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*'EXCEL'*

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## International Lilac Society



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*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.

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## This Issue is Respectfully Dedicated to

# Dr. Joel Margaretten

**VISIT MARGARETTEN PARK** and you will understand Joel. Of the two hundred acres, eighty are planted in lilacs, just five in the common lilacs, *S. vulgaris*, the rest are hybrids. Lilacs are his life.

Born Oct. 7, 1910 to a family of doctors, he started out in horticulture at five, taking care of his mother's garden. She loved flowers and of course lilacs were her favorite. They became his favorite too. Family tradition pointed him towards the medical field, first in bacteriology which he quit, when university funds petered out during the great depression. He took up dentistry and got his doctorate at the U. of Minn., then took the advice of a famous publisher and came west to California. He practiced for fifty-four years in the Los Angeles area then retired to the Park where he still maintains an office. After a four-year stint in the Army in World War II he started clearing the brush from the hills so that he could plant lilacs. Starting with three shrubs, he kept adding lilacs as nature, time, and water permitted. When the I.L.S. was founded he joined it, then as regional V.P. was forced to collect specimens of the flower to give live demonstrations of what lilacs looked like, how to propagate and grow them. Remember at that time few Westerners knew what lilacs looked like. Like "Johnny Appleseed," he travelled around the West teaching and demonstrating, showing slides and planting so that his audience could understand just what he was doing.

Joel opens the Park at lilac time so that the visitors can see the flowers at their peak. With over 50,000 lilac plants to see, smell, touch, study and enjoy it is quite a sensation. There are four areas of his own crosses from which we have already selected and registered thirty-five. There are more to come as soon as nature, time and energy permit. Remember that we have to

plant, cultivate, irrigate, weed, fertilize, prune and clean up. We get very little help. Joel does all the equipment driving, maintenance and repair, as well as plumbing, electrical and carpentry as needed. His correspondence is quite sizable. All his mail is answered immediately.

We also bring flowers into the wholesale flower market, where we introduced hybrids. It made quite a hit. Pray to God that he keeps in good health so that he can continue his work and you can be proud of him.

*(Contributed by Tita Margaretten)*

## Noteworthy Lilacs: The 'Excel' Lilac

### By Ira J. Condit, Riverside, California

**IN THE AUTUMN** of 1918 F.L. Skinner of Dropmore, Manitoba, Canada, was at the Arnold Arboretum, where he obtained seedlings of both *Syringa velutina* and *S. oblata* var. *dilatata.* These were crossed with certain varieties of the common lilac flowering in 1921.

The seedlings and those of many other crosses showed a wide range of flower colors and a greater hardiness than those of some French varieties. One he called 'Excel', described in the 1957 catalog of Skinner's Nursery as follows: "A very strong, vigorous hybrid with single mauve-pink blossoms in large massive panicles. Buds deep pink, individual flowers large with broad petals. Very fragrant."

In 1932 scions of the Excel lilac were sent from the Skinner Nursery to the Plant Introduction Station of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and were assigned P.I. No. 101379.

Since the lilac and the olive belong to the same family, various species of *Syringa* were obtained about 1941 by the Citrus Experiment Station, Riverside, California, where investigations in olive culture were being conducted. The 'Excel' lilac, P.I. No. 101379, was one of the introductions. Scions of 'Excel' and several other lilacs grafted on olive trees grew well and came into bloom.

It is well known that most varieties of the lilac grown in cold climates fail to produce satisfactory blooms following the mild or frost-free winters of southern California. 'Excel' thrives and blooms profusely, regardless of the winter climate. It does not require winter chilling in order to produce flowers or fruit, as do several subtropical plants.

'Excel' has been widely distributed in Riverside and is highly regarded for its production of large clusters of lavender, fragrant, single flowers.

# An Updated Summary of Currently Accepted Botanical Nomenclature at the Specific and Varietal Levels in *Syringa*

**By James S. Pringle, Hamilton, Ontario**

WITH Father John L. Fiala's (1988) *Lilacs: The Genus Syringa* now available as a standard reference, the nomenclatural obsolescence of Susan Delano McKelvey's (1928) *The Lilac: A Monograph* perhaps no longer constitutes a problem for those concerned with lilac taxonomy. For the convenience of those who do not have ready access to Fiala's large volume, however, I have been asked to prepare a brief summary of the currently accepted botanical nomenclature and classification in the genus *Syringa*.

The accepted scientific names for all lilac species and botanical varieties currently believed to be in cultivation in North America and Europe are listed in Table 1. This table also lists all accepted, validly published botanical names for interspecific hybrids. Cultivar names, applicable only to one clone, are not listed here.

Personal names following the Latin names of species indicate authorship, in accord with the practice in botanical nomenclature, and should not be confused with cultivar names. For example, the format *Syringa pinnatifolia* Hemsley indicates that Hemsley was the first author to publish the name *S. pinnatifolia*. The format *S. patula* (Palibin) Nakai indicates that the epithet, or adjective, *patula* was first applied to the species by Palibin, but in a different combination, *Ligustrum patulum;* Nakai made the transfer to the genus *Syringa* (which required a change in the gender of the adjective, from *patulum* to *patula).* "Ex" is inserted between personal names when the species name was proposed but not validly published by the first individual cited, and subsequently validly published in accord with the rules of nomenclature by the author whose name follows "ex." A multiplication sign between the generic and specific epithets in a scientific name, as in *Syringa* x *hyacinthiflora,* indicates that the taxon so named is an interspecific hybrid. A plus sign indicates an interspecific graft-chimaera, wherein a plant combines tissue derived from two species, but the chromosomes of the two parental species are not combined within individual cells. The abbreviation "(pro sp.)" indicates that a taxon now considered to be an interspecific hybrid or graft-chimaera was originally named as a species by the author whose name is cited.

Table 1 also indicates the subgenera and series in which the respective species are placed taxonomically. Thus it indicates which species are considered to be most closely related, and, within limits, which species can most likely be crossed successfully.

I thank Freek Vrugtman for his review of a preliminary version of the manuscript and for his suggestions for its improvement.

**Table 1.** Cultivated species, botanical varieties, and validly named interspecific hybrids and graft-chimaeras of *Syringa* (lilacs), listed by subgenus and series.

**SUBGENUS *SYRINGA***

Series *Pinnatifoliae* Rehder
- *S. pinnatifolia* Hemsley

Series *Pubescentes* (C.K. Schneider) Lingelsheim
- *S. debelderorum* J. Fiala
- *S. julianae* C.K. Schneider
- *S. meyeri* C.K. Schneider
- *S. microphylla* Diels
- *S. patula* (Palibin) Nakai
- *S. potaninii* C.K. Schneider
- *S. pubescens* Turczaninow

Series *Syringa*
- *S. oblata* Lindley
  - var. *oblata*
  - var. *dilatata* (Nakai) Rehder
  - var. *donaldii* R. Clark & J. Fiala ex J. Fiala
- *S. protolaciniata* P.S. Green & M.-C. Chang
- *S. vulgaris* Linnaeus
- *S.* x *chinensis* Willdenow (pro sp.) *(S. protolaciniata* x *S. vulgaris* — See discussion)
- *S.* x *hyacinthiflora* Rehder *(S. oblata* x *S. vulgaris)*
- *S.* x *laciniata* Miller (pro sp.) *(S. protolaciniata* x ? — See discussion)
- *S.* x *persica* Linnaeus (pro sp.) (hybrid of uncertain parentage — See discussion)
- *S.* + *correlata* A. Braun (pro sp.) (Graft-chimaera of *S.* x *chinensis* and *S. vulgaris)*

Series *Villosae* C.K. Schneider
- *S. emodi* Wallich ex Royale
- *S. josikaea* Jacquin fil. ex Reichenbach
- *S. komarowii* C.K. Schneider
- *S. reflexa* C.K. Schneider
- *S. sweginzowii* Koehne & Lingelsheim
- *S. tigerstedtii* H. Smith
- *S. tomentella* Bureau & Franchet
- *S. villosa Vahl*
- *S. wolfii* C.K. Schneider
- *S. yunnanensis* Franchet
- *S.* x *henryi* C.K. Schneider *(S. josikaea* x *S. villosa)*
- *S.* x *josiflexa* Preston ex J. Pringle *(S. josikaea* x *S. reflexa)*
- *S.* x *nanceiana* McKelvey *(S.* x *henryi* x *S. sweginzowii)*
- *S.* x *prestoniae* McKelvey *(S. reflexa* x *S. villosa)*
- *S.* x *swegiflexa* Hesse ex J. Pringle *(S. reflexa* x *S. sweginzowii)*

Interseries hybrid
- *S.* x *diversifolia* Rehder *(S. oblata* x *S. pinnatifolia)*

**SUBGENUS *LIGUSTRINA*** (Ruprecht) K. Koch
- *S. pekinensis* Ruprecht
- *S. reticulata* (Blume) Hara
  - var. *reticulata*
  - var. *amurensis* (Ruprecht) J. Pringle

## Notes on Accepted Names

*S.* x *chinensis* Willdenow (pro sp.). The valid name for a hybrid believed, from evidence including experimental resynthesis (summarized by McKelvey 1928), to be *S. protolaciniata* P.S. Green & M.-C. Chang x *S. vulgaris* Linnaeus, the former having been included in *"S. persica* var. *laciniata* (Miller) Weston" in McKelvey's time.

*S. debelderorum* J. Fiala. This name, for a recently discovered and still poorly known species, was originally spelled *S. debelderi,* Fiala (in epist. to F. Vrugtman 1990) having honored "one family — singular." However, since two individuals were mentioned by name, I agree with Green (1989a) that the orthography should be corrected to *debelderorum.* Genesis 2:24 is not generally interpreted that literally.

*S.* x *laciniata* Miller (pro sp.), in the strict sense. A valid name for a sterile or nearly sterile hybrid of uncertain origin, similar in aspect to *S. protolaciniata,* which was formerly included under this name. Green (1989b) has suggested that *S.* x *laciniata* might have originated from *S. protolaciniata* x *S. vulgaris,* although evidence has previously been presented that this combination has given rise to the distinctively different *S.* x *chinensis,* discussed above.

*S.* x *nanceiana* McKelvey. McKelvey's original spelling, *nanceiana,* should be retained, being derived from Nanceium, the classical Latin name of Nancy, France.

*S.* x *persica* Linnaeus (pro sp.). This is the valid name for a long and widely cultivated sterile hybrid of unknown origin. A long-standing theory is that it originated from *S. afghanica* C.K. Schneider x *"S. laciniata."* In discussions of this theory, the latter supposed parent would presumably be identified as *S. protolaciniata,* since one would assume that the parental taxa were fertile species. The limited range of *S. afghanica* and the apparent absence of this species in cultivation, among other factors, have cast doubt on this theory (see, e.g., Green 1989). Recently, Green (1989b) has suggested that *S.* x *laciniata* may occasionally produce a few viable pollen grains, and that *S.* x *persica* might have originated from *S.* x *laciniata* backcrossed with *S. vulgaris.*

A few other taxa exist outside cultivation. These include *S. afghanica* C.K. Schneider (discussed below), *S. tibetica* P.-Y. Bai, and additional varieties of *S. reticulata* and other species (some of dubious taxonomic status). Additional species in series *Pubescentes* have also been recognized, notably *S. pinetorum* W.W. Smith (also discussed below). It appears, however, that too many species may have been recognized in this series; the alleged distinction between purple anthers, the prevalent condition, and yellow anthers in a few obscure species may actually have been based on intact anthers vs. dehisced anthers exposing yellow pollen. The status of

several "species" in this series obviously requires further study. There are many other interspecific hybrids in cultivation, especially among species in series *Villosae,* also between *S. pinnatifolia* and species in series *Syringa,* for which there are no validly published Latin binomials.

## Rejected Synonyms, Misapplications, and Names Not Validly Published

Many additional names, no longer (if ever) acceptable under the rules of nomenclature or no longer representing accepted classification, have been applied to lilacs over the years. Those nomenclatural and taxonomic synonyms still likely to be encountered in horticultural literature or in nursery catalogues are discussed below. Some names, *S. palibiniana* being a notorious example, have been applied in more than one sense; misapplications of these names are also discussed. A third category of names discussed here are binomials in Latin form occasionally used for interspecific hybrids although not having been validly published, and therefore having no status under the ***International Code of Botanical Nomenclature.*** Names not validly published appear in double quotation marks.

*S. afghanica* C.K. Schneider. True *S. afghanica* is probably not in cultivation, although some reports remain to be investigated. Herbarium specimens, though few, do appear to represent a distinctive species, with small, entire and unlobed, privet-like leaves. In horticulture, however, the name *S. afghanica* has been misapplied to the highly dissimilar species correctly known as *S. protolaciniata* (Green 1989b).

*S. amurensis* Ruprecht, in the broad sense = *S. reticulata* (Blume) Hara, all varieties; in the strict sense = *S. reticulata* var. *amurensis* (Ruprecht) J. Pringle.

*S. amurensis* var. *japonica* (Maximowicz) Franchet & Savatier = *S. reticulata* var. *reticulata.*

*S. fauriei* Leveille. Questionably distinct from *S. reticulata* var. *amurensis.*

*"S. heterophylla."* A name for plants reported to be *S.* x *hyacinthiflora* x *S. pinnatifolia,* not validly published. Such plants are probably no longer in cultivation.

*S. japonica* (Maximowicz) Decaisne = *S. reticulata* var. *reticulata.*

*S. laciniata* Miller. As to type, = *S.* x *laciniata* Miller (pro sp.), but until recently this name has been applied to *S. protolaciniata* as well, the two taxa first having been distinguished taxonomically by Green in 1989.

*S.* x *lamartina* Moldenke = *S.* x *hyacinthiflora* Rehder in part. This name was published for lilacs of the origin *S. oblata* var. *oblata* (var. *giraldii)* x *S. vulgaris,* the type of *S. vulgaris.* Under the ***International Code of Botanical Nomenclature,*** all hybrids between any varieties of *S.*

*oblata* and *S. vulgaris* must bear the same binomial, *S.* x *hyacinthiflora.* These two groups of hybrids could properly be differentiated at the rank of nothovariety (a hybrid of varietal rank), but the nomenclatural combination has not been published.

*"S. microphylla* var. *minor."* = *S. meyeri* 'Palibin' (Pringle 1979; Green 1979).

*S. oblata* var. *affinis* (L. Henry) Lingelsheim = *S. oblata* var. *alba* Rehder, discussed below.

*S. oblata* var. *alba* Rehder. A name for a taxon of dubious status, believed by Green (1984) no longer to be in cultivation outside China. The status of extant plants so identified in North America (noted by Fiala 1988) requires further study. Green (1984) has commented that var. *alba* should probably be regarded as merely a form or clone of var. *oblata* with white corollas, rather than as a botanical variety.

*S. oblata* var. *giraldi* (Sprengel ex Lemoine) Rehder = *S. oblata* var. *oblata* (Green 1984).

*S. palibiniana* Nakai. This name was originally applied to the species correctly known as *Spatula* (Palibin) Nakai, as indicated by the type specimen and other specimens so annotated by Nakai. Plants cultivated in the United States under this name ca. 1957, including the cultivar 'Miss Kim', are now identified as *S. patula.* Subsequently, however, the name *S. palibiniana* became widely although incorrectly associated with a compact cultivar of *S. meyeri* C.K. Schneider. This cultivar, in order to maintain as much nomenclatural continuity as the rules of nomenclature would permit in these circumstances, was named *S. meyeri* 'Palibin' by Green (1979; see also Pringle 1979).

*S. persica* Willdenow (pro sp.). Early concepts of this taxon encompassed *S. protolaciniata* and *S.* x *laciniata* as well as *S.* x *persica* as presently circumscribed. This accounts for the designation of *S.* x *chinensis* as *"S. persica* x *S. vulgaris"* in some publications.

*S. persica* var. *laciniata* (Miller) Weston = *S.* x *laciniata* and, in misapplication, *S. protolaciniata* as well.

*S. pinetorum* W.W. Smith. In horticulture, this name has been misapplied to plants of *S. yunnanensis* Franchet, seeds of *S. yunnanensis* mistakenly having been assumed to have come from the same population as the herbarium specimens that typify the name *S. pinetorum* (Pringle 1979). True *S. pinetorum,* if indeed it is a good species, is not in cultivation. The type collection, obviously representing a species in series *Pubescentes,* resembles *S. julianae* C.K. Schneider, from which *S. pinetorum* is distinguished primarily by its allegedly yellow anthers (discussed above).

*S. reticulata* var. *mandshurica* (Maximowicz) Hara = *S. reticulata* var. *amurensis.* Restoration of the familiar epithet *amurensis* is required by

amendments to the ***International Code*** subsequent to Hara's publication (Pringle 1983).

*S. rhodopea* Velenovsky. Now generally included in *S. vulgaris* Linnaeus, although sometimes recognized as an early-flowering cultivar thereof.

*S. rothomagensis* (Renault) Mordant de Launay = *S.* x *chinensis* Willdenow (pro sp.).

*"S. skinneri."* A name for a hybrid reported to be *S. patula* x *S. pubescens,* not validly published.

*"S.* x *sweginbretta."* A name at least formerly applied to *S. sweginzowii* x *S. villosa,* not validly published. The perpetuation of this binomial has little to recommend it, since the so-called *S. bretschneideri* Lemoine has not been separated from *S. villosa* for many years.

*S. velutina* Komarow = *S. patula;* in horticulture since ca. 1965 this name has also occasionally been misapplied to *S. meyeri* 'Palibin' (for distinction see Pringle 1979 and Fiala 1988, the latter having several illustrations of true *S. patula).*

Several additional Latin binomials for interspecific hybrids in series *Villosae* have been proposed by Fiala (1988) but have not been validly published. Since these names are newly proposed and in some cases were applied to hybrids that remain rare in cultivation, it seems preferable to "wait and see" which, if any, become validly published under the ***International Code*** and come into general use, rather than to list them in the present paper.

A few intersubgeneric hybrids, and interseries hybrids other than those involving *S. pinnatifolia* and species in series *Syringa,* have been reported over the years, but none of the plants in question appear actually to have been of such origin (Pringle 1981). Fortunately, Latin binomials have not been published for such supposed hybrids.

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# Survey of Cultivar Fingerprinting Techniques for Possible Future Application in the Genus *Syringa*

By Gamini Randeni, Hamilton, Ontario

**THE COMMON LILAC** is a popular May-time flowering shrub found in temperate climates all over the world. For over four centuries lilacs have been cultivated in gardens, and in recent times have gained importance as cut flowers and pot plants.

People often assume that the common lilac, *Syringa vulgaris* L., is indigenous to the many regions in which it grows, however it is native to southeastern Europe, particularly the Balkan peninsula. Lilacs have the remarkable ability to adapt to new environments and are "naturalized" in many regions of the world.

It is well known that lilacs show a wide spectrum of genetic variation. These variations may or may not be reflected in the phenotype. If the variations are visible in the phenotype, it would not be too difficult to furnish a description adequate for cultivar identification; but, if these variations are not visible, how can they be identified?

Since the re-introduction of the common lilac to Europe numerous garden forms have been produced which vary in flower color and growth habit for many reasons, such as breeding, selection and propagation of sports. For example, breeding programs have produced new genotypes which have undergone natural selection, resulting in similar genotypes with phenotypical differences and vice-versa, thus making their identification impossible. Another problem is carelessness. When known forms are grafted on understock of common lilac, the grafted form later disappears and the rootstock continues to grow with an incorrect name.

Some cultivars of *Syringa vulgaris* L. have been given the same name even though they differ from one another. Conversely, plants with similar color and growth habits have been given different names. Some cultivars are called hybrids but it is not certain whether they are apomictic or real hybrids. Where morphological differences between cultivars are minimal, the descriptions of flowers and inflorescence of the cultivars become inadequate. Because of inadequate descriptions, confusion, and repetition of names, accurate identification of lilac cultivars is virtually impossible.

Unfortunately, color and size of the lilac flower are variables frequently influenced by ecological factors, and color changes occur after the onset of blooming. A reliable and a unique technique for identification of *Syringa vulgaris* L., cultivars has become essential to augment the prevailing conventional methods.

Several chemical techniques, mostly based on the chemical components available in the plant tissue, have been developed to identify

cultivars. Some of the chemical components employed by the chemotaxonomist are terpenoids, glucosides, phenoles, proteins, peptides, carbohydrates and oils. By far the most useful information for cultivar identification can be gathered from universally available proteins and peptides in the plant tissues. Proteins as primary products of gene action are quite constant and do not vary greatly due to ecological factors. As a result they display characteristics unique to each cultivar. Each protein has a well-defined sequence of amino acids determined by the triplet code of the DNA in the nucleus. These plant proteins and peptides add a whole new dimension when added to the traditional descriptions of cultivar identification. In other words, where two cultivars may show close similarities based on the more traditional characteristics of flowers and foliage a comparison of the proteins and peptides may show differences distinct enough to make identification possible. In an age of advanced plant propagation linked to plant breeders rights and plant patents, positive identification of cultivars is a necessity.

The enzymes in the plant cell, which are also proteins, normally catalyze the metabolic reactions in any living plant tissue. These enzymes can be separated into different molecular forms called isozymes or iscenzymes. In many plant species and their cultivars examined to date the isozymes of many enzymes have revealed differences between cultivars. Identification of these differences is possible by using a technique known as electrophoresis. Electrophoresis (Wharton and McCarthy, 1972) is a technique, which permits the separation of different proteins and enzymes on a gel, when exposed to an electric field. After passing an electric current through the gel, it will be treated with staining solutions to make visible the specific proteins or isozymes. During this process different color bands are developed on the gel. These individual banding patterns are called zymograms. Assuming there is genetic variation among the cultivars, each cultivar will show a characteristic isozyme banding pattern for a given enzyme.

The cultivars can be identified by comparing a particular zymogram with a zymogram of a known cultivar or the relevant species. The zymogram can be recorded in three different ways:

1) as a photograph, which can serve as a fingerprint;
2) as tabulated differences in the banding pattern, represented by calculated Rf values; or
3) as graphic illustrations by using more sophisticated equipment such as a densitometer.

Electrophoresis has been successfully applied and recommended for cultivar identification of roses (Kuhns and Fretz, 1978), grapes (Wolfe, 1976), cucumber (Esquinas, 1981), *Anthurium* (Kobayashi et al., 1987), and

a few other taxa. For each of these plant species the most effective technique for cultivar fingerprinting has been worked out experimentally. Judging from the successful work done on these and other plant groups it appears very likely that a suitable technique could be worked out for the identification of *Syringa vulgaris* L. cultivars.

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*Pauline Fiala, the indefatigable trooper*

*Dr. and Mrs. Margaretten*

# Research, Hybridizing and Selection of Ornamental Plants for Northern Gardens

**By Tony Huber, W.H. Perron Research, Boisbriand, Que.**

WHO DOESN'T KNOW LILACS? Who doesn't remember the first experience with these beautiful flowers and their special fragrance that permeates homes during the flowering season? To us it is more than a simple pleasure: It is the confirmation that summer is close and that warm days are coming to stay.

I never had the desire to work with lilacs. They seemed already so perfect to me that I figured there was nothing to improve. I realized how ignorant I was when I started reading the book Father John Fiala wrote about the Genus *Syringa*. While going through the pages on science, genetics and hybridization I discovered the work that has been done during the past 150 years, and I learned a lot about the improvements made by today's hybridizers. To all those specialists I want to apologize for my ignorance.

I found there has been a lot of hybridizing done and I feel that better hybrids are still to come. Our homes and buildings, both in urban and rural areas, get more and more spacious, while gardens get smaller. The new garden landscaping requires more compact and less vigorous plants, that take less space. Accordingly, our customers, friends and other plant lovers often find that lilacs take too much space. Father Fiala mentions dwarf and compact growing ones. So I ask you: are these available in the nursery trade and can they be grown fast enough to reach the amateurs soon?

*Mon Bon Jardinier, mon ami,* I thank you Father John Fiala for your chapter on companion plants to lilacs, which I greatly appreciated. In fact, it has been very helpful for me, in opening the door to introducing my hybridization work on *Spiraea x bumalda* and *S. japonica*. I hope to convince you that my spireas are the most colorful companions for your beloved lilac trees and shrubs.

My first objective was to select a good fast-growing dwarf Japanese spirea *Spiraea japonica*. After a few years, I got a good seedling from which cuttings had reached 30 cm high in one season. It produced bushy, compact and good flowering plants for borders and rock gardens.

I was delighted with *Spiraea x bumalda* 'Goldflame'. Red and yellow leaves made it a very attractive shrub, that had what I call "sales appeal." But soon it turned to disappointment, because of the color fading during the flowering season. Also, being a sport of *Spiraea x bumalda* 'froebelii', it reached 150 cm (5 feet) high the second year. A few branches became variegated. The others turned green. Because of its attractive foliage, I took the chance to brush some of its pollen grains over a flower cluster of my

dwarf Japanese spirea. I tagged that cluster and cut all the others, because for sure I did not know that this would be the beginning of an intense hybridizing program with both species.

I nearly forgot about my cross during the following weeks, but it came back to my mind when time came to harvest the tiny seeds before complete ripening. I put the whole thing in a paper bag to dry and later cleaned it. I planted the seeds in the greenhouse, waiting for what would happen. Seed germination occurred after a few weeks. Among the hundreds of small green plantlets, I could see clearly a few yellow leaved ones. Afraid to lose them, I transplanted twenty-seven separately, but I soon realized that they were as vigorous as the green ones. Later, I transferred them in the nursery beds, and kept them under observation for 2 years. Finally, I gave them clone numbers and tagged them. A total of 403 seedlings (green and yellow) were observed for 3 years, but only the yellow-leaved ones were of some value. (see diagram Phase 1).

The clone No. 8007 was registered with the COPF (Canadian Ornamental Plant Foundation) as spirea 'Goldmound'. The basic principal of COPF is that only members can obtain plant material for propagation, and premiums are collected.

Two other clones have been registered with Longwood Gardens, the International Registration Authority: clones Nos. 8001 and 8027. No. 8001 is sold under the name 'Limemound' exclusively by Monrovia Nursery of California and is protected in the U.S. by Plant Patent. No. 5834 ('Monhub'). No. 8027 is named 'Flowering Mound' but to avoid saturation of the market with too many similar cultivars has not been sold yet.

**Specifications**

*Spiraea x bumalda*

No. 8001 . . . 'Lime Mound' — Height: 75 cm (30 in.) spread: 80 cm (36 in.)
No. 8007 . . . . 'Gold Mound' — Height: 65 cm (26 in.) spread: 75 cm (30 in.)
No. 8027 . 'Flowering Mound' — Height 75 cm (30 in.) spread 80 cm (32 in.)

**Phase 2-A**

The first success with those three did not stop me. I kept working to find different forms and colors. Then real breeding work for foliage color began. First, I collected seeds from open-pollinated clone No. 8027-01 (Flowering Mound') to observe $F_2$ and $F_3$ generations. The best clone selected after that first part (G-DW-80-48) was green-leaved and has been retained as a seed plant for further crosses.

In the second part, open-pollinated seeds from clones SX-1-31-02 produced a $F_2$ generation from which two yellow-leaved seedlings have been selected. One of them, 'Yellow Select' has been used as pollinator on

*Spiraea japonica* 'Shirobana', while the other 'Yellow .OP. $F_2$ produced a $F_3$ by open-pollination. From that, I selected a yellow-leaved clone, G-DW-80-106, to be used as pollen plant with *Spiraea japonica* 'Shirobana' and with the clone selected in the first part, G-DW-80-48.

The cross between green-leaved G-DW-80-48 and yellow-leaved G-DW-80-108 produced excellent dwarf shrubs with good growing habits and few or no flowers. Crossing parents with fewer flowers was the key to improve foliage color, since observation revealed that flowering was the cause of the color breakdown in foliages that were not green. From those hybrids, six have been selected and registered with Longwood Gardens. None of these have been offered for sale yet, while cultivation tests are made in United States and Europe. They are:

- 'Flaming Globe' — Height 40 cm spread 40 cm
  Foliage red in spring, yellow in summer, red in fall, few flowers
- 'Golden Globe' — Height and spread 45 cm
  Foliage yellow all season, few flowers
- 'Glowing Globe' — Height and spread 40 cm
  Foliage orange-yellow all season, no flowers
- 'Green Globe' — Height and spread 25 cm
  Foliage green, purple at fall, few flowers
- 'Golden Carpet' — height 15 cm, spread 20 cm
  Foliage yellow all season, no flowers
- 'Sparkling Carpet' — Height 20 cm, spread 25 cm
  Foliage reddish in spring, pinkish-orange yellow in summer and red at fall. Few flowers

Use of G-DW-80-106 as pollen plant on *S. japonica* 'Shirobana' produced a good flowering plant, SBN-86-303, that is still under observation. It flowers from spring to fall. The problem is that propagating by cuttings is problematic, since flower clusters are continuously made on new growth.

Finally, the pollination of *S. japonica* 'Shirobana' with 'Yellow-Select' gave vigorous growers whose leaves present different shapes and colors. Five of them have been selected, three being named and registered:

- SX-83-756 ('Lightened Mound') with lanceolate leaves, creamy yellow all season, that stand shade, no flowers.
- SX-81-123-04 ('Flaming Mound') registered with the COPF, offered for sale for first time in 1990. Leaves ovate-lanceolate, reddish when young, turning yellow, fall color purple, red flowers
- SX-03-0-105 ('Glowing Mound') leaves ovate-lanceolate, orange when young, turning orange-yellow with red tips, few flowers.
- SB-85-600 green and red leaves, with lime (still under observation)
- SB-DWY-0100 yellow and red leaves, orange in fall (still under observation)

### Phase 2-B

The use of 'Gold Mound' and 'Lime Mound' as pollen plants on the same three varieties permitted me to check the inheritance of leaf color and gave the major pathways for further work on red pigments.

### Phase 3

I selected three dwarf yellow-leaved plants, and used them as pollen plants on *Spiraea japonica* 'Atropurpurea'. Only No. 8013-DW produced interesting seedlings, among which I selected five. Some are excellent Dwarf plants but not vigorous enough. No flowers have been observed. Leaves are 'Atropurpurea' type, with a mixture of yellow and red. As they produce no flowers I cannot hybridize more.

I still hope to discover a red-leaved Japanese spirea, either by hybridization or by mutation. Even without a really red-leaved spirea, I hope I have persuaded you *Bon Jardinier, Mon Ami,* that our spireas make perfect companions to your lilacs.

### How To Care for Colored-Leaved Japanese Spireas

- Soil — Sandy loam, pH 6.,5-7, moderately moist (but can stand drier conditions)
- Sunny site
- Fertilize early spring with a balanced formula

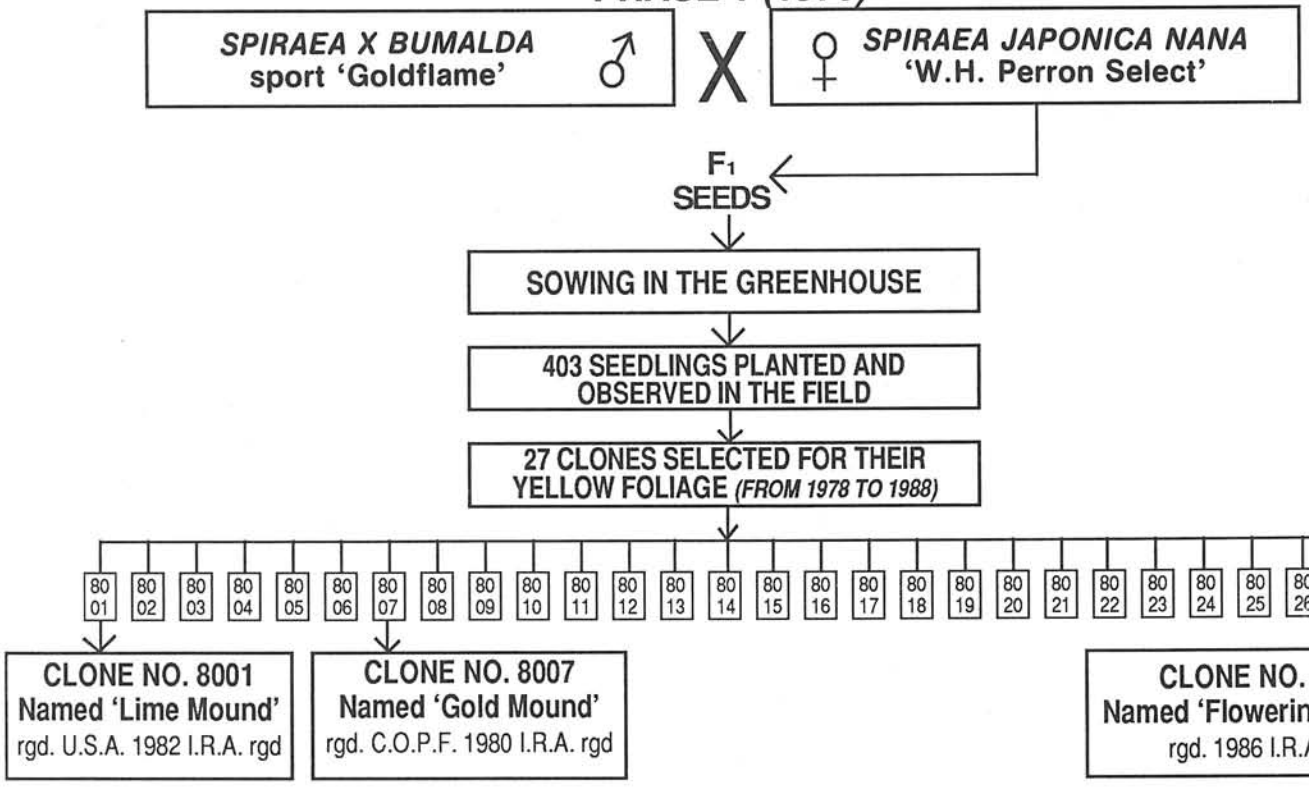
Spireas are not deep rooting. Keep recently transplanted plants moist, until they are well established. To maintain best color, prune stems back to 15 cm (6 in.) above soil level in early spring, before growth starts. Juvenile shoots give best color and the plant will grow back to full size the same season. Propagate by softwood cuttings in June. Plants will reach suitable size for sale after a one-year cultivation. Dwarf ones like 'Green Globe', 'Golden Carpet' and 'Sparkling Carpet' can be used as permanent mosiac plantings. They may be trimmed back with a lawn mower or a "weed-eater" a few inches only above ground level. Use some humus to mulch the shallow-rooted plants and spray them with liquid fertilizer.

## Correction, Credits and Comments

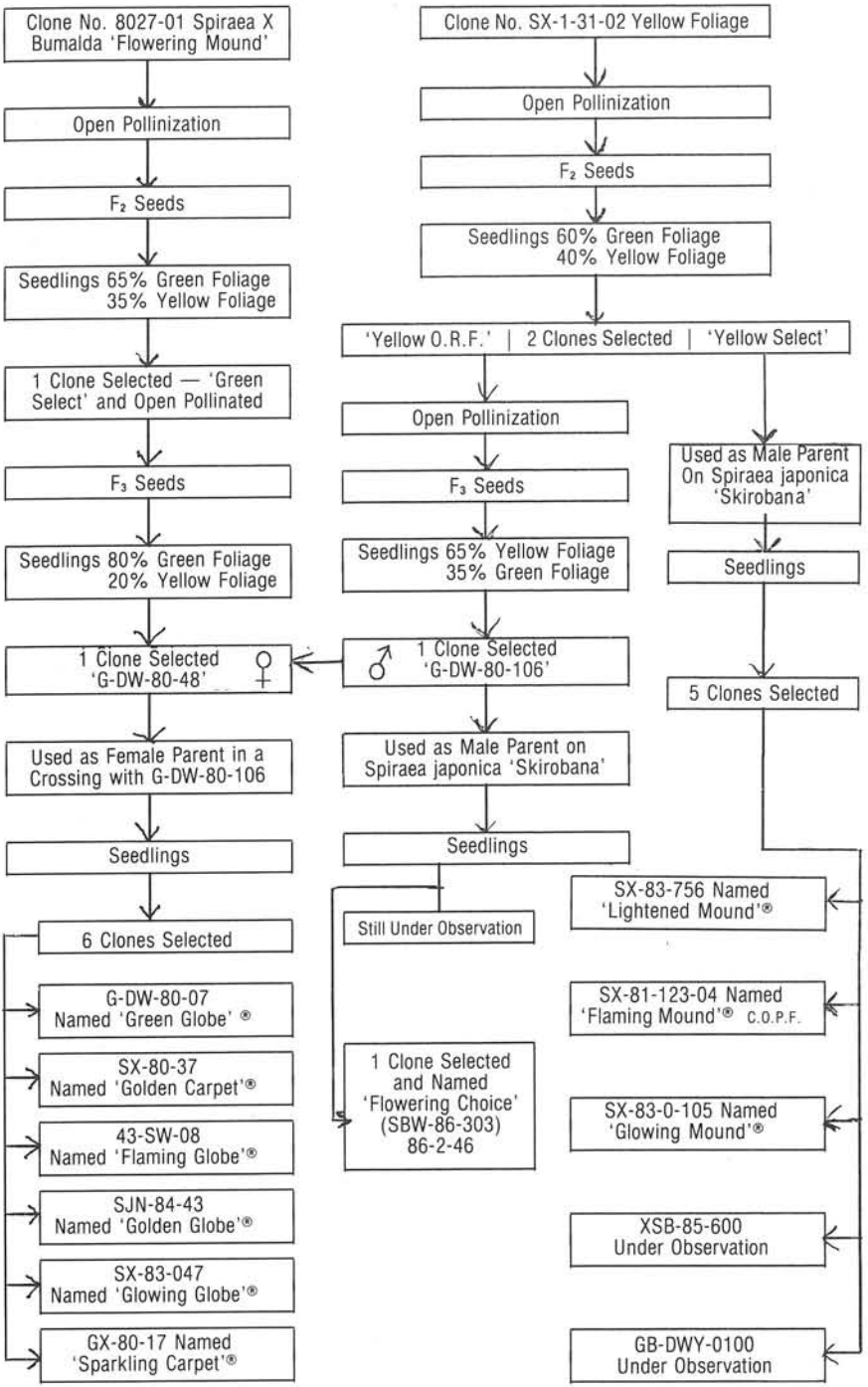
The caption on page 72 identifies Emile Jacqmain as Tony Huber. The editor apologizes to each one. The photos used in Convention Highlights (No. 3) and herein Proceedings were submitted by Ellen Steward, Bill Heard, and the Montreal Botanical Gardens staff photographer. Our thanks to each for sharing their mementoes with us all. Finally, articles and miscellaneous items often are illustrated except that the photos sometimes do not get printed in the same issue. The editor offers his apologies, hoping that his faithful readers will make the proper connections.

# BREEDING PROGRAM -- SPIRAEA

## *PHASE 1 (1976)*



# BREEDING PROGRAM -- SPIRAEA *(Phase 2-A)*



# *PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE*

**MERCI, BEAUCOUP,** to our hosts at the Montreal Botanical Gardens, Director Pierre Bourque, Emile Jacqmain, Raymond Cochez, Jack Vangemeren, and all of the guest speakers for their participation in making our nineteenth annual meeting a great success. Beautiful weather, an excellent program, productive board meetings, record-breaking plant auction, were only a few of the reasons that contributed to making this meeting an unforgettable event. A special thank you to our local chairman Francesco Tortorici and our convention chairman Bill Utley for all their preliminary work to insure our visit would be indeeed unforgettable.

Tremendous progress has been made over the past years because of the dedication of your officers, board members, committee chairmen and active membership. The Addendum and Corrigenda to the Tentative International Register of the Genus *Syringa* was completed by Freek Vrugtman of the Royal Botanical Gardens at Hamilton, Ontario, for all of their years of dedication to this project a very special thank you. I.L.S. membership may purchase copies by using the order form in the Volume 19, No. 3 issue of *LILACS.* It has been suggested that I.L.S. consider publishing these two volumes into one as a special 20th anniversary publication. May I suggest that the publications committee explore this possibility, and inform the board of its decision.

Over $4,100.00 was raised at our plant sale and auction at Montreal. To the Montreal Botanical Gardens staff, especially Raymond Cochez, and our auction chairman John Carvill a special thank you for an excellent job well done.

The archives site location committee was announced at the awards banquet. This committee consists of Chairman Marty Martin, Walter Eickhorst, Al Fordham, and Francesco Tortorici. The committee will circularize horticultural institutions and certain libraries with the intent of locating a site for I.L.S. archives. Determining cost for the establishment and maintenance of the archives within a protective environment (acid-free paper, humidity control fire-proof cabinets) and access of confidential material are a few of the concerns which this committee will deal with. My suggestions have been sent to the committee chairman Marty Martin. Hopefully, the board will have an opportunity to take up this item at its next meeting. It is imperative that I.L.S. in its 20th year make a commitment to establish an archives.

Current dues-paying membership is lower than reported at the Montreal meeting. This is because of the dues increase of last year and a delay

in removing delinquent members from the membership list. Overall the membership is increasing and the computerized lists now in use are a great help to all.

Recent improvements in the quarterly journal, *LILACS,* lilac distributions, I.LS. archives, lilac auctions, as well as continued lilac promotion takes money and time. The time and much of the money has been donated by a few dedicated individuals. Soon you will have the opportunity to become more involved as we plan and implement projects on behalf of I.L.S. Please be prepared to make a donation to I.L.S. this holiday season as we prepare for the next 20 years by preserving the best of the past through the establishment of I.L.S. archives while reaching out through our research and education programs to challenge the future.

*Thank You All*
*Daniel Ryniec*

*Regina Campbell, Sue Ferguson, Rochester, N.Y.*

## Election Committee Report

The following members were elected to the Board of Directors for the term of 1990-1993:

Peter S. Ely . . . . . Seymour CT
Dr. Joel Margaretten . . . . . Leona Valley CA
Winfried K. Martin . . . . . Chardon OH
Daniel K. Ryniec . . . . . Brooklyn NY
Orville M. Steward . . . . . Plymouth VT

*Respectfully submitted,*
*/s/ Pauline Fiala*

# TREASURER'S REPORT

Checking Acct.
FIRSTAR Naper Bank, N.A., 136 S. Washington St., Naperville, Il. 60566

## RECEIPTS: 5/1/89 - 4/30/90

| | |
|---|---|
| Balance brought forward — 5/1/89 | $ 1,726.57 |
| Walter W. Oakes (Dues) | $4,095.00 |
| Plant Auction (Medina, OH) | 2,801.00 |
| Robert C. Clark (C.C. Clark Mem. Fund) | 1,000.00 |
| Total Funds Available (Ckg. Acct.) 5/1/89-4/30/90 | $ 9,622,57 |

## DISBURSEMENTS (5/1/89-4/30/90)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Pauline Fiala (Postage) | $ 612.58 | |
| Walter W. Oakes (Postage) | 186.06 | |
| Walter W. Oakes (Printing & Stationery Supplies) | 272.15 | |
| SEECO (By-Laws Printing) | 370.00 | |
| SEECI (Journal Printing) (Vol. 18 #3, #4 Vol. 19 #1) | 4,057.18 | |
| Owen M. Rogers (Eastern Regional Exhibit) | 200.00 | |
| Owen M. Rogers (Copy of Lilac Bk. - Fiala) | 51.00 | |
| Robert Carlson (Refund) | 20.00 | |
| National Council of State Garden Clubs | 15.00 | |
| Medina Photo Lab. | 69.09 | |
| Bank Debit (Copy of Statement) | 2.00 | |
| Total disbursements (Ckg. Acct.)(5/1/89-4/30/90) | $5,855.06 | $ 5,855.06 |
| Balance on hand (Ckg. Acct.) 4/30/90 | | $ 3,767.51 |

### Money Market Acct. — FIRSTAR Naper Bank, N.A., Naperville, IL.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Balance carried forward 5/2/89 | | $20,991.92 |
| Total Acct. Interest deposited | 1,085.36 | |
| Publications (C. Steward - WM. E. Eaton) | 151.00 | |
| Void Check #1009 | 500.00 | |
| R.B. Clark (C.C. Clark Memorial Fund) | 4,000.00 | |
| Arch McKEan Fund (Interest from C.D.) | 429.66 | |
| Ameri-Hort Research Inc. (Return of Conf. Funds) | 765.38 | |
| Total Credits (5/1/89 - 5/1/90) | | $27,923.32 |

### MONEY MARKET Acct. Debits

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Merka Jewelry & Trophies | $1,302.90 | |
| Francesco Tortorici (Conf. Adv.) Ck. #1009 | 500.00 | |
| Francesco Tortorici (Conf. Adv.) | 1,000.00 | |
| FIRSTAR Naper Bank (C.D. #2961) | 7,000.00 | |
| | $9,802.90 | $ 9,802.90 |
| Balance on Hand - 5/2/90 | | $18,120.42 |
| Total Funds on hand (all accts.) 5/1/90 | $33,887.93 | |
| Funds being held in SPECIAL ACCOUNTS 5/1/90 | 19,654.66 | |
| Total General Funds Available - 5/1/90 | $14,233.27 | |

## FUNDS BEING HELD IN SPECIAL ACCOUNTS

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Life Memberships — 40 | | | |
| (22 at $100 - 17 at $150 - 1 at $180) | | | $ 4,930.00 |
| C.C. Clark MEMORIAL FUND | | | 6,000.00 |
| Arch McKean (Plt. Prop. Fund) | | | 5,000.00 |
| Lourene Wishart (Plt. Prop. Fund) $553.00 + $30.00 | | | 583.00 |
| EDUCATION and RESEARCH $1,864.00 + $102.50 | | | 1,996.50 |
| PUBLICATIONS (Upton Scrapbooks) | | | |
| (Reva Ballreich) $553.00 + $27.00 | | | 580.00 |
| Color Photo Separation Fund: | | | |
| Interest from Arch McKean Fund (1988) | $ 538.00 | | |
| Interest from Arch McKean Fund (1989-90) | 429.66 | | |
| Interest from C.C. Clark Fund (1988) | 52.50 | | |
| Interest from C.C. Clark Fund (1989-90) | 110.00 | 1,130.16 | |
| Debit Color Photo Sep. Fund (5/2/89-5/1/90) | | $ 535.00 | |
| Balance in Color Photo Separation Fund - 5/1/90 | | | 595.16 |
| Total Funds Being Held in SPECIAL ACCOUNTS | | | $19,654.66 |
| Color Separations: Vol. 18 No. 3 Summer '89 | $135.00 | | |
| Vol. 18 No. 4 Autumn '89 | 200.00 | | |
| Vol. 19 No. 1 Spring '90 | 200.00 | $535.00 | |

### Various Accounts Reconciliation

| | |
|---|---|
| Checking Acct. (#76-976-2) | $ 3,767.51 |
| Money Market Acct. #1-23536 | 18,120.42 |
| C.D. #2961 | 12,000.00 |
| Total Funds on Hand (all accts.) 5/1/90 | $33,887.93 |

C.D. #2961 FIRSTAR Naper Bank: Amt.: $12,000 Int. rate: 7.8%
Purchased: 2/14/90 Date of maturity: 8/15/90
(A. McKean $5,000 - C.C. Clark $3,000 - Life Mems. $4,000)

*Respectfully submitted:*
*/s/ Walter E. Eickhorst, Treas.*

# Audit Committee Report

I have examined the books of the International Lilac Society as kept by the Society Treasurer. They appear to be in good order, maintained according to a clear set of accounting principles and have a clear trail of money from input to outgo.

*Respectfully submitted,*
*/s/ Owen M. Rogers for the Audit Committee*

# 1990 Conference Chairman's Financial Statement

It has been a pleasure to host the 19th I.L.S. Convention which turned out to be very interesting for all of us. I loved to have all the friends of lilacs in Montreal. It has been a nice experience for all the staff of M.B.G.

Now I want to report on the income and expenses of this meeting.

A total of 59 members registered for the convention:

54 paid $ 90.00 U.S.
4 paid $106.00 Can.
1 paid $ 50.00 Can. (day only attendance)

| | |
|---|---|
| 52 U.S. payments of $90.00 each was deposited for a total of | $5,390.65 Can. |
| 4 Canadian payments of $106.00 each | 424.00 Can. |
| 1 Canadian payment of $50.00 | 50.00 Can. |
| | $5,864.65 Can. |

2 U.S. checks of $90.00 are not deposited and I am sending them to the treasurer for deposit in the I.L.S. account.

| | |
|---|---|
| Amount deposited — Registration | $5,864.65 Can. |
| Advance of $1,000.00 (U.S.) | 1,156.80 Can. |
| Total Deposited | $7,021.45 Can. |

**Expenses:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Hotel Ramada deposit for banquet | $ 500.00 Can. |
| Hotel Ramada balance payment for banquet | 2,182.81 |
| Hotel Ramada Meeting Hall Mercier | 170.00 |
| Restaurant Bill Wong deposit for banquet | 375.00 |
| Restaurant Bill Wong balance payment | 1,156.25 |
| Buses | 1,100.00 |
| Lunch boxes Morgan Arboretum | 453.20 |
| Card name holder | 42.00 |
| Cards | 87.20 |
| Petty cash (Tips to bus drivers, to the hotel for bringing coffee and donuts, stamps, and other small expenses) | 125.00 |
| Total | $6,191.46 Can. |
| Balance left on deposit | $ 829.99 Can. |

Sent to Treasurer:

- Check of Bob Gilbert endorsed. This was a check for plants bought through the sale not the auction.
- Check of Harvard University for registration fees of Jack Alexander.
- Check of Alfred J. Fordham for payment of his registration. En-

dorsed.

•Money order of Can. funds which is the balance of the bank account. This will close the budget for expenses and income of I.L.S. Montreal meeting.

The lunch of Friday the 25th and drinks were paid by M.B.G.

Hospitality Hall expenses were paid by sale of plants to the staff of M.B.G.

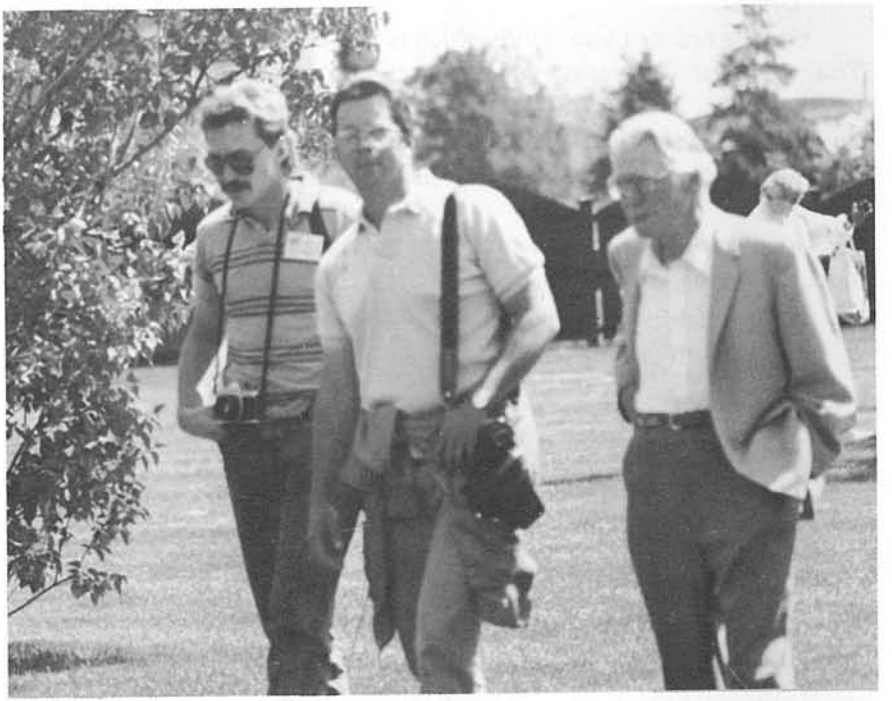
Hoping everything is according to your expectations in the haste to meet you again.

*Respectfully submitted,*
*/s/Francesco Tortorici, Local Chairman*

**1989 Conference Chairman's Financial Statement (Corrected)**

| | |
|---|---|
| DEBITS: | |
| Fair Lawn Holiday Inn: rooms and meals | $2,246.64 |
| Ohio Awning: tent rental | 720.00 |
| Cleveland Eastern Trails: Friday bus | 704.00 |
| Greyhound Charter: Saturday bus | 940.00 |
| Medina Secretarial Service: brochure | 121.80 |
| U.S. Postal Service: stamps | 76.50 |
| Quill Corp.: folders | 49.68 |
| Weymouth Pantry: box lunch and hospitality suite | 722.00 |
| Medina Rental: chairs and tables | 175.00 |
| Dr. McCown: guest speaker | 75.00 |
| In-House Guests at President's Banquet | 200.00 |
| Dinners: members of press and photographer | 75.00 |
| Lunches: volunteer fire dept. | 116.00 |
| Mailing to Garden Writers Association of America | 72.00 |
| Advertisement: American Nurserymen magazine | 18.00 |
| | $6,311.62 |
| CREDITS: | |
| Registrations | $6,225.00 |
| ILS Advance 5/21/88 — Ck. #1055 | 500.00 |
| I.L.S. Advance 12/21/88 — Ck. #1004 Medina Travel | 100.00 |
| I.L.S. Advance 12/21/88 — Ck. #1005 Ohio Awning tent rental | 252.00 |
| | $7,077.00 |
| Total Credits | $7,077.00 |
| Total Debits | 6,311.62 |
| Refunded to I.L.S. Treasurer | $ 765.38 |

*Respectfully submitted*
*/s/ Karen Murray*



*(Left to Right) Chuck Davis, Dave Coulter, Bill Utley.*

*Members of the Group (some of them identifiable).*

*Walter Oakes,*
*Owen Rogers*

*Ruth Sipp*
*Bob Clark*

# Susceptibility of Lilacs to Mycoplasmalike Organisms

**By C.R. Hibben and L.M. Franzen**
*Brooklyn Botanic Garden Research Center*

**(Abstract:** The cause of lilac witches'-broom has been identified as a mycoplasmalike organism (MLO). From field symptoms and the detection of MLO in the phloem by fluorescence microscopy, *Syringa vulgaris* cultivars were identified as susceptible but more tolerant of infection than non-*vulgaris* The MLO were graft-transmissible but not seed-transmissible. Mycoplasmal infection has been identified in the following lilac species and hybrids: *S. x diversifolia, S. x henryi, S. henryi x tomentella, S. x josiflexa, S. josikaea, S. julianae, S. komarowii, Sl laciniata,* [sic] *S. meyeri, S. microphylla, S. x nanceiana, S. oblata* var. *dilatata, S. x persica, S. x prestoniae, S. sweginzowii, S. villosa, S. villosa x sweginzowii, S. vulgaris,* and *S. yunnanensis.* Ex: Jour. Environ. Hort. 7(4):163-167. December 1989).

## *ASK DR. LILAC. . .*

**MULCHES ARE** usually fibrous materials spread about the lilac shrub in order to regulate moisture, to control weeds, and to enhance the beauty of the planting. These vegetable fibers may be clean (weedfree) straw, dried grass clippings, hardwood chips or sawdust, even white oak leaves (which do not become soggy mats). Application is best made in late spring after liming and fertilizers are applied but before grasses have turned green. Depth of mulch depends upon rate of decomposition: in sweet soils decay is rapid, while in sour soils the mulch forms a duff which persists from one year to the next.

Perennial weeds will invade the edges of the mulch especially if sod has not been cleaned of runners. Mowing is somewhat of a problem since the demarcation between turf and mulch is seldom clearcut.

# Lilacs in England

*To the Secretary:*

I am a teacher of Mathematics and the "Farm" referred to in my address is but a house and barn as the land was sold off some years ago. Nevertheless, four acres of prime meadow, stream and woodland are ours and since 1982 we have begun to plant collections of trees, roses, buddlejas, old apple varieties and lilacs. To date, the lilac collection numbers forty and is made up of the usual species, hybrids and cultivars. Amongst the less common forms are s. 'Buffon', 'Desdemona', 'Congo', 'Etna', 'Massena' and ss. protolaciniata, and Wolfi.

The lilac situation in the UK is absolutely dire. There are but sixty different lilacs available commercially and the names of many of these cannot be trusted. When I bought 'Buffon' and 'Desdemona' I bought the last two plants available in this country. 'Lutece', 'Marie Legraye', 'Alphonse Lavallee', 'Victor Lemoine' . . . are names which have recently disappeared from catalogues before I could obtain them.

The countryside abounds with fine old lilacs (and the display this year was sensational — who says we English cannot grow lilacs?), but the names are lost and the owners do not even seem to understand that they did once have names! This is strange in a nation where good gardeners can spot a microvariant of a leek or chrysanthemum at a hundred paces.

I was quite happy with my little collection and with seeking to identify the lilacs in country gardens and doing rescue propagation work on those which were either dying or were vulnerable to the developers' excavator — content that is, until Father Fiala came into my life. I bought his book a year ago and now spend sleepless nights wondering how I can get into the UK such treasures as you, the Canadians and the Russians have. I had already started to raise open-pollinated seed, but under the spell of Fr. John, I have started a programme of selective pollination.

Pamela Meyer of Boston has also obtained for me the lilac list of Don and Brad Wedge. They have about 75 that I would purchase if the problems of freight and getting them through UK import regulations can be overcome. These I want for my own collection, but ultimately I would be prepared to start up a business concern involving them. Thus I have an urgent need to meet some ILS members to discuss these problems and extract their expertise.

Should any of the North American lilac cognoscenti ever find themselves in this part of the world (London 2 hours, Cambridge 1 hour), they can take the hospitality of this house for granted.

*Colin Chapman, Norman's Farm, Wyverstone, England*

## Japanese Observations

*To the Editor:*

This year I managed to get up north to Hokkaido. On May 30th I visited the botanical gardens attached to the University of Hokkaido where I took the enclosed pictures.

To my observation, the lilac plants were quite old, some having trunks nearly a foot thick. But they did not appear to have been cared for very well — pruning seems needed. I had expected a greater variety of specimens and colors; but as you can see *Syringia vulgaris* makes up the greater part of their collection. Only the *S. vulgaris* was anywhere near full bloom. This surprised me, because from the train (which was not always very fast and stopped at many small stations) on the way up to Hokkaido I could see many gardens where the lilacs were nearly gone by, yet the climate was substantially the same. The lateness of the lilacs in the botanical garden, however, might have been due to the fact that they were shaded by a number of larger trees. The lilacs in the small private gardens seem to be of two or three types only; clearly *S. vulgaris,* perhaps a much paler variety of this, and then a pale yellow variety (off white?) with a rounder, more blunted inflorescence *(this could be an early blooming form of the Japanese tree lilac,* ***S. reticulata*** *-- ed.).*

As you can see, the lilacs were nonetheless a popular subject for local artists. This group, of whom I rudely took pictures, was apparently a painting club of senior citizens. The office building in the black and white sheet is the one the people were painting and which I photographed.

The very small, almost stamp-like notice, of which there are several copies, was given out with a local kind of jewelry made from lilac flowers embedded in clear plastic. Some of the pieces were quite attractive, but also quite expensive; so, I just asked for a few of these explanatory slips of paper, which do explain the jewelry, mention that there is an annual lilac festival which I had just missed, identify the symbolism of the lilac flower ("young, growing love!"), and give the Japanese name *murosaki-hana,* or "purple flower." The fact that the festival is not really advertised in the south is an indication that it is a local affair — perhaps the numerous junior chambers of commerce in Hokkaido haven't got around to pushing it. But I did take one photo of a lighted display in Hokkaido station. I asked around for information and possibly left-over materials from the festival; but no luck. The thought occurs to me, if someone has not already done so, that an "official" inquiry from the Society to, say, the director of the botanical gardens might elicit some material. Taking a tour of the various city festivals (which occur in May) might make an interesting journey, but, of course, an expensive one.

My itinerary did not carry me through Hirosake, so those earlier photos

printed on the back cover of the Summer issue (vol. 19, no. 3) must remain a mystery. It appears I would have been too late for good shots anyway.

So, I hope you received my cards. And I also hope Father Fiala is all right. Susan and I have tentative plans to be East later this summer. If they materialize, we shall try to wander by your neighborhood.

*Raymond P. Tripp, Jr., Denver, CO*

## *LILACDOM NEWS*

### Lilacs on the Square

The lilac sub-committee of the Public Relations committee of Medina, OH, Chamber of Commerce, will hold a special dedication on Public Square on Saturday, September 22, for the new lilacs to be planted around Medina. The objective of this project is to expand on Falconskeape, a research and education facility specializing in lilacs and to create a city of lilacs. Nurserymen and landscapers will be on hand to answer gardening and landscaping questions that day.

### In Celebration of the Life of Blanche Sweet

The Brooklyn Botanic Garden and the friends of Blanche Sweet celebrated the life of Blanche Sweet with a memorial planting of the 'Blanche Sweet' lilac in the Louisa Clark Spencer Lila collection on Saturday April 28, 1990. A Reception was held for the guests in the Rotunda of the Administration Building and continuous showings of *"The Painted Lady,"* and a slide portrait of Blanche Sweet played from noon to 5 p.m.

Blanche Sweet was a silent film star who played in more than 100 films. The friends of Blanche Sweet raised the monies needed to make this Memorial Planting possible. Father John Fiala of Ameri-Hort at Falconskeape Gardens supplied the memorial lilac. Dr. Karen Murray assisted in many ways and together with Martin Sopocy made sure that this 2 year project continued on course. Many thanks to all who were part of this memorial planting especially the Brooklyn Botanic Garden staff and administration.

*-- Daniel K. Ryniec*

## *MAY 1990*

## *The PRESIDENT'S AWARD*

*Of the International Lilac Society* Is Presented To

**LE JARDIN BOTANIQUE**

de la Ville de Montreal

. . . For many years of promoting horticulture for public instruction and research.

For its collection of Lilacs enabling all to see their beauty and be aware of new cultivars.

For hosting the 19th convention of the International Lilac Society.

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Is Presented To

**FRANCESCO TORTORICI**

Manager, Exterior Gardens -- Montreal Botanical Gardens

. . . For his exceptional performance in maintaining the grounds and the plant collections, which include a fine selection of lilacs, for the instruction and viewing by the citizens of Montreal.

For his efforts and hospitality in hosting the 19th Annual Convention of the International Lilac Society.

## *The AWARD OF MERIT*

*Of the International Lilac Society* Is Presented To

**PIERRE BOURQUE**

Director of the Montreal Botanical Garden

. . . For his dedication and vision in beautifying the City of Montreal with parks and landscaping which include the Lilac.

For his support of the 19th Convention of the International Lilac Society.

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Is Presented To

**RAYMOND COCHEZ**

Horticulturist, Montreal Botanical Gardens

. . . For his work in maintaining and developing the Lilac collection at the Arboretum, so that the public may see and appreciate lilacs.

For his support given to the 19th Annual Convention of the International Lilac Society.

Is Presented To

**MOUNT ROYAL CEMETERY**

Outremont, Quebec

. . . For preserving a fine landscaped park containing many lilacs.

For their hospitality to the 19th Annual Convention of the International Lilac Society.

Is Presented To

**MacDONALD COLLEGE and**
**The MORGAN ARBORETUM of McGill University**

Montreal, Quebec

. . . For its continuing instruction of the general public on horticulture and plant research.

For its developing the Morgan Arboretum containing many fine lilacs.

For its warm welcome to the 19th Annual Convention of the International Lilac Society.

Is Presented To

**TONY HUBER**

Research Director of
W.H. Perron Cie Ltee,
Boisbriand, Quebec

. . . For his knowledge and skill in plant hybridization and sharing his work with the members of the 19th Convention of the International Lilac Society.

Is Presented To

**DR. GAMINI RANDENI**

Hamilton, Ontario, Canada

. . . For sharing his knowledge of the Lilac and his research on identification of cultivars by the finger printing technique with the members of the 19th Convention of the International Lilac Society.

Is Presented To

**TREVOR J. COLE**

Curator of Dominion Arboretum, Agriculture Canada Research Station
Ottawa, Canada

. . . For his continued work in promoting the Lilac and the Society.

For sharing his knowledge with the members of the 19th International Lilac Society Convention.

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***AUCTION 1990***