

# Lilacs

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## QUARTERLY JOURNAL

of the International Lilac Society

IN  
THIS  
ISSUE:

### Convention Proceedings

VOLUME 32, NO. 3

QUARTERLY JOURNAL

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**International Lilac Society**

President ..... *Robert Hoepfl*  
24 Vince Drive, Rochester, NY 14606  
Executive Vice President ..... *Peter Ely*  
SELY634929@aol.com 57 Squantuck Rd., Seymour, CT 06483  
Secretary ..... *David Gressley*  
c/o The Holden Arboretum, 9500 Sperry Rd., Kirtland, OH 44094-5172  
Correspondence Secretary ..... *Walter Oakes*  
11 Pine Street, Dixfield, ME 04224  
Phone: 1-207-562-7453 Toll-free 1 (207) 562-7453-3662  
Treasurer ..... *James Hastings*  
538 Malbons Mills Road, Skowhegan, ME 04976-4141  
Assistant Treasurer ..... *William F. Tschumi\**  
3 Paradise Court, Cohoes, NY 12047-1422  
Phone: (518) 237-6107  
Editor ..... *Owen M. Rogers*  
Plant Biology Department, University of New Hampshire  
Durham, NH 03824-3597

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

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

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LILACS 2003

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## Covers

### FRONT COVER

Garden dedicated at Cap-à-l'Aigle during the 2003 convention.

### BACK COVER

Top: Planting 'Madame Abel Chatenay' at the Paris Botanical Garden "Jardin des Plantes" on the 12<sup>th</sup> of March 2003 in the morning. Patrice Huet wears a red jacket; Yves-Marie Allain wears a leather jacket; Claude Bureaux wears a green gardener's apron; and Konrad Kircher wears a brown tweed jacket and jeans.

Bottom: Planting 'Lilas Saugé' (syn: *S x chinensis* 'Saugeana') at Lycée Notre-Dame in Paris on the 12<sup>th</sup> of March 2003 in the afternoon. Philippe Petitot, student gardener, wears a blue gardener's garment; Mrs. Konrad Kircher wears a red scarf; and Mr. Konrad Kircher wears a brown tweed jacket and jeans.

## Next Issue Deadline

The deadline for the next issue will be September 8, 2003. With the convention having been in June, we have some catching up to do, so get your material in as early as you can.

## EDITOR'S NOTES

Frek Vrugtman writes...

"Recently I have been corresponding with Philip Williamson, keeper of the lilac collection at Brighton Parks, UK. I'd like to quote one of the comments he made:

*'There are three national Syringa collections in the UK and I think that ours is the only one that contains what I 'lump' as S. villosa types. They do not seem to be half as popular as the 'common' or 'garden' lilac and many people do not even seem to accept that they are lilacs at all! I would like to do something for them within our collection (eventually). What esteem are they held in on your side of the Atlantic? I do not seem to see them mentioned much in the quarterly journal.'*

What he refers to in particular is the lack of information and evaluation of the cultivars of *Syringa reflexa*, *villosa* and *josikaea*; they appear to be written about rather sporadically."

Did your last copy of "Lilacs" arrive missing a page or with an extra one? If it did, you should have contacted your ever vigilant editor for a replacement copy. No one notified me about problems with the last issue, but there were a couple of comments made at the convention. If there is any problem in the future, *please* contact me post haste. You deserve a clean copy.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The 32<sup>nd</sup> annual ILS convention was unique in many ways, it was a closed bud meeting as someone explained, as everywhere in the northeast it was a very cold and damp spring delaying flowering. The representatives of Cap-à-l'Aigle promised a great meeting and delivered; the entire community was very hospitable and welcomed us with open arms.

On a bright sunny afternoon the Mayor and other dignitaries were transported to the Garden gate by horse and carriage for the traditional ribbon cutting and official dedication of the 'Village de Lilas' Garden. We were privileged to be in attendance at the inauguration of this ambitious project undertaken by this small community. Hopefully many members will return to watch this garden grow and mature. And also to visit this uniquely beautiful corner of the world. I can't thank Caroline Dion enough for all of her assistance in seeing that every need of the ILS was met, including having the song of Lilacs performed and then sung in French by the entire gathering at the Awards Banquet. Honoring her with the Award of Merit just doesn't seem enough.

Members stayed in a number of various Bed and Breakfast Inns. At the Maison Victoria Marcia and I enjoyed the company of Amy, Brad, Dan and Diane and Christian, the coordinator of activities for the Garden opening. A breakfast dessert always concluded our extensive breakfast; will we ever forget the Queen Anne cake? For the lunches and dinners we experienced regional foods with the European touch of multiple courses but smaller portions than most Americans are used to, leaving us satisfied and comfortable.

Cap-à-l'Aigle perched high on the cliffs overlooking the St. Lawrence River marked the greatest distance between convention sites (Glendale CA 2002) and the longest time between meetings – fourteen months.

The Awards Banquet incorporated the community celebration of the opening of the Lilac Garden, was attended by about 250 joyous people singing the lilac song in French. It reminded me of Oktoberfest; it was great fun. ILS was welcome and proud to be a part of this celebration; I never thought that the dedication of a Garden could be so exciting. The camaraderie of this community and ILS is due in

no small part to the dedicated work of Pierre Elee (Peter Ely) who won the hearts of Cap-à-l'Aigle officials.

At the ILS Board meeting the following items were adopted:

- Research grant to "Determine the number of chromosomes in the Fiala cultivars".
- Increase Commercial membership to \$50 annually and list members on the Website.
- Establish a leave-behind memento at Convention sites, article to be determined by Local committee; it may be a planting, plaque, or bench.
- The ILS booklet "Lilacs of History - Plants for Tomorrow" will be updated.
- Special committees were established:
  - Study term limits and concurrency of officers serving on the Board.
  - Evaluate the possibility of a European Convention.

On a final note, again this year Brad Bittorf and Bruce Peart will represent ILS at the Mackinac Island Lilac Festival with a program of 'Learning about lilacs'.

## REGIONAL REPORTS

### New England Regional Report

By Peter Ely

May 2003

New England members have, for the most part, reported very good and full bloom this spring. The weather has helped. The bloom has been a little late in several areas.

Visits have been made to several parts of New England to see the lilacs in the gardens and collections of members, as well as several nurseries. Brooklyn Botanic Garden in New York and New Jersey Botanic Garden in New Jersey were also visited when their lilac collections were at peak. Tower Hill Botanic Garden in Massachusetts and Ladson Park Arboretum in New York were two visited for the first time this spring. Member Mrs. Pellicciotti invited me to present an ILS slide and talk presentation to her Garden Club of Montclair in New Jersey and to walk through her own growing collection of now thirty different cultivars. A full day was spent with member John Dostal of Bennington, Vermont, visiting several areas in town where John has planted 500 lilacs with several additional areas to be soon added. Craig Hibben has developed a Lilac Walk of 90 lilacs within the Ladson Park Arboretum in Somers, New York.

Members Lynn Nelson, Evelyn King, Roger Coggeshall and Owen Rogers have all set up ILS booths at several garden and nursery sponsored shows in Maine, New

Hampshire and Massachusetts. Additional members' help was greatly appreciated at these events. Please let me know where else members helped to spread the ILS work.

Visits are planned to see several collections in Maine in early June on the way to the Quebec convention.

Plans are being made to have a one-day workshop at Brooklyn Botanic Gardens in May 2004 as well as a talk on a lilac project for the members in the Connecticut, New Jersey, New York area. Perhaps we can work on having other areas to do a similar event - let me know your ideas!

Is there anyone desiring to help work on a Regional Newsletter?

Thank you for your continuing support of ILS and its work. Please send or inform me of any lilac news or if information is needed. Contact Peter Ely at e-mail [SEly634929@aol.com](mailto:SEly634929@aol.com) or 203-888-2628.

## **Central Regional Report**

By Irene Stark

Eureka, Illinois held their first Lilac Festival last weekend, May 3 through 4. I hope the weather was nice; the lilacs were at their best and their sight and fragrance enjoyed by many.

Mackinac Island will be celebrating the annual Festival of Lilacs June 6 through 15. It will be at the time that some ILS members will be attending the annual conference in Canada.

Our weather in Michigan seems like a repeat of spring 2002. We've had very warm days, cold rain and hard freeze temperatures down to 20 degrees the last week in April. The latest freeze on May 3<sup>rd</sup> resulted in a low of only 23 degrees. It looks like we can expect a late spring again this year.

We may lose our lilac blooms again this year, but then we still will have the plants. We can be thankful that we don't get the tornadoes. People in the last few days have lost their homes, even a whole town, and many have been injured or lost their lives.

I've received several phone calls from the Eureka Lilac Festival committee and also letters, as well as calls from other Central ILS members. It would be helpful if there were more phone numbers or e-mail addresses published in the ILS Quarterly Journal. I always put my phone number on my report-letter when I write to the ILS members in the Central area.

The good news—the six deer that have been coming over every night have taken off –perhaps to greener pastures because they couldn't find anything left to eat over here. They even ate the shrubs in front of our house. I really think they found a woods nearby to have a lot of babies to bring back next winter to prune the rest of our plants, bushes and even our lilacs. The bluebirds and orioles have returned and the mommy squirrels are bringing their little babies to the bird feeders to eat. Maybe spring is not so far away.

Sincerely, Irene Stark

### **Atlantic Region Report**

By E. F. "Ted" Collins     AKA Doc Lilac

It seems to me that lilacs are enjoying a boom in interest in all parts of the country—but especially in our region. Apparently, there are many more collections and collectors looking for unusual lilacs either in person or on the phone. We have also experienced more requests for shipments, particularly "Southern Bloomers."

We were asked by a major perfume manufacturer to send bouquets of fresh-cut lilacs to the six living First Ladies. Following some publicity about Hillary Clinton here in New York, additional requests for such shipping came from four other states - a real challenge.

In each shipment to the First Ladies, a bottle of Lilac Perfume is included from Rochester, NY along with a story about our lilacs and the perfume development. (If you attended the recent convention you probably received a sample from us. If you need more, contact us.)

Bus tours to Highland Park, Casa Larga Vineyards and our nursery are increasing, and more distant regions are represented. They readily purchase small lilacs and perfume and rhapsodize about lilacs that "mother used to have!"

Eastman Kodak Company toured the nursery and took away hundreds of cut lilacs to photograph for large murals at the airport in 2004.

We purchased additional copies of the "People, Places & Plants" magazine and they sold well in our greenhouse. Kudos to Eric Wetzel of Fox Hill Nurseries in Freeport, Maine! I hope you enjoyed the copies we sent to the convention.

### **Northwest Regional Report**

By MarvaLee Peterschick

After a very mild winter with drought conditions, our lilacs spring forth with bloom despite a long cold spring. The old saying of snow being "poor man's fertilizer" stands to reason, our lilacs are suffering from lack of it and other extreme conditions.

Again, Spokane Lilac Society has participated in their usual events that give them exposure, such as our plant sale of lilacs April 26<sup>th</sup> at Manito Park which is held in conjunction with Associated Garden Club's plant sale. On the same week-end, we also staff an information booth at Finch Arboretum in Spokane, participating in the official Arbor Day celebration, and supplying annuals for the planting of the



children's garden. On Garden Expo held May 10<sup>th</sup>, we sold more lilacs and handed out membership brochures on both the local lilac society and International Lilac Society, along with culture tips on lilacs. Lilac tours were given on May 17<sup>th</sup> as part of the Lilac Festival activities.

Great news to share with ILS members, Spokane Lilac Society looks like we will be able to introduce the new double pink lilac hybridized by Reva Ballreich and named 'Spokane' next year. Briggs Nursery in Olympia now has successfully tissue cultured the cultivar of *Syringa vulgaris*, and they will be large enough for them to either supply us with a thousand of them in early spring of 2004 or fall. Reva is in the process of completing the registration so looks like everything is coming together for it. It is presently blooming after being slightly frosted on the foliage, yet it is exciting to see this lilac in bloom and know what it looks like compared to the photos of it blooming in Idyllwild, CA.

Another exciting project —Spokane Lilac Society has taken on the funding of the expansion of the Manito Park Lilac garden collection. The collection will be extended west towards the Japanese garden. Thirty-seven more lilacs will be planted in a native-like setting, with trails and lilacs planted amongst the pines. Several benches will also be placed. Steve Gustafson, Manito Park supervisor has stated, "Our lilac collection should be superior to any other collections in the area." Members are also working with the gardeners at Manito to get the lilacs properly named and listed on the computer.

The University of Idaho Arboretum in Moscow reports the Arboretum Associates Board members will guide visitors through their large and varied collection of some 150 lilac species, hybrids, and cultivars Sunday, May 25 from 2 to 5 o'clock. The beautiful "tree" peonies in the Asian section will be in bloom at this time also. Arboretum Director Richard Naskali and Horticulturist Paul Warnick will be on hand to assist with identification, culture, pruning and lilac selection. A retirement celebration for Richard will be held June 5, 2003 in the Shattuck Arboretum Amphitheater. While Richard will retire in June, he will maintain an office on campus and serve as an advisor to the UI administration. He can be reached at this phone number: (208) 885-6250.

Although I am sure activities on lilacs are occurring in other parts of the Northwest, I cannot report about them unless notified. I did have the pleasure of viewing the Sherer collection in Walla Walla, Washington. Hundreds of lilac varieties grow in a small space, and I acquired a shoot of an outstanding dark purple 'President Roosevelt' from Connie Sherer for my own collection. Lilacs are a wonderful hobby - no end to the fellowship and beauty!

### **Pacific Regional Report**

By Elizabeth Kelcoyne

As of January 2003, I have been asked by Reva Ballreich to assume the position of the Pacific Regional Vice President. I have happily accepted and would like to share some information about myself with you. My name is Elizabeth Kilcoyne.

My husband, Denis and I, along with here of our four children, own and operate a seven-acre lilac farm in Acton, California. Our place is located in northern Los Angeles County. We offer cut flowers and potted plants for retail sales, but the bulk of our crop is sold as cut flowers for the commercial wholesale market. We have been in operation since 1992. Our season usually begins around April first. This year our first commercial cut was March 27<sup>th</sup>. We have had a pretty mild spring, which extended our cutting season to Mother's Day.

During our harvest I was able to get away for a moment to visit with Reva at her daughter's home here in Acton. Her daughter, Julie Boyer, presently has a collection of about sixty lilacs, and is planning to add twenty to thirty more this fall. Julie's place definitely reflects a love of gardening. Every single thing planted is thriving, especially the lilacs. I was fortunate enough to witness the first blossoms of 'Spokane,' double pink with gigantic blossoms and petals. Another awesome show was a bi-color lavender to violet called 'Christa Vu'. As if that wasn't enough, Reva shared with me a still-to-be-named double white that just took my breath away. I feel very fortunate to have been able to experience that collection. Can't wait to see what is in store for next spring. Thanks for the tour, Reva, I really enjoyed our visit.

I spoke to Giles Wanes at UC Riverside yesterday and he shared some of his news from down south with me. Some of his lilacs didn't flower well because of lack of winter chill. Some still haven't leafed out yet. He also said they have seen some plants with signs of Pierce's disease. That was why none of their plants were offered in the plant auction at Descanso Gardens during the convention.

Here is some exciting information for all Southern California lilac lovers. The Southern California Lilac Council has set up a south coast test field station in Irvine, California. It is located about five miles from Laguna Beach. The plants are from L. E. Cooke Nursery in Visalia, California. The mission is to test for winter chill requirements and watch for extreme mildew and bacterial blight which is often associated with warmer temperatures. Being so close to Los Angeles, I see many people disappointed when I have to be the bearer of bad news and tell them that they would have a hard time trying to get lilacs to grow in our Southern California coastal communities. I wish them much success in their project. I know it will be a pleasure to see the day when I won't have to tell anyone who loves lilacs that they probably won't grow in their area.

### **Eastern Canada**

By Frank Moro

It has been a very challenging year for me in 2002-2003. Although activities were quiet until December 2002 as far as being active, 2003 has been busy so far.

I have given three conferences for lilacs in Spring 2003 to different horticulture societies in the region. I have also given one garden tour and farm tour to another society on May 31. I feel this is probably the way to go to try and spike interest more in the society locally in Quebec. Small pamphlets were given out that I had put together.

On June 4<sup>th</sup> I shot small clips for an internet based company for lilacs that they plan on using in the future.

I have also been interviewed by Pierre Gingras of La Presse in Montreal this spring and will actually be interviewed for Radio Canada while in Cap-à-l'Aigle this weekend. I am also working on a lilac book that hopefully will come out in 2005 with Rock Giguere who is a garden writer, and is a guest speaker for the convention. I believe that the Quebec population is looking for something on lilacs and that we need to stretch out with some French information pamphlets to stimulate interest. We will probably have to even do some kind of publication that could come out after the regular quarterly and be similar to it. I also attended the usual garden shows and feel there is a lot to do there which will be in a separate report.

### **New Eastern Regional Vice President for Canada**

By Corinna Moro

Hello, Lilac Lovers,

My name is Corinna Moro, daughter of Frank and Sara Moro. I am your new regional Vice President for Eastern Canada and want to say hello and tell you about myself.

I have been a lilac lover and been brought up with them as long as I can remember. I work part time for my parents at their nursery. I get a chance to pick out orders, do inventory, take photos, participate in soft wood cutting time and grafting time. My father says I am his right hand person.

I have been bugging my father to become a member of the society for two years, and this year he announced to me that he would allow me to become a member, and he also gave up his position as regional Vice President and our President allowed me to become regional Vice President under Dad's wing.

I will be as my father, dedicated to the society to advance it the best I can and really want to work on the French part of the country as there are many lilac fans in Quebec. If you have questions please either e-mail at [lilacs@axess.com](mailto:lilacs@axess.com) or write to me at 1510 Pine, Mascouche, J7L 2M4 Quebec. I will be in contact in the future and am looking forward to hearing from you and meeting a new challenge.

PS: My dad told me to mention that he is still Vice President for ILS Canada.

### **Western Canada**

By Roger Wood

Hello, Bob, and members of the International Lilac Society.

Yes, it's time for the annual report. It's a nice rainy day. The flowers and grass are growing like mad, and I saw leaves on the poplar trees yesterday. Spring is two weeks early this year, which is not surprising after the mildest winter I can remember (61 years).

The lilacs are coming along great if the bloody deer leave them be, which they are not doing on my tulips. The deer hit the tulips so hard the bulbs are pulled out of the ground. What a hobby! (Fight off the Wildlife)

The lilac last year that folds went nuts over is 'Sensation.' The two-color flower petals just knocked their socks off. Oh yeah, before I forget, the stories about each lilac name was a right good idea. I enjoy the one about "Edith Cavell".

Sorry, Dr. Rogers, the Ice Age has held off for one more year at least!

The writer I look for is Colin Chapman and I hope the hill he's just bought will solve the problem of planting on the flood plain. That's not a job I'd look forward to, moving all those plants and lilacs. Oh well, do what I do - call in the backhoe and it makes planting holes just where you want them even in almost solid rock like here.

Have fun in the sun!

## NOTES FROM FRANK MORO

### Correction to past article

The lilac *Syringa* x 'Colby's Wishing Star' is a seedling of *Syringa* x Josée. We are sorry for the wrong info and it is amongst the many new seedling selections Select Plus International Lilac Nursery has selected and will continue to introduce.

### ILS Commemorative Pin and Keychain

Taking ILS into the future is always a challenge. New ideas to help raise money are always welcomed. ILS will start to produce an annual keychain and pin starting this coming fall. It will be for the 2003 year. For 2004 we are looking for ideas for a design. The pins and keychains will be sold at \$4.00 each USD including postage. They will make great small gifts and you can add to any collections of pins you have now. There are member prices and a non-member price will be up for website sales.

### Dave vs. Frank

Well another convention is over and it was one that myself and all my family members will definitely remember. The weather and setting was just great. The weather however did not have the lilacs showing much color but we still managed to have some great guest speakers. Probably the best highlight for Dave was myself losing to him the *Syringa pinnatifolia* var. *alashanica* for a hefty sum of \$325.00 USD. This set a record for the highest bid ever done so far on a lilac.

Well Dave, my question to you is how we outdo this one next year?

Thanks to all the members for bidding at the auction and purchasing lilacs.  
Frank Moro

# OFFICERS REPORTS

## Treasurer - James Hastings

Bank Statement (Acct. #190404000696) Key Bank, P.O. Box 22114 Albany NY 12201-2114	Balance 4/1/03	\$3,781.82
Edward Jones Co. (Account # 212-03072-1-6)		
1807 S Washington St., Suite 111 Naperville, IL 60565		
Cert. Of Deposit Discover Bank 7%		4,000.00
Cert. of Deposit KeyBank Nat. Assoc. 0.698%		1,006.05
Corp. Bond Bank Hapoalim 6.75%		5,000.00
Corp. Bond Federal Nat. Mortg. Assn. 7%		1,000.00
Corp. Bond Fed. Home Loan Mortg Assn. 4.25%		8,000.00
Corp. Note Federal Nat. Mortg. Assn. 5.25%		<u>41,000.00</u>
Total Funds Available		\$63,787.87
Funds Held in SPECIAL ACCOUNTS 4/1/03		48,882.48
Total Funds in GENERAL ACCOUNT 4/1/03		14,905.39

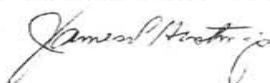
## Funds held in SPECIAL ACCOUNTS 4/1/03

Life Member/Endowment Fund		
Brought forward 4/1/02		\$25,485.21
L.M 4/1/02 = 126 = 5 = 131 4/1/03	\$1,250.00	
Miscellaneous contributions 4/1/03	<u>180.00</u>	
Credit 4/1/03	\$1,430.00	<u>1,430.00</u>
		\$26,915.21

## Plant Propagation Fund (Laurene Wishart)

4/1/02 = \$1,104.30 = int. \$55.22	\$1,159.52	1,159.52
Education and Research		
4/1/02 = \$5,862.09 + int \$293.10	6,155.19	6,155.19
Publications (other than Journal)		
4/1/02 = \$719.07 + int 35.95	755.02	755.02
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 4/1/02	\$4,053.57	
Interest Credit 4/1/03	\$ <u>500.00</u>	
Funds Available 4/1/03	\$4,553.57	
Debits 4/1/02 - 4/1/03		
Vol. 31 No 2	\$176.00	
Vol. 31 No 3	\$117.00	
Vol. 31 No 4	\$176.00	
Vol. 32 No 1	<u>\$187.03</u>	
	\$656.03	<u>\$656.03</u>
Balance in Fund 4/1/03	\$3,897.54	<u>\$3,897.54</u>
Total Funds in SPECIAL ACCTS 4/1/03		\$48,882.48
Total Funds in GENERAL ACCTS 4/1/03		<u>14,905.39</u>
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE		\$63,787.87

Prepared April 1, 2003 by James P. Hastings, Treasurer



**INTERNATIONAL LILAC SOCIETY**  
**Treasurer's Report June 5 - 8, 2003**  
**Comparing 2003 (4/1/2003) with 2002 and 2001**

<b>CREDITS</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2001</b>
DUES	\$5,193.31	\$5,375.00	\$4,855.00
LIFE MEMBERSHIP/ENDOW.	1,250.00	250.00	1,280.00
CONTRIBUTIONS	180.00	371.55	180.00
ADVERTISING	0.00	0.00	100.00
PUBLICATIONS	81.50	113.50	294.50
AUCTION	2,777.00	1,746.50	2,160.00
CONFERENCE	5,286.87	1,062.84	1,000.00
INTEREST	3,102.13	3,348.28	3,972.06
<b>TOTAL CREDITS</b>	<b>17,870.81</b>	<b>12,267.67</b>	<b>13,841.56</b>

<b>DEBITS</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2001</b>
MISCELLANEOUS	*\$7,166.00	\$1,533.65	**\$4,968.73
OFFICE SUPPLIES	74.37	89.93	64.37
JOURNAL	4,361.00	4,925.31	4,945.65
BANK FEES	55.05	55.28	0.00
POSTAGE/SHIPPING	1,299.23	1,191.23	1,334.13
COLOR PHOTO	832.36	760.00	710.00
PHONE	0.00	0.00	8.00
AWARDS	540.48	1,504.92	803.20
CONFERENCE	1,783.68	2,671.48	1,000.00
TYPING/FAX	144.75	96.25	81.50
PRINTING (other than Journal)	1,323.00	188.16	141.50
WEBSITE	248.50	0.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL DEBITS</b>	<b>17,828.42</b>	<b>13,016.21</b>	<b>14,057.08</b>

\* Includes \$1,500 donation to Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University  
Includes \$5,566 internal fund transfers for investments with Edward Jones Co.  
& KeyBank

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

Prepared April 1, 2003 by James P. Hastings, Treasurer



## Membership Committee Report

As of the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June, 2003, International Lilac Society reports a total membership of 465. I reported 409 memberships in 2002, 434 memberships in 2110, and 458 members in 2000.

The 2003 statistics memberships comprise 350 annual memberships; however there are presently 141 of those annual memberships in arrears and 209 current for the year 2003. That's 40% and there will likely be a large decrease after the next issue when the membership role is adjusted. We presently have 104 members in the lifetime category. Complimentary memberships total 9 and Honorary memberships total 2.

Geographical representation of ILS membership in 2003 is as follows: ILS presently has 393 U.S. members, 32 Canadian members, 32 European members, and 8 Asian members.

## Website Report

The ILS website has been a very busy tool since it's implantation. We are up to 89992 visits as of June 4. So far for 2003 we have had 19376 visits to the site and in all of 2002, 30043 visits. I again stress that this could be an excellent tool for generating money and getting people interested in lilacs. But there are two factors holding us up:

1. The lack of articles from everyone. With fifteen Directors on the Board we should be able to cover twelve months quite easily but I find myself keeping up the same monthly article for longer spans.
2. I have proposed that we use the site to generate new funds in the past by selling lilacs to not only members but the general public. This has been brought up in the past but there is always the question of who does it and what plants. A positive attitude is needed for us to be able to generate new money for the ILS. This is to be discussed in another report also.

## Editor's Report

Dr. Owen M. Rogers June 2003

There have been five issues of *Lilacs* (Vol. 31, Nos. 2, 3, and 4; Vol. 32, Nos. 1 and 2) published since the last report to the Board. The issues have averaged just over 28 pages in length, with one extra page of color plates supporting the European Newsletter in Vol. 32, No. 1. There was one half-page ad.

Facsimile copies of Father Fiala's book are still available through Frank Moro on the Society's website (\$34.95 US)

We had 10,000 copies of the membership brochure printed and distributed among the Society's officers. If you can make good use of them let us know, but give us a little lead time to get copies located and shipped to you.

The new credit card procedure for paying dues (and, this year's convention registration) has been well received. The credit card service is world-wide so that someone with one of the acceptable credit cards can pay their dues at the best transfer rate. This is especially valuable for our international members.

We are trying to increase the amount of material that goes to the printer by electronic copy for at least part of the issues of *Lilac*. Electronic copies can cut down on ordinary typographical errors that sneak into articles in spite of our best efforts. They should also prevent mistakes in diacritical marks and other special notations – both in English and other languages that are important in the material we publish.

## REFLECTIONS ON THE 32<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

By Robert Clark

The Village of Cap-à-l'Aigle [Eagle Cape] on the north bank of the St. Lawrence River beyond Malbaie was the site of our 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting, June 5 – 8. The townspeople are gung ho for lilacs and greeted ILS members warmly despite language differences. Go-betweens were Caroline Dion and Paul-Christian Nolin of the Corporation and our Peter Ely. Our convention dates were set to coincide with the village's dedication of it's municipal lilac garden on Saturday afternoon, June 7. Appropriate ceremonies were conducted in French by several dignitaries led by Corporation President Bruno who led us through the ornamental gates to the newly-planted lilac collection unit's infant stages.

The lilac auction was held on a spacious plastic-screened porch across the street from the lilac garden with John Carvill as auctioneer. More than one hundred cultivars were auctioned off netting over \$2000. U.S. One item was an as yet unnamed lilac found in a recent expedition to China in which ILS was one of the sponsors. In spirited bidding it went for \$325.

Besides conversation, food is a necessary part of hospitality. We were treated to French-Canadian cuisine, 5 star rated luncheons, box lunches, and awards banquets. All in all a memorable four days bud-convention.



## ILS 2003 AWARDS

*The following Awards will be engraved on a wooden plaque*

### DIRECTOR'S AWARD

**Wladyslaw Bugala**

For a lifetime of dedicated work in hybridizing the Ottawa Lilac and selecting new and better cultivars, for writing papers on lilacs, and for assistance in making Polish lilac cultivars internationally available. 2003

### PRESIDENT'S AWARD

**Philip Williamson**

For your leadership in the restoration of the NNNPG NATIONAL COLLECTION OF LILACS at Withdean Park Brighton and Hove, England. 2003

### PRESIDENT'S AWARD

**Cap-à-l'Aigle - Village des Lilas Corp.**

For establishing and promoting the "le Village des Lilas" and co-hosting the 32<sup>nd</sup> convention of the International Lilac Society. 2003

### PRESIDENT'S AWARD

**Association Touristique Regionale de Charlevoix**

For dedicated effort and hospitality in hosting the 32<sup>nd</sup> annual convention of the International Lilac Society. 2003

### PRESIDENT'S AWARD

**Jean-Francois Rolland**

For outstanding landscape design of the Garden of Cap-à-l'Aigle Village des Lilas. 2003

### HONOR AND ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

**Sarah 'Sally' Schenker**

For writing the International Lilac Society's Awards History 1972-2001.  
For her devotion to the goals of the Society. 2003

### HONOR AND ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

**Carla Schenker**

For writing the International Lilac Society's Awards History 1972-2001, and for her loyalty to the Society. 2003

### ARCH MCKEAN AWARD

**William Horman**

For enthusiastic promotion of the International Lilac Society and lilacs. For efforts to continue the partnership between ILS and Mackinac Island, and for outstanding work with the ILS Awards History 1972-2001. 2003

*The following Awards will be framed certificates.*

**AWARD OF MERIT**

*Presented to Caroline Dion*

For work in promoting the lilacs as the Directrice generale of Cap-à-l'Aigle Village des Lilas and for coordinating the ILS Convention 2003.  
Cap-à-l'Aigle, Quebec, Canada

**AWARD OF MERIT**

*Presented to Roch Giguere*

For promoting the lilac in articles, lectures, books and for your presentation at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual International Lilac Society Convention.  
Cap-à-l'Aigle, Quebec, Canada

**AWARD OF MERIT**

*Presented to Larry Hodgson*

For promoting the lilac in lectures and writings and for your presentation at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual International Lilac Society Convention.  
Cap-à-l'Aigle, Quebec, Canada

**DISTINGUISHED RECOGNITION AWARD**

*Presented to Bruce Deart*

For your enthusiastic promotion of lilacs at many garden shows and festivals. For promoting the causes and functions of ILS. For your continued work in plotting, labeling and educating the public at the Mackinac Island Lilac Collection.  
Cap-à-l'Aigle, Quebec, Canada

**DISTINGUISHED RECOGNITION AWARD**

*Presented to Margaret Walton*

For demonstrating the GIS mapping as it relates to plant locations and for plotting the lilac collection on Mackinac Island.  
Cap-à-l'Aigle, Quebec, Canada

**PLANS ARE UNDERWAY FOR THE  
ILS CONVENTION MAY 6, 7, 8, 2004**

**Nebraska City, Nebraska**

Our 2004 convention will visit the 300-plus lilacs situated on the grounds of the Arbor Lodge State Historical Park, and the 70 lilacs planted at the Lied Conference Center, as well as the lilacs in the garden of an ILS member. In Omaha, we'll visit the world's largest indoor rain forest housing jungle environments of the world with appropriate indigenous wildlife; we'll also visit the zoo's 13-story high geodesic dome housing several desert exhibits (the world's largest indoor desert). A stop at

*(continued on page 123)*



*The eagle at Cap-à-l'Aigle*



*Dignitary transportation at Cap-à-l'Aigle*



*Sorting for the auction*



*Bob Clark – one of the founding fathers of ILS*



*The "mugstic willow" at Cap-à-l'Aigle*

*Frank Moro, left, at the garden dedication... ...And this is the rest of the Moro clan.*





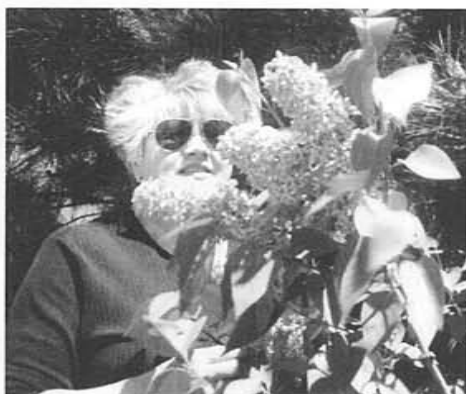
*Photographer trying to get a group photo...*



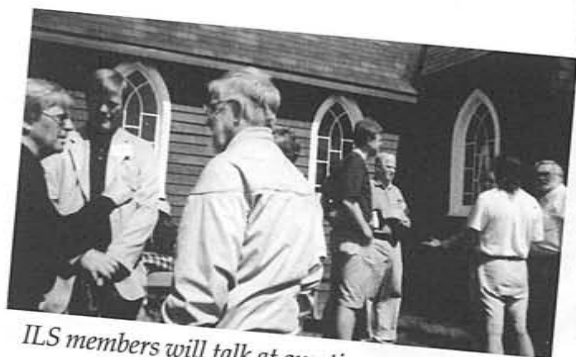
*...And this is what he got!*



◀ *Bill Harman: "It's All On Tape"*



▲ *Visitor to the Leid Lodge, Sharon Bradley of rural Rising City, Nebraska, admires a lilac growing near the entrance of the Leid Lodge, site of the 2004 convention.*



*ILS members will talk at any time and any place*



*Jack Alexander and Steve Schneider*

(continued from page 120)

the Strategic Air & Space Museum is planned at the Mahoney State Park. The museum preserves aircraft and missiles for future generations. Near the Air & Space Museum, we'll lunch at the Peter Kiewit Lodge, which commands a panoramic view of the Platte River. Early settlers said the Platte was too muddy to drink and too wet to plow and 150 years ago, this view would have included hundreds of prairie schooners carrying land-hungry settlers on their way West.



*ILS Member Hoyt Lambert with Arbor Farm Arborist Rod Edwards, at site of 2004 Convention, inspecting a tree lilac that had exceptionally fine bloom in May 2002.*

A block of rooms has been reserved at the beautiful Lied Lodge & Conference Center. This Lodge is situated not far from the Morton Mansion and is surrounded by inviting walkways through forested areas.

There is much to do and see in this area owned by the National Arbor Day Foundation - the Lied Greenhouse, the Tree House Trail, the Canopy Tree House, The Apple House, the Historic Morton Barn, Steinhart Lodge, and the Arbor Golf Links. We humbly suggest convention guests consider arriving early to take in the last weekend in April's Arbor Day Festivities - and stay late to enjoy some post-convention activities: catch a riverboat ride, visit the Omaha Botanical Gardens, visit Omaha's Old Market, and last (but not least to be sure) - visit Max and Darlene Peterson's Meadowlark Hill Lilac Gardens (which bloom will follow the Nebraska City lilac bloom).

## LILAC DISTRIBUTION

By Frank Moro

Available for fall delivery as of September 24, 2003. The following lilacs are available as 6-9 inches in height. They are container-grown and have excellent root systems.

As a new program two mailings per year will be offered and lilacs will change each time. You can see photos of them on the ILS site at [www.lilacs.freesevers.com](http://www.lilacs.freesevers.com). Deadline to order is October 15, 2003.

***vulgaris* 'Duc de Massa' 1905 'Lemoine' D-3 high Z2-7 H8-12'**

The buds remind us of a rosette and the fragrance heavenly. The florets when open are also so full one would say triple. A must for the collection.

**vulgaris 'McMaster Centennial'** 1999 Brown D-1 very Z2-7 H8-12'  
Wonderful full double bloom and fragrance. Panicles are very full.

**hyacinthiflora 'Blanche Sweet'** 1988 Fiala S-3 high Z2-9 H8-12'  
Blue buds open to whitish blue petals, tinged with pink. Quite fragrant and exceptional for the garden. An exquisite lilac.

**hyacinthiflora 'Maureen'** Pre 1942 Preston S-4 very high Z2-9 H8-12'  
Lovely lavender pink florets that are very fragrant and airy. It is a strong grower so needs a good pruning schedule. It is a lilac that will please all.

**vulgaris 'Primrose'** Maarse G. S-I mild Z2-7 H8-12'  
Distinctive yellow buds are followed by creamy white medium sized florets which are streaked inside with pale primrose yellow. The color of this unique and popular lilac is enhanced if planted next to a bluish one like 'Nadezdha' or 'Wonderblue'.

<b>Members:</b>	<b>1 for \$10.0</b>	<b>or</b>	<b>3 for \$27.00</b>
<b>Non members:</b>	<b>1 for \$12.00</b>	<b>or</b>	<b>3 for \$32.00</b>

These prices are in USD. For any Canadian orders please add 40% to plants as well as shipping and for oversea orders add \$8.00 USD for phytosanitary certificates and shipping will be done at cost. New Lilac selections will be out for the winter quarterly.

Shipping is by priority mail and the cost for shipping is 1 lilac \$4.00 or for 2 or more \$3.00 each. ILS will accept checks, money orders or Visa, Mastercard or American Express. All prices are in USD. Please send your orders to:

Frank Moro, C/O Lilac Distribution, 1510 Pine, Masocouche J7L 2M4 Quebec, Canada

*Please make checks payable to the International Lilac Society*

## EUROPEAN NEWSLETTER

By Colin Chapman

My apologies to all European members for my neglect this winter and spring. A succession of severe illnesses in November, December and March left me not only ineffective but also feeling very vulnerably mortal. Then, a serious accident in March has kept me out of action until the present day and will prevent me attending the Convention. To those institutional and annual members who have renewed their dues without a reminder from me I give my sincere thanks. Any other members who have not renewed and intend doing so, will you kindly regard this as my reminder. I have been informed by the Society's bankers that they will no longer accept Sterling Eurocheques. Thus Eurozone members can either contact William Tschumi and pay by credit card or send banknotes to me (20 Euros annual, 35 Euros institutional). One day, I hope it will become simpler.

The second tragedy was the demise of my aged word processor which departed this world last October. To date, I have not been able to replace it and cannot do so

until I have got the new land fully under control. This has restricted my capacity to communicate with you. To those of you I owe letters, and have promised propagating material, I give apologies. I will not forget next year.

Being unable to get out much has curbed my international e-mail activity. There is much happening in Moscow which I have not been able to follow up but I will do so soon and report next time. For the moment I will concentrate on domestic activity, particularly the 2003 lilac flowering which came in with all the portents of a major disaster.

The weather in the month of March was extraordinary. Hot, sunny days brought the lilacs into early and very vigorous growth. Then came the inevitable frosts which took out about half the precocious bloom. April was even sillier. After six weeks of no rainfall, the month which is renowned in song for its "April Showers" almost became an official drought. One day the temperature topped the eighties which is rare in this country in August, let alone April. Late in the afternoon of that day I remembered that Mr. Mikhailov's 'Mulatka' was enclosed in a frost protecting polythene pod. By the time I got to it I was too late and the florets had all been baked to dust. Sadly, that means I must write my feature on this remarkable plant next year instead of this as I had hoped. I have managed to propagate another plant of it and that will stay in frost-free accommodation until I have its picture taken.

The lilacs apparently came to peak bloom around May 10<sup>th</sup> but the flower heads were so annoyed by the conditions that they just went on growing. Within a week, open lilac flower heads had almost doubled in size. From a poor display it moved towards a spectacular one. From what started as a brief and inconsequential event became the longest flowering we have ever had. 'Esther Staley' still has some red buds two months after the first florets opened. 'Russkaya Krasavitsa' and 'Pamyat o S M Kirove' fought it out toe to toe (they are planted side by side) for the title of biggest, most fragrant and longest enduring flower. 'Galina Ulanova' (the great Prima Ballerina) had huge single white florets which, when inverted, looked just like tutus.

First flowerings were popping around like firecrackers and I have a mass of notes on scraps of paper to interpret and collate when the photos and slides come back. 'Nesterka' flowered for the first time (a fine, big red-purple single) as did 'Zoya Kosmodem' yanskaya' with small flowers of an intense, glowing pale blue enhanced by four little white spots around the eye which look from a meter away like a star. 'Fantaziya' flowered also but I want some time to think about it before I venture an opinion about its colour. It starts with deep magenta purple buds and ends a very delicate shade of pinkish white. 'Wonderblue' was magnificent and my lovely friend 'Pauline Fiala' flowered out in the garden for the first time. It was a magnificent season and I will say more later when I have some pictures to show you.



## LILACS - The Sweet Scent of Spring

By Bruce Peart

Close your eyes and imagine the sweet scents of spring. May is just around the corner and that means the renowned Lilac Dell at Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG), Hamilton and Burlington, will be bursting with the brilliant colours and perfumes of one of Canada's most popular shrubs.

RBG boasts the world's largest collection of lilacs with more than 800 of a possible 1,700 varieties, many of which are not available commercially.

There are only twenty six known species of lilacs, all of them native to eastern Asia, the Himalayas, Afghanistan and southern Europe. More than 1,500 are man-made selections or cultivars. Most lilacs are shrubs, with the exception of *Syringa reticulata* subsp. *reticulata* (Japanese Tree Lilac) and *Syringa reticulata* subsp. *pekinensis* (Peking Lilac). There are twenty four known varieties of these trees, which can grow up to 19 meters tall.

RBG's most famous collection contains many of these varieties, including some of the tree lilacs. The garden was established in 1952 and within four years had 280 plants. Construction of Highway 403 into Hamilton forced RBG to move the garden in 1960. It was re-established at its present location and, in 1965, Colin Osborne of Hamilton created the Katie Osborne Lilac Garden fund as a tribute to his wife. The collection has grown steadily since then and in the next few years the Gardens will add new specimens with a major concentration on the acquisition of tree lilacs.

The Katie Osborne Lilac Garden - or Lilac Dell - is a bowl-shaped garden located within RBG's Arboretum in the city of Hamilton. Lilacs are arranged above the Dell and down its slopes.

The Lilac Story, an interpretive exhibit describing the cultural history of lilacs leads visitors from the parking lot into the garden. The walk opened in 1998 and was funded by the family of former RBG board member Kitsey Evans in honour of her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Once visitors reach the bottom of the Dell, trails then take them from the bottom of the Dell into other horticultural collections or into Cootes Paradise, and adjacent nature sanctuary.

The location is the perfect setting for RBG's largest bloom festival, normally occurring at the end of May - first week of June. Visitors to the Lilac Festival are enveloped in the dizzying fragrances emanating from the Dell. The breathtaking display is complemented by guided tours of the lilac collection, a children's corner, a plant sale by the RBG volunteer association, and an outdoor refreshment pavilion. Musical performances at the bottom of the Lilac Dell include Celtic music, jazz, swing, Dixieland and folk.



Visitors who don't take part in the festival are guaranteed to see a stunning display for weeks, as various cultivars reach their bloom periods from mid-May until early June. A visit to the "late bloomers" is enhanced by experiencing the spectacular colours of the rhododendrons in the Arboretum and the bearded iris collection at the nearby Laking Garden.

Royal Botanical Gardens' lilac collection is recognized throughout the world. In 1974, the Gardens was appointed by the International Horticultural Society of Science as the International Canadian Registration Authority (ICRA) with responsibility for the Genus *Syringa*. The ICRA registers new cultivar names of lilacs, ensuring that the chosen name of the new lilac has not been used before in the register.

In fact, Royal Botanical Gardens registered its own cultivar in 1987. *Syringa vulgaris* 'McMaster Centennial' resulted from RBG's relatively unsuccessful attempt at developing a distinctly yellow-flowered form of *Syringa vulgaris*. It was named in recognition of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of McMaster University, at the time Hamilton's only university and an important research partner with RBG. 'McMaster Centennial' is a vigorous shrub with yellow-hued buds and fragrant, double flowers. However, like its female parent 'Primrose,' its flowers quickly turn white as they mature. 'McMaster Centennial' is not easily propagated, but it is becoming commercially available.

You can see 'McMaster Centennial' and the rest of Royal Botanical Gardens' vast collection beginning in May. The Lilac Dell is located within RBG's Arboretum on Old Guelph Road, Hamilton (in the former Town of Dundas). Spring weather determines the true bloom periods, so call RBG at (905) 527-1158 or visit the Gardens' "What's in Bloom" page on the Internet at [www.rbg.ca](http://www.rbg.ca) to find out when the lilac collection is at its peak.

## LILACS IN THE LANDSCAPE - Part III

By Alison Brown

### Colonial Revival Gardens

Lilacs were a popular shrub in the gardens of the Colonial Revival movement. The origin of these gardens is in New England artists' colonies in the late 1880's and the 1890's. During the first two decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century this garden style spread throughout the eastern and Midwestern United States.

The Colonial Revival movement was a New England manifestation of Arts and Crafts movement ideas, looking backward to pre-industrial eras and what were believed to be their simpler and truer values. In the United States, this meant looking back to the Colonial and Federalist eras. One impetus for Colonial Revival gardens was the availability of inexpensive farm properties outside larger cities. Successful artists and writers living in the cities acquired these properties and soon developed a keen

interest in gardens. Many of the houses on these properties, which had been built by prosperous farmers around the turn of the previous century or the early years of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, were in either New England 18<sup>th</sup> century style or Greek Revival style, with pleasing proportions and a dignified appearance. Their new owners wanted gardens which were appropriate to these eras, although as artists they sought to interpret Colonial and Federalist gardens, not recreate them.

The term "Colonial Revival" was coined by historians some time later, so at the time they were created you will never see what we would call Colonial Revival gardens described using this term. The earliest were usually called "old-fashioned gardens" to distinguish them from the Victorian style gardens which were still common until the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. After 1900, many colonial revival gardens were influenced by Italian gardens. Italian architecture and gardens were much admired by artists and writers of this period. While at first this might seem an unlikely combination, the artistic ability of the garden creators as well as their intent to interpret styles not recreate them resulted in a very appealing and often quite sophisticated synthesis. Some owners of what we would later call Colonial Revival gardens with an Italian influence called them "Italian Gardens".<sup>1</sup> Others who had visited and admired Edwardian Arts and Crafts gardens in England and sought to interpret that genre called theirs "English Gardens".

The underlying design principles of both 18<sup>th</sup> century American (and British) formal gardens and Italian formal gardens are similar, both being based on proportions developed by the ancient Greeks. This is one reason incorporating some elements of these styles into gardens based on early American models proved possible and beneficial. The genius of the best Colonial Revival gardens is the use of classical geometry and proportions, but in an unpretentious way and with the geometry partially obscured by billowing plants. All the appeal of classical symmetry, axis, and repetition is there, but softened and humanized by the lush and romantic planting.

Flowers and shrubs that were "old-fashioned" or at least looked like they might have been used in grandmother's garden were preferred. Gardens were frequently surrounded by a fence, a wall or a hedge. The interior was laid out symmetrically in beds and borders filled with flowers. The best designers also included evergreens such as cedar and arborvitae for accents and winter interest. Garden ornaments such as planters and urns were used, and features such as pergolas and arbors were included. If the surrounding wall or fence was low, then shrubs were massed outside. Lilacs were almost invariably included in these borders of shrubs. If the garden was on a smaller lot so the wall or fence marked the lot boundary the lilacs and other old-fashioned shrubs would be brought inside. These gardens were often an enclosed part of a much larger estate garden and/or working farm.

### Lilacs in Colonial Revival Style Gardens

There are many examples of the use of lilacs in Colonial Revival gardens, especially in the first two decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. While the old fashioned *Syringa vulgaris* was ubiquitous in these gardens, hybrids were gradually introduced into the trade and no doubt incorporated as they became available. The Arnold Arboretum had

over 100 hybrid lilacs in cultivation by 1912<sup>2</sup>, and many of these would have been available to garden designers. Helena Rutherford Ely, a well known garden writer of that period, had the late white lilacs 'Mme. Casimir Perier' and 'Marie Legraye' in her country estate garden by 1911<sup>3</sup>. She describes using purple and white Sweet Rocket (*Hesperis matronalis*) and Columbine (*Aquilegia*), planted "in quantity" with them.

In 1915, Mrs. Frances King wrote a most eloquent description of the lilacs underplanted with tulips in her Colonial Revival style garden in Alma, Michigan.<sup>4</sup> She had a shrubby border composed entirely of Lemoine's lilacs in such varieties as 'Marie Le Graye' (white), 'Charles X' (deep purplish-red), 'Mme Abel Chatenay' (double white), 'President Grevy' (double blue) 'Emile Lemoine' (double pinkish) and 'Azura' (light blue). Under these were bleeding-heart (*Dicentra spectabilis*) and a pale grey-lavender iris, in irregular clumps. Behind these were two types of tall tulips, one a pink with slightly bluish cast, and one a strong lavender but also bluish in tone. Although the tulips she used are no longer available, tulips with these colorings can certainly be found. She also added touches of *Myosotis dissitiflora*, which is a tall (to two feet)<sup>5</sup> forget-me-not.

By 1920, the start of the decade in which the popularity of Colonial Revival gardens was at its peak, 28 lilac hybrids<sup>6</sup> were listed as "the more standard varieties" in one of the most popular "how to" garden books of the time. We can assume from that listing they were not only widely available at nurseries but were within the means of most gardeners.

Ellen Biddle Shipman is perhaps the best known and most innovative landscape designer working in the Colonial Revival tradition. She was most active between WWI and WWII and used lilacs extensively in her gardens<sup>7</sup>. In a 1919 Long Island garden she used two *S. josikea* as accents within mixed borders of flowers and shrubs - in this case on either side of the entrance to an enclosed garden. The large leaves and bold presence of this lilac no doubt lent weight to the otherwise frothy borders and emphasized the entrance. This same lilac was used again, with *S. pubescens* and *S. japonica* added to extend the lilac flowering season, in the large shrub border surrounding the enclosed garden<sup>8</sup>.

Her 1922 shrub planting plan for the Colonial Revival garden on the Edward Lowe estate in Grand Rapids, Michigan, is a brilliant exposition on the use of lilacs in a formal way within a very formal, very symmetrical enclosed garden. She used *S. josikea* again as accents, this time placed symmetrically at the corners of the outer borders set against the boundary hedge of an enclosed garden. Lilacs, of unspecific type but probably *S. vulgaris* hybrids, are also used at the outer corners of symmetrical horseshoe-shaped flower beds on either side of the main axis in the interior of the garden<sup>9</sup>.

Colonial Revival continued to be a popular style, especially for smaller properties in the suburbs that grew up in the 1920s. A planting plan for a garden near Boston, which is notable for its extensive use of lilacs, published in the little garden by Mrs. Francis King in 1928<sup>10</sup>. A simplified and somewhat updated version of this plan is

given in figure 1. below, however NO changes have been made to the lilacs in the plan. Those are exactly as they appeared on the original. This plan is a nice starting point for a gardener who has a house on a lot of less than an acre, finds Colonial Revival style gardens appealing, and loves lilacs. It could also form one part of a larger garden, which would also be historically correct as Colonial Revival gardens were often incorporated in gentlemen's farms. The original plan, which appears on page 19 of The Little Garden, does not specify a detailed planting plan, so the choice of lilacs, shrubs, and flowers is left open.

### Planting Suggestions

To recreate the garden in Figure 1 as it would have been in 1928, you can consult Volume I of The Edward Upton Scrapbooks cited previously. On pages 7-11 is a list of lilacs in cultivation at the Arnold Arboretum in 1924. Choosing lilacs from that list will ensure you are using lilacs that would have been available at the time this garden was designed. Other suggestions can be obtained from the writings of Mrs. King and Ellen Biddle Shipman, some of which have been quoted above.

The original shrubs were Spirea (variety unspecified but probably *prunifoli* and/or *vanhouttei* – my choice would be the former because in addition to earlier white flowers you get very good red/orange Fall color) and many iris were underplanted among the lilacs around the lawn. Varieties are again unspecified, but the American Iris Society has a website and could no doubt help select varieties that were available in the 1920s. Other old fashioned flowers such as hollyhocks were used along the back boundary fence between the lilacs, and the remaining flower beds were filled with annuals and easy perennials such as phlox, salvia, bleeding heart, and peonies.

Although a pastel color scheme is an obvious choice with lilacs, especially if companion plantings are chosen to also bloom in Spring, it is not necessarily the most authentic. Colonial Revival (and Arts and Crafts) gardens in the U.S. made use of bold colors – for them “old fashioned” did not mean the sort of pastel mix, heavy on herbs and with carefully controlled contrasts that is has come to mean today. They made use of Shirley poppies, sunflowers, zinnias, and gaillardias, none of which could be termed reticent. Helena Rutherford Ely recommended the use of purple fountain grass with Canna ‘Wyoming’ (which has bright orange flowers and red/bronze leaves) in 1911<sup>11</sup> – a combination which is considered “new” and very fashionable today.

Tulips are a classical combination with lilacs, but which tulips will bloom with the lilacs can vary greatly from year to year. In my garden just north of Portland, Maine, I have had lilacs bloom with very early species tulips in a year with heavy snows that didn't melt until late April. I have also had lilacs bloom with the very last of the late cottage tulips on years with little snow and a warm winter. So if you decide to use tulips, at least in New England, it's best to plant early, mid-season and late tulips. You'll never know, at the time you plant the tulips, exactly which ones will be blooming next Spring with the lilacs, so better choose all your tulips with an eye to how they will look at lilac time. Such are the joys of gardening in New England.

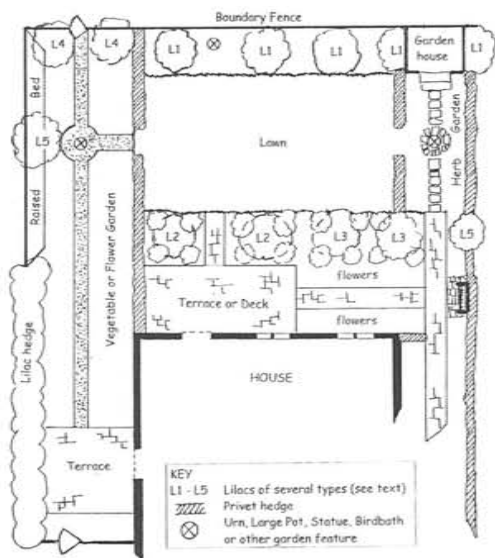


Figure 1. Plan of Colonial Revival Style Garden with Lilacs

white blooms in Spring around lilac time), Narcissus 'Pheasant's Eye' (very fragrant!), and early (Intermediate or Border Bearded) iris. At least in my garden in Maine, the large hybrid German Iris usually peak after the lilacs have finished blooming so they extend the season but don't add to the display at lilac time. Little has been said about which lilacs in this article, but it would be easy to imagine Figure 1 as a "White Garden". This would be particularly effective if you have a red brick house or red brick walks.

The next article in this series will discuss "contemporary" planting schemes for lilac gardens, which aim for bolder and more dramatic effects. Lilacs with dark flowers, including some of the wonderful Russian cultivars, lend themselves particularly to these types of plantings.

The dark red tulip 'Couleur Cardinal', which has plum colored flames on the exterior, looks smashing with lilacs such as 'President Grevy', 'Wonder Blue', or 'President Lincoln' that have a lot of blue in their flowers. Try pinkish orange tulips with pink lilacs like 'Marie Frances' (sometimes described as "shrimp colored") or 'California Rose', and for a stronger contrast with rose/magenta lilacs such as 'Paul Thiron', 'Arch McKean' or 'Charles X'.

In addition to the suggestions above, perennials which look lovely with all lilacs include *Dicentra spectabilis* (Bleeding Heart), *Mertensia virginica* (Virginia Bluebells), *Cerastium* (Snow-in-Summer – although it has

<sup>1</sup> Gilbert, Alma M. and Tankard, Judith B., *A Place of Beauty – The Artists and Gardens of the Cornish Colony*, Ten Speed Press, 2000, pp. 42-42 shows a photograph of the "Italian Garden" at Dingleton House taken in 1924 which illustrates this very well.

<sup>2</sup> The Edward A. Upton Scrapbooks of Lilac Information, Vol. I, pp. 1, reprinted by ILS, 1980.

<sup>3</sup> Ely, Helena Rutherford, *The Practical Flower Garden*, The Macmillan Company, 1911, p. 11.

<sup>4</sup> King, Mrs. Francis, *The Well-Considered Garden*, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1915, pp. 18-19.

<sup>5</sup> *Hortus Third* describes *M. dissitiflora* as being 2 ft. tall, but says it is actually *M. sylvatica*.

<sup>6</sup> Taylor, Albert D., *The Complete Garden*, Garden City Publishing Co., 1921, list on p. 249 – 'Marie Legraye', 'Virginalis', 'Princess Alexandria', 'Frau Bertha Damann', 'Miss Ellen Willmott', 'Mme. Casimir Perier', 'Mme. Lemoine', 'Rabelais', 'Mme. Abel Chatenay', 'Goire de Moulins', 'Lilarosa', 'Othello', 'Macrostachya', 'Emile Lemoine', 'M. Maxime Cornu', 'Belle de Nancy', 'Bleuatre', 'Caerulea superba', 'Colmariensis', 'Pres. Carnot', 'Doyon Keteleer', 'Pres. Grevy', 'Congo', 'Philemon', 'Charles X', 'Souv. De Ludwig Spaeth', 'Charles Joly', 'La Tour d'Auvergne'.

<sup>7</sup> Her formative years as a designer were spent in the Cornish Art Colony, that cradle of Colonial Revival garden design, and her mature style was an innovative and idiosyncratic expression of that aesthetic.

<sup>8</sup> Tankard, Judith B., *The Gardens of Ellen Biddle Shipman*, Sagapress Inc., 1996, planting plan p. 72.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, planting plan on p. 100.

<sup>10</sup> Mrs. King describes this garden as "English". This is particularly because she assumes the accompanying house is a "small English cottage house". As the property was near Boston the house was more likely (and much more appropriately) New England Colonial, and the garden is certainly in the Colonial Revival style.

<sup>11</sup> Ely, Helena Rutherford, *The Practical Flower Garden*, 1911, p. 35.

## PLANTING TWO HISTORIC LILACS IN PARIS

On the 12<sup>th</sup> of March 2003, a lilac 'Madame Abel Chatenay' was planted at the Paris Botanical Gardens **Jardin des Plantes** by Mr. Yves-Marie ALLAIN, Directeur du Service des Cultures at the Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, and Mr. Konrad KIRCHER, nurseryman in Bad Zwischenahn (Germany), owner of Europe's most beautiful collection of lilacs and Member of the Board of Directors of the **International Lilac Society**; they were assisted by Mr. Claude BUREAUX, Chief-Gardener of the Horticultural Collections, and by Mr. Philippe JOUARD, gardener. Mr. Patrice HUET, great grandson of Monsieur and Madame Abel Chatenay attended the event.

One of the first double-flowered white lilacs, 'Madame Abel Chatenay' was bred in 1892 by **Victor Lemoine** (1823-1911) and is a good representative of one of the most important periods in the History of French horticulture, when lilac hybrids bred in Nancy by the Lemoine dynasty of horticulturists were attracting the attention of gardeners and amateurs in the whole of the temperate zone of the Northern Hemisphere. Tree nurseries in Vitry-sur-Seine (now a suburb of Paris) would soon follow this trend, establish what was to probably become the world's leading center of lilac forcing and all the year round deliver lilacs in full bloom to enthusiastic amateurs, abroad as well as in France itself.

Madame Abel Chatenay (1857-1928), born Augustine-Delphine Chatenay, was the owner of one of the largest tree nurseries in Vitry; her husband, himself a nurseryman, also in Vitry, turned the family businesses into lilac forcing nurseries; this beautiful bloom thus took the place of the fruit trees and the ornamental trees which had been grown in Vitry by the family during the more than 300 years, for instance the chestnut trees delivered by Jehan Chatenay to the King's gardens in Versailles in 1698 after the devastating storm of the previous year, or the cherry 'Belle Magnifique', bred by German-Louis Chatenay in 1795, a best-seller since its introduction. **Abel Chatenay** later became first vice-president of the Société Nationale d'Horticulture de France (SNHF) and in 1926 was the first gardener ever to be made Commander of the Légion d'Honneur.

MM. Konrad Kircher and Patrice Huet then went to the **Lycée Notre-Dame de France** in order to plant a 'Lilas Saugé' at the very place where **Pierre Saugé** (1757-1835) had established his first tree nursery. They were welcomed by SŒUR MARIE-GENEVIÈVE, representing Los Religieuses Fidèles Compagnes de Jésus and by Mr. Philippe PETITET, the school gardener. From 1807 to 1860, the Saugé family ran two tree nurseries successively, both of them located at the corner of rue de la Santé and rue Léon-Maurice Nordmann. A follower of **André Thouin** (1747-1826), Pierre Saugé sowed the first seed of his lilac in 1809 on the grounds where the school now stands. After thirteen years of tenacious work he made a triumphant appearance at the quai de la Mégisserie Flower Market in 1822 holding in his hands such gorgeous flowers that his fellow nursery men, under much applause, named the plant 'Lilas Saugé'. During 181 years, lilac breeders have tried to surpass this unique lilac. In vain! Pierre Saugé had never published anything about his working methods and attempts to reproduce them never met any success. The shrub is extremely vigorous and produces an amazing amount of blooms - these two qualities were never matched, so that 'Lilas Saugé' has remained a favorite of gardeners and amateurs since its introduction. This can be considered a very rare, if not unique, success in the History of gardening, well worth the present homage to Pierre Saugé celebrated on the very grounds of his first experiments.

*These two events would not have been possible without the help of:*

- Mr. Konrad Kircher, who picked the two lilacs in his collection and brought them himself to Paris.
- The libraries of SNHF and the City of Paris, where most of the research (still going on) was done, especially in Mr. Michel Traversat's Doctorate paper about tree nurseries and nurserymen (EHESS), in "Revue Horticole" (first volume, dated 1829), where the 'Lilas Saugé' and the cherry 'Belle Magnifique' are mentioned, the latter under the name 'Belle de Chatenay', and in Fiala's book: "Lilacs".
- Mr. Freek Vrugtman, former Curator of Collections at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton (Canada) and International Lilac Registrar, whose advice is always of very great value.

N.B.: 'Lilas Saugé' is now known as *S. × chinensis* 'Saugeana'.

For more information: Patrice Huet, 88 rue Saint-Martin 75004 Paris, 00 33 1 48 87 74 01, [centredumonde@wanadoo.fr](mailto:centredumonde@wanadoo.fr)

## DEUX LILAS CHARGÉS D'HISTOIRE DE RETOUR À PARIS

Patrice Huet

Le 12 mars 2003, M. Yves-Marie ALLAIN, Directeur du Service des Cultures au Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle et M. Konrad KIRCHER, pépiniériste à Bad Zwischenahn (Allemagne), créateur de la plus belle collection de lilas d'Europe et Administrateur de l'**International Lilacs Society**, ont planté un lilas '**Madame Abel Chatenay**' au **Jardin des Plantes** de Paris, assistés par M. Claude BUREAUX, Chef-Jardinier des Collections Horticoles et par M. Philippe JOUARD, jardinière, et en présence de M. Patrice HUET, arrière-petit-fils de M. et Mme Abel Chatenay.

Un des premiers lilas blancs à fleurs doubles, obtenu en 1892 par **Victor Lemoine** (1823-1911), '**Madame Abel Chatenay**' évoque une des périodes les plus riches de l'histoire de l'horticulture française, celle où les hybrides toujours plus sensationnels de la célèbre dynastie nancéenne des Lemoine suscitaient l'admiration des amateurs de toute la zone tempérée de l'Hémisphère Nord. Prenant le relais, les pépiniéristes de Vitry-sur-Seine allient alors former le plus important centre mondial de forceries de lilas et s'équiper pour livrer 365 jours par an les amateurs français et étrangers en somptueux bouquets de lilas en pleine floraison.

Madame Abel Chatenay (1857-1928), née Augustine-Delphine Chatenay, possédait une des plus grandes pépinières de Vitry que son époux, pépiniériste lui aussi. A consacrée entièrement aux lilas, qui prirent ainsi le relais de plus de 300 ans d'arboriculture illustrés tant par les marronniers livrés à Versailles par Jehan Chatenay en 1698, après l'effroyable tempête de l'année précédente, que par la cerise '**Belle de Magnifique**' obtenue en 1795 par Germain-Louis Chatenay. **Abel Chatenay** sera plus tard Premier Vice-Président de la Société Nationale d'Horticulture de France (SNHF) et, en 1926, le premier jardinière à être élevé au grade de Commandeur de la Légion d'Honneur.

MM. Konrad Kircher et Patrice Huet se sont ensuite rendus dans le 13<sup>ème</sup> arrondissement, au **Lycée Notre-Dame de France**, pour y planter un '**Lilas Saugé**' à l'emplacement de la première pépinière de **Pierre Saugé** (1757-1835). Ils ont été reçus par SCEUR MARIE-GENEVIÈVE, représentant les Religieuses Fidèles Compagnes de Jésus, et par M. Philippe PETITET, jardinière du lycée. La présence de la famille Saugé est attestée de 1807 à 1860 successivement à deux emplacements situés au coin de la rue de la Santé et de la rue L.-M. Nordmann. Disciple d'**André Thoulain** (1747-1826), Pierre Saugé a procédé au premier semis de son lilas à l'emplacement actuel du lycée en 1809 et, après treize ans d'un travail qu'on imagine particulièrement rigoureux, a présenté quai de la Mégisserie, en 1822, une fleur si extraordinaire que ses collègues la nommèrent alors par acclamations: '**Lilas Saugé**'. Depuis 181 ans, ses émules cherchent à surpasser ce merveilleux lilas pourpre sur le marché. En vain! Pierre Saugé n'a jamais publié ses méthodes de travail et ses successeurs ne les ont pas retrouvées; la vigueur de l'arbuste et l'abondance de sa floraison, restées inégalées, justifient encore aujourd'hui son rang de best-seller mondial: un succès rarissime, sinon unique, de l'histoire de l'horticulture, qui valait bien l'hommage rendu le 12 mars à son auteur sur le lieu même de son exploit.

*Ces deux opérations n'auraient pas été possibles sans l'assistance:*

- de M. Konrad Kircher, qui a puisé les deux lilas dans sa collection et les a apportés lui-même à Paris,
- des bibliothèques de la SHNF et de la Ville et du Département de Paris, où ont été effectuées les recherches historiques (non terminées...), notamment dans la thèse de M. Michel Traversat sur les pépinières, les jardiniers et les pépiniéristes (EHESS), dans la "*Revue Horticole*" (premier volume, date de 1829), pour Pierre Saugé et la cerise '**Belle de Magnifique**' et dans l'ouvrage de John Fiala: "*Lilacs*", pour le succès actuel du '**Lilas Saugé**',
- de M. Freek Vrugtman, ancien Conservateur de la collection des Royal Botanical Gardens de Hamilton (Canada) et responsable du Registre mondial des cultivars de lilas, dont les conseils n'ont pas d'équivalent en la matière.

Contact:

Patrice HUET

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