

# Lilacs

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## QUARTERLY JOURNAL

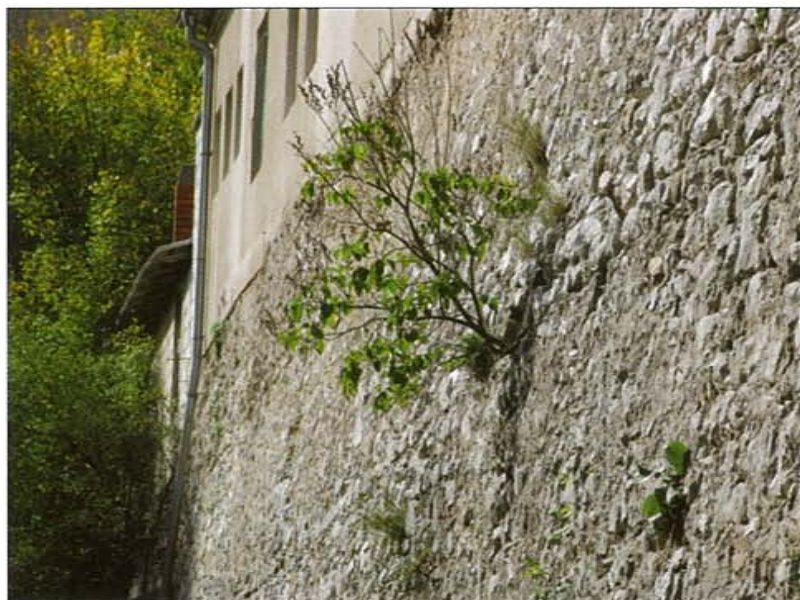
of the International Lilac Society

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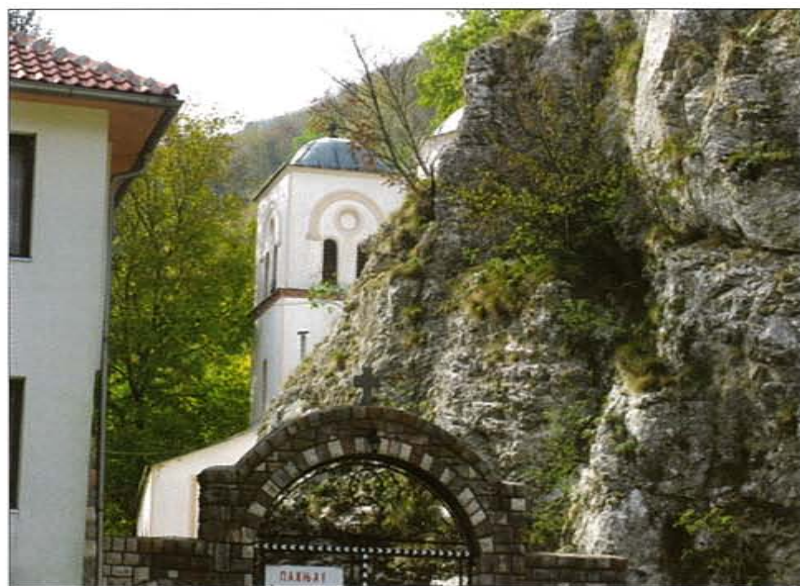
IN  
THIS  
ISSUE:

Minnesota Landscape Arb.

Convention Information



*Syringa vulgaris* growing in crevice in rock wall  
at Gornjak Monastery in Serbia  
*Photo Credit Charles Holetich*



*Syringa vulgaris* growing in another challenging situation in Serbia  
*Photo Credit Charles Holetich*

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*Cover photo:*

*Executive VP and author of books on Syringa,*

*Tatiana Poliakova poses with a basket of her favorite lilacs.*

*Photo courtesy of Tatiana Poliakova*

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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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# President's Message

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Dear Lilac Aficionados,

Spring is here; well almost, or it will be spring by the time you get this issue of Lilacs. It is with great anticipation we are waiting to see our lilacs bloom. The winter temperatures have been erratic, at least here in Virginia, USA. Fall was delayed a month but in spite of it the foliage colors were beautiful. Winter took its time to come, then after a few cold days, it seems that summer was here again. The plants, like the people, seem to be totally confused. As I write, the temperatures appear to be on a roller coaster. Mother Nature must be playing some game we are not familiar with...

So be it, we are not going to let this spoil our lilac season. We are all, I'm sure, looking forward to the ILS National Convention. Karen and Tim McCauley have a great program planned for us. The lilacs in Minnesota should be at their peak. *Mes amis*, get on that bus, train, auto or plane and head for the state of One Thousand Lakes. Prepare yourself for seeing your friends, making new ones and seeing fantastic gardens. The lilacs are waiting for us and they will put on a show. We will learn from our speakers and take home great lilacs from the auction. The ILS Board will have its meeting on Thursday May 8th. We will have the general membership meeting on Saturday May 10th. Here is your opportunity to be heard. All the members should participate and vote.

At the convention we will recognize our new members and first time attendees. In a society everyone is important. Our longtime members are the backbone of ILS. Many have put in long hours of service. We appreciate them and are grateful for their dedication. But we must look toward the future and engage young people so that the life of the society is secured. Amy Plamann, ILS Secretary, tells me that we are four hundred plus strong, and I would like to see that number grow. I will repeat it again, if everyone would bring in one new member; do the math, we would double our membership. That in itself would be quite something. Can we do it? Yes I say it; we can do it, and thank you for taking on the challenge.

I'm hoping for great things to come out of the Long-Range Committee under the leadership of Frank Moro. We need to change some things to make the society move forward and make it member friendly. Already the acceptance of credit cards year around is a big step. All societies, not just the plant societies, struggle with the question of how to attract members and how to keep them. There are so many choices out there. This is why our society needs to stand up as the best society to belong to. Certainly being dispersed all over the world

makes it difficult to communicate, but thanks to our computers we have the power to be long distance friends and talk lilac with one another. The International Lilac Robin is another great place to have discussions about *Syringa*. You need to join. This is one of your membership benefits.

Our society needs to be flexible and embrace new ways of doing things. In the business world things change quickly and it should be the same for us. On line auctions, easy access to information as with a terrific web page, publication of the journal on line, mini conventions, more lilac booklets etc. I'm just throwing ideas to the wind. Do you have ideas too? Please share them with us the board members. I like to recognize those of you who work quietly promoting ILS. I know that Evie King and Roger Coggeshall of *Syringa Plus* and Jack Alexander, from the Arnold Arboretum, are going to man a booth at a flower show in New England this Spring, as they do every year. They do mini workshops on lilacs and these do a lot to attract new members. Bill Horman, a charter member of ILS, diligently promotes Lilacs and ILS. He always generously gives to our auctions and may host a convention at Sunny Fields in the near future. Kent Millham, our editor, is preparing for a big spring festival in Rochester, New York USA. He too continually promotes lilacs. I know that our members in Russia are very active and do a splendid job keeping lilacs at the forefront. Colin Chapman, VP for Europe, is responsible for keeping our society vibrant in that part of the world. These are only a few members who come to mind but we have a lot more and I thank every one of them for their dedication.

Now the most important event for ILS is our 2008 Convention in Minnesota, USA. Here we can talk about all the above. I want to see all of you there.

Karen and Tim McCauley have worked very hard organizing three days of Lilac fun. So please send in your registration without delay and I'll see you on the lilac trail in Minnesota... À bientôt!

*Amities,  
Nicole Jordan  
ILS President  
Chester, VA USA  
February 29, 2008  
Njordan236@aol.com*

# European Newsletter

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I regret that health matters have prevented me from concocting a newsletter of usual size and scope but one matter has come to my attention which I think you should be aware of. I mentioned last time the book that Tatiana Poliakova had masterminded and about the 14 articles she had published in magazines, particularly in *Vestnik Tsvetovoda*. I think that both the Tooth Fairy and the Lilac Fairy must have read what I said because I have just received the following from the Moscow members.

"At the end of December 2007 an independent public council met with the Editorial Board of *Vestnik Tsvetovoda* to select the best author of 2007. They chose Tatiana Poliakova and conferred on her the honourable lifetime title of "The Golden Pen" for "the universality, social importance and high literary value of the articles".

The Russian team of ILS members congratulate Tatiana and wish her continued success in her literary work and her social activities. We are very glad that Tatiana's project "Moscow is the capital of the lilac" is now supported by the Moscow City Government and is being implemented. It is a tremendous project that includes a wide range of various events connected with lilacs. We hope that in 5 - 8 years the Russian team will be able to host an annual ILS Convention in Moscow to show the results of our work".

I am fortunate in that I have seen the literary works of our Executive Vice President for Russia and the rest of Asia and that I can, as I explained in my last article, make some sense of the language difference. I am sure, nevertheless, that you will join me in congratulating Tatiana for gaining a national award for lilac work: one that is beyond the remit of our Society. Well Done!

*Colin Chapman  
Norman's Farm  
Suffolk  
March 6th 2008.*

# In Memoriam

---

## **Dr. E. Eugene Fox**

August 5, 1937-January 14, 2007

Gene loved, collected and grew lilacs for nearly 30 years. He also hybridized and developed many of his own lilacs during that time. He wrote articles for the Lilac newsletters. Gene and Gail attended Spokane Lilac Festival and enjoyed it thoroughly. John Fiala's book entitled *Lilacs The Genus Syringa* was one of his favourite books to peruse.

Dr. Fox was an educator, a best friend, an author, a handyman, a lily hybridizer, a beef rancher, an administrator, a clinical psychologist, a brother, the greatest Dad, and a beloved husband of 48 years to Gail. He had a genuine fascination with people and characters and enjoyed an oddball joke or a funny story.

In retirement, Gene became a lily aficionado and became president of the North American Lily Society. In his last year of life, he wrote a book, *Martagon Lilies*, covering the beautiful species of lily which was his favourite.

An avid grower of any plant or seed he could find, his memory lives on in the flowers, fruit trees, walnuts, plums, lilacs, lilies and love that he sowed while on this earth. He is dearly missed and remembered several times each day with a smile, a tear and sometimes even a chuckle.

## **Donald R. Wedge**

Mr. Wedge passed away 3/3/2008 at the age of 94. He was a longtime member of ILS, and worked for 64 years in the family nursery business. Don was the former president of the Minnesota Nursery & Landscape Association, and a member of the International Plant Propagators Society. He is survived by sons and daughter Cleo Wedge, Brad Wedge, Rita Gray, a sister Dorothy Wedge, 4 grandchildren, and 4 great-grandchildren.

## **Mollie A. and Patrick Pesata**

Mollie A. (Amelia Anna Fiala) Pesata passed away Sunday, Sept. 16, 2007, and was preceded by her husband 4 months earlier. Mollie and Patrick were married for 60 years, and were members of the International Lilac Society. They are survived by 2 sons, Patrick and Daniel, and grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Both Mollie and Patrick were honored in the early 1980's by her brother, Rev. John Fiala, who named special lilac cultivars after them; 'Mollie Ann' and 'Pat Pesata'.



# The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

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We are honored to have the International Lilac Society holding your meetings in Chaska, MN for 2008. Thanks to Karen McCauley for all her hard work in organizing your events in Minnesota. The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum is very close to your event center and I am sure many of you will be spending much of your visit here this spring.

If you are not familiar with the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum it is a jewel of the rich cultural institutions of Twin Cities metropolitan region. We aspire to maintain our status as a nationally prominent resource for horticultural information, display gardens and research and the world's premier northern arboretum.

The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum is part of the University of Minnesota's Department of Horticultural Sciences within the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources Sciences (CFANS). The MLA's property consists of 1048 acres with research areas, 17 model landscapes, 48 collections with 5,000 taxa, restored prairies, wetlands and forests. The MLA includes the Horticultural Research Center, renowned for developing hardy apple, grape, and azalea cultivars, as well as others, through the Minnesota Ag. Experiment Station (<http://www.maes.umn.edu/>). We house the internationally recognized Andersen Horticultural Library, a must see while visiting the Arboretum.

The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum is a relatively young garden, celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year and the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Horticultural Research Center, the research arm to the MLA. We have events and exhibits planned throughout the spring and summer to celebrate this milestone.

Our summer exhibition for 2008 is a celebration of trees titled "Tree-ology" with components of the Art 'n Trees Trail art walk featuring 17 juried works of interactive public art inspired by trees; a "Grown Home" open-air rustic abode created from living birch branches; a "Tree-mendous Trees" walk encompassing favorite Arboretum trees, and a Tree Discovery Zone. The Andersen Horticultural Library will present 'Discover Trees' an informational and educational exhibition on the ecological and aesthetic value of trees in the Snyder Lobby.

If you have never been here, or have not visited for a while, you may be surprised. The Oswald Visitor Center opened January 2005 with much up-graded cafeteria and seating area, two additional Wall classrooms, a fabulous gift shop, MacMillan auditorium with seating for 375 people, Reedy art gallery and a welcoming McQuinn Great Hall. The areas behind the Oswald Visitor Center and between it and the Snyder Building have been terraced for outdoor seating, and additional garden spaces. The Oswald Visitor Center is linked by skyway to the historic Snyder Education Building with the Meyer-Deats Conservatory, the Andersen Horticultural Library and Snyder Auditorium.

We have added or reconfigured several gardens over the last few years as well.

The Griggs/Burke Annual Garden has a formal garden layout and is planted in a different color scheme each year. The garden is centered on a beautiful English fountain with "Merboys" and the gardeners plant 25,000-30,000 annuals in the garden. Next to it is the Ankeny Lang Rose Garden designed around a formal fountain and dry set granite walls, it will display the best of new roses for the Midwest. We have added a Maze garden installed in the pines collection constructed in a free form style of winding paths, switchbacks and dead ends with many of the best plants for Midwest gardens. It is two mazes in one, the first being a low challenge children's maze with play structure tunnels incorporated into the challenge, and a more advanced challenge maze with a tower overlook for supervision.

Lilacs are one of our prominent woody plant collections in addition to a substantial crabapple collection, pine collection, oak and nuts collection, arborvitae collection and 3 rose gardens. Our Lilac collections and grounds inventory currently holds 343 separate entries in 29 species or hybrids of *Syringa*.

The Hueg Lilac Collection is the Arboretum's oldest collection. It was designed by Lee Snyder, Arboretum founder Dr. Leon Snyder's son, and planted just after the land was purchased. The collection contains several different types of lilacs and their cultivars, including common, French hybrids, Chinese, Preston, Peking, and Japanese. There are currently 26 species, 123 cultivars and a total of 179 specimens in this collection. At the top of the hill is the Anne Blackman Garden and lilac information kiosk. The kiosk gives information on lilac types and cultivation.

The Staples Lilac Walk featuring a life size sculpture of St Francis with bird baths and feeders is a favorite of the front gardens. It is a well designed garden mixed with a light touch of hardscape, perennials, shrubs and trees. The Staples Lilac Walk displays *Syringa x chinensis* 'Alba', *Syringa x hyacinthiflora* 'Sister Justina', 'Maiden's Blush'; *Syringa pubescens* subsp. *patula* 'Miss Kim'. *Syringa x josiflexa* 'James MacFarlane', *Syringa* 'Miss Canada', 'Minuet'; *Syringa x prestoniae* 'Isabella', *Syringa vulgaris* 'Sensation', 'Belle de Nancy', 'Wedgwood Blue', 'Violetta', 'Agincourt Beauty' to name a few.

The Bailey Shrub Walk is a wonderful resource for northern gardeners, dedicated in honor and memory of Gordon Bailey Sr., of Bailey Nurseries, Cottage Grove, MN. The Bailey Shrub Walk displays the best shrubs for our region organized alphabetically by genus in well designed display beds. It holds a small, but respectable 25 samples of the best *Syringa* for our region.

Lilacs do well in Minnesota but many get mildew by summer's end and can be unsightly. Not surprisingly, we also battle borers and scale here. We are limited mostly by cold winter temperatures here. As you well know, lilacs can always be justified however by their fragrant and spectacular blooms in May and June.

I hope you will enjoy our collections. I look forward to your visit to the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum and meeting with many of you. I encourage you to visit our website at <http://www.arboretum.umn.edu>

Jeffrey Johnson  
Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

## Minnesota Landscape Arboretum Statistical Summary 2007

### Vision

To be the world-class northern arboretum.

### Mission

To be a resource for horticultural and environmental information, research and public education. To inspire and delight visitors with quality plants in well designed and maintained displays, collections, model landscapes, and conservation areas.

### Geography

The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum's location:

- 44° 51' 30" latitude
- 93° 35' 63" longitude
- Average elevation 950' above sea level with
- Range from 942' to 1062'
- Average temperature Summer 26.6 °C
- Average temperature Winter -12 °C
- Located in the Big Woods – maple (*Acer*), basswood (*Tilia*), mixed oak (*Quercus*), woodland – edge of tall grass prairie
- Invasive species – *Lythrum*, *Rhamnus*, *Phalaris* (reed canary grass)

### Statistics

- University Location: Department of Horticultural Science, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences.
- Area: 1047 acres – propose to purchase 120 more for watershed protection and to tie lands together.
- History:
  - Horticultural Research Center founded in 1908
  - Arboretum proper founded in 1958
- Visitorship 2007  
259,054

- Membership 2007  
18,900  
(Members in 86 of Minnesota's 87 counties)
- Auxiliary members 2007  
320
- Volunteers 2007  
650  
Documented hours volunteered – 29,221  
Total value - \$548,478
- Staff 2007  
Winter – 73-77 (67 FTE) (includes Library) (81 includes Library & Restaurant)  
Summer – 114-118 (100 FTE) (includes Library) (134 includes Library & Restaurant)
- Budget 2008  
\$9,722,853 (see budget summary)

#### Research Programs

(Department of Horticultural Science) Internationally recognized (139 total introductions)

- Apples: Hardiness, disease resistance, storage capability
- 25 Introductions – most famous: Regent, Fireside, Haralson, Honeycrisp, Zestar!, and SnowSweet™
- Grapes: Hardiness, table, and wine (8 introductions)  
Wine: Frontenac, La Crescent, Frontenac Gris, Marquette  
Table: Edelweiss, Swenson Red
- Other fruit: 69 varieties – pear, plum, apricot, raspberry, strawberry, blueberry
- Northern Lights Azaleas: 14 cultivars – best known: Northern Lights, White Lights, Golden Lights. New: Tri-Lights, Lilac Lights, Candy Lights
- Trees: 15 cultivars – best known: Northwood and Autumn Spire Red Maple, Northland Strain Redbud
- Miscellaneous Landscape Plants: 10 cultivars – best known: Northern Sun, Forsythia, Cardinal Dogwood, Princess Kay Plum, Northern Pearls Pearlshrub
- Ornamental Grass: hardiness studies – best known: 'Blue Heaven', Little Bluestem
- Wetland Restoration: Research and demonstration  
Spring Peeper Meadow, 13-acre ecological restoration

#### Education Program: 2007

- Children: National Award winning program. Total

- participants 2007: 53,783
- School classes, basic sciences, on and off-site: 38,373
- Summer Programs, sciences, life skills, on and off-site: 3,720
- Family Programs: 11,690
- Adult: Total Participants 2007: 2,897
- Public Policy Symposia: 1,078
- Informal classes: 1,819
- Special Audience: International Recognition
- Horticultural Therapy: People served in various programs, on and off-site:
  - Community Outreach – 1,800
  - Training – 1,057
  - Program Attendees – 2,095
  - University credit classes – 26

#### Andersen Horticultural Library: International Recognition

- 17,000 volumes
- 50,000+ seed and nursery catalogue collection
- Publications: 6 books, 6 issues of *Flowering Plant Index*, and one cumulative index, 6 editions of *AHL Source List of Plants and Seeds* (6<sup>th</sup> Edition lists 90,000 plants)

#### Plants on Line

- 913 North American Nurseries
- 100,456 plants
- 345,955 citations to 102,000 plants in science & garden literature
- Link to selected websites for images & regional info about 6,000 plants
- Access info on 2,302 North American Seed and Nursery firms

#### Gardens & Collections

- Model Landscapes: 17 models. Landscape models for various functions such as parking lots, back yards, recreated natural areas.
- Major models: Home Demonstration Gardens, Parking Lot Plantings, Restored Native Landscapes, Runoff Model, Rain Gardens.
- Collections: 48 collections with 5,000 taxa.
  - Major collections: Crabapple, Pine, Maple, Hosta
- Display Gardens: 32 displays. Major displays: Herbs, Perennials, Roses, Hosta, Annuals, Prairie Entrance Garden.

Polin/docs/2007/statisticalsummary.doc

# Lilac Species and Cultivars at Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

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*Syringa* 'Bailbelle' TINKERBELLE™

'Bailsugar' SUGAR PLUM FAIRY™

'Minuet'

'Miss Canada'

*Syringa x chinensis*

'Alba'

'Lilac Sunday'

'Saugeana'

*Syringa emodi*

*Syringa henryi x S. tomentella*

'Prairial'

*Syringa x hyacinthiflora*

'Assissippi'

'Blanche Sweet'

'Buffon'

'Charles Nordine'

'Doctor Chadwick'

'Esther Staley'

'Evangeline'

'Excel'

'Gertrude Leslie'

'Lamartine'

'Lavender Lady'

'Laurentian'

'Maiden's Blush'

'Minnehaha'

'Montesquieu'

'Mount Baker'

'Nokomis'

'Pocahontas'

'Scotia'

'Sister Justena'

'Tom Taylor'

*Syringa x josiflexa*

'Anna Amhoff'

'Guinevere'

'James Macfarlane'

'Royalty'

*Syringa josikaea*

'H. Zabel'

- Syringa x laciniata*  
*Syringa meyeri*  
     'Palibin'  
*Syringa oblata* subsp. *dilatata*  
     'Cheyenne'  
*Syringa x persica*  
*Syringa pekinensis*  
     'TR 124' SUMMER CHARM™  
     'Morton' CHINA SNOW™  
*Syringa x prestoniae*  
     'Desdemona'  
     'Donald Wyman'  
     'Hiawatha'  
     'Isabella'  
     'Jessica'  
     'Nerissa'  
     'Nocturne'  
     'Patience'  
     'Romeo'  
     'Valeria'  
*Syringa pubescens* subsp. *julianae*  
     'George Eastman'  
*Syringa pubescens* subsp. *patula*  
     'Miss Kim'  
*Syringa pubescens* subsp. *patula* x *S. pubescens* subsp. *pubescens*  
     'Skinneri'  
*Syringa reticulata*  
     'Ivory Silk'  
*Syringa rhodopea*  
*Syringa x sweginflexa*  
     'Fountain'  
*Syringa sweginzowii*  
     'Densiflora'  
*Syringa tigerstedtii*\*  
 \*Ed. Note: According to Chang and Green in the *Flora of China* 15:283 (1996)  
*Syringa tigerstedtii* is no longer recognized as a species, but is included  
 in *S. sweginzowii*  
*Syringa tomentella*  
     'Rosea'  
*Syringa villosa*  
*Syringa villosa* x *S. sweginzowii*  
     'Hedin'

*Syringa vulgaris*

'Adelaide Dunbar'  
'Agincourt Beauty'  
'Albert F. Holden'  
'Alice Harding'  
'Alphonse Lavallée'  
'Andenken an Ludwig Späth'  
'Angel White'  
'Arch McKean'  
'Belle de Nancy'  
'Capitaine Baltet'  
'Capitaine Perrault'  
'Charles Joly'  
'Charles X'  
'Charm'  
'Dappled Dawn'  
'De Miribel'  
'De Saussure'  
'Decaisne'  
'Edith Cavell'  
'Edouard André'  
'Edward J. Gardner'  
'Etna'  
'Father John Fiala'  
'Firmament'  
'Gloire d'Aalsmeer'  
'Glory'  
'Henri Martin'  
'Henri Robert'  
'Jacques Callot'  
'Katherine Havemeyer'  
'Krasavitsa Moskvya'  
'Leon Gambetta'  
'Lucie Baltet'  
'Lustrous'  
'Macrostachya'  
'Maréchal Foch'  
'Marie Finon'  
'Marie Frances'  
'Marie Legraye'  
'Marie Marcelin'  
'Michel Buchner'  
'Miss Ellen Willmott'  
'Mme. Abel Chateney'



'Mme. Antoine Buchner'  
'Mme. F. Morel'  
'Mme. Florent Stepman'  
'Mme. Lemoine'  
'Monge'  
'Monore' BLUE SKIES™  
'Montaigne'  
'Mrs. Calvin Coolidge'  
'Mrs. Edward Harding'  
'Mrs. W. E. Marshall'  
'Nadezhda'  
'Night'  
'Olivier de Serres'  
'Paul Thirion'  
'Peerless Pink'  
'Président Fallières'  
'Président Grévy'  
'President Lincoln'  
'Primrose'  
'Princess Alexandra'  
'Priscilla'  
'Reaumur'  
'Ruhm von Horstenstein'  
'Sarah Sands'  
'Sensation'  
'Silver King'  
'Sweet Refrain'  
'Vestale'  
'Victor Lemoine'  
'Violetta'  
'Waldeck-Rousseau'  
'Wedgwood Blue'  
'White Swan'  
'Wonder Blue'  
'Yankee Doodle'

*Syringa wolfii*

# 2008 ILS Convention – Tentative Agenda

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May 8 – 10, 2008  
Chaska, Minnesota

## Thursday May 8

- 10:00 – 2:00 Registration
- 10:00 – 2:00 Directors' Meeting
- 2:30 – 3:00 New members meeting
- 3:00 – 3:30 Shuttle bus to a nearby ILS members' garden
- 3:30 – 4:00 Hands on Pruning & Maintenance workshop
- 5:00 – 7:00 Welcome reception (linger amongst the lilacs with wine and cheese and meet & greet new and old friends)
- 7:00 – 7:30 Shuttle back to Oak Ridge Hotel
- 7:30 – 9:00 Registration
- 7:30 – 10:00 Hospitality

## Friday May 9

- 7:00 – 8:30 Breakfast
- 8:30 Board buses
- 9:30 Tour Bailey's Wholesale Nursery Compound
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:00 Tour an ILS members' Lilac collection
- 3:30 Buses return to Oak Ridge Hotel
- 7:00 President's Dinner and speaker

## Saturday May 10

- 7:00 – 8:30 Breakfast
- 7:30 – 8:30 Directors' meeting
- 8:45 Board buses to the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum
- 9:00 Bus tour of Arboretum, Tour the Arboretum Lilac collection and Lilac walk
- 12:00 – 1:00 Lunch and general meeting
- 1:15 Buses return to Oak Ridge Hotel
- 2:00 – 4:00 ILS Auction
- 6:30 Cash bar
- 7:00 Awards Banquet

# Directions to Oak Ridge Dolce Conference Center

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Chaska, Minnesota, May 8, 9, 10, 2008

Our hotel, the Oak Ridge, is in Chaska, about 25 miles from Minneapolis/ St. Paul International Airport. The airport is a major Northwest Airlines hub. Consequently, NWA offers nonstop flights from many US and international cities.

Taxi service is readily available from the airport to the hotel and will run about \$55 per vehicle one way. Super Shuttle ([www.supershuttle.com](http://www.supershuttle.com)) also offers service to and from the hotel for \$39 one way.

Driving Directions:

**From the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport and East Metro** - Take I-494 West approx. 8.7 miles to Hwy 5 West (exit 11C). Take Hwy 5 West 11 miles to Hwy 41 South. Turn left on Hwy 41 South and proceed 1.7 miles. Watch for the green directional sign that says "Oak Ridge Drive". Turn right on Oak Ridge Drive.

**From the Southern Metro** - Take I-35W North and exit I-494 West. Take I-494 West approx. 5 miles to Hwy 5 West (exit 11C). Take Hwy 5 West 11 miles to Hwy 41 South. Turn left on Hwy 41 South and proceed 1.7 miles. Watch for the green directional sign that says "Oak Ridge Drive". Turn right on Oak Ridge Drive.

A map with directions will be included with the registration confirmation. For more information, visit the following web sites.

**Oak Ridge Dolce Conference Center** [www.oakridge.dolce.com](http://www.oakridge.dolce.com)

**Minnesota Landscape Arboretum** [www.arboretum.umn.edu](http://www.arboretum.umn.edu)

**Minnesota Dept of Tourism** [www.exploreminnesota.com](http://www.exploreminnesota.com)

**International Lilac Society** [www.internationallilacsociety.org](http://www.internationallilacsociety.org)

Karen & Tim McCauley

952.443.3703

[mccauleytk@aol.com](mailto:mccauleytk@aol.com)

*Please call if you have any questions.*

# ILS 2008 Tentative Auction Plant List

Flower	Name	Species	Originator	Date
S II		<i>x laciniata</i>		
		<i>pubescens</i> subsp. <i>patula</i>		
S I	'Agnes Smith'	<i>x josiflexa</i>	Rogers	1970
S IV	'Asessippi'	<i>x hyacinthiflora</i>	Skinner	1932
S V	'Bailbelle' (Tinkerbelle™)	<i>Int. Sp. Hybrid</i>	Holland	Pre 1999
S III	'Blanche Sweet'	<i>x hyacinthiflora</i>	Fiala	1988
S V	'Buffon'	<i>x hyacinthiflora</i>	Lemoine	1921
S V	'California Rose'	<i>x hyacinthiflora</i>	Sobeck	
D VII	'Charles Joly'	<i>vulgaris</i>	Lemoine	1896
S VI	'Charles X'	<i>vulgaris</i>	origin not known	pre 1830
S III	'Cheyenne'	<i>oblata dilatata</i>	Hildreth	1971
S VI	'Clyde Heard'	<i>vulgaris</i>	Heard	1984
D VI	'Condorcet'	<i>vulgaris</i>	Lemoine	1888
S III	'Dappled Dawn'	<i>vulgaris</i>	Hauck	1966
S VII	'Donald Wyman'	<i>x prestoniae</i>	Skinner	1944
D VI	'Evangeline'	<i>x hyacinthiflora</i>	Skinner	1934
S IV	'Excel'	<i>x hyacinthiflora</i>	Skinner	1932
D I	'Fiala Remembrance'	<i>vulgaris</i>	Margaretten	
S III	'Firmament'	<i>vulgaris</i>	Lemoine	1932
S IV	'Forrest Kresser Smith'	<i>x hyacinthiflora</i>	Sobeck	pre 1996
S I	'Frederick Law Olmsted'	<i>vulgaris</i>	Fenicchia	
D III	'General (John) Pershing'	<i>vulgaris</i>	Dunbar	1917
D V	'Katherine Havemeyer'	<i>vulgaris</i>	Lemoine	1922
D I	'Krasavitsa Moskvj'	<i>vulgaris</i>	Kolesnikov	1947
S VII	'Lavender Lady'	<i>x hyacinthiflora</i>	Lammerts	1954
D V	'Le Printemps'	<i>vulgaris</i>	Lemoine	1901
S V	'Lucie Baltet'	<i>vulgaris</i>	Baltet	Pre 1888
S V	'Macrostachya'	<i>vulgaris</i>	Renaud	1874
S I	'Marie Legraye'	<i>vulgaris</i>	Legraye	1879
S III-IV	'Mechta'	<i>vulgaris</i>	Kolesnikov	1941
D IV	'Michel Buchner'	<i>vulgaris</i>	Lemoine	1885
D I	'Miss Ellen Willmott'	<i>vulgaris</i>	Lemoine	1903
D I	'Mme. Lemoine'	<i>vulgaris</i>	Lemoine	1890
S VII	'Monge'	<i>vulgaris</i>	Lemoine	1913
S I	'Mount Baker'	<i>x hyacinthiflora</i>	Skinner	1961
S V	'Mrs. Harry Bickle'	<i>vulgaris</i>	Rolph	1956
S VII	'Mrs. W.E. Marshall'	<i>vulgaris</i>	Havemeyer	1924
D III-IV	'Nadezhda'	<i>vulgaris</i>	Kolesnikov	
D I	'Oakes Double White'	<i>vulgaris</i>	origin not known	
D V-II	'Olive May Cummings'	<i>vulgaris</i>	Berdeen	1979
D VI	'Paul Thirion'	<i>vulgaris</i>	Lemoine	1915

Flower Name	Species	Originator	Date
S II 'President Lincoln'	<i>vulgaris</i>	Dunbar	1916
S VII 'President Roosevelt'	<i>vulgaris</i>	Dunbar	1919
D VII 'Royal Purple'	<i>x hyacinthiflora</i>	Skinner	1966
S VI 'Ruhm von Horstenstein'	<i>vulgaris</i>	Wilke	1928
S VII 'Sarah Sands'	<i>vulgaris</i>	Havemeyer	1943
S V-VII 'Saugeana'	<i>x chinensis</i>	Sauge	1820
S I 'Sister Justina'	<i>x hyacinthiflora</i>	Skinner	1956
D V 'Spokane'	<i>x hyacinthiflora</i>	Ballreich	1999
D VI 'Sweetheart'	<i>vulgaris</i>	Clarke	1953
S V 'Virginia Becker'	<i>vulgaris</i>	Becker	1947
S VII 'Volcan'	<i>vulgaris</i>	Lemoine	1899
S VII 'Yankee Doodle'	<i>vulgaris</i>	Fiala	1985

## I can grow and bloom anyplace

During my presentation about native habitat of *Syringa vulgaris* L. at Mackinac Island, you were informed about its enormous geographic range of growth, its capability to naturalize itself, from hillside of sea of Marmora in Turkey to Anchorage, Alaska, or example as a companion plant to a palm tree in Adriatic. That is not all! Native European lilac *Syringa vulgaris* L., which has over 1200 descendants, is still full of surprises.

In October 2007 while exploring *Syringa vulgaris*, L., habitats in Serbia, I came across rather unusual place of its growth; crevice of the stone wall of Gornjak Convent (Monastery).

The Convent is located in the gorge of river Mlava on road between Ždrelo and Krepoljin, about 20 km S-E from Petrovac.

Soil in the crevice is practically non-existent, apart from decay of tree foliage and sand dust washed by rain from the stone wall above.

The Lilac is about 4 feet (120 cm) in height and remnants of the spent bloom on the enclosed photo indicate it was quite floriferous in spring of 2007.

About 50 feet (15 m) away, the small river Mlava offers its crystal clear cold water. Its evaporation makes the air cool and moist, while accompanying tall trees produce soft and filtering sunrays throughout the day. Perhaps that is what *Syringa vulgaris* L., lilac enjoys the most.

On the nearby cliffs, with hardly any soils, but more than on the wall, native lilacs may be found also as a solitary plant or in a group of 3 – 5 or more plants. Further up the slope where under influence of freezing and thawing, stone

seepages are created, locally known as sipari, and in or along them group of lilacs in forming thickets sometimes 30 or more feet, (10 m) in length, locally known as sibljaci, may be found.

They are basically shoots or whips of straight lilac stems mainly up to an inch (2,5 cm) in thickness and 4 – 8 feet (120 to 250 cm) in height.

If one goes on the internet and requests information about Gornjak Monastery Serbia one may be offered a bus trip from Belgrade to the Monastery and back for a relatively small fee. Above the small cemetery serving the Convent is the high tension electric wire-tower, accessible with a relative ease, around which native lilacs are quite prolific, however with pair of binoculars one can see on opposite hillside several stone seepages and lilac groups, while half a mile along the road that follows the river, toward Ždrelo or Petrovac is a water fountain. There one may find parking space for several cars, enjoy pristine water and scenery of the hillside across the road and river Mlava. About 300 – 500 feet (100 – 150 m) on 40 – 45 degree slope several group of lilacs up to 30 – 50 feet (10 – 15 m) can be found. The climb is quite demanding.

*Syringa josikaea* another native European lilac in contrast to *Syringa vulgaris*, prefers in many ways a different growing condition, but that story I'll leave for month of May 2008, when I'll have several photos of the plant brought from native site in Romania, as 6 inch (15 cm) tall specimen, and planted in Croatia. I'll have photos of its location size and its bloom. Considering that a good photo is equivalent to a thousand words it will be I hope an eye opener for you as it was for me.

Charles Holetich  
December 17, 2007

## Age Calculation of Oldest Lilacs on Mackinac Island

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During International Lilac Society Annual Convention in June 2007, Ms. Trish Martin, Mackinac Island Naturalist, and I, selected four lilac specimens on the Island for purpose of establishing their age.

Dr. Želimir Borzan, retired professor of Dendrology and Forest Genetics, from Faculty of Forestry, University of Zagreb, Croatia, Mr. Freek Vrugtman, Lilac cultivar Registrar and myself extracted, with an increment borer, samples of wood core at approximately 24 inches in height above the ground. The borer was directed toward the centre of the trunk and cores with indicated annual rings were extracted, counted and the age for each specimen calculated.

On specimen No. 1, in Park area at Chamber's Riding Station, which had 18.5 inch diameter trunk, thus 9.25 inch radius. 2.62 inch wood core was extracted and 24 years counted.

Equation asking how many years is contained in 9.25 inch radius, if 2.62 inch core contains 24 years was applied? The answer is 83.77 years, which was rounded to 84 years. If two years are added for lilac to grow from its germination to approx. 24" height, then total estimated age of lilac specimen No. 1 is 86 years.

On specimen No. 2, at the house of the owner of "London Square store", which had 17.25 inches diameter, thus 8.625 inches radius, 3.5 inch wood core was extracted and 36 years counted.

Equation asking how many years is contained in 8.625 inch radius if 3.5 inches core had 36 years was applied? The answer is 88.71 years, which was rounded to 89 years. If two years are added for lilac growth from its germination to approx. 24" height, then total estimated age of lilac specimen No. 2 is 91 years.

On specimen No. 3 on Main Street at Harbour View Hotel property,- west side sample which had 12.5 inch diameter, thus 6.25 inch radius, 3.75 inch wood core was extracted and 37 years counted.

Equation asking how many years is contained in 6.25 inch radius if 3.37 inch core had 37 years was applied? The answer is 61.66 years, which was rounded to 62 years. If two years are added for lilac growth from germination to approx 24" height, then total estimated age of lilac specimen No. 3 is 64 years.

On specimen No. 4 on Main Street at Harbour View Hotel property – east side sample, which had 13.25 inch diameter, thus 6.625 inch radius. After approx 1.25 inch radius wood core, the increment borer revealed deteriorated (rotted) center area of the lilac trunk, hence the information were rendered as poor to questionable in quality as a reliable sample. Therefore it was not taken into consideration for the age calculation.

The thickness of annual ring growth on each specimen was greater than known with lilacs on the mainland, which points toward favourable growing condition on the island in terms of growing period (without appreciable summer droughts), amount of available air moisture which lilacs enjoy, as well as large body of water around the island, which has cooling effect on the lilacs.

*Charles Holetich*



## Lilacs for Cold Climates—A review

by Freek Vrugtman

*Lilacs for Cold Climates*, is written by Laura Jull, associate professor of horticulture, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, University of Wisconsin-Madison, and published by UW-Extension (Publication A3825; February 1, 2007; 8" H 11; 12 pages; illustrated; soft-cover).

This publication is aimed at the home gardener in the general region defined by the USDA Cold Hardiness Zones 3 to 5. It answers many of the basic questions a homeowner may have about selecting, planting, pruning and caring for garden lilacs; it also may serve garden centers and nurseries in advising their customers.

Pages one to four deal with selecting lilacs, site selection, care of lilacs, disease and insect pest management. Pages five to ten present cultivar descriptions, sorted by flowering season, namely early, mid-season and late-season. Page eleven covers the tree lilacs. The cultivars, grouped according to the major flower colors, i.e. white, violet, blue, lilac, pink, magenta and purple, are listed with a brief description and, where applicable, their parentage.

Cultivar selection is very much a matter of personal taste and experience. The author, who teaches plant materials for landscaping, recommends some of the older, reliable performers and some promising, recent introductions.

Although there are clear distinctions in the text between cultivar names (enclosed in single quotation marks) and trademarks (indicated by the symbols ® and ™) this is not evident in the captions superimposed on the photographs. It is good seeing the correct use of diacritics in French and German epithets; all too often they are omitted by North American horticultural writers and nurserymen.



Alas a few misspellings went undetected. 'Asessippi' (not 'Assessippi'), 'Edith Cavell'(not 'Edith Cavalle'), 'James Macfarlane'(not 'James MacFarlane'), 'Zhang Zhiming' (not 'Zhang Zhimming'). 'Frederick Law Olmsted' (not 'Frederick Law Olmstead' as on the photo).

There is an apparent discrepancy between 'KLMone' and 'Klmone'; both versions can be found in trade catalogs. The epithet is composed of the entities "KLM" for "Klehm", the family name of the originator, and "one", for the number one; 'KLMone' ("Klehm number one") because this was the first lilac cultivar introduced by Roy G. Klehm of Beaver Creek Nursery, Poplar Grove, Illinois. Yes, nurseryman can be quirky in naming their offspring!

Should there be a second, revised edition of this very useful publication, as we hope there will be, this reviewer would like to see two major improvements.

Firstly, *Syringa Villosae* Group was published, established and accepted in 2002, and registered in 2003 (*HortScience* 39(6):1524; October 2004). We recommend that the *Villosae* Group classification be incorporated in future writings.

Secondly, the International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants (ICNCP-2004) recommends that trademarks and trade designations be distinguished typographically from cultivar or group epithets. For instance, *Syringa vulgaris* 'Krasavitsa Moskv'y' can be found in the nursery trade as BEAUTY OF MOSCOW, is marketed in Germany as SCHÖNE VON MOSKAU™ and MÄDCHEN AUS MOSKAU, and is marketed in France as BELLE DE MOSCOU.

Horticultural writers and teachers have the responsibility of following the rules of the ICNCP and setting the example; without their leadership plant names will remain in state of confusion.

This publication is available from UW Cooperative Extension Publishing. To order, call toll free 877-947-7827 or visit web site <[learningstore.uwex.edu](http://learningstore.uwex.edu)> The price is US\$2.50 per copy plus US\$7.00 for shipping and handling for any number of copies in a single order.

## Lilac Profiles

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*Syringa pubescens* subsp. *julianae* 'George Eastman'

This very ornamental form of *julianae* was discovered as a chance plant discovered in a planting at Durand-Eastman Park, an arboretum of the Monroe County Parks Department. Richard A. Fenicchia discovered it, and it has a deep, richer magenta color than the typical hue of the subsp. *julianae*. It was named for the founder of Eastman Kodak, and a planting of several shrubs has been planted in the collection at Highland Botanical Park in Rochester, NY, USA.

## Swap Meet

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This is a new feature that has been an interest of members. If there is a lilac that you wish to have, possibly someone from the International Lilac Society has one, and would be willing to share or trade cuttings or root suckers of it.

Of course, the yearly ILS auction is a major source of rare lilacs, and the excitement of bidding on one of your favorites or an unknown gem to help ILS should not be missed. However, swapping with members is another method of obtaining the cultivar that you want. Send in the cultivar name of the lilac(s) that you want, along with contact information, and it will be printed in the next issue of *Lilacs*.

Here is the first request:

Wanted: 'Fürst Bülow'

If you have available a rooted cutting or sucker contact :

Harry or Nancy Latimer

P.O. Box 444

Emory, VA 24327

276-944-4017

Note to Harry and Nancy- see article below. A 'Fürst Bülow' is in the collection at Highland Botanical Park. Only 1 or 2 tiny root suckers were seen in the winter. I will recheck in the spring, and also try to root cuttings in June. If anyone has a good sized sucker available, feel free to contact Harry and Nancy.

-Kent Millham

# For the Love of Lilacs

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Thanks to Highland Botanical Park, a few more rare lilacs may soon be available. On a cold January day, Kent Millham and I braved frozen ground, snow and slippery slopes seeking root shoots of 'Triste Barbaro', 'Susan B. Anthony', 'Topaz', and 'Fürst Bülow'. Wielding his trowel, shovel, and pruners like a surgeon, Kent managed to get a few live shoots, with roots, from 'Triste Barbaro' only.

Hopefully, skilled propagators like Joe Lindstrom or Deb McCown can work their magic to get this gem in the trade, or available at our auctions. I am interested in developing the other three, also, and will trade for, or pay for them as necessary.

Ted Collins  
AKA Doc Lilac  
Phone: 585-223-1669  
Fax: 585-421-3893  
January 21, 2008

## Lilac Lore –A Whimsical Exploration of Lilacdom

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Lilacdom - a wonderful word! Was it coined by Father John Fiala? He used it often and well and with heart in his book "Lilacs - The Genus Syringa" published in 1988. He devoted ten years to creating this book, a foundation for understanding lilac culture and history. The spell-check on my computer does not want to recognize 'lilacdom' as a valid word. I cannot find it in the dictionary although I can find Lilliput and Wonderland. Why not Lilacdom. ?

Alas— our lexicon is lacking a perfectly good word! Lilacdom - I love that word! It conjures up a magical place of intoxicating fragrance, beautiful shrubs and landscapes filled with lilacs permanently in bloom!

But Lilacdom is much more than beautiful shrubs and landscapes. Lilacdom has a long and rich history involving people, faraway places, adventures and stories. Who knows when and where lilac culture began? Was it in the limestone hills of the Balkans where our beloved *vulgaris* species was found? Was it in China thousands of years ago when that fine land was blessed with so many beautiful plants and shrubs? Was it in the forests of the *villosa* species, the late blooming lilac, found around Beijing? Or was the beginning in Korea, India Japan or in Hungary where other lilac species were discovered? We will never know exactly when and where its history began, but thanks to the intrepid plant explorers, collectors, botanists and hybridizers of earlier times

who have enormously enriched ; perhaps woven the rich fabric of Lilacdom with their lifelong monumental efforts. These plant/lilac lovers discovered, distributed, propagated, improved and made known these precious plants - the lilacs. It is fortunate that people around the world , prince and pauper alike, have always been willing to share and give as gifts these beautiful plants. Nothing has changed today. The dispersion of these beauties continues around the world and has inspired hybridizers to make them even more beautiful.

With beginnings of twenty-one species, thousands of hybrids have been developed. Who knows from these, how many worthy cultivars and variations have shown up - not to mention the open pollinated wildlings that volunteer to grow on their own - - given the opportunity—making our world a more beautiful place.

“Oh yes, my friends” Fiala’s words echo in my head – Lilacdom is a captivating, fascinating and exciting domain if you take time to explore it. For those of you who are not familiar with

Lilacdom, follow me and I will guide you through a part of this enchanting domain. One could easily get lost, not only among beautiful shrubs but anywhere in this rich culture, its history, taxonomy, genetics, or hybridization.

When a young child experiences a lilac blossom for the first time, he or she is easily drawn into the magic of lilacs. Memories and sensations are locked into their souls. Strong associations form that transport them immediately to a fantasy land and then later in life transport them back to childhood and the magical moments of encountering lilacs. So it is not surprising in this magical domain of lilacs that we encounter dwarfs, elves , pixies, and characters from fairy tales.

Yes, little lilacs with names like Tinkerbelle™, ‘White Elf’ , ‘Munchkin’ , ‘Pixie’, Thumbelina™, ‘Little Miss Muffet’, ‘Red Pixie’, ‘Dwarf Princess’, Sugar Plum Fairy™, ‘Anastasia’, Prince Charming™, Fairy Dust™— all suitably describing small lilacs in shades and variations of whites, pinks, lavenders and purples. Some of these dwarfs, if given suitable conditions are exuberant enough to bloom a second time in late summer. What little child less than three feet high is not thrilled to encounter a lilac shrub that relates to his or her own height bearing a familiar name?

Let us continue on into Lilacdom . Among these beautiful shrubs we are reminded of history and of real people people who have contributed to mankind in some way and are commemorated in lilacs. We meet the namesakes of American and French Presidents: Lincoln, Roosevelt, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Poincaré, Grévy, Viger.

As we explore further we find the namesakes of generals , captains, dukes and duchesses, queens, princes and princesses. There are namesakes of explorers,

plant breeders, botanists, horticulturists and scientists who furthered the study of botany and plant genetics.

Numerous lilacs were named for members of the hybridizers' families, - sons, daughters, husbands wives, etc. Behind every name there is a story and a real person.

Let us explore more of this special domain. Hybridizers have been touched by special natural events or moments in time of our beautiful planet. They have tried to preserve memories of these moments in lilac shrubs with names like 'Dappled Dawn', 'Crépuscule', 'Summer Skies', 'Sunrise', 'Sunset', 'Spring Dawn', 'Touch of Spring', 'Snow Showers', 'Snowdrift', 'Lark Song', 'Firmament', 'Charm', 'Pink Spray', 'Pink Cloud', 'Avalanche', 'Thunderbolt' and the list goes on. Names that preserve, celebrate and remind us of moments of beauty and wonder of our planet and carry us to our own special moments and memories.

Let us visit another large group of lilac shrubs that are given one name; lilacs personified as real living people. We can share these namesakes because we all have a friend or relative bearing one of these names. You can surely find a friend or relative's namesake from names such as 'Maureen', 'Murillo', 'Elaine', 'Muriel', 'Enid', 'Anabel', 'Grace', 'Helen', 'Norah', 'Joel', 'Paulina', 'Pascal', 'Isabella', 'Jessica', 'Elinor', 'Heloise', 'Naomi', 'Patricia', 'Hecla', 'Diana', 'Peggy', 'Ursula', 'Ralph', 'Carmen', 'Lynette', 'Ariel', 'Kim' and many others. Should we come across a lilac bearing our friend's or relative's name, we think of them. You are among friends and family with these lilacs.

In the last lilac season, I noticed a lovely lilac of intense color near the entrance of the Botanical Gardens of Montreal. On investigating, I discovered the name 'Hulda' on the name tag. Oh my! Hulda! Was it named after "The Hulda" of Lilacdom?, the woman known as the

Lilac Lady of Woodland, Washington? Hulda Klager produced many fine lilacs of intense color and strong growth. She generously opened her garden to the public at lilac time for others to enjoy her lilacs. It is said that she "filled her corner of the world with lilacs." Hulda was a woman of indomitable spirit who at age 84 was struck with disaster when she lost all of her collection of lilacs in 1948 due to catastrophic flooding of the Lewis and Colombia Rivers. At age 85 she began rebuilding her whole collection of lilacs with starts from friends and clients, - a resulting treasure one can still visit today. Happily, Hulda lived to age 96 so she had time to again enjoy her lilacs. A lesser being would have given up in despair, but not Hulda. As there are dwarfs in Lilacdom, there are also giants. Hulda was a giant in spirit and perseverance; an example to us all.

On considering giants in Lilacdom, we must honor the Lemoine family of France who contributed enormously to the culture of lilacs. The family consisted of a father, mother, son and grandson who left a legacy of lilacs spanning more than 100 years. Victor, the father, Madame Lemoine his wife, their

son Emile and grandson Henri are credited with at least 214 cultivars of lilacs. You probably have in your garden today lilacs from this legacy.

The father Victor began hybridizing lilacs around 1870 when son Emile was 8 years old. He had studied the works of other men of science, other giants who made enormous contributions to horticulture - Germans, Russians, English and French - and on whose studies Victor honed his genius.

Victor immortalized these men of science by naming his choice lilacs after them. Watch for names like Sageret, Naudin, Godron, Verlot, Vilmorin, Lecoq, Wiegman, Gartner, Nageli. One can only assume that these lilacs are special.

The Lemoine lilacs became known as the French lilacs and were widely distributed at the end of the 1800s and into the 1900s. Where can we find these lilacs today? Possibly in your own backyards or likely in the yards of old homes all over North America and Europe. These long-lived reliable plants survive through generations and after many flushes of bloom in the purchaser's life the name of the lilac is lost. If 20 years is a generation, we are now into the 7<sup>th</sup> generation since the French lilacs started being distributed. As you drive around old neighborhoods looking at lilacs do you ever wonder about the history of each lilac? Do you wonder about its name and propagator?

Oh yes my friends; each lilac shrub holds its secrets. How many of these hardy shrubs, taken for granted, some cared for, others in total neglect, still give out their abundant clusters of color and fragrance? Their present owners blissfully enjoy the annual performance, totally unaware of the history or names of these beauties.

On your next excursion to look at lilacs - take time to examine the florets. Are they single, double, triple or multipetalled? Are the petals rounded, pointed, or curly? Are the buds a different color from the open flower? What shades of color exist in one cluster? There is so much to observe in one plant if one takes the time to examine it! One can blissfully enjoy the color and fragrance of a lilac from a distance, but how much richer one's appreciation becomes on observing the details.

Let us not linger more on the French lilacs and move on to another Giant of hybridization from Russia. Leonid Kolesnikov had a lifelong love affair with lilacs. He devoted himself not only to creating new lilacs but also to their care, culture and every aspect of their growth. He studied and read avidly every book on botany and studied methods of breeding, grafting and planting lilacs. In 1923 at the young age of 30, his collection of lilacs had already reached over 100 named cultivars.

He began his breeding program with almost exclusively Lemoine lilacs except for 'Andenken an Ludwig Späth'. He produced exceptional cultivars - 'I.V. Mitchurin', 'M.I. Kalinin', 'Zarya Kommunisma' and used them as hybridizing material. He produced many outstanding lilacs using his own cultivars and the

French lilacs. Practice the names of some of his finest creations – ‘Krasavitsa Moskvyy’, ‘Pamyat o S.M. Kirove’, ‘ Sovetskaya Arktika’, ‘Nadezhda’, ‘Mechta’, ‘P.P.Konchalovskii’, ‘Nebo Moskvyy’, ‘Sholokhov’. It would be wise to practice pronouncing these names because there will be more beautiful lilacs to come from that cold northern climate that we will want to add to our gardens.

Numerous hybridizers have made their contributions to Lilacdom as they explored and continue to explore the seemingly unlimited possibilities in the gene pool of lilacs.

And still you ask where is Lilacdom? Is it a place, concept, idea, feeling, state of mind, or all of the aforementioned? I do not know but yet I understand it.

Lilacdom is experienced in every occasion to do with lilacs— be it viewing them growing wild on a roadside, in gardens, in arboretums, in botanical gardens or growing beside abandoned dwellings of former homesteads, or alone where dwellings have crumbled with time back into the soil. Every lilac speaks of a long history. Each heart, mind and soul of anyone who has ever been smitten by the beauty, or felt intoxicated by the fragrance of a lilac flower has experienced Lilacdom.

Lilacdom is alive and well in the International Lilac Society where all the latest information is distributed and shared. Lilacdom is celebrated in an annual gathering of lilac aficionados known as the International Lilac Convention held at a venue of lilacs at peak bloom, a gathering of people interested in improving and promoting lilacs for future generations.

And oh yes my friends, in Lilacdom, lilacs are permanently in bloom .....Once you have seen a beautiful lilac shrub in all its glory, the image is lodged in the mind's eye (a microchip in the brain if you will). The image can be recalled (downloaded) at any time. At the end of August when I gaze at my lilac shrubs clothed in their rich green foliage in real time, I can still see, as if superimposed by my mind's eye, the shrub with its full load of blossoms. It does not take much practice. Perhaps you have already experienced ‘the images’. Even in the dead of winter, when my thoughts and longings stray to the lilacs, (thoughts often stray to lilacs in long cold northern winters) I can still see the beauties in full bloom in my garden or a friend's garden, on the roadside, in a Botanical Garden or even from photos. These images permanently stored in the brain can be called up at any time; hence, lilacs are “permanently in bloom”.

Do not complain that lilac flowers last only a short time. Everything has its season; the shorter it is, the more precious. With a variety of the different types of lilac shrubs you can extend lilac bloom 8 to 10 weeks-and while they are in bloom look carefully, study the beauties enjoy the fragrance and let the visual memories be lodged in your mind's eye for your enjoyment at anytime and they will be “permanently in bloom”; a part of the magic of Lilacdom.

Addendum: an attempt at a definition of Lilacdom

Lilacdom— a fairytale type word applied to a serious adult pursuit of creating lilacs and all that it encompasses . The results of this pursuit ; lilac flowers, are so beautiful and fragrant that viewing and experiencing them suspends the viewer in fairytale enchantment.

*Myrna Walberg*

## The Lilacs at Descanso Gardens for 2007

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The groundwork for the success of the 2007 was done the year before, 2006 started out with a bang. An average rainy season opened the doors to what anyone would have accepted as another show in the making.

However there was one thing missing, namely the foggy mornings in May and June. We realize that the weatherman must have skipped a page, yet thanks to Descanso Gardens own limited water supply from the surrounding hills , it made it possible to get good growth after a reasonable display. Our volunteers were given a big hand for their dedication and keeping the lilac planting in a very presentable state of the art all summer that was the most difficult summer in many years that anyone can remember.

Again we must bring to the attention of our friends that the additional species and cultivars we added to the collection over ten years ago from Reva Ballreich and Max Peterson performed extremely well despite the hot summer weather. Perhaps the secret also lies in the feeding or lack thereof in the growing season. I feel very privileged to be able to discuss the work process on a regular schedule with the volunteers. Most likely we will never be able to match another show as it was in 2002, but to get a growth of 6 to 20 inches in a year like 2007 we must be doing something right after all.

What make the lilac grove special is that the visitors are coming all year around and the kids have a great time running the paths maintained by an 80+ young volunteer by the name of Pat.

In my own case I am now living 100 miles from Descanso but feel truly privileged to still be a part of it.

With 2008 already showing great promise we are ready to keep the doors open for anyone attracted by the beauty and fragrance of the lilacs. Since the time Dr. Steve Cohen some 20 years ago let us get on our knees and start the restoration with pruning shears, saws and strong-willed people, we have come a long way and made many visitors to the Garden loyal supporters.

Rudy Schaffer;

Descanso Gardens Volunteer Curator



## Western Canada Report

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We are still reminiscing about the Mackinac Island convention and the year is passing quickly. Here's what has happened in Western Canada in the past year. The southern interior town of Merritt, BC has really attracted our attention. Former ILS member, Bill Vander Zalm, owner of a large nursery in Vancouver, is donating lilacs to the village. In 2007 he donated 1500, and 1200 the previous year. He would like Merritt to be the "Lilac Capital of Western Canada!" The lilacs are large, 5-6 year olds in large pots, thus many volunteers are needed for ordering, trucking, storage and collection. This is an enormous undertaking and a very generous contribution to beautify this town.

We toured the Devon Botanical garden near Edmonton, Alberta when we returned from Michigan. They have an extensive collection of Canadian Skinner and Preston cultivars and because of a cool spring we were lucky to see the full range of bloom. The lilac dell is situated on a sunny slope with large spruce trees in the background. Their mature 'Ivory Silk' trees are surrounded by hundreds of daylilies creating a striking oriental effect.

We had planned to visit Eugene and Gail Fox in Millet, Alberta to see their extensive lilac collection (see vol. 34 #2 spring 2005) but were saddened to hear he had passed away. We were sorry that we never had the opportunity to meet this avid lilac grower, hybridizer, collector and gentleman.

One more interesting day was spent in Prince George BC, 150 miles northwest of us, at an abandoned Canadian Agriculture Experimental Station. Large overgrown late lilacs were in full bloom and lilac trees were reaching high in a thick overgrowth of unknown species of deciduous trees. We asked and were given permission to take cutting but we were disappointed not to be able to find a single label or marker anywhere. (Linda tried to contact sources in Ottawa hoping there might be a record of lilacs sent to this outpost station but to no avail). We did take cuttings from beautiful rose pink *reflexa*. We are new at this but following all the rules, hope to have some successful plants. They are still tucked under the snow! Maybe someday when we host a convention the experts will be able to identify our find!

We are looking forward to the Minneapolis convention, a big trip for us, as our airport is 350 miles away adding an extra day of travel. We're "hooked" now and eager to meet new lilacs and Aficionados old and new.

Bonnie Culp  
Linda Blackman

International Lilac Society

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Face painting and a 'Rochester' lilac-  
what more could you ask for?  
*Photo Credit Gene Lupinetti*



The fragrance of lilacs never fails to bring a smile!  
*Photo Credit Gene Lupinetti*



*Syringa pubescens* subsp. *julianae* 'George Eastman'

growing at Highland Botanical Park

*Photo credit Kent Millham*



closeup of 'George Eastman' against a beautiful sky

*Photo Credit Kent Millham*