

Lilac Newsletter

Vol. X, No. 11, November, 1984

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*.

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Single annual	\$ 10.00
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Life	150.00

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SCIENTIFIC NAME OF CHINESE BROADLEAVED LILAC

by Robert B. Clark, Meredith, NH

Name tags or markers are important adjuncts of botanical or horticultural collections and many private gardens as well. The principal object is to identify each plant. Other information, such as provenance, date of acquisition, etc., is sometimes included, but the botanical or horticultural identity remains of prime interest since it provides a handle to the plant, a symbol upon which you can hang concepts, communicate ideas. So names of things are important. They also can be used to pigeonhole plants into categories: species, genera, families for instance.

Besides being useful for identification and classification names have a value of their own. Their usage is governed by strict codes. The science of botanical nomenclature dates from Linnaeus' consistent usage of binomials in 1753. As horticulture developed, however, more and more subspecific categories were recognized, e.g. variety, form, hybrid, chimera, etc. Accordingly rules were necessarily devised to govern such exigencies.

Sometimes plants were found in gardens and their names and descriptions published before the wild plant was discovered. It was the custom in such instances to assign varietal status to what in fact was the species (cultivated plants necessarily being derived, not vice versa). The rules subsequently have been modified to bring nomenclature into conformity with true botanical relationships.

In the present instance the familiar name of the Chinese broadleaved lilac, according to the rules, no longer obtains. We must begin to use another designation, but first a brief history of this lilac.

Alexander von Bunge, a Russian botanist and explorer, first collected this lilac in 1831, noting its frequency in gardens of Peking (Beijing). Dr. John Lindley was the first to describe the Chinese broadleaved lilac, naming it Syringa oblata, in 1859, from specimens of Robert Fortune's third trip to China (1853-1856). Fortune called attention to its leaves being oblately cordate. The wild plant's publication awaited Fr. Giraldi's collections in 1891 in Shensi province. Curt Sprenger, a Naples nurseryman and Victor Lemoine of Nancy each introduced the lilac as Giraldii (the former as a trinomial of S. villosa, the latter as a species) in 1903. The taxonomist, having found these lilacs to be identical, must search out or designate a valid name.

Nomenclature, the application of names, is the legal aspect of taxonomy. Botanists and horticulturists the world over meet in congresses from time to time to discuss common problems, one of which is nomenclature. Over the years they have adopted an International Code of Botanical/Horticultural Nomenclature, which one prominent botanist dubbed the "union rules". The union rules as amended state that "if any intra-specific taxon which includes the nomenclatural type of the epithet of the next higher taxon is to be mentioned by a subdivisional name, that name must repeat the epithet of the higher taxon unaltered but, contrary to Art. 46, without citation of an author's name" (Article 35).

Since the Korean counterpart of the Chinese broadleaved lilac is S. oblata var. dilatata (Nakai) Rehder, the acceptable name of the Chinese lilac becomes S. oblata Lindley var. oblata, displacing the familiar name var. Giraldii which becomes a synonym and dropping into oblivion. We are indebted to Peter Green for birning this change to our attention.

The Chinese broadleaved lilac was crossed with the European common lilac by Vicotr Lemoine to create

the early hybrid lilacs, 'Lamartine' being the type cultivar. The Korean broadleaved lilac is becoming widely cultivated in the United States, whereas the Chinese lilac remains virtually unknown.

* * * * *

Tigerstadt Blooms

From Delhi, N.Y. Nancy Emerson reports:

"My Tigerstadt bloomed in mid August. I've had this plant for several years and this is the first it's done much -- I'm hoping it isn't a graft that I'm taking care of."

Nancy goes on to say that her husband is in the Rosewell Hospital in Buffalo where they have given lilacs to several doctors and nurses along with the instructions for the planting and care of those lilacs. "If Bill has to visit the hospital much more often we'll make Buffalo a "Lilac City," Nancy says.

A MEMBER WRITES

Lilacs, for me, have been beauty, fragrance, and memories. From the early 1920's I remember the very large, spreading, common one growing on my grandparents' farm between the kitchen and the shed where the summer's supply of ice was stored in sawdust, and memories of that lilac and grandma are dear.

When I married and came to live on a farm forty years ago, one of my first shrub purchase was a lilac, described as a double red. Soon after, a double blue 'Katherine Havemeyer' was acquired. The first proved to be a single reddish purple, so remains an orphan in my garden. 'Katherine Havemeyer' had scale when it came from the nursery and I was unaware that it was a problem until it increased. It didn't respond to the D.D.T. and Malathion sprays, so I sent a clipping to the Agricultural College at Guelph. Under the microscope they found live eggs under the scales, and informed me these would hatch about the first of June, when the young nymphs would move to form new scales, at which time Malathion along with D.D.T. should be applied. Timing of that spraying at a busy season sounded a bit difficult, and just then a little pile of sawdust at the base was evidence of another problem - borer. When spraying I directed extra chemical into the hole and pushed in a piece of wire. Both insect problems were overcome and we still enjoy these lilacs.

My interest and enthusiasm for lilacs grew as I continued reading catalogues from Dr. Skinner of Morden, Manitoba, and those from Miss Minerva Castle of Meadowvale, Ontario.

Then in the late 60's or early 70's I had the privilege of visiting the Katie Osborne lilac dell at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton. Acquisition of more lilacs became a must! I made a list of those

I liked best at the dell, then had to reselect to shorten the list, and on searching catalogues I couldn't find the favorites. The purchase of four lilacs followed, but lack of knowledge led to failure - I planted them in the foreground of black walnut trees. While I became suspicious regarding the walnut trees when all the lilacs died, it was not until later when garden was planted in that area that we were convinced. Squirrels became a real nuisance, and the nut trees have since been removed.

This year at lilac time we had the opportunity of a walk with Mr. Charles Holetich in the lilac dell to share instructions including pruning, which by now was a must for our old lilacs and a few recently acquired ones. The day was most rewarding, and a new enthusiasm for lilacs resulted, including joining the International Lilac Society.

One of our new lilacs is 'Miss Canada', a lovely pink, extending the season. It has a compact habit and is our first lilac to host a bird's nest. Another, Palibin Lilac (Little Leaf Meyer Lilac) is a joy early in the season as is the fernleaf peony. 'Minuet' had its first bloom (just one stem) this season, and is pleasing. But the French hybrids with their fragrance are still my favorites, and we will plant a few more of them to enjoy as we enter retirement years. These will have cedars as a background, and, following Dr. Rankin's suggestions on page 5 of April 1984 Newsletter, we plan close planting, perhaps 5 feet apart.

My first lilac, the orphan, still is not pruned. Each time I took the saw out, then recalled the beauty of those branches way up, covered with bloom this spring, I retreated. The trunks are 13 inches in circumference. 'Katherine Havemeyer' needs pruning, too, but a burrowing animal has made huge holes under it, so no sawing action there either. In my propagating corner in dappled shade, under a large peanut butter jar, is a cutting off it which still shows green. The glass will be removed next spring and in due course

the growing cutting will be set in its permanent site. Thanks to Mr. Holetich's advice, it will have protection for a while after planting out.

I look forward to the Lilac Newsletter each month. It has already added a new dimension to lilacs for me - with care they can be "forever".

Juanita Brown
R.R. 2
Princeton, Ontario
Canada

* * * * *

BITS OF WIT

If mankind profits from past mistakes, what a honey of a future is coming up.

The man who rolls up his sleeves seldom loses his shirt.

Swallow your pride occasionally - it's non-fattening.

LILACS WITH AUTUMN COLOUR

by Robert B. Clark, Meredith, NH

In the last week of September of a dry late summer the foliage colours are still in early phases of turning. The leaves of late lilacs fizzled this year. Those of the tree lilac are soft yellow rivaling the witch-hazel and striped maple. The common lilac of Europe of course is quite green (some cultivars sporting mildew along with the nannyberry viburnum, V. lentago, and dwarf blueberry, Vaccinium pensylvanicum).

The Chinese common lilac, S. oblata, shows pastel purples and old rose the equal of mapleleaf viburnum. Skinner's early hybrid 'Dr. Chadwick' is particularly handsome this fall with its ruby leaves. Other crosses between the common lilacs of Europe and China often exhibit whole branches with colourful autumn foliage.

Among landscape lilacs, those with little leaves, S. Meyeri 'Palibin' in the sun is dependable with its soft pink of sumac; while in partial shade the Korean littleleaf lilac, S. patula, is gorgeous with its deep claret foliage.

Lilac Fruiting in 1984

The Japanese tree lilac is fruiting heavily literally. Pale tan clusters weigh down the branches. Among the French hybrids only Dr. Rankin's 'Lewis Maddock' fruited at Birchwood. I believe the weather during bloom was disagreeable for bee activity, too cool and damp.

INTERNATIONAL LILAC SOCIETY

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Charles Holetich

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TO ALL ILS MEMBERS

In appointing my committees for the ensuing year I have tried to place each person in what I thought was his or hers best capacity. Most have contributed greatly during the years, others show promise of contributing to ILS. In most cases I did not have time to consult with each person. If you are unhappy with your assignment or if you feel you would be better suited to another committee, please let me know.

No one has been placed on my new committee yet; Publicity, Promotion and Public Relations. I am looking for volunteers. We must let the public know what is going on with ILS, whether it be advance publicity for an annual meeting, the content of what our speakers said, the introduction of an exciting new cultivar or what have you. We must be known, we must produce new members. In this will be our strength for the future. We must have new talent and new leadership.

We now have an endowment committee about which you will be hearing more. We have a fabulous offer which we hope we can take advantage of by raising the matching funds but it is premature to tell you about it. ILS is going out in front. Help push it with the administration.

Sincerely yours,

Tom Chieppo
President, ILS

THE HOLDEN ARBORETUM - LILAC COLLECTION

(9500 Sperry Road, Mentor, Ohio, 44060, U.S.A.)

First collection started in 1939. Area was redesigned in 1980 by Knight and Stoler into demonstration garden featuring over 300 different kind of lilacs.

The collection is part of the non-profit institution dedicated to the preservation and collection of woody plants for scientific and educational purposes.

It is open to public from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (closed Mondays).

Peak of bloom for majority of lilacs is from May 10 to May 20.

For further informations write to Mr. W.K. Martin, Superintendent, The Holden Arboretum, 9500 Sperry Road, Mentor, Ohio, 44060, U.S.A., or phone (216) 946-4400.

Alphabetical Lilac List Summer 1984 304 taxa

- S. afghanica
- S. amurensis var. minor
- S. 'ALBIDA'
- S. 'ALBIDA' X S. X henryi 80-424
- S. 'ALBIDA' X S. X, prestoniae 'ISABELLA' 80-425
- S. 'ALBIDA' X S. X prestoniae 'ISABELLA' 80-426
- S. 'GERMINAL'
- S. 'HEDIN'
- S. 'PRAIRIAL'
- S. emodi X S. sweginzowii 80-428
- S. fauriei
- S. josikaea
- S. josikaea 'EXIMIA'
- S. julianae 'HERS VARIETY'

S. komarowii
S. meyeri 'PALIBIN'
S. microphylla
S. microphylla 'SUPERBA'
S. oblata
S. oblata 'CHEYENNE'
S. oblata var. dilatata
S. oblata var. giraldii
S. patula 'MISS KIM'
S. pekinensis
S. potaninii
S. pubescens
S. reflexa
S. reticulata
S. reticulata 'IVORY SILK'
S. reticulata var. mandshurica
S. rhodopea
S. sweginzowii
S. tigerstedtii
S. tomentella 'ROSEA'
S. villosa
S. villosa X S. X henryi 80-429
S. villosa X S. X henryi 80-430
S. villosa X S. X henryi 80-431
S. vulgaris

S. vulgaris cultivars

'A.M. BRAND'	'BELLE DE NANCY'
'ALPHONSE LAVELLEE'	'BLEUATRE'
'AMI SCHOTT'	'BLUE BOY'
'ANDENKEN AN LUDWIG SPATH'	'BOULE AZUREE'
'ANNA NICKLES'	'BOUSSINGAULT'
'ANNE SHIACH'	'BRIGHT CENTENNIAL'
'ANNE TIGHE'	'CAPITAINE BALTET'
'ARTHUR WILLIAM PAUL'	'CAROLINE FOLEY'
'ASTRA'	'CAVOUR'
'AUCUBAEFOLIA'	'CHAMPLAIN'
'BANQUISE'	'CHARLES JOLY'

'CHARLES X'
'CHARM'
'CHIFFON'
'CHRISTOPHE COLOMB'
'CITY OF LONGVIEW'
'CITY OF OLYMPIA'
'CLARA'
'CLARA COCHET'
'COLBERT'
'COLMARIENSIS'
'COMTE ADRIEN DE MONTEBELLO'
'CONGO'
'DANCING DRUID'
'DE HUMBOLDT'
'DE MIRIBEL'
'DE SAUSSURE'
'DECAISNE'
'DESCANSO GIANT'
'DESCANSO KING'
'DIANE'
'DIDEROT'
'DIPLOMATE'
'DUSK'
'DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER'
'EDITH BRAUN'
'EDITH CAVELL'
'EDMOND ABOUT'
'EKENHOLM'
'EMILE GENTIL'
'EMILE LEMOINE'
'ERZHERZOG JOHANN'
'ETNA'
'EXCELLENT'
'FIRMAMENT'
'FORREST KRESSER SMITH'
'FOUNTAIN'
'FRANK KLAGER'
'FRANK PATTERSON'
'FRAU WILHELM PFITZER'
'GEHEIMRAT SINGELMANN'
'GENERAL GRANT'
'GENERAL PERSHING'
'GENERAL SHERIDAN'
'GENERAL SHERMAN'
'GEORGES BELLAIR'
'GLOIRE D'AALSMEER'
'GLOIRE DE MOULINS'
'GODRON'
'GOLIATH'
'GRACE MACKENZIE'
'HELEN SCHLOEN'
'HENRI MARTIN'
'HERMAN EILERS'
'HOSANNA'
'HUGO KOSTER'
'HUGO MAYER'
'HUNTING TOWER'
'INTERLUDE'
'JANE DAY'
'JEANNE D'ARC'
'JESSIE GARDNER'
'JONKHEER G.P. VAN TETS'
'KATHERINE HAVEMEYER'
'KIM'
'KITCHEN BLUE'
'KRASAVITSA MOSKVY'
'LA TOUR D'AUVERGNE'
'LADY LINDSAY'
'LAVOISIER'
'LEWIS MADDOCK'
'LINNE'
'LUCIE BALTET'
'MACROSTACHYA'
'MAIDEN'S BLUSH'
'MARC MICHELI'
'MARECHAL DE BASSOMPIERRE'
'MARECHAL FOCH'
'MARECHAL LANNES'
'MARIE FINON'
'MARIE LEGRAYE'

'MAUD NOTCUTT'
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'MAUVE MIST'
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'MAY DAY'
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'PASTEUR'
'PAUL DESCHANEL'
'PAUL HARIOT'
'PAUL THIRION'
'PEERLESS PINK'
'PERLE VON STUTTGART'
'PHILEMON'
'PINK LACE'
'PINK PERFECTION'
'PRESIDENT FALLIERES'
'PRESIDENT GREVY'
'PRESIDENT LAMBEAU'
'PRESIDENT LEBRUN'
'PRESIDENT LINCOLN'
'PRESIDENT MASSART'
'PRESIDENT POINCARÉ'
'PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'
'PRESIDENT VIGER'
'PRIMROSE'
'PRINCE OF WALES'
'PRISCILLA'
'PROF. E.H. WILSON'
'REAU MUR'
'RED GIANT'
'RENE JARRY-DESLOGES'
'ROCHESTER'
'ROI ALBERT'
'ROSACE'
'RUHM VON HORSTENSTEIN'
'SARAH SANDS'
'SENSATION'
'SILVER KING'
'SNOW SHOWER'
'SOUVENIR DE HENRI SIMON'
'SOUVENIR DE L. THIBAUT'
'SOUVENIR DE LOUIS CHASSET'
'SOVIETSKAIA ARKTIKA'
'SUNRISE'
'SWEETHEART'
'THOMAS JEFFERSON'
'THUNBERG'
'TITA'
'TODMORDEN'
'VICTOR LEMOINE'
'VIOLET GLORY'
'VIOLETTA'
'VIRGINIA BECKER'
'VIRGINITE'
'VIVIAN EVANS'
'VOLCAN'
'W.T. LEE'
'WALDECK-ROUSSEAU'

'WHITE LONG FELLOW'
'WHITE SPRING'
'WILLIAM ROBINSON'

'ZNAMYA LENYNA'
'ZULU'

S. vulgaris var. alba
S. vulgaris X S. laciniata 'LAVENDER LADY' 79-212
S. wolfii
S. wolfii hybrid X S. emodi 80-432
S. X chinensis
S. X chinensis f. alba
S. X chinensis f. bicolor
S. X chinensis f. metensis
S. X chinensis f. saugeana
S. X diversifolia
S. X diversifolia 'WILLIAM H. JUDD'
S. X henryi 'LUTECE'
S. X henryi X S. X reflexa

S. x hyacinthiflora cultivars

'ANABEL'	'MAUREEN'
'ASSESSIPPI'	'MIRABEAU'
'BIG BLUE'	'MOUNT BAKER'
'BLUE HYACINTH'	'NECKER'
'BOUNTIFUL'	'NOKOMIS'
'BUFFON'	'PASCAL'
'CHARLES NORDINE'	'PINK CLOUD'
'CLARKE'S GIANT'	'PINK SPRAY'
'CLAUDE BERNARD'	'POCAHONTAS'
'DAPHNE PINK'	'PURPLE HEART'
'DOCTOR CHADWICK'	'ROYAL PURPLE'
'ESTHER STALEY'	'SCOTIA'
'EVANGELINE'	'SISTER JUSTENA'
'FANTASY'	'SPLENDOR'
'FENELON'	'SPRING DAWN'
'GERTRUDE LESLIE'	'SUMMER SKIES'
'HEATHER HAZE'	'SUNSET'
'LAMARTINE'	'SWARTHMORE'
'LAURENTIAN'	'SWEET CHARITY'
'LOUVOIS'	'THE BRIDE'

'TOM TAYLOR'

'TURGOT'

S. X josiflexa 'ANNA AMHOFF'
S. X josiflexa 'BELLICENT'
S. X josiflexa 'GUINEVERE'
S. X josiflexa 'JAMES MACFARLANE'
S. X josiflexa 'REDWINE'
S. X josiflexa 'ROYALTY'
S. X nanceiana 'FLOREAL'
S. X nanceiana 'RUTILANT'
S. X persica
S. X prestoniae 'ALICE'
S. X prestoniae 'BEACON'
S. x prestoniae 'CHARMIAN'
S. x prestoniae 'CORAL'
S. X prestoniae 'DAWN'
S. X prestoniae 'DESDEMONA'
S. X prestoniae 'HIAWATHA'
S. X prestoniae 'ISABELLA'
S. X prestoniae 'JESSICA'
S. X prestoniae 'MIRANDA'
S. X prestoniae 'NOCTURNE'
S. X prestoniae 'OBERON'
S. X prestoniae 'PATIENCE'
S. X skinneri
S. X swegiflexa
S. yunnanensis

Editor's note: Names of the following lilacs may differ from those in the above list.

Syringa vulgaris 'KIM'; may be an interspecific hybrid as per Davis, Report of Dominion Horticulturist 1934-1948 page 150.

S. X 'KIM' (S.26.01.09).-The origin of the parent of this variety is lost, but its tall habit of growth and other characteristics show a strong resemblance to S. josikaea. The panicles are long, open, 10 inches by 5½ inches, the flower bunches opposite, almost in whorls, with one or two inches between. Bud Dark Vinaceous-Purple on one side, very pale coloured tips on the other side; expanded bloom Purplish Lilac within, tips pale, Purplish Lilac without. Individual flowers small; tube 5/16 inches long, 3/8

inches across, tip to tip, or in Buckley, Greenhouses, Garden-Grass Vol. 8, No. 3 Fall 1969 as:
S. X josiflexa 'KIM' - This cultivar has purplish flowers and a habit more resembling *S. josikaea* than *S. reflexa*.

Syringa vulgaris 'GRACE MACKENZIE' may be *S. X hyacinthiflora* 'GRACE MACKENZIE' see Lilac Newsletter 8(8):9 - August 1982

S. vulgaris 'MAIDEN'S BLUSH' is probably *S. X hyacinthiflora* 'MAIDEN'S BLUSH' see Bailey Vol. 21(3):101, 1981

S. reticulata var. *mandshurica*, has been renamed *S. reticulata* var. *amurensis* by J.S. Pringle. See Phytologia Vol. 52(5):285, 1983

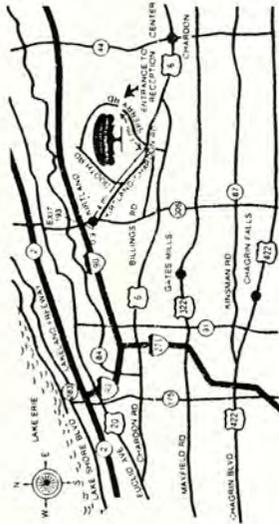
S. vulgaris 'DANCING DRUID' is a cross of (*S. yunnanensis* X *S. tomentella*) X *S. komarowii* as per letter Fiala to Vrugtman, Nov. 23, 1983, thus *S. 'DANCING DRUID'*

S. vulgaris 'FOUNTAIN' is a cross of (*S. reflexa* X *S. sweginzowii*) X *S. reflexa* as per Davis, Report of the Dominion Horticulturist page 151, thus *S. 'FOUNTAIN'*

S. vulgaris 'HUNTING TOWER' may be interspecific hybrid of *S. villosa* X *S. sweginzowii* as per Wister 1968 - manuscript.

 **HOURS:** Tuesday - Sunday
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Closed Mondays

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\$1.75/Children (6-15)
Children under 6 admitted free
\$1.75/Senior Citizens
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