

# **Canadian Prairie Lily Society**

## **Newsletter**

June 2011

Number 132

### ***President's Message***

Spring was really different this year compared to last year - cool and minimal moisture. This seems to be the pattern as it moves into June. The alpine flower bed started blooming in early April with two species of *Draba* /Whitlow Grass both a brilliant yellow putting on a great show. The alpine show is in full force now. The lilies appear to have over-wintered well. As usual the martagons were up first. Several martagons newly planted last fall are "no shows" at present while some bulbs from clumps divided last fall are up but fairly small. This is not unexpected – next year they should be fine. Martagon 'Rosalinda' this year consists of two very large fasciated stems. This should be interesting I hope to get some good pictures of the phenomenon. The Asiatics are in good shape; OT's, LO's and 'Longipets are a bit slow.

Our Annual General Meeting at The Rusty McDonald Library in April was a great success. 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 were also presented by the Chairpersons of various committees. This year CPLS awarded two Honourary Life Memberships – Barbara Adams-Eichendorf and Sharon Newton were the recipients; as well the North American Lily Society (NALS) Service Medal which was awarded to Margaret Driver. The results of the

elections for Executives and Directors can be seen in Executive/Directors list in this newsletter. Coffee break and door prize draws for lily bulbs was held after the business meeting. The meeting was then opened to the public to hear our speaker - Sara Williams. Sara's topic was "Chemical – Free Gardening". The presentation was very interesting, informative and entertaining. Those attending had an informative and enjoyable time.

Gardenscape 2011 was a great success thanks to all the members who helped out at the CPLS booth. The bulb sale was the best ever and helped to provide the funds necessary for our scholarships to the University of Saskatchewan and Olds Agriculture College. Each year it is getting more difficult to get volunteers to service the CPLS booth even with the incentive of a free pass to Gardenscape (\$12 value) Leona still had difficulties. I hope we can do better next year. With out volunteer help activities are very difficult to under take.

The next major event that CPLS will undertake is the Annual Lily Show in July. The CPLS Annual Lily Show program is in this newsletter with details.

The details of the Fall Bulb sales both Members and Public sale will be in the September letter.

Once again you will find enclosed in this

newsletter a current membership list. I hope that this will give members a chance to meet and exchange views on lilies, gardening and more - you never know that new lily friend may be just around the corner!

Ending on a sad note J.R. (Bob) Caldwell a founding member of CPLS passed way in early April. Bob will be missed by all who knew him.

## ***J.R. (Bob) Caldwell***

JAMES ROBERT (BOB) CALDWELL

Bob Caldwell passed away peacefully at Royal University Hospital in Saskatoon on April 12, 2011 at age 90.

Bob is survived by Margaret his loving wife of 57 years.

Born in Drumheller, Alberta Bob grew up on a cattle ranch near East Coulee.

Bob's great interest and concern for the environment was reflected in his choice of study at Washington State University, Pullman, Washington graduating with a degree in Wildlife Management, his employment with Duck's Unlimited, Saskatchewan Department of Wildlife and finally the Canadian Wildlife Service where he worked until he retired in 1985.

Bob was one of the founding members of the Canadian Prairie Lily Society. He had a great love of gardening and especially loved lilies. Bob's garden resembled a Monet painting with lovely flowers everywhere – strict order was not necessary in Bob's garden there was room for everyone. Bob not only grew lilies, he showed his stems and won prizes with them and did some hybridizing as well. Winning was not the main focus for Bob he wanted to have a great show so people could enjoy the lilies and encourage them to grow some in their gardens.

Bob served as president of CPLS, worked on the newsletter writing many articles about lilies and related plants, helped with the annual lily show, dug and packed bulbs for the bulbs sale, and rounded up volunteers for projects. He worked the information tables at the show, bulb sales, and Gardenscape –

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

always with a cheery smile and sharing lily information with all.

Ed and I met Bob about 44 years ago. Ed and Bob joined the Canadian Wildlife Service within a week of each other and a friendship quickly developed. We visited Bob's garden – that's how I first met Bob. Bob introduced us to lilies. He took us on a 'lily trip' in 1972 to meet Bert Porter – owner of Honeywood Nursery and to see the lilies. That really got me into lilies. As time went on Bob asked Ed if I would be interested in helping out with CPLS. Ed replied "You will have to ask her". Well, Bob did ask, he was very persuasive and 34 years later I'm still helping out with CPLS!

Now Bob was not only a great gardener but was also a great 'fiddler' with the Silver Strings and the Outcast groups. He was a 'lead' singer with the Saskatoon Barbershop Chorus and sang tenor for many years in the St Martin's Sr. Choir and played in several of the Summer Players Theatre productions - he made a great Pappy in 'LiL ABNER'.

Bob was artistic as well as scientific - he enjoyed oil painting and in later years did wood carvings of birds with Ed.

Bob was an inspiration to all who came in touch with him. He always had a smile, a word of encouragement and lead by example. He will be truly missed.

MED



## *Dispatches from Avonlea*

Dear Lily Committee:

Thank you for your work in getting information and bulbs to us and for making us aware of events which are taking place which might be of interest to us. We appreciate it very much.

I thought I would send along some information in response to your request. I took a number of pictures last summer and I have enclosed a few of them. I put names and dates on the back of eight of them that I think are correct. I have also sent two pictures which I am not sure which lilies they are, but the pictures were also taken last summer.

As you can see from the dates on the back of these pictures these lilies have all survived for a few years in our yard.

We have a number of peach coloured lilies that I like very much. I am not sure which are really my favorites, but we enjoy each one as they bloom. There are certainly many beautiful ones.

We planted 18 new lilies last fall which we purchased from Blue Ridge, the Members Bulb Sale and Hillcrest Harmony. I won't list them individually but we purchased 4 OT lilies, 7 Asiatic lilies and 7 LA lilies. We have had good success with Asiatics. We have a few LAs which are pretty impressive and showy. I don't believe we have tried many OTs. We have not tried many martagons. We have tried a few trumpets, but I believe only a yellow one survived one winter. We have two Orientals which have survived for a few winters, but we have not had a great deal of success with them.

We have been growing lilies since sometime in the 90's.

I don't believe I have preferences for bulb sales other than ones that will probably survive. I have enjoyed the LAs and am looking forward to seeing how the OTs do. We enjoy trying new plants and are always happy when they do well

We also enjoy trying other perennials as well. Our beds are not particularly well organized, but we have delphiniums, chrysanthemums, coral bells, gentians, irises, sedum, peonies, tulips, daylilies, Speedwell, creeping phlox, etc. Most of my friends who live

close have had success with Shasta daisies and Bleeding Hearts. Ours have survived for a short time, but have not survived many years.

When we plant our bulbs we sprinkle some bulb fertilizer in each hole. We live on a farm where our yard is quite open. We do not mulch any of our bulbs, but we have no trouble with leaving old plants in place until spring to help catch the snow. Our available water supply varies very much from year to year as we are weather dependent on our water supply generally. If we fertilize we usually just put some 20-20-20 in our watering cans when we water. We do not have a regular watering or fertilizing plan. The soil in our yard is not particularly good but we have been able to grow a number of plants.

Watering is usually pretty weather based as we depend largely on rain barrels and a small dugout if it fills in spring. If it gets really dry and we do not have rain barrel water, my husband tries to haul a tank of water from the dugout.

Fortunately, we have not had pest or disease problems which I can recall. We have not used pesticides. As I mentioned our yard is pretty open so our plants have to be pretty tough to survive our strong winds. Could this help with the pests and disease?

I am not sure I have a tip other than be brave and try something new. Hopefully you will get a least one year's enjoyment from your trial and hopefully many years. I have been impressed with the plants we can grow here on the prairies and how they can survive our varied weather conditions. It is fun in spring to check the flowerbeds each day for new plants which are beginning to grow and to enjoy our flowers for the few months we have them each summer.

Thanks again for your work.

Yours sincerely  
Neil and Ann Alexander.  
Avonlea, SK.

[Ed. Note: Thank you so much for your reply to the survey-2010 and for sharing your garden with us. It is great to hear from our members.

Good air circulation certainly reduces the chances of the fungal disease –Botrytis so strong winds can be good! I certainly agree with you about trying ‘something new’ in plants – the good surprises out weigh the disappointments. Doing that ‘first spring garden check’

is the greatest feeling after a long winter. Again thank you for your comments. I hope that more members will be motivated to write about their gardening experiences once they have read Neil & Ann’s note. MED]

## ***Fasciation***

Fasciation is an abnormal form of growth that happens in a number of plant groups through out the world. It is happening this year in my garden – the plant showing fasciation is the martagon lily ‘Rosalinda’.

How do I know fasciation is occurring? ‘Rosalinda’ is showing the classic signs

- \* The growth point is rigid and circular
- \* The stem is flat and ribbon-shaped
- \* The stem appears as though several have fused to form one
- \* The inflorescence (just forming as it is early June) will have many more than the normal number of blooms

There are a number of causes of fasciation:

\* Genetic mutation: a single recessive gene controls this growth pattern. In many plants the expression of the gene depends on environmental factors and fasciation only occurs when the right environmental conditions are present – as in the case of Swiss chard /Beta cicla. However, the best example of genetic mutation causing consistent fasciation is the annual cock’s comb/Celosia argentea cristata. Fasciation always occurs making this

a very popular showy annual.

\* Natural Environmental factors: there are a number that can cause fasciation. Insects and/or fungi attack, bacterial infections, low temperatures, mineral deficiency, water shortage, singly or in combination these can trigger fasciation.

\* Artificial factors: there are a number that can cause fasciation - mechanical injury such as decapitation of seedling, defoliation, wounding the growth point, application of growth regulators, polyploidy agents, and ionizing radiation.

In the case of ‘Rosalinda’ natural factor(s) is probably the cause of the fasciation. Low temperature at a critical period of growth is my guess. The good news is two fold – a really unusual lily stem this year and back to normal next year! MED.

[Editor: For more details and references on fasciation see The North American Lily Society Quarterly Bulletin Vol.63 No.4 December 2009; and The Facts on File Dictionary of Botany, Elizabeth Toothill, and Market House Books Ltd.]

## ***Special Awards***

In 2011 CPLS granted three special awards. Two of the awards were CPLS- Honourary Life Memberships and one was the North American Lily Society Regional Service Medal.

All three recipients have been long serving members in the Canadian Prairie Lily Society and advocates of the genus Lilium.

Barbara Adams-Eichendorf: awarded an Honourary Life Membership. Barbara has been a member since 1994. She has served as: vice-president and president of CPLS, NALS Awards Co-Chairperson for the

NALS Show, Saskatoon (1998), NALS director, CPLS director, current Past-President CPLS and Chairperson of CPLS Annual Lily Show; NALS Judge. She also has participated in numerous “bulb diggings & transplant projects in the CPLS plots; grows, shows and hybridizes lilies; gives talks on the genus Lilium; and participates any CPLS activities that required help. Congratulations Barbara and thank you for all you have contributed to CPLS.

Sharon Newton: awarded an Honourary Life Membership. Sharon has been a member since 1996. She is currently serving as secretary (1996-2011),

established and maintain the photo albums displayed at out shows and sales, clerks at annual lily shows, works at set-up/take-down of shows and bulb sales; grows, shows lily stems and floral art designs; packs bulbs and pre-computer handmade labels for sale bulbs; and participates in any CPLS activity that requires help. Congratulations Sharon and thank you for all your contributions to CPLS.

Margaret Driver: awarded NALS Regional Service Medal. Margaret has been a member since 1982. She

is currently President of CPLS and has served as secretary, newsletter editor, director. She grows and shows lilies; NALS Judge. She also has participated in numerous "bulb diggings & transplant projects in the CPLS plots; gives talks on the genus *Lilium*; and participates in any CPLS activities that required help. Congratulations Margaret and thank you for all your contributions to CPLS.

## Coming Events

JULY 9th

Manitoba Regional Lily Society Martagon Lily & Annual Lily Show – The show will be held at the Kildonan Shopping Centre, Regent Avenue, Winnipeg, MB

JULY 13th -17th

North American Lily Society 64th International Lily Show & Symposium: The show will be hosted by the Ontario Regional Lily Society & Royal Botanical Gardens and held at the Royal Botanical Gardens, 680 Plains Road West, Burlington Ontario.

Convention Chairman is: Dr. Brian Bergman NALS2011Chair@orls.ca. Visit NALS 2011 website: [www.lilies.org](http://www.lilies.org)

JULY 21st – 23rd

Canadian Prairie Lily Society Annual Lily Show: The show will be held at The Mall at Lawson Heights, 134 Primrose Drive, Saskatoon. See details in the June newsletter.

July 17th

Lilies in Bloom: Honeywood (Dr. A.J. Porter) Heritage Nursery: 1:00-5:00pm. See [www.honeywood-lilies.ca](http://www.honeywood-lilies.ca) for more information.

JULY 22nd - 24th

NEEPAWA LILY FESTIVAL: 'Fantasy in Bloom' will be held in Neepawa, Manitoba. For more information

visit the festival website: [www.lilyfestival.com](http://www.lilyfestival.com)

JULY 2011

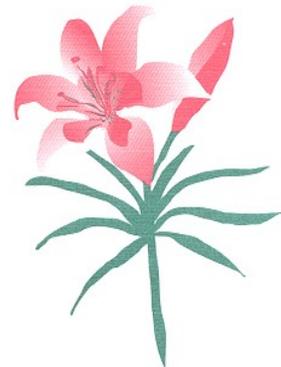
Hillcrest Harmony Flowers Open Garden Tours: These tours are NO LONGER being held.

September

A Touch of Autumn: Honeywood Heritage Nursery (Dr. A. J. Porter). See [www.honeywood-lilies.ca](http://www.honeywood-lilies.ca) for more information.

September 30th & October 1st

Canadian Prairie Lily Society Public Fall Bulb Sale: The sale will be held at The Mall at Lawson Heights, Saskatoon. More Information will appear in the September Newsletter.



## ***CPLS 2011 Executive and Broad of Directors***

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## **HELP WANTED**

HELP WANTED for CPLS LILY PLOT: The CPLS lily plot at the University of Saskatchewan needs maintenance throughout the growing season. The plot is used to maintain a stock of historically important lilies for future hybridization and to supply many of the older reliable lily bulbs we use to sell in our sales (monies going to fund the Society's scholarships, newsletter and annual show, etc).

Our current plot manager Stan Dunville would greatly appreciate having members volunteer to help with maintenance this coming season. Time required of a volunteer is not great when many hands are present to help with the work. The times can be easily arranged for individuals to volunteer – usually an hour or so/ weekly or bi-weekly. So, if you like to garden spend some extra time out doors and help your Society maintain its plots please contact: Stan Dunville (306) 343-1963 or Email: [sdunville@shaw.ca](mailto:sdunville@shaw.ca)

HELP WANTED for ANNUAL LILY SHOW:

Help is required to stage this year's lily show. Volunteers are needed to help set up and take down the show and clerks to record judging results, etc. To help with the show contact Barbara Adams-Eichendorf at (306) 947-2830; email: [barbae@sasktel.net](mailto:barbae@sasktel.net)

HELP WANTED for the INFORMATION DESK at

## **help your society**

the ANNUAL LILY SHOW

Members are needed to work at the information desk during the lily show. The work period is 2-3 hours and the time slots vary. Your help will be greatly appreciated. Contact: Leona Domshy at (306) 382-5148; email: [domshyl@shaw.ca](mailto:domshyl@shaw.ca)

HELP WANTED for FALL BULB SALES: Help with the bulb sales (digging, packaging, preparing orders, etc) is not needed till early September but planning in advance is oft times necessary. More detailed information will be in the September newsletter.

HELP WITH THE RED LILY BEETLE WATCH

Please keep watch for the Red Lily Beetle in your gardens. The adult is 8mm long with a bright red body, black head and legs. The larvae are dirty orange with black heads and may reach up to 8-10mm and resemble bird droppings. Hopefully you will not find any in your garden.

If find the beetle in and around the Saskatoon area please contact: Bonnie Lawrence (306) 373-8674; email: [blawrence@sasktel.net](mailto:blawrence@sasktel.net)

## **From the 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 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.

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***Lilies I want to enter in the Annual Show***

***Awards I won at the Annual Show***