



Lilac Newsletter

Vol. XIV, No. 11, November, 1988

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*.

This publication, **LILAC NEWSLETTER** (formerly **THE PIPELINE**) is issued monthly. Back copies are available by writing to the International Lilac Society, c/o Mr. Charles Holetich, Royal Botanical Gardens, Box 399, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. L8N 3H8. Please send 50 cents for each copy requested.

President: Orville Steward,
P.O. Box 33,
Plymouth, VT 05056

Secretary: Walter W. Oakes*
Box 315, Rumford, Maine, 04276

Treasurer: Walter E. Eickhorst,
140 W. Douglas Ave., Naperville, IL 60540

Editor: Pro tem. Dr. Owen M. Rogers,
University of New Hampshire,
Durham, NH 03824

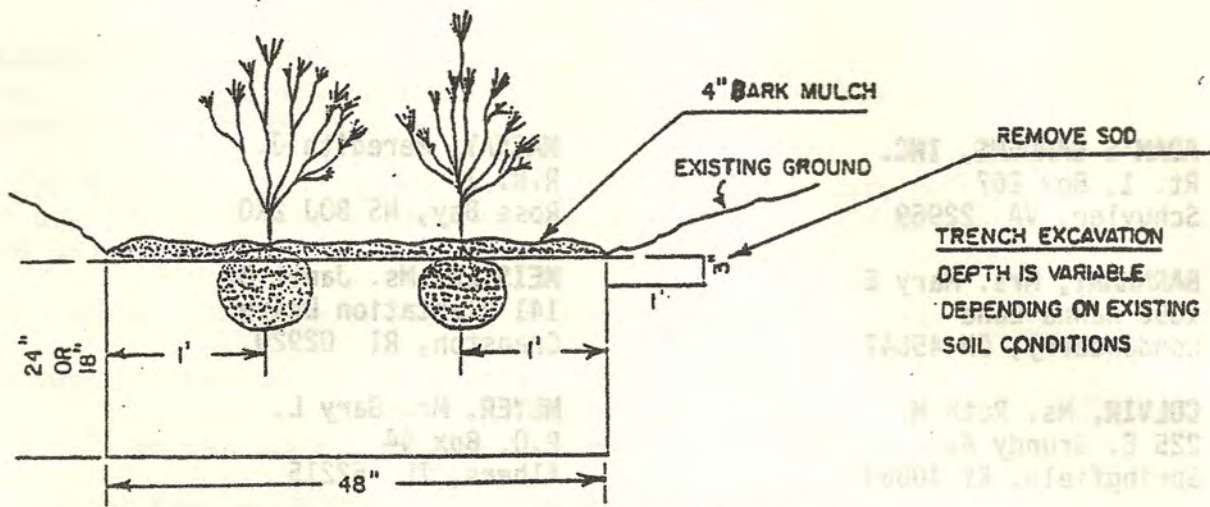
INTERNATIONAL LILAC SOCIETY,
William A. Utley, Ex. Vice-Pres.,
Grape Hill Farm, Devereaux Rd., Clyde, NY 14433

MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATION

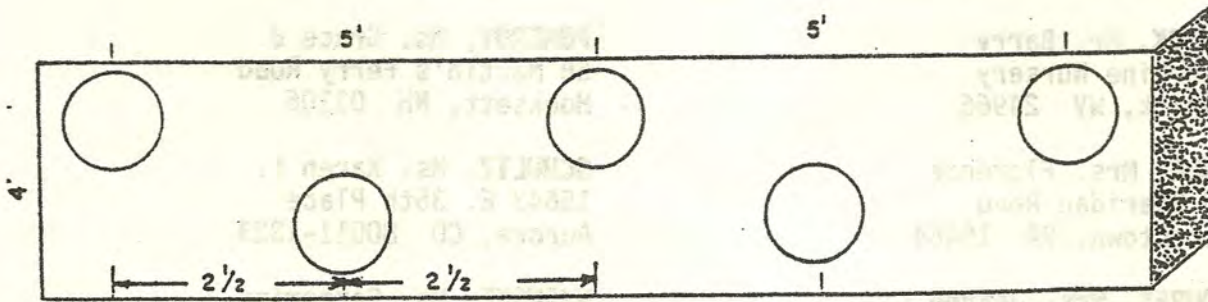
Single annual	\$ 10.00
Family	12.50
Sustaining	20.00
Institutional/Commercial	25.00
Life	150.00

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

TRENCH METHOD PLANTING DETAIL
TWO STAGGERED ROWS



TRENCH METHOD END VIEW



NOTE

TRENCH METHOD TOP VIEW

A 50' long trench 4' wide and 5' spacing 2-rows accommodates 21 plants
A 30' long trench 6' wide 5' spacing 3 rows accommodates 20 plants

FEATURE ARTICLE: PLANTS IN OPERA

The 19th century was an era rich in travel, exploration, and discovery. Taking the lead from their 18th century predecessors, naturalists fascinated Europe with accounts of unknown species in far off exotic places. To satisfy the general public's desire to see all that was reported, museums, conservatories, zoos and gardens were founded by many of the colonizing governments, each one eager to surpass the other. Music, art and literature were not immune to this fascination with the exotic; composers interwove foreign melodies and rhythms into western musical structures, and writers looked to the south and east for material for new plays, novels, and poems. Operatic audiences were treated to works by Bizet, Mascagni, Puccini, and Massenet featuring plots and characters from places as far away as Japan, China, and India.

Beyond the simple allusion to a flower as in "La fleur que tu m'avais jetée" from *CARMEN*, or the beautiful flower duet from *MADAMA BUTTERFLY*, exotic botanical species play pivotal roles in the plots of two 19th century French operas, *LAKME* by "Léo Delibes, and *L'AFRICAINNE* by Giacomo Meyerbeer. Although both operas are no longer very popular, they remain in the repertoire of many opera houses throughout the world, and certain arias from both are standard fare for today's opera singer.

LAKME (1883) takes place in India during the 19th century. The heroine, Lakmé, the daughter of a Brahmin priest, lives in idyllic splendor among the flowers and plants of her garden. Knowing the powers of the plants around her, She bites a leaf from a datura tree to end the grief of her love for Gerald, an English soldier who decides he cannot leave the army for the young Hindu woman. Of course, the effect of the datura is not immediate, and Lakmé and Gerald manage to sing together for some time after the fatal ingestion.

It is a species of the manchineel tree (*Euphorbia cotinifolia*) which Meyerbeer used to great effect in his opera *L'AFRICAINNE* (1865). Not only does a group of captured Portuguese women succumb to the deadly perfume of its blossoms in an unnamed exotic land somewhere near the Cape of Good Hope, but the heroine of the opera, a dark-skinned princess named Selika, breathes the odor of the poisonous tree as she watches her lover's ship depart. Is the manchineel tree really fatal? Can species of it be found in the Indian Ocean? It is well-known in the caribbean, where its caustic sap is avoided. However, since even the name of the heroine in the opera seems a bit out of place (Selika is an Arabian name-the character appears to be an East Indian, and is definitely a Hindu), perhaps both the librettist (Eugène Scribe) and the composer decided to stretch the truth just a bit.

II. SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (species and hybrids)

There are so many lilacs that do well in California that we have to report them in two lists. This one, also supplied by Joel Margaretten, covers Syringa hyacinthiflora cultivars as well as some species and species hybrids.

SYRINGA X HYACINTHIFLORA CULTIVARS

Alice Eastwood	Maiden's Blush
Anabel	Minnehaha
Assessippi	Mirabeau
Berryer	Montesquieu
Blue Hyacinth	Mount Baker
Bountiful	Necker
Buffon	Pink Cloud
Catinat	Pink Spray
Churchill	Pocahontas
Clarke's Giant	Purple Glory
Claude Bernard	Purple Heart
Doctor Chadwick	Rowancroft Pink
Esther Staley	Royal Purple
Evangeline	Scotia
Excel	Sister Justena
Fantasy	Splendor
Fraser	Summer Skies
Grace MacKenzie	Sunset
Hyacinthiflora Plena	Swarthmore
Jewel	Tom Taylor
Larmartine	Turgot
Laurentian	Vauban

SPECIES AND MISCELLANEOUS HYBRIDS

josikaea 'EXIMIA'	sweginzowii
josikaea 'ROSEA'	tigerstedtii
josikaea	tomentella 'ROSEA'
julianae 'HERS VARIETY'	tomentella
julianae	villosa
komarowii	vulgaris
laciniata	wolfii
meyeri 'PALIBIN'	x chinesis 'ALBA'
meyeri	x chinesis 'METENSIS'
microphylla 'SUPERBA'	x chinesis 'SAUGEANA'
oblata 'CHEYENNE'	x diversifolia 'NOUVEAU'
oblata var. alba	x henryi 'LUTECE'
oblata var. dilatata	x hyacinthiflora
oblata var. giraldii	x josiflexa 'ANNA AMHOFF'
patula cv. (Pink Form)	x josiflexa 'GUINEVERE'
patula	x josiflexa 'JAMES MACFARLANE'
pekinensis	x josiflexa 'ROYALTY'
pinnatifolia	x nanceiana 'FLOREAL'
potaninii	x nanceiana 'RUTILANT'
reflexa	x persica
reticulata var. amurensis	x swegiflexa
rhodopea	

SYRINGA CULTIVARS OF OTHER INTERSPECIFIC HYBRIDS

- 'GERMINAL'
- (S. x henryi x S. tomentella)
- 'HEDIN'
- (S. villosa x S. sweginzowii)
- 'KIM'
- (S. josikaea x S.?)
- 'MISS CANADA'
- (S. x josiflexa 'REDWINE' x
- X. x prestoniae 'HLAWATHA')
- 'PRAIRIAL'
- (S. henry x S. tomentella)

REQUEST FOR COMMERCIAL SOURCE LISTS

Walter Oakes maintains a file of sources for specific lilac cultivars. These lists are sent to new and prospective members and are the backup material from which he gets the answer to the question "Where do I find".

To keep this file up-to-date, he needs new lists from all sources as they become available or are updated. Current information will avoid unnecessary correspondence on Walter's part and disappointment on the members' part when listed items are no longer available.

Therefore, if you are offering lilacs for sale, please send your most recent list to Mr. Walter Oakes, Box 315, Rumford, ME 04276 and place his name on your mailing list to receive new lists as they are published.


IN MEMORY

We have just received word that Myron Zucker died peacefully in his sleep on 29 September 1988. His wife, Isabel Zucker, passed away on 29 November 1986 and at that time Myron told his children that he did not want to live any more.

Mrs. Judith Clark, the Zucker's daughter, writes of the enjoyment that her parents received from their association with the International Lilac Society: she writes, "They loved the gardens and out-of-doors life."

The following letter was written by a student from Yugoslavia after he had spent time working at Falconskeape. It originally appeared in the Falconskeape Gardens Newsletter.

Dear Friends of Falconskeape Gardens:

Before I arrived at Falconskeape, I thought that this is like many other jobs where horticulture students usually work. I thought that I will have strictly duties and probably be away from science for a few months. Now, I'm glad that I was mistaken.

The first time I've ever seen a place like Falconskeape is now. Last year, I had a chance to visit the Royal Botanical Gardens in Amsterdam, the Royal Gardens in Hanover and Barcelona's Magic Steps gardens, which were designed by Gouda. But Falconskeape is something different. Evenmore, I can't compare Falconskeape with any other rated garden.

Falconskeape's architectural conception is to look like a natural park. This is a very new fashion conception in gardens today. And when we worked new beds for plants with Peter Murray, Superintendant of Falconskeape Gardens, that general rule was always viewed as the purpose. Or when we did pruning, we always try to make trees look more natural.

How does a work day usually look in the Gardens? Weeding, pruning, working new beds and lots of learning. Why learning? Because on the 25 acres of this garden, you can find hundreds and hundreds of different species of trees, lilacs, peonies, daylilies, crabapples and other kinds of plants. Many of them are unique. The lilac collection has more than six hundred varieties of lilacs and all the species. I think it must be the most complete collection in the world. Two hundred of these were developed by Father John Fiala, who has great experience in hybridizing techniques. He also has produced many plants with double numbers of chromosomes, which is very interesting from the scientific aspect.

Garden Director Dr. Karen Murray, also a university professor, had the idea to open the gardens for domestic and foreign students, and I am very happy because I'm the first foreign student who had the opportunity to work and study here.

To be in Falconskeape for me is some like if you were opening a good botany book.

Pegro Dimsoski, Student of the Agriculture Faculty of
Skopje University, Yugoslavia

***** ATTENTION *****

FALCONSKEAPE is negotiating with the airlines for special discounted airfares for those planning to attend the **1989 INTERNATIONAL LILAC SOCIETY** Convention in Medina, Ohio.

In order to get these special fares, we must know how many of our members are planning to travel to the Cleveland area by air. Please fill out the form below and return it to us as soon as possible.

YES, I/We are planning to attend the Convention in May, 1989 _____

How many persons will be in your party? _____

What will be your mode of transportation? Fly _____ Other _____

If flying, from which major city will you be departing? _____
(This information is required to determine the airlines serving the largest number of Convention attendees).

It is most important that you respond to this questionnaire. The responses will be used not only in our negotiations with the airlines, but also for dealing with the hotels and other services suppliers required for coordinating a successful meeting.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone Number _____

Return form to:

**Dr. Karen T. Murray
Falconskeape Gardens
P.O. Box 1529
Medina, Ohio 44258**

LILACS YOU'LL LOVE

*Lilacs you'll love their first year -
Not bare root, they remain in high gear.
As a matter of fact,
With their root balls intact,
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I'm interested in planting lilacs with established root balls.
Please send your "LILACS YOU'LL LOVE" List to:

Name

Street Address

City State Zip

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The Lilac Farm

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In our first year at our new location in northwestern Pennsylvania we offer the following selection. We recommend ordering now for spring delivery, but if you are having a Lilac attack and really must have them this fall, we will try.

Common Lilac One Year Seedlings. Bare Root. 6-10 Inch..... \$0.70 ea.
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Ludwig Spaeth. S-VII. 6-10 inch..... \$2.80 ea.
Belle De Nancy. D-V. 4-6 inch..... \$2.40 ea.
Miss Ellen Willmott. D-I. 4-6 inch..... \$2.40 ea.
Paul Thirion. D-VI. 4-6 inch..... \$2.40 ea.

Please send a check with your order. A reasonable estimate for shipping cost is 10% of the order value; adjustment to that estimate will be made when the order is shipped.

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