

Lilacs

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of the International Lilac Society

IN
THIS
ISSUE:

**Dunbar Lilacs-Presidential Series
10 Questions w/ Tatiana Poliakova**



Syringa vulgaris 'Mulatka', one of Tatiana's favorite lilacs
Photo Credit Tatiana Poliakov



Syringa vulgaris 'Mechta'
Photo Credit Tatiana Poliakov

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*Cover Photo: Deb McCown's grandson James
nestled comfortably on a beautiful lilac quilt
Photo Credit Deb McCown*

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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

Dear Lilac Aficionados,

Fall has arrived finally. I think everyone has suffered from the extreme weather. Our summer in Virginia, USA has had many days with three-digit (Fahrenheit) temperatures. Our lilac friends in Russia have endured terrible fires and smog caused by the smoke that in turn caused terrible health problems for the population. You know that the vegetation also suffered. Our poor lilacs have endured but unfortunately some succumbed to the heat and drought.

Added to that we have here severe water restrictions. No watering of gardens is allowed in our localities. The reservoirs are at their lowest. The weather map is clear and the prospect of rain is dim. Hurricanes in the Atlantic usually bring us relief but not this year. They veered away from land passing us by, not a drop of rain to be had. I know that up North along the coast the weather has been severe. They got the rain, too much of it, and tornados who caused much destruction.

One thing for sure gardeners- do not get discouraged. We plant, replant, design gardens, refurbish others and insist on showing Mother Nature that we too have plans and can be as stubborn as she is. Well, I guess I spoke too soon about not getting hit by the usual hurricane. Nicole (not me) came by and caused major flooding and other serious damage all along the East Coast of the USA just a few days ago.

On the lilac front Karen McCauley, ILS Convention Chairman, and Marymae Mayer the local chair for the 2011 convention in Lombard, Illinois have worked together to prepare another fantastic ILS Convention. The whole Village of Lombard is involved. It will be wonderful, so please reserve the dates of April 28-30, 2011 and save your money. Our conventions are always different yet always the same. We meet our old friends, make new ones, see wonderful lilacs and always learn something new about our favorite shrubs. I'm sure everybody who returned from the conventions and had the chance of getting a lilac or two or three at the auction have those treasures tucked away in their garden. They are a reminder of the good times spent with other lilac aficionados.

A lot has been said on ILR (International Lilac Robin) about maybe a "new" lilac disease. Before anyone does anything take Jack Alexander's advice; do not dig up your plants. Wait until specimens are tested and results are in. No one is sure at this point if we even have a "new disease". The Arnold Arboretum Staff is doing some investigations and Jack will share the results with us. ILS will look into funding researches too. I think at the second

annual lilac forum held at the 2011 convention we will have lots to talk about.

The New England Lilac Group, under the leadership of RVP Mary Lizotte and help from Ned and Elizabeth Newton, is having their annual lilac event on October 16th. They are meeting at Syringa Plus Nursery in West Boxford, Massachusetts USA. Evie King and Roger Coggeshall are hosting the group. Anyone lucky enough to be close to the nursery should try to attend. It is good and fun to be in the lilac mix. You will have a good time with other lilac people.

I have heard from RVP Tatiana Poliakova. Via friends who visited her in Russia she sent me gifts; all of them related to lilacs. My favorite is a china teacup and saucer with a lilac motif. She and my friends met in the subway in Moscow. The station is very elaborate with beautiful mosaics on the wall. In one of the photos you can see a monk holding a big bouquet of lilacs. Tatiana is working on another publication. Her latest book is again full of beautiful lilac pictures. Of course I cannot read a word. She has included several pictures of our members: Brad Bittorf, ILS Executive Vice-President, Freek Vrugtman ILS registrar, myself pictured with John and Ellen Thurlow and others. Very, very nice; I only wish I could read Russian...

What to do now that winter is approaching? For us in this Northern Hemisphere it is time to clean up our garden and dream about the next season. The Holidays will soon be here. Give the gift of lilac. A year subscription to *Lilacs* would just be lovely and appreciated. A lilac too would please many. That is the kind of gift that keeps on giving year after year and you will always remembered.

I keep repeating it that we want to increase our membership. I'm sure you are tired of hearing me say it. Some members are working diligently toward this goal. So thank you to them. We all should help, each of us must work on recruiting at least one member. That effort alone would double our number.

I read on the American Hemerocallis Round Robin a discussion about *Syringa* 'Miss Kim'. Two gentlemen were pleased with the performance of this cultivar. I must contact them. They may join ILS...

Until we meet again on the lilac trail.

*Amities,
Nicole Jordan, ILS President
Chester, VA USA
October 11, 2010*

The following article is a continuation in the series written by former ILS President Bob Hoepfl. John Dunbar was a hybridizer who developed the early lilac collection at Highland Botanical Park, and named about 30 cultivars from seedlings in the park nursery. He named the lilacs in four general groupings: American Presidential Group, Army and Navy Group, Family and Local (Rochester NY) People, and American Personalities (see Lilacs Spring 2010).

Dunbar Lilacs

Presidential Group

'President John Adams' D I

Introduced in 1923. a seedling of 'Thunberg' (Lemoine 1913). Described as a good double white with compact thyrses on a somewhat compact shrub.

John Adams 1735-1826

A leader in the American Revolution, he helped draft the Declaration of Independence, served as Commissioner to France and Minister to England. Adams was the first U. S. Vice-President (1787-1797), and was elected to be the second President (1797-1801). Adams popularity was hurt by the effects of the French Revolution and the Alien and Sedition Acts. He retired to his Massachusetts home, and he was the last of the great leaders of the American Revolution to pass away.

The International Lilac Society visited his home during the May 2005 ILS Convention.

Highland Park collection- in nursery

'President Monroe' D IV

Introduced in 1923. a seedling of 'Thunberg' (Lemoine 1913). Described as purplish in bud, opening to a porcelain-lavender color on long thyrses. The opening bud resembles a miniature rose bud.

James Monroe 1758-1831

During his political life, Monroe served as U. s. Senator, governor of Virginia, Secretary of State and Secretary of War, before being elected the 5th U. S. President; serving from 1816-1824. His administration was known as the 'Era of Good Feelings'; saw the acquisition of Florida and the Missouri compromise. His legacy remains the 'Monroe Doctrine', in which he announced that the U. s. regards any interference in American affairs as an unfriendly act and that the Western Hemisphere was closed to Further European colonization.

Highland Park collection #306, #819

'President Lincoln' S III

Introduced in 1916. a seedling of 'Alba Virginalis' (Oudin 1844). For years considered one of the best blue lilacs. The new foliage quickly hides the beautiful flowers. It is a long-lived, vigorous, upright shrub that does not respond well to rejuvenation.

Abraham Lincoln 1809-1865

Born in a log cabin in Kentucky, he had little formal education. As a shopkeeper and postmaster, he established a reputation for honesty. He moved to Illinois in 1830 and was elected to the U. S. Congress and the Senate before being elected President in 1860. Upon his election, South Carolina and 6 other southern states seceded from the Union. Lincoln's objective was to save the Union, and neither to save or abolish slavery. Five days after General Lee's surrender, ending the American Civil War, Lincoln was assassinated.

Highland Park collection #1451, #1593, #1607, #1672, #1951, #2527, #2532, #2544, #2549

'President Roosevelt' S VII

Introduced in 1923. a seedling of 'Aline Mocqueris' (Danvesse 1872). Described as purplish-red in bud, opening to a claret red to purplish-red florets. The very attractive cupped-shaped flowers display a good rich color. Unlike the plant's parent, it is not a strong grower.

Theodore Roosevelt 1858-1918

As U. S. Secretary of the Navy, he prepared the fleet for war with Spain. He resigned that post to organize the 1st U. S. Volunteer Cavalry known as the 'Rough Riders', and successfully led a charge up San Juan Hill in Cuba. First elected as governor of New York State, then as U.S. vice-President in 1900, he succeeded to the Presidency in 1901 upon the assassination of William McKinley. He served 7 years and his Administration was marked by the 'Square Deal' at home and 'Speak softly and carry a big stick' philosophy abroad. In 1906, Theodore Roosevelt won the Nobel Peace Prize, the first to go to an American, for his work in mediating the Russo-Japanese War.

Highland Park collection- Nursery

'President Harding' S VII

Introduced in 1923. a seedling of 'Aline Mocqueris' (Danvesse 1872). Described as deep crimson in bud, reddish-lilac when fully open. Florets and thyrses are small and dense on a fairly compact shrub.

Warren G. Harding 1865-1923

Harding was an influential newspaper publisher before being elected U.S. Senator from Ohio. As a compromise presidential candidate, Harding won the 1920 election. His administration is remembered for the 'Teapot dome' oil scandal.

While attempting to help his party by touring the U.S., he contracted pneumonia in San Francisco and died soon after.

Not represented in Highland Park collection

*Robert Hoepfl
former ILS President*

Peter Shaw Green 1920-2009

The late Peter S. Green, who died 17 December 2009, was a world authority on the systematics of the Oleaceae, the family that includes the genus *Syringa*, and published several important works on lilac taxonomy.

Peter Green graduated from King's College, London, in 1948, and was awarded an honorary doctorate of science by that school in 1997. His career included productive years at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh and the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University, but the greatest number of his botanical contributions were published during his many years at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, at which he became Deputy Director and Keeper of the Herbarium and Library and editor of the *Kew Bulletin*. He continued his research at Kew after retiring from his administrative responsibilities in 1982. (According to one newspaper, "Peter Green retire[d] to start work.")

Dr. Green published taxonomic studies on many genera of flowering plants and ferns, as well as floristic studies of the Lord Howe and Norfolk islands and elsewhere in the South Pacific, but his greatest interest was in the Oleaceae. He authored many works on several genera in this family, including, as a final magnum opus, a book on *Jasminum*, with Diana Miller as co-author.

Of Dr. Green's taxonomic studies on lilacs, four are especially significant. The earliest of these was a systematic study of *Syringa oblata*, in which the status of several taxonomic segregates was clarified. This research was made feasible by a visit to China in 1978 at the invitation of Academia Sinica. Perhaps his best-known research on *Syringa* was his study of the highly popular *Syringa meyeri* 'Palibin', which until that time had been placed in several different species and confused with several other cultivars. This was followed by studies of the cut-leaved lilacs, in which Dr. Green was the first to recognize that the binomial "*Syringa laciniata*" had been applied to both sterile and fertile plants. The latter entity, now believed to have been a parent of *S. persica*, was named *S. protolaciniata*. He also published, with Mei-Chen Chang as co-author, a taxonomic revision of the series *Pubescentes*, a group for which several conflicting classifications had been in use and in which several "species" had been notoriously difficult to distinguish. He also authored or co-authored the treatments of *Syringa* in several standard references, notably the *Flora Europaea*, *Flora of China* (English edition), and *European Garden Flora*.

Two more comprehensive obituaries of Peter Green are cited below. Additional biographical notes can be expected in other journals of systematic botany.

Lucas, Gren. 2010. Peter Shaw Green (1920-2009). *Watsonia* 20: 190-191.

Simpson, David. 2010. Peter Shaw Green (1920-2009). *Kew Bulletin* 65: 1-3.

Publications on *Syringa* by Peter S. Green

- Chang, M.C. and P.S. Green. 1996. *Syringa* Linnaeus. In: Flora of China. Science Press, Beijing, China; Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, MO. 15: 280-286.
- Green, P.S. 1968. The Olive Family in cultivation. *Arnoldia* 25: 13-27.
- Green, P.S. 1972. *Syringa* L. In: Tutin, T.G., et al., eds. Flora Europaea. University Press, Cambridge, U.K. 3: 54.
- Green, P.S. 1979. *Syringa meyeri* cv. 'Palibin'. *Curtis's Botanical Magazine* 182: 117-120, Tab. 778. Republished 1980. *Lilacs* 8(1): 35-39.
- Green, P.S. 1980. Papillate leaves in lilacs? *Lilacs* 8(1): 31-34.

Submission of 2011 Nominations for Awards

Please submit all ILS Award nominations for the year 2011 to Connie Simonnet, Awards Chair. Please include the following information with your submissions.

1. The full name of the person being nominated, and or their used professional title.
2. The contact information, if they are not a current ILS member. Including mailing address, phone number and email address.
3. Why they are deserving of the award, and their accomplishment.

Please submit to: Connie Simonnet, email: cvssimonnet@frontiernet.net

Please be mindful of the cutoff date, March 15, 2011.

Please read the attached list of ILS Awards, and submit your nominations. Thank you.

International Lilac Society Awards

Honor and Achievement:

Highest award given by the Society, given only for outstanding work, dedication and service to promoting the lilac or the Society. To be considered for the award the individuals contributions must be truly outstanding and of benefit to the whole society. It is awarded only to individuals and not to institutions, given only once to an individual and need not be presented annually.

Directors' Award:

Awarded by the Society only to those engaged in the improvement of the lilac through hybridization, scientific selection or selective research to improve the quality of the flower of the lilac plant. It is intended as an award for outstanding work with the lilac. It is to be considered as the highest scientific horticultural award given by the Society.

President's Award:

Awarded to the arboretum, public or private park or garden for outstanding collections and public display of the lilacs, work with promoting the growing and landscape uses of the lilac, outstanding landscaping with lilacs or major research with lilacs. It is an institutional or park-garden award. Its purpose is to encourage the planting of lilacs for public display and education. It is not intended for strictly private gardens [no matter how great their excellence].

Arch McKean Award:

For publicizing the lilac and promoting the International Lilac Society. This award need not be given each year.

Award of Merit:

Given to an individual or institution, public or private, for outstanding contributions in promoting, growing, researching or working with the lilac or the Society. It is intended to be given regionally as an "International Recognition for work over and above the average" –for outstanding promotion, for public education, for scientific research work or for horticultural excellence. A recipient may receive this award only once for the same work [but more than once for several contributions of equal merit].

Distinguished Recognition Award:

Given at the discretion of the Society to recognize an outstanding act or contribution to the International Lilac Society.

2011 ILS Convention In Lombard

Next year marks the 100th anniversary of Colonel and Mrs. Wm. F Plum's return from Nancy, France, with two Lemoine cultivars, 'Mme Casimir Pèrier' and 'Michel Buchner' — the beginning of Lilacia Park's now 800+ collection. And, it will have been exactly twenty years since ILS held its first convention in Lombard.

Back in 1991, ILS members left Lombard with much concern about our many missing labels and misidentified lilacs. Lilacia being a very old collection, of course, had undergone significant change through years, some of which occurred in an era where more emphasis was given to the annual staging of a show of blossoms at Lilac Time than to that of proper plant care and records maintenance. Thanks to Jerry Budd, Lilacia's horticulturist for the past fifteen years, the lilacs are well-tended and we have taken great strides toward instituting a system aimed at ensuring proper preservation of the collection.

Little did I realize what I was getting myself into that day in the winter of 2007-08 when I offered to help Jerry computerize the records. It was with great naiveté I set out to discover something of Colonel Plum's original records or at least be able connect a present day plant to one of his originals. Alas, though both hopes were readily dashed, the research and learning experience has proven the necessity for an accurate and properly maintained record keeping system.

Our first milestone of mapping all 25 planting beds was achieved in the winter of 2008-09. As our research and building of database inventory advanced with full support of park district leadership, the project caught the attention of the village's GIS technical supervisor. [Note of clarification: Colonel Plum's will specified formation of a park district which is charged with stewardship of Lilacia; this is a separate taxing body from the municipality which operates under a village form of government.] Soon, in addition to a detailed relational database, this newfound system of lilac records maintenance was to include ArcPad drawings of each planting bed so as to be fully compatible with the Village's sophisticated software. In plotting each lilac into an aerial view of the park, we have assigned each a unique identifier code and color-coded the points by bloom time. This gives Jerry an accurate visual overview of the entire collection with the bonus of being able to easily assess how many and where the early, midseason and late bloomers are. During the 2010 bloom time, a team consisting of three Lombard Camera Club members, myself and three helpers, captured four specific photos (full plant, panicle, leaf and floret) of each specimen. These are now linked to the database itself which contains some 30 fields of information about any given lilac.

The steps we have taken to preserve Lilacia's collection are part of what we want to show fellow ILS members at next spring's convention in Lombard, situated about 25 miles due west of Chicago's Loop. So, mark your calendar for the

convention dates April 28, 29 and 30, 2011, but, keep in mind that we've contracted a very reasonable \$114 room rate with the Westin Hotel, Lombard, which will honor that same rate for two days prior and two days after the convention. They will also make \$25 airport vouchers available to our registrants who fly in to either Midway or O'Hare. Alternately, keep in mind that Chicago is a major hub for Amtrak. Trains arrive at Union Station, downtown Chicago; from there you would walk one block to the Metra Train Station at Ogilvie Center Station to board the West Line to Lombard where the Westin shuttle can pick you up.

We'll provide a detailed convention agenda for the next issue of *Lilacs*, but here are the highlights. Our hosts — Lombard Park District and the Village of Lombard — plan to welcome ILS on the 28th with a pig roast dinner. In keeping with a theme of "plant preservation in an urban environment", tours will consist of visiting a prairie restoration, Lilacia Park and the Lurie Garden in downtown Chicago's Millennium Park. We'll lunch that day during an architectural cruise through downtown Chicago on the Chicago River.

Because the 2011 calendar is such that we needed to schedule the convention around our established Lilac Time activities, the hope is that by holding it during the last days of April other members who are similarly affected by their own Lilac Time activities will be able to attend. Will we have blooms at the end of April? Historically, many of our early bloomers are in full bloom by then, so we can but hope. The one certainty is that all of Lombard is looking forward to welcoming ILS and have plans guaranteed to make this convention especially memorable.

*Marymae Meyer, Host Chair
September 2010*

Board of Directors Candidates Needed!

Now is your chance to serve the International Lilac Society. ILS every year elects a slate of 5 new board members for a 3 year term. Consider serving a term and make your voice heard. Different ideas from a continuing flow of new board members will keep our society vibrant. Contact Warren Oakes, Membership Secretary at roblesc.oakes@gmail.com.

2011 ILS Convention & Annual Meeting Lombard, Illinois - April 28, 29, 30

Thursday, April 28

8:30am – 12:30pm	Directors' Meeting Governor's Suite, Westin Hotel
9:00am – 10:00pm	Registration Lobby, Westin Hotel
1:00pm – 2:00pm	Guided on-bus tours of historic sites: Cemetery, Peck Homestead, Orphan Annie House, Maple Street Chapel
2:00pm – 3:00 pm	Guided walking tour of Terrace View Prairie Restoration
3:30pm – 5:00pm	Guided walking tour of Lilacia Park
5:30pm – 7:30pm	Welcome Dinner Blue and White Tent, Lilacia Park
7:30pm	Bus return to Hotel
Hospitality Suite	open until 10:00pm Governor's Suite, Westin Hotel

Friday, April 29

7:45am	Bus to Continental Breakfast Annual Meeting Lombard Commons Bldg.
10:15am	Bus to Chicago Line Cruise Architectural Boat Tour
12:00pm-1:30pm	90-minute Historical Lake/Architectural Cruise, Lunch on board
1:45 pm	Bus to Lurie Garden tour Millennium Park
3:30pm	Bus return to Westin
6:00 pm	Westin Shuttles take guests to Carlisle Banquets (5 min.)
6:30pm-7:00pm	Cash bar for beer and wine Carlisle
7:00 – 8:30pm	President's Dinner: Presentation "Preserving Lilacia Park's Lilac Collection" Speakers: Marymae Meyer, Park District Leaders, DeVroomen Holland Tulip Rep Carlisle
8:30-9:00 pm	Westin Shuttles return guests to Westin
Hospitality Suite	open until 10:00pm Governor's Suite, Westin Hotel

Saturday, April 30

	Attendees' Breakfast on their own
7:30am – 8:30am	Directors' Meeting Governor's Suite, Westin Hotel
8:45am	Bus to Panel Discussion at Helen Plum Library Auditorium (ten minute ride)
11:30- 1:30pm	Lunch Helen Plum Library Deck
2:00pm – 4:30pm	ILS Auction Open to public Blue and White Tent, Lilacia Park
5:00-5:30pm	Bus return to Hotel
6:30pm – 7:00pm	Cash bar for beer and wine Cypress Room, Westin Hotel
7:00pm	Awards Banquet/Speaker: Kunso Kim, Director of Collections, Morton Arboretum Cypress Room, Westin Hotel
Hospitality Suite	open until 10:00pm Governor's Suite, Westin Hotel

The Italo-Canadian Generation Lilacs

So much work has been done in the past with lilacs by extraordinary hybridizers that I had decided to fool around a little in the past with new lilacs myself.

In 2002 my first *vulgaris* and *hyacinthiflora* seedlings were put into the ground and in 2010 they flowered for the first time. The names that were picked were: 'Bacio di Amore', 'Cristallo di Cortina' and 'Taylor Mitchell'.

It was exciting to see them flower. We had a few others also flower but before naming them want to see them flower another year first to be sure they were worthy.

So with that success we seeded last year in 2009 very heavily and with great success. We now have some 2200 1 yr old seedlings that show very promising health and even some differentiations just in leaf. We have a speckled *tomentella* 'Royal Crown' seedling, some lilacs with red under leaf color and even some second generation *prestoniae* 'New York' seedlings that have excellent variegation.

We seeded once again very heavily this year and the takes were very good also. We are hoping to revolutionize the lilacs with beautiful fragranced, good looking lilacs that will be in the future accessible to everyone in the lilac world. The 3 above lilacs are now in tissue culture already and we hope to have a few next late summer.

Syringa vulgaris 'Cristallo di Cortina'

The flowers are pure satiny translucent white and the buds are pale yellow prior to opening. Fragrance is very high and petals are recurved.

From open pollination the mother plant is *Syringa vulgaris* 'White Lace'

The meaning of the lilac is The Crystals of Cortina. The Cristallo mountains are a mountain group northeast of Cortina D'Ampezzo. Cristallo is known for high peaks with 4 summits higher than 3,000 meters.

One of the major ski areas in the area. There is a gondola lift still present that was built for the 1956 Olympics.

Syringa vulgaris 'Bacio di Amore'

Buds are dark purple opening to a magenta color and so surprisingly showing violet water marks in the inner part of the florets.

The petals are recurved and fragrance very high. It is definitely a very unique color. Open pollination and mother plant is *Syringa vulgaris* 'Pixie'

"Bacio di Amore" means Kiss of Love in Italian.

Syringa vulgaris 'Taylor Mitchell'

Taylor Mitchell who was a young singer songwriter who passed away in October 2009. Buds are Lavender pink in color opening to a whitish lavender flower and florets become fully reflexed back. The fragrance is very sweet and smells

a little like baby powder. Open pollination, mother plant is *Syringa vulgaris* 'White Lace'.

Its been a real special time for us to see after a number of years the seeds we sowed come up to flower. I have not yet played with actual pollination and I just have so much respect for the previous lilac hybridizers before us. They spent so many hours opening flowers and covering them up. Its team work with the family. Cameo has control of the fertilizing and repotting program and there is a great story behind. We were doing some *pubescens* subsp. *patula* 'Cinderella'; seedlings and the tray we were working on for 2 hours produced some 200 seedlings to repot and the tray was only 25% done. It was 5pm so we left for the day and next day she finished of the tray by herself. 596 more seedlings. It took her 5 hours to do it. The word Cinderella is no longer allowed to be used around her (haha).

Corinna is the one who looks after labeling any different features in seedlings and Records them. We want to take a exact account of what we are doing so that there is a record. The goal is to create new lilacs that are going to be the next Lemoine garden center lilacs across North America. Get ready everyone- its only begun!

Frank Moro
September 2010

Hot off the Lilac Line!

Presenting a unique line up of lilacs just freshly propagated from tissue culture. Over 45 impossible lilacs to find such as:

Chinensis: 'Duplex',

Vulgaris: 'Murillo', 'Aloise', 'Biala Anna', 'Gismonda', 'Bluets', 'Elsie Lemore', 'Lee Jewett Walker', 'Blue Danube', 'Starlight', 'Valentina Grizobudova', 'Satin Cloud', 'Lullaby', 'Porcelain Blue', 'Rhapsody', 'Hosanna' and many more

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We ship to the USA and all over the world. Come and see some great new lilacs.

From the Moro family we all wish you the best of the Holiday Season

Sara, Frank, Corinna, Cameo, Jordan, Ricky, Alessandro and of course our beloved Colby Moro



Entrance to Shelburne Museum
Photo Credit Brad Bittorf



Beautiful setting for lilacs at University of Vermont Hort. Farm
Photo Credit Brad Bittorf



Rick Peters, Director of Grounds at Shelburne Museum
Photo Credit Brad Bittorf



Brad Bittorf next to lilac at U. of Vermont Hort. Farm
Photo Courtesy of Brad Bittorf



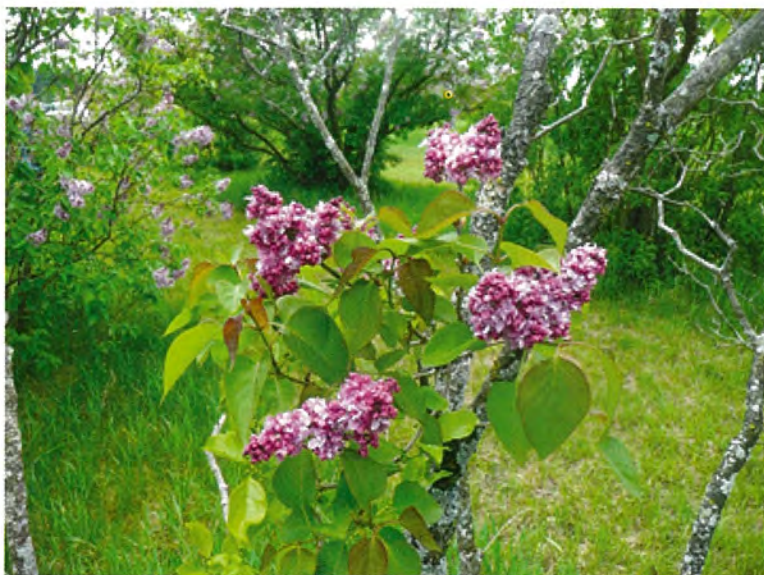
Jeff Young giving plenty of expert lilac advice
Photo Credit Brad Bittorf



Woody Barnes auctions rare lilacs before an eager crowd.
Photo Credit Brad Bittorf



Lilacs even beautify a bathroom landscape!
Photo Credit Brad Bittorf



Syringa vulgaris 'Dr. Masters' - note heavy coating of lichens
Photo Credit Brad Bittorf

Development and Triggering of Lilac Flower Buds- An International Lilac Robin Discussion

The following discussion about lilac flower bud initiation and development took place over several days on the International Lilac Robin. This discussion led to the addition of an experts panel at the 2010 ILS convention in Shelburne, Vermont, USA to answer questions about various topics concerning lilacs.

Nancy Latimer, April 23, 2010: "...A local nursery owner said she expected me to have a beautiful year of lilacs and explained she expected that because we had a cold winter with a lot of snow. I replied that lilac buds are set right after bloom, so I would expect this year's winter to promote next years bloom. I recall the nursery owner from PA, who spoke at the vineyard in Rochester, saying that if they had 60 days below freezing, lilacs would bloom. Can anyone tell me who is right as to which winter brings which year's bloom?"

Sharon Davies, April 23, 2010: "I had thought that the weather during the summer while buds were setting was the important ingredient."

John Thurlow, April 25, 2010: "Sharon, I believe you are correct....The flower buds set on the current years growth in the summer months...I never heard of the buds being winter killed, so the winter weather MAY not have any effect."

Kent Millham, April 25, 2010: "I also agree with Sharon and John. In Rochester, NY, the flower buds are usually set for the following year by about July 1st."

Joan Speirs, April 25, 2010: "I don't know about all this. Although the flower buds are formed the previous summer, the literature alludes to "setting of flower buds" in the winter, e.g. *Lilacs: A Gardener's Encyclopedia*, p. 33." *"Their buds need some weeks of frost or drought to set them well for bloom."*

Kent Millham, April 25, 2010: "Joan, what you say also makes sense, because we all know many lilacs don't flower as well in warmer zones. Possibly there are several factors that determine the development of the flower buds. This would be a question for a scientist or researcher to answer."

Brad Bittorf, April 25, 2010: "I'm enjoying the discussion on this point. At some of the conventions I attend we have a 'Panel Discussion'. [At this year's convention we should have] the first 'Lilac Experts Panel' where a moderator asks questions and the experts discuss various points."

Nancy Latimer, April 25, 2010: "...I have really enjoyed hearing the various viewpoints, but I am still not clear as to which winter helps initiate the flowers, the one before bud set or the one after?"

Ellen Thurlow, April 25, 2010: "I believe it is the winter after the bud has formed."

Evie King summarized the discussion well with the following opinion:

Evie King, April 25, 2010: "Evie's two cents- All agree that flower buds are formed in June/July (or earlier in some regions). Basically [in the previous growing season], lilacs bloom, grow, and produce flower buds for the following season (with enough sun). Lilacs and many other northern plants need a period of dormancy. Dormancy or a period of rest is required to initiate flower bud set. They have to break dormancy, or ripen, and then they will be able to bloom. Cold is the trigger for lilacs in the north. Potentially, a fall natural drought is a factor in warmer regions."

Join in the Lilac Discussions!

If you want to participate in these interesting discussions on topics concerning lilacs, then you should join the International Lilac Robin.

Contact our Executive Vice-President Brad Bittorf at
bittorfbradley@yahoo.com to become a member of the
International Lilac Round Robin.

Editor's Deadline

To all members interested in submitting an article or photos about lilacs,
please send them to the Editor Kent Millham at
kmillham@monroecounty.gov by about December 15, 2010
to be included in the Winter issue of *Lilacs*.

Historic Ellwanger & Barry Catalogue

Ellwanger & Barry, the largest mail order nursery in the U. S. in the late 1800's, donated to the city of Rochester, New York the original land that founded Highland Botanical Park in 1888. Along with this generous donation, they also donated several specimens of every tree and shrub at their nursery. This also included all of their extensive list of lilacs, which became part of the original core of lilacs at Highland Botanical Park, along with other later accessions from Lemoine Nursery, Späth Nursery, and the Arnold Arboretum.

Editor's Note: The following list is exactly as it appeared in the 1892 Ellwanger & Barry Catalogue. Please note that single quotes were not used around each cultivar, the scientific names were not italicized, and the word variety (instead of cultivar) was used in the catalogue. At the present time, that is incorrect nomenclature, but I have reproduced the text as it appeared historically.

SYRINGA. Lilac. Fleider, *Ger.* Lilas, *Fr.*

S. Josikaea. JOSIKAS or CHIONANTHUS-LEAVED LILAC. C. From Transylvania. A fine, distinct species, of tree-like growth, with dark, shining leaves and purple flowers in June, after the other Lilacs have done flowering. Esteemed particularly for its fine habit and foliage. 35c.

S. Persica. PERSIAN LILAC. C. Native of Persia. From 4 to 6 feet high, with small foliage and bright purple flowers. 50c.

Syringa P. var. alba. WHITE PERSIAN LILAC. D. Delicate white fragrant flowers, shaded with purple. A superb variety. \$1.00.

var. laciniata. PERSIAN CUT-LEAVED LILAC. A variety with deeply cut leaves and reddish purple flowers. 50c.

S. rothomagensis var. rubra. ROUEN LILAC. C. A distinct hybrid variety, with reddish flowers; panicles of great size and very abundant. One of the finest Lilacs. 50c.

S. Siberica alba. SIBERIAN WHITE LILAC. C. A vigorous grower; foliage small and narrow; flowers white with a bluish tint. Fragrant and free flowering. 50c.

S. Verschaffeltii. VERSCHAFFELT'S LILAC. C. Dark red in bud, lilac when open; large, compact panicle; distinct. 50c.

S. vulgaris, COMMON LILAC. C. Bluish purple flowers. 35c.

var. alba. COMMON WHITE LILAC. C. Cream-colored flowers. 50c.

var. alba grandiflora. LARGE-FLOWERED WHITE LILAC. C. Very large, pure white trusses of flowers. 50c.

var. Albert the Good. C. An erect, vigorous grower, with large spikes of reddish purple flowers. 50c.

var. Beranger. C. A seedling from *Gloire de Moulins*. Has large panicles of a purplish lilac red color; fine. 50c.

var. Charleberg. C. A distinct variety; flowers very small, light purple, shaded with pink. Compact truss. 50c.

- var. Charles X.** C. A strong, rapid-growing variety, with large, shining leaves; trusses large, rather loose, reddish-purple. 50c.
- var. Colmariensis.** COLMAR'S LILAC. C. Very large, pale blue flowers, and fine glossy foliage; distinct and fine. 35c.
- var. Croix de Brahy.** C. Flowers red in bud, becoming almost pink; beautiful; panicles compact. 50c.
- var. Dr. Lindley.** C. Large, compact panicles of purplish lilac flowers. Very fine. 50c.
- var. caerulea superba.** E. & B. SEEDLING. C. Flowers light purple in bud, but when fully open a clear blue; truss very large. A superb variety. 50c.
- var. de Croncels.** C. Carmine red in bud, lilac when open; truss large; superb. 50c.
- var. flore pleno.** DOUBLE PURPLE LILAC. C. Has a double row of petals; valuable for cut flowers; very neat and pretty. 50c.
- var. gigantea.** GIANT LILAC. C. A vigorous, erect grower, with large leaves and spikes. Flowers blue. 35c.
- var. Gloire de Lorraine.** C. Individual flowers large, red in bud, lilac when open. 50c.
- var. Gloire de Moulins.** C. Long panicle; individual flowers very large, rosy lilac in color, very fragrant. 50c.
- var. Jacques Calot.** C. One of the finest Lilacs; very large panicles of delicate rosy pink flowers, individual flowers unusually large; distinct. \$1.00.
- var. Lemoinei flore pleno.** LEMOINE'S DOUBLE-FLOWERED LILAC. C. Panicles large; flowers reddish purple, semi-double; fine. 50c.
- var. Louis Van Houtte.** C. Large panicles of red flowers. 50c.
- var. Marie Legraye.** C. Large panicles of white flowers. Valuable for forcing. \$1.00.
- var. nana.** DWARF LILAC. D. Distinct, large and compact spike of dark reddish purple fragrant flowers. Very fine. 50c.
- var. Noisettiana alba.** C. Large trusses of white flowers. \$1.00.
- var. President Massart.** C. Red in bud, purple when open; large panicle; fine. 50c.
- var. Princess Alexandra.** C. A variety with pure white flowers; panicles medium to large. One of finest white flowering varieties. 50c.
- var. Prince of Wales.** C. Panicles medium to large; flowers purplish lilac, the petals slightly curling near the edge, giving the appearance of being striped. 50c.
- var. Prof. E. Stockhardt.** C. Lavender-colored flowers, large truss; fine. 50c.
- var. rubra insignis.** C. Dark red in bud, purple or lilac when open; large truss; superb. 50c.

var. Ville de Troyes. C. A fine variety, with large panicles of dark purple flowers. 50c.

var. virginalis. C. Flowers pure white; large, compact panicles more delicate than the common \$1.00

NEW VARIETIES OF LILACS.

Attention is especially directed to the double-flowered varieties remarkable for their large trusses and beautiful flowers. The descriptions in some cases are those of the originator.

Syringa Japonica. C. A new species from Japan, becoming a good sized tree. Foliage dark green, glossy, leathery; flowers creamy white, odorless, in great panicles. A month later than other lilacs. \$1.50.

S. ligustrina Pekinensis pendula. CHINESE WEEPING LILAC. C. Of graceful drooping habit; flowers white, fragrant. \$2.00.

S. villosa. C. A new species from Japan. Large branching panicles; flowers light purple in bud, white when open; fragrant; foliage resembles that of the *White Fringe*. Especially valuable, as its flowers appear two weeks after those of other Lilacs. \$1.50.

S. vulgaris var. Alphonse Lavalle. C. Very large panicle, beautiful blue, shaded violet. \$1.00.

var. Comte Horace de Choiseul. C. "Flowers deep violet red. small plants. \$1.50.

var. Condorcet. C. "Long panicles; very large semi-double flowers, pale blue." Small plants. \$1.50.

var. Emile Lemoine. C. "Flowers very large; of fine globular form; rosy lilac; beautiful." Small plants. \$1.50.

var. Frau Dammann. C. This is the best white lilac in our collection; the panicle or truss is immense, flowers of medium size and pure white. This and *Ludwig Spaeth* are the two best lilacs of recent introduction. \$1.50.

var. hyacinthiflora plena. C. Double flowers; lilac rose; red in bud; early. 75c.

var. Jean Bart. C. "Panicle large and compact; flowers rosy carmine." Small plants. \$1.50.

var. Lamarck. C. Very large panicle; individual flowers large, very double, rosy lilac; superb when open. \$1.00.

var. Langius. C. A new lilac which blossoms quite late. Panicle large; individual flowers medium, rosy lilac; a distinct shade. Good. \$1.00.

var. La Tour d'Auvergne. C. "Flowers very large; violet purple." Small plants. \$1.50.

var. le Gaulois. C. "Panicle very large and compact; flowers deep peach color." Small plants. \$1.50.

- var. Leon Simon.** C. "Panicle compact; flowers bluish crimson." Small plants. \$1.50.
- var. Lovaniensis.** C. Silvery pink, a distinct and beautiful shade; panicle large and very erect, showing off the individual flowers to good advantage. An acquisition. \$1.00.
- var. Ludwig Spaeth.** C. Panicle long; individual flowers large, single; dark purplish red; distinct; superb. The finest of its color. \$1.50.
- var. Mme. Jules Finger.** C. "Flowers large, satiny rose; very fragrant." Small plants. \$1.50.
- var. Madame Moser.** C. White. \$1.00.
- var. Mathieu de Dombasle.** C. Panicle of medium size; flowers small, very double; color reddish mauve. Very free flowering. \$1.00.
- var. M. Maxime Cornu.** C. "Flowers lilac rose." Small plants. \$1.50.
- var. Michael Buchner.** C. Plant dwarf; panicle erect, very large; individual flowers medium, very double; color pale lilac, very distinct and fine. An acquisition. \$1.50.
- var. President Grevy.** C. A beautiful blue; individual flowers very double and very large, measuring three-quarters of an inch in diameter; the panicle is magnificent and measures eleven inches in length and five inches across. One of the finest Lilacs. \$1.50.
- var. Professor Sargent.** C. "Buds cherry red, dark violet when fully open; fine." Small plants \$1.50.
- var. pyramidalis.** C. "Panicles large and dense; flowers large and full; color fine azure rose; carmine in bud." Small plants. \$1.50.
- var. Renoncule.** C. Very double; azure mauve; very fragrant. \$1.00.
- var. rubella plena.** C. flowers large, very double, clear violet red. \$1.00.
- var. Rouge de Trianon.** C. Very large panicle; individual flowers large, reddish lilac. Fine. \$1.00.
- var. Senateur Volland.** C. "Flowers rosy red." Small plants. \$1.50.
- var. virginite.** C. "Flowers large, double, tender rose, shade of *Souvenir de la Malmaison* rose." Small plants. \$1.50.

Ten questions with Tatiana Polyakova.

1. What role do you play in the lilac community?

I am only a catalyzer. I am not a professional botanist or great specialist in the field of lilacs. However, my love for lilacs is so great that I can infect a large number of people with my love. And I can look into the soul of the lilac. People read my books and articles, look at the lilacs through my eyes and begin to love lilacs as I do. I worked hard to revive interest in the lilac in Russia in the last ten years. I think my main goal is popularization of lilacs.

Sometimes I am a generator of ideas - this is my second role in the world of lilacs. It does not matter that later my ideas began to live separate from me. The main thing is that they live. The idea of the project "Lilac of the Victory" came to me 5 years ago and is now nationwide. Children are planting lilac alleys in memory of World War II veterans each year. Lilacs are now a theme in some children schools. Children draw pictures of lilacs and make wonderful crafts. Children plant lilacs in school yards. Another project of mine is "Moscow - city of lilac." I proposed this project to the Moscow City Government. With persuasive words, the project was approved. Later, the main provisions were elaborated together by me and the leading Russian specialists, Irina Okuneva and Olga Molkanova. Now the first part of the several year project is being carried out absolutely independently. No expert on lilacs is included in the commission to control the project. That sounds pretty weird, but it is the reality. Recently, as part of the project plan, thousands of lilac bushes were planted on the streets, in parks, and alleys of Moscow. I would like to see the government sometimes listen to the opinion of independent experts in order to avoid mistakes at planting lilacs and the choice of varieties.

I have been collecting things with the images of lilacs for a very long time. By now my collection contains numerous exhibits such as pans and pots, porcelain, perfumes, household chemicals and tapestries, cloth, napkins, greeting cards, calendars, jewelry boxes and much more. My dream is to create a virtual museum of lilac on the Internet, so everyone could see my collection. This can raise interest in lilacs. Yes, I'm just a dreamer, a catalyzer and a generator. Now I dream of holding an annual international competition of lilac photos. We can hold the contest in four nominations (for example, a branch of lilac, lilac bush, lilac in the city and close-up) with three winners in each category. As a result, we'll get the best 12 photos, and then we can publish a beautiful calendar. I think every member of the ILS would like to buy it. We can send, for example, all photos to ILS web-site and conduct an on-line voting. I dream that we have established a new holiday - International Day of lilacs. Why not? Any of the days in late May might be our favorite holiday.

2. When did you first become involved with lilacs?

I have always loved lilacs. Several lilac bushes were growing near the house of my grandmother. As a child I often spent the summer among those lilacs. The house was located on the outskirts of Moscow. Granny's house was destroyed in the mid 60's and so were the lilac bushes. Moscow was growing rapidly and high-rise buildings replaced the small private houses. But my real passion for lilacs started in 1990 when we bought a small plot of land about 100 km south of Moscow.

3. How did you first become involved with lilacs?

I came into the world of lilacs in the most difficult time for Russia. It was a time of economic restructuring. There were many problems in the botanical gardens and flower farms. There was only one opportunity to purchase lilacs - look for familiar gardeners who have good lilacs in their gardens and ask them to share the shoots. We also did not have the opportunity to purchase books on lilacs, not even in second-hand or antiquarian stores. Therefore, in 1999 a group of lilac fans created a new section called «Lilac» at the Moscow Flora Club. In 2000, we held the first exhibition of lilacs with a focus on domestic selection. My friends and I made the first important step towards reviving rare cultivars of Russian breeders. I started to create my own collection and gather information on the breeders and their cultivars. At this time I started writing articles about the lilacs in magazines and newspapers.

4. Assuming you own some lilacs, when did you obtain your first?

Our first lilac was bought in 1991. I and my son who was 7 years old were looking for plants for our new garden at a small market. We met an old lady who was selling the lilac. She said that this lilac was presented to her by Leonid Kolesnikov many years ago. I did not even know the name of this person. The bush was quite big and heavy. We could not put it in a taxi. With great difficulty we brought it home by the subway. My son was proud that he could help me. We cut all branches of this bush to place it into the car. It took two years for that lilac to recover after this barbarity. When it bloomed for the first time, the world around us changed. It was a few years later before I learned the name of this lilac. It was "Mechta" of Leonid Kolesnikov.

5. How many different cultivars do you own?

Today I have 147 different cultivars in my collection. This is too much for such a small garden like mine. I have to make difficult choices all the time, and I find it so hard to part with any of my lilacs. Also I have a lot of open pollination seedlings from 'Indiya', 'Mulatka', 'Flora', 'Mechta', 'Velikaya Pobeda', 'Minchanka' and others, which recently have become old enough to flower. Some of them are very interesting. I gave my seedlings to schools and planted them next to my house in Moscow.

6. If you could only have 5 lilacs, what would they be?

7. And why?

This question is extraordinarily difficult. I love all the lilacs. Each cultivar has its own merits. Each season gives birth to new favorites. But there are lilacs that captivate the soul. 'Mechta' and 'Nadezhda'. Wonderful names of these cultivars are equivalent to their beauty. Profuse flowering, large inflorescences, good flower size, soft delicate color ... and a very special aura. Nobody in the world can live without these two simple words - dream and hope.

'Pamyat o Kolesnikove'. Each floret of this lilac is a true masterpiece. A graceful round shape of flowers makes them look like little roses. This form is retained until the end of flowering.

'Mulatka'. Dark purple buds of this cultivar hide a big surprise. Its flowers change color from a bright pink with a red glow to the delicate color of cocoa with milk. I love to watch this color metamorphosis. This lilac blooms very early and abundantly.

'Maiden's Blush' is a very cheerful and upbeat lilac. Gorgeous pink evokes a romantic mood. I love this lilac without any special reasons.

8. What development in lilac cultivation do you appreciate the most?

I agree on this issue with Freek Vrugtman. The development of propagating techniques is very important. Thus we get new opportunities. Here in Moscow we have excellent professionals in the field of micro propagation. Thanks to them, our collections are fast supplemented with new or rare varieties. All of them are ILS members - Olga Molkanova, Vladimir Upelniak, Olga Aladina and Irina Kovaleva. The quality of the lilac obtained by the method of tissue culture deserves high praise. It grows rapidly, it is more healthy and devoid of viruses.

9. What new breakthrough would you like to see?

I would like to see a new wave of breeding lilacs. We have lots of interesting directions in which we can move. New colors, increasing the duration of flowering, increased flower size and reducing the size of the bush. For example, I'd like to see an orange lilac or contrasting tricolor.

10. What is it about lilacs that has captivated you?

When I began to pay more attention to the history of lilacs, I discovered that it is one of the most favorite objects of artists and poets - at least here in Russia. Contemporary Russian poets and poets of past centuries have written about lilacs with admiration and love. I especially love the poetry of the famous Russian poet of the "Silver Age" Igor Severyanin (1860-1904). If you do not find in his poem the words of blooming lilacs, then you will find a lilac color. You'll find lilac shades, lilac hat, lilac vine, lilac ice cream, lilac evening, and so on. He wrote

– “Today I cried, I would like lilacs ...” Or – “Without embarrassment bow our knees, Thank heavens in delight, Because you can see new blooms of lilacs And hear the voices of spring’s birds”. Unfortunately, his poems are very difficult to translate - he was able to skillfully handle the words. Now I collect and store the verses of various poets of the lilacs. My dream is to prepare for publication the book of “lilac” poetry. Recently, I began to compile a catalog of paintings depicting lilacs. Among Russian artists I would point to paintings of Pyotr Konchalovsky and Mikhail Vrubel.

Interviewer’s note: I truly appreciate the time Tatiana took to answer these questions, as she has been quite busy this year with the publication of a second visually stunning lilac book, this time dedicated entirely to the life and works of Kolesnikov. I hope you enjoy reading her responses as much as I did. I send many thanks to her sister Irina, as well, who serves as unofficial translator when needed.

~ Joshua Miller

Lilacs are for Eating?

by Anne Morrow Donley

It was a cold winter’s day here in Virginia, USA, when in the midst of preparing a simple dessert, I reached into the freezer for my container of some candied edible flowers. This was the lilac container, purple, probably *Syringa vulgaris*, from a shrub planted by my parents 50 plus years ago on our small farm. Carefully, for the candied flowers are fragile, I removed one, yielding to the delight of “just a taste”. And that one taste of one tiny lilac blossom was an immediate time jump back into early summer. The fragrance of the common lilac, its color, its taste, all were a treat for the mind and spirit and body!

Yes — lilacs are a feast for the eyes, the fragrance uplifts the spirits, and the taste is a positive comforting memory of the best of the spring and summer. So if you needed yet one more good reason to grow lilacs, here it is!

It was Nicole Jordan, president of the International Lilac Society (ILS), whose speech at a local Virginia college inspired me to get going on growing lilacs. And then, Cathy Wilkinson Barash’s book, *Edible Flowers: From Garden to Palate* (Fulcrum Publishing, 1993) introduced me to lilacs as a delectable and edible flower. She noted (page 150):

“Although lilacs are commonly grown and there are many cultivars, most people have

no idea which variety lilac they have in their yard. The flavor of lilacs varies from plant to plant. I have sampled many lilac flowers. Some have no flavor at all. Others have a decidedly green or herbaceous flavor. Some start out with a green flavor but have a perfumed floral aftertaste. The best lilacs are those that have a straight floral, perfumed flavor of lilac."

Indeed, as Barash stated, lilac florets are among the edible flowers. As I myself have only sampled the common lilac purple flowers (sweet) and a white lilac with double blooms (not as great as the lavender one!), I vote for the purple one, *Syringa vulgaris*. Alas, the cultivar name of the white lilac is not yet available to me, how right Barash was on not knowing all the cultivars in one's own yard! Yes, I confess I bought it, planted it, and the little plastic sleeve with the name is floating around somewhere in my more or less organized garden journals and materials, mischievously waiting to surface after this article has been printed!

These authorities agree that the two most important rules for selecting any edible flowers are (1) to be absolutely certain you recognize the plant as having edible flowers (there are often some deadly look alikes), and (2) be certain it has not been treated with insecticides or pesticides, nor growing along highways.

With many edible flowers, including lilac flowers, you can pick them and use them fresh, mix them in a salad, chop or toss them into soups or a stir fry, or employ a variety of other creative methods. Barash has a few recipes for several of her favorite edible flowers. For fresh lilac flowers, she discusses using these on chicken, yogurt, and incorporated into lilac tea sandwiches with cream cheese.

If you want to preserve the lilacs to use later on, then you can candy them. They do look cute and even elegant on top of a cake or cupcake, even without icing. The first time you try candying flowers, you may feel like tearing out your hair, because it is tedious at first! But, once you have done it, then you will see it's not that difficult, and you won't be nervous about tackling it again.

One method is described below, which involves the freshly picked flower, a paintbrush to gently cover the petals with egg white mixed with a drop or two of water to help the egg white flow better on the paintbrush, and superfine sugar to sprinkle over the creation. Once the candied flowers have dried, store them in a container in the freezer, up to a year, Barash states. Amazingly enough, even after some months have passed, as noted earlier, the sweet flavor and fragrance of the flower comes through to your taste buds.

Below is a list of ingredients. Remember, we are not talking about huge amounts of ingredients, as you will be working in miniature. Did I mention, or have you discerned, that despite my enthusiasm for gardening, for lilacs, and for baking, I'm not yet an expert. So mix this information with your own research

and experience, and have fun in the process of discovering what's best for you!

Ingredients for candying small, simple edible flowers:

**wire cooling racks covered with some wax paper, or parchment baking paper

**small bowl with one egg white in it (being certain it's an egg you can trust!)

**superfine granulated sugar — if you can find this in your market, it will read “Superfine” on the package; it's getting harder to find in my local stores. Otherwise, you can process regular granulated sugar in the food processor, or roll your rolling pin over the granulated sugar to break up the large crystals. Do not use confectioner's sugar, use granulated sugar, as you need the crystals, and are not making a paste.

**Begin with just a few edible flowers, and go out and pick more as you need them so they don't wilt.

**food artist's thin paintbrush

**a very little water in a small bowl

**a lot of patience with yourself the first time you try this!

You don't want to pick lots of flowers, because they wilt quickly, and you are going to be working slowly. You can go outside and pick more flowers when you need them. Obviously, as mentioned earlier, you must be certain you have correctly identified the flowers as edible flowers, and that they were not sprayed with chemicals such as pesticides, and that they were not growing along the roadside, exposed also to road chemicals and engine fumes.

Cover the wire cooling rack or use a cookie sheet, with the wax paper or the parchment baking paper. Put a teaspoonful or so of superfine sugar into a dry bowl.

Now you will take two additional bowls for separating the egg white from the egg yolk. Take an egg and break it and separate the yolk from the egg white. If you haven't done this before, there is a note at the end of this article explaining the process. You are not going to be using the egg yolk, so return it to your refrigerator if you need it for cooking, or dispose of it. And remember that you do not want any egg yolk at all attached to the egg white. If it is, then please start over with fresh clean bowls, and a different egg.

You are not going to beat the egg white as you would for other recipes. Instead, you will take a fork or whisk and beat the egg white just enough to break it up, and make it only lightly frothy. Add only one or two DROPS of water, and stir gently. There's usually more than one way to do many things, and surprisingly often they all work. In her book (page 3), Barash notes that she uses one or two drops of Vodka, not water, "that helps the flower to dry quicker," she explains.

You are going to work on one flower at a time. Be strong and resist the temptation to smush (smash/mush) the total flower into the egg white and then into the sugar, as this produces a globular mess, and not a flower!

Now, with one hand, grasp the lilac, or other small edible flower, by its stem end. With the other hand, dip the paintbrush in the egg white/water and carefully paint each flower petal, top and bottom. The egg white/water is merely the glue to hold on the superfine sugar which is sprinkled on later.

Once you have painted the top and bottom of each and every petal of your flower, and holding the flower over the wax paper or some other receptacle, sprinkle a little superfine sugar all over the flower. Then set the flower aside on the wax paper or parchment paper to dry. I usually leave mine out for several hours. Humidity will keep them from drying quickly.

Once they are dry, you can place them into freezer containers, and in the freezer. If you've made tons of them, or have very little freezer space, you can layer the blossoms, with wax paper between layers. The freezer temperature keeps them from the molding or mushing from humidity. The candied flowers are fragile, but if one should break, it's a great opportunity to taste it, and congratulate yourself on a job well done!

When you are ready to use these for a dessert, you can put one or more flowers on each cupcake, or decorate a cake even without icing, pop them on some pancakes, or use them alone or as the whim takes you.

There are so many reasons to grow lilacs, and to encourage others to grow these lovely fragrant plants — beauty, lovely fragrance, a help to pollinators, landscape design, creating fond memories, lifting the spirits of all who see and smell them, and also a treat for your taste buds!

International Lilac Society

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 2. Atlantic.....Ted Collins 6. Northwest.... Ruth Wendt 9. Eastern Canada.....Corinna Moro
 3. South.....Nicole Jordan 7. Pacific..Elizabeth Kilcoyne 10. Western Canada.....L. Blackman
 4. Central.....Irene Stark 8a. S.W. Mts...Bradley Bittorf

REGIONAL VP

For Canada.....Frank Moro For Europe.....Colin Chapman
 For Russia & the rest of Asia Tatiana Pollakova

AUDIT

John Kirk

2011

JOAN SPEIRS
 GARY PARTON
 DAVID HIGHTSHUE
 TATIANA POLIAKOVA
 KENT MILLHAM

2012

CANDACE BONNETT
 DR. DEB MCCOWN
 GLORIA SCHREIBER
 CONNIE SIMONNET
 DR. J. GILES WAINES

2013

BONNIE CULP
 GUY L. GIUNTA, JR.
 MARY LIZOTTE
 MARYMAE MEYER
 BRUCE PEART

II. CONVENTION

CONVENTION.....Karen McCauley, Chairman
 AUCTION.....

III. EDUCATIONAL

EDUCATION.....Dr. Owen M. Rogers, Chairman
 RESEARCH.....Dr. Giles Waines, Chairman
 PUBLICATIONS.....Dr. Owen M. Rogers, Chairman

IV. HONORS, HISTORY, PLANNING

HONORS, AWARDSConnie Simonnet, Chairman
 ARCHIVES.....Kent Millham, Chairman
 LONG-RANGE.....Frank Moro, Chairman

V. LILACS

REGISTRATION.....Freek Vrugtman, Registrar
 DISTRIBUTION.....Frank Moro, Chairman
 LILAC EVALUATION.....Bruce Peart, Chairman
 PRESERVATION.....Dr. Deb McCown, Chairman

VI. MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERSHIP.....Warren Oakes, Chairman
 NOMINATIONS.....Warren Oakes, Chairman
 ELECTIONS.....Nancy Latimer, Chairman
 YOUTH.....Gary Parton, Chairman



Syringa vulgaris 'Krasavitsa Moskvyy' at Shelburne Museum
Photo Credit Brad Bittorf



Fine specimen of *Syringa vulgaris* at Shelburne Museum
Photo Credit Brad Bittorf



Warren Oakes, Secretary of ILS, enjoying the 2010 convention at Shelburne, Vermont
Photo credit Ellen Thurlow