

Canadian Prairie Lily Society

Newsletter

March 2007

Number 115

President's Message

The day is bright and sunny but once again the air temperature is around -30 Celsius and I don't want to think about wind chill. Enough of the weather, instead let's get into 2007 and ready for the gardening season.

The executive has been working on events for 2007 and hope our members can part take in them. First our **Annual General Meeting** will be held on Wednesday, March 14th, at 7:30PM at Dutch Growers Garden centre, 685 Reid Road, Saskatoon. There will be a brief business meeting to take care of society business. Elections will be held at this meeting and nominations from the floor can be made; volunteers for open positions are always welcome. CPLS executive and directors usually meet about 4-5(max) times a year – winter, spring summer and fall. The meetings are usually the 2nd Tuesday of the month and run about 2 hours in length. So don't let the idea of meeting put you off from volunteering for a position –the meetings are few, short and usually sweet! If you are willing to take on a position **Contact:** Barbara Adams-Eichendorf at (306) 947-2830 or email to barbae@sasktel.net. A coffee break will follow the business portion of the meeting. Then the fun part of the meeting -- Barbara Adams-Eichendorf will give a presentation on "Interdivisional Hybrid Lilies and Species Lilies". The interdivisional hybrids are a rapidly expanding and very interesting group of lilies. The species lilies have always been an interesting group for the hybridizers but they are often overlooked by the general gardener.

Our second event is **Gardenscape'07**, March 23, 24, and 25, at the Saskatoon Praireland Exhibition, Saskatoon. Jim Sullivan is chairman of this event .CPLS will be sponsoring a special presentation the on species lily *Lilium philadelphicum* , the speakers are Bonnie Lawrence and Anna Leighton authors of the "Prairie Phoenix". Please consider volunteering to work at our booth **contact:** Bob Caldwell at 374-2873. This year volunteers will get a letter in the mail with information regarding the event and a **pass** that will allow your admission to the event and the CPLS booth.

There are two more major events in the CPLS calendar our **Annual Show** in summer and our **Bulb sale** in the fall. See more details about these events in the upcoming summer and fall newsletters.

On a less happy note I am sorry to report on the untimely deaths of Marv Joslin and Eugene Fox both from Alberta and well known to lily growers. Their work with lilies has brighten many gardens and given many of us great pleasure. They are gone but not forgotten.

Margaret

General Notices.....

NEWSLETTERS via E-MAIL- CPLS is moving into the realm of E-mail delivery of its newsletter. If you wish to receive your newsletter via E-mail all you need is a computer, an E-mail account and Adobe Acrobat Reader to receive your letter in as a pdf file. Now what the CPLS newsletter crew now needs is your E-mail address. If you haven't already provided your E-mail address on your membership form you can E-mail your information to: **Art Delahey** at: delahay@shaw.ca

ENGLISH GARDEN TOUR... May 26- June 9, 2007. Sponsored by the Saskatchewan Perennial Society. Land Price: \$3424.00. For more information or a brochure, **call or email:**
Sara Williams (306)373-6345;
Sara.Williams@usask.ca
Bernadette Vangool (306)34307707)

HELP WANTED for CPLS LILY PLOTS: Currently CPLS

Editor's Desk.....

The editors would like to thank Barbara Adams-Eichendorf for her article dealing with her favorite lilies in her garden. After reading it I think it will trigger memories of our own favorites and stimulate some of you to write a few lines about them for up coming newsletters.

Once again the editors are making a call for articles for your newsletter. Without an exchange of information between gardeners/members the newsletter can get pretty stale. Seriously consider making a contribution – large or small all articles, notes, etc are welcome.

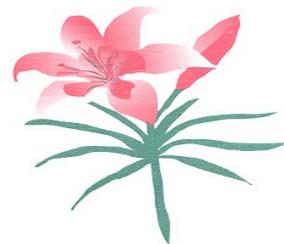
Any article submitted will be considered for publication, please include your name and complete address. Newsletter **DEADLINES** are February 15, May 15, August 15 and November 15.

has three lily plots that need maintenance through the growing season. The plots are used to grow many of the lily bulbs we use to sell in our sales (monies going to fund the Society's scholarships, newsletter and annual show, etc) and to maintain a stock of historically important lilies for future hybridization and still grace our gardens. 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 who 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** – he would love to hear from you!

So get pen to paper, fingers to keyboard and send in your words.

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Coming events.....

E-mail: Nigel@lilynook.mb.ca

MARCH 14th, 2007

Canadian Prairie Lily Society Annual General Meeting: The meeting will be held at Dutch Grower's Gardening Center, 685 Reid Road, Saskatoon on Wednesday March 14th, 7:30PM. Barbara Adams-Eichendorf will speak on **Interdivisional Hybrids and Species Lilies**. All members are encouraged to attend and bring a friend.

MARCH 23, 24, & 25, 2007

Gardenscape 2007: Saskatoon's Annual Spring Gardening Show will be held at the Prairieland Exhibition Center, Saskatoon on March 23, 24, & 25. Once again CPLS will be participating at this event and sponsoring a presentation on the "Prairie Lily" *Lilium philadelphicum* by the authors of the "Prairie Phoenix" Bonnie L. Lawrence and Anna L. Leighton.

APRIL 7th, 2007

Manitoba Regional Lily Society Spring Seminar & AGM: This event will be held on April 7th, at Canad Inn, Portage La Prairie, Manitoba. The guest speaker will be David Sims of Bonners Ferry, Idaho, and his topic will be 'Hybridizing of martagons with Asiatic lilies. For more information **contact:** Nigel Strohman, Box 486, Neepawa, MB R0J 1H0 ;(204) 476-2536 or 476 3225.

JULY 11-15, 2007

Diamond Jubilee - 60th NALS Show 2007. The show is being hosted by the Alberta Regional Lily Society at the Mayfield Inn and Trade Center in Edmonton, Alberta. See the ARLS website for more information: www.arms-lilies.org

JULY 20 & 21, 2007

Canadian Prairie Lily Society Show: The show will be held at The Mall at Lawson Heights, 134 Primrose Drive, Saskatoon. There will be a photo section again so you may wish to take the time during the non-gardening season to review your photos and get some entries prepared for the coming show. Check the March 2006 CPLS newsletter for more information on size of photographs, etc and how to mount them. A show schedule and more details will appear in the June newsletter.



CPLS Elections -Proposed Slate

CPLS ELECTION SLATE for 2007

NOMINATIONS for

PRESIDENT: Margaret Driver

VICE PRESIDENT: none

SECRETARY: Sharon Newton

TREASURER: Art Delahey

DIRECTORS 2007-2009:

John Bond

Stan Dunville

Diann Putland

This slate has been prepared by Barbara Adams-Eichendorf, Past President.

At the General Meeting (March 14, 2007) Nominations from the floor for any or all of the positions can be made.

Directors currently serving 2006-2008

Liz Delahey

Phyllis Elder

Cecilia Kachkowski

Jim Sullivan

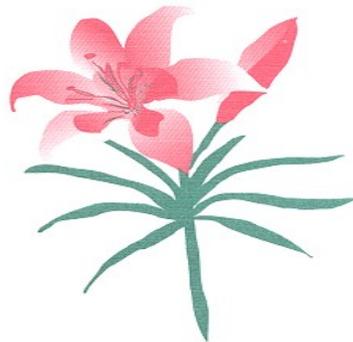
Karen Vangool

NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED CHANGE TO THE BYLAW 5 (v)

Present Bylaw reads: Directors are elected to aid in co-coordinating and promoting the purposes of the Society. There shall be not fewer than six (6) directors. Technical directors to head each working committee shall be elected from the membership prepared to attend executive meetings. In addition, no fewer than four (4) directors –at- large shall be elected to represent areas other than central Saskatchewan.

The change to the bylaw is the removal of the following sentence:**In addition, no fewer than four (4) directors-at-large shall be elected to represent areas other than central Saskatchewan.**

Revised Bylaw reads: Directors are elected to aid in co-coordinating and promoting the purposes of the Society. There shall be not fewer than six (6) directors. Technical directors to head each working committee shall be elected from the membership prepared to attend executive meeting



Favourite Lilies ***Barbara Adams-Eickendorf***

As I was looking through my lily photos, I was struck by the fact that there is a great variation in how different lily cultivars perform in the garden over a period of years. Some are tough and long-lived, while others show their beauty for a fleeting time and then are gone. Sometimes it seems that lilies are introduced without a long enough trial periods, and without sufficient analysis of merits versus faults. Those of us who are involved in hybridizing must not allow ourselves to be seduced by flower colour or patterning, but must analyze the whole plant for its merits before introducing it commercially.

That being said, there are a lot of very good lily cultivars out there and I would like to share a few of my favorites with you. I garden in the Village of Hepburn, which is 50 kilometers north of Saskatoon. Technically, it is in the same hardiness zone as Saskatoon but we don't have the "heat island" effect that a city has, and I certainly notice that Hepburn is usually a couple of degrees colder than Saskatoon on any given day in winter. My soil is a silty clay-loam, which does present drainage problems, though this is mitigated somewhat by the fact that most of the yard slopes one way or the other.

I must also explain that my favorites change through the years. Lilies that caught my eye twenty years ago may not catch my fancy at this point in my life. When I first started growing lilies, I was entranced with the idea of pink lilies, I think partly because they were somewhat of a novelty at the time. For the first many years, I grew up facing lilies, and didn't pay much attention to the outfacing and downfacing cultivars. Now I find myself being enthralled with the subtle beauty of some of the out and downfacing cultivars, and paying more attention to softer colors including pale yellow and whites.

Anyway, enough preamble, let's get to the lilies. I am going to start with a couple of lilies that are new to me. I planted them in the fall of 2005, and they bloomed for me this past summer for the first time. As they haven't been in my yard for a long time, I suppose I have to call them "new favorites", but they have qualities that are really valuable, and give them potential to become old favorites. The first is an Asiatic called 'Coral Butterflies'. This is 40" tall lily with outfacing peachy coral unspotted flowers. The flowers

are held nicely on upward-arching pedicels and are flat - not recurved as is common for outfacing and downfacing flowers. There are two things that really impressed me about this lily. The first is the substance of the petals. The petals are thick for an Asiatic, and stood up well to the heat of late July and early August. The second thing is related to the first, and this was the long bloom time of this lily. The inflorescence had 15 well-spaced flowers, and bloomed over a period of about 3 weeks. In the very hot weather, the flowers didn't blast, but opened slowly, and each one lasted a long time. To me, a long bloom time and durable flower are very valuable attributes.

There are a series of "butterflies" lily cultivars introduced by Columbia-Platte lilies in the 1990's which includes 'White Butterflies'. This is another lily that has caught my fancy. As the name suggest, the flowers are white. There are a few tiny, dark spots on the inner third of the petals and lovely soft pink toned midribs on the reverse of the petals. The flowers are outfacing, and are very nicely spaced along the inflorescence. Bloom time is fairly early for an Asiatic lily, and this may be due to some *L. pumilum* heritage.

'Queen's Fancy' is another "new favorite". This is a tall Asiatic lily - about 4 feet, which carries a large inflorescence. The creamy white flowers face out and slightly downward and have a sprinkling of dark spots in the centre third of the flower. The filaments of the stamens are white with anthers holding brownish orange pollen, and the pistil is pinkish brown. The reverse of the flower is also very nice, with a broad central brownish/olive green stripe on the back of each sepal, and a narrow stripe of the same colour on each petal reverse. Each flower is of medium size, but with a big inflorescence and secondary buds, this beauty bloomed for a long time. I really like the color combination of the white flower with the green/brown reverse. Secondary buds are a plus, for they extend the bloom time.

One of my all-time favorite lilies or "old favorites" is an Asiatic lily named 'Artistic'. This is a lily that was hybridized at Oregon Bulb Farms in the late 1970's. It is a beautiful very pale peach colour with a striking dark wine/purple brushmark on the tepals. The flowers are upfacing. The history of this lily and of the brushmark pattern is interesting. Brushmarked Asiatic

lilies originated from a cross of *L. leichtlinii* var. *maximowiczii* 'Unicolor' with *L. dauricum* 'Golden Wonder' made in the 1960's at OBF. One seedling from the second generation of this cross had large red blotches on the tepals. This particular pattern had not been seen before in Asiatic lilies. The pollen from this seedling was used on 'Connecticut King' and many of the resulting seedlings were brushmarked. Introductions from this group of seedlings include 'Accent', 'Endeavor', and 'Impact', which are all in the apricot and orange colour range and are all strongly brushmarked. Pollen from the brushmarked lilies was used on upright, white and pale coloured Asiatic lilies, and seedlings from these crosses were selected for dark brushmarking on light tepal colour. 'Artistic' is one of the selections from the second generation of these seedlings.

'Artistic' has survived in my yard for almost 20 years, through conditions that spelled the demise of lesser lilies. It grows to a height of about 3 feet and blooms in mid July. It is a truly lovely lily that I look forward to seeing each year.

Another old favorite of mine is truly old. 'Mrs. R.O. Backhouse' was hybridized by the lady herself, Sarah Elizabeth Backhouse in England and introduced in 1921. It is a cross involving two species belonging to the Martagon group of lilies; (*Lilium hansonii* x *Lilium martagon*). This lily has also graced my yard for almost 20 years, in the dappled shade beneath trees. It has the usual thick martagon tepals, and is a medium yellow colour with small red spots and a pink tinge on the reverse. The tepals are not strongly recurved as on some martagons, so the shape of the flower is fairly flat. It grows to about 4 feet in my yard and blooms about the second week in July. It is one of the last of my martagons to bloom, so it is blooming in the transition time after the main flush of martagons is done and before the Asiatics have come into full force.

For late season bloom, the winners this year were 'Black Beauty' and *L. leichtlinii*. I had not grown either before and was impressed with both. *L. leichtlinii* is a very tall species lily. When I stood beside it, its top flower was even with my nose. It has a big inflorescence, and each flower is held on a long pedicel. The flowers are yellow, downfacing, and heavily spotted with dark reddish brown. They have a touch of bronzy red on the base of the reverse of the

flower. This lily bloomed for a long time, from early to late August.

'Black Beauty' comes from the hybridizing work of Leslie Woodriff of the U.S. in the 1950's. It is one of the first OT's or oriental-trumpet crosses: *Lilium speciosum* var. *rubrum* x *L. henryi*. The flower is a very dark red, with a green throat and white edge. It is out to downfacing and strongly recurved, and has very long stamens and pistil. The inflorescence was moderate sized, and the stem about 40 inches tall. In other people's yards I have seen this lily much taller than this with a bigger inflorescence, but the bulb was fairly small so maybe it was immature and will increase in size next year. I was really impressed with the long bloom time of this lily this year. This first flower opened on September 1 and the last one finished on October 1. I'm sure the cool, rainy weather of September extended the blooming time somewhat, but a month of bloom from this lily is still impressive.

In spite of a hailstorm a week before the lily show, 2006 was a good year for the lilies in my garden. I enjoyed them from *L. dauricum* and the martagons in June to the Orientals and 'Black Beauty' at the end of the season, and now over the winter I've been enjoying them through photos. Lily catalogues are starting to appear so it's time to think about the treasures I'll add to the garden this spring.