



PROCEEDINGS of the International Lilac Society



Sixteenth Annual Convention Denver, Colorado May 29 through 31, 1987

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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.

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Editor's Note

For only the second time in sixteen years I have missed the Society's annual meeting. Consequently, certain activities and papers are not reported or treated adequately. I apologize for such omissions. However, I am pleased to include the report of the Petersons' Meadowlark Hill Lilac Arboretum which some members took the opportunity to visit after the Denver meeting. One of the benefits of attending annual meetings is to participate in fellowship of kindred minds and to visit nearby lilac collections public and private. Max Peterson (R.R. 1, Box 273, Ogallala, NE 69153, Tel. 308-284-2524) will be glad to furnish detailed driving directions to Meadowlark Hill.

Our seventeenth annual meeting is scheduled to coincide with Highland Park's centennial at Rochester, NY May 20-22, 1988. Bob and Marcia Hoepfl will serve as local chairpersons. They are planning a mustn't miss program (details will be announced appropriately in the Lilac Newsletter). A separate Educational Bulletin on the early years of Highland Park will be published and distributed to members early next spring as Volume 16, Number 2.

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This Sixteenth Issue

Is Respectfully Dedicated to



Arch McKean

About forty years ago a lilac-loving businessman raised some seedlings of Havemeyer's purple "Anne Shiach". There was much promise in this venture, but, when the absentee proprietor was about to realize his dreams, he found only holes where the lilacs once grew. This horticulturist enterpriser is Arch McKean now residing "in retirement" on the sandy cliffs of Lake Michigan at Grand Beach, Michigan.

Persisting in his love of lilacs and undaunted by aberrant human behavior, Arch later grew more lilac seedlings which he donated to the Elmhurst Park District. These lilacs are now growing in the Wild Meadow Trace and are the pride and joy of Elmhurst Park District.

For more than fifty years Arch has carried on a love affair with lilacs visiting celebrated collections in the Midwest and East, such as the nearby collections of Lilacia Park at Lombard, and the Morton Arboretum, at Lisle, Illinois; also Highland Park at Rochester, and Lilacland at Glen Head, Long Island, New York, and the Scott Horticultural Foundation at Swarthmore, Pennsylvania. In those gardens and parks he met the officials in charge, befriending them and exchanging horticultural knowledge and doubtless plants.

Arch continues to promote the knowledge and appreciation of lilacs. To the Society member who has enhanced the Society's membership during the previous season he instituted the award that bears his name. He regularly attends the Society's annual meetings where his presence and fellowship are recurring inspiration to its members.

In gratitude this Society bestowed upon Arch McKean its highest award, the Honor and Achievement plaque, at its Fifteenth Annual Meeting at Hamilton, Ontario, in May 1986.

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Hardy Oleaceae with Special Reference to Syringa By Peter S. Green, Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew

May I say at the start how greatly honoured I feel to have been invited to come all the way from England to Denver to speak at the Convention of The International Lilac Society. I still remember with great pleasure the only other Convention of this Society I have been

able to attend-that at Rochester in 1972-15 years ago.



Peter S. Green

But I also "come clean" with you and warn you that while I am a professional botanist I am only an amateur horticulturist, or, to take the matter further, I am a taxonomic botanist-that is, one who is concerned with the identification, naming and classification of plants and only a horticulturalist in so far as nearly all my life, wherever I have been I have had a small garden or yard where I have grown vegetables and often a few flowers and shrubs, including, of course, the occasional lilac. A corollary of this in that I must confess that although I have a great liking for lilacs and the beauty and spectacular diversity of the many hybrids that have been produced over the last 100 years I know very few of them by name and cannot tell you anything about new and recent lilacs produced in Europe, what their qualities are and what they are named. My concern has been with the species. Furthermore, like most taxonomists my interest and research has fallen into two complementary fields-floristic research (that is, a study of plants of all families from a defined geographic area, in my case the Southwest Pacific) and on the other hand the systematic approach where a single family (or other classificatory group) is studied on a world-wide basis. For me that is where the family Oleaceae comes in and for the last 30 years or so I

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have been interested in all the members of this family. Therefore, I want to tell you something about the Oleaceae, with special mention of *Syringa*, the lilac genus.

A family in the plant (and animal) kingdom consist of a group of related genera which have characteristics in common and which, together, are distinct from other groups of related genera. The Oleaceae is a rather isolated family and to my mind constitutes its own order (the next higher classificatory rank), the Oleales as it is called. As with all plants the characters mainly used for seeking distinctions are those of the reproductive structures, the parts of the flower and fruits, rather that the more mutable vegetative characters. All the members of the Oleaceae (with only a few exceptions) have flowers with four sepals, four petals joined together, two stamens (usually borne on the petal tube) and with two cells to the ovary. They are also woody plants and usually have their leaves borne in opposite pairs on the stem. As it happens most of the members are tropical and although a study of them occupies most of my time with this family they do not concern us here. I have been asked to speak about the hardy members.

Hardiness, however, is a relative term and there are degrees of hardiness. The usual definitions concern plants which can survive the cold of winters in the open garden. But the winters I am used to in Britain are quite different from those in Colorado or Massachusetts or, especially, for example, North Dakota. They are nearer those of Georgia or coastal Washington State. Because I am assuming that the members of my audience today will have come from many different States I will assume that for the purpose of this talk that hardiness is the ability to survive even a little frost. Not all plants I shall mention will be suitable therefore for outdoor cultivation, for example, in New England (the only part of the U.S.A. in which I have lived and experienced the winters at first-hand).

In pride of place amongst the hardy Oleaceae are the lilacsmembers of the genus Syringa. In all there are about 27 species, two of them from Europe and the rest native in Asia. From these, particularly from the common European lilac, Syringa vulgaris, hundred of cultivars, or horticultural varieties, have been raised and selected. The species have been classified into two subgenera of which Subgenus Suringa is the larger with four Series. The first and best known of these contains S. vulgaris itself, the species most people think of when you mention the lilac. With it in the same series, and most closely related, is the Chinese S. oblata; and this latter species has the advantage that it flowers about two weeks before the common lilac. I have been particularly fortunate to have seen it in flower in China where, as you might suspect, it is a popular and much cultivated shrub. I was especially lucky, when wandering one evening at Cheng-te (in the ancient Summer Palace of the Ching Emperors about 100 miles northeast of Peking) to come across a

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lilac nursery where it was most interesting to see rows of *S. oblata* raised from seed, just coming into flower and to observe the variation in the intensity of the flower colour from plant to plant. This contrasts with our generally uniform clonal representation of this species. I was also able to see a plant of *S. oblata* 'Alba', which by means of sign language and drawing sketches in the sandy soil, I confirmed was propagated vegetatively.

Very close to these two species, (which of course hybridize to give us the much loved *S. x hyacinthiflora* cultivars), but classified in a series on its own for its distinctive, compound leaves, is *S. pinnatifolia* in my experience the earliest of all lilacs to flower. It is not grown for its "horticultural merit" but for its curiousness and and uniqueness. However, it must be close to the common lilac, despite the very different leaves, for the two can be crossed, and have produced a hybrid with variably divided foliage, *S. x diversifolia*. The first clone to have been produced is called 'William Judd', after the former propagator at the Arnold Arboretum. The same cross has since been repeated by others.

Not crossable are the members of the other two Series, at least crossable only between species within the same Series. For lack of time I will not attempt to enumerate all the species but just show you slides of one or two representatives of the Series *Villosae* and *Pubescentes*.

I have already mentioned that there are two subgenera, so far all my examples have been taken from Subgenus, *Ligustrina*, aptly named because the individual flowers borne by the members look like these of *Ligustrum* and smell like the flowers of *Ligustrum* too. However, the fruit is nevertheless a dry dehiscent capsule, as in all the other members of the genus *Syringa*. Here belong *S. reticulata* and *S. pekinensis-* and once again I was lucky enough to see this latter species in flower in China, growing wild just beside the Great Wall.

Ligustrina leads me logically out of Syringa and into the genus. Ligustrum, the privets. They are closely related but are basically distinguished by their fruits, which are juicy berries, in contrast to the dry dehiscent capsules of the genus Syringa. There are about 40 species of Ligustrum, one widespread in Europe and the rest Asiatic (ranging as far south as northeastern Australia). As garden plants privets are best known for hedging. Originally the somewhat deciduous European L vulgaris was used, but towards the turn of the last century the more evergreen L. ovalifoium from Japan was introduced. Holding its leaves longer it makes a better hedge, although its roots are very greedy feeders, and in the Boston area even it is not evergreen. L. obtusifolium is also used for hedging. Some privets, however, make good specimen trees of small stature. For example the eastern Asiatic L. lucidum, which although it does best in warm temperature areas, is hardly in Britain. I have seen it

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used as a street tree in such diverse cities as Damascus and Honolulu.

An interesting and much overlooked species is Ligustrum semvirens, from southwestern China. It was at first described by Franchet in 1886, as an evergreen lilac, and named Suringa sempervirens (meaning evergreen) for the dried specimen that Franchet had before him appeared to have dehiscent capsules. However the flowers and leaves are just like those of a privet, so in 1916 Sir William Wright Smith, the Regius Keeper of the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh, erected a monotypic new genus to contain it and called it Parasyringa. However, its fruit is blue-black and guite fleshy at first and typical of Ligustrum. In 1920 it was formally and I think correctly transferred to that genus. It forms another link between the privets and the lilacs and I have it under investigation along with a colleague who is studying the anatomical structure of the fruit. We find that in the species of Ligustrum we have investigated the fibres of the endocarp (inner wall of the mature ovary or seed) form a continuous layer right around the developing seed, but in L. sempervirens, at two opposite points, their direction changes through a right angle to form two vertical lines which can eventually form lines of dehiscence. This spring I am watching the fleshly berries produced at Kew last year to see if they dry out on the plant and become leathery and they dehisce, as they appear to do in the dried specimens collected in its native southwestern China. We have it growing outside against the wall of the Temperature House at Kew



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Sister Justena

and I believe it has been overlooked as a garden subject and has considerable potential as an attractive evergreen shrub for the warmer temperate regions.

Within the Oleaceae, from the garden point of veiw, one cannot ignore the genus Forsythia (named after William Forsythe, 1937-1804). Again there is one species native in Europe and the remainder in eastern Asia, about six or possibly eight in all. The first species to have been introduced to cultivation in the West, and from China, was F. viridissima. It was introduced by Robert Fortune and flowered for the Royal Horticultural Society in 1847. (I do not have a good slide of typical F. viridissima but you might like to see a photo of the dwarf F. viridissima 'Bronxensis' which was selected in the New York Botanic Gardens in 1939. Having been raised from seed from Japan, it is the one Forsythia suitable for the rock garden. In 1862 Fortune introduced another species, also native in China although long cultivated in Japan (from where it had first been described for science some years earlier as Syringa suspensa!) and now called F. suspensa. A chance cross with F. viridissima (actually F. suspensa var. fortunei) found in the Botanic Garden at Goettingen in Germany in 1876, produced the much-loved hybrid F. x intermedia from which most of the many cultivars have been developed (35 were named and listed in 1961).

In the spring Forsythia giraldiana is the first of the genus to flower, followed very closely by F. ovata, more floriferous but with the individual flowers rather small. Like some other genera in the Oleaceae the flowers of Forsythia are heterostylous, that is the flowers on each plant are either long or short styled ("pin" or "thrum"), and to obtain seed you need to cross pollinate from one condition to the other. The fruit of Forsythia, is in consequence rarely seen in gardens; it is a dry dehiscent capsule, somewhat like that of Syringa. I say rare in cultivation but there is now one group of exceptions-the polyploid cultivars. Some years ago at the Arnold Arboretum Karl Sax, its former director who died in 1973, managed to double-up the complement of chromosomes and produce the first polyploid Forsythia, one with four sets of chromosomes instead of the normal two. There must have been some back-crossing for, 'Beatrix Farrand', the first of the new varieties to be named was a triploid with three sets. Like most polyploids one of its characteristics was an increased size in the flowers and a thickening of their texture. Unfortunately no one seems to be able to find this triploid today, Sax gave away many plants from his nursery rows including, presumably, the original 'Beatrix Farrand' for all those plants bearing this name which have been tested, including those at the Arnold Arboretum itself, turn out to be tetraploid with four complements of chromosomes. By the strict application of the rules of nomenclature only the original triploid clone should bear the name 'Beatrix Farrand' and all those tetraploids with the same basic

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Pale pink mutant (upper left) of common Lilac.

parentage that incorrectly came to bear this name should be referred generally as Farrand Hybrids, unless any one of them is selected on its own merit for a distinct cultivar name. Some of these tetraploids are every bit as good as the original 'Beatrix Farrand' and with their large, rich yellow flowers, several are in general cultivation today. The first to be named was 'Arnold Giant' while the later selection named 'Karl Sax' commemorates his work with *For*sythia. (For a more complete account of this mix-up see the article on *Forsythia* 'Karl Sax' in Bot. Mag. 179: t, 652, 1973).

A genus with flowers which, although white, are superficially similar is *Abeliophyllum*. It contains one species only, *A. distichum* in Korea, and has been called the "White Forsythia". The individual flowers are similarly shaped but smaller. It has the advantage of flowering early, even earlier than most Forsythias but if it is growing in an exposed position the flowers can be damaged by the cold. There is a certain amount of variability amongst the seedlings that were raised when it was first introduced, although in practice it is generally propagated clonally, and a form exists with a slight pink tinge to the flowers. Perhaps breeding and selection could intensify this but unfortunately the species is heterostylous like *Forsythia* and two different genotypes are needed to get seed. Also, artificial cross-pollination is not easy in March. I have tried it, although I must admit not under glass or in good controlled conditions, and I

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have only once seen a fruit - so very different from that for *Forsythia* - like a green disk the size of a 25 cent piece with the seed in the centre.

Also bearing a winged fruit is the economically important genus *Fraxinus*, the ash trees. If you have room for trees in your garden they are worth growing but they are mostly famous for their timber, for the wood, while strong is particularly springy and resilient. There are between 60 and 70 species in all and the fruit, or "keys" as they have traditionally been called, are particularly characteristic. In most species the flowers are inconspicuous, for they are usually small and without petals, and often even without sepals. However there is a subgenus which bears flowers with white strap-shaped petals, the so-called Flowering Ashes. The best known is the Mediterranean *F. ornus*, but there is the slightly hardier Chinese species, *F. mariesii* suitable where there is limited space, for it forms an attractive small tree.

These white somewhat frothy inflorescence are reminiscent of that other Oleaceous genus where white strap-shaped petals, the Fringe-trees, *Chionanthus.* It contains two well-known species, the eastern American *C. virginicus* and the east Asiatic *C. retusus.* When in full flower they are spectacular, especially the former. Their fruit is quite different from any of the representatives of the Oleaceae mentioned so far, but is perhaps most characteristic of the family - a blue-purple drupe, very like an olive.

This brings me to the type genus of the family, the olive genus Olea itself. Although the species are mainly tropical, the genus contains about 30 in all, and its most famous member is, of course, the olive, Olea europeae-so characteristic of the Mediterranean, but now cultivated extensively in California, for example, and grown for its fruit and for the olive oil extracted from it, yet also famous for its close-grained, hard timber. The flowers are nothing to write home about and are often functionally unisexual. Although the olive will stand a limited amount of frost it grows best in warm temperate areas and is only just hardy.

Allied to Olea is the horticulturally important genus Osmanthus - the "fragrant flower", as this name means. Although none of the approximately 20 species is hardy in New England some are well worth growing in warmer, more southern states. The most famous is perhaps O. fragrans, the so-called Sweet Olive. It is much cultivated and prized in China and Japan on account of its fragrant flowers. However even at Kew it has to be grown under glass if it is to flourish and flower. Other species are hardier. Some are grown for their attractive evergreen leaves, rather like those of holly, for example, O. heterphyllus, but to my mind the best species is O.delavayi, -a very attractive evergreen shrub with pure white sweetly fragrant flowers produced in early spring. Once again fruit is LILAC 1987 10 rarely produced because of self-incompatibility but when it is formed- it too resembles an olive. Two species have been crossed to produce a more vigourous, dense evergreen which also bears white fragrant flowers in spring and is named *O. x burkwoodii*, after the nursery firm where is was first raised. At the time of its introduction it was thought to have been a hybrid between two genera - between *Osmanthus delavayi* and *Phillyrea decora* and the hybrid genus was accordingly named *x Osmarea*, but since then it has been acknowledged that *Phillyrea decora* is really an *Osmanthus* and so the name of the hybrid is now, rightly, called *Osmanthus x burkwoodii*.



(left to right) P. Green O.M. Steward A.J. Fordham

Phillyrea is a small genus from the Mediterranean which I will only mention is passing. It is not very hardy but in some areas, such as part of California it could provide a useful evergreen; the flower and small drupe-like fruits, however, are nothing special.

There remains one genus I cannot leave out for, even before members of the Lilac Society, I must confess it is my favorite. This is *Jasminum* with about 200 species, although once again mostly tropical. The hardiest species, which I am sure many of you will know, is the Winter Jasmine, the Chinese *J. nudiflorum*, famous for its cheery yellow flowers borne either during warm spells throughout the winter or more or less all at once just as the winter ends and before spring has really started. Another fairly hardy species which also bears yellow flowers is the Himalayan and South-

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western Chinese J. humile (which incidently is one of a small group which is the only species in the whole family to bear alternate instead of opposite leaves.(Because it has been introduced to gardens in Britain more than once, one sometimes gets successful cross pollination and then the characteristic paired, black or purplish berries are produced. Most species of Jasminun are, however, white flowered and noted for their sweet fragrance. The hardiest of these is the Himalayan J. officinale which is closely related to the so-called Spanish Jasmine, J. grandiflorum, which is not really hardy but is grown in Spain and southern France for the extraction by effleurage of Oil of Jasmine, one of the basic scents used in perfumary. To conclude may I cheat slightly? I take it that hardiness has been chosen as a limitation in this talk because such are the plants we can grow ourselves without a greenhouse or conservatory and there are scarcely any Oleaceae which are house-plants - but there is one that makes an exception, the sweet-scented Chinese J. polyanthum which is becoming more and more popular for indoor cultivation. It forms an attractive plant, flowering in the winter and filling the room with fragrance and, once the warm summer comes it can be stuck out in the garden until the autumnal frosts. Let me just mention one more example of the genus, J. rex from Thailand, with flowers about 3 inches across, and speculate what might be done by hybridization and selection in this genus.

There are a few other genera which are hardy, like *Fontanesia* and *Forrestiera*, but they do not contain plants of any particular garden merit. I hope I have given you some idea of the importance of the Oleaceae in horticulture and suggested to you that the International Lilac Society might like to include within its sphere and interest some of these other garden worthy plants.

ERRATUM

The captions on page 54 of Volume 15 (1986) identified Andrew Pierce as Wilson Stampe. Our apologies to both members.

Photo Credits: Max Peterson pp. 16, 26; Ellen Steward - people Editor: Lilacs

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THE INITIAL TREATMENT

A Research Report by Dr. Owen M. Rogers, Plant Science Department, University of New Hampshire

Research bears out the fact that the initial treatment of a lilac is most important culturally. We have seen this in three areas at UNH. I'd like to share our experiences with you because it is research you can take home. The three areas are propagation, establishment of transplants and keeping quality to cut flowers.

Propagation: Last year we reported that etiolation worked in the greenhouse. This involved covering the plant so that the shoots developed in the dark and then covering the base of those shoots when they were reintroduced to the light and "greened up." When cuttings were taken, with that white area at the cutting base, they rooted better and faster than normal green cuttings. The details are recorded in Lilacs Vol. 15:45-50. In this case, it was the initial treatment - the etiolation - which improved the rooting. This year we wanted to ask if this would work outdoors. Our research is not yet complete but if I use the research data of Nina Bassuk of Cornell, it shows clearly that etiolation works outdoors as well. It is, however, an inconvenient procedure. A person must cover a whole branch, prop the bag up so that it does not break the new shoots and hope that some of the buds on that branch will be good vegetative shoots. But Mrs. Bassuk also suggests another more practical initial treatment - blanching. In this system, you select good vegetative shoots when they are about 1 inch long and cover the bottom 1/2 inch. Her suggestion is to use 1/2 inch wide Velco strips which can be used and reused. Another suggestion is to cover the bottom of the shoot with a strip of black plastic held in place with some tape.



Mrs. C.B. Hagaman with (LtoR) Dr. J. Margaretten, O.M. Steward, P. Green and (rear) A. Pierce

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anything can be used as long as it excludes light from the bottom of the developing shoot and can be removed without damage to the bark (electrical tape sticks). After 2 or 3 weeks, the shoot is cut off just below the tape, the tape removed (that portion of the stem should now be white or nearly so), a rooting hormone is applied to the cut end and the cutting placed in a rooting medium. If you do not have a greenhouse, put the cutting in a moist medium in a pot and seal the whole thing in a plastic bag. Then place the bag in a window where it gets bright light but not direct sunlight. Rooting should occur in 6 to 8 weeks. Blanching is not quite as effective as etiolation although the results vary from variety to variety, but it is much more convenient for a home-owner who wants to propagate one or two lilacs. And again, it is the initial treatment that makes the whole thing work.

Establishment: A newly transplanted lilac requires tender loving care during its first year if it is to get off to a good start. We set out to ask if pruning had any effect on its establishment. We started with 'Charles Joly' bare-rooted plants donated by Donald Wedge. Some plants were left with no pruning (all buds intact), others had one-third of their buds removed and others one-half. Almost as an afterthought, we put half of the plants in clean cultivation (no other plants in competition) and around the other half we seeded grass to simulate planting of the new lilac in a grass area. It turned out that the initial clean cultivation was the only important thing. Lilacs planted in sod - even newly seeded sod - could not compete with grass for food and water and they languished, one even died. The others all grew well. Pruning had no measurable effect. The dif-



Mark Eaton, O.M. Steward

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ference between our two initial plants can still be seen after 3 years (and the removal with paraquat of the grass after the first year). So if you are going to move a lilac or if you buy one, especially a barerooted one, clear everything away for an area of at least 2 feet (larger is better). Keep that area clear of weeds for at least a year. A good mulch layer is the easiest way to do this. The other initial thing that is required for establishment of a lilac is water. A bareroot plant newly arrived should be watered. If the roots are truly bare in the carton, soak them in a bucket for an hour or two. After the initial wetting, the roots should never again dry out for the entire first year. One wilting will dramatically set back the new lilac.

Cut Flowers: There is a running argument about hammering vs clean cut for lilac flower stems. Therefore, this spring we tried an experiment to see if we could answer that question. Using flowers of Charles Joly' we tried four treatments: 1) clean-cut stems with foliage left on, 2) clean-cut stems with all foliage removed, 3) hammered stems with foliage left on, 4) hammered stems with all foliage removed. Results? Everything and anything worked. Apparently what was important was the initial treatment. In an attempt to standardize our procedure and use good cut flower practices, I carried a bucket of warm water into the field and immediately placed the cut stems into it. Then I set up the treatments and placed the cut stems into buckets with a commercial flower preservative and placed them in a cool place to harden overnight before bringing them out into normal room temperature. It was these initial treatments that did the trick and no special stem treatment is needed if they are placed quickly in water that contains a flower preservative. Removal of the stem foliage at cutting time did extend the life of the cut bloom by an average of one day. Stems without foliage whether hammered or not - lasted twelve days on average while those with foliage were good for only eleven days. As an aside, I cut some lilacs at home and placed them promptly in plain water. In two days, they began to wilt but quickly recovered when I recut the stems under water. Apparently even here, if you catch the initial wilting, it can be corrected.

So, what we have discovered, and now have scientific proof to support it, is that what is done to a lilac in the first few minutes, whether you are talking about propagation, establishment or cut flowers, is the most important, and, if you do not take care to do the right thing initially, nothing you do afterwards can make up for that lapse.

Reference: Maynard, Brian, and Nina Bassuk, 1987. Researchers grow plants under cover for better cuttings. American Nurseryman, April 1, 1987.

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Meadowlark Hill Lilac Arboretum By Max Peterson, Ogallala, Nebraska

On hundred years ago Swedish immigrants, Louis and Katherine Peterson, arrived in Ogallala, Nebraska, aboard a cattle car. They rented a covered wagon and headed towards the vast treeless tableland to the south. In the dead of night they reached their homestead. Early the next morning Katherine pulled aside a curtain to glimpse for the first time her new home. That first sight took her breath away, literally, for the air beyond was filled with black smoke. The Petersons found themselves in the midst of a rampaging range fire and by the end of the day they stood there, tiny people, like specks on a black, scorched treeless sea.

What a difference a century and three generations can make. Today, as you approach from the east within a quarter mile of the old Peterson homestead on the Keith-Perkins county line, you are struck by one of the most intoxicating fragrances in the world. The air is moist with the smell of Lilac. The once treeless, barren place, under the care of Grandson Max Peterson and his wife Darlene, now supports one of the largest, private collections of Lilacs to be found anywhere, over seven hundred varieties. Tall cedar windbreaker protect the lilacs on the west and north. Each lilac is watered by drip irrigation without which no lilac would survive a summer.

For a living Max raises wheat, but admits that he spends more time with the Lilacs than he does farming. "It's like having a tiger by the tail and you can't let go. Once we started collecting lilacs and saw the various varieties, we just couldn't quit."

With their two children, Jeff and Beth, that makes four generations of Petersons who have lived on the original homestead.

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"Grandma said that, if she had any money, she would have headed back east after waking up that morning with the smokefilled air."

Vulgaris

A.M. Brand AbelCarrier Addie Tischler Adelaide Dunbar Agincourt Beauty Alba Grandiflora Alba Virginalis Aleksei Mares'ev Aline Mocqueris Aloise Alphonse Bouvier Alphonse Lavallee Ambassadeur Amethyst Purple Ami Schott Amoena Andenken an Ludwig Spaeth Andre Csizik Angel White Anna Nickels Anne Schiach Archeveaue Arlene Welsh Arthur William Paul Astra Aucubaefolia

Banquise Beauty of Heaven Belle de Nancy Beranger Beth Beth Turner Betty Stone Bertha Phair **Bi-Centennial** Bicolor **Big Boy** Bleuatre Blue Delft Blue Delight Blue Mist Bob Tischler Bogdan Przyrykowski **Boule Azuree** Boussingault Brent Sirois Bright Centennial Burgomeester Loggers Burgomeester Voller

C.B. Van Nes Calvin C. Laney Candeur Capitaine Baltet Capitaine Perrault Carley Carmen Caroline Foley Caroline Mae Carolyn Howland Case's Frilled Pink Case's Rose Pink Cavour Celestial Blue Champlain Charles Joly Charles Sargent

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Charles X Charlotte Morgan Charm Charmant Chiffon Chris Christophe Colomb City of Gresham City of Kalama City of Kelso (Abundant Bloomer) City of Longview City of Olympia Clara Clara Cochet Clarke's Double White Clyde Heard Clarence D. Van Zandt Col. Wm. R. Plum Colbert Colmariensis Comte De Kerchove Comte De Montebello Comte Horace De Choiseul Condorcet Congo Cora Lyden Crampel Crepuscule Cynthia

D. Nehru Dana Horton Danton Dappled Dawn Darlene De Croncels De Humboldt De 'Jussieu De Louvain De Miribel De Saussure Decaisne Descanso Giant Descanso King Desfontaines Diane

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Diannah Abbott Diderot Diplomate Dorothy Ramsden Downfield Doyen Keteleer Dr. Brethour Dr. Charles Jacobs Dr. Lemke Dr. Maillot Dr. Masters Dr. Nobbe Dr. Troyanowsky Dr. Von Regel Dresden China Duc De Massa Dusk Dwight D. Eisenhower Earl Rousseau

Edith Cavell Edmond About Edmond Boissier Edouard Andre Edward J. Gardner Ellie-Marie Emil Gentil

Emil Liebig Emile Lemoine Erzherzog Johann Ethiopia Etna Etoile De Mai Excellent

Fall Baltyku Firmament Flora Florence Christine Frank Klager Frank Paterson Frau Bertha Dammann Frau Wilhelm Pfitzer French Giant Fuerst Liechtenstein

Galina (Ilanova Gaudichaud Geheimrat Heyder Geheymrat Singelmann General Elwell S. Otis General Grant General Kitchener General John Pershing General Pershing General Sheridan General Sherman George W. Aldridge Georges Bellair Georges Claude Gertrude Child Gigantea Gloire d'Aalsmeer Gloire de Lorraine Gloire de Moulins Glory Godron Goliath Golubava Grace Mackenzie Grace Orthwaite Grace Wyman Grand-Duc Constantin Guizot

Hallelujah Heather Heavenly Blue Helen Schloen Helene Agatha Keesen Henri Martin Henri Robert HenryClay Hippolyte Maringer Hosanna Hugo de Vries Hugo Koster Hulda Klager Humphrey Hyperion I.V. Michurin Indiya Interlude Irvina Jacques Callot Jake Thomas James Berdeen James Booth James Stuart Jan van Tol Jane Day Jean Bart Jean Mace Jeanne D'Arc Jefferson Berdeen Jeffrey Jennifer Morrison Jessie Gardner Joan Dunbar Johann Mensing John Kennedy John's Favorite Jonkheer G.P. van Tets Jules Ferry Jules Simon

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Justii

Julien Gerardin

K.A. Timiryazev Kapriz Kate Bergen Kate Haerlin Kate Sessions Katherine Havemeyer Kathy Mcquire Ken Berdeen (Berdeen's) Ken Berdeen(Lyden's) Kenneth W. Berdeen II Kingsville Komsomolka Konchaloskii Konigin Luise Konstanty Karpow Kosmos Krasavitsa Moskvy

L' Oncle Tom La Mauve La Tour D'Auvergne Lady Lindsay Lady Lucille Laplace Lavaliensis Lavender Lady Le Notre Lee Jewett Walker Lemoinei Leon Gambetta Leon Simon Leone Gardner Leopold II Lewis Maddock Lilarosa Lillian Lee Linne Little Bit Lockwood Unknown Long Fellow Louis Henry Lucello Lucie Baltet Leone Lambert

M.L.(Maurice Lockwood) Madame A.J. Klettenberg Macrostachya Madeleine Lemaire Magellan Marc Micheli Marechal de Bassompierre Marechal Foch Marechal Lannes Marendo Margaret Rice Gould Margot Grunewald Marie Finon Marie Marcelin Marie Legrave Marley(Lake Bled) Marlyensis Marlyensis Pallida Marshal Vasilevskii Marshal Zhukov Martha Martha Kounze Massena Maud Notcutt(Flora?) Maurice Barres Maurice de Vilmorin Mauve Mist Max Peterson Maximowicz May Day Mechta Michel Buchner Midwest Gem Milton Mintschanka Mireille Miss Ellen Willmott Madame Charles Souchet Mme. Abel Chatenay Mme. Amelie Duprat Mme. Antoine Buchner Mme. Briot Mme. Casimir Perier Mme. Catherine Bruchet Mme. F. Morel Mme. Florent Stepman

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Mme. Lemoine Mme. Leon Simon Mme. Moser Monge Mount Domogled Monique Lemoine Mons. Mixime Cornu Mons. J. De Messemaeker Mont Blanc Montaigne Montgolfier Monument Mood Indigo Moonglow Moonlight Mrs. A. Belmont Mrs. Calvin Coolidge Mrs. Edward Harding Mrs. Fanny Heath Mrs. H.J. Cran Mrs. Harry Bickle Mrs. McKelvey Mrs. Nadeau Mrs. Trapman Mrs. W.E. Marshall My Favorite

Nadezhda Nana (?) Nancy Frick Negro Nebo Moskvy Night Nigricans Nellie Marie

Oakes Double White Obelisque Ogni Donbassa Ogni Moskvy Old Fashioned Old Rose Olimpiada Kolesnikova Olive Mae Cummings Olivier de Serres Ostrander Othello

Pamyat o.S.M. Kirove Partizanka Pasteur Patrick Henry Paul Deschanel Paul Hariot Paul Thirion Pavlinka Pearl Pearl White Peerless Pink Perle von Stuttgart Perle von Teltow Peterson Unknown Pierre Joigneaux Pink Lace Pink Mist Pink Ruth Pioner Planchon Pol Robson Pom Pom

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Porcelaine Blue P.P. Konchalovskii President Carnot President Fallieres President Grevy President John Adams President Lambeau President Lebrun President Lincoln President Loubet President Massart President Monroe President Poincare President Roosevelt President Viger Primrose Prince de Beauvau Prince Imperial Prince Notger Prince of Wales Princess Alexandra Priscilla Prodige Professor Sargent Professor E.H. Wilson Professor E. Stockhardt Professor Edmund Jankowski Professor Josef Brzezinski Pyramidal Pyramidalis Alba Purple Mystery R.B. Mills

Reaumur Red Bud Red Giant Reine Elizabeth Reine Marguerite Rene Jarry Desloges Renoncule Riet Bruidegom Rochester Roi Albert Romance Ronsard Rosace

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Rowancroft Pink Ruhm von Horstenstein Russkaya Krasavitsa Rustica

S.V. Lavrov Saint Joan Saint Margaret Sarah Sands Sass unnamed seedling Saturnale Savonarole Schermerhornii Scipion Cochet Senateur Volland Sensation Serene Sholokhov Siebold Silver King Slater's Elegance **Snow Showers** Sorok Let Komsomola Souvenir d'Alice Harding Souvenir de Claudius Graindorge Souvenir de Henri Simon Souvenir de L. Thibaut Souvenir de Mme. Louis Gielis Sovetskaya Arktika Sensation Sport Stadtgartner Rothpletz Stefan Makowiecki Sumerki Susan B. Anthony Sweet Charity Sweetheart Sylvan Beauty Taglioni Taras Bul'Ba Thunberg Tita Todmorden

Tombouctou

Toussaint L'Ouverture

Triomphe d'Orleans

Tournefort

Triste Barbaro Turenne

Ultra Lavender Utro Moskvy

Valentina Grizodubova Valetteana Variegata Vera Khoruzhaya Vergissmeinnicht Vesuve Vestale Victor Lemoine Victory Ville de Limoges Ville De Troyes Violet Glory Violetta Vivian Evans Viviand Morel Volcan vulgaris Alba

W.T. Lee Walter's Pink Waldeck-Rousseau Wedgwood Blue White Spires White Spring White Surprise White Swan William C. Barry William Robinson William S. Riley Woodland Blue Woodland Violet

Yubileinaya

Znamya Lenina Zukunft Zulu

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Hyacinthiflora

Alice Eastwood Annabel Assessippi Berryer Blue Hyacinth Bountiful Buffon

Catinat Charles Nordine Churchill Clarke's Giant Claude Bernard

Daphne Pink Doctor Chadwick

Esther Staley Evangeline Excel

Fantasy Fenelon Fraser

Gertrude Leslie

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Hyancinthiflora Plena

Jewel

Lamartine Laurentian Louvois

Maiden's Blush Marechal Foch Mary A. Short Maureen Milissa Oakes Minnehaha Mirabeau Montesquieu Mount Baker

Necker Nokomis Norah

Orchid Chiffon

Pascal Patricia Peggy Pink Cloud Pink Spray Pocahontas Purple Gem Purple Glory Purple Heart

Royal Purple Ruby Cole

Scotia Sister Justena Splendor Spring Dawn Summer Skies Sunset Swarthmore

The Bride Tom Taylor Turgot

LILAC 1987

Vauban Virginite Virginia Becker Viscountess Willingdon

White Hyacinth

Prestoniae

Agnes Smith Alladin Alexander's Aristocrat Alexander's Perfection Alice Rose Foster Audrey

Crayton Red

Dawn Diana Donald Wyman

Elinor Ethel M. Webster

Ferna Alexander Fountain

Hiawatha

Isabella

Jessica

Maybelle Farnum

Nike Nocturne

Pink Dawn Puck

Redwine Royalty

Silvia Summer White

Telimena

Species and Interspecific

Hybrids

'Dancing Druid' (S yunnanensis x S. tomentella XS. Komarowii)
'Germinal'(S x Henryi x S. tomentella)
'Hedin' (S. Villosa x S. Sweginzowii)
'Hunting Tower' (S. villosa x S. Sweginzewii)
'Minuet' (S. josiflexa "Redwine" x S. x Prestoniae "Donald Wyman")
'Spring Song' (?)
'Skinneri' (S. pubescens x S. patula)

S. rhodopea S. emodi S. emodi Superba S. Giraldiana S. Josikaea S. Julianae S. Julianae "Hers Variety" S. Julianae "Red Pixie" S. Komarowii S. laciniata S. Meyeri S. Meyeri "Palibin" S. microphylla S. microphylla 'Superba' S. microphylla x Meyeri S. oblata S. oblata "Cheyenne" S. oblata-Alba S. oblata-Dilatata S. oblata-Giraldii S. oblata "Pink Hyacinth" S. patula S. patula- "Miss Kim" S. patula "Dwarf Arnold" S. patula "Pink Delight" S. pekinensis - "Pendula" S. pekinensis S. pinetorum S. reticulata S. reflexa S. reflexa-Alba S. pubescens S. pubescens x Meyeri S. reticulata - Korean S. reticulata -"Weeper" S. reticulata - "Ivory Silk"

S. Sweginzowii "Lark Song" S. Sweginzowii Albida S. Tigerstedti S. Tomentella S. Tomentella "Kum Bum" S. Tomentella "Rosea" S. Villosa S. villosa "East" S. villosa "Rossa" S. Wolfii S. yunnanensis S. Welfii S. yunnanensis 'Prophecy' (yunnanensis tetraploid) S. x. chinensis Bicolor S. x. Chinensis Crayton Red S. x chinensis Le Troyes S. x chinensis Metensis S. x chinensis Orchid Beauty S. x chinensis Pink Surprise S. x chinensis President Hayes S. x chinensis Saugeana S. x diversifolia "Nouveau" S. x diversifolia "William H. Judd" S. x josiflexa "Ann Amhoff" S. x josiflexa "James Macfarlane" S. x josiflexa "Jessie Hepler" S. x josiflexa "Nellie Beam" S. x Nanceiana S. x persica S. x persica-Alba

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S. x. persica "Dark" S. Swegiflexa "Fountain" Species (Mt. Serak-Korea)•(S. Debelderi)



Jeffrey & Beth Peterson

LILAC 1987

Sixteenth Annual Meeting

Secretary's report May 29, 1987

Denver, Colorado

The meeting was convened by President Charles Holetich at 7:45 P.M..

Convention Chairman, Andrew Pierce, announced that 52 members were present. He thanked the Society for coming to Denver.

The President thanked the members for their support and contributions in the past year.

Corporation Secretary Walter Oakes reported that there have been a host of problems since 1971, but they have been overcome. We must not become discouraged by problems, nor should we become complacent with our successes. Everyone needs to contribute his/her talents to make the Society successful.

The Secretary's report was read.

The Treasurer's report was read for information only.

	\$10,211.42
	6,979.11
	3,232.31
3	\$26,443.65
	4

Mr. William Heard introduced Betty Mills, granddaughter of Mrs. Hulda Klager, of the Hulda Klager Lilac Gardens in Woodland, Wash.. The Gardens would love to host the convention at some time.

Dr. Owen Rogers reported that an Editor is still needed very badly for the LILAC NEWSLETTER as his time is very limited. The publication will not grow until there is a full time Editor.

We are deeply indebted to Mr. Charles Holetich for help and to Pauline Fiala for mailing the publications.

Two questions were asked of the members.

1. Is the presence of lilacs the main reason for

coming to the convention?

Ans. It is not the main reason, but it is important.

2. Would you consider meeting at a time other than

May or June?

Ans. No.

Dr. Rogers announced that there is money available for research grants.

He also announced that the 2nd volume of the UPTON SCRAP BOOKS OF LILAC INFORMATION is now ready for distribution at \$18.50 a copy.

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GARDENING ON THE PRAIRIES has just been published by one of our members, Roger Vick. It can be purchased from him at \$11.00 a copy.

Mr. Robert Hoepfl invited all the members to attend the 17th annual convention at Highland Park in Rochester, N.Y., on May 19 - 22. It will be part of the contennial celebration of the park.

There will also be a dedication of the lilac collection at Clyde, N.Y., (William Utley's collection.)

Elections Committee Charman Mrs. Elsie Kara announced the results of the election of members to the Board of Directors.

130 ballots were cast, 2 were void and there were no write - ins. Members elected:

Dr. Robert Clark	Meredith, N.H.
Mr. Daniel Ryniec	Brooklyn Botanic Garden
Mrs. Mary Smith	Bellevue, Iowa
Mr. Donald Wedge	Albert Lee, Minn.
Mr. Max Peterson	Ogallala, Ne.
Mrs. Lois Utley	Clyde, N.Y.
Mr. Orville Steward	Plymouth, Vt.
Dr. Joel Margaretten	Leona Valley, Ca.

It was suggested by Mr. Oakes that an official Historian be appointed.

Mr. Utley and Mr. Steward will ask Dr. Clark if he would be allowed to take on the job.

There was a standing ovation for Mr. Holetich in appreciation of the tremendous amount of work he has done for the Society. Mrs. Holetich was also recognized for her contributions.

Mr. Carvill announced that the afternoon auction had brought in \$719.50. He then thanked Mr. Eickhorst, Mr. Peterson, and Col. Schenker for their help. A special thanks went out to Mrs. Elsie Kara, and Mrs. Pauline Fiala for handling the money.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara N. Schenker Recording Secretary

Recording Secretary Protem

LILAC 1987

TREASURER'S REPORT

May 30, 1987

Checking AcctNAPER BANK, N.A., 136 S.Washington	St.,	Naperville,	IL 60	0566
Balance brought forward - 4/30/86	\$	4,081.04		
John Carvill (Plant distribution)		382.75		
John Carvill (Contribution/Donation)		50.00		
AUCTION (1986 Annual Mtg.)		2,673.13		
Funds rec'd from Secretary		3,024.50		
Total available funds - Ckg. Acct.	\$	10,211.42	\$	10,211.42
Disbursements:				
wedge Nursery	\$	341.65		
heard nursery		151.84		
Owen M. Rogers \$294.17 \$271.05 \$317.27		882.49		
Oxford Paper Co		111.72		
W.W. Oakes (Postage) \$19.37 \$74.00		93.37		
Pauline Fiala (Postage advance)		500.00		
Canadian Funds (Debit - exchange)		94.71		
Merks Jewelry & Trophies		1,051.80		
Crain Hibben		1.000.00		
Transfer to L.M. Acct. (Undate fund)		680.00		
Man Arthur Knorr /L M.)		150.00		
Mrs. Arthur Khorr (L.M.)		10.00		
Robert Clark (Postage)		10.40		
Nat'l Council of Garden Clubs, Inc.		15.00		
Wm. H. Horman (Flowers)		23.40		
j. & J. Printing, Inc.		1,440.68		
Transfer to M.M. Acct. (Publications)		426.00		
Total disbursements-Ckg. Acct.	\$	6,979.11	\$	6,979.11
Funds on hand 4/30/87			\$	3,232.31
(Bk. Statement attached)				
Money Market Acct naper bank, N.A.		51.55		
Balance carried forward 4/30/86	\$	17,079.87		
Interest credit 4/27/86 - 4/26/87		929.25		
Arch McKean (Plant propagation/distribution)		5,000.00		
John Wister Memorial Fund		75.00		
Mrs. Arthur Knorr - L.M.		150.00		
L.M., funds transferred to update Acct.		680.00		
Publications transferred fr. Ckg. Acct.		659.00		
	\$	24,568.12	\$	24,568.12
Disbursements:				
The Graphics Supervisors	\$	5,699.62	\$	5,699.62
Total funds available - M.M. Acct. 4/26/87 (Bk Statement attached)			\$	18,868.50
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Life Memberships (30)		\$ 3,530.00	
Legal		388.50	
By - Laws		233.35	
C. C. Clark Memorial Fund		775.40	
John Wister Memorial Fund		206.30	
Hans Conreed Memorial Fund		55.10	
Arch McKean (Plant Propagation/distribution fund)		5,000.00	
Reva Ballreich (Special purpose - Printing Fund)		221.50	
(designated 4/16/86)			
Education/Research	\$ 3,633.97		
Craig Hibben (special project)	1,000.00	2,633.97	
Publications/Upton Scrap Books	\$ 4,854.48		
1986 - 7 Sales	659.00		
	\$ 5.513.48		
Disbursements	5,699.62		
(minus)	\$ 186.14		
Total funds being held in Special Accounts:	1	\$ 13,044.12	

NOTE: The interest earned in the M.M. Acct. 8/9/85 - 4/26/87 (\$744.28 & \$929.25 respectively) is reflected in the above total proportionately distributed, with such funds generated via the L.M.. along with those funds generated from General Acct. funds on deposit in the M.M. Acct. being reflected as available funds in that account.

Reconciliation: Total funds available 4/27/86 - 4/26/87		
Checking Acct. #76-976-2	\$ 3,232.31	
	Money Mar-	
	k e t	
Money Market Acct. #1-23536	18 868 50	
C.D. #038-001-2902642 (Int. rate: 10.10%)	10,000.00	
Bank One of Akron NA		
1115 S Main St Akron OH (Mat date: 9/6/87)	1 313 84	
1115 S. Main St., ARION, OH (Mat. date. 9/0/07)	4,342.04	
Total funds available 4/26 87	\$ 26,443.65	\$ 26,443.65
Funds being held in special accounts:		
M.M. Acct. #1-23536	\$ 18,868.50	
SPECIAL ACCOUNTS	13,044.12	
General Funds in M.M. Acct.	\$ 5,824.38	
Total Funds Available: 4/26/87		
General Funds in M.M. Acct. #1-23536		\$ 5,824.38
C.D. #038-001-2902642		4,342.84
Checking Acct. #76-976-2		3,232.31
SPECIAL ACCOUNTS		13,004.12
		\$ 26,443.65

Respectfully submitted: /s/ Walter E. Eickhorst, Treas.

LILAC 1987

CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT BALANCE SHEET

Denver, Co.	
Chef Leo Lunches for Friday	\$ 369.00
Regency Hotel 2 Dinners	
Box Lunches for Saturday	
Box Lunches for Sunday	
Hospitality Room	3,781.25
Transportation for Saturday Field Trip	320.00
Transportation for Sunday Tour	340.00
Taxis	21.00
Drinks Friday Lunch	26.91
Gratuities, Bus Driver	45.00
Entrance Golden Gate State Park	10.00
Entrance Rocky Mountain National Park	5.00
Badges	1.50
Doughnuts for Friday	15.00
Drink for Hospitality Room	87.19
Food for Hospitality room	72.25
Speakers gifts - Books and wrapping	118.10
Packets	8.00
	\$ 5,220.20
Income from Registration, bus tour, Peter Green	\$ 5,177.33

Respectfully Submitted: /s/ Andrew Pierce

May 1987 The Director Award

presented to Dr. Joel Margaretten Leona Valley, California

For his raising of new cultivars of **Syringa vulgaris** and the late blooming species of lilacs which are better adapted to the dry climate of southern California, and for opening his gardens for public display and study.

The President's Award

presented to

Denver Botanic Gardens

For its pioneering in growing lilacs at mile high elevations and in climates of low rainfall necessitating artificial irrigation, and For maintaining its collections for public viewing and education, and

For its hospitality in hosting the 16th Annual Meeting of the ILS.

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LILAC 1987

(\$ 42.87)



presented to

Martin J. and Mary Anne O'Fallon Trust

For endowing the Denver Botanic Gardens to improve and maintain the lilac garden for public display and education.

presented to

Mrs. C.B. Hagaman

Arvada, Colorado

For pioneering in the culture of lilacs in a dry climate and high elevation, amid insuperable difficulties, and

For opening her lovely garden to the ILS on the occasion of its 16th Annual Meeting.

presented to

Bernard W. McLaughlin

South Paris, Maine

For his superb collection of lilacs which he grows to perfection in a garden of companion plants including choice elements of North American Flora, and

For opening his garden to the public for enjoyment and education, and

For his continuing support of the International Lilac Society.

Award of Merit

presented to

Peter S. Green

Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew, England

For contributing the taxonomic treatment of the genus **Syringa** to the revised edition of "Beans Trees and Shrubs of the British Isles," and

For his lucid presentation of the botanical relationship of the Lilac to other members of the Olive Family at the 16th Annual Meeting of ILS at Denver, Colorado.

presented to

Andrew Pierce

Assistant Director of the Denver Botanic Gardens.

For his interest in the lilac as a subject for artificially irrigated gardens, and

For serving as local chairman in hosting the 16th Annual Meeting of ILS.

LILAC 1987



Bob & Marcia Hoepfl

Grape Hill Gardens Lilac Walk

