

Lilac Newsletter

Vol. VIII, No. 12, December, 1982

INTERNATIONAL LILAC SOCIETY

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.

Articles printed in this publication are the views and opinions of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent those of the editor or the *International Lilac Society*.

This publication, *LILAC NEWSLETTER* (formerly *THE PIPELINE*) is issued monthly. Back copies are available by writing to the International Lilac Society, c/o Mr. Charles Holetich, Royal Botanical Gardens, Box 399, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. L8N 3H8. Please send 50 cents for each copy requested.

President: Dr. Owen M. Rogers,
University of New Hampshire, Dept. of Plant Science,
Nesmith Hall, Durham, N.H. 03824.

Secretary: Walter W. Oakes*
Box 315, Rumford, Maine, 04276

Treasurer: Mrs. Marie Chaykowski
4041 Winchell Road, Mantua, Ohio, 44255

Editor: Ms. Mary C. Smith,
Rte. 2, Bellevue, Iowa. 52031.

INTERNATIONAL LILAC SOCIETY,
William A. Utley, Ex. Vice-Pres.,
Grape Hill Farm, Devereaux Rd., Clyde, NY 14433.

MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATION

Single annual	\$ 7.50
Family	10.00
Sustaining	15.00
Institutional/Commercial	20.00
Life	150.00

*Mail membership dues to I.L.S. Secretary.

Seasons Greetings

Season's Greetings to all of my I.L.S. friends and your families. May your Christmas be a blessed and joyous one, and may you once again meet the New Year with faith, hope and courage.

This is a time when many of us recall, nostalgically, family and friends and earlier holiday gatherings. It is a time of reflection, a time to assess our spiritual and personal progress and our attitude as we prepare to accept the challenges we will encounter in the year 1983.

As ever, our friends are precious to us and we remember them in our own way at Christmastime, but we do not always know our best friends or who they are. Edgar A. Guest gives us some food for thought about friends in the following poem.

The Unknown Friends

Edgar A. Guest

We cannot count our friends,
nor say
How many praise us day by day.
Each of us has friends that he
Has yet to meet and really know,
Who guard him, wheresoe'er
they be,
From harm and slander's
cruel blow.
They help to light our path with
cheer
Although they pass as strangers
here.

We cannot guess how large the
debt
We owe to friends we have not met.
We only know, from day to day,
That we discover here and
there
How one has tried to smooth
our way
And ease our heavy load of
care.
Then passed along and left behind
His friendly gift for us to find.

These friends unseen, unheard,
unknown,
Our lasting gratitude should own.
They serve us in a thousand
ways
Where we perhaps should
friendless be:
They tell our worth and speak
our praise
And for their service ask no fee.
They choose to be our friends
although
We have not learned to call
them so.

Editor



ELECTION OF I.L.S. DIRECTORS

Every year we ask our membership to play an active role in helping the nominating committee prepare the slate for the coming election. We are looking for enthusiastic, interested members; ones who would be a great asset to our Board of Directors and help move our society forward.

Perhaps, this fits your description perfectly, then we need you. Please submit your name or anyone you know that may fulfill this need and mail to:

Elsie L. Kara, Chairwoman
Nominating Committee
24540 Emmons Rd.
Columbia Station, OH
USA 44028

To be assured of consideration, your suggestions should be received before February 1, 1983.

Following is a list of Directors currently serving:

Elected 1980
(for 3 year term)
(Due for re-election in May 1983)

Marie Chaykowski
Nancy Emerson
Dr. Joel Margaretten
Walter Eickhorst
Winfried Martin
Lyle Littlefield
John Carvill
Pauline Fiala

Elected 1981
(for 3 year term)

George Kidd
Dr. Donald Egolf
Roger Luce
Sarah Schenker
Thomas Chieppo
Maurice Lockwood
John Alexander III
Elsie Kara

Elected 1982
(for 3 year term)

Dr. Robert Clark
Fr. John Fiala
William Heard
Charles Holetich
Walter Oakes
Max Peterson
Dr. Owen Rogers
William Utley

* * * * *

BITS OF WIT

Good examples have twice the value of good advice.

If money grew on trees, there wouldn't be much shade.

There's only a slight difference between keeping your chin up and sticking your neck out - but it's worth knowing!

From the Dawes Arboretum of Newark, Ohio comes this informative note published in the Arboretum Newsletter of November, 1982.

*

Tests to find trees that will thrive with no maintenance under less than desirable conditions have been under way since 1966 at Michigan State University's Hidden Lake Gardens at Tipton, Michigan.

Some 225 trees of 20 genera, purchased with a grant from the Garden Club of America, were planted over a nine-year period. All were planted with organically enriched backfill around the rootball, then mulched and watered for two years. Thereafter, they received no maintenance. These proved outstanding: 'Emerald Queen', 'Summer Shade', and 'Superform' Norway maples (Acer platanoides); 'Autumn Flame', 'Bowhall', and 'Red Sunset' red maples (Acer rubrum); 'Chancellor' and 'Greenspire' little-leaved lindens (Tilia cordata); 'Hesse' European ash (Fraxinus excelsior); and cultivars of honeylocust (Gleditsia); mountain ash (Sorbus); pear (Pyrus); and zelkova.

Under the no-maintenance regime these did not do well: Horsechestnut (Aesculus), redbud (Cercis), oak (Quercus), sweet gum (Liquidambar), hawthorn (Crataegus), cork tree (Phellodendron), sycamore (Platanus), ginkgo and sophora. Crabapples also did not perform well, being subject to girdling by mice and rabbits, and many budded varieties were lost to sucker shoots which outgrew the grafted portions of the tree.

Avant Gardener

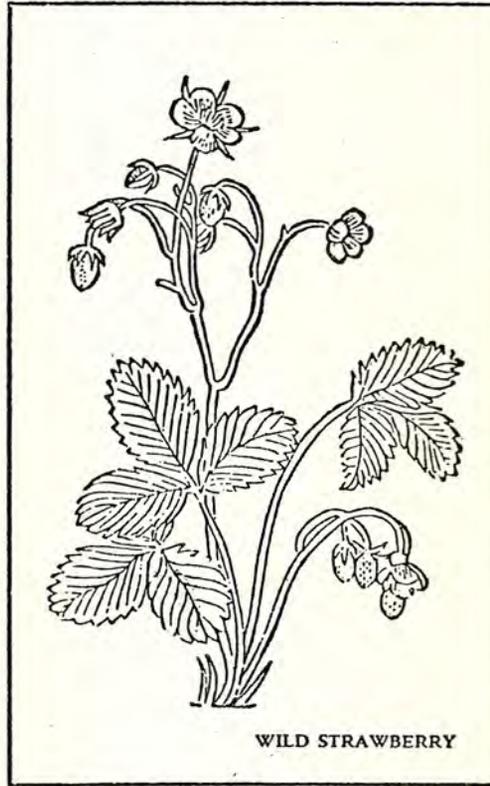
*With permission from The Avant Gardener,
Horticultural Data Processors, New York, NY

Herbs for Healing

Strawberry, Wild *Fragaria vesca*, L.

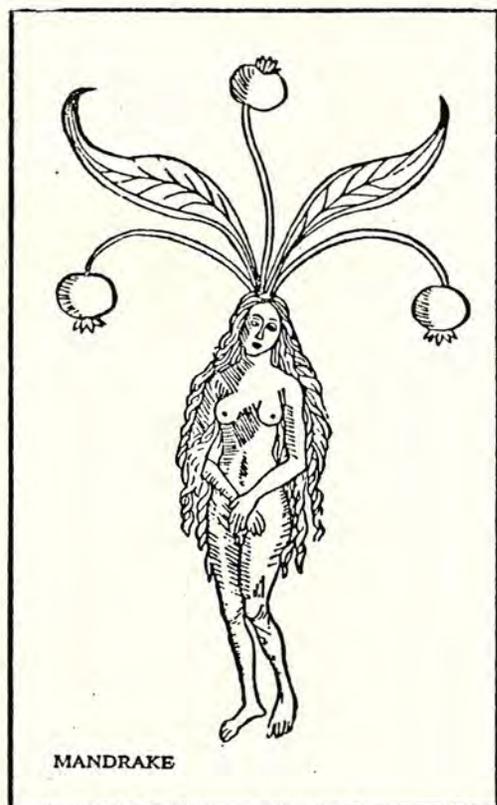
In the Middle Ages the leaves of wild strawberries were believed to have healing properties. *Banckes's Herbal* states: "The virtue of this herb is good for bleared men. Also, it is good to destroy the web in a man's eyes." The *Grete Herball* adds that it is "especially good against all evils of the spleen. The juice thereof, drunken with honey, profiteth marvellously." Besides, it "comforteth the stomach and quencheth the thirst." The *Hortus sanitatis* gives the following recipe: "Take strawberry juice and plantain water mixed with eight liters of mulberry juice, one liter of the dung of a white dog...and a little vinegar...and this is good for ulcers of the throat if used as

* Reprinted from "Herbs for the Mediaeval Household" by Margaret B. Freeman, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY



WILD STRAWBERRY

a gargle." Also, "strawberry water is good for those people who sweat too much." ¶ Modern herbalists say that strawberry-leaf tea makes a refreshing beverage and that the fresh fruit will remove discoloration of the teeth and whiten the skin.



Mandrake *Mandragora officinarum*, L.

The juice of the mandrake root served as an anesthetic in the Middle Ages. Dioscorides describes how it is given to "such as cannot sleep, or are grievously pained, and upon whom being cut or cauterized they [wish to] make a not-feeling pain." He explains that whoever eats of it is "sensible of nothing for three or four hours." The root is also "a maker of love medicines," a cure for apostumes (abscesses), and a softener of ivory. Other herbalists describe the magic potency of mandrake for "devil sickness

or insanity," for sterility in women, and for "heavy mischief in the home." One writer claims that it "cures every infirmity—except only death where there is no help." The root was said to bear the likeness of a human form—either male or female—and to screech when being uprooted. Many believed that the person who dug it up would surely die. Consequently elaborate schemes were developed for persuading dogs to perform the job instead. Several mediaeval herbalists question the veracity of many of these statements. For instance, the author of the *Grete Herball* writes as follows: "Some say that the male hath the shape of a man and the female of a woman, but that is false. For nature never gave form or shape of mankind to an herb. But it is of truth that some hath shaped figures by craft as we have foretime heard say." ¶ The drug from the mandrake root is similar to belladonna in its narcotic effects but is little used at the present time.

Lily of
the Valley

Convallaria
majalis, L.

A half-pound of these "sweet smelling flowers" soaked in a liter of wine for four weeks and then distilled, claims the *Hortus sanitatis*, makes a liquor "more precious than gold;" for if anyone is troubled with apoplexy, "let him mix the liquor with four peppercorns and a little lavender-water and drink thereof and he shall not have to fear a stroke that month." Moreover, "this wine smeared on the forehead and on the back

of the neck makes one to have good common sense." ¶ The drug from the dried rhizome and roots of lily of the valley resembles digitalis and is now sometimes given as a heart tonic.

