

# Lilacs

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Spring 2000



## **QUARTERLY JOURNAL**

of the International Lilac Society

IN  
THIS  
ISSUE:

Convention Issue  
Election Ballot

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• 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.

#### OWNERSHIP STATEMENT

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

LILACS 2000

PUBLISHED MARCH 2000

## Cover Story

### ***Front Cover***

'President Lincoln' at the University of Vermont Horticulture Farm. Photo credit: Brad Bittorf.

### ***Back Cover***

Sara Moro beside an old lilac in Terremonne, Canada. One of the Saturday afternoon convention stops. Photo credit: Frank Moro.

## Next Issue Deadline

The next issue deadline for material for the summer issue of **Lilacs** will be June 16, 2000.

## Quarterly Reminder

Do spring pruning if you like to do it before the leaves come out. If you want the full bloom display, wait until just after the blooms fade.

## Editor's Notes

This is both the Convention Issue and the election issue, both of which require your response. Election to the Board of Directors is one of the important privileges of membership so it should get your full attention. Just mark your ballot, remove it at the insert binder and mail it off in the ballot envelope to the Election Committee.

The last details and deadlines for the convention are also here for your information. We would urge all members to consider attending. Frank Moro has been working at a furious pace to put together a memorable meeting. It truly is a millennium event that can be diminished only if you are not there.

Peter Ely passes on this information updating lilac information from the 1999 convention:

1. Reed Cherington, convention coordinator, has reported that the UVM Horticulture Farm has named its ILS donated lilac - *Syringa vulgaris* 'Helen Blasberg' in honor of the widow of Dr. Charles Blasberg, who founded the Horticulture Farm.
2. The 'Katherine Havemeyer' lilac donated to the Shelburne Museum is alive and well and has been planted behind the E.H. Webb Memorial Building.

## European Newsletter

by Colin Chapman

During my visits to the senior British National Collection at Brighton, I have been all too aware that the high, open and exposed parkland site left the lilacs, particularly the young ones, very vulnerable to the attentions of two of our most notorious predators, namely *Oryctolagus cuniculus*, the wild rabbit and *Lepus europaeus*, the brown hare. These mammals gnaw away the bark and cambium layers of plants and the rabbit in particular can completely ring a plant to cause the death of all the plant that is above. The hare, being larger, tends to remove strips of bark and hardwood from higher up the stem. The rabbit, of course, is cuddly-cute and the hare is a magnificent animal so there are cultural objections to limiting populations but the problem at Brighton was so acute that the planting of young lilac plants was not feasible.

I received a phone call from Phillip Williamson who told me the great news that the Brighton collection is now entirely surrounded by a rabbit-proof fence. Since the collection covers an area of about 10 acres this is a long and very expensive fence so Brighton Council are to be congratulated for their sympathetic attitude to funding this project. The gaps in the existing beds caused by storm damage and plants reaching the ends of their

productive lives can now be filled with stock which was prudently grafted three years ago. Phillip also wants to create two new beds, one of which will hold East European cultivars and the other recent North American ones. I have been busy grafting duplicates so that I can let him have my own back-up plants when the new grafts are established. "Onwards and Upwards", as I have often heard it said on the other side of the Atlantic.

Actually, I am not able to graft quite as many plants as I had intended. Half of my privet understocks were in the greenhouse and they were fine. The rest were in the open in the shelter of the barnyard and every single one has been ringed at the base. Rabbits, of course!

I have written in the past of the splendid work in Great Britain of the National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens. Under the authority of that body there are now over 600 richly sourced, documented and displayed National Collections of different plant genera. These can be held by public bodies such as Brighton Council, institutions like the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew or by private individuals as in the case of the collection of lilacs here at Norman's Farm. A similar organization has been started in France and is working closely with the NCCPG. It is called the *Conservatoire Français des Collections Végétales Spécialisées* and I have their Directory of Collections for the year 2000 before me. I am delighted to see that the collection supervised by ILS member Rolland Genot at Bois de Vincennes, Paris is one of them. I am also gratified to say that communications between us have taken a turn for the better. Rolland does not speak English and my French is very creaky indeed, but I have recently received an optimistic and perfectly readable letter. Rolland has coaxed his fourteen year old son not only to handle our correspondence but also to translate for him my article entitled "Beauties From Moscow" which I wrote for the Spring 1999 edition of *Plant Heritage*. That pleases me because the future of the lilac must surely lie in capturing the interest of young folk like the multi-lingual Master Genot.

For Christmas I received a delightful gift from Konrad Kircher. He sent me one small pot of 'Amor', 'Jugendtraum', 'Perle von Stuttgart', 'Amethyst' and 'Prinses Beatrix' which I did not have and by some sixth sense 'Biala Anna' which I had just lost. It suddenly died during the summer when investigation revealed an underground burrow in which all roots had been eaten away, leaving the stem as just a pointed stake in the ground. Those rabbits again! Thank you Konrad; I really appreciate your generosity.

I saw the last edition that I am talking to the topic of "Lilacs: Past, Present and Future" in Montreal. With just twenty minutes allocated, I'm not sure I can do much more than warm up my tonsils but it is my intention in that time to use as illustrations as many of the lilacs featured in the auction list as possible.

Finally, there is a lilac in our garden which exerts a magical effect on certain of our visitors. This effect is not dependent on the psychic powers of those powers of those visitors but on the time of the day when they arrive.



*Syringa vulgaris* 'Cavour'

Lemoine 1910

Twelve years old now, and showing the ideal shape of a near perfect globe about three and a half feet (1.1m) in radius which flowers all around from top to toe. The florets are single and medium-large, about three quarters of an inch (2cm) across and the lobes are slightly hooded or slippered at the tips. The overall tone of the shrub is dark when seen from a few feet away.

Close-up, the florets are a rich dark violet, almost a slate-blue, with margins which are infinitesimally paler. The thyrses are erect and dense without being crowded. It is a beautiful and distinguished lilac, but what is magical about it?

The colour "lilac" is a mixture of blue, red and white (with perhaps, the teeniest hint of yellow) and the colours of lilac flowers show each element of this mixture in different intensities. The violet of 'Cavour' shows a tone of red within a saturation of blue which is dark, so there is not too much white in there. There are two things to bear in mind; it was Sir Isaac Newton who analyzed light into its spectrum of parts, and Norman's Farm stands close to the 52 degrees north parallel of latitude which is just south of Moscow's position and equivalent to that of the southern lobe of Hudson Bay. At this latitude, evening light slips gently down the spectrum towards darkness giving us slowly unfolding, lovely twilights. The red flowers are the first to go as the infra red end of the spectrum is extinguished. At this moment, the ultra-violet end of the spectrum is not yet affected and with its red tones gone and its blue tones enhanced, 'Cavour' appears to glow. If I were to say that it is almost as if the shrub were being bathed in a violet neon light then I would be exaggerating, but only just. The effect is sensual and romantic and many a gin-and-tonic has been carried outside to accompany the 'Cavour' glow. I have seen no other reference to this effect in literature and would be interested to know if it can be seen in other latitudes, in other "twilight" lilacs or, indeed, in imaginations other than mine own. I know that I am right, however, because after a short while the ultra-violet is extinguished leaving only the white lilacs visible and looking, in the distance, like columns of shimmering moonlight.

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

## Convention 2000 Newsflash

Hello, Hola, Guten Tag, God Dag, Bonjour, Ciao, Ola,

As we are preparing for final details for the convention, Mother Nature keeps burying us in fresh snow every 2-3 days. Please bring winter clothes and skis for those who don't want to see the lilac plants in winter bud.

Just kidding!!!!

**We have some changing news. The hotel Le President has changed her flag to the Hilton Laval.**

They are honoring all our prices and we get to use their recently upgraded completely refurbished rooms (finally one for us). They also have an indoor pool, spa, sauna and exercise room. All these are open 24 hours a day.

For those traveling by air I can offer to pick you up at the arrival days are on Tuesday or Wednesday. If arriving other days there are cabs with fixed rates available to the hotel. For those arriving I will need as soon as possible arrival dates, number in party and flight number. Remember I am but one person with a mini van so if I get too many requests we may have a problem.

Bids on lilacs are beginning to come in from all around with members making good comments about being able to be part of the convention even if they are not there.

By the first look at who is coming out this year there are many members who we have not seen for a while who will be making appearances. I encourage you all to make this meeting the one not to miss as we can pass through the first flowering of the lilacs in Montreal for this millennium. Once again I would like to encourage everyone to bring a small item for the convention auction from your area. It could be a small item that is particular to your environment such as home made jelly, small crafts, anything we could use. Sara and I are pleased to say that we have finalized the meals, speakers and other little things. The stage is set, and the time is zeroing in. I will be leaving for Rochester NY for the lilac festival on May 11 and returning May 22. If you need to contact me please call Sara at the house and she will contact me in Rochester and I will return calls the following day.

When sending in your registration, please let us know about any food requirements that are particular for you as in ie: vegetarian or allergies. You can reach us at 450-477-3797 or lilacs@axess.com.

I am allotting a little more time on the silent bidding in order to compensate for the quarterly arriving a little later than I expected.

The one change to the agenda will be the Millennium toast which may take place at our house if the weather is nice.

We look forward to seeing all of you this May and I regret not making this a three day event. Next time. I have had such a great time putting all this together with Sara and we met all kinds of great people. We hope you will enjoy your stay and the little surprises along the way????!!!!

Bonjour de nous tous, Ciao, Goodbye for now

Frank, Sara and the family, Your hosts

*Frank Moro  
Executive VP ILS Canada*

## Convention 200 Silent Auction Procedure

For the plant auction in Montreal for the 2000 convention there will be only 1 plant of each lilac.

For the first time ever all members, even those who do not attend, will be able to put a silent bid on these plants.

Any members who wish to put in a silent bid can do so by mail and a post dated check for the amount must be included plus \$4.00 for shipping the lilac. The check should be made out to the International Lilac Society for May 26, 2000. It will not be cashed. Once all silent bids are received, the highest bid will be retained and others checks will be returned with a note revealing the highest bid and offering one last chance to initial bidders to rebid on the lilac one more time.

If anybody wishes to rebid they must resubmit a new check for a higher bid. If the bid goes higher the person who initially put the highest bid in will have one last chance to go higher. All rebids must be at least 10% higher to make it fair for the last bidder.

On auction day the opening bid for the lilac will start at the highest mail bid. If nobody bids higher the lilac will go to the member who did the silent bid.

The advantage for many members who never come to meetings for many reasons is that they too will have a chance to buy rare and unique lilacs. All lilacs will have a minimum opening bid set.

For those attending the convention agriculture Canada will be available to issue export permits at a small cost. For mail order bidders it will be taken care of at our end and at no further cost to you.

### Here is the procedure:

By February 15th 2000 all initial bids must be in.

A response will be made to all bidders with highest bid by March 7.

Members will have until March 30, 2000 to rebid one last time.

By April 8th the initial highest bidder will be contacted to give them one last chance to rebid on the lilac. If they rebid it must be 10% higher than the resubmitted bids.

At auction day the highest bid will be the minimum opening bid and new bidders must increase a minimum of 10% in order to surpass the mail order the mail silent bid.

Example: lilac Flower City 1 gallon 12"

Minimum opening bid set at \$5.00

Mail bids 4 people at \$5.00 - \$7.00 - \$8.00 - \$10.00 received by February 15th.

Re-mail of all checks except that of \$10.00 and the chance for a rebid by others.

The highest price will be announced.

By March 7 only 2 new rebids \$12.00 and \$15.00

March 30 the bidder at \$10.00 contacted and given the newest price of \$15.00.



They may rebid one last time at \$15.00 plus 10% = \$16.50 to secure the silent bidding.

On auction day the opening bid will be \$16.50 plus 10%=\$18.15.

If nobody goes higher the silent bidder wins the bid. If the price exceeds the mail bidder their check will be returned.

For those lilac collectors get out your Fiala book and you must do your homework!!! Please remember that all money goes to the society, which is a nonprofit society. Have fun and take advantage of many noncommercial lilacs for the first time. **All prices are in USD.** Make all checks payable to the ILS dated May 26, 2000. Please mail to Frank Moro, 1510 Pine, Mascouche, J7L 2M4, Quebec, Canada. If you need more info. please call 450-477-3797 or e-mail lilacs@axess.com.

## Hotel Review

The Hilton Laval is located 5 minutes north of the island of Montreal and is a 4 star hotel. It is located beside a major mall (Le Carrefour Laval) off autoroute 15 and 440. An access map with directions is included in this journal.

## WANTED

It's that time of year again the society depends on your contributions of unique items to auction off. Please help us make this Millennium convention a grand celebration. After all it will be the first convention of the 3rd Millenium.

Please call us to let us know of what you will be bringing so we may prepare an auction list prior to your arrival.

Frank Moro  
Exec. VP for Canada

### What is it about Lilacs?

It's the color.

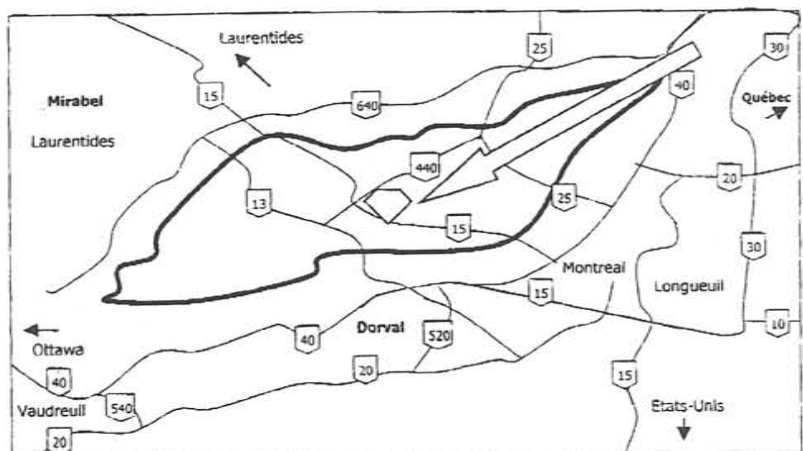
Yes, and the heady aroma  
so strong, so pure,  
as clean as the  
recent snow.

But even more...

It's the message.

Each tiny blossom  
joins all the others  
to convince me  
Spring is really here.

*Virginia Kohli  
Kingston, NY*



### **From Dorval:**

Direction Laval, road 520 (chemin Côte de Liesse EAST) to Métropolitain Blvd., 40 EAST, then 15 NORTH, exit 10 [boul. St-Martin Ouest - boul. le Carrefour], the hotel is on your right.

### **From Mirabel:**

Direction Montréal SOUTH via Highway 15, until exit 10 [boul. St-Martin Ouest - boul. le Carrefour], on the service road, first exit on your right [Centre Commercial Carrefour Laval], turn left to exit the parking lot on boul. le Carrefour, turn right after the overpass to get to the hotel.

### **From Quebec:**

Direction Montréal via Highway 40 to Autoroute 640 WEST, 15 SOUTH direction Montréal, exit 10 [boul. St-Martin Ouest - boul. le Carrefour], on the service road, first exit on your right [Centre Commercial Carrefour Laval], turn left to exit the parking lot on boul. le Carrefour, turn right after the overpass to get to the hotel.

**OR**

Direction Montréal via Highway 20, Tunnel Louis-Hippolyte Lafontaine NORTH to Métropolitain, 40 WEST to 15 NORTH, exit 10 [boul. St-Martin Ouest - boul. le Carrefour], the hotel is on your right.

### **From Ottawa or Toronto:**

Direction Montréal Highway 40 EAST (Métropolitain Blvd.), then 15 NORTH, exit 10 [boul. St-Martin Ouest - boul. le Carrefour], the hotel is on your right.

### **From USA:**

Direction Champlain bridge, Highway 15 NORTH [boul. Décarie] to Métropolitain Blvd., 40 EAST, to 15 NORTH, exit 10 [boul. St-Martin Ouest - boul. le Carrefour], the hotel is on your right.

# International Lilac Society Convention 2000

Date	Time	Activity
May 25	2-7:30pm	Board meeting / working supper
	3pm on	Registration
	7:30-10pm	Hospitality suite
May 26	6:30-8:30am	Breakfast
	8:45am	Leave for Montréal Botanical Gardens
	9:30-10:30am	Visit lilac dell
	10:30-11:30am	Visit Chinese Gardens & Bonsai collection
	11:30am-1pm	Visit Japanese Gardens
	1:15-2:15pm	Lunch at Biodome
	2:30-3:30pm	Annual ILS meeting
	3:30-5pm	Guest speakers from Botanical Gardens Colin Chapman: Lilacs of Past, Present & Future
	5-5:30pm	Special presentation: by Select Plus Nursery
	5:45pm	Buses leave
	6:30-9pm	President's Supper - hotel
	9-11pm	Hospitality suite & Special Millenium Toast
May 27	6:30-8:30am	Breakfast - hotel
	7:30-8:30am	New Board meeting
	8:30-10:30am	Auction - hotel in breakfast room
	11-11:30am	Travel to Terrebonne
	11:45am-12:15pm	Lilac Walk
	12:15-1:15pm	Lunch at L'etang du Moulin
	1:30pm	Board buses
	1:45-2:15pm	Frank Moro's house - Grafting workshop
	2:15-2:45pm	Bob Hoepfl - Hybridizing workshop
	2:45-3:15pm	Rooted Cutting workshop
	3:15-5pm	Mini tour of liner production area and (if time allows) tour Select Plus new lilac collection (6 miles away)
	5:30pm	Return to hotel
	6:30-9pm	Awards Banquet - hotel
	9-11pm	Hospitality suite
May 28		Breakfast on your own

# LILACS FOR THE CONVENTION

(Corrections made January 23, 2000 by Freek Vrugtman)

Name	min. opening bid	g=gallon	color	species
1. 'Alice Chieppo'	\$7.00	1 gal	D-4	hyac
2. 'Aloise'	7.00	1g10"	S-1	vul
3. 'Alvan Grant'	6.00	1g10"	S-7	vul
4. 'Biala Anna'	5.00	4' pot	S-1	vul
5. 'Dancing Druid'	10.00	4" pot	S-6	inter specific hybrid
6. 'De Miribel'	7.00	1g12"	S-2	vul
7. 'Drifting Dream'	8.00	4" pot	D-2	vul
8. 'Duc de Massa'	5.00	4" pot	D-3	vul
9. 'Elsie Lenore'	8.00	1g8"	S-7	vul
10. 'Julia'	10.00	4" pot	S-6	henryi
11. 'Pink Parasol'	8.00	4" pot	S-5	julianae
12. 'Flower City'	7.00	4" pot	S-7	vul
13. 'Jaan'	10.00	1g	S-6	hyac
14. 'Tinkerbelle'	8.00	1g8"	S-5	x
15. 'Josée™ 'MORjos 060F'	7.00	1g10"	S-5	inter specific hybrid
16. 'Emile Lemoine'	7.00	4" pot	D-4	vul
17. 'Lourene Wishart'	8.00	4" pot	D-5	vul
18. 'Znamya Lenina'	6.00	4" pot	S-6	vul
19. 'Lilac Sunday'	5.00	4" pot	S-5	chin
20. 'K. A. Timiryazev'	8.00	1g	S-4	vul
21. 'Kivi Ats'	10.00	1 g	S-6	hyac
22. 'Lois Amee Utley'	8.00	1g	D-5	vul
23. 'McMaster Centennial'	6.00	1g	D-1	vul
24. 'Mollie Ann'	6.00	4" pot	S-4	vul
25. 'Monument'	5.00	1g	S-1	vul
26. 'Nebo Moskvyy'	6.00	4" pot	D-6	vul
27. 'Pat Pesata	6.00	4" pot	S-3	vul
28. <i>S. pinnatifolia</i>	12.00	2g	S-1	species
29. 'Pixie'	6.00	1g10"	S-1	vul
30. 'Yankee Doodle'	7.00	1g10"	S-7	vul
31. 'Sweetheart'	5.00	4" pot	D-6	vul
32. 'Spring Parade'	5.00	4" pot	S-4	vul
33. 'Thunberg'	7.00	1g	D-4	vul
34. 'Maréchal Lannes'	10.00	1g	D-3	vul
35. 'Vesper Song'	5.00	4"pot	S-2	hyac
36. 'Vésuve'	15.00	1g	S-7	vul
37. 'Weddle'	6.00	4" pot	D-6	vul
38. 'Mrs. W. E. Marshall'	5.00	4" pot	S-7	vul
39. 'Churchill'	6.00	4" pot	S-5	hyac
40. 'Joel'	12.00	1g	S-5	vul

41. 'Rå'	10.00	1g	S-2	josikaea
42. 'Snowwhite'	10.00	1g	S-1	meyeri
43. 'Blue Reverly'	10.00	4" pot	S-3	vul
44. 'Calphurnia'	6.00	1g	S-4	preston
45. 'Catawba Pink'	7.00	1g	D-5	vul
46. 'Kingsville'	6.00	4" pot	S-7	vul
47. 'P. P. Konchalovskii'	5.00	4" pot	D-4	vul
48. 'Poltava'	8.00	4" pot	S-2	vul
49. 'Charles Hepburn'	7.00	1g	S-5	villosa
50. 'Downfield'	6.00	1g	D-6	vul
51. 'Dwight D. Eisenhower'	6.00	1g	D-3	vul
52. 'Esterka'	6.00	1g	S-5	preston
53. 'Etna'	7.00	4" pot	S-7	vul
54. 'Independence'	14.00	1g	S-1	vul
55. 'Excellens'	6.00	4" pot	S-1	patula
56. 'Gertrude Leslie'	6.00	4" pot	D-1	hyac
57. 'Glory'	5.00	1g12"	S-6	vul
58. 'Hunting Tower'	5.00	4" pot	S-1	inter specific hybrid
59. 'Jan van Tol'	5.00	4" pot	S-1	vul
60. 'Kum Bum'	7.00	1g	S-2	tomentella
61. 'Lark Song'	7.00	1g	S-5	inter specific hybrid
62. 'Le Printemps'	6.00	1g	D-5	vul
63. 'Nadezhda'	6.00	1g	D-3	vul
64. 'Kosmos'	6.00	1g	S-2	vul
65. 'Mary Short'	7.00	1g	D-5	hyac
66. 'Agnes Smith'	5.00	1g	S-1	josisflexa
67. <i>S. oblata</i> subsp. <i>dilatata</i>	8.00	1g	S-5	
68. 'George Eastman'	7.00	1g	S-6	julianae
69. 'Sorok Let Komsomola'	10.00	1g	S-4	vul
70. 'Sovetskaya Arktika'	10.00	4" pot	D-1	vul
71. 'Constance'	10.00	2g15"	S-7	preston
72. 'Krasavitsa Moskvyy'	6.00	1g	D-1	vul
73. Water Tower™ 'Morton'	6.00	1g	S-1	reticulata subsp. pekinesis
74. <i>S. ×laciniata</i>	6.00	1g	S-2	
75. 'Maiden's Blush'	7.00	2g15"	S-5	hyac
76. 'Danusia'	6.00	1g12"	S-5	preston

#### Remarks:

14. 'Tinkerbelle' S V, affiliation not known

15. Josee™ is a registered trademark; the cultivar name 'MORjos 060F' was registered in 1978.

42. 'Snowwhite' S I, a *S. meyeri*-affiliation not known

43. 'Blue Reverly' S III, a *S. vulgaris* - No information available on this lilac

73. Water Tower™ is a trademark for 'Morton', but an older one that has

not been use. As I understand it this cultivar will be marketed in the USA as China Snow™; it appears in: Chicago Bontanic Garden, March 20, 1999, Illinois' Best Plants, <http://doug.nslsilus.org/cgi-bin/illinoisbest/plantindex.pl> - as 'Morton'.

## Extra Extra 'Convention News'

For those interested, there will be a visit to Select Plus Int. Nursery at our home production field on Saturday where we keep all the goodie lilacs while they are young. There may not be many flowers but all 1000 cultivars are there in pots. Anyone interested in purchasing some rare lilacs while you are here, there is a great chance. This will depend on availability but we usually can cater to requests.

For those who want to get hands on at the workshop we suggest you bring a pair of light gardening gloves as these will be working propagation workshops for those who want to experience the real thing.

Two computers will also be set up for viewing. One will be on line to our ILS website so members can see what has been done since the inception date and I realize some have never seen it at all.

The second computer will have a presentation of the production farm of Select Plus located 40 miles east of us and this is the one that will be phased out in 2001 to transfer remaining inventories to the new location only 6 miles away which we will visit in the afternoon.

Also as of spring 2001 Select Plus Int. Nursery will begin an annual Lilac weekend on the last weekend in May which will promote the lilac through workshops covering care, planting, fertilizing, pruning. The goal will be to recruit new ILS numbers in Quebec where there is a language barrier. As our collection will grow in maturity in the next 4-5 years it will also establish itself as the largest collection in the world.

*Frank Moro*  
*Executive VP ILS Canada*

## Lilac Festivals and Open House Events

Do you know of a Lilac Festival or Open House where people can see and admire the lilacs? We are trying to collect a list of those events together with dates and a contact name for further information. Since this is our first attempt at such a list, I'm sure there will be gaps and oversights which you will have to fill in. If you know of any other events, please send a note to your editor at Plant Biology Dept., 38 College Road, Spaulding Hall, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH 03824. If this year's date has already come and gone, can you predict about when next year's event will be held?



## USA

**Connecticut - Lilacs** at the home of ILS member Olga Rudenko at 349 South Main St., Seymour, Connecticut. 203-888-5747. Call for bloom times and directions. Special collection of Russian lilac varieties.

**Massachusetts - Lumley Lilacs:** Open to the Public: Art Lumley was a member of ILS for many years and amassed a large collection of lilacs. His son has rejuvenated the lilac planting and opens it to the public. The planting is open during lilac bloom, usually May 15th to June 15th, 8:30 am to dusk. No dogs, please. For further information contact James Lumley, 24 Harkness Rd., Amherst, MA 01002, or telephone (413) 253-5082.

**Maine - Open House:** Display garden with Ca 100 species and cultivars (not all or bloom size). For information on dates and directions, contact Samuel J. Harper, 792 S. Waterboro Rd., Kennebunk Pond, Lyman, ME 04002, phone 207-499-2489.

**Maine - Lilac Festival:** Sponsored by the McLaughlin Foundation, 97 Main Street, Paris, Maine on the first Saturday in June. Contact the Foundation for details at P.O. Box, South Paris ME 04281; 207-743-8820 or [www.dma.net/garden/](http://www.dma.net/garden/)

**Maine - May Flowers** at the home of Howard and Carolyn Merrill, Alfred, ME 207-324-1771. Call for bloom times and directions.

**Massachusetts - Arnold Arboretum:** Join the city of Boston in a celebration of the coming of spring. One of the major lilac plantings in the eastern United States. May 14, 2000, all day. For further information contact the Arboretum at 126 Arborway, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130 or telephone (617) 524-1718.

**Michigan - Mackinac Island:** Do you remember the convention on Mackinac Island in 1997? With those big old lilacs? And Reva Ballreich and John Carvill representing ILS in the Lilac Festival Parade? The Festival in the year 2000 will run from June 8th-18th. For further information contact Mr. Len Trankina, Director of the Mackinac Chamber of Commerce, Mackinac Island, MI 49757.

**New Hampshire - Lilacs** at the home of ILS member Sally Schenker in Freedom, New Hampshire. Call 603-539-6814 for bloom times and directions.

**New Hampshire - Wentworth-Coolidge 2000 Lilac Festival:** The Wentworth-Coolidge Mansion in Portsmouth, NH is the 18th century former residence of the Royal Governor Benning Wentworth. While living there between 1750-1767 he imported several lilacs (*Syringa vulgaris*) which surrounded the mansion and still exists today. The

year 2000 event will be held at the Mansion on May 21st in the afternoon and will include tours of the mansion as well as propagations of the original lilacs for sale. For further information about the event or ordering the Wentworth Lilacs call 603-436-6607.

**New Hampshire - Open House - Hamesbest Gardens:** Those of you who couldn't visit the Hamesbest Gardens last year have a second chance, those who did are welcome to visit again. We are located just a mile from Exit 4 on I-89. On a hilltop in the middle of the Green Mountains, the gardens include over 120 varieties and species of lilacs, and many other unusual shrubs and trees. These range from a specimen row of late lilacs and viburnums planted in the 60s, (how many of you realize that in the right conditions 'Miss Kim' at 15' is only slightly shorter than Preston Hybrids?), to recent acquisitions sheltered in a cold frame. Most of the lilacs are planted in island beds with perennials and a few self seeding annuals.

We would welcome any ILS members before or after the Convention in May, with more bloom likely to be after the Convention. For further information contact Ruth Buchanan 802-457-3351, e-mail [normmb@aol.com](mailto:normmb@aol.com) or Jean Kerle, e-mail [kerlee@denison.edu](mailto:kerlee@denison.edu).

**New York - Rochester Lilac Festival:** Highland Park, May 12-21, 2000. One of the largest festivals in the eastern USA. For more information or if you wish to be part of this week long event contact Sue LeBeau at 716-256-4960 or through the Highland Botanical Park, 180 Reservoir Ave., Rochester, NY 14620.

**Vermont - Garden and Lilac Weekend:** It's hard to imagine a better lilac festival than the one we saw at the 1999 Convention. However, the people of the Shelburne Museum will try on the weekend of May 20-21, 2000. For more information contact Amy Farmer at the Shelburne Museum, P.O. Box 10, Shelburne, VT 05482.

**Vermont - Bloom-Time Festival:** University of Vermont Horticultural Research Center on Saturday, May 13 and Sunday May 21 sponsored by Friends of the Horticulture Farm. South Burlington, VT (Green Mountain Drive) from noon to 5 pm each day. For information contact David Heleba-you'll remember him from the 1999 Convention at 802-656-0473.

**Washington - Annual Lilac Festival:** sponsored by the Spokane Lilac Association. Its main event, the grand lilac parade, is always scheduled for the 3rd Saturday (in 2000 that will be May 20th) at 7:30 pm in downtown Spokane. For further information contact Bruce Ann Wells at 315 W. Mission Ave., Spokane, WA 99201 or telephone 509-326-3339.

**Wisconsin - Open House** at the home of Bryan and Janice Leonard some weekend in May depending on bloom development. 65 plants, 52 cul-

tivars. For specifics contact the Leonards at 715-386-6080, e-mail at [bryan.leonard@stpaul.com](mailto:bryan.leonard@stpaul.com) or mail at 1104 Grandview Drive, Hudson, WI 54016.

### **EUROPE**

Information supplied by Colin Chapman

**Paris - Ecole du Brueil**, route de la Ferme, Bois de Vincennes, 75012 Paris, France.

Telephone: 01-43-28-28-94, FAX: 01-43-65-34-59

Person responsible: Rolland Genot

Open to the public from 0800 to 1630 weekdays, and 1000 to 1600 weekends and public holidays

Admission: adults 5F, children 2.50F

Species and ssp. 32, cultivars 146

**Brighton - Withdean Park**, London Rd., Brighton, UK

Person responsible: Phillip Williamson, Environmental Services Dept., Brighton and Hove Council, P.O. Box 780, Bartholemew House, Bartholemew Square, Brighton, Sussex BN1 1JP, U.K.

Open daily: admission free

Species and ssp. 36, Cultivars 164

**Leeds - Golden Acre Park**, Otley Road, Leeds

Person responsible: National Collections Coordinator, Leeds City Council, The Town Hall, The Headrow, Leeds, Yorkshire LS1 3AD, U. K.

Telephone: 0113 2323069

Open daily: admission free

Species and ssp. 10, Cultivars 95

**Wyverstone - Norman's Farm**, Wyverstone, Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 4SF, U.K.

Telephone: 01449 781081

Persons responsible: C and Mrs. S.M. Chapman

Open by telephone appointment during the flowering season.

Admission: donation to ILS or NCCPG

Species and ssp. 25, Cultivars 480

### **CANADA**

**Quebec - Select Plus Nursery**: Small plants, large collection last week-end in May.

For further information contact Frank Moro, Select Plus International Nursery, 1510 Pine St., Mascouche, Quebec, Canada J71 2M4

## **International Lilac Society LILAC GROWERS LIST**

*by David Gressley*

Below is listed nurseries that sell liner and wholesale *Syringa* stock.

### **Briggs Nurseries**

4407 Henderson Boulevard, Olympia, WA 99501

(800) 999-9972

Extensive selection of common lilac cultivars with new additions annually. Tissue cultured. Lilacs can be contract grown. Available in varied pot sizes.

### **Congdon & Weller Wholesale Nursery, Inc.**

Mile Block Road, North Collins, NY 14111

(800) 345-8305

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

### **Cloverdale Propagators**

R. T. Schilpzand

2253 South Cloverdale Road, Woodland, WA 98674

(206) 225-9581

A nursery specializing in lilac taxa. Tissue cultured and sold in 2 inch pots and shipped when 6" - 12" tall.

### **Jewell Nurseries, Inc.**

P. O. Box 457, Lake City, MN 55041-0457

(800) 848-0933

Wide selection of lilacs propagated on their own roots. Will ship any size from 6 inches to 6 feet. Available in liner, container and bare root. Willing to contract grow.

### **Minn Vitro, Inc.**

15 West 36th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55408

(612) 825-8862

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

### **Rabbit Run Nursery**

224 North Avenue, Rochester, MA 02770-1827

(508) 763-2009

Nursery located northeast of New Bedford, MA offering a broad selection of lilacs on their own roots mostly in 3 gallon sized containers. Local delivery available. Contact Tom Nelson for available taxa.

### **Spring Meadow Nursery, Inc.**

12601 - 120th Avenue, Grand Haven, MI 49417-9621

(800) 633-8859

Selection of early, middle and late flowering lilacs. Tissue cultures and shipped in 2 1/4" or 4" pots.

### **Syringa Plus**

P.O. Box 363, West Boxford, MA 01885-0363  
(978) 352-3301

Wholesale nursery selling small sized containers through larger B & B sized plants. Bare root stock available in spring. All plants on own roots and shipped direct.

## **RETAIL LILAC SOURCE LIST**

The following is an updated list of retail plant nurseries specializing in the genus *Syringa*. Propagation methods are cited because of the problems that may occur with grafted lilacs in the landscape.

### **ArborVillage**

P. O. Box 227, Holt, MO 64048

Good selection of Fiala lilacs along with a broad selection of other species, hyacinth and common lilacs on their own roots. Container sizes range from one quart to two gallon. Shipped via UPS.

### **Collins Lilac Hill Nursery**

2366 Turk Hill Road, Victor, NY 14564  
(716) 251-1830

Mail orders shipped via UPS in spring and fall on Mondays and Tuesdays. Growing over 200 lilac taxa on their own roots. Available in sizes up to five gallon container.

### **Country Lace Lilacs**

10202 NE 279th Street, Battle Ground, WA 98604  
(206) 687-1874

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

### **Fox Hill Nursery**

347 Lunt Road, Freeport, ME 04032  
(207) 729-1511

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

### **Heard Gardens Ltd.**

5355 Merle Hay Road, Johnston, IA 50131  
(515) 276-4533

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

### **Kings Tree Farm & Nursery**

44 Belvedere Road, Boxford, MA 01921  
(978) 352-6359

Local nursery in the Boston area selling only direct through their outlet. Approximately forty lilac taxa available in various container sizes and balled and burlapped. All plants produced on their own roots.

**Lake Street Garden Center**  
37 Lake Street, Salem, NH 03079  
(603) 893-5858

Contact Tim Wolf for rare and unusual common lilac cultivars including Russian hybrids. Over 60 lilac taxa available. Local nursery serving the Boston, Concord, Nashua area. All stock on its own roots in container and B & B.

**Margaretten Park**

38570 North Bouquet Canyon Road, Leona, CA 93550

A large collection of warm weather acclimated lilacs including introductions from Dr. Margaretten.

**Rabbit Run Nursery**

224 North Avenue, Rochester, MA 02770-1823  
(508) 763-2009

Tom Nelson produces a broad selection of lilacs on their own roots. Local delivery available for the northeastern New Bedford area. Plants available mostly in 3 gallon sized containers.

**Select Plus International Nursery**

1510 Pine, Mascouche, QC J7L 2M4 Canada  
(514) 477-3797

Lilacs are produced on their own roots or are micropropagated and are shipped bare root. Working to introduce 800 lilac taxa.

**Syringa Plus**

P.O. Box 363, West Boxford, MA 01885-0363  
(978) 352-3301

Wholesale nursery with retail trade of superior taxa on their own roots shipped bare root or in two or five gallon pots. Larger B & B plants available. Visitors welcome by appointment. Growing list available.

**The Lilac Farm**

P. O. Box 272-C, Cambridge Springs, PA 16403  
(800) 542-4158, (814) 398-2728

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

**Wedge Nursery**

R. R. 2, Box 114, Albert Lea, MN 56007  
(507) 373-5225

Local nursery selling direct only. Located south of Minneapolis-St. Paul near Iowa border accessible from I-90 and I-35. Approximately 140 lilac taxa available in various sizes. All lilacs produced on their own roots.



# New England Regional Report

*by Peter Ely, Regional Vice-President*

## 1. New England Lilac Field Days & Workshops

The New England Regional ILS is providing two one-day opportunities for all to view lilac collections, attend lilac workshops, purchase varieties of lilac plants and have a fun day with friends. ILS will have a presence at two New England locations during the weekend of May 20-21 (Sat. & Sun.) in the year 2000. Come to one or come to both and enjoy the day. Look for the large ILS white and lilac colored banner at each location to get the day's activities, have some Q&A and find some ILS friends. Even help to pass out ILS new membership applications and help the public to understand the lilac and what ILS does to promote, educate and broaden the understanding and awareness of the lilac.

A. On Saturday, May 20, 2000 from 10am to 2pm, ILS members and friends can attend the NEWBURY PERENNIAL GARDENS in Newbury, Massachusetts during their ANNUAL LILAC OPEN HOUSE (free admission and open to the public). They are providing the public with a day of activities centered on lilacs which will include:

### 3 Lilac Workshops

- \* 10am - propagation
- \* 11am - pruning, cultivation and care of lilacs
- \* 12 noon - lilac varieties; new and old

Look for a tent where numerous varieties of Lilacs are for public sale.

Enjoy the beautiful gardens of plants, flowers and lilacs at this facility. ILS members and friends can also, about 2:30pm, travel to the nearby nursery of Syringa Plus to tour their lilac plant and nursery production process. Also, to have an opportunity for Q&A and talk and visit before heading home.

B. On Sunday, May 21, 2000, from 12 noon to 5pm ILS members and friends can attend the historic WENTWORTH-COOLIDGE MANSION AND GROUNDS during their LILAC OPEN HOUSE FESTIVAL (free admission and public invited). They are providing a day of activities centered around lilacs which will include:

- \* 3 Lilac Workshops (similar to the workshops described above for Newbury Gardens).

- \* A lilac tent where numerous varieties of lilac plants can be purchased.

- \* Tours of the historic Wentworth-Coolidge Mansion, the residence of Benning Wentworth who was the first royal governor of New Hampshire 1744-66. Also, to view some of the oldest lilacs planted in the state and the site of the first New Hampshire planting - a beautiful and historic setting.

The mansion office reported recently that they are taking orders for lilacs that have been propagated from the 1750 lilac plants at the Mansion. Call the office at 603-436-6607 for information about ordering Wentworth lilacs. Additional lilac related activities are being planned, so call to inquire.

ILS will be a part of the activities at each of the above locations, so come and enjoy the lilacs and friends.

The Newbury Perrenial Gardens are located in Newbury, Mass., located not far from I-95, north of Boston. Please call ILS members Evelyn King or Roger Coggeshall at 978-352-3301 for direction and information on the days activities.

Wentworth-Coolidge mansion is located off Sagamore Road at 375 Little Harbor Road in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Call ahead for the schedule of activities at 603-436-6607. Also, for lilac activity information call Evelyn King at 978-352-3301.

New England Regional Vice President, Peter Ely, can also be contacted about the above activities at 203-888-2628 or e-mail [sely634929@aol.com](mailto:sely634929@aol.com).

Meals, at both locations, are on a "bring your own" basis or at any of the nearby restaurants.

The sale of plants and the presentations of the lilac workshops/demonstrations are being provided by Syringa Plus owners and ILS members Evelyn King and Roger Coggeshall. Other ILS members may be involved as well.

The above Lilac Field Days are the result of several ILS members inquiring as to some activities in New England where members can meet other ILS members and attend informal lilac related workshops and lilac viewings - in addition to the main ILS convention or when members are not able to attend the main three day convention. This helps to spread the ILS work and gives more members a chance to enjoy their membership benefits. The ILS convention in Montreal, from May 25-28 this year, is close to New England and New York and numerous lilac collections can be seen before or after the convention.

## Grafted Lilacs

*by Frank Moro*

I have been propagating lilacs now for a little over 10 years and have always looked away from the very idea of grafting. Then 3 years ago to try something different and not have to bring back softwood cuttings through a 6 hour hot June drive I decided to try grafting.

As I expected the success rate was up since this was done in winter then and I get to do it at a more relaxing time of the year.

The first year was on a trial basis and we managed to get harder-to-propagate lilacs to take, that we have tried by rooted cutting and micro propagation on a few occasions. The second season we did about 1200

grafts and the following spring noticed that even the grafted ones that had flower buds managed to put out their flowers, and in remarkable size. The following spring many of these lilacs flowered again and it made me rethink about how to propagate lilacs. The lilacs were grafted onto understock in 4 inch pots that were already established and when we repotted them later in the summer they were sunk below graft level in the pots. They began to reroot on their own roots in 1-2 years.

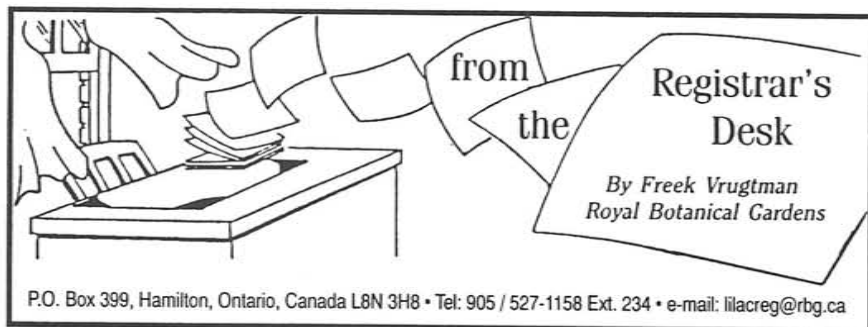
I do prefer doing the propagation the old way but when I think of the advantage of the lilac flowering much quicker for the homeowner who sometimes is not 30 years old, it is great. We use only preston understock on the *vulgaris* or *hyacinthiflora* species so it easy to see a side shoot if one does grow. The preston group does not sucker and is also more tolerant to wetter soil conditions. This may be an advantage to those who have a poorer drained soil.

Rooted cuttings offer own root lilacs and flower within a few years. The first year growth is a little slow because the lilac is trying to establish itself.

Micro propagation is excellent because we get to produce many plants from a few in about 12 months. The downside of this is that they can take 1-2 years longer to flower. But the plant is generally much bushier when young and the rate of growth is very good.

Grafted lilacs have another advantage where they actually develop, I would say, 1 year faster than a rooted cutting. We have been conducting different tests with these and intend on looking towards this old technique a little more often in the future. Once the graft has been under the soil for a couple of years, there usually is a 1-5% reshoot level from it.

But what I feel it all comes down to is how long it takes to flower for the homeowner and how they must also be in flower in the garden center when they buy them. Our market in the nursery is very impulse oriented and without flowers a lilac much too often gets passed up for bedding plants.



*Syringa vulgaris* L. 'Atheline Wilbur' re-examined  
(Fiala, *Lilacs - the genus Syringa*, pp. 102, 108, 223 & Pl.22 [1988];  
revised and updated by Freek Vrugtman)

The common lilac cultivar 'Atheline Wilbur' resulted from the crosses ('Rochester' × 'Edward J. Gardner') × 'Rochester', made by the late John L. Fiala. The original descriptions appearing on pages 102, 108 and 223, and with plate 22 in Fiala's book *Lilacs - the genus Syringa*, are cryptic and inconclusive: "semi-double, unique with orchid shades" (p. 102); "semi-double, deep rose-lavendar buds, opening to multi-petaled florets of orchid, rose and violet" (p.108); "D-VI" [= double magenta] (p.223); and "semi-double" (pl.20).

On the Klehm Nursery web site

<http://www.klem.com/lite/woodies/syringa-athelinewilburn.html>

{May 5, 1998} 'Atheline Wilbur' is described: "Semi-double flowers are rose-lavendar in bud and the large multi-petaled florets are a lovely mixture of orchid, rose and violet."

Pending registration of the cultivar name, Charles Tubesing, Chief Horticulturist at The Holden Arboretum, examined 'Atheline Wilbur' more closely; he writes:

"In May I closely examined the flowers of *Syringa vulgaris* 'Atheline Wilbur' with the goal of submitting a more detailed and precise description of color and structure. I was surprised that the florets are fully double, hose-in-hose, with 3 to 5 corollas superimposed in each floret! The lobes of the innermost corolla are usually not fully developed, one or more of the lobes being reduced and curled toward the center of the floret. Upon dissecting several florets, I found 0 to 2 stamens per floret, so it seems obvious that staminodes contribute to the doubleness.

"The color of the flower buds at full development, before they open, is Red-Purple Group 58A (*RHS Colour Chart*, 1986), The interior of a newly-opened floret is Violet-Blue Group 92D on the inside, and Red-Purple Group 75C on the reverse. Because the florets do not open all at once, an inflorescence containing unopened buds to fully open florets shows a combination of these colors. As the florets fade, the last colors listed become mixed with patches of White Group 155D.

"The inflorescence of 'Atheline Wilbur' bears what I would describe as a light and pleasant fragrance." (in lit. Tubesing to Vrugtman June 8, 1999)

'Atheline Wilbur' has been introduced through The Holden Arboretum, Kirtland, Ohio, and became commercially available in 1995.

## 1999 - THE SPECTACULAR YEAR AT DESCANSO'S LILAC GARDEN

*By Rudy Schaffer, Volunteer Lilac Curator*

After the wet winter of 1997-1998 we were shortchanged in the 1998-1999 rainy season. Fortunately the rain came in the late winter, but we started irrigating at the peak of the blooming season. The actual rainfall was only 2/3 of the normal average of 14 inches.

Yet mother nature provided us with seven weeks of a spectacular show, with the Hyacinthifloras again running ahead in the race. 'Lavender Lady' beat all the others, but the runners-up added to make our visitors very happy. Comments like "that's the best ever, how do you do it?" were daily expressions. 'Znamya Lenina' again was the last lilac to bloom, but what a color! With so many international visitors coming to the gardens, I started to ask our guests from Russia what the name stands for. One said it means "Star of Lenin" while another translated it as the "Banner of Lenin". Perhaps someone among the readers of the ILS quarterly does have the correct answer.

The 'Lavender' Lady Seminar in March was what the doctor ordered. Lilac fanciers, who not so long ago were among the disbelievers, now tell us their stories of success. Once again our mentors Dr. Louis Erickson and Dr. Giles Wainess came 50+ miles to give us their support.

The long hot summer finally gave way to the cooler fall season and we were grateful that the lilacs could cool off and take a well deserved rest. May we extend to all members of ILS and the friends of lilacs a friendly invitation to take time and join us for the 50<sup>th</sup> birthday party for the 'Lavender Lady' at the annual seminar March 25, 2000 at Descanso Gardens.

Last but not least, the latest plant added to our collection in this century is the 'Reva Ballreich' cultivar, a Max Peterson introduction. We are honored to share this lilac with our many visitors from far and near.

## TOPICS FOR THE ORGANIZATION MEETING OF THE SCLC 1999

Meeting Saturday, November 6, 1999 at Descanso Gardens  
from 11AM to 2PM

1. Welcome by Richard Schulhof, Executive Director of Descanso Gardens. Purpose of the proposed Southern California Lilac Council.
2. Rudy Shaffer, volunteer curator of Descanso Lilac Garden will elaborate on individual topics:
  - A. Coordinate activities on a yearly basis
  - B. Coordinate printing, promotional, and educational material
  - C. Listing of species and varieties
  - D. Correspond with other national and/or regional areas or with the Regional Vice President of the International Lilac Society, Reva Ballreich
3. Additional groups or individuals?
4. Location and time of annual meeting
5. Rotation of annual meeting, Descanso Gardens or ????
6. Logo
7. Election of chairperson and assistant chairperson
8. Setup of the report sheet

### **Organization Resolution**

On November 6, 1999 a group of interested people met at Descanso Gardens in LaCanada Flintridge for the formation of the **SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LILAC COUNCIL** in order to foster the interest of growing lilacs and to exchange knowledge with any and all interested parties, and make such findings available nationally and around the globe and use the **Quarterly Journal** of the ILS as a vehicle for such information.

### **The Birthplace of the Southern California Lilac Council**

On Sunday May 30, 1999 Reva Ballreich, Richard Schulhof, Executive Director of Descanso Gardens, and Rudy Schaffer enjoyed a beautiful day at Reva's. Lots of lilacs were in full bloom. During lunch Rudy suggested that it would be beneficial for all the present lilac growers and collectors in the South California area to form a Southern California Lilac Council. The idea was whole heartily supported by both Reva and Richard. In the coming months, Rudy visited all the different growers and collectors with the idea. All parties spoke in favor of the idea. A date was set for Saturday, November 6, 1999 for the formation meeting. The meeting was held at Descanso Gardens and Director Schulhof sponsored the lunch.

On that date the following people were present:



# LILAC LEAF MINER

By G. R. Nielsen

Former Extension Entomologist, Plant and Soil Science Department

Brown, wrinkled leaves are commonly observed on lilacs in mid-summer. This could be due to weather, blight or, more commonly, the lilac leaf miner\*. This introduced insect is now common throughout the northeastern states. It attacks lilac and privet.

**Hosts:** The lilac leaf miner is primarily a pest of lilacs, especially common lilac. However, it also attacks the closely related shrub, privet. It may also rarely infest ash (*Fraxinus*), *Deutzia* and *Euonymus* species.

**Damage:** The lilac leaf miner causes a blotch-type leaf miner. The larvae (caterpillars) feed gregariously between the upper and lower surfaces of the leaves. The mined tissues slowly change color as the mine increases in size. About the time the mined leaf surfaces begin to brown and become conspicuous, the larvae vacate the mine and curl the tips of the leaf. This is done by spinning several strands of silk. The larvae continue to feed by skeletonizing the upper leaf surface within the curled leaves. The mined tissues dry and brown rapidly at this time, giving the shrub an unsightly appearance.

**Life History:** The tiny adult moths emerge and fly to lilacs in May and July, where they deposit their eggs on the undersides of the leaves. The hatching larvae feed directly through the bottom of the eggshell and into the leaf. The hatching larvae mine within the leaf tissues for several weeks. They then exit the mine and continue to feed within a curled leaf tip for another week or two. The mature larvae drop to the ground and pupate in the litter. There are two complete generations per year. Larvae are active and feeding during June and early July and again in August and September. The winter is passed in the pupal stage in the soil.

**Description:** The tiny grayish brown adult moth has a wing span of less than 2 inches (10-12 mm) with irregular yellow patches on the forewings. The females lay up to 100 or more transparent eggs in groups along the vein on the underside of the leaves. The full-grown larva has a yellow-brown head capsule and a pale, translucent body about 1/4 inch (8mm) long. The partially grown larvae in the mines are glossy and greenish.

**Control:** If the infestation is light, control can be attained by picking both the mined and curled leaves and destroying them. This should preferably be done while the mines are still small and green in color to prevent any mature larvae from dropping to the ground and escaping.

In heavier infestations, spraying is recommended. Treat only when there are young mines developing or when the tiny adult moths are depositing their eggs on the leaves. This will probably be mid-June (first generation) and early August (second generation) but will vary with the location.

Do not treat old, dried-up mines since the larvae have already dropped to the soil to pupate. Once the larvae vacate the mines and get within the curled leaf tips, conventional surface sprays will no longer reach them.

The use of drench treatments applied to the duff or soil under the lilacs against the pupae is of doubtful value.

**Before using any pesticide, read the label and follow all precautions!**

\**Gracillaria syringella* (F.); Lepidoptera: Gracillariidae.

## Tips for Beginners

*I want a specific lilac cultivar (variety) and none of my local nurseries have it. How do I go about identifying a source? I don't want a substitute or one "almost as good".*

The best source for all kinds of woody plants is your local nursery or garden center. The people there know the area, have experience, and often will give a better replacement guarantee than mail order or distant firms. However, no nursery can be expected to carry the full range of the about 1500 cultivars of lilacs that are known around the world. Local nurseries do have access to many wholesale firms so if you want - and know the name of a specific lilac - the advice remains the same. Start with a local firm and ask them to order it from their wholesaler. If none of the locals, large or small, have or can get your lilac, the next level to consider is the large wholesale nurseries. As wholesale firms, they may not be able to sell directly to individuals but they can tell you where they sent plants of the lilac you want.

*But none of the locals have it and I don't know the names of all the big wholesalers - what next?*

This is where the *International Lilac Society* can help. If it exists, ILS can find it! You can go at it in a couple of ways. The first is simply to ask your fellow ILSers. A note to the Editor will end up in **Lilacs**, the society's quarterly journal. Or, you can contact your Regional Vice President who is listed on the inside of the back cover. The regional Vice Presidents are a good source of where to find a lilac and they have faced your problem before as they tried to find one particular lilac or one special one to fill out a collection. Not only that but - they are nice people and would love to hear from you! Their expertise is available for the asking.

Last couple of points: Order early! Lilacs are becoming very popular and nurseries - even the big ones - often sell out long before the season is over. (If this happens to you, consider putting in an order for next year while you've got them on the phone.)

Last point: don't dismiss substitutes out of hand. They may be better than the one you were considering. Just be careful of the source of the comment *"This one is just as good as the one you wanted."* And remember - ILS stands ready to help you!

## LILAC TRIVIA

### Statistics on *In Vitro* Production of Lilacs in German

*By Freek Vrugtman*

Prof. Dr. W. Preil, Institute for Breeding of Ornamental Plants (Institut für Zierpflanzenzüchtung) at Ahrensburg, Germany, compiled statistics on *in vitro* propagation by commercial laboratories, members of the Working Group German In Vitro Cultures (ADIVK) of the Central Association

Horticulture (ZVG), for the period 1988 to 1998.

Following are the figures for *in vitro* production of *Syringa* for Germany for that period:

1988 .....	55,000	1992 .....	43,000	1996 .....	230,000
1989 .....	62,000	1993 .....	124,000	1997 .....	310,000
1990 .....	155,000	1994 .....	250,000	1998 .....	375,000
1991 .....	156,000	1995 .....	230,000		

Reference: <http://www.mnd.fh-wiesbaden.de/adivk/adivk5.html> (12/14/99)

### **Correction • Correction • Correction**

The agent for the Royal Botanical Gardens at Hamilton ON Canada has been changed from Dennis Eveleigh to Bruce Peart. Please mark this change in your membership list.



# The McLaughlin Foundation

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## **SPECIAL • SPECIAL • SPECIAL**

### **Edward A. Upton Scrapbooks of Lilac Information**

In an attempt to lower our inventory of these two fascinating books "chuck-a-block" full of lilac information, the ILS Board of Directors has authorized a price reduction sale; each volume \$8.00, \$15.00 for both. At this price, we have to add a \$4.00 postage and handling charge but this is still a substantial savings and a great value.

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

These volumes, and copies of the Duorak Lilac Study listed below, can be ordered from: Owen M. Rogers, Editor, Plant Biology Department, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH 03824-3544.

*Lilac Study* (Joseph Dvorak, Jr. ) 1978. Reprint. Line drawings of lilac flowers, foliage and stem detail. Descriptions of form and color. Soft cover. Black and white. \$10.00

We also have a few copies of the 1976 Tentative International Register of Cultivar names in the Genus *Syringa* and Jack Alexander's *Lilacs: Plants of History - Plants of Tomorrow*. Both of these have or soon will be superseded by new publications, but anyone desiring copies for historical reasons can contact the Editor for prices and information.

# International Lilac Society

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