



# Potomac Lily Society Newsletter

Volume 39 Number 1

<http://potomacilysociety.org>

February 2010

## THE POTOMAC LILY SOCIETY Annual Meeting

Sunday, March 21, 2009

Chrysanthemums,  
The Joy of Fall Beauty  
*Presentation by Bob Howell*

Ft. Myer Patton Hall Officers' Club  
Arlington, VA  
RSVP by March 12th  
See p. 4 for details

### PLS Honorary Directors

Alice S. Fenn  
Vicki Bowen  
Ron Chiabotta  
Genie Diller  
David Diller  
James McKenney  
John A. Montgomery  
John Roe  
Joseph Uhring

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is four weeks after the snow storm of December 19th and there is still snow on the ground in the Beltsville area. I wonder if that is a record? I take responsibility for this cold spell that we have just gotten through. I have a shopping bag full of lilies that I purchased from the bulb sale that I planned to get into the ground during the week between the holidays. The first day that I had an opportunity to do so was the Saturday leading into that week, the day of the snow storm. I just tested the soil with my shovel and determined it would be no sooner than next week before the bulbs get planted. Hopefully the delayed planting will not impact the selection of show-winning horticultural exhibits that I planned to bring to our show this summer.

Our next event will be the Annual Banquet to be held at the Ft. Myer Officers' Club in Arlington, VA. We are fortunate to have Bob Howell of the Chesapeake Chrysanthemum Society joining us. He will be giving a presentation titled "Chrysanthemums, The Joy of Fall Beauty". Bob is pretty enthusiastic about mums, so I am certain that more than one of us will be leaving the meeting with the intention of growing more of them.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the meeting and I hope at that time I will be able to report that my lily bulbs are planted.

John

The Potomac Lily Society is a non-profit organization established to promote and encourage interest in the cultivation, propagation and improvement of the genus *Lilium* in its many forms and hybrids among the membership, other plant and horticultural groups, and the public.

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## Growing Lilies in Raised Bed (Worm) Planters

*Submitted by Dave Wilmore*

Lilies need good drainage, deep planting in rich, cool soil and vole protection, all of which are helped by raised planters. A little work building a raised planter can prevent us from stooping to weed for many years. Because contractile roots pull lilies up to 2 feet deep in the soil, I find that raised beds are a good way to keep standing water away from deep bulbs and provide the most critical need of lilies -- great drainage.

Raised planters can be made of many materials. I prefer wood or "Trex" so I can nail galvanized ¼" screen (hardware cloth) on the bottom to keep out moles. Fill your raised beds with any type of organic material, worms will soon turn organics into dark spongy humus that needs little water. The best kind of organic material is the free kind. Tree companies will deliver a free load of chips to your house, although big chips take a year or two to decompose. In Spring, double shredded leaves are free in many parks, haul them home in trash cans or a friend's pickup. These leaves are usually treated with lime water for faster decomposition and a neutral pH. I also add dolomitic limestone or gypsum, as trumpet and O/T lilies prefer less acidic soil.

Build your raised beds 5 feet wide to pull weeds from either side without strain. My latest beds are made from "Trex", recycled plastic bags formed into a wood-like material available from Home Depot or Lowe's. Trex costs a little more than pressure treated lumber but it lasts longer and lacks the arsenic and pentachlorophene chemicals that absorb through your skin or into vegetables grown alongside your flowers.

Screening moles out may be better described as keeping worms in. Moles eat worms (not plants), but mole tunnels are readily used by mice and voles to eat roots. The more expensive your lily, the more voles love eating them. Mole screening allows a dense worm population to deeply oxygenate the soil. Oxygen loving bacteria create a rich, black soil for great plants. Worms also create plant nutrients. Toothless (like birds), they need grit to grind food in their stomachs. The grinding and the stomach acid etch minerals (like phosphorus) from rock particles and make them available for plants.

Finally, please grow companion plants. Raised bed soil is so rich that shallow rooted vegetables or flowers can be densely grown to cool the soil and shade it from sun and weeds. Cool soil adds extra years to lilies. Moss roses are an old favorite, some like strawberries. To paraphrase an old saying: "grow great soil (worms), and your plants will take care of themselves".

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 2010 Lily Odyssey: Excursion to Mars (Pennsylvania) July 7-11, 2010

The Mid-Atlantic and Ohio Lily Societies are co-hosting the 63rd annual NALS Lily Show and Symposium in Mars, Pennsylvania (near Pittsburgh). The event will be held July 7 - 11, 2010 at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel and Convention Center, located on the Pennsylvania Turnpike (Route 76) near its intersection with Interstate Route 79. In addition to respected speakers and the lily show itself, there will be a day of garden tours and lunch at an historic house in the Amish countryside. From Washington DC, the drive takes about four to five hours, and the venue is conveniently located on the highway near the mall town, Mars. Check the site: [www.nals2010.org/](http://www.nals2010.org/) for show details.

The show program for the *NALS 2010 Lily Odyssey: Excursion to Mars!* will be fun yet low-key so attendees can focus on meeting one another and talking about lilies. The artistic design classes promise to be creative since they are space travel, planets, and the color red. If you have any questions, please contact MLS members, Vijay Chandhok or Marianne Casey ([mariannecasey@verizon.net](mailto:mariannecasey@verizon.net))

### GCV 2010 Flower Show June 16-17, 2010

The Petersburg Garden Club is hosting the 68<sup>th</sup> Annual Lily Show of the Garden Club of Virginia.

Union Train Station  
103 River Street, Old Towne  
Petersburg, VA 23803

To receive a registration packet by mail or to obtain further information on this event, contact Joan Pollard [Wpollard08@aol.com](mailto:Wpollard08@aol.com), 804-732-0832.

### ANNUAL POTOMAC LILY SHOW

June 26-27, 2010  
Brookside Gardens, Wheaton, MD

General Chair	John Lydon
Awards	John Roe
Classification	James McKenney & Tricia Kincheloe
Design	Dolores Felch & Charmane Truesdell
Educational Exhibit	Kathleen Hoxie
Hosts & Hostesses	John Lydon
Horticultural Judges	James McKenney & Mary Q. Zocchi
Clerks & Runners	Susan & John Rountree
Judges Luncheon	John Lydon
Saturday Morning Refreshments	Martina Lydon
Publicity	Kathleen Hoxie & John Lydon
Schedule	John Lydon
Staging	James McKenney & John Lydon
Tabulation	John Roe

**POTOMAC LILY SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING****SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 2010**

Ft. Myer Patton Hall Officers' Club

Arlington, VA

Our Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, March 21 at the Ft. Myer Patton Hall Officers Club in Arlington , VA. Events will begin at 11:30 am with a social period featuring free champagne and/or orange juice. At about noon we will attack the buffet line which includes a wide range of breakfast and lunch items. A short business meeting will follow the meal. Members are encouraged to bring a friend to introduce them to our society.

Bob Howell of the Chesapeake Chrysanthemum Society will be our guest speaker. His presentation is titled "Chrysanthemums, The Joy of Fall Beauty". His talk will address various aspects of cultivation that help gardeners obtain the most pleasure from growing mums. Bob is a graduate of the University of Maryland Agronomy Department. He has been enjoying retirement after serving for 26 years as a research scientist with the USDA, Agricultural Research Service, where he investigated the influence of air pollutants and their affects on vegetation and improving nitrogen fixation in legumes. His love of chrysanthemums dates back to 1968 when he joined the Potomac Chrysanthemum Society. He has been growing and exhibiting mums since 1980. In addition, he is a Master Judge and travels throughout the US to judge national and local chrysanthemum shows. Each year he grows between 500 to 700 mums to exhibit at the shows.

The price for the event is \$25.00 per person. The deadline for reservations is March 12. Make your check payable to **Potomac Lily Society**, and send your reservation to:

John Roe  
5801 N 36th Street  
Arlington, VA 22207-1308

**DIRECTIONS:**

**NOTE:** At the gate, you will be asked for your destination (Officers Club) and to provide a picture ID for **EVERYONE** in the vehicle. You will also be asked to open all doors, the hood and trunk, and step out of the vehicle while it is inspected.

**Enter Ft. Myer at either the Hatfield or Write Gate**

**FROM THE SOUTH ON INTERSTATE 95:**

Inside the Capital Beltway, 1-95 becomes 1-395. Proceed north toward Washington. Take Exit 8A (7 miles inside the Beltway), marked "Washington Blvd., Route 27." Bear left on the ramp, following the signs. Exit Washington Blvd. to the right at the exit marked "Fort Myer Only." Go through gate at top of exit ramp and take second left turn onto McNair Rd. Brucker Hall is the last building on the left before the stop sign.

**FROM THE WEST ON INTERSTATE 66:**

Proceed on 1-66 inside the Capital Beltway. Take exit 26 (7 miles inside the Beltway) marked "Route 110 South, Pentagon, Alexandria." Pass the Iwo Jima Memorial on your right, then immediately turn right onto Marshall Drive and continue 3/4 miles to Fort Myer gate.

**FROM THE NORTH ON THE CAPITAL BELTWAY (I-495):**

Immediately after crossing the American Legion Bridge into Virginia, exit to the right onto the George Washington Memorial Parkway, Exit 14B. Continue to the Exit for Route 50 West which will be just past the exit for the Key Bridge. Proceed west in the right lane to a ramp for Ft. Myer Drive/Meade Street. Make a left turn, pass by the Iwo Jima Memorial on your left, proceed to the stop sign and turn right into Ft. Myer.

**FROM D.C.:**

Take 1-395 out of the city and into Virginia. Pass the Pentagon and take Exit 8 for Washington Blvd. Proceed on Washington Blvd and take exit marked "Fort Myer Only" on the right.

## A grand *Cardiocrinum* for our gardens

Submitted by Jim McKenney

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Although I've grown *Cardiocrinum cordatum* successfully for a decade or so, I've never said much about it. It has flowered four times here, but it's hardly a plant to inspire the enthusiasm of the typical gardener. When it blooms in my garden, it's typically about thirty or so inches high and with three or four seven inch, tubular, zygomorphic flowers which do not open widely. It's a collector's plant, interesting but not in the usual senses beautiful.

I'll bet that most of you who know the name *Cardiocrinum* know it because of *C. giganteum*. Until well into the twentieth century this plant was called *Lilium giganteum*. It has been established in English gardens for over a century; more recently, it has proven amenable to cultivation in the Pacific Northwest of North America. Bulbs have been available in the trade for years; but the typical form of this species does not thrive in the climate of the greater Washington, D.C. area.

For years I assumed that we were limited to growing the dowd of the family, *Cardiocrinum cordatum*. The great one, *Cardiocrinum giganteum* in its typical form, was not for us. But it has become apparent that there is another spectacular *Cardiocrinum* which does thrive under our conditions.: *Cardiocrinum giganteum* var. *yunnanense*.

This plant has flowered several times in various gardens in the greater Washington, D.C. area during the last decade.

It's only a matter of time before this wonderful plant becomes more readily available. If you like eye-poppingly huge lily-like plants, keep an eye out for it. These are comparatively large plants; each will easily occupy a footprint of between four square feet and a square yard. Until they bloom, they don't look like lilies. They look like a broomstick which has sprouted hosta leaves.

These plants have the potential to redefine our sense of bragging rights. If the early successes I'm hearing about prove to be typical of this plant, it won't be long before many of us are enjoying these plants in our own gardens. Seneca Hill Perennials offers it – grown from seed grown here in our area:

<http://www.senecahillperennials.com/index.php?page=plants-ca-ch>

The parent plants were grown by Jim Dronenburg and photographed by Dan Weil under the name *C. cathayanum*. You can see more here:

<http://www.pbase.com/danielweil/cardiocrinum>

## You would never know....

After the PLS 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. Intentions were to set them up and carefully tend to the scales. 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 months! - submitted by Mary Zocchi

When we were at the Northern Neck last summer (it was either in July or August-can't remember which, but I know it was after the lily shows) I found some Stargazer bulbs that I had thrown in the produce drawer of the fridge and totally forgotten about. I threw them in a pot and didn't think anything more about it. Well, when we went down last week I checked on them and they were blooming. John (husband) said he never knew anyone that had lilies blooming in November. If you plant them late, you never know what will happen. You might even win best in show! - submitted by Trixie Kincheloe



Bulblets on Scale—4 months old

Please submit your unusual lily story!

### Free NALS Yearbooks

PLS member, Carolyn Scott has N.A.L.S. year books : 1987 to 1994 and 1997 to 2007 that she would like to give to anybody who would like them.

Contact Carolyn at  
Email: C6w27scott@aol.com

### Your Article or Announcement Here

I invite you to submit articles or notices to be included in the newsletter. Suggested items could be the highlights of other society flower shows or the NALS show this summer, gardening tips (particularly about lilies), useful websites, gardens visited, upcoming events, etc. Do not be concerned that there may not be space for your contribution. Just send it on and I will fit it in if possible. If the contribution does not contain dated information, I can always include it in a later issue.—Mary Z

### Garden Club of Virginia's Historic Garden Week April 17-25, 2010

For more information please visit

[www.vagardenweek.org](http://www.vagardenweek.org)

or contact

Suzanne Munson, Garden Week Executive Director

[gdnweek@verizon.net](mailto:gdnweek@verizon.net)

804-644-7776

Misplaced your newsletter or wondering when the next PLS event will be? Bookmark our web address and you will be a click away from all the current PLS information.

[www.potomacilysociety.org](http://www.potomacilysociety.org)

**Potomac Lily Society  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
January 24, 2010, 1:00 PM  
4400 Romlon Street Beltsville, Maryland**

The meeting started around 1:30 PM after refreshments. Attending were Charmane Truesdell, John Lydon, Jim McKenney, Jack Roe, Susan & John Rountree, Sam Wyatt, and Mary Zocchi.

**Treasurer's Report** (next column)

**Newsletter**

Mary presented the draft newsletter and those attending made additions/corrections. Additional materials need to be submitted before the end of the week so that Mary can complete and mail the newsletter this coming weekend.

**Website**

Jim asked if anyone had anything they would like to add to the website. One suggestion was photos from the photo contest. See Old Business for more on this topic

**Membership**

There was a lot of discussion on membership decline, the reasons for it and how to reverse the trend. Jim volunteered to chair an Outreach Committee. Mary suggested that we prepare "business cards" with PLS contact info to be handed out by Directors at other events. Susan suggested that we might attract more members if we held our show at a mall. The major concern raised was security. John suggested making the bulb order open to anyone (currently you have to be a member). The bulb order would include a membership form, the most recent newsletter, and information about our next show with some encouragement to enter an exhibit.

Susan volunteered to call members who do not renew membership for 2010 to ensure that they received the last newsletter and remind them that dues are due. Jim suggested that PLS have a membership both at farmers markets during the time of the year that blooms are available. People becoming members would be given a bloom.

Jack indicated that there were members who paid dues along with purchasing bulbs and that did not appear to be reflected in the membership file. Mary will review the info in the bulb order and compare it to the membership file and make any changes necessary.

**Annual Meeting**

The Annual Meeting will be held on March 21 beginning at 11:30 A. M. at the Fort Meyer Officer's Club. Reservations due to Jack by March 12 and number attending to Sam by March 17. Cost for the brunch will be \$25.00 for members and non-members alike. Bob Howell of the Chesapeake Chrysanthemum Society will be joining us. He will be giving a presentation titled "Chrysanthemums, The Joy of Fall Beauty". Reservations due to Jack by March 6. (See p.4 of the newsletter for details)

**PLS Annual Lily Show**

Brookside Gardens, Wheaton, MD, June 26-27, 2010. The show committee (See p. 3 of the newsletter for committee chair list).

**Old Business**

Photo Contest – At our last Directors meeting, John suggested that one way to conduct a photo contest was to display entries over the LCD display outside Brookside Gardens' Auditorium and ask visitors to vote on their favorite photos. Unfortunately, Brookside Gardens did not approve of us using their LCD display. John suggested that instead, we could post the entries and winners on our web site. It was agreed that the photo contest did not have to have the same closing date as

as the show, but instead would be for the calendar year and judging would be post season. John and Jim will meet to draft the Photo Contest rules. The newsletter should encourage people to take photos this summer and have their favorite ones ready to submit to our first photo contest.

**New Business**

None

At around 2:30 PM, Sam Wyatt moved that we adjourn the meeting, which was quickly seconded and agreed upon.

Respectfully submitted,  
John Lydon



**POTOMAC LILY SOCIETY  
TREASURER'S REPORT  
FISCAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009**

Beginning Balance 1 January 2009	
Checking Sun Trust Bank	3,394.18
DWS Cash Investment Trust	18,428.61
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,822.79</b>
Receipts:	
Dues	128.00
Publications	24.00
Annual Meeting	726.00
Annual Show	30.00
Bulb Sales	4,593.00
Fall Picnic	32.50
DWS Dividends	60.56
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>5,594.06</b>
Disbursements:	
Other Organizations	140.00
Newsletter	73.25
Annual Meeting	862.46
Annual Show 2009	1,134.74
Annual Show 2010 (Deposit)	35.00
Bulb Order	3,462.95
Other	369.00
Bank Charges	24.00
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>6,101.40</b>
Ending Balance 31 December 2008	
Checking Sun Trust Bank	3,326.28
DWS Cash Investment Trust*	17,989.17
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,315.45</b>

**Deficit for 2009 -- \$507.34.**

\*Transferred \$500.00 from DWS to Sun Trust on 11/02/09.

POTOMAC LILY SOCIETY  
c/o Mary Q. Zocchi  
2701 Park Center Dr. Apt B-309  
Alexandria, VA 22302



**Potomac Lily Society Dues Payment**

Annual dues (January to December) are \$4.00 for either an individual or couple at the same address. Dues can be paid for multiple years. The year on the upper right of the address label on this newsletter is the year to which your dues are paid. **Dues are due** if the number is **2009**. Make your check payable to the **Potomac Lily Society**.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Harlin Turner  
13484 Lake Shore Dr.  
Herndon, VA 20171