

Lilacs

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

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Cover Story

Front Cover

Although slightly past peak, *Syringa vulgaris* 'Rochester' is an unmistakable namesake for Rochester's Highland Park.

Photo credit: Bradley Bittorf.

Back Cover

A mutation in *Syringa vulgaris* 'Sensation' that cuts one floret in half

Photo credit: Owen Rogers.

Next Issue Deadline

The next deadline for material to be used in the fall issue of **Lilacs** will be September 8, 2001. The summer issue is a bit late because we waited for various reports and pictures. We will get back onto a tight schedule in September.

Quarterly Reminder

"After bloom and before new growth" is the time to prune spring flowering shrubs so... get to work on your lilacs.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Robert Hoepfl, Convention Chairman

Our 30th annual convention is history. All the preparation from securing the Hotel 16 months earlier to securing a slide projector for Jianhua Li & Jack Alexander's use just prior to their scheduled presentation.

Although Friday started a bit distressful for yours truly. The scheduled buses were almost an hour late. Everyone was unconcerned and enjoyed the opportunity to chat with both old and new acquaintance. The weather cooperated with both sun and clouds although a bit on the cool side the rains held off until evening.

Ted Collins, aka Doc Lilac, granted a 50% discount to all members that purchased lilacs during our tour of his Lilac Hill Nursery.

An early arrival at Highland Botanical Park provided the opportunity to explore the lilac collection and other park attractions before the mass of festival goers arrived. A contingent of SEECO Printing staff arrived to join us for lunch in the park and were presented the Distinguished Recognition Award for providing ILS with quality printing of our Quarterly Journal and other special publications for over 15 years.

The afternoon was spent with Rochester Democrat & Chronicle Columnist and Auctioneer Carol Ritter and our incomparable Colin Chapman's descriptions of available lilacs. It was both entertaining and profitable for ILS.

It was fun putting the program together and seeing our hard work come to fruition. I think everyone enjoyed themselves whether spending time in the pool, exploring Rochester's Horses on Parade or socializing in the Hospitality Room. I know Marcia and I enjoyed hosting the 2001 meeting and I thank our local committee for all their work in coordinating the various venues and the behind-the-scenes preparation providing a successful event.

As Horace Greeley said "Go West Young Man, Go West" and we shall to visit old friends and meet new friends at the next ILS convention in just 10 months

Bob Hoepfl
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THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LILAC COUNCIL
DESCANSO GARDENS BOARD OF TRUSTEES & STAFF
AND

THE FRIENDS AND VOLUNTEERS OF THE LILACS

EXTEND A WARM WELCOME TO THE MEMBERS AND GUESTS OF
THE INTERNATIONAL LILAC SOCIETY

ON THE OCCASION OF
THE 31ST ANNUAL LILAC CONVENTION

TO BE HELD
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2002 TO APRIL 5, 2002

DESCANSO GARDENS
LACANDA-FLINTRIDGE, CALIFORNIA.

THE PURPOSE IS FOR FURTHER EDUCATION ON THE CARE
AND ENJOYMENT OF LILACS AROUND THE WORLD

Tentative Schedule and Program for The International Lilac Convention

Date: April 3, 2002 to April 5, 2002
Lodging: Golden Key Lodge, Glendale, California ~ 7 miles
Location: Descanso Gardens

Program

Wednesday, April 3 Registration at Lodge

Thursday, April 4 Morning - Visit to Descanso Lilacs
Noon - Lunch at Descanso
Afternoon - History of Descanso Lilacs and their performance
Evening - President's Dinner, Van De Kamp Hall-Descanso

Friday, April 5 Morning - Seminar by Professional Lilac Growers
Both plants and cut flowers
Noon - Lunch at Descanso
Afternoon - Lilac Auction, Rosarium, Descanso
Evening - Awards Dinner, Lacanada Country Club

Saturday, April 6 Optional Trip: Flowerfields/Manzanita Ranch (Woody Barnes) Julian, CA.

ILS 2001 Trip Report

Rochester, NY

by Bradley Bittorf

It has been anything but a quiet week here in the Rochester, New York area. I am typing this on my way home from the 30th International Lilac Society (ILS) Convention and Annual Meeting. (Those of you at the Executive Board meeting have seen my latest technology toy that allows me to do this.)

My own trip highlights include the perennial:

- Meeting new and old friends, and especially meeting new ILS participants.
- Seeing yet more of the wondrous and varied world of lilacs.
- Taking more digital pictures of our "floral friends" in the genus *Syringa*.

Particular highlights of this Rochester trip included these esoteric items:

- Playing "when will the busses arrive?"
- Enjoying every moment of non-weather versus the original forecast of continual rain.
- Reveling in the view from the top floor of the Hyatt Hotel.
- "Meeting at the pansies" to see the lilacs.
- Trying to hear the lilac auction descriptions over the din of the nearby live bands and carnival rides. (Come to think of it, we got to mix with a wedding reception and a graduation party too!)
- Oh, and if I may be so bold as to reuse the expression of our friends from Cap-à-l'Aigle, did I mention that nobody has ever died of starvation at an ILS meeting?
- Impromptu suggestions during the Awards Banquet about ways to share ILS awards ("Does anybody have a saw?")

No convention—particularly one taking place during the U.S. Memorial Day weekend—would be complete without a bit of commemorative history. Our 30th convention was held within a stone's throw of the site of the first ILS meeting. Fittingly, we took time to recount that inaugural convention and the many other conventions that have taken place in the interim. The contributions of our founding and long-time members were cited various times throughout the convention and its associated events.

We call it a convention or annual meeting. It is really an annual reunion of souls and hearts that migrates around the continent (and soon, we plan, to others!). Members gathered Thursday as the ILS Executive Board Meeting was advertised on closed circuit televisions throughout the lobby and in the rooms. Everybody at the Hyatt knew the ILS was meeting. (Fortunately, the location of the Hospitality Room was not broadcast except among members!)

The Executive Board meeting was, well, you know how these things can be. I admit to lengthening the meeting by conducting a review of ILS By-Laws and Rules for Officers. However dry this aspect of the meeting was, you are assured that this is among those "necessary evils" the Board must perform. Next year the Board will consider adopting the changes and updates it discussed during this meeting. There were, of course, many other items of business considered, and President Hoepfl guided us through the agenda and our business. Don't think the board meeting is all dry and droll, though. We always manage to launch our usual share of witticisms and jabs—it's part of the "human color" of lilacs.

After the board meeting, members enjoyed the fourth floor pool and exercise room, or found somewhere to eat in small or large groups. Eventually, the hospitality room opened again, and stories of the past year were traded, as well as lilac

seeds, pictures, and order forms.

Friday dawned with a continental breakfast. Those of us who were sufficiently alert gradually noticed the ILS had its own room for breakfast. (We decided we probably should not eat the food intended for the Rochester School District teachers in the hallway.) More meetings and reunions took place as we prepared to board the busses. Conversations ensued. Nervous (unanswered) calls were made to the bus company. Jokes were made about invisible busses. Ultimately, the phone calls were answered, the busses did come; the Society did arrive at the Casa Larga Vineyard.

Presentations were the order of business at Casa Larga, a wonderful setting with windows overlooking vineyards on three sides, and Lilac Hill Nursery in another. Presentations included (note these are my titles, not theirs):

- **What the public looks for in lilacs** by "Doc Lilac" Ted Collins of Lilac Hill Nursery
- **Rochester weather, "lake effect" and its influence on Rochester lilacs** by the cable TV station R-News weatherman and garden host, Jim Lytle
- **Methods and results of using DNA study to clear up questions about the lilac family tree** by Jianhua Li of Harvard University and Jack Alexander of Arnold Arboretum
- **Lilac propagation techniques and hints workshop** by Doug O'Rielly of Congdon-Weller Nursery.

A buffet lunch was followed by the annual ILS meeting, which in turn was followed by the dessert course. (Did I say that we seldom starve during ILS meetings?) Tours of "Syringa Hill" were available (we thank Ted for providing us with "crossing guards") as was wine tasting at Casa Larga! Some of us did commerce at one or both places. Among the available items: "Lilac Hill" wine! (No, it's not made from lilacs.)

Talk on the busses on the way back centered on the excellent practical and scientific content of the presentations, and of the lessons about "lake effect" weather and its influence on Rochester-area lilacs. Despite our late start, our return to the hotel was early—a rare ILS occurrence! The Hoepfls' flexible planning made this possible.

The early return afforded us an opportunity to enjoy the recreational facilities at the hotel, or simply to relax before the President's dinner. The President's dinner offered us a chance to meet and know different people, and to enjoy good food and company. Awards presentations that had begun during the morning seminars continued at the President's dinner, and ultimately, it seemed, throughout the remainder of the ILS convention. I can personally testify that the hospitality room was well attended, and that it stayed open into the early morning.

Saturday dawned all too early. Board members collected for their meeting during which elections of officers were conducted. Concerns of the Board included focusing on those tenets on which the ILS was founded—education, research, and promotion of the lilac. Means to achieve these principles include increasing and satisfying the membership, providing modern means to exchange knowledge and promote the lilac, and ways to stimulate interest and participation by the membership. Be assured that each of these ideas was discussed by the Board, and if there is any message I cannot convey too strongly, it is that the Executive Board values and requests your input into how we do business, and how we may continually evolve and improve as an organization!

Now, where were we? Oh, yes, Saturday morning. The overnight rain had cleared, we assembled on the sidewalk, and waited for...hmm, where are those busses? After a short wait the busses came, and to Highland Park we were dispatched. Once there, our busses were admitted through police barricades (gee, we **MUST** be important!) to the lilacs. Those who greeted us at the park needed not apologize for the *Syringa vulgaris* bloom being past peak. After all, lilac enthusiasts, we anticipate the uncertainty of bloom time, and we enjoy the

chance to see varieties that we may not typically get to see in bloom. For instance, the *Syringa* "Prestoniae" and the *syringa yunnanensis* were in outstanding form.

A collection as large as that of Highland Park provides numerous opportunities for photos, for appreciating, and for drinking in fragrances and hues, shapes and details. For many of us, the chance to "romp" in the collection also provides unparalleled opportunities to watch and learn from those with more knowledge and experience than we do. Sometimes we can even view a lilac and its introducer together—such as when Dr. Owen Rogers described the distinguishing subtleties and the history of the development of 'Agnes Smith' to Jianhua Li, illustrating his points using parts of the very plant itself. Highland Park offers more than just lilacs, and members also took some time to view the Lamberton Conservatory and its resident chipmunks, the Vietnam veteran's memorial garden with its chronicle of cultural events of the period, or other collections in the park, including rhododendron and magnolia. As we circulated through the park, we encountered people we knew, and we shared our estimations of the "must-see" items nearby, or we would trade questions and answers with other members.

Lunch was provided at the ILS tent at noon. A good box lunch was followed immediately by a group picture, which, with some luck we will place on the ILS web site. With everybody assembled, preparations for the ILS lilac auction began. Because I help convey plants to their successful bidders, I literally have the chance to have the world of lilacs pass through my hands, if only for a fleeting time. I enjoy this tiny contribution to the lilac distribution, and the chance it gives me to renew my acquaintance with cultivars and species I have not recently seen.

From my vantage point at the front of the auction tent, I could see not only the interested bidders and students of *Syringa*, but also the many persons drawn to Highland Park's Lilac Festival. Each year it's a renewed marvel to witness the powerful attraction that lilacs exert on persons of all walks of life. Families, individuals with developmental disabilities, even pets come to connect with the lilacs. The very young and very old both possess a special fondness for lilacs; this magnetism is the very enabler of our own Society. I am heartened to witness the diverse human parade that is inexorably drawn to the lilacs.

Meanwhile, guest auctioneer Carol Ritter auctioned plants and paraphernalia within (and the overflow without) the ILS tent. As always, Colin Chapman painted the color and splendor of each offering in our minds as it was proffered. I believe Carol was genuinely surprised at the diversity and history of lilacs. At one point during the auction, Bob Hoepfl quietly pointed out to me through his laughter that the oft-awaited busses had already arrived to take us home over an hour early! (On average, I calculate they were on time!) As always, the auction was the success that is only possible through the efforts of many people.

Laden with lilacs, the busses rolled away. Members' purchases were ushered to vehicles or rooms, and we prepared for the (official) awards banquet.

Anybody who has come to a few ILS meetings recognizes that it is interesting to mix with different groups of members at different events. During the Awards Banquet I sat with representatives of Cap-à-l'Aigle and Arnold Arboretum. Conversation was as diverse as it was interesting. Did I mention we did not go hungry?

Following dessert, yet more awards were distributed. It is a pleasure to see those who have worked hard, or who have worked with something they love, be rewarded and appreciated. The aftermath and follow-up conversations extended well after dinner. The joking and laughter made it seem as though the hospitality room was a natural extension of the dinner. As I think about it, the hospitality really began as soon as we arrived. Indeed, some would say the

hospitality began some 30 years ago, a few blocks away in Rochester.

Who is the International Lilac Society?

"International" - "Lilac" - "Society."

"International" —people from at least four continents, working together to a common purpose. Friends, compadres, colleagues of different backgrounds, united by the lilac.

"Lilac" —An entire genus of plants which by their beauty and sensual appeal is the focus of an entire society of people.

"Society" —A fellowship of members—friends, admirers and academics, professionals and amateurs, young and old, women and men, the knowledgeable and the hungry—united by the lilac. A group that is diverse in its background which applies its collective talent to the promotion, education, and distribution of the lilac.

Without our focus on the lilac, lacking our social cohesion, or losing sight of our union of talents and origins, we lose our strength and capability. By putting our abilities to task, we can accomplish much over the next thirty years.

Impressions of the Thirtieth Annual Meeting

by Robert Clark

Our thirtieth annual meeting was held at Rochester, NY May 24-26. In contrast with the first general assembly in May 1972 when only the cultivar 'Hallelujah' was in bloom, this spring the *Syringa vulgaris* cultivars had gone by. Despite a century of record keeping it seems impossible to forecast peak bloom of lilacs.

From its beginning, ILS has been international in scope. Whereas thirty years ago members and guests came from Canada, England and Switzerland, this year Germany and China were added.

Moreover, the host city has grown, old landmarks, although present, were obscured by many tall buildings and an expanded highway system. The twenty-five acres of lilacs were maintained but interspersed trees had grown. And since the lilacs were past bloom, other flowering shrubs were to be enjoyed, notably Rhododendrons, Azaleas, Golden Chain, White Fringe and the white flowered Carolina Silverbells.

On Friday morning buses took us to Casa Larga Vineyards for the plenary session of our annual meeting (reported elsewhere in this issue.) Three speakers completed the indoor program Jim Lytle of R-News, meteorologist, master gardener and host of a TV garden talk show lectured on weather of North America and especially of Rochester and vicinity. Dr. Jianhua Li and Jack Alexander of the Arnold Arboretum garden illustrated lecture on the DNA findings on *Ligustrum sempervirens* (see *Lilacs* 30 (2): 47-49 Spring 2001.) This was followed by a demonstration of how lilacs are propagated at Condon Weller Nurseries by Douglas O'Rielly.

Following a sumptuous catered luncheon, Ted Collins invited us to visit his Lilac Hill Nursery across the road. Here members found a fine assortment of potted lilacs at reasonable prices. Busses took us back to the hotels for an evening of fellowship and good food.

Saturday was spent at Highland Botanical Park. I have already described the morning sights. After a picnic lunch, the members gathered for a group photograph and the eagerly awaited lilac auction. A trained auctioneer kept the bidding moving. Bidder No. 28 filled his traveling cases with a good many hard-to-find cultivars.

As a "chowhound" I feel unqualified to describe the food. I'd give it five stars including service. As a retired horticulturist and a convention goer, I give our hosts, Bob and Marcia, and their committee five stars as well.

European Newsletter

by Colin Chapman

This will be, of necessity, a short report because I have just returned from the annual meeting in Rochester NY and have but a few days to meet the deadline for this edition. I also made a side excursion to Davenport, Iowa where I connected with ILS member Hal Davis. Hal took me to see many wonderful sights on a day I will never forget, but the main purpose of my visit was to see the Stampe Lilac Garden in Duck Creek Park. Hal had previously described this place as a "jewel" and I could see what he meant. Maintained by volunteers from Davenport Horticultural Society, it was laid out with lilacs in beautifully designed beds within a framework of delightful Victorian-style walkways. There was an entrance pergola at one end and a superb 21 foot wide gazebo at the other which I was told was the hot place in town to hold a spring or summer wedding. The sight, which I found to be an utter delight, was given great distinction by the dramatic backcloth of a grove of mature copper beech trees. The *vulgaris* cultivars were over but I was charmed by fading 'Condorcet' and intrigued by one called "Rose pink - Case" which I presumed to be either a cultivar of Bernard Case of The Fruit Farm, Washington, or a rose-pink commemoration of him. It will take a while to organize but one day I hope to return to see at least one of my own bred lilacs growing there.

It was then on to stay with David and Nessa Gressley and to take in, once more, the Holden Arboretum. Again, many lilacs were over but the Holden is such a lovely place and there were enough rare trees around to satisfy anyone with botanical curiosity. There was a wild collected lilac in flower, labelled *Syringa velutina* var. *venosa* which appeared to be a very superior version of *S. patula* with a glossy, glabrous leaf and a lovely, fragrant whitish flower. The real highlight for me was a very long tramp along a wild woodland trail where I was amazed to see what were exotic plants in English gardens growing wild and free on the forest floor. Thank you, David, Nessa and Grace for your hospitality, and especially for inviting me to your joint birthday party with that wonderful bottle of Dom Perignon!

Before going to the Convention I received a phone call from Charles Parsons at Pépinières Minier in France. After talking about dues renewal the conversation turned to the lilacs bred in the nursery by Claude Bellion. On April 3rd, which was coincidentally my birthday, Mons. Franck Gilet arrived at my doorstep bearing the gift from the nursery of those three lilacs - 'Princesse Sturza', 'Comtesse d'Harcourt' and 'Prince Wolkonsky'. Having never seen them before, I am deeply grateful for this generous and spontaneous gesture. The feeling was compounded a few days later when a plant of 'Prince Wolkonsky' arrived from Konrad Kircher. If you don't follow this then read all about it and see the picture in the last edition of this **Journal**.

Oh Dear, this next bit will be embarrassing. In expiation for certain revelations which might or might not be made about me in the next edition I have to tell you that a few months ago I wrote requesting extra copies of the Journal to assist my work in Europe. I duly received a parcel plus a letter from Mrs. Carolyn Chapin who type-sets and proof reads our Journals. In passing, she told me that my articles were "delightful". I was so much moved by this first ever qualitative appreciation of what I wrote that, in my reply, my little silver tongue flowed a little too freely and I told her to "be prepared to have the back of your hand kissed by a vassal at bended knee. If you have any dragons you want slain then I am at your service." Well, I

would say that to a lady, wouldn't I?

Carolyn and Roger Chapin then set an ambush at the lunch tent at Highland Park which I, innocent and unsuspecting, walked into big-time! I will say no more because I am sure that the photographic evidence will be gleefully displayed. (see page 75) So, I will rise above it and simply dedicate my next few words to Mrs. Chapin and also to Mrs. Suzanne Braselton of Marion, NY who are the only two people who have ever sent me letters of appreciation. Thus, my two dearest fans, I am so glad that you noticed and that you cared to write to tell me. From now on my old-fashioned imagination, my unfashionable pen, and my broken old lance will be at your service should you ever need to call.

To my Queen Guinevere.

*Am I the last, the very last of my kind
Wearied by blasts from time's cold wind;
A sentimental old Knight in a material world
Whose armour is rusty and whose banner is furled.
With no Maiden to rescue with last dying breath
From a dastardly rogue and a fate-worse-than-death?*

*The world has become a wild, frenzied place
Pouring derision and scorn on antediluvian grace,
On manners, and style, and my slow courtly dance
There is no longer a need for a chivalrous lance,
For conversation, or wit, or enough time to dine,
And wisdom, matured, like the finest old wine.*

*From the ends of the Earth, in a silent charade,
They trudge, trunk to tail, in a circus parade
(Those lovely old myths and those fables of gold,
Legends, Romances, and the love songs of old),
Elephants of my imagination, come home with a sigh
And dutifully go to their forbearers to die
In their sacred graveyard, landscape of my mind,
Yes, like you, I am truly the last of my kind.*

With love, Lancelot.

I need to explain the last stanza of the above piece of doggerel. I wanted to convey that my mind is well furnished with the ancient myths, Arthurian romances and Fables of Aesop which fewer people understand these days because they don't seem to be taught any more. In searching for an image to convey this I remembered the legend of the great pachyderm graveyard when I looked out of a right hand-side window of our yellow school bus as we returned from the auction in Highland Park. There, entering the ground floor car park of a big hotel in downtown Rochester was an elephant. I could not see if it was being led or if it had just wandered in off the streets from some local bar, but I did assume that it had been directed there, just for me, by the Muse of Poetry.

PS. To all members who were not at the Convention and do not understand the above, I can only say that y'all missed sump'n very special. My normal service will be resumed in the next edition.

International Lilac Convention Attendees

Rochester, NY
May 24-26, 2001

Jack Alexander, Boston, MA
Jennifer Bennett,
Sydenham, ON Canada
Brad Bittorf, Tucson, AZ
Pam Bonadio, Rochester, NY
Mike Bonadio, Rochester, NY
Ruth Buchanan, North Pomfret, VT
Norm Buchanan, North Pomfret, VT
Iris Cannata, Foxboro, MA
Lisa Cannata, Foxboro, MA
John Carvill, Latham, NY
Ann Carville, Latham, NY
Colin Chapman, Suffolk, England
Bob Clark, Meredith, NH
Ted Collins, Victor, NY
Jan Collins, Victor, NY
Roger Coggleshall, West Boxford, MA
Therese Deschesnes,
Cap-à-l'Aigle, QC Canada
France Delorme,
Cap-à-l'Aigle, QC Canada
Bertrand Dion,
Charlervoix, QC Canada
John Dostal, Bennington, VT
Peter Ely, Seymour, CT
Louis Erickson, Riverside, CA
Pauline Fiala, Spencer, OH
Dave Gressley, Kirtland, OH
Ed Hasselkus, Madison, WI
David Hightshue, Hickory, NC
Barbara Hightshue, Hickory, NC
Bob Hoepfl, Rochester, NY
Marcia Hoepfl, Rochester, NY
Charles Holetich,
Waterdown, ON Canada
Bill Horman, Detroit, MI
Aldona Kasper, Scituate, MA
Ed Kerle, Randolph Center, VT
Jean Kerle, Randolph Center, VT
Evie King, West Boxford, MA

Konrad Kircher,
Bad Zwischenahn, Germany
Jo Ann Kratzenberg, Webster, NY
Earl Kratzenberg, Webster, NY
Harry Latimer, Emory, VA
Nancy Latimer, Emory, VA
Jianhua Li, Boston, MA
Mary Lizotte, Norwell, MA
Emily Marlin, E. Meredith, NY
Tim Mc Cauley, Chaska, MN
Karen Mc Cauley, Chaska, MN
Bob Merchant, Durham, CT
Eileen Merchant, Durham, CT
Howard Merrill, Alford, ME
Carolyn Merrill, Alford, ME
Kent Millham, Webster, NY
Frank Moro, Mascouche, QC Canada
Frances Northcut, Hulda Klager Lilac
Garden, Woodland, WA
Bruce Peart, RGB-Hamilton
Amy Plamann, Tucson, AZ
Roberta Peterson, Woodland, WA
Ruth-Ann Rohman, La Canada, CA
Owen Rogers, Durham, NH
Carla Schenker, Nashua, NH
"Sally" Schenker, Freedom, NH
Elaine St. Pierre, Cohoes, NY
Jean Luc Simard,
Lallalbaie, QC Canada
Jim Stark, Ludington, MI
Irene Stark, Ludington, MI
Ellen Steward, Plymouth, VT
Al Supple, Pembroke, MA
Elizabeth Supple, Pembroke, MA
Lila Swanstrom, Foxboro, MA
John Thurlow, West Newbury, MA
Ellen Thurlow, West Newbury, MA
Helen Thompson, RGB-KEW
Bill Tschumi, Cohoes, NY
Shirley Tschumi, Cohoes, NY
Freek Vrugtman, RGB-Hamilton
Giles Waines, Riverside, CA



ILS lilac auctioneer for 2001, Carol Ritter, accepts lilac bids as the staff readies the next lilac, Highland Park, Rochester, NY 26 May 2001. Photo credit: Brad Bittorf.



What time is it in Rochester, NY? Why, it's "Lilac Time" of

course! The ILS helps Rochester celebrate its Lilac Festival, 26 May 2001.

Photo credit: Brad Bittorf.



Cap-à-l'Aigle mayor addresses the ILS membership at the President's Dinner, 25 May 2001. Photo credit: Brad Bittorf.



The "tent". site of lunch, auction and conversation.

Photo credit: Owen Rogers.

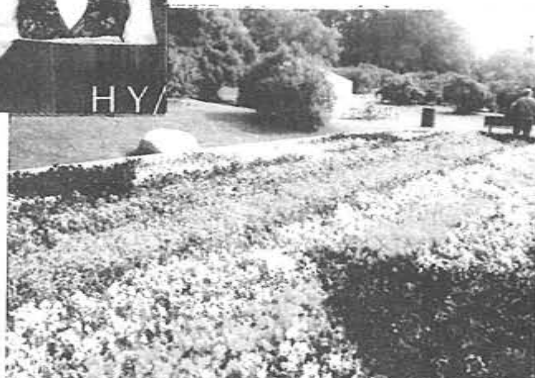


(above) Bill Horman and Sally Schenker announce the ILS Awards committee selection of Don Wedge to receive an ILS award. 26 May 2001.

Photo credit: Brad Bittorf

(right) The pansy bed at Highland Park.

Photo credit: Owen Rogers.





(top) 2001 ILS group at Highland Park, Rochester, NY 26 May 2001.

Photo credit: Brad Bittorf



(left) Freeze-dried lilac display at ILS annual meeting, Freeport, NY 25 May 2001. Photo credit: Brad Bittorf.

(below) Jianhua Li learns about *Syringa josiflexa* 'Agnes Smith' from its originator, Dr. Owen Rogers. Highland Park, Rochester, NY 26 May 2001. Photo credit: Brad Bittorf

(below) A bit of medieval hijinks and revelry during the ILS convention at Highland Park, Rochester, NY 26 May 2001. Carolyn Mae Chapin and Colin Chapman. (See "European Newsletter" page 71.) Photo credit: Brad Bittorf



Bill Tsunmi delivers the 2001 Treasurer's report to the ILS membership at the Casa Larga

Vineyard, Freeport, NY during the ILS annual meeting 25 May 2001

Photo credit: Brad Bittorf.



International Lilac Society
Treasurer's Report
Comparing 2001 (4/1/2001) with 2000 and 1999
by James Hastings

Credits	2001	2000	1999
Dues	\$4,855.00	\$5,750.00	\$5,674.75
Life Membership/Endow	1,280.00	1,760.00	1,110.00
Contributions	180.00	280.78	1,267.00#
Advertising	100.00	0.00	80.00
Publications	294.50	6.00	649.00
Auction	2,160.00	2,501.00	1,731.40
Conference	1,000.00	1961.66	0.00
Interest	3,972.06	3,500.69	3,171.50
Miscellaneous	0.00	1,117.55##	0.00
Total Credits	13,841.56	16,877.68	13,683.65

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

Funds transferred by ILS Canada to ILS U.S. account on 8/2/99

Debits	2001	2000	1999
Miscellaneous	\$4,968.73***	\$10,100.00**	\$4,714.67*
Office Supplies	64.37	55.69	785.75
Journal	4,945.65	4,483.50	4,123.84
Bank Fees	0.00	8.00	16.00
Postage/Shipping@	1,334.13	1,288.10	1,511.81
Color Photo	710.00	730.00	822.00
Phone	8.00	0.00	15.65
Awards	803.20	897.94	588.39
Conference	1,000.00	2,037.42	1,000.00
Typing/Fax	81.50	101.80	91.20
Printing (other than Journal)	141.50	0.00	218.54
Total Debits	14,057.08	19,702.45	13,887.85

* Includes \$1,550 donation to Iowa State University and \$3,099.67 Bond Investment with Edward Jones Co.

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

** Includes \$3,000 Certificate of Deposit investment with Key Bank

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

*** Includes \$3,745 donation to Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University and \$1,000 to Royal Botanical Gardens, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

@ Combined Postage with Shipping category following SEECO Printing Services assuming Quarterly Journal distribution.

Prepared April 1, 2001 by James P. Hastings, Treasurer

International Lilac Society

Treasurer's Report - May 25, 2001

by James P. Hastings, Treasurer

Bank Statement (Acct # 190404000696) Key Bank, Skowhegan, ME. 04976 - Balance 3/31/01	\$ 4,945.73
Edward Jones Co. (Account # 212-03072-1-6) P.O. Box 377, Naperville, IL 60540	
Cert. of Deposit Greenwood Trust Co. 7%	\$ 4,000.00
Cert. of Deposit Key Bank Nat. Assoc. 6.44%	\$ 3,223.73
Corp. Bond Bank Hapoalim 6.75%	\$ 5,000.00
Corp. Bond Federal Nat. Mortg. Assn. 7%	\$ 3,000.00
Corp. Bond Federal Nat. Mortg. Assn. 6%	<u>\$39,000.00</u>
Total Funds Available	\$59,169.46
Funds Held in SPECIAL ACCOUNTS 4/1/01	\$45,059.16
Total Funds in GENERAL ACCOUNT 4/1/01	\$14,110.30
* * * * *	* * * *

Funds held in SPECIAL ACCOUNTS 4/1/01

Life Membership/Endowment Fund		
Brought Forward 4/1/00		\$23,403.66
L.M. 4/1/00 = 117 + 8 = 125 3/31/01	\$1,280.00	
Miscellaneous contributions 3/31/01	<u>\$ 180.00</u>	
Credit 3/31/01	\$1,460.00	<u>\$ 1,460.00</u>
		\$24,863.66
Plant Propagation Fund (Laurene Wishart)		
4/1/00 = \$978.21 + Int \$63.58	\$1,041.79	\$1,041.79
Education & Research		
4/1/00 = \$5,192.74 + Int \$337.53	\$5,530.27	\$5,530.27
Publications (other than Journal)		
4/1/00 = \$636.97 + Int \$41.40	\$678.37	\$ 678.37
C.C.Clark Memorial Fund (Int. deferred to Color Photo Separation Fund)	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Arch McKean (Contribution) (same)	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Colored Photo (Journal) Separation Fund		
Brought Forward 3/31/00	\$2,803.57	
Interest Credit 3/31/01	<u>\$ 650.00</u>	
Funds Available 3/31/01	\$3,453.57	
Debits: 3/31/00 - 3/31/01		
Vol. 29 No 2	\$175.00	
Vol. 29 No 3	\$175.00	
Vol. 29 No 4	\$175.00	
Vol. 30 No 1	<u>\$185.00</u>	
	\$710.00	<u>\$710.00</u>
Balance in Fund 3/31/01	\$2,743.57	<u>\$2,743.57</u>
Total Funds in SPECIAL ACCTS. 3/31/01		\$45,059.16
Total Funds in GENERAL ACCTS. 3/31/01		<u>\$14,110.30</u>
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE		\$59,169.46

ILS EUROPE STATEMENT of ACCOUNT

by Colin Chapman

	£	£	\$ (approx. equivalents)
<u>INCOME</u>			
6x£25		150	
2x£23.50		47	
3x£15		45	
		<hr/> 242	345
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>			
Bank Charges	35.83		50
Expenses	<u>175.00</u>		250
	210.83		
Balance on Year		31.17	45
Cash on Deposit		<u>300</u>	430
Balance 1/05/2001		331.17	475

No. of Members 29

Life 14, Comp. 3, Hon. 1, Inst. 8, Annual 3.

Cash on Deposit

Sustentation Fund of £200 voted at Board Meeting May 1999, Burlington VT
Life fee of £100 from Les Jardins de Broceliande, Dec 2000.

Expenses

Stationery, packaging, post, phone, services to members, services to other useful institutions (eg. scions to and from University of Vilnius, Lithuania), negotiating transfer of plant material to North America, submitting articles to **Lilacs** and others where ILS is credited (Hardy Plant Society, Country Living Magazine).

Membership Committee Report

by Dave Gressley, Membership Secretary

As of the fifteenth of May 2001, International Lilac Society has a total of 434 memberships. I reported 458 memberships in my previous report dated May 2000. The 434 memberships comprised of 320 annual memberships, 105 lifetime memberships, 7 complimentary memberships and 2 honorary memberships.

Geographical representation of ILS membership is as follows:

354 memberships in The United States, 44 memberships in Canada, 28 memberships in Europe and 8 memberships in Asia.

Regional membership lists were distributed to their respective Vice-Presidents.

I wish to thank Bob Gilbert most graciously for all the years he processed the membership dues from renewing members as the Assistant Treasurer.

Thank you also to William Tschumi for succeeding Bob this past year.

Editor's Report

by Dr. Owen Rogers

There have been four issues (Vol 28, Nos. 3 and 4; Vol 30, Nos. 1 and 2) of **Lilacs** published since the last report to the Board. They have averaged just over 28 pages in length. There were no advertisements.

An updated (2001) version of the "International Register of Cultivar Names" will be on sale at this year's Convention. Since the Register is a true work-in-progress, Freek is adding new material all the time. Freek has also continued his contribution of registration material for almost every issue of **Lilacs**. He was able to update his equipment using a small ILS Grant so we look forward to a continuation of information "From the Registrar's Desk."

We were successful in obtaining a non-profit mailing permit that allows us to mail issues from Savannah, NY. There was a small bump when SEECO, the printing firm who does our printing and the actual work of mailing you your issues, moved from Savannah, NY to Clyde, NY but that appears to have been handled without bloodshed.

Kent Millham has volunteered to begin building the list of all the cultivar names that have appeared in **Lilacs** since ILS was formed. All of his information will be added to the registrar's data base and will also form the beginning of a comprehensive index to **Lilacs**.

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

Convention Committee Report

by Peter Ely, chairman

The ongoing responsibility of this committee is to select the future convention sites and to assist the local committee in the preparations for a successful convention. We try to stimulate interest in appropriate sites and interesting programs in different areas throughout the international community. This means there could be future conventions in places outside North America. With the ongoing information being obtained from other lilac activities and plantings in Europe and Asia, this committee will be contacting these locations to discuss possible future sites. France and United Kingdom are considered as a start.

The convention calendar at this point is:

2001 Rochester, New York, USA

2002 Los Angeles area in Southern California, USA

2003 not finalized yet - Cap-à-l'Aigle, Quebec, Canada

2004 Lincoln/Nebraska City area, Nebraska, USA

2005 Great Britain (England) being considered as our first overseas site.

Discussions are now in progress to determine how and when.

or

2006 Above site may change to here. If not, then a variety of N. American sites could easily be inserted.....for 2005 OR 2006.

The membership needs to be aware that overseas conventions are in keeping with our international commitment. This is a fascinating step for us, and it will need to be discussed further and members need to start planning - financially as well as in other ways. Also, ways to increase the European memberships and having more N. American members attend overseas will be an interesting challenge for ILS.

Further updates will be forthcoming. Thank you.

ILS Distribution Report

May 2001
by Frank Moro

As the distribution committee has not been active this year, there seems to be concerns from certain members about who should or should not be supplying lilacs for this project. This will be given attention when I address the Board at the first meeting this Thursday.

The idea was to give access to members new lilacs or lilacs that are very hard to find. We must either find another source for lilacs, or we must continue to do it as we did in the past; with myself (Frank Moro) and Select Plus Nursery introducing them. I would like the Board's approval first, and a solution as to how we can eliminate concerns that one company is monopolizing the sales. My suggestion is to request from other companies a potential list of lilacs they could supply and do mail order for, that would fit the new introduction list.

The committee will begin to discuss in the following 1-2 months what lilacs could be offered.

Lilac Evaluation

by Charles Holetich

It seems that many people have a kind of imbedded desire to improve on what ever they may be working on. Lilacs are no exception. To be in love with some thing is noble and rewarding, as long as one respects someone else's achievements as much as their own.

When I was informed that France is contemplating the creation of a new lilac collection I was pleased. When I learned that they planned to consider for the collection the Lemoines cultivars only, I was lukewarm, but when I managed to talk them into considering the cultivars, many of which are superior to Lemoines', I was elated. Plant all lilacs, I suggested, if you can find space, and let your curator, general public and plant professionals decide on the merits of the cultivars. You can always downsize the collection on the basis of the cultivar performance, and observers acceptance.

When Konrad Kircher and his wife Elfriede from Germany explained to me their desire to create a setting where people may observe a lilac cultivar in bloom and purchase right there any cultivar they fell in love with, I said, "What a great idea!!" One picture is equal to a thousand words, the Chinese say, but the idea can be used 'free of charge' in Germany or any other country to capture the imagination of a desired lilac bloom!

I see myself as an ambassador of lilacs, willing to share what I know or what I had in the past in hope that as ILS calls for, I could promote, educate and broaden the public understanding and awareness, thus eliminate sale of lilacs under fictitious name such as 'single pink' or 'double white', etc.

On a more complex and serious note, related to the lilac bloom, fragrance, appeal, hardiness, susceptibility to diseases etc., etc., I ask myself "wouldn't it be nice to know" in advance:

- on what date may the peak of lilac bloom be this year?
- will the bloom be long lasting?

- will the fragrance be as intense as it was last year?
- will the inflorescences and florets be just as nice and non fading?
- will it be unique and recognized with ease?
- will the blossoms be distributed evenly throughout the lilac plant?
- will it bloom just as nicely in California as in Ontario or in Europe?
- will it tolerate diverse soil and climatic condition and still perform well?
- will it propagate with ease, so I may share it with my friends?
- will it stay fresh for days as a cut flower? Etc., etc.

The list is endless and parameters are not equally important to everyone. Answers to some of the questions may exist in previous ILS publications. Much more exists in the raw field collected data, in boxes, of the Royal Botanical Gardens Library.

For example, one would think that high and low temperature, number of sunshine hours, amount of precipitation and wind actions, just 1-2 months before the bloom may be the major governing factors in deciding when the peak of bloom may be. Since RBG has a weather station, the above information is local and accessible, and if plotted in graph form and compared, one may perhaps see which climate factors, if any, are to be considered.

I believe that in any work there are no failures, only undesired results, which in the majority of instances points toward the direction that a second attempt should be made.

My hopes were that retirement would give me sufficient time to sift through the accumulated lilac evaluation material, add to it when needed and publish the results. Currently, however, I am spending half of my lifetime in Europe, and half in Canada (not always in the Hamilton area) hence unable to devote the time for a proper and meaningful study. I am asking therefore the ILS Board to relieve me of the duty of Lilac Evaluation Chairman and appoint Bruce Peart as my successor mainly because of his responsibility with RBG Lilac Collection and the proximity to the accumulated field data. As in the past I will continue to help Bruce in the interpretation of material and the areas where, in his opinion, I may be of help.

If any ILS members have some positive ideas on the subject, please convey them to Bruce.

Having been associated with lilacs for over 40 years I feel that some lilac cultivars are so similar that we are often looking at the same plant bearing two different cultivar names, or the name tags were mixed up somewhere along the plant's life. Whatever the reason, current technology, mainly in digital color interpretation, and DNA could help us to clean this up. Secondly, since the perception of color and its designation differs from person to person, a standardized color code reference is a must, regardless of the fact that color deviation will occur under different climatic and soil conditions. One can always plant two supposedly same or different cultivars in a place where identical soil and climatic conditions exist and evaluate their characteristics.

The lilacs originated today are often better than those originated 50 years ago. I am sure that lilacs originated and selected 50 years down the road will not be perfect but closer to perfection. However, you all know that the road to perfection will never be finished. It is always under construction!

New England Regional Report

by Peter Ely
May 2001

The winter 2000/2001 was busy with visits to local garden groups and presentations of lilac talks with slides. Also, we conducted lilac seminars at the 2001 Connecticut Flower and Garden Show.

Spring time brought lilacs into bloom and visits to several gardens of ILS members as well as to a few sites in Southern New England. Helping lilac growers to add new or better growing cultivars continues to add interest to the work.

Correspondence, telephone and e-mail contacts continue to be a major vehicle to keep in touch with regional members and discuss lilac problems and interests.

Should any member desire to contact me, please do so at:

e-mail SEly634929@aol.com

tel. no. 203-888-2628

mail 57 Squantuck Road, Seymour CT 06483

Thank you.

Atlantic Regional Report

by Ted Collins
April 30, 2001

My activity report as Vice-President of the Atlantic Region is more local than regional. Strangely, I have received little communication from the "region". Nor have I reached out much from this locale. If I didn't spend the winter in Florida I might travel the region in a purple bus with a cute lilac message on the license plate. In the alternative, here are some of the things I do:

- Promote ILS membership to anyone who exhibits interest in lilacs.
- Print and distribute planting and care sheets to anyone who purchases a lilac, has one shipped, or inquires about their culture.
- Editorialize about lilacs in papers and magazines and encourage others in influential positions to do the same. (Example: Carol Ritter, a local columnist for the Gannett papers has responded positively about lilacs and will be our auctioneer this year at Highland Park.)
- Give Garden Club talks when feasible.
- Donate lilacs to Highland Park and propagators and growers to make available more varieties of lilacs.
- Force lilacs into bloom early in April in our greenhouse, then display them in area banks and businesses to stimulate interest in May.
- Create a lilac display and collection, and a "Lilac Walk" free of charge to the public to heighten lilac awareness.
- Wear lilac and festival T-shirts, Golf Shirts and sweatshirts whenever possible, and even donate them to publicize our belief that they are "Queens of Flowering Shrubs."
- Assist you in any way possible to make this year's ILS convention a success. Example: not participating in Festival sales as we cannot do that and participate in ILS Convention simultaneously; Investing approx. \$30,000.00 in a machine to transplant and display lilacs (we will demonstrate it.) and to feed my lilac "habit."

Southern Regional Report

by Nicole Jordan

I just finished sending a letter to the members in my region who have not renewed for 2001. David Gressley sent me a letter concerning this. I suggest to David that perhaps the RVP of each region should write a letter to the members in the spring and about the time of renewal. I also suggest the Society start an e-mail directory. With so many people on computers, it would be a great way to exchange ideas, tips, etc., via the internet.

The Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden in Richmond, Virginia knows that I'm the contact person for the ILS. No one has contacted me so far from any part of the region.

I would love to come to the convention but I cannot get away. This year our garden is on tour for a regional meeting for the American Hemerocallis Society. I'm also the chairman for the event. I hope next year I can attend.

My lilacs have finished blooming. It is time for the old roses to perfume the air.

Central Regional Report

by Bradley Bittorf

Various competing priorities prevented me from having any meaningful Central Region accomplishments whatsoever this year. I apologize for the dereliction of duties. When I moved out of the Central Region, I thought it would be possible for me to continue to correspond with those in the Central Region. Alas, this has not proved true. While I expect to find time to continue my activities with the Executive Board, it no longer seems practical nor helpful to the affected members for me to continue my role as Central Region vice president. I intend to submit my resignation as Central Region vice president at the 2001 convention. (I do expect to continue as an Executive Board member, and I would consider regional responsibilities within the Southwest region.)

Allow me to comment briefly on another matter. It is possible Owen may nominate me to take over as Editor. I view this function as a very significant and demanding responsibility, even though others believe I am capable of this role.

I am leaning toward considering the role of Editor. However, I am also concerned that my resignation as Central Region vice president may be an indication that I do not have capacity to fulfill that role. Honestly, I will probably be unsure about this right up to the board meeting. I would like to attempt it should it be offered. However, Arizona really seems to be consuming my time. If it is not my job that keeps me busy, as it often is, other activities do. The impact of the opportunity for winter recreation and travel is something I just could not anticipate when I left Ohio. It seems I am managing to have something scheduled each weekend. Unlike the north, when there is a winter season to ponder and prepare and produce, here there is no "off-season." Obviously, I must choose my priorities. Currently, I believe the ILS would become a sufficient priority for me to complete the activities. However, if (as now) I am sent on a time-consuming, deadline special project, I may have some problems.

My current thinking is that I would use some of my vacation time, if necessary, to complete editor tasks. However, the ILS Board must consider this possible conflict should I be nominated. Again, I may decide prior to the meeting I cannot support the Editor role.

Best regards to all there. We are looking forward to both Rochester, and the trip to La Canada Flintridge to Rudy's Descanso Gardens next year. I spoke to Rudy several weeks ago and he is ever the cheerful pragmatist.

Northwest Regional Report

by MarvaLee Peterschick

Sorry to not be in Rochester for the 2001 ILS Convention this year; I will be in California next year.

Lilac time is just a couple of weeks away here in my area, however, I have heard from some new members in the Seattle area and Walla Walla area, their blooms are out.

After serving four years as Spokane Lilac Society President, the society moves forward under the capable direction of the new president, Dr. Geri Odell. She is a former botany high school teacher with her doctorate degree. The lilac society just finished their lilac sale April 28 & 29, selling close to 300 small plants with about 75 varieties, making just over \$800. We have donated \$200 to the Spokane Lilac Festival Association, who has been experiencing financial problems, and appealed to the community for funds. Otherwise, this lilac festival could have been the last one. Everyone has been quite concerned about it! 25,000 more lilac pins were sold for \$3 each after the word went out about financial problems.

Spokane Lilac Society has contracted with Briggs Nursery in Olympia to tissue culture the new lilac "Spokane" in which Reva Ballreich is the hybridizer. We hope to introduce it in spring of 2003. This outstanding pink lilac will be on everyone's "want" list!

I had the pleasure of meeting the Sherers of Walla Walla last spring when they donated many of their rare Russian lilacs to Spokane Lilac Society.

We were contacted by Roberta Peterson of Woodland, WA and the Hulda Klager Lilac Garden Society. This year's lilac festival in Woodland started April 21 and ran through May 13th. They sell thousands of lilacs at a time. They also have a mail order and lilacs can be shipped. The telephone number is 360-225-8996. Address Hulda Klager Lilac Gardens, 115 S Pekin Rd., Woodland, WA 98674.

As for my personal presentations on lilacs, I am still listed as a speaker on lilacs for Spokane County WSU Master Counting the year 2000 and 'till now, I've spoken at 23 different organizations.

I believe it would be helpful if Regional VP's phone number, and maybe our e-mail addresses, were listed in the **ILS Quarterly**. Members living within the northwest would be able to contact me more easily.

If traveling in the NW from May till June 1:

Places of outstanding collections in the northwest:

- University of Idaho Arboretum - starting third week of May
- Spokane, WA Manito Park & Finch Arboretum
- Hulda Klager Lilacs, Woodland WA (above bloom time) contact me for lilac society private collections by members.

Wishing everyone a wonderful lilac time.

Eastern Canada Regional Report

by Frank Moro, Executive VP Canada

It has been a good year this year having been able to have *House and Garden* do one brief article on lilacs in mid-winter and another full 4 pages in April. They had contacted me originally for the brief one and I suggested a more elaborate one for April also. The article was written by their writer but I was contacted for some revisions and suggestions.

Also, Fleur Plantes Jardins in Quebec has done a full feature on lilacs and Select Plus International Nursery. I was interviewed for the article and hope this will light a fire for Quebec. Another French magazine, *Cote Jardins*, has done a brief write up for the past two years on a new lilac each year. This has gotten great response since people actually have shown up at the nursery, not the house, this year to purchase some villosa Aureas

I see there is still a lot of work to be done in the world of lilacs. The local population of where our newly rented production area is, raise their eyebrows when we tell them that 98% of the production is lilacs.

I have been asked to take some booths at different places for the ILS but lack the necessary help. I already have many tasks to take care of, and I hope that I will be able to get some help from members.

It is hard to give a report for only Eastern Canada for the e-mails and contacts I have made and acquired go more globally.

We do need some ideas on how to attract more members in all areas to be able to go out and do the shows that are free to societies. The same people seem to do most of the work. What is to happen to ILS once these people are no longer around for whatever reasons? We have to begin the process of seeding now to keep our society alive and active.

We have survived the first wave but now with new technologies available, communication is easier and cheaper. We need to get more exposure through links to our website and have members participate more.

Hope Springs Eternal

by Gil Seaver — April 24, 2001

This poem was written about Sam Harper in his lilac garden.

A dear old friend that I described in a previous poem as a quiet, gentle man, who had the build and strength of a woodcutter, is now beginning to show his age.

I watch him struggling to do his yearly spring chores – the tasks that he took in stride years past have now sapped his energy.

A job that once took him an hour now takes a day because of his frequent need to sit and rest.

While he sits in one of his many summer chairs, I view the sun shimmering on his white hair and watch the gentle spring wind ruffle his combed hair.

When I'm out of sight, I witness his head nod downward as he takes a short nap. I now see what I've refused to accept – and that is what age, radiation and surgery have done to my old friend.

And while I eye him gazing at his budding plants and newly raked grass – I perceive a man watching and hoping for more springs yet to come.

A few lines of a poem come to my mind as I watch this man stare at his garden coming to life and I quote.

"A strange anniversary: nobody knows what it is; yet it waits for each one of us, destined, certain, and true. Unknown yet we know for a fact that it has to be there. As it brushes the cheek with a cold unconditional kiss and whispers – Be ready for me; I am ready for you."

ILS AWARDS

HONORS AND ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Don Wedge

Albert Lee, MN

• For promoting lilacs and the International Lilac Society through years of public presentations packed with a wealth of plant knowledge. • For serving with distinction on the Board of Directors of the ILS and for chairing and also participating on many of its committees. • For loyalty and helpfulness in maintaining the strength and integrity of the Society throughout the years. • For generosity in donating lilacs to many worthy causes including the new lilac gardens on Mackinac Island in 1997 and to the ILS Annual Auctions.

DIRECTORS AWARD

Highland Botanical Park

Rochester, NY

• For being home to the greatest assortment of lilacs on public property in the U.S.A. and for being in the forefront in sharing this vast assortment with institutions and individuals throughout the world thus personifying the very essence of International Lilac Society goals. • For encouraging plant breeding programs under the care of such esteemed hybridists as Richard Fenicchia, Allan Grant, and Robert Hoepfl. • For staging Rochester NY's annual Lilac Festival for nearly 100 years.

DIRECTORS AWARD

Charles Holetich

Waterdown, Ontario, Canada

For exceptional teaching ability of all aspects of culture including hybridization. • For years of work for the International Lilac Society including the Presidency in 1985-1986, as a member of many committees, as a member of the original Board of Directors, and as vice president of ILS Europe. • For enthusiastically promoting the lilac and frequently contributing articles to publications. • For being exceptionally active in the collecting and sharing of named lilacs for the benefit of the world's people and for creating the world's most diverse collection on public property at the Royal Botanical Gardens, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. • For exceptional technical knowledge of lilacs and for great generosity in sharing that knowledge.



Photo credit: Brad Bittorf

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Monroe County Parks Department

Rochester, NY

• For providing the International Lilac Society with generous hospitality for the third time. • For superior management of Highland Botanical Park. • For supporting the well loved Annual Lilac Festival. • For encouraging lilac hybridization and for funding and staffing Highland Botanical Park in order to keep it the premier lilac showcase in the U.S.A.



Photo credit: Brad Bittorf

ILS AWARDS

PRESIDENT'S AWARD **The McLaughlin Foundation** South Paris, ME

- For the restoration, still ongoing, of Bernard McLaughlin's very special lilac gardens and making them open to the public.
- For conducting innovative programs for the education and enjoyment of the public.

ARCH MCKEAN AWARD **Rudy Schaffer, Sierra Landscaping** Pasadena, CA

- For development (As Executive Director of Descanso Gardens Guild Inc., at La Canada, CA.) of the notable lilac collection for the education and enjoyment by the public.
- For dedication to the promotion of lilacs, for exemplifying all of the goals of the International Lilac Society with steadfast volunteerism for the good of all and for encouraging the growing of lilacs in California.
- For being a lifelong lilac enthusiast, a loyal Society member and being willing to share his knowledge with all in good-natured humor and joy.



Photo credit: Owen Rogers

ARCH MCKEAN AWARD **Peter Ely** Seymour, CT

- For working tirelessly and creatively in promoting lilacs, and as the International Lilac Society's New England Regional Vice-President, and for giving many talks and demonstrations to garden clubs and at garden expositions throughout the New England states.
- For serving on many ILS committees, for enthusiastically helping at the Lilac Auction, for assisting generously wherever needed at ILS functions and for being the Executive Vice-President of ILS.

ARCH MCKEAN AWARD **Konrad Kircher** Bad Zwischenahn, Germany

- For promoting the lilac during worldwide travels, for having an extensive nursery business selling lilacs worldwide and for exceptional generosity in donating lilacs to institutions and communities.
- For active participation in the annual meetings of the International Lilac Society and for membership on the Board of Directors



Photo credit: Brad Bittor

AWARD OF MERIT **Edward "Ted" and Janice Collins** Lilac Hill Nursery Rochester, NY

- For serving as the International Lilac Society's Atlantic Regional Vice-President.
- For establishing Lilac Hill Nursery where over 250 varieties of lilacs are displayed for public benefit and sale.
- For promoting and selling lilacs at Rochester's annual Lilac Festival under the banner of "Doc Lilac".
- For helping to organize plants during the Lilac Auction and for being helpful at the annual meetings.



Photo credit: Owen Rogers

ILS AWARDS

AWARD OF MERIT

Jean Kerle

Randolph Center, VT and Granville, OH

- For keeping records at the lilac auction.
- For working to restore "Hamesbest", the lilac garden of her parents, Gertrude and Philip Hodgdon, in Randolph VT and keeping it open to the public.



Photo credit: Owen Rogers

AWARD OF MERIT

Evelyn A. King

Syringa Plus

West Buxford, MA

- For being an energetic lilac promoter and a very accomplished horticulturist.
- For presenting at the 1999 annual meeting of the International Lilac Society, an exceptionally fine talk and demonstration on the aspects of growing lilacs.



Photo credit: Brad Bittorf

AWARD OF MERIT

Roger Coggeshall

Syringa Plus

West Buxford, MA

- For owning and operating Syringa Plus nurseries specializing in and promoting the finest quality lilacs, and for selling them locally and by mail order.
- For giving an exceptionally fine talk and demonstration at the 1999 meeting of the International Lilac Society, about the aspects of growing lilacs.



Photo credit: Brad Bittorf

AWARD OF MERIT

Robert Hoepfl

Rochester, NY

- For hosting the 2001 convention of the International Lilac Society with the help of his wife Marcia.
- For serving on the Board of Directors, for serving as International Lilac Society Executive Vice-President and for presently serving as ILS President.



Photo credit: Brad Bittorf

AWARD OF MERIT

Jianhua Li

Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University

Jamaica Plain, MA

- For extensive research into lilac DNA and for presenting a very interesting and informative report, "Using DNA to Reveal Lilac's Family Tree", at the May 2001 meeting of the International Lilac Society.



Photo credit: Brad Bittorf

ILS AWARDS



Photo credit: Brad Bittorf

AWARD OF MERIT

John H. Alexander III

Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University
Jamaica Plain, MA

- For assisting Jianhua Li in research into lilac DNA and for assisting in the presentation of the report, "Using DNA to Reveal Lilac's Family Tree", at the May 2001 meeting of the International Lilac Society.

Distinguished Recognition Award

Carolyn and Roger Chapin

SEECO Printing Services

- For providing the International Lilac Society with a quality vehicle to help us in the promotion of the lilac.
- For the printing of the ILS quarterly journal and other special publications for over 15 years, always approaching the job with a professionalism and attention to detail that lifts their work to the level of excellence that it enjoys today.



Carolyn Chapin being congratulated by Colin Chapman. Photo credit: Owen Rogers



Photo credit: Brad Bittorf

DISTINGUISHED RECOGNITION AWARD

Frank and Sara Moro

Select Plus Nursery
Macouche, QC, Canada

- For graciously hosting the International Lilac Society meeting in May 2000, for hospitality, and for including and excellent program accomplishing a most successful annual meeting.
- For establishing a nursery offering the largest selection of named species to lilac lovers everywhere.
- For Frank's chairmanship of the Lilac Distribution Committee, for making the Select Plus collection available for propagation and distribution of exceptional lilacs worldwide, and for serving as Executive Vice-President of Canada.

DISTINGUISHED RECOGNITION AWARD

William Edwards

Computer Guru Extraordinaire

- For being advisor, patient teacher and coach, trouble shooter and rescuer in emergencies to the International Lilac Registrar. Your willingness to share knowledge and expertise, to volunteer your time keeping the PC and its programs running has provided the sound foundation on which to build the "International Register of Cultivar Names in the genus *Syringa* L. [Oleaceae]"



Freek Vrugtman accepts on behalf of William Edwards. Photo credit: Brad Bittorf

ILS AWARDS



Photo credit: Brad Bittorf

DISTINGUISHED RECOGNITION AWARD

John Carvill
Latham, NY

- For serving as President of the International Lilac Society 1998-1999, as regional Vice-President for the Atlantic region and as a member of the Board of Directors.
- For being chairman of the Lilac Auction Committee and for being the auctioneer par excellence.
- For providing over the years, with his wife Ann, many distinguished services for the Society's benefit.
- For many lectures to garden clubs and other organizations promoting the lilac and the Society.

DISTINGUISHED RECOGNITION AWARD

Ellen Steward
Plymouth, VT

- For helping steady the course of the International Lilac Society from the day it was founded and for guidance and dedication continuing to this day.
- For being a founder of the Society and for doing literally everything for the Society at one time or another.
- For being there, with cheerfulness and a winning smile, to help all members of the Society.



Photo credit: Brad Bittorf

DISTINGUISHED RECOGNITION AWARD

Dr. Own M. Rogers
Plant Science Department, U.N.H.
Durham, NH



Photo credit: Brad Bittorf

- For being so prominent in the rich history of the International Lilac Society.
- For service on almost all the committees of the ILS at one time or another, for being President from 1978-1983 and for being the Society's Editor from 1994 to the present.
- For a natural teaching ability that has enlightened all who have attended his lectures or who have read his many articles in *Lilacs* or other publications.
- For producing and registering many of the very beautiful late lilacs that now appear in better gardens everywhere.
- For most importantly providing the leadership that has kept this society on a noble course.

Annual Report from the International Lilac Registrar

by Freek Vrugtman

May 2001

At the turn of the century Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG) completed its twenty-fifth year as International Cultivar Registration Authority (ICRA) for Cultivar Names in the Genus *Syringa* L.

At its meeting on August 3, 1999, the Council and Executive Committee of the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS) approved the continued appointment of the RBG, Hamilton as the ICRA for the genus *Syringa*. At its meeting on February 13, 2001, the RBG Science & Conservation Committee recommended the approval of the appointment of Freek Vrugtman as Research Associate for a three-year period. Approval was granted by Dr. Patrick Colgan, Director, Research & Natural Lands. Continuity of lilac registration work at RBG appears to be assured for the next few years. [Research Associate at RBG is a non-salaried position: appointees work on designated projects and are permitted to use certain RBG facilities and services.]

Lilac Cultivar Name Registration 1999, by Freek Vrugtman, was published in the July 2000 issue of *HortScience*.

The name *Syringa vulgaris* L. 'Fiala Remembrance' was registered in 2000; the manuscript concerning this registration has been submitted for publication in *HortScience*.

Registration is currently pending for at least three lilac cultivar names. In addition the Registrar has been communicating with four commercial growers and the owners of two private collections concerning the registration of another twenty cultivar names of lilacs that are either in the trade or have been distributed privately, including distribution through the ILS.

Mid May 2001 Alison Brown sent the Registrar "Version 4" of the "In Cultivation Database". The database now has 11,089 entries, representing information on some 70 lilac collections, past and present. This database is an invaluable tool for locating (1) hitherto unlisted cultivar names, (2) hitherto unlisted spelling variants of cultivar names, and (3) for providing additional dates of cultivation. Alison Brown is an ILS member who volunteered to work with the Registrar, Freek Vrugtman.

Trade-marks (or trade names) are causing more confusion than ever. Several older North American lilac cultivars have been introduced on the European market under registered and non-registered trade names. Since these trade-marks are not always clearly identified by the symbols TM or ® they sometimes are mistaken for *bona fide* cultivar names, appearing as such in trade catalogues, garden magazines, and source lists for woody plants in North America and Europe. This situation has been quite common for cultivars of roses, but is relatively new for lilacs.

Two updates of the "work-in-progress" document *International Register of Cultivar Names in the Genus Syringa* L. (*Oleaceae*), by Freek Vrugtman, have been published, namely in February 2000 and in April 2001. Copies of the latest update are for sale by RBG (contact person: Bruce Peart).

Though the *International Register* has been available since 1997, feedback from users has been sporadic. Moreover, when checking entries in the "In Cultivation Database" against the *International Register* it becomes evident that some nursery-men and some administrators of private and public lilac collections who have copies of the *International Register* have not yet updated the names of the lilacs they offer

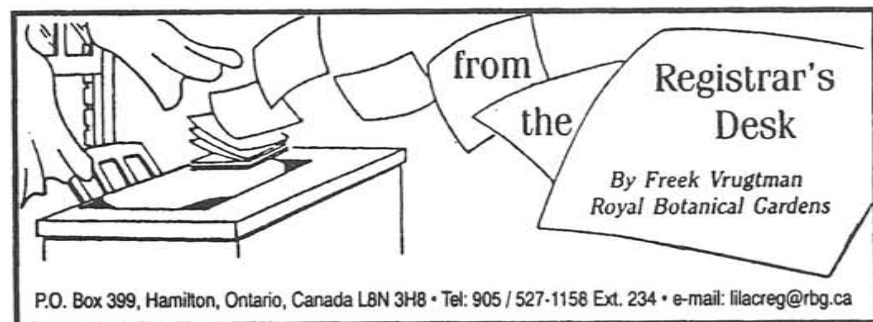
for sale, or that are currently growing in their collection.

Acknowledgements:

The Registrar gratefully acknowledges the financial assistance received from the ILS in 2000/2001. The funds were used for computer hardware and software upgrades. [The computer hardware and software, and the various handbooks in use are privately owned by the Registrar, Freek Vrugtman.]

Travel funds received from RBG allowed the Registrar to attend ILS meetings in Montreal (2000) and Rochester (2001). Printing, sales and distribution of the *International Register of Cultivar Names in the Genus Syringa L. (Oleaceae)* [February 2000 and April 2001 versions] have been coordinated and handled by Bruce Peaert, RBG Horticulturist - Special Projects.

Cooperation of correspondents from many parts of the world has been good, though some language barriers exist and are difficult to overcome. Access to Internet, World Wide Web and e-mail have greatly enhanced communication in recent years; the decline in accessibility of foreign-language horticultural periodicals and monographs; however, is only partly compensated for by information on the Internet. - In the end it's still people that make the difference!



JOHN HERBERT ALEXANDER, SR [1893-1977] - an outstanding lilac grower and nurseryman

(Fiala, J.L., *Lilacs - the genus Syringa*, p. 215 [1988]; revised and updated by Freek Vrugtman)

J. Herbert Alexander grew up in East Bridgewater, Massachusetts, where his father operated a nursery business. Sometime after the end of World War I, he founded his own business, Dahliatown Nurseries, at Middleboro. Originally he specialized in dahlias, but discontinued them when the entire stock was destroyed by fire. Herbert became well known among blueberry growers as a supplier of choice blueberry stock. He also propagated and sold hardy herbaceous perennials, including daylilies. Once he became interested in lilacs a continuous stream of new or less-known lilac introductions were made available to the public, among them several new selections of his own. 'Alexander's Aristocrat', 'Alice Rose Foster', and 'Ferna Alexander' are of *Syringa* × *josiflexa* × *S. × prestoniae* parentage. Introductions from other breeders included *S. vulgaris* 'Beth Turner' (Clarke 1968) and 'Cora Lyden' (Lyden, ca. 1966). He had a shrewd eye for lilacs and their inherent qualities. Ever creative and enthusiastic he promoted lilacs

wherever and whenever possible. At Dahliatown Nurseries, one could always find something unique and different. J. Herbert Alexander's mind was an encyclopædia of plant knowledge, especially about lilacs, which he loved.

Plants, shrubs and trees need not only those who work to perfect them by diligent hybridization and careful selection but, especially and foremost, they need those whose skill and ingenuity can promote and bring them to the public and to the attention of the commercial nurserymen. Of the more than 2,000 named lilac cultivars, no more than a handful can ever be marketed realistically. Lilacs, like other shrubs and plants, need astute nurserymen to ascertain those of merit, to recognize real quality, old and new, and make them available to the public. This is an art and special gift that only a few have. John Herbert Alexander, Sr. was one of these few.

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Lilacs - Quart. Jour. 27(4):115-118.

Alexander, Sr. J. H. in litt. J. H. Alexander to Vrugtman [numerous; 1968-1973].

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Alexander, III, J. H. in litt. Jack Alexander to Vrugtman [July 09, 1988; May 11, 1999].

Alexander, N. 1976. in litt. Nancy Alexander to Vrugtman [October 6, 1976].

Anon. 1978. *In Memoriam - J. Herbert Alexander. Lilac Newsletter* 4(1):26.

Fiala, J. L. 1973 J. Herbert Alexander and grandson Jack. *ILS Newsletter* 2(1):14.

Acknowledgment:

John ("Jack") H. Alexander III, grandson of J. Herbert Alexander Sr. has been most helpful in searching family papers and supplying information.

LILAC CULTIVARS CREDITED TO J. HERBERT ALEXANDER, SR

Much of the information on the Alexander lilacs is incomplete; the existence of some of the cultivars is in question; the identification of a few cultivars is doubtful. Readers are encouraged to correspond with the registrar, letting him know which of the cultivars are growing in their collections and the original sources of these plants. Complementary information and color photographs would be greatly appreciated.

'Alexander's Advance'; ? ?

{*S. ×josiflexa* 'James Macfarlane' × *S. ×prestoniae* 'Ethel M. Webster'}

Wister, Arbor. Bot. Gard. Bull. 1(2):20 [1967]

cultivar name registered 1967, but not reported in cultivation.

'Alexander's Aristocrat'; S V; year of introduction not known

{*S. ×josiflexa* 'James Macfarlane' × *S. ×prestoniae* 'Ethel M. Webster'}

Wister, Arbor. Bot. Gard. Bull. 1(2):20 [1967]

cultivar name registered 1967.

'Alexander's Attraction'; S I

{*S. ×hyacinthiflora*; parentage not known}

Wister & Oppe, *Arnoldia* 31(3):121 [1971] - name only

cultivar name registered 1970, but not recorded in cultivation.

'Alexander's Late'; S V; year of introduction not known

{'Ethel M. Webster' × (*S. ×josiflexa* 'James Macfarlane' × *S. ×prestoniae* 'Ethel M. Webster')}

Alexander, Cat. sheets [no date; received Jan. 1970].

- 'Alexander's Perfection'; S V; year of introduction not known
{*S. ×josiflexa* 'James Macfarlane' × *S. ×prestoniae* 'Ethel M. Webster'}
Alexander, Cat. sheets [no date; received March 1969].
- 'Alexander's Pink'; S V; 1967
{*S. ×josiflexa* 'James Macfarlane' × *S. ×prestoniae* 'Ethel M. Webster'}
Wister, Arbor. Bot. Gard. Bull. 1(2):20 [1967]; Alexander,
Cat. sheets [no date; received January 1970]
cultivar name registered 1967.
'Alexander's Rose Red' - see 'Jack Alexander'.
- 'Alexander's Variegated'; S V *
{*S. ×josiflexa* 'James Macfarlane' × *S. ×prestoniae* 'Ethel M. Webster'}
Wister & Oppe, Arnoldia 31(3):21 [1971] - name only
cultivar name registered 1970, but not reported in cultivation.
- 'Alice Rose Foster'; S V
{*S. ×josiflexa* 'James Macfarlane' × *S. ×prestoniae* 'Ethel M. Webster'}
Alexander, Cat. sheets [no date; received Jan. 1970]; Wister & Oppe,
Arnoldia 31(3):121 [1971]
cultivar name registered 1970.
- 'Dorothy Ramsden'; S VII; year of introduction not known
{*S. vulgaris*; parentage uncertain}
in litt. J. H. Alexander, Sr to Vrugtman, Dec. 16, 1971 - as *S. vulgaris* 'La Place' ×
'Monge'; in litt. J. H. Alexander III [Sept. 24, 1976] - as open pollinated *S. vulgaris*
'Mrs. W. E. Marshall' seedling; RBG Hamilton. List of Lilacs [1995] - name only.
- 'Elaine Brown Alexander'; D V
{*S. ×hyacinthiflora*; parentage not known}
Wister & Oppe, Arnoldia 31(3):122 [1971]
cultivar name registered 1970, but not reported in cultivation.
- 'Eloise'; S V
syn - 'Eliose'
{*S. ×josiflexa* 'James Macfarlane' × *S. ×prestoniae* 'Ethel M. Webster'}
Alexander, Cat. sheets [no date; rec'd March 1969]; Wister & Oppe,
Arnoldia 31(3):122 [1971] - name only and misspelled as 'Eliose'
cultivar name registered 1970, but not reported in cultivation.
- 'Ferna Alexander'; S V
{*S. ×josiflexa* 'James Macfarlane' × *S. ×prestoniae* 'Ethel M. Webster'}
Wister & Oppe, Arnoldia 31(3):122 [1971]; Fiala, *ILS Newsletter* 2(1):14 [1973]
cultivar name registered 1970.
- 'Foster Alexander'
Fiala, Lilacs. 215 [1988] - erroneous name.
- 'Jack Alexander'; ? ?
syn - 'Alexander's Rose Red'
{parentage and classification not known}
Wister & Oppe, Arnoldia 31(3):122 [1971] - name only
cultivar name registered 1970, but not reported in cultivation.
- 'Jill Alexander'; S V
{*S. ×josiflexa* 'James Macfarlane' × *S. ×prestoniae* 'Ethel M. Webster'}
Alexander, Cat. sheets [n.d., rec'd January 1970]; Wister & Oppe, Arnoldia
31(3):122 [1971] - name only
cultivar name registered 1970, but not reported in cultivation.

'Mary C. Bingham': S V

{*S. ×josiflexa* 'James Macfarlane' × *S. ×prestoniae* 'Ethel M. Webster'}
Alexander, Cat. sheets [Spring 1976] - as S V, but other selections may have been distributed under the same name; plants growing at the Arnold Arboretum, lineage 784-85 and 745-80, are authenticated, and propagules documented to that lineage are true to name (in litt. J. H. Alexander III to Vrugtman Feb.1/01).

'Mary Evelyn White': S V

{*S. ×josiflexa* 'James Macfarlane' × *S. ×prestoniae* 'Ethel M. Webster'}
Wister & Oppe, *Arnoldia* 31(3):123 [1971]
cultivar name registered 1970; but not reported in cultivation.

'Mary K. Houts': ? ?

{parentage not known: this is probably not a single clone!}
AABGA Bull. 17(3):69 [1983] - name only.

'Mrs. J. Herbert Alexander': S V

syn - 'Mrs. J. H. Alexander'
{*S. ×josiflexa* 'James Macfarlane' × *S. ×prestoniae* 'Ethel M. Webster'}
Wister, *Arbor. Bot. Gard. Bull.* 1(2):20 [1967]; Alexander, Cat. sheets [no date: rec'd January 1970]; Anon., *Lilacs - Quart. Jour.* 17(1):27 [1988] - name only
cultivar name registered 1967.

'Nancy Alexander': ? ?

{parentage not known}
in litt. J. H. Alexander to Vrugtman, Feb. 9, 1973, and N. Alexander to Vrugtman, Oct. 6, 1976
the original plant existed, but was renamed
not reported in cultivation.

'Phyllis Alexander': S V

{*S. ×prestoniae*; parentage not known}
Wister & Oppe, *Arnoldia* 31(3):123 [1971] - erroneously as 'Phyliss'
cultivar name registered 1970, but not reported in cultivation.

'Superba': S IV-V

syn - *S. villosa superba*
{*S. villosa* seedling selection}
Wister, *Arbor. Bot. Gard. Bull.* 1(2):20 [1967]; Alexander, Cat. sheets. Late Blooming Lilacs, 4 [no date; rec'd March 1969]
cultivar name registered 1967, but not reported in cultivation.

'Vivian Christenson': S V

{*S. ×prestoniae*; parentage not known}
Wister & Oppe, *Arnoldia* 31(3):123 [1971]
cultivar name registered 1970, but not reported in cultivation.

ABBREVIATIONS: S - Single flowers D - Double flowers

COLOURS

I White III Bluish V Pinkish VII Purple

II Violet IV Lilac VI Magenta

& bicolour [e.g. VII & I for purple and white]

/- colour combinations [e.g. III/VII for bluish-purple; V-VI for pinkish to magenta]

* cultivar with variegated and/or golden foliage

? information incomplete

Cultivar names appearing in **bold type** have been registered.

A Lilac With Variable Leaves

By Louis C. Erickson

Figure 1 illustrates the range in leaf form exhibited by a lilac plant growing in an experimental planting at the Agricultural Experiment Station, University of California, Riverside. This plant, hereafter referred to as No. 11, was one of 32 seedlings and named cultivars transferred from one gallon containers to the field in 1991, into 2 rows 15 feet apart, with the plants spaced 10 feet apart.

The reason for the appearance of variable leaf shape in No. 11 cannot be explained, but some factors for altering leaf shape can be mentioned: 1). 2,4D and other chemicals with growth regulating properties, 2). Mutation, 3). Conditions for gene expression, and 4). Incomplete dominance or recessiveness in the genes.

Although 2,4D and similar chemicals may exert strong effects on leaf shape in plants, the effect is usually immediate and not carried over from year to year. The toxic material usually breaks down into non toxic products after exposure to the soil. Also, in this instance the surrounding plants were not altered. As for the possibility of a new mutation, the present situation with No. 11 did not spread from a single location on the plant, as would be expected.

As an example of conditions for gene expression one can mention a species of *Eucalyptus* where there is a change from juvenile to mature leaf shape that occurs in seedlings, or a reversal in mature trees with certain types of pruning or injury. An example of incomplete dominance can be given in the case of a cross between a pomelo and a grapefruit. The fruit of the triploid progeny may vary in having uniform fruit segments, as in the grapefruit, or having some odd sized fruit segments as in the pomelo.

No. 11 is a second generation plant descended from 'Excel' through open pollination. Only one plant of this generation was planted in the field. Its flowers were unimpressive and cut leaves may have been present but were not noticed until 1996. Although the plant was much branched, only a few of the new shoots had the unusual leaves. In 1997 some shoots with cut leaves were made into cuttings to see whether their next growth would show the same characteristics. Only one of a dozen rooted cuttings did show a tendency for cut leaves. These rooted cuttings were then discarded.

Except for the cut leaves of *S. laciniata* (Fig. 2) and *S. protolaciniata* and the pinnate leaves of *S. pinnatifolia*, the *Syringa* species appear to have simple leaf blades with smooth margins. Perhaps a closer examination of lilac leaves will reveal additional irregularities as, for example, the tendency for a crenate leaf margin to be present in *S. × quintobrida* 'Eventide' as illustrated in Plate 56 of Fiala's book, LILACS. The lacinate or cut leaf margin appears to be a recessive trait: A cross between the fertile lacinate species *S. protolaciniata* and *S. vulgaris* results in a hybrid, *S. × chinensis*, with entire leaf margins. The hybrid is sterile, however, so there is no easy opportunity to re segregate the genes for further study.

S. × persica is another sterile lilac, very similar to *S. × chinensis* but known much longer than the latter and may, as hinted at by Fr. Fiala in his book (LILACS), be a hybrid between *S. protolaciniata* and *S. oblata*. The propinquity of the latter two species in China strongly supports this origin of the natural hybrid. It is difficult to recognize the difference between 'chinensis' and 'persica' but I have been informed by more than one senior member of ILS (so I don't know who said it

first) that occasional notched leaves on the lower part of the plant can aid in the identification of 'persica.'

Knowing that plant No. 11 has *S. oblata* in its background it seems plausible that there is a hereditary connection with the laciniate forms. Possibly *S. oblata* was the progenitor. The answer is not known.

Fig. 1. Variation in leaf form of plant No. 11.

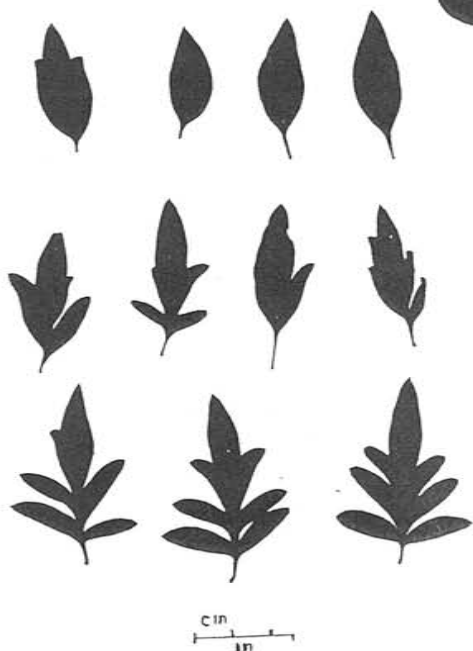
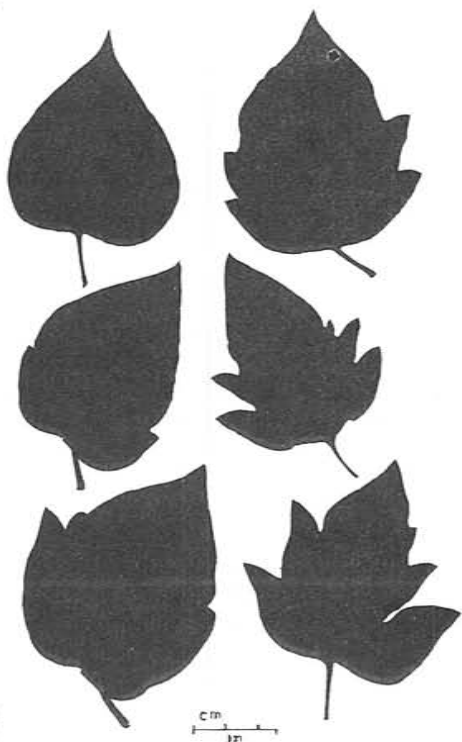


Fig. 2. Leaf forms in *S. x laciniata*.

International Lilac Society

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