

Lilacs

VOLUME 42, NUMBER 3
SUMMER 2013



QUARTERLY JOURNAL

of the International Lilac Society

IN
THIS
ISSUE:

2013 ILS Convention & Highland
Park Hosts Russian Delegation



Bill Horman and Phoebe Hibbard enjoying themselves
Photo Credit Marymae Meyer



Rose Roth, Marymae Meyer, Phoebe Hibbard and Jim Stark
show how much an ILS convention is!
Photo courtesy of Marymae Meyer

Table of Contents

President's Message.....	75
ILS Convention Attendees.....	78
ILS Awards for 2013.....	79
Convention Corner Calendar.....	80
Thoughts on Lilacs for Cut Flowers.....	81
Treasurer's Report 2013.....	83
New Lilacs by Frank Moro and Family.....	84
ILS Convention 2013 Memories.....	89
Lilacs and Friendship Part I: Rochester NY & Novgorod, Russian Federation...93	
Lilacs and Friendship Part II: Webster, NY & West Newbury, MA.....97	
Don't Be Afraid to Rejuvenate Your Old Overgrown Lilac!.....103	
<i>Front Cover: Overhead view of lilacs at Highland Botanical Park from 50'</i> <i>overhead in a tree trimmer truck</i> <i>Photo Credit Kent Millham</i>	

Editor's Deadline for Summer Issue:

*****October 1*****

Editor's Note: the summer issue was delayed several weeks
because I am recovering from major surgery

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LILACS 2013..... PUBLISHED AUGUST 2013

President Message June 2013

Dear Lilac Friends,

Only a little over two months ago we were in Madison, Wisconsin, USA, for the 2013 International Lilac Convention. It was great, instructive, interesting, fun and more... including the rain who did not deter us from a tour of Longenecker Horticultural Gardens to see the lilacs that were not blooming. The buds were on the cusp of opening but were waiting for a burst of warm weather. The magnolias and other spring shrubs and trees did put on a show. Our guides were no other than Dr. Ed Hasselkus, Professor Emeritus, University of Wisconsin and Professor Laura Jull.

Back in Madison we visited the beautiful and inspiring Olbrich Botanical Gardens. We were divided into two groups one led by Jeff Epping the other by Christian Harper who has been working there for the past twenty years. Christian was so in love with the gardens it made you want to join and be a volunteer. No description of the gardens will do them justice. The gilded Thais Pavilion was a marvel. The flower beds were planted with care and with attention to combinations of textures, colors and style. The conservatory had a terrific collection of tropical plants.

We got to "meet" Frank Lloyd Wright, the famous American architect whose buildings and houses are known the world over, through very interesting talks. One was given by Heather Sabin the Tourism Coordinator, Monona Center and the other presentation was given by Francis Nemtin. She is 96 years old and has known Mr. Wright having been a student of his. She lives in a cottage on the grounds of Taliesin, the home that he built on family land. She recounted many interesting anecdotes about this gifted man and his tumultuous life.

Our lilacs speakers were excellent, from Max Maddox the State Program Director, University of Wisconsin Extension, Cooperative Extension, presenting The Wisconsin Master Gardener Program, Elizabeth Dunham, Vice President of Knighthollow Nursery who explained the process of lilac tissue culture. Woody Barnes sent his notes on growing lilacs for cut flowers. Dr. Deborah McCown did the presentation for him. Professor Laura Jull, Department of Horticulture, UW-Madison told us about Smaller Lilacs for Our Smaller Garden. It was of interest to those of us with small gardens.

Our meetings on Friday in the Hall of Ideas were at the convention center Monona Terrace, one of Mr. Wright masterpieces. Futuristic, contemporary built on the water it is hard to believe that he designed this extraordinary building longtime ago. Unfortunately Mr. Wright who died in 1959 never saw it built.

The auction was great. We made money thanks to the generous donations of lilac cultivars and other plants and the eager bidders. Bruce Peart, our auctioneer was superb. It was his second time playing that role. He is a pro!

This convention was a "boutique convention" small but perfectly planned, perfectly located, rich in information, rich in friendship and very relaxed. Dr. Deborah McCown, Her husband Professor Brent McCown, her daughter Elizabeth Dunham gave us a perfect convention. Our hotel was at the doorway of the State Capitol of Wisconsin. Just cross the street and voila you were on the grounds of this magnificent building.

We had a planned tour of the Capitol. It is imposing, beautiful, stately and very open to all. Saturday morning a huge market, reputed to be the largest in the country, circled the Capitol. Everything found there was locally grown, locally raised, locally made, being in Wisconsin, where cheese is king, It was amazing all the different types you could buy. The most unusual meats were Emus meat and Red European deer meat. Flowers and herbs vendors abounded tucked between vegetable vendors, cheese vendors, bread vendors, honey vendors etc. That is a market par excellence.

We had the President's Dinner at a very fine restaurant on Friday night. Karen McCauley presented Memories of the 2012 Meeting in Nancy, France. David Gressley tempted us with a preview of the 2014 convention at the Holden Arboretum in Cleveland, Ohio, USA.

On Saturday at the Awards and Honors Banquet we heard another excellent Speaker Mark Dwyer, Director of Horticulture at Rotary Botanical Gardens. His presentation was inspiring. The gardens are fun, very colorful and accessible to all. Young, old, the physically challenged in any way can be accommodated not only to visit but to be participant in the planting, mowing etc. How extraordinary!

Yes we had two board meetings and the Annual Membership Meeting. The minutes of the three meetings have been posted on our web site InternationalLilacSociety.org. Nancy Latimer conducted the Lilac Popularity Poll. You can find the results in this issue of lilacs and also on the ILS Web page.

Let me interject that Candace Wentz has done a fantastic job with our Web Site. Browse it and see for yourself. She and Bradley Bittorf are planning to post more and more information on the site. The new Member Only site will have all sort of information available, such as soon to come, digitalized past issues of the journals. Joan Speirs, Board Member, is, after indexing a number of journals, working on getting them digitalized.

Thank you for their service to the board members who departed from the board. Welcome to the new ones. The votes were done two ways one by paper ballots the other electronically. Using both methods we double the number of members voting. Using the internet made it easier for members to participate. It is extremely practical for our overseas members where dealing with post offices is sometimes complicated and time consuming.

One of our speakers Mark Schwartz a professor and a phenoclimatologist from the University of Wisconsin, came to invite us to sign up with the USA National Phenology Network (USA-NPN). Mark would like the ILS members involvement collecting phenological observations according to standards protocols. That data would be used to understand plant-climate interactions. One of the preferred plants used in the study is the lilac. The process is very simple you only need to watch carefully your lilac and record the data as instructed of when the first bloom occur and when the first leaf appears

then send the records to the appropriate data collecting centers. We already have Bradley Bittorf, Executive Vice president and Marymae Mayer, one of our board member, who are participants for some time in the program. The cultivar *Syringa × chinensis* 'Red Rothomagenis' is used in the study but the data can be collected from *Syringa vulgaris*. Mark Schwartz will explain the process in a more scientific and detailed fashion in an article in the next issue of Lilacs. As you can see we are the perfect group to get involved and support this long term project.

Thank you again to Dr. Deborah McCown and her team for this perfect convention. We already have our eyes turned toward 2014 and the next convention. David Gressley has already begun to plan for it.

Until we see each other again have a great summer!

*Mes amities,
Nicole Jordan, ILS President
Chester, VA USA
Njordan236@aol.com*

Congratulations to New Board Members!

Kelly Applegate

David Gressley

Bill Horman

Marymae Meyer

Steve McCulloch

ILS Convention Attendees MAY 9 - 11

Last Name	First Name	Address
Applegate	Kelly	8733 33rd St., Princeton, MN 55371
Bittorf	Bradley	13902 E. Placita Ocho Putas, Vail, AZ 85641
Bonnett	Marilyn	7060 Congress Rd., Spencer, OH 44275
Cannata	Iris	25 Fairway Lane, Foxboro, MA 02035
Cannata	Lisa	25 Fairway Lane, Foxboro, MA 02035
Culp	Bonnie	6161 Station Rd, Dunster, B.C. V0J1J0
Dunham	Liz	Knight Hollow Nursery
Dwyer	Mark	Janesville Rotary Garden
Ely	Peter	2430 Cape Code Circle, Elgin, IL 60124
Goldsmith	Ellen	6161 Station Rd., Dunster, B.C.V0J 1J0
Gressley	Dave	Lake View Cemetery, 12316 Euclid Ave. Cleveland, OH 44106
Hasselkus	Edward	746 Miami Pass, Madison, WI 53711
Hempel	Julie	3226 University Ave., Des Moines, IA 50311
Hibbard	Pheobe	6209 Glennwood Rd. SW, Port Orchard, WA 98367-7012
Horman	William	5745 Kensington Ave, Detroit, MI 48224
Jordan	Nicole	15500 Harrowgate Rd., Chester, VA 23831
Jull	Laura	Univ. of Wis., Dept of Horticulture
Kirk	John	892 Woodard Hill Rd., West Halifax, VT 05358
Latimer	Henry	P.O. Box 444, Emory, VA 24327
Latimer	Nancy	P.O. Box 444, Emory, VA 24327
Maddox	Mike	University of Wisconsin - Extension
McCauley	Karen	325 W. 82nd St., Chaska, MN 55318
McCauley	Tim	325 W. 82nd St., Chaska, MN 55318
McCown	Deborah	7911 Forsythia Ct., Middleton, WI 53562
McCown	Brent	236 E. Sunset Ct., Madison, WI 53705
Meier	Dan	P.O. Box 2264, Mount Vernon, WA 98273
Meyer	Marymae	414 W. Windsor Ave., Lombard, IL 60148
Peart	Bruce	114 Cameron Ave, Dundas, Ontario L9H 1J3
Reinke	Diane	2503 Henderson Ave., Silver Spring MD 20902
Reinke	Dr. Budne	2503 Henderson Ave., Silver Spring MD 20902
Roth	Rose	129 W. Potomac, Lombard, IL 60148
Schreiber	Gloria	14319 Tope Road, Hartsville, OH 44632-9348
Simonnet	Connie	P.O. Box 326, Polo, IL 61064-0326
Speirs	Joan	504-2045 Carlins Ave., Ottawa, Ontario K2A 1G5
Stark	Irene	118 North Stiles Rd. Luddington, MI 49431-9353
Stark	Jim	118 North Stiles Rd. Luddington, MI 49431-9353
Trahin	Catherine	174 Upland Dr., Woodland, WA 98674
Trahin	Dwight	174 Upland Dr., Woodland, WA 98674
Waines	Giles	Botanic Gardens, UC Riverside, CA 92521

Walbert	Myrna	1340 Favreau, Dunham, Quebec J0E 1M0
Walton	Margaret	114 Cameron Ave, Dundas, Ontario L9H 1J3
Wentz	Candace	111 Silvercreek Dr., Canville, KY 40422

ILS Awards for 2013

Award of Merit Presented to **Deborah McCown**: For serving as Host Chair of the 42nd annual ILS Convention, and her contributions to promoting lilacs in Madison and many other locations.

Award of Merit Presented to **Elizabeth Dunham**: For assisting in the organization of the 42nd annual ILS Convention, and her contributions to promoting lilacs in Madison and many other locations.

Award of Merit Presented to **William Tschumi**: For his long service as Assistant Treasurer. ILS appreciates his dedication over many years handling ILS membership registrations.

Award of Merit Presented to **Mary Lizotte**: For her long service as RVP of The New England Region. She was very instrumental during the Fall Gathering in New England, which has grown to be an important ILS event. She was a gregarious hostess at countless hospitality rooms, and generous with her time and talents.

Distinguished Recognition Award Presented to **Dan Meier**: For his continued plant donations and contributions to promote ILS, during his tenure at Briggs Nursery. He donated lilacs every year for auction, and also for distribution to members.

Award of Merit Presented to **JSC "Mosvodokandal:"** For your numerous charitable contributions connected to lilacs. The continuation of your generous efforts to breed, grow, and popularize lilacs in Russia, for the enjoyment of many people.

Directors' Award Presented to **Ekaterina Batrak**: For her outstanding dedication to researching, preserving and cloning rare varieties of lilacs. The work of adapting tiny lilacs from test tubes planted in prepared pots in a greenhouse.

Directors' Award Presented to **Irina Kovalyova**: For her outstanding research in the Horticultural Laboratory of Russian State Agrarian University. She is a specialist in micro propagation of lilac, with a rare insight. She is known to have "golden hands."

*Respectfully,
Connie Simonnet
Awards Chair*

Convention Corner Calendar

Sat Sept 28, 2013

ILS New England Fall Roundup

W. Newbury, MA (Address to be confirmed)

Presented by the New England ILS members

9:30-10:00 a.m. Coffee & Treats Meet & Greet Time

10:00-12:00 a.m. Presentations

12:00-12:45 p.m. Lunch will be \$10 (or please bring your own)

12:45- 4:00 p.m. Auction, Presentations and tours

Sun Sept 29, 2013

ILS New England Fall Roundup Part 2

10:00-2:00 Open House at Syringa Plus Nursery.

“Let’s Talk Lilacs” casual get together & Plant propagation demo.

May 1-3, 2014

ILS Convention in Cleveland, Ohio.

Final arrangements for the New England gathering will be posted on our website www.InternationalLilacSociety.org and via the ILR. To reserve lunch please contact Evie King at Syringa Plus 978.352.3301 or, Jack Alexander NE RVP at ilsnevp@gmail.com. Sunday will be a casual gathering over coffee & treats to share information and talk lilacs.

If you can't make it out East this fall, please start thinking about attending the next annual convention in Cleveland, Ohio. The convention will be earlier in May next year so I hope more members will be able to attend. I'm sure long time member David Gressley will have a fantastic agenda planned. Details will be in the next issue of Lilacs.

If you're contemplating having a convention in your area, please contact me. We're always on the lookout for new sites and would welcome revisiting sites from decades past. Every city has something unique to offer.

Thanks for your cooperation.

Karen McCauley
Convention Chairman
952.443.3703
mccauleytk@aol.com

Thoughts on Lilacs for Cut Flowers

First. Why do you want to grow lilacs for cut flowers? Economics? . . . A very long term if ever before profitable. My experience is that a minimum of 7 years if ever to break even. Is there a market for cut lilacs in your area? Talk to nurseries, florists, retailers. Remember it will be a number of years before you have lilacs to cut. Most buyers talk big, but either are slow pay (or no pay), or will give you a large “dump” amount. Check the demographics in your market area. In California until about 1980 most migrants came from the Midwest or East. Now most are from Latin America or the Orient. Will they still want lilacs?

Scale of operation. Better to start small to see how it works in your area. . . . But a large scale improves economics.

Site selection is extremely important. Need good (excellent) spring air drainage? Do not plant in frost pocket. Frost at bloom time is perhaps the biggest problem in our mountains. Do not plant in an area that has or might develop a high water table. If you are in a mild climate make sure your plants will get enough chill hours. Lilacs like full sun most of the day in most areas.

Spacing. Lilacs start small, but get big. Think of the number of years the plants may be growing. In our area the best long term spacing is 10 or 12 feet apart in rows spaced 20 feet apart. I have tried 6 x 10 feet but they get crowded too fast.

Diseases and Pests. At present we do not have to spray our lilacs. This will probably change in the future. Many cultivars get mildew in the summer. Ugly but seems to do little damage in our area. Scale. A serious problem in most areas. At present we have none. *Pseudomonas syringae*- Bacterial Blight. Varies annually. Worst in damp springs and more damaging if tender plant tissue has been frosted. In our experience more damaging on early single whites, and in cool damp springs.

Fertilizer. Must be tailored to individual soils. Lilacs generally seem to like slightly alkaline soil. Our current regimen for mature plants is 1 lb 16-20-0 and 1 lb calcium nitrate annually.

Type of growth. Want cultivars that can regularly have 14 to 18 inches of top growth and can stand regular cutting. Generally we try to prune for next year's growth as we harvest flowers. In most cultivars occasional removal of old and large stems is beneficial.

Fragrance. Most cultivars have plenty as cut flowers. We do not select for this.

Cultivars that have done well in our location:

Common lilac (= old fashioned). . . . yes the same one that blooms everywhere.

‘Président Grévy’

‘Mme. Lemoine’

'Alice Franklin'
'Krasavitsa Moskv'y'.

In general, cultivars with large individual florets and inflorescences do not do as well as cut flowers. People like darker colors, but most are not strong growers. We generally market our lilac in bunches of 12 stems. We may include more if the bunch appears small. Rarely fewer than 12. In general we put 5 bunches in a bucket.

Cut lilacs must be marketed rapidly. We prefer to send each days cut to market that day. If they must be kept, most varieties will stand up to 2 days at 42 degrees Fahrenheit.

Note: Woody encourages anyone wanting more information to contact him at P.O. Box 1570, Julian, CA 92036 or by phone 760-765-0516.

Woody Barnes
Julian, California
2013 ILS Convention

Lilac Popularity Poll

The results of this years lilac popularity poll
as recorded at the 2013 ILS convention are as follows.
Results were tallied by Nancy Latimer.

'Sweetheart'	6 votes
'Krasavitsa Moskv'y'	5 votes
'Congo'	4 votes
<i>meyeri</i> 'Palibin'	4 votes
× <i>hyacinthiflora</i> 'Maiden's Blush'	4 votes

Cultivars receiving 3 votes: 'Nadezhda', 'Sensation', 'My Favorite', and 'Blanche Sweet'

Cultivars receiving 2 votes: 'Edward J. Gardner', 'Frank Klager', 'Miss Kim', 'Purple Haze', 'Pocahontas', 'Lucie Baltet', 'Bellicent', 'Alice Christensen', 'Frederick Law Olmsted', 'Spring Parade', 'Declaration', 'Charm', 'Clarke's 'Asessippi'

67 others received one vote

Treasurer's Report 2013 (Fiscal Year 4/1/12-3/31/13)

Checking Account Balance 4/1/13	KeyBank	\$10,954.27
KeyBank Certificate of Deposit .10%		
6,736.04		
Edward Jones Company Investments:		
HSBC Finance 5.00%		5,000.00
Tennessee Valley Auth GBR PWR 4.65%		20,000.00
FHLMC Note 5.625%		18,000.00
South Broward HDFB Municipal Bond 6.978%		5,000.00
Franklin Adj US Gov Secs.		8,000.00
MoneyMarket/Cash		495.18
TOTAL		\$74,185.49
Special Accounts (Included in the above total)		
Life Member/Endowment Fund	\$38,944.57	
Plant Propagation Fund (Laurene Wishart)	1,730.97	
Education & Research	3,353.30	
Youth Program Fund	1,345.78	
Reva Ballreich Memorial Fund	277.03	
Total Funds in Special Accounts	\$45,662.65	
Total Funds in General Accounts	\$28,522.84	
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	\$74,185.49	
	Income	
Membership Dues		\$5,980.00
Contributions to ILS		460.00
Interest Income		2548.48
Auction Income		0.00
Misc. Income (Royalties, Old Journals, CD and Lilac Bklt sales)		203.23
Convention Earnings		0.00
2012 Convention Registrations		1400.00
Total Income		\$10,591.71
	Expenses	
Journal		\$8,456.15
Postage		1,570.86
Bank Fees		970.53
Web Site Expenses		0.00
Awards		21.38
Insurance		367.50
Office Supplies		0.00
2012 Convention Expenses		9,190.92
Misc. Expenses		0.00
Total Expenses		\$20,577.34
Net Income (Loss)		(\$9,985.63)

Note: Net loss was projected due to lack of 2012 auction. Also this report does not reflect

Submitted 4/5/13 by Karen McCauley, ILS Treasurer

New Lilacs by Frank Moro and Family

When we first started Select Plus Nursery a question was asked to me by a now long time friend Charles Holetich, Do you think you can make a living doing lilacs? My immediate answer without much thought was YES!!

We got involved with ILS, began to collect from parks as many cultivars as possible and this is still an ongoing passion.

In the late 90's I began to do some seeding on the famous 'Josée' lilac. We had success with seeds growing well and we started the transplanting to watch them grow. Then in 2002 a special little boy was born into our family, his name Colby. With his special needs we learnt as a family to slow down and take care of family matters first. This meant less traveling and more time at home.

We decided to name a lilac after our special gift to our family. That same year we started to collect seed and sow every spring. We came out with our first vulgaris types a couple of years ago. The seeding program took on a major part of new love for lilacs and we now have some 3000-3500 lilac seedling growing at the nursery.

In the last couple of years the we chose 'Bacio di Amore' , 'Bella Donna Sara' , 'Moondust' and 'Taylor Mitchell'

This year our time during spring shipping halted a few times to a dead stop to photograph some new cultivars once again. This has been our most productive year to date for new lilacs. It's almost scary to think what will happen in a few years.

Freek has guided me to take more data and become the new Victor Lemoine. It was hard at first but this year measurements were taken and size of panicles everything. Thanks for the support Freek and patience with this very Italian person!

Was this hybridizing has done is get everyone involved and closer as a family. Sara, Corinna and Cameo have become new eyes for me and forever dragging me out of the garage while shipping to view new flowers. I mentioned a couple of years ago that we had a goal to become the new Lemoine family of Canada. I think we are on our way. I get so anxious when I see seedlings that have flower buds coming on.

This year we have also started a program to name lilacs for someone who would love to give the ultimate gift of being part of history. It has been a success to date with a couple of lilacs that will be named later in the summer. But most of all we wanted to introduce our newest lilacs to you this year.

Before we start I wanted to include a little write up on 'Ainola'. It has been planted for 5 years at the nursery. Over the past two weeks since it has been in

flower every customer who has seen it has put an order for it in for 2014. Full of bloom extremely dark in bud and a wonderful purple in color. But the interesting thing is how heavy and large the trusses are. We took some photos of 4 panicles together on a scale and get ready 1.1 lbs.

Here we go:

×hyacinthiflora

'Sara's Reflections of Passion'

A seedling of 'Pocahontas' that has a beautiful double flower. It looks like a flower exploding outside a second flower. The color is lavender but there is much whitish lavender in the outermost petals. The fragrance is very sweet and strong. Named for Sara Moro after a Yanni song that makes her think of Colby.

vulgaris:

'Winter Sky': A seedling from Paul Thirion. Lovely light double blue with smaller than usual florets. Reminding of a clear crisp winter sky! Very fragrant

'Cameo's Passion': Open seedling from Belle de Nancy. Delicate clear pink florets and very fragrant. Named for Cameo Moro and is much like her character, passionate and delicate.

'Wedding Bells': Seedling from Firmament. It has huge pink florets and was selected by Corinna. The fragrance is extremely strong and sweet.

'Nebbia d'un Bacio': I just love this lilac. A seedling from Krasavitsa Moskvy it presents itself the same way with pink buds as 'Krasavitsa Moskvy' and then opens to a single pink. The florets are smaller than a traditional *vulgaris* but the impact of the transition to white is nice. Extremely fragrant. Its meaning is Italian for Mist of a Kiss

'Forever and Always': Sara selected this seedling of a Belle de Nancy because its pink is nice but it also has single petal double florets from time to time on the flowers. It has lighter shades of whitish pink in around the middle of the florets. It's a medium pink and very fragrant.

From 2011

'Moondust': An amazing lilac that will be the one to follow. It is pale purple with white outer rings on the petals much like 'Sensation'. It is a mutation of 'Nadezhda'. Very fragrant as 'Nadezhda' is and very showy.

I hope that everyone enjoys are little pearls we have to share with the lilac world this year.

Frank Moro
Regional VP for Eastern Canada



Syringa xhyacinthiflora 'Sara's Reflections of Passion'
Photo Credit Frank Moro



Syringa vulgaris 'Winter Sky'
Photo Credit Frank Moro



Syringa vulgaris 'Wedding Bells'
Photo Credit Frank Moro



Syringa vulgaris 'Nebbia d'un Bacio'
Photo Credit Frank Moro



Syringa vulgaris 'Forever and Always'
Photo Credit Frank Moro



Syringa vulgaris 'Ainola'
Photo Credit Frank Moro

ILS Convention 2013 Memories



Professor Laura Jull leads ILS tour in rain
Photo Credit Brad Bittorf



Touring the beautiful Longenecker Gardens in rain
Photo Credit Brad Bittorf



Resident wild turkeys at Longenecker Gardens stroll on the grounds
Photo Credit Brad Bittorf



'Katherine Havemeyer' begins to open
Photo Credit Brad Bittorf



Syringa xhyacinthiflora 'Claude Bernard'
Photo Credit Brad Bittorf



A beautiful pastoral vista at Olberich Gardens
Photo Credit Brad Bittorf



A gnarled crabapple frames the scene at Olberich Gardens
Photo Credit Brad Bittorf



Interesting architecture adds to the interest at Olberich Gardens
Photo Credit Brad Bittorf

Lilacs and Friendship: Rochester NY USA and Novgorod, Russian Federation

I first became interested in plants when I was a child. Living near an extensive forest located right outside my house, I took many hikes during the summer in the cool of the shade of the towering hemlocks, sugar maples, eastern white pines, shagbark, pignut and bitternut hickories, and other mixed deciduous hardwoods. Growing up surrounded by nature everyday helped lead me to a career in horticulture.

I was fortunate enough to be hired at Highland Botanical Park by Alvan Grant, and work under the tutelage of Richard Fenicchia. This led me to specialize especially in the genus *Syringa*. Little did I know that I would not only learn about lilacs in one of the world's greatest collections, but that it would bring me together with people from all over the world who also share a love of the genus *Syringa*.

Rochester, NY USA is a sister city with Novgorod, Russian Federation. This year the Rochester committee invited representatives from Novgorod to come to Rochester in May and to enjoy the hospitality and culture of our city. They were invited to participate in the annual Lilac Parade which is held on the first Saturday of the annual Lilac Festival. My part was to give the Russian delegates a tour of the lilac collection, and at long last, I had the great pleasure to meet Tatiana Poliakova, along with the other guests from Russia; Elena Popovich, Natalia Balmysheva, Natalia Shishunova, and interpreter Irina Gerasimova. Tatiana presented me with the very generous gifts of 2 of her lilac books, along with several other presents, and even brought some gifts for my son Shane!

The day of our tour was surprisingly cold. Halfway through our tour, ice pellets started falling from the sky, but fortunately no frost occurred to mar the unusually beautiful and heavy lilac flowering this year. We met by the pansy bed, a 20' by 50' display completely filled with 12,000 pansies.

The tour began with the original 'Adelaide Dunbar' developed by the first horticulturist of Highland Park John Dunbar. It is located directly in back of the pansy bed next to the Dunbar memorial rock. Over the past few years, the shrub had stretched and had spotty flowering, so I pruned it (see article on page 103) for rejuvenation. I left a stump to show our visitors the size of this original specimen.

With the help of the interpreter Irina Gerasimova I began talking about the interesting cultivars nearby, but it was quickly evident that my new friends knew quite a lot about lilacs, so I pointed out interesting cultivars that they wanted to see. All were especially interested in 2 of the outstanding whites; 'Flora 1953' and the rare Fenicchia cultivar 'Independence'. This year 'Independence' was outstanding, and I had several requests during the festival for specimens.

All along our tour Tatiana was taking numerous photos, and frequently measured the size of the florets and inflorescences of different cultivars. Although we had a language barrier, I enjoyed discussing pruning techniques and other aspects of our lilacs with Elena Popovich. She was interested to see all of the regrowth from specimens that had been damaged last year in a late snowstorm.

On our tour I highlighted many of the Dunbar and Fenicchia hybrids, but of course we looked at many other cultivars along the way. I showed them the beautiful 'Edith Cavell', from which the famous seedling 'Rochester' originated. We looked at our 3 oldest 'Rochester' specimens, and this year they were loaded with radially-doubled florets. Nearby I showed them another nice white of Fenicchia named 'Bernard Slavin'; with large florets but much taller and more upright than 'Rochester'.

They all admired the 'Red Pixie', which has only been planted in our collection about 7 years; a gift from Roger and Evie of Syringa Plus. In Russia apparently that cultivar is sensitive to the lower cold temps, and doesn't do well. I also showed them a nice specimen of 'Président Grévy', but that was the one cultivar they weren't too interested in, since that kind is ubiquitously used in Russia.

All of us then admired the 3 large rounded specimens of 'Pocohontas', and Tatiana enjoyed pressing her nose in the clusters and smelling the sweet fragrance.

We meandered to the western part of the collection where the original 'Margaret Fenicchia' is planted, and Tatiana immediately got out her ruler to measure the huge inflorescences. Since I have rejuvenated it the past 2 years, the clusters and florets have shown their full potential, with clusters around 16-18", and florets over an 1" in width. Nearby is the rare but beautiful 'Richard A. Fenicchia', with its unusual star-shaped, twisted double purple florets.

Even some of our older cultivars often show why they were selected, as one cluster of 'Leon Gambetta' bowed over with the weight of the oversized florets.

Our tour and meandering walk together ended up taking over 3 hours despite the cold, and I finished my tour by showing them the lilac I selected in memory of my wonderful wife Susan named 'Beautiful Susan'.

I was sad to leave my new friends, but am hoping to see them all again in the future. Tatiana tried to bring Highland Park the unique gift of tissue-cultured Russian cultivars that we don't have yet, but unfortunately the paperwork and bureaucracy involved took too long. Hopefully in the future we will exchange scions or cuttings, and on the day Elena left, I gave her some scions of about 10 cultivars she really wanted. However, the most lasting part of this visit was the new friendships I made, and invite them all to return again!

*Kent Millham
Highland Botanical Park*



Left to right: Elena Popovich, Tatiana Poliakova, Natalia Balmysheva, Irina Gerasimova, and Natalia Shishunova next to pansy bed
Photo Credit Kent Millham



Beautiful full clusters of 'Flora 1953'
Photo Credit Kent Millham



Elena, Natalia S., Natalia B., and Tatiana next to 'Flora 1953'
Photo Credit Kent Millham



Tatiana inhaling the wonderful fragrance of 'Pocahontas'
Photo Credit Kent Millham

Lilacs and Friendship Part II- Webster NY –West Newbury MA

After 24 days of long hours at work before and during Highland Park's annual Lilac Festival, it was time for a short break. So what better thing could I do than drive 475 miles to Massachusetts for a few days and see some more lilacs?!

I stayed with my good friends at Syringa Plus at Roger and Barbara Coggeshall's home, which is 25' from the nursery. Evie King stayed over at the office of Syringa Plus.

When I had left Rochester and Webster, most of the *vulgaris* cultivars had finished flowering, except for a few very late ones like 'Glory' and 'Taras Bulba'. The *vulgaris* in West Newbury were past peak but still flowering. Evie brought me up to their "stock block", where the mature lilac specimens are located. These are the stock plants that are the source of most of the Syringa Plus cuttings.

Some of the cultivars really caught my eye. 'Ami Schott' with its full, rounded violet petals made a very full inflorescence. 'Charm', a Theodore Havemeyer hybrid, had very large single pink florets. There have been some reports of this cultivar being mixed up in the trade, but this was definitely the true 'Charm'! A beautiful, large-flowered white that I have been looking for was represented by 3 specimens in the stock block- 'Slater's Elegance'. This has been one of my favorites since I first saw it at the Montreal Botanical Gardens in 2000.

On my first day at Syringa Plus, the Coggeshall's neighbor John Thurlow came over and took me over to his nursery, which was very close by. John led me through the rows of mature specimens, and named each one as we walked past. There were large mature specimens of blue cultivars such as 'Monore', 'Bluets', and 'Wonderblue'. Other lilacs he showed me included 'Monge', 'Andenken an Ludwig Späth', 'Yankee Doodle' and 'Mrs. Edward Harding'. One I wasn't familiar with John had acquired at an ILS auction that he had listed as "Oakes Homestead". I had never heard of this, and checked it later in the International Lilac Register, and found none listed. It is probable that it may be the double white cultivar named 'Oakes Double White'. That is the first one I had ever seen, and it was a nice full white double.

From the nursery, John took me back to his house, which is right down the road from Syringa Plus. There I also got to see Ellen Thurlow, who I hadn't seen since John and Ellen let my son Shane and I stay overnight there at a Fall meeting several years ago.

John then showed me the lilacs around the property, which included 'Dwight D. Eisenhower', 'Nadezhda', and one I had never heard of called 'Maurice Lockwood', a Ken Berdeen hybrid. From there, we drove back to Syringa Plus, where I talked about lilacs with Roger and Evie for the rest of the evening.

My second day I started off with my customary bowl of Post Raisin Bran, which Evie very thoughtfully bought especially for me. The plan today was to go to the Arnold Arboretum, so I got directions from Evie. It took about an hour to travel there, but as usual, once I reached the roundabout area near the arboretum, I got confused and drove around several times. Fortunately, I had Jack Alexander's phone number, so when I finally managed to reach the visitors center, he was able to guide me to the propagation house.

At this point, about all of the *vulgaris* cultivars were finished, but Jack gave me an excellent tour of the late hybrid lilacs. Several specimens were seedlings being tested, such as a wild-collected *Syringa wolfii*. I was very impressed with Jack's hybrid 'Foxy Lady', which was very floriferous with a pendulous growth habit and inflorescences. The light rain falling that day accentuated that trait. Another cultivar Jack showed me was named after his grandmother, and was named 'Ferna Alexander'.

After we toured the lilac collection, I went on my own for awhile and checked out the unique vine collection, and then walked down to the visitor center to meet the caretaker of the ILS archives, Jan Pierson.

Walking back again to the propagation house, Jack shared a peanut butter and jelly sandwich with me, and then gave me a tour of the propagation area. I must admit I was jealous, since now at Highland Park I only have a very small area for propagation. As I was leaving, Jack very generously gave me a few specimens for myself and for the Highland Park collection.

Jack then gave me directions back to Syringa Plus, but unfortunately I got caught in the pre-Memorial Day traffic, and a one hour drive ended up taking 3 hours because I was stuck in a massive traffic jam. Then I went past West Newbury, and wasted another half hour until Evie was able to get me back on the right route!

I left on Saturday, but not before I saw Jack again, and also John Bentley at Syringa Plus. I had to tear myself away at 10:30, but stopped and saw Evie's parents Eva and Richard King at their nursery. Dick gave me a short tour of the nursery, and their nice dog Django greeted me when I arrived.

I had a hard time leaving all of my friends in Massachusetts, but I was left with happy times and memories, and hope to return again soon. As I said in the previous article, becoming a lilac lover has introduced me to many great friendships as well as enjoyment of the many beautiful lilacs, and that is what I consider one of the top benefits of the International Lilac Society.

Kent Millham
Highland Botanical Park



Possibly 'Oakes Double White'
Photo Credit Kent Millham



Syringa vulgaris 'Maurice Lockwood'
Photo Credit Kent Millham



Syringa vulgaris 'Charm'
Photo Credit Kent Millham



Syringa vulgaris 'Slater's Elegance'
Photo Credit Kent Millham



Syringa vulgaris 'Ami Schott'
Photo Credit Kent Millham



Wild collected seedling of *Syringa wolfii*
Photo Credit Kent Millham



Stunning pendulous Jack Alexander hybrid *Syringa* 'Foxy Lady'

Photo Credit Kent Millham



Jack holding huge inflorescence of 'Foxy Lady'

Photo Credit Kent Millham

Don't Be Afraid to Rejuvenate Your Old Overgrown Lilac!

In back of the pansy bed at Highland Botanical Park is the original plant selected by John Dunbar that he named after his wife- 'Adelaide Dunbar'. For the past few years, the flower clusters have been getting smaller and smaller, and were high up on the shrub, and not very impressive..

I was hesitant to prune it because of its historical significance, but finally decided this year that it needed rejuvenation, and I saw enough young growth in the understory that I decided it was worth a try.

I got out my chain saw and cut the major trunks, and was left with a shrub that looked invigorated. To use the phrase that Bob Hoepfl told me to do when rejuvenating, I had "found the shrub within the shrub". Shortly thereafter, I was also very pleasantly surprised when I saw the vigor of the new shoots coming directly out of the main stump (I left the stump to show my new Russian friends the size of this shrub before I had rejuvenated it). Next year a recharged specimen should have much larger flower clusters again!



Note the tremendous size of the new foliage coming out of the stump.
The leaves are over half as big as my hand!

Photo Credit Kent Millham

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Gloria Schreiber, Phoebe Hibbard,
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near Wisconsin Capitol building
Photo Credit Marymae Meyer



Dan Meier samples some ice cream
at Kilwin's Chocolates
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Happy Attendees in Madison, WI at 2013 ILS Convention

Photo Courtesy of Deb McCown