



# SOUTH SASKATCHEWAN LILY SOCIETY INC.

Affiliate of the North American Lily Society, Inc.

Our website: <http://www.sasklilysociety.org>

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## Presidents message

Well here it is again. The Season that we all love to hate. And am I ready, of course not.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for all the time and effort that they have put into making this a successful year. And do not forget that we have the Christmas Pot Luck coming up Wednesday November 26. Hope to see everyone there.

Well of course I spent way too much money on plants again this year, but don't want to leave any behind for the government to take when I die (hopefully not too soon).

These are supposed to be the golden years, but the body is not standing up too well. I'm still suffering from back problems. Bitch, bitch.

Have not talked to Ron lately, but of course he is doing a wonderful job of getting rid of the left over lilies. I have informed him that he is not ever allowed to take holidays during bulb sale time again.

And of course because the peonies were there, I had to buy some of those too.

Bought lots of trumpet lilies this year, hope they do ok, just barely limped mine through from last year. They did not like the cold spring at all. Some were barely 4" tall, but the bulbs seemed to still be ok. The OT's did not like it this year either. Oh well, there is always next year, or if nothing else I can raise a crop of cattails or moss.

I don't know what the weather has been like for everyone else this fall, but in our area it has been nothing but wet. Still got moisture in my basement, (more bitching) and the well is overflowing. Have to get some roommates, can't use enough water on my own to keep the level down. My mom is coming to live with me, will have to make her wash lots of dishes and clothes. Moving her slowly, hope to have it done by the end of November, probably in a snow storm.

The most important things came first, the plants. Inherited a bunch of fern peonies, lucky me, and a bunch more goodies. I am a plant killer, when it comes to house plants, so trying not to let anyone die before she gets here to rescue them. She would not trust me with her violets, knows better.

Well time to sign off, and hit the bed. Have to go to doctor tomorrow and get some more of those good drugs.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone and their families. Hope you have a safe and loving year.

## Fall Seminar Society Events

My task is to present the "Herb Sunley Award" on behalf of the South Saskatchewan Lily Society. This award is the highest honour that our society supports. It recognizes those who promote the genus liliium. Through their efforts they have advanced the future of liliium and its societies.

Today we are honouring a person who is passionate, loyal and generous in his efforts to support liliium. He is a lily grower, a lily hybridizer, an exhibitor extraordinary and a NALS board member and a judge. Brian Bergman is recognized as an authority in growing and producing new lilies. Many of these lilies have found their way to our bulb sales.

Brian is a master at selecting and exhibiting lilies. He has generously shared his blooms at the NALS shows. If the facts- be- known he has made many a NALS Show by the quality and quantity of the lily stems he has shipped to the sites. I know he has done this over and over but the one that that impressed me the most was the show in Sidney, B.C. Floral box- upon- floral box, opened with his treasures—he even brought along a helper to get them to the show tables on time. It was wonderful! Of course we at the SSLS know of Brian's success as he has won the "Jean Eriksen" Award most years. Brian has generously given bulbs of these winner to our Historical Garden so we have a living record to enjoy.

Brian is also very loyal and respectful of the Societies traditions. I was told how Brian stepped up to assist with classification and organization of the delightful Iowa Regional Society NALS Show. Now Iowa is rather like us and have few active members. They called on horticultural societies and garden clubs for the man power required to produce this larger show. I was told by many how supportive Brian was in making that show a success. Brian took this as another learning opportunity and now has taken on the duties of being an instructor for NALS Judge's Schools. This is a very time consuming commitment as each school requires three visits.

On learned that one of the sponsors for a NALS award was no longer able to support their commitment. It was thought that this division would have to be eliminated from the show schedule. Brian stepped forward to take responsibility for providing an award and keeping the tradition of that lily division present and encouraging the growers.

We thank and recognize your dynamic contribution to the lily world Brian and wish you continued success.

Dolores Nelson



## Fall Seminar

Our fall Seminar and Annual General Meeting was held on Sunday, Sept 28 at the Eastview Community Centre at 615-6th Ave in Regina. Twenty- three lily lovers attended including some out of town members and visitors from afar which we were very happy to see.

Our day began with our Annual General Meeting which included the election of officers for 2015 and other business. Coffee, donuts and muffins were served.

Dr. Brian Bergman from Ontario, a hybridizer and exhibitor of top Canadian lilies was our guest speaker. His power point presentation entitled the Orchids of Perennials included beautiful lilies from Keukenhof Garden in Amsterdam, and also from Ontario, his home province. He gave us practical insight into the hybridizing of lilies and the choosing of the strongest and best for cultivation and distributing. It was amazing to see the variations from a cross of two parent lilies. Sometimes the result was not at all like either parent in colour or growth habit. Any new offspring prone to disease, poor growth or short lifespan would not be used in lily breeding. Only the strongest and finest are kept and used to hybridize.

We enjoyed a meal of hot chilli, buns and fruit for lunch followed by our silent auction which was fun as many of our members had donated special articles for this. Norman Brown created and donated a special piece of art-three beautiful photos of lilies framed. This was won by Viola Berwold. Door prizes were enjoyed by many. Thank you to all who donated items and brought food.

Brian answered many inquiries regarding growing and showing and was a hit with our members and with the public who approached him at the Lily Bulb Sale at the Golden Mile Shopping Centre while he was doing a presentation there.

Thank you Brian for your presentation and for supplying lilies for sale and door prizes.

We hope to see you in the future.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joan Harris

## **The South Saskatchewan Lily Society is inviting you to attend a Judges School in early spring.**

In 2006 SSLS held a "judges' school" which gave our members the opportunity to become student judges. The society has been well serviced by those who became accredited and it is now time to offer this opportunity to others.

Why you should consider attending a judges' school:

1. To become an accredited NALS Lily Judge. Those who wish to become NALS judges are required to hold an NALS Membership.
2. It is an opportunity for accredited judges to upgrade their knowledge and competence by auditing the classes.
3. Members and fellow horticulturalist are welcome to audit these classes to learn more about lilies and show procedure.

Members of other lily societies and anyone interested in learning more about lilies are welcome. If you are interested or require more information please call Pat Sargent 306-584-1259 or email [anssar10@gmail.com](mailto:anssar10@gmail.com)

Further information will be provided in the January regarding date, place and curriculum.

## **Bulb Sale**

This year's bulb sale was another success. We had sales of \$5,210.96 less expenses of \$2,411.29 leaving the society with a profit of \$2,799.67.

I would like to thank Shirley Tuttosi for assisting in choosing the bulbs, Viola Berwald for hosting the bulb packaging at her home, Gladys Ning for transporting the lilies, Joan Harris for picking up the bulbs for the sale, the members who assisted in packaging the bulbs, those members who helped with the sales and everyone who participated in purchasing some bulbs for next year's display of lovely foliage.

A special thanks to Susan Parks and Kathy Fetter for the donation of their bulbs.

We will have a head start to next year's plant sale as we have 180 bulbs in storage. Thanks again to everyone for a superb team effort. See you next year.

Ron Sitter

## Development of New Interspecific Lily Hybrids

### Looking Back and Ahead

Wilbert Ronald

The most popular garden lilies in recent NALS popularity polls are the new intersectional hybrids that are often termed “Orienpets” or “Orientpet lilies”. ‘Northern Carillon’ lily, combined with its namesake ‘Silk Road’, has been at the top of recent lists. With the development of these new lilies has come new terms such as “interspecific” and “intersectional”, both used to describe the taxonomic relationship of the crosses. Other terms such as “interdivisional”, “Division 8 hybrids” and “Orienpets” are more horticultural terms. The term Orienpets indicates the lily is derived from the Oriental lily section (Japanese *auratum/speciosum* lilies) crossed with trumpet derivatives (Chinese trumpet and Aurelians). Gardeners have come to appreciate these lilies while also being faced with new terms such as LA hybrids, Asiapets, and Easterpets, all of which describe new interdivisional lily hybrids. Lily hybridization prior to 1970 was largely confined to crosses between related species and sub species (intra-sectional crosses). Numerous Asiatic, Martagon, Oriental, and Aurelian hybrids form the basis of most lilies produced in the world. Since 1970 much of the lily breeding work has involved crossing distant species in different sections of the genus (intersectional crosses).

We owe a great deal to Mr. Leslie Woodriff whose pioneering wide cross in lilies led to the ‘Black Beauty’ hybrid cross in 1957. This intersectional hybrid cross of *L. speciosum* and *L. henryi* was not supposed to happen in the eyes of most lily scientists of the day. Woodriff’s cross was eventually documented by chromosomal analysis and this strong and outstanding lily created a worldwide interest in wide crosses, tetraploidization and related studies. Woodriff’s accomplishment by conventional crossing and seed germination is a milestone in lily breeding and deserves all the credit it receives. The scientific studies that led to further breakthroughs in lily breeding came in the late 1960’s and early 1970’s. Before talking about these breakthroughs in pollen tube growth, embryo culture etc., I want to refer to one other seminal event, that being Comber’s (1949) classification of the lily genus into related sections and subsections. Comber’s classification was based on numerous morphological and physiological traits that linked related species.

This classification has stood the test of time and apart from the alignment of *L. henryi* with the Chinese trumpet group where its bulb form and breeding affinity lies, there have been few other major changes proposed. This will surely change as more Asiatic species are discovered and brought into cultivation. As I have said, Woodriff’s ‘Black Beauty’ lily raised many questions about wide crosses in lily hybridization. The sterility of ‘Black Beauty’ certainly showed it was a wide cross. Chromosomal studies revealed that it was indeed a hybrid of *L. henryi* and *L. speciosum*, as claimed by Leslie Woodriff. He gained great respect for this work as well as other pioneering efforts with upfacing Orientals that have changed the face of Oriental forcing lilies.

In the 1960’s an interest in pollen tube growth within the relatively long styles of lilies led to pioneering studies in Japan and at the University of Wisconsin. These studies on both self- and cross- pollinations opened the door to truly scientific lily crossing. For example breeders could now know that the styles of *L. longiflorum* rejected the pollen of related Aurelian and Oriental pollens while in the reciprocal cross the *L. longiflorum* pollen grew happily down the styles of trumpet species and Aurelians. In cases where pollen tubes grew slowly but rather normal, the use of cut styles became an accepted way to aid the pollen tube in its path to fertilization. At the same time as these studies, a strong interest developed in the culture and rescue of small embryos from interspecific crosses. This work at the Scottish Horticultural Institute and University of Minnesota followed later by Morden Research Centre, Sun Valley Bulb Farm, Oregon Bulb Farms and elsewhere opened up the path to the wide crosses we have become familiar with today. One other critical event was ongoing during this time that has continued to have great impact on the world of interspecific lily breeding. This term “polyploidization” most often refers to tetraploids but also includes triploids which are very common place in wide crosses. The effect of tetraploidization in restoring chromosomal pairing and high fertility is seen in many wide cross hybrids from Black

Beauty onward. Whether or not you are enthused about tetraploids as horticultural plants, those of us who breed lilies realize that the pioneer work of Emsweller, Freimann, and Greisbach is critical to restoring fertility and reaching the next generation with many of the widest interspecific crosses. Thus we have seen a progression in breeding from Woodriff's 'Black Beauty' (1957), Ascher's pollen tube study (1968), embryo culture and tetraploidization (1970's) during the last 30 years of wide crosses. Perhaps you are wondering why we are interested in wide species crosses, especially the interdivisional lilies. To some they are only a confusing mixture that offer challenges to the show classification committee and even more perhaps to the lily registrar. My answer is that it is only by breeding that we can combine disease resistance, fragrance and hardiness of selected lilies into thrifty new types. For example, in the northern U.S. plains and Canadian prairies we have a hard time growing Oriental lilies for more than a year or two. However the hybrid Orienpets do very well, outperforming both their Oriental and Trumpet parents. Easter lily x Trumpet hybrids can move the culture of Easter lily quality into lilies several zones colder than its normal range. Many of the interspecific hybrids have unusual disease and insect tolerance that make them exceptional garden lilies. Breeding for fragrance in the Asiatic lilies will likely come from interspecific hybrids with trumpets, Easter lily and Oriental lilies. From late 1971 and to mid 1974 I was able to study in the lab of Dr. Peter Ascher. Ascher had completed his Ph.D. in Wisconsin on lily pollen tube growth in both interspecific and intraspecific crosses. When I arrived, Julius Wadekamper had finished his Masters thesis. Some basic interspecific work with Easter lily and Aurelians had been started and the first L.A. hybrids in the world had been obtained based on Ascher's earlier pollen tube studies. With a much wider species collection, Ascher and I were able to extend the pollen tube growth studies to give fuller information on the potential crossibility of many species. We soon found out that Chinese Trumpet species particularly one clone known as 'Damson' was an excellent female parent in crosses to Orientals, Easter lily and Asiatic lilies. It produced large interspecific hybrid embryos which cultured well and grew quickly. Most of the information from pollen tube studies will be published in the next NALS yearbook and copies of the results are available today to interested individuals.

Let me now turn to specific work with lily crossing and make reference to work with the 'Black Beauty' diploid clone which really inspired me to learn more about the limits of interspecific hybridization in lilies. Working together in Ascher's lab I was able to show that the diploid form of 'Black Beauty' could produce a few small embryos in crosses to both trumpet Aurelians and Oriental lilies. One such hybrid with 'White Henry' is the new 'Northern Beauty' introduced by the Morden Research Centre in the early 1990's. These findings encouraged me not to give up when sterility was seen in many wide cross hybrids.

Extending our work to the Orienpets at the Morden Research Centre where I worked on lilies from 1974 to 1982 resulted in numerous Aurelian x Oriental lilies. 'Damson' x *L. speciosum rubrum* 'Tornado' produced the 'Starburst Sensation' cultivar, one of the best of the F<sub>1</sub> Orienpets and winner of the Best Lily in Show at the 1997 Boston show. One other F<sub>1</sub> full sib was named 'Northern Magic'. 'Starburst Sensation' soon showed unusual female fertility and was successfully crossed to both Aurelians and Oriental lilies. 'Northern Sensation' and 'Northern Carillon' are sister seedlings from crosses of 'Starburst Sensation' to the trumpet 'Moonlight'. They are strong hardy lilies in our cold climate but also do well as far south as Arkansas, U.S.A. Because of their good fertility, 'Starburst Sensation' and its derivatives are being used around the world by breeders to develop newer Orienpets. Both are winners at the show bench where they often win best in show. 'Damson' also proved to be a good parent in crossing to Easter lily and out of this work has come the Easterpet lilies. Two have been named, the F<sub>1</sub> 'Easter Dawn' and a backcross to Aurelians known as 'Easter Morn'. You will hear more about these lilies as they come into the marketplace. 'Easter Morn' is a remarkable garden lily in that it grows in gardens from Florida to the Canadian prairies. The Easterpets are worthy of additional work by lily breeders due to their fragrance, disease resistance, and vigor. Finally 'Damson' crosses well with Asiatic lilies and has given rise to the 'Canadian Belles' series of lilies. Several have been named including the triploid 'Firey Belles', a semi-fertile lily from a backcross to Asiatics. The Asiapets are good garden lilies albeit not as showy as the Orienpets.

Very little fragrance comes through into these hybrids even though the Damson and other Aurelian parents are highly fragrant. The Canadian Belles are early flowering lilies that bloom midway between the Asiatic and Aurelian parents. Having Asiatics as a parent means they are exceptionally winter hardy lilies. The path ahead for lilies will continue to feature wide interspecific crosses. The Dutch breeders now lead this field and are applying their much larger resources to many interspecific crosses including Asiatics crossed to Orientals and Easter Lily crossed to Orientals. I see the day when existing groups will be blended in fertile groups. We are studying intercrosses of the Orienpets, Asiapets and Easterpets with the hope of combining all three sections. To my amazement we have found that some of these wide hybrids (such as 'Easter Morn') are not only female fertile but also give some pollen tube germination when used as pollen parents. For many years we had considered them totally pollen infertile but this is now being reconsidered. The road ahead is wide open. Private breeders such as Dick Bazett (Canada), Ed Soboczenski (Delaware), Art Evans (Arkansas), Ed McRae (Oregon), Robert Griesbach (Wisconsin) and others who are using these lilies will make progress in garden lilies. Large institutional breeders such as the Dutch breeding companies will also make gains in commercial forcing lilies. Hopefully all will come together in the lilies of the future.

**Lily Cultivars Introduced from Morden Research Station Program**

**Aurelian x longiflorum**



Easter Dawn *Diploid*



Easter Morn *Triploid*

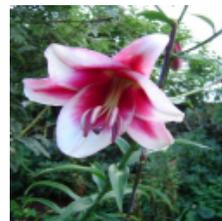
**Aurelian x Orientals**



Starburst Sensation  
*Diploid*



Northern Sensation  
*Triploid*



Northern Carillon  
*Triploid*



Northern Magic  
*Triploid*

**Black Beauty Crosses**



Northern Beauty  
*Triploid*

## Aurelian x Asiatics



Blushing Belles  
*Diploid*



Fiery Belles  
*Triploid*



Silky Belles  
*Diploid*



Creamy Belles  
*Diploid*



Ivory Belles  
*Diploid*



Golden Belles  
*Diploid*



Purple Belles  
*Diploid (?)*

## Miscellaneous



Morden Butterfly  
*Triploid*

## SSLS EXECUTIVE FOR 2013-14

**PRESIDENT - SUSAN PARKS - BOX 22 AVONHURST, SK -306-771-2700**  
**VICE-PRESIDENT - BRIAN PORTER - 7119 STEER AVE.REGINA, SK -306-543-8259**  
**PAST PRESIDENT - GLADYS NING - 18 FORSYTH CRESCENT REGINA SK -306-543-0482**  
**SECRETARY - JESSIE CARLSON - 316 HABKIRK DRIVE REGINA, SK -306-586-0211**  
**TREASURER - RON SITTE - 971 MCCARTHY BLVD. REGINA SK -306-543-934**  
**SHOW-CHAIR - VACANT**  
**MEMBERSHIP - VIOLA BERWALD - 10 RUBY PLACE EMERALD PARK, SK-306-781-3355**  
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## *The South Saskatchewan Lily Society Membership*

Make payments to SSLS-c/o Viola Berwald @ 10 Ruby Place Emerald Park, SK S4L 1A9

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone# \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Individual- \$10 for one year ( ) \$25 for three years ( )

Family- \$12 for one year ( ) \$31 for three years ( )

**\*\*\* PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE UP-TO-DATE\*\*\***

Or apply on line at [www.sasklilysociety.org](http://www.sasklilysociety.org)

Our web site is now fully functioning and we need input from the members with articles, stories, photos, or anything you would like to share with others.

Please include your name in your correspondence.

If you have a question or comment please use the web email to contact Issy.  
[ssls2013@gmail.com](mailto:ssls2013@gmail.com)

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