



Lilac Newsletter

Vol. VIII, No. 7, July, 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.

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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.

OBSERVATIONS ON THE

11TH ANNUAL I.L.S. CONVENTION IN OTTAWA

Our Regional Vice-President Tom Chieppo reports that the 1982 International Lilac Society meeting in Ottawa was a great success. Tom writes that 62 members attended, that the meeting was very well planned with a number of interesting events and distinguished speakers. He goes on to say, "The Society was given an interesting tour of the city by bus. Lilacs were in profusion along the miles of exquisitely manicured lawns in beautiful Ottawa. A number of tulip beds were still in bloom. A tasty lunch was served at City Hall and our group was welcomed by Marian Dewar, Mayor of Ottawa, a most gracious hostess. During the afternoon we visited Rideau Hall, a most well-appointed historical mansion and residence of the Governor General. We saw the greenhouses and spacious grounds which were unusual and of course full of lilacs.

On Saturday we had lunch under canvas in the grounds adjacent to Agriculture Canada. We were welcomed by Dr. J.J. Cartier, Director General, Ontario Region. The tour of the arboretum, lilacs and campus pleased everyone as the lilacs were in full bloom.

The Board of Directors held three business meetings. On Friday night the president's Dinner was held, followed by the Annual General Meeting. The present slate of officers were elected to hold office for another year. Directors were elected for three years.

This I.L.S. meeting would not have been a success without the untiring efforts of Trevor Cole and his lovely wife. Mr. Cole is the Curator of Plant Collections of the Experimental Agricultural Station at Ottawa. They were both rewarded with a complimentary membership for one year in the I.L.S."

LILACS IN SPOKANE, WASHINGTON

To the Editor, Lilac Newsletter

As a new member of the International Lilac Society, I seem to feel (though I could be wrong) that most of the news printed in the Lilac Newsletter comes from the Midwest or Eastern parts of the United States. Anyway, I would like to have the I.L.S. know that we too, out here in the West, have beautiful Lilacs and events named after them.

Here in Spokane our biggest annual event is the week-long celebration in May of the Lilac Festival, on-going since 1938. It attracts thousands to our city which is named the "Lilac City".

The first lilacs to be planted in this area were brought here just before the turn of the century. Also every April, the Associated Garden Clubs of Spokane have a free give-away of lilac shoots to the general public, with the idea of having a lilac growing in every yard in Spokane and the surrounding area.

Enclosed please find newspaper clippings of our recent 1982 Lilac Festival, which even has an official poem written about the lilacs and the Festival each year.

We in Spokane, enjoy the beautiful lilac too, and even feel it's worthy of having a beautiful festive week named after it.

Sincerely,
Mrs. H.V. VandeVanter

I wish I could include here all of the clippings from the Spokane Chronicle, photos and programs that Mrs. VandeVanter sent along with her letter. Full page newspaper stories with coloured

photos, pre-event publicity, postcards and pictures of floats that could compete in the well-known Rose Parade. I am sure it is a grand occasion in Spokane. Can't you just imagine the fragrance in the air during Lilac Time?

We are grateful to Mrs. VandeVanter for sending us the news of this event and of the freecuttings of lilacs offered to the residents of her city. Hopefully, we will hear more from her and others in Spokane and elsewhere, about the species and cultivars they find particularly good (and why) and any helpful information for the backyard gardeners who want to know more about the planting and culture of their lilacs.

The official poem about lilacs and the 1982 Festival gives us a good idea of the grand importance of this Spokane Event.

Editor.

BITS OF WIT

Over here they're called coffee breaks. In England they're called absent-teaism.

I am a great believer in luck, and I find the harder I work the more I have of it.

A pipe gives a wise man time to think and a fool something to stick in his mouth.

You will always find something in the last place you look.

SPOKANE'S LILAC FESTIVAL

Spokane is known as "Lilac City."
Festivities now fill a whole week,
There are two parades with floats galore;
Spokane's pride in this is far from meek.
Oh! It's "Festival time in Spokane!

How did our city win lilac fame?
Nineteen thirty-eight is claimed the year,
Spokane's Associated Garden Clubs
First started this occasion here.
Oh! It's "Festival" time in Spokane!

Garden Clubs held annual "Flower Shows"
With lilacs from white to purple-blue.
Nineteen 'forty, The Chamber of Commerce
Gave the Festival its blessing too.
Oh! It's "Festival" time in Spokane!

To have someone in our Royal Court
Each high school chooses a lovely girl.
Now, towns all around send bands and floats,
The entire week is a gala whirl.
Oh! It's "Festival" time in Spokane!

May is the month for this big affair.
The slogan: "Spokane's Best When Lilac Drest."
A beautiful heritage is ours.
Come see our lilacs - best in the west.
Oh! It's "Festival" time in Spokane!

Martha Sievers Funnell
1982 Lilac Poet
Spokane Poetry Scribes

LILACS MAKING SPOKANE A BLOOMIN' BEAUTY SPOT

*

by Pat Freeman

Our fair city is now resplendent with lovely lilacs. Drive down any street and admire the many different pastel hues. Smell the heady scent. In Spokane everything is coming up lilacs!

Every homeowner should have at least one shrub of these easy-to-grow, hardy spring bloomers. The colors range from white, pale mauve, rosy pink and blue to purple and red purple, as well as the lovely shade for which they are named.

As in most of the common shrub families, there are many different species. The common old-fashioned lilac is Syringa vulgaris. It is almost a tree, and is the most fragrant.

Development of new varieties, larger in bloom size, has lost some of that sweet fragrance. The so-called French hybrids, many developed in this country, have larger, more compact panicles. There are doubles and double-doubles, as well as singles of huge florets

You might not recognize some of the different Syringa species. Syringa microphylla is called the Daphne lilac. Pearl lilacs are Syringa sweginflexa. The Japanese tree lilac has creamy white panicles that bloom late in June and into July. To extend the time of bloom ask your nurseryman for this as Syringa reticulata

One of the new and exciting lilacs for modern home owners is the dwarf Korean lilac, Syringa velutina. This little beauty matures at only 3 feet. Dark, 6-inch panicles open up into lavender-lilac. This is a welcome addition to the

*Reprinted from Spokane Daily Chronicle, Friday, May 16, 1980.

small-scale landscaping needed by today's homemakers.

Our native soil is ideal for growing lilacs. They need a well-drained, alkaline soil to perform well. Plant them in full sun for the large, thick panicles.

Many well-landscaped homes use a tall hedge of lilacs. You'll see many a lilac used singly, as a specimen shrub. Often lilacs are underplanted with tulips. The lily-flowered and cottage tulips look very dramatic when teamed with the pastel lilacs overhead.

All of these spring combinations require previous planning. Lilacs are best planted when dormant, as early as the soil can be dug. Some are available growing in fiber tubs. You can bury these now and have instant blooms. The tulips and other spring flowers need to be planted in the late summer or fall.

To select the lilac you want, check with your favorite nursery. They will have pictures of the various cultivars and you can select the color and form you want.

Perhaps you want to see the real thing. Visit the Finch Arboretum and look for the many different named species growing there. The blooms are lovely now and you can see the many other spring blooming plants that would brighten your landscape next spring.

If it is new varieties you are looking for, ask for 'SENSATION'. This new variety is a bicolor. Each floret is a dark violet with a band of white.

For more information on lilac species, join the International Lilac Society. Write the secretary Walter W. Oakes, Box 315, Rumford, Maine 04276. Annual dues are \$7.50.

LILAC BIBLIOGRAPHY

Our good secretary, Walter Oakes, has suggested that a bibliography of lilac reading material may be useful particularly to new members. All of the books in this short list are out-of-print and would need to be ordered through a dealer in out-of-print books. Some of them may be found in the larger metropolitan libraries.

BARTRAM, DOUGLAS. Lilacs and Laburnum, London, John Gifford, Ltd.
HARDING, ALICE. Lilacs in My Garden. A practical handbook for amateurs. New York: MacMillan Co. 1933.
MCKELVEY, SUSAN DELANO. The Lilac. A monograph with color plates. New York: MacMillan Co., 1928.
WISTER, JOHN C. Lilac Culture. Orange-Judd Publ. Co., New York, 1930.

"With the exception of BARTRAM, these books are entirely devoted to information about lilacs. We are fortunate to own all of the books listed and would be happy to mail copies of sample pages and make suggestions as to price ranges.

If any of these books can be purchased at reasonable prices and in good condition, I personally believe them to be a prudent investment."

Walter W. Oakes
Box 315
Rumford, Maine 04276

LILACS INTRIGUE SCIENTISTS

When it comes to forecasting the weather, computers sometimes have to take second place to lilac bushes.

Dr. Dale Everson, statistician for the University of Idaho Agricultural Experiment Station at Moscow, reports farmers and gardeners in many parts of the country carefully record the dates when the common purple lilac begins blooming in their localities.

"In Montana, farmers expect to make their first cutting of hay one month after their lilacs begin blooming. In northern Idaho, we can see a fairly consistent correlation between the date of lilac bloom and the time when spring peas will be ready for harvest," he said.

All plants that are acclimated to a region will detect seasonal changes in the weather and will schedule their own growth and development accordingly. The common purple lilac, thanks to its spectacular blossoms, is a highly visible "barometer" of plant development.

The lilac has been observed carefully by researchers interested in phenology - the science that explores how climate influences the timing of different stages in development of plants and animals, said Everson. Researchers are trying to make use of the weather information that is collected by the lilac, the honeysuckle and other plants.

"In agricultural research, we're always trying to accumulate data about temperature and precipitation. I'm sure the lilac has information we don't have," Everson said.

Reprinted from Co-op Country News, May 4, 1981,
St. Paul, MN

PLANTS SOLD AT I.L.S. AUCTION 1982

Plants Supplied by Agriculture Canada

'Slater's Elegance' \$15.00

Plants Supplied by Travers Hutchison

'Miss Canada' \$12.00

'A.M. Brand' \$7.25

'Mont Blanc' \$6.00

'Mme. Antoine Buchner' \$5.25

'Nocturne' \$5.25

'Lucie Baltet' \$4.75

'Belle de Nancy' \$4.00

'Statgartner Rothpletz' \$3.50

Plants Supplied by Royal Botanical Gardens

'Souv. de Mme. Louis Gielis' \$12.00

'Ogni Moskvyy' \$8.00

'Mrs. Harry Bickle' \$7.75

'Sensation' \$7.50

'Frank Paterson' \$7.50

'Prof. Joseph Brzezinski' \$7.25

'Saint Margaret' \$7.25

'Archeveque' \$7.00

'Krasavitsa Moskvyy' \$7.00

'Rochester' \$6.50

'Ogni Donbassa' \$6.25

'Utro Moskvyy' \$6.25

'Kosmos' \$6.00

'Nancy Frick' \$6.00

'Flora' \$6.00

'Miss Canada' \$5.75

'Bright Centennial' \$5.50

'Dwight D. Eisenhower' \$5.00

'Erzherzog Johann' \$5.00

'Thunberg' \$5.00

'Edward J. Gardner'	\$4.75
'Nadezhda'	\$4.50
'Bogdan Przyrzykowski'	\$4.50
'Katherine Havemeyer'	\$4.50
'Pamiat O.S.M. Kirove'	\$4.25
'Paul Thirion'	\$4.25
'Pres. Poincare'	\$4.00
'Dappled Dwan'	\$4.00
'Olivier de Serres'	\$3.75
'Glory'	\$3.50
'Sunset'	\$3.50
'Jules Simon'	\$2.00

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