

# The Iowa Seedling

Dec/Jan 2020

Grow With Us !

## IOWA REGIONAL LILY SOCIETY

Visit our Website at: [www.iowaregionallilysociety.com](http://www.iowaregionallilysociety.com)

Regional Affiliate of: *North American Lily Society* & *Iowa State Horticultural Society*  
[www.lilies.org](http://www.lilies.org) [www.iowahort.org](http://www.iowahort.org)

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### Dates to Remember:

- \* Jan. 11, 2020 - Winter Meeting 10 am
- \* Mar. 15, 2020 - Bulb Packing (Time to be determined)
- \* Mar. 20-22, 2020 - Flower Lawn Garden Show  
Varied Indus. Bldg, State Fair Grounds
- \* Apr. 11, 2020 - Spring Meeting 10 am
- \*\* All meetings are at the New Hope United Methodist Church  
4525 Beaver Ave. Des Moines unless otherwise noted.

Work, through the summer golden,  
And through the autumn's glow,  
Till the months lay down their burden  
In the full garden's guerdon,  
And earth, once more enfolden,  
Sleeps warm beneath the snow.

~Frederick Frye Rockwell, "Invitation," Around  
the Year in the Garden, 1913

# President's Letter

Ponderings from the Prez...

By the time you read this, the new year will be knocking on our doors! It always amazes me at how fast the months and years fly by. Hopefully, you all were able to spend some precious quality time at Christmas with those you love.

We enjoyed a very traditional Christmas with our kids, grandkids and significant others all able to make it home. We have so much to be thankful for! Now we are looking forward to our annual Evans' New Year's party which will be Tuesday and Wednesday with about 30 people spending the night on Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> and/or Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>. We'll share lots of food, visiting, music, the Third Annual Family Olympics and making fun memories.

I'd like to give a "Shout Out" to all who were involved in one way or another with the Symposium in October. We had several great speakers: Forrest Peiper, from Minnesota, "All About Aurelians"; a wonderful panel presentation by Chuck Fuson, Florence Vander Meiden and Jayne Venard, "The Early Days of the Iowa Regional Lily Society"; and Rod and Peggy Nerdahl from Minnesota with presentations on "Hybridizing for Beginners" and "Photos from 2019 NALS Convention and Show". Many thanks go to our Bulb Chairman, Mark Riggs, who managed the bulb sale during the Symposium. Thank you to all those who brought bulbs for sharing. In addition to the bulbs we had ordered, about 400 bulbs were sent to the IRLS from the Missouri Botanical Gardens for us to sell and share the proceeds with them. The St. Louis folks are raising money to send a person to NALS next year. I'd also like to thank everyone who showed up to package the bulbs, attended the Symposium, set up and cleaned up from the Symposium, provided cookies or food and to New Hope United Methodist Church for allowing us to hold the Symposium and Bulb Sale at their church. It was quite an enjoyable day spent with friends!

January 11, 2020 will be our next IRLS meeting at New Hope United Methodist Church on Beaver. The Board will meet from 9:30 to 10 am with the regular meeting beginning at 10 am. We will be having a special guest presentation by Theresa Lewis, a Polk County Master Gardener. She will talk to us about "Successful Composting at Home". Other plans for the January meeting are to sign up for the Spring Bulb Sale, to discuss the Annual Show in June and the bus tour for 2021 and where we want to spend our money for educational purposes.

The spring flower catalogs have started arriving which means it's time to start thinking about lilies again. In order to have more beautiful lilies to choose from, we have already ordered bulbs for the spring bulb sale. Our Spring Bulb Sale will be March 20-22, 2020 at the IRLS booth at the Iowa Flower, Lawn and Garden Show at the Iowa State Fairgrounds, Varied Industries Building. Please sign up at the January meeting to help at the booth as well as to help with bulb packing the weekend before! It's fun, you get to talk about lilies and you'll be able to buy your bulbs while you are there.

Looking forward to seeing everyone Jan. 11, 2020 at New Hope United Methodist Church in Des Moines. Stay warm and think of beautiful lilies

Kristi Evans  
IRLS President

# Secretary's Report

Iowa Regional Lily Society meeting 9/7/19

Present: Kristi Evans, Jean Smith, Mark Riggs, Wanda Lunn, Sandy Quam, Trish Patrick, Bev Caputo, Deann Caputo

Secretary's report – Minutes from the April meeting were sent on line. There were no changes or corrections.

Treasurer report – Mark reported that the current balance is \$14,869.31. The web page cost went up to \$14.99 from \$12.94. Wanda said this is still a bargain as we have many more pages that we can add.

NALS received a \$50 check from us. There was a discussion as to if this was a check for the Century Award in honor of Dorothy Schaefer It was determined that it wasn't. The \$50 was our fee for NALS.

## Old Business

Recap of the Annual Lily Show held June 29, 2019 – Show Chair was Jean Smith and Design Chair was Peggy Moody. The show was held at Reiman Gardens, Ames, Iowa

127 Stems Entered  
17 Designs Entered

## AWARDS

Robert Russell Award

Best Lily in the Show Sections A-G      Wanda Lunn-Honey Bear

Best in Show runner-up

Runner-up Lily in Show Sections A-G      Deann Caputo-Tiger Babies

IRLS Founders Award (perpetual)

Greatest number of Blue Ribbons Section A-G      Trish Patrick

Main Family Award

Best Iowa Grown Up-facing Asiatic Hybrid    Division Ia    Kristi Evans- Easy Dance

Iowa Regional Lily Society Award (perpetual)

Best Iowa Grown Out-facing Asiatic Hybrid Division Ib    Wanda Lunn-Honey Bear

Lunn Family Award

Best Down-facing Asiatic Hybrid    Division Ic      Deann Caputo-Tiger Babies

Bertha Remele Russell Award (perpetual)

Best Trumpet Lily in Show    Division VI      Deann Caputo-Regale

The T&S Williams Award

Best Interdivisional Lily Division VIII      Trish Patrick-Eye liner

The Williams Award

Best Registered or Named Speckled Lily Division I or VIII      Patricia Patrick- Latvia Promise

Reed's Heavenly Brushmark Award Best Brushmark Lily    Section A-G	Trish Patrick-Pink Pagoda
Dian Curran Seedling Award Best Seedling grown from seed by exhibitor    Section B-D	NO EXHIBITOR this year
The Vander Meiden Award Three stems of same clone, strain, or species    Section F	Deann Caputo-Alladin's Beauty
Perrydise Gardens Container Merit Award Best Iowa Grown Lily in a container    Section G	NO EXHIBITOR this year
Evan's Highest Bud Count Lily Stem with the Highest Bud Count    Sections A-G	Trish Patrick-Easter Bonnet
IRLS Artistic Award Best Design in Show    Division II, Section I	Sandy Quam-Drifting Down Memory Lane
The Moody Award Best Use of Lilies in a Design-awarded to a design scoring 90 points or more    Division II Section I	Sandy Quam-Remembering the Past
Lovely Lily Photo Award Best Photo in Show by Public Vote    Section L	Sandy Meyers
Novice Award	Arlene Davis
IRLS Special Award	Deann Caputo-Regale

**DESIGN**

□

**Class 1 Grandma's Favorite Container**

A	Sandy Quam	1st
	Sandy Gossman	2nd

Novice

B	Kristi Evans	1st
	Sue Breen-Held	2nd

**Class 2 My Favorite Antique**

Sandy Quam	1st
Peggy Moody	2nd
Sue Breen-Held	3rd

**Class 3 Something from Yesteryear**

Sandy Quam	1st
Sue Breen-Held	2nd

**Class 4 Down Memory Lane**

Sandy Quam	1st-Best Artistic Design
Peggy Moody	2nd
Kristi Evans	3rd
Sue Breen-Held	4th

**Class 5 Remembering the Past**

Sandy Quam	1st- Moody Award
Peggy Moody	2nd

### Class 6 Don't Forget Grandpa

Sandy Quam 1st  
Sandy Gossman 2nd

### Entries

Sandy Quam 6 designs 6 -1st  
Sue Breen-Held 4 designs 2- 2nds, 1- 3rd, 1-4th  
Peggy Moody 3 designs 3- 2nds  
Kristi Evans 2 designs 1- 1st and 1-3rd  
Sandy Gossman 2 designs 2 -2nds

Mark Riggs sent photos and a list of award winners to NALS. Wanda will post these on the website also.

Wanda said she loved the Awards Luncheon. It was good not to have to run out and get something to eat. Everyone thought it worked well and the food was plentiful and great. We will do this again next year.

Wanda made motion to make a \$500 donation to Reiman Gardens, seconded by Sandy. Motion was passed. It is the perfect place for our show and they are very accommodating.

There was discussion of making a donation to New Hope United Methodist Church for \$300 a year. Mark will take care of this. We are meeting more at the church and it is thought we should increase our donation to \$500. Jean made a motion to increase the donation and Wanda seconded. The motion was passed.

### Report from NALS

Mark attended the NALS Show and Convention in Boston which was held July 10-14. He brought a Lily book from NALS for others to look at. They had a tour of Botanical Centers, great dinners and a good time. Next year the NALS show will be in Ontario Canada at the Royal Botanical Center on July 8th-13th. It is \$20 a year to join NALS. A speaker from Switzerland will talk about Lily species. There was discussion about the Red Lily Beetle that has affected the Northeast. It is causing havoc on the lilies there. They are introducing a wasp that feed on the beetle.

### New Business

**Fall Bulb Sale** – Mark Riggs is the Chair

Bulb packing will be on Monday October 21 from 6-9 at New Hope United Methodist Church.

**Symposium** will be held October 26<sup>th</sup> at New Hope United Methodist Church from 9am-3pm. Orders need to be sent to Mark before October 20<sup>th</sup>. You can order online or send a form to Mark. The form is on the website. The bulb will be available for pick up at the symposium. If you order \$20 or more the order can be shipped to you.

Kristi relayed some presentation ideas for the symposium;

- Beginning Hybridizing – speaker needed
- History of the IRLS Panel discussion– speaker needed
- Showing lilies how to prep for an event– speaker needed
- Putting your Lilies to bed for the winter– speaker needed
- Photos from NALS 2019 - speaker needed
- Forrest Peiper will have a talk entitled “All about Aurelians”

Lunch will be provided by IRLS and will be subway sandwiches. The symposium will be open to the public. There was a discussion whether we should have a judging class this year but all felt that we did not have the space or interest. The last judging class had a poor test. Perhaps we could offer that those who want to have a judging class can go to Minnesota.

There was a short discussion about a bus tour next year. It would have to be July 11<sup>th</sup>. This would conflict with NALS. Although everyone enjoys this there was not enough interest in organizing one.

Kristi passed out a calendar for IRLS events and meetings. This will be on the website.

Arlene is working on the roster and will eliminate those who haven't been active or paid dues for several years. We have 200+ members.

Sharon Smith has consented to be a director.

There was a discussion about spending more money for education. Perhaps we can get a big name speaker and pay for travel and a stipend for the 2020 symposium. Mark suggested a scholarship for someone who is developing the next "Big Lily". Trish said people could use basic information. We could push the symposium at the Spring bulb sale at the Garden and Lawn show. Mark suggested we give out coupons for a free bulb if they come. Perhaps we could hold it at Reiman Gardens. The date would probably be October 24<sup>th</sup> 2020. People suggested for speakers were: Judith {Freeman} from Oregon on hybridizing; Brian Bergman; Art {Evans} from Arkansas.

Getting back to this year's symposium – volunteers will be needed to help set up. We have limited space and it would be good to have the bulb sale outdoors if weather permits. Jean and Deann Caputo will bring cookies. Jean will bring a table

Adjourned at 1140 am.



The IRLS 2019 Symposium is in the book.

Forrest Peiper, from Minnesota, led off with a great talk "All About Aurelian Lilies". He also brought dozens of very large bulbs from his hybridizing efforts and from Bill Bauer to share with us.

Following Forrest we had a wonderful panel presentation by Chuck Fuson, Florence Vander Meiden and Jayne Venard. Chuck and Jayne were active members of IRLS for many years, while Florence is still active in our group. They took us back to the early days of the Iowa Regional Lily Society and talked about people some of us have only heard of, some early hybridizing and creative designing. Chuck also brought some of his heirloom lilies to share. We were fortunate to have Chuck's wife, Dodie, and Florence's husband, Gerritt, join the group for this presentation. Unfortunately, Stan Venard was not feeling well enough to come. These three couples spent many years together in IRLS and even celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversaries with each other.

Rod and Peggy Nerdahl also made the trek from Minnesota to be with us for the Symposium. Peggy's enthusiasm for hybridizing lilies, in her talk "Hybridizing for Beginners" inspired me to try ordering seeds from the NALS seed bank as well as trying some of my own. Now is a good time to order seeds as the 2018 and earlier seeds are only one dollar per packet. Rod shared his slide presentation with photos from the 2019 North American Lily Society Show and Convention in Boston. Looks like those of us who couldn't make it missed a lot of great presentations, tours and flowers!

Many thanks to all these folks for their part in making the IRLS Symposium fun, educational and so worthwhile!

Photo of Jayne Venard, Dodie and Chuck Fuson and Gerritt and Florence Vander Meiden on the following page.



## Starting Seeds Using a Water Method

By Peggy Nerdahl

Ever since Jeff Stiller's talk for our NSLS group in 2010, I have used his water method of starting my Asiatic lily seeds. I find it really easy and I get almost 100% germination. After picking the pods, I lay each pod out on a paper towel. If the pods are damp, I open the pods up so they can dry more easily. I write on the paper towel what is in the pod and leave out on a table to dry. When dry, I use a light table to find the seeds with embryos and then I put the chosen dried seeds in recycled, labeled envelopes. I usually start my seeds in November. I make holes underneath the zipper of a quart or gallon zip lock bag. I use a skewer or a small floral "frog" to make holes. I write on the outside with a permanent marker and then add one kind of seed to the bag. I fill with water about 1/4 full, zip and place with zipper up in a big bowl handy to the kitchen sink. I put all of my bags in the same big bowl. I change the water in each bag twice a day for 5 days. I check the zipper for closure, then put the bags with zipper side down in the sink to drain and then add fresh water and zip again. At the end of the 5 days, I drain the water and just leave the waterless bags in the bowl. I watch for sprouting. I rinse the bags and seeds with fresh water about every 5 days. It really doesn't take them long to sprout, sometimes they sprout as early as day 10.

I recycle water or milk gallon jugs for my pots. Using a scissors, I cut the jugs almost all the way around, leaving the top and bottom attached near the handle. I write on the outside of the jug with a permanent marker. I fill the bottom half with damp potting mix, the kind with fertilizer, but without the water retention material. I make holes in the potting mix with a pencil, then holding the seed with a tweezers, I put the root in the hole in the soil and leave the seed above the soil. I pat around the root and water gently when done. I put the top of the jug over the bottom, creating a kind of terrarium to keep the air moist. I leave the jug covered with the top a couple weeks until seedlings are well-established, then I cut the jug top off. I put most under my shop lights in the basement on a timer and when I run out of space I use a south window. I water as needed, often about one time a week and use diluted Miracle Grow every other time. I use "Mosquito Dunk" in the water to prevent fungus gnats. I let my seeds grow in pots till May and then, trying not to disturb the clump, I plant the whole bunch from one pot right into my nursery box on my patio. In the fall I transplant the clump into the garden.

She also sent along another method of seed starting by Glenn Jans.

Don't forget that [Let's Grow Lilies](#) also has great information on starting lily seeds. Have fun!

## Starting Lily Seeds

By Glenn Jans

1. When I collect my lily crossed seeds, the first thing is to see that they are dry so mold doesn't start.
2. The next step is to check to see if the seeds have a germ to grow by using a light and magnifying glass. With some crosses you may only find one seed in a pod that is able to grow.
3. To grow the seeds I use a plastic container that cookies come in from the grocery store.
4. The soil I use is a mixture of planting soil and peat unless the planting soil already has a lot of peat in it.
5. The seeds are planted about 1/4" deep. Moisten the soil and close the container until the seeds grow.
6. I keep the seeds at about 70 deg. F.
7. Try to grow like kinds in the same container since some grow faster.
8. Grow the seeds under one cool white & one warm white fluorescent bulb, at about 6-10" from the soil.
9. My choice is to grow them through two full seasons before planting outside.
10. A season is 3-5 months warm period (70 deg.) and 3 months cool period (40 deg.)
11. Small plants should not be planted outside until the bulbs are at least 1/4" in diameter. Therefore plan to have your young plants ready for a warm period (70 deg.) during the summer time.
12. Squirrels like to dig in soft ground where you plant your young lilies, so cover with a mesh protection. I use chicken wire.
13. Water the young plants during dry periods and hot days.

This is a picture of Peggy's light arrangement for her seedlings.



## From the Editor

As we close out one decade and begin another I would like to take a couple minutes to ask you to take some time and write up a small blurb telling us how you got started in the lily growing part of your life, and where you are now. It doesn't need to be long, 4 paragraphs is about perfect. We live in a world where sharing information is so easy that we often don't realize how little we know of other members of our society.

Also if you have comments or an article you would like to submit concerning lilies or even gardening in general I would be more than happy to look at it for publication in The Seedling. Please send your information to:

Sue at [llilyfan@iowatelecom.net](mailto:llilyfan@iowatelecom.net)

I truly hope to see many of you at the first IRLS meeting of 2020 and the first IRLS meeting of the new decade!

Sue W. ,Newsletter Editor

**Saturday, Jan. 11, 2020 - Winter Meeting 10 am at the New Hope United  
Methodist Church 4525 Beaver Ave. Des Moines**



Blooms like this are just around the corner! ( *I. Michiganense* )