



The Bulblet



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AGM SPEAKER 2019

Due to the acclaim Darm generated from ARLS members when he came and talked to us in Fall 2007 we are asking all members to call or email Lorne, Britta or Laurie (see directors list) and let us know you will attend the seminar and or lunch as soon as possible. We have to find out how big a room we need to request. Lunch is \$22.00 each and the seminar is free to members if that is all you want to see. Then you can send in your lunch form and relax knowing you will not have to sit squeezed into a room too small.

Darm Crook is that internationally renowned northern (Hay River, NWT) lily grower, and he will be joining us at the ARLS AGM on April 27, 2019 to share some of his insights and tips on growing lilies and species lilies. You are not going to want to miss this discussion.

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.

As I sit to write the first Newsletter message for 2019, we have just weathered the coldest February in 40 years and March has come in as a frosty lion! Hopefully this is short lived and the lamb will muscle its way into the weather systems and we will start to see some at least average temperatures soon. While I am not fully optimistic maybe the cold temps will have some impact on that nasty little red lily beetle (fingers crossed). While there may be a bit more cold ahead, the days are getting longer and we all know that the spring cannot be far off and with it will come our renewed focus on our beloved lilies.

It was great to see all the ARLS members that ventured out in the cold to Crestwood Hall last weekend for the Winter Mingle. We had an enjoyable





afternoon catching up and sharing stories. The Show winners for 2018 were recognized for their award winning stems and a challenge was issued to all those in attendance to get out and show a stem this year. There was a bulb scaling activity that allowed some members to go home with a bag of scales and for those that cannot wait for the resulting bulblets to mature, there were a few bulbs available for sale. The silent auction had a variety of interesting items and for those that won the bid they went home with potted daffodils or lilies or some unique lily merchandise. (We are enjoying the blooms from a pot of Tete-a-Tete miniature daffodils and waiting for our Martagon var. St. Albert to bloom.) The selection of treats as always was also fantastic!

For those that planted some seed in anticipation of Spring and warmer weather, I hope that you are having fantastic germination and cultivating the lilies that will mystify us all in the future!

As we look ahead to 2019, ARLS has a number of exciting events that you will want to be sure to mark on your calendar. The first is the Annual General Meeting on April 27 at Woodvale Hall, we are so fortunate to have Darm Crook from Hay River, NWT, join us to share his experiences and insights on growing species lilies. Darm has managed to grow 67 species lilies in his garden and has flowered at least one new species every year since the mid 1990's. You are not going to want to miss this presentation, grab a friend and come on down. Look for further details in the Bulblet and ensure you confirm you are coming so we have enough space and lunch for everyone. This year the 24th Annual Martagon Show will be July 5-7 and the 34th Annual Lily Show will be July 19-21. If you participated in the President's Challenge last fall and got your free bulb, remember that you have committed to bring a stem to the Show. With the great response we had, we are sure to award the First Time Exhibitor's Award for both Shows this year. ARLS will also be hosting a number of Spring and Fall bulb sales. If you don't have any species lilies in your garden be sure to check out the Spring sales so you can get in on the Spectacular Species Contest this summer. Be sure to check the Bulblet or the ARLS website for additional details for the upcoming events!

I look forward to seeing you all throughout the summer at these events or our in the garden.

Lorne

ARLS AFFILIATES

Alberta Horticultural Association icangarden.com/clubs/aha

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

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

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

North American Lily Society lilies.org <https://www.facebook.com/NorthAmericanLilySociety/>

RHS Lily Group www.rhslilygroup.org/

BULB SALES 2019

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.



APRIL:

13 Bonnyville Annual Gardeners Day 4813- 47 Ave Seniors Drop In Centre

MAY:

4 & 5 Calgary Hort. Society Garden Show NEW VENUE – MAX BELL CENTRE –The Garden Show is moving! Our new venue is the Max Bell Centre (1001 Barlow Trail SE), **Calgary** which is centrally located, convenient to the LRT and includes free parking. Ticket Prices:

- Member advance online: \$10 each (plus service fee)
- Member at the door: \$12.50 each
- Non-member advance online: \$12 (plus service fee)
- Non-member at the door: \$15.00

18 St Paul Critter Market 11 am – 3:30pm 5322 48 Ave

25 Fulton Place Gardeners Swap, 9 am - noon 6115 Fulton Rd NW, **Edmonton**

SEPTEMBER:

28 Greenland Garden Centre, **Sherwood Park**

30 **Edmonton Hort. Society** September meeting 11113-111 Ave free to members or \$10 non-members **Edmonton**

ARLS EVENTS 2019

Annual General Meeting Saturday April 27 10 am- noon, Election of President, Treasurer, Secretary, and 4 directors, lunch , Speaker in afternoon.

We have internationally renowned northern (Hay River, NWT) lily grower, Darm Crook, joining us at the ARLS AGM on April 27, 2019 to share some of his insights and tips on growing lilies.

Make sure you mark your calendars now because you are not going to want to miss this discussion.

24th Martagon Lily Show Saturday/ Sunday July 6 & 7 U of A Botanic Gardens Spruce Grove Hwy 60

34th Annual Lily Show Saturday/ Sunday July 20 & 21 Greenland Garden Centre, Sherwood Park



NALS Show 2019



Please Come to Boston

Now that I have your attention with the lyric title of the 1974 Dave Loggins musical hit, read on to learn more about the exciting upcoming event. Have you ever dreamed of a trip to the famous 281 acre Arnold Arboretum on the grounds Harvard University?! Well this summer would be a great year to fulfill that bucket list item because you could couple it with your participation in the 72nd NALS Lily Show & Symposium!!! The New England Lily Society team has been hard at work putting together an amazing itinerary for this years NALS sponsored event. The Lily Show is actually going to be presented at the Arnold Arboretum, so you will not only be able to revel in the fabulous varieties of lilies but also immerse yourself in this incredible historical site. The Arboretum was established in 1872 and is home to a multitude of *living collections* of trees and plants from around the world. "As of June 2015, the living collections consisted of some 14,760 accessioned plants representing 3,800 botanical and horticultural taxa, with particular emphasis on the woody species of North America and eastern Asia..." (reference Albert Arboretum website). If that is not enough of a draw, Saturday will be a day filled with garden tours in the surrounding area. And as always the Convention is a great opportunity to learn more about growing, showing and hybridizing our beloved lilies through workshops, reuniting with old friends or cultivating new lifelong friendships. So mark your calendar and make your reservations for July 10 to 14, 2019!



For all the details and to register for the Show visit the website at <http://nals2019.lilies.org/index.html>!

I look forward to see you there! Lorne

NALS 2020 is in the works more information later.



The Alberta Regional Lily Society



Promoting genus *lilium* as an excellent garden plant

Sara Yaremko Entered our Annual Lily Show Junior Show and went home with two trophies and a gift card and some cash for her winning entries.



LILY SOURCES

Bertha Lardner: Martagon Lilies NE Edmonton 780-478-7929 lardnerbm@gmail.com

Valley K Lily Ranch 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

Parkland Lilies - Fred Fellner seedlings RR1 Vermillion 1-780-853-2355 final last years 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 location shopping only- no mail order shipping. Stop by when in Calgary- check website for hours.

Lily Nook Nigel & Joyce Strohmam; 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

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/
204-857-5288 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

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 bfberg@rogers.com

ARLS OFFICERS TO 2019

PRESIDENT	Lorne Kaban	Bonnyville Phone 780.812.3533	pres@arls-lilies.org
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PAST PRESIDENT	VACANT		
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Dianne Skimming	Calgary	Phone 403.274.4747	diskimming@gmail.com

DIRECTORS 2017-2019

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Bill Mackay	Innisfail	Phone 403.227.3563	bmackay@telusplanet.net
Suzanna Durand	Spruce Grove	Phone 780 743-5128	dominaterra@gmail.com
Leo Krupka	Edmonton	Phone 780.484.8714	oma.opa2@shaw.ca

LIBRARIAN (Board Appointed-to 2018)

The Alberta Regional Lily Society

Bonnie Doon STN PO Box 68138 Edmonton, AB T6C 4G0

Promoting genus liliium as an excellent garden plant

MARCH 2019

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Terry Willoughby	Spruce Grove	Phone 780.968.1818	library@arls-lilies.org
WEB EDITOR (Board Appointed-to 2018)			
Shauna Willoughby	Spruce Grove	Phone 780.968.1818	webeditor@arls-lilies.org
NEWSLETTER EDITOR VACANT	fill in	blackmartagon@gmail.com	news@arls-lilies.org

ARLS COMMITTEES

Bulb Sale Chair:	VACANT
Advertising & Public Relations:	Suzanne Stack
Publishing Committee Chair:	Shauna Willoughby
Venue Coordinator:	Laurie Hepper
Membership Chair:	Britta Johnson members@arls-lilies.org
Web Committee Chair:	VACANT; Laurie, Britta & Shauna members
Speakers Committee:	Lorne Kaban, Bill MacKay, Terry Willoughby
OLDS College Committee Chair:	Bill MacKay
U of Alberta Botanic Gardens Committee Chair:	Britta Johnson
AGLC-GAIN Funding Chair:	Laurie Hepper
Casino 2018 Chair:	Ieuan Evans
NALS Liaison:	Shauna Willoughby
24th Martagon Show Chair 2019	Lorne Kaban
34th Annual Show Committee 2019	Suzanne, Dianne, Lorne, Britta, Laurie

101 LAZY WAYS TO GROW MARTAGON LILIES FROM SEED

Never one for following standard procedure, I always look for short cuts and innovative ways to accomplish objectives. Growing martagons from seed was no exception. Some of the “old” ways was time consuming and often restricted to specific crosses so I am not describing them in any detail.

Contrary to what I have seen published in texts, I find that martagon lilies do well in half to pretty heavy shade under trees and they like lots of peat moss and compost. Back some 20 or so years ago I found buying martagons very expensive, like \$35 and even \$45 for Larissa and I had to drive to Barrhead to get it. In today's terms that is over \$150 a bulb.

Initially I found that my martagons were prolific seed producers but I had a limited genetic pool of cultivars. I solved this by asking Fred Tarlton and Marvin Jocelin if I could collect seed heads from their garden. Marvin had the most with over 50 cultivars.

I grew the seed in barely moist peat moss, in glass pots, bags and full to the brim plastic containers. My best results were in sealed plastic containers (the ones you buy olives in) placed in transparent polythene garbage bags inside another transparent polythene bag. This is to avoid moisture loss from the plastic containers. I also placed a quarter cup of water inside the outer plastic bag. Plastic containers are permeable to oxygen but not to water vapour (moisture).

In the plastic containers I mixed the martagon seed or put them in 3 – 4 layers in the peat moss. Peat moss is acidic with a pH of 3 – 4 and is as a consequence suppressive of fungal and bacterial rots.

The pots were seeded in early October, kept at room temperature, 70° F or 24° C, until January 1st. After this time seeing obvious germination in the plastic pots they were then placed in bags and all into refrigerators again to prevent moisture loss. When the basement refrigerators were full, the bags with the plastic pots were placed in a cold garage where the temperature fluctuated between -5° C and 5° C above most days. By early April the seedlings from the rice grain like bulb would put up a leafy shoot. I could hold back this early germination if I did not place the warm room pots into the refrigerator or garage until February 1st or February 15th so that the seedling would not be germinating until May 1st.



I would then transfer the germinated seedlings into small 3-inch greenhouse pots full of #4 moist compost peat/perlite mix. These pots were then placed in trays in the greenhouse.

All of the above was a lot of work over the next 10 years but I managed to grow very many thousands of martagon from seed.

This may be an effective but way too much work for me even if I was successful in developing new varieties.

WHAT WAS THE LAZY SOLUTION?

I would collect lots of martagon seed as soon as the heads were ripe in September. I then took handfuls of the seed and scattered them under my poplar tree wood lot at the bottom of my garden and under trees and shrubs in my hedgerow. I found that if we had a very early snowfall in late September or early October the seed would be germinated by late April or May of the next year. I guess the early snow would insulate them. If the snow was late into November the seed would not germinate until the following spring 19 months after sowing. If I used the martagon seed and placed it a half inch deep in rows like carrot seed, preferably in half shade in October I would have to watch that row and weed it the next summer with no seedling emergence but by the following April (19 months) hundreds of seedlings would emerge.

Under the poplar trees, the wild raspberries, fireweed and hemp nettles would shade out the martagon seedlings by early June only giving them about 6 weeks of sunlight. Consequently, it took from 6 – 7 years for them to get big enough to flower. I helped them a bit by removing all vegetation with a mower in October so that there was no dead vegetation to shade them in early spring. For the last few years I have had hundreds of martagons, mostly white and pink in bloom with some unusual colours and shapes.

When I grew them in rows, like carrots, I had them bloom in 4 years from seeding but I cheated a little by spraying them every 2 weeks from late May with canola fungicide. This kept them green until August by preventing infection by the Botrytis fungus. For some strange reason when I grow them in “carrot type” rows I get a much greater diversity of colour and unusual ones from maroon to red and yellow and even sterile types.

So next time you have martagon seed follow the above procedure and you will have martagons galore if you have the patience. Do not forget to use up your seed every year from your mature martagon lilies and as time passes you will find yourself expectantly awaiting the arrival and flowering of new and unusual martagon seedlings every May and June.

Dr. Ieuan R. Evans February 23, 2019

UNIVERSITY of ALBERTA BOTANIC GARDEN NEWS

Events at the garden: check out the website for all events <http://botanicgarden.ualberta.ca/>

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

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

MUTTART NEWS

The Muttart Conservatory is going under some infrastructure upgrades this year, starting July 2nd until January 2021 the building will be closed. July 1 IS A CLOSING DAY EVENT COME OUT AND ATTEND. The gardens will still be open so you can go down at any time and wander through the new plantings.



ST ALBERT BOTANIC PARK NEWS

The park has a new pergola courtesy of ARLS. The parasitic lily beetle wasp is in the gardens to begin to control the beetle population in St Albert.

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.

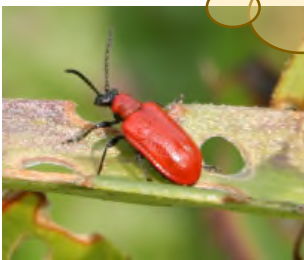
LILY BOOKS



ARLS had the opportunity of getting 30 of these books. The final 3 are for sale at \$72 CDN. Postage is extra if we have to send them to you.

Pontus Wallsten **The Lily Species and their bulbs**

Does anyone want to provide a 1 paragraph book review?



(photos L. Hepper)

Beetle Musings lilybeetle@arls-lilies.org

report to ARLS if you have questions, I will try to answer them.

Report your invasion. With a picture To Carlton University lilybeetletracker@weebly.com

There is also a resource page on the website

Report your beetles - with a picture to Olds College Kfry@oldscollge.ca

If you are in need of beetle brochures to give to a friend or neighbour. Contact sec@arls-lilies.org



KEEP WATCH. KILL THE BEETLE. REPORT THE BEETLE. April is coming up fast. The beetle emerges as the fritillaria and lilies start poking their heads up. I have pot of lilies in the garage with a foot of growth already. Too cold to put them out and too warm for them inside. This year is already a challenge.

Members receive discounts at the following businesses:

* **ALL SEASONS GARDEN CENTRE.** [10027-81 Ave. Edmonton](https://www.allseasonsgarden.com) 10% discount. Membership card must be presented and discount may not apply to all products.

* **APACHE SEEDS LTD.** [10136 149 ST., EDMONTON](https://www.apacheseeds.com) 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 \(west of Devonian Gardens\)](https://www.cannornurseries.com) 10% discount. Membership card must be presented and discount may not apply to all products.

* **ELLERSLIE GIFT & GARDEN** [10330 Ellerslie Rd SW, Edmonton](https://www.ellersliegift.com) 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. Contact Valley K by email at webmaster@plantlilies.com to request the discount code BEFORE ordering. Follow Valley K on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/plantlilies> sometimes she has contests.

SPECIES SPECTACULAR SEASON OF SHARING CONTEST

SPECIES LILY PHOTO CONTEST FOR 2019

SUBMIT 1 PHOTO PER DRAW ENTRY TO WIN A SPECIES LILY BULB

Do you know what a species lily is?

Wikipedia provides the following definition: *Lilium is a genus of herbaceous flowering plants growing from bulbs, all with large prominent flowers. Lilies are a group of flowering plants which are important in culture and literature in much of the world. Most species are native to the temperate northern hemisphere, though their range extends into the northern subtropics. Many other plants have "lily" in their common name but are not related to true lilies.*

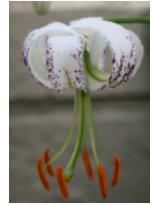
So, what does that really mean? If you've ever wondered where that beautiful cultivar that you have in your garden came from, it all started with a species lily. They are those wild or native lilies that exist across North America, Europe and especially Asia (Japan, China, Burma, and India) and were used by and continue to be used by hybridizers to create the incredible magnificent lilies we see today. A classic example is the well known martagon Mrs. R.O. Backhouse, which is a cross between *L. martagon* x *L. hansonii*.

As is the case with so many species around the globe some of our lily species are in jeopardy because of development or habitat destruction. We as lovers of Genus *Lilium* have a responsibility to ensure the preservation of these unique and diverse lilies. There are generally a couple of species lilies available at annual bulb sales each year so hopefully you have a few growing in your garden.

So that brings us to the fun and fantastic contest that ARLS is going to be holding next summer!! To support and encourage the growing of species lilies we are asking you to take a photo with any of the species lilies growing in your garden and either share them on the ARLS Facebook page or send them to me at



dlkaban@hotmail.com and I will post them. For each individual species that is shared you will receive an entry for a draw at the end of the season to win a special species lily bulb. The contest will start at the beginning of the growing season in 2019, so you still have time to get a bulb or two of species lilies!



Can't wait to see your species lilies!

L. duchartriei

PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE – "SHOW US YOUR LILIES"

This year we had a great contingent of exhibitors at both the Martagon and Annual Lily Shows. The exhibitors brought in a fantastic selection of stems and the competition was friendly, but intense and when all the judging was done many different winners were crowned! Sadly, we were not able to award the First Time Exhibitor Award at either of the Shows.

So, in an effort to inspire some new exhibitors I am issuing the President's Challenge! If you are interested in participating you need to come out to one of this Fall's Bulb Sales and you will be able to receive one FREE lily bulb, but in exchange you will have to sign up to participate in one of next year's Lily Shows. Because I am committed to keeping our regular exhibitors involved in showing lilies, I am also willing to provide them with a FREE bulb as well, as long as they also bring a stem in to one of next year's Shows, but they will not be able to participate in the FTE competition. If someone accepts a bulb and does not follow through with bringing in a stem to one of the Shows next year then I will ask them to make a donation to ARLS to support other Society initiatives.

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 pres@arls-lilies.org

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday April 27 10 am- noon, Speaker in afternoon.

We have internationally renowned northern (Hay River, NWT) lily grower, Darm Crook, joining us at the ARLS AGM on April 27, 2019 to share some of his insights and tips on growing lilies.

Make sure you mark your calendars now because you are not going to want to miss this discussion.

Call or email Lorne, Britta or Laurie to let us know you are coming. We want to book the correct room size for this exceptional speaker

Terry & Shauna Willoughby Annual Show winners in the categories leuan did not sweep

