



The Pipeline

This issue edited by Robert B. Clark, Cattle Landing Road, R.D. 1, Box 288, Meredith, N.H., 03253

Vol. III, No. 4.

April 1977.

REJUVENATE YOUR LILACS BY PRUNING - Does your lilac bloom sparingly, or have only small flower clusters, but you don't know how to cope with it, or lack the courage to try? There is no better time than now - this winter - to restore your lilac's capacity to produce quality blooms once again. Keep always in mind that you are improving your lilac, even though hacking away at it appears destructive. Actually, you are reducing the number of growing points (over-wintering buds) and thus directing ascending sap into fewer buds and consequent stronger growth. In the process you will sacrifice a goodly number of flower buds, but the ultimate effect will be better flowers another year.

If you have several lilacs, you could adopt a rotating system of drastic pruning on one or a few plants each year, until all your lilacs are flowering at their greatest potential. If you have but one lilac, you might try pruning a section (one or two branches) each year.

How to begin? First, establish that pruning IS the proper corrective. Lilacs like full sunshine, well-drained fertile soil and lots of moisture - especially spring and fall. They do withstand hot, dry summers, but they do not tolerate competition from shade trees. Their yearly growth should be pencil-thick twigs, 8-12 inches long, capped by a pair of plump flowering buds. You will need a few tools: pruning saw (arched blade that cuts on the pull stroke), a pair of pruning shears (long-handled), and secateurs (French for one-handed pruning shears).

These four "rules" should provide all the instruction you'll need :

- 1) Remove dead and broken canes or branches, obviously.
- 2) Eliminate all weak or suppressed branches. Neglected lilacs produce twiggy growth which progressively fails to yield quality flower clusters. In advanced cases "blueberrying" occurs, comparable to the dense vegetative growth and sparse fruit production of neglected highbush blueberry bushes. Trace these branches back to a strong sucker or shoot and with one cut take

out the entire submarginal growth. You can do this anytime during the dormant season, the optimal time, because at this season alone you can see what you are doing. Don't wait until after blooms are spent, the usually suggested time, else you defer pruning indefinitely. I say now is the acceptable time while the knife is sharp !

- 3) Top back lanky canes (sometimes all the way to the ground). So that you can see and admire, even caress them, head back the sky-rocketing canes to breast height or even to the ground level if need be. N.B. Certain early hybrid lilacs and the common white lilac are naturally tall growing multi-stemmed small trees (up to 15 feet tall sometimes) which are best treated as border plants. I refer, however, to overly tall "French hybrid" lilacs which need to be restrained by being truncated. The vigorous roots will produce robust top growth which soon will develop into a productive lilac.
- 4) Cut to the ground (or dig out entirely) surplus suckers. This is a cosmetic treatment for keeping the lilac within bounds and neat appearing.

SCALE INSECTS ON LILACS AND THEIR CONTROL - by Louis M. Vasvary, New Brunswick, New Jersey.

Several species of scale insects attack lilac, but the most common to all lilacs is the oystershell scale. There are three subspecies of oystershell scale, two of which, the gray and the brown, are common to lilac. The gray scale often become so concentrated that they cover the entire bark of stems and branches. Other species of scale insects found on lilac include:

San Jose scale (crawlers active in June); white peach scale, scurfy scale and euonymus scale (crawlers in June and again in August); and cottony maple scale (crawlers in late June to early July). Crawlers of the oystershell scale are active in June, like the San Jose scale, a single generation each year. The brown race, however, has two generations a year, and is found particularly on hybrid lilacs. Older brown scales turn quite dark colored and remain on the bark for a considerable period of time.

Where control measures have been neglected and scale populations are quite serious, it may be necessary in late winter to prune out and burn badly infested wood. In March or April, before buds expand, a dormant oil spray provides excellent control. Do not, however, apply dormant oil spray if freezing temperatures are forecast up to 24 to 48 hours following application. In June when crawlers are active, and again in August for the second generation of the brown race, Malathion is recommended. For control of the cottony maple scale crawlers in late June and early July Carbaryl (Sevin) is recommended.



THE HULDA KLAGER LILAC GARDENS

Volunteer workers and members of the Woodland (Washington) Federated Garden Club were photographed last year as they began restoration of the home and garden of Hulda Klager, the "Lilac Lady", who died there following the 1960 lilac season at the age of 97. The Club, under the leadership of Mrs. Robert LeVee, is seeking support to preserve Mrs. Klager's memory by acquiring the property as a horticultural shrine. The following excerpts, from secondary sources, will acquaint or remind our readers of certain incidents or accomplishments in Hulda Klager's eventful life.

As a busy homemaker on a small farm on the south city limits of Woodland, Washington, Hulda Klager made many an apple pie, but she did not like peeling small apples. So she set about, through breeding, to develop larger and easier peeling apples - with some success. However, she soon turned to other more decorative plants, among which were of course the lilacs. She learned of Luther Burbank and began a correspondence with him which culminated in a visit of inspection to his experiment garden in California.

Mrs. Klager began her lilac improvement program in 1902 with three varieties: 'Mme. Casimir Perier' and 'President Grevy' of Lemoine, and 'Andenken an Ludwig Spaeth' of Germany. By 1915 her seedlings began to attract visitors. In the first week of May, usually, pilgrimages from surrounding cities and towns would arrive to admire the beauty. The Portland Oregonian, in 1926,

commended her for developing over sixty varieties of lilacs and credited her with having "the finest collection of lilac (seedlings) in the United States".

By 1915, however, she had selected ten plants which she described in terms of form, size, color and blooming period. Mrs. Klager introduced 8 of her lilacs into commerce through R.M.Cooley of Silverton, Or. in 1928. She also had a series of lilacs dedicated to cities of Washington. One lilac bearing trusses of wine-colored double florets she called "my favorite". Being a double it was sterile - "the end of the line", she would say and start again.

In 1948 a river dike above her farm broke during a period of exceptional rain. Her seedling lilacs were flooded and remained under water for more than a month, killing nearly every plant. Undaunted at age 85, she began once more to rebuild her beloved lilac garden. The Gresham Federated Garden Club assisted her by giving back suckers of many of the lilacs which she had developed and distributed. An article about the "Lilac Lady's" plight, in the Oregonian, produced further varieties, and within a year the gardens were accurately restored to their prior splendor.

Besides lilacs, Hulda Klager also grew hybrid seedlings of broom, magnolias and tree peonies. The Cowlitz County Historical Museum contains her collection of memorabilia.

SIXTH CONVENTION AT AMHERST - The Lord Jeffery Inn will be convention headquarters for our sixth annual membership meeting, May 20-22, 1977. Society members planning to attend are advised to make reservations right away, since a limited number of accommodations are available. The innkeeper assures the Board of Directors that all ILS members who register will indeed be taken care of at nearby motels.

For room reservations please write as soon as possible to :-

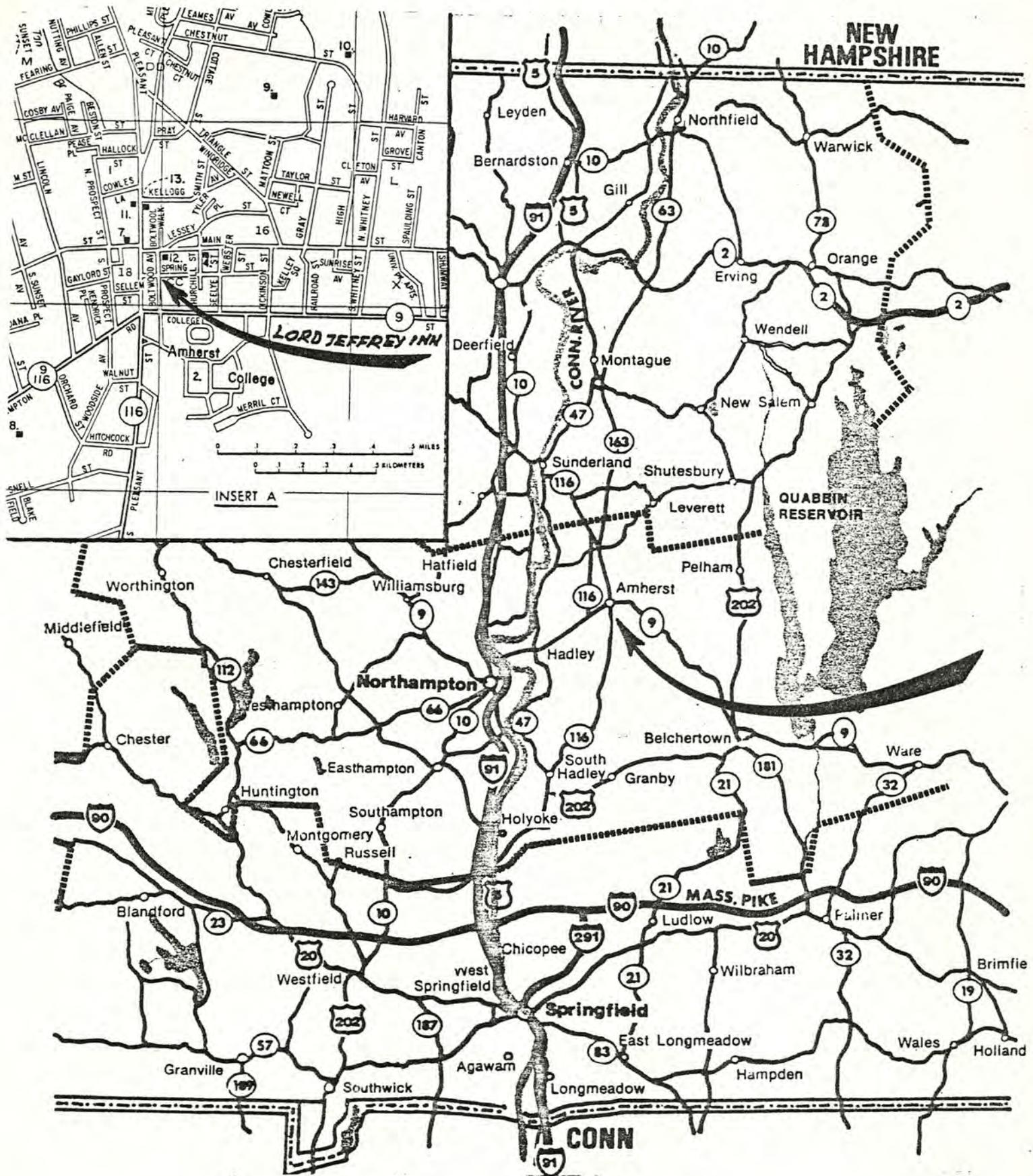
MR. RAYMOND J. KELLEHER,
MANAGER,
LORD JEFFERY INN,
AMHERST, MASS. 01002.

or

MR. ALBERT E. LUMLEY,
79, So. PLEASANT STREET,
AMHERST, MASS. 01002.

and indicate in your letter that you are an INTERNATIONAL LILAC SOCIETY member.

By eliminating the necessity of mailing the reminder notices you can reduce the expenditure of your society. PLEASE PAY YOUR 1977 I.L.S. DUES NOW. Mail your dues to Walter W. Oakes, I.L.S. Secretary, Box 315, Rumford, Maine, 04276. U.S.A.



Further maps and information about local points of interest will be received by delegates upon registration.

PROGRAM FOR THE SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE INTERNATIONAL LILAC SOCIETY - MAY 20, 21, 22, 1977.

Held at the Lord Jeffery Inn, Amherst, Mass. 01002. All meetings will be held at the Inn unless otherwise stated.

FRIDAY, May 20, 1977.

8:00 to 10:00 a.m.	Directors' Meeting
8:00 to 10:00 a.m.	Registration
10:00 to 11:30 a.m.	Meeting of the Society - official business
11:30 a.m.	Early lunch at the Inn (Welcome by Prof. Arnold Collery)
1:00 p.m.	Large bus & cars to Smith Coll. Greenhouses, led by Al Lumley
2:30 p.m.	Trip from Smith to Old Deerfield, led by Bob Clark
4:00 p.m.	Trip from Deerfield to U.Mass., led by Dr. Owen Rogers
5:00 p.m.	REST
6:00 p.m.	Cocktails at the Inn, Private Bar
7:00 to 9:00 p.m.	The President's Dinner - Reports by Officers
9:00 p.m.	Hospitality Suite at the Inn

SATURDAY, May 21, 1977.

8:00 to 9:00 a.m.	Breakfast - Group picture out of doors
9: 15 a.m.	"Talk on Lilac Gardens", Jack Alexander
10:00 a.m.	"Propagation", Alfred J. Fordham
10:45 a.m.	"The Well Bred Lilac", Dr. Owen Rogers
11:30 a.m.	A Registrar Reports - Freek Vrugtman
12:00 noon	LUNCH
1:30 p.m.	Directors' Meeting - Election of new officers
2:00 p.m.	Field trips to "Lilac Land", Harkness Rd.
5:00 p.m.	Cocktails and Happy Hour at Lord Jeffery Inn
6:00 p.m.	Dinner - Guests Amhersts Pres. & Mrs. John William Ward
8:00 p.m.	Lilac Auction, Amherst College Cage, Auctioneer, Pres. Walter Eickhorst, PUBLIC INVITED
10:00 p.m.	Hospitality suite at the Inn

SUNDAY, May 22, 1977.

8:00 a.m.	Breakfast
9:00 a.m.	Meeting of the Society
9:15 a.m.	"Colchicine and Genetic Changes", Fr. John Fiala
10:00 a.m.	"The Rochester Lilacs", Richard A. Fennicchia
10:45 a.m.	"Fertilization of Lilacs", Charles Holetich
11:30 a.m.	"The Future of the I.L.S.", Dr. John Wister
12:15 p.m.	Happy Hour
1:00 p.m.	Award Banquet, Lord Jeffery Inn
3:00 p.m.	Everyone invited to the Lumleys for another look, rest, quiet, with libations

Note I

Lord Jeffery Inn Meal Schedule

Breakfast	: 7:30 to 10:15 a.m.
Lunch	: 11:30 to 2:00 p.m.
Sandwiches at Bar	: 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Dinner	: 5:30 to 9:00 p.m.

Note II

Registration charge of \$25 covers President's Dinner only, bus trips and incidentals.

Note III

All housing requests must go to the Manager of the Lord Jeffery Inn, Mr. Raymond Kelleher and/or Prof. Albert Lumley, 79 So. Pleasant Street, Amherst, Mass. 01002.

ITEMS OF INTEREST TO DELEGATES OF SIXTH ILS CONVENTION AT AMHERST, MASS.

The I.L.S. will have at least one registration helper at the Inn, as well as another at Lilac Land.

The time schedule will be followed as closely as possible. Free time that occurs will be used at the discretion of President Eickhorst, or for showing slides.

We must be prompt on coming to meals on or before scheduled time. Speakers are asked to honor the time schedules.

Everyone is urged to be present for the picture of the group.
9:00 a.m. outside, Saturday.

The bar will be our own and drinks should be paid for promptly.

Don't miss the AUCTION. We are counting on this being a big success.

"Lilac Land" has about 1600 plants of about 190 varieties that are from one to twenty years old. They are tagged 2 or 3 times. Rain will alter our viewing program and notices regarding these changes will be posted at the Inn.

The registration charge of \$25. will cover the President's Dinner on Friday, the 60 passenger bus on Friday and two smaller buses Saturday afternoon and evening, as well as incidentals. Any balance will go to the Society.

Mr. Kelleher, manager of the Inn, and I believe that our accommodations will be adequate. Fifty-four people have already sent in their reservations. We expect, however, that several additional members will decide to come.

The Lord Jeffery Inn will charge \$17. for one person; twin bedded room for two persons will be \$26. Two double beds for two people will be \$28. Two people sharing one double bed will be \$25. Charges for meals are moderate and the quality is excellent.

Lord Jeffery phone 1-413-253-2576 -- Mgr. Ray Kelleher.

The Saturday evening auction, to which the public will be invited, will be fun, and we are hoping for great success and thus enrich the Society's coffers. We already have offers of over 500 lilacs for the auction and for gifts. We can use more plants. Do some thinking about what you can contribute.

All will be welcome to return to "Lilac Land" again on Sunday afternoon for a rest, social interchange and libations.

Peter Pan Bus Lines service Amherst. Our airport is 40 miles away at Bradley Field, Connecticut - on arrival rent-a-car and take I-91 for Northampton then Route 9 to Amherst. Alternate take bus for Springfield and transfer there for Amherst.

Al Lumley.