adult is 8mm long bright red and a black head and legs; larvae have dirty orange bodies with black heads and may reach up to 8-10mm and resemble bird droppings. At this stage the larvae are ready to pupate in the ground.

Both adults and larvae damage lilies primarily by defoliating them but may damage flowers, seed capsules and stem in heavy infestation.

There is no natural predator in Canada at this time. Handpicking adults and larvae can be used to control

small areas. Insecticides containing Neem are effective in killing larvae and repelling adults.

For more detailed information on the Red Lily Beetle see the CPLS newsletters of March 2006 and June 2007.

Both lily societies in Saskatchewan are asking their members to be on the look out for the beetle. If you find the beetle in the Saskatoon area please contact:

**Bonnie Lawrence (306) 373-8674. Email:**  
[blawrence@sasktal.net](mailto:blawrence@sasktal.net)

[MED]

## What is a Species Lily

To promote the new CPLS Lily show Award – *Phyllis Pierrepont Award/Best Species Lily* an article on species lilies would not be amiss.

**What is a species?** A species is a naturally occurring group of plants which breed true among themselves, with minor variations – a “wild” form of plant. The species is the second word in the botanical name of a plant; the first word is the genus. The botanical

name is italicized e.g. *Lilium davidii*.

In the *Lilium* genus there are about 100 species distributed through out the cold and temperate regions of the Northern hemisphere. Species have been used in the development/breeding of our modern day garden lilies. Many species lilies still find their place in the modern day gardens today because of their beauty and adaptation to cultivation, the

availability of commercially grown bulbs or the ease with which they can be grown from seed.

Species lilies have been divided into seven groups – Martagon group, American group, Candidum group, Oriental group, Asian group, Trumpet group, and the Dauricum group. A number of characteristics were used to create the various groups. The characteristics used were – flower form, leaf arrangement, form of bulb scales, bulb shape and colour, seed germination methods, seed weight and geographic location.

### The Asian Group of Species Lilies

This is a large group of lilies and has more divergent characteristics than most of the other groups as a result there are three subgroups. The characteristics of the Asian group include scattered leaves, entire bulb scales, erect white bulbs (except *L. henryi*), light seeds (except *L. henryi*, *L. amabile*), Turk's cap flowers, stems markedly stoloniferous (*L. ducharteri* & *L. leichtlinii*), less stoloniferous (*L. davidii*, *L. lankongense*, and *L. papilliferum*); erect stems (*L. henryi*, *L. lancifolium/tigrinum*). Species of the Asian group that can be found in prairie gardens and commercially available as bulbs or seed include – *L. amabile*, *L. cernuum*, *L. davidii*, *L. duchartrei*, *L. henryi*, *L. pumilum*.

#### *Lilium amabile* Palibin 1901

The "Korean Lily" grows well in gritty, well-drained limey soil, with some shade at its base. Wiry stems 75cm – 1m tall; numerous scattered soft green leaves; wide turk's-cap flowers (5-15) are held on long pedicels; the petals are a rich scarlet with purple spots; conspicuous, dark chocolate anthers stand out. The fragrance of the flowers is described as unpleasant so locate these lilies carefully in your garden! There are three botanical varieties *L. amabile*; *L. amabile* var. *unicolor* a softer orange color and no spots; *L. amabile* var. *luteum* a golden yellow colour with black spots.

#### *Lilium cernuum* Komarov 1901

The "Nodding Lily" is named for its nodding flowers. *L. cernuum* is a native of Korea, Manchuria and regions of Russian Siberia. Described as a 'short-lived' lily in the garden, it freely produces seed and

grows well from seed producing flowers in the third year. The stem is slender and erect 30-75cm tall; narrow grassy foliage is crowded where present; the pleasantly scented, nodding, turk's-cap flowers (8) are lilac pink with dark purple spots. *L. cernuum* grows best in well-drained soil and in an airy, sunny – to light shade location in the garden. Bulbs should remain relatively dry after flowering – wet conditions in late summer are disastrous. There is a white variety with faint purple spots – *L. cernuum* var. *candidum*, Nakai 1917; sometimes referred as var. *album*.

#### *Lilium davidii* Elwes 1877

*L. davidii* a native of China easily grows in our prairie gardens. It prefers well-drained, enriched soil and a location in dappled shade to full sun. The bulb should be planted deeply and well-watered in the growing stage. This lily blooms in mid-late July. The stem (1m tall) is dark with numerous narrow dark green leaves that become smaller as they go up the stem and show some inrolling; the stem may need staking because of the large inflorescence (20-40 flowers). The turks-cap flowers on long pedicels are a rich scarlet with raised black or dark purple spots in the centre; the anthers are orange-scarlet. The variant - *L. davidii* var. *unicolor* is a good garden lily which is shorter than the type, the stem (.75m) bears 10-15 pale orange flowers with indistinct reddish spots. The variant *L. davidii* var. *willmottiae* has a wiry stem (1-2m) that tends to arch not only because of its height but also due to the weight of the inflorescence (40 flowers) so stem support is necessary. The stem tends to grow underground sometimes as much as 30 cm from where the bulb was planted so wait till the stem emerges, then place the stake on the side to which the stem is leaning – it usually leans away from the bulb. The flowers are orange-red with fine chestnut-brown spots.

**[Editor's comments:** These are species suited to the prairie garden and available from lily bulb suppliers and often through lily society bulb sales. I hope this stimulates some interest in growing species in your garden. A few more species will be presented in following newsletters.

The following references were used for this article:

The Gardener's Guide to Growing LILIES.  
 Michael Jefferson-Browne & Harris  
 Howland. Timber Press, 1995  
**Lilies: A Guide for Growers and Collectors.**  
 Edward Austin McRae. Timber Press. 1998.

## Garden Notes !!!

**Was it the winter conditions or the cool, dry, prolonged spring?** The Asiatic lilies are growing quite differently in the garden this year - some are very short (barely out of the ground), some have damaged tops, and some have simply rotted. A number of lily bulbs newly planted last fall (2007) have failed to come up and after "rooting" around there were either rotted bulbs or none at all – Ivory Pixie, Tropic Breeze, Landini, Mount Duckling and Cappuccino; some bulbs such as Nepal and Sonata both good performers in past years were reset in 2007 and failed to come up this spring. I talked with Art Delahey about what happened and here are his thoughts:

"Over my years as commercial grower I noticed that when lilies are delayed due to slow (cold) springs, lack of moisture, etc they tend to be short. My theory is that they slowly grow until the sun (position or intensity) tells them to start budding up. When one thinks that the start of blooming season for Asiatics rarely varies beyond a normal two-week period and, at the same time, the plant is delayed in growth there has to some trigger-mechanism to get them to bud. If budding was related to a certain plant height than the start of blooming season would vary widely from mid-

June to late August. I'm speculating that there is a photosensitive response involved here.

If my theory is close then the 2008 lilies will be short and the inflorescence will be smaller and usual. Let's see what happens! "

The martagons are doing really well in my garden even the ones planted last fall. However, in correspondence with Bonnie Lawrence (who lives on acreage in the Saskatoon area) she reported her martagons have had substantial leaf roller (tortricid) damage.

What is happening in your garden this spring? Drop me a line to add to the next Garden Note.

[Margaret Driver, Saskatoon.]

