

**E.H. Wilson Award to Jaap Van Tuyl**

Presented Victoria, BC, July 7, 2008

Presenter Wilbert G. Ronald

I am honoured to speak briefly about the North American Lily Society's E. H. Wilson Award named in memory of the noted pioneer plant explorer who about 1900 introduced the famous L. regale from China and laid the foundation for developing the popularity of lilies at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The highest award of our society is given to an individual who has contributed significantly to our knowledge of the genus *Lilium*. The North American Lily Society has been very selective in presenting the E.H. Wilson award and these high standards add to the heritage of tonight's presentation.

Tonight it is our pleasure to recognize a very worthy recipient with the latest E. H. Wilson Award. The recipient has spent a lifetime in dedicated work with the lily genus. The recipient is known throughout the world as a student of the genus and is recognized for numerous research papers and effective graduate training programs. Not only has the recipient contributed to the scientific foundation for lily breeding, he has also developed strong practical ties with commercial lily breeders and bulb producers. He has followed his love of the genus for over 30 years while the industry has moved through good times and more recent tough economic times. The individual we honour tonight is none other than Dr. Jaap Van Tuyl of Plant Research International, Wageningen, Holland. He has trained a generation of plant breeders for the Dutch industry and many researchers for developing countries while contributing significantly to the body of basic lily knowledge particularly in the area of interdivisional hybridization, ploidy stability and chromosomal interactions.

Since first meeting Dr. Van Tuyl in 1979 at the NALS Hamilton, Ontario show I have tried to follow his interdivisional lily breeding work particularly with the LO (longiflorum x oriental) and with OA (Oriental x Asiatic) groups. The recognition of the OA breeding work was seen in the Hornbacks Award at the 2008 show for the 'First Crown' hybrid which traces to Jaap's work with OA lilies. It was a pleasure to hear him speak about lilies in the 2008 NALS seminars and introduce us to new concepts such as pentaploid breeding, analytical and molecular assisted breeding and GMO concepts.

It is my understanding that Dr. Van Tuyl has worked at finding a successor to carry on his program while reducing his own time to 4 days a week. We are privileged to be able to present this award in person and to have Nolly Van Tuyl his lovely wife with us as well. Nolly is a very knowledgeable gardener and has supported Jaap in his research career.

Please rise and recognize the 2007 E.H. Wilson Award recipient Dr. Jaap Van Tuyl.