



Canadian Prairie Lily Society

Newsletter

MARCH 2000

Number 89

Canadian Prairie Lily Society: the History

Ten lily enthusiasts met on April 1, 1967 at the Horticulture Headerhouse on the University of Saskatchewan Campus to elect a steering committee to stage a centennial lily show in Saskatoon on July 13, and 14, 1967. Held in the auditorium of Kirk Hall on campus, the subsequent show drew a colorful entry of 214 stems, and introduced the public to the tremendous possibilities of the genus *Lilium*.

At that show, the committee held another meeting at which it was decided to eliminate the confusion over some of the Patterson lilies which carried different names and to register ten Patterson seedlings with the Royal Horticulture Society in 1968 and 1969. A collection of 311 bulbs was subsequently planted on Horticulture Department grounds to sort out the nomenclature of the Patterson bulbs, and some of these remain on site to this day. It was also decided to hold a second show in July 1968.

Shows and meetings of the group were held over the next few years. In July 1969, we set up an informative display at the Saskatoon Exhibition, which produced a very good attendance at our July 21-22 show at Kirk Hall. The 1970 show featured a display of all the newly registered Patterson lilies. The April 1971 annual meeting featured the presentation of the Award of Merit from the Western Canadian Society for Horticulture to A. J. (Bert) Porter for his lilies, 'Orange Light' and 'Redland'. For the 1971 show, the Grand Aggregate Trophy was inaugurated and Bert Porter became the first recipient.

Membership in the first five years was informal, attendance and interest the only requirements. The roster gradually grew to 13 enthusiasts. Over the 1972-73 winter Herb Sunley prepared a proposed set of bylaws for the fledgling organization. On May 28, 1973, the members reviewed and amended the bylaws and officially formed the Canadian Prairie Lily Society. Officers elected included Herb Sunley, President; Bert Porter, Vice-President; Dr. Ed Maginnes, Secretary; Art Delahey, Treasurer; and Herb Sunley, Newsletter Editor. Other founding members at that meeting included: Don McPhedran, Dave Robinson, Bob Caldwell, R.B. (Pops) McCombs, and Eugene Mossman.

The summer of 1973 was notable in that our July 13-14 show held at Kirk Hall was attended by many new supporters including Fred Tarlton from Edmonton, thereby confirming that we were truly a prairie-wide lily society. It was also marked by the publication of the first newsletter in September, which listed the first bulb sale of 12 (yes, twelve) bulbs. Their sale and the first paid memberships finally gave the role of treasurer some importance. Records show receipts of \$268.40, no expenses and 34 members with 1 from Manitoba, 11 from Alberta, 22 from Saskatchewan. The addition of 1 from Latvia, 3 from Manitoba, 3 from Alberta, and 4 from Saskatchewan swelled the ranks to 46 by the end of the year.

Due to increasing interest and entries, our shows were moved to the Sturdy-Stone Building Mall in the middle of 1970s and thereafter to the current Market

Mall location. The show was expanded to three days during that time and entries have approached 500 stems on several occasions.

Over the years, projects and committee chairpersons have been added. A library was established to offer access to lily literature and deserving books and periodicals are added annually. A photography project was undertaken to photograph and identify all lilies grown in our area and two sets of slides and prints now record over 600 cultivars. A donation of old cultivars from the Dominion Experimental Farm at Indian Head, Saskatchewan started the heritage gardens where we collect and grow varieties hybridized by the "lily pioneers" and, in which we hope to re-establish all of the registered Patterson varieties. CPLS has also set up an archive collection of information pertinent to the growth of our of our society. More recently we have established an annual scholarship to be awarded to the worthiest candidate majoring in horticulture at the University of Saskatchewan (since this article was written, CPLS in 1999 established another annual scholarship to be awarded to worthy student studying horticultur at Olds Agriculture College, Olds Alberta). Bulb sales are held each fall, drawing bulbs from our heritage plots, and contributing a significant portion of our annual revenue. Our Society publishes four

informative newsletters annually and the quality of the publication is now drawing members from across North America.

CPLS members are proud to have staged three North American Lily Society Shows. The first in 1977 and the second in 1984 were staged at the Education Building on the university campus. Our 1998 show moved to the Sheraton Cavalier Hotel. All were great successes in various ways involving good representations of lilies across North America, the starting and renewing of friendships, and the historical and education tours associated with the shows. With our present active executive and increasing membership (currently 230), CPLS members confidently look ahead to a second 25 years of expansion of knowledge and interest in the genus *Lilium*.

This article was written by A.E.(Art) Delahey and Herbert E. Sunley and first appeared in The Lily Yearbook of the North American Lily Society, Inc. 1998.



Latest Honourary Life Members of CPLS

At the 51st annual NALS show held in Saskatoon, July 1998, the Canadian Prairie Lily Society presented Honourary Life Memberships to three of our members during the Awards banquet. The honoured members were: John Bond, Art Delahey, and Stan Dunville. Prairie Canada is noted for its public-minded spirit and voluntarism. These three gentlemen have gone beyond what is amusingly referred to in volunteer groups as the twenty-percent solution. They and several others represent the eight-percent solution for CPLS.

These gentlemen share a common heritage of being raised on farms, John near Leask in the Aspen Parkland, Art on the Regina plains near Tuxford and Stan in the low rolling hills near Raymore. These fellows saw garden duty, in a garden usually of several acres, both as pre-teens and teenagers. The gardens included

vegetables, flowers and fruit bearing shrubs which required their skills in cultivating, planting, weeding and harvesting. Also as Stan pointed out, the duties included "potato bug" patrol. In the flower portion of the garden of the 1930s and 40s, was the ubiquitous orange lily which in most cases was *Lilium hollandicum*. If you were lucky, as both John and Stan were, in the adjacent pastures were large stands of *Lilium philadelphicum* var. *andium*. A little background on each of our recipients will provide some insight into the success of CPLS.

John Bond was introduced to Bert Porter as a pre-teen; he was amazed at the variety of flowering forbs, shrubs and trees at Porters. In 1943, John received his B. Sc. in Agriculture at the University of Saskatchewan. He next found himself as Lieutenant John Bond, South Saskatchewan regiment, on his way to England and the

European theatre. Returning from Europe in 1945, John joined the Department of Veteran Affairs, Veterans Land Administration where he served until the early 1980s. He was posted to Prince Albert, Saskatchewan; Ottawa, Ontario; and Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. John and his colleagues were responsible for the settlement of returning veterans. His degree in agriculture came into play as those who wished to take up farming found him an excellent liaison with extension staff of Agriculture Canada and the provincial agriculture branch. In Prince Albert, John and Betty had a half-acre garden plot with a variety of lilies, flowering and fruit-bearing shrubs and vegetables. John attained the rank of Lt-Colonel in the North Saskatchewan regiment, a militia unit (the American equivalent of the National Guard). When John was transferred to Ottawa, there was no yard area for a flower or vegetable garden, so they rented a small plot for vegetables. Upon his return to Saskatoon, flowers became king, including a small patch of yellow lady slippers, *Cypripedium calceolus* var. *pubescens*. John joined CPLS in 1987 and played a major role in the organization and execution of the spring and fall bulb sales of the Society including digging, packaging and mailing. He was also an active member of the Golden Eagles, the senior birding group of the Saskatoon Natural History Society.

Art Delahey, the youngest of these three, graduated in 1954 from the College of Agriculture, University of Saskatchewan. One of Art's instructors, was Dr. Cecil Patterson and he offered a class Art thoroughly enjoyed. This class was very interesting because the content dealt with the experimental hybridizing Dr. Patterson was conducting on a variety of plants as part of the lecture material. This experience, training and contacts were to lead to the formation of the Canadian Prairie Lily Society. Art is a very successful businessman. At Federated Co-Op, a western Canada company, he rose to the office of Vice-President of Marketing. He left that to establish Holiday Village Travel, and concurrently operated Riverside Gardens from his acreage at Riverside Estates. Art is an avid scratch golfer and has served as captain and president of Saskatchewan's most prestigious club, Riverside Golf and Country Club. Art, along with eight other individuals, including Bert Porter, Eugene Mossman, Ed Maginnes, Herb Sunley, Bob Caldwell and Pops McCombs established CPLS in 1967.

The energy and vision of this group even included

imparting advice during the establishment of regional lily societies in Alberta, Manitoba and South Saskatchewan. Art has served as Treasurer of CPLS since its inception. He has been instrumental in the organization of the three NALS shows hosted by CPLS. He has provided agronomic techniques of the maintenance of our three lily plots. He was instrumental in the establishment of the lily plot at Indian Head Saskatchewan for the Canadian Department of Agriculture. Most significantly, through the astute purchase in the mid-1960s, Art became the saviour of the majority of Dr Patterson's lily planting outside of the University of Saskatchewan ground. Art and the CPLS have built on the latter by attempting to collect and maintain all of the Patterson registered crosses.

Stan Dunville was not only an avid gardener on his parent's farm, but also became a young machinist and mechanic thanks to the tutoring of a brother-in-law. After graduating from Raymore High School, Stan enlisted in the Royal Canadian Airforce in the summer of 1940. Basic and mechanical training occurred at RCAF Station, St. Thomas, Ontario. His initial posting was to a bombing squadron in New Waterford, Nova Scotia. Because of his abilities, he was promoted in 1942 to Sergeant. In 1942, he was posted to England to RCAF Thunderbird Squadron where he served as Flight Sergeant. Returning to Canada in 1945, he worked for Western Tractor in Saskatoon, then opened a service station, and eventually became head of service of Asphalt Service Ltd until his retirement in 1985. The Bonds and Dunvilles are close friends. Stan met his wife Nell through Lorne McKellar when Nell was working with John and Lorne in the Prince Albert office of the Veterans Land Administration. On one occasion when the Bonds visited Saskatoon, Stan and Nell loaned them their house. John returned the favor by sending Dunvilles an assortment of lily bulbs from Bert Porter. More orange lilies thought Stan! No! A fantastic assortment of whites, yellows, and reds appeared the following summer. These were added to the garden which contained a variety of fruit trees, flowers and vegetables and became the envy of the neighbourhood. In 1989, Judy Toews, John's daughter, insisted that Stan enter stems in the CPLS show. Nell and Lorne McKellar selected a series of lilies as Stan was away. Four ribbons resulted.

This was the thrust Stan needed to join CPLS. Hybridizing became a major interest to Stan. This past

wo lilies, 'Nellie's Choice' and 'Debra Jeanne' were registered with the Royal Horticulture Society. Stan has designed and made the majority of stem holders, cardholders, and section dividers for CPLS shows. He has maintained the CPLS Heritage Plot at the University of Saskatchewan with some assistance from Ed Driver. Stan and Nell have been tireless workers at the CPLS shows, contributed time to the fall bulb sales and contributed in a major way to the CPLS photography and identification project. Stan is also an avid golfer and is involved with his church organizing garage sales and maintenance. One of Stan's many interesting

inventions is a simple golf ball pendulum which when set correctly lets you know whether you slice or hook. Constructed for less than five dollars it saves spending on products advertised for \$100 or more!

Margaret Driver is secretary and newsletter editor of the Canadian Prairie Lily Society. Margaret was co-chair of the 1998 NALS show in Saskatoon. This article first appeared in The Lily Yearbook of The North American Lily Society, Inc. 1998.



Where Does it all go?

Art Delahey, CPLS Treasurer

Every year or so members send in their annual membership dues when advised that their subscriptions have expired. How many have ever wondered what happens to those payments? Probably many.

The renewals of about 240 members at \$ 5.00 per year is a small start towards covering our annual expenditures of \$5-6,000. Our biggest receipts come from the annual fall bulb sales to members firstly, and later to the general public at shopping mall locations in Saskatoon. Another big fund-raiser comes through our sales at Gardenscape, the spring garden show in Saskatoon, where bulbs cold-stored over winter are offered. Lily books, pins and T-shirts make up most of the balance. We are therefore indebted to our volunteers for gladly donating their time to stage these events.

But what comes in usually manages to find the way out. Membership renewals just nicely cover the costs of supplies, printing and postage associated with the newsletters. Staging our annual July lily show seems to cost more each year but generally amounts to about 15% of expenses. We buy some bulbs occasionally to supply some of the latest introductions. (Attendees at the Annual General Meeting get first choice on some of these bulbs). Each year we try to photograph each new introduction of any previously unphotographed

varieties - costs vary depending on the willingness of our photographic crew to burn film. We have to buy supplies for the bulb sales - bags, tags, and strapping - and then there's postage.

But, by far, the biggest portion of our funds goes into two areas which help support the horticulture industry. Firstly, CPLS provided two annual scholarships worth \$1,000 each. One is awarded in memory of Andy Dingwall to a third-year student in Horticulture at the University of Saskatchewan, while the other is similarly awarded to a third-year student at Olds College in Alberta. This scholarship is given in memory of Dr. J. M. (Milt) Bell, an animal scientist who set up and supervised our photography project. Andy started and donated all of his lilies to the CPLS plot located at Don and Shirley McKercher's farm, which supplies some of our bulb-sale stocks.

Secondly, we assist projects by providing grants to researchers working with the *Lilium* species. In the past a grant was made to the U of S Horticulture Dept. to help Dr. Ken Giles complete some lily propagation testing. We have approved a grant to the Western Red Lily Project (to Ann Leighton and Beckie Lawrence), a study of the factors affecting the growth of our Saskatchewan lily, *L. philadelphicum* in central and northern areas of the province.

With these large commitments on top of our operational costs it is essential that revenues be maintained at a high level. That takes effort on the part of many willing volunteers. Many hands make the work



Current CPLS Executive

PRESIDENT	e-mail: putld@sk.sympatico.ca
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PAST PRESIDENT	Art Delahey 18 Pony Trail Riverside Estates, SK S7T 1A2 (306) 374 0494 e-mail: delahey@home.com
J. Paul Stevens Site 512, Box 1 R.R. 5 Saskatoon, SK S7H 3J8 (306) 374 9265	SECRETARY
VICE-PRESIDENT	Margaret Driver 22 Red River Road Saskatoon, SK S7K 1G3 (306) 242 5329 e-mail: edriver@sk.sympatico.ca
Diann Putland Box 24 Churchbridge, SK S0A 0M0 (306) 896 2992	



Membership Renewal.....

Your membership expiry date can be found in the **lower right corner** of the address label on your newsletter.

When your membership comes due a red stamp saying "*Membership expired Time to renew!*" will appear on the front page of your newsletter. A renewal form accompanies the December newsletter for your convenience.

One year membership is \$5.00, 2 year membership is \$10.00. To renew send your cheque to:
CPLS Treasurer, A.E. Delahey, 18 Pony Trail, Riverside Estates, Saskatchewan, Canada S7T 1A2.

E-mail Art at: rivgardlilies@home.com

From the Editor's Desk....

Here comes spring a time for renewal. The days are getting longer, garden supply catalogues are filling the mailbox and decisions have to be made! Here are the addresses for three very tempting catalogues - you are sure to find at least one lily in each catalogue you must try!

Hillcrest Harmony Flowers
Box 24
Churchbridge, SK. S0A 0M0

Parkland Perennials
Box 506

Bruderheim, AB. T0B 0S0

The Lily Nook
Box 846
Neepawa, MB. R0J 1H0

This will be my last newsletter as Editor. It has been a challenge to get the "letter" out but an enjoyable one nevertheless. Also I wish to thank those who submitted articles and to my husband for his help.



CPLS LIBRARY CORNER.....

Do you have questions about your favourite flower, the Lily?

Would you like to read information about the early history of lily hybridizing?

Are you having difficulty in understanding the "new" terms - polyploidy, tetras, 2x4?

Or, would you just enjoy reading about parents, pod and/or pollen that is?

The Canadian Prairie Lily Society has a Library of books ALL pertain to the Lily.

If you require specific information I'll do my best to find

it for you.

Books will be mailed via first class postage, insured; as soon as possible after receiving your request. We ask that within three weeks you return the books in the same manner, via first class postage, insured.

Address your request to:

CPLS Librarian
Diann Putland
Box 24, Churchbridge, SK, S0A 0M0
Call: 306-896-2992

e-mail: putld@sk.sympatico.ca

Diann Putland.

President's Message

Another winter is almost over and spring will be a welcome change! Be sure to take in Gardenscape this year- Jim Sullivan has been working hard on updating our display and I am sure it will look great! Another event coming up soon is our annual general meeting, at Dutch Growers Garden Centre on April 10th. Be sure to mark that evening on your calendar - the business part of the meeting will be very short, and then we'll visit, see some slides and share gardening stories.

As many of you already know, Margaret and Ed Driver are moving to Manitoba later this year. Margaret has been a tremendous asset to CPLS. She has served as our Secretary, Show Chairperson, and Newsletter Editor for more than a decade. She has also dedicated a great deal of her time to other aspects of CPLS such as cataloguing the contents of lily plots. She has been a strong and steady force in our society and she will be greatly missed. Ed has served as a director of CPLS for the past several years and has offered his expertise and innovative ideas at our executive meetings, as well as digging expertise at bulb sale time. Ed also has spent a lot of time helping

with the newsletter. On behalf of the CPLS, I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to Margaret and Ed for all of their years of hard work and dedication, and wish them many years of contentment and happy gardening in their new yard.

Also, on a personal note, I would like to say thank you to Margaret for being a mentor to me and for patiently answering my questions, no matter how ridiculous she thought they were!

Margaret's departure leaves a large void in our executive and if any of our members feel that they can take on the job of secretary or newsletter editor, please contact me. The success of our society depends on membership involvement, so if you feel that you can dedicate some time to CPLS in one of these positions or as a director please let me know.

If you have some slides or snapshots of your yard that you would like to share, bring them along to the AGM, and we can dream of the coming summer as we enjoy memories of summers past.

Barbara Adams-Eichendorf.



Coming Events.....

March 18,2000

MANITOBA REGIONAL LILY SOCIETY. **Spring Seminar.** Royal Canadian Legion Hall, 425 Brown Ave, Neepawa MB. Registration - \$25.00 - includes coffee breaks, and noon feast. To register send your cheque to: MRLS c/o Marlene Puls, 99 Macalester Bay, Winnipeg, MB. R3T 2X6.

March 31, April 1 and 2, 2000

GARDENSCAPE'2000. Saskatoon's Annual Spring Gardening Show will be held at the Trade Centre Building - Saskatoon Prairieland Exhibition, Saskatoon, SK. CPLS will be taking part in this annual event. Volunteers are needed to help with our booth. If you can help please contact: Bob Caldwell, 374-2873.

April 10,2000

CANADIAN PRAIRIE LILY SOCIETY. **Annual General Meeting** - Spring Fling! will be held on Monday, April 10, at the **Dutch Growers Garden Centre** 685 Reid Road, Saskatoon, SK. The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. All members are welcome. A Special discount for purchases of lilies will be made to members attending this meeting!

April 15, 2000

SOUTH SASKATCHEWAN LILY SOCIETY. Spring Seminar. Wascana Rehabilitation Centre, 2180 23rd Ave, Regina, SK. Registration 8:30 a.m. - \$10.00 for members, \$15.00 for non-members. Speaker is Edward McRae.

June 29 - July 2, 2000

NORTH AMERICAN LILY SOCIETY. Annual Lily Show and Symposium is sponsored by the Pacific Northwest Lily Society. The show will be held at the Monarch Hotel, Clackamas, Oregon. For more information call Mary Hoffman - 503 656 1575 or Madeleine Robertson - 503 873 4748 . The schedule of events and show classes will arrive with the March QB sent to NALS members.

July 28 and 29, 2000

ARLS FIFTEENTH ANNUAL LILY SHOW at the Bonnie Doon Shopping Centre, 83rd Street and 82nd Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta.

July 8 - July 9, 2000

FIFTH ANNUAL MARTAGON LILY SHOW. An ARLS event at the Devonian Botanic Gardens, Edmonton, Alberta.

July 21 and 22, 2000

SOUTH SASKATCHEWAN LILY SOCIETY ANNUAL LILY SHOW will be held at Victoria Square Mall. Regina.

July 20,21 & 22, 2000

CANADIAN PRAIRIE LILY SOCIETY ANNUAL LILY SHOW will be held at *The Mall at Lawson Heights,134 Primrose Drive, Saskatoon.* More information in June newsletter.

July 21 and 22, 2000

MANITOBA REGIONAL LILY SOCIETY ANNUAL LILY SHOW, Neepawa, Manitoba.

NEEPAWA LILY FESTIVAL will be held in conjunction with the MRLS show.

