

The Iowa Seedling

January 2018

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

Iowa Regional Lily Society

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Dates to Remember:

- * **January 13, 2018** Winter Meeting 10 am
at the New Hope United Methodist Church
4525 Beaver Ave. Des Moines
- * **March 16-18, 2018** Flower, Lawn, & Garden Show
Varied Industries Bldg, State Fairgrounds
- * **April, 14, 2018** Spring Meeting 10 am
at the New Hope United Methodist Church
4525 Beaver Ave. Des Moines
- * **June 27-July 1, 2018** North American Lily Show and
Symposium at the Sheraton West Des Moines!

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"A flowerless room is a soulless room, to my way of thinking; but even one solitary little vase of a living flower may redeem it."
— Vita Sackville-West, English novelist, poet, garden writer, and creator of Sissinghurst Castle Garden

Secretary's Report

Minutes of the Iowa Regional Lily Society Fall Meeting September 7, 2017

President Kristi Evans opened the meeting at 10:15 am. Secretary Minutes of the April IRLS meeting were read and approved. Fifteen members were present.

The Treasurer's report was presented by Wanda Lunn. Discussion of break down of expenses and profit for the IRLS Spring bulb sale. Don Alliss moved that all financial IRLS matters should be excluded from IRLS Newsletter posted on the website. Jean Rhodes seconded. Motion passed. Discussion of website costs and benefits. Arlene Davis moved to approve Treasurer's report. Don Allis seconded. Motion passed.

Discussion of IRLS Lily Show at the Reiman Gardens in Ames on June 24, 2017. 119 stems were shown and 9 designs. It was a well attended Lily Show since Reiman Gardens had a free admittance day and a program featuring pollinators. Lots of interested visitors asked questions about the lilies plus we gained four new members for the Lily Society. Kristi Evans noted how the Reiman Gardens was a perfect place for our lily show and motioned that we donate \$500 to them as a Thank You. Don Alliss seconded. Motion passed.

Discussion our next IRLS Lily Show will be part of the 2018 North American Lily Society International Lily Show and Symposium that IRLS is hosting at the West Des Moines Sheraton Hotel.

The proposed IRLS Constitutional revision draft was read by President Kristi Evans. The proposed draft changes were mailed out to all the IRLS members as part of a special edition Newsletter in July. Secretary Wanda Lunn mailed out 260 postcards to all the IRLS members in August asking for a vote on the proposed changes. The changes proposed that: the Secretary/Treasury position would become two separate voting officers with duties required; that the Newsletter Editor would become a non-voting, non-elected board position; that Board members may discuss IRLS issues by email and make decisions; that the Board of Directors or their proxies and any other members present at the meeting shall constitute a quorum necessary for this Society to conduct business. Forty-seven members YES votes and 0 NO votes to the proposed drafts to the IRLS Constitutions by email or phone calls were counted by Secretary Wanda Lunn. Discussion. All the IRLS members present at the meeting voted YES to the proposed IRLS Constitutional changes. Constitutional changes passed.

Mark Riggs reported on the NALS 2018 Show and Symposium in St. Louis on June 28 to July 2, 2017. NALS sponsored the event with the help of the Mid America Lily Society of St. Louis and the St. Louis Botanical Garden. Special tours included visits to the historic Bellefontaine Cemetery, the St. Louis Botanical Garden and a special Botanical Garden greenhouse tour. Mark talked about the excitement of preparing his stems for the show. The NALS Lily Show featured 200 Lily stems from all over the US and Canada. Mark also attended a special tissue culture class on Sunday morning by Judith Freeman who created the first Interdivisional Lily.

Discussion about Iowa hosting the 2018 NALS Lily Show and Symposium in West Des Moines. Secretary/Treasurer Wanda Lunn noted that we need to set up a checking account for deposits and expenditures for the upcoming NALS 2018 Lily Show on June 27 to July 1 in Iowa. She proposed a transfer of \$3000 from the IRLS checking account to this special account for the NALS 2018 event to cover expenses until NALS registration fees arrive later in 2018. Sharon Johnson moved that \$3000 should be used to set up an account for NALS 2018 expenses. Kris Jurik seconded. Motion passed.

The meeting closed at 12:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary/Treasurer Wanda Lunn



A Look Back: 2017 Iowa Regional Lily Society Lily Symposium

By Wanda Lunn

On November 4, 2017 over fifty IRLS members gathered from Nebraska, Minnesota and all over Iowa to enjoy a day of lily activities at the IRLS Lily Symposium in Des Moines, IA. We hold this FREE event each fall to offer lily knowledge and fun for IRLS members and guests.

The first hour was a chaos of members and guests buying a few bulbs from the Fall IRLS Bulb Sale, picking up bulb pre-orders, bulb trades and grabbing FREE BULBS brought by several Lily Society members. Forrest Peiper of our sister North Star Lily Society brought boxes and boxes of bulbs hybridized & grown in his Minnesota garden. His newly hybridized Asiatic, Trumpet and Aurelian bulbs were snapped up quickly. Other IRLS members shared a variety of lily bulbs dug from Iowa gardens. Members also grabbed garden stakes to mark their lily clumps and books on growing lilies.

At 10 am our first speaker Kris Jurik gave us a stunning presentation using her garden photos to show us "Gardening Thru the Seasons". Kris and Tom Jurik have a huge 8 acre hillside garden north of Ames, IA bordering a river. Kris and her husband have carved out a paradise of woodland, prairie, sun and shade perennial beds. Kris drew up the

plans while Tom removed trees and carved paths. As the garden grew, Tom stacked limestone terrace walls and laid steps. Kris planted hundreds of Iris, Peony, Daylilies, and Lilies over the past few years. Kris' photos took us thru her early spring woodland flowers, into her May Iris and Peony beds. Her stunning Lilies are inter planted with Daylilies and other garden favorites. Everything is easily identified with garden markers and mulched against weeds. Kris took us into late summer and fall with her wild prairie garden down by the river. Winter photos showed the acreage trees and terraces sleeping under a bed of snow. Simply stunning! Kris & Tom's garden was featured on the 2017 American Iris National Convention Garden tour and will be also featured on the 2019 Peony Society National Convention Tour. You can have a chance to see it too when we host the 2018 North American Lily Society International Lily Show and Symposium. Join us for the Lily Garden Bus Tour on Saturday, June 30, 2018 to see this garden and three more.

At 11 am Mary O'Connor gave us a delightful talk on "Creating Gardens with Themes: A Family Affair". For several years Mary has been collecting Lilies, Daylilies, Iris and other plants to fill special gardens with distinctive themes. Her first garden started with a theme of "Family". She started with a bearded iris honoring her Grandmother Tess, then quickly added other plants when she found them named after her son, hubby, parents and other family members. Mary showed us photos of each plant and told us humorous stories about each choice. Her "Americana" garden featured plants with patriotic names. Mary's "Tasty" garden showcased plants like a daylily named "Raspberry Cupcake". Her husband Dave decided he wanted a "Man Garden". Plants were chosen for masculine names and accented with a horned skull among other decor. Cactus or ugly plants go well there. Mary even suggested a rose could be added—if you cut off the flowers & featured the thorns. Mary's "Naughty Garden" features cultivars with slightly naughty names. We had to chuckle as she told us of her search and the names she found. Mary emphasized that labeling all the plants with garden markers makes it easier to keep the themes going.

Our lunch break gave us time to talk about lilies and our gardens. It was also a fun time to win door prizes donated by IRLS members. Names were called and the prize table of books, wind chimes, garden gloves and other garden décor quickly emptied.

At 1 pm we had a **Round Table Discussion** on what to expect at the NALS 2018 International Lily Show and Symposium that IRLS will host in West Des Moines, IA on June 27-July 1, 2018. The four gardens being featured for the Garden Bus Tour were announced, Lily Show details and featured Lily Speakers were discussed. Mark Riggs spoke about how much he enjoyed attending NALS Conventions in other US cities over the past 4 years. Other members talked about the fun of bringing Lily stems to be judged at the Lily Show and winning ribbons. Kristi Evans spoke about preparations for hosting at the Sheraton Hotel. Suggestions were bounced around about publicity for the NALS 2018 Show. IRLS Volunteers will get a reduced registration price for the event or even a free day. Members are eager to get involved as we host the 2018 NALS Lily Show and Convention.

At 2 pm Wanda Lunn presented a talk on "Sorting Out Your Garden" about how to deal with a growing, changing or shrinking garden. As a garden ages it can get larger or change purposes. Vegetables may give way to flowers. Sun areas change to shade as trees and shrubs grow—or turn into sunny areas as a tree is removed. New paths or garden art may take up more space. What to do? Take an inventory of your garden so you know what you have planted. Take lots of photos of your garden looking for color balance and best use of space. Wanda explained how you organize your garden, remove duplicates or thin down plants to make room for newer interests. Moving a tall lily to the back and shorter iris to the front may make all the difference in garden care. Look at your cultivars—if they are not performing well, replace them! Cardinal rule: "A plant must earn a place in my garden!"

The Lily Symposium closed at 3 pm with IRLS members and friends carrying off new lily bulbs, garden décor and ideas. It was a well spent day as we learned more about gardening with lilies.

Winterizing our Iowa Lilies

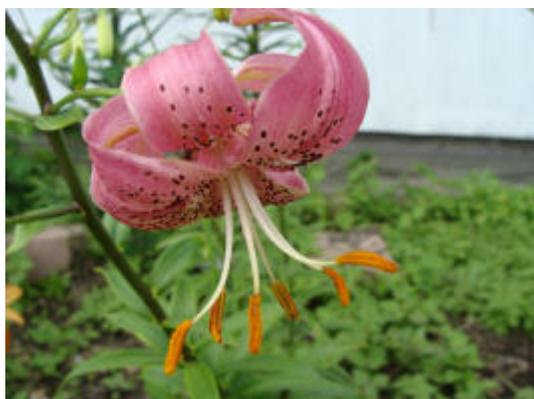
By Wanda Lunn

Leaves have left the trees, annuals are dead and my perennials are just a shadow of their summer splendor. My flower beds are ready for a long winter sleep, but the lilies still need my attention.

This fall my garden was a flurry of activity after all the green was gone. Lily clumps marked earlier this summer with white tree tags were dug. I used a garden fork to carefully dig about six inches out from the lily stems and was rewarded with a harvest of bulbs big and small. I put three big bulbs back in each hole plus the tiny bulbs for future harvest. I placed the extra bulbs into well-marked paper bags.

Some tags reminded me to move too tall or too short lilies to a more suitable spot. Other tags reminded me that I had too much yellow or too much pink in a certain area, diluting the beauty of the individual cultivars. My extra bulbs were shared with local friends plus at the Lily Symposium in November.

My asiatic lily “Satin Slippers” won Highest Bud Count” at our June 2017 IRLS Lily Show at the Reiman Gardens. Down-facing lily bulbs are not usually cultivated by the Dutch, since the blooms do not fit well into cut flower bouquets and are too tall to be sold potted. I dug a few selected bulbs of “Satin Slippers” to share with other IRLS members who had admired it. I also dug and shared a few fragrant trumpet bulbs that do well in Iowa, but are not suitable for the cut flower trade.



Of course I planted new lily bulbs from our IRLS Fall Bulb Sale in my garden six inches deep this fall.

All the bulbs are marked well and watered in to remove air pockets. I am excited to see what they look like next summer. I know they will be short the first spring, but will grow to full height in 3-5 years.

In the past few weeks I cut my lily stems down to a few inches high and mulched them for the winter. Do NOT pull the stems out unless they are loose—you can pull out the center of a lily bulb and damage it! DO use garden markers to remind you which bulbs are planted where. Lilies grow roots all winter on the bulb plus send a stem up close to ground level for a jump on spring. You only get ONE stem per bulb each year. Late snow or frost can damage the stem and send the bulb back into hibernation.

Trumpet and Oriental Lilies are the most susceptible to below zero temperatures. Orienpets (Oriental x Trumpet) and LOs (Longiflorum x Orientals) should be well protected too. Chopped leaves, peat moss, grass clippings or a combination of natural mulches will protect your bulbs from a cold winter plus Iowa's Spring freeze and thaw cycles.

Lilies are a stunning addition to any flower garden, so protect them well. With good winter care, they will multiply and bloom for years in your garden.

Please take some time to consider how you would like to help at the
2018 NALS Lily Show.

There will be opportunity to sign up for various work details and committees
after the business meeting.

The North American Lily Society, Inc.

Presents its

71st Annual International
Lily Show and Symposium

**"IOWA:
Celebrating All Together"**

June 27-July 1, 2018



The Sheraton West Des Moines

1800 50th Street

West Des Moines, IA 50266

www.sheraton.com/westdesmoines

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!

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



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