



Drip Irrigation: Learn How to Install It

This is an easy, cost-effective way to improve the performance of your garden

How important is it to water properly? The *Let's Grow Lilies!* handbook puts it this way: "Lilies need constant moisture, and, if you plan to raise prize-winning lilies, this one factor may mean the difference between blue ribbon specimens and just ordinary beautiful lilies. There is a best way to provide the water, of course, and that is by soaking."

But, this applies not only to lilies. All plants benefit from soaking. Dennis Fitzgibbons, our presenter at the 2008 Spring Educational Meeting, first began

using drip irrigation in the early 1990s but installed the current system encompassing his whole

Spring Education Meeting is March 1 at the Missouri Botanical Garden

yard last year. He is amazed at how much more vigorous all his plants, lilies too, have become. (See photo below.)

Dennis, a MARLS member and experienced gardener of 25 years, did a lot of

drip irrigation work as a landscaper in the 1990s. He will tell us what items are needed to assemble an irrigation system as well as water resources. He'll also demonstrate how to put the drip system together and answer questions.

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 Missouri Room at the MBG on March 1. 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

Orthwein Hall

April 12 & 13

Packing Party, April 11

Inside

What's Hot, What's Not
Columbia-Platte Lilies
Minutes of Meetings

Book Review
Profile: Dennis Fitzgibbons
Down to Earth: Soil Fertility

Red Velvet: A Classic Lily
Drip Irrigation: Learn to Install It
In Search of the Perfect Marker

Editor's Note

Many thanks to everyone who sent a note after receiving their October *Lily Trumpet*. I especially enjoyed hearing from Dorothy and Hal Schrei, original members of MARLS, who liked the colored pictures, and told me to, "Keep up the good work."

The overwhelming response to color was positive, and the Board has decided to continue it. So, you'll see color on the front and back covers as well as inside spread of this issue.

We emailed the newsletter to all our members who had given us email addresses. And we asked if they'd like to continue to receive it online. Four said, "yes," by email only. Two others asked for delivery by both post and email. This issue will be sent by email to those who requested it.

If you would like to be on the email delivery list, please send me a note by post or email to the address below.

I also want to give special thanks to member Keith Brown, who suggested an article on soil fertility. Other members were kind enough to offer their experiences, which are presented in this issue. Thanks also go to Kim Peterson, who offered to contribute book reviews; to Dennis Fitzgibbons, who answered more than his fair share of questions about himself and his garden for the cover story and profile; and to Carol Appelbaum, who has described so well her valuable experiences in gardening and showing lilies.

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

What's Hot, What's Not

President's Message From Fred Winterowd

Trend reports make for fascinating reading! One leading trend is horticulture's own, "The Green Industry."

As a plant society, it is important that we gardeners listen to what our industry is saying. Yes, this is what's hot--one of the more valuable trends.

I present to you several examples as researched by the University of Illinois. They didn't fare very well in the Rose Bowl but here, in GREEN, they are scoring!

Landscaping

- ✓Go Low Maintenance
- ✓Make Carefree Designs
- ✓Use Native Plants/

Grasses

General Gardening

- ✓Select Drought-Resistant

Plants

- ✓Plug in our "Iron-Clad"

Lilies

- ✓Buy ID (Insect-Disease Resistant) Plants

Let's seek to convey such useful information to our fellow gardeners at our bulb sales and educational seminars.

Other Guidelines

- ✓Use Organic Fertilizers and Pesticides

- ✓Opt for Biological

Controls

- ✓Be More Selective (Ash Borers like Ash Trees)

- ✓Redesign topography to drain water into collective

(low) areas rather than allowing it to rush into storm sewers and flood downstream.

Your Board has The Green Industry on its agenda. I'm betting, too, that Dennis Fitzgibbons incorporates this in his upcoming seminar on March 1. You won't want to miss it.

Time to Join or Renew Your MARLS Membership.

Officers

President
Fred Winterowd
314-423-5313

Vice President

Don Kelley
314-921-5246

Secretary

Jean Winterowd
314-423-5313

Treasurer

Audrey Ringhausen
636-723-0908

Membership

Kim Peterson
314-421-6272

Past President

Carol Appelbaum
314-291-1569

Columbia-Platte Lilies: Rewarding

By Carol Appelbaum

At our Annual Lily Show we have always offered the Columbia-Platte Award. This is for the best lily in the show introduced by Columbia-Platte Lilies, located in Vancouver, Washington.



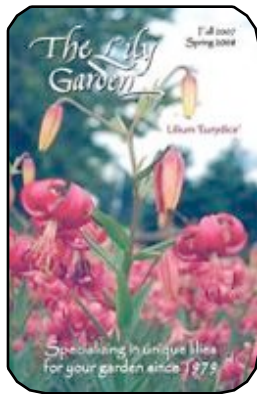
Carol's winning stem of Tiger Babies.

Freeman, along with Leonard Marshall, founded Columbia-Platte Lilies in 1979. She had been on the staff of Oregon Bulb Farms as a geneticist and was involved with many aspects of hybridizing. The unique and unusual hybrids produced from distant crosses were due entirely to the skilled embryo culture work carried out by Judith Freeman, and she was eventually established as the foremost authority in this area, and also in the area of tissue culture.

Columbia Platte Lilies hybridizing program aimed to broaden the range of garden

lilies by introducing new species into the lines.

The resulting introductions included among many others the Chippendale and Rosepoint Lace strains, 'Summit', 'Tiger Babies', 'Tinkerbelle' and 'Viva'. She now offers a wide spectrum of lilies in the catalog of her nursery, *The Lily Garden*. If you peruse her catalog, you will notice quite a few of the lilies marked C-P, short for Columbia-Platte Lilies, the original business name. These unique creations were born and bred on her own farm!



The Lily Garden's mission is to provide beautiful, reliable garden lilies.

We usually have some of her introductions available at our bulb sales. At the Fall Bulb Sale, we offered 'Classic', 'Yellow Whoppers', 'Silk Road', 'Covent Garden', and 'Rosepoint Lace'. At the 2007 Lily Show, I was fortunate to receive this award for the first time for a stem of 'Tiger Babies.' It certainly was not the best stem of 'Tiger Babies' I have seen but it did win a blue ribbon and was



Judith Freeman rescuing lily embryos. (Drawn from *The Lily Garden* catalog.)

the best Columbia-Platte introduction in the show.

I knew the award was a selection of lily bulbs from *The Lily Garden*, but I was completely surprised by what I received. Judith is very generous and supplies an award to each lily regional.

The retail value of the bulbs was \$140. I don't know if this is the norm, but asking previous winners, they all said it is a very nice award to win.

We encourage all to grow her lilies. Many of you probably have some in your garden, such as 'Avonlea', 'Peach Butterflies', 'Scheherazade', 'Anastasia' and 'Caravan.' Please enter them into the 2008 Annual Lily Show in June. You could be the next recipient of this Columbia-Platte Award!

Profile

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

Dennis Fitzgibbons, one of our newer members, propagates lilies and will be our presenter at this year's Spring Educational Meeting.

How long have you been gardening? I started serious gardening about 25 years ago. I had bought a new home and it needed to be landscaped. I saw some Rhododendrons and Azaleas at the local nursery, purchased and planted them and have been gardening ever since.

How long have you been growing lilies? I started growing lilies at about the same time. I needed some summer color and lilies were perfect because they grow in the same soils—loose, well drained, and acidic.

When did you start propagating lilies, and how many seedlings will you have to set out this spring? I started growing lilies from seed about 4 years ago and currently start about 50 flats that hold about 30 to 40 seedlings (1500 /2000).

Describe your garden. I have, like most avid gardeners, very little lawn. No lawn at all in my back yard. In front, I have my largest lily bed. With the exception of three dogwoods and a few azaleas, it is all lilies. I have a large oak tree in the middle of my yard that has a large bed around it with deciduous azaleas, small leaf rhododendrons and lilies. A bed that runs across the front of my house contains three dogwoods, and many azaleas interspersed with lilies.

The side beds contain most of my Oriental lilies. The back is mostly shade, and I grow rhododendrons and shade wildflowers, including hellebores, trout lilies, trillium, preacher in the pulpit and others. I also grow in back *martagons* and species lilies. We plant at least 15 flats of annuals, vinca and impatiens, and have 28 planted pots.

Down to Earth

Improving Soil Fertility in Lily Beds

A member from Indiana, Keith Brown, suggested this article on soil fertility. "I have become convinced that for years I have been mistreating my lilies."

Keith, you're not alone. Following are some ideas and observations by fellow lily growers.



Carol's Appelbaum's most successful lily bed, which she enriched for many years with organic material.

Carol Appelbaum: An Organic Approach

There are many articles and sources of information regarding this subject. But, I would like to pass on my observation of the most successful growing I've experienced.

The garden area, a former organic vegetable plot, is definitely the most fertile in my yard. For many years we added compost, phosphate rock, granite dust, manure, ground leaves and any other suggested organics. We

never used any chemical fertilizer or herbicides or pesticides. It was truly organic.

With this manner of gardening, pH is of little importance, and everything is in balance. When we started growing lilies in this area, we added a large amount of Turface, to ensure that the drainage would be superior. We learned this from volunteering at MBG and observing Jason Delaney, who adds this to all the bulb gardens. He said in England they do not ask what fertilizer you use, but what 'grit' you use, as drainage is the most important factor!

It finally dawned on me that this was my best lily growing area when I realized that the three "Best of Show" winners I have entered have all come from this plot. I have had other major award winners that were grown in other garden areas, but no "Best of Show." I do add

Welcome New

Members

Christine Schwantner

St. Louis

Mary Kay Bonness

St. Louis

Welcome Back

Mary King

St. Louis

12-12-12 fertilizer now in the spring, but still do not use any herbicides or pesticides. I use ground leaves or compost as a mulch. It will take many years to get the rest of the garden to this point because it is the result of all those years of adding all that organic material.

Fred Winterowd: Benefits of Mycorrhizal Inoculants

Mycorrhizal Inoculants are beneficial fungi known to form a synergistic relationship with the plant roots. This relationship allows the plant to better cope with stresses, suppress plant diseases, deter transplant shock, and make nutrient uptakes by the roots more efficient.

Look for these at your major garden centers. These are

biological agents. The newer soil mixes are including them in the formulations. Always to be recommended are soil tests, and

sometimes 'leaf' tests. Be sure to make valuable observations of plant growth as well.

Excellent results are to be realized by selecting a natural, organic (slow release) type of fertilizer. Try Osmocote Plus: 15-9-12.



Hint: Do NOT over-fertilize. More is not better!

Joy Kroeger Beckner: Bulb Food

While I haven't had much experience with lilies, I do use an organic bulb food from Gardens Alive! They have a website, www.gardensalive.com, and ship same day if you call before noon. Using this food, when I planted my first lilies last spring, I managed to get a sprout (bulblet) coming up next to the main bulb on my newly planted *L. henryi*.

Edward McRae: Site and Soil

(Excerpted from his book, *Lilies: A Guide for Growers and Collectors*)

The single most important key to success in growing lilies is to provide a well-drained site...Probably the most satisfactory soil for lilies is a deep sandy loam that is well aerated and allows water to pass through freely.... When preparing a special bed for lilies, it is advantageous to raise the level of the bed above that of the surrounding area....

Cow or horse manure is a good amendment, but it must be well aged. The finest lilies I have ever seen, species and hybrids, were growing in soil amended with liberal quantities of horse or cow manure....

Books

A Review by Kim Peterson

Amy Stewart gives an inside view of the cut flower industry in *Flower Confidential* (Algonquin, 2007), and in doing so reveals many interesting facts about where flowers are grown, who grows them and why, and how certain varieties are chosen for marketing while others are rejected.

She covers several kinds of flowers: tulips, violets, and gerber daisies, to name a few. But she gives in-depth treatment to the rose industry where she reveals the politics of the land and labor force in South America as well as the special shipping and preservation concerns of these delicate products. Consumers have no idea of the processes that go into delivering a beautiful rose to their local florist!

Of special interest to lily fanciers' is the chapter on Leslie Woodriff and his famous Stargazer lily. The author's portrayal of Mr. Woodriff as a hero and a bit of a mad genius makes this book especially appealing.

Annual NALS Show Goes to British Columbia

The Victoria Lily Society is hosting the 61st annual North American Lily Society (NALS) Show in Sidney (on beautiful Vancouver Island), British Columbia, July 2-6, 2008. A dedicated web page at www.nals2008.org provides more information about the show.



News from the Board

By Jean Winterowd

Minutes of October 19 Meeting

President **Fred Winterowd** opened the board meeting, which was held following bulb packing for the Fall Bulb Sale at the Missouri Botanical Garden, at 7 p.m. Treasurer **Audrey Ringhausen** gave her report.

Packing Party: Bulb Chairs **Kim Peterson, Carol Appelbaum and Maureen Janson** ordered a great selection and variety of 1,000-plus bulbs. Packing started at 5:30 p.m., with 22 members in attendance.

Columbia Platte sent a special new bulb, Snowberry, which was raffled.

Maureen arranged for the buffet, and the group enjoyed cider and tasty finger foods brought by the members.

Education Meeting: **Dennis Fitzgibbons** will speak on irrigation procedures for lily gardens, and demonstrate how to do it.

Nominating Committee: Maureen will submit a slate at the board

meeting and to the members at the Education Meeting.

The board meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

Minutes of January 12 Meeting

The Board met at the home of **Don and Pat Kelley**.

Editor's Report:

Deadline for the February issue of the Lily Trumpet is January 15.

NALS: The 2008 dues have been paid. A donation of \$200 will be made to the NALS research fund. Linda Smith reported the NALS president has resigned because of health problems.

MBG: The \$300 membership dues have been paid.

Membership: MARLS has 61 memberships.

Hospitality: No refreshments will be provided in the room at the Spring Education Seminar. We'll have potluck at the Spring Bulb Sale in April.

The **Fall Bulb Sale** brought in a profit of \$1,257. We will look into buying vests to be worn at sales and shows to help identify MARLS members.

The **Spring Education Meeting** will be held at 9:30 a.m. on March 1 at the MBG. The **Education Seminar** will begin after the meeting at 10 a.m. Co-chairs are **Don Kelley and Dennis Fitzgibbons**.

Maureen Janson was appointed to lead a bulb planting session.

Carol Appelbaum and Kim Peterson are co-chairs of the **Spring Bulb Sale**. Carol will check to see if the Daffodil Society would like to share Orthwein Hall with MARLS.

Ellen Mell, chair of the Artistic Division of the **Spring Lily Show**, has suggested a theme of "Libraries." The group discussed this as a theme for the entire show.

The **2008 Fall Bulb Sale** will be held October 18 and 19 in the Beaumont Room at the MBG.

The society's **2008 budget** was approved. See the budget on next page.

The next **Board meeting** will be held 10 a.m. April 26 at **Kim and Roy Peterson's** home.

Our Partner: Thies Farm

Thies Farm & Greenhouses dates back to 1885, and still operates at the original site: 4215 North Hanley Road in St. Louis and in Maryland Heights at 3120 Creve Coeur Mill Road. You will find a large selection of plant material, supplies, and produce. Don't miss their freshly picked strawberries! Thies Farm has sponsored an award at our MARLS Lily Show since early 2000. We're proud to be their partner.

News

MARLS 2008 Budget

Newsletter \$1,000
Bulbs (Spring & Fall Sales)
\$4,200 (\$200 is for advertising)
Educational Meeting \$300
Hospitality \$100
NALS Regional Dues \$50
NALS Research Fund \$200
NALS Show Trophy \$75
Membership Expenses \$200
MBG Membership Fee \$300
Annual Lily Show \$450
(Supplies, Ads, Awards, etc.)
Storage Rental \$600
State Registration \$10
Meramec College Scholarship
\$500 (For Fall 2008)
Website \$150
Miscellaneous \$100
(Printing, postage, supplies, etc.)
TOTAL \$8,235.

Time to Pay Dues

It's the new year and MARLS membership dues are now due. Please send \$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 \$1,257.09 in profit. Total income was \$3,369.60. Total expenses amounted to \$2,112.51.

In Search of the Perfect Plant Marker

By Carol Bales Mahoney

For many years, I gardened happily without using markers. But it all changed when my husband began gifting me with bulbs and plants. Along with these gifts came his interest in which plants were growing, and the dreaded question: "What's that?" (He wasn't satisfied to learn it was a lily!)

And so my marker search began. First, I bought the expensive packages of tall metal markers that come with China markers. They looked impressive in the ground. But, then I began to find them lying prostrate, casualties of my rake. Still, they helped me identify lilies for entry in my first MARLS lily show.

At the show last year someone came up with a tip: white plastic knives. An "ah ha!" moment: forks work too. Their fate: casualties of my Big Feet.

Recently a new tip: old mini blinds. The subject came up at the last MARLS board meeting. But, either Carol or Linda reported they didn't work. Crushed again.

The discussion continued. What's the best tool for writing on the markers? China markers had been tried and dismissed. Kim swears by the common pencil for durability. With permanent

pens you can't reuse your marker.

Hearing me review this discussion, my husband suggested I learn to make labels in Braille. Only problem, I'd have to learn Braille. Has anyone out there found The Perfect Plant Marker? Let me know at carolabales@charter.net.

Bulb Sale, Packing Party Coming Up April 11, 12 & 13

Carol Appelbaum, co-chair, reports a nice selection of bulbs will be for sale, at competitive prices, at the Spring Bulb Sale. As soon as the order is finalized, the list and pictures will be posted on our website, www.marls.org.

As usual, we will need members to help pack the bulbs on Friday evening, and work the sale on Saturday and Sunday. 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 receive a 20% discount on their bulb purchase.

Red Velvet: A Classic Lily

Hall of Fame Winner, North American Lily Society



This begins a series on NALS Hall of Fame lilies, repeat winners in the annual Popularity Poll.

black-red flowers. It is virtually indestructible, growing on strong, willowy stems.

This triploid is very hardy, and has been delighting gardeners and hummingbirds for 50 years.

Its perfect flower placement makes Red Velvet a frequent show winner.

Hybridizers: David Stone and Henry Payne.

Size: 3 to 5 feet.

Bloom time: Early July.

Division: Red Velvet is an outward-facing Asiatic, Division 1b.

Description: This lily has a long panicle of deep velvety

Calendar

*Education Seminar
10 a.m.-noon*

*Meeting 9:30-10 a.m.
March 1*

Missouri Room, MBG

Spring Bulb Sale

*April 12-13
Orthwein Hall, MBG*

*Bulb Packing Party
April 11, MBG*

*Board Meeting
April 26, 10 a.m.*

*Annual Lily Show
June 7 & 8*

Carol Bales Mahoney, Editor

Lily Trumpet

8766 Burton Avenue

St. Louis, MO 63114



Dennis Fitzgibbons' garden proves the value of good watering techniques. Learn how to install your drip irrigation system at the Educational Meeting on March 1 at the Missouri Botanical Garden. Come to the Missouri Room, 9:30 a.m. to noon. Leave with a potted lily of your own.