



Lily Trumpet

www.marls.org

MARCH 2010

MID AMERICA REGIONAL LILY SOCIETY, AN AFFILIATE OF THE NORTH AMERICAN LILY SOCIETY

Growing Lilies from Seed: Tips & Tricks

Dennis Fitzgibbons promises it's so easy even a cave man can do it

The Mid America Regional Lily Society (MARLS) is offering an educational program on how to grow lilies from seed to blooming size in one year.

Dennis Fitzgibbons, winner of the Leslie Woodruff Award given at the National Lily Show last year, has been known to grow 1,500 to 2,000 seedlings in a year. See photo below. He was our 2009 MARLS president.

The 2010 educational session will focus on: Why grow lilies from seed, types of seed germination, preparation before planting as well as types of

containers, and best growing mixes. Dennis will also cover types of lights, fungicides

Spring Education Meeting is March 13 at the Missouri Botanical Garden

(natural to chemical), and watering.

His presentation will have photos of every stage of seed growing. An opportunity for questions and answers will follow.

After the break, Fred Winterowd, who has won too many prizes to count for his container-grown lilies, will lead the group in lily bulb pot planting.

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 13. 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 17 & 18, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Packing Party, April 16

(Lily above is Candy Club, an OT, offered at our sale for the first time.)

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Editor's Note

In this issue, be sure to read which lilies grown by members impressed them most last summer. See page 4.

Have you grown a favorite lily? If so, please let me know the name and send a photo, if you have one. I'd also like to invite you to submit articles, growing tips, observations, gardens visited, useful web sites, and other contributions on lilies or gardening in general.

Also, why not check out our society's web site, www.marls.org, and browse through the colorful photos of bulbs that will be available at the MARLS Spring Bulb Sale April 17 and 18. This sale is one of the best places to find good bulbs at reasonable prices.

As you'll read elsewhere in this edition, our society is losing revenue. And, like everyone else these days, we're looking for ways to cut expenses.

You can help in this effort by signing up to receive the *Lily Trumpet* by email. This newsletter, one of the benefits of membership, is our single greatest expense. Nearly half of your annual membership dues go to printing and mailing the *Lily Trumpet*.

Now, consider that it costs nothing to send an electronic version to our members. While we do intend to continue to make print copies available, we encourage everyone who has email to subscribe for electronic delivery.

There are some advantages. Chances are you'll receive your copy sooner than you would a print copy. And you'll see all pages in full color.

To change from print to electronic, please contact me at carolabales@charter.net.

--Carol Bales Mahoney

Green Sprouts

President's Message by Dennis Fitzgibbons

I am sure everybody would agree this has been a long cold winter. I personally am ready to see those green sprouts of spring.

I would like to announce that effective January 1, 2010, I have resigned as President. My work schedule has me working 12-hour days and Saturday and Sundays. It's not fair for me not to make it to the activities of the society.

But I will be doing the Educational Meeting "Growing Lilies from Seeds." I'll share my knowledge and experiences through a Power Point presentation with lots of photos and step-by-step instructions. Happy Gardening!

We Need You Vice President's Message by Don Kelley

MARLS will miss Dennis in his President's role, but we understand work commitments and are lucky he can continue as an active member and lily grower/exhibitor.

The next membership meeting, at the start of the Education Meeting, will elect a slate of officers. At that

meeting we will also consider our budget. Something must give because current expenditures are exceeding income.

Please renew your membership by paying your dues. Every dollar helps. Bring your ideas to the meeting and contribute to shaping MARLS' future. Your help is needed for the bulb packing and sale as well as the Lily Show in June. Please sign-up.

Two of our members, Carol Appelbaum and Linda Smith, recently underwent knee replacement surgery. We wish them a speedy recovery.

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

MARLS Wants You to Join Us

Don't miss out on your deal on a special members-only bulb

By Kim Peterson, Membership Chair

The beginning of this year, January 2010, starts the MARLS membership year. Please renew your membership now.

Dues are \$10 per household. We miss seeing those of you who aren't current members, and we sincerely hope to retain all of you as members.

Sorry, but this will be your last issue of the *Lily Trumpet* if you don't renew. Renewal information can be found on this page.

These members are paid through year 2010:

Amelung, Nancy
Belew, Marlene
Clark, Leslie
Callier, Richard
Dangelo, Mary
Draper, Dois & Nuan
Duffe, Mary
Gregory, John & Jaye
Kapeller, Terry
Keay, Tom
Kelley, Don & Pat
McTall, Leora & Ralph
Norton, Karen & Johjn
Nowobilski, Mary Jo
Peterson, Roy & Kim
Ringhausen, Audrey
Snider, Bob & Mary Lou
Winterowd, Fred & Jean

These members are paid through year 2011:

Slackman, Lynn
Mahoney, Don & Carol

Members who pay their dues by April 16 are eligible to buy the majestic Orienpet (OT) hybrid **Baywatch** at a discounted price of \$5.20 per bulb (cost to MARLS is \$6.35) at the Packing Party, Friday night, April 16. Supplies are limited. This is the lily that won last year's national Leslie Woodruff Award for Dennis Fitzgibbons.



Your Membership in MARLS

Join an enthusiastic group of gardeners and learn about lilies! You will receive 3 issues of *The Lily Trumpet* and notices about meetings and events. Dues are \$10 per household. To join, complete the form below (or online at www.marls.org):

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

e-mail _____

I would like to receive *The Lily Trumpet* by (check one or both):
 Post Office delivery e-mail (please include your e-mail address above).

Send this form with \$10 dues to: MARLS Membership Chair Kim Peterson, 1705 Carroll, St. Louis, MO 63104.

We're On Facebook

By Lynn Slackman

Facebook is currently the number one social networking site on the Internet, and Mid America Regional Lily Society (MARLS) is a part of that network. All age groups, nationalities, occupations, and social classes can be found on Facebook. This is a way to keep in touch with family and friends, share photos, share knowledge, and see what loads of people, businesses and organizations are talking about.



Please join MARLS on Facebook to find out about our upcoming events, keep in touch with other members, see some of the developments with *Lilium*, and view some beautiful Lily photos. Did I mention-- it's FREE to join Facebook?

To find the MARLS page on Facebook, go to the Contact Us page on our MARLS.ORG web site, click on the Facebook Badge, and join us on Facebook! There are some nice FREE tutorials on using Facebook at this URL >> <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=111549768622> <<, or just type in 'facebook basics' in Google and start using Facebook.

MARLS 2010 Slate of Officers

At the January 23 Board meeting, Don Kelley, current Vice President, was nominated President, and Bob Snider, Vice President.

Continuing are Secretary Mary Lou Snider, Treasurer Audrey Ringhausen, and Membership Chair Kim Peterson.

The general membership will vote on the slate of officers at the March 13 meeting.

Favorite 'New' Lilies

Members Reveal Their Summer Picks

Kim Peterson thought it might make a good story to find out which lilies were stars last year. And so we asked several members: Which lily new to your garden last summer was your hands-down favorite? The winner appears to be Dimension, selected by Pat & Don Kelley as well as Lynn Slackman.



Carol Mahoney: Robina

My favorite new lily last year was Robina, which I bought at a MARLS bulb sale a couple of sales back. It bloomed for a long time—from mid-June until after July 4—on a sturdy stock.

Gorgeous flowers. I also loved the wonderful candelabra left after the flowers had dropped. Stunning with rain drops lined up like round crystals on each arm.

Robina has been ordered for the upcoming Spring Bulb Sale.



Lynn Slackman: Dimension

My favorite new Lilium last year was Dimension, an Asiatic. I bought it at the Spring 2009 MARLS bulb sale. I really like the dark rich color and strong substance.

Pat & Don Kelley: Dimension

From the MARLS bulb sale, Pat and I independently bought and planted Asiatic Dimension. We both are impressed with the plant. Photos of Dimension can't do it justice. I intend to make Dimension a feature in our garden. Now to see how well it wintered over. Watch out show contestants, here comes Dimension!



Kim Peterson: Olina

My favorite new lily in my 2009 garden was this Asiatic, Olina. It's medium-tall, and with big flowers shaped like stars. It is striking in the garden. Other MARLS members say this lily is sturdy and has good increase.

Welcome New Members

Richard Callier,
Eureka
Karen & John Norton,
St. Louis
Mary D'Angelo,
Waterloo, IL

MARLS Web Site Receives 1,238 Visits

In a comprehensive report, Lynn Slackman, MARLS web site manager, noted that 1,238 visits had been made to the web site between Feb. 15, 2009, and Dec. 31, 2009.

Most of the visits (1,046) came from the U.S. and, second, Canada (58), but 48 countries/territories were represented.

Some 234 visits originated in Missouri, 129 from St. Louis and 38 from Ballwin. Sixty-five visits came via 26 cities in Illinois. Twenty-two were from St. Clair County and 7 from Chicago.

Treasurer's Report by Audrey Ringhausen

MARLS had an ending total of \$8,674 on January 23, 2010. The report covered the period from Oct. 10, 2009, through Jan. 23, 2010.

The final balance was \$1,207. A new certificate of deposit bought in July 2007 amounted to \$4,542, and another existing CD stood at \$2,925.

Fall Bulb Sale Nets Profit of \$425

The fall 2009 bulb sale brought in a profit of \$425.

Kim Peterson, co-chair along with Grace Padberg, reported that the sale had received good publicity, including a radio spot with Mike Miller and Channel 2 TV coverage.

But despite the PR, 149 of the 850 bulbs ordered had not been sold, and are in storage. Profits from bulb sales have been decreasing. Most board members believe this is because of the relocation from an a lobby area to a room.

Who Knew Lilies Were So Easy to Grow?

After the bulb sale/exchange, I dutifully planted my bulbs. While doing so, I had some random loose scales which I placed back in the baggies with their peat moss..... However, I lost the grocery sack that had all these baggies of scales. After Thanksgiving, I was cleaning and lo and behold, what was pushed way back under the sofa but the bag of scales. AND, they had produced bulblets. So, if you are ever looking for a great place to start some bulblets, try hiding them under the sofa for a couple of months. --Mary Zocchi
Excerpted from the Potomac Lily Society Newsletter.

Editor's Note: Please submit your lily or garden story to the *Lily Trumpet*.

Books

A Review by Kim Peterson

Of the thousands of books published about gardening over the past century, few authors are able to inspire like England's Beverly Nichols. His is the voice of a true gardener, one that a reader will instantly recognize as a fellow tiller of the earth. His true-life stories about growing a garden are excellent reads during this winter season when we can't be outdoors in our own gardens.

Nichols wrote from 1920 to 1980 on a variety of subjects, but he is best known for his enduring words about gardening. *Down the Garden Path* is his book about his own garden at his Cambridgeshire cottage. First published in 1932 it starts at the beginning of his garden adventure when he first buys the property. Although he saw it only once, he loved it for the potential. His love affair with gardening unfolds in wry prose as he takes on the unruly garden to bring it to the vision in his mind.

In lively scenes he relates incidents of village life that include a nosy neighbor whose own garden is always perfect. His battle with uncooperative plants, his grandiose plans for a field that fall flat, his obsession with finding every winter flowering plant--all manifestations of the gardening passion that fellow gardeners will recognize. He describes so simply and well the layout of his garden that the reader could easily diagram it.

Timber Press has re-released *Down the Garden Path*, allowing new generations to discover a fellow gardener who can express exactly what we feel about our gardens.



News from the Board

By Mary Lou Snider

Minutes of October 10 Meeting

The meeting was held at the home of **Dennis and Lori Fitzgibbons** in Fenton. Preferred dates for 2010 events were selected, and Dennis offered to give a presentation on hybridizing techniques at the 2010 education program.

Grace Podberg gave an update of plans she and **Kim Peterson**, chairs, have for the 2009 fall bulb sale.

Fred Winterowd made a motion that the society promote growing Orientpet (OT) lilies in Midwest gardens and encourage MARLS members to show their OTs at the 2011 Annual Lily Show. He proposed giving a free OT bulb to each new member who joined at the 2010 bulb sales and to current members who purchased \$10 or more in bulbs. The motion passed.

Audrey Ringhausen gave the treasurer's report for May 5 through Oct. 10, 2009. The society had a starting balance of \$2,967 and final balance of \$1,491. The ending

total, including CDs, was \$8,891.

Lori Fitzgibbons made a motion, which was passed, that MARLS rent a storage shed near the MBG to make transporting equipment and supplies easier. Lori will check into this.

Carol Bales Mahoney passed out copies of the fall 2009 *Lily Trumpet*. The total cost for 90 copies was \$258. She asked for assistance in producing the newsletter. Dennis offered to take over production (printing and mailing). Carol will continue to do the editorial and layout work.

Lynn Slackman provided a detailed written and verbal report on MARLS web site activity from Jan. 1 to Oct. 8, 2009. The site received 931 visits from readers in 38 countries and territories. There were 186 visits from Missouri residents located in 29 cities.

Minutes of October 23 Meeting

Nineteen people came to the packaging party, and the work was done very quickly. Members then enjoyed our pot luck supper.

Dennis Fitzgibbons held a short meeting. It was decided to have a "Show Special" for the bulb sale. Members put three 'Stargazers' in a small pink bag for \$9. (The bags were gone by Saturday afternoon. **Kim Peterson** made up

another special for the rest of the show.)

Dennis and Lori Fitzgibbons will begin doing the production part of the newsletter, while **Carol Bales Mahoney** will continue doing the artistic part.

March 13 is the tentative date for the educational meeting. **Carol Appelbaum** will confirm the date with the Garden. Dennis said the subject will be "Propagation."

Minutes of January 23 Meeting

Fred Winterowd opened the board meeting, in the absence of **Dennis Fitzgibbons**, at **Don and Pat Kelley's** house. There were 11 members present.

Audrey Ringhausen gave a treasurer's report. The fall bulb sale had a profit of \$425. Profit goes down every year. One reason is because the sales are not upstairs in the main hall. **Kim Peterson** reported on the bulb sale. There were 149 bulbs left. It was decided to order only 700 bulbs for the spring sale, hoping to sell out. **Fred Winterowd** will make up flower arrangements to be used for six drawings each day. **Lynn Slackman** will make up business cards with our emblem that can be attached to the arrangements.

Continued on next page

Jean Winterowd will set up the project with a list of the winners; Lynn will also make up a paper to hand out at the sale with information about the lily society.

Our next board meeting will be May 1 at the home of **Marlene Belew** at 9:30 a.m.

Kim Peterson is going to put an article in our newsletter about unpaid membership. She is going to list those who have payed, and ask the others to pay their dues. We will see how this works and discuss it at the next board meeting. The members went through the membership list and dropped some members that we have not heard from in a long time.

Carol Mahoney is going to send an e-mail to members asking if they want the newsletter by e-mail, as this doesn't cost anything. Carol said the October newsletter cost \$258 for printing and postage. That's 90 copies with 9-10 being e-mailed and the rest requiring postage.

Mary Lou Snider is going to get a book for people to sign in giving us their e-mail address. She is also going to get name tags that we can start using.

According to Lynn, the web site is very busy, attracting visits from 48 states and several countries. It only costs about \$80 a year to run the web site, which is a great advertising tool.

The Annual Educational Meeting is March 13 a.m. in the Beaumont Room. The topic is "Growing Lilies from Seed," presented by **Dennis Fitzgibbons** and **Don Kelley**. The meeting is open to the general public.

It was decided to form a finance committee with **Carol Appelbaum, Jean Winterowd and Audrey Ringhausen**. Jean suggested using last year's budget as a guideline for 2010. They will submit a new budget for 2010 for approval at the next board meeting.

Bob Snider will be the chair person for the Annual Lily Show on June 26 and 27.

Don Kelley was nominated for president and **Bob Snider** for vice president, to be voted on at the March 13 meeting.

NALS Annual Lily Show Will be July 7-11

The North American Lily Society (NALS) will hold its 2010 national show in Pittsburgh on July 7-11.

Free Public Drawings for Arrangements at Spring Bulb Sale

Be sure to enter your name for a free floral arrangement by Fred Winterowd at the Spring Bulb Sale. Drawings will be held throughout the sale on both days.

Note of Gratitude

Founders' Message From Fred and Jean

As we begin to view MARLS' 28th year, we pause to say, "Thanks" to our many members who have contributed so much to our society's success.

Most recently, we were all encouraged by the acceptance from Don Kelley and Bob Snider, as our President-elect and Vice President-elect. Many thanks to you both for stepping up at this special time.

May we members now offer our cooperation to our fine corps of officers. Certainly, we include our appreciation to all the officers and our hard-working committee chairs. These folks continue to pursue their various responsibilities in efficient style.

Yes, from our beginning, we have known the spirit of happiness in our friendships! As gardeners with purpose, we enjoy this bonus of friendship. That purpose being to plan-and-plant the beauty of Liliium.

Stay a MARLS Member: Send in Your Dues Today

Spring Bulb Sale: April 17-18



Our spring bulb sale will be **Saturday and Sunday, April 17 and 18**, in the Orthwein

Floral Hall at the Missouri Botanical Garden. All members are encouraged to help during the bulb packing party on Friday, April 16, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

MARLS members who pay dues by April 16 can buy **Baywatch** bulbs at a special discounted price at the party only. This Orienpet (OT) hybrid lily is hard to find in

catalogues. MARLS is absorbing the cost of shipping. A limited number of bulbs are available.

Please bring a dish to share for the potluck supper.

We'll feature many Oriental Trumpet (OT) hybrid lilies this year, including: **Visaversa** - a handsome medium pink variety; **Honeymoon** - yellow with white edges, huge flowers, and stunning inflorescence; and **Urandi** - white petals with a pink blush. Free drawings for bouquets will be held both days.

We will also need people to work the sale on Saturday and Sunday. Sign up with Kim Peterson, 314-421-6272.

Calendar

Education Seminar
10 a.m.-noon
Meeting 9:30-10 a.m.
March 13, MBG
Beaumont Room

Spring Bulb Sale
April 17 & 18, MBG
Orthwein Hall
Bulb Packing Party
April 16

Annual Lily Show
June 26 & 27
Orthwein Hall

Carol Bales Mahoney, Editor
Lily Trumpet
8766 Burton Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63114



ORIENTPET STEM in the fall after its flowers have fallen. This particular lily is Robina. Our 2010 Spring Bulb Sale in April will feature Orienpets, called OTs, a hybrid cross of Oriental and Trumpet lilies. They are called "lily trees" in some catalogs because they grow up to 6 feet or taller, have spectacular flowers, and perfume. They grow well in our Midwest gardens.

Help Needed for Bulb Sales

By Kim Peterson

Our MARLS society holds two lily sales each year. We need help from members to continue that activity. The main tasks of the sale are listed below. Please consider taking on one of these jobs for an upcoming sale:

- * Select bulbs for the sale: Work with wholesale vendors to choose bulbs and determine pricing; provide list of bulbs and descriptions for web display, label printing, photo display.
- * Publicity: Contact web calendars, print publications, radio and TV.
- * Set up: Coordinate supplies to buy and to be brought from storage. Help haul these into sale hall and set up tables, chairs; make ready bulbs and supplies for volunteers to bag them.
- * Scheduling: Contact MARLS members to work the sale, making sure that all shifts are covered during our 2-day sale.
- * Tear down: Coordinate pack up of supplies and haul supplies to storage shed.
- * Leftover bulbs: Pot leftovers from spring sale, mark them, nurture them for later sales.

Call Kim Peterson at 421-6272 if you'd like to volunteer to coordinate one of these jobs.