

# Lilacs

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SUMMER 2004



## ***QUARTERLY JOURNAL***

of the International Lilac Society

*IN  
THIS  
ISSUE:*

**Convention  
Proceedings**

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**THE INTERNATIONAL LILAC SOCIETY**

*Copyright 2004 Editor*

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

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

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Sustaining .....	30.00
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Life .....	250.00

• *Mail membership dues to Asst. Treasurer William F. Tschumi*

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

#### OWNERSHIP STATEMENT

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## Covers

Front Cover: Lilac banner  
made by Jan Fricke  
Photo Credit Bill Horman

Back Cover: Most of the attending  
ILS members arrayed on the grand  
stairway in the Morton Mansion.  
Photo Credit: Bill Horman

## Next Issue Deadline

Next Issue Deadline

September 8, 2004. Your last chance to get something  
published in 2004!

## Quarterly Reminder

If you were planning to deadhead your lilacs, it's too late for this year - the buds for next year have already been initiated. If you remove the faded blooms of this year's crop it will have only cosmetic value. If you really want to deadhead to increase flowering, the best plan would be to buy a 2005 calendar and attach a reminder notice. If deadheading is to be effective it must be done within a three-week period after bloom and kept up for several consecutive years.

## Thank You

It has been a privilege and an honor to serve as President of the International Lilac Society for the last four years. I want to thank the Members of the Board, the Executive Committee, the Regional Vice Presidents and the Committee personnel for their spirited involvement making the job enjoyable. The ILS is a worldwide organization and after thirty-three years it is time we broke the hold on North America. I encourage you to continue your support and commitment to ILS under Colin Chapman's able leadership. Marcia and I, along with the assistance of Amy Plamann will continue to monitor the Awards Committee. We look forward to future Conventions with a relaxed and delightful pleasure.

Bob Hoepfl

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I attended my first Convention in 1991 at Lombard, Illinois. There, and subsequently, I was fortunate to meet some people, several now lost to us but whom I described at the time as living legends – Joel Margaretten, Mark Eaton, Walter Oakes, Charles Holetich, Bill Utley, Bill Heard, Al Fordham, Reva Ballreich, Marty Martin, Louis Erickson, Walter Eichorst, Orville Steward etc. etc. I distinctly remember Daniel Ryniec giving his President's Address at the Dinner. He was so urbane and so fluent that this new-to-the-Society Limey felt like an unsophisticated outsider who could never live up to this standard of performance. I was wrong because these illustrious people not only welcomed me, but had the faith to vote into my care the European Region as well. As I wrote of those wonderful people at the time, "I can say, most surely, that because I met them my life will never be quite the same again" (LILACS Vol. 20 No. 3 1991 p. 55). Never did I make a more accurate prediction.

Thirteen years later, I must thank the Board of Directors for electing me as your President. It is a great honour to be given the opportunity to serve the membership from the highest office in the Society and a privilege also to remember the interests, and carry the traditions, of those giants on whose shoulders I have so proudly stood.

One of those giants is retiring President Bob Hoepfl and I must thank him on your behalf for representing you with distinction and dignity for the past four years. Bob's career began as a seasonal worker for the Monroe Parks Department in 1962 but he was soon appointed full-time and, as we know, he worked successfully through the ranks to replace the remarkable Richard Fenicchia as Superintendent of Horticulture in 1979. Those of us fortunate enough to be at the Montreal Convention will remember his workshop-talk on hand pollination and his revelation about what went on "Beyond the Petals". Those of us fortunate enough to be at Rochester the following year will remember seeing the group of his own selected seedlings at the top of the hill. Thank you Bob for your steady and practical leadership over the past years which leaves us in good shape and ready to move forward into the age of electronic transmission of information. Our thanks also go to your First Lady, Marcia, for her work behind the scenes and with the Convention and Awards Committees, and for her presence at the Conventions. I sincerely hope that I will be able to come up to your standards.

Colin Chapman

## EUROPEAN NEWSLETTER

It is my pleasure, for the immediate future, to serve as your President.

Whilst I do so, my interest will no longer be confined to Europe, Asia and Australia but it will extend to and include our cousins in the American Continent and elsewhere. Thus it would not be appropriate to continue to write the European Newsletter, so this will be my last edition for the time-being, and the column will be reborn next time as the International Newsletter. I will, however, still need to hear lots of news from all my previous informants plus additional words from the Americas, Africa and also from the odd penguin who might be out there on the ice shelf planting Fr Fiala's 'Glacier' in Antarctica. A newsletter without "news" can be a very tedious business indeed, so you have all been warned. No news and I bore your hides off with personal trivia. And I am very good at personal trivia.

The 2004 flowering at Norman's Farm came in three phases. One of the mildest winters on record saw the hyacinthifloras flower with no frost blemishes for the first time. It was lovely, with the likes of 'Pocahontas', 'Bountiful', 'Norah', and 'Mount Baker' all flowering perfectly, at last. As I left in the Limo for the airport en route to the Convention, I looked back and I saw the searing red of *Syringa vulgaris* 'Dorothy Ramsden' with, by its side, the shimmering pink vision of 'General Sherman', as my last memory of my own collection. That very night, as I flew to Minneapolis, an air frost devastated every lilac that was already in flower.

On my return, each one that had been in flower when I left was now a frosted, brown mess. The ones in bud survived and, as the weather turned into glorious sunny days they came through to give our best flowering ever. Each successive day brought forth a new star. Both 'Zulu' and 'Volcan' were breathtaking and 'Topaz' also showed what a fine dark, red single it is. 'Wedgwood Blue' came good in a big way for the first time whilst 'Porcelain Blue' showed tints of glazed pale-blue china. 'President Viger' pulled himself to his full height and waved huge double flowers of violet, lilac and clear blue. 'Pamyat o S M Kirove' simply said "Anything you can do I can do better" and did, whilst 'Vergissmeinicht' (Forget-Me-Not) opened lilac and blue but faded to an exquisite cloud of pink and pinkish-white which it then held for three weeks.

The third phase brought the hybrids and species. The josikaeas are still outstanding as I write but the matched pair of *reflexa* and *reflexa* 'Alba' stole hearts and minds for three days before another frost closed them down. For the first time *Syringa* 'Alexander's Aristocrat' [Vilosae Group] is showing its



magnificent pink heads, and *S. patula* 'Miss Kim' is an absolutely incredible cloud of pure flower with not a single leaf in sight. As a wonderful bonus our two ancient horse chestnuts (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) towered behind the collection in full flower. It has been a magical season. Thank you International Lilac Society because the collection could not have been assembled without you.

Minneapolis was a joy and Tim and Karen McCauley were generous, friendly and overwhelming hosts. I would not have attended the Convention if they had not offered me the chance to stay with them, and then be driven by them, to Nebraska City. They took me to the University of Minnesota Landscape Botanical Garden where curator Dave Stevenson showed me three remarkable lilacs. I knew that 'Prince of Wales' was probably the first lilac cultivar produced in North America by McDougal in 1874 but he showed me 'Princess Alexandra', which was also produced by McDougal in the same year. Being English, I knew that the two of them became King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra. I have 'Prince of Wales' in the Norman's Farm collection but I had never before seen 'Princess Alexandra'. I also found in there two lovely plants of 'Lustrous' and 'Sweet Refrain', both having been bred by Mabel L. Franklin of Minnetonka, Minnesota, and neither of which, according to the Register, are reported as still in cultivation. Thus one rare lilac and two apparently extinct ones discovered, which was not bad for my first day.

The Convention was a joy. The location in a vast log-cabin hotel was an unforgettable experience in its extensive acres of woodland. There were no lilacs to see as the Nebraska season came two weeks before we did, but that did not matter because there were lilac people aplenty. I had not seen Janice Fricke or Hoyt Lambert since the Clinton, Iowa Convention of 1995, so it was a pleasure to see them again and to be shepherded by them so competently through the programme. The presence of Max Peterson's family was also a real pleasure because all four of them are growing together in a family group at Norman's Farm - 'Darlene', 'Beth', and 'Jeffrey' (bred by Max) and 'Max Peterson' (bred by Ken Berdeen) - and I now have a photograph of the eponymous four all together for my memoirs. Max gave a wonderful presentation on the Meadowlark Hill lilac collection which included a moving account of its first settlement by his great grandparents. I was on the edge of my seat throughout. I will let others fill in further details of the Convention and I will simply conclude this account by saying that in a lovely setting I had a wonderful time.

The long drive took us back to Minneapolis where we spent the evening watching the awesome sight of a tornado cell forming overhead before it touched down across the river in St. Paul. That one was reported in the media back home so Shelagh did not expect me to fly back as scheduled the next day. Unfortunately, the subsequent tornadoes have had only brief mentions so, as I

write, I do not know how you have all fared but my thoughts have been constantly with you. The next day was fine so we returned to the lilacs in the Botanical Garden and then went to the British pub in Downtown Minneapolis for a lunch of surprisingly good fish-and-chips and a pint and a half of real London Pride ale. Perfection! Thank you all for your kindness, warmth, and hospitality.

In conclusion I want to tie together two completely unconnected incidents to try to reassure some of you who might have certain concerns about the consequences of my being elected your Commander-in-Chief. First of all, as we passed the south of Des Moines on the way to the Convention, I coaxed Tim and Karen into making a diversion to Winterset to take a look at the covered bridges of Madison County. In the little, and very welcoming, tourist office stood a full sized board cut-out of John Wayne who was born in that lovely little town. Incidentally, the Roseman Bridge and its setting were as romantic as in the film. Secondly, way back in 1993 at the New Hampshire Convention the gentle and sadly missed Bill Heard got up to invite us to the Clinton Convention two year's hence. He specifically mentioned some people by name and described what personal qualities they could bring to the occasion if they attended. Seeing me sitting on the floor he pointed and said "The only thing he will bring is mischief!" It was the nicest thing anyone has ever said about me and so, to anyone who might be concerned that the sheer responsibility of my new position will so overcome me with gravitas, and bear down so heavily that all the mischief will be squashed from my life, then I must quote the late John Wayne and say what the "Duke" himself would have said,

"The Hell it will - Pilgrim!"

Colin Chapman  
Norman's Farm  
UK  
May 31<sup>st</sup> 2004



## ELECTION

At the May 7, 2004 meeting the following people were elected to a three-year term as Directors of the Board of the International Lilac Society:

Bradley Bittorf

Robert Hoepfl

William Horman

Evelyn King

Frank Moro

At the May 8, 2004 meeting of the Board of Directors the following people were elected to Society offices:

President - Colin Chapman

Executive Vice President (Continuing Term) - Peter Ely

Membership Secretary - David Gressley

Correspondence Secretary - Walter Oakes

Treasurer - James Hastings

Assistant Treasurer - William Tschumi

Editor - Owen M. Rogers

Also the sitting Regional Vice Presidents and the Executive Vice Presidents for Canada and Europe were reelected to office and the President was authorized to appoint people to vacant positions as and should they arise.

## EDITORSHIP

How would you like to be the Editor of the Society's quarterly journal? We are looking for a person with or without experience who would like to take over the post of Editor. The present Editor has thoroughly enjoyed the job but it's time to have someone else who knows something about electronics and the other new publication tools. If anyone is interested in volunteering, please let the Editor or the President know of your interest. If someone steps forward, we would plan for a "shadowing" of the incumbent through the next couple of issues as an introduction to the job. Such a "shadowing" would also be available if someone would like to try the job on "for size" before deciding whether or not the position fits you.

For further information or just some chatting about what is involved in the position, contact, call or write the current Editor at any of the addresses below:

Phone

(O) (603) 862-3222

(H) (603) 868-2670

(Fax) (603) 862-4757

Address

Owen Rogers

15 Thompson Lane

Durham NH 03824

## ATTENDEES AT 2004 ILS CONVENTION IN NEBRASKA CITY, NE

**Jack Alexander,**  
Arnold Arboretum,  
Middleboro, MA

**Jane Barnes,**  
Julian, CA

**Woody Barnes,**  
Julian CA

**Iris Cannata,**  
Foxboro, MA

**Ann Carvill,**  
Latham, NY

**John Carvill,**  
Latham, NY

**Colin Chapman,**  
Stowmarket,  
England

**Peter Ely,**  
Seymour, CT

**Pauline Fiala,**  
Spencer, OH

**Jan Fricke,**  
Elkhorn, NE

**Dave Gressley,**  
Kirtland, OH

**Jim Hastings,**  
Skowhegan, ME

**Jean Herrington,**  
Morongo Valley, CA

**Bob Hoepfel,**  
Rochester, NY

**Marcia Hoepfl,**  
Rochester, NY

**Bill Horman,**  
Detroit, MI

**Sharon Hulen,**  
Indianaola, IA

**Chris Janke,**  
Waterloo, NE

**Cindy Johnson,**  
Maple Grove, MN

**Scott Johnson,**  
Maple Grove, MN

**Konrad Kircher,**  
Germany

**Hoyt Lambert,**  
Omaha NE

**Harry Latimer,**  
Emory, VA

**Nancy Latimer,**  
Emory, VA

**Mary Litzotte,**  
Norwell, MA

**Emily Levine,**  
Lincoln, NE

**Linda Mack,**  
Waterloo, NE

**Don Maxon,**  
Louisville, NE

**Karen McCauley,**  
Chaska, MN

**Tim McCauley,**  
Chaska, MN

**Beth McClure,**  
Redlands, CA

**Art Palm,**  
Longmont, CO

**Buff Palm,**  
Longmont, CO

**Bruce Peart,**  
Dundas, ON  
Canada

**Darlene Peterson,**  
Ogallala NE

**Jeff Peterson,**  
Ogallala, NE

**Max Peterson,**  
Ogallala, NE

**Diane Potter,**  
Waterloo, IA

**Lenny Rawdon,**  
Holt, MO

**Sue Rawdon,**  
Holt, MO

**Mary Anne Rennebahr,**  
Des Moines, IA

**Ruth Ann Rohman,**  
La Canada, CA

**Juanita Rohman,**  
LaCanada, CA

**Dr. Owen Rogers,**  
Durham, NH

**Steve Schneider,**  
Arnold Arboretum,  
Middleboro, MA

**Irene Stark,**  
Ludington, MI

**Jim Stark,**  
Ludington, MI

**Al Supple,**  
Pembroke, MA

**Elizabeth Supple,**  
Pembroke, MA

**Ellen Thurlow,**  
West Newbury, MA

**John Thurlow,**  
West Newbury, MA

**Jen Trunce,**  
Botanical Gardens,  
Denver, CO

**Giles Waines,**  
Riverside, CA

**Margaret Walton,**  
Dundas, ON,  
Canada

**Jeff Young,**  
Saint Albans, VT

# TREASURER'S REPORT

INTERNATIONAL LILAC SOCIETY

TREASURER'S REPORT MAY 6-8, 2004

Bank Statement (Acct. # 190404000696) KeyBank, P O Box 22114  
 Albany, NY 12201-2114 (1-888-539-4249) Balance 4/1/04 \$ 4,941.18  
 Edward Jones Co. (Account # 212-03072-1-6) (1-800-333-2965)  
 1807 S. Washington St., Suite 111, Naperville, IL 60565

Cert. of Deposit KeyBank Nat. Assoc. 0.598%	\$ 1,011.73
Corp Bond Bear Stearns Cos., Inc 3.25%	\$ 5,000.00
Gov't Fed Home Loan Mortgage Assn. 5.00%	\$ 5,000.00
Gov't Fed Home Loan Mortgage Assn. 4.25%	\$ 8,000.00
Gov't Federal Nat. Mortgage Assn. 5.25%	<u>\$41,000.00</u>
Total Funds Available	\$64,952.91
Funds Held in SPECIAL ACCOUNTS 4/1/04	\$50,210.95
Total Funds in GENERAL ACCOUNT 4/1/04	<u>\$14,741.96</u>

## Funds held in SPECIAL ACCOUNTS 4/1/04

### Life Member/Endowment Fund

Brought Forward 4/1/03	\$26,915.21
L.M. 4/1/02 = 131 + 1 = 132 4/1/04	\$ 250.00
Miscellaneous contributions 4/1/04	<u>\$ 405.00</u>
Credit 4/1/04	\$ 655.00
	<u>\$27,570.21</u>

### Plant Propagation Fund (Laurene Wishart)

4/1/03 = \$1,159.52 + Int \$49.28	\$1,208.80	\$ 1,208.80
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### Education & Research

4/1/03 = \$6,155.19 + Int \$261.60	\$6,416.79	\$ 6,416.79
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### Publications (other than Journal)

4/1/03 = \$755.02 + Int \$32.09	\$ 787.11	\$ 787.11
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### C.C.Clark Memorial Fund (Int. deferred

to Color Photo Separation Fund)	\$5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
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### Arch McKean (Contribution) (same)

Arch McKean (Contribution) (same)	\$5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
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### Colored Photo (Journal) Separation Fund

Brought Forward 4/1/03	\$4,553.57
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Interest Credit 4/1/04	<u>\$ 425.00</u>
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Funds Available 4/1/04	\$4,978.57
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### Debits: 4/1/03 - 4/1/04

Vol. 32 No 2	\$175.00
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Vol. 32 No 3	\$175.00
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Vol. 32 No 4	\$175.00
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Vol. 33 No 1	<u>\$225.53</u>
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	\$750.53
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	<u>\$ 750.53</u>
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Balance in Funds 4/1/04	\$4,228.04	\$ 4,228.04
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Total Funds in SPECIAL ACCTS. 4/1/04	\$50,210.95
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Total Funds in GENERAL ACCTS. 4/1/04	<u>\$14,741.96</u>
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TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	\$64,952.91
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Prepared April 1, 2004 by James P. Hastings, Treasurer

INTERNATIONAL LILAC SOCIETY  
Treasurer's Report May 6-8, 2004  
Comparing 2004 (4/1/2004) with 2003 and 2002

CREDITS	2004	2003	2002
DUES	\$5,098.32	\$5,193.31	\$5,375.00
LIFE MEMBERSHIP/ENDOW.	250.00	1,250.00	250.00
CONTRIBUTIONS	405.00	180.00	371.55
ADVERTISING	40.00	0.00	0.00
PUBLICATIONS	0.00	81.50	113.50
AUCTION	2,438.44	2,777.00	1,746.50
CONFERENCE	274.54	5,286.87	1,062.84
INTEREST	1,990.17	3,102.13	3,348.28
LILAC SALES	1,060.70	0.00	0.00
TOTAL CREDITS	11,557.17	17,870.81	12,267.67
DEBITS	2004	2003	2002
MISCELLANEOUS	\$3,025.00**	\$7,166.00*	\$1,533.65
OFFICE SUPPLIES	32.97	74.37	89.93
JOURNAL	4,192.23	4,361.00	4,925.31
BANK FEES	70.42	55.05	55.28
POSTAGE/SHIPPING	1,170.51	1,299.23	1,191.23
COLOR PHOTO	750.53	832.36	760.00
AWARD	617.42	540.48	1,504.92
CONFERENCE	35.00	1,783.68	2,671.48
TYPING/FAX	129.25	144.75	96.25
PRINTING (other than Journal)	0.00	1,323.00	188.16
WEB SITE	235.00	248.50	0.00
LILAC SALES EXPENSE	259.50***	0.00	0.00
TOTAL DEBITS	10,517.83	17,828.42	13,016.21

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

\*\* Includes \$3,000 donation to University of California at Riverside

\*\*\* Additional expenses anticipated against \$647.70 lilac sales recorded on March 3, 2004

Prepared April 1, 2004 by James P. Hastings, Treasurer

## Audit Committee Report

To Whom it May Concern      **Owen M. Rogers**

I have examined the books of the International Lilac Society as maintained by James Hastings and find them in good order. He has used a clear paper trail of income and expenditures with complete and timely reports. Longer-term investments (CD's) have been kept wherever possible and Mr. Hastings has continued to search for good interest rates and maintaining the best income available.

## ILS AWARDS 2004

May 2004

### DIRECTORS' AWARD

**MAX & DARLENE PETERSON**  
**MEADOWLARK HILL LILAC GARDEN**  
Ogallala, Nebraska



For a lifetime of dedicated work in hybridizing, preserving and promoting the Lilac. For their devotion to the cultivation of 'Meadowlark Hill Lilac Garden', the world's largest private Lilac collection.



May 2004

### AWARD OF MERIT

**DON MAXON**

For sharing your lovely Lilac Garden with the International Lilac Society on the occasion of its 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting.  
Nebraska City, Nebraska

May 2004

### AWARD OF MERIT

**OMAHA BOTANICAL GARDENS**

For devoted maintenance and improvements to the Lauritzen Gardens and its Horticultural collections.  
Nebraska City, Nebraska

May 2004

### ARCH MCKEAN AWARD

**REVA BALLREICH**

For her effervescent personality and focused ability guiding the Society as its President from 1992-1997. For providing a quality of leadership that stimulated a revived interest in the genus *Syringa*. For helping establish lilac gardens in Mexico, Oklahoma and Nebraska and forging bonds with the Spokane Lilac Society and the Southern California Lilac Council. May you be remembered as the 'Grand Matriarch' of the ILS.



*David  
accepting  
for Reva  
Ballreich*

May 2004

### DISTINGUISHED RECOGNITION AWARD

**KENT MILLHAM**

For outstanding service to the International Lilac Society in compiling an index to the Lilac cultivars mentioned in the publication of the ILS 'Pipeline' and 'Quarterly Journal'.



**May 2004**

**PRESIDENT'S AWARD**

**ARBOR LODGE STATE HISTORIC PARK**

For creating a Lilac Walk in a public display garden and your dedication to the maintenance and promotion of these Lilacs.

Nebraska City, Nebraska

**May 2004**

**ARBOR DAY FARM**

For artfully incorporating Lilacs into the landscape of the Lied Conference Center thereby stimulating the public's interest and appreciation of Lilacs.

Nebraska City, Nebraska

**May 2004**

**AWARD OF MERIT**

**HOYT LAMBERT**



For his persuasiveness and assistance in designing and advising of the Lilac plantings at Arbor Lodge Historic Park, Arbor Farms Lied Conference Center, Omaha Botanical Center and Mahoney State Park. For his continued enthusiasm and dedication to these Lilac plantings.

Nebraska City, Nebraska

**May 2004**

**AWARD OF MERIT**

**JANICE FRICKE**



For her many contributions toward making the 33<sup>rd</sup> annual Convention of the International Lilac society a great success. For maintaining records and maps of Lilac collections in eastern Nebraska and enthusiastic promotion of Lilacs and the ILS.

Nebraska City, Nebraska

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT**

Dave Gressley, Membership Secretary

May 6, 2004

As of the 5<sup>th</sup> of May 2004, International Lilac Society has 390 memberships. I reported a total membership of 465 for 2003 and 409 memberships in 2002.

The 2004 memberships comprise 273 annual memberships, 105 lifetime members, 9 complimentary memberships and 3 honorary memberships.

Geographical representation of ILS membership in 2004 is as follows: ILS presently has 323 U.S. members, 26 Canadian members, 35 European members and 6 Asian members.

## LILAC EVALUATION FOR 2003

By Bruce Peart

At the beginning of this year it was discussed that we should be looking at the Fiala's cultivars that are growing throughout the country. With staff restructuring at various lilac collections in North America throughout this year the lilac evaluations did not occur as expected. Let us all remember that the lilacs only allow us to have ten days per year to record data while the lilacs are in bloom, and those are rain-free days! Mother Nature does not wait.

With assistance and vast experience from the Master, Charles Holetich, we set up the 2003 lilac evaluations of the Fiala cultivars from Royal Botanical Gardens collection plants. Both Charles and I recorded data on twenty-one of the twenty-five Fiala cultivars that the RBG has in their collection. The four cultivars not evaluated did not bloom during the 2003 season. The data was recorded on the International Lilac Society, Lilac Evaluation Forms. Also digital photographs were taken of all of the cultivars that were recorded. Sincerest thanks to Charles and his valuable knowledge with the lilac evaluations. His descriptions are like no other!

Another part of my lilac evaluation has been tracking *Syringa vulgaris* 'Agincourt Beauty' and it's bloom but my report is awaiting blooming results from this season. This report will be ready for an up and coming lilac journal. If any other members have digital photos of this lilac please forward them to me at [brucep@cogeco.ca](mailto:brucep@cogeco.ca) for comparison and verification to include in my report.

## Distribution Report

By Frank Moro

The first fall 2003 distribution had a nice response with \$153.50 of money generated for ILS. For spring 2004 new sales are in and we have managed to get some orders from the public. The final figures are not all in as we do get some orders every week but I am sure this will increase over the fall 2003 orders.

### Website Report

Another year has come to an end and the only articles submitted were from Owen Rogers and Tatiana's piece on Mikailov, which is the best we ever had. I am disappointed with everyone, as nobody seems willing to submit anything. There is so much work being done that I can not understand why people on the board who are supposed to be the flag ship of ILS can not show some leadership and passion. Dave Gressley, Bruce Peart and Frank Moro continue to handle questions on an ongoing basis.

This year we have received from April 2003 to April 2004 36,583 visits  
Our most popular pages from January 1 to April 17 by page view are:  
(a page view is how many times this page as been opened)

Lilac Offerings (the page we sell lilacs on for ILS)	7698		
Lilac Collections	3577	Lilac Tips	2303
Lilac Sources	2298		

I feel with more input from all of us the site can be a greater success. The Webmaster can only be as good as his support crew. We still have not tapped into the full potential of the web.



# CONVENTION 2004

## THE MEMORIES OF FRIENDS



*Jack Alexander and "Carol" a guide  
photo Bill Horman*



*Max Peterson and  
lilac. Max is on the right  
photo Irene Stark*



*Owen Rogers and  
Max Peterson  
photo Irene Stark*



*Steve Schnieder, Marcia and Bob Hoepfl  
photo Bill Horman*



*Mary Litzotte with David Gressley  
on her left and Konrad on her right  
photo Irene Stark*



*Jane and Woody Barnes,  
Jack Alexander, Beth Peterson  
photo Bill Horman*

# CONVENTION 2004

## THE MEMORIES OF GOOD TIMES



*Pauline Fiala and  
Colin Chapman  
photo Irene Stark*

*right: John and Ann Carvill  
(Bill Horman in back)  
photo Irene Stark*



*left to right: Hoyt Lambert  
and Bruce Peart  
photo Bill Horman*



*Bonfire for I.L.S  
photo Bill Horman*



*Inside conference  
main building  
photo Bill Horman*



*left: Peter Ely and  
Konrad Kircher  
photo Irene Stark*



*Morton Mansion  
photo Bill Horman*

## CENTRAL REGION REPORT

Irene Stark

It is almost that time again: time to not only see the spring flowers - daffodils, tulips, crocus - and know that soon our favorites - yes, the lilacs, will be next.

Some of us will be going to Nebraska for our annual ILS Convention only a few weeks away. Those who won't be attending may be able to see lilacs that are much closer to home.

Eureka, Illinois will be hosting their second Lilac Festival in a very short time. This year it will be held on May first, Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Over 3,000 are expected to enjoy not only the sight and scent of many beautiful lilacs but also a fine art fair where the works of 65 talented artists will be on exhibit. Bands will perform and there will be fun for all ages. Colorful tee-shirts, mugs and pretty postcards will be available for purchase and to remind you of the wonderful time you had.

Mackinac Island's Celebration of Lilacs is scheduled for June 11 to 20<sup>th</sup>. For more information just phone. The number is 1-800-for-lilac.

Many lilacs can also be seen by a trip through the alley-way in our many small old towns where many people used to plant their lilacs at the back of their lots. That is where my husband took me last spring, through the old town of Ludington, population 8,000 where he grew up. Next was a ride through the countryside of this rural, farm area of Mason County, Michigan. We saw old farm houses where people had planted lilacs and these old common lilacs have spread over large areas. These many homesteads have long been abandoned along with these single flowered lilac bushes of lavender or white. Yet without care, fertilizer, watering, or pruning these lilacs are blooming and the most fragrant of all!

Maybe someone "up there" is watching over them or maybe the lilacs feel our love as we drive very slowly by with the windows wide open so we can take in not only the sight but the scent of those wonderful flowers. Can't you just smell them? Well-almost??

Wishing all a very happy spring and enjoy the lilacs where ever you find them—even in your own backyard.

Thank you for your phone calls and letters. (231) 843-8459.

Irene Stark  
Central Regional Vice-President

## CANADA REGIONAL REPORT

By Frank Moro

One exciting year has unrolled any many things have happened here in Canada. First off I have been hired with a co-author to write a lilac book in French and it will appear on the market in March, 2005. This will be the first book in Quebec and will also be sold overseas to French linguistic countries. I have started to give about two conferences every month to garden clubs and this has helped promote lilacs more and more. Our business is finally moving to its own farm in July. We have to move all of the containers and a garden center will be opened also. We have incorporated a non-profit company called Colby's Wishing Star Park and this park will hold all the Select Plus lilac collection and gardens. There will be a handicap children's park with theme, therapeutic gardens and special adapted games for handicap children. All the construction on everything starts when the convention is on in Nebraska.

I would like Mascouche to be a visit for a convention in 2009 or 2010.

I continue to be present in Horticultural shows.

There is a huge interest for lilacs and we have to come up with some great ideas as a group to become as strong as other large societies.

Corinna Moro has proven to jump into the love of lilacs also. She has performed well this year by attending conferences with me and answering questions as well as passing out pamphlets at shows on ILS. She can answer and explain lilacs with more enthusiasm and passion than a lot of people I know. She and others of her age will one day be the drive of ILS. It is important to encourage her and others to get involved.

The one area for improvement would be the communication between the treasurer, the secretary and the Webmaster on who has paid website dues. A problem arose this spring whereas a very malicious letter was sent to the webmaster for eliminating a name from the site. It turned out that the dues were not paid. I still have not heard of anything whether the dues were paid or not but the name was reinstated in good faith of the dues being paid. No apologies were offered and I believe that the code of proper courteous conduct was very poor and childish by the person in question.

## NORTHWEST REGIONAL REPORT

By MarvaLee Peterschick

Lilac Greetings to the Officers, Board Members and Members of ILS. Spring is busting out all over. We are running two weeks ahead of schedule with blooms. With the warmest March on record, followed by continued warm weather in April, our lilac bloom time has started. 'Esther Staley', 'Anabel', along with many other hyacinthifloras, are in bloom. Temperatures in the 80's are even forcing the *Syringa vulgaris* in bloom. Fruit trees are all in bloom at the same time also. Normally, the cherry trees start followed by Apricot, Peach, Pear & Apple.

With the Spokane Lilac Festival still three weeks away, it makes for speculation what will still be blooming on May 15<sup>th</sup>.

I have recently heard from Gayle Suttle, General Manager of Microplant Nurseries, Inc. located at Gervais, Oregon. They offer over thirty-eight different cultivars of lilac microcuttings. New this year is some of Fiala's including 'Marie Frances', an excellent single pink, and 'Avalanche', a single white with very large showy florets.

Head Horticulturist Paul Warnick at the University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho, reports almost all of the plants in the arboretum now have individual accession labels. These are the credit card sized bronze tone aluminum labels that are hung on the north side of the plants at eye level. New plant collections added to the arboretum include heathers, Asian maples, Eastern North American deciduous azaleas, Northern Idaho wildflowers, a new crabapple grove; Asian Chamaecyparis; and Eastern North American hemlocks. The Arboretum Associates has a huge plant sale coming up on June 5<sup>th</sup> at the Latah County Fairgrounds Ice Skating Rink. Check the Arboretum website for listings at <http://www.uidaho.edu/arboretum/>. Or for further information on the U. of I. Arboretum call Paul at 208-885-5978 or email [pwarnick@uidaho.edu](mailto:pwarnick@uidaho.edu).

Charles & Connie Sherer at Walla Walla, WA report an excellent bloom this season. They have turned on their automatic sprinkler system several nights to keep frost from harming the blooms.

Manito Park in Spokane, WA is celebrating one hundred years this year. Several special programs are planned. MarvaLee Peterschick will be doing a special lilac "Sunday in the Park" program May 23<sup>rd</sup>, with history of the lilacs in Manito Park. Spokane was most fortunate that John W. Duncan, Superintendent of the Spokane Park Board in the early 1900's was associated with the men who built up the excellent collections of lilacs at Arnold Arboretum in Boston. In 1912, he stopped off in Rochester to see John Dunbar about getting hardwood scions. In 1916, the first real collection of lilacs was planted; thus the beginning of Spokane becoming the Lilac city of the Northwest.

This past year, with the driving force of Spokane Lilac Society, Manito Park's lilac collection was increased and expanded to the west towards the Japanese Gardens. This is a native area, trails were created with the help of scout troops. Irrigation was installed, and about half of the forty new lilacs were planted last fall. A very special location remains reserved for our new *Syringa* 'Spokane'. What a beauty she is, starting out in magenta buds, then developing into pink with a silver and white cast before full bloom. The new lilac will soon be growing in many parts of the country, with a grand introduction scheduled for spring of 2005. Spokane Lilac Society just completed their annual shoot sale, and one more sale planned with Garden Expo on May 8<sup>th</sup>. It is these type promotionals like the Arboretum Fall Leaf Festival, and Arbor Day Celebration that help us gain in membership. We also pass out the ILS brochure to special people who show a genuine interest.

The Northwest members of ILS look forward to the upcoming International Lilac Society convention in 2006 at Woodland, WA and Portland, Oregon when it will be held closer to home. In the meantime, members keep informed of ILS through their *Lilacs Quarterly Journal*.

## EASTERN CANADA REGIONAL REPORT

By Corinna Moro

I was honoured to be Regional Vice President for Eastern Canada this year. This title has been very impressive and made me be more curious about lilacs to raise my knowledge.

During the People, Places, Plants Flower Show, I learned about Ken Berdeen and my father even drove me to Kennebunk, Maine to see the area where Berdeen grew his lilacs. During the show, I answered questions of lilacs and passed out ILS pamphlets and had conversations about the Society. After Maine, I went to Boston for another flower show where I also did similar to when I was in Maine.

Coming home after the shows, my father, Frank Moro, took me to conferences in French and English where I listened attentively to the questions and answers as it interested me greatly.

After all these years of growing up with lilacs I see how these plants aren't only plants, but a legend. I observed my father write his book to be published and realize that every lilac has a history behind it. It came to my interest to learn as much as I can behind every lilac.

I have a new task on my shoulders that has been given to me with great admiration. I shall choose 100 cultivars of lilacs to be planted in our farm in Mascouche for Fall, 2004. I have been researching, since the news, to choose these cultivars very wisely, with great pride.

Happy gardening to you all!

## SOUTH REGIONAL REPORT

by Nicole Jordan

I received no inquiry since the last convention. I have now been South-Regional Vice-President since 2001. I have never received a letter, phone call or e-mail from any of the region members. I have talked to some of them at the request of Secretary, David Gressley, when membership was not renewed. The responses have been: I'm not interested at the time, or the journal is too technical, or I don't have time. People also move and they are no longer able to grow lilacs.

Suggestion: I would like to see members' e-mail addresses published, along with their addresses and phone numbers. It would facilitate communicating with them. I also give ILS permission to publish my address, phone number and e-mail.  
NJordan236@aol.com

Nichole Jordan  
South-Regional Vice President

# THE HISTORY OF THE LILAC AND ITS INTRODUCTION INTO EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

by Owen M. Rogers

*Syringa vulgaris*, the Common Lilac, is native to the Balkan's region of Eastern Europe including Romania, Hungary and surrounding areas. However the location of these native plants was not positively identified until the 1800's. The initial route of introduction of lilacs to the main areas of Europe came through Constantinople which set astride the great trade routes from the orient and far east. Ogier Ghiselin, the Count de Busbecq was the Ambassador of Austria to the court of Suleiman the Magnificent (Sultan of Turkey 1520-1566) and he brought the lilac back to Austria in the mid 1500's (probably by 1563). If he had gone a few hundred miles east of Vienna, he would have found forests of lilacs in Hungary and Romania. A member of the International Lilac Society, Radcliffe Pike, actually went to a lilac festival in the mountains of Romania. The lilac flourished in Austria so when DeBusbecq was chosen to accompany the Archduchess Elizabeth from Vienna to Paris where she was to wed Charles IX of France, he included plants of the lilac in his baggage.

The lilac was accepted in France and soon spread to England where reference to it appears in John Parkinson's "Paradise in Sole, Paradisus Terrestris" of 1629 where he writes "Under the name *Syringa*, is contained two special kinds of shrubs of trees, differing one from another: namely, the Lilac of Matthiolus, which is called *Syringa caerulea*, and is of two or three sorts. And the *Syringa alba* which is also of two sorts, as shall be declared." He also refers to the lilac in "Theatrum Botanicum," the Theater of Plants of 1640 where he writes, "Although I have showed you these five sorts of Pipe trees in my former Booke, yet I think it not unfit to present you with them again here, and give you a full description of the sort that was defective there."

Therefore, we have a clear record of the lilac's trail from the Balkans to Constantinople, Vienna, Paris, and England but there the trail stops. There is no clear reference to when the first lilacs came to North America. We know that the lilac came as part of the settlers' personal belongings and were not included as agriculture in the agricultural inventories where agricultural plants and tools were described in great detail. The lilacs instead were planted by the kitchen door, by the fence or "down by the barn," where some of them still exist today.

We do know some dates such as these:

George Washington in his diary wrote:

FEBRUARY 1785

Tuesday 22d. Removed two pretty large and full grown Lilacs to the No. Garden gate, one on each side, taking up as much dirt with the roots as cd. be well obtained.

Wednesday, 23d. Planted trees on the South Shrubby similar to those of yesterday, in the South Shrubby, except the Lilacs, for which I thought the ground to wet.



## MARCH 1785

Thursday, 3d. Planted the remainder of the Locusts, Sassafras, small berried thorn and yellow Willow in the shrubberies, as also the red buds, a honey locust and service tree by the South Garden House, likewise took up the clump of Lilacs that stood at the corner of the South Grass plant and transplanted them to the clusters in the Shrubberies and standards at the South Garden gate.

## APRIL 1785

Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup>. A great Hoar frost and Ice at least the 1/8 of an inch thick...The leaves of the Apple tree were coming out, those of the Weeping Willow and Lilac had been out many days, and were the first to show themselves.

## FEBRUARY 1786

Friday, 10<sup>th</sup>. This day was remarkably fine and promotive of vegetation. The buds of the lylack were much smelled and seemed ready to unfold.

### Thomas Jefferson in his...

Garden Book (written in longhand) records the planting of Lilacs on April 2, 1767.

In addition to these specific dates there are several other possible dates in the literature including:

### Harriot Keeler:

"Our Northern Shrubs" where she writes "The year that the lilac was brought to America is in doubt, but we know that as early as 1652, it together with the Snowball, was the modest ornament of many a cottage yard.

### Claire Houghton writes:

"...the first substantiated record of the lilac in America was in 1695." Unfortunately, she did not supply the substantiation nor list a source.

### Benning Wentworth:

The first Royal Governor of New Hampshire enlarged his house and the plantings around it in 1750. Since we believe that there have never been any plants other than lilacs around the house, we believe that lilacs were there in 1750.

Anyone knowing of definitive early records such as garden notebooks, diaries or letters that mention specific dates or refer to the lilac cultivation in North America are urged to let the International Lilac Society know of those records. Remember, spelling may vary (lilac, lelac, layoch and lelach, Lylock) since dictionaries were not in general usage to act as arbitrators.

There are actually two centers of origin for the lilac. One, *Syringa vulgaris* has been discussed here. The others (ca 20 species) are native to the Orient (China, Japan and Korea). Some of the lilacs have been cultivated for long periods of time and some even taken on geographical names such as *S. afghanica* and *S. persica* as they moved along the great trade routes anchored in Constantinople on the European end. Most of these oriental species had to wait until the great quests of plant hunters discovered them and brought them into cultivation in European and American gardens in the 1800's and early 1900's but that is a story for another time.

## Why Do We Consider the Lilac to be Unique?

by David Gressley

I'll give a bit of folklore on the lilac which has made it so intimate with human culture.

Alice Moore Earl wrote of a love divination concerning the white flowering lilac floret with five petals. This is called the "luck lilac", meaning the bearer must swallow the flower without choking. If choking occurs, the bearer must shout, "He loves me not!"

The lilac was grown for good luck or good fortune in early Anglo-North America.

It was said if the lilac grows not in the dooryard, then its protecting branches are hung over the doorway .

One of the German common names for the lilac is Hollunder, which may be associated with the goddess Holla, protectress of the household.

Also in Germany, the white lilac flower is said to induce laziness and fatigue; placed next to the bed it induces sleep.

In Persia, the lilac was considered sacred and was used in rooms to cure sickness.

In Devon and Cornwall, the lilac gives beauty all year long if one bathes in lilac.

Here's a strange one: giving a spray of lilacs to one's betrothed indicates the engagement is off and wearing lilacs on May Day will never see the bearer marry.

In Russia, lilacs were associated with the foretelling of death, but its present day popularity refutes that notion.

The Japanese tree lilac was used by the Ainu culture to ward off evil spirits when made into a wooden wand or "Ianos".

The French Catholic missionary Abbe' Evariste Regis Huc gave the story of the "Kumbum" tree around 1845. Tsong-kaba, the miraculous son of Chingtu-Tsio and whose soul later became Buddha was born in Amdo province in 1357 AD. At the age of three he renounced worldly life for the religious life. Chigtu Tsio shaved her son's head in reverence and threw his hair outside the tent. An exquisitely perfumed tree grew on that site with each leaf bearing a character of the sacred Tibetan language. Pilgrimages began and the site became a Lamasery of great fame. It was called "Kounboum", meaning "10,000 images" in Tibetan; and the tree is ascribed to be the Peking tree lilac.

## LILAC LANE PARK HONORS ANIMAL FRIENDS

By Patricia Breakey

Published in "The Daily Star", Oneonta, NY Monday, March 8, 2004

DELHI – Snow still covers the paths in Lilac Lane Pet Memorial Park in Delhi, but the buds on the 80 lilac bushes are showing signs that spring is right around the corner, and the park will soon be visited by pets and their owners.

Emily Marlin of Delhi is the coordinator of Lilac Lane, located on a five-acre lot between the Delaware County Historical Association and the Humane Society of Central Delaware County.

Marlin said she came up with the idea for the park after reading a story in *The Daily Star* about the late Nancy Allen Emerson who was known as Delhi's Lilac Lady. Emerson had a mission to have Delhi known as Lilac Town, because the soil and weather are perfect for lilac trees and bushes.

Marlin said she wanted to develop a place where pet owners can honor their beloved animal friends, both living and deceased.

"Animals are part of our own personal history," Marlin said. "There should be a way to memorialize them."

Marlin's idea was embraced by both DCHA and the Humane Society, and the groups turned to Birgitta Brophy, landscape contracting instructor at the State University College of Technology at Delhi.

One of Brophy's students, Laura Milak, took on the project and designed a plan for a lilac garden with looping trails that would have more than 100 varieties of lilacs, with staggered blooming periods and a variety of colors.

The Lilac Lane committee, which included Marlin, Deb Crute, HSCDC shelter supervisor, and Angela Gaffney, DCHA collections manager, began meeting in the spring of 2000, and Lilac Lane officially opened in 2001.

"We started out on a shoestring with no money at all," Marlin said. "But there was a lot of enthusiasm."

A membership in Lilac Lane is \$100 and includes the planting of a lilac bush, a bronze marker engraved with the pet's name or several pets' names and perpetual care of the park. Membership also includes a standing invitation to a special Memorial Day event celebrating the pets' lives and the owners' love for their pets, Marlin said.

Gaffney said the Memorial Day celebration will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. May 29.

"We meet and greet and people bring their pets," Gaffney said. "There is a display of pictures of the pets and testimonials about how the pets touched their owners' lives."

"We are always welcoming new members," Gaffney added. "If you have a pet you really love, this is a wonderful way to honor them."

Judith Lamb said she became a member to honor the memory of her beloved dog, Lucy.

"We had a fire, and we lost our dog," Lamb said. "It was very traumatic. Then the concept of Lilac Lane happened almost exactly one year later."

"I got a letter in the mail about the park, and I thought it would be a little spiritual thing we could do to commemorate an animal we loved dearly," Lamb said. "The whole concept is so lovely and it ritualizes our love for Lucy."

Lamb said she enjoys the annual get-together on Memorial Day weekend, but she also regularly visits the park with her new dog, Grace, who looks very much like her mixed-breed, Lucy.

Crute said the park gives people a nice way to remember past pets and a way to honor living pets. She added that this is a perfect time to join, because it's the time of year when the lilacs are planted.

Lilac Lane Pet Memorial Park has attracted the attention of pet owners from wide ranging areas including New York City, Pennsylvania and Connecticut. The park has also been lauded by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Marlin said.

"The ASPCA put out a book about unusual projects, and they included Lilac Lane," Marlin said. "It is unusual, partially because it's a memorial park, not a pet cemetery."

Marlin said the original goal was to plant 100 lilacs and she is thrilled that there are now 80 plants, but she added that there is room for expansion, so the park will not fill anytime soon.

"There are three sections, and we are only using the first one so far," Marlin said.

Last year, someone donated a bench in memory of a friend who died and the man's cat, Abigail, which prompted the committee to start a drive to purchase more benches where people can sit and enjoy the surroundings, Marlin said.

For more information, call Marlin at 746-7288.

## *Don't Forget These Friends: More Convention Pictures*



*Irene Stark, Owen Rogers,  
John Thurlow  
photo Bill Horman*

*left to right Marcia Hoepfl and Iris Cannata  
photo Bill Horman*



Mr. Robert Hoepfl  
President, ILS  
24 Vince Drive, Rochester, NY 14606

Dear Bob and Marcia,

Well here we are, past Mid April and our lilacs are on the way out. Perhaps 80% have been deadheaded already. Again our champion caregivers kept their routine to make the show very presentable. This year was the best after 2002. We still get compliments from the convention two years ago and keep talking about how lucky we were with our celebration. At the seminar this year, Dr. Waines from UC Riverside had a very challenging program and showed things to come in the future of lilacdom.

Up to a month ago I was still entertaining the idea to join you in Nebraska for this year's ILS convention. But somehow time went by so fast and I feel like out-talked and tired. Unfortunately Joyce Kjarsgaard and Bonnie Compeau have personal conflicting dates which means passing the convention. Since there is always a plant sale connected with our seminar, the gala again made a very special effort and turned in over \$10,000 after 2 days and sold every available plant.

Reva, who originally was all fired up to join you, has her own personal problems to solve, one of them is selling her crown jewel place in the mountains. Unbelievable, what she thought would be a six month plus deal was gone in less than 2 months. I promised Max Peterson a long time ago that I'd like to see his lilacs some day, but I can't do it this year.

I want to thank you for your continuous service to the ILS and wish all a happy and successful event sending greetings to all.

Sincerely,

Rudy Schaffer  
800 W. Comm.Coll Dr #348  
San Jacinto, CA 92583-7348

## EDITOR'S REPORT

By Owen M. Rogers

May 2004

There have been four issues (Vol. 32, No's 3 and 4 and Vol. 33, No's 1 and 2) of *Lilacs* published since the last report to the Board. They have averaged just over 28 pages in length. There have been three ads. We ran into some proof reading problems especially in the Fall 2003 issue, but believe that these problems have been addressed and resolved. The editor would appreciate comments on the quality of the spring issue especially noting proof reading, typos (I found one but won't tell you where) and diacritical marks.

It is also time to suggest to the Board that they find a new Editor. The Society needs a person who can take advantage of the electronic tools and up to date procedures, which would improve the quality and timely publication of the Journal. We are not in a crisis situation but the Editor feels the need to ask the Board to find a new Editor as soon as convenient. The present Editor is willing to stay on in the interim if it is not too long. If an overlap would make the idea of taking over the Editor's position easier, the present Editor would be willing to consider whatever plan would be most helpful.

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*Frank, Sara, Corinna, Cameo, Jordan, Riccardo,  
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Owen M. Rogers, Plant Biology Dept.

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4. Central .....	Irene Stark	8a. S.W. Mts.....	Bradley Bittorf		

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Dr. Owen M. Rogers

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*From nationally known photographer Chris Kogut*

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