

Lilacs

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PHOTO CREDIT MARIE ROGERS

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IN
THIS
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Convention Proceedings

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Life	160.00

• *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.

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Owen M. Rogers, Editor, 38 College Road, Durham, NH 03824-3544

LILACS 1997

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Cover Story

Front Cover

Outgoing President Reva Ballreich and incoming President John Carvill ride in the Lilac Festival Parade on Mackinac Island.

Back Cover

Lilacs in stained glass window. Old Stone Church, Mackinac Island, MI.

Next Issue

This issue of **Lilacs** is late to accommodate the Annual Convention reports. We will try very hard to get back on track by hold the next deadline for the fall issue at September 8th. There is a very small backlog of material so if you have articles, letters or complaints please send them on to your editor before you go off on your summer vacation.

Things Remembered

by Louis C. Erickson

The 1997 ILS Convention at Mackinac Island lived up to the advance publicity that appeared in recent numbers of **Lilacs, The Quarterly Journal of the Society**, (Fall 1995 and Winter and Spring 1997). If you were unable to attend the meeting for some reason, you must plan for a vacation on Mackinac Island during Lilac Festival time in another year.

Where else can you see lilac trees (*S. vulgaris*) with trunks approaching two feet in diameter and boys found climbing in the branches at least ten or fifteen feet above the ground? If Max's picture turns out, he can offer proof for this unbelievable sight. Not all of the lilacs are this large, but there are several along Huron Street in the vicinity of Ste. Anne's Church. Interspersed among the giants are ones of various sizes planted during this century. No one is certain about the age of the oldest lilacs on Mackinac Island, but the general opinion is that some may be as much as 150 to 200 years old.

Marquette Park is along Main-Huron Street north of the shopping area, with beds of lilacs in an otherwise grassy expanse. Here is where they held "Music on the lawn" Saturday evening. Besides this public display of lilacs, every private residence seemed to have one or more lilacs in its landscape. This is truly "Lilacland". The newly formed alliance between Mackinac Island and ILS will surely result in a first-class collection of named lilac cultivars. Some plants have been contributed to this end, and more have been promised.

At the plant auction under the tent on the lawn in front of the hotel, John Carvill's voice seemed to be giving out, so Colin Chapman aided with a persuasive "you can't pass this one up" description of the plants as they were auctioned. The public was invited to the auction and it was interesting to see some of the buyers transporting their purchases "home" in the baskets of their bicycles. This reminded me of the story told by one of the drivers of the Wolverine Stages, who also delivered parcels on the Island: One lady at the upper end of the Island frequently ordered articles from a catalogue, which were then delivered by bicycle. This occurred frequently enough for him to wish that someone would hide her catalogues.

The Barrington Youth Choir was scheduled to perform on the lawn after the plant auction was completed. Of course, the auction took longer than planned, so after patiently, or more probably politely, waiting for a considerable time, someone asked that the auction be interrupted long enough to hear the choir. The singing was so well received that the applause called for several encores. The lesson for future planners should be that the number of plants offered in the auction be reduced. If the condition of the plants offered were better, it might not take so many, nor so long, to achieve the same total income.

Other than regional reports by Vice Presidents and a preliminary report by Dr. Waines on breeding for dwarf or slow-growing cultivars, the talks were about Island history and nature studies. Literature in our registration packets gave us much additional information about the Island. Our carriage ride gave us a chance to see several of the Spring wild flowers. We also enjoyed the gardens of the Grand Hotel, following which a few members partook of the buffet lunch in the hotel. Out of curiosity, I stepped off the length of the buffet tables and came up with a gross length approaching 100 feet. Sally S. remarked that we didn't have a lunch: we had an experience. Only one ILS member failed to pass the dress code. I don't know where he had lunch.

Although motor vehicles are not allowed on Mackinac Island, transportation on shank's mare, bicycle and horse-drawn carriage does not relieve one of being careful and watching his step.

The final event on Sunday afternoon was the Annual Lilac Festival Grand Parade. It was uncertain which would come first, the parade or the approaching storm. After perfectly gorgeous weather for many days before this day, which brought the lilacs into full bloom as hoped for, the rain held off until the parade was over and we were safely inside for the awards banquet.

As the parade passed by our hotel, we had the luxury of watching from curbside, sitting on chairs reserved for ILS members. Riding in the lead carriage of the parade were outgoing President of ILS, Reva Ballreich, and incoming President, John Carvill. The Chamber of Commerce and the Island House made every effort for ILS to have a successful Conference, which they viewed as a social gathering. I agree: with each Conference attended, camaraderie becomes more important.

INTERNATIONAL LILAC SOCIETY

TREASURER'S REPORT – JUNE 13, 1997

Bank Statement (Acct. #190404000696) Key Bank of Maine, Showhegan, ME. 04976 — Balance 3/31/97	\$ 6,397.41
Edward Jones Co. (Acct. #212-03072-1-6) = C.D.	39,000.00
Total funds available 4/1/97	45,397.41
Funds being held in SPECIAL ACCTS 4/1/97	32,256.50
Total funds available in General Account 4/1/97	13,140.91

COMPARING 1997 (4/1/96 to 3/31/97) with 1996 (4/1/95 to 3/31/96)

<u>TOTAL CREDITS</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1996</u>
DUES	\$5,114.00	\$4,610.50
LIFE MEMBERSHIP/ENDOWMENT	670.00	1,909.26
CONTRIBUTIONS	135.00	195.00
ADVERTISING	20.00	50.00
PUBLICATIONS	303.00	170.50
AUCTION	2,500.00	2,510.00
CONFERENCE	1,151.69	1,739.22
INTEREST	2,445.19	2,090.00
MISCELLANEOUS	0.	26.70
TOTAL CREDITS	\$12,338.88	\$13,301.18

<u>TOTAL DEBITS</u>		
MISCELLANEOUS	\$ 2,578.73	\$ 328.30
OFFICE SUPPLIES	99.39	126.16
JOURNAL	4,855.88	4,953.90
BANK FEES (SERVICE CHARGES)	0.	63.00
POSTAGE	1,491.69	2,085.99
COLOR PHOTO	666.50	705.60
SHIPPING	174.95	122.09
PHONE	594.32	500.40
AWARDS	672.20	636.80
CONFERENCE	0.	1,750.56
TYPING/FAX	97.00	149.66
PRINTING (other than JOURNAL)	1,210.95	801.64
TOTAL DEBITS	\$12,441.61	\$12,224.10

An Open Letter To ILS Delegates

from Charles D. Holetich

Dear ILS friends,

Extenuating circumstances brought me to Hamilton, Ontario, this 30th of May. The lilacs in Katie Osborne Lilac Collection were at their peak. Quantity of bloom on individual bushes were a bit below usual, but well compensated with enormous size of inflorescences and florets. The intensity of color was also more pronounced especially in red, pink and purple group.

In my selfish thought I entertain the possibility that God knew of my unplanned coming and helped with the delay of blooming time so I could see the "Spring performing queens" (lilacs) at their full glory. In fact, this spring I had the pleasure to see lilacs in bloom three times. First in Croatia toward end of April and first week of May, on 2nd of June in Hamilton, Ontario and on 9th and 10th of June in Uxbridge, Ontario – a town 25 miles north of Toronto.

In January I was here collecting additional lilac scions for the Arboretum developed and operated by Faculty of Forestry – University of Zagreb. Professor of Genetics and Dendrology informs me the *Syringa josikaea* as understock gives higher percentage of grafting success than *Fraxinus pennsylvanica*. *Syringa villosa* which was also used as understock gave success results somewhere between the two said species.

In part of Croatia which is near Hungarian and Austrian border where I went to speedup the mending of my fractured bones in the spa or a thermal bath with physiotherapy programs I frequently went for a ride through the country roads. *Syringa vulgaris* 'Andenken an Ludwig Späth' was more visible than any other cultivar. Local people informed me that they acquired the plant as rooted sucker from their neighbour, friend, or a relative, which leads to conclusion that it repropagates easily by division while dark purple-red colour of bloom is the best advertisement to a passing road traveller that an inviting beauty is enhancing the scenery.

My inquisitive mind develops a thought as to what impression would a passerby experience if there were 5 or 10 best cultivars planted side by side along a travelling road? Probably many car accidents along that stretch of the road! !! Beside, how could we possibly agree as to which 5 or 10 cultivars are the best? And thus the ability 'not to agree' becomes beneficial to above scenario.

Having time on disposal I visited last September two wonderful individuals, Elfriede and Konrad Kircher. They operate a wholesale nursery in Bad Zwischenahn, Germany. When compared to considerable number of lilac growing nurseries I have seen in North America and Europe, they must be the largest in Europe.

If people were willing to wait a year or two for delivery of their order Kircher's nursery is capable to provide plants of over 800 lilac taxa. Of

course, as wholesale nursery they are not keen to propagate only 3 or 5 plants per kind, however, it is good to know where a "collector enthusiast" may turn if other local sources are exhausted. The Kirchers are planning to develop the largest lilac collection in Germany to educate visitors and potential customers of great assortment of cultivars the genus *Syringa* is offering.

My European travels brought me also to Budapest in Hungary where I had the pleasure to meet another nice and hard working individual and an ILS member, Dr. Gabor Schmidt. He is developing and maintaining a fair lilac collection at the Faculty Experimental grounds. The collection has a good potential base as educational and recreational amenity but is in need of further maintenance funding which is typical story with many other collections I have seen. Perhaps if it was made accessible to general public, more volunteers could be found and perhaps "more arms could be twisted" in Governmental quarters to appropriate needed maintenance funds. Otherwise Dr. Smith, who is the head of Dendrology and Genetics department of the Faculty, is a very warm and kind person practicing a life of a typical University professor - who is trying to squeeze 26 hours work schedule into 8 hours working day.

I am sorry I could not be with you at the Mackinac Island Convention and enjoy the fourth lilac bloom in a season. I must stay in Hamilton area and wait for the opportunity to be operated on my pinched nerve in my right hand. This is just another indication that I was busy practicing slavery without realizing that it has been abolished long time ago. Reva Ballreich can fill you in with further details. She is also a workaholic and had to undergo a similar operation.

My not being with you at Mackinac Island Convention will be compensated by presence of younger and more energetic Dennis Eveleigh, who will fill you in as to what is currently transpiring or is in planning stage at the Royal Botanical Gardens, Hamilton, Canada. If all goes well, I'll join you during next year's Convention.

Membership Committee Report

As of the third of June 1997, International Lilac Society has a total of 458 memberships. I reported 452 members in my previous report dated May 1996. I still receive correspondence from the magazine articles published in 1995 and 1996, which generates new memberships.

The 458 memberships are comprised of 371 annual memberships, 72 lifetime memberships, 10 complimentary memberships and 5 honorary memberships.

Geographical representation of ILS is as follows: 388 memberships in the United States, 32 memberships in Europe, 31 memberships in Canada and 7 memberships in Asia.

Regional membership lists are being distributed to their respective Vice-Presidents.

— Dave Gressley
Membership Secretary
3 June 1997

Editor's Report

by Dr. Owen M. Rogers

There have been four issues (Vol. 25, Nos. 3 and 4; Vol. 26, Nos. 1 and 2) of *Lilacs* published since the last report to the Board. They have been at least 28 pages long and have included three advertisements.

The column "Tips for Beginners" continues to be well received, but "Swap Column" has gone to a quiet demise and won't be resurrected unless the Editor receives promise of "Swaps" to use. The Editor would, however, be interested in ideas for other specific columns for use in the Journal. He would also invite members to submit articles or pictures for use in future issues.

A revision of the Membership Brochure was printed and distributed this year. It is identical to the earlier version except for necessary updates and the dues increase. If anyone has copies of the Brochure, they should check to be sure they correctly show the dues to be "Individual/Family \$20.00 per yr U.S." Old versions should be discarded. Copies of the revision are available from Mr. John Carvill or the Editor.

Election Report

The ballots were counted and the following people were chosen to serve on the Board of Directors of the International Lilac Society until the year 2000.

Reva Ballreich
Walter Eickhorst

Robert Gilbert
James Hastings
Julie London

Following the election Walter Eickhorst announced that he would be unable to serve and John Carvill was appointed to the Board to serve out Walter's term.

Reva Ballreich submitted the following letter to the Board dated June 15, 1997.

TO ALL OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE INTERNATIONAL LILAC SOCIETY:

Five years ago at the ILS Annual Convention in Boston I was nominated for and was then elected to be your President. I accepted the position voluntarily and felt it a great honor. I have at all times attempted to serve ILS with honor and dignity. I feel our Society has prospered and is being identified both nationally and internationally as a source of the latest and the most comprehensive lilac information available. We have been represented in many foremost magazines and newspapers, our Lilac Quarterly Journal has become a true JOURNAL and not just a newsletter, our Regional Vice President positions are filled, the Archives is becoming active due to a new archivist to help Dan and we have important lilac research in place with more being proposed. Many new lilac collections are being established from the Mississippi on West under the auspices of ILS. Our finances are in great shape. In view of the foregoing statements, I feel the International Lilac Society is on very solid ground.

At this time I do wish to voluntarily resign my position as President to the International Lilac Society. I believe this is a good time to bring someone else to the leadership. New ideas are always good for an organization. I will remain active in the Society and will remain Regional Vice President for Region 7 (California).

I want to thank all the Members of the Board, the Executive Committee persons and the Regional Vice Presidents for your tireless efforts to support and advise me during my administration.

The Board accepted Reva's resignation with regret and at its meeting on June 15, 1997 elected John Carvill as the Society's President.

Conference Participants

The following is a list of all the conference participants that were registered through the Island House Hotel.

Reva Ballreich	Tim Leeper
Bonnie Barnes	Patti Leeper
Bradley Bittorf	Bryan Leonard
Todd Callewaert	Janice Leonard
Iris Cannata	Julie London
John Carvill	Ruth Mickus
Ann Carvill	David Peterschick
Joan Chamberlin	Marvalla Peterschick
Sandra Chryster	Max Peterson
Edward Collins	Owen Rogers
Mrs. Collins	Marie Rogers
Eva Dwyer	Ruth Ann Rohman
Walter Eickhorst	Daniel Ryniec
Catherine Eickhorst	Mary Ryniec
Peter Ely	Rudy Schaffer
Louis Erickson	Sally Schaffer
Dennis Eveleigh	Laureen Smith
Pauline Fiala	Len Tranbina
David Gressley	Timmons Family
Kathryn Heard	William Tschumi
Connie Henry	Mrs. Tschumi
Robert Hoepfl	William Utley
Marcia Hoepfl	Giles Waines
William Horman	Don Wedge
Edward Kerle	Mrs. Wedge
Jean Kerle	Howard Whitescaper
Konrad Kircher	

New England Regional Report

by Peter Ely

The Shelburne, Shelburne, Vermont, invited our Region 1 - New England, to a one day field trip on Thursday, May 29, 1997 during their week long Lilac Festival. Their gracious hosts, Meg Walker, Ada Hubbard, Robert Furrer and Reed Cherington provided information packets, cordial welcome, room a fine coffee and cake hour.

Shelbourne Museum consists of 18th and 19th century Americana assembled by Mrs. Watson Webb formerly Electra Havemeyer of New York. A columned mansion in the center of the tract is surrounded by gardens and landscape plantings of French hybrid lilacs. Lilacs abound since they were an especial favorite of Mrs. Webb.

Founding President Orville Steward of Plymouth, Vermont, Regional Vice-President Peter Ely of Seymour, Connecticut, and Howard Merrill of Alfred, Maine demonstrated lilac pruning as a featured event for the public.

When lilacs are allowed to reach their maximum size about fifteen feet in height and twenty feet across they usually need corrective pruning. Lilacs grow well in fertile well-drained soils, in FULL sunshine, and when they receive well distributed rainfall. The flowers are best seen when the plants are kept no taller than eight feet. A program of good maintenance calls for an ANNUAL pruning consisting of removal of as many as three largest/oldest stems out of the plant. This gives a three year rotation of new wood for quality flower production.

We also visited the adjacent horticultural experimental farm of the University of Vermont, to view their very large lilac collection under the capable David Heleba. Twenty-one members of Region 1 attended, including Dr. Norman Pellett, U.V.M.; Charlie Prouit, owner Horsford's Nursery; Ruth

Buchanan, Jean Kurler of Hamesbest Gardens and Carolyn Merrill took photos. Plans are being made to have ILS observe its 28th Annual Convention near Burlington, Vermont in late May 1999.



PHOTO CREDIT CAROLYN MERRILL

ILS Region 1 field day at the Shelburne Museum in Vermont.

It was an educational and fun day for us and the public.

Plains District Report

by Max Peterson

Greetings from the plains of Nebraska. It has been said that if you can garden in Nebraska, you can garden anywhere. As usual Nebraska weather has again proven this correct. A long dry winter, temperatures up to sixty during the day and then dropping to eight below zero during the night plays havoc with plant life. We had a lot of branch killing and some plants didn't even bloom this spring. However, the lilacs still seem the supreme plant for this area. The ones that bloomed were absolutely gorgeous.

This year has been very productive for this Mid-Western Region. The Omaha Botanical Garden is in the final stage of preparation and some more lilacs will be planted again in the fall. The Arbor Lodge at Nebraska City will receive about 150 more varieties this spring to bring that project close to completion. The members that surround this project are considering applying to have the convention there in about six years. With the Lied Jungle at Omaha, Arbor Lodge at Nebraska City and a few outstanding gardens, we think it would make an outstanding and memorable convention.

This spring, three ladies from Claremont, Oklahoma visited my collection and took home 200 more plants for their city. That project, started by Reva Ballreich, is right on track and continuing to grow and flourish. Also in Blair, Nebraska the City Council has requested lilacs for their park. Also this spring Mr. John Adair who resides in Omaha, Nebraska contacted me about acquiring lilacs. I believe he contacted Bill Horman first who referred him to me. He was put on a committee from Lake View, Iowa to plan a lilac collection for that town. After consulting with him, I believe the plan is to go into a collection of 200 to 250 varieties. This will be planted within the next two years. Needless to say, with all this planting I am getting stripped of suckers in my collection, but isn't it exciting. ILS is really moving in our area.

I plan on being at Mackinac Island and look forward to renewing old friendships.

California Region Report

by Reva Ballreich

CALIFORNIA IS ALIVE AND WELL!

In April, Woody Barnes and I gave a lilac presentation to the Julian Garden Club. Woody gave the history of lilacs and important culture information for good lilac growth and form. I gave a slide presentation of lilacs that are available in the trade. I also gave a similar presentation later to the Idyllwild Garden Club and also the Descanso Gardens.

The first week of May I hosted an all day Lilac Tour of my gardens sponsored by the Idyllwild Garden Club. During the blooming period the gardens were open to the public and many bus loads of viewers from surrounding counties visited the gardens.

Terry Sawyer of Frazier Park in the Los Padres National Forest (a few miles north of L.A. 5,000'), has asked our (ILS) help to bring more meaning to their Annual Lilac Festival by increasing the number of lilacs in their collection and advice as to why the existing lilacs are not blooming. I shall visit the site as soon as I return from the convention.

Our member, Celestin Reallon of Capistrano Beach, is planting lilacs on his Fawn Skin property near Big Bear Lake 5,000' in the San Bernardino Mountains.

Rudy Schaffer is doing an amazing rejuvenation of the old Sobeck and Lammerts lilacs at the Descanso Gardens. He is also planting a great number of other cultivars. A great oak tree was felled by the winter weather and he is taking advantage of the newly created sunny area.

Alaska Report

The following article appeared in the *Anchorage Daily News* in May of 1997.

BLOOMS

Story by Donna Freedman, Daily News Reporter

Every summer, James MacFarlane returns to Wayne Leiser's house – the south wall, to be exact. Come June, Leiser's southern exposure turns pink.

"A true pink – and they smell so fragrant," says Leiser, who planted a trio of James Macfarlane lilac bushes outside his home 18 years ago.

There's nothing lowly about these bushes, which stand 12 to 15 feet tall and pump out innumerable pink blooms each season. But even if you opt for a dwarf variety, a lilac will provide terrific return on your landscaping investment.

The bush is well-suited for Alaska, since it prefers cold winter weather (Canadian hybrids are particularly hardy). Lilacs bloom early and heavily, and don't need a whole lot of care.

Generally speaking, lilacs seem to be less palatable to moose than many

other shrubs and trees. (However, as veteran gardeners know, a hungry moose will eat almost anything during a tough winter.)

This is likely to be an early year for lilac blooms, if the Mayday trees are any indication. *Prunus padus*, which usually blooms sometime in June, has been flowering for a week or more all around town. The reason is probably a combination of our lack of deep freeze and an early spring.

So if you planted lilacs last year, you might well be watching the buds swell and expand. You'll be pleasurably anticipating the unforgettable fragrance of fresh lilac on a warm summer breeze.

And if you didn't? Get yourself to a nursery or garden center and check out what's available. With luck, you'll still manage some blossoms before summer is out.

Two favorite dwarf varieties locally are Miss Kim, an upright bush with lighter-lavender flowers, and Dwarf Korean, a globe-shaped variety with deep-lavender blooms. Peggy Bush of Bush Landscaping and Nursery is a big fan of Dwarf Korean for small-space landscapes. It stays compact, but puts out lots of stems.

"What's neat is that it blooms from the bottom all the way to the top," Bush says.

The larger "common" lilacs come in purple, white and pink. The produce lots of new growth, with accompanying profuse blossoms, and tend to be more fragrant than Canadian hybrids.

However, common lilacs can take several seasons to produce any blossoms. Canadian hybrids such as Mt. Baker (white), Donald Wyman (purple) and Miss Canada (medium pink) may bloom the very first year. At Bush Landscaping, bare-root lilacs potted up earlier this season already are showing numerous flower buds.

Bare-root lilacs should have been planted or potted by now. Containerized lilacs, however, can be put in the ground from early spring to late fall — basically, any time the ground is workable.

Leiser of Dimond Greenhouses recommends using a weakened fertilizer solution (one-quarter to one-half strength) to water your lilacs. Feeding them each time you water makes for steady, even growth. You'll be using the same amount of food as you normally would in a season, just less of it at a time.

Lilacs like sweet soil. Although regular liming isn't essential for every single variety, it's a nice indulgence for them all. You can give them a taste at least once a year without fear of overdoing it.

"You can't really over-lime them," master gardener Vicki Pargeter says.

When your bushes are finished blooming for the season, prune them if they need it. Removing some of the older growth will mean more blossoms and less woody trunk. (However, if you're going for a "tree" look, prune off suckers and let the trunk continue to grow.)

Do not — repeat, do *not* — prune in the fall. Lilacs set their buds in the fall, on the tips of branches. Cutting back limbs in the fall means far fewer blooms in your back yard next spring.

Report of *The Friends of Parks & Recreation* Bennington, Vermont

by John Dostal, P.O. Box 152, Bennington, VT 05201

Two individuals have been most helpful: Walter Oakes who supplied everything that was available from past history and Orville Steward who has endured my questioning for untold hours and who has forwarded copies of **The Journal** going back to 1972 for my perusal. What a wealth of information irrespective of my having read Fr. Fiala's "Lilac Bible" many times. At another time I would like to expound on my reactions from the past, to the present, and perhaps to the future for someone who is as much of a neophyte as I am.

All of my plantings to date have been on properties of The Chamber of Commerce, The State of Vermont Office Complex and the 55 acre property of the Vermont Veterans Home. It is difficult to envision the locations of plantings with a plot diagram but I am just reworking this which I will be able to forward at a later date.

I am not a horticulturist, hence my approach to public reaction is essentially Visual Imagery or what I think I have learned so far as to what pleases people in their viewing Lilacs. The first planting of 100 plants last spring was generally responding to where I thought they would best be viewed. This will need some readjustment later on.

The next 24 were selected for fragrance and planted last fall along a path where parents take their children to view native deer in an enclosed "Deer Park".

The next planting of another 100, in two weeks, will be in groups of 4 which is intended for viewing by motorists on a well traveled street, a fifth of a mile long, bordering the Veterans Home and our Regional High School, Vocational Center and Athletic Fields. The placement of the plantings prompts me to plant placements so the angle of viewing will be of a longer (seconds) vision retention.

This fall or next spring I am planning for group plantings that will reflect blooming over the cycle of early to late bloomers again with the pleasing visual image paramount to the viewer's pleasure.

At this point I have to reflect back on my original concept and determine if this project will in fact attract townspeople and hopefully "Tourists" as well.

Additionally, a planting on the lawn of the Chamber of Commerce or the Town Hall of an offshoot from the Governor Benning Wentworth Lilac stock from his home in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, is a personal quest, to be to date, the only public commemoration relating to how our Community got its name Bennington.

So much for now. After reading the wealth of information in past issues of **The Journal** I would like to share, with your permission, some of my reactions hoping they may be of interest to others.

Some Thoughts on Pruning Lilacs

by Robert B. Clark, Meredith, New Hampshire

Essentially, pruning is a dwarfing process. You remove certain parts of a woody plant to improve it in some way: better appearance, improved flower, or fruit quality. The common lilac, a.k.a. "French hybrid" lilac, is naturally a large shrub. Gardeners are hesitant to keep the flower clusters at or slightly above eye height. These lilacs are usually multi-stemmed. A three-year rotation schedule of removing one-third of the tallest canes will keep the lilacs in bounds.

Hedge shears do not belong in the lilac grower's tool chest. Both lilacs and privets are olive family members; the privets, however, are grown for their foliage and are very good for hedges, while lilacs are grown for their superb flowers. The accompanying photo illustrate my point. They date from 1972 and 1993. Updated the tall unrestrained white lilac is in 1997 now conformed and doing nicely, thank you.



PHOTO CREDIT ROBERT CLARK

Comic strip pruning. The barber does not discriminate; he uses hedge shears on the four spreading yews as well.



PHOTO CREDIT ROBERT CLARK

Three lilacs — two with crew cuts. The third is not tall enough for barber shears yet.

Selection of Dwarf Lilacs with Low Winter Chill for Warmer Climates

by J.G. Waines

Botanic Gardens, University of California, Riverside, CA 92521-0124

Progress Report to the International Lilac Society, July 1996-June 1997

Objectives:

Identify desirable parents – open pollinated seed of nine cultivars that do well in Riverside, Southern California, elevation 800 feet, was collected early August 1996. Cultivars included 'Mathews Purple', 'Oliver de Serres', 'Cheyenne', 'Excel', 'Ester Staley', 'Descanso 21', 'Pocahontas', 'De Mirabel' and 'Romona', a dwarf selection made by Dr. Louis Erickson out of 'Pocahontas'.

In the fall and winter, seed was sown in flats to produce seedlings. I decided to repeat Dr. Erickson's experiment and sowed more than 500 seeds of 'Pocahontas'. We now have 467 plants in pots that range in height from 3 to 24 inches. There is considerable variation for dwarfism in this population of seedlings. Some of these will not grow well, but we can expect some to form desirable short-statured plants, and we will plant them in the field next winter. We will discard the tall plants.

Other seeds that have been germinated are 'De Mirabel' and 'Romona'. These seedlings are now being potted on. This summer, seed of other cultivars will be germinated and potted, and dwarf plants selected for further study. We are staggering the germination to spread the load of transplanting seedlings.

Hybridization Procedures in Riverside Conditions:

Experiments undertaken to determine the need for emasculation and bagging of flowers under Riverside conditions in mid-March to early April.

1. Remove stamens before flowers open and bag inflorescence: 90 flowers were so treated, and they produced no seed pods.
2. Remove stamens before flowers open, but do not bag flowers: 100 flowers were so treated, and they also produced no seed pods.
3. Bag an inflorescence to see whether it sets seeds.
 - i) 95 flowers but produced no seed pods
 - ii) 90 flowers but produced no seed pods
 - iii) 100 flowers produced 18 pods in the center of the inflorescence!
4. Cross-pollinated flowers: several inflorescences were so treated and bagged, but bags were lost in a wind storm because they were on the windy side of the bush. This part of the experiment needs to be repeated.

Conclusion:

1. There is considerable variation for height in 6- to 9-month-old open-pollinated seedlings for 'Pocahontas' lilac. It may be possible to select out dwarf and semidwarf lilac bushes from these seedlings, which can then be screened for flower characteristics.
2. Removing stamens from flowers appear to prevent seed and fruit formation regardless of whether inflorescences are bagged or not. Therefore, lilac flowers may require insect visitors for pollination at Riverside.
3. The bagged inflorescences gave contradictory results. Preventing insect or wind pollination produced no seed pods in two inflorescences. Perhaps an insect managed to enter the bagged inflorescence in the third inflorescence that was bagged, thereby producing the 18 seed pods.

Experiments Proposed for the 1997-1998 Season:

1. Collect seed from open-pollinated flowers from white and cream cultivars that do well in the Riverside area.
2. Continue germinating seed collected in 1996 and 1997.
3. Transplant dwarf plants to field in Winter 1998.
4. Repeat "Hybridization Procedures in Riverside Conditions" in late March—early April.
5. Make a collection of dwarf lilacs to test them at Riverside for low winter chill requirement.

Awards — June 1997

International Lilac Society
AWARD OF MERIT

is presented to

Todd Callewaert

President of the Chamber of Commerce and General Manager of the Island House.

For his offering the arrangements that brought the
International Lilac Society to Mackinac Island
and

his contributions toward making this year's convention unique.

International Lilac Society
AWARD OF MERIT

is presented to

Dr. William Chambers

For his four contributions to the International Lilac Society
convention. "Dr. Bill" is known for his own lilac garden in the
museum area of Surrey Hills on Mackinac Island.

International Lilac Society
AWARD OF MERIT

is presented to

Len Trankina

Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce

For his many contributions toward making the
26th convention of the International Lilac Society
a great success.

International Lilac Society
AWARD OF MERIT

is presented to

David P. Gressley

For his contribution to the society as membership secretary
and for his continued dedication to the aims of the society
and the promotion of the lilac.

International Lilac Society
AWARD OF MERIT

is presented to

Tim and Patti Leeper

Year round residents of Mackinac Island, who have acted as leaders in the planting, labeling and recording of new lilacs on the Island.

International Lilac Society
AWARD OF MERIT

is presented to

Phil Porter

As the top history authority of Mackinac Island, including both the old and new lilacs, not only on the Island, but in the State Historic Parks of Michigan.

International Lilac Society
AWARD OF MERIT

is presented to

Trish Martin

For her work in publicizing the lilac, and who is a specialist in the nature and science of Mackinac Island.

International Lilac Society
DIRECTOR'S AWARD

is presented to

Freek Vrugtman

For his scientific work on the taxonomy and nomenclature of the lilac and his outstanding contribution to the registration of lilac cultivars.

International Lilac Society
PRESIDENT'S AWARD

is presented to

Max Peterson

For his extraordinary work in the encouragement of the planting of lilacs for public display and educations including his sharing of rare plants with public lilac gardens around the world.

Awards — June 1997 - continued from previous page



Reva Ballreich receiving present from ILS Awards Chair Pauline Fiala.



David Gressley displaying his ILS Award.



*Right:
Max Peterson receives the ILS Presidents Award from Pauline Fiala.
Highest award given this year.*

PHOTO CREDIT FOR ALL PICTURES
BRAD BITTORF



Len Trankina receiving an ILS Award from Pauline Fiala.



Tim Leeper and his ILS Award.

Pictures From The 1997 Annual Convention



PHOTO CREDIT BRAD BITTORF

Mackinac Island. Lilacs in foreground.



PHOTO CREDIT BRAD BITTORF

Mayor Margaret Dowd at the ILS Awards Banquet.



PHOTO CREDIT BRAD BITTORF

John Carvill and Reva Ballreich, the new and outgoing ILS presidents.

More Pictures From The 1997 Annual Convention



PHOTO CREDIT BRAD BITTORF
Colin Chapman at ILS auction.



PHOTO CREDIT BRAD BITTORF
Trish Mortin, speaker at ILS meeting.



PHOTO CREDIT BRAD BITTORF
Barrington Youth Choir sings for the International Lilac Society.

Tips for Beginners

In the last issue of **Lilacs** you wrote that the Latin name (assigned, following all its rules) was the only reliable name for a plant, and then you published an article by Dr. Pringle changing a number of them. Where is the stability?

The stability is in the rules. A Latin name is assigned to a plant by an authority following all the rules for naming plants. That name and the naming authority is published and becomes the standard unless the rules require that it be changed. There are two general categories of rules that would require changing a plant's name. The first is nomenclatural. If a person finds that there is another, properly constructed, name assigned earlier than the one you have been using, then that earlier name has priority and must be used. For example, the tree lilac was called *Syringa amurensis* var. *japonica* Maxim in 1878, but an earlier name had been assigned by Blume in 1850, so today we use *Syringa reticulata* (Blume) Hara.

The second situation where a plant name could be changed is following a taxonomic study. Continuing with our tree lilac example, the plant was originally classified as a privet (*Ligustrum*) because of similarities in the flower structure. However, all the forms of *Ligustrum* fruits are drupes, while the tree lilac fruits are capsules, as are all lilacs (*Syringa*). Therefore, we read in the name that Blume was the first to describe the plant and Hara was the authority that moved the plant from *Ligustrum* to *Syringa*.

Tracing all the nomenclatural and taxonomic changes is not easy without access to the appropriate literature. That's why articles such as the one by Dr. James Pringle in the last issue of **Lilacs** are so important. He is a card carrying, fire breathing, certified taxonomist and you can be sure that any changes he reports have been carefully researched and evaluated.

International Lilac Society

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