



The Pipeline

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FALL DIRECTORS' MEETING. Twelve members of the ILS Board of Directors met at Rochester's Marriott Inn on October 18th to approve the program for the fifth annual membership meeting to be held Friday, Saturday, Sunday, May 21-22-23, 1976. Vice-president William Utley is Convention Chairman, assisted by ex-president Bernard Harkness, parks' director Alvan R. Grant, Rochester Garden Center assistant librarian Dorothea Bashnagel, and Rochester Herb Society chapter member Sue Ferguson. The convention program will be announced early next year.

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ARBOR DAY 1976. "Plant a Liberty Tree", advises the National Council of State Garden Clubs to "keep America's ideals deep-rooted." I.L.S. regional vice-president Lourene Wishart of Lincoln, Nebraska, urges planting a lilac. Well adapted to most sections of North America is the Japanese tree-lilac, bearing creamy white flowers in late June. It is a superb small tree (to 30 feet) with showy flowers amid fresh foliage of early summer. J. Herbert Alexander, Middleboro, Massachusetts 02346, lists it.

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I.L.S. director Dr. Owen M. Rogers of Durham, New Hampshire, is putting finishing touches on his "temporary lilac check list", a sabbatical year project, sponsored by the University of New Hampshire, which had the objective of compiling a complete listing of all lilac cultivar names irrespective of language. The search produced some 2000 names. Plans are being made to distribute Dr. Rogers' check list to I.L.S. members early in 1976.

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EDITORIAL. Lilacs need no apologist. By their form, color and fragrance they possess built-in appeal. The wonder is that it took until 1971 for lilac devotees to assemble as a group. The principle objective of I.L.S. is to promote lilacs. This aim is furthered in two ways: (1) by telling others the good word and (2) by setting an example. The good word is both verbal and written, but words must be reinforced by deeds. So I.L.S. promotes lilacs principally by foregathering annually at lilac-time and honoring the work of communities and individuals who plant and tend lilac collections. Each member who participates in these yearly rites then passes the good word along to friends and neighbors. And thus the name and fame of lilacs is spread afield to enlighten and enrich our lives and lands.

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Lilac shoots came in the chattel of our European ancestors as they colonized America in the seventeenth century and later settled in the great prairies. Even though lilacs are not native to America, still Americans regard lilacs as an integral part of our heritage. Each farm had its dooryard lilac long before 1776. It is fitting therefore that our fifth convention theme be "Our Lilac Heritage".

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Raise lilacs from seed. You don't have to be a geneticist or even a pollen dauber to find pleasure growing lilacs. Nor do you need fancy gadgets nor a large acreage. What you do need is a source of seed, the urge to "save" a few seed, the industry to sow them and the patience to watch them sprout. This is how nearly all our garden lilacs began -- as seedlings in some obscure lilac lover's backyard.

It's true, of course, that if your seed parent has "good genes" you stand a better chance of finding an "improvement" among your seedlings.

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