

Lilacs

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*IN
THIS
ISSUE:* **Membership Issue**

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Life	160.00

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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, 38 College Road, Durham, NH 03824-3544

LILACS 1999

PUBLISHED JANUARY 1999

President's Message

The Annual Meeting of the International Lilac Society held at the Royal Botanical Gardens was enjoyed by all in attendance. It should be noted that Dennis Eveleigh, chairman, endeavored to cover both the needs and interests of the members. We thank him for a very successful convention at Hamilton, Canada.

Although most of the Lilacs had gone by the friendships renewed, meetings held and the Lilac Auction made for a most memorable convention.

I have been in touch with Peter Ely over the summer and he has been working hard to have many pleasing programs in place for our 1999 convention at Shelburne, Vermont. Again this year I encourage you as members to attend.

Our Quarterly Journals have excellent articles for use by the membership. Our illustrious Editor, Owen Rogers, is always happy to receive articles that you would like to contribute. Let's remember the thrust of the Society is threefold, through education, publication and research. If the members can continue to procure articles regarding Lilacs to be published in Journals, newspapers and on television the Society will thrive and grow.

As we gather this year for celebrations with family and friends, may we all enjoy Happy Holidays and peace.

John Carvill

Covers

Front Cover

A winter scene at the 1773 Prentis House at the Shelburne Museum in Vermont. If the scene is that nice in the winter, imagine how nice it will be when the lilac is in bloom around convention time.

Back Cover

'*Krasavitsa Moskv*' According to Colin Chapman, this is an historic picture since "...it shows the very first outdoor flowering of '*Krasavitsa Moskv*' in the United Kingdom (and probably in Western Europe) here (Norman's Farm) on May 10th, 1993".

Why Shelburne, Vermont in 1999?

by Peter Ely

New England Regional 1999 Convention Coordinator

It was the first weekend in June 1984, that I.L.S. President Tom Chipko brought the Thirteenth Annual International Lilac Society Convention to Shelburne, Vermont and to the lilacs at Shelburne Museum. Over 60 members attended the convention and focussed on the large collection of mostly Havemeyer and Lemoine hybrid lilacs which are planted (and remain to this day) on the lawn of the Greek revival-type building overlooking the Museum grounds. The I.L.S. publication **Lilacs** in 1984 reports the following. "The lilacs were in excellent condition, many in full bloom. The plants were just over eye-height. Outstanding was Skinner's early hybrid 'Pocahontas' which was covered with purplish flowers over a shrub ten feet in spread. Then throughout the village common or old-fashioned lilacs were planted and in bloom during our visit. One hundred forty-four lilacs and lilac related items were donated for the auction. The Society's treasury was enriched by \$1,214.50"

So, in 1999, we will return to Shelburne to witness the celebration of spring on the grounds of Shelburne Museum, Shelburne Farms, and the University of Vermont Horticulture Research Center. All three will be an integral part of our convention, and each with numerous established lilacs. Shelburne Museum reported in it's 1997 Lilac Festival Program the following about its lilac collection. "When Electra Havemeyer Webb founded Shelburne Museum fifty years ago, she paid particular attention

to the landscape environment as well as the historic structures she relocated to the Museum grounds. Most evident to visitors to the Museum are the hundreds of apple trees and lilacs that dot the landscape. Electra Webb's interest in lilac varieties came from her cousin Theodore A. Havemeyer, a prominent horticulturist who specialized in cultivating and breeding new lilac varieties. (Electra was a niece of Theodore A. Havemeyer, and is commemorated by the single magenta 'Mrs. Watson Webb') At one time Hevemeyer had over 20,000 lilac plants on his 42-acre Cedar Hill Nursery Estate on Long Island (New York). The Museum has 90 varieties and over 400 lilac bushes. ...An ongoing project, initiated in 1996, has been undertaken to identify them."

Above text, *"Printed by permission of Shelburne Museum".*

Shelburne Farms will be the site for a tour of the Farms and gardens as well as our annual meeting and program of speakers.

We will hold our meetings and have lunch in one of the most impressive Coach barns ever built. It is part of the massive 3000-acre estate built by Dr. William Seward Webb and his wife Lila Vanderbilt beginning in 1882, during the grand Gilded Age of wealth and grandness in America. Thus, the many barns were built in the most massive and grandest dimensions—the Breeding Barn, the Dairy Barn, the Coach Barn, and the massive Farm Barn which was described in a recent Smithsonian magazine as, "the grandest and most fanciful barn in America". The Coach Barn was filled with 80 carriages, horses and harnesses. We will see it in all its grandeur.

The house was also built in grand dimension and elegance. Lila Webb designed, built and evolved her many formal and pleasure gardens around the house. The English cottage style, the French parterre style, a Wild Garden, the Italian style garden and all embellished with fountains, pools, pergola, terraces overlooking some of the most beautiful lake and mountain views anywhere in the world.

Shelburne Farms was planned with the advice of landscape architect Fredrick Law Olmstead who designed the estate along the lines of a park-like setting alongside Lake Champlain and with long curving roadways through forests and farmlots.

When we visit Shelburne Farms in 1999, we will see a rejuvenated 1400-acre working farm, a national historic site and a nonprofit environmental education center that makes its own cheddar cheese, which is like no other cheese in the world, from their own herd of purebred Brown Swiss cows. I hope you enjoy this unique experience!

The lilacs abound in the gardens and lawn areas near the house, which operates presently as an Inn with twenty-four bedrooms and serving regional cuisine.

The above was adapted, in part, from information of tourist pamphlets and some text "Printed by permission of Shelburne Farms".

The University of Vermont Horticulture Research Center in South Burlington will be an important and very interesting experience for us. It is a horticultural field research laboratory for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. The Center comprises of about 90 acres. It has a few buildings dealing with research and farm operation. Research projects are carried out here under the direction of faculty members who are scientists in the Department of Plant and Soil Science. There are several orchard plantings, fruit plantings, several ornamental tree and shrub areas, shade tree collection area, herbaceous plant collections.

The lilac collection contains over 110 specimens representing 60 kinds. The crabapple collection contains over 210 specimens representing 135 kinds. This collection is one of the largest in New England.

The above Horticulture Center information was taken from, *History of the University of Vermont Horticulture Research Center, 1952-1996*, by Norman E. Pellett, Prof. Emeritus, University of Vermont.

In the next Issue of The **Lilacs Journal** there will be a more detailed description of the lilacs to be seen at the above locations.

International Lilac Society Annual Conference Burlington, Vermont May 20, 21 & 22, 1999

Tentative Itinerary, as of 7/98

Thursday, May 20

Registration (Susse Chalet)	2:00 - 7:00 PM
Board Meeting	2:00 - until completion of business
Hospitality Room open	6:00 - 10:00 PM

Friday, May 21

Complimentary continental breakfast (for Susse Chalet guests)	
Travel to Shelburne Farms	8:00 - 8:30 AM
Tour of Shelburne Farms	8:30 - 9:30 AM
Program of Speakers, Coach Barn, Shelburne Farms	9:30 - 11:30 AM
Picnic Lunch, Coach Barn	11:30 - 12:30 PM
Annual Meeting, Coach Barn	12:30 - 1:30 PM
Travel to University of Vermont, Horticultural Research Farm ..	1:30 - 1:45 PM
Tours of Hort. Farm Lilac and other shrub Collections	1:45 - 3:15 PM
Travel to Hotel (Susse Chalet)	3:15 - 3:45 PM
Travel to Radisson Hotel for President's Dinner	5:00 - 5:30 PM
Social Hour at Seasons-by-the-Lake	5:30 - 6:00 PM
Dinner at Seasons-by-the-Lake	6:00 - 7:30 PM
Entertainment in Hotel Function Room	7:30 - 8:30 PM
Travel to Hotel (Susse Chalet)	8:30 - 9:00 PM
Hospitality Room open	9:00 - 11:00 PM

Saturday, May 22

Complimentary continental breakfast (for Susse Chalet guests)	
Board Meeting 7:30 - 8:30 AM	
Travel to Shelburne Museum	9:00 - 9:30 AM
Welcome at Shelburne Museum Round Barn	9:30 - 10:00 AM
Free Time on the Museum Grounds	10:00 - 2:00 PM
-Free admission to over 30 buildings and the side-wheeler "Ticonderoga"	
-Lilac tours	
-ILS lilac workshops	

Catered picnic lunch at the ILS tent (Museum grounds)	Noon
Lilac auction, in or near ILS Tent	2:00 - 4:00 PM
Travel to Hotel (Susse Chalet)	4:00 - 4:30 PM
Travel to Quarry Hill Club	5:30 - 6:00 PM
Awards Banquet at Quarry Hill Club	
-Social Hour	6:00 - 7:00 PM
-Dinner	7:00 - 8:00 PM
-Awards	8:00 - 9:00 PM
Travel to Hotel (Susse Chalet)	9:00 - 9:30 PM
Hospitality Room open	9:30 - 11:00 PM

Sunday, May 23

Complimentary continental breakfast (for Susse Chalet guests)

I.L.S. AUCTION - 1999

Looking forward to the I.L.S. Auction seems to excite us each year. I.L.S. needs your help to make the lilac auction a success. As has been the tradition through the years, we have appreciated the donations of lilac plants (as well as other interesting plants) and other lilac related items to sell at the auction at each convention. Please consider the plants you have and which ones you could contribute to the auction. All varieties are welcome and certainly uncommon varieties and species are especially desirable. All proceeds from the auction go toward the financing of I.L.S. projects and activities.

Please write me or contact me as soon as you can with any information about your possible donations. Should you not be able to bring the items to the convention yourself, please consider sending the plants or items to me at the address below. Please contact me prior to shipping in the Spring so that the plants can be provided with the best care upon arrival. Plants may be sent in bare root or otherwise. I will pot them and keep them growing, as well as transport them to the convention. Careful labeling of each plant or group of same plant is essential to having accurately auctioned plants. Using waterproof ink on the labels, or embossed or inscribed labels are greatly appreciated and prevent mix-ups. I will provide a proper label if needed.

I plan to have the proper government official at the auction to provide the plant buyer with the necessary certificates to allow the plants into Canada. Buyers returning to other countries with plants will need to find out the procedures for returning with plants.

Please contact me at any time with your plans or needs about the auction. We all hope to have a successful auction and convention. Thank you for any support you may be able to provide for our auction.

Ship or contact: Peter Ely
57 Squantuck Road
Seymour, Ct. 06483-2149 USA
Tel: 203-888-2628

1999 CONVENTION TRAVEL INFORMATION

by Peter Ely

BY AIR:

The BURLINGTON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT is located on Airport Drive in Williston, Vermont, two miles east of Burlington. Burlington is 95 miles south of Montreal; 150 miles north of Albany, New York; 225 miles northwest of Boston; and 300 miles north of New York City. Several airlines provide direct services and international connections to and from major cities worldwide, including US AIR, UNITED, CONTINENTAL, DELTA, and AMERICAN.

Air travelers should locate the Hotel Shuttle Phone in the luggage pick-up area to contact the SUSSE CHALET for free travel to your hotel between 7AM and 7PM. For other times, call the hotel for their instructions (802-879-8999). The Susse Chalet is at 590 St. George Road, Williston (a five mile ride).

BY AUTO

I-89 is the most direct route from the north or south to the Burlington/Shelburne area. Take EXIT 12 (Rt. 2A) off of I-89. The Susse Chalet is just a short distance north of the exit - don't miss it! - at 590 St. George Road, Williston.

From Rt. 7 (in Burlington/South Burlington), locate I-189 (to I-89 South) and proceed only a few miles on what becomes I-89 South. Exit at EXIT 12 (Rte 2A). Proceed north on Rt2A a very short distance and watch for Susse Chalet Inn on the left. You are now there!

VERMONT TOURIST INFORMATION:

All information on the Vermont/Lake Champlain/Burlington/Shelburne areas can be obtained from the Chamber of Commerce at 802-863-3489/FAX 802-863-1538 or their Website at <http://www.vermont.org> or from the Vermont Department of Travel and Tourism, 802-434-8100 or their Website www.blumap.com. Enjoy Vermont!

IF YOU ARE PLANNING EXTRA TIME TO SEE VERMONT, you will find it endowed with magnificent scenic panoramas, rich in history and filled with many attractions and recreation opportunities. Nearby are Horsford Gardens & Nursery (oldest in Vermont), Lake Champlain (second largest fresh water lake in USA after Great Lakes) activities, the National Museum of the Morgan Horse, Vermont Teddy Bear Factory, shopping centers, antique shops, hiking and mountain adventures, museums and lilacs. Information can be obtained from the travel centers above.

Editor's Notes

Your editor is not upset by a few typographical errors in **Lilacs**. They give the sharp eyed readers something on which to focus (Note: no dangling participles). However, substantial mistakes are another matter. In the first place, they should never have happened and, once in print, they tend to become permanent, especially if the mistake and its subsequent correction get separated and future users of the information don't realize that what they are repeating is incorrect.

Such substantial errors have occurred in both the summer and fall issues of **Lilacs**. They are listed below and I would really appreciate your taking a few minutes to note the correction in the original article.

Summer issue

Page 81-82 in the Awards article

The pictures of Barb (not Barbara) and Ann (not Ana) were switched. This is not the fault of the photographer. It is one that must fall solely on the Editor.

Page 89 The Gardner Brothers

Somehow, in the title and in two locations lower down, the name Gardner was changed to Gardenar.

Page 88 'Dancing Druid'

The cultivar has parentage, not a percentage as touted in the title of Freek's request for information.

Fall issue

Page 98

'Königin Luise' is a Pfitzer (not Pfitz) origination.

Page 101

The original spelling with diacritics got lost in the process. The corrections, listed below, are in bold print.

ELFENKÖNIG

JOSÉE

RÉVE BLEU

SCHNEEWEIßCHEN [the letter ß is a "double-s" used in the German language;

SCHNEEWEIBCHEN, as printed, translates as "snow wee wife", not Snow-White]

SCHÖNE VON MOSKAU

Pépinières Minier

André Briant

'Krasavitsa Moskvy'

oblata **ssp.** dilatata (not spp.)

'Monore' [not 'Monroe' - on the very bottom line].

There are too many corrections for you to go back and note them all in the fall issue. However, on page 101 of the fall issue, you should note that corrections are shown in this winter issue.

P.S. There are also at least two more typographical errors in the fall issue but I'll leave those for you to find.

Next Issue Deadline

The next issue deadline for material to be included in the spring issue of **Lilacs** will be March 5, 1999. Since this issue will contain convention information and the election ballot, it is important that it be out in time. You could keep your editor from premature aging by submitting your material a day or so early. He would appreciate it.

European Newsletter

by Colin Chapman

Following our magnificent lilac flowering, the rest of 1998 has been a dog. First of all a major renovation to Norman's Farmhouse has become necessary, then I went into a lengthy illness, and subsequently bad weather wrecked my propagating house. The work on the house should start soon, my health has been restored and, as of today, my propagation house is back on line. Unfortunately, all this has left me owing three articles and replies to about twenty letters so kindly be patient if you have written to me.

The appeal I made a year ago for worldwide lilac information has left me with a broken heart and the conviction that only a meagre handful of members read the stuff that I write. Though my ear continues to be bent by the usual suspects, that appeal brought not one single letter from any additional person who was a member at the time. Ask not what your Society can do for you but what you can do for your Society!!!

My own title now embraces Europe, Asia and Australasia and that includes both the Balkan Triangle, and the areas of the Peoples Republic of China, where the lilac species are indigenous. It also includes representing all those Complimentary members whose fees are paid by this Society in the expectation of a contribution to this Journal each year. Though an article would be welcome it is not necessary, but I do expect an informative comment or observation which I can pass on to the membership through this column. It can be in any language: just leave the problems of translating and editing to me. We need to know what is being planted and where, how living collections are being maintained, if anything is endangered, what is known of wild lilacs in the field, new cultivation techniques, and breeding details of new lilacs which should be registered if they are worthy. And, whilst we are at it, does anyone know of any mountains or areas in Africa, South America or the Indian Sub-continent where lilacs are being grown?

That particular tirade was partly initiated by yet another long telephone conversation with Ole Heide. We, that is Ole, Vasily Gorb and I, are seriously seeking contacts in Sofia and Bucharest who might be able to tell us about field locations of Wild European lilacs, or even put us in touch with someone who might guide us to stands of them at flowering time.

I have received a particularly interesting piece of information from Jean François Hervé whose many activities include photography and supplying cut lilacs to the flower sellers of the markets of Paris. A project dear to his heart has now reached an advanced stage. He has been cooperating with *Directeur Brière* of the *Jardins de Brocéliande* at Bréal Sous Montfort, which is near the city of Rennes in Brittany, France, to create a substantial lilac garden. With the help of Konrad Kircher, Frank Moro and particularly Ole Heide they have acquired a total of 337 taxa towards their target of 500. It is hoped to open the garden in the year 2000 or 2001 and our best wishes go to M. Brière and Jean François for the successful completion of this splendid venture. I hope to publish the list of the entire collection when it is complete.

In addition, new member Rolland Genot is the supervisor of a lilac collection at the Ecole du Breuil, Paris. Correspondence has to be in French so I might not have fully understood, but the grounds of the School appear to be the responsibility of the Directorate of Parks, Gardens and Green Spaces and this year on April 24, 25, 26, a Lilac Fete was held to present the collection to the public. Rolland has sent me a list of the 160 taxa in the collection and, again, I hope to have this published eventually. Finally, another new member Emile Kopp has sent me a picture of a handsome

×*hyacinthiflora* seedling with magenta-pink buds and double lilac coloured flowers which he has raised but not named or registered. He is seeking references to lilac books and articles in German, and possible sources of propagating material.

It is very pleasing to write the last two paragraphs. When I joined ILS in 1990 I did not know of a good, documented lilac collection between Moscow and Maine apart from the old one at Brighton but now, I reckon that there must be about one thousand species, hybrids and cultivars of the genus *Syringa* L. in known locations in Western Europe and all with sound provenances. The progress has been so rapid that I cannot keep up with documenting it. My sincere and humble thanks to all concerned.

It was Oscar Wilde, I think, who pointed out that something is fashionable only until everyone has it. Even within a company of Connoisseurs, familiarity can occasionally lead to something of great beauty and rarity being regarded as commonplace simply because everyone in the circle has already acquired it. Over the past years, I have seen plants of my next lilac subject knocked down for trivial dollars indeed at ILS Auctions. This is fortunate for visitors from the local community but is not good for ILS coffers. The particular lilac is sublime and I will try to convey some of the sense of wonder it gives to myself and especially to my visitors who see it for the very first time.

Syringa vulgaris 'Krasavitsa Moskvyy' (Beauty of Moscow)

Leonid Alekseevitch Kolesnikov. Moscow. 1947.

This is Kolesnikov's masterpiece which he bred from his own lilac with the sumptuously coloured - but messily shaped - flowers, S.v. 'I V Michurin', and Lemoine's elegant S.v. 'Belle de Nancy'. It has pale, pink satin buds which open to give pearly white florets which are symmetrically formed like little noisette roses. At the "half bud stage", when the flower spikes are one-third pink and two-thirds white, and the pink of the buds is reflected in the white sheen of the florets, the effect is ravishing.

The habit is somewhat upright and if this lilac has a fault it is that the flowers tend towards the top of the shrub rather than being evenly distributed all around and from top to toe, but this can be modified by good pruning. It flowers at mid season and is the star of the second half of the *Syringa vulgaris* display here.

The end comes as an exquisite dying fall when the final, fleeting, flush of pink lingers on to haunt the reverses of the last florets to open. Visitors compete to find these last tints of pink amongst the full, fabulous flowers which now give off a sweet fragrance of wonderful, airy potency. Can some bio-chemist somewhere please explain to me what kind of molecule gives a colour so transient that it can fade through these beautiful, successive stages of chromatic dilution? These last breathless traces of pink arouse a sorrowful sense of impending loss - like being moved to tender concern by the helpless throbbing of a mortally wounded bird. At first, there is a sense of grief that such loveliness must pass, but then there is a lift of joy as we realize that we will be able to welcome it, and mourn it, anew - in Walt Whitman's words - "with ever returning Spring".

This is not just a wonderful lilac but is one of the great flowering shrubs. If there is a lilac in Heaven then I believe that this will be the one.

November 16, 1998

Colin Chapman

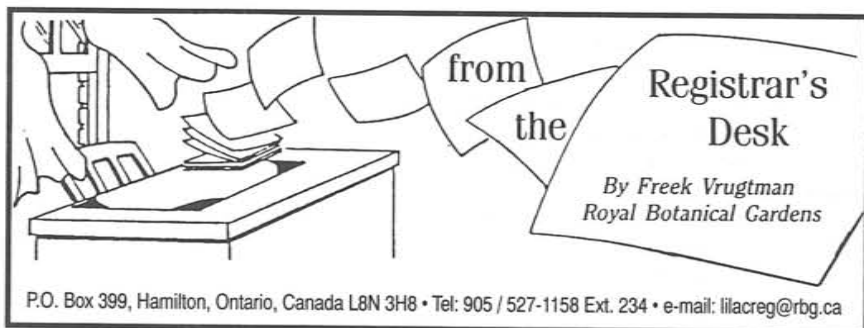
Norman's Farm

Wyverstone

Stowmarket

Suffolk IP14 4SF

United Kingdom.



***Syringa* 'Sierra Snow' and 'Angel White' - are they identical or different?**

The cultivar name '**Sierra Snow**', a *S. ×hyacinthiflora* selection, was registered in 1967 by Dr. Dennison Morey of General Bionomics, California, on behalf of the originator, Dr. Walter E. Lammerts. The registration was published together with other registrations for the years 1963 through 1967 in an apparently not widely circulated five-page mimeographed registration list compiled by John C. Wister, Lilac Registrar, Swarthmore, PA. Erroneously the parentage of '**Sierra Snow**' was recorded at the time as a *S. vulgaris* × *S. laciniata* F₂. The plant received U.S. Plant Patent N° 2744 on May 30, 1967.

'Sierra Snow' was propagated, but did not reach the marketing stage at that time. In a letter dated 19 Sept. 1995 Dr. Morey writes: "Walter Lammerts renamed this White Angel [sic.] after I supplied L.E. Cooke Co., of Visalia, California with an abundance of propagating material sometime around 1970. I was unable to properly market the variety and to hang onto it would have been unfair to Dr. Lammerts."

'Angel White' is an unregistered name which first appeared in the Wholesale Catalog 1971 of Monrovia Nursery Co. of Azusa, California. Listed as *Syringa* hybrid '**Angel White**' it was described: "New, exciting introduction makes an excellent companion plant for *S. vulgaris* 'Lavender Lady'. The plant is literally smothered with pure white flowers in spring without any winter chilling! Rich green foliage covers the plant from spring to fall. Open branching habit."

In response to my inquiry about the history of 'Angel White' Brian Jacob, propagation supervisor at Monrovia Nursery Co., writes: "*Syringa vulgaris* [sic.] 'Angel White' was selected at Monrovia Nursery Company, Azusa, from a group of white lilacs seedlings purchased from Descanso Gardens, La Cañada, California. The seedlings were acquired in December, 1996, none of which had been released to the trade. While *Syringa vulgaris* 'Sierra Snow' and S.v. 'Angel White' may be similar plants, it appears as though they are different selections."

In a letter dated 30 Mar. 1978 the late Donald Egolf, U.S. National Arboretum, writes: "Enclosed is a photocopy of the page 80 from the 1971 Monrovia Nursery Company catalog, which lists *Syringa* hybrid 'Angel White'. This plant probably is the same as 'Sierra Snow' which was named by Dr. Lammerts as a counterpart to 'Lavender Lady'. Recently I received from Dr. Lammerts scions of 'Sierra Snow' which have been grafted. Arrangements are

being made to obtain 'Angel White', and possibly by growing both of these cultivars the discrepancy between the two names can be resolved."

Dr. Egolf died in 1990, but it was not until 1995 that I picked up the 'Sierra Snow' / 'Angel White' controversy again. Unfortunately, by that time all of Dr. Egolf's lilac files and correspondence had been discarded. Though the Shrub Breeding Research accession records show that 'Sierra Snow' had been received from Dr. Lammerts [Mar. 10/78] and 'Angel White' from Monrovia [Mar. 30/81], they no longer are in the collection, and there is no record of the two cultivars having been compared.

The Registrar would be grateful if a comparison could be made and the record straightened out while 'Sierra Snow' and 'Angel White' are still in cultivation.

***Synga reticulata* ssp. *reticulata* 'Summer Snow'**
syn - *S. amurensis japonica* 'Summer Snow'

In 1973 George V. Schichtel, sr, of Schichtel's Nursery, Orchard Park, New York, selected a plant from a batch of tree lilac seedlings originally received from Scheridan Nurseries of Georgetown, Ontario Canada. The new cultivar was named 'Summer Snow' and first marketed wholesale in 1980. Princeton Nurseries, Wm Flemer's Sons Inc. of Allentown, New Jersey, introduced the 'Summer Snow' tree lilac in the retail nursery trade in 1985.

Since Schichtel's Nursery has declined registering the cultivar name we lack a good description, which would have been prerequisite for registering the name. The plant has not been patented in the United States, therefore there is no description available from the US Plant Patent Office either. Moreover, we lack comparisons between 'Summer Snow' and closely related cultivars such as 'Ivory Silk' and 'PNI 7523' (REGENT®). Anyone growing 'Summer Snow' and one or more of the related tree lilac cultivars is encouraged to take notes and measurements during the coming growing seasons and provide feedback to the Editor or the Registrar. It is very important to have adequate descriptions and comparisons between closely related cultivars, to check them in the field, and to print them for future reference.

ILS DISTRIBUTION

by Frank Moro

We are offering two new cultivars never on the market as yet. Also we are repeating an introduction of two years ago that had a great response. We hope that these lilacs will spike interest in lilac lovers and if anyone has suggestions for the future please contact Frank Moro at 450-477-3797

'White Lace'. (name not registered) Ranpin 1964 S I

Florets are small and cupped but the enormous amount of bloom and heavy scented florets are unsurpassable. The leaves present a very nice lemon yellow color.

US	4" pot \$10.00
Canada	4" pot \$14.00

'Mary Short'. (name not registered) **Fiala** 1979 D V

A superb hyacinthiflora that has very clear pink florets. It is a cross of 'Pocahontas' and Esther Staley'. It shows much the signs of 'Esther Staley' with darker buds opening to much lighter florets.

US 4" pot \$12.00

Canada 4" pot \$16.00

'Josée', trademark name, **Morel** 1974 S IV - V

A dwarf cultivar reaching 4-5 feet that we brought out for distribution 2 years ago. It is a cross of *S. meyeri* × *S. patula* × *S. microphylla*. It is going to be the hot item in the USA as a few articles are being written about it by some magazines. It is a repeat bloomer that has blooms on 3-4 times per year. It must have the dead flower heads removed to avoid seed and a quick prune is excellent also. It is hardy from zone 2-8 USDA. It flowers on same year growth and we have had flowers this year until November because of the warm season. An excellent use will be for those who have late falls because as time goes by we are seeing lilacs flower in the fall. This will spend the following spring bloom. Thus in comes 'Josée' being capable of flowering even the following spring.

US 4" pot \$10.00 15" plant \$25.00 3ft. standard \$55.00

Canada 4" pot \$14.00 15" plant \$34.00 3ft. standard \$72.00

These prices include shipping and all documents necessary for export to the USA. Canadian customers please add respective sales taxes. Each country must pay in their respective funds.

In Search for Rare Lilacs!!

by Frank Moro

I would like to thank the people who have started to submit their lilac collections. It has been very helpful in already locating some hard to find lilacs for Le Pommeret in France who is putting together a lilac collection based on the Lemoine collection.

I would encourage more people to reply to the request of submitting their collection list. It is of utmost importance that we not let cultivars become **extinct**. The goal of our nursery as we have stressed over the years is to preserve lilacs like a museum so all may have access to them. We also want to promote lilacs in every way. The society can not do work for individual members. It is up to all members to contribute to our society. A great president once said (and I remind everyone I am Canadian) "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country".

I often get asked when I will slow down to take a rest because apparently I am hard to keep up to. We have done so much in the last 2-3 years I do not even realize it until someone stops me and reminds me there is a tomorrow.

We have just had our catalog translated into Japanese and should have it out to *Shinsaku Saida* in Japan by the time this quarterly is out. We are presently grafting some 250 new cultivars for Select Plus. This will bring us up to some 650 cultivars. By next fall we hope to establish ourselves as having the largest amount of cultivars in production under one roof or actually sky!! We hope to take the 1000 mark for the millennium year. It is a huge task of trying to hunt

down cultivars.

Presently we are under again another expansion that will take our customer base both further west and east. We should have in place by 1999 a cooperative production in Quebec City and one in Rochester, New York. This will enable us to reach further out to more wholesale customers over a broader area. We have also signed an agreement with a city east of Montreal to supply them with lilacs continuously so they may build a world class collection.

Work has begun on an expanded data base for an upgrade of our cd-rom

My latest quest is 'Murillo'. It is a *Lemoine vulgaris* of 1901. It is in the *Fiala* book so anyone knowing who took the photo and where please step into center stage and let me know. I have contacted France, Denmark, Germany, Australia and certain US and Canadian collections with no avail. There is a record of it being at Highland Park in 1953 and there is apparently one possible plant in the old USSR which Colin Chapman has taken the task of helping me.

I realize that all our collections are highly valued but there is a bigger picture. I can keep the information confidential if people would prefer.

The International Register of Lilacs is great to glance through but where is half of the material. Anyone wishing to submit scion wood in return for exchanges, I would be very much obliged. I am looking especially for the eastern lilacs from USSR and China, lilacs from the Klager collection and the Berdeen collection. I have a few special goodies coming up for 2000 convention. I promise they will be almost impossible to find or not on this continent yet.

I promised a 2000 convention that will be unforgettable, just wait and see!! It will take you in a walk through time, with workshops, seminars, visits and a view of the computer age.

Send all information to:

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EVERYONE LOVES LILACS

by Robert Gilbert

Mid May is eagerly awaited by those folks who are fortunate enough to have lilacs in their yard. For it is then that in the colder parts of the temperate zones that most lilacs come into bloom. Enjoying the fragrance put out by some of the flowers is a joy no one should miss. One would be hard put to come up with a more delightful experience than thrusting one's face into a branch of lilacs in full bloom and inhale that intoxicating aroma. But then not all lilacs have a pleasing odor. Some of the newer cultivars are grown for their appearance and in this writer's opinion have a downright unpleasant odor. Then again one should not get hooked on the lilac solely for its aroma for their colors are something to behold also. The day of seeing the two common colors in lilacs - the lavender and the white - are long since gone.

Today there are over 1700 named cultivars and these are generally placed in

one of seven colors. But with such a multitude of cultivars there has to be hundreds of variations to these seven colors and of course there are. Beyond these color variations one can have not only single flowers, but semi-double and doubles. And some of the doubles may have as many as four layers of petals. To add to the color situation many blooms will show one color in the bud stage and as the flower opens it may take on another hue and yet another shade when fully open. And some lilacs even have a color change from full bloom to when the flower really matures and is gradually starting to fade.

Adding to the color and odor potentials it is now also possible for the home owner to grow some of the newer cultivars and have a blooming season that lasts into early July. So with a judicious selection of say 5 or 6 plants a home owner could perhaps look for a 6 or 7 week bloom period. Another consideration is the size of the plants. Some of the newer cultivars are quite small, many are less than 6 feet high with an equal width. Other can grow to a height of 30 feet or more. Most of the French hybrids will go about 8 to 10 feet wide. They can be pruned to maintain an acceptable size.

Lilacs need full sun and will do well in most soils as long as the drainage is good. The writer has found that lilacs can be planted in spring or fall. Lilacs are survivors and so have few health problems. Leaves on some plants may turn a greyish white with what looks like mildew but it is seldom harmful to the plant. Lilac borer and witches broom are rare. Your county agent can help with these problems. A word should be said about pruning. The lilac flowers on wood grown the previous summer. Therefore any pruning should be done right after the plant blooms and before any new wood starts to grow. Some experts maintain that removing spent flowers before seeds set will give a more prolific bloom the following year. This question is yet to be resolved.

Lilacs are an old plant. Botanically inclined travelers found lilacs growing wild in the regions of southeastern Europe, around the Black Sea, eastward into Afghanistan and still further east into China, Manchuria and Japan. These travelers brought seeds and plant samples back to western Europe in the 16th century and a century later lilacs found their way into England and then on across the Atlantic to America.

In studying these new plants botanists identified 27 different species all of which are grown today. But from the time lilacs arrived in western Europe well over a hundred years passed before a French nurseryman, in 1830, grew a lilac he had hybridized and it had a bloom different from any lilacs anyone had ever seen before. It was bright magenta in color and was given the name 'Charles X'. This new lilac gave nurserymen all over Europe and England the first vague hint of the potential there was to hybridize lilacs. 'Charles X' is still considered a good lilac today.

In 1843 a nurseryman in Belgium developed the first double form of lilac. But another 30 years had to pass before another nurseryman, in Nancy, France started to work with lilacs. His name was Victor Lemoine and he was the man who created the fountainhead of what today we call the French Hybrid Lilacs. Lemoine started his lilac hybridizing in 1870. He died in 1911 and then his son carried on the work. From 1870 until about 1933 the father and then the son created over 190 named lilacs that were new to the world. These included the plants they thought worthy of propagating. They must have discarded hundreds of less desirable crosses. The creative genius of these two men, especially the

father, was carried out on only about three acres of land. An example of the difficulty of developing a new plant is shown by the efforts of a dentist in our own midwest. This man spent a lifetime trying different crosses and succeeded to produce only one plant that he deemed acceptable to propagate.

For the home owner who wants to raise a few lilacs there are two questions. First, with over 1700 to choose from how would the choices be made? But the larger question comes later, namely, where can they be obtained? Local nurseries are often limited to a choice of 6 to 8 varieties. There is, however, an answer to these questions and it may take some doing for the person who pursues his obsession to have some really fine lilacs. One can join the INTERNATIONAL LILAC SOCIETY. And if one joins and attends an annual convention he will find that the society holds a sale where perhaps as many as 350 plants are auctioned off to the high bidders. These plants are healthy, true to name and some are ready to go in the ground. and most are unobtainable anywhere else. Prices range usually between \$8.00 and \$25.00.

A listing of some choices varieties follows:

'SENSATION' - A unique, tall growing single that is purple with a margin of white around each petal

'ROMANCE' - A single, medium pink, excellent

'BUFFON' - A single pink, early, very feminine, large pannicles, superb.

'CONGO' - Large cupped petals, dark-reddish purple, single.

'WILLIAM ROBINSON' - Double pinkish-red.

'MISS KIM' - Excellent for the yard, single, purple buds opening to pale lavender. Mature plants look like large snow ball. Late

'MISS CANADA' - Hard to obtain, a beautiful single pink, flower trusses can be 16" long and 8" in diameter. Late

'MME. CASIMIER PERIER' - Double, white, excellent.

'KRASAVITSA MOSKVY' - "Beauty of Moscow" a superb double white, developed in Russia over 30 years ago. Hard to obtain.

'PRESIDENT POINCARÉ' - Double, magenta colored, a dandy.

'BELLE DE NANCY' - Double, pink, a good one.

'MASSENA' - Single, dark reddish purple, large cupped petals.

'KATHERINE HAVERMEYER' - Double, pink, excellent.

'ASSISSIPPI' - Single, lilac colored, a good one, early.

'JAMES MACFARLANE' - Single, clear pink, late, excellent.

'AMI SCHOTT' - Medium bluish, double, excellent.

Lilacs are grown around the world - Southern Australia, Tasmania, New Zealand, southern Africa, southern South America and of course in cooler parts of the northern hemisphere. A few years ago the writer and his wife were in south

Chile. Sure enough lilacs were there and one town near Puerto Monte had lilacs everywhere. This was in mid-November which is their spring time.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if every member of ILS who has lilacs could dig up a few suckers every year and give them to a friend or neighbor or the local garden club? Maybe members attending the ILS conventions could purchase a couple of plants at the auction, take them home and see that they are planted in appropriate places in their hometown. Doing this would be easy because everyone loves lilacs.

The Lilacs at Descanso Gardens in 1998.

by Rudy Shaffer

Volunteer Lilac Curator,

Descanso Gardens, La Canada-Flintridge, California

1998 will be remembered as the year of "We told you so". The weather experts predicted a warmer winter with lots of rain. My Philosophy "I am going to believe it when I see it" got slightly bent, because we indeed had triple the normal precipitation. Then I also assumed, that with a warmer winter the lilacs would be blooming earlier. Another dumb down calculation.

The lilacs decided to sleep in and did not show any life for an extra two weeks. But then they truly lived up to our expectation from A-Z. (Anabelle' to 'Znamya Lenya'. The size of the flowers even surprised the sentimental Easterners and Northerners, with the "I can't believe it" attitude. For six weeks we were surprised day after day.

Thanks to Reva Ballreich we added 20 new cultivars to our collection and with a shipment of "Max Peterson's Best " we are now two years ahead of our goal to have 100 cultivar for our limited space. Thank you Reva and Max for your generosity. We now have lilacs in all color ranges as listed in the registrar's bible.

We are making headway comparing flowers to identify our plants.

Among Descanso's lilacs **which have never been registered** are three cultivar to look out for in the years to come. All were introduced before our involvement.

1. A double white, named 'White Cloud' beautiful flowers and a strong fragrance.

2. A double blue, named 'Blue Pixie' showed for the first time good flowers and strong color after heavy pruning. Medium fragrance.

3. A single lilac with the charming name of 'Bridal Wreath' with long elegant flowers, living up to the name. Light fragrance.

We also evaluate many seedlings to see what they will eventually be. All are products of open pollination. Our assistants, namely bees, butterflies and oh yes, special friends, named Anna's hummingbirds (Quoting the Audubon Society) are year around tenants of Descanso. However we remove for the time being all spent flowers to prevent any undesired pregnancies.

This year's seminar was well attended.

It was a keen group of alert lilac fanciers, picking the brains of the panelists. Of course Dr. Louis Erickson's lecture and slide presentation proved the fact, that indeed Southern California is on the way to become a major lilac heaven.

Research Abstracts

Editor's Note: these abstracts are reports of published research. They are included here as a sampling of research being done around the world.

CSIKKEL-SZOLNOKI, A.; KISS, S.A. **Changes in magnesium content of tree sprouts, determined monthly by atomic spectroscopy.** *Acta Agronomica Hungarica* (1997) 45 (2) 127-133 [En, 29 ref.] Department of Inorganic and Analytical Chemistry, Attila József University, Szeged H-6720, Dóm Tér 7, Hungary.

A procedure for determining the time of winter dormancy of trees was developed. At monthly intervals over a period of three years, tree sprout samples were taken. These were chopped, dried at 80°C for 48 hours and ashed at 600°C. The ash was dissolved in hydrochloric acid and finally analyzed by means of ICP-AES, FES and AAS. In one group of trees (*Syringa vulgaris*, *Corylus avellana* and *Pinus sylvestris*), the magnesium content decreased significantly (by 17%, 30% and 8%, respectively), which indicated that the dormancy was over. In another group of trees (*Cerasus vulgaris* [*Prunus cerasus*], *Acer campestre* and *Platanus hispanica* [*P. acerifolia*]), the magnesium content of the sprouts (and also that of pine leaves) was highest in January. Winter dormancy was not over until February, as shown by the decrease in magnesium content (by 32%, 29%, 10% and 17%). The magnesium content is characteristic in the same types of sprouts and seems to be constant in the same month of the year. The presumed effect of magnesium during winter dormancy is as follows: the autophosphorylation of protein kinase is increased by increasing amounts of magnesium, but ATP regeneration is blocked. In this way, the formation of cAMP and the activation of protein kinase are decreased, and thus the metabolism may slow down (or stop). Other growth regulator effects may also be involved in this process.

Horticultural Abstracts 1998 Vol 68 No. 9 pg. 981

SCHECK, H.J.; PSCHREIDT, J.W. **Effect of copper bactericides on copper-resistant and -sensitive strains of *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *syringae*.** *Plant Disease* (1998) 82 (4) 397-406 [En, 44 ref.] Department of Botany and Plant Pathology, Oregon State University, Corvallis 97331-2902, USA.

Fourteen formulations of copper-based bactericides were evaluated for their efficacy in reducing populations of copper-resistant and -sensitive strains of *P. syringae* pv. *syringae* growing on tissue-cultured lilac (*Syringa vulgaris* cv. *Sensation*) and of copper-sensitive strains of this pathogen on field-grown lilac (*S. vulgaris* cv. *Ellen Willmott*). Field experiments were conducted during 1995, 1996 and 1997 in the Willamette Valley, Oregon, USA. The amount of free cupric ions (Cu^{2+}) in solution was the only predictor of formulation efficacy, but this variable could not be estimated from the metallic copper content of the product. Relative to nontreated controls, all copper-based bactericides reduced the population size of copper-sensitive strains by 50%, but only cupric hydroxide mixed with mancozeb or ferric chloride reduced the population size of copper-resistant strains by an equivalent amount. Several noncopper bactericides, including streptomycin-sulfate, caused only small reductions in bacterial populations on tissue-cultured or field-grown lilacs. In the field, 2 applications of cupric hydroxide (wetttable powder) when plant growth stages were at dormant (mid-February) and delayed dormant (late February) provided better control than either 1 or no treatments.

Horticultural Abstracts 1998 Vol 68 No.9 pg. 1058

WU GUOLIANG; YANG ZHIHONG; LIU QUNLONG **[The biological characteristics of flowering and pollination in early lilac and its white flowered variety.]** *Journal of Beijing Forestry University* (1998) 20 (2) 118-120 [Ch. en, 3 ref.] Department of Horticulture, Shanxi Agricultural University, Taiyuan 03801, China.

Observations on the flowering biology and pollination tests on early lilac (*Syringa oblata*) and its variety (*S. oblata* var. *affinis*, white-flowered) were carried out at Shanxi Agricultural University in 1995-97. The flowering period for a single inflorescence was 5-7 days and that of the whole tree was 7-11 days in the white variety; it was 1-2 days later for the early lilac species. The percentage germination of fresh pollen of *S. oblata* was 2.7-5.6% and that of *S. oblata* var. *affinis* was 5.5-15.0%; in both cases germi-

nation was close to 0% after 24 h of storage at room temperature. Percentage fruit set following natural pollination was quite high in *S. oblata* and its variety *affinis* (53.2% and 51.7%, respectively). Although lilacs are naturally cross-pollinated plants, the fruit set percentages following artificial self pollination were high (63.5% for *S. oblata* and 67.2% for *S. oblata* var. *affinis*). Furthermore, the percentages following artificial cross pollination were also high (79.8% for *S. oblata* (female) \times var. *affinis* (male), 67.6% for var. *affinis* \times var. *affinis*, 65.8% for var. *affinis* \times *S. oblata*).

Horticultural Abstracts 1998 Vol. 68 No.9 pg. 1058

REFOUVELET, E.; NOURS, S. LE; TALLON, C.; DAGUIN, E. A new method for *in vitro* propagation of lilac (*Syringa vulgaris* L.): regrowth and storage conditions for axillary buds encapsulated in alginate beads, development of a pre-acclimatization stage. *Scientia Horticulturae* (1998) 74 (3) 233-241 [En, 13 ref.] Laboratoire de Recherches en Physiologie Végétale (LRPV) des Pays de la Loire, 16, boulevard Lavoisier, F-49045 Angers Cedex 01, France.

Axillary buds from 3 micropropagated cultivars of lilac were encapsulated in alginate beads. Best explant regrowth conditions were achieved by culturing the encapsulation in 24-well microplates on Murashige and Skoog agar-gelled medium. Depending on the cultivar and macronutrient supply, the regrowth rate reached 100%. When encapsulations were stored at 5°C, explant regrowth rate after 50 days remained >75%. A pre-acclimatization procedure was developed under non-sterile conditions, with foliar fertilizer applications, and progressively increased air renewal in the enclosure. One treatment allowed survival, growth and hardening of 95% of the plantlets, so they were transferred to the greenhouse without requiring a saturated humidity stage. For such plantlets, the rooting rate after 21 days in the greenhouse reached 81%.

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Tips for Beginners

Questions:

Should I do anything about the suckers that are springing up and around my lilac bush?

Answer:

You can do anything you wish. If the bush is spreading out, the easiest way to keep it in bounds is to leave all the suckers in the center and cut off any that appear outside the central stems with a lawn mower. (A refinement of this technique is to cut off the sucker below ground level with something like an asparagus fork so that no suckers "butts" are left to sprout again in the spring.) The only problem with this concept is that if the bush is a heavy suckering one and if too many suckers are left in the center, some will be shaded out, will die, and you will be left with a bunch of dead twigs in the center of the bush. The ultimate answer and the one that takes the most effort is to thin the suckers both inside and outside of the center of the bush. Charles Holetich (retired from the Royal Botanical Gardens) always said you should thin a clump to 7 to 9 stems of staggered age so that there would always be a couple of new stems coming along to replace the one or two oldest stems in the ongoing bush rejuvenation process.

International Lilac Society

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