

Lilacs

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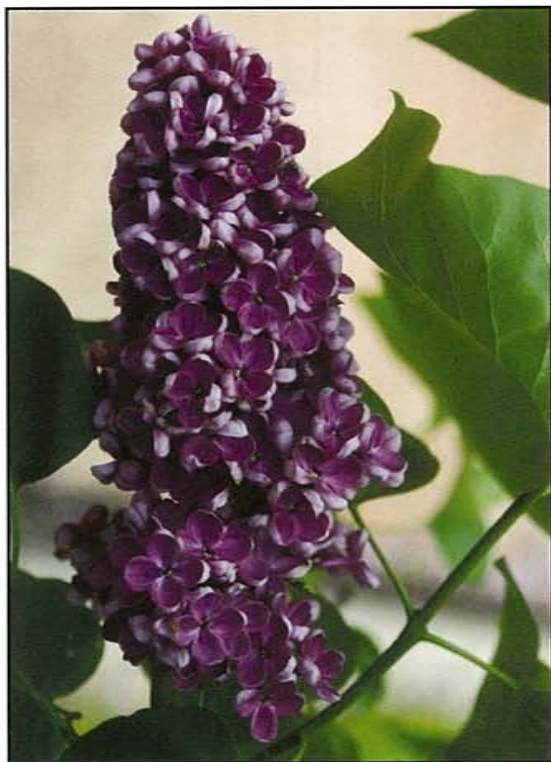


QUARTERLY JOURNAL

of the International Lilac Society

IN
THIS
ISSUE:

Moscow-the Lilac City &
Lemoine Collection News



The lilac and violet hued *Syringa vulgaris* 'Leonid Leonov'
Photo Credit Tatiana Poliakova



Intricate doubling of *Syringa vulgaris* 'Pamyat' o' Kolesnikove'
Photo Credit Tatiana Poliakova

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Front Cover Photo:

Syringa x prestoniae 'Diana' at the Central Experimental Farm
in Ottawa, Canada

Photo Credit Richard Hinchcliff

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International Lilac Society

President	Nicole Jordan Njordan236@aol.com 15500 Harrowgate Road, Chester, VA 23831
Executive Vice President	Bradley Bittorf bittorfbradley@yahoo.com 13902 East Placita Ocho Puntas, Vail, AZ 85641
Secretary	Warren Oakes 63 Roak Street, Auburn ME 04210-6741
Treasurer	Karen McCauley 325 West 82nd Street, Chaska, MN 55318-3208
Assistant Treasurer	William F Tschumi* 3 Paradise Court, Cohoes, New York 12047-1422 Phone: (518) 237-6107
Editor	Kent Millham kmillham@monroecounty.gov 253 Burnett Road, Webster, NY 14580

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* Mail membership dues to Asst. Treasurer William F Tschumi

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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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Kent Millham, Editor, 253 Burnett Road, Webster, NY 14580

International Lilac Society Web Site Address:

www.InternationalLilacSociety.org

President's Message

Dear Lilac Aficionados,

Tick tock, tick tock, another New Year is at our doorstep. What will it be? In China 2009, it is the year of the Ox. Will ours be the year of the lilacs? Wouldn't it be nice, a whole year devoted to the genus *Syringa*. Can we make it happen? Yes *mès amis* we can by promoting lilacs all over the world. Has any one of you thought of giving a lilac to someone as a Christmas present? I know it is not the season to plant lilacs, but a gift certificate from you would be a very thoughtful gift. Think of the pleasure of receiving in springtime a lilac ready to plant in the garden; it would make a great gift. Since I'm writing this message before Christmas I'm thinking of all the kinds of lilac stocking stuffers. Perfumes, soaps, shampoos, personal care products, candles, art works, scarf, clothing, paint-yes; how about a lilac room to chase the winter blues away.

Have you heard of the ballet *Jardin aux lilas*? Actually it is a poem by Ernest Chausson put to music by the author and choreographed by Antony Tudor. It was first produced in 1936 and it has had several revivals. Recently the Richmond Ballet in Richmond, VA USA opened their season with this ballet. How lovely!

I know many of you are getting antsy for the lilac season to start up again. While waiting for springtime join the ILR and chat with other members of ILS. Recently several members have had some very good and varied discussions about lilacs. Many members of the Robin are so knowledgeable you get answers to any of your lilac questions quickly.

Joan Speirs is working very hard getting our 2009 convention together. I want to remind you to save the date and make plans to attend it. If we could double the attendance number from last year it would be fantastic. I look forward to going to Ottawa. It will be the first time for me to visit that city. Joan has planned for us to visit several historic sites. Conventions are fun. Remember last year what a great time we had in Chaska, MN. Seeing our lilac friends adds to the fun. Who will be coming to Ottawa I wonder..?

I'm leaving for France in a few days. The lilacs will not be in bloom; that is for sure but I'm going to look up some special places I knew where lilacs grew in abundance-maybe a few remain. Because as in other places in the world progress has a way of gobbling up trees and vegetation. I'll see...

Some of our members are preparing for the next lilac season. Bill Horman is working on another festival at Sunny Fields May 14-16, 2009. Each year the number of visitors to this lilac haven is growing. Tatania Poliakova, Executive VP for Russia and the rest of Asia, is doing some extraordinary things in Moscow, Russia. She is transforming that city into a lilac showcase. She has involved schools and the local government. She is really making a difference with her dedication and enthusiasm for lilacs. Here in the USA, Bradley Bittorf is working on our web page. Many of you have seen the positive changes and more are to come. What would you like to see on the ILS web page? Contact Brad if you have suggestions and ideas. Soon, the lilac handbook will be out. Jack Alexander is adding the final touches to it; then to the printer it will go. Our Registrar Freek Vrutgman is dedicated to keeping the information about the genus *Syringa* correct. It is not an easy task and he is forever watchful. I really need to say thank you to our, Editor Kent Millham. Kent is doing a superb job with *Lilacs*. Our publication is worthy of our society. He produces a very professional journal for ILS. Anyone who has ever published newsletters, journals knows how time consuming it is. Also difficult is getting interesting and varied articles. We have some regular contributors such as Colin Chapman of Norman's Farm, Suffolk England. His colorful European Newsletter keep us inform on the lilac activities in that country. It is always interesting to read.

By the time you get this issue of *Lilacs*, 2009 will be there. Remember the challenge; enroll at least one member into ILS. We want to grow our society. Second, plan on attending the convention in Ottawa. Third, gift a lilac to someone. Any occasion is an occasion to give lilacs. Really you can send a lilac to someone anytime. I assure you it will be a welcome gift. Our lilac nursery members will be more than glad to ship lilacs for you anywhere.

Let's make this year the year of the Lilac. Why not, we can do it. The Lilac Renaissance is growing stronger. More and more lilacs are being planted. More and more questions about lilacs are getting asked. Those of you who speak on lilacs I'm sure are aware of this trend. I have several talks lined up. Garden clubs are calling. The members are anxious to learn how to choose, plant and care for lilacs.

Remember we are a plant society so let's keep it fun too. Share your enthusiasm about lilacs and convert friends, family members and acquaintances into lilac aficionados. We can do it!

Amities,
Nicole Jordan
ILS President
December 16, 2008
Njordan236@aol.com

European Newsletter

It is the time of year to renew annual and institutional membership subscriptions. Because of the credit crisis, and the Board decision to increase membership fees, I have had to make some tricky calculations. For UK members the new fee (calculated December 3rd when £1 = \$1.48) will be £18 single and £37 Institutional. For members paying in Euros, I can only accept banknotes because the banks here will not accept Eurocheques. Calculating the new fee to the nearest postable banknote (when 1 Euro = \$1.20) gives single membership at Euros20 and Institutional membership at Euros40. I will accept all fees this coming year, but since we now have a direct credit card paying facility to Bill Tschumi (see inside the back cover of the Journal) this is the last year I will do so. Please pay all dues to me (or to Bill Tschumi directly) by the end of January. After that date I will seek the optimum opportunity to transfer my Sterling funds to the Treasurer, and close down ILS-Europe that has now outlived its function. When that is done, I will step down as Executive Vice President for Europe. By that time, anyone who has still not renewed, either to me or to Bill will, sadly, cease to be a member.

I have had a very fraught year. Starting with surgery and then convalescence that put me sorely behind in my work, I am still behind the schedule for the year. In August, I had a break-through when my admirable daughter-in-law organized a broadband connection to the house and then brought a new computer and set it up for me. At last, I could simply roll out of bed and be online. But Fate had other ideas because within three weeks my high tech, state-of-the-art, wireless mouse had frozen and left me unable to get into my machine. It took a month for the replacement to arrive and so I am, once more, back on line. I am conscious of the fact that I owe many of you responses to your e-mails but, over the year, I have accumulated such a massive backlog that it will take me a considerable time to catch up with you all. To those of you who have requested scionwood, I am afraid that, for now, I must say no. On this site we have four vast, centenarian Horse Chestnut trees (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) and, in common with all Horse Chestnuts in this country they have been affected by canker and a devastating plague of leaf miners which reduces their leaves to brown dust by late July. Not all, but some of my lilacs also show severe leaf miner attacks by mid August so that, until I know if the two infections are related, I cannot send out propagating material and risk turning the buckeye bug loose in other countries. I don't think that the two problems are the same but, until I am sure, I will not risk exporting a disease that has brought low one of the majestic sights of the British countryside. Because of the four centenarians, I have collected other buckeyes over the years and have ten other forms. Some of these show the symptoms also. Sorry, but I must be careful and, hopefully, because the lilac leaf miner strikes

in August and not July, the two might not be related.

I was invited by the Royal Horticultural Society to provide a review of the new book "Lilacs. A Gardener's Encyclopedia" by John L. Fiala - Revised and updated by Freek Vrugtman. This I immediately agreed to do but was then horrified to learn that I would be restricted to between 220 and 250 words. The title alone takes fourteen! I eventually managed to condense most of what I wanted to say into 285 words but when I received the sub-editor's version it had been shorn of 45 of them. I have not yet dared show Freek the emasculated result. The review will appear in the January edition of the RHS Journal "The Garden". Next time I write here I will include a copy of the original version. However, the exercise was valuable because I got to read the book and from it I gleaned one little snippet which solved a mystery which had been bugging me. In 1998, I received scionwood from Ole Heide of a lilac he had obtained from Vasily Gorb in Kiev. It bore the name 'Lesya Ukrainka' which, I think, means "Forests of Ukraine". Unfortunately, when it flowered three years ago it was double white, when the Register insisted that it should be single purple. Thus I have never mentioned it because I could not account for the difference. The new encyclopedia resolves the issue on P. 338 - and thus reveals what a valuable book this is. In 1955, at the Botanical Garden of Yalta in the Ukraine, the SVII cultivar 'Lesya Ukrainka' was produced. However, it is also pointed out, that sometime before 1997 at the Botanical Garden in Kiev in the Ukraine, the DI cultivar 'Lesya Ukraynka' was produced. Thus my concern is eased and my version can come out and take its rightful place in the collection. I enclose with this article a first picture showing it and the next time it flowers I will pen a description. (And, "Yes", Freek, I subsequently found both entered in the 2003 edition of the Register which I printed out in its entirety from your CD).

In the last edition, Kent published a picture which I wanted to use in this one. I had mentioned that Theodore Havemeyer's 'Zulu' was, yet again, a star performer and, indeed, its glorious, deep, red purple colour shows where my heart tends to lie. However, I sent the picture of 'Zulu' as a trial transmission on my shiny, new machine (before the mouse expired) to find out if I could do it and if Kent would be able to use the result. Well, he could and he did, so I now know that my new digital pictures can be used in the Journal and how to get them there. In that same article I mentioned 'Violetta' so, for completeness, I will show her picture now. In common with others like 'Cavour' and the two lilacs with names that both translate as "twilight" - 'Crepuscule' (Lemoine 1928) and 'Sumerki' (Kolesnikov 1954) - she begins to glow when the light sinks to the ultra-violet end of the spectrum and the Lilac Fairy makes her flying, gin-and-tonic visits to the garden (see LILACS Vol. 36, No. 3, Summer 2007 p.99). These should be well enough known so I would, at this moment, like to introduce you to another lilac which, when it came to me gave me no

great expectations, but is one which has subsequently made my heart go bumpety-bumpety-bump whenever I see it in flower!

In about 1956 there came to the Botanical Garden in the city of Minsk in Belarus the remarkable lilac workers N.V. Smol'skii and V.F. Bibikova. I know nothing of their backgrounds but recent contact with curator Natalia Makedonskaya makes me hopeful that I soon will. They set about crossing some closely related species but I have not yet made any discoveries in that area. However, their work with *Syringa vulgaris* is not entirely a mystery, but I had not remembered that they frequently used 'Réaumur' in their crosses until I went back to consult the Special Edition of "Lilacs" (Vol. 11, No. 2, 1982) which carries Charles Holetich's translation of "Lilac Species and Cultivars in Cultivation in USSR". In it, I am told that my mystery lilac is a cross between 'Hyazinthenlieder' (Späth 1906) and 'Réaumur' (Lemoine 1904).

The mystery lilac is *Syringa vulgaris* 'Svityazanka', Smol'skii and Bibikova, Minsk, Belarus, 1964. (I am not sure, but I think the name means being "Luminous"). The florets are large, broad and are a dark colour on the border between purple and slate-grey. The undersides are paler, particularly towards the tips. The flower clusters on my five-foot (1.75m) plant are large, elegantly defined, and quite fragrant. It is a beautiful single lilac that bloomed late in the season, so it escaped the devastating frosts we had in the last two years. I confess that when my grafted specimen was planted outside, two years ago, I had no great expectations of it. Now, whenever I pass it, it winks at me knowingly and whispers "Oh ye of little faith". All I can do is respond with "Guilty, your Honour" and long for the moment when I can see it bloom again.

Colin Chapman
Norman's Farm
Wyverstone
Suffolk UK
December 6th 2008

Membership Dues are Due

By the time you receive this issue, your dues are past due.

Remember, the yearly price has gone up for all levels by \$5,

but the price is still very affordable, so send your renewal

today to Assistant Treasurer Bill Tschumi

News from Russia

Dear friends,

I am glad to share with you the great news: on the 5th November our project “Moscow - the lilac city” has been finally approved and published by the Moscow city government. The news was announced by all central federal TV channels, printed media and in the Internet. The project includes a wide range of various events, but the first stage is the mass planting of the lilac on the territory of Moscow during the season of 2008-2009. There will be lilac gardens and lanes, the lilac will be growing at every school yard and every residential area, around hospitals etc. It is planned to plant 25 thousand lilac bushes every year. Also the project includes creating the two special gardens – “Russian lilac garden” and “The world lilac collection”. We might need the help of the ILS in finding the cultivars that are not present in Russian collections after the territories are selected and the detailed plan of the events is developed.

It is symbolic that the project is started in 2008, which is a 115th anniversary of Leonid Kolesnikov (and also the 40th anniversary of his death). The dream of his whole life starts to come true. Leonid Kolesnikov loved his native city and dedicated many of his cultivars to Moscow: ‘Ogni Moskvyy’, ‘Utro Moskvyy’, ‘Nebo Moskvyy’, ‘Krasavitsa Moskvyy’, ‘Krasnaya Moskva’, ‘Kremlevskie Kuranty’, ‘Moskovsky Universtitet’, ‘Zashchitnikam Moskvyy’ [Ed. note: synonym for ‘Pamyat’ o S. M. Kirove’]. Today in Moscow we can find about 40 of Kolesnikov’s cultivars in collections. My most favorite Kolesnikov’s lilacs are ‘Pamyat’ o Kolesnikove’ and ‘Leonid Leonov’. Those two cultivars are very special and you will never mistake them for anything else.

‘Pamyat’ o Kolesnikove’1974 D I

This beautiful cultivar was selected by Nikolai Mikhailov from a number of seedlings that remained after Kolesnikov.

The buds are creamy, yellowish. Florets are globe-shaped, look like poliant roses; double (3 corollas), pure white, large (3 cm), with subtle fragrance. Flower clusters are large, graceful, strong. Blooms are long and abundant at midseason. The shrub is of average size and spreading in growth habit.

‘Leonid Leonov’1941 S IV

Large globe-shaped dark-violet buds open slow. Flower clusters are highly decorative, florets (d=2 cm) are cup-shaped with lighter colored outer petals and deeper violet inside. Blooms abundantly for long time at mid-season.

The shrub is of average size, compact.

Leonid Maximovich Leonov (1899-1994), famous Russian writer, and a friend of Leonid Kolesnikov was a dedicated gardener and created a wonderful garden where he collected plants from all over the world. Kolesnikov's lilacs planted with his own hands are still bloom in that garden. I visited Leonov's garden last spring by invitation of Natalia Leonova, the writer's daughter, and saw those lilac bushes that are 50 years old. Unfortunately, the cultivars' names are lost, and only two of them were easy to recognize – 'Leonid Leonov' and 'Krasavitsa Moskvyy'.

P.S. On the 27th of November the main Russian federal newspaper "Rossiyskaya gazeta" (The Russian Newspaper (weekly)) (1244(4801) published the article about the project. During the next week there were plenty of phone calls from all over Russia with the proposal to widen the project and turn it into the project "Lilac – the flower symbol of Russia".

*Best regards.
Tatiana*

Convention News

2009 CONVENTION INFORMATION

Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, May 28, 29, 30, 2009
Hosted by Friends of the Central Experimental Farm
Building 72, Arboretum, C.E.F., Ottawa, ON K1A 0L2
phone: 613 230 3276, fax: 613 230 1238
info@friendsofthefarm.ca, www.friendsofthefarm.ca
or Joan Speirs, 504-2045 Carling Ave, Ottawa, ON K2A 1G5
phone: 613 828 3545, email: jisper@rogers.com

Our hotel, Travelodge, is in the west of Ottawa at 1376 Carling Avenue, about 8 m (14 k) from Ottawa International Airport (Ottawa Macdonald-Cartier International Airport). Taxi one way is about \$30. It would be good to share.

When reserving your room please book from the negotiated rate using group code "LILC". This would help satisfy a minimum number of rooms to cover meeting room expenses.

Parking at the hotel is free.

If driving from the south: Hwy 416 to Hwy 417 East. Exit Hwy 417 at Carling Avenue. Travelodge is the second hotel on the right.

If driving from the east: Hwy 40 West to Hwy 417 West. Exit at Carling Avenue (east lanes), cross immediately (carefully) to the left lane, turn left at the first lights (Kirkwood), turn left again at the lights onto Carling Avenue (west lanes). Travelodge is the second hotel on the right.

If driving from the west: Hwy 401 to Hwy 416 North to 417 East. Exit Hwy 417 at Carling Avenue. Travelodge is the second hotel on the right.

Guests at Travelodge will enjoy the fitness facility and the “Wet and Wild Waterpark”, which features a wavepool, slide and whirlpool.

Room amenities include refrigerator, hair dryer, coffee maker and coffee, ironing board and iron.

Ottawa, as the capital of Canada, has an abundance of historical, cultural and entertainment attractions. You may wish to extend your stay to allow time to visit some of them. Special recommendations are the architectural gems, the National Art Gallery and the Museum of Civilization. On Thursday afternoon, May 28, we do plan to take you to Parliament Hill and the grounds of the Governor General’s residence.

Here is a list of websites with useful information:

canadascapital.gc.ca

www.ottawatourism.ca

www.gg.ca

www.parliamenthill.gc.ca

www.friendsofthefarm.ca

Sorry to mention it, but do come prepared for rain as many of the activities are outdoors.

Joan Speirs
Central Experimental Farm
Ottawa, ON

2009 ILS CONVENTION – TENTATIVE AGENDA

May 28-30, 2009

Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

Thursday May 28

9:00 am – 10 pm Registration at Travelodge

10:00 am – 2 pm Directors' Meeting

2:45 – 6:00 Bus to Parliament Buildings and grounds of the Governor
General's residence for walking tours

7:30 – 11:00 Hospitality

Friday May 29

8:30 am Bus to Franktown "Lilac Capital of Ontario"

10:15 – 11:00 Tour of Franktown's lilacs

11:00 ILS Annual Meeting and lunch at Franktown

1:00 Bus to Ornamental Gardens, Central Experimental Farm (CEF)

2:15 Walk along the lilac rows

3:15 Introduction to the Preston Heritage Collection of lilacs.

Refreshments. Walking tours of lilacs, peonies, irises.

5:00 Bus to hotel

6:30 – 7:00 Cash bar for beer and wine

7:00 President's Dinner. Speaker Mary Pratte on the Saunder's
peonies.

Saturday May 30

7:00 – 8:00 am Directors' Meeting

8:30 Bus to CEF

9:00 – 12:00 Talks on Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada research

12:15 Box lunch

1:15 Walking tour of Arboretum

2:30 ILS Auction. Open to public

5:00 Bus to hotel

6:30 – 7:00 Cash bar for beer and wine

7:00 Awards Banquet. Presentation of awards. Speaker Charles
Holetich,

"Native Habitats of *Syringa vulgaris* in Serbia".

ILS Auction 2009

The society's annual lilac auction will take place Saturday afternoon, the last day of the convention. This event, in which the public is invited to participate, is the main fundraiser for ILS and we need donations – of lilacs, other plants and memorabilia – to make it a success.

It's a bit different this year, just because of that inconvenient border. To circumvent some of the problems associated with the border issues, we will be auctioning plant vouchers in addition to our traditional live plants. The voucher method is successfully used in many other plant societies, but will be new for the ILS. If you don't have the means to ship across the border, you might consider donating a voucher. Please submit your voucher (basically an IOU) along with a description and photo. The donor would ship to the purchaser later, at a suitable time. Also, an important point to remember is that passports are required as of June 1, 2009.

Buyers will be responsible for their own purchases. We are neither supplying shipping nor phytosanitary certificates (needed to move plants across the US-Canada border).

Also, please consider donating articles other than plants that may be suitable for auction.

We would like to compile a tentative list of auction plants, including those represented by voucher, by March 1, 2009 for publication in the Spring *Lilacs*.

*Joan Speirs,
504-2045 Carling Ave, Ottawa,
Ontario, Canada K2A 1G5
jispeirs@rogers.com
613 828 3545*

*or
Friends of the Farm
Building 72, Arboretum, C.E.F.,
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0C6
info@friendsofthefarm.ca*

Preston Heritage Lilac Collection at Ottawa, Canada

Delegates to the 2009 International Lilac Society convention in Ottawa will see a new collection of lilacs in honour of Isabella Preston, the most prolific Canadian originator of lilacs.

Miss Preston was hired in 1920 at the Central Experimental Farm in Ottawa to breed ornamental plants. She immediately began to hybridize lilacs at the Farm and 88 of her cultivars are recorded in the *International Lilac Register*. Of particular importance was her creation of the late-blooming, interspecific hybrids within the *Villosae* series, including cultivars of *S. x prestoniae* and *S. x josiflexa*.

Her cultivars 'Audrey', 'Isabella' (named by S.D. McKelvey) and 'Elinor' received Awards of Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society, London, England, in 1939, 1941 and 1951, respectively. 'Bellicent' was awarded a First Class Certificate in 1946.

Not only did her lilacs gain international recognition, but also her lilies, roses, Siberian irises and crab apples became famous worldwide. Many examples of her work can be found at the Farm in Ottawa today.

Planting of the new lilac collection began in the spring of 2005. It features plants originated by Isabella Preston, such as 'Isabella' and 'Diana'. Examples of her late-blooming lilacs, along with examples of her early blooming lilacs, such as *S. x hyacinthiflora* 'Norah', are found nearby among the large collection of lilacs in rows at the Farm.

Joan Speirs

Shelburne Since The Last Convention

ILS was last at Shelburne Museum in 1998, and will be returning in 2010. A lot has happened to Shelburne in the last ten years. In 1998 our good friend Reed Charington was the Groundskeeper at Shelburne. A masterful gardener and designer, Reed has retired and moved to very rural Vermont where he is doing well. I get an email from him now and then and am very happy to reply with long winded messages. I was very fortunate to take over the Hort Farm lilac collection curatorship from Reed when he decided to retire. But I also inherited the lilacs at Shelburne Museum.

In 2005 we started the first annual lilac workshops at Shelburne Museum. We planned 2 separate workshops both having a morning and afternoon session. I spent about an hour teaching the proper pruning and gardening techniques and then we waded into the lilacs for hands-on experience. Our first year we invited only Master Gardeners and Master Gardener interns; we had 75 show up for the first event. The next year we invited members of the Museum, the next year the public. We now train over 100 people each year in proper gardening and pruning techniques in addition to helping Shelburne get a handle on their 225 lilacs.

Shelburne is very fortunate to have a great staff including Rick Peters as Groundskeeper, Jessica Gallas as Head Gardener and Jessica Ricci as Volunteer Coordinator. Jessica Ricci left Shelburne after last year's workshops and is following her dream of living and working in Italy, I hear she is doing well and we wish her the best.

Last week Rick, Jessica and Jessica Ricci's replacement Kate Spencer and I met to start planning for the 2008 workshops and Lilac Sunday; we also started planning for the 2010 convention. We have the Vermont Master Gardeners and the Friends of the Hort Farm as support organizations. We are also talking to a couple of commercial organizations to help sponsor the convention. I am planning on attending the 2009 convention in Ottawa and hope to have a good deal of the convention plan ready to present to the Board.

In addition to workshops and pruning lilacs, Shelburne has had a major shift in priorities recently with Steven Yost, the new Museum Director. The decision was made to make Shelburne a gardening destination and significant investment has been made to add to the grounds, including 600 peonies, 1700 daylilies, 2 new formal gardens as well as lilacs. We have made a long term plan for Shelburne's lilacs including getting all of the lilacs properly pruned (about 40% complete), adding several new cultivars each year, thinning overgrown lilac areas, and eventually naming and tagging all the lilacs. Shelburne has a unique connection to lilacs as the Museum's founder was Electra Havermeyer Webb, who was a niece to the famous lilac hybridizer Theodore Havemeyer, thus the emphasis on lilacs from the beginning of Shelburne Museum.

Our 4th Annual Lilac Workshops will be held on May 2nd and June 27th from 9A to 4P. Registration is not required and we hold the event rain or shine. We expect 75 to 100 people to attend this year. The event is carried by the local newspaper and TV. Last year the local gardening show did a special on our lilac workshops at Shelburne.

Lilac Sunday will be May 17th. I lead a "walk-and-talk" about lilacs in the morning and do a "walk-and-talk" about lilac gardening in the afternoon. The VT Master Gardener's have a tent where we sell lilac liners (as a fund raiser for the Master Gardeners) and the Hort Farm cuts about 30 lilacs for display.

2008 was almost perfect with warm weather, lilacs in full bloom and over 1800 visitors. My wife Jan also does her educational session with the children with over 200 participating, each getting a tiny Tinkerbelle™ to take home, courtesy of Dan Meiers at Briggs Nursery.

Jeff Young
St. Albans, VT

Restoration of the Lemoine Collection

In 2009, Les Jardins Botaniques de Nancy, France are celebrating their 250th anniversary at the park. Jean Francois Gonot, who is the conservator of the lilac collection, has been working hard over the last few years to reestablish the Lemoine collection in all species; especially the lilacs.

He has become a good friend of ours and actually since 2005 makes a migratory visit to us for 10-14 days in the spring to talk lilacs and take photos of the collections we can go and visit.

At this time, with our help they are very close to rebuilding all of the original collection of lilacs from Lemoine. I believe we are missing 4. They are 'Dame Blanche', 'La Lorraine', 'Le Progrès', and 'Rabelais'.

Tatiana Poliakova has been very helpful in locating two other lilacs that we needed and Freek has sent me on the trail for others. Other very helpful people have been Kent Millham from Highland Botanical Park in Rochester, NY and Joan Speirs from the Dominion Arboretum in Ottawa, Ontario. If anyone has these lilacs please contact myself or Jean Francois. The emails to contact us both will be at the end of the article.

This would mean that the monumental task of putting all the Lemoine collection intact in one place would be completed. I am sending over some plants in the spring to them and some scion wood over the winter. It has been great fun to be able to be sure that the genetic gene pool that a very dedicated family created is reassembled.

This is what ILS is all about, real exchanges and helping others out. I have also been invited to attend their celebrations in the spring and give some lectures to future horticulture students as well as to the horticultural society of Nancy. Jean Francois has joked around a couple of times that the mayor wants to meet me also.

My next work is to assemble all of the Fiala and Kolesnikov collection. We wear two hats here in our household. Yes, one is running a company so we can earn our living. The other hat is a personal one of ensuring a living collection of as many lilacs as possible, to ensure that botanical parks as well as individuals have a source for the plant material.

After a number of years when Royal Botanical Gardens was absent from the lilac world, I have been told by Alex Henderson that they wish to upgrade and replace lilacs that are in poor condition. So since Charles Holetich, my mentor of lilacs was so helpful at the beginning, Select Plus Nursery will be working with RBG to supply by donation any lilacs they would need as of spring 2009.

An anecdote from the past: I still remember Charles Holetich asking me in 1994 if I thought I could earn a living at only selling lilacs, and my immediate response without hesitation was "YES". I am very glad to say that today lilacs drive about 95% of our sales and I am projecting to reach the 1000 cultivar bench mark for spring 2010.

Corinna is now studying Commerce, and we have started to prepare a mini tissue culture lab that will be run by her as her own business. We have hybridized many cultivars in the past few years and our first flowered in 2008. It is a seedling form *tomentella* 'Royal Crown'. We expect many others to flower in spring 2009 and have some little expansion surprises for the future, but all in due time.

Below is the contact information for myself and Jean Francois Gonot of the Lemoine Nursery:

Frank Moro selectpluslilacs@yahoo.ca

We can also be reached at 450-477-3797 if you wish to call.

Jean Francois Gonot jf.gonot@wanadoo.fr

Jean Francois has a website he has created for the Lemoine lilacs and it is the following: <http://perso.wanadoo.fr/jean-francois.gonot/index.htm>

Frank Moro
VP ILS Canada

ILS Northeast Regional Report 2008

On Friday, October 3, 2008, 20 members of the ILS New England region met in West Newbury at Syringa Plus Nursery. We experimented with a Friday meeting to see if it made a difference in attendance. Members, please let us know what you think- was this a good idea?

Among those in attendance were 2 members from nurseries in Northern Maine, one nurseryman from Western Massachusetts, along with 3 members of the Governor's Council; Bureau of Highway Design for New Hampshire. Also in attendance was ILS Membership Chairman Warren Oakes, son of Founding member Walter Oakes. He is promoting the use of e-mail/internet and telephone numbers for contact within the membership. As N.E. Representative, it makes my job smoother, when I need to be in touch, to have this information at hand. It is only for in-house communication.

All enjoyed a delicious continuing luncheon buffet that began at coffee time. Initially members introduced themselves. Our new member had won a raffle ticket that brought about her introduction to lilacs and our New England Fall Roundup. Evie and Roger are always looking for creative ways to reach out to the untapped lilac enthusiast.

Warren spoke about the Minnesota convention, and concluded that although there were no lilac blooms, it was still a very successful meeting. Hopefully, there will be blooms for the 2009 convention in Ottawa, which will be later; starting May 29th.

It was a pleasure to see our ILS Family again. A new member; a photographer, is working on an article to be entitled "*Following the Lilac Trail of Bloom*", with pictures for a New England based publication. She was eager to tap into the enthusiastic groups' knowledge.

We are grateful to Evie King and Roger Coggeshall for their hospitality and the venue of Syringa Plus, and it was a creative way to welcome and recruit new and potential members for the International Lilac Society.

Mary Lizotte
N.E. Regional representative
781-826-4590
207-596-7727
P.O. Box 93
Norwell, MA 02061

Review of *Lilacs A Gardener's Encyclopedia*

By John L. Fiala-Second Edition revised and updated by Freek Vrugtman
[Including bibliographies and indices published in 2008 by Timber Press]

This is the long awaited "must-have" publication for anyone interested in lilacs. The new and enlarged book (Freek has added nearly 150 new pages) contains current information on the introduction of hundreds of named cultivars and details about the people who developed and introduced them. Freek has added a new chapter on Arts and Design to Father Fiala's original list, along with the inclusion of new items such as the new taxonomic *Villosae* Group to describe groups of closely related plants. To this he has added extensive bibliographies and indices and some 580 new color photographs to round out a completely new edition, with exciting word pictures of plant exploration and the people who collected, introduced and developed them. More features added include an extensive chapter on Russian hybridization of the lilac not available in 1988 (year of publication of the first edition), and a chapter on hybridization by horticulturists of China. All of this is included for

a price less than that of the original work by Father Fiala.

The result of the monumental work with its great attention to details is a new and enlarged picture of the Lilac. Even with all this good work, there is always the possibility that the reader will see sections that one would like to done again, such as the muddy color reproduction of some of the photographs of purples that are new to this treatment, or a few typos for people who look for those kind of things. Nevertheless, tell your friends that this is indeed a "must-have" book, and it is now available from your local bookstore or from Amazon.com.

*Dr. Owen Rogers
Publication Committee Chairman*

Sunny Fields Lilac Festival

Sunny Fields Botanical Park cordially invites everyone to attend its 3rd annual lilac festival, May 16th & 17th, 2009, from 10 AM -5PM. Sunny Fields is located at 5444 Welch Rd., Emmett Twp., MI 48022, USA. On display will be about 250 distinct lilac species and cultivars; some dating on-site to 1962. The majority of the lilacs at Sunny Fields Botanical Park are mid-season bloomers. The lilacs are mixed with about 600 different non-lilac assorted woody ornamental specimens, including about 135 types of crabapples. Many of these other ornamentals also bloom during the lilac festival, as do many of the perennials and spring bulbs; making a spectacular floral display along mowed trails on 25 acres.

Lilac plant sales, educational presentations, live music, craft vendors and a food concession will be included. For additional information, or to schedule a required appointment to visit the park at other times, please contact I.L.S. member Bill Horman@313-886-9343 (Nov.-Mar.), 810-387-2765 (Apr.-Oct.), or by mail @ P.O. Box 414, Emmett, MI 48022, USA, or click www.visitsunnyfields.org. Donations, including festival admission, are appreciated and are tax deductible in the U.S.A., as Sunny Fields Botanical Park is a recognized educational charity.

*Bill Horman
December 7, 2008*



Syringa x prestoniae 'Isabella' at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa
Photo Credit Richard Hinchcliff



Syringa x hyacinthiflora 'Norah' at the CEF, Ottawa, Canada
Photo Credit Richard Hinchcliff



Another Kolesnikov hybrid, the double 'Pamyat' o S. M. Kirove'

Photo Credit Kent Millham



Jeff Young leading a crew of volunteers at the Shelburne Museum

Photo Courtesy of Jeff Young



Another view of the beautifully ornate doubling
of the cultivar *Syringa vulgaris* 'Pamyat' o Kolesnikove'
Photo Credit Tatiana Poliakova



The brilliant reddish buds of *Syringa* 'Bailbelle'
Photo Credit Kent Millham



The pink blooms of 'Lilac Sunday' blend well with the
sky-blue of 'President Lincoln' in the background
Photo Credit Kent Millham

The Olive Family- A Brief Description

As many of you may know, *Syringa*, or the lilac genus, is a member of the Olive Family, which is technically known as *Oleaceae*. The Olive Family is comprised of approximately 29 genera (depending on which taxonomist you talk to). Most of the ornamental plants within this family have 4 petals and have opposite leaves. Some very well-known ornamental plants that are used worldwide, as well as important economic and forest trees are members of *Oleaceae*.

The range of colors and flower forms found now in the many cultivars of *Syringa* is astounding, but what really attracts most people to lilacs is the heavenly fragrance. Fragrance is an important aspect in other members of the Olive Family as well. Take for example the Jasmines, or *Jasminum*. There are approximately 300 species of tropical and subtropical species. In the garden, many Jasmines rival lilacs in the sweetness of their fragrance, and several species are used in the production of perfumed oils. Other jasmines lend their scent to Chinese teas.

Chionanthus, the genus of the Fringetree, has feathery blooms that waft a fragrance several weeks after the lilacs bloom. A shrubby form is found in the eastern United States, while in China a tree form, *Chionanthus retusus*, grows to about 50' in height.

Worldwide, specimens of *Forsythia* bloom in hedgerows and foundation plantings. This Olive Family member was named in honor of William Forsyth; erstwhile gardener to King George III. A similar genus, *Abeliophyllum*, is called White Forsythia, and has white, fragrant flowers in early spring.

One of the most important members of this family is *Olea europaea*, from which olives and olive oil are derived. Also, the wood is useful in making of brushes, and inlay work.

One very useful member in ornamental plantings is *Ligustrum*, or Privet. This is often used for clipped hedges. If allowed to flower, the fragrance is somewhat similar to some of the late flowering lilacs.

Fraxinus, or the Ash genus, is an important component of both European and North American forests. At the present time, this genera is being threatened in North America by the importation of the Emerald Ash borer.

This article has been written as a brief introduction to the Olive Family, but I may go into further depth in future issues.

Kent Millham
Highland Botanical Park

Member Section

Lilacs in My Life

The dialogue between Brad and Dave regarding President Lincoln and Cleveland, Ohio in the last journal brought back childhood memories.

When I was 7 years old, we moved to Fairview Park, Ohio (a suburb on west side of Cleveland). In our backyard was a huge, 'old fashioned' lilac, very fragrant with a lavender color (SIV). It was the only lilac on our block. As a 10 year old, I would pick bouquets and sell them to the neighbors. It was so long ago I do not remember how much I sold them for. My Mother and Father paid no attention to the lilac.

Unlike other ILS members, my Grandmother never had a lilac. She raised poinsettias in her basement in Buffalo, NY. My Great Uncle had a Bing Cherry tree in Hamburg, NY (west of Buffalo)— now there is a memory that is still with me today along with my Lilac !!!

My second encounter with Lilacs was 40 years later when visiting my Aunt in New Hampshire. She had just moved from New York City to a 100 year old home in Andover, NH. There were lilac bushes next to the two-story barn. They were as tall as the barn. It was June, the Lilacs were in bloom and very fragrant.

In 1991, I finally owned my own lilacs. They were started from my neighbor's "French" lilac, as she called it. She and her family had come from Ohio in 1949 to Morongo Valley CA and their first plant was the lilac. However, it wasn't until the Convention at Descanso Gardens in 2002 that I learned about the International Lilac Society and that there were many cultivars and seven color designations.

Since that convention at Descanso Gardens, I've traveled to other ILS conventions, and seen many kinds of lilacs at other gardens, along with enjoying the fellowship of other International Lilac Society members.

*Regards to all,
Jean M. Herrington*

[Editor's note: I also enjoyed meeting Jean and Mary Hopkins when they came to visit Highland Botanical Park around 2005. I also discovered that Jean and I are fellow Cornell alumni, as well as ILS members. Another example of lilacs bringing people together!]

Ten Favorite Lilacs of 2008 Convention Attendees

At the 2008 ILS convention in Chaska, MN, USA, an informal poll was taken of the attendees favorite lilacs. Below are the results of this informal poll.

'Krasavitsa Moskvyy' (BEAUTY OF MOSCOW)	18
'Sensation'	13
'Miss Kim'	10
'Maiden's Blush'	10
'Monge'	8
'Andenken an Ludwig Späth'	6
'Dwight D. Eisenhower'	5
'Sweetheart'	5
'Agincourt Beauty'	5
'Asessippi'	5
'Charm'	4
'Edith Cavell'	4
'Excel'	4
'Lavender Lady'	4
'Palibin'	4
'Marie Frances'	3
'Betsy Ross'	3
'Blanche Sweet'	3
'Rochester'	3
'Lilac Sunday'	3
'Charles Joly'	3
'Président Grèvy'	3
'Royal Purple'	3

It would be interesting to see what everyone's favorite lilacs are in the entire society; not just convention attendees. Please send the names of your favorite 3 lilacs to kmillham@monroecounty.gov, or by postal mail to :

Kent Millham
253 Burnett Road
Webster, NY 14580
USA

International Lilac Society

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Syringa vulgaris 'Violetta'
Photo Credit Colin Chapman



Syringa vulgaris 'Lesya Ukrainka'
Photo Credit Colin Chapman



Syringa vulgaris 'Svityanzanka'
Photo Credit Colin Chapman