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AGM speaker Hugh Skinner "My Experience Growing Martagons" p6-8

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING DATES:

A Fall general meeting is not planned.

Come out to the Fall sales at Greenland Garden centre
to have lunch in the restaurant and visit with friends.

2016 Show awards will be given out at the Winter Mingle 2017

AGM spring 2017 April 29 at Woodvale Hall. Speaker TBD

LILY SHOWS 2016

ARLS 21TH ANNUAL MARTAGON SHOW

July 2 & 3 2016

Devonian Botanic Gardens Hwy 60 Spruce Grove

Contact Lorne to clerk, judge or volunteer.

1-780-573-4249 cell

ARLS Board of Directors meeting 2 pm

July 2 at the Gardens.

NALS 69TH International Lily Show

Chicago July 6-10, 2016

ARLS 31ST ANNUAL LILY SHOW

July 23 & 24 2016

Greenland Garden Center Hwy 16 Sherwood Park

Contact Shauna to be a Judge or Student Judge

LILY VIGNETTE this spot is vacant because no one wants to brag about their lily (registered or otherwise). How about someone else's lily- know any good stories about a lily you were given

I like to hear the stories behind the lily. A picture and approx. 50 words is all it takes. Submit to news@arls-lilies.org



President's Lily pad

Hello, my garden is growing and looks to have a full complement of blooms. I faithfully placed blankets over all my early emerging lilies until they got too tall and had to trust that they would make it through a light frost and nothing heavy would descend. Most came through with nothing and some have frost damage but still have blooms. So they might not look too nice, but I have colour. With blooms coming this early the rural lily growers are going to have blooms ready for the martagon show.

For those of you not at the AGM Hugh Skinner came to give a presentation. Sadly our projector does not play well with others and the slides had to be viewed off the laptop. The projector is being retired. Our next presentation should go much better.

Like us on Facebook; Follow us on Twitter
Good growing Laurie

Newsletter Editor Any spelling and grammatical errors are all my own. If you see a data omission please inform news@arls-lilies.org with the correction.

MEMBER BENEFITS

Members receive discounts at the following businesses:

* **ALL SEASONS GARDEN CENTRE**. 10027-81 Ave. Edmonton 10% discount. Membership card must be presented and discount may not apply to all products.

* **APACHE SEEDS LTD**. 10136 149 ST., EDMONTON 10% discount. Membership card must be presented and discount may not apply to all products.

* **CANNOR NURSERIES LTD**. TWP RD 514 WOODBEND RD, SPRUCE GROVE (west of Devonian Gardens)

10% discount. Membership card must be presented and discount may not apply to all products.

* **ELLERSLIE GIFT & GARDEN** 10330 Ellerslie Rd SW, Edmonton Membership card must be presented prior to purchase and discount may not apply to all products.

* **VALLEY K LILY RANCH** aka plantlilies.com 15% discount on all bulb orders, excluding shipping.

Be sure to state you are an ARLS member and wish to receive the discount, membership is verified with ARLS due to difficulty in showing member card via the internet, phone, etc. Follow Valley K on Facebook

ARLS Affiliates

Alberta Horticultural Association
icangarden.com/clubs/aha
Calgary Horticultural Society calhort.org

Edmonton Horticultural Society edmontonhort.com
North American Lily Society lilies.org
RHS Lily Group www.rhslilygroup.org/

Lily Sources

Valley K Lily Ranch Lynnette Westfall; asiatics, OTs, some martagons & species
RR1 Edberg TOB 1J0 <http://www.plantlilies.com> great resource and lily gallery. mail order only
1-780 877 2547 bulbs@plantlilies.com

Parkland Perennials Bob Yaremko ; martagons & species and peonies
Box 560 Bruderheim TOB 0S0 <http://www.parkland-perennials.com> 780 796 2382
parklandperennials@gmail.com

Parkland Lilies Fred Fellner seedlings RR1 Vermillion 1-780-853-2355

Rundlewood Gardens Specialty Nursery; martagons 1643 Altadore Ave SW. Calgary (corner of 16th Street and 46th Ave SW) <http://www.rundlewoodgardens.ab.ca/> info@rundlewoodgardens.ab.ca location shopping only- no mail order shipping. Stop by when in Calgary- check website for hours.

Lily Nook Nigel & Joyce Strohman; all things lily
Box 846 Neepawa Man. R0J 1H0 <http://www.lilynook.mb.ca> 1 204 476 3225 info@lilynook.mb.ca

Skinner Nursery Hugh Skinner; martagons, species, asiatics
Box 220 Roblin Man. R0L 1P0 1-204- 564-2236. ski_hugh@mts.net

SW-Gardens Sandra-Pat Willis; lilies from various divisions
22507 Kenesserie RD Thamesville ONT. N0P 2K0 <http://www.s-wgardens.com/> 1-519-692-5580
swgardens@yahoo.ca

LilyCrest Gardens Brian Bergman ; Bergman seedlings, [OTs, asiatics, orientals & trumpets from active hybridizing]
51 Woodcrest Dr. Toronto ONT. M9A 4J3 Facebook.com/LilyCrestGardens 1-416-614-6394
bfberg@rogers.com

Jeffries Nurseries Ltd. P.O. Box 402, Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, R1N 3B7
29053 Trans Canada Highway #1 35 miles west of Winnipeg near Portage la Prairie
www.jeffriesnurseries.com/ 204-857-5288 jeffnurs@mts.net

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THE ALBERTA REGIONAL LILY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER THE BULBLET VOLUME 31, NUMBER 1 SPRING 2016

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| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
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Name tags

For those members who ordered name tags, our supplier has been very ill and is on the mend, however his recovery is slow so be patient our tags are giving him a goal to strive towards.

Newsletter deadlines- Feb- May- Aug- Nov 15

AUG 15 for SEPT 1 Bulblet Get your information in to pres@arls-lilies.org Please put subject: 'newsletter submittal' in email so I can find it in my inbox when I need it.

Beetle Musings

lilybeetle@arls-lilies.org Report your invasion.

(photo L. Hepper)

The lilies are up and reports have come in, mostly from new invasions. If you are in need of a beetle brochure to give to a friend or neighbour. Contact pres@arls-lilies.org I am hoping to update the maps I published in prior newsletters and get them out. The



spread is disturbing as it is not controllable and everyone in the Edmonton, Calgary, & Olds areas must be diligent in the daily lily garden survey. The sooner the beetle is managed the less damage they do to your lily garden.



Style & Stigma By L. *Wilmottiae* aka Wilma

I caught word of a not so friendly meeting called by the Friendship Circle recently and again held at the Horte Cafe without my knowledge and without an invitation to me so I could attend. I thought I had made the right choice about moving back and living once more on Mysteria Lane but now wonder as my allies in my newest business venture seem to be dwindling. After the last meeting of the *lilium* minds I also decided not only to write the cook book with edible *lilium* recipes but to also open a new business calling it “The Hard Wok Cafe” and thinking it would enhance the community. I knew *l. pumilum* and *l. amabile* were miffed with me but I never once thought they would call another meeting to discuss their options. And yes, they even called in the troops from as far away as Saskatchewan due to *l. philadelphicum* being on my radar for recipes and fine dining. I guess *l. superbum*, *l. pardalinum*, *l. parvum*, *l. lancifolium* and the others were at the meeting anthers flaring and snorting pollen. Apparently Mrs. R.O. Backhouse with her mighty vigor and

good constitution stood up and was steadfastly opposed to what the others were trying to accomplish and so did *l. davidii* and *l. henryii* so I did have three on my side who were rooting for a new place for fine dining. I now applaud Mrs. R.O. Backhouse for being my best hybrid ally along with the two others but my latest endeavour was still called into question and enough so that it warranted yet another meeting. I chuckle to think how *l. superbum* took that news since she is pretty well useless for hybridization, but, oh well. We keep that to ourselves.

Lilium bulbs are starchy and edible root vegetables (I am not sure about peppery) so I went on to create some fine recipes for my cook book regardless with Lily Masala Perogies using *l. canadense* as the main ingredient, Xiao Long Bao using *l. lancifolium*, Jamaican Dumplings using *l. parvum*, and Chicken Catchalily using *l. pardalinum*, just to name a few.

These were to be tried and tested recipes at a Town Hall meeting along with the other dishes already created. It would be another opportunity for the *Belles* family to showcase their latest ensembles and to permeate the air with their intoxicating perfumes. It would be another opportunity for the others to wear their finery from the Pick Over Store and yet another opportunity for *l. hollandicum* to show off. He is a Prince in his own fairytale and loves to be front and centre at all gatherings with his squad of *lilium* friends but he doesn't seem to realize that not one other *lilium* associates or fancies him eating a watercress sandwich. He seems to be crass and without manners. In his own mind he is royalty and despite having an “eye” for him at one time, I have since come to my senses.

This occasion of recipe tasting and intermingling of the hybrids and species was to be a glorious affair not to be forgotten by the masses nor those I live amongst on Mysteria Lane, however suddenly, it was not to be. Those that attended the meeting of the Friendship Circle had made their case and won. The “Hard Wok Café” – my dream and my ambition - was not to be. The edible *lilium* and their entourage at the governing meeting now reign victorious and I shall have to live with the decision or re-locate again which is still an option.

It seems that to engage in babblegab has its merits and works for some, and it seems that to delve into entrepreneurial pursuits works for some and not for others. I will positively remain industrious and keep myself from diving into the babblegab head first. I will be victorious in the end.

My experience growing martagon lilies

by Hugh Skinner

I gained my interest in horticulture and particularly in lilies early in life. I spent a lot of time with my father and was at his elbow as he dabbed pollen, grew seedlings and had the excitement of seeing them produce their first flowers. My father's interest in lilies was certainly not limited to martagons but he certainly produced a number of significant varieties and I have decided to put much of my efforts into growing lovely and rare martagon lily species and varieties.

The martagon group consists of *Lilium martagon* which is native to much of Europe and Asia and a number of other species that are native of Asia. The most rare of these species is *Lilium distichum*. In 2001 I visited China with a group of nursery persons organized through Olds College. When we were in Harbin we went to a mountain area one day with a guide who was a botany professor at the Northeast Agricultural University. He pointed out *L. distichum* growing in the forest on the mountainside and dug a little bulb for me. Unfortunately, we were among the first planes back through the Vancouver airport after 9-11 and after standing in line for over 4 hours with it in my pocket, it was kind of cooked. There is some speculation that it is in some of Ed Robinson's hybrids such as Hantsing that have asymmetrical flowers or that *L. distichum* and *L. tsingtauense* might overlap genetically.

Lilium hansonii was found on Dagelet Island (Ullung-Do) off the coast of Korea. Until quite recently it was thought to be sterile as no seedlings were produced by pollinating one plant of *L. hansonii* with pollen from another. It is now realized that all the plants in cultivation were derived from one plant. Recent collections have resulted in seedling *L. hansonii*. This species is a key component in most of the martagon hybrids.

Lilium martagon has many subspecies and is native across Eurasia. It grows on soils formed from limestone substrates that are moist but well drained. Bulbs are yellow with pointed scales. The leaves are usually whorled although there are cultivars that have scattered leaves. Plants can grow from 60 to 180 cm (2 to 6 ft.) in height. Blooms are typically turban shaped (from which the species derives its name) and come out in late June or early July. Two of the commonly grown subspecies are *L. martagon* var. *album* with unspotted white flowers and *L. martagon* var. *cattaniae* (aka *L. martagon* var. *dalmaticum*) which has unspotted dark purple to burgundy flowers.

Lilium medioloides (wheel lily) is a species that is found on the eastern coast of Siberia, in Japan and on the islands to the north of Japan. Plants are quite short, from 30 to 70 cm (12 to 30 in.) The flowers are

orange and of turks cap form and the plant typically has one multiple whorl of leaves. I have plants of the subspecies, *L. medeoloides* var. *kurilense*, which has narrower leaves.

The fifth species that has played an important role in the development of the martagon hybrid group is *Lilium tsingtauense*. Unlike the other species, *L. tsingtauense* has upfacing bright orange flowers. The foliage is narrow, wavy and marbled.

Some of the earliest martagon lily hybrids were crosses with *Lilium hansonii* produced by Mrs. R.O. Backhouse at the end of the 19th century and beginning of the 20th. Several of her varieties are still in the market including 'Brocade' which appears in the breeding of many other varieties.

My collecting of martagon lilies started when we mowed brush from some of the old nursery areas. In the years following mowing, martagon lilies showed up. Among the first ones that I found were Rosalinda, Black Prince, and Ivorine. There were also remnant rows of *Dalhansoni* and Brocade. In addition I found a number of bulbs of one that I designated as "Blush" and a very elegant purple *L. martagon* var. *cattaniae* that I named after my mother, 'Helen Skinner'. When my friend, Elaine Peek moved from Edson to Calgary she gave me a couple of pots of martagon seedlings. One of these was a clear pink with spots that are so small that it appears spotless. that I've designated as "Peek's Pink".

By this time I had really swallowed the bug for martagons and I began to collect new varieties from Barrie Strohman, Marvin Joselin and Diane Putland. Some of the more interesting varieties that I obtained by trading with Barrie Strohman were some of Ed Robinson's many varieties. He raised many seedlings of Brocade including 'Redpath' and the very lovely 'Yellowwood'. However, the more interesting of his hybrids are the hybrids of *Lilium tsingtauense* including 'Hantsing' and the pollenless 'Orange Marmalade'.

Among the varieties that I value highly in my collection are ones developed by Fred Tarlton. 'Moonyeen' is a very elegant purplish pink while 'Charlene' has flowers that are strong lemon yellow. 'Attiwa' has long elegant pedicels and flowers that are moderately recurved and change colour depending on exposure and age. 'Sarcee' has been touted as Mr. Tarlton's finest variety and is an offspring of 'Hantsing'.

My favorite among pale yellow varieties is Jean Eriksen's 'Cascading Glory'. Although it is listed as parentage unknown, my observations lead me to believe that it has *L. tsingtauense* in it's background. This stem of the variety 'Jean Eriksen' was exhibited at the lily show in Neepawa a few years ago. I'm not certain but I seem to recall that this was a seedling that Jean had given to Barrie Strohman. So far, I don't have this variety in my collection.

'Lightning Bug' is an interesting pollen free variety developed by Eugene Fox. Although it produces no pollen and the style is quite distorted, it does produce seed and I collected a pod a couple of years ago and have a group of very small seedlings of this variety.

I'd like to go back to some of the exceptional martagon lilies from my garden. I mowed out some new areas 3 or 4 years ago. One of the more interesting ones (although probably with limited commercial appeal) is a dark burgundy with a very short inflorescence giving the flower head a globe shape. One with more potential is a very beautiful form of *L. martagon album*. It produced a spike with 25 blooms growing in amongst grass and mowed down caraganas. There were 2 plants that appeared to be the remnants of a row that would have been planted in the early 1950's (around the time I was born). It's quite remarkable that they have survived this long with little or no care for most of that time.

One variety that I had looked for many years is 'Redman', a hybrid that my father raised and introduced in 1948. It's listed as *Lilium hansonii* x *L. medeoloides* but that doesn't really make sense to me as it is red. Over the years I have ordered it when it was listed. A couple of times I received bulbs that when they bloomed turned out to be 'Dalhansoni'. I then received one that Barrie Strohman was quite certain was one of Ed Robinson's that we now offer as 'Red Sails'. However, about 5 years ago I received two bulbs from Terry Willoughby that he believed to be 'Redman'. When it first bloomed I thought it was likely another 'Dalhansoni' but as the plants matured I looked more closely at it and the plant has the multi-tiered whorl of *L. medeoloides*. The flower is slightly larger and has less yellow and fewer spots than the clone of 'Dalhansoni' that I've been growing.

In the past few years I've been raising a few seedlings with the object of producing plants that are shorter and better suited to many garden situations. I saw a plant of a very short yellow that had proliferated into quite a large clump in Sandy Venton's garden. I begged a couple of bulbs from her and have been propagating it and am beginning to use it as a parent. I've also been using *Lilium medeoloides* var. *kurilense* to obtain shorter plants that I expect will be more tolerant of spring frosts. A number of these seedlings bloomed 2 years ago. First is one that is the result of the cross, 'Claude Shride' x *L. medeoloides* var. *kurilense*. The hybrids of *kurilense* bloom earlier than any other variety but 'Claude Shride' and *L. martagon* var. *album* that came originally from Bert Porter come out 5-7 days later when the seedlings are still in bloom. The two following are open pollinated seedlings of *kurilense*.

A seedling from the cross, 'Attiwa' x 'Cadense' is semi-outfacing and suggests to me that there might be other interesting similar crosses to explore. Finally, there have been a number of pollen free seedlings, both among seedlings with a *Lilium medeoloides* var. *kurilense* parent and those with *L. tsingtauense* hybrids in their parentage. My favorite so far is a dark burgundy from the hybrid, 'Raspberry Delight' x 'Black Prince'.

I appreciate having an opportunity to speak to this group in an area where there have been and are so many great hybridizers of martagon lilies.

Spring bulb sales & education events

There were 4 events this spring April 9 & 10 Calgary Horticulture Society Spring Garden Show-Spruce Meadows; April 16 Bonnyville Gardener Days; St Paul May 21; May 28 Fulton Place Gardener

Swap, and the EHS May meeting. The sales at the first three events were very good and would probably have sold out at Bonnyville if bulbs were not needed for the next sales. Calgary sold out again so Dianne is off to a very good sale leader role. Bulbs are still available call 780-916-0922 Laurie.

Nominations for the NALS Regional Medal are being solicited please submit to Shauna Willoughby.

An ARLS membership is a great gift for a gardening friend or relative.

RHS Lily Group

The RHS lilies and related plants 2015-2016 is ready for download from

<http://www.rhslilygroup.org/>

ARLS will be sending seed to the RHS lily group seed list again this fall. Deadline for mailing is November 15th. BRING YOUR SEED TO A BULB SALE OR MAIL IT TO ARLS. Or Call Laurie for address to drop off seed in my mailbox. They specifically want species seed and will gladly take any martagon seed you wish to share.

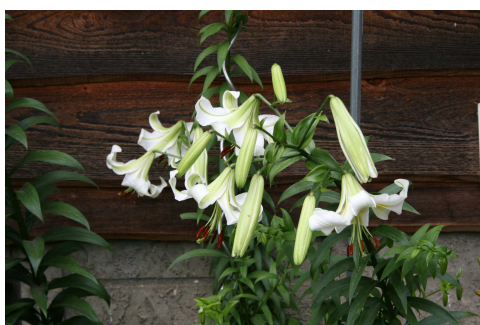
Devonian Botanic Garden news

If you visit and have a concern about the lily beds call Arnold Semeniuk, DBG liaison. 780-987-4763

Events at the garden: check out the website for all events. www.Devonian.ualberta.ca

Twitter @DevonianGarden; Facebook DevonianBotanicGarden

The Chicago Show is so close I hope everyone going thinks about taking pictures to send to the **Bulblet** newsletter to share what you saw and experienced maybe even give us a paragraph or two of what you did, who you met, what you bought, Ribbons you won. Any lily news is good to share with members.



Ice Caves registered
Judith Freeman

Grow it like an OT.
Surviving in Edmonton

It's a "Saturday in the Park"



If you have never attended a NALS Show, or if it has been awhile, you don't want to miss the 69th Annual International Lily Show & Symposium at the Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe, Illinois, July 6-10, 2016, for "Saturday in the Park".

One can easily spend more than a day seeing the beautiful 385 acres of the Botanic Gardens. Enjoy on foot, or by tram (\$20 tram ticket is free with your NALS 2016 registration). Enjoy the lilies growing in the garden and bring your camera to photograph the lilies during the "Shoot Those Lilies" symposium session offered by Frans Officer. You will also have the opportunity to participate in behind the scenes Chicago Botanic Garden tours open to registrants only. Take breaks from the sun in the auditorium or the classrooms of the Regenstein Center to hear symposium sessions geared for novice to experienced lily growers. Get even more out of your

NALS 2016 experience by planning to volunteer a couple hours to set up, clean up, clerk, judge or visit with local show visitors on the lily show floor and talk about your favorite topic, "lilies."

The hotel accommodations are reasonable at \$109 / night including complimentary cooked-to-order breakfast each morning and an Evening Reception, as well as a free shuttle bus that will transport you to and from the Chicago Botanic Garden. All show activities take place at the garden in the Regenstein Center except membership meetings, the Friday night dinner / auction, and the Saturday night awards dinner held at the hotel. A shuttle from the hotel to the train station is also available if you wish to do some sightseeing via public transportation. If you are travelling by car, enjoy free parking every day (\$20 per day value) at the Chicago Botanic Garden. The Show committee, consisting mainly of NALS board members, is arranging for numerous speakers throughout the show and lots of ideas and travel directions for sightseeing around Chicago before, during or after the show. Check out our website at <http://www.nals2016.lilies.org/>, register today (or soon to get the early bird rates) and bring those lily stems, floral design materials and lily photographs so we have the best NALS show ever!



<http://www.chicagobotanic.org/> <https://www.facebook.com/chicagobotanicgarden/>

Check out the gardens over 300 acres.-..... so many acres so little time.....