

The Iowa Seedling

April 2017

Grow With Us !

IOWA REGIONAL LILY SOCIETY

Visit our Website at: www.iowaregionallilysociety.com

Regional Affiliate of: *North American Lily Society* & *Iowa State Horticultural Society*
www.lilies.org www.iowahort.org

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Dates to Remember:

- * April 8, 2017 - IRLS Spring Meeting 12:30 pm At the New Hope United Methodist Church Wanda Lunn will do a Program "In Grandma's Garden"
- * June 24, 2017 - IRLS 44th Annual Lily Show @ Reiman Gardens, Ames, Iowa
- * June 28- July 2, 2017 - NALS Lily Show in St. Louis, MO

A garden is always a series of losses set against a few triumphs, like life itself.

May Sarton

What's Inside

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The President's Letter

Dear Lily friends,

Well... the end of my run as IRLS President is drawing to a close. This was an experience that challenged me to step out of my comfort zone many times and in many areas. I did not always rise to the occasion gracefully; but I did grow and I have great respect for each one of you who stood by and helped me out while I was 'growing'!

We have so many amazing and talented members in IRLS and it has been a pleasure working with you and getting to know you better. For the next few years I will join the ranks of the most amazing volunteers and members of a society that I have been privileged to know; I hope I can live up to the standards you have set!

I am looking forward to our hosting of the 2018 NALS Lily Show and Symposium and am looking forward to working with all the 'awesome' volunteers who make the show a success, we cannot do it without each and everyone of you. One of the most important positions has been filled! Kris Jurik has consented to be the Registrar for the 2018 NALS Show. YAY KRIS!!!

One of the most important events for a society is coming up in the April meeting... the election of new officers. This meeting will see a new President, new Vice-President, and a new (or renewed) Board member. These officers are the heart of the society and I encourage each of you to consider accepting a nomination to serve if you are asked.

I wish I could be at my last meeting as President, but I have training for my new job on that day and so Kristi Evans will step up to the podium and chair the meeting for her first, but not last, time. This will be the first meeting I have missed since I joined 14 years ago and it really feels strange knowing I won't be there.

Once again the meeting will be held at the New Hope United Methodist Church at 4525 Beaver Ave. in Des Moines. You won't want to miss Wanda Lunn's presentation "Grandma's Flower Garden".

See you at the Lily Show,

Sue Williams

Be sure to check out the pictures of this years Flower, Lawn, and Garden Show at the Varied Industries Building on March 17-19.

Pictures are at the bottom of the activities page.

<http://www.iowaregionallilysociety.com/IRLSactivities/Activities.html>

Next year the show will be a little later in March. March 23-25, 2018

Spring is in the Air and the Garden!

How many times do you think of crocus blooms and daffodil flowers as the first sign that spring is here? For me it is the sight of the first of the lilies emerging from the winter nap they have been taking. Crocus will bloom right through the snow and daffodils are almost as early, but when the Robins arrive, the worms come to the surface with the first rains of the season, and the martagons begin to unfurl their foliage, then I know spring has arrived. Then begins the rabbit vigil, walking the yard looking for nibbled stems and leaves. From this point forward, it will be an ongoing battle between me and the rabbits for the lilies. I just wish someone could explain to me why they go for the most costly or hardest to replace lilies first! My friend Wanda has gone to extreme lengths to protect her lilies from not only rabbits, she has the added traffic of the two hunting dogs they share the garden with, so she has made chicken wire cages to protect her babies. I haven't gone that far; since we erected the 7 foot fence at the south end of the yard, the deer have quit stopping by for a midnight snack and I just have those short hoppers to deal with.

With the first bite mark, out comes the Plant Skydd®! I like the ready to use spray the best, but it is costly, the dry powder is 'interesting' to mix, and I haven't tried the pelleted form yet, but I do believe it is going to be added to my arsenal soon! Everyday you can see me circling around my yard like a vulture, looking for signs of bunny destruction among my beloved 'marties'. It is, after all, impossible to have martagon bloom without a stem!

I anxiously await May and the opening of the first blooms which will grace the gardens for a month or more. Most of mine are too far gone to show them in our local IRLS Lily Show, but that is ok, since I don't want to cut them anyway. I hope you are looking forward to the first true sign of spring's arrival as I am.

Sue Williams



I have liked to print an article about "Showing Lilies" in the April newsletter and I found this article written by Dorothy Schaefer for the Spring 1991 IRLS newsletter, hope you enjoy it as much as I did and can glean some hints, tricks, and tips from it. Sue Williams editor

Some Hints for Transporting Lilies to a Show

By Dorothy Schaefer

I think if I asked five members of our society to describe when and how they fertilize their lilies, I would get five completely different responses. Most of the practices would be the result of experimentation over the years to find which method produced the best results. I found this true also when I searched through the NALS Yearbooks and read articles on storing and transporting lilies by some very experienced growers and exhibitors. Among these were Jan de Graff who took his lilies to faraway places when he visited lily shows around the world, Harold Comber who was engaged for many years in hybridizing and testing lilies at the Oregon Bulb Farms, Edgar J. Kline who shipped stems of over 200 different lily species and hybrids from his lily farm in Oregon to the World Fairs in New York and San Francisco and Dr. Robert Haring who transported some of the most magnificent lily stems I have ever seen from his garden in Connecticut to the NALS Show in Minneapolis in 1975. Each had experimented and found what was for him the most successful method. Each did it a little differently but from these articles I have picked some procedures which they all seemed to agree upon.

First, whether you are taking a few stems a short distance or a lot of stems a long way, the best time to cut them is early morning and late afternoon or early evening. As quickly as possible after cutting put them in a cool place in a container with plenty of water and allow them time to absorb it. If you plan to carry your lilies in water, either brace the stems in buckets so they will not rub against each other or place each stem in a separate bottle and put the bottles in carrying cases such as those used for soft drinks so there is some space between the blooms.

Hugh and Ruth Cocker who have brought many, many perfect stems to our shows in years past, used both milk bottles (in wooden carrying cases) and five gallon buckets. Their van was the perfect vehicle because it allowed plenty of head room. You may need to remove the rear seat of your car if you are transporting long stems because the flowers will touch the ceiling if containers are placed on the seat.

But what if you are traveling by air or you wish to ship your lilies ahead time to a show and have them placed in cool storage until you get there? It's possible to do this successfully by cutting your stems, allowing them to become limp, storing them in a cool place (38-40 degrees F) until ready to transport them and then packing them securely in florist boxes, using florist paper wadded up to make supports for the flower heads and to keep them up off the bottom of the box. You will need to thread cord crosswise through the box and tie it securely on the outside to keep the stems from shifting in the box. When they are limp the stems will pack easily but they should be staggered so one flower head is not on top of another. This method works best if lilies are cut while still at bud stage with just the first bud showing

color. If any buds are beginning to open, the anthers should be wrapped carefully in foil or waxed paper to keep the pollen from discoloring the petals.

As soon as you arrive at the show unpack each stem carefully and, using a sharp knife, make a cut on a slant $\frac{1}{4}$ to one inch from the bottom of the stem. Place stem in water immediately and everything will be stiff again in a short time. Use cold tap water except for spikes which you wish to encourage to open. For those use much warmer water from the tap. Replenish the water several times because the amount absorbed by the stem is surprising.

Your lilies should be staged a day before they will be judged to allow the buds to expand. This time lapse is the principal disadvantage of this method.

Bill and Naida Walters and Bob and Maisie Russell found this procedure worked well when they were given lily stems by Dr. Gilman after they visited the Hartle-Gilman Gardens. The lilies were transported without water while they drove from Owatonna, MN to their homes and were completely limp. When placed in water they revived quickly.

If you would like to read more on this subject, please see NALS Yearbooks for 1949, 1953, 1955, 1975, and 1986.

A Few more early blooming lilies in my southern Iowa Garden





A few more spring blooms for you to enjoy!

Secretary's Report

Due to a misplacing of the minutes there will be none in this newsletter. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause. S.W. Editor



Future Events

Here are some Important Dates to add to your calendar. It is never too early to make plans!

April 8, 2017 - Irls Spring meeting: New Hope United Methodist Church

4525 Beaver Ave. Des Moines, IA.

June 24, 2017 - IRLS Lily Show: Reiman Gardens Ames, IA

June 28-July 2, 2017 - NALS Lily Show and Convention: St Louis, MO

Welcome to St Louis, Missouri for the
North American Lily Society
70th Annual International Lily Show & Symposium!



Convention Dates June 28 –July 2, 2017
Outstanding lodging and fabulous Lily Show at the
Sheraton Westport Chalet Hotel St. Louis

Garden Tours at the
Missouri Botanical Garden and Bellefontaine Cemetery

Check our website at <http://nals2017.lilies.org/> for more details

To lend your time and support to this convention, please contact Lynn
Slackman at lslackman@tenbytech.com



Join us April 8, 2017

Wanda Lunn will present a program

" In Grandma's Garden"

contrasting some of the perennials my Grandma grew to the many choices we have today.

Wanda will give her program immediately following the IRLS business meeting

What's new in your garden?

<http://www.lilies.org>

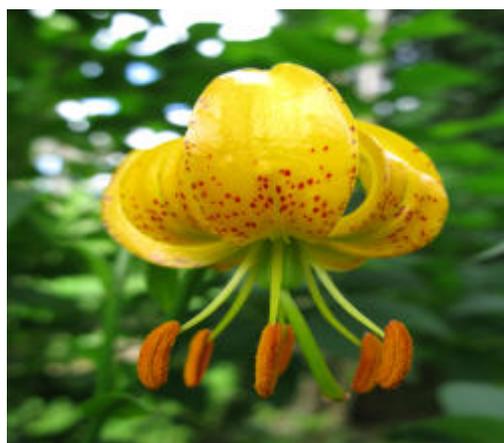
The North American Lily Society (NALS) was organized in 1947 to promote interest in the genus *Lilium*. The society has active members from almost every state and province in North America, as well as from many countries around the world.



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