

Lilac Newsletter

Vol. X, No. 10, October, 1984

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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MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATION

Single annual	\$ 10.00 (as of January, 1984)
Family	12.50
Sustaining	20.00
Institutional/Commercial	25.00
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*Mail membership dues to I.L.S. Secretary

THE STAMPE LILAC GARDEN

Davenport, Iowa

When the ILS Convention was held in Des Moines a few years ago we showed slides of our first lilac plantings made in the fall of '78. Some of the viewers were impressed by the large percentage of the tiny plants blooming.

We now have 250 lilacs with about 135 varieties. Accenting the lilacs are over 100 peonies and 25,000 spring-flowering bulbs, extending the bloom season from mid-April to mid-June. The garden is a project of the Davenport Horticultural Society.

This year we have added a new feature to the garden -- a beautiful, romantic gazebo. We think the gazebo and lilacs will go together like the hearts and flowers of Valentines Day. Our Society financed the project, but we were able to do so only because the local carpenters union built it as a community project. A fine workman, recently retired from the park system, donated his talents to do the brick and mortar work. Not the first cent has been spent on labor -- either for the gazebo or the garden.

The gazebo, serving as a focal point, adds another dimension to the garden. The community is proud of it and already many wedding ceremonies have been held in it.

When our Society started the garden, (instigated by my wife, Ruth Ellen), I found it necessary to become an "overnight expert" on lilacs. ILS members were helpful in selecting varieties for our early plantings. I remember especially a half-day spent with Walter Eickhorst shortly after he retired from the Morton Arboretum, and a helping hand from Mary Smith and Bill Heard. I am learning, but I think

I got quite a late start when I go to conventions and meet people who have made life-long studies of our favorite flower.

My major complaint in these early stages is directed toward the nurseries -- the mis-labelling of lilacs. I was appalled to find so many in our collection with incorrect name tags. I doubt that I will live long enough to get them all corrected.

My experience thus far has led me to a few observations about lilacs. Two faults -- mildew susceptibility and excessive suckering -- drive me to the brink of discarding some varieties from the collection. For example, 'Monge' -- otherwise a good shrub and acceptable performer, sticks out like a sore thumb with mildew after August 1. S. oblata dilatata has suffered severe frost damage three out of four years and it suckers so badly as to be a real nuisance to control.

I am glad to see Charles Holetich's lilac evaluation sheet, and hope that experienced growers fill them out carefully and honestly. It will be a fine addition to the Society's contributions.

I don't know how general our exceptionally fine bloom season was in 1984, but it was no less than fantastic here. The public enjoyed the garden immensely, even though we were unable to give them the correct names of many cultivars.

I still have a long way to go before I can make general recommendations as to good lilac varieties, but so far 'Maiden's Blush' and 'Capitaine Baltet' top my personal list for yearly consistency of a blanket covering of beautiful blooms.

Wilson Stampe

Mr. Stampe has shared many of his lilac plants with the Dubuque Arboretum where they have been recently transplanted to permanent locations along the north drive. Arboretum members appreciate this generosity.

STAMPE LILAC GARDEN

(Duck Creek Park, 3000 East Locust, Davenport, Iowa)

First plantings -- fall of 1978. Proposed by Mrs. Wilson Stampe to the Davenport Horticultural Society as a community project, as there is no major lilac collection within 175 miles of the Quad-Cities. Park officials of the City cooperated in the project to the extent of providing some heavy equipment needed. The Hort. Society finances, maintains and provides management needed. Some 20,000 spring-flowering bulbs are planted, which require periodic replanting, and over 100 peonies. There are approx. 250 lilacs-- approx. 145 varieties.

The collection is public and open to visitors throughout the year. The peak of bloom for majority of lilacs is from May 5th to May 25th.

For further information, phone or write to Mr. Wilson W. Stampe, 2227 Lorton Ave., Davenport, Iowa 52803 USA tel. (319) 355-7297.

A small collection of crabapple trees enhance the garden, as well as a grove of beeches and some magnolias. The bloom season of the garden runs from around April 5 to well past mid-June, with the bulbs and peonies. We hold a lilac festival usually around May 10, and sell lilacs we have propagated to help finance the garden. Although a young garden, it is putting on a better show each year. 1984 was a fabulous year for the lilacs.

The garden is a popular spot in the spring. This year we completed a beautiful gazebo and weddings are held there at the rate of 3-4 per week. We were able to build it without any labor costs--thanks to the local Carpenter's Union members. It is 21' in diameter and makes a stunning focal point for the garden of lilacs.

The following plant list for the Stampe Lilac Garden represents our major plantings (compiled 1981). However, it is not accurate in many respects due to mislabelling of lilacs received from various nurseries.

Wilson W. Stampe

LILAC LIST, STAMPE LILAC GARDEN

1	Aline Moqueris	1	Hugo Koster
3	Alphonse Lavallee	1	Jacques Callot
1	A.M. Brand	1	Jan Van Tol
2	Ami Schott	2	Katherine Havemeyer
4	Anabel	2	Krasavitsa Moskvv
3	Andenken an Ludwig Spaeth	4	Lucie Baltet
1	Anna Nickels	2	Macrostachya
1	Bright Centennial	2	Marechel Foch
3	Capitaine Baltet	1	Marechel Lannes
1	Capitaine Perrault	1	Marceau
1	Cavour	2	Marie Finon
1	Charles Sargent	1	Marie Legraye
1	Charles X	3	Maurice Barres
1	Charm	1	Michel Buchner
1	Condorcet	3	Miss Ellen Willmott
1	Congo	4	Monge
1	De Miribel	1	Mme. Antoine Buchner
1	De Saussure	1	Mme. Casimir Perier
1	Diderot	1	Mme. Charles Souchet
3	Diplomat	1	Mme. Florent Stepman
3	Edith Cavell	1	Mme. F. Morel
1	Emile Lemoine	1	Mme. Lemoine
1	Etoile de Mai (Star of May)	2	Montaigne
1	Etna	1	Mrs. Edward Harding
4	Firmament	2	Mrs. W.E.Marshall
1	Frank Klager	1	My Favorite
1	Frank Paterson	1	Mood Indigo
1	General Sheridan	1	Nadezhda
1	General Sherman	1	Olivier de Serres
2	Georges Bellair	1	Paul Hariot
1	Glory	1	Paul Thirion
2	Henri Martin	1	President Carnot
1	Henri Robert	1	President Fallieres
		1	President Grevy

3	President Lincoln	2	Silver King
1	President Roosevelt	1	Snow Shower
1	Primrose	1	Vestale
3	Priscilla	1	Victor Lemoine
1	Prodige	1	Violetta
2	Reamur	1	Virginite
1	Rose Pink-Case	1	Viviand Morel
1	Ruhm von Horstenstein	1	Volcan
2	Sensation	3	Waldeck Rousseau
1	Sarah Sands	1	William Robinson

Species and other Hybrids

1	Anna Amhoff (x josiflexa)
2	Assessippi (x hyacinthiflora)
2	Buffon (x hyacinthiflora)
1	Catinat (x hyacinthiflora)
1	Daphne (microphylla superba)
1	Desdemona (x prestoniae)
1	Doctor Chadwick (x hyacinthiflora)
15	dwarf Korean (meyeri)
1	Esther Staley (x hyacinthiflora)
1	Gertrude Leslie (x hyacinthiflora)
1	Isabella (x prestoniae)
1	James Macfarlane (x josiflexa)
1	Jesse Hepler (x josiflexa)
1	josikaea
2	Japanese tree lilac (reticulata/amurensis japonica)
1	Maiden's Blush (x hyacinthiflora)
3	Minuet (x prestoniae)
2	Mirabeau (x hyacinthiflora)
10	Miss Kim (patula)
1	Nocturne (x prestoniae).
2	oblata dilatata
1	Pocahontas (x hyacinthiflora)
1	President Hayes (x chinensis)
1	Redwine (x josiflexa)
3	Rothomagensis (x chinensis)

- 1 Royal Purple (x hyacinthiflora)
- 1 Royalty (x josiflexa)
- 1 Sister Justena (x hyacinthiflora)
- 1 Sunset (x hyacinthiflora)
- 1 The Bride (x hyacinthiflora)
- 1 villosa

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A GARDEN SANCTUARY IN SOUTH PARIS, MAINE

Behind the house at 101 Main Street in South Paris is the garden of ILS member Bernard McLaughlin. Although I have never seen this garden I am sure it would be a special place to visit. According to reports in his hometown newspaper McLaughlin has turned a hayfield into a treasurehold for the pure joy of it. He has never considered that gardening was work; he simply enjoys it and does not let chores like weeding get ahead of him.

McLaughlin's formula for gardening is simple: "good soil, good plants, and good care". Good care, he says, is proper cultivation, fertilizer and moisture. Compost of grass clippings, leaves and kitchen garbage is the most important ingredient used to keep the soil in good condition. The compost is fortified with fertilizer if he uses lots of leaves and grass clippings.

He began his landscaping by allowing oaks to seed and also planted young nursery stock. Now his trees include beeches, firs and white oaks among which are planted wildflower, 50 varieties of ferns, flowering shrubs and perennials. The total effect is natural, a garden sanctuary. Visitors come from all over the country to see his garden where there is bloom from the time of hepaticas in April and on into November. Of course, one of McLaughlin's favorites is the lilac of which he has over 100 kinds. It must be a delightful place in the month of May.

Editor

COLORING NEW HAMPSHIRE LILAC

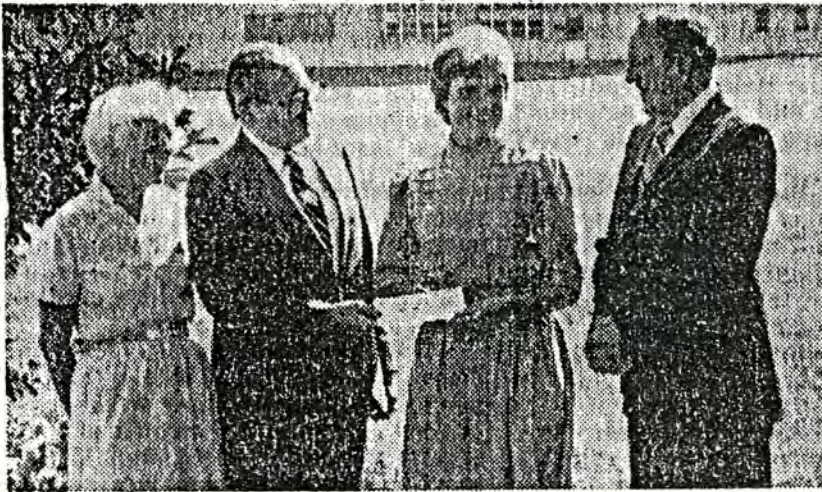
It looks like the people of New Hampshire will be learning alot about lilacs. According to the Union Leader of Manchester, N.H., the new Governor's Commission on Lilacs plans to establish a contest to judge the best home grown lilac. To help contestants they will publish a booklet to detail the best way to grow a lilac.

A \$1000 donation from the Anheuser-Busch brewery is the start of a fund which the commission hopes will enable them to plant the state's flower along state highways and public property. Last year the federal park department planted more than 1300 lilac bushes at reststops along the state's highways.

"If we plant enough, maybe lilac time in New Hampshire will come to rival cherry blossom time in Washington, D.C. or tulip time in Michigan," said Mrs. Ralph Davis, a member of the governor's commission and president of the New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs.

Our Society's ex-president, Dr. Owen M. Rogers is also a member of the Lilac Commission.

Editor



ANHEUSER-BUSCH Merrimack plant manager Mel Renner, center left, gives Nancy Sununu a \$1,000 donation for the Governor's Commission on Lilacs. To Renner's left is Mrs. Ralph Davis and to Mrs. Sununu's right is William Nehring, both commission members.
(Photo by Ed Roberts)

A NOTE FROM FREEDOM, CALIFORNIA

The hybrids with Dr. Chadwick have done very well this spring. Too well in fact since quite obviously all will be the tall normal type judging from the growth which they have made. The one which was quite a bit taller than the rest is now about 5 foot high and the others are in the three foot range. So since this is only their first spring push (presume they will make another growth by mid summertime) am afraid they will be the tall type. As soon as the growth hardens up a bit will try some grafting since it does not look as if these plants will form flower buds for a year or so. Hope that I am wrong in this.

It is too bad there was not more of hybridizing interest in the newsletter, but I guess it is too much to expect since most people are only interested in growing them.

It looks like I may finally have been successful in crossing the non-sprouting type of hybrid with the one which always sprouts so much. At least a few large seed capsules have formed and will have to wait and see if the seeds in them are viable. Last year I crossed the sprouting type of hybrid with a non-sprouting warm weather tolerant type of seedling and many capsules formed but the seeds were defective and would not germinate. Usually the non sprouting type of warm weather tolerant seedlings do not set seed but was lucky and found one which did this spring.

Walter E. Lammerts.