

Canadian Prairie Lily Society

Newsletter

March 2002

Number 97

International Lily Show

New Zealand 2002

Barbara Adams-Eichendorf

After the drought in Saskatchewan for the past few seasons, it was wonderful to visit a country that was lush and green. The hotel where I stayed in Christchurch, New Zealand (NZ) was only a short walk away from the park and Botanical Garden, where I spent quite a bit of time walking and taking photos. Every home seemed to have a gardener in residence as the yards were a riot of colour with everything from tea roses to dahlias and impatiens. The season for Asiatic lilies was almost finished with only the late bloomers in evidence. The *L. lancifolium* in both its single and double forms was quite vigorous, and I often found myself looking up at the flowers, on stems more than 6 feet high. The most commonly grown lilies seemed to be trumpets, orientals and orientpets. They certainly did well in the conditions where they were grown, and I was surprised that the incidence of botrytis was not high.

During the week that I spent on the South Island I had the opportunity to take in two Lily Shows, one in Christchurch and one in Timaru, which is south of Christchurch on the east coast. The staging of the shows was quite similar to our own, although they used glass bottles in place of stemholders and also used a unique method of displaying florets.

For me, one of the most interesting parts of the conference was meeting lily lovers from all over the world and being able to speak to people whose names were familiar to me from reading NALS Yearbooks and other literature relating to lilies. I must admit that I was a bit star-struck!

The speakers at the conference represented many different countries and shared a wealth of knowledge with us during their presentations. Dr. Alan Leslie, the Registrar for genus *Lilium* at the Royal Horticulture Society in the UK, presented a detailed analysis of the process of registering lilies as well as some wonderful slides of the RHS Gardens. Dr. Leslie will be stepping aside as lily registrar after approximately 20 years of service, due to the fact that he is also responsible for the registry of several other genera. The lily registry will be taken over by Victoria Matthews, of whom Dr Leslie spoke very highly. Ed McRae of Oregon, who is the President of the Species Lily Preservation Group as well as one of the foremost authorities on lilies in the world, gave a presentation of species lilies with slides and descriptions, history, as well as care recommendations, all coloured by his dry Scottish sense of humour.

Canada was well represented in attendance as well as



White sand beach on the east coast, Coromandel Peninsula

in speakers. Dr. Wilbert Ronald of Manitoba presented slides and information about the interdivisional hybridizing work in which he is involved. He explained the importance of embryo rescue in crosses involving species or groups of lilies that are not closely related. When crosses are made between distantly related parents, the resulting embryos often abort before reaching maturity. In order to save these embryos they must be removed from the pod before they abort and placed in tissue culture to continue growing. The embryos which result from these crosses are often naked, meaning that they do not have an endosperm or food supply or sometimes the endosperm is abnormal and so the embryo must be cultured in a



Sanitarium Show Gardens, Christchurch

sterile nutritive medium in order to survive. Dick Bazett of Kelowna, BC also spoke about his work with interdivisional hybrids and showed beautiful slides of his lilies.

One of the most interesting speakers at the conference was Dr. Tadeshi Takeda of Japan. He gave a presentation about the white species lilies native to Japan and showed maps outlining the sometimes very limited areas where each lily was found. He also showed some amazing slides of lilies in their natural habitat in Japan. We all know that lilies like good drainage; they certainly got drainage growing on the sides of almost vertical cliffs. Because Japan is a country of very limited space, few people grow lilies in their gardens. But because of this limited space, there is a huge market for cut flowers. *Lilium* x 'Formolongi'



Avon River, Christchurch

hybrids are used exten

sively for this cut flower market, these are hybrids between *L. formosanum* and *L. longiflorum* (the Easter Lily). These two species are very quick growers and a blooming plant can be produced from seed in 6 months, under ideal conditions. We can certainly understand the value of such a fast maturity rate to commercial cut flower growers.

Norgart Martschinke presented slides and spoke about her work with American species and hybrids, including *L. superbum* and *L. pardalinum*. She has a very great passion for the American species and I had an opportunity to ask her what made these lilies so



At the Lily Show in Christchurch

appealing to her. Her answer was simple. "Their holiday! beauty" was her reply.

Although they were not scheduled speakers, Peter Schenk and Arie Peterse of Holland had brought along slides which they shared with us. I was particularly interested in Peter's slides as he has done a lot of work with the 'Tango' pattern in lilies and I find that pattern to be very beautiful.

Our trip to NZ was a wonderful holiday in a beautiful country with friendly people and great weather, and yes, we are returning next January for another

Presidents Message.....

Lilies in January!!! I had the very great pleasure of spending the month of January in New Zealand. I attended the International Lily Conference in Christchurch, NA from January 11-14, 2002 and then stayed on for a holiday with husband and nieces.

Attending the Lily Conference was an amazing experience and I often felt that I should pinch myself to see if I was dreaming. I had an opportunity to chat

with many learned lily people and to listen to presentations on a variety of different topics relating to lilies. The conference and related activities were well organized, and the little bit of rain that we encountered certainly didn't dampen any spirits. I found it quite humorous that the NZ Lily Society people kept apologizing for the weather; 18 degrees C with a bit of rain. They were quite taken aback when I explained to them that our Saskatchewan Zone 2

temperature extremes ranged for -40C in winter to +40C in summer.

The first chore that I needed to attend to when I returned was planting my lily seeds from hybridizing done in 2001. The hot dry summer really helped the setting of seed and I fear that more lawn will need to be removed to make room for this new batch of seedlings.

Gardenscape is on from March 22 -24, 2002. I hope that many of you will attend as this is usually a great time to think and plan for the upcoming gardening season and to visit with the many gardening friends who take in the event. If you have some spare time

that weekend to work in the CPLS booth, your help would be very much appreciated. Please contact Bob Caldwell at (306) 374-2873.

I hope all of you are taking a few moments to dream about the upcoming gardening season and all of the beauty that your gardens offer you during those few precious months!

Barbara.

Corrections.....

In the December 2001 newsletter article - Memories of A.J. Porter, the lily 'Towering Turk' was listed as one of Bert's hybrids, our error. 'Towering Turk' was hybridized, named and introduced by Percy Wright and first listed in the 1975 Honeywood Lily catalogue.

named by Percy Wright and Bert Porter in 1969. No hybridizer was listed in the RHS Lily registered. They probably worked on the lily hybrid together and neither took credit. [CPLS Ed.]

'Flame' was missed in the listing. It was registered and

Coming events.....

MARCH 22, 23 & 24, 2002

GARDENSCAPE'2002: 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.

MARCH 23, 2002

MANITOBA REGIONAL LILY SOCIETY: Spring Seminar & Annual General Meeting. Westward Inn, Portage la Prairie, Manitoba. Speaker: Dick Bazett of Kelowna BC. 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.

APRIL 15, 20012

CANADIAN PRAIRIE LILY SOCIETY: Annual General Meeting & Spring Fling! will be held on Monday, April 15, at the Dutch Growers Garden Centre, 685 Reid Road, Saskatoon, SK. The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. Speaker : Barbara Adams-Eichendorf - "Lilies in Botanical Gardens in New Zealand. Question & Answer Session. Bring your questions, photographs, and your gardening expertise. All

members are Welcome, come and meet the gang at Dutch Growers!

APRIL 20, 2002

ALBERTA REGIONAL LILY SOCIETY: Annual General Meeting & Spring Seminar. April 20 at the Holiday Inn, The Palace, 4235 Calgary Trail North, Edmonton, Alberta.

HONEYWOOD (Dr. A. J. Porter) HERITAGE NURSERY: Tree Pruning Seminar will be given by Clarence Peters, Provincial Horticulturalist. For more information contact: Judy Harley at 1-306-747-3522

From the editors desk.....

Your newsletter Editors would like to hear from you to help make the newsletter better. What would you like to see in the "letter"? A Question & answer column A SWAP column ? ETC. A 'snail' mail letter or an 'e-mail' message is all that it takes. Your input is greatly appreciated.

The CPLS executive would also appreciate some input from the members - What events would you like to see your society organize? Information meetings- topics of interest? when? where? Garden tours when? where? Other ideas for society activities?

Articles (long or short) from the membership are always welcome. If you have material you would like to share with others your editors would welcome them.

Any article submitted will be considered for publication, please include your name and a complete address. Newsletter **DEADLINES** are February 15, May 15, August 15 and November 15. So get pen to paper, fingers to keyboard and send your words to :

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HELP NEEDED !!!!!!!!

A successful society is a result of membership participation. CPLS needs its members input to remain a successful, viable society. There are specific areas in which members can volunteer their expertise and hands. Remember - many hands lighten the load.

Here are some areas in which you may be able to help CPLS in the coming year -

1. GARDENSCAPE 2002 - Gardenscape is on from March 22 -24, 2002. Your help would be very much appreciated that weekend to work in the CPLS booth, Please contact Bob Caldwell at (306) 374 2873.

2. LILY PLOT MAINTENANCE - Plot managers need help with weeding and general plot maintenance during June, July and August. For details as to how you may help please call Stan Dunville at 343-1963.

3. LILY SHOW CO-CHAIRPERSON - if you are interested in the "inner workings" of how to stage a lily show now is your chance! Our current show chairerson would like an assistant for details on how you can help contact Barbara Adams-Eichendorf (306) 947 2830.

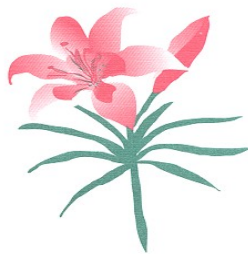
4. LILY PHOTOGRAPHS - CPLS has an on going Lily photography project and would appreciate help from members at large. CPLS is attempting to photograph or obtain photos of the many different lilies grown in the prairies. If you have any spare prints (4"x"6) of lilies grown in your garden the project would greatly appreciate your donation. The prints must be sharp and clearly depict the lily; it is essential that the lily is identified. Negatives are also welcome, make sure

they are identified so they can be returned to you. The photos are displayed at bulb sales, shows and public events and those looking at the albums want to know the lily's name. Send your spare "snaps" to: CPLS Photos/ C. Dodd, 3319 Ortana St., Saskatoon, SK., S7M 3R7.

"MOST WANTED LISTED" - Accent, Artistic, Avignon, Barber 17, Batiste, Black Jack, Brandon Brushmark, Brauer Bar, Buff Pixie, Cardinal Colibri, Cordelia, Corsage, Evita, Hermes, Honey Queen, Ibarra, Iberflora, Jewel Pixie, Juanita, Liverpool, Loreto, Massa, Marissa, Minstrel, Minuette, Moneymaker, Mountaineer, My Fair Lady, Navonna, Nepal Nomade, Orange Pixie, Peach Pixie, Prawn Pixie, Presto, Pronto, Puccini, Red Bull, Roual Love, Royal Paradise, Royal Sunset, RubINETTE, Salsa, Sans Raffael, Scarlett, Sinai, Snowstorm, Sprite, Stones, Sunray, Vesper, Wine Pixie. Other photos of named lilies not mentioned in the list are also welcome. Thank you for your participation in this project.

In Memory Of ...

CPLS has made a donation to the Honeywood (A.J. Porter) Heritage Nursery, Parkside Saskatchewan, in memory of the passing of Marion McIntyre (2001), Saskatoon, SK and Hans Jacobi (2002) Salmon Arm, B.C. both long standing and appreciated members of the Canadian Prairie Lily Society.



Four Footed Gardeners !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Cats and dogs can be pests when they enter the garden and proceed to dig around your plantings always the best ones. They especially like nicely tilled areas because the texture of the soil allows for easy digging and covering up poop deposits in the case of cats or bones in the case of dogs. The best way to prevent pets from digging in your garden is to have pet owners keep their cats indoors or their dogs in their yards. Cats do not have to roam outside to have a quality life despite what some owners may say. Our six cats manage very well as indoor pets and many of our friends who are owned by cats do not let their pets outdoors at will. If and when they do go out they do not go outside without their human watchdogs. However, for those cats who do explore the great outdoors there are some humane ways that gardeners can use to control the unwanted "tilling" of the soil. Some of the following tips were found on the Animal Health Care website - www.animalhealthcare.ca.

To stop unwanted digging in your garden alter the texture of the surface with something cats cannot paw at and easily dig a hole in - cover the area with garden cloth (retards weed growth and allows water to pass into the soil) then add a layer of bark chips, decorative stones, or other coarse mulching material. Try a layer of chicken wire buried just under the soil.

The "water treatment" can also be affective. Have the water hose handy and spray the cat "in the act" this is

very effective. This method requires your time and patience but it does work. Cats learn very quickly to avoid unpleasant situations a sharp spray of water is very nasty to a cat. There may be a few that are slow learners but the water treatment is effective. At one time I did see an automated sprinkler system in a gardening catalogue that can be installed and a sprinkler comes on when an intruder enters the area - I believe these were marketed as deterrents for dogs.

Try the "better mousetrap" treatment- place mousetraps upside-down in the affected areas. When the animal enters the area the traps will spring harmlessly and frighten the cat away at the same time.

If the above fail there are humane traps - live traps that can be used. Your local animal control office or animal shelter may have traps you can use. Once the animal is captured it can be returned to their owner (often the slow learner when it comes to animal control) or the animal shelter.

Chemicals as deterrents can be dangerous to all living things and are not a good choice for animal control.

Margaret Driver - owned by six bad-assed cats who love to garden indoors and out!

Honeywood Heritage Nursery : An Update

In the fall of 1999 Honeywood Lilies was purchased by a group of 16 individuals dedicated to the preservation of the life work of Dr. A.J. Porter. The nursery is now Honeywood (Dr. A.J. Porter) Heritage Nursery. In 2000 we received donations from many individuals as well as a few local businesses. We relied on volunteer help and managed to make a slight dent in the enormous task ahead of us. We established the Memorial Garden which will be dedicated to restoring the many varieties of fruit and lilies developed and introduced at Honeywood. We started the cleanup of the buildings and grounds in the main yard.

In the early spring of 2001 it was designated as a Municipal Heritage Site in the Province of Saskatchewan. Once this was accomplished we

applied to the Saskatchewan Heritage foundation for a grant to help restore the buildings and nursery. We received a matching grant of \$10,000 per year for a two year period. Also in the early spring of 2001, we received an anonymous donation of wages for a manager for two seasons. One again we received donations from local people and businesses, of money, time, chemicals, and some equipment.

During the summer we had a work crew from the Saskatchewan Penitentiary come out for four days to start the massive task of clearing the overgrown areas of poplar, caragana, and deadfall. We cleared walking paths throughout the nursery and discovered many wondrous trees, shrubs and flowers. For example the towering Linden trees which were hidden by

caraganas, the yellow fruited chokecherries, the peonies, roses, irises, lilacs and above all else the lilies growing everywhere.

We accomplished a great deal in the year 2001, the house and out buildings have had major renovations completed, the asparagus field has been cleaned up, a start has been made on getting dead and diseased branches out of the trees throughout the orchard. The Memorial Garden has been planted with 36 of 46 varieties of Honeywood lilies, thanks to the help of Diann Putland, the South Sask Lily Society, and numerous other donors. One of the lily fields has been dug up and replanted. we included the many bulbs that were donated, both named and unnamed varieties, to this field giving us approximately 1500 hills of lilies. So with a lot of help from the weather, volunteers and favourable conditions we hope to have a sight to behold once again.

In August, we held a Grand opening and Jamboree. We had local talent for entertainment, a big tent set up for shade, a barbeque supper and tours of the nursery. It was successful beyond our wildest dreams. Planning for 400-500 people we had a sellout crowd at 700. Everyone enjoyed the day, and many expressed gratitude that the nursery is being preserved and restored.

Future plans and Needs

Honeywood Lilies shipped bulbs across Canada and around the world. Dr. Porter is known not only for the many varieties of lilies he developed, but also for his work in developing hardy fruit for the prairies. we are therefore in the beginning stages of applying for National Heritage status.

This spring April 20th we are having a tree pruning seminar sponsored by Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food division with the Provincial Horticulturalist, Clarence Peters doing the Presentation. A week later Honeywood will sponsor a workshop on Dried Flower arranging using flowers dried from your garden.

Throughout the spring and summer when the various trees, fruits and flowers are in bloom we will be hosting open houses, tours and possibly old fashioned tea parties on the lawn, to encourage the public to come and enjoy the many sights of Honeywood.

We plan on having the August Jamboree again, the date is set for August 11, we are hoping to see people from all over the country for this big day.

The Saskatchewan Penitentiary work crew is once again scheduled to come back, this time for two possibly three weeks. So with their help we hope to get a good deal of the dead, overgrown areas cleaned up.

The old orchard is in bad shape so the plan this year is to get some land cleaned up and planted with root stock to graft scions from the old trees, thus preserving the old varieties.

We have a good start on the Memorial garden, but the completion of this project will only happen if we can find the varieties of lilies which are scarce and no longer at Honeywood. Our aim for this garden is to have all of the Honeywood lilies along with his various hardy fruit introductions on display. We are now looking to increase the varieties which we have fewer than 12 bulbs, and to locate and acquire those which are lost to Honeywood.

The needed list is as follows:

Dark Gleam(formerly Dark Gold), Firebright, Redland, Porter's Sunbright, Make Believe(could be lost), Towering Turk, Lady Dawn, Golden Dauricum, Flame, Pink Chartreuse, Princess Royal, Edith Cecilia x Rosabelle #5, Sungod, Saskatoon, Cheerful Charlie, Red Knight, Golden Jubilee, Geisha Girl, Rosabelle, Black Butterfly.

We are hoping someone is still growing some of the lilies we are searching for, and would be willing to donate a few to help us accomplish our goal and complete our Memorial Garden.

The list of work to be done and goals to achieve goes on and on, through it all we will do whatever it takes to attain our principal goal of preserving the legacy left by Dr. A.J. Porter.

HOW TO CONTACT US:

Honeywood (Dr. A.J. Porter) Heritage Nursery, P.O. Box 48, Parkside, SK, S0J 2A0, Canada.

Website: www.honeywood-lilies.com

e-mail: judyharley@sasktel.net Judy Harley, Restoration Manager

Phone: 1-306-747-3522 Judy Harley

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