

# Canadian Prairie Lily Society Newsletter

June 2014

## President's Message

Finally the long, cold winter is over and it's gardening time again! It is always interesting to see what the effects of winter have been on the trees, shrubs and perennials that make their home in my yard. Judging by what I've seen, last winter was a tough one. Some of the normally hardy shrub roses have died back to about six inches above the ground. A couple of smallish Nanking Cherry shrubs will need to be removed as they are almost completely dead.

Since I've had really good success with OT lilies planted close to the east side of the house, I decided last year to try a few of them in a perennial bed further from the house, and to put a good thick mulch cover on them to ensure that they'd survive. Well, that just didn't work. Last week, I did an exploratory dig to see why there was no sign of them, and found that three of the six had turned to mush. The others looked firm and healthy, but showed no signs of growth. Poor things are probably traumatized by their first experience with Saskatchewan winter.

But there are many little triumphs that somehow outweigh the difficulties. I have struggled for years to grow Oriental poppies, but I now have two which have wintered over and are looking great! The earliest peonies are beginning to bloom! *P.anomala*, the Ural peony, is always the first peony to bloom for me, and though it is about a week later than normal, the satiny pink out-facing blooms are now open in abundance. Irises are blooming, and the earliest blooming daylily, *Hemerocallis middendorffii*, is covered with fat bundles of buds, just waiting to burst open. A few other perennials that were new to me last year have made it through their first winter. These include *Sanguinaria* (Bloodroot), *Mertensia* (Virginia Bluebells) *Hepatica acutiloba* (Liverwort) and *Trillium*.

Most of the lilies are looking good, though there is a bit of Botrytis starting to show, due to the cool, damp weather. I did have a very big fright the first time I saw dozens of ladybugs on the Martagon lilies...I thought for a moment that the lily beetles had found my yard, but luckily, all the little red critters were ladybugs. Believe me, every single one was inspected!

Martagon lily growth has been rather inconsistent this year. Many are looking robust and healthy with buds showing, while others, like Sarcee, are only about six inches tall, and some, like Cranberry Dancer have not even shown themselves yet.

I'm very thrilled to have buds showing on one of my *Lilium monadelphum* seedlings. I've admired photos of this species lily for many years. I saw it for the first time in person a couple of years ago in Jim Sullivan's garden in Saskatoon, so have a good idea of what the flowers will look like. These lilies are notoriously slow to grow from seed, often taking eight years from seed to first bloom. I checked back in my records and found that I had started this batch of seed in 2007. There are a few more seedlings from this batch of seed that are growing well, and one or two that look like they will possibly bloom next year. The remainder will take at least a couple more years before they're big enough to bloom.

On behalf of CPLS, I'd like to say a huge and heartfelt thank you to Art Delahey! Art has stepped down from the position of Treasurer for CPLS after more than forty years in that role. This degree of dedication is a rare and wonderful thing! I'm very happy that Art will continue to help out with CPLS events and also continue to share his considerable knowledge with us!

Our Annual Lily Show is coming up on July 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> at Lawson Heights Mall in Saskatoon. As usual, we'll need volunteers to help with set-up, tending the information table and dismantling the show when it's finished. Please contact me at (306)947-2830 if you are able to help with these tasks. Any and all help is much appreciated!

Happy gardening!!  
Barbara

## Notes from the 2014 AGM

Our Annual General meeting was held on April 9<sup>th</sup> at McClure United Church in Saskatoon. The following is the results of the elections which took place at the meeting:

### Current CPLS Executive:

President: Barbara Adams Eichendorf

Past President: Margaret Driver

Vice Pres.: Position currently vacant

Secretary: Sharon Newton

Treasurer: Norm Waters

Directors: Ramona Gignac, Natalie Threlfall, Deborah Green, Hilda Noton, Karen Sawchyn,

As a way of saying thank you to volunteers, the CPLS Executive has implemented an annual draw for three \$75 gift cards from The Mall at Lawson Heights. Names of all of the people who volunteered for CPLS during 2013 were entered in the draw, which took place at the AGM.

Winners of the three \$75 volunteer appreciation gift cards were:

Shirley Waters

Margaret Driver

Stan Dunville

Thanks to all of you who volunteered time to help with CPLS events in 2013!  
Much appreciated!

### Update on the CPLS Request for Help

Following up on the request for help that was included in the last newsletter, we're very pleased to announce that Lynnette Westfall from ValleyK Lilies has agreed to take over the duties as webmaster. Thanks Lynnette!

We have not as yet had anyone volunteer to take over the duties of Newsletter Editor, so I will look after the newsletter for this year.

We are still very desperately in need of a Bulb Sale Chairperson. We are hoping that someone will step forward to fill this role so we can go ahead with our Fall Bulb Sale this year, but if we don't have someone to fill this role, we may not be able to. We'd like to know by July 15 if anyone is interested in taking this on.

Bulb Sale Chairperson -Description of Duties:

CPLS conducts a bulb sale each year in fall. The bulbs that are not sold at the fall sale are put into cold storage for the winter, and then offered for sale at our booth at Gardenscape.

Duties of the Bulb Sale Chairperson include:

- have available space such as a garage for a couple of weeks in late September and for about a week in late March where the bulbs can be sorted, packaged and placed on shelves until the sale.
- organize digging of lily bulbs at the CPLS plot
- organize volunteers to help with bulb packaging (3-5 volunteers for 2-3 days)
- keep track of bulbs received and ensure that they are packaged and then placed in bins in alphabetical order
- fill and ship membership mail orders (fall only). There may be up to around 20 mail orders, and many of these are picked up at the sale, rather than being shipped.
- transport the bulbs to the sale location, along with bulb trays, cardboard photo supports, and other items used at the sale
- ensure that there is a cash float and envelopes for cashiers to fill out at the end of their shift.
- CPLS has shelving material, a folding table, bins with lids for transporting the bulbs, and plastic bags etc. for packaging.
- bulb ordering and label making are currently done by other volunteers

If you feel that you would be able to serve in this area, please contact Barb at 306-947-2830, or any member of the executive.

Upcoming CPLS Events:

CPLS Annual Lily Show

July 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014

The Mall at Lawson Heights

134 Primrose Drive, Saskatoon

Other Lily-related Events:

North American Lily Society Annual Lily Show

July 9<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Bloomington MN

[www.allstarlilies.org](http://www.allstarlilies.org)

Alberta Regional Lily Society [arls-lilies.org](http://arls-lilies.org)

Martagon Lily Show: July 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> 2014

Devonian Botanic Gardens, Parkland County, AB

Annual Lily Show: July 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Edmonton

South Saskatchewan Lily Society [sasklilysociety.org](http://sasklilysociety.org)

Martagon Display: July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Golden Mile Shopping Center, Regina

Annual Lily Show: July 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Regina

Manitoba Regional Lily Society [manitobalilies.ca](http://manitobalilies.ca)

Annual Lily Show: July 19<sup>th</sup>

Winnipeg

Neepawa Lily Festival: July 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Neepawa