



# The Pipeline

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## ANNUAL MEETING, Rochester, NY--May 21, 22 & 23, 1976

Even a most uncooperative weather man failed to dim the enthusiasm of the 70-odd attendants at the recent meeting. The sun came out for only an hour or so on Sunday afternoon; the rest of the time it was overcast, chilly and damp.

However, on Friday the weather didn't really make any difference as all activities were indoors. Alvan Grant told about the beginnings of the lilac planting in Highland Park and how the Lilac Time celebrations started and their ramifications, including the year when, with all preparations made, there was a bus strike!!! Audrey H. O'Connor gave a run-down of the beginnings of lilac growing in this country, including the oft-disputed dates of first plantings. Fr. Fiala talked about things that still can be done by breeders to make lilacs even more attractive to gardeners.

After an intermission, Drs. Craig R. Hibben and J. T. Walker gave results of their continuing investigation of a lilac disease called leaf roll-necrosis, apparently caused by pollutants in air. For those interested, reprints of 2 articles are available, both from the Journal of the American Society for Horticultural Science. The first starts on page 508 of Vol. 99, No. 6, November, 1974, titled "The Leaf Roll-Necrosis Disorder of Lilacs: Etiological Role of Urban-Generated Air Pollutants". The second starts on page 627 of Vol. 100 (6), November, 1975. Titled "Cultivar Ratings for Susceptibility and Resistance to the Leaf Roll-Necrosis Disorder of Lilac", this has been published in resume form in a previous "Pipeline".

In the evening a delicious dinner was followed by a talk by Bernard Harkness about Ogier Ghislain de Busbecq (or Busbeck) whom he termed a patron for the Lilac Society since he was first to bring this plant from Constantinople where he was Austrian ambassador to the Sultan of Turkey from 1556 to 1562, to Vienna, where he planted it in his own garden. This paved the way for the cultivation of lilacs in Europe and, later, America.

The annual meeting was conducted by President Robert B. Clark. Balloting for directors resulted in the election of the following: Robert B. Clark, John L. Fiala, Richard Fenicchia, William Heard, Charles Holetich, Walter Oakes, Owen Rogers, Lois Utley.

On Saturday morning and afternoon the bus took members to Highland Park for a view of the famous lilac collection, which now includes many of the Rochester strain. There were lilacs galore in bloom and also many other woody plants.

In early evening a buffet dinner was served by the Rochester chapter of ILS at Warner Castle in the park and, in the evening, alongside the swimming pool at the Hilton Inn, headquarters for the meeting, Walter Eickhorst once again acted as auctioneer for the lilac auction. He has obviously missed his vocation as he is a whiz at perceiving the person who has bid just a bit higher and at forcing up those bids. The auction produced \$575.50 for the society, thanks partly to the skill of the auctioneer and partly to the individuals and institutions who were kind enough to donate the plants.

Sunday morning's feature was a visit to the nurseries of the Monroe County Parks Department. Here Richard Fenicchia showed off his second and third generation hybrids and beauties they are.

There seem to be two distinct races--one low-growing, perhaps to 4 feet in height, with enormous trusses of large florets, the second tall-growing with the same large size of individual bloom and clusters. One plant had individual florets a good half-inch wide. A thyrse measured by your ed was a full ten inches from top to bottom. These are the lilacs you'll want for your garden as soon as they are commercially available.

A long trip on the bus brought the group to Grape Hill Farm, home of the Utleys, for an inspection of their hill of lilacs, all in beautiful shape, and a picnic lunch.

Then on to the Sonnenberg Gardens in Canandaigua where members were guided around the grounds of the estate which are being restored by a volunteer group. Chief attraction at the time of our visit was the magnificent old trees in great variety. Not many places in the U.S. can boast of such giants.

A plant of *Syringa reticulata* was planted to commemorate the visit of ILS.

One more luscious dinner with Dr. Owen M. Rogers as toastmaster was followed by the presentation of awards by Fr. John Fiala to Richard Fenicchia for his third generation lilac hybrids, the ones we'd seen at the Parks Department nursery, to Joseph Dvorak, Jr. for his lilac identification manuscript, to be published by ILS at

a later date, and to the Utley's for their private collection of lilacs. Early that morning, because he had to leave for Esperance to attend a board meeting there, Robert Clark had been given a plaque while at breakfast, for his outstanding service to the society. And, the committee on awards, without his knowledge, had prepared a handsome one, with sculptured metal lilacs, for Fr. Fiala, given to him at this dinner.

The dinner speaker, Dr. Clarence Gehris, told of his visit to Russia on the occasion of last year's International Botanical Congress, illustrating his talk with beautiful slides of the cities and the countryside, including closeups of unusual alpine plants.

Thus ended a most successful meeting for which attendants are grateful to William A. Utley, the convention chairman.

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#### OFFICERS FOR 1976-7

President: Walter Eickhorst; Executive vice-president, William A. Utley; Corresponding secretary: Walter Oakes; Recording secretary: Lois D. Utley; Treasurer: Marie Chaykowski; Editor: Robert B. Clark.

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#### IMPORTANT NEWS

The long talked-of, equally long-awaited "Tentative International Register of Cultivar Names in the Genus Syringa" is finally in print and you should have received your copy. If you have not, contact Dr. Owen M. Rogers, the compiler and editor. This list has been financially supported by the New Hampshire Agricultural Experiment Station of the University of New Hampshire and ILS.

This list is just a beginning. While all names of lilacs and synonyms by which the same lilacs are known to have been called are listed insofar as Dr. Rogers has been able to find them, there may be more of both names and synonyms. If you know of any it is up to you to let him know about them. In other words, HELP. His address is the Department of Plant Science, U of NH, Durham, NH and any additions or corrections should be sent to him.

Additional copies of the check list are available, should you wish to present one to a nearby botanical garden or arboretum or even your local library--\$5 per copy to ILS members, \$10 per copy to others. (Believe it or not, it cost \$2.54 to air mail copies to certain European institutions and \$1.86 per pound to send 11 pounds of check lists to Russia.)

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#### LOOKING FORWARD

A real early bird, Albert Lumley, chairman of the 1977 ILS annual meeting, has already booked all rooms in the Lord Jeffery

Inn, Amherst, Mass. for May 20, 21 and 22. The Inn isn't very large so members who attend will have to get their reservations in EARLY or stay elsewhere.

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FINANCIAL REPORT

Treasurer Marie Chaykowski submitted the following at the meeting of the board of directors.

Financial Report June 1, 1975-May 31, 1976

Balance	\$4,719.57		
Receipts:		Disbursements:	
Membership	1,252.50	Postage, permit	\$425.23
*1975 convention	630.91	Publications:	
Interest	18.42	#Lilacs 1974	645.
Gifts	25.	Pringle ms	210.56
Total	6,646.40	½ cost	
		#Lilacs 1975	610.
		%Lilac Check List	500.
		&Lilac Monograph	500.
		Supplies	348.92
		Advertising	74.80
		National Council	10.
		membership	
		1976 convention ad-	300.
		vance	
		Bank charge	.25
		Awards, 1975 & 6	476.80
		Total	4101.63
BALANCE on May 31, 1976			2544.77

\* this amount includes \$300 advanced to convention chairman  
 # Proceedings issue  
 % given to U of NH towards Lilac check list  
 & manuscript by Joseph Dvorak, presently in print, to be published by ILS presently.

CASH BALANCE RECONCILIATION

General operating funds	1,691.07
Research/educational fund	453.70
@Life membership fund	400.
	<u>2,544.77</u>

@ \$600 to be transferred gradually from general fund to life membership fund. Books audited by Fiala, Short 5/16/76

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ANOTHER "LIBERTY TREE" LILAC

Robert Clark called your attention to the tree lilac long known as Syringa amurensis japonica and more recently as S. reticulata as

a possible "liberty tree" that you might plant this bicentennial year. Walter Eickhorst doesn't want you to forget another tree lilac, *S. pekinensis*.

Native of Northern China, this tree grows from 15-20 feet tall and is almost as wide when mature. The leaves are firmer in texture than those of *S. reticulata* and it blooms, in your ed's garden, before that plant but this may be due to its being in full sun while her *S. reticulata* is in the shade of an American elm and was planted to replace the elm when it died from Dutch elm disease--so, of course, the elm is still alive and well.

Flowers of *S. pekinensis* are creamy white and not scented. They appear in June, after the shrub lilacs have finished blooming.

Since it is not easy to find plants of this lilac listed in nursery catalogs, your ed is going to stick her neck out. Any member wanting to grow *S. pekinensis* from seeds can send her a stamped, self-addressed envelope next January (her address is at the top of page 1 of this issue). Assuming a good seed crop this year, there should be plenty to fill all requests.

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