



Potomac Lily Society Newsletter

Volume 38 Number 3

<http://potomacilysociety.org>

September 2009

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The 48th Annual Lily show for our society was another beautiful celebration of lilies. We are very thankful for the efforts of Tricia Kincheloe and Mary Q. Zocchi for organizing the show. Due to rabbits, dear, and the absence of major exhibitors, the number of Horticultural entries was one of the lowest for our show. Nevertheless, combined with some spectacular designs, the showroom looked great. A summary of the show is located on the last page of this newsletter and a pictorial review has been posted on our website.

Next year the show will be held June 26th & 27th at Brookside Gardens in Wheaton, Maryland. To ensure that we fill their auditorium with flowers, Jack has assembled an impressive bulb order for our society. Please reward Jack for his hard work and purchase an assortment of what he has made available to us. Information on the bulbs, the deadline for ordering, and an order form can be found on pages 5-7 of this newsletter. Additional bulb order forms can be obtained from our website.

Our last event of the year is the Annual Picnic and Bulb Exchange, to be held Sunday, October 25th. Once again, Jack Roe has generously agreed to host it. There will be a brief business meeting prior to the start of the event. More information on this event can be found on page 2 of this newsletter. I look forward to seeing you there.

John

The pH preferences of *Lilium philadelphicum*

The only one of our native eastern *Lilium* which has the reputation for being reasonably easy to cultivate is *Lilium superbum*. At the other extreme of the spectrum is *Lilium philadelphicum*, which has the reputation of being very difficult. The culture of this lily came up for discussion on the Yahoo Lily Group forum recently, and I learned something surprising about it. Darm Cook, who gardens on the Canadian prairie, commented that it needs a high pH to thrive. Everything I had ever read about this species suggests that it needs just the opposite, a very low pH. Our eastern populations in fact were often associated with blueberry scrub. I commented as much on the forum, only to hear back that the western populations indeed often grow in areas of high pH.

Not long afterward, I was looking through an old garden encyclopedia from the 1940's which included a section on lilies. The lily section was written by Frank Skinner, the distinguished early twentieth century Canadian horticulturist of Dropmore, Manitoba, Canada. In discussing the pH requirements of lilies, Skinner noted that all the native lilies except *Lilium philadelphicum* seemed to prefer acidic conditions. Skinner placed *Lilium philadelphicum* among the lilies which were suited to soils with high pH.

It's possible that Skinner was familiar with the same prairie populations which Darm Cook grows. And it's intriguing that this species seems to have populations which thrive at the pH extremes but not in the middle. Or at any rate, not in our gardens!

Unrelated to true lilies, but of interest to those of you who like all lily-like plants: last month I photographed a garden full of blooming *Lycoris x squamigera*, the so-called surprise lily (or magic lily, resurrection lily, even naked ladies). You can see it, in all its profusion at:

<http://mcwort.blogspot.com/2009/08/lycoris-squamigera-in-country-garden.html>

or

<http://jimmckenney.com/Lycoris%20squamigera%20iacg.htm>

Jim McKenney

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.

OFFICERS

President

John Lydon
301-595-1066
J.lydon@verizon.net

Vice President

Kathleen Hoxie
703-437-3207
KathleenHoxie@aol.com

Secretary

Tricia Kincheloe
703-861-1388
trixielee29@cs.com

Treasurer

John Roe
703-534-6569
jroboat@msn.com

Membership Secretary

Harlin Turner
703-713-0138
HarlinTurner@cox.net

DIRECTORS

Delores Felch
Rachel Hollis
Jim McKenney
John Rountree
Dave Willmore
Sam Wyatt
Mary Zocchi

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

John Lydon
301-595-1066
J.lydon@verizon.net

WEBMASTER

James McKenney
301-770-1867
webmaster@potomicilysociety.org

ANNUAL PICNIC AND BULB EXCHANGE

POTOMAC LILY SOCIETY ANNUAL PICNIC AND BULB EXCHANGE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2009

At the home of John Roe
5801 N 36th Street
Arlington, Virginia 22207
703 534-6569: jroboat@msn.com

Again this year our picnic and bulb exchange will be held at the home of our treasurer. The picnic will be a potluck buffet featuring those superb dishes produced by our members and friends. **Please call John at (703) 534-6569 to let him know if you are coming and what type of food you plan to bring – salad, main course, or desert.** Beverages and place settings will be provided. The picnic will go on rain or shine as the Roe residence has a very large covered patio for the picnic and garage for the bulb exchange.

The success of the picnic and bulb exchange depends on the generosity of members in making their surplus bulbs and other plants available to the Society for sale or auction. Please bring all you can spare and plan to take home any number of good buys. We ask that you identify and price the items you bring. There should be some special bulbs available for auction and, as always, a number of left over bulbs from the bulb order that will be looking for a home. Volunteers to help with the sale are welcome. We ask that all those attending respect the timing of the sale and not attempt to arrive early to squirrel items away.

The schedule:	Director's Meeting	12:30 p.m.
	Social Period	1:15 p.m.
	Picnic Buffet	1:45 p.m.
	Sale and Auction	2:30 p.m.

To get to the picnic from Maryland, use Beltway exit 12 to the I-66 feeder. (A left exit.) Exit I-66 at the first Arlington exit (Exit 68) staying right onto Westmoreland Street. At the bottom of the ramp, go left on Westmoreland under I-66. At the first light, turn right onto Williamsburg Blvd. and follow past the traffic circle to John Marshall Drive. Go left on John Marshall two blocks to 36th Street and turn right. 5801 is the 2nd house on your left.

For those coming from Virginia, find Williamsburg Blvd. by any route and then John Marshall Drive. If you get lost or just want to confirm directions call (703) 534-6569.

When you arrive, you may place your plant donations in the garage and either give your buffet offering to someone at the kitchen door or bring it around back.

Thank you Lily Show Volunteers

Trica Kincheloe and I would like to thank everyone who helped with the Potomac Lily Society's 87th Lily Show. This year's show was held at the Fair Oaks' Merrifield Garden Center. Prior to the show, members helped with publicity, creating the schedule, lining up judges and show volunteers, and encouraging other members and friends to grow and show lilies. For the show itself, members helped set up the show on Friday, supplied refreshments, judged, clerked, and hosted the show. On Sunday afternoon, we had a nice gathering of members and exhibitors to tear down the show.

We would also like to thank Merrifield Garden Center for the use of their meeting room, and for their collaborative help in planning the show. They were very supportive and even hung a large banner outside for us.

This is a wonderful time to meet other lily enthusiasts and have FUN! With the help and dedication of our members, we successfully put on a beautiful lily extravaganza. If you are interested in helping with any aspect of next year's show, please contact any of our PLS officers. Thank you for all your help, dedication and great spirits!

Sincerely,

Mary Q Zocchi

NELS EDWARD JOHNSON

It is with great sadness that we note the passing of Nels Johnson on 25 July 2009. A long time member, director and honorary director of PLS, Nels died at Inova Fairfax Hospital of septic shock during rehabilitation for a broken leg. He was 91.

Mr. Johnson was born in Newark, N.J. and grew up in Verona, N.J. He earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics and science from what is now Rowan University of Glassboro, N.J. and then studied meteorology in an Army Air Corps cadet program at M.I.T. Commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant, he served as a weather officer with the Army Air Corps during WWII. Following the war, Nels joined the U.S. Weather Bureau as an international aviation forecaster based at Washington National Airport. In 1958, he was appointed head of weather bureau affairs in the Pacific, based in Honolulu. In 1974, he became director of international affairs with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) where he served until retirement in 1985. Nels also retired from the Air Force Reserve as a colonel.

In retirement, Nels became an avid gardener and enthusiastic member of many horticultural groups. He was serving as President of the Old Dominion Chrysanthemum Society when he joined PLS. From the outset he was a willing contributor of his time and effort to support our activities. For many years he made the arrangements for the Annual Meeting, was always on hand to pack bulbs and until last year was the booming voice heard at the annual picnic and bulb exchange.

Nels is survived by one son, three grandchildren and a great grandchild. His wife of 65 years, Virginia "Ginny" Johnson died in December 2008 as noted in our February Newsletter. Inurnment with full military honors will be at 1pm November 6 at Arlington National Cemetery followed by a 3pm service at McLean Trinity United Methodist Church.

PLS Honorary Directors

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

THE 2009 PLS FALL BULB ORDER

Included with this Newsletter is the annual fall lily bulb group order. It is composed of bulbs we will obtain from MAK Lilies & Perennials, Inc. of Stayton, Oregon and Columbia-Platt Lilies of Vancouver, Washington. Overall, the list includes 25 Asiatic hybrid varieties, 4 trumpet/Aurelian hybrids, 4 Oriental hybrids, and 17 Interdivisional hybrids including two Asiapets and two Longiflorum crosses. This should provide a spectrum wide enough to satisfy most members.

The total number of bulbs ordered has been reduced again in keeping with our demand experience in recent years. Accordingly, it will be wise to get your order in the mail as soon as possible to stake your claim. Orders are filled in the order received. **All orders must be received not later 1 October 2009.** John Roe is in charge of the bulb order. He may be reached at (703) 534-6569 or by E-mail at jroeboat@msn.com if you have questions concerning your order.

As you study the order, it is at once apparent that CP Lilies provides a good word picture of each cultivar on their list while MAK limits description to little more than color and orientation. Fortunately both growers are providing picture CD's which should contain most of the lilies on our order. These will be available on the Society's website – www.potomacilysociety.org by mid-September.

One of the major benefits of membership in the Society is the bulb order. We do our best to keep prices low and provide good variety. As with everything else, the price of bulbs is increasing and the cost of shipping is now a major factor in our price/profit calculations. We must move along the bulbs we order or the Society takes a hit. The little profit which does accrue from bulb sales provides the funds to cover our show each year, subsidize to some small extent the cost of the annual meeting, and to meet the administrative costs inherent in any organization. So, please take advantage of the bulb order and order as many bulbs as you can find room for. Bulbs do make great gifts and we encourage our members to invite their friends and neighbors to share in the order. You may also make a copy of the order for a friend and encourage him to send it along on his own just so long as he includes \$4.00 for dues. By doing so, he will pay for this year and 2010 membership.

PLEASE PLACE YOUR ORDER ON THE ENCLOSED FORM. Check your addition and keep a copy of what you order. If we turn up short or do not receive the variety ordered, John Roe will do his best to contact you and work out a substitute. We have requested delivery of the bulbs in time for the Picnic on 25 October. They usually come on the Wednesday or Thursday preceding which makes assembling the order a crunch. Please check the box for delivery point. You may pick your bulbs up at the picnic or at the residence of John Roe, 5801 36th St N, Arlington (703)534-6569 in Virginia or from Vicki Bowen, 3 Carter Ct., Rockville (301) 424-8575 in Maryland. If neither of these spots is convenient, please so indicate on your order and we will attempt to work out some other scheme for delivery. You may pay your dues with the order or obtain a copy of Let's Grow Lilies. Dues are \$4.00, the book is now \$5.00.

2009 PLS GROUP ORDER – DESCRIPTION OF CULTIVARS OFFERED**KEY: CP = COLUMBIA PLATT, M = MAK LILIES****ASIATIC HYBRIDS:****YELLOW****Eclipse** – (M). Soft cream yellow with purple splatter brushmark.**Gironde** – (M). Yellow, dark stem, no spots.**Sun Reaction** – (M). Upright yellow with spots. Dark stem and buds.**Yellow Whoppers** – (CP) is a strong tetraploid with heavily recurved side-facing flowers of luminous yellow, with a hint of gold at the throat.**ORANGE****Orange Blast** – (M). Orange with purple brushmark at center. Unique. **New.****Pumpkin Face** – (M). Bright pumpkin orange. Side-facing. Very late. **New.****Simple Simon** – (M). Tall, spotless orange. High bud count.**RED****Karen North** – (CP) is a *Lilium lankongense* hybrid. Coral-rose buds abound on tall, willowy stems, opening one by one for weeks to reveal warm coral-orange flowers with plum “rosepoint” marbling. These lightly fragrant, Turks-cap form flowers are a hummingbird magnet. 4-6’.**Matrix** – (M). Red with orange center. Short pot/border lily. **New.****Night’s Desire** – (M) Magenta with white stripe. Dark stem. Good bud count.**Red Sensation** – (M). Dark red, early bloomer. **New.****Red Velvet** – (CP) is a classic hybrid triploid with a long panicle of deepest velvety black-red flowers. Virtually indestructible with great color. NALS Hall of Fame. 3-5’ late June.**Soiree** – (M). Red with orange center. An old favorite available again.**WHITE****Big Bang** -- (CP) has an explosion of intense, velvety “stardust” swirls across each wide-petalled out-facing flower. Each creamy flower varies slightly, and cool weather or shade brings a delicate wash of pink and cream to the petal tips. Spectacular. 4’, late June.**Sweet Surrender** – (CP) (Cocker) has large, perfectly recurved creamy white flowers, sprinkled at the throat with large, jaunty deep plum spots. Strong, vigorous and delightful. 3-5’ late June.**Vermeer** – (M). White with pink tips.**PINK****Ariadne** – (CP) is a *Lilium lankongense* hybrid. Its dusky rose flowers have a marbled spotting pattern and light, dusky fragrance. Long, graceful stems carry an abundance of flowers that will last for weeks. Frequent winner in the NALS Popularity Poll. 4-6’, late June.**Bali Hai** – (CP) is a lovely medley of rose, peach, and mango – a subtly shading blend of colors from the tropics. Botrytis resistant and heat tolerant. Indestructible. 4’ late June.**Eurydice** – (CP) is a hybrid from ‘Ariadne’ with a long panicle of recurved pendant flowers of shimmering raspberry rose, delicately etched with “rosepoint” markings. 4-5”, late June.**Little Missy** – (M). Side-facing, hot pink and short. Pot/border lily.**Rosepoint Lace** – (CP) is a strain of large, recurved, pendant ivory to soft pink flowers, with the signature “rosepoint” pattern of spotting inherited from *Lilium lankongense*. Triploid. 4’ mid June.**Retro Pink** -- (M). Solid pink. **New.****Sadie** – (M). Pink, side facing with yellow center.**Tiger Babies** --- (CP) have large, lightly fragrant pastel peach flowers with a hint of pink, shading to deep peach throats. Always popular, thrives everywhere. 3-5’, late June to early July.**Toronto** – (M). Pink with yellow center/spots.**TRUMPET AND AURELIAN HYBRIDS****Copper Crown** – (CP) has long, bronze colored buds and beautiful coppery-apricot fragrant trumpets. 4-5’ July.**Louis XIV** – (CP) is a regally tall lily with deep golden flowers that recurved into a true “sunburst” form, traceable to its *L. henryi* ancestry. 5’+ late July.**Summer Palace** – (CP) A beautiful strain of fragrant pink lilies. 3-4’ July.**White Henryi** – (CP). The classic with white “sunburst” flowers with deep golden orange centers. This is a true clone of the over 50 year old favorite. 4-5’ July. A must in every lily garden.

ORIENTAL HYBRIDS

Casa Blanca – (CP) is world famous for its enormous pure white flowers of incredible form and beauty. Sweet fragrance befitting its 8' to 10' flowers. 4', mid-August.

Corvara/Rio Negro –(M). Enormous flowers of deepest crimson with black-red midribs. Flowers have perfect form and beautifully ruffled margins. 3-4', early August.

Stargazer – (CP). Among the best known lilies in the world. Upfacing crimson flowers with white edge. Good container plant. 3' August.

Sumatra – (CP) is among the darkest black-red Orientals with a stunningly saturated color that is even darker at the center of the petals. Hairline white margin. Very large flowers. 4' August.

INTERDIVISIONAL HYBRID LILIES

Alchemy – (CP) is a stunning orienpet with huge, wide-open flowers of deepest red rimmed with a wide margin of rich coppery gold. Fragrant. 4-5' July.

Belladonna – (M). Side facing yellow OT.

Black Beauty – (CP). This is the original clone, bred 50 years ago by Leslie Woodriff. This superlative garden plant produces a cascade of tightly recurved "black red" flowers with a "hint of rose" fragrance. 3-5' and taller, mid August.

Caravan – (CP) – has large, outfacing flowers of intense sunshine yellow with brilliant rose-red centers. Flower form and poise similar to 'Silk Road.' 4-5' July.

El Condor – (M). LO hybrid. Red with white tips. **New.**

Leslie Woodriff – (CP) A cross between tetraploid forms of 'White Henryi' and 'Black Beauty.' Robust stems carrying numerous semi-recurved crimson-rose flowers with wide white margins. 4-6' late July to early August. Whopper bulbs at special price to celebrate elevation to NALS Hall of Fame.

Menorca – (M). Peach shaded LA hybrid. Early bloomer.

Nymph – (M). Upfacing pink with cream edge. OT hybrid.

Ortega – (M). Side facing white with yellow center. OT hybrid.

Peter's Pet – (CP) is a delightful Asiapet hybrid. Short sturdy stems with truly outfacing fragrant flowers, shading from melon to true sunny orange. 3-4', mid June to July.

Pizzazz – (CP) has brilliant orange flowers with shiny red centers. Sunburst shape. A Popularity Poll favorite. 4-6' and taller, early August.

Quintessence – (CP). Clone 6 from Luminaries strain. Stunning, huge flowers with a wide sunburst of gold at the throat, encircled with a deep rose kaleidoscope shading to soft cream-yellow. Tall. Whopper bulbs.

Robina – (M). Up facing hot pink with huge flowers. Shows well. 4' mid- July.

Rococo – (CP) has stupendous rich golden yellow flowers. This sturdy tetraploid has robust stems carrying deepest yellow flowers of any Orienpet. Sweetly fragrant. 4-5' mid-July.

Scheherazade – (CP) is a vigorous hybrid from 'Thunderbolt' x Tetra 'Black Beauty.' Deep red recurved flowers edged in gold, shading into white margins. (If you saw our show you know.) July to early August. 3-6' and taller. Special price.

Seafarer – (CP) is an Asiapet. It has a perfect pyramid of unspotted cantaloupe orange flowers with apricot throats and dusky plum reverse. Bell-shaped pendant flowers have a soft trumpet-like fragrance. 3-4' and taller, late June to early July.

Silk Road – (CP). Huge white flowers with deep, intensely crimson pink throats, carried on an enormous inflorescence. Everyone knows this beauty, on list for anyone who by now does not have one or needs a replacement. Special price.

2009 PLS LILY BULB GROUP ORDER

ASIATIC HYBRIDS	Price	No.	
	Each	Ordered	Amount
Eclipse	1.75	_____	_____
Gironde	1.75	_____	_____
Sun Reaction	1.75	_____	_____
Yellow Whoppers	3.50	_____	_____
Orange Blast	1.75	_____	_____
Pumpkin Face	1.75	_____	_____
Simple Simon	1.75	_____	_____
Karen North	6.00	_____	_____
Matrix	1.50	_____	_____
Night's Desire	1.75	_____	_____
Red Sensation	1.75	_____	_____
Red Velvet	4.00	_____	_____
Soiree	1.75	_____	_____
Big Bang	5.00	_____	_____
Sweet Surrender	3.50	_____	_____
Vermeer	1.75	_____	_____
Ariadne	4.50	_____	_____
Bali Hai	3.50	_____	_____
Eurydice	4.00	_____	_____
Little Missy	1.50	_____	_____
Rosepoint Lace	5.00	_____	_____
Retro Pink	1.75	_____	_____
Sadie	1.75	_____	_____
Tiger Babies	3.00	_____	_____
Toronto	1.75	_____	_____

TRUMPET AND AURELIAN HYBRIDS

Copper Crown	4.25	_____	_____
Louis XIV	4.25	_____	_____
Summer Palace	3.75	_____	_____
White Henryi	4.25	_____	_____

ORIENTAL HYBRIDS

Casa Blanca	4.25	_____	_____
Corvara/Rio Negro	4.00	_____	_____
Stargazer	3.50	_____	_____
Sumatra	4.75	_____	_____

TOTAL THIS COLUMN _____

Please hold bulbs for pickup: VA ___ MD ___ Picnic _____

INTERDIVISIONAL HYBRIDS	Price	No.	
	Each	Ordered	Amount
Alchemy	6.25	_____	_____
Belladonna	3.50	_____	_____
Black Beauty	5.25	_____	_____
Caravan	6.25	_____	_____
El Condor	4.00	_____	_____
Leslie Woodriff	5.25	_____	_____
Menorca	2.00	_____	_____
Nymph	3.50	_____	_____
Ortega	3.50	_____	_____
Peter's Pet	8.75	_____	_____
Pizzazz	6.25	_____	_____
Quintessence	7.25	_____	_____
Robina	3.50	_____	_____
Rococo	11.25	_____	_____
Scheherazade	4.75	_____	_____
Seafarer	6.25	_____	_____
Silk Road	6.25	_____	_____

TOTAL THIS COLUMN _____
TOTAL PRIOR COLUMN _____
GRAND TOTAL BULBS _____

Let's Grow Lilies @ \$5.00 _____

PLS Dues @ \$4.00/year _____

TOTAL REMITTED _____

Make checks payable to:

POTOMAC LILY SOCIETY

Mail order to:

**John Roe
 5801 36th ST N
 Arlington, VA 22207**

ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY OCT 1, 2009

Your Name _____

Phone(_____) _____

E-Mail _____

May we substitute if necessary: Yes _____ No _____

POTOMAC LILY SOCIETY
4400 ROMLON STREET
BELTSVILLE, MD 20705



48th Annual PLS Lily Show Summary

Horticultural Awards:

Best Interdivisional Hybrid and Best in Show - Silk Road Kathleen Hoxie
Best Asiatic Hybrid - Maribelle Tricia Kincheloe

Other Blue Ribbons:

Section A

Cannes	Tricia Kincheloe
Circus Crowd	Tricia Kincheloe
Conca D'or	Mary Zocchi
Kentucky	Marty Whipple
Orania	Kathleen Hoxie
Ortega	Marty Whipple
Serrano	John Roe

Section I

Aladdin's Sun	Tricia Kincheloe
Dr. Griesbach	Mrs. Theodore Scott
Nevona	Tricia Kincheloe
Orania	Tricia Kincheloe

Best Design in Show: "Elegant Sculpture"
design by Karen Lucas

Other Design Blue Ribbons:

"Lilies and Lines" by Ronnie Levay
"Magic Circles" by Mary Corley
"Awesome Angels" by Lisa Adelman
"Geometric Shapes" by Muriel Turner

Other show statistics:

34 Horticultural exhibits submitted
by 8 exhibitors
25 Design exhibits submitted by
16 exhibitors