

# The Iowa Seedling

April 2013

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)

### Iowa Regional Lily Society Contacts:

#### President:

Randy Hull  
1011 Park St.  
Perry, IA 50220  
(515) 465-2641 [perrydisegardens@msn.com](mailto:perrydisegardens@msn.com)

#### Past President :

Ron Reed

#### Vice-President:

Susan Williams  
506 Guy Porter St.  
Humeston, IA 50123  
(641) 877-9741 [llilyfan@iowatelecom.net](mailto:llilyfan@iowatelecom.net)

#### Secretary-Treasurer:

Wanda Lunn  
526 Bezdek Drive NW  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52405  
319-396-4933 [w.lunn@mchsi.com](mailto:w.lunn@mchsi.com)

#### Newsletter Editor:

Susan Williams  
506 Guy Porter St.  
Humeston, IA 50123  
(641) 877-9741 [llilyfan@iowatelecom.net](mailto:llilyfan@iowatelecom.net)

#### Director:

Karie Lash  
8070 Crestview Dr.  
Des Moines, IA 50320

#### Director:

Jayne Venard  
3055 V Avenue  
Waukee, IA 50263  
(515) 987-4364 [srjeven@msn.com](mailto:srjeven@msn.com)

#### Webmaster:

Becca Wichert [fivewichert@fmtcs.com](mailto:fivewichert@fmtcs.com)

### Dates to Remember:

\* April 20, 2013 - Spring meeting @ the Waukee Library, 950 Warrior Lane. Last society meeting before the Big Show!

### DON'T MISS THIS ONE!!!!!!!!!!!!

\* June 26-30, 2013 - NALS International Lily Show @ The Sheraton West Des Moines

### What's Inside

- \* President's Letter
- \* Treasurer's Report
- \* Secretary's Report
- \* Quirks and Quarks
- \* From the Editor



Chocolate Soldier

# *The President's Letter*

Greetings All,

I hope you all had a satisfying growing season this year. It was a real challenge, with record highs and NO rain. It was surprising that we had any stems for the show. But we did and the show was great! We had many stems from cultivators that we don't usually see at the show.

The Lily Symposium & Sale was a success also. The talks being both interesting and helpful to the cultivating of our favorite flower, the lily. Thanks go out to all, who made this event happen.

The Spring Bulb Sale was also a success. Thanks, to all the volunteers that helped make this event possible.

I wish you all Happy Holidays, and a great growing season in the upcoming year.

Your President,

Randy Hull



# *Secretary's Report*

Minutes of the Iowa Regional Lily Society Winter Meeting on January 12, 2013

IRLS President Randy Hull called the meeting to order at 12:30 PM at the the Waukee Library in Waukee, IA . Nineteen members were present.

The Secretary's minutes of the September ,2012 IRLS meeting were read . Amendment to minutes to include passed motion of \$500 to defray Sue Williams expenses to attend the January NALS meeting and present IRLS plans for the 2013 NALS Conference. Approval motion by Kris Jurik and seconded by Don Alliss. Passed.

Treasurer's Report was read. Discussion of finances for the 2013 NALS Conference. Motion for approval by Betty Holweger was seconded by Teresa Deeth. Passed. Treasurer Wanda Lunn noted that the IRS 501(c)3 registration of the IRLS as a non-profit corporation for 2013 was completed for State and Federal. NALS affiliate 2013 dues of \$50 are paid. Becca Wichert will be auditing the IRLS accounts for 2012. Wanda Lunn motioned that we donate \$100 to the Waukee Library for the use of their facilities in 2013. Don Alliss seconded. Passed. Florence Vander Meiden motioned that we donate \$100 to our affiliate the Iowa Horticultural Society. Teresa Deeth seconded. Passed. Sharon Smith motioned that we donate \$100 to the Des Moines Botanical Center. Discussion of the extensive re-model of the facility starting in March plus educational classes for the public. Kris Jurik seconded.

Discussion of the dates of the next IRLS events: Spring meeting April 20, Fall meeting September 21, Lily Symposium on October 26 –all events at the Waukee Library. Hospitality committee at the April 20 th meeting: Carolyn Magnani, Teresa Deeth, Betty Holweger and Wanda Lunn.

Wanda Lunn reported on the opening of the IRLS Spring Lily Bulb Sale. Postcards were sent out to members. Photos and details of the Lily Bulbs offered are on the IRLS website. Discussion of the growing Lily Photo Library on the website created & maintained by Becca Wichert. Becca requested more lily photos from members. Member orders may be shipped or picked up at the Des Moines Flower and Garden Show March 15-17, 2013. Randy Hull asked for volunteers for the IRLS booth.

Sue Williams gave us an updated report on the NALS 2013 International Lily Show and Conference hosted by IRLS at the West Des Moines Sheraton on June 26-30,2013. Five speakers scheduled on lily topics. Lily Show is open to the public at no charge. Delegates registration is \$85.00 for the 4 day conference, but local members who volunteer at the event can register for \$40. Guest one day pass to attend speeches is \$25.00. Discussion on schedule of show and floral displays. Iowa Garden Club members need to be invited to bring stems and floral displays. Sue Williams will be presenting the proposed schedule at the NALS January meeting in Atlanta. Kristi Evans is waiting menu options from the conference venue. Becca Wichert is creating NALS registration forms.

Local clerks and accredited NALS Lily judges will be needed for the judging of the NALS Lily Show on June 28. Registered volunteers are re-imbursed for the Judges and Clerks luncheon after judging.

IRLS Lily Garden Bus Tour to three IRLS member gardens plus the Reiman Gardens on June 29,2013 as part of the Conference, but open to all IRLS members for \$40.00 per attendee including lunch.

NALS volunteer meeting scheduled on April 20 form 10 am to noon, before regular April meeting. Meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM. Refreshments served.

Respectfully submitted,

Wanda Lunn IRLS Secretary / Treasurer

# *Quirks and Quarks*

*By Dr. Brian Bergman*

The article in the December NALS Bulletin “Ugly Ducklings, Plain Jane’s, and Swans”, was an excellent article that got me thinking and reviewing my experiences with hybridizing. The back page photo was a good example of why we hybridize. For years I have aimed for garden lilies but have worked with the Dutch varieties.

The Dutch breed for the flower trade and not for gardens. They aim for certain characteristics: First and foremost they aim for up-facing lilies – these can go in plastic sleeves and are easy for shipping and storing. Some of the secondary characteristics of these plants are: the size of the plant, how long it takes to bloom, and the number of buds – 5 to 9 ideal. Size and color is important, the larger and darker the buds, the better the price at the Clock Auction. Another important feature is that they be able to grow in any country - North America, Europe, China, and Japan. They have to tolerate a lot of different conditions and light levels. The final important characteristic is that they can hold up in or accept cold storage without ill effects.

These are characteristics of commercial varieties, but they are not very important to me for the garden. For the garden, disease resistance and longevity are important. Look at the bud count – the more the better. Color and size of the flower along with form matters. I am looking for garden lilies, not commercial varieties.



In hybridizing, I have found that records are essential. If you want to create that special variety and keep progressing, then, the more accurate the records you keep, the better the probabilities for success.

My beginning with hybridizing lilies was a seedling I crossed in 1994. It was Gold Eagle crossed with an unusual off-white large Asiatic. I ended up with 3 different seedlings – a yellow, an orange and off-white with purple flecks. The most impressive of the seedlings – the orange one, died after a few seasons. The yellow survived. This variety was a disappointment to me because it had smaller yellow flowers and narrower sepals and tepals than the parent Golden Eagle. I was also told it couldn't have been a cross between a trumpet and Asiatic; to get a cross, embryo rescue would have had to be performed. I was deflated, but it was my seedling, so I named it Gold Eaglet – an ugly small gold eagle. I kept it for sentimental reasons, and it displayed much of the criteria for a garden lily. It had good clear color, substance, and disease resistance. As I acquired more knowledge and learned even more about lilies, I've looked back and realized I had a very successful cross and true hybrid for the garden.

From this lily I learned that to make a cross you must have certain expectations and understanding of what the result will be. Going back to what I have learned in 20 years, and what results I am seeing, the 'mother' the pod parent dictates plant structure and form. The pollen parent 'the father' contributes a lot of the flower substance and shape. That's your basic cross, but when you mix up chromosomes, sometimes you will have to look to the grandparents also.

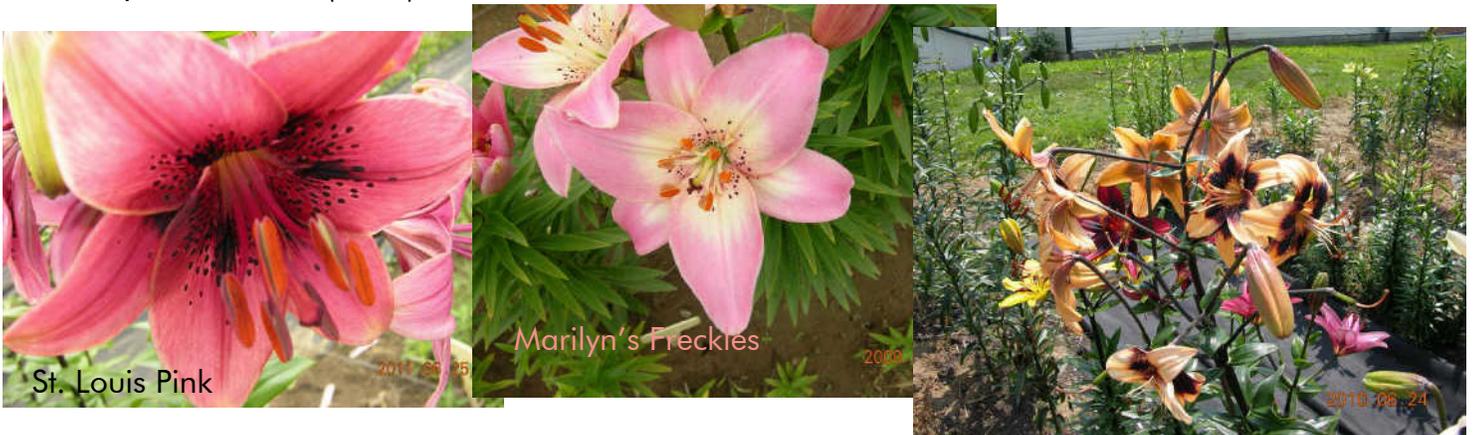
One of my first examples of this involves 'Kathy Jan'. Around the time of my first seedling, I went to Oregon to the NALS show. The Cockers had a seedling that really caught my eye – Kathy Jan, a very small pansy like flower with large brush marks. When I finally got one, I found it didn't produce a very vigorous plant, so I tried to cross something vigorous with it to get a 'better' Kathy Jan. Around the same time, I acquired AD-40 from Tom Gratrix, a tetraploid. The tetraploids were very vigorous lilies. I hybridized with Kathy Jan for a couple of years and nothing I tried would hybridize with it, so I figured it was a triploid. At this time we were crossing triploids with tetraploids and getting fertile seeds. Kathy Jan crossed AD-40 (Connecticut King x Apricot Supreme) produced 2 seedlings, an orange up facing brush mark and a side facing brush mark.



Unfortunately, neither seedling was as impressive as either parent. I entered the best seedling in an ORLS show, but it garnered no honors. However, I still liked it, so after the show I brought it home. Courier was still blooming at the time. I figured Courier was a triploid and this was a tetraploid. In 2007 a seedling from that cross bloomed, and it bloomed late. In fact, the flower was very unusual. It was a dramatic off-white flower out-facing to down-facing with wide tepals and sepals. So this was the result of the result of the cross of Kathy Jan and AD-40. It was labeled LA-2307(w) and it was a combination of all the parents. It was a tall plant (up to 6 feet) with a very columnar inflorescence. There was also a sister seedling with similar growth the flowers were salmon color with spots. So what happened next? When I crossed LA-2307(w) with Black Spider, I ended up again with 2 seedlings that bloomed. One was very unusual and has been named Rhumba. And the other was an ordinary out-facing tango-like yellow flower. Recently I have crossed LA-2307(w) with orientals and seedlings are growing, so the results should be very interesting.



Another Asiatic with an interesting record in hybridizing is St. Louis Pink. I won the Jean Ericksen Award for it in St. Louis. It was a seedling from around 2001, but I don't know its background since the records were in my car when it was stolen in 2005. I thought it was a tetraploid. It was unusual in that it blooms very early – one of the first to bloom in June. The blooms lasted for a long period – up to 4 weeks. It starts off as a dusty rose, but the color fades as it ages. Its stems are black. It is an out-facing to slightly down-facing lily with a lot of spots (almost brush marks). So I crossed it with Marilyn's Freckles, (another pink) hoping to get a really nice pink lily. The cross was A-56-07. The results were not what I had expected. Instead of pinks, I got a wide range of colors from deep red, to mauve, to off white, and even orange. I did get a couple of pinks, however, none of the seedlings looked like Marilyn's Freckles –not a hint. They all resemble (mom) St. Louis Pink with the black stems and the inflorescence form.



There were differences in that some were outfacing, some upfacing, and some downfacing. Most of them had brushmarks: white with brushmarks, and a down facing orange with big brushmarks now called 'Burnt Pumpkin. I guess with this cross you'd have to look at the grandparents to understand what came out.

Another cross that produced unusual kids with A-34-06 was Marilyn's Freckles crossed with a 'Unique'-like seedling. This is another cross where we'd have to look at the grandparents to understand why we ended up with upfacing pinks, big brushmarks, off-whites and tri-colors that look exactly like Tinos.

I also used St. Louis Pink with Purple Reign. With this cross we only have to look at the parents. I always wanted an outfacing and

downfacing Purple Reign. Well, with this cross it finally happened. For years I strived to get a better "Purple Reign". With this cross it happened, the results were 2 seedlings, one that is an outfacing Purple Reign and the other was a deep pink downfacing. This time the cross created what I was aiming for. I named the purple and white one "Finally."



I have been hybridizing OTs for a number of years, but results have been hit and miss. Recently things have been getting better. Going back to about 2003 when I had my first good OT seedlings.

The first of these was a cross of Sarabande with a Cebeco tet trumpet (upfacing) hoping for an outfacing Sarabande. Well, that did not happen, I got 3 seedlings: Sarabande OP#1, Miniature and Sarabande-Ross.

Sarabande OP#1 looks almost exactly like Sarabande but about 20% bigger flower with greater fertility. Sarabande -Ross looked a lot like Scheherazade with bigger flowers and deeper richer colors, but not that impressive as for plant habit.

Then, there is Miniature. It has spade shaped leaves like some of the pot orientals (miniatures) and this hybrid only grows about 3 feet tall with smaller flowers but a nice inflorescence. It has proved interesting, in that it crosses with orientals and visa versa.

A hybrid cross where we have to look at grandparents is OT-20-06. This cross was Pretty Maid crossed with tetraploid trumpet (Cebeco). I ended up with an up-facing trumpet seedling with dark black buds that opened to a washed out pink flower. Dick B said that Pretty Maid was a cross between upright pink trumpet and pollen from a hybrid of white henryi crossed with an oriental. So on this cross OT-20-06 it's the grandmother – upright pink trumpet that comes out the most. The father produced the white



flower. Another cross, Pink Bounty X Ortega produced a downfacing tall OT that is basically white with large flowers. Still another interesting cross which was a combo of the parents was Wiska X Northern Carillon. There was a group of seedlings from this cross. Most of this group were white or off white, but one is a real keeper. It was 7' tall in the field and has large golden flowers with pink.

So with better results I decided to revisit Gold Eaglet. I did 2 crosses in 2007, Gold Eaglet X Purple Prince and Gold Eaglet X Satisfaction. The kids look like neither parent, they are outfacing trumpet-like to aurelian – like flowers, ranging from off-white to cream. These seedlings should prove interesting for hybridizing

in that they are very fertile (produced copious amounts of OP seeds).

So, my experiences have been “Quirky” when it comes to lily hybridization. Sometimes there magical moments, sometimes there are those “Quark” moments .... creative bursts of material that draws you further down the road.



A few more pictures of some of Dr. Bergman's hybridizing endeavors to tease you for the keynote address at the Awards Banquet!





## *In Loving Memory*



Maisie (Lewis) Russell  
(1921 - 2013)

Her family and many friends were saddened by Maisie's death on March 6, 2013.

Maisie and her first husband, Verne Lewis, moved from Des Moines to a farm SE of Waukee in the 1960's. Verne died in 1972. She met Bertha and Robert Russell at IRLS affairs and after Bertha's death, Maisie and Robert were married in 1983. He died in 1995. He was active in IRLS and served as President.

Maisie was a charter member of IRLS and a past President. Until a few years ago she was the one responsible for the awards presented at our annual lily shows. She accompanied the judging teams and attached the ribbons to the winning stems. Between shows she cared for the awards. She helped pack and label bulbs for our sales. She was a member of NALS and attended many of the national shows.

Maisie was a Scot. Her parents came to this country from Scotland. Members of the family still live there and Maisie visited several times with her children. She was an active member of the Scottish Heritage Society here in Iowa. She loved Scottish music, dancing, games, and history. One of our IRLS meetings was held at her log home in the country and a bagpiper entertained us.

She was an active member and past - president of the Greater Des Moines Garden Club and assisted with the club's exhibit at the Spring Flower, Lawn, and Garden Show where IRLS sells bulbs. She enjoyed arranging flowers of all kinds and, for years, volunteered each week at the Iowa Methodist Medical Center making flower arrangements for sale in the Flower Shop.

She attended many of the short courses offered by Iowa State University for adults and was especially interested in conservation of water. She spoke at one of our meetings about the importance of using only the water actually needed in our daily lives. A resume was in one of our newsletters.

For over 50 years Maisie was an active member of the Maple Grove United Methodist Church on Ashworth Road southeast of Waukee. The church is noted for its service projects and she was involved in all of them. She volunteered at the Waukee Library, Waukee schools, and Salisbury House.

One of Maisie's daughters, Catherine Booth, of Atlantic, Iowa, is a member of IRLS. She grows lilies and so do her two sisters and her brother. We extend our best regards to each of them.

Dorothy (Lewis) Schaefer



It is time to start thinking about those lily stems for the Show! Now, is also the time to fertilize those gardens. Our lilies will be growing quickly once the warm weather and sunshine gets here. You might want to review which lilies you are thinking about trying to bring to the show and get the stakes ready to keep them straight and tall. Watch for bugs and treat with your favorite bug formula to prevent disfigurement of those award winning lilies!

## From the Editor

As I sit looking out my window the grass has turned green, the buds on the trees are swelling, and the birds are selecting nesting sites. Winter seemed to drag on forever and yet the joys of Spring are so anticipated that I don't think I would like living elsewhere.

Raking winter debris, trimming back the roses, and pulling up some of the earliest weeds has refreshed my soul and makes looking forward a joy once again. It won't be long until June, and with June comes the North American Lily Society's 66th International Lily Show and Symposium. The show will be held June 26-30, 2013 at the Sheraton West Des Moines. This is the second time IRLS has hosted the NALS Show and you won't want to miss it! The first time IRLS hosted was July of 1986, twenty-seven years ago! All the information can be found on our website:

[www.iowaregionallilysociety.com](http://www.iowaregionallilysociety.com)

We need volunteers to help run the show and what better way to be up to your noses in lilies!!! Please consider volunteering and come to the 10 am volunteer meeting at the Waukee Library April 20. This meeting will precede the regular IRLS meeting at 12:30



Just a teaser of things to come!

Join NALS Today  
For more information go to:  
[www.lilies.org](http://www.lilies.org)

### What's new in your garden?

<http://www.lilies.org>

The North American Lily Society (NALS) was organized in 1947 to promote interest in the genus *Lilium*. The society has active members from almost every state and province in North America, as well as from many countries around the world.



*New members welcome!*



International Seed  
Exchange  
Quality Publications  
Enthusiasts, Amateur  
& Commercial Growers

NALS Executive Secretary  
P.O. Box W  
Bonners Ferry, ID, 83805