



Mid America Regional Lily Society

2008 Accomplishment Report

Mid America Regional Lily Society Annual Report 2008

Membership: 65 households.

Officers: Fred Winterowd, president; Don Kelley, vice president; Jean Winterowd, secretary; Audrey Ringhausen, treasurer; Kim Peterson, membership; Carol Appelbaum, past president.

Major Events & Activities:

- Spring Bulb Sale on April 12 & 13: The weather was miserable with few sales. When we slashed prices to ½ on Sunday, we were able to move most of the bulbs. We made a profit of \$740. By the end of Sunday, we had only about 80 bulbs left from a great selection of new cultivars. Carol Appelbaum potted up leftover bulbs, and the plants were popular sale items at our lily show. Kim Peterson and Carol were co-chairs of the bulb sale.
- Education Day on March 1: Dennis Fitzgibbons, one of our members, gave a wonderful presentation on drip irrigation to an overflow crowd of 65. He showed a slide presentation with a mix of slides of his beautiful lilies (most grown from seeds) and irrigation system parts; gave a hands-on demonstration of how to put a system together; and answered questions.
- 26th Annual Lily Show on June 7 & 8: Because of the unusual cool spring season, the early date found many members with few stems to enter. Many of the entries were Asiatics. But, one of our members, Maureen Janson, brought in a number of Martagons, which are difficult to raise in our climate. We believe these are the first ever entered in the show, and Maureen received a special award. The design division was unusually beautiful, with a library theme.
- Education Center: A new self-guided display at the Show offered tips on potting techniques/culture; landscape and garden design; and steps in artistic design. It also provided “green” tips.
- Our Awards Picnic was held June 28 at the home of Dennis and Lori Fitzgibbons. We turned our traditional mini show of later blooming lilies into a judged show for those categories not represented at the Show on June 7 & 8.

- Student Judges: We were pleased to have two student judges attend our lily show as part of their accreditation. Sue Williams and Wanda Lunn are members of the Iowa Regional Lily Society.
- Web Site & Newsletter: The web site, www.MARLS.org, continues to expand and is very popular. It had 1,166 hits during April. Our newsletter, Lily Trumpet, now contains some color pages in print and all color in digital form. It is sent by email to members requesting it. Four members now receive it by email; several by post and email; and the majority has opted for print by post.
- Scholarship: We had no applicants this past year, and so are reworking the application.
- Our society's board is focusing on helping our members to become more "green" in a variety of ways, such as the educational program on drip irrigation and educational center at the lily show.
- The society paid \$300 in membership dues to the Missouri Botanical Garden. We continue to be proud to have a partnership with the MBG and to have the opportunity to hold many of our events at this outstanding institution. We also partner with a half dozen local nurseries and companies, who sponsor generous awards for our lily show.