

# Lilacs

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## ***QUARTERLY JOURNAL***

of the International Lilac Society

*IN  
THIS  
ISSUE:*

**Convention Program  
European News**

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### International Lilac Society

President .....	<i>Reva Ballreich</i> P.O. Box 1804, Idyllwild, CA 92549
Executive Vice President .....	<i>William A. Utley</i> Grape Hill Gardens, 1232 Devereaux Rd., Clyde, NY 14433
Membership Secretary .....	<i>David Gressley</i> 8907 Kirtland-Chardon Rd., Mentor, OH 44060
Corresponding Secretary .....	<i>Walter Oakes</i> 11 Pine Street, Dixfield, ME 04224
Treasurer .....	<i>Walter E. Eickhorst</i> 165 North Water Edge Drive, Glendale Heights, IL 60139
Assistant Treasurer .....	<i>Robert Gilbert*</i> P.O. Box 83, Hyde Park, NY 12538
Editor .....	<i>Owen M. Rogers</i> Plant Biology Department, University of New Hampshire Durham, NH 03824-3597

### Membership Classification (U.S. Funds)

Single or Family / Annual .....	\$ 15.00
Sustaining .....	30.00
Institution/Commercial .....	35.00
Life .....	150.00

• Mail membership dues to Asst. Treasurer Robert Gilbert

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.

***Published April, 1994***

## Cover Story

### Front Cover

Thompson Hall (locally known as T-Hall) on the campus of the University of New Hampshire, site of the 1994 International Lilac Society Convention. Ben Thompson was a prosperous farmer who left his land, his library and his money to the State of New Hampshire for the (then) College of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts located on the Dartmouth campus in Hanover, NH. His only provision was that the College had to be located on his land in Durham. The College Trustees accepted the gift and the College opened its doors (including those of the newly constructed T-Hall) in 1893. The campus now has many newer buildings but T-Hall remains as the main administration building.

### Back Cover

Withdean Park in Brighton, England, site of one of the largest lilac collections in England. The plants in bloom are *Syringa pekinensis*, proving that Colin Chapman took the picture late in the lilac bloom season. Brighton is on the southern coast of England and near enough to the "white cliffs of Dover" so that pieces of chalk can be seen in the soil. Your Editor believes that it was from plantings like this that the story of lilacs being lime lovers originated. The pH at Withdean Park is 8.4

The park was heavily damaged in the recent wind storm but, as you can see, they are recovering well.

## Editor's Notes

It's time to think about the convention. With a June date you will be able to see your own *S. vulgaris* lilacs bloom and then come and see ours here in New Hampshire.

Just when I think we have had the worst winter ever in New England, our President, Reva Ballreich sends me this note published in the Idyllwild Town Crier on Feb. 3, 1994:

*Mountain area residents dug out from the biggest storm of the season that dumped 38 1/4 inches of snow in the Idyllwild area. Roads were so clogged that a state-owned rotary snow blower was brought to the mountain to throw snow off the roads.*

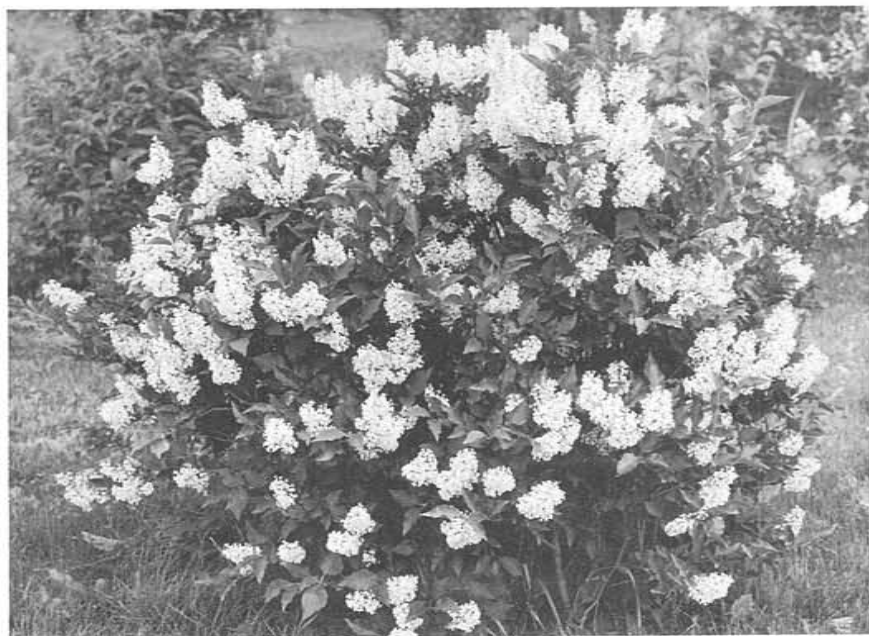
Several people have asked about the two pictures in the Autumn issue of "Lilacs" labelled "Haarenstroth Baumschule. They are pictures of the nursery of one of our members, Mr. Konrad Kircher, Haarenstroth 12, 26160 Bad Zwischenahn, Germany. (Baumschule=tree nursery)

## 1994 Convention

**I**T'S time to mark your calendars for the annual ILS convention. It will be June 9th, 10th and 11th at the Comfort Inn in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. The date was chosen because it will highlight the late blooming lilacs. The place was chosen because it has everything we need, including a whirlpool spa and indoor pool. Also, the University of New Hampshire is having its Alumni Reunion that weekend so the things we need – including the whirlpool – are not available on campus. Those of you who remember the last convention in Durham may be disappointed that we are not going to be staying in dormitories, thus depriving you of the challenge of figuring out whether the bathroom is for men or women. For those people, we will try to find other problems.

Other convention highlights will include the President's Banquet "at sea" several miles out into the Atlantic Ocean, a visit to the oldest lilac in the state (country?) and a lilac auction and plant sale under a tent beside the main street of Durham where we can tap into all that good alumni money. If anyone is planning to bring plants for the plant sale/auction, we have plenty of greenhouse space – so if you would like to ship your plants ahead of the convention date, we can accept them at any time.

Mark your calendars now; plan to attend.



*Syringa patula* 'Miss Kim'. Slow growing plant with fragrant purple – fading to lavender – bloom in June. Developed at the University of New Hampshire

# International Lilac Society Convention

June 9-11, 1994

*Comfort Inn at Yoken's*

## PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

### THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 1994:

2:00-9:00 p.m. .... Board of Directors' Meeting  
5:00-8:00 p.m. .... Registration Table Open  
8:00-10:00 p.m. .... Hospitality Room Open

### FRIDAY, JUNE 10, 1994:

6:30-8:45 a.m. .. Complimentary Continental Breakfast (Comfort Inn)  
8:45-9:00 a.m. .... Welcome – Local Host **Owen M. Rogers**  
International Lilac Society President, **Reva Ballreich**  
9:00-9:50 a.m. .... "From Royal Governor's Mansion to Colonial  
Revival Estate: The Wentworth Collidge Mansion"  
**Ann Masury**, Director of Landscaping, Strawberry Banke Museum  
10:00-10:50 a.m. .... "The Lilac" An inside look at what they are and  
the way they work."  
**Dr. Alex Shigo**, Tree Biologist and Educator  
11:00-11:50 a.m. .... "The New Hampshire Lilac Commission"  
**William Nehring**, Chairman  
12:00 Noon ..... Lunch  
1:00 p.m. .... Buses depart for Seacoast Garden Tour  
4:30 p.m. .... Buses return to Comfort Inn  
6:00-6:30 p.m. .... Social hour at Yoken's Conference Center  
6:30-8:30 p.m. .... Awards Banquet  
8:30-10:00 p.m. .... Hospitality Suite Open at Comfort Inn

### SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 1994:

6:30-8:45 a.m. .. Complimentary Continental Breakfast (Comfort Inn)  
7:00-8:45 a.m. ... Board of Directors Meeting and Election of Officers  
9:00-9:30 a.m. .... "The Late Blooming Lilacs" – **Owen M. Rogers**  
9:30-10:00 a.m. .... Coffee break  
10:15-11:45 a.m. .... Annual Meeting  
President **Reva Ballreich** presiding  
11:45 a.m. .... Buses leave for lunch at the Woodman Horticultural  
Farm, University of New Hampshire campus  
12:00 Noon ..... Lunch – Woodman Farm  
1:00-2:00 p.m. .... Lilac Program – Late Blooming Lilacs  
2:00-4:00 p.m. .... Lilac Auction – UNH campus  
4:30 p.m. .... Buses leave for Comfort Inn



## EUROPEAN NEWSLETTER

Mr. Colin Chapman

**T**HIS is the first of what I intend to be a frequent feature which will have the two objectives of keeping European members in touch with each other whilst also keeping the main body of North American members informed about plantings and lilac developments on our patch. My task will be eased if European members keep in contact with me regularly. I would welcome any information you could provide about your own activities and about present or former lilac collections in your area.

I would also like to remind Complimentary members that their dues are waived in exchange for articles and features for the *Quarterly Journal* and I would like each one to inform me of their intentions in this respect. The costs of printing and international postage are so high that I must undertake a rigorous review of current membership. It is imperative, therefore, that you let me know if you wish to be retained on the mailing list. This does not apply to Life members or Annual members whose dues are currently paid.

To simplify the payment of dues I have opened a bank account in England. For your convenience, therefore, it is now possible to pay dues by Sterling Eurocheque. Rates will vary against the dollar from time to time but, for this year, they will stand at £10 Annual and £100 Life. Please make cheques payable to "I.L.S.-Europe" and send to Mrs. S.M. Chapman, Secretary ILS-Europe, at the address which I will give at the end of this feature. Dues can still be paid, in dollars, to your usual North American contact if you prefer.

### ***Recent Developments in Great Britain***

In 1981, a charitable organization was inaugurated and named the "National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens." What made this a significant event, to be adopted in other countries also, was one of the objectives written into the NCCPG's Deed of Trust; "To establish National Collections as permanent exhibits for education, research and conservation purposes." This was done to encourage the conservation of endangered or rare plants which could be grown in Great Britain and Ireland and which had characteristics worthy of preservation.

The role of the NCCPG was to be one of support, coordination and administration, whilst the collections themselves were to be assembled and held by institutions (like the National Trust, Royal Horticultural Society, Nurseries, Horticultural Colleges) and private individuals. Thus the NCCPG

brought together the rich gene bank which has accumulated here, particularly over the past 400 years, and the vast network of individuals having horticultural and botanical skills and intensively specialized knowledge in their chosen fields.

Twelve years later, the NCCPG, whose Patron is the Prince of Wales, has 10,000 members organized into 40 Regional Groups and there are 600 National Collections involving 450 genera. All the collections are open to view although the privately held ones are usually by prior appointment only. They vary considerably in size with the Narcissus collection covering 2,500 forms whilst that of the Malmaison Carnations has 6 cultivars. Regional members are encouraged to plant, nurture and enjoy varieties they might never before have seen, by lectures, presentations and sales of rare plants. A search list of cultivars, feared to be nearly extinct, was prepared and published, quite fortuitously, on pink paper. Now known as "Pink Sheet Plants," about 250 of them have been located to date.

To become a National Collection holder, there are certain criteria which must be met. Details of plant sources must be given and methods of identification and authentication have to be demonstrated. Record keeping has to be rigorous, and there is a requirement for clear, informative labelling. Contact with other specialists is deemed desirable and a policy must be stated for the dissemination of information and plant material. Finally, a suitable standard of husbandry has to be shown and then an application is considered by a panel of eminent horticulturalists.

The NCCPG encourages the establishment of parallel collections and there are two reasons for this. The first is for the convenience of visitors and to ensure that plants are grown under different conditions. (Though these islands are geographically small, they have a most complex geology and a highly variable maritime climate which gets a boost, substantial in places, from the Gulf Stream). The second reason is to safeguard the plants: there will be specialist knowledge available should an entire collection be at risk because of the failure of an institution or the demise of an individual holder.

There are now three National Collections of the Genus *Syringa*. I will mention first the collection of 8 species and 82 cultivars at the Hollies Park and the Golden Acre Park in Leeds. I have not yet visited this collection, but an article by Jane Taylor, which was based upon it, was reprinted in the Winter 1992 edition of "Lilacs" (Vol. 21, No. 1).

The oldest collection is at Withdean Park, Brighton. This was severely damaged by the great storm of October 1987 and problems subsequently arose because of the retirement of key personnel and by the introduction to municipal services of compulsory competitive tendering (landscape maintenance based on bids). Uncertainty was ended last May when the decision was taken to restore the collection. Phillip Williamson has

been put in charge and, on different days, Peter Green and myself went down to Brighton to see him at the Park.

I went in mid June when the *S. vulgaris* cultivars were well over but some species and hybrids were still in flower. Notable were *S. x. nanceiana* 'Floreal' and *S. josikaea* 'Eximia', but the site was graced and illuminated by the two tree lilacs, *S. pekinensis* and *S. reticulata* var. *reticulata*, both of which are about 50 years old, 30 feet high and were covered in bloom.

I was pleasantly surprised by what I saw. The lilacs are grouped in 14 large beds and are set in park grassland which is dramatically situated high above Brighton with extensive views to the wooded hills to the west. The grass was well maintained and the beds had received routine treatment. The many gaps indicated the scale of the losses but, because there were several plants of each form, this does not necessarily imply that the losses of taxa are as great. Almost all the labels were gone but detailed planting records exist. Most of the lilacs were too overgrown to be in prime blooming condition but a programme of pruning and rejuvenation was about to start. Much work will be needed to identify and verify the plants in the collection but this should be possible and I hope to go there next May to help with this. With almost 200 species and cultivars this is an important national asset.

There has now been designated a third National Collection of *Syringa*. Our own collection here at Norman's Farm was awarded this status in August 1993. We have 40 lilacs which have reached an age to produce consistent bloom and, last May, pictures of some of these were taken by a professional photographer to be used for illustrations in an important guide to flowering plants and shrubs to be published next year. The collection has expanded rapidly, thanks to ILS contacts in North America and Europe, and now stands at just under 300 species, subspecies and cultivars. Most importantly, about 100 of them have not been seen before in this country so there will be much fun involved in revealing them when they begin to flower maturely.

I will, of course, report about progress in each of the National Collections and eventually publish lists of plants within them. For the moment, I am simply pleased to say that the situation of the lilac in Great Britain is no longer desperate and things are moving forward. In addition, there is wonderful news from Kew where Tony Kirkham has designed, and begun construction of, a large Lilac Garden which is to be featured in a prominent place within the Botanic Gardens. When I called there in December, the beds for the species and hybrids had been dug and the plants propagated ready for planting in the spring. It will be a four-year project so I will say no more now but will let them tell their own story when the time is right.

Colin Chapman, January 8th, 1994  
Norman's Farm, Mill Road,  
Wyverstone, Stowmarket,  
Suffolk IP14 4SF  
England



*Note: This letter, slightly edited for length, was sent to Colin Chapman from Mr. Harald Oster, Hauptstrasse 9, A-2340 Moedling, Austria, Europe. In subsequent correspondence, the person from Austria was identified as Mr. Erich Zelina.*

Dear Mr. Chapman:

I was very happy to receive your letter one week ago. Enclosed with this letter is a list of the lilac cultivars I have at home. I started collecting them five years ago and the first ones blossomed last spring and they were really wonderful. I live in Moedling which is fifteen kilometers south of the city of Vienna. The garden belongs to my parents; it has about 3000 m<sup>2</sup>. There were very many old common lilacs planted 1874 and I am gradually replacing them by the better cultivars.

It would really fill a book if I would report what I tried to find lilac sources in Europe. The correspondence fills two boxes. In fact there is not yet any collection in Austria. But about 12 years ago there was in a public park a new collection of about 200 lilac cultivars in rows, which remained only for a few years. Upon my request, who collected them, I found out that it was a meanwhile retired teacher of a horticultural school in Vienna. I asked him for the source of it, and he told me that they got them from Pruhonice near Prague and this collection is no longer existing, because they built a highway on that place and some were from Hungary but he did not tell me from where. The fact is, that the remaining plants were rescued and stand in a nursery, which belongs to the Austrian state and is somehow connected to the botanical garden in Schoenbrunn. The nurseryman grafted some of these varieties for me. Some unidentified old lilacs I found on a field of a gardener in Vienna. They remained from a nursery which is not longer existing. In the centre of Vienna in the park in front of the town-hall stand many unidentified lilac bushes, which are a remainder of the nursery Rosenthal, which is no longer existing. This is all I could find in Austria. I tried to find out what is remaining in France. In Nancy they want to recollect the Lemoine cultivars in the botanical garden. The collection in Aalsmeer in the Netherlands is not in good condition. The collection in Dortmund-Brünninghausen in the Rhombergpark founded by Gerd Krüssmann is no longer existing. The arboretum of the former nursery Späth in Berlin has very few cultivars (they had 150

cultivars in the nursery catalogue of 1930). I was not yet in Moscow. I have not yet learned to graft or to propagate the lilacs, but I will find a way to do that.

*s/Harald Oster*

### **List – January 1993**

Agincourt Beauty	Jeanne d'Arc	Nadezhda
Ami Schott	Katherine Havemeyer	Olivier de Serres
Andenken an Ludwig Späth	Krasavitsa Moskv	Paul Thirion
Archeveque	Leon Gambetta	President Fallières
Charles Joly	Louis Henry	President Grevy
De Saussure	Marechal Lannes	Rosace
Decaisne	Mme. Antoine Buchner	Souvenir d'Alice Harding
Duc de Massa	Mme. Charles Souchet	Sweetheart
Etoile de Mai	Mme. Lemoine	Victor Lemoine
Flora	Monique Lemoine	Some yet unidentified
Georges Bellair	Montaigne	blue and white double
Glory	Mrs. Edward Harding	varieties
Henri Robert		

*Note: There are two final notes about activities in Europe from Charles Holetich. The first tells of plants going to France and the second of some of Charles' work in Italy. The picture on the next page is for proof that he has actually done all these things.*

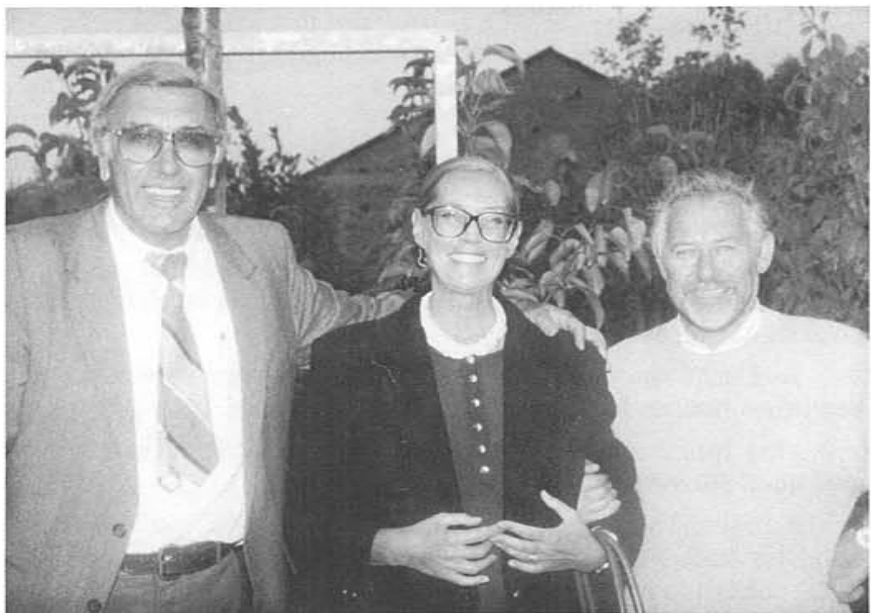
## **France is Getting Ready for a New Lilac Collection**

Dateline Italy – In September 1993 Charles Holetich visited two ILS members in Bologna, Italy. They are Valerie Berselli A. Von Jenisch and Carlo Pagani. They are both actively involved in making lilacs more popular plants in northern part of Italy. Currently one may find no more than 8 named lilac cultivars offered by the nursery trade of Italy.

Valerie and Carlo make an excellent team. While Valerie is an excellent researcher and administrator, Carlo is a good grower. He owns a fair size nursery offering containerized plants of woody ornamentals and fruiting trees. Also offers landscape services to estate lots under motto "Flora 2000."

Scions of one hundred different cultivars were sent to them during latter part of January '94. Selections were made by Valerie using various literature including Fr. John L. Fiala's book *Lilacs*.

Both Carlo and Valerie commented that ILS is not well known Society in Europe and some advertising with selective plant institutions of Europe would be a worthwhile endeavor. We hope we may hear at some later date as to how they made out with their first lilacs and above all how are lilacs adopting themselves to the new generally warmer climates?



*Charles Holetich, Valerie Berselli A. von Jenisch and Carlo Pagani in Mr. Pagani's nursery, "Flora 2000," in Bolongna, Italy. (Story on Page 36)*

## Falconskeape Gardens for Sale

When spring comes, the public may no longer be able to savor the fragrances and sights of 600 cultivars and 22 species of lilacs at Falconskeape Gardens near Medina (Ohio). They may not be able to walk among the more than 100 named cultivars of crab apples, take delight in the many unusual plants and trees, or watch waterfowl on a lake lined with willow trees.

There may be no more annual sales of rare plants, which attracted gardening enthusiasts from a wide area.

And physically or mentally challenged children may no longer experience the therapeutic benefits of working in the garden.

The 58-acre property where the founder, the late Rev. John L. Fiala, spent about 50 years developing a world-class collection of plants is closed to the public and is for sale. It is hoped that the buyer will maintain it as a fine botanical garden, said Karen Murray, executive director.

Fiala, who died in 1990, was a Catholic priest and was known internationally for his contributions to horticulture.

Murray sent form letters to members stating that Friends-of-

Falconskeape, the nonprofit organization that was a major support of the gardens through memberships and donations, had been dissolved as of Dec. 31. The closing came after months of wrangling with the York Township Board of Zoning Appeals.

The board refused permission for the horticultural center to continue to hold nonagricultural activities such as art shows, classes, concerts or weddings after neighbors complained about noise and traffic.

The board also objected to the facility's use of a leased parking lot across from the gardens on Branch Rd. The property on which the parking lot was located has since been sold.

Building a new parking lot on Falconskeape grounds would not only be a major expense, but would require tearing up some of the garden area.

"The insurance costs were tremendous. Falconskeape is just a private farm now," Murray said.

Murray and her husband, Peter, bought the property from Fiala shortly before his death with the understanding that it would continue to be open to the public as a horticultural center.

"We didn't want to see the property go on the public market and be lost as a botanical garden which is exactly what may happen unless someone is interested in preserving it," Karen Murray said.

Peter Murray, who served as Falconskeape's full-time manager for 12 years, underwent heart surgery in July and is in a rehabilitation program.

"He cannot continue to manage it," his wife said. "There was no paid staff at Falconskeape. Every cent that came in went back into the plants, which became a part of plant sales training for handicapped youth, and other programs."

Although the future for Falconskeape looks bleak, many of the plants that Fiala used for hybridization have been sent to Klehm Nursery in South Barrington, Ill., Wayside Gardens in Hodges, S.C., and to members of the International Lilac Society. These plants will be propagated and made available to the public when sufficient stock has been developed.

While much of the plant material has been removed, there is still a tremendous collection of new and continued genetic stock at Falconskeape, Karen Murray said.

"For Father Fiala it was 50 years of his life's work," she said. "For us it was 12 years of work and commitment. We are hoping to keep it until the right buyer comes along."

*Note: This article is reprinted from THE PLAIN DEALER newspaper, published in Cleveland, Ohio. It was written by Suzanne Hively, the Plain Dealer Garden Editor.*

## C.C. Clark, Friend of I.L.S.

*By Robert B. Clark (no relation), Ocala, Florida*

MEMBERS who attended our fourteenth annual meeting at New York, NY, will recall our subway rides, the transplanting of the 'Red Jade' crab apple by helicopter and the LaDow lilac painting, commissioned by the Reverend Dr. Clarence Carroll Clark which I presented in his memory to his favorite botanic garden at Brooklyn. On that occasion I told the story of its origin: a selection of Lemoine cultivars from the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station horticultural farm at New Brunswick, taken in a galvanized bucket early one Saturday morning to the Jersey City ferry where Dr. Clark awaited and took them to Mrs. Stanley LaDow's Manhattan studio. We were not particularly concerned about their identity except that they were represented in the Alice Harding memorial lilac walk. The rest of the story, Dr. Clark's identity, was left untold.

Dr. Clark was a slightly built cleric of poor posture. His complexion was fair, eyes blue. His voice was strong and his diction was clear. He served his fellow man with charity and affection and God with fear and reverence. His birthplace was Baltimore, Maryland, in October 1875. He was graduated from Johns Hopkins University and earned his doctorate in English literature at Yale under the distinguished Spenserian scholar Charles Grosvenor Osgood, latterly of Princeton. He taught at Bryn Mawr before his ordination, and for thirty-nine years served as pastor of Chapel at the Comforter in Manhattan's Village until obliged to retire owing to facial neuralgia. His last years, happy among newer friends and in a flower garden of his own tending, he spent at Pomfret, Connecticut. He lived well into his ninety-eighth year, in May 1973. He left no immediate family; his grave is in the Pomfret churchyard.

Dr. Clark, as he was known to all but his most intimate friends, was a dynamo. Friends would visit him to recharge their batteries. Architecture and gardening were his hobbies. He was fond of visiting fine houses and tells of this incident which happened while he lived in the church-operated retirement home on 112th Street opposite the Cathedral of St. John the Divine: On one of his innumerable visits to Boston staying at the Hotel





Touraine, he had taken the newspaper train to Salem to soak up the atmosphere of Colonial mansions. Over the front fence of one fine dwelling he met the gardener who, after brief conversation about early morning pleasantness, asked in deliberate amazement, "Did they LET you come?"

Dr. Clark's Pomfret dooryard was a fairyland of color all summer long. His gardening pastime was cultivated from youth. He grew the 'LaFrance' rose as a novelty. His Village garden decorated a poorly lighted fire-escape with ferns and Aspidistra. Lilacs were a passion.

Dividends from the modest C.C. Clark Memorial Fund have provided colored photograph covers for Lilacs Quarterly Journal since the summer 1989 issue. Donations to enlarge the fund and thus contribute to further color plates in the Journal will be gratefully received.

## **International Lilac Society RETAIL LILAC SOURCE LIST**

*By David Gressley*

**T**HE following listing is a response to a retail nursery survey generated to help ILS members obtain specific *Syringa* taxa. Propagation methods were solicited because grafted lilacs may not be compatible for dense soil textures such as unamended clay soils. Nursery catalogs are free of charge except where noted.

### *Nurseries Specializing in Lilacs*

**Country Lace Lilacs, 10202 NE 279th Street,  
Battle Ground, WA 98604 / (206) 687-1874**

Lilacs are produced on their own roots and are shipped bare root. Selection changes annually. Owner is interested in plant exchanges.

**Fox Hill Nursery, 347 Lunt Road, Freeport, ME 04032 / (207) 729-1511**

Lilacs are produced on their own roots and shipped bare root, container and B & B. Many uncommon selections are available.

**Grape Hill Gardens, 1232 Devereaux Road, Clyde, NY 14433**

A large and comprehensive collection containing rare lilac taxa not available elsewhere.

**Heard Gardens Ltd., 5355 Merle Hay Road, Johnston, IA 50131 / (515) 276-4533**

Lilacs are produced on their own roots and are shipped bare root. Approximately 40 selections are available.

**Margaretten Park, 38570 North Bouquet Canyon Road, Leona, CA 93550**

A large collection of southern acclimated lilacs that includes many introductions from Dr. Margaretten.

**Pepiniere Select Plus Nursery, R.R. #1, Brinston, Ontario  
K0E 1C0 Canada / (613) 652-1775**

Lilacs are produced on their own roots or are micropropagated and are

shipped bare root. Up to 800 lilac taxa will be available. Distribution center located in United States for quicker service.

**The Lilac Farm, P.O. Box 272-C, Cambridge Springs, PA 16403**

**(814) 398-2528 / (800) 542-4158**

Lilacs are produced from rooted cuttings and are shipped via UPS in a moistened wrap. A broad selection is available.

**Wedge Nursery, R.R. #2, Box 114, Albert Lea, MN 56007 / (507) 373-5225**

Lilacs are produced on their own roots and are shipped bare root and in container. Approximately 140 selections are available.

***Private and Estate Collections***

**Bernard W. McLaughlin, 101 Main Street, South Paris, ME 04281**

A private estate featuring lilacs in a unique setting.

**Max Peterson, R.R. #1, Box 273, Ogallala, NE 69153**

One of the largest private collections in the United States containing many rare lilacs introductions rescued from extinction.

**Roger F. Luce, R.F.D. #1, Box 1126, Hampden, ME 04444**

A private estate containing one of New England's largest lilac collections with many rare selections. Also specializes in zone 4 magnolias and azaleas.

***Retail Nurseries Selling Lilacs***

**Appalachian Gardens, Box 82, Waynesboro, PA 17268-0082 / (717) 762-4312**

Lilacs are sold and shipped in 4½ inch containers. Lilacs are propagated from rooted cuttings. Species lilacs available.

**Arbortillage Farm Nursery, P.O. Box 227, Holt, MO 64048 / (816) 264-3911**

A moderate selection of uncommon lilacs including introductions from Fr. Fiala. Lilacs are from rooted cuttings, tissue culture and grafts using *S. reticulata* and *S. pekinensis* root stock. They are potted and shipped in 1, 2 or 3 gallon sizes.

**Bear Creek Nursery, P.O. Box 411, Northport, WA 99157 / (509) 732-6219**

Late and common lilacs are grown from seedlings and shipped B&B. Lilacs can be purchased in large quantity.

**Carroll Gardens, 444 East Main Street, Westminster, MD 21157 / (800) 638-6334**

Approximately 40 lilac species, hybrids, and cultivars are produced on their own root stock or from tissue culture. Plants are shipped in container. Catalogs cost \$2.00.

**Corn Hill Nursery, R.R. #5, Petitcodiac, N.B., E0A 2H0 Canada / (506) 756-3635**

A moderate selection of *S. vulgaris* cvs. produced from rooted cuttings that are shipped in container and bare root.

**Greer Gardens, 1280 Goodpasture Island Road, Eugene, OR 97401-1794**

**(800) 548-0111**

A moderate selection of *S. vulgaris* cvs. and several species shipped in 1, 2 or 5 gallon container sizes. Lilacs are micropropagated.

**J.W. Jung Seed Company, 335 South High Street, Randolph, WI 53956  
(414) 326-3121**

Small selection that includes several uncommon lilac taxa usually sold in multi-garden type nursery catalogs. Production method was not specified.

**Mellinger's Inc., 2310 West South Range Road, North Lima, OH 44452-9731  
(216) 549-9861**

A multi-garden nursery that uniquely offers five introductions from Fr. Fiala. These lilacs are produced from tissue culture and are shipped either bare root or container.

**Wayside Gardens, 1 Garden Lane, Hodges, SC 29695-0001 / (800) 845-1124**

A limited selection of common and unusual lilacs produced from grafted root stock and shipped in container.

**White Flower Farm, P.O. Box 50, Litchfield, CT 06759-0050 / (203) 496-9624**

Several lilac taxa are offered. They are produced mostly from rooted cuttings and shipped bare root. Some lilacs are grafted.

## **International Lilac Society WHOLESALE PRODUCER LISTING**

Below are listed the nurseries that produce and sell *Syringa* taxa liner stock. Contact a representative for selection, minimum order, costs and delivery.

**Briggs Nurseries, 4407 Henderson Boulevard, Olympia, WA 98501  
(206) 352-5405 / Service (800) 999-9972 / Fax (206) 352-5699**

Extensive selection of *S. vulgaris* cvs. with new additions annually. Tissue cultured and available in 2 1/4" rose pots and #1 and #3 containers. Lilacs can be contract grown.

**Congdon & Weller Wholesale Nursery, Inc., Mile Block Road, North Collins, NY 14111 / (716) 337-0171 / (800) 345-8305 / Fax (716) 337-0203**

A varied selection of lilacs in 2 1/2" round x 4" high growing plugs. Lilacs are also available bare root and in container.

**Minn Vitro, Inc., 15 West 36th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55408 / (612) 825-8862**

Lilacs and other woody plants are tissue cultured and sold in pots. All contracts are exclusive.

**R.T. Schilozand, Cloverdale Propagators, 2253 South Cloverdale Road, Woodland, WA 98674 / (206) 225-9581**

An extensive selection of *S. vulgaris* cvs. and other hybrids and species are tissue cultured and sold in 2" pots. This nursery specializes in lilacs which will be 6"-12" when shipped.

**Spring Meadow Nursery, Inc., 12601 - 120th Avenue, Grand Haven, MI 49417-9621 / (616) 846-4729 / Service (800) 633-8859 / Fax (616) 846-0619**

Balanced selection of early, middle and late flowering lilacs. Tissue cultured and shipped in 2 1/4" or 4" pots

## Winter Lilacs

By Kay Nixon

*NOTE: Kurt and Kay Nixon lead a busy life on their spread in Libby, Montana, with their family including two Pyraneees dogs (one white, one black). Wildlife is a mix of pleasure and pain with wild birds, coyotes, deer and moose.*

*The Nixons love lilacs and plan to significantly increase their collection. In their town, there are few lilacs other than the old vulgaris in lavender and white. Their plan for spring is to make major additions of some of the new cultivars.*

*In her wish to enjoy the lilacs after the season has passed, Kay has perfected a technique for drying them. She reports that the dried flowers hold their color and look fresh for many months and she shares the details of how this is done. She notes, however, that the technique involves many variables and each person trying them should experiment with their own equipment and flowers whether they be lilacs or some other genera.*

When winter snows lay deep and wind whispers across icy pathways do you think longingly of summer's lilacs with their sweet scent? Perhaps the following information can bring the beauty of lilacs into your home even during the cold dreary months of winter.

The process to use is known as silica-drying. Silica gel, the material to use for producing lovely dried lilacs, is often available at local craft shops. These are usually small amounts suitable for just a few flowers at a time. To produce a large quantity of dried lilacs will probably require as much as 50 lbs. of silica gel so it's usually best to find a bulk source for those quantities.

Once you have silica gel (actually like a heavy sand) on hand, you simply need to have lilacs and containers to combine the two in and you are on the way to beautiful winter bouquets. Here are the necessary steps to drying your own lilacs.

1. On a warm dry afternoon pick lilacs that have no trace of moisture on them. It's usually best if the panicle has a few unopened buds at the tip. You only need to pick the panicle with no extra stem attached if you are going to put it in silica immediately.

2. Pour an inch of silica into a container (I use plastic dish tubs), position the lilacs on it and gently sift silica over the panicle by sprinkling it from a cup in a back and forth motion. Be sure to leave an inch or so of space between each panicle so that there is sufficient silica to absorb moisture and once all the panicles are covered add an extra inch of silica to top

out the tub. To prevent the silica from absorbing moisture in the atmosphere cover the tub with a lid and seal with tape or place in a warm dry place with low humidity.

3. The proper length of time to leave your lilacs in the silica gel varies so much depending on the size of the panicles, if the panicles are single or double, the actual amount of moisture in the bloom, and the humidity of the room that it is impossible to give an exact time to remove them. Under most circumstances 8 to 10 days is sufficient time, but if dealing with heavy panicles of double flowers it may be necessary to leave it a little longer. Resist the urge to look at them too soon!

4. To remove the lilacs from the silica place an empty tub on the counter, holding the full tub in the cradle of your arm slowly tilt it and allow the silica to flow off the flowers. It takes patience and can't be rushed without damaging the panicle. If lilacs are completely dry they will be a bit fragile when first poured out but will re-absorb some room moisture in a few hours. This will give them a texture similar to when freshly picked and once they have lost the brittle feeling they should be sprayed with a sealer for dried flowers. Lilacs which are not dry to the point of brittleness can be sprayed with sealer unless you feel that they aren't quite dry enough. In that case tie string on stem and hang in a dry airy place for a few days until drying is complete. This may sound complicated but with a little practice you'll recognize properly dried flowers. Once you have the dried flowers they can be worked into wreaths or bouquets just like any other dried flower and when you lean close to it on a winter day you may even catch a sweet scent of summer.

5. To prepare silica for further use it can be placed in a roaster pan or cake pan and baked in a 250 degree oven until the moisture indicators in it turn blue (they are pink when gel is full of moisture). Check that silica is blue before adding flowers especially if it has been stored for a while.

Don't be afraid to experiment because the first results are often disappointing but once you've successfully dried lilacs and seen how lovely and natural they look you'll agree that it's worth a bit of effort to have "winter lilacs."

Two sources that I am aware of for silica gel are:

Roberta Moffitt  
P.O. Box 3597  
Wilmington, DE 19807

Activa Products Inc.  
Marshall, TX  
1-903-938-2224

The shipping on silica is expensive because it is quite heavy so you may want to order from the source nearest to you. Here in northwest Montana the cost of the gel plus shipping comes to almost \$100.00 for 50 lbs. Once you have silica it is reusable year after year if oven dried.



## Notice

*Dear ILS Members:*

Many of you have visited the lilacs at Hamesbest Gardens in Randolph Center, Vermont. They were planted in 1980 by Gertrude Hodgdon in memory of Philip Hodgdon. We are continuing to add to and care for them, and invite ILS members to stop and see the lilacs before or after the Convention in June.

Sincerely,  
Jean Hodgdon Kerle  
Ruth Hodgdon Buchanan

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Tel. 613-652-1775

# The Lilac Farm

*RD 2 BOX 272-C  
Cambridge Springs, PA 16403  
(814) 398-2728*

The Lilac Farm began in the spring of 1988, not so much as a business but more as a place where people could come and just walk around among the flowers. Originally we grew only unnamed *Syringa Vulgaris* or the common Lilac from open pollinated seed. The reason for this was that when lilacs were started this way you can never predict just how the plants will turn out; similar to kids, there are no two alike. The variations are truly amazing. For example, if you plant 500 seeds, there will probably be 5 or 6 white flowers, there will probably be 5 or 6 double flowered plants, there will be some short ones, some tall ones, some blue, and some red, but all of them are lilacs. We still plant some seeds every year.

However, after awhile, people began to want to take the Lilacs home to their own garden, and they were willing to pay to do that, so we began to sell Lilacs. Then we found out that it pleased the customers most if we could predict the flower color, and plant size. That can only be, if the plants are started asexually, i.e., cuttings, grafting, etc. So we began offering named varieties. We sell only those plants started by cuttings or microculture so that all of our plants are on their own roots, and all of our plants have grown in the field for at least a year. The list of plants we have to offer is shown on the following pages.

The Lilac Farm

LILAC LIST

**Adelaid Dunbar**

Semi double, reddish purple, slow growing, and slow to bloom. We have 3 year old plants, 2 to 3 ft. tall. Some smaller.

Priced \$9 to \$15

**Andenken an Ludwig Spaeth**

Single large dark purple flower, one of the oldest named varieties. We have four year old plants, very nice, 3 to 5 feet tall.

Priced \$15 to \$22

**Belle de Nancy**

Double, pretty pink flowers. Heavy flowering, spreading habit, not so tall, nice for a natural hedge. We have them from 1 to 6 years old.

Priced \$2 to \$38

**Charles Joly**

Double dark reddish purple, fast growing. 1 and 2 year old plants.

\$8.50 to \$12.50

**Congo**

Single dark purple, large flowers, fading to red. When Congo blooms, it attracts every one's attention. They spot it immediately, in our demonstration row and we have a hard time hanging onto our exhibit one. We sell out every year. We have 1 year and 2 year plants

\$9.50 to \$12.50

**Glory**

Single dark purple, large flower, one year plants.

\$6.50

**Edith Cavell**

Double white, big milk white flowers, fast growing, well formed plants. 2 year plants

\$9.50 to \$12.50

**Hulda**

Single dark purple, well shaped plant. We have a few 3 year olds left at \$18 and many one year at \$9.50



## The Lilac Farm

### ***Katherine Havemeyer***

VERY LARGE, VERY DOUBLE, two tone flower, It is reddish in bud and when the flower opens it is a much lighter color, almost blue, inside. The flower cluster looks like a pretty spring hat. Its habit is almost tree like single or a few stems with a well rounded top. VERY NICE. We have one year plants at \$5.50 and 6 year plants at \$30 to \$60 depending on the size.

### ***Krasavitsa Moskvya***

Large peach colored double flowers, that fade to a milky, beautiful white. Sturdy fast growing habit. We have 2 year plants at \$9.50 to \$16.

### ***Miss Kim***

Low growing spreading habit with pretty pink flowers blooming later than the common lilac. Nice to plant near a patio. Our plants are 5 years old and are 1 and a half foot tall to 3 foot tall, and 1 and a half to 3 feet across. Prices range from \$10 to \$20

### ***My Favorite***

Dark purple, double flower, fast growing. Nice Lilac habit. It looks like a lilac should look. Introduced in 1928 by Klager. Our plants are 1 year old, 1 and a half feet to 2 and a half ft. tall. \$9.50 to \$16

### ***Persian Lilac***

This is a pretty willowy plant with pink flowers that seem to line each stem. They seem to do exceptionally well in the Baltimore/Washington area. Our plants are 5 years old, 4 to 5 feet tall and are priced at \$15 to \$30.

### ***President Grevy***

Very nice double blue flower, strong plant with a well rounded full habit of growth. Our 5 year plants have been blooming for the last three years. Very fragrant. 4 to 6 ft. tall \$25 to \$45

### ***President Lincoln***

One of the most pure blue flowers, and one of the best on growing form with huge dark green leaves on a rounded shaped plant. Ours are 4 and 5 years old, 5 to 6 foot tall. Price \$25 to \$45

## PAID ADVERTISEMENT

### The Lilac Farm

#### **Primrose**

This is the only yellow lilac known; it is creamy yellow in bud, fading to creamy white. There appears to be some variance in color as function of age and location and between different plants. It is never a bright yellow. It is very unusual. It grows low habit. We have 4 year olds and many 1 and 2 year plants. Price \$6 to \$20

#### **Sensation**

The last flower on our named variety list, and being last it demands to be named BEST. It is very, very different. It has a dark purple flower with a white edge around each petal. It flowers freely and the shrub grows extremely well, tall, open, dark green leaves, well shaped. We have plants that are 1, 2, 3, and 4 years old from 1 foot to 6 feet tall. Priced from \$11 to \$40

#### **Vulgaris or Common Lilac**

This category contains our unnamed lilacs, all of which we have started from seed. Among these lilacs there are no two the same, and there is sure to be one that will suit you, each one is an individual with its own flower, its own shape, and its own growing habit. We have thousands of all sizes and if no one buys them we'll keep them, because we love them. If you want some, they range in price from 70 cents to \$60.

#### **SHIPPING**

We ship our plants by UPS, unless other arrangements are requested. The plants are shipped with a small ball of soil wrapped in burlap, and plastic. We can ship at almost anytime of the year, but early spring is best, March or April is preferred.

#### **PAYMENT**

We would like payment for the plants when they are ordered. By check. We do not handle credit cards. We always tell customers that if the check bounces the Lilacs won't bloom. So far that has worked pretty good for us. Since we can't predict shipping costs accurately, we would like you to add 15% to the order, and we will adjust for the difference after we ship.

## PAID ADVERTISEMENT

## HINTS FOR PLANTING LILACS

### ***Lime! Your Lilacs Must Have Lime***

Lilacs like a sweet soil, i.e., Ph 6.5 or higher, so it's good to add a couple of handfuls of pulverized limestone to the soil when you plant.

### ***Fertilizer!***

Do not fertilize your Lilac for at least the first year. Lilacs bloom best if they are slightly stressed. Over feeding can cause burn and excessive growth, NOT MORE BLOOM.

### ***Sun!***

FOR BEST BLOOMS, LILACS LIKE FULL SUN.

### ***Soil!***

LILACS DO BEST IN WELL DRAINED SOIL. Sand and gravel are OK, BUT they will DROWN in a WET CLAY HOLE. It is estimated that 90% of all Lilacs that die are killed by DROWNING. Therefore, dig a shallow hole then HILL the top soil around the Lilac roots. Plant them well; they will be there for a couple hundred years.

### ***Water!***

Lilacs will not tolerate standing water; they will DROWN, DIE, EXPIRE. BUT in hot, dry weather they may need watering. You can tell by the leaves; if they look wilted or dry, water the plant.

### ***Leave the Burlap On!***

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The Lilac Farm

RD 2 BOX 272-C

Cambridge Springs, PA 16403

(814) 398-2728

# International Lilac Society

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