



Drip Irrigation Revisited: Tips on Installing

How to cut costs and avoid pitfalls in building your own soaking system

The Mid America Regional Lily Society (MARLS) is offering a second educational program on installing a drip irrigation system in response to the interest in last year's presentation.

The upcoming session will be a refresher with tips from MARLS member Don Kelley.

An overflow crowd attended the 2008 Spring Educational Session to hear Dennis Fitzgibbons' presentation covering items needed and how to put a drip system together.

The 2009 Spring Educational Session will focus

on lessons learned by Don Kelley as he built his drip irrigation system last summer.

Spring Education Meeting is March 7 at the Missouri Botanical Garden

In the process he learned some valuable lessons that he wants to share with others to help them install their drip irrigation systems more easily and in a cost-effective way. Don

and Dennis will both be on hand to answer questions.

After the break, Linda Smith will demonstrate grooming lily stems for show competition.

Each participant can expect to leave with a lily bulb potted up and ready to go.

The seminar runs from 10 a.m. to noon in the Beaumont Room at the MBG on March 7. A brief society business meeting begins at 9:30 a.m.

The event is free and open to the public.



Spring Lily Bulb Sale

Missouri Botanical Garden

Beaumont Room

April 4, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Packing Party, April 3

(Lily above is Tiffany)

Inside

Goals for the Future
Tribute to Ed McRae
Minutes of Meetings

Book Review
Profile: Lynn Slackman
Visit Our 'New' Website

Germinating Seeds
NALS Lily Show in Midwest
Bulb Sale is April 4

Editor's Note

I must have been only five, but I can still remember the surge of excitement at being given a handful of seeds to plant in my grandparents' vegetable garden. It was a mild and fresh Missouri spring day. The garden had been plowed and rows drawn straight along a string stretched between two sticks.

My love for gardening began that day. Lynn Slackman, one of our newest members, whose profile appears on page 4, talks of a similar childhood experience. My guess is most of us cherish similar memories.

Gardening connects us to life—to the past, present and the eternal. It connects us to family and friends. My great-aunt Julia, whose backyard was a tangle of wildflowers, gave my mom a start of her prized Lemon Lily (not true liliium, of course), which now grows happily in my garden.

Dennis Fitzgibbons says MARLS feels to him like a family. One reason could be how freely we share not only knowledge, but our plants and bulbs. Linda Smith, in her tribute to Ed McRae, recalls how proud she was to successfully grow one of his bulbs.

Finally, gardening connects us to our Creator. I have "A Garden Prayer" framed. It reads: "The kiss of the sun for pardon. The song of the birds for mirth. One is nearer God's heart in a garden than anywhere else on earth." Happy spring gardening!

I encourage everyone to share your topics, photos, and articles—short or long. Send them to Carol Bales Mahoney, 8766 Burton Ave., St. Louis, MO 63114-4916 or email at

carolabales@charter.net. Email is preferred if you are online.

--Carol Bales Mahoney

Goals for the Future

President's Message From Dennis Fitzgibbons

Greetings.

As the new president I have a couple of goals that I feel would make my presidency successful.

The first is to get more Mid America Regional Lily Society (MARLS) members to start growing lilies from seed, and the second is to increase the membership.

I know I'm setting the bar pretty high, but I'm going to work at it.

In a brief article elsewhere in this issue of the *Lily Trumpet*, I've described the way I germinate tetra trumpet and OT seeds. I hope you'll give it a try. Nothing beats raising your own lilies from seed.

This is the time of year to renew your membership, which is a bargain. Don't forget to renew. And, why not encourage your gardening buddies to join. They'll discover new friends eager to share knowledge about lilies.

I would like to thank the lily society for inviting me into their family, which is how it feels to me. Every one I have met has been gracious, friendly, and has the love of gardening.

I look forward to meeting more of you. I promise we will make you feel part of the organization.

In ending, I think the rough economic times we are going through is just like winter. It always ends, sometimes reluctantly, but before you know it the sun is shining, the lilies are pushing up out of the ground, the birds are singing, and the renewal of life is all around us. And life is good again.

Time to Join or Renew Your MARLS Membership.

Officers

President
Dennis Fitzgibbons
314-517-6219

Vice President

Don Kelley
314-921-5246

Secretary

Mary Lou Snider
314-487-5321

Treasurer

Audrey Ringhausen
636-723-0908

Membership

Kim Peterson
314-421-6272

Past President

Fred Winterowd
314-423-5313

Tribute to a Friend: Ed McRae

An international giant in hybridization of lilies dies

By Linda Smith, MARLS member & past president of NALS

When I think of Eddie, one of the first things that comes to mind is that he was quite a gentleman. He was so well-known and loved, but when you met him, he focused on you and how he could help you. Help he did!

When I would judge at the International Show, I felt it a real honor to be able to judge under Eddie McRae. He always brought me into what was happening as we judged. He was interested in my opinion. He helped me, and it was always a good experience. I always felt I knew a lot more after being under his guidance. It was not just because it was me, but he did this for everyone.

Through the years Eddie and I became pen pals. I would send him pictures from time to time of some of the bulbs he had sent me to grow. One of my proudest moments was when a lily I grew from one of Eddie's breeding appeared on the back cover of the *NALS Quarterly*. He was equally excited.

Even when he was hospitalized and later in a care facility, he still was interested in

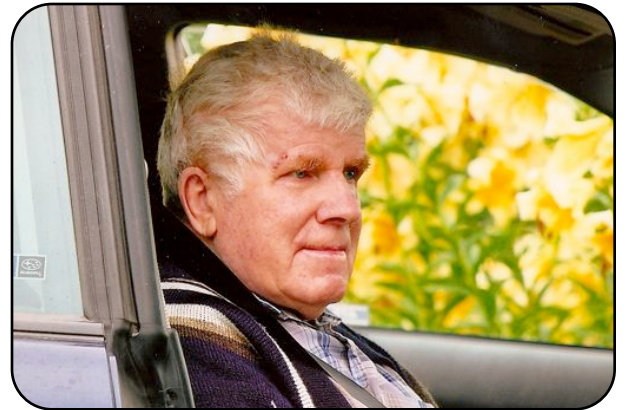
the activities of North American Lily Society (NALS). He would share his thoughts with me when I was president and was always encouraging.

Eddie loved lilies. They had been practically his whole life. I am sure he was so proud that his daughter was continuing his love of lilies with her mother, Judith. He instilled also a love of the lily species. He foresaw the importance of growing them and making sure they were here for our children. (In 1995, Ed founded the Species Lily

Preservation Group, centered at Lava Nurseries in Parkdale, Oregon.)

He was always sending a species that he thought I should try. Some worked in the Midwest and some did not. I would weep a bit when I would lose one of those bulbs.

It's hard to believe he is gone. Ed died on November 16, 2008. What an honor to have known Eddie McRae.



Ed McRae among the lilies at Judith Freeman's fields in Brush Prairie, Washington, in July 2008.



Ties with MARLS

Ed McRae was very encouraging in 1982 when MARLS was founded, Fred Winterowd remembers. He donated bulbs to each member.

Many society members remember when Ed came to St. Louis in March 1999 for a lecture at the Missouri Botanical Garden. He spoke on "Lilies for the Modern Garden" and signed copies of his now renowned book, *Lilies: A Guide for Growers and Collectors*.

The lecture was given during MARLS' spring bulb sale. But what members remember best is a dinner in his honor held the evening before at the home of Carol Appelbaum's daughter, Lisa. Bagpipes played, and Eddie felt right at home.

Profile

This is part of a series of short profiles on gardeners in the Mid America Regional Lily Society.

Lynn Slackman, one of our newest members, has stepped forward to take responsibility for updating and maintaining the MARLS website.

Lynn is from the metro-east area and has always enjoyed plants and gardening.

She calls herself "a life-long gardener."



Lynn says she has all sorts of plants in her yard and garden, from a big Dawn Redwood tree that she planted as a seedling to flowering trees and shrubs for the birds. She also plants a vegetable garden each year. And, she is known to take "leftover" plants from her neighbors to give them a second chance.

Lynn first started planting lilies as companion plants for daffodils. As the daffodils die back, the lilies start growing and take their place, she explains. Both require a similar soil mix and environment.

"Lilies caught my interest because they are easy to grow, smell great, and have gorgeous blooms during most of the summer," she says.

Hundreds of daffodils bloom in Lynn's yard from early March until late April.

While a novice lily grower, she has been associated with the Greater St Louis Daffodil Society since 2004 and is the current president of that organization.

Lynn has also been a weekend docent at the Missouri Botanical Garden since 1995.

She has over 30 years of experience in the IT industry. In the last couple of years, she and her husband formed a new company, Tenby Technologies, which builds internet solutions for small businesses and organizations. They are committed to providing solutions that produce the best possible results.

Visit Our 'New' Website You'll find a new look, expanded content



The Mid America Regional Lily Society (MARLS) website has been redesigned and reorganized for easier navigation. New content has also been added.

You'll want to check it out at www.marls.org.

The new design echoes the design of the society's newsletter, *Lily Trumpet*. It is bright and easy to read. A variety of lilies are used to help the reader identify pages. If you use Microsoft's Internet Explorer

browser, just put your cursor on the flower, and the lily's name should be displayed.

The web pages have been reorganized under major categories to make it easier to navigate our site.

From the home page, the reader can access upcoming events and a calendar, past and present shows, membership information, the president's current column, history of the society, links to other related web sites, and a contact page.

An archive page holds the current and past issues of the *Lily Trumpet*, newsletters from March 2006 to February 2009. Also new, a Lily Culture page defines "What is a Lily?"

Photos and biographies of past NALS Regional Medals winners are included. And you'll see photos of MARLS members' gardens.

**Welcome New
Members
Sandra Baker
and
David Blue
St. Louis
Mark Owens
St. Louis**

Maureen Jansen, MARLS' first webmistress, took on the huge task of creating the society's site and maintaining it. But toward the end of last year, she resigned to give full time to a family project. The society's praise and grateful thanks go to Maureen for her masterful work.

A new MARLS member, Lynn Slackman, has stepped up to take over as webmistress. Lynn is currently president of the Greater St. Louis Daffodil Society and the owner of an internet solutions company with her husband. (See Profile on Lynn.)

A feature called Search Engine Optimization has also been added to our website. This means Internet search engines are more likely to lead Internet users to the MARLS site. It basically improves the visibility of the website on the Internet, drawing more viewers.

"The web site was developed to highlight the Mid America Regional Lily Society," Lynn says, "to educate the public about the genus *Lilium*, and to attract new members."

She encourages all members to take a look at the site and let her know their reactions and suggestions. You may contact Lynn by email at dslackman@aol.com

Lynn is also encouraging MARLS members to send her photos of their lily beds for the photo section.

Marti Warhurst Will Host Mini Show & Awards Luncheon

The annual MARLS Mini Show and Awards Luncheon will be held July 11 beginning at 10 a.m. at Marti Warhurst's home in St. Clair, MO.

Bring a covered dish, your best stems, and a camera.

Driving directions will be printed in the next Lily Trumpet.

Design Division Theme Chosen for the MARLS Lily Show in June

Ellen Mell has announced that the theme for the design division for the 2009 Annual Lily Show will be "No Passport Required."

The five classes within the division will each carry travel destination themes.

More information on the design requirements will be included in the next Lily Trumpet.

A Tip From Fred: Give Bioneen a Try

Fred Winterowd has heard from garden industry sources that Bioneen, an organic insecticide has been shown effective also as a fungicide. Sounds like a broad spectrum spray worth trying instead of chemicals, he says.

Hummert in St. Louis sells a pint for \$11.

Books

A Review by Kim Peterson

Join the latest trend and grow a flourishing combination of plants in handsome containers.

Gardeners with limited space can still create something beautiful. And, our favorite plants--lilies--are well suited to pots. *Easy Container Gardens* by Pamela Crawford (Color Garden Publishing, 2008) will show you how to create containers using lilies and complementary plants.

While it's easy to stick a lily bulb or two into a pot, making a container that thrives with color and texture throughout a season can be complicated. What kind of soil goes in it? Which plants are compatible and which ones do well in containers? How many plants should go in, and where do they go?

Crawford starts by showing containers and suggesting good ones for a variety of placements. Soils, moisture retention, and general plant care are covered well. But the strength of this book is in its many photos. This talented author mixes plants in uniquely attractive ways and shows exactly how to achieve striking results.

She uses the form and color of the container in her creations and chooses plants to complement it.

Scale and proportion are important in a pleasing design and the author demonstrates how their use maximizes the limited space of a pot. Use a variety of plant forms to give depth and height. Trailing plants add dimension and soften a container's edge.



News from the Board

By **Jean Winterowd**
& **Mary Lou Snider**

Minutes of October 11 Meeting

President **Fred Winterowd** thanked everyone for helping with the bulb sale. Treasurer **Audrey Ringhausen** reported a balance of \$9,954.62.

Lily Trumpet: Fred thanked Editor **Carol Bales Mahoney** for a “super” newsletter. The pictures, articles and color enhancement were great.

Web Mistress: **Maureen Janson** has retired. MARLS thanks her for a wonderful job in setting up the site. **Lynn Slackman** has agreed to be our new web mistress.

Slate of Officers: The following officers were unanimously elected: President, **Dennis Fitzgibbons**; VP, **Don Kelley**; Secretary, **Mary Lou Snider**; Treasurer, **Audrey Ringhausen**; Membership, **Kim Peterson**; and Editor, **Carol Mahoney**.

Minutes of November 22 Meeting

President **Fred Winterowd** called a special board meeting to transfer web site duties from **Maureen Janson** to **Lynn Slackman**. Lynn explained the process for transferring, the cost involved, and the needed personnel. MARLS thanks Maureen for setting up our first site. **Carol Mahoney** will be the content consultant and proofreader.

Carol Appelbaum confirmed 2009 dates for the Education Meeting, March 7; and the spring bulb sale, April 4, with setup on April 3.

Treasurer **Audrey Ringhausen** reported a profit of \$662.24 from the fall bulb sale.

Minutes of January 10 Meeting

Our new president, **Dennis Fitzgibbons**, turned the meeting over to **Fred Winterowd**, saying he was there to learn. The meeting was held at **Don and Pat Kelley’s** house. Twelve members present.

Spring Educational Meeting: The education program will begin at 10 a.m., with a short society meeting before at 9:30 a.m. **Don Kelley** will present “Drip Irrigation Revisited,” and **Linda Smith** will demonstrate preparing lily stems for show competition.

Carol Mahoney will send a notice to the *Life Style* section of the *PD*, and **Dennis** will e-mail Mike Miller at KMOX, to advertise the program.

Packing Party: Members will pack bulbs for the spring sale on April 3. **Dennis** has 20-30 tetra trumpet bulbs that he will give to workers.

Bulb Sale: Saturday, April 4. **Carol Appelbaum** will order 400-500 more bulbs, 200 were left from the last sale. It was suggested that a sign, “Public Welcome” or “Open to the Public” be added, and the signs be put closer to the front. Anyone signing up to be a new member will be given a free lily bulb.

Lily Show: Saturday and Sunday, June 20-21, with setup on Friday, June 19. **Dennis** will do classification; **Jean** has offered to handle the People’s Choice award. **Pat Kelley** is working on a flyer of upcoming events.

Treasurer’s Report: **Audrey Ringhausen** reported a balance of \$10,009.48. She will get a debit card.

Grants: The society will give a \$500 grant in memory of Ed McRae to NALS, and \$300 to Jason Delaney for lily bulb planting at the MBG.

Website: The board viewed **Lynn Slackman’s** redesign. It was agreed MARLS will pay the web fee yearly rather than monthly.

News

MARLS Joins in Membership Fair

The Mid America Regional Lily Society will participate in the Plant Society Membership Information Fair February 22 at the Missouri Botanical Garden.

The fair, hosted by the Garden, will be open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Beaumont Room.

Several members have volunteered to staff a table. They plan to pass out informational material and talk with prospective members about the benefits of joining the society.

The date was chosen by the Garden when attendance should be high. The Orchid Show is open, and the annual "Garden Blitz" series of two days of classes will be in full swing.

Time to Pay Dues

It's the new year and MARLS membership dues are now due. Please send ONLY \$10 for a household membership to: Kim Peterson, 1705 Carroll, St. Louis, MO, 63104. Make checks payable to Mid America Regional Lily Society.

If your email, address, or phone has recently changed, let Kim know of your new contact information.

Also, please indicate whether you'd like to receive the *Lily Trumpet* by email, post, or both.

New members are encouraged to join. Invite your gardening friends.

Fall Bulb Sale Profit

MARLS' bulb sale last October netted \$662.24 in profit.

Germinating Seeds: OT and Tetra Trumpet

By Dennis Fitzgibbons

Following is the procedure I've found works great for germinating Tetra Trumpet and Orienpet (OT) seeds.

Soak the seeds in 5 percent bleach solution (20 percent Clorox) for 20 minutes. Then, rinse and soak the seeds in water for 7 to 10 days, changing the water frequently.

Plant the seeds in flats with covers, water and then put them in the refrigerator for 6 to 8 weeks.

Next, pull them out and let them germinate (keep covered) at 75 degrees. When I start getting a fair percentage showing, I place them under lights.

Members who volunteer at the bulb sale will receive some free tetraploid bulblets grown by Dennis.

NALS Quarterly Offers Series by Griesbach on Tetraploid Lilies

If you're curious about tetraploids, check out the recent December 1, 2008, issue of the North American Lily Society (NALS) *Quarterly Bulletin*.

It contains a series of three articles by Dr. Robert A.



Yellow Tetra Trumpet lilies grown by Dennis Fitzgibbons.

Griesbach, as well as a photo gallery. Dr. Griesbach is known for his work in crossing tetraploid forms. Some of Dennis Fitzgibbons' bulbs came from Dr. Griesbach.

Mark Your Calendar For NALS Annual Lily Show June 24-28 in Springfield, MO

Midwest lily enthusiasts will have a rare opportunity this summer to attend a national lily show.

The North American Lily Society (NALS) will hold the show in Springfield, MO.

The MARLS board is discussing arrangements for a caravan sharing rides.

This is also an opportunity for MARLS members to show their best stems in national competition.

More information will be coming in the next *Lily Trumpet* and our website.

One-Day Bulb Sale April 4

Members get first choice at packing party April 3



Carol Appelbaum, co-chair, reports a nice selection of QUALITY

bulbs will be for sale, at MODERATE prices, at the Spring Bulb Sale. Check out the list and pictures on our website, www.marls.org.

More than 500 lily bulbs will be available at the sale.

As usual, we will need members to help pack the bulbs

on Friday evening, and work the sale on Saturday.

A work schedule will be available for you to sign at the packing party or call Kim Peterson, bulb co-chair, at 314-421-6262 to volunteer.

Please bring a dish to share at the packing party potluck on Friday evening.

All members who volunteer will receive a 20% discount on their bulb purchase and some free tetraploid bulblets grown by Dennis Fitzgibbons. (Lily shown above is Little Missy, an Asiatic.)

Calendar

Education Seminar

10 a.m.-noon

Meeting 9:30-10 a.m.

March 7, MBG

Beaumont Room

Spring Bulb Sale

April 4, MBG

Beaumont Room

Bulb Packing Party

April 3

Annual Lily Show

June 20 & 21

Orthwein Room

Carol Bales Mahoney, Editor

Lily Trumpet

8766 Burton Avenue

St. Louis, MO 63114



King Pete, grown by Linda Smith, won top honors at the 2006 MARLS lily show. Linda will demonstrate how to groom lilies for show competition at the Educational Session March 7 in the Beaumont Room at the MBG. Don Kelley will share tips on installing a drip irrigation system. Membership meeting: 9:30 a.m. Presentation: 10 a.m.