



# Lilac Newsletter

Vol. IX, No. 10, October, 1983

INTERNATIONAL LILAC SOCIETY

*INTERNATIONAL LILAC SOCIETY* is a non-profit corporation comprised of individuals who share a particular interest, appreciation and fondness for lilacs. Through exchange of knowledge, experience and facts gained by members it is helping to promote, educate and broaden public understanding and awareness.

Articles printed in this publication are the views and opinions of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent those of the editor or the *International Lilac Society*.

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\*Mail membership dues to I.L.S. Secretary

TAYLOR LILACS TO BLOOM AT CARY

by Robin Parow-Place

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The Howard Taylor Memorial Lilac Arboretum, a 20-year Millbrook tradition and one of the finer lilac collections in the country, is in the process of being moved plant by plant to the Cary Arboretum and, it is predicted, will attract thousands of visitors annually.

Donated to the Arboretum by the family of the late Howard Taylor, the extensive collection represents nearly 100 French hybrid lilac varieties, including many of the finest types developed by nurseries in France and in the U.S. during the first half of this century.

In early May nearly 100 of the 250 donated plants were transferred to the grounds of the Gifford House Education Center. They are fully mature specimens ranging between 10 and 15 feet in height, and of immediate landscape impact. Moving them has presented a unique challenge to the horticulture staff, made possible only because of the availability of a large digging machine rented from the Van Alstine Company near Albany. This machine has the capability to lift plants out of the ground with an intact root ball 76 inches wide and 4 feet deep. Transported with that much soil, the lilacs "hardly know they have been moved," says Arboretum horticulturist Bob Hebb. The machine also conveyed them over the 4 miles of road between the Taylor property and the Arboretum to holes specially prepared in advance. The unusual sight of 20 plants a day travelling along Routes 44 and 44A was seen and commented upon by many area residents

\*Reprint

With permission of The Cary Arboretum of the New York Botanical Garden Newsletter, Vol. IX, No. 3, May-June, 1983.

Mr. Hebb is designing the new planting to have maximum landscape impact at the Gifford House grounds. The lilacs will form a double allee, similar in effect to their original configuration on the Taylor property, but, in the Cary setting, with a gravel walk between them. "What I visualize," reports Mr. Hebb, "is a panorama of lilacs stretching from the parking area entrance in a broad arc all the way to the Carriage House. My dream is that one day the lilacs will be underplanted with masses of daylilies to form a low maintenance groundcover and to provide continuing summer bloom. The lilacs and daylilies will form a harmonious backdrop to the low maintenance perennial garden we are developing closer to the Gifford House". Mr. Hebb plans to have more of the lilacs moved this autumn and the remainder next year.

The well-known collection dates back to the 1940's when Millbrook resident Mrs. John Moorhead began planting a choice selection of lilacs on her Crescent Road property. When Rosedale Nursery owner Howard Taylor purchased the estate in 1951, Mrs. Moorhead encouraged him to continue the lilac plantings, which he readily did, in addition to his nursery landscape business. The estate thenceforth was known as Rosedale-in-Dutchess, and as the lilac collection matured, it became known as the Lilac Arboretum.

After Howard Taylor's death in 1958, Mrs. Moorehead again encouraged the Taylor family to improve and maintain the lilac collection, and with her guidance it was opened to the public and was dedicated on May 13, 1961 as the Howard Taylor Memorial Lilac Arboretum.

According to Powers Taylor, now owner of Rosedale Nursery, 1,500 to 2,000 people annually visited the Rosedale-in-Dutchess estate to view the extraordinary collection. Over the past several years, however, upkeep was interrupted, and the

collection was closed to the public.

During the autumn of 1982, Mr. Hebb approached the Taylor family concerning the possibility of moving the collection to the Cary Arboretum. They not only approved the donation of the collection, but also generously contributed a fund that will be used for the considerable expenses incurred in transplanting and establishing the specimens.

"Our family is delighted that the lilacs can be moved to the Arboretum", says Powers Taylor. "The collection will be more accessible to the public, and we will be assured that many will see and enjoy it."

The collection is based on cultivars of Syringa vulgaris, a species that has been used in garden planting for three centuries. Although no lilac is native to North America, this one from southeastern Europe was brought to the U.S. by the earliest settlers. Some of the most popular varieties of S. vulgaris are those which originated in the famous Lemoine Nurseries of France. These varieties are featured in the Taylor collection. The Arboretum plans to acquire other hybrids for eventual addition to the collection.

WISHART GARDEN - A HAVEN IN LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

A May 1983 issue of the Lincoln, Nebraska Sunday Journal and Star carried an enjoyable story of Lourene Wishart's lovely garden at 2140 Sheridan Blvd. in Lincoln. ILS members know well of Mrs. Wishart's love of lilacs as well as her expanded efforts in promoting them.

Not only has she been an active member of the Lilac Society but also of the Iris, Peony, Rose, Hemerocallis and Hosta Societies. She says gardening is part of her heritage and that her maternal grandfather, William Roggenkamp, worked in Ludwig Spaeth lilac nurseries in Berlin, Germany, before coming to the United States where he founded Lilac Farm near Bennet, Nebraska in 1860. Both she and her mother were born and raised on Lilac Farm. "I inherited my love of the lilac from my grandfather", Mrs. Wishart said. Through her paternal grandfather, who came from Sweden, Lourene and her family learned to love peonies as well as lilacs.

Her garden is, indeed, a haven. Just ask anyone who has visited her home.

NOTE: In her lilac collection Mrs. Wishart has all of the Henry Sass lilacs.

Editor.

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WHEN TO FERTILIZE LILACS?

Since the note in September issue of the Newsletter we have received questions concerning fall fertilization of lilacs. As mentioned I gleaned some of this information from earlier NLS and at the 1981 meeting in Des Moines I heard Pres. Owen Rogers tell that he fertilized his lilacs in the fall because that was when he had the most time. Later when I inquired about fall fertilization he replied, "On fall fertilization, I tell people that it will not cause new, tender, growth. By the first of September the buds for next year's growth are full formed and completely dormant. Fertilizer will not cause them to start growth. Then I always leave a loophole, because a period of cold weather can start a bud or two, very late in the season, which could be nipped. My defence is that this can happen every year to all spring-flowering shrubs whether they are fertilized or not. It's just that nobody notices them until they start watching for soft growth the first time they put on fertilizer in the fall."

We would like to hear from those of you readers who have other opinions on this subject. When do you fertilize your lilacs and why?

Editor.

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DON'T MISS SPRING IN VERMONT!

13th ILS Annual Convention, Burlington, Vermont  
May 31 - June 1  
Econo Lodge  
Come attend meeting, see New England and bid at the  
AUCTION!!

REPORT OF 1983 ILS AUCTION COMMITTEE

Our auction was dedicated to the memory of Dr. John Wister.

One hundred sixty seven lilacs and lilac related items were donated by the Royal Botanical Gardens, Wedge Nursery, University of Wisconsin Arboretum, William H. Horman, The Holden Arboretum and Heard Nursery. Sixty nine lilac cultivars were available. Our Society's treasury was enriched by \$1,457.00!

The committee wishes to thank all who contributed their time, talents, and plants to the success of our auction. John Carvill, Walter Eickhorst, Bill Emerson and Max Peterson were most helpful in organizing plants, delivering plants and spotting bidders. Our treasurer Marie Chaykowski, assisted by Pauline Fiala and Elsie Kara did their usual superb job handling the money. Charles Holetich's colored slides of the cultivars being auctioned were worth a thousand words. Sally Schenker's complete notes made reporting much easier. The Wisconsin Arboretum's receiving, potting, feeding and caring of plants was outstanding! The local committee's preparation of lists of plants available for auction was appreciated by all in attendance. Those spirited bidders and buyers of our plants contributed to 1983 being our most successful auction to date.

There is no single lilac plant source where buyers can obtain such variety and quality plants at reasonable prices as can be obtained at our annual ILS auction!!

Plan now to attend our 1984 meeting, May 31-June 1, at Burlington, Vermont. Your attendance will benefit the society and yourself.

Hanssen Schenker,  
Chairman.



NOTES FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE - 1983 CONVENTION

We, of the ad hoc committee deliberated and came up with the idea of the split ballot; for the simple reason that if the society is to grow and produce, we must be able to extend our governing body to more people with talent and newer ideas. We are all interested in growing with the Society, and we want to continue to grow.

The ad hoc committee also believes that if too much time is spent in meetings, those people who travel great distances to our conventions have little time to meet and talk with other members of the Society.

By limiting the electees to two consecutive terms, we would have a better chance of obtaining more talent into our group, along with new ideas. Our past directors could be a valuable asset in giving out expert information to any of the lilac registrants.

We also find that by getting our directors from various parts of the country we can disperse information better. While some members are unable to travel long distances to all conventions they can probably attend those closer to home.

The board adopted these recommendations of the ad hoc committee at the 1983 meeting:

Starting with the 1984 election and henceforth, there would be a split ballot of incumbents and non-incumbents. Society members would elect four persons from the incumbent list and four from the non-incumbent list. These electees would be limited to two consecutive terms. After one year off the board they would be eligible to run for election again.

Next year the nominating committee will be responsible for presenting the slate of officers of the Society as well as members of the board of directors.

The nominating committee has been working on the 1984 ballot and, as always, encourages any suggestions from members of the Lilac Society.

Elsie Kara, chairman and member of Ad hoc committee

Nominating Committee:

Max Peterson  
John Carvill  
Elsie Kara  
William Heard

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TISSUE CULTURE - VAST POSSIBILITIES

Those who attended the convention in Madison saw what could be done with tissue culture. How terrific it would be if we could send some branches of lilacs and have our new scientists reproduce hundreds of lilacs in no time at all in their laboratories. Just think what our lilac auctions would be if we had 30 'Sensation', 30 'Primrose', and 20 'Lark Song' to offer or some of the outstanding Russian plants.

Elsie Kara

A SPECIAL GIFT FOR LILAC LOVERS

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