

Lilacs

VOLUME 23, NUMBER 3
SUMMER 1994



Syringa x hyacinthiflora 'Anabel'

QUARTERLY JOURNAL

of the International Lilac Society

IN THIS
ISSUE:

Convention Proceedings

A Publication of
THE INTERNATIONAL LILAC SOCIETY
Copyright 1994 Editor

ISSN 1046-9761

Copies of this publication are available by writing to the International Lilac Society,
 c/o Mrs. Pauline Fiala, 6995 Congress Road, Spencer, Ohio 44275. \$5.00 (U.S.)

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
Secretary	<i>David Gressley</i> 8907 Kirtland-Chardon Rd., Kirtland, OH 44094
Correspondence Secretary	<i>Walter Oakes</i> 11 Pine Street, Dixfield, ME 04224 Phone: 1-207-562-7453
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 July, 1994

LILACS 1994

Cover Story

Front Cover

Syringa x hyacinthiflora 'Annabel'. One of the early flowering cultivars produced by crossing the early Korean Lilac *Syringa oblata* with *Syringa vulgaris*. 'Annabel' is a double pink introduced by Roy Hawkins in 1948. Father Fiala notes it as "very early, good." The cover photograph was supplied by Robert Clark.

Editor's Notes

1995 Convention. Now that the 1994 convention has landed – not one person got seasick – it is time to mark your calendars for the 1995 convention. It will be hosted by the Bickelhaupt and the River City Chamber of Commerce from May 11-13, 1995. The address for convention information is the Bickelhaupt Arboretum, 340 South 14th St., Clinton, Iowa 52732.

Fall issue of "Lilacs." This summer issue of "Lilacs" is coming out later than usual so that it could include the convention reports from a meeting held a month later than usual. The only problem is that it won't be long before material for the fall will be due. I will need all copy by September 15th to meet our fall schedule. Please note this on your calendar. If you send material before you go on vacation you wouldn't have to worry about it later – and neither would I.

In 1959 Albert Yeager introduced a new *Syringa josiflexa* cultivar which he named 'James Macfarlane'. It was a late blooming form with almost red buds turning to a deep pink near opening and to a clear pink in the open flowers. It is an excellent lilac and is now carried by many nurseries. The only problem is that its name gets fractured in a variety of ways. We have seen it listed as "James McFarlane," "James McFarland," "James MacFarlane," "James MacFarland," "James Mcfarland," "James Macfarland," "James mcfarlane." So, check the label on your plant and before you order from nursery catalogs, be sure it says 'James Macfarlane'. If it doesn't, question its identity.

Correction Correction Correction

On the back cover of the Winter 1992 Issue of "Lilacs" there is a picture of Irene Slater holding a lilac seedling developed by her late husband Len Slater, but it is not 'Irene' as the picture caption labels it. Please remove the cultivar name 'Irene' from your copy. The rest of the caption, including the fact that Irene is holding a Slater unregistered pink seedling, is correct.

Remembrances of the 1994 ILS Convention

by Mark J. Clements

SO you haven't been to New England before? Why not go to the 1994 annual ILS meeting in New Hampshire and do some sight-seeing and antiquing at the same time? With this decision finalized, plane tickets are purchased and plans made for the first full week of June, 1994. Work, spouse, children, garden chores and the rest of life's commitments slowly fill the intervening time while anticipation builds for the trip to the land of the Pilgrim fathers and yankee clippers far from your native western shores.

Finally the day arrives and the great mechanized winged carrier of man's thought and design carries us across our vast country faster than any native denizen has ever achieved. Boston's airport accepts our flying transport's arrival and self, spouse and bags are safely stowed in a rental car which will carry us to our week's destinations. Local traffic and submarine tunnels soon disabuse us of any native driver sympathy to our arrival and we flee south for Plymouth and more friendly climes. The sea and ancestral musings combine for a few days of pleasant relaxation along the coast to Cape Cod, with lilacs and rhododendrons providing welcome bloom much later than to which we are used. Our travels turn inland and between quaint finds of antiques which have never traveled far from their New England heritage — our suitcases, car carryings and memories all begin to enlarge.

Western Massachusetts provides Stockbridge and the Red Lion Inn, Eagle Bridge, New York lets us visit the homestead of Grandma Moses where her grandson Will continues painting in the primitive tradition and Williamstown, Mass., and Bennington, Vermont, show us college towns where bygone men's and women's colleges used to provide more reason for intertown converse than more modern coed versions deign.

Twisting roads lead us across southern Vermont and on into New Hampshire where the profile of the Old Man of the Mountains graces State highway markers. Distances are now measured in minutes from here to there rather than in accustomed long stretches of open highway from our native West. Lakes dot the landscape as we drive through On Golden Pond country and swarms of mosquitoes and the menace of black flies drive the brave travelers indoors near the Maine border. Finally, the start of the ILS meeting draws near and all roads, flight paths and other methods of conveyance converge on Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Board members, regional directors and other interested lilaceers converge on the Comfort Inn for an afternoon of lively discussions, reports, setting of goals, direction for the future and agreement, or not, on a wide variety of topics. The heavy work taken care of friends exchange greetings, catch up on the months or years

since last meeting and sample the local gastronomical delights for the evening.

With business mostly in the background the two main days of the lilac society convention now unfold. Morning one brings welcomes and interesting talks about the history of the Governor Wentworth estate and a scientific look at the lilac plant we have all come to celebrate. After lunch we load ourselves on buses and tour along the New Hampshire coast. We stop to wonder at the aged Wentworth lilacs and their curiously twisted trunks — quite probably the oldest known lilacs in the United States. While reverence is duly given to the ancient sentinels of our society and their picturesque setting, others peer in the windows of the Wentworth mansion and wish that time allowed for tours of other remnants of that earlier era. Further travel takes us to a seaside scientific park where a donated ILS lilac is planted outside as a hopeful future reminder of our present visit and then on to a more formal garden tour of another former governor's estate. The evening is duly concluded with a heartfelt awards banquet where many society members are applauded for their efforts on behalf of the society and dedication to its continuance. At the end of the day we are impressed most with the planning and organization which has made this all possible.

As day two dawns we rise early to attend the Board of Directors meeting where society officers are elected to continue and/or serve anew. The morning meetings have Owen Rogers telling us about his late blooming lilacs and how they fit into the genus *Syringa* and then how New Hampshire came to select the lilac as its State flower, establishing a Lilac Commission to help guarantee its spread and usage throughout their State. Before lunch we board buses and drive out to the Woodman Horticultural Farm at the University of New Hampshire, the place where Owen Rogers claims to work (or play, as the case may be) when he is not hosting meetings such as this. We walk among the late blooming lilacs, debating their merits one to another, passing a pastoral hour before eating an outdoor lunch under the large spreading trees on the farmhouse lawn.

So sated, we now must drive down to the seaside and engage in another form of transport as we board a small cruise ship for an afternoon's ride out from Portsmouth harbor to the Isle of Shoals. This is a pleasant sea change for most, with temperatures moderating towards the cool side, and some wishing that they could continue with this idyllic life-style well into their foreseeable futures. Returning from such discontinue musings, the members return to the University of New Hampshire campus where the ILS auction is next conducted. Members and local lilac enthusiasts bid over favorite hybrids or species, sometimes congenially and sometimes with maybe just a small bit (bid?) of rancor, hoping to take home that special plant or plants that they knew or didn't know until now that they really couldn't live without. The bidding continues late and then the weary members return to their lodgings for a final dessert get together/farewell as the annual

convention winds down to its conclusion.

As we drive through the rain the next morning to the Boston airport we are struck by the intensity of feelings we have developed for this New England countryside and wish that we could spend more time in the present simply wandering its byways. Places we did not reach, gardens we did not know about before, people we have met and would like to visit and time we unfortunately do not have all tell us that we will someday return to this corner of our country for a longer visit. As our plane leaves the ground for westbound homes, a small part of us remains behind, planted for future culture.

*From Royal Governor's Mansion
To Colonial Revival Estate:*

The Wentworth Coolidge Mansion

by Anne Masury

THE Wentworth Coolidge Mansion in Little Harbor was home to Royal Governor Benning Wentworth from 1753 until his death in 1770. The estate was comprised of 113 acres of mowing, orchard and cultivated lands overseen by professional farmer Thomas Smith, of Boston. Situated on choice waterfront with views and access to Little Harbor, the estate could be reached by both land and water. A map dated 1774 documents the Wentworth estate and highlights a large rectangular garden south of the mansion. A circular structure is at its center point and may have functioned as a garden house. Newspapers further describe extensive kitchen and flower gardens.

Estates of the scale and grandeur of that of Benning Wentworth could be found in other parts of the country from Maine down through the Carolinas. These were country gentlemen, prominent citizens of the new republic with sophisticated tastes, advantage of travel, political means and a network abroad and within the country for the exchange of information on the new science of agriculture and new introduction of plant materials.

These ornamental farms became the testing grounds for stylistic changes in landscape design and the new practices of agriculture. Homes of Thomas Jefferson at Monticello, George Washington at Mount Vernon, Theodore Lyman and Charles Gore at Waltham, Massachusetts, would establish the new trends for the country to follow.

A Closer Look at Lilac Systems

by Alex L. Shigo

Lilacs are woody plants. There is a great amount of new information about woody plants.

All woody plants have similar processes for growth and defense, and for their eventual death.

Clarity for more effective communications begins when you define your terms. If you cannot define a term in 25 words or less, you should not use the term. And, never begin a definition with the word well!

Woody plants are perennial, shedding, and highly compartmented. Wood is a highly ordered arrangement of living, dying, and dead cells that have walls of cellulose, lignin, and hemicelluloses. Woody plants are constructed in compartments. Woody plants are generating systems. Every growth period, new parts form in new spacial positions. When woody plants are injured they do not restore injured and infected tissues. In this sense, woody plants do not heal wounds. Instead, boundaries form that resist the spread of infections. This defense process is called compartmentalization. A model of the process is called CODIT. An understanding of compartmentalization is essential for correct pruning, and for many correct treatments.

Woody plants are shedding systems. They shed leaves and needles, reproduction parts, and non-woody roots. Some plants shed outer bark — phellem.

Woody plants are associated with many other organisms to form systems. A system is a highly-ordered collection of parts and processes that have a predetermined end point — product, process.

Beneficial soil fungi that form mycorrhizae are major associates of woody plants. Mycorrhizae are organs made up of woody plant and fungus tissues. Mycorrhizae facilitate the absorption of phosphorus, and other soil elements essential for healthy growth.

If we are to grow or treat correctly any woody plant we must first start by understanding the parts of the system, and the ways they function.

The lilac system connects the plant with many beneficial soil organisms. If your desire is to grow healthy lilacs, then the more you understand about the entire system, the greater your chances are of making the best decisions for the system.

A basic theme of all systems is that a continuing supply of energy is required to maintain order in the system. When a continuing supply of energy is not available, the system will go to disorder — decline, disease, death.

I challenge you to keep your education system in high order by reading and learning about plant systems. You and your lilacs, and their associates will all benefit.

Governor's Lilac Commission for the State of New Hampshire

by William Nehring, Chairman

ON March 28, 1919, Governor John H. Bartlet signed the bill naming the Purple Lilac as the New Hampshire State flower. This was after much debate and the elimination of about six other choices.

Sixty-five years later, the Governor's Lilac Commission was appointed by Governor John Sununu. In the 10 years since its inception it has followed its main purpose of promoting the planting and culture of lilacs in New Hampshire. The results have been rewarding to those involved. The Commission has been responsible for planting some 5,000 lilac plants along state highways, in parks, rest areas and public locations in towns and cities. For the most part, these were plants purchased by the Commission, initially as mature plants for direct planting, but later as lining-out stock raised in a lilac nursery at the Strafford County Correction Center with prison inmates furnishing the required labor. Space was also made available at the State Forest Nursery through the excellent cooperation of the nursery staff.

Plants have also been made available to the public through a cooperative effort of the Lilac Commission and the Fleet Bank. Starting in 1985 with the Indian Head Bank, now the Fleet Bank, some 5,000 plus lilacs are sold yearly on a one day sale in early May. The sale involves some 20 banks across the state. This promotion has been responsible for over 50,000 plants for home planting since its inception. The bank promotion has gone from predominantly *Syringa vulgaris* offered by color alone to almost entirely named varieties. This has delighted the commission as it has helped improve the public awareness of the wider range of color and span of bloom time available in the genus.

The make up of the Commission has played a significant part in our success and ongoing drive to work toward a greater lilac promotion effort. Dr. Rogers, representing the University of New Hampshire with his extensive background in lilac culture, has been the Commission's anchor man. Other Commission members include the president of the Federated Garden Clubs, the current president of the Plant Growers Association, a member of the Legislature, the Coordinator of the State Vocational Education Program, the New Hampshire Department of Transportation and a representative of the Cooperative Extension Service.

The lilac program has been assisted by business and civic groups. Perhaps the bond between the Commission and the high schools has been the most gratifying in that several hundred students have participated in hands-on projects furnishing manual labor in the actual planning and in-

stallation of lilac plantings. Also, schools with space, maintain small lilac nurseries and schools with greenhouse facilities have been involved in growing on of tissue culture plants purchased by the Commission.

The Commission has published a lilac information bulletin since it was appointed. Starting with printed sheets it has developed into a tri-colored booklet covering all phases of lilac culture. It has been republished several times resulting in the distribution of about 25,000 copies and has been an excellent source of lilac information to many citizens of New Hampshire.

Other methods of dispensing information to the public have been exhibits at flower shows, greenhouse open house at U.N.H. and, most important, the N.H. Farm and Forest Exposition in Manchester, NH. Thousands of people attend the Expo each spring. The lilac booth manned by Commission members, are contacted by many people to discuss pruning, new varieties, cultural practices and the promotion of public lilac plantings.

Since the lilac became the state flower in 1919, UNH has played an important part in stimulating interest in lilacs through the horticulture department — now known as Plant Biology. Some noted for their work in creating new varieties are Dr. Albert Yeager, Dr. E. NM. Meader, Dr. Radcliffe Pike and our outstanding Commission member, Dr. Owen M. Rogers. These men have made significant contributions to the lilac world.

The Governor's Lilac Commission has been recognized as being successful in its mission, so much so that we have also been asked to assist in promoting a wild flower program in New Hampshire. Utilizing the same people and facilities, i.e., the garden clubs, the D.O.T., high schools involved in horticulture, UNH and Extension Service, the program is off to a good start.

Our Commission takes pride in what has been accomplished but each member involved in the program knows there is much more to be done. Most important is to plant new varieties to create a range of color and an extension of bloom in New Hampshire.



Host Owen Rogers of the Durham UNH Farm makes a point while talking about late blooming lilacs.

(Photo by Bradley Bittorf)

International Lilac Society
Annual Meeting
Portsmouth, N.H. — June 10, 1994

The 23rd Annual Meeting of the International Lilac Society was convened by President Reva Ballreich at 11:00 a.m.

Recording Secretary: Sarah Schenker

The minutes of the 1993 Annual Meeting were read and accepted.

Treasurer: Walter Eichhorst

Mr. Eichhorst brought greetings from Arch McKean who will be 99 on June 12. The treasurer's report was read in an abbreviated form and accepted. The total general funds available April 1, 1994, are \$41,025.48. Included in this total is the sum of \$23,591.96 which is held in special accounts. There has been a total of \$2,823.22 received in royalties from Father Fiala's book "Lilacs."

Membership Secretary: David Gressley

As of this report there are 57 Life members, 15 complimentary, 6 honorary, 44 Canadian, 29 European, 3 Asian, and 349 from the U.S.A. for a total of 503 members. Two Regional Vice President's positions have been filled. Ellen Beard of Bay Tree Nursery in Waverly, Alabama, has agreed to take the position for Region 3 - Southern U.S.A. Mr. L.D. Allison of Claremore, Oklahoma, has agreed to take the position for Region 8 - South Central U.S.A.

Publications: Editor: Dr. Owen M. Rogers

Dr. Rogers follows Mr. Robert Clark as Editor of "Lilacs," the quarterly journal of the International Lilac Society. The Society owes Mr. Clark its heartfelt thanks for his many years of work and dedication. The members of the Society were thanked for their cooperation in supplying articles for "Lilacs." All the members were urged to participate in providing material for the publication. A paper mailer is now being used for the publication to save money, time and labor. The space on the mailer may be used for advertising in the future. Advertising rates are being raised. The new price schedule will appear in the quarterly journal. A price list of all the societies' publications has been prepared by Walter Oakes and will be published in the quarterly journal. Timber Press is sold out of Father Fiala's book "Lilacs." The possibility of a second printing is being explored. The draft of the "Lilac Care Bulletin" is in the hands of the Board of Directors and will be printed as soon as final details are worked out.

Executive Vice President for Europe: Colin Chapman

The article in the last quarterly journal will hopefully be the start of a sort of news letter to keep everyone informed of activities in Europe. One such event was the Lilac Weekend in Keene which was attended by a quarter of a million people. The most pleasing work has been in association with the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew where they have started a lilac garden. Species and Preston hybrids have been planted. A four acre garden is being made ready for *S. vulgaris* cultivars. This collection is located in one of the most prominent places in Kew Gardens.

Mr. Chapman suggests that the Society hold the convention in England 5 or 6 years from now.

Among plants given to Mr. Chapman by Kew Gardens was a very beautiful lilac called *S. v. Farmer Morel*. He will research its origins and write it up for the quarterly journal. The flowers are a double pale blue.

Mr. Chapman's lilac gardens at Norman's Farm have been raised to National Status by the "National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens." As a result of this, Mr. Chapman was approached to write an article on lilacs for the May edition of The Royal Horticulture Society Journal. Norman's Farm was overwhelmed with visitors as a consequence of the article. One visitor who wanted advice on one lilac for his small yard ended up wanting lilacs for his friends and for all his neighbors up and down the street, thereby inventing a new way of promoting the lilac. One visiting family were very excited on seeing a Latvian bred lilac. They and other Latvians have been searching for the lilacs bred by Peteris Uptis in Latvia. Hopefully a door has been opened to see and study the Latvian Lilacs.

Executive Vice President for Canada: Charles Holetich

A total of 4000 scions were mailed out in comparison to 1800 last year. They were sent to Japan, France, England, Italy, Germany, Russia, U.S.A. and Canada.

Progress is being made on the D.N.A. study by Xinlu Chen of China. The work is being reviewed and will be published in about six months.

Syringa buxifolia is still being tracked down and it is hoped a plant will eventually be found.

Lilac evaluation is taking place in the Katie Osborne Garden at R.B.G. to weed out inferior lilacs. This will create space for new incoming lilacs. Pictures are being taken of 4 stages of bloom and forms are being filled out on the taxonomic data of each plant. This information will be deposited with R.B.G. for future reference.

As pruning takes place the prunings are made available as scion wood to those in need of it. Frank Moro will take many of these for his nursery Select Plus. This nursery is the largest distribution center for lilacs in the world.

President: Reva Ballreich

Falconskeape has been sold. In March Mrs. Ballreich took 400 cuttings of 57 varieites of Father Fiala's hybrids. Some are not yet named or registered. Of these cuttings only one cultivar, "Holy Maid," does not want to grow. If anyone has this plant please take care of it as it may be needed as a source plant. It is hoped that in the future plants of Father Fiala's lilacs will be available to members of I.L.S., arboretums and botanic gardens. For now they are safe, tucked into a nursery bed under 50% shade.

Mr. Allison of Claremore, Oklahoma, has been taking the lilacs Max Peterson has been thinning out of his plantings and is planting them on the campus of Oklahoma State University.

Work has been completed in Mexico City. 50 plants were donated by Mrs. Ballreich as well as her expertise.

In May there was an open house in Mrs. Ballreich's garden attended by 823 people. Membership brochures were given out, resulting in at least 11 new members.

Local nurseries are reporting that lilacs are now being asked for by name instead of just by color.

Hyacinthiflora cultivars have been found to do well at the lower elevations and warmer climates.

Progress with the Archives has been reported in the last quarterly journal.

The 1995 convention will be at the Bicklehaupt Arboretum in Clinton, Iowa. The dates have not been set but it will be in May. The dates will be announced in the quarterly journal.

Elections: Pauline Fiala

There were 26 ballots cast. Elected to the Board of Directors for three years were: Walter Eickhorst, Sarah Schenker, William Utley, Reva Ballreich and Robert Gilbert. There needs to be more participation in the election process by the entire membership.

Select Plus Nursery: Frank Moro

The goal is to cultivate as many varieties and cultivars of the genus *Syringa* as possible and to become the lilac center of the world. 33 additional acres have been acquired and of this half will be made into a lilac park. The other half will be for lilac production. The Nursery would like to host the I.L.S. convention in the year 2000. At that time they hope to introduce two new cultivars. One is a variegated form of *S. reticulata*, the other is a pink form of *S. v. 'Sensation'*

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Respectfully submitted, Sarah M. Schenker

International Lilac Society
Annual Meeting

Durham, N.H.

June 9, 1994

Checking Acct. #76-976-2 — FIRSTAR Naper Bank, N.A.,
136 South Washington St.,
Naperville, IL 60566

Balance — March 31, 1994 (Acctg. error = \$5.00)
\$ 4,419.01

Balance per Bank Statement —

March 31, 1994 \$ 4,493.11

Outstanding Cks. #1195 \$30.00

#1196 44.10

\$74.10 \$ 74.10

\$ 4,419.01

\$ 4,419.01

Money Market Acct. #123536 — FIRSTAR Naper Bank, N.A.

Balance brought forward—April 1, 1993 . \$ 8,098.62

Interest credit — April 1, 1993 thru

March 31, 1994 204.33

Timber Press (Royalty Payment —

LILAC) (Sept. 24, 1993) 1,524.71

Balance in Acct. — March 31, 1994 \$ 9,827.66

Balance per Bank Statement — March 31, 1994 \$ 9,827.66

Time Certificate #30041101 — FIRSTAR Naper Bank, N.A.

Date of purchase — Aug. 12, 1992 — Maturity: Aug. 12, 1994

Balance brought forward—April 1, 1993 . \$ 25,600.94

Interest credit — April 1, 1993

thru Feb. 12, 1994 \$ 1,237.87

Balance per Bank Statement —

Feb. 12, 1994 \$ 26,838.81

\$26,838.81

Total funds available — April 1, 1994..... \$41,085.48

*Funds being held in
SPECIAL ACCOUNTS – 4/1/94*

	Bal. 4/1/93	Bal. 4/1/94
LIFE MEMBERSHIPS (+3) = (63)	\$7,830.00	\$8,280.00
PLT. PROPAGATION FUND (Laurene Wishart) + \$28	646.00	674.00
EDUCATION & RESEARCH + \$150	3,427.50	3,577.50
John Wister Memorial Fund + \$16.50 + \$115	375.00	506.50
PUBLICATIONS (other than JOURNAL) + \$66 + \$136.65 - \$1,614.76	1,512.48	100.37
Miscellaneous Credit CONTRIBUTIONS		145.00
Miscellaneous Memorial Contributions		200.00
C.C. Clark Memorial Fund (Interest Credit deferred to		5,000.00
Arch McKean (contribution) (Color Photo Separation FUND)		5,000.00

Color Photo (JOURNAL) Separation FUND:

Balance brought forward — 4/1/93	\$313.59	
Interest Credit — 3/31/94	<u>440.00</u>	
Funds available 4/1/93 thru 3/31/94	\$753.59	\$753.59
Debit: Vol. 22 No. 2	\$200.00	
Vol. 22 No. 3	185.00	
Vol. 22 No. 4	100.00	
Vol 23 No. 1	<u>160.00</u>	
Total debit thru 3/31/94	\$645.00	<u>\$645.00</u>
Balance carried forward: 4/1/94		\$108.59 <u>108.59</u>

TOTAL FUNDS being held in SPECIAL ACCOUNTS: 4/1/94\$23,591.96

Report of Executive Vice President: William Utle

This has been a busy year for your executive vice president. Most outstanding was a trip to Europe for about ten weeks last fall. While there I visited Shelagh and Colin Chapman in Suffolk, England and Elfrieda and Konrad Kircher in Bad Zwischenahn, Germany. Colin is getting a very fine collection of cultivars at Norman Farms in Wyverstone and remains in close touch with lilac cultivation throughout Europe, but particularly in Western Europe. The Kirchers have an outstanding nursery and the only one on the continent featuring lilacs. I found Konrad's whole set-up most impressive.

Grape Hill Gardens is expanding rapidly to encompass the whole season, not just lilac time, with interesting things to see. Consequently we have had a very busy year at home. Grape Hill Gardens was honored with "The Lilac Connection" award by the Rochester Garden Clubs at a banquet at the Castle (The Garden Center). For the occasion, Bob Clark and Ellen and Orville Steward came to the farm for a few days to join Wanda, Tim and me at the banquet.

Report from Region 5, Plains Area: Max Peterson

It has been a very eventful year here in the Plains States. With the help and guidance of Lilac Society President, Reva Ballreich, a new collection has been started in Claremore, Oklahoma. Under the direct guidance of L.D. Allison, a Lilac fancier, the city has decided to become the Lilac Center of Oklahoma and surrounding area. Knowing this will bring in tourists and garden enthusiasts, their plans are bold and exciting. Reva Ballreich started the project off by donating a goodly sum of Lilacs to the city. Last fall, Mr. Allison and a group of friends came to Nebraska to the Meadowlark Hill Lilac Collection and obtained another good amount for the project. Hopefully over the next few years the collection will grow and become a major attraction for the area and will really promote Lilacs.

Another eventful decision was made by the Omaha, Nebraska, Botanical Gardens. They are going to take a large undeveloped area and make a display garden. Part of that display will be a Lilac collection. Their plans are to display the Lilacs in groups according to the country in which they were developed. Those from France in one area, those from Russia in another area, etc. The plans are to obtain between 300 and 400 varieties. Meadowlark Hill collection will probably donate about 250 of these. Mr. Hoyt Lambert who is in charge of the Lilac display will be contacting other arboreums to obtain the needed display plants. Hopefully the International Lilac Society will get behind this effort and help things come to completion. A copy of the plans for the Garden is attached to this report.

My lilacs this year were frozen when they were about to bloom, surprisingly quite a few were still quite beautiful. We are of course looking forward to next year. Hope always springs eternal. Say hello to everybody for us and hope to see you in Iowa next year.

Report from Region 10, Western Canada: Elaine Peek

I operate a Garden Centre here in Edson and it has been/is very busy. We are under deluge now (at least three inches and still counting!) so have a few minutes respite to turn my attention to myriad other long-overdue tasks.

Our membership is low in numbers here in Western Canada, and it will probably take quite some time to build it substantially. Only one response from the following article contributed to our local Alberta gardens magazine. However, the establishment of the Lilac Time collection at the Devon Botanic Gardens (U. of Alberta) may also spur some interest in future. I have certainly been able to contribute to local lilac awareness as we seem to be the cut-off zone for *Syringa vulgaris* cultivars (Zone 2, average winter -40 F or colder) I hear of a lot of plants in this area failing to bloom even after many years. My own experience also leads me to conclude that this is so. I have about 70 acres here; the *S. hyacinthiflora* are certainly the strongest performers. 'Strathmore', 'Assessippi', 'Pocahontas', 'Sister Justina', 'Gertrude', 'Leslie', Mount Baker' and John Wallace's introduction 'Campsie' (lovely fall colouring! but no dwarf!) are all doing exceptionally well.

Also, I am delighted to report that the Russian hybrid *S. vulgaris* 'Nadezdha' is also exceptionally hardy and prolific in bloom. I have 2 plants of *S. vulgaris* 'Krasavitsa Moskvyy' as well, though they are yet young plants and not up to bloom size yet. *S. laciniata* wintered this past winter (under about 6 feet of snow!) but it is also very tiny and suffered 50% tip kill. *S. x* 'Hedin' is blooming beautifully this year, though it appears to be too shaded in its present location.

Many of my plants are still in pots, some after several years, so 2 weeks hence will see us hosting a lilac planting party and pot luck supper. Anyone interested in joining us?

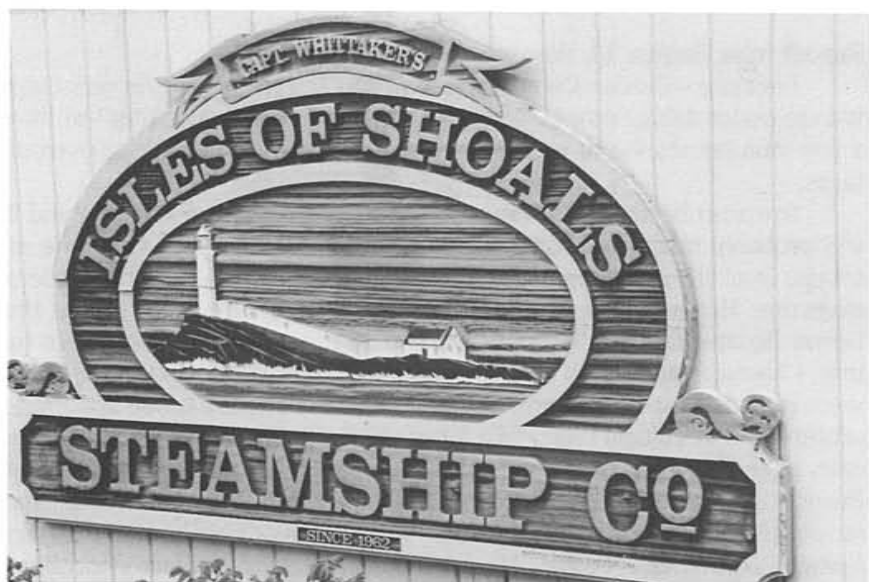
Claremore, Okla., Progress Report

by Reva Ballreich

This spring the lilacs that were planted last spring at the Will Rogers Gazebo are doing excellent and about 60% are blooming.

The lilacs that were picked up from Max Petersons in the fall of '93 were put into temporary beds and of the 320 lilacs it appears that we have lost only three and about 10% of these had blooms this spring. They are to be put in permanent planning sites this fall.

We are very proud of the progress we are making with "Green Grows the Lilacs."



Our cruise ship and the Atlantic Ocean are behind this sign.

(Photo by Bradley Bittorf)



Lighthouse at the Isles of Shoals off the coast of Portsmouth, N.H.

(Photo by Bradley Bittorf)

NOTE: This list was prepared by Walter Oakes and the prices approved by the Board of Directors at their Durham meeting. It would also have included Father Fiala's book, but Timber Press informs us that all copies of the 1st printing have been sold. We are working to encourage a second printing, but until then the only thing a person can do is to check book stores for one with the book still in stock.

Publications Price List

Edward A. Upton Scrapbooks of Lilac Information (Edward A. Upton). 1980, 1987. Reprinted vols. 1 & 2 of the books in our vol. 1 and vols. 2 and 3 in our vol. 2. Material collected and assembled by a noted nurseryman relating to lilacs from the 1920s to the mid forties. Black and white. Limited editions. Numbered.

\$22.50 \$18.50 to members

Lilac Study (Joseph Dvorak, Jr.). 1978. Reprint. Line drawings of lilac flowers, foliage and stem detail. Descriptions of form and color. Soft cover. Black and white.

\$10.00

Tentative International Register of Cultivar Names in the Genus Syringa (New Hampshire Agricultural Experiment Station). 1976. Listing of more than 1200 species and cultivars, names, color, flower form, originators if known. Soft cover. black and white.

\$7.50 \$5.00 to members

Corrigenda to the Register After the Register was published, new information came to light on some species and cultivars, classifications were changed where necessary as were colors and flower form.

\$5.00

New Lilac Culture

Bulletin price to be determined

Winter Damage at Birchwood

by Robert Clark

THE past winter in New England was both long and intense. Only in the last week of May 1994 at Birchwood, in east central New Hampshire were the early hybrid lilacs, *Syringa x hyacinthiflora*, beginning to bloom. Leaves of trees and shrubs are expanding slowly. Danger of frost is over. Now I can assess last winter's effects on garden plants. But first I assure you that lilacs have come through unharmed and show prospects of glorious bloom.

On my return home from Florida in April the first signs of distress I noticed were scorched leaves of ironclad rhododendrons and browning of certain needled evergreens. The combination of reflected sunshine from snow, strong winds and subfreezing temperatures are stressful for exotic evergreens. Hardy strains of boxwood had yellowish leaves. American holly leaves were brown and dead. Unharmed were mountain laurel and Carolina rhododendrons. In spite of protection by a tied in white pine, the 40-year-old cedar of Lebanon showed sunscalded needles for the first time. A Japanese black pine, *Pinus Thunbergii*, unprotected and in an exposed situation was severely sunscalded for the second year in a row and likely will not recover.

Native plants endure great stress. The following bloomed well and only slightly later than usual: Shad bush, *Amelanchier canadensis*, leatherwood, *Dirca palustris*, fly-honeysuckle, *Lonicera canadensis*, pin cherry, *Prunus pensylvanica*, rhodora, *Rhododendron canadense*, and hobble bush, *Viburnum alnifolium*.

However, certain North American plants beyond their range were slow to leaf out: flowering dogwood and bayberry, and introduced plants, cornel, *Cornus mas*, hybrid chestnut (Chinese-Japanese cross), Snow-bell, *Styrax japonica*, golden chain, *Laburnum alpinum*, and Chinese witch-hazel, *Hamamelis mollis*.

Except for Korean golden bells, *Forsythia ovata*, the forsythias generally, royal azalea, *Rhododendron Schlippenbachii* and Dahurian rhododendron, *Rh. dauricum* failed to bloom above the snow line. New Korean ornamental plants are well adapted to New England gardens. These include two lilacs, *SS. oblata* var. *oblata* and *patula*. My form of the former, 'Birchwood', with delicate clusters of pale lilac flowers is among the first lilacs to bloom. So are Dr. Frank Skinner's "American early hybrids," lilac colored 'Assessippi', bluish 'Dr. Chadwick' and pink 'Maiden's Blush'. Roy Hawkins' pink 'Anabel' is much admired.

NOTE: Permission to reprint this article was kindly given by Roger Vick of the Devonian Botanic Garden in Edmonton Alberta Canada. It originally appeared in "Kinnikinnick," the publication of the Friends of the Devonian Botanic Garden, on February 1994 vol. 8 (no. 3): 72-76.

Forcing Lilacs for Winter Bloom

by Leni Schalkwyk

IN Aalsmeer, an important horticultural centre in the Netherlands, many flowering plants are made to bloom at a time of year which isn't the natural one. I grew up in a family of flower growers, and a well remembered Aalsmeer flower show was called "Spring-in-January."

Some plants need an exact day length in order to form flowers, e.g. *Poinsettia*. Others depend on higher temperatures, such as *Syringa*, the lilacs. Forcing lilacs is done in a hothouse where very high temperatures are used to get them started. I remember the wonderful feeling when entering a fragrant hothouse just when the flowers were opening.

Rootstock cultivation

Seedlings of *Syringa vulgaris*, the common lilac, are used for rootstocks. The seedlings are planted close together in a coldframe, or in the field for a year's duration. Then they are planted further apart in a field. The young common lilacs are grown for two more years until the stems are thick enough to be grafted with various cultivars.

Budgrafting the cultivars

The same cultivars which were used 70 to 80 years ago are still in use. For instance, 'Mme Florent Stepman' forms 60 to 70 percent of forced-lilac production.

Budgrafting is done in August of the third summer. This is grafting with a single bud. The bark of the young shrub is easily separated from the wood. The wound heals quickly when the bud of a cultivar is inserted and fastened with a bit of string. The plant is left to heal until the fall, when the "wild crown" of the rootstock is cut off.

Pruning

The next (the fourth) spring, when the scion is growing, careful pruning is done in order to develop a new crown, starting with 3 to 4 branches. The plants will be in the field for two or three more years, and each year pruning takes place.

The aim is to make the new crown better branched. The mature plant is limited to 12-15 branches. The fields are sheltered by windbreaks be-

cause the fast growing branches are easily broken in stormy weather.

Flowerbud production

In the sixth summer the plants are prepared for first time forcing. From now on this takes place every other year. When days are longest, in June, each plant is cut around the root-ball with a sharp spade. The purpose of this root pruning is not in the first place to form a firm root-ball, but more to slow the growth in length of the branches, and to encourage the formation of flower buds. Making the plants "suffer" stimulates flower bud production.

Nowadays, instead of rootpruning, a chemical growth regulator *daminozide* – a common trade name is *alar* – is used as a June spray to get the same effect with much less labor. The flower buds are completely formed by September.

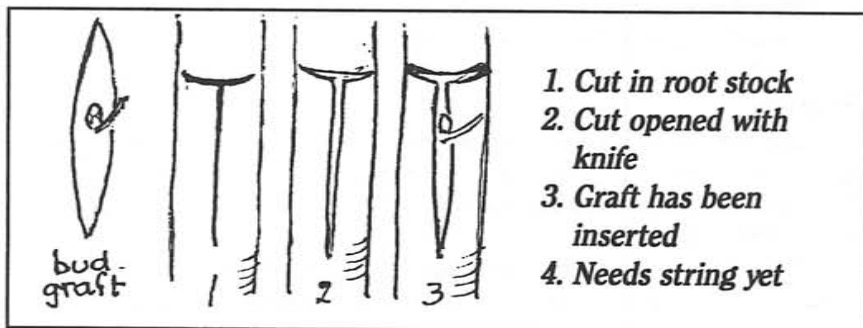
Storage

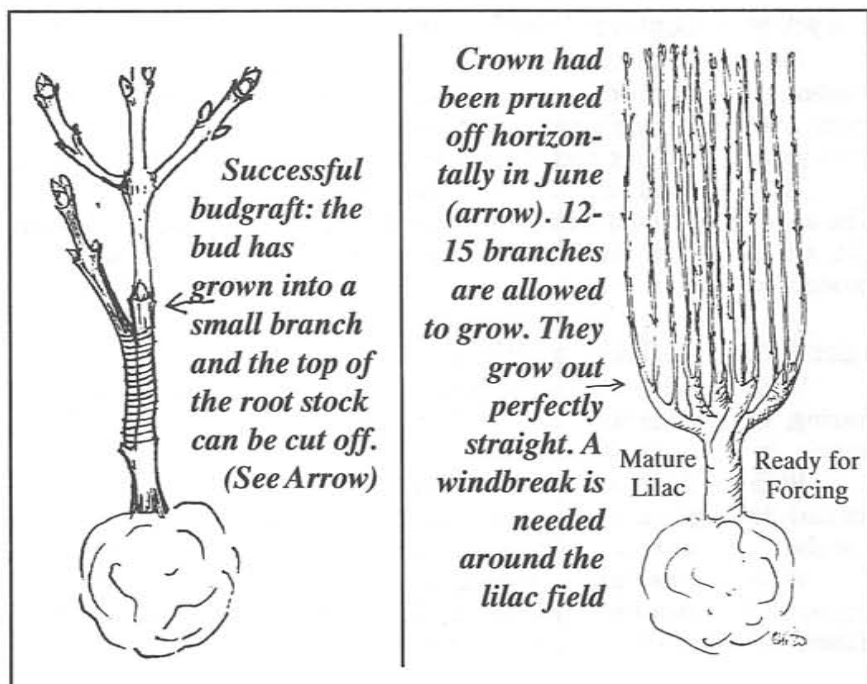
In September the plants are dug and stored outside, above ground and close to the hothouse, or in an adjacent cool greenhouse. The plants are crowded together, and kept in the dark by covering them with reed- or straw-mats. The flower buds ripen further this way, and the leaves fall off.

Forcing

Now the actual forcing starts. The centrally heated hothouses, used for forcing, occupy only a relatively small part of the land in use for the cultivation of these lilacs, because each month between October and March, the plants which are finished are replaced with a new lot from the straw-mat storage area.

For each hectare of lilac land a hothouse of 500-600 sq. m. is needed, in which every season a total of 12,000 to 15,000 plants are forced. The process can be started in October, finishing at the end of the month. Then again each month, November through March, lilac plants are dug and brought in from outside. When it is somewhat frosty they are left to thaw for a few days, otherwise the temperature is immediately raised.

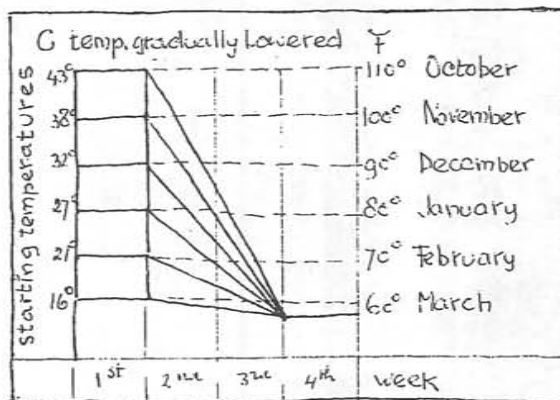




When forcing is done in October the temperature is raised to 43°C., in November to 38°C., etc. (See graph below). The temperature is kept up for four or five days until the buds show some life. At this high temperature particular care has to be taken that the buds do not dry out. They are kept moist by regular spraying.

During the next two weeks the temperature is gradually lowered to 15°C., and kept at that temperature for another week. The flowers have opened already, but need to strengthen. If cut too soon, the flowers are likely to collapse.

Leaf buds also develop, of course, but before they sprout they are pinched off. At the end of four weeks the lilacs are ready for market and can be cut, crated and auctioned. Most are shipped abroad.



*From the Dutch Horticultural Guide 1950
Government Publication*

Recycling or Continued Cultivation

After the flowers have been cut, the plants are pruned, and then stored frost-free, either outside, or in a cool greenhouse, covered by reed or straw mats. Later they are planted out again, where they are allowed to recover for a year before being prepared for forcing during the following summer.

The question may arise, "How long can lilac plants survive forcing?" The answer is "A long time." My father took shrubs that were fifty years old, sawed most of the tops off, and re-grafted them for another life of production.

Lilac Cultivars Which Can Withstand Forcing

Very few cultivars have been found that will withstand the stress of forcing, and recover sufficiently to be forced time and again. Only the following are recommended for this purpose:

With White Flowers: 'Marie Legraye', one of the oldest cultivars, fine for early forcing from October on; 'Mme Florent Stepman' even better than the above, but more suited for a later (Christmas) start.

With Lilac or Purple Flowers: 'Hugo Koster' (lilac flowers), for forcing from December on; 'Andenken an Ludwig Späth' (purple flowers) and 'Lavanensis' (pinkish-lilac) are better for a later start – from January on.

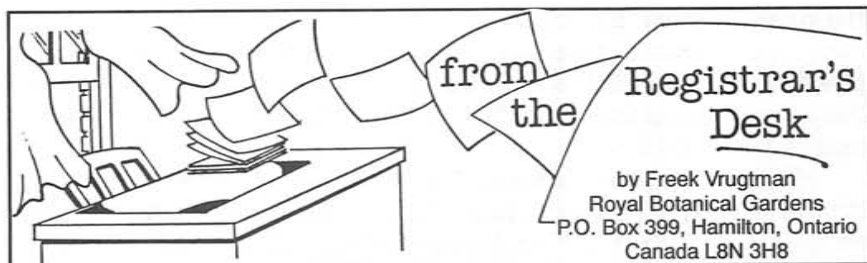
Acknowledgements

My thanks to Albert and Atie Barendsen, my brother and sister-in-law, to whom I sent a list of questions which they promptly answered. They told me that over the last forty years there have been remarkably few changes in the whole process, and those that have taken place are non-essential.



Late blooming seedlings, UNH Woodman Farm, Durham, NH

(PHOTO BY BRADLEY BITTORF)



Information (and Material) Wanted of *Syringa vulgaris* 'Lustrous' and 'Sweet Refrain'

SOME of the ILS members reading this will remember Mabel Lucille Franklin, who attended at least two ILS annual meetings, namely in Boston (1973) and in Hamilton (1974)

Mabel was the daughter of the late Alonzo Berry Franklin (1858-1944), proprietor of Franklin Nursery in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She had been a teacher and librarian, but on the side she had been growing lilacs since the 1930s, first on the Franklin Nursery property, and since 1972/73 at her place in Minnetonka; in 1940 she issued the first of her yearly lists. In 1970 she registered the cv. names 'Lustrous' and 'Sweet Refrain' for two open pollinated *S. vulgaris* seedling selections (Arnoldia 31(3):123; May 1971). To our knowledge, she neither propagated nor distributed these lilac cultivars.

In the spring of 1979 Ken Vogel, at the time horticulturist at the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, visited Miss Franklin, who showed him what she was certain were the right plants. Ken Vogel took cuttings which he successfully rooted.

Now, 15 years later, we have learned that the flowers of these plants do not fit the original descriptions of the 'Lustrous' and 'Sweet Refrain' lilacs.

It is possible, though very unlikely, that Mabel Franklin did give away cuttings or scions of these two cultivars. If someone has the real 'Lustrous' and 'Sweet Refrain' lilacs we would like to hear about it, and we would be happy if we could report that they had not been lost after all.

Syringa vulgaris 'Lucie Baltet' and 'Clyde Lucie' – Distinct or Synonymous?

The 'Lucie Baltet' lilac originated at the Baltet nursery at Troyes, France. In the earliest available reference to this lilac (Revue Horticole 1884, p.243) Carrière & André stated that the plant they had observed at the Baltet nursery was distinctly variable and displayed flowers of three different colours (see also McKelvey 1928, p.328).

At Mr. William Utley's Grape Hill Gardens the late Fr. John Fiala spotted lilac plants he termed to be a "... sport (or seedling) of 'Lucie Baltet' ... of better coloring than the original plant ..." (Fiala, Lilacs p.217). Mr. Utley's plants had been obtained from the nursery of Jackson & Perkins.

Bill Utley observed that his plants are "very unstable"; they regularly display "... two or three variations in color on each plant (clear pink, old rose pink and yellowish pink) and sometimes a deep pink like 'De Croncels'." Mr. Utley has proposed the name 'Clyde Lucie' for the clone distributed at one time by Jackson & Perkins.

Through telephone conversation with Mr. Ron Ferguson, horticulturist with Jackson & Perkins at Bear Creek Gardens, Inc., Medford, Oregon, we have learned that J & P has discontinued growing and selling the 'Lucie Baltet' lilac.

Before giving approval to the name 'Clyde Lucie' there are questions that need to be asked and answered.

Considering the fact that 'Lucie Baltet' and the reportedly improved selection 'Clyde Lucie' have been documented as being highly variable, I wonder whether the two entities are distinct enough that they can be described separately and well enough to allow positive identification in the future. — In other words, what is the range of variability in 'Lucie Baltet' and in the proposed 'Clyde Lucie', and how much do they overlap? Is separation into two distinct cultivars possible and desirable? If we do recognize the proposed 'Clyde Lucie' as a distinct clone it may take years, if not forever, to separate the two cultivars and bring about true-to-nameness in the nursery trade and in collections.

In my opinion, applying cultivar fingerprinting techniques would contribute to making a well-informed decision in this case. — Readers will remember the arguments for treating the name *S. x chinensis* 'Red Rothomagensis' as a synonym of *S. x v.* 'Saugeana', and the opposing arguments for accepting 'Red Rothomagensis' as a legitimate cultivar name (see *The Pipeline* III(5):4-7; May 1977). In a recent publication Dr. James Pringle and co-workers presented unequivocal evidence that 'Red Rothomagensis' and 'Saugeana' are indeed distinct (*Taxon* 42:531-537; August 1993).

While we ponder these questions Charles Holetich, at Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton, would like to locate an authenticated plant of 'Lucie Baltet', i.e. a plant with a recorded history that shows a highly probable link to the original source in France. He also would like to obtain scions or cuttings of the clone grown at Grape Hill Gardens. Once we have the two clones growing side by side under the same climatic and edaphic conditions we can compare them morphologically and we will have samples for a cultivar fingerprinting comparison. If you have plants that may qualify for this study, please contact Charles Holetich.

As a sideline to the lilac registration work I gather biographical information on the originator of garden lilacs. Right now I am looking for information on Elizabeth ("Betty") Stone (Mrs. Ralph W.) of Ashland, Ohio; originally Nanking Road, later East 12th Street in Ashland. In 1980 Mrs. Stone received the ILS Award of Merit. I'd like whatever information any readers can supply.



Home of Gov. Benning Wentworth, New Hampshire's first royal governor.

(Photo by Bradley Bittorf)



Planting lilac at Odiorne State Park. David Gressley and Owen Rogers help the Center's Director, Wendy Lull.

(Photo by Bradley Bittorf)

Letters

NOTE: The following is an excerpt from a letter written by Dr. Piet C. deJong and sent to Charles Holetich. It tells of some of the research work on Syringa in Holland, especially that dealing with forcing. (See also the article by Leni Schalkwyk)

The first goal of our Syringa Project is to evaluate the assortment of *Syringa vulgaris* in cultivation at Dutch Nurseries.

A second item is to grow and promote in Holland the *Prestoniae* hybrids and other hybrids. They are very poorly known in Holland and has to become more popular.

A third subject is to supply the "Trekheestergroep," a study group of *Syringa* growers, who force *Syringa* into flower on a very traditional way at Aalsmeer. They have troubles to grow their main variety 'Mme Florent Stepman' and are interested to test other white cultivars.

In your letter you showed great interest in this research and offered assistance. The main problem with forcing is that the plant suffer enormously from the treatment. After that the plants are weakened, susceptible for diseases. However, they have to recover and to produce a new crop after two years. So, as you will understand, the growers have to be very keen in reducing the loses of plants after the forcing. An indication may be the health of the white cultivars. A further aim is that Mme Florent Stepman can only be replaced in the market by a cultivar with equal quality of the flowering branches.

The forcing of lilacs is very traditional and only a small group of growers is left. During the last decades they got few support from the research station at Aalsmeer. At this moment we have started a research program for *Syringa* and are able to give some help to the "Trekheesterwerkgroep" too.

They will first graft the white varieties on old plants, so they can start as soon as possible with forcing and studying the quality of the flowers and the health. Later on they will grow plants and make further tests.

I think that possible remarks on the susceptibility of white cultivars for some fungus diseases will be very helpful.



The time of the season for lilacs

No scent tells you the season has arrived like the sweet signature fragrance of lilacs in bloom. Twombly Nursery is a lilac lover's dream come true, with over 64 different varieties including Preston, Chinese, Dwarf Korean, Hyacinthiflora, French Hybrids and Japanese Tree Lilacs. With the Northeast's widest and best selection of flowering trees and shrubs, shade trees, perennials and more, our friendly, expert staff can provide the materials and the know-how you need.

Visit our acres of gardens today and find out why lilacs are one of America's most popular varieties.



**Twombly
Nursery**

The Best plants... at a good price.

163 Barn Hill Road, Monroe, CT 06468 • (203) 261-2133, FAX (203) 261-9230
Open Mon-Sat 8 am - 5 pm, Sun 9 am - 5 pm; Thurs & Fri nights 'til 7 pm

Directions: I-95, Exit 27A, or the Merritt Parkway, Exit 49N, to Route 25 north;
at end of expressway, right on Route 111; right on Route 110; one mile to Barn Hill Road on left.
From I-84, Exit 11, take Route 34 east, to right on Route 111; 1.8 miles to Barn Hill Road on left.

Complete Landscape Design Services Available

International Lilac Society

STANDING COMMITTEES

— I. ADMINISTRATIVE —

EXECUTIVE

President	Reva Ballreich	Recording Secretary	Sarah Schenker
Executive Vice President	William A. Utley	Treasurer	Walter E. Eickhorst
Membership Secretary	David Gressley	Assistant Treasurer	Robert Gilbert
		Editor	Dr. Owen M. Rogers

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS

1. New England	Peter Ely	5. Plains	Max Peterson	8. South Central	L.D. Allison
2. Atlantic	John Carvill	6. Northwest	Mark Clements	9. Southwest	Mark Clements
3. South	Ellen Beard	7. California	Reva Ballreich	10. Eastern Canada	John Rose
4. Central	David Gressley			11. Western Canada	Elaine Peek

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

For Canada	Charles Holetich	For Europe	Colin Chapman
-----------------	------------------	------------------	---------------

AUDIT

Dr. Owen M. Rogers

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1995
PAULINE FIALA
ROBERT B. CLARK
OWEN M. ROGERS
CHARLES HOLETICH
JACK ALEXANDER III

1996
PETER ELY
DAVID GRESSLEY
JOEL MARGARETTEN
DANIEL RYNIAC
ORVILLE STEWARD

1997
WALTER EICKHORST
SARAH SCHENKER
WILLIAM UTLEY
REVA BALLREICH
ROBERT GILBERT

— II. CONVENTION —

CONVENTION	William A. Utley, Chairman
AUCTION	John Carvill, Chairman

— III. EDUCATIONAL —

EDUCATION	Dr. Owen M. Rogers, Chairman
RESEARCH	Dr. C. Hibben, Chairman
PUBLICATIONS	Dr. Owen M. Rogers, Chairman

— IV. HONORS, HISTORY, LEGAL —

HONORS AWARDS	Pauline Fiala, Chairman
ARCHIVES	Daniel Ryniec, Thomas Delendick, Co-Chairmen

— V. LILACS —

REGISTRATION	Freek Vrugtman, Registrar
DISTRIBUTION	Frank Moro, Chairman
LILAC EVALUATION	Charles Holetich, Chairman

— VI. MEMBERSHIP —

MEMBERSHIP	David Gressley, Chairman
NOMINATIONS	Daniel Ryniec, Chairman
ELECTIONS	Pauline L. Fiala, Chairman



ILS members among the late blooming lilacs at the UNH Woodman Farm, Durham, NH

(Photo by Bradley Bittorf)