



# The Bulblet



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## President's Lily Pad message

*Like us on Facebook; Follow us on Twitter*

If you haven't checked out the updated website: [www.arls-lilies.org](http://www.arls-lilies.org).

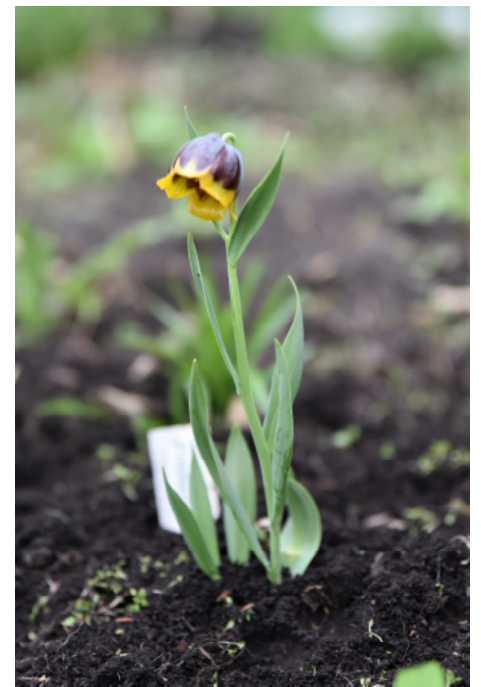
Here we are in the first week of June and its been a cool Spring and a slow start to the gardening season. Thankfully we seem to have a handle on this COVID 19 pandemic and our world is returning to what they are calling our "new normal". I'm sure that we were all so happy to see that our beloved greenhouses were considered an essential service and that we could indulge our obsession even while working hard to isolate ourselves as home. I hope that each of you is busy enjoying playing in the dirt, fighting the weeds and nurturing your special lilies.



*Martagon Lily Patch*

I know that the one blessing that has come with the current situation is more time at home to garden, which I am so thankful for. On the left is a picture of one of my Martagon beds (yes there are many more scattered across the acreage) and they are growing very nicely. The Asiatics are starting to poke

their noses up through the soil this week. Today I am starting to see clusters of buds forming. And with the rain this week you can see my beautiful chickweed ground cover! When the rain stops that will be my first order of business (might even put a couple chickens in there to help me out!). Also wanted to share my first Liliaceae to bloom, on the left is a *Fritillaria michailovskyi* that is currently in bloom! I know that some of you further south are probably already seeing the first of your lilies start to bloom, I have a little zone envy but in late September when my *L. henryi* are blooming I will have the advantage and it will balance out.



*Fritillaria  
michailovskyi*  
Member of Family Liliaceae



This week I got some news from a fellow local lily grower in Cold Lake (about 30 mins away), they have the dreaded red lily beetle! While I knew it was inevitable, I had hoped it would be longer before they would arrive here. I know that many of you have been battling the beetle for years, I am ready to join the battle. Just a reminder of some of the strategies to stay on top of these little critters: 1. Beetle Yoga, get down low and seek them out, then you can squish them or drown them in some soapy water. While you're down there up and close to your lilies, make sure you check for the tiny little orange eggs on the underside of the leaves, just rub them off. At this time of year you should also be looking for those disgusting larvae, when they first hatch they will look like pepper spots on the leaves and they quickly grow into that brown feces covered mass, squish and drown them too! 2. If you want to be a little more intrusive, Doktor Doom (long lasting) is an excellent insecticidal option and the residual effects kill the beetles if they try to eat your lilies afterwards. It has to be reapplied every 4 to 6 weeks, be sure to not apply it in the heat of the day because it can burn the leaves.

As you know from the last Bulbulet the Annual Martagon Show had to be deferred for a year because the University of Alberta Botanic Gardens had to cancel all the 2020 events. Incidentally they are now open by appointment if you are looking for something to do and want to enjoy and support the Gardens. This week I have been in contact with Greenland and sadly due to all the uncertainty with the status of the COVID 19 virus and how the summer will progress, we are not going to be able to hold the Annual Lily Show. That said, Greenland is open for business and very willing to have us back next year, assuming we are in a safer more predictable situation, so if you have gardening needs go out and support them.

So what does that mean for all of us that are planning on growing that Show winning lily in our garden this summer? Well Alberta Regional Lily Society and lily gardeners are extremely resilient and we're not going to let the COVID 19 virus stop us from sharing and enjoying our lilies. ARLS is going to open our Facebook status to "public" to allow everyone to share pictures of our lilies on the page. For those that are not on Facebook you will be able to email your pictures to [dlkaban@hotmail.com](mailto:dlkaban@hotmail.com), mark the subject line "Annual Show Entry" and I will ensure your picture gets posted. At the end of the summer (Sept), the 3 pictures that receive the most "likes" will, in order, be awarded the gold, silver and bronze awards. I cannot wait to see the beautiful lilies that you all have growing in your gardens this summer and the bonus is we won't have to cut our stems to show them this year!!

I will miss seeing so many of you this summer at the Shows but will look forward to the Fall and the bulb sales, hopefully we will be able to come together to enjoy each others company and share the stories of our summer gardening season and get some new lily bulbs!

Please ensure that you all take the necessary steps to stay safe and health this summer.

Lorne

## **ARLS AFFILIATES**

**Alberta Horticultural Association** [icangarden.com/clubs/aha](http://icangarden.com/clubs/aha)

**Calgary Horticultural Society** [calhort.org](http://calhort.org) [@YYCGardening](https://www.facebook.com/calhort/) <https://www.facebook.com/calhort/>

**Edmonton Horticultural Society** [edmontonhort.com](http://edmontonhort.com) [@YEGgardening](https://www.facebook.com/groups/14571255402/)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/14571255402/>

**North American Lily Society** [lilies.org](http://lilies.org) <https://www.facebook.com/NorthAmericanLilySociety/>

**RHS Lily Group** [www.rhslilygroup.org/](http://www.rhslilygroup.org/)



## AGM NOTICE FOR OCTOBER.

**AGM Meeting and elections are now scheduled for October 18 Sunday**

**10 am to 12 noon meeting to receive reports, cover new business, Elections**

Cecilia Bertram, Mike Danchak, Ieuan Evans, Dianne Skimming are the outgoing Directors

Lunch, silent auction, library

1 pm – 3:30 pm silent auction, networking and Speaker (if we can get one)

## BULB SALES 2020

Contact Britta to volunteer for a bulb sale shift or packing party.

You get 10% off plus you get first pick of the bulbs. Book your time and reserve your bulbs.

The bulb sale list may not have all sale bulbs listed. It is a listing of what ARLS has ordered or been offered in time for publication.

### FALL:

**September 27?**- Greenland Garden Centre

**September 29?**- Ed. Hort. Society (EHS) Mtg

## ARLS EVENTS 2020

**25<sup>th</sup> Annual Martagon Show 2020 POSTPONED UNTIL 2021**

**NALS Show Ontario July 10-12, 2020 POSTPONED UNTIL 2021**

**35<sup>th</sup> Annual Lily Show 2020** Greenland Garden Centre, Sherwood Park **POSTPONED UNTIL 2021**

**Casino** We are arranging to keep our casino dates in the hope that the facilities will open table gaming. We will keep you informed.

**FALL AGM Sunday Oct 18 Woodvale Hall**

## 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](http://plantlilies.com) LAST YEAR ORDER BEFORE JULY 1

15% discount on all bulb orders, excluding shipping. Contact Valley K by email at [webmaster@plantlilies.com](mailto:webmaster@plantlilies.com) to request the discount code BEFORE ordering. Follow Valley K on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/plantlilies>

**NOMINATIONS FOR THE NALS REGIONAL MEDAL** are being solicited please submit to Shauna Willoughby.

**VOLUNTEERING WITH ARLS** we now have a procedure to follow and track volunteer hours. When a volunteer reaches the required hours, they are eligible for a lily bulb. Please make sure you confirm your hours volunteered with your volunteer coordinator.



## REQUESTING NOMINATIONS

ARLS is now awarding the **CATHY & ARNOLD SEMENIUK VOLUNTEER AWARD** for an outstanding volunteer who goes above and beyond in supporting our Society in its endeavours and events.

Please forward your nominations with a supporting letter to [arms@arms-lilies.org](mailto:arms@arms-lilies.org)

## LILY SOURCES

**Bertha Lardner: Martagon Lilies** NE Edmonton 780-478-7929 [lardnerbm@gmail.com](mailto:lardnerbm@gmail.com)

**Valley K Lily Ranch** LAST YEAR- WILL BE CLOSING 2020 - SELLING OFF STOCK Lynnette Westfall; Asiatics, OTs, some martagons & species

RR1 Edberg TOB 1J0 <http://plantlilies.com> great resource and lily gallery. mail order only  
[bulbs@plantlilies.com](mailto:bulbs@plantlilies.com)

**Parkland Lilies - Fred Fellner seedlings** RR1 Vermillion 1-780-853-2355 final year of hybridizing

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:ski_hugh@mts.net)

**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 Man. [www.jeffriesnurseries.com/](http://www.jeffriesnurseries.com/) 204-857-5288 [jeffnurs@mts.net](mailto:jeffnurs@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](mailto: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](https://www.facebook.com/LilyCrestGardens) 1-416-614-6394 [bberg@rogers.com](mailto:bberg@rogers.com)

## UNIVERSITY of ALBERTA BOTANIC GARDEN NEWS

### The garden is closed until further notice

Check out the website <http://botanicgarden.ualberta.ca/>

**Twitter** <https://twitter.com/UABotanicGarden>;

**Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/UABotanicGarden>

### MUTTART is closed until January 2021

You can still go down and enjoy the gardens, and pick a few lily beetles.

## NOTICE

In case you missed the small print or a visit to the Valley K website, 2020 is the last year for that source of lilies. Order your stock as soon as you can.





## 2019 ANNUAL 24<sup>th</sup> MARTAGON LILY SHOW REPORT

Since we can't come together for the Show this year, here's a recap of last year and we'll see you in 2021 back at the UABG for the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Martagon Show!!!!

As we gathered at Woodvale Hall for our Annual General Meeting in April, Spring was progressing nicely and we were looking forward to a very good gardening season. We were filled with anticipation and eager to see what potential would be unlocked in our lily beds. In May, the temperatures cooled and it started to rain with some significant storms and continued into June, were there going to be any Martagons for the Show?

On the evening of Friday July 5<sup>th</sup>, the stems started coming in and they just kept coming right through to 10:00 am on Saturday! The cooler temperatures resulted in the Martagons in the City of Edmonton being in peak condition for the Show. There were 11 Exhibitors and they delivered a grand total of 185 beautiful Martagon stems. We were very pleased to have a First Time Exhibitor join the roster of competitors. What was even more exciting was the fact that Cynthia Strawson was a second-generation exhibitor and her mom, Kathy, was there to provide some expert coaching and mentorship on grooming and staging her stems. On Saturday morning as 10:00 am approached tensions ran high as exhibitors worked to put the labels and final touches on their stems. Terry Willoughby and Leo Krupka worked extremely diligently, with the support of Melanie Farkas the Show Clerk, to strategically classify all those stems into classes and sub-classes so the judges could exercise their NALS certified craft in assigning the ribbons to the deserving stems and then ultimately select the Award winners.



Kathy Strawson, past ARLS President and long time Show Exhibitor, sharing tips with her daughter Cynthia. Cynthia went on to win the First Time Exhibitor Award!



Sandy Venton and Laurie Hepper (behind the stems) worked conscientiously to evaluate each stem as they judge the Show.

ARLS was so very fortunate to have NALS Past President and Martagon expert and judge, Sandy Venton, join us as the lead judge for the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Martagon Show. She and Laurie Hepper, ARLS long time judge, were meticulous in their assessment of each stem and then the assignment of the ribbon that stems warranted. With the large number of entries, it was an exhausting task but they worked painstakingly until it was done. In the end a total of 122 ribbons were awarded: 46 firsts, 39 seconds, 27 thirds and 10 honorable mentions. Cynthia Strawson was successful in winning the First Time Exhibitors Award with a red ribbon for her Class X unnamed pink seedling. Terry and Shauna Willoughby's Class VIII white spotted seedling, unofficially named Petticoat Junction, won the Hybridizer's Award. Ieuan Evans' stem of internationally renowned Megan Evans was awarded the Fred Tarlton (Best Lily of the Martagon Show) and Best Alberta Bred Martagon awards. In addition, Ieuan won the Gold Sweepstakes with 14 first place ribbons. Mike Danchak won the Best Collection of Six Martagons with a grouping of seedlings and also received the Bronze Sweepstakes with 5 Firsts. Emmett Wenger rounded out the awards, winning the Silver Sweepstakes with 11 red ribbons. Overall, the Show was one of our best in a number of years 151 total entries made up of 185 stems. Thanks to all the dedicated exhibitors.



The weather was less than optimal for the weekend, as there were thunderstorms both Saturday and Sunday. Even so there was a steady stream, no pun intended, of visitors to the Show. There were about 400 visitors to the Devonian Botanic Garden that took in the incredible display of Martagon stems. As always many of those visiting the Show were seeing Martagon lilies for the first time and were intrigued by their delicate blooms and impressive inflorescence. Without a doubt this impressive showing inspired a new group of gardeners to add this member of the Genus *Lilium* to their gardens. Many gardeners are surprised to learn that Martagons are Zone 2 hardy and based on that fact are very eager to purchase bulbs. Unfortunately, in early July bulbs are not available but individuals make extensive lists of cultivars that they are enamored with so they can visit our fall bulb sales so they can start their collection and for some so they can add more!!

The University of Alberta Botanic Garden staff once again did a wonderful job of welcoming ARLS and ensuring that our stem holders were ready to go when we arrived Friday afternoon. ARLS is grateful for this longstanding partnership and the venue for our Annual Martagon Show. They continue to grow the Gardens and the addition of the Aga Khan Garden has definitely added a new dynamic to the venue. We continue to work with them to ensure the Martagon beds are renewed and to potentially expand the Asiatic collections can be grown. We also work collaboratively to keep the local moose and deer population at bay, as they see the lily collections as a delectable snack.



There was an amazing showing of Martagon stems to mesmerize the steady flow of visitors to the Show.



Terry Willoughby with his Hybridizer's Award (Best Stem from Class VIII) winning seedling – "Petticoat Junction".



Ieuan Evans with his Fred Tarlton Award (Best in Show) and ARLS Award (Best Registered AB Bred) winning stem of Megan Evans.





As always, the strength of our Society and our ability to host our Shows comes from the dedication and commitment of our incredible team of volunteers. This year's team not only set up and tore down the Show but also acted as ambassadors of ARLS and Genus lilium. They answered questions about Martagons, they provided growing tips and inspired gardeners to grow lilies. I would personally like to thank Mike Danchak, Suzanna Durand, Ieuan Evans, Melanie Farkas, Laurie Hepper, Britta Johnson, Leo Krupka, Suzanne Stack, Kathy Strawson, Emmett & Marie Wenger and Terry Willoughby for their ongoing support. Also, thanks to our incredible team of judges and clerks for organizing and judging the amazing showing of stems we had this year.

2020 will be the ARLS 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Martagon Show, so we have some special plans and are hoping to have more exhibitors and stems. We are looking forward to seeing you there as you take your chances at bringing in that Best in Show stem. *Photos in this article by Lorne Kaban and Laurie Hepper*

### **Martagon Show Awards Presented at 2020 Winter Mingle**



Emmett Wenger receives the Silver Sweepstakes Award for 11 first place ribbons



Mike Danchak receives the Best Collection of Six and Bronze Sweepstakes Awards



Kathy Strawson accepts First Time Exhibitors Award on behalf of her daughter Cynthia



Spoonflower.com custom printed fabrics, wallpapers and gift wrap. You can even design your own. Kathy I want to see a quilt design of yours uploaded. I invite everyone to take a look. There is a bit of everything and new design contests you can vote on too.



Ieuan Evans receives Fred Tarlton (Best Stem in Show), ARLS (Best AB Bred Martagon) & Gold Sweepstakes Awards



Terry Willoughby receives the Hybridizers Award (Best Stem from Class VIII) for a seedling – "Petticoat Junction"

#### ARLS OFFICERS TO 2021

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Publishing Committee Chair:

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NALS Liaison:  
25th Martagon Show Chair 2021  
35th Annual Show Committee 2020  
Lily beetle

Laurie Hepper  
Britta Johnson [members@arms-lilies.org](mailto:members@arms-lilies.org)  
**VACANT;** Laurie, Britta & Shauna members  
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Bill MacKay  
Britta Johnson  
Britta, Laurie, Suzanne  
Laurie Hepper  
Ieuan Evans  
Shauna Willoughby  
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(photos L. Hepper)

- **Lily beetle report** [lilybeetle@arms-lilies.org](mailto:lilybeetle@arms-lilies.org)
- also if you have questions, I will try to answer them.
- **Report** your beetles. With a picture, To Carlton University  
[lilybeetletracker@weebly.com](mailto:lilybeetletracker@weebly.com)
- **There is also a resource page on the website**
- **Report** your beetles – with a picture to Olds College
- [Kfry@oldscollge.ca](mailto:Kfry@oldscollge.ca) **all information submitted is also shared with Carlton University**
- If you are in need of beetle brochures to give to a friend or neighbour. Contact [sec@arms-lilies.org](mailto:sec@arms-lilies.org)

## LILY BEETLE MUSINGS Laurie Hepper

I heard this year that the beetles were emerging the same time as the lilies. My lilies were poking their noses above ground and Britta said she had a report of beetles, from a friend, already lying in wait for their first meal. My experience did not happen until May 3. I bagged 2 pests. This tells me it is going to be a long season of beetle yoga. These were found on my potted lilies that I had just brought out of the garage less than a week ago. I sprayed my potted lilies.

Many daily checks ensue and on May 16 I go out and 28 beetles in front yard, back yard and neighbour's front yard. I spray. May 17, I went out twice first bag I got over 23 the second bag in PM I got 5. The first few I picked up dead. The spray is working. It gave them terminal food poisoning. Woohoo. Sadly to be able to find them laying around dead means I have a heck of a lot coming to eat my lilies.



The ones still living as I started this are making the weird clicking noise like a wet glass turned upside down and sucking air. What is weirder is that I have all the bags piled up on my desk as I type this and it took me a bit to figure out what the sound was. Not the computer, not the TV in the next room, not my coffee cup nor the cat.

By the amount showing up it is the first spring migration. May 18, I bagged 1. Many evenings of garden patrols, pest free, but still doing beetle yoga. I must look like some weird gardener bent over legs straight grabbing my ankle with my head turned to see under the leaves. In my garden this pose is repeated about 30 times for a about 1 minute per location. Yeah, I have a lot of lilies. Sometimes I cut it short and spend 15 minutes doing beetle yoga.



May 25, bagged 5 and missed 2 from neighbour's yard. 4 are still alive. May 26 bagged 2 both still alive. May 28 bagged 3, 2.5 are still alive. This tells me I bagged them before they got to dine. I did find some eggs on one lily hopefully squashed most of them but the spray will get those that hatch anyway so I am not worried. The larvae eat and then you see little pepper flakes on the underside of the leaf. Dead larvae from terminal food poisoning. Take that for eating at my lily restaurant! May 30, I bagged 1, still alive. My neighbour killed 15 on her backyard lilies. Said there were no bugs on her front lilies. I told her those were spray protected. I sprayed her backyard lilies too. I wish I knew where they are flying in from. Observation- they seem to live at least 15 days after being bagged without food. Unless you grab them and then feed them sprayed leaves [which I did last year] then they live less than 12 hours

My sister in law phoned to say she has beetles, she lives in Millwoods. She is now armed with malathion and diatomaceous earth.

My husband has found out that Dr Doom works to kill ants so my precious stash is being depleted twice as fast now.

I have new beetle reports from Red Deer and Edmonton. The beetle is establishing itself and invading new gardens. Experiment 1- Took the May 25 bag with 4 living beetles and put a half teaspoon of flour in it. I have 4 very lively beetles covered in flour right now and hope the powder will clog their breathing tubes and they will suffocate. The rose dust that was removed from the market worked on the beetle, I am hoping for an alternate solution. It has been an 4 hours and twenty minutes and the little buggers are still crawling around in the flour. Not a fast kill. The other bags still have beetles clicking away. These are going back out to the garage, very irritating noise when I am trying to get the newsletter finished. Checked on them the next day, over 24 hours, two are still moving a bit. The other two are dead. Has anyone else got any musings they would like to share. I can't be the only one who tracks their beetle hunt. Does anyone have any beetle yoga pose variations. What is the going bounty rate for kid hunters? We have a lot of kids unemployed with school closed let's give them a summer job. As I am finishing this newsletter I can add June 4, one beetle, now dead, June 8 bagged four more all dead now, June 10, 1 bagged and dead. June 11 caught 6, four are still cruising in the bag. And June 13 a dozen were bagged and three missed. Two are still alive as I placed a leaf in the bag and I guess they have not chomped yet. Time to spray the stems again. My garden should be protected until first week of July now.

## **Oh Wow!!! 😊 Lilies!** By Katharina Durand

**I want to share with you a fantastic story of an incredible find**



First though I would like to provide you with a bit of the background before I begin.

I had gotten a three-month short-term job at an oilsands site which is about 45-minute drive north of Fort McMurray, Alberta. Which is five hours north of Edmonton, where I now live. I use to live in Fort McMurray and every summer I would spend time looking for *Lilium philadelphicum*. Now though, I would be staying at a work camp, since room and board were provided for the out of town short term workers. The company would also provide transport busing for the workers to get to and from the oil sands site which is about a 20-minute drive north of camp.

The story now begins.  
It was back in June, 2017.

Since I was working, I had not been able to get the time off to attend the North American Lily (NALS) convention in St. Louis, Missouri. I was disappointed, but I consoled myself with the fact that I knew there were lots of *Lilium philadelphicum* in the area. I





planned on starting to look that weekend, which would be the same weekend as the convention. I was specifically interested in searching for the yellow form of the *Lilium philadelphicum*. I had seen pictures of it but never seen it in person.

I was on the bus heading to work and it was a Wednesday. I had been staring off into the tree line when I happened to catch a glimpse of a bright spot of orange. I wasn't sure if it was a lily because something about it looked fake.

While at work I had been wondering if it was actually a lily that I had spotted? So instead of waiting for the weekend when I had originally planned on spending the whole day searching, I decided to go straight after work. When I got back to camp, I headed to my car and jumped in and backtracked to where I had seen the orange patch. I pulled over onto the shoulder and parked as far off the highway that I could get. I grabbed my phone and headed to the area where I had spotted the orange and what I thought might be lilies. As I drew closer .....



**Oh Wow! Oh Wow! Oh Wow! Oh Wow! Oh Wow! Oh Wow! Oh Wow! Oh Wow!**

I could not stop that phrase from repeating in my mind!

I was amazed at what I was seeing!

The orange patch was indeed a bouquet of *Lilium philadelphicum*. I could not believe it.

I checked and rechecked and there was a total of eight stems. I counted the number of flowers for each stem.

There were two stems of single blooming flowers. A stem of five blooms and, oh my, another three stems had seven flowers each.

Amazingly one was of eight inflorescence.

Even more incredible, was one of nine blooming lilies!



Oh Wow!

I could barely believe that I was seeing such a fantastic display of lilies growing together in one spot. How rare was it to see one stem of seven blooms, let alone there were three of them! Plus, one that had eight blooms and I have only once ever seen one stem with nine blooming lilies in the twenty years or so I have gone searching for lilies. To see them together in one bouquet!!

Oh Wow!



Later that evening I sent an email with the pictures of the lilies to my sister Suzanna Durand and our friend Deb Petrie who were both at the convention. I wanted everyone who was at the convention to fly to Fort McMurray so they could also enjoy this amazing sight of *L. philadelphicum*. Even though nobody showed up I was still excited to be able to share the amazing find.

I have seen hundreds and hundreds of lilies and I suspect that I will never see such a strong show of lilies that I did that year.

I have often wondered since then if it was because of the forest fires of May, 2016 in the Fort McMurray region. There was a lot of ash in the air and all that falling ash gave the bulbs an extra boost to outgrow themselves and produce what I will forever call the Oh Wow! 😊 Lilies

Take care and Keep Safe,

Have fun with the lilies, *photos in this article submitted by Katharina Durand*

### IS THAT MARTAGON IN YOUR GARDEN REALLY MRS. R. O. BACKHOUSE?

Whenever plants are cloned either from cuttings, bulb scales or tissue culture; i.e. from clonal regeneration the resulting progeny is not always identical. This change can be hardly noticeable or very obvious such as a partial or complete colour change. I chose to write about Mrs. R. O. Backhouse since I have 3 “kinds” of this cultivar growing in my garden. They all look superficially like Mrs. Backhouse but the spots, dots and colour patterns are different. This could be true of many Asiatic hybrids

I looked into this area of research since I used to acquire cold hardy zone 3 apples. I found for example that the famous old Canadian apple, the McIntosh had an estimated 50 distinct cultivars all of which originated from the one original apple tree. We have the familiar green, red blush type, the cold hardy zone 3 spur type, completely green and completely bright red apple types. All are non-the-less McIntosh apples.

I grew an orange cactus dahlia for many years deep down against the basement wall of my then south facing house. In the third year of growth almost half of the flower became snow white (a chimera or sport) yet it was still physically bound up to the original orange dahlia root mass.

Research at Oxford University, UK have shown that the genomes of regenerant plants carry relatively high frequencies of new DNA sequence mutations that were not present in the genome of the original donor plant.

Where and how these new mutations occur is still a mystery. They could arrive during the regeneration process itself or during cell division that give rise to root cells which create the regenerant plants.

The researchers figure out that there must be very good evolutionary reasons why those mutations occur in cloned plants growing naturally in the wild. When I used to look at the countless thousands of wild bluebells growing near my former house in Wales, I would often



*Photo Mrs Backhouse Suzanna Durand*



see the odd pink or white “bluebell” growing in the sea of blue. They were identical to the blue types except for the colour.

Lilies growing in natural conditions may often have their bulbs broken up by burrowing animals, particularly rodents. Rodents like squirrels may then bury and store these broken bulb pieces in several locations to act as a winter food supply. The burying rodent may itself not survive the winter or forget where the bulb scale was buried. Mutations could arise from these bulb pieces when they regenerate.

So, the next time you look at wild lilies look for the obvious genetic variations. In a small stand of *Lilium philadelphicum* near my home I found that the colours ranged from bright yellow to deep orange/red.

It is entirely possible that some of our “older” lilies, all species and hybrids included may be genetically very similar but have distinctly different colours possibly having very different names. A DNA check would solve some of these suspected identity similarities or differences.

Dr. Ieuan R. Evans, February 29, 2020

### **TREAT YOUR MARTAGON BULBS RIGHT AND THEY WON'T POUT AFTER TRANSPLANTING**

Martagon lilies have a long-standing reputation of being difficult to transplant, either with your own garden specimens or from newly purchased or acquired bulbs.

I recently read Sandy Venton's September 2019 Quarterly Bulletin article on “Moving Martagons – Not for the Faint of Heart”. In that article, Sandy describes Marvin Joslin pulling up a red martagon in full bloom during a visit to his martagon collection in Alberta. Sandy said that she took this martagon back to Winnipeg and planted it immediately and states that it came up beautifully the next spring.

There in lies the answer provided by Sandy. Martagons should be transplanted in the late summer or fall as soon as possible after flowering. If martagons fail to flower, either because they have yet to reach flowering size or the flower buds were killed by a spring frost they die-back as early as the first week of August. Martagons that bloom and set seed generally have green foliage and deep green pods that remain that way into mid or late September. If martagons are prevented from seeding by early pod removal they will die back. So, if you are not going to let your martagons go to seed, they can be dug up and transplanted in early August. At this time of year, the soil is still warm for a few months and if the martagon bulbs are well watered in at this time the soil heat and moisture from August to October allows the transplanted bulb to form new roots and if you look carefully, initiate a new shoot or shoots on each bulb.

In other words, martagon bulbs need a little time and moisture to resettle in after transplanting. I have done this with tulips. I have bought them in late August and planted them in warm moist soil right away and they bloomed beautifully the next year. I have also bought tulip bulbs on special in late October, planted them right away into cold dry soil. In the following spring hardly any of my tulips emerged and a few produced scraggy blooms.

The very same principles apply to martagons, plant as early as possible into warm moist soil. Early in Canada means late August or early September. Early in the U.S. means mid to late September using warm water to water them in place. If you plant bulbs into dry cold soil they just sit in limbo and do not start re-growing until they have moisture as well as warmth.

Each fall by late September or early October I am left with lots of martagon bulbs that I did not sell. Many of these bulbs were not sold because they were undersized, damaged, misshapen or as with some types of martagons, just plain fragile. Its too late for me to plant them outside so I scale some of the named varieties and new introductions and I plant the residual bulbs according to variety at 1 – 4 per 5-inch (12 cm) pot. I use Sunshine #4 peat moss mix. I place the bulbs about an inch below the surface followed by thorough wetting



of the soil. The pots are kept in my greenhouse that remains quite warm until December allowing the bulbs the moisture and warm temperature to produce new roots. From mid-December to February they are kept on the floor of the greenhouse where the temperatures are at or close to freezing for these 3 months. Even though I used damaged bulbs and bulbs that were scaled and handled for several weeks I get around 90% or more of the martagons to normally emerge and flower. A few of the damaged bulbs will rot. By mid-April I have a couple of hundred martagons in full bloom and an ideal situation to do some effective cross pollination. So, the conclusion is – get your martagon bulbs as soon as possible in late summer or early fall. If you are getting them late in September or even early October plant them with lots of soil mix or compost and try and keep them periodically watered with warm water so that the soil stays moist and warm and the chances are that your martagons WILL bloom nicely the next year and NOT POUT.

Dr. Ieuan R. Evans, March 30, 2020

*Editors note: I finally have an Evans seedling I planted three years ago show up with 3 stems. Was actually going to plant a shrub there this year so it decided to make an appearance. Now I have to find another spot for my shrub.*

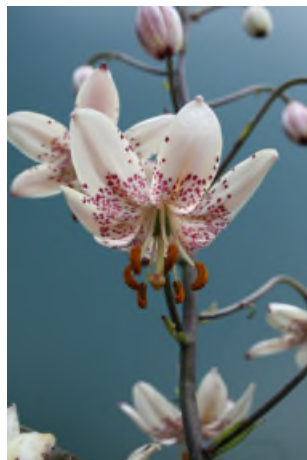
## LILY SHOW 2020

As a recap ARLS does not have any lily shows this year. ARLS is holding a Facebook show with the top three lily pictures with the most likes to win Gold, Silver and Bronze, no categories just great pictures of liliium. Anyone can enter just like always. If you do not have a Facebook account send your lily pictures from this year to Lorne at [dlkaban@hotmail.com](mailto:dlkaban@hotmail.com) and he will have them uploaded. The show will be tabulated after Summer (September) as most lilies have finished blooming and the late blooming stragglers are hit by frost. Please have your photos submitted by then. Everyone else visit our Facebook page often and vote for your favourites.



Hi thought I would share. I took this June 12<sup>th</sup> – this year. They are now tied up as the wind came through and knocked half of them over. (left) Laurie

2019 martagon show first place Evans  
martagon seedling Class VIII (right)



2019 martagon  
show first place  
and award  
winner for Best  
Stem of Class VIII  
Willoughby  
seedling  
“Petticoat  
Junction” (can’t  
wait to see this  
registered)

