

# Lilacs

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Summer 2000



## **QUARTERLY JOURNAL**

of the International Lilac Society

IN  
THIS  
ISSUE:

### Convention Highlights

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 c/o David Gressley at the address below. \$5.00 (U.S.)

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### Membership Classification (U.S. Funds)

Single or Family / Annual .....	\$ 20.00
Sustaining .....	30.00
Institution/Commercial .....	35.00
Life .....	230.00

• Mail membership dues to Asst. Treasurer Robert Gilbert

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

#### OWNERSHIP STATEMENT

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

LILACS 2000

PUBLISHED JULY 2000

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

First of all I want to thank the Board of Directors for electing me your new President. It is both an honor and a privilege to serve the Society.

The Annual Meeting of the International Lilac Society in Montréal was well planned and presented. A special thanks to Frank Moro; his hard work in arranging meetings, events, trips and meals was greatly appreciated by all in attendance. It will be a hard act to follow and follow I must, as the Annual Meeting returns to Rochester, NY next year. However, do not expect quite the gastronomic banquets our Millennium host provided. The 2000 meeting will be remembered by all attendees.

Our *Lilac Quarterly* is a great source of current lilac information. Your ideas, suggestions and contributions are welcomed and appreciated by the Editor, Owen Rogers.

If you're on-line be sure to visit our website [lilacs.freesevers.com](http://lilacs.freesevers.com) to get current information on lilacs and upcoming ILS events as well as sources for lilac species and cultivars.

Enjoy the summer months but don't forget to prune and deadhead your lilacs and water when necessary.

P.S. A special welcome to all new members.

## EDITOR'S NOTES

What a convention! The lilacs were perfect, the food magnificent and the fellowship endless. Be sure to read Colin's report. Also, start planning for next year's convention at Rochester. Bob Hoepfl is already working on the program and several surprises.

We also had an argument (discussion) about dwarf lilacs. Remembering that there is no such thing as a dwarf plant, only slow growing ones. Regardless of your definition, Ed Hasselkus came up with the following list of "compact" cultivars of *Syringa vulgaris*.

'Capitaine Baltet'	'Mont Blanc'
'DeCroncels'	'Marengo'
'Lucie Baltet'	'President Harding'
'Mme Catherine Buchet'	'Rochambeau'
'Mme de Miller'	'Triste Barbaro'

While we are talking about cultivars, it should be noted that the picture of 'President Lincoln' on the front cover of the spring issue of *Lilacs* is not the right color. It should be blue or bluish. It is often difficult to get a true rendition of the color in color reproductions of lilacs and this is a good example.

## Cover Story

### **Front Cover**

*Syringa vulgaris* 'Windsong' introduced by Father Fiala in 1984. The name has not been registered to date. See Colin Chapman's notes for comments.

### **Back Cover**

*Syringa vulgaris* 'Fiala Remembrance' for the synonyms that have appeared in the trade, see Debbie McCown's letter.

## Next Issue Deadline

The next issue deadline for material for the fall issue of **Lilacs** will be September 8, 2000.

## Quarterly Reminder

If you haven't done your pruning earlier this spring - get to it; this is the best time of the year horticulturally speaking.

## EUROPEAN NEWSLETTER

There will be no European news this edition, just a few observations on a wonderful Convention.

When Montréal was first proposed as a venue my saliva buds began to ooze in anticipation of the delights of Quebecois cuisine. I was not disappointed because the meals were of the highest standard and were thoroughly appreciated by this itinerant gastronome.

I did not stay at the hotel but indulged myself by accepting the invitation of Frank and Sara Moro to stay with them at their lovely home. This enabled me to look at their garden and the lilac production facilities in detail but also to join in a family life involving five very lively children. To one of them I must record our thanks. Miss Cameo Moro willingly gave up her room for me to occupy. Now I had spent the previous few days touring the midwest but I had been unable to sleep even in good hotels. However, in Cameo's room, with dolls and toys and childish things around me, my head no sooner touched the pillow than I slept like a baby. Without such sleep I could not have been as sharp as I was at the Convention so thank you little Cameo for your very gracious gesture.

The lilacs at the Botanical Garden were very lovely. I have never before seen lilac shrubs which have been so beautifully pruned and maintained according to the principles proposed by Charles Holetich in *Lilacs* vol. 22, No. 3, 1993. They were a credit to the staff of my old friend Raymond Cochez whom I was delighted to see again after last meeting him and Anne Marie at the 1991 Convention in Lombard, Illinois. Afterwards, we were treated to a demonstration of striking rooted cuttings under mist which was the clearest and most sensible I have ever seen.

Lunch in the biodome was excellent and then we were led into the magnificent Auditorium for the Annual Meeting and the afternoon's talk. If I make no comment on the meeting or the talks by the Director, Raymond Cochez or Bob Hoepfl it is because my mind was preoccupied by my own contribution - which was to be last - and the awesome nature of the facilities which were a full sized theatre, an enormous screen, a boom microphone, an electronic focusing gun, a laser pointer and a resident technician. This was big-time and I sincerely hope my contribution lived up to it.

Dinner was excellent and sitting between Freek and Ina Vrugtman gave me the chance to deal verbally with some of the points from Freek's last ten letters which I had so discourteously left unanswered.



The next morning the auction was conducted in a brisk and efficient manner with some very good prices being achieved. The range of plants on offer was utterly formidable and must have represented the rarest collection of lilac material ever offered for sale in one place. I was particularly thrilled because, for the first time, lilacs were on offer where I had, myself, contributed to their provenances.

The old lilacs at Terrebonne were intriguing but, because of a sudden dispute with the owners, we were only allowed to view them from the sidewalk. The Restaurant, a hundred yards away, was much more welcoming and when Mons. Le Chef came out to explain to us his dishes he used the same loving words that I try to use when describing lilacs. The lunch was simply superb.

The afternoon was spent in the garden of Frank and Sara. I was delegated to show people the lilacs which were growing there. Two in particular caught the eye and both were by Fr. Fiala. The first was one I had not seen before and at first sight of it my heart leaped into my mouth. It was *S. vulgaris* 'Windsong', a single pink with enormous florets, great distinction and the classical attributes of poise, elegance and beauty. The other had lost its label but I recognized it because the week before it had been performing in the same majestic way in my own garden. It was *S. vulgaris* 'Wonderblue' and I was glad to see that Frank's specimen confirmed my growing feeling that this is one of the great single lilacs. The blue is so pure that I have not yet captured a good photograph, but when I do I will describe it in the journal.

The big event of the afternoon was the opening of the enormous 15 litre bottle of Moët et Chandon Champagne for a Millennium toast. This was a moment of great style which again brought us back to the wonderful French-Canadian culture which flavoured the whole Convention. That evening, the five course dinner at the hotel was simply magnificent. It was so magnificent that when I was called upon to accept a totally unexpected Arch McKean Award I was not able to accept gracefully like the other recipients but disgraced myself when I was mysteriously taken over by the personae of the late Ms. Ginger Rogers and outlined the difficulties I face in speaking a foreign language—English—in North America. Oh, *mea culpa*, I am not worthy to walk among you. On the other hand I did warn you that all I ever wanted to be was a song-and-dance man!

There was one more exquisite day to come. On the Sunday we collected our adorable friend Pauline Fiala who had a long, dull wait before

she could start her journey home, and we made a visit to old Montréal. The moment I saw it I fell in love because it was Paris in North America. I took one look at the pavement cafés and knew that I had to have one more lunch. We found a spotless place with a wonderful ambience and I had Caribou pie. With the conversation of Frank and Pauline, Diana Krall singing softly in my ear, and humorous comments from passers-by on the sidewalk it became an event as memorable as any. A trip to the top of Mount Royal then afforded us a panoramic view of the whole city and its location on the St. Lawrence Seaway.

The following day the two oldest children were pulled out of school to make up a family procession to conduct me to the airport, via the greatest strawberry cheesecake made in North America, and so ended one of the most memorable of Annual Meetings. Frank and Sara, thank you for your hospitality and for letting me share your lives for a while; it is sociable and friendly gestures such as this which keep me coming back year after year. If I managed to contribute to the success of your event then I am pleased that I was able to help you out. It was good to meet old friends and it was particularly good to meet new members attending their first Convention. I was particularly delighted to be reunited with my old friend and mentor Charles Holetich and to meet for the first time Bruce Peart, the new Lilac Curator at RBG Hamilton. It was also a joy to meet again the good folk of Cap à L'Aigle and I do hope that ILS will be able to respond to their generous offer to host a Convention.

*Mon français n'est très bon mais je voudrais dire "Merci beaucoup" Montréal at votre gens, parce que vous me donnez des temps spécial et merveilleux. Enchantez!*

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



# International Lilac Society

## Comparing 2000 (4/1/2000) with 1999 and 1998

CREDITS	2000	1999	1998
DUES	\$5,750.00	\$5,674.75	\$6,602.50
LIFE MEMBERSHIP/ENDOW.	1,760.00	1,110.00	1,440.00
CONTRIBUTIONS	280.00	1,267.00*	224.00
ADVERTISING	0	80.00	0
PUBLICATIONS	6.00	649.00	374.00
AUCTION	2,501.00	1,731.40	4,200.00
CONFERENCE	1,961.66	0	0
INTEREST	3,500.69	3,171.50	3,066.50
MISCELLANEOUS	1,117.55**	0	0
TOTAL CREDITS	16,877.68	13,683.65	15,907.00

\* Includes \$1,000. bequest from Josiah M. Fowler Trust

\*\*Funds transferred from ILS Canada to ILS U.S. account on 8/2/99

DEBITS	2000	1999	1998
MISCELLANEOUS	\$10,100.00*	\$4,714.67**	\$5,252.78***
OFFICE SUPPLIES	55.69	785.75	69.57
JOURNAL	4,483.50	4,123.84	4,696.17
BANK FEES	8.00	16.00	9.00
POSTAGE	1,048.10	1,259.36	1,458.01
COLOR PHOTO	730.00	822.00	565.00
SHIPPING	240.00	252.45	155.98
PHONE	0	15.65	188.48
AWARDS	897.94	588.39	683.77
CONFERENCE	2,037.42	1,000.00	592.34
TYPING/FAX	101.80	91.20	99.50
PRINTING (other than Journal)	0	218.54	56.74
TOTAL DEBITS	19,702.45	13,887.85	13,827.34

\* Includes \$5,000. Bond investment with Edward Jones Co.

\* Includes \$3,000. Certificate of Deposit investment with KeyBank

\* Includes \$1,550. donation to Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University

\*\* Includes \$1,500 donation to Iowa State University and \$3,099.67 Bond investment with Edward Jones Co.

\*\*\* Includes \$1,000. donation to University of California Riverside and \$4,151.78 Certificate of Deposit investment with Edward Jones Co.

Prepared April 1, 2000 by James P. Hastings, Treasurer

## Treasurer's Report – May 26, 2000

Bank Statement (Acct. # 190404000696) Key Bank of Maine, Skowhegan, ME. 04976 - Balance 3/31/00	\$5,371.93
Edward Jones Co. (Acct. # 212-03072-1-6) P.O. Box 377, Naperville, Illinois 60540	
Cert. of Deposit, Greenwood Trust Co. 7%	4,000.00
Cert of Deposit, LaSalle National Bank 7.15%	39,000.00
Cert. of Deposit, Key Bank Nat. Assoc. 3.92%	3,056.17
Corp. Bond Bank Hapoalim 6.75%	5,000.00
Corp. Bond Federal Nat. Mortg. Assn. 7%	<u>3,000.00</u>
Total Funds Available	59,428.10
Funds Held in SPECIAL ACCOUNTS 4/1/00	42,285.15
Total Funds in GENERAL ACCOUNT 4/1/00	17,142.95

### Funds held in <sup>\*</sup><sup>\*</sup><sup>\*</sup><sup>\*</sup><sup>\*</sup>SPECIAL ACCOUNTS 4/1/00

Life Member/Endowment Fund Brought Forward 4/1/99	\$20,722.88	
L.M. 4/1/99 = 102 + 15 = 117 3/31/00	\$2,400.00	
Miscellaneous contributions 3/31/00	<u>280.78</u>	
Credit 3/31/00	2,680.78	<u>2,680.78</u>
	23,403.66	
Plant Propagation Fund (Laurene Wishart) 4/1/99 = \$913.79 + Int. \$64.42	978.21	978.21
Education & Research 4/1/99 = \$4,850.76 + Int. \$341.98	5,192.74	5,192.74
Publications (other than Journal) 4/1/99 = \$595.02 + Int. \$41.95	636.97	636.97
C. C. Clark Memorial Fund (int. deferred to Color Photo Separation Fund)	5,000.00	5,000.00
Arch McKean Fund (Contribution) (same)	5,000.00	5,000.00
Colored Photo (Journal) Separation Fund Brought Forward 3/31/99	2,098.57	
Interest Credit 3/31/00	<u>705.00</u>	
Funds Available 3/31/00	2,803.57	
Debits: 3/31/99 - 3/31/00		
Vol. 28 No. 2	\$225.00	
Vol. 28 No. 3	170.00	
Vol. 28 No. 4	170.00	
Vol. 29 No. 1	<u>165.00</u>	
	730.00	
	<u>730.00</u>	
Balance in Fund 3/31/00	2,073.57	<u>2,073.57</u>
Total Funds in SPECIAL ACCTS. 3/31/00		42,285.15
Total Funds in GENERAL ACCOUNT 3/31/00		<u>17,142.95</u>
Total Funds Available		59,428.10

Prepared April 1, 2000 by James P. Hastings, Treasurer

## Editor's Report

Dr. Owen M. Rogers

There have been four issues (vol 28, Nos. 3 and 4; Vol 29, Nos. 1 and 2) of *Lilacs* published since the last report to the Board. They have averaged just over 30 pages in length and included 3 ads. Apparently advertising in *Lilacs* doesn't get much response.

The column "*Tips for Beginners*" continues to be well received and a new listing of lilac festivals has been started. If you know of any festivals or openhouse events either this year or next, please let your editor know of them.

An updated "*International Register of Cultivar Names*" will be ready for sale at this year's convention. Since the Register is a true work-in-progress, Freek Vrugtman is adding new material all the time.

We are still working on a new nonprofit mailing permit that will allow us to mail issues of *Lilacs* from Savannah, NY instead of Medina, OH. The problem is that we need IRS agreement that we are truly a nonprofit organization before the post office will issue a nonprofit mailing permit. We have patched together a procedure whereby the Savannah address has been added to the Medina permit. The hope is that by the time we are ready to send out the summer issue, we will have the whole thing straightened out. Your editor is particularly grateful to Jim Hastings, Pauline Fiala, John Carvell and the SEECO people at Savannah for their extraordinary efforts on this project.

As always, we look forward to hearing from you and would like to be informed about things that we can publish in *Lilacs*.

## Membership Committee Report

International Lilac Society reports 465 members as of this conference date, May 26, 2000: 388 members are from the United States, 35 are from Canada, 34 are from Europe and 8 are from Asia.

International Lilac Society has 352 single, family, commercial and institutional memberships, 100 lifetime memberships, 9 complimentary memberships and 4 honorary memberships.

*Respectfully submitted,  
David Gressley  
Membership Secretary*

## Election Committee Report

The Election Committee reported that the following people were elected to the Board of Directors of the International Lilac Society. They will serve a three year term ending in 2003.

Reva Ballreich  
Robert Clark  
Robert Gilbert  
James Hastings  
Konrad Kircher

### Subsequent Note:

Robert Gilbert has had to resign from the Board because of ill health. President Robert Hoepfl will appoint a replacement.

## Knight Hollow Nursery Letter

*I received the following letter from Debbie McCown and pass it on as an example of the problems synonyms can cause.*

Dear Owen,

I'm a new member of the International Lilac Society but I have been propagating lilacs for at least a dozen years. I own a tissue culture laboratory and nursery called Knight Hollow Nursery and we were the lab that initially introduced the Fiala lilacs to the commercial market.

Following Fr. Fiala's death, Karen Murray of Ameri-Hort Research sent me a plant that Joel Margaretten wanted named, In Memoriam for Fr. Fiala. We have been marketing that plant for years. (We received it in 1991.) Margaretten never registered the plant, apparently he died before the registration was completed. Freek Vrugtman has been after me to register the plant and suggested I write something for the *Quarterly Journal* and then, when we had all the information complete, we would publish the registration in *HortScience*.

The original plant was given to Ed Hasselkus and planted in the University of Wisconsin Arboretum. This spring I took notes and photographs of the plant known variously as 'Father John', 'Father J. Fiala', 'Father John Fiala', 'Father John L. Fiala', and 'John L. Fiala'. In our catalog we have listed it as 'Father John Fiala' and 'Father John'. None of these names were acceptable to Freek since there is already a lilac named for him. I suggested 'In Memoriam' but apparently Latin names are not acceptable. After some discussion, Freek and I have decided to name the plant 'Fiala Remembrance'.

Here is the data I collected:

Height 7 ft; Foliage—good green, disease resistant; Moderate suckering; Moderate fragrance; Bud color cream; Florets fully open white:

Florets fully double, petals 10-12; Florets 1½ - 2 cm; Corolla tube 1 cm; Trusses 16-20 cm; Stamens not visible

Florets appear tufted or crested, not flat.

Deborah D. McCown  
Knight Hollow Nursery, Inc.  
3333 Atom Rd.  
Middleton, WI 53562

*If anyone wishes to register a cultivar, they should contact Freek Vrugtman. He has all the regulations (mandated by the International rules, not by Freek.)*



*The Chinese Garden at the Montréal  
Botanic Garden*



*The jeroboam of  
champagne  
Photo credit: Owen  
Rogers*



*Propagation  
demonstration  
Photo credit: Brad Bittorf*



*Opening the jeroboam (15 liters) of  
champagne  
Photo credit: Brad Bittorf*

*(below) Bruce Peart,  
Amy Plamann, Colin  
Chapman at the  
Montréal Botanical  
Gardens.*

*Photo credit: Brad Bittorf*



*Japanese Garden at the Montréal Botanic  
Garden*



*David  
and  
Priscilla.  
Guess  
which is  
which*







*At the auction.*



*Charles Holetich and Colin Chapman.*



*At the auction from left to right: Frank Moro, John Carvill, Colin Chapman.*

*Photo Credit: Brad Bittorf*



*Close-up of mature Syringa vulgaris trunk.*

*Photo credit: Brad Bittorf*



*Frank and Sara Moro with three of their five children.*

*Photo credit: Owen Rogers.*



*Frank Moro's home in Massouche, Quebec.*

*Photo credit: Owen Rogers*

## ILS AWARDS 2000

### HONORS AND ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Reva Ballreich

For her extraordinary, visionary and enthusiastic service as the Society's President for 6 years, for being Regional Vice-President since 1987, for helping to establish public Lilac collections world wide and for publicizing the Lilac through lectures, magazine articles and TV appearances.



Photo Credit: Brad Bittorf



Photo Credit: Brad Bittorf

### HONORS AND ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Freek Vrugtman

For his monumental work on the book "*International Register of Cultivar Names in the Genus Syringa L. [Oleaceae]*" and for continuing to consider it a work-in-progress as new cultivars are registered and more information becomes available on older cultivars.

### DIRECTOR'S AWARD

Robert Hoepfl

For his work with the hybridization of lilacs and for bringing a hybridizing workshop to the convention.



Photo Credit: Brad Bittorf



Photo Credit: Brad Bittorf

### PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Jardins Botanique de Montréal

For hosting the International Lilac Society's convention in 2000 and for their presentation of the Genus *Syringa* to the public.

### ARCH MCKEAN AWARD

Brad Bittorf

For having the dream of a lilac website and for working to make it a reality.

### ARCH MCKEAN AWARD

Frank Moro

For encouraging the establishment of a lilac web site and for supplying a great deal of the material used on the site.



Photo Credit: Brad Bittorf

## ILS AWARDS 2000

### ARCH MCKEAN AWARD

David Gressley

For his work on the Website Team, for supplying lilac information and for adding his expertise to the project.



Photo Credit: Brad Bittorf

### ARCH MCKEAN AWARD

Karen Wheeler

For her work on the Website Team, for setting up the website and for transcribing the information on to the Internet.



Photo Credit: Brad Bittorf

### ARCH MCKEAN AWARD

Colin Chapman

For his many published articles and for his tireless efforts in promoting the Lilac in Europe.

### DISTINGUISHED RECOGNITION AWARD

Pauline Fiala

For her many years of dedicated service as the chairman of the Awards Committee, as the chairman of the Elections Committee, as the person in charge of mailing the Society's *Journal* and for many other services too numerous to mention here.



Photo Credit: Brad Bittorf

### DISTINGUISHED RECOGNITION AWARD

Nancy Emerson

For her dedication to ILS. She has served on the Board of Directors and on many committees. For years she has been very active in presenting the lilac to the public and is still doing so.



Photo Credit: Brad Bittorf

### DISTINGUISHED RECOGNITION AWARD

William H. Horman

For his many years as Regional Vice-President, for hosting the 1997 Convention on Mackinac Island and for his many other services to the International Lilac Society.

## ILS AWARDS 2000

### AWARD OF MERIT

Raymond Cochez

For the exceptional care of the lilac collection at the Le Jardin Botanique de la Ville  
Montréal.

*Konrad Kircher  
receiving an award by  
the people of  
Cap'a'Aiglet*



*Sally Schenker, Chair of Awards  
Committee*

## WELCOME NEW RBG MEMBER

*John Carvill received the following letter from our new member from the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton.*

Dear Mr. Carvill,

Please let me introduce myself. My name is Bruce Peart and I work at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. My job here is Horticulturist of Special Projects. The main special project is to work and deal directly with the management operations of the Royal Botanical Gardens Lilac Collection.

I have been employed at the Royal Botanical Gardens for the last 24 years as Head-Gardener of Hendrie Park/Rose Garden from 1975 to 1989. From 1989 to 1999 as Grounds Maintenance Supervisor for all the outside gardening staff (45). As recently as September, 1999, I requested a lateral move to this present position. As I said before, my main horticultural duty is the RBG Lilac Collection. Other duties include Health and Safety procedures and teaching thereof, and updating and creating of Management Operational Plans for the garden sites.

I know Charles Holetich as a colleague and co-worker and we have had quite a few meetings during this time of transfer. Charles is filled with more knowledge about lilacs than I will ever have but I will certainly give 110% in effort. Since Charles' retirement 3 years ago only a little effort has been set out for the Lilac Collection. This can not continue. Mr. Freek Vrugtman is also very close (geographically) and we have e-mailed back and forth over the last 3 months on certain lilac data. I continue to pick his brain for Lilac Data and history of the RBG collection. I am quite certain that these two names are very familiar to you. Neither of them require any further introductions.

Please include me as a representative for the Royal Botanical Gardens starting immediately. I am lead to believe that my colleague, Dennis Eveleigh, has removed his name from the International Lilac Society membership. With this new position I will be the Royal Botanical Gardens contact at this time.

Bruce Peart  
Horticulturist

# Beyond the Petals

*Robert E. Hoepfl*

We have come a long way from the common lilac and the 'Azurea Plena' that the Lemoine's started working with over 100 years ago.

Everyone who has ever crossed two plants, be it lilacs, roses or marigolds has done so with hopes of achieving particular goals. However, those goals are rarely reached on the initial try. Then again a chance seedling of an open pollinated flower often leads to greatness. Open pollinated means that you collected seed from a plant, but have no idea as to the source of the pollen; you only know the seed producing plant. This was the case with the discovery or selection of the 'Rochester' lilac.

Today I will attempt to enlighten you to the basic details of controlled hybridization. With the knowledge of the characteristics of the plants, a bit of good fortune and a lot of patience you can achieve your goals.

Diagram of basic flower structure (petal, stamen, stigma & ovule)

Lilac flower - selection of the particular lilacs to be hybridized is related to the goals established.

## Step A - Selective Reduction

Select the lilac flower head to receive pollen (mother plant).

Reduce the number of florets -

First: remove any open florets, they may already be pollinated.

Second: remove the smallest unopened buds so as to retain those buds of a uniform size that are all of a similar growth stage.

## Step B - Pistil Preparation - female

Firmly grasp the enlarged head, the unopened portion of each floret, and gently pluck off the petals including the stamens which are attached to the inside of the corolla tube— this is called emasculating. If done correctly this exposes the pistil, the light colored ends of the pistil are the stigmas.

It may be necessary to protect this structure from stray pollen (from wind or insects) by placing a paper bag over it for a day or two until the stigma splits and is ready to accept pollen.

## Step C - Gathering Pollen - male

Select the pollen producing flower, look for the bright yellow stamens that are just maturing (immature pollen doesn't release from the flower).



A fine bristled artist brush is required for this procedure.

Select open florets with viable (ripe) pollen and remove from the lilac and transport to the prepared pistil or mother plant.

Insert the dry artist brush into the corolla tube of the floret and gently twist the brush to collect grains of pollen on the tip of the brush.

### **Step D - Fertilization**

With the paper bag removed and the split stigma exposed, carefully dab the brush with the pollen on each stigma.

Collect additional pollen from the same lilac variety if necessary to fertilize all prepared stigmas, no need to over do this procedure as only one grain of pollen is required for fertilization.

### **Step E - Incubation**

When fertilization is complete again cover the structure with a paper bag to protect it from stray pollen for 2 to 3 days. After which the stigmas will wilt and the ovule will start to enlarge. Remove the paper bag.

Label with the date and a hybridization number or the actual cross, this is always written seed parent (mother plant)  $\times$  pollen parent (father plant).

In late summer the enlarged seed head will be maturing nicely and its color will turn from green to brown.

Remove the seed head when it is fully brown but before it splits open, place in a paper bag and label.

Store in a cool dry location.

That's just the start of things:

seed cleaning

Sowing

Germination

Seedling nurturing

In 5 to 8 years you should see initial flowering then further observation and growing on for a total of 15 to 20 years to observe all growth and flowering characteristics and comparisons with named varieties, weeding out those inferior plants as time goes on. Hopefully you will be able to make a selection and name a new cultivar. Then you can start registration requirements. Good Luck!

## Japanese Tree Lilacs

By David Gressley

Much taxonomic confusion has followed the introduction of the Japanese tree lilacs into western horticulture since Dutch botanist, Blume named the species *Ligustrum reticulata* in 1850. Successive taxonomic revisions and descriptions of Japanese tree lilacs evolved into the two accepted varietal forms accepted today. *Syringa reticulata* var. *reticulata*



represents the form native to the northern Japanese island of Hokkaido and *Syringa reticulata* var. *mandshurica* represents the form native to the Amur river region and beyond in northeast China. McKelvey found very little difference between the two varietal forms. I agree with her assessment having a specimen of both varieties together in comparison in the Display Garden and The Holden Arboretum. Until a devastating winter storm ravaged our tree lilacs three years ago, both varieties kept a similar appearance. A heavy snow load atop

an abundantly fruited canopy shredded the *S. reticulata* var. *reticulata* and spared the *S. reticulata* var. *mandshurica*. The disparity of destruction between the two taxa revealed their essential differences. Fewer leader branches on the former allowed the tree to develop more character. With more space to roam, branches twisted in and out of the canopy giving a truly oriental aesthetic quality beset with accents of winter infructescence. The latter specimen survived less scathed because of its greater number of upwardly set branches. Hence, less load per unit area of tree. A gardener would find lighter work of keeping this variety in the form of a large shrub.

Deservedly, the Japanese tree lilac is gaining wider acceptance in the landscape because it is tolerant of stressful environmental conditions, has attractive ornamental cherry-like bark, bountiful floral trusses wafting spicy fragrance to olfactory senses and an oriental winter flavor from spent inflorescences. Inevitably, selection among the species is occurring and we are seeing the introduction of named cultivars from *Syringa reticulata*.

*Syringa reticulata*. 'Ivory Silk' is probably the most familiarly known cultivar presently available and has been in The Holden Arboretum's collection over twenty years. It originated from Sheridan Nursery in Ontario Province in 1973. 'Ivory Silk's only character flaw is its propensity to send out basal branches during the initial years of its

development. Pruning away those adventitious shoots yields a single leader tree by the third or fourth year of growth. 'Ivory Silk' tends to grow in an upright form with a rounded top. Lower branches tend to angle upward at somewhat less than 45 degree angles. Flowers are generously splattered about the canopy with some heavier years of color. The deep reddish brown lenticel laden bark and spicy honey-like fragrance is true to the species character. In a bed of rich organic soil and a mineral clay base our specimen is approaching thirty feet in height. The only malady afflicting our 'Ivory Silk' is one of the two adventitious branches remains on the plant slightly distracting from its lower form.

Schichtel Nursery in Oregon released *Syringa reticulata* 'Summer Snow' in 1980. Two specimen were accessioned to our collection in 1988 and are now developed enough to merit evaluation. Contrast between the two specimen creates a note of interest because one plant is located in a six foot diameter tree ring surrounded by turf grass and the other is in a plant bed surrounded by viburnums. The reduced competition in the plant bed allowed that specimen to develop an extra inch of caliber growth and an additional five feet of top growth over its companion. 'Summer Snow' may have a slightly brighter white hue over its predecessor, 'Ivory Silk' but its inherent advantage lies in the ability to maintain a single leader habit. Although rounded in youth, the canopy matures to an upright rounded form, just a bit broader than 'Ivory Silk'. Lower branches appear to angle closer to 45 degrees from the leader. Floral quantity and quality, fragrance and bark texture of 'Summer Snow' is comparable to 'Ivory Silk' with neither taxa able to claim a clear superiority over the other.

Although variation exists in seed selection of *Syringa reticulata*, only a marginal difference shows in comparison of the cultivars, 'Ivory Silk' and 'Summer Snow'. Other planted specimen of Japanese tree lilacs in the Display Garden tend to vary in the number of leader branches growing rather than any notable variation in floral quality and branch texture. Treated as a tree or a shrub, *Syringa reticulata* deserves merit in the landscape. Incidentally, the Ainu, a native culture living in northern Japan used sticks cut from Japanese tree lilacs to ward off evil spirits. Maybe they should be planted in our landscapes more than we think they should be used.

# Inconsistent Accounts of the Ancestry of *Syringa* 'Dancing Druid'<sup>1</sup>

by James Pringle

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As noted by Freek Vrugtman (1998), Father John L. Fiala (1980) gave two conflicting statements as to the ancestry of *Syringa* 'Dancing Druid' in *Lilacs: The Genus Syringa*:

(*S. yunnanensis* × *S. tomentella*) × *S. komarowii* —pages 124 and 224. and

(*S. yunnanensis* × *S. tomentella*) × (*S. komarowii* × [*S. sweginzowii* × *S. tomentella*]) —page 104 only.

Also, on page 104, where the second statement of its pedigree is given, and again in the index, 'Dancing Druid' is identified as *S. ×quatrobrida*, even though on pages 7, 124 and (with the spelling "quadrobrida") 224 that binomial is said to apply to hybrids combining *S. sweginzowii*, *S. tomentella*, *S. komarowii*, and *S. wolfii*.

Although on page 104 'Dancing Druid' is definitely stated to be of the four-species ancestry given above, on page 124 'Dancing Druid' appears to be equally or more explicitly excluded from the category of hybrids with four-species ancestry. Whereas 'Quartet' is listed as being *S. ×quatrobrida*, 'Dancing Druid' is not listed with 'Quartet' (as indeed it should not be if its ancestry combines species other than the four designated as the ancestors of *S. ×quatrobrida*), but it is listed instead among cultivars with three-species ancestry, as the only example of a cultivar derived from the three-species combination of *S. yunnanensis*, *S. tomentella*, and *S. komarowii*.

The question of which of the two pedigrees given specifically for its cultivar is the more likely correct is really a question of whether, a minimum of three generations back, *S. sweginzowii* might have constituted a maximum of 12.5% of the ancestry of 'Dancing Druid'. (I am here regarding *S. 'Albida'* as being 50% *S. sweginzowii* and 50% *S. tomentella*; this is consistently stated in accounts of its origin, although in other contexts it is sometimes referred to as a cultivar of *S. sweginzowii*.) It must be kept in mind, therefore, that 'Dancing Druid' is the fourth generation in this "story," at the very least. Three generations of "dilution" and selection could eliminate any genetic marker representing *S. sweginzowii* from any one selected seedling.

I see no clear evidence of *S. sweginzowii* ancestry in 'Dancing Druid'. However, in relation to choosing which of the conflicting pedigrees for

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<sup>1</sup>Contribution No. 100 from the Royal Botanical Gardens, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

this cultivar in the more (or most) likely, this in itself is not significant. As I noted above, the greatest percentage of *S. sweginzowii* ancestry or implied in any of these conflicting accounts is 12.5%. All accounts of the ancestry of 'Dancing Druid' indicate that its ancestry is at least 25% *S. tomentella*, the question being whether it's 25% or 37.5% *S. tomentella*.

The logical approach is first to consider whether there is any genetic marker that, if it were present, could only have come from *S. sweginzowii*. (Its absence would not be conclusive.) *Syringa sweginzowii* and *S. tomentella* are very similar species, to the extent that it would not seem altogether inappropriate if they were treated as conspecific. The next step, therefore, is to consider how *S. sweginzowii*, which may or may not be involved in the ancestry of 'Dancing Druid', differs from *S. tomentella*, which is consistently said to be involved in the ancestry of this cultivar. The descriptions of these species by McKelvey (1927) and Chang et al. (1996) are followed here.

The leaves of *S. sweginzowii* average slightly smaller than those of *S. tomentella*, but there is considerable overlap in the size ranges. *Syringa komarowii* has much larger leaves than either, so its influence would likely eclipse any difference made by the presence or absence of *S. sweginzowii*. Species with both high and low anther position are among those of unquestioned presence in the ancestry of this cultivar. The anthers of *S. sweginzowii* are positioned lower in the corolla tube than those of *S. tomentella*. Those of *S. yunnanensis* are positioned lower yet, so a combination of *S. tomentella* and *S. yunnanensis* could presumably produce a plant with anthers in essentially the same position as those of *S. sweginzowii* even though *S. sweginzowii* was not involved. Finally, there is a difference in corolla-tube shape. The corolla tubes of *S. komarowii* are strongly funnelform; those of *S. sweginzowii* are slender and cylindrical; and those of *S. tomentella* and *S. yunnanensis* are intermediate but closer to those of *S. sweginzowii*. The corolla tube of 'Dancing Druid' is so slender with so little distal flaring that it might be considered to suggest the influence of *S. sweginzowii*. However, after three generations of genetic segregation and recombination, any differences due to the presence of *S. sweginzowii* ancestry would likely be no more than "slightly" vs. "slightly more than slightly," i.e., questionably perceptible. Indeed, after three generations of breeding, the influence of *S. sweginzowii* in this respect could be completely cancelled out by the influence of *S. komarowii*. In summary, there does not appear to be any reliable morphological "marker" that would indicate the presence or absence of *S. sweginzowii* in a second-, third- or

later generation hybrid known to be derived in part from *S. tomentella*.

'Dancing Druid' appears under *S. ×quatrobrida* in the index, that binomial, as noted above, otherwise being identified as referring to (*S. sweginzowii* × *S. tomentella*) × (*S. komarowii* × *S. wolfii*). This might appear to reinforce the impression that Father Fiala at least considered 'Dancing Druid' to be of four-species ancestry, disregarding the conflicting indications as to what the four species were. Actually, however, what appears in the index is probably of little significance, because the index was of necessity compiled toward the end of the work, when Father Fiala's health was failing, so it is not unlikely that someone else merely copied the *S. quatrobrida* designation from page 104. There is, therefore, really only one significant reference to 'Dancing Druid' as being of four-species ancestry, viz., that on page 104. This means that the first pedigree (above) is given twice and the second only once.

From the foregoing one could infer that circumstantial evidence indicated that 'Dancing Druid' was identified as being of four-species ancestry at a time when concern for accuracy in details suffered from the ailing Father Fiala's anxiety about finishing the book within his lifetime. At this point in the book 'Albida' is referred to simply as *S. sweginzowii*, whereas elsewhere it is identified more accurately as *S. sweginzowii* × *S. tomentella* or *S. ×lemoineiana* [sic], which binomial was provided for that hybrid combination. In other words, the statement of four-species ancestry appears in a context about which one might reasonably be less confident. Opposing this view, however, is the question of why Father Fiala would at any time have written something so complex as the second alleged pedigree, which does not appear elsewhere in the book, unless he had in fact made such a cross.

There remains another possible approach, via the consideration of whether 'Dancing Druid' appears more likely to be of 25% or 50% *S. komarowii* s. str. ancestry. The higher propagation of *S. komarowii* ancestry is plausible in view of the appearance of 'Dancing Druid', considering its leaf size and texture, the form, density, and general aspect of its inflorescence, and its corolla size and color. At R.B.G., we have produced several hybrids combining, in equal proportions, a taxon in the category with small leaves, small corollas, and open inflorescences (*S. sweginzowii*, *S. yunnanensis*, *S. 'Albida'*) with a taxon in the category having large leaves, large corollas, and dense inflorescences (*S. komarowii* ssp. *reflexa*, *S. villosa*, *S. ×prestoniae*) (Pringle 1974). Our 50-50 plants generally bore more resemblance than 'Dancing Druid' to the parent in the first category, and less than 'Dancing Druid' to the parent in the second category. This could be considered tenuous evidence that 50% *S. komarowii* ancestry is more likely than 25%.

What molecular analyses might contribute to resolving this question



remains unknown. In a quest to determine the presence or absence of only 12.5% *S. sweginzowii* ancestry, evidence from allozymes and isozymes would likely be inconclusive, in view of the similarity among some of the species being considered and the basic "mathematics" of Mendelian inheritance. Approaches involving chloroplast DNA are seldom appropriate in studies involving hybridization, because the inheritance of chloroplast DNA is usually uniparental. Considering the similarity of *S. sweginzowii* and *S. tomentella*, the number of generations of breeding involved, and the small proportion if any of *S. sweginzowii* ancestry in 'Dancing Druid', I should not even have much confidence in obtaining a definitive answer to this question from studies of nuclear DNA.

Freek Vrugtman asked me to consider this question twice, in 1996 and 1998. From the notes that I sent to him on those occasions, portions of which have been combined in the present paper, I see that on the first occasion I thought that the four-species ancestry given on page 104 was somewhat more likely to be correct, whereas on the second occasion I was inclined to consider the three-species ancestry given on page 124 to be a bit more likely. Upon reviewing my notes for the present paper, I have come to favor the four-species statement of pedigree. My reason for doing so, however, is simply that a lengthier and more detailed statement is more likely to have been prepared with concern for detail and accuracy. No other cultivar was mentioned as being of the ancestry (*S. yunnanensis* × *S. tomentella*) × (*S. komarowii* × [*S. sweginzowii* × *S. tomentella*]); therefore, as I commented above, if Father Fiala had not obtained at least one cultivar from such a cross, one would wonder why this complex combination would have been mentioned at all. Morphology provides no adequate basis for any strong opinion on this matter, and can not be expected to support any definite conclusion.

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## The Lilac Season Of 1940

The material for this catalog went to the printer just before the lilacs began to bloom. The season is now past and we have just learned we needed an extra page of material for our book. This gives us an opportunity to tell you about the wonderful blooming season of our lilacs that is just past.

During this season we had many visitors from different sections of the country. All were amazed at the amount of bloom we had on our small as well as large plants. Some came with cameras and took pictures in color so they could enjoy the season all over again during the winter months. All came with the idea of seeing beautiful flowers, but we believe every visitor went away with the feeling he had seen a lovelier sight. Many stated they didn't realize such lovely lilacs with their huge panicles could be grown.

We list no poor varieties but it would be impossible to name our best one. But we can select from our large list twenty-five that attracted special attention.

And for our first one we must name 'Buffon', an early hybrid that delights all who see it. This early clear pink always shows half opened florets of a deeper shade. It is the mingling of these two shades of pink that makes this variety so striking. Then it is the earliest of all the lilacs that we are now growing.

Among our good blue lilacs, 'Olivier de Serres', 'President Lincoln', 'De Caisne', 'De Miribel', and 'Rene Jarry-Desloges' are outstanding. 'Olivier de Serres' with its full double florets, its immense panicles that easily measure 13 inches in length, is a variety that calls you to the garden many times during the course of the day. It is a real attraction in our fields each year; a lilac one cannot forget. 'Rene Jarry-Desloges' is somewhat darker in coloring than 'Olivier de Serres', panicles not quite so large, somewhat more compact, a trifle later in its season of bloom, and neither of these two good double lilacs can take the place of the other.

'De Caisne', 'De Miribel', and 'President Lincoln' are all most excellent single blues. One of our visitors remarked that 'President Lincoln' was truly blue. It is the earliest of the three. 'De Caisne' with long slender panicles comes into bloom just after 'President Lincoln'. 'De Miribel' is the latest of all and has more of the deep blue-violet coloring than the other two. To prolong the lilac season you need 'De Miribel'.

For a wonderful combination of lilacs whose florets are single, 'Congo' for a red, 'De Caisne' for a blue, 'Mme. Florent Stepman' for a white, and 'Buffon' for a pink cannot be surpassed.

The two great double whites are 'Miss Ellen Willmott' and 'Edith

Cavell'. We can make no choice between these two.

'Mme. Florent Stepman', 'Vestale', 'Mont Blanc', and 'Jan Van Tol' are the great white singles. 'Jan Van Tol' with us has larger florets than the other three, but we find it does not come equally good every year. This season 'Mme Florent Stepman' was the favorite.

'Katherine Havemeyer', 'Hippolyte Maringer', 'Henri Martin', 'Victor Lemoine', 'Reaumur', 'Leon Gambetta', 'President Poincaré', 'Marlyensis', 'Mme. Antoine Buchner' are all masterpieces. Not a variety we have mentioned will disappoint a purchaser.

Among the lilacs classified as red or red-purples, 'Congo', 'Edmond About', 'J. de Messemaker', 'Stadtgartner Rothpletz', 'Paul Thirion', 'Monge', and 'Capitaine Baltet' were conspicuous in our fields this season.

'Congo', the early red single, cannot be surpassed by any when this variety is seen at its best. Many people come to our nursery to order their lilacs while they can see them in bloom and 'Congo' is a variety that is included in almost every order. 'Charles Joly' and 'Stadtgartner Rothpletz' are two fine double varieties that come on just as 'Congo' is passing.

As visitors pass down our long rows of lilacs, 'J. de Messemaker', 'Monge' and 'Paul Thirion' received equal admiration. When we see 'Monge' in the field, we question if it is not the best but we pass on to 'J. de Messemaker' with striking red-purple panicles and we feel as if we must change our mind about 'Monge'.

We had just one large bush of 'Lucie Baltet'. This lovely coral-pink is perhaps the most noticeable of all our lilacs due to its distinct coloring. Before the blooming season was over, we sold all of our available stock for this season and began to book orders for fall 1941. We hope by then we can supply the demand as we are building up our stock as rapidly as possible. 'Lucie Baltet' in the lilac field is as outstanding as is 'Walter Faxon' in the peony field. We cannot say it is the best but it is certainly very distinct.

Another fine variety is 'Gilbert', a beautiful bluish lavender, remarkable for both size and beauty. Each panicle really is made up of five distinct smaller ones. The compound panicle measures a foot in length and a foot in diameter. We have no stock to offer of this variety at this time but may be able to list it within a short time.

For the past ten or twelve years we have been giving more or less time to the bringing out of new lilacs of our own. For the past six years we have had some five thousand seedlings under test, and this season, for the first time, we realized we were making real progress. We believe that we have five or six selections that will be real additions to the list of named lilacs. We have had almost a complete list of the world's best lilacs right here in our own collection to compare our own seedlings with and we have been very conservative in our selections.

To add one real worth-while new lilac to the world's present list, we consider a real accomplishment. We firmly believe we have done this. We have a great red coming on, an intense red so brilliant that it instantly arrests the attention from a long distance. It has large beautifully formed, graceful, rather open panicles held nicely erect with individual florets and petals of the greatest size. The flower is an intense red as it opens, stays a rich red for at least five days, turns gradually to a rich violet-blue and then fades to a pleasant light purple. We feel that this lilac is as good as any in our collection. We have named it for the originator, Archie M. Brand. It will be some years before any of these new lilacs are offered for sale.

*This article was submitted by ILS member Scott Johnson. It came from a 1940 Brand catalog that he picked up at a used book sale. How many of the cultivars do you know?*

## RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

PILARSKI, J. **Gradient of photosynthetic pigments in the bark and leaves of lilac (*Syringa vulgaris* L.).** *Acta Physiologiae Plantarum* (1999) 21 (4) 365-373 [En, 18 ref.] The Franciszek Górski Department of Plant Physiology, Polish Academy of Sciences, Slawkowska 17, 31-016 Kraków, Poland.

The concentrations were determined of chlorophyll and carotenoids in the bark of stems of different age and in the leaves of lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*). The thickness of bark changes with the age of the stems, ranging from 0.73 mm in the current-year stems to 1.22 mm in 3-year-old ones. Chlorophyll and carotenoids were present through the whole thickness of the bark, except the cork. It was found that chlorophyll and carotenoids are located mainly in the outer layer of the bark, immediately under the cork, to a depth of 400  $\mu\text{m}$ . In this layer the chlorophyll *a:b* ratio is highest and the content of chlorophyll is four times greater than that of carotenoids. When penetrating deeper into the bark, the content of chlorophyll and carotenoids as well as the chlorophyll *a:b* ratio diminishes. Investigations of the leaves showed that most of the chlorophyll is found in the palisade parenchyma, the chlorophyll *a:b* ratio is highest in the upper layer. The highest concentration of chlorophyll in the bark was 0.44  $\text{mg dm}^{-2}$  and in the leaves it was 1.2  $\text{mg dm}^{-2}$ . The highest value of the chlorophyll *a:b* ratio in the bark was 3.8, and the lowest 0.5, while in the leaves it varied from 4.5 to 3.8. Low values of the chlorophyll *a:b* ratio are due to the shade conditions existing in the bark.

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