

Lilacs

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IN
THIS
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Member News

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INTERNATIONAL LILAC SOCIETY is a non-profit corporation comprised of individuals who share a particular interest, appreciation and fondness for lilacs. Through exchange of knowledge, experience and facts gained by members it is helping to promote, educate and broaden public understanding and awareness.

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Owen M. Rogers, Editor, 131 Main Street, Durham, NH 03824

Published January 1996

LILACS 1996

Cover Story

Front Cover

I think you'll admit that the cover photo is unique! The cultivar is 'Ludwig Spaeth' being grown by Karen Silvester but everything else about the picture is unusual. First, the lilac is growing in Australia. Second, it's been pruned to produce cut stems (she reports inflorescences on stems a meter in length) and third, the wire on the ground is to stop the chickens from digging in the manure mulch. You can find out a lot more about Karen by reading the excerpts from her letters printed later in this issue.

Back Cover Story

Bradley J. Bittorf has come up with a novel stereoscopic photograph of lilacs for the back cover. He explains it as follows:

Stereoscopic Lilacs

by Bradley Bittorf

What I have sent you is a set of stereoscopic photographs of lilacs. Each was taken at the Holden Arboretum on June 4, 1995. The subject is, as best as I can recall, 'Hiawatha'.

The technique used to create the stereo pairs was from an article in a spring edition of *Popular Photography*. Specifically, what I did is this:

- Purchase two disposable cameras of like type.
- Tape both together, taking care to place the lenses at the same height. (See illustration.) As it turns out, the distance between the two lenses is about 50 mm, approximately the same distance apart as human eyes. This is what enables the stereo effect.

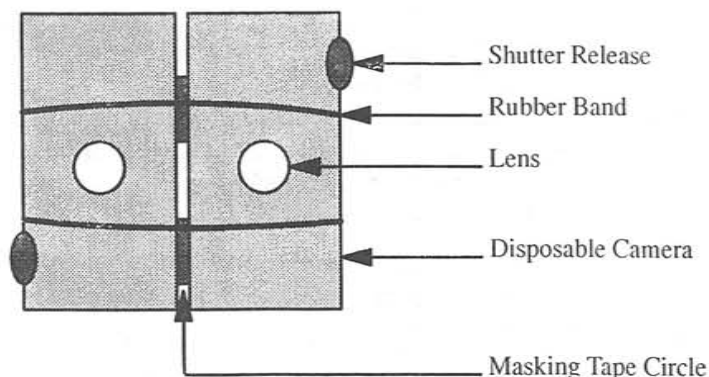


Figure 1: Camera Assembly Used to Take Pictures

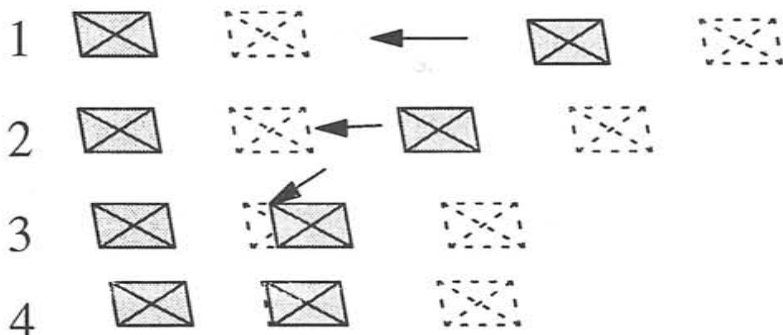
- Using the camera pair, take photographs of interesting subject (mostly lilacs, although I also have some of other plants, and a pesky squirrel.) While doing so, the photographer has the appearance of some sort of bug-eyed monster. Curiously, because the shutter buttons for the camera must be opposed, it is a bit of a trick to physically take the pictures too. Photographs must be taken in the "portrait" orientation rather than "landscape" orientation to make the 3-D effect work.
- Develop the pictures.
- Match up the prints to find the right and left of each set. This was a perturbing exercise which I'm glad is behind me. One set came out upside down with respect to the other as a result of camera positioning, and many of the photos look alike, adding to the difficulty.
- Discard any photos lacking clarity, or lacking synchronization with the paired photo.
- Manually align the pictures with their partners, and determine whether you can discern a stereoscopic image by "free-fusing". (More about "free-fusing" when I discuss how to view these.)
- Using tape and scissors, trim and tape the photos in the positions which permit the stereo images to be seen.
- Send the best of the bunch to our dear Editor for consideration.

Viewing the pairs can be tricky at first, until you get comfortable with the technique. Essentially, it is the same procedure as viewing some of those "3-D Puzzles" you will encounter in magazines and in shopping mall poster stands. Here are my directions and hints:

- Begin by placing the photos on a flat surface with good light. The light should be balanced on both photographs. (Presumably, the cover of **Lilacs** is conducive to being a flat surface.) The main point is to avoid bending the photos, or having them unevenly lighted. [If viewing stereo photos, you have to place them with just the right distance between the left and right (46-53mm separation of the subject), but again I presume this will be done by our dear Editor. Don't worry if it's not exact, as your brain can compensate for some difference.]
- Place your head 12 to 22 inches away from the pictures. For me, a distance of 16 to 18 inches seems to work best.
- Try to get the images from the left and right eye to blend. This is easier said than done, unless you are experienced at the technique.

Here are further ideas to aid you in this step:

- I find that I have to cause myself to become a little cross-eyed. By throwing it out of focus, you get three or four images. You want your eyes to blend the "middle" ones. See illustration on the next page.



- Your left eye views the left photograph and your right eye views the right photograph, and your brain establishes depth from the combination.
- Remember, you are seeking depth. You may find it helpful to try to focus "beyond" the photograph. One hint I use is this: Pick out an object which is fairly isolated in the picture (such as a high panicle). Use this as a focus point. Once your eyes have merged on this object, let your gaze move or drift to other parts of the picture.
- Sometimes you may want to start a little closer to the photographs to help yourself throw the image out of focus, then move farther away to let it "merge together".
- Some people find that they are aided by placing a piece of cardboard or some other separator perpendicular to the images and between them, so that what each eye sees is isolated.
- Be patient. The first time I attempted a 3-D puzzle, it took me nearly 30 minutes to get the images to fuse. Now I can do it in less than 15 seconds.
- Keep in mind that not all the picture will be in stereo. Only those parts of the image which are in both the left and right photos will be stereo.
- Wearing glasses does not prevent you from seeing the 3-D image (after all, I do, and I can!)
- Once you have established the technique, it is easier the next time. This produces a marvelous effect – the photos veritably jump out at you! Particularly impressive is how the branch extends directly toward the viewer.

I hope this works for you. I really like the effect it produces, and the concept of being able to view lilacs in three dimensions seems something truly novel for the Journal.

P.S. from the Editor: I'll bring the originals to the 1996 convention and you can compare your results with others.

President's Message

As we go into our 25th year as a lilac Society we must pause and give recognition and many thanks to our past Presidents, Editors, Regional Vice Presidents and the Committee persons. Over these 25 years of shared knowledge of lilacs, shared services and dedication we have indeed endeavored to honor our commitment to the Society toward the fulfillment of the International Lilac Society's goals of study, education and a greater appreciation of the lilac. Over the past 25 years we have advanced from traditional lilac plant breeding to tissue culture. In the next 25 years will we be able to advance into genetic engineering to create here-to-fore unattainable color ranges? Or perhaps, repeat bloomers? Research Committee, please come forward!

I have received the CD-ROM disc: Royal Botanical Gardens' FRENCH HYBRID LILACS. On this CD-ROM, 100 of the finest French hybrid lilacs are presented in high-resolution images. It is highly educational and totally enjoyable. All images were selected by Charles Holetich from the Katie Osborne Collection. I highly recommend to those that have a computer with a color screen capable to read CD-ROM to get a copy of the disc. \$15.39 American dollars covers disc and postage. Send to Royal Botanical Gardens, Box 399, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8N 3H8.

On September 17th I gave a slide/lecture presentation to the Idyllwild Garden Club. I wish to thank Charles Holetich, David Gressley, Chris Graham and Jack Alexander for helping me with additional slides to present to this enthusiastic group a very comprehensive lecture on growing and caring for lilacs. It is rewarding to see their interest in and knowledge of lilacs grow from year to year.

On December 5th, Dr. and Mrs. Louis Erickson and I were invited to a meeting and a six course early dinner hosted by Rudy Schaffer, Curator of the Descanso Gardens Lilac Section. He spoke to us of plans of the Descanso Gardens to expand the number of lilac plants in their collection and to promote the Sobeck and Lammerts hybrids. Dr. Erickson, Dr. Joel Margaretten and I spoke to the large group between courses. I must let you know that there were lilac blossom flower arrangements on each table.

Proof of the popularity of lilacs came in the form of many hundreds of letters for lilac information from readers of the lilac article in the *Country Woman*, June issue. David Gressley, bless his heart, had his hands full. Each letter was answered.

Robert Gilbert and his committee have put together an exciting convention program for us. The New York area is rich in lilac collections and in early American history. Please do try to attend this 25th Anniversary of the International Lilac Society.

Also, for the coming year, please let us combine our individual strengths, talents and courage to make a difference. We need each of you to share your knowledge and abilities with us to make the next 25 years even better.

May you have a happy, peaceful and rewarding New Year.

Reva Ballreich, President

European Newsletter

by Colin Chapman

We have survived an extraordinary year in our part of East Anglia. Being the driest part of the United Kingdom we cope, normally, with about 25 inches of rain whilst the rest of the country gets from 30 to 40 inches. 1995, however, produced the hottest, driest year ever recorded and where I live we were officially designated, for this year, as hotter and drier than the average for Israel.

The lilacs planted out in the garden showed stress, but almost all of them survived. The major problem came with the container grown plants of which we have (including seedlings of our own breeding) more than 2000. There were times when the water evaporated faster than it could be fed to the pots. Being an amateur only, I do not have professional irrigation facilities.

On September 15th I attended a delightful function at Catthorpe Manor in Leicestershire. The Manor is owned by the Latvian Society of Great Britain and is used as a sheltered home for aged Latvians. In the grounds of the Manor there has been built a Latvian village complete with houses, cafe, banqueting hall and many other adjuncts to the Latvian way of life. One of the residents, Mrs. Mulda Sinka, came to visit me with her daughter Indra and her son-in-law Andres two years ago. They were thrilled when I was able to show them a lilac bred in Latvia by Peter Uptis; *Syringa vulgaris* 'Gaizin 'kalns'. This is a beautiful, fragrant pink double lilac with distinctive tightly packed and formally arranged florets. I promised to propagate one for them and, in September, I took it up to Catthorpe for a formal planting ceremony. You will be pleased to hear that your boy was treated like visiting royalty. The food and wine provided were superb and, after dinner, I was entertained by a wonderful, perfect pitch choir singing unaccompanied Latvian folk songs. A truly international lilac experience and, yes, your boy accepted the offered hospitality and made no attempt to drive home that night!

Indra Sinka is a post graduate student in linguistics at the University of Reading and she has provided a translation of the meanings of the names of all the known Uptis lilacs. 'Gaizin 'kalns' is the name of the highest peak in Latvia. I will publish her translations later in the year. If there is anyone out there reading this who can help me locate the Peter Uptis lilacs please contact me. I have knowledge, secateurs, a promise of language assistance, and I am prepared to travel.

On October 31st I went down to London for another planting ceremony in Kennington Park, which is just across the River Thames from Big Ben and The Houses Of Parliament. I had received a request from the British Cinema Museum for advice on how they could acquire what they called the "Blanche Sweet Lilac" (*Syringa ×hyacinthiflora* 'Blanche Sweet', Fiala, Ohio, 1988.) Blanche Sweet (1896-1984) was the most beautiful star of silent movies. Happily, not only did I have the lilac but I also had one lusty own

rooted propagule which I was delighted to donate. The ceremony, complete with a Champagne buffet, took place on a brilliantly sunny day in the walled garden of the park where it is known that Charlie Chaplin used to exercise his dog. The planting was ceremonially performed by Ms. Joan Morgan, a star of the silent British movie industry, who was a friend of Blanche Sweet. It was a joy to see echoed in London the ceremony which took place at Brooklyn Botanic Garden on April 28th, 1990, and my thanks go to Daniel Ryniec for referring the initial enquiry by the Cinema Museum to me.



Blanche Sweet (1896-1984)

Finally, two items which, though small in themselves, are what I hope might be indicators of significant trends. I have had requests for lilacs from three people who are very prominent in British Public and Social life. In the interest of client confidentiality I cannot reveal who they are but

their requests mean that, after decades of neglect, lilacs in England are, at last, being taken seriously. I also received a wonderful early Christmas present from Konrad Kircher in Germany – 21 own rooted lilacs from a consignment he had imported from America. If we put together the developments at Konrad's nursery, the lilacs I have obtained from RBG Hamilton and Charles Holetich, the lilacs Ole Heide has obtained through the generosity of Max Peterson, and the collection which Carlo Pagani and Valeria von Jenisch are assembling in Bologna, then European readers should be aware that our lilac starvation is coming to an end. My personal cup will runneth over when I first tempt Moscow and Kiev to join our exchange scheme.



Colin Chapman pouring a libation to Bacchus and Syringa vulgaris 'Gaizin'kalns'. Catthorpe Manor, Leicestershire. September 15, 1995.

Norman's Farm
Wyverstone
Stowmarket
Suffolk IP14 4SF England

Editor's Notes

If you live in California you might wish to respond to the news item below. If you don't live in California, you might want to consider volunteering to help with whatever lilac collection is near where you live. Thanks to David Gressley for sending in the news item from the Descanso Gardens at 1418 Descanso Drive, La Canada, Flintridge, CA 91011.

Lilac Volunteers Needed

Rudy Schaffer, a new ILS member, has been involved in rejuvenating the lilac collection at the Descanso Gardens with judicious pruning and fertilizing. He is now in the process of preparing pathways for public viewing of the collections. Under Rudy's supervision, new lilacs, grafted by the plant propagation volunteers, will be added to the collections. His enthusiasm and horticulture expertise are reflected in enhanced growth of the specimen lilacs, many of which are named varieties developed by Descanso Gardens.

As a volunteer curator of the lilac grove, Rudy welcomes anyone interested in learning about lilacs to lend their hands in exchange for knowledge. Rudy has been renovating the historical lilac collection and has been adding new plantings to expand the grove. His knowledge along with his Swiss charm combine to make him a very congenial mentor. Contact Rudy to offer your horticultural skills: (818) 350-6335.

Book Review

von Baeyer, Edwinna. 1987. The horticultural odyssey of Isabella Preston. Canadian Horticultural History 1 (3):125-175. 16 black and white photos.

Isabella Preston was one of Canada's foremost breeders of ornamental plants. She originated nearly 200 hybrids of roses, iris, crabapples and lilies. We in ILS know her for her lilac work and recognise her name in the hybrid species *Syringa xprestoniae* which she originated from the cross of *S. reflexa* and *S. villosa*.

Edwinna von Baeyer has written a fascinating overview of her life and works which was published by the Centre for Canadian Historical Horticultural Studies at the Royal Botanical Gardens. Single copies are still available from the Royal Botanical Gardens Library for \$5.00 per copy. Send orders to the Library at P.O. Box 399, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8N 3H8.

News From Australia

The following information has been taken from letters written to Charles Holetich from Karen Silvester, one of our two Australian members.

Dear Mr. Holetich,
Many thanks for your letter of June 8, 1995, containing various information including the publication from the International Lilac Society, to which I have sent a subscription for application for membership. I have also made telephone contact with Mr. Frank Moro, of Select Plus Nurseries and I have placed an order with him for the importation of different lilac varieties which I hope will prove of value as cut flowers and also some varieties which I should like to have anyway.

As a member of the horticultural staff at the Royal Botanic Staff, Sydney, I am eligible to apply for a horticultural scholarship offered annually by the 'Friends of the Royal Botanic Garden'. I hope to succeed in winning such a scholarship for 1997 and would apply such a scholarship to increase and improve my knowledge of current lilac culture and it is towards this endeavour I would ask your advice and perhaps direction as to a specific area of lilac culture that would benefit both myself and the Royal Botanic Gardens, given that the Gardens has only recently embarked upon a lilac collection.

The scholarship enables the successful applicant to spend a period of eight weeks on the proposal. My present wishes are perhaps to spend four weeks at a place of horticultural excellence in Canada or the United States and then perhaps four weeks in Russia. In fact, I noted with interest and delight the "Word from Eastern Europe" in the section European Newsletter (November 1994) for the Quarterly Journal of the I.L.S. which you so kindly sent to me, wherein mention was made of the letter from a Dr. Mitko Krystev of the Main Botanic Garden in Moscow. I first read about this Botanic Garden in Fr. Fiala's Lilac book, wherein he wrote highly of it and therein aroused my interest to visit such a Botanic Garden and to this end I have been learning to speak Russian. I am also reasonably fluent in French so that if required in Canada I could certainly manage.

I am now a member of the I.L.S. and I must say the last quarterly journal was very useful and informative especially given my ambition to try and win the scholarship. As a result of that journal I have written to Mr. Tony Kirkham on behalf of the Mt. Tomah Botanic Gardens to find out more about their lilac collection. I am also trying to put together a letter in Russian to Dr. Gorb of the Kiev Botanic Gardens (a similar letter in English will accompany it!) in order to become acquainted and perhaps discover

what the experience of the Russian lilac growers and fanciers has been with regard to cut flowers.

May I say at this point that I am not looking to forcing lilacs, I wish only to grow lilac as cut flowers in season. I have tried in a small way to force Lily of the Valley out of season and ran into problems with disease. Although my situation and efforts were somewhat primitive, I was not surprised when I read the information you sent me recently about the Dutch efforts and their problems with disease. In Australia, lilac is only sold as budded stock on to privet!! A disgraceful situation which, when I gather enough material to not only suit my cut flower purposes but also to obtain varieties that suit warmer climates, I shall offer for sale material on its own roots. As you can see from the enclosed list below there has not been a lot of importation of different lilac varieties.

My lilac crop for cut flowers was very disappointing this year and I do not understand why! Photograph enclosed of the bushes from which I cut heavily last year. In my efforts to gradually obtain a more manageable height of bush for harvesting purposes, such that I do not have to use a ladder or climb into the bush, I removed one main limb from the base of the bush. During a conversation with another horticulturist who has lilac bushes only for garden purposes, he observed his lilac flowering was also very poor.

Karen L. Silvester
 "Tems Perdu" Nursery
 Mount Tomah,
 via Bilpin, Australia 2758

Varieties Commercially Available in Australia

<i>S. hyacinthiflora</i>	'Alice Eastwood'	<i>S. vulgaris</i>	'Michel Buchner'
<i>S. hyacinthiflora</i>	'Blue Hyacinth'	<i>S. vulgaris</i>	'Miss Ellen Willmott'
<i>S. vulgaris</i>	'Belle de Nancy'	<i>S. hyacinthiflora</i>	'Missimo'
<i>S. vulgaris</i>	'Charles Joly'	<i>S. vulgaris</i>	'Mrs. Edward Harding'
<i>S. hyacinthiflora</i>	'Clark's Giant'	<i>S. vulgaris</i>	'Olivier de Serres'
<i>S. vulgaris</i>	'Congo'	<i>S. vulgaris</i>	'President Grevy'
<i>S. hyacinthiflora</i>	'Cora Brandt'	<i>S. vulgaris</i>	'Primrose'
<i>S. vulgaris</i>	'Dr. Masters'	<i>S. hyacinthiflora</i>	'Purple Glory'
<i>S. hyacinthiflora</i>	'Esther Staley'	<i>S. vulgaris</i>	'Sensation'
<i>S. vulgaris</i>	'Jan van Tol'	<i>S. vulgaris</i>	'Souv. De Louis Spaeth'
<i>S. vulgaris</i>	'Kath. Havemyer'	<i>S. hyacinthiflora</i>	'Sweetheart'
<i>S. vulgaris</i>	'Marceau'	<i>S. vulgaris</i>	'Volcan'
<i>S. vulgaris</i>	'Mme. Lemoine'	<i>S. vulgaris</i>	'William Robinson'

Reflections On My I.L.S. Work

by Charles Holetich

Some of the I.L.S. members may recall my talking during I.L.S., Clinton, Iowa convention about the possibility of my visiting the libraries of various Botanic Gardens and Arboreta of Europe in search of any printed or handwritten, lilac related information, left by hybridizers such as Lemoines, Kolesnikov, Maarse's, Baltet and similar. Proposal to that effect was handed to the Royal Botanical Gardens with understanding that I would cover the transportation and accommodation expenses from personal funds while my regular salary would continue.

Not knowing how much time I should set aside for such a project I purchased an open ended air ticket. Twenty four hours before my departure on July 30th, I was informed that my proposal was not granted. A bit disappointed I went to Zagreb, Croatia, my birthplace, delivering 14 x 3 rhizomes of Iris cultivars for the Botanic Garden in Zagreb, founded 105 years ago. There I exchanged with the Director Dr. L. Regula a few ideas as to how to make some lilac cultivars more visible and accessible to the locals.

The Botanic Garden acquired an acreage of land in the periphery of the city and hopes to develop it some day into a botanical and horticultural Arboretum. Lack of funds caused the delay of its development.

Since lilacs are the low maintenance plants, if properly planted and mulched may flourish without need of irrigation and frequent cultivation. Perhaps some volunteers may be recruited to do the occasional weeding and pruning to retain the plants desired shape. Of course I offered my expertise in the project as much as needed.

With the above in mind I have mailed rooted cuttings of 14 x 2 cultivars during winter 1994/95 and additional 70 cultivars are ready to be shipped this winter.

By no means will that be a large lilac collection but a good start on which one could build as new plants become available.

If one picture is equivalent to a thousand words, as Chinese would say, a modest lilac collection of well chosen cultivars would advertise its own merits and create supporters for its continuation and enlargement.

While departing from Azgreb on a hot August day for the island of Korcula in the Adriatic for a fourteen day vacation, the bus took us through various villages of the mountain region of Gorski Kotar where lilacs are the frequent scenes in the home landscape. Most of them are the selected strains of native *Syringa vulgaris* but also an occasional division of the lilac cultivars which found their way from France, Germany, Netherlands, Austria and alike, by a Croatian worker and a lilac lover employed in any of the said countries.

Upon arrival to the island of Korcula I was pleasantly surprised to see the lilac thriving in the submediteranean climate along with *Ficus carica*

(fig), *Ceratonia siliqua* (carob), *Nerium oleander* (common oleander), *Cupressus sempervirens* (Italian cypress) and similar. The explanation lies in people from the interior of Croatia, Bosnia or Serbia who have summer resorts at the coast and who simply bring there the plants of their liking without much thought for their climatic or cultural requirements.

Since the soils are very shallow and naturally found only in depressions of mainly calcium carbonate rocks its moisture content during hot summers months is very low. Only the resiliency of the lilac plant itself and the shade provided by surrounding larger trees permits its survival, but obviously will never produce the quality of bloom known to exist in the continental regions. Nevertheless the pioneers such as Joel Margaretten in California, Karen Silvester in Australia, Iain Miller in Greece who are willing to try, observe and modify the requirements for lilacs growing in areas beyond their natural habitat should tell us how it is done and what works for them the best. I believe that what winter does in triggering the dormacy in continental regions is the same as what drought does in Australia or California.

As I am writing you this the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton is going through the process of serious reassessment and restructuring. The budget is being drastically reduced, forcing the work termination of 18 employees both hourly and salaried, but all previously permanent workers.

I requested an early retirement and it has been granted as of January 31, 1996.

My plans are to return to Zagreb, Croatia and use the benefits of not to distant Adriatic sea to achieve a relative comfort, following my two spinal operations (1960 and 1988).

For those who would like to keep in touch may write or fax their thoughts at the following address, which will become active after February 20, 1996:

Charles D. Holetich

Zmajevac 5

10000 ZAGREB, CROATIA

Tel/fax: 385-country code, 1-area code, 434-374.

Address with the Royal Botanical Gardens will be functional until February 15, 1996.

Though not as active with I.L.S. matters as I use to be, I will continue my ambassadorial work for Society as long as I can, because I find it satisfying and because the I.L.S. members are the nicest bunch of down-to-earth individuals that I had pleasure to meet, work with and enjoy their company.

Please help me find two lilacs with variegated foliage.

Three variegated foliage lilacs from the vulgaris group in the Tentative Register and the Addenda and Corrigenda are;

S. vulgaris 'Aucubaefolia' D-III

S. vulgaris 'Dappled Dawn' S-III and
S. vulgaris 'Wittbold Variegated' S-IV

All of the above cultivars which I have acquired or seen in collections elsewhere had double to semi-double (single with initiation of secondary layer of petals) florets, light blue in colour, blooming at the top half of the shrub and foliage which early in the spring will show gold variegation on younger foliage which becomes progressively white as summer progresses.

Does anyone know of the *S. vulgaris* variegated foliage plant which has truly *single blue* or *single lilac* florets? Where? May I get some scion wood?

Lilacs which were donated to I.L.S. auction under name of 'Dappled Dawn' or 'Aucubaefolia' were in fact *Syringa vulgaris* 'Aucubaefolia'.

Please reply to the address of The Royal Botanical Gardens, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8N 3H8.

Swap Column

Editor's Note: We seem to be getting more swap for information questions than plant swaps, but your Editor is very willing to include them.

The following request comes from Ms. Eleanor Zoellner,
4937 N. 82nd Street, Scottsdale, AZ 85251.

"Please let me know of any kind of lilac that will grow in the Phoenix area. I will be glad to try anything anyone would recommend or would care to send me."

and this from William J. Seidl
7235 19th Street, Manitowoc, WI 54220

Since plants of *S. 'Rochester'* are difficult to obtain, I'd like to receive scion-wood in late winter/early spring (or bud-wood in late August/September) of 'Rochester'. In trade, I'd send a division in the fall of 'Yellow Emperor', an intersectional peony originated by Tōichi Itō (Japan) and recommended by Fr. Fiala as a companion plant for lilacs.

Letters to the Editor

In 1993 I decided that a Japanese Tree Lilac was crowding a nearby dwarf pear. Both were too big to transplant, so I decided to reduce the size of the lilac by cutting it back and, by grafting, converting it to a smaller bush made up of *vulgaris* and/or hybrid cultivars.

It was a three-trunked tree and I allowed sucker-like shoots (watersprouts) to develop at the two- and three-foot level. In the spring of '94 I grafted scions of some *vulgaris* clones and an unknown lavender hybrid (probably a *×prestoniae* cultivar) onto these new stems. One hybrid clone grew like gangbusters, 3-4' in one season; the *vulgaris* clones hardly at all, if they took at all. In '95 I grafted two tetraploids, 'Prophecy' and 'Lark Song' onto more stems, and they also grew extremely well. I have been cutting back the *reticulata* tops in stages; one trunk must still be converted.

My original plan may backfire. I think the converted tree will grow almost as big as the original *reticulata*. If pruning doesn't keep it in bounds, I will start over and try more diligently to convert it to *vulgaris* clones, especially those described as being dwarf (4-5') or comparatively small growing. In that case I will graft onto the hybrid stems, using the hybrid as a sandwich between the *reticulata* understock and the *vulgaris* top.

My experience is much too limited to make any general conclusions, but I'm terrified to say *vulgaris* clones are less compatible than the late-blooming hybrid clones, and that the late-blooming species and hybrids are genetically more closely related to *reticulata*, which one might assume anyway based on similarities in leaf and bloom-season.

Before I began this project, I had intended to ask for advice in a "Letter to the Editor" column, but procrastinated and had to strike out on my own. I did consult Fr. Fiala's book but found nothing on grafting onto *reticulata*. If anybody has had similar experiences or advice/comments to give, I'd be glad to hear from them.

Bill Seidl

732 S. 19th St.

Manitowoc, WI 54220-3868

Dear Dr. Owen Rogers,

I'm writing in response to your lilac swap blurb in the latest *Lilac Quarterly Journal* of I.L.S. I recently joined the society and very much enjoyed reading your *Journal*. I'm interested more in *S. vulgaris* cultivars than other species but I've never tried growing any *Syringa* from seed though I've collected self-seeded *S. reticulata* seedlings.

I studied Botany at the University of Wisconsin – I dropped out while working on a master's thesis (taxonomy) in the late 1970's and I've been in the nursery field ever since, first in Pennsylvania working for an elderly Quaker nurseryman, J. Franklin Styer, and now in the Thetford Center, Vermont for Elmer Brown. We grow lilacs (have ca. 75 kinds here and I have about that number of cultivars at my house) but are an unspecialized retail nursery and landscape business. I've

previously grown seed from selected *Peonies* and have grown seedlings of *Hemerocallis* and *Iris* and with the idea of selecting nice ones, but I've always, always used open pollinated seed. I'd like to try to make actual crosses of *Syringa vulgaris*. Unfortunately, May and June are our busiest months at the nursery.

My best lilac failure so far has been when I planted a 50 foot row of suckers from a large prolifically suckering shrub, supposedly of 'Mrs. W.E. Marshall'. When they bloomed, they were all common. Now I find lilacs are often confused in the nursery trade, i.e. last week we were planting some liners of 'Arch McKean' when I noticed quite a lot of lenticels (it looked like 'James McFarlane').

My favorite lilacs are (same as most people) the deepest purple ones – I like good growers and a large, showy inflorescence. 'Edmond Boissier' seems to grow well and be quite deep in color. 'Monge' might be the showiest in our fields, but somehow younger bare root plants often poop out on us. I like 'Chris' a lot – but that's because of the name. I'm trying to get hold of a 'Frank Paterson' and an 'Agincourt Beauty'.

Two other lilacs I like are 'Ami Schott; and 'Olivier de Serres'. I still have a lot to learn about them, but I'm very smitten.

I would love to meet you someday. Unfortunately, it's hard for me to visit arboreta at lilac blooming time. We grow and sell many 'Miss Kim' and 'Agnes Smith' and 'Miss Canada'.

Best wishes,
Christopher Wilson
P.O. Box 53 Urquhart Road
West Newbury, VT 05085

September 26, 1995

International Lilac Society
Board of Directors
Holden Arboretum
9500 Sperry Road
Kirtland, Ohio 44094-5172

Dear Members of the Board:

It brought me extreme pleasure to have been selected, by the Board of Directors, to receive the award of honorary membership to The International Lilac Society. It is a great honor to be so generously acknowledged!

It may interest society members to know that I am currently spearheading a book project, designed to give the general public (through a humorous, fictitious journey) a heightened awareness of the role Arboreta play in the Earth's ecosystem. In addition to this activity, I am also having two pamphlets produced, which will feature my hybridization (lilacs, rhododendrons, azaleas, trees, shrubs. . .) efforts.

If anyone is interested in these or other related topics, please feel free to give me a call.

Gratefully Yours,
Richard A. Fenicchia
712 Bay Road
W. Webster, NY 14580
(716) 671-2173

Election Biographies

The following people have agreed to run for the five spaces on the International Lilac Society's Board of Directors. The ballot is included as an insert in the middle of this issue. Be sure to exercise your right to vote.

Colin Chapman

Executive Vice President for Europe. Owner of British National Collection of Lilacs. Frequent contributor to Quarterly Journal **Lilacs** through the European Newsletter. Has developed a whole network of contacts in Europe and Asia.

Peter S. Ely

Seymour, CT

Has had a lifelong interest in plants. As a member of I.L.S. for eight years, Peter has learned to appreciate the lilac and continues to be inspired by the enthusiasm, friendship and professionalism of our membership.

As the present Regional Vice-President for New England, Peter has the opportunity to educate others in the propagation of lilacs.

Recently retired, father of two grown daughters and new grandfather to Christopher.

David Gressley

Curator of the Syringa Collection at the Holden Arboretum by profession; a position inherited in 1987 from Marty Martin. Began membership with I.L.S. in 1988, attending every annual convention since that time. Was asked to fulfill the remainder of Nancy Emerson's term as a board member in 1991. In 1992 I was approached by the Executive Committee to become membership secretary! I was elected to the Board of Directors in 1994.

Joel Margaretten

Been a member – on the Board of I.L.S. since its inception. Always carried out his duties for the good of the organization.

Orville Steward

Graduate of State University of New York (Farmingdale)

Graduate of New York Botanical Garden

Director of the William Bayard cutting arboretum

Pioneer work in bringing the I.L.S. into existence

Past President I.L.S. – two terms

1996 I.L.S. Headquarters will be the
BEST WESTERN INN at Poughkeepsie, NY

Highlights of Events at 1996 I.L.S. Convention

Thursday 16 May

Registration
I.L.S. Board of Directors meeting
Hospitality room

Friday 17 May

I.L.S. Board of Directors meeting
All you can eat continental breakfast
Speaker – A history of the Hudson Valley
Speaker – Preservation of the Hudson Valley
Tour of Frederick W. Vanderbilt National Historic Site
– mansion and grounds. Group photo here.
Lunch at Dinsmore Golf Club restaurant
Tour of Battenfeld's hybrid anemone greenhouses
Tour of Emerson Hyde's lilac garden
Tour of FDR Home, Grounds and Library – a National Historic Site
Return to Best Western
President's Dinner and Annual Meeting at Bellefield Mansion
– a 200 year old home now a part of the National Park Service.
Dinner will be a choice of grilled salmon or roast beef. Diabetic desserts
available.
Hospitality room

Saturday 18 May

I.L.S. Board of Directors meeting
Breakfast on your own
Speaker – Colin Chapman – *"Growing Lilacs in Europe"*
Tour of Carey Arboretum Greenhouses
Tour of Carey Arboretum Lilac Garden – bookshop available
Lunch at Dutchess County Farm and Home Center
Annual Lilac Auction at the Farm and Home Center
Return to Best Western
Awards Dinner at Best Western – a choice of Chicken Marsala or
Roast Beef. We will have either a speaker or a panel of speakers
recalling the early days of the Society.
Awards
Hospitality room

We have a lot to see and do on Friday so we ask everyone to be prompt.

Directions to Best Western will appear in Spring Quarterly.

RHS Colour Chart

Good News! The Royal Horticultural Society has decided to republish their colour charts. The design of the new edition is basically unchanged from the previous 1966 edition but some refinements have been made to make it easier to use. The colour chart comprises 4 fans in sturdy packaging. Each fan has approximately 50 sheets with 4 different colour shades. Though intended primarily for use by professionals in the ornamental plant industry, they are also very useful for anyone involved in any capacity with colours who will find the wide range of colours indispensable in colour matching. (About \$36.00)

Orders should be sent with remittance to: RHS Enterprises Ltd.
Dept. 'P', RHS Garden, Wisley, Woking, Surrey GU23 6QB England.
Telephone (Guildford) (0483) 224163.

A copy of the order blank can be found on the mailer sheet.

Julie London Appointed

Julie London, owner of Falconskeape Gardens, has been appointed a member of the Board of Directors of the International Lilac Society to complete the term of Director Sally Schenker, who was forced to resign because of family health.

We are fortunate that Julie can step in at this time. She brings to the Board much enthusiasm and lilac knowledge. She is hard at work re-establishing Falconskeape and continuing Fr. Fiala's dream of a fine lilac cultivar and species collection. She is to be commended for her commitment to preserving the Fiala hybrids.

The Society is indeed fortunate to have such an inspiring and hard-working person on the Board.

WELCOME JULIE.

Lilac Distribution Report

As the saga of interesting lilacs continues, *Syringa vulgaris* 'Rochester' has been chosen as the newest distribution release. This lilac always causes much comment when mentioned. 'Rochester' is a class one lilac (white) first introduced by Grant in 1971 but mysteriously it is very little or not at all produced. Why, one must ask? The answer is that 'Rochester' is very hard to propagate and, until established, grows quite slowly. Thus growers not dedicated to the lilac are often not interested in growing it. This is unfortunate because it is a rare beauty with its multipetaled florets. The florets have a waxy appearance and are borne on long well spiked clusters. The leaves of this cultivar are heavily textured. The plant is slow growing and can be considered dwarf for many years, which can make it a very desirable shrub in many landscapes.

For customers with existing orders of *Syringa wolffi* *×reflexa* 'Hagny', you can simply add the price per plant (the U.S. price is \$7.00 per plant) and \$2.00 per plant for shipping and handling. For those with no order for 'Hagny' the order should be for \$7.00 (U.S.) for each plant plus \$3.00 handling for the first plant and \$2.00 for each additional plant. There is a maximum of two plants for spring delivery and five plants for fall delivery.

For Canadian customers in Quebec and Ontario the price is \$9.00 per plant plus \$7.50 for three plants plus \$2.00 for each additional plant. Please also add GST or PST where applicable. If *Syringa* 'Hagny' orders are already existing then just add \$2.00 per plant shipping and handling. For all other provinces minimum shipping is \$13.00 for three lilacs and \$2.50 for each additional. These Canadian shipping increases are due to Canada Post increases in Expresspost.

Lilac Auction – 1996 Update

WANTED – LILAC PLANTS FOR THE AUCTION!

As has been our tradition through the years, we have appreciated donations of lilac plants (as well as other interesting plants) to sell at the auction at each convention. Please consider your plants and start them growing for the spring. All varieties are welcomed and of course, "uncommon" varieties make interesting surprises!

Please write or contact me as soon as you can with any information about possible donations. The names of the varieties are helpful and group donations are very much appreciated. In the spring you can send the plants to me (if you are unable to attend) and I'll get them to the auction. Thank you.

Contact: Peter S. Ely, 57 Squantuck Road, Seymour, CT 06483.
Telephone: (203) 888-2628.

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Dr. Owen M. Rogers

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