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IN THIS ISSUE:

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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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A NEW DAWN.

Colin Chapman

In a recent letter, Nicole Jordan observed that the activities on her patch as Regional Vice President had led her to believe that a lilac "Renaissance" was stirring. The French word "Renaissance" means a rebirth of learning - that is a period of enlightenment following the ignorance of dark ages, My own observation of what is happening in the United Kingdom, together with a reported increase in interest stimulated by ILS members of the Moscow Flower Club, all confirm that Nicole is correct in her observation. The lilac is coming out of years of obscurity and is demanding to be noticed and given its appropriate place in the scheme of things.

That obscurity has been partly of our own making. I came into this Society in 1990 as a consequence of reading Fr Fiala's book. I immediately became infected with the throbbing excitement which that book created at the time. It was an excitement that grew with each and every revelation. First came the Fenicchia cultivars and then the subsequent development of the "Rochester Strain". Then there was the first general awareness of the existence of the cultivars of the former Soviet Union and also of continental North America. There was one other thing too. Through his photographs, Charles Holetich taught us a new way of looking at lilacs: not from afar as previously but very close-up and straight into the eye of the floret. When I first held my own copy of that book it fell open at the colour plate of 'Frank Paterson'. From that moment on, the course of my life changed as I became first, a member, and then an active worker on the behalf of this Society. It is indeed appropriate that the scion of 'Frank Paterson', which I acquired from the personal garden of Charles Holetich, should have been the absolute star of this season's display.

At my first Convention in 1991, at Lombard Illinois, I found myself associating with giants. The first member of the Society I met was the then treasurer Walter Eickhorst. I arrived a day early so Walter came to greet the new overseas member and he took me for lunch - to the West Chicago Golf Club where I recall that I enjoyed the views over that magnificent landscape and also dining on roast marlin for the first time in my life. He then took me to the Morton Arboretum where I saw, at last, both 'Krasavitsa Moskvy' and 'Znamya Lenina' and this first sight of them induced a tear to roll down my cheek. He then showed me the stand of Japanese Tree Lilacs that Mr. Morton himself rescued from collector Joseph Rock, who had run into financial difficulties, and tears rolled down my cheeks again.

I did indeed associate with legends that weekend. In particular, there was the late Mark Eaton who put into production the Havemeyer lilacs and so preserved them for us. One evening I sat at his knee beside his wheelchair and absorbed every memory I could extract from him for more than an hour. At the same meeting I also, fatefully, met Charles Holetich who is responsible for everything I have done or achieved for the Society ever since,

Yet those heady days did not last and a time came when we seemed to have lost our way. The energy of the Society appeared to settle to a cosy complacency rather than promoting vigorously the virtues of our glorious shrub with its rich history and tradition of poetic literature. For a while I felt ashamed at what the Society was offering its members and I lost the incentive to go on recruiting in Europe.

Then, suddenly, two new members from Moscow came into my life to remind me of my old ideals. They had just acquired Fr Fiala's book and they socked me right in the face with all the energy, imagination and enthusiasm that I used to have. Working with them, and their colleagues and friends, gave me a new vitality and also a deep respect for the values and generosity of the Russian people. They helped me to continue and extend the joint work of Charles Holetich and Nikolai L Mikhailov in exchanging cultivars. They set my feet a-dancing again.

So when Nicole greeted her "Renaissance" I had to agree but, as I have said, I saw it more as a "New Dawn" rising and breaking all around me. In 1994, I wrote an article called "The Lilac Revolution" for the Royal Horticultural Society. This captured some curious attention at the time and it did enable me to maintain a continuous trickle of articles as well as giving talks and demonstrations.

Then, this year, the dam of interest burst and overflowed and the lilac became hot property. In the last few weeks five major articles have appeared in the British printed media. Two of them had nothing to do with me other than that I had created the need for them to be written, and both cited Norman's Farm as the place to see lilacs in flower. In May came my second article for the Royal Horticulturtal Society Journal and there was also a feature on this collection in "Garden Life" magazine. The latter had a double page picture through the collection that was so stunning I am now receiving fanmail as a result. I also made the leap from the gardening press to the national broadsheets when there appeared, in our foremost newspaper "The Times", a full column about me and the collection. Then, in May, a production team from the BBC spent the day filming for a feature for their brand leading programme "Gardener's World" to be shown at the start of the lilac season next year. Finally, I had a photograph of *Syringa pinnatifolia* published in the June edition of the RHS specialist journal "The Plantsman".

On top of all that came important news from Moscow. Tatiana and Irena sent me a package of no less than eight glossy magazines, each one containing an article by them or other members of the Moscow Chapter of ILS. They were dated from August 2004 to May 2005. I have also received a short article from Dr Elena Lyakh which I will work on and publish soon. So, the Novwy Zarya (New Dawn) is breaking over Russia and I will have an awful lot of translating to do during the winter months.

There is also a groundswell from the general membership. Frank Moro deserves congratulations on the recent publication, in French, of the book on lilacs he has co-authored. English member Chris Lane is to be congratulated too for the publication by Timber Press of his book "Witch Hazels" (*Hamamelis).* Recent letters from Bonnie Culp and Linda Blackman telling of their open day for visitors to the lilac walk along the Fraser River through their combined gardens made me want to be there rooting for them. The delightful recent article by Gail and Gene Fox had me chuckling as I recognised the same chores and habits at their farm that we share here. I also had a letter forwarded to me by Bill Tshumi from member Vera Ward who said
"I love the ILS Journal and hope those two Moscow ladies who turned their potato patch into a lilac garden will write a LOT MORE".
Thanks Vera, for appreciating the spread of the international dimension of this Society. I can think of no better comment to leave as final confirmation that Nicole's renaissance is now with us.

We now have a new Board of Directors with new ideas and fresh energy. After this edition we will have a new editor to lead us towards a more colourful Journal. We are beginning to move forward, but never forget that going forward costs. The new editor will need the support of you the members. We need you to write for the Journal - the Polar Bear showed you how to write a letter to the editor - but if you cannot write then please encourage the people who do. Above all, we need you to recruit. To be able to afford the technology that we need to use, we will have to double our membership. We can do it. After several comatose years the lilac's star is ascending. Nicole says it, Tatiana and Irena say it, Frank Moro says it, some active members say it, and I say it. Go with it if you dare, and ride with us towards the new dawn of fragrance, elegant beauty and wondrous romance.

Colin Chapman
Norman's Farm
Wyverstone
June 19th 2005.
lilacprez@hotmail.com

Mabel Harkness

Mabel Olney Harkness, 92, of Geneva, N.Y., died Saturday, April 23, 2005 at her home. She was born January 20, 1913 in Oil City, Pennsylvania, the daughter of Charles Wilcox Gleason, a petroleum engineer and Mabel (Fulton) Gleason, a schoolteacher.

Mabel graduated from the University of Rochester in 1935 with a major in Biology. In the 1940's she received training in Library Science at the University, and in 1962 received a master's degree in Canadian-American History from the University. She was librarian at Stromberg-Carlson Company from 1942-1951, with the Monroe County bookmobile 1952-1953, and the library of the Rochester Civic Garden Center 1953-1967. She was predeceased by her first husband, Benjamin Olney, an acoustical engineer with Stromberg-Carlson, who died in 1963, and her second husband, Bernard E. Harkness, a taxonomist with the Monroe County Parks Department, who died in 1980. With Mr. Harkness' retirement in 1967, they moved to Pre-Emption Road, Geneva, and the beautiful cobblestone home with its gardens, which meant so much to both of them. In 1986 and again in 1993, she published updated editions of the *Seedlist Handbook*, which had originally been published by her husband. It won an award from the American Rock Garden Society, one of many organizations of which she was a member, including the International Lilac Society.

She is survived by many cousins, and many friends gathered over a long and active life. Her funeral was held on Wednesday, April 27, 2005 at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Penn Yan. Burial was at Bellona Cemetery.

COVERS

Front Cover
Hulda Klager's Lilac Garden, Woodland, Washington

Back Cover
Group Picture, taken at Quincy, Massachusetts, 2005 Convention

NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE

The next issue deadline will be September 8, 2005. This will be the first issue edited by Tory Woodruff, so be sure to send your news items and/or other contributions for use in that issue.

2006 CONVENTION DATES

The International Lilac Convention will be held April 20-23, 2006 in Woodland, Washington and Portland, Oregon

TIPS FOR BEGINNERS

Question: When I try to take a picture of a lilac (especially the lavender-magenta group) the color never seems to match the live flower color. How do I get true-to-life colors when I take color pictures of lilacs?

Answer: This is a common problem when the flower contains a mixture of blue and red. The same thing happens when you try to take a picture of *Ageratum*. A few years ago, Charles Holetich, then of the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton, Canada, set up this regime to get true colors that could be compared with other lilac flower pictures (see his Guideline on page 68). If this requires too much set up for your situation, try taking pictures out of direct sunlight - e.g., in early morning or in a light mist or rain.

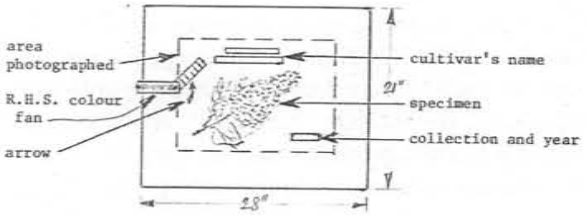
GUIDELINE FOR LILAC PHOTOGRAPHY

By Charles Holetich

1. Construct an easel (photography board) approximately 21" x 28" with a facing to which specimens can be pinned. (e.g. cork board).

2. Cover the easel with a non-reflecting cloth. (I used 2 layers of dark coloured burlap).

3. Prepare labels indicating:



4. Cut flower cluster with a few buds unopened at the tip, and central portion of the cluster open. In many cases several florets at the base of the cluster may be faded.

5. Find corresponding colour of the cluster on the R. H. S. colour chart, pin it to the board with an arrow pointing to the particular block on the colour chart.

6. Use Kodacrome II film (25 ASA) so that colour rendition is uniform from all contributors.

7. Place the camera on a tripod 24" x 30" away from subject on a sunny day. Limit photography to shutter speed 1/15 to 1/60 sec. and F10 to F16. This will give the necessary depth of field and good colour repro duction on Kodacrome II.

8. Focus on 1/3 of the cluster depth as the available depth of field is 2/3 beyond and 1/3 in front of focal point.

9. Develop film in a Kodak laboratory only.

10. Inform I.L.S. Editor about slides available for evaluation and compari son with slides taken at other collection.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

EDITOR'S REPORT

Dr. Owen M. Rogers
June 2005

There have been four issues of ***Lilacs*** (Vol. 33, No's 3, and 4; and Vol. 34, No's 1 and 2) published since the last report to the Board. They have averaged just over 28 pages in length and have included four ads.

We still haven't found a new Editor. This is important since the Society needs a person who can take advantage of the electronic tools and up-to-date printing procedures that are available. Maybe I shouldn't have mentioned our need since it might scare off a perfectly good candidate because of lack of computer or editorial experience. To this I say, "*Nay. Nay.*" We have people who can help a new person and if an overlap would spark the idea, we can supply that also. If an overlap would make the idea look easier, the present Editor would be willing to consider whatever plan would be most helpful during the transition.

I am also conducting a small survey as to whether the members of the Society would like to have their e-mail addresses published. If you like the idea of having yours listed, please let your Editor know. Also, if you don't want yours on the list, let me know and it won't be. I'm sure there will be a discussion of this at the convention in Boston.

We have also run out of some publications and are trying to access the need for reprinting.

1. Membership pamphlet
2. Lilac Study by Joseph Dvorak, Jr. John L. Fiala was the original editor (1978) and Owen M. Rogers, the editor of the second printing (1992).
3. *Lilacs: Plants of History - Plants for Tomorrow* originally published in 1995 by John Alexander III and Nan Sinton. Currently being revised.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer – James Hastings

KeyBank Checking Account Balance April 1, 2005			$4,004.79
KeyBank Certificate of Deposit 0.99%			$6,046.87
Edward Jones Co. Investments:			
Corp Bond Bear Stearns Co., 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 Fed Nat. Mortgage Assn 5.25%			41,000.00
Total Funds Available			69,051.66
Funds Held in SPECIAL ACCOUNTS 4/1/05			52,194.01
Total Funds in GENERAL ACCOUNT 4/1/05			16,857.65
Funds held in SPECIAL ACCOUNTS 4/1/05			
Life Member/Endowment Fund			
Brought forward 4/1/04			27,570.21
L.M. 4/1/04 = 132 + 4 = 136	4/1/05	1,000.00	
Miscellaneous contributions	4/1/05	290.00	
Credit	4/1/05	1,290.00	1,290.00
			$28,860.21
Plant Propagation Fund (Laurene Wishart)			
4/1/04 = $1,208.80 + Int. $51.37		$1,260.17	1,260.17
Education and Research			
4/1/04 = $6,416.79 + Int. $272.71		6,689.50	6,689.50
Publications (other than Journal)			
4/1/04 = $787.11 + int. 33.45		820.56	820.56
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 4/1/04		4,978.57	
Interest Credit	4/1/05	425.00	
Funds Available	4/1/05	5,403.57	
Debits 4/1/04 – 4/1/05			
Vol. 33 No 2	$220.00		
Vol. 33 No 3	220.00		
Vol. 33 No 4	200.00		
Vol. 34 No 1	200.00		
	$840.00	840.00	
Balance in Fund 4/1/05		$4,563.57	$4,563.57
Total Funds in SPECIAL ACCTS	4/1/05		$52,194.01
Total Funds in GENERAL ACCTS	4/1/05		16,857.65
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE			$69,051.66

Prepared April 1, 2005 by James P. Hastings, Treasurer

*Not complete per By-Laws until the European financial report is received by Board Treas.

INTERNATIONAL LILAC SOCIETY
Treasurer's Report May 12-14, 2005

Comparing 2005 (4/1/2005) with 2004 and 2003

CREDITS	2005	2004	2003
DUES	$5,348.48	$5,098.32	$5,193.31
LIFE MEMBERSHIP/ENDOW.	1,000.00	250.00	1,250.00
CONTRIBUTIONS	290.00	405.00	180.00
ADVERTISING	155.40	40.00	0.00
PUBLICATIONS	10.00	0.00	81.50
AUCTION	2,587.00	2,438.44	2,777.00
CONFERENCE	2,220.97	274.54	5,286.87
INTEREST	2,948.01	1,990.17	3,102.13
LILAC SALES	603.46	1,060.70	0.00
ROYAL BOTANICAL GARDEN	876.00	N/A	N/A
TOTAL CREDITS	16,039.32	11,557.17	17,870.81
DEBITS	**2005**	**2004**	**2003**
MISCELLANEOUS	$5,020.00***	$3,025.00**	$7,166.00*
OFFICE SUPPLIES	65.50	32.97	74.37
JOURNAL	4,950.37	4,192.23	4,361.00
BANK FEES	102.14	70.42	55.05
POSTAGE/SHIPPING	1,479.28	1,170.51	1,299.23
COLOR PHOTO	840.00	750.53	832.36
AWARDS	412.16	617.42	540.48
CONFERENCE	3,150.00	35.00	1,783.68

DEBITS	2005	2004	2003
TYPING/FAX	152.00	129.25	144.75
PRINTING (other than Journal)	0.00	0.00	1,323.00
WEB SITE	155.40	235.00	248.50
LILAC SALES EXPENSE	744.20	259.50	N/A
TOTAL DEBITS	17,071.05	10,517.83	17,828.42

* Includes $1,500 donation to Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University and investments with Edward Jones Co. & KeyBank

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

*** Includes investments with KeyBank

Prepared April 1, 2005 by James P. Hastings, Treasurer

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

As of the 11th of May, 2005, International Lilac Society has 396 member ships. I reported a total of 390 for 2004, 465 for 2003 and 409 member ships in 2002.

ILS members fall in the following categories: 269 annual memberships, 112 lifetime members, 11 complimentary memberships and 4 honorary memberships.

Geographical representation of ILS membership in 2005 is as follows: ILS presently has 326 U.S. members, 25 Canadian members, 39 European members and 6 Asian members.

Submitted 11 May 2005
Dave Gressley
Membership Secretary

NEWS FLASH

-from Freek Vrugtman

Here is the latest news from Moscow, Russia:

"This year's blooming was absolutely magnificent. It is almost over in Moscow and on its peak in gardens outside the city.
Best regards, Tatiana & Irena"

RECORDING SECRETARY REPORT

I was not present during the 2004 meeting so I did not capture notes. During the subsequent year I communicated with President Chapman, who was in possession of audio recordings of the 2004 meeting. Due to difficulties with transferring said material from England, he elected to transcribe 2004 notes himself.

I expect to be present for the 2005 meeting and I will record notes on my computer and distribute them expediently. It may be possible to provide an electronic copy of meeting minutes to those who request them immediately after the meeting. (Bring a blank CD or "Memory Stick"/"thumb drive"/ "jump drive"/"USB drive" if you would like to get one.)

Early during 2005 (January?), I received a request to share the *ILS By-Laws* and *Rules for Officers* with all officers. I sent e-mail to officers asking them whether they preferred paper or electronic copies of said documents and dispersed them accordingly. I plan to bring extra copies of each to the meeting.

Electronic copies of the *ILS By-Laws* and *Rules for Officers* should be made available on an ILS web site. I will provide copies to the webmaster at any time.

On behalf of ILS, I have been coordinating with the Chamber of Commerce and others on Mackinac Island, Michigan. ILS has continued to have a presence at the Mackinac Island Lilac festival, largely due to Bruce Peart. Because Bruce cannot attend this year, and because I have assisted in these presentations several past years, I have been helping to ensure that ILS will be able to continue to present seminars and "lilac walks" during the 2005 festival. Jeff Young has generously agreed to provide ILS seminars this year and he is to be commended for his help and genuine concern for the continued sustenance of the Mackinac Island lilacs. I may be assisting him during peak festival days in mid-June.

Brad Bittorf
ILS Recording Secretary

ED. NOTE: The Board meeting minutes and the annual meeting minutes are complete. Contact Brad if you'd like a copy by e-mail, or paper copy if you do not have e-mail access.

NEWS FLASH

-from Freek Vrugtman

...and from Finland...

"Just to continue the "Lilacs in bloom" information sequence started by Bruce: Today's news is that the *Syringa vulgaris* is beginning its flowering season in southern Finland"

REGIONAL REPORTS

NORTHWEST REGION

By MarvaLee Peterschick

With no winter to speak of in the Northwest, and also no moisture of any kind, the spring blooming season was headed for a record early date; however, along came April, cold weather moved in and mother nature slowed down. Although we certainly are not out of the drought situation, it has improved slightly. Soil profiles are still lacking plenty of moisture. The Northwest region covers a large and diverse area with many contrasts: inland areas of states are zone 4-5 with coast areas being 6-7 and higher.

It is an exciting time for Spokane Lilac Society with the introduction of the new lilac 'Spokane'. Briggs Wholesale Nursery in Olympia who did the tissue culture on the new lilacs shipped over 700 small plants in liners on April 11th. Who would have thought this project would take twelve years!!

The mayor of Spokane was presented with a special certificate for one 'Spokane' lilac on his birthday, March 28. We are hoping he makes his appearance and helps with the grand introduction at our sales. He has been informed about a the new cultivar representing the lilac city.

Two 'Spokane' lilacs have been donated for the 2005 ILS convention auction and sent to Syringa Plus. We also donated two lilacs 'Spokane' for the lilac festival fund raising auction.

Other news from our region includes news from Hulda Klager Lilac Gardens at Woodland, WA. Fran Northcut reports she looks forward to the ILS convention in Boston, and hosting the 2006 convention. Although they have 90 members who support the Hulda Klager Lilac Society, many are unable to volunteer, so they depend on community members during their "Lilac Days" - official opening is April 16th. Of great concern to many in the Pacific Northwest, the lilacs have experienced some problems. Fran explains they are still losing lilacs in their new display beds from unknown causes. They have a microbiologist and arborist who are working to solve the problems. Other lilac collections have also been experiencing problems in Washington State

Idaho State Federation of Garden Clubs has again made a sizeable donation of $500 to the European Lilac collection at the University of Idaho Arboretum & Botanical Garden in Moscow, Idaho. This was the same group who originally funded the lilac collection. Paul Warnick, the arboretum horticulturist has ordered more lilacs, strengthening the number of dark purples as this class of colors seems to catch the greatest interest. (Amen to that statement about dark purples - every plant sale seems to run short of them.)

Walla Walla, Washington has a most generous lilac couple, ILS members Charles & Connie Sherer. They have again donated potted lilacs to Spokane Lilac Society members. The Sherers take great pride in labeling and keeping their collection with proper botanical names. They grow other beautiful horticulture also - many bulbs, etc.

Our Northwest members look the International Lilac Society's publication, "*Lilacs, Quarterly Journal*" for guidance and leadership. It was exciting to read about the new cultivar *Syringa reticulate pekinensis* 'Jin Yuan' from China. Let's ask our local nurseries if they can supply it for us. Only be belonging to ILS would we know about it first!

If you want your local nursery to carry the new cultivar 'Spokane', then they should get in touch with Briggs Nursery, www.briggsnursery.com. Lynn Canton, their specialist in tissue culture did a great job with 'Spokane' and she will continue to grow it if demand is there. Another outstanding lilac available through Briggs is 'Wonderblue'. It is one of John L. Fiala's. The plant is considered a dwarf, grows slowly to about 4-5 ft in 10 years. It was originally released to a few nurseries as 'Little Boy Blue' but registered in 1988 as 'Wonderblue,' Classified Single Class III-blue.

I recently acquired a small booklet titled "*Lilacs for America*" report of 1953 Lilac Survey Committee of the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboretums, dated October 1953. It was published for the Association by Arthur Hoyt Scott Horticultural Foundation, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania. The President of the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboretums, which was founded in September 1940, was Brian O. Mulligan, Director of the University of Washington Arboretum, Seattle, Washington. It would be interesting to know how many copies of this book exist in ILS membership.

If members visit Spokane, Washington, during May, they should also visit the Manito Park Lilac Garden, especially the new extension located west of the lilac garden and towards the Japanese Garden. it encompasses basalt rock outcroppings along with natural grasses and wildflowers plus large ponderosa pine. Thirty - to forty lilacs are now planted in the area. They are on a drip water system. Gravel paths have lilacs planted on both sides and provide easy walking throughout the area. Some bloom will be evident this season with more to come as the lilacs grow and mature into full fledged beauties. One gigantic rock bench has been added (don't plan to sit on this baby too long) which fits nicely with the landscape. Project chairperson Geri Odell has worked tirelessly to see results.

In 2006 when ILS members are in the Portland area for convention, you might want to schedule a visit to Microplant Nurseries, Inc. It is located south of Portland at 11888 Treco Lane, Gervais, Oregon 97026. Call ahead at 503-792-3696. They will be happy to show you their facilities. They have around 35 different varieties of lilacs, in rooted plantlets or microcuttings. They will grow special new items, exclusively on a contract basis.

While visiting Northwest Flower & Garden Show in Seattle during February, we visited the booth of Rosebriar Nursery from Maple Valley, Washington. The owner had selected several fragrant and romantic varieties of lilac starts for sale. She talked at great length about 'Bridal Memories.' Not being familiar with it, I immediately did some research on it in my bible, *International Register of Cultivar Names in the Genus Syringa L.* by Freek Vrugtman and sure enough, it was listed. It should be great with parents of 'Rochester' and 'Vestale' - two outstanding whites.

I hope some of our Northwest members get a chance to visit Boston and attend 2005 convention. It would be wonderful to visit again. We were there in 1992 at ILS convention, but not to be for us this year. Wishing everyone a wonderful lilac season and looking forward to being with you all next spring.

MarvaLee Peterschick
April, 2005

CENTRAL REGIONAL

By Irene Stark

We had an average winter without any extremes in either temperature or snowfall. The bluebirds, orioles and other birds have returned and are building their nests. Four little squirrels have come out of their house and are learning to climb the trees on legs that are wobbly at first. Four baby rabbits are running around way behind our property. They have not come by the garden because the green beans and other vegetables have not been planted. The last few nights the temperature has been as low as 23 degrees and last weekend we had snow - it must be Spring!

A few weeks ago we returned to Bill Horman's Sunny Fields near Emmett, Michigan. Unlike our visit in 2002, we did not go to see his large lilac collection or the many flowering crabapple trees, we returned to see thousands of colorful, fragrant narcissus, as well as so many rare trees, shrubs and ornamentals. Bill's Botanical Park is truly a labor of love for the land and the environment.

The 3rd Eureka Lilac Festival and Fine Arts Faire was held April 29-30 at Eureka, Illinois. I hope the lilacs as well as the weather cooperated to insure that the wonderful fragrance and beauty of lilacs was enjoyed by a very large crowd.

Since 1949 Mackinac Island has celebrated the arrival of summer by holding a Lilac Festival in June. This year's lilac celebration will be held June 10-19. The International Lilac Society has donated over 100 lilacs to the Island. Brad Bittorf has graciously accepted their invitation to speak at the Festival and will also assist in organizing events. If any others would like to speak on behalf of the ILS just notify Mary McGuire Slevin of the Mackinac Island Tourism Bureau at 1-800-4-LILACS.

Irene Stark
May 3, 2005

SOUTHERN U.S.A.

By Nicole Jordan

The membership in Region 3 is very low. Only 19 members in the region including myself. We have seven life members and two complimentary members. I have sent to every member the schedule of the 2005 ILS Convention along with the registration form and a letter inviting everyone to attend. I received one response. The person has a conflict and cannot attend but she was pleased to have received the information. Last year I spoke to a member from western Virginia. She and her husband had attended the convention. I contacted them recently and they are going to attend the 2005 ILS Convention in Boston.

The members in my region are dispersed. Five members live in Florida. last year I suggested that we get e-mail addresses or phone numbers to facilitate communication. I hope the Board will resolve the issue this year.

Nicole Jordan
April 2005

WESTERN CANADA

By Roger Wood

Yes, I stay on as Western Canada Vice President, unless someone else wants the job.

The bloody DEER have done a real good job on me this year...I don't think there are blooms on 10 lilacs out of 86!!!

There's Queen Elizabeth Park in Vancouver B.C. to see, as well as the gardens out at U. B. C. The Van Dusen Gardens, Fandesy Gardens of which the owner is an old member of ours, Bill Van Der Zam. The Buchard Garden on Vancouver Island. That's all I can think of right now. Have a good summer.

Roger Wood
May, 2005

U. S. MOUNTAIN REGION

By Brad Bittorf

During 2004-2005 I answered several inquiries that were forwarded to me regarding care of lilacs in Arizona. It is unknown whether this resulted in any additional ILS memberships. Additional photographs of Arizona lilacs in bloom were taken and saved. Ultimately these will be available to ILS for whatever uses will benefit the Society.

Freek Vrugtman inquired about noteworthy lilac gardens and displays as part of update of the book *Lilacs: The Genus Syringa*. I provided responses to this inquiry based on personal knowledge. Unfortunately no gardens within the U.S. Mountain Region were cited. However, several western gardens were nominated. I also provided a possible lead for the lilac collection at the Audubon Society offices near Santa Fe, New Mexico. Mr. Vrugtman has written to them for additional information about their collection.

On behalf of our region I wrote a letter to an overseeing commission in Ontario in support of Royal Botanical Gardens. RBG's influence reaches far beyond Ontario and this was the point of my letter.

We continue to seek out lilac collections and specimens in the U.S. Mountain Region and monitor their development and health.

Brad Bittorf
April, 2005

INTERNATIONAL LILAC SOCIETY AWARD CRITERIA

Honor and Achievement:

Highest award given by the Society; given only for outstanding work, dedication and service to promoting the lilac or the Society. To be considered for the award the individual's contributions must be truly outstanding and of benefit to the whole Society. It is awarded only to individuals and not to institutions, given only once to an individual and need not be presented annually.

Directors' Award:

Awarded by the Society only to those engaged in the improvement of the lilac through hybridization, scientific selection or selective research to improve the quality of the flower of the lilac plant. It is intended as an award for outstanding work with the lilac. It is to be considered as the highest scientific horticultural award given by the Society.

President's Award:

Awarded to the arboretum, public or private park or garden for outstanding collections and public display of the lilacs, work with promoting the growing and landscape uses of the lilac, outstanding landscaping with lilacs or major research with lilacs. It is an institutional or park-garden award. Its purpose is to encourage the planting of lilacs for public display and education. It is not intended for strictly private gardens [no matter how great their excellence].

Arch McKean Award:

For publicizing the lilac and promoting the International Lilac Society. This award need not be given each year.

Award of Merit:

Given to an individual or institution, public or private, for outstanding contributions in promoting, growing, researching or working with the lilac or the Society. It is intended to be given regionally as an "International Recognition for work over and above the average" - for outstanding promotion, for public education, for scientific research work or for horticultural excellence. A recipient may receive this award only once for the same work [but more than once for several contributions of equal merit].

Distinguished Recognition Award:

Given at the discretion of the Society to recognize an outstanding act or contribution to the International Lilac Society.

I.L.S. AWARDS 2005

DISTINGUISHED RECOGNITION AWARD
Presented to

ALISON BROWN
For your energy and enthusiasm when managing the ILS booth at the Maine Flower Show. For writing interesting articles for the Quarterly Journal and for setting up and managing the Registrar's Lilac Inventory Database since 1998.

PRESIDENT'S AWARD
Presented to

CEES VAN DAM
Chef de cultures
Historic Garden Aalsmeer, The Netherlands
For your dedication in assembling a collection of lilac cultivars grown for forcing in the greenhouses in Aalsmeer for the past 120 years. For interpreting the history of the horticultural industry of the region, and for your role in the rejuvenation of the Aalsmeer "Seringenpark" the primary lilac collection in The Netherlands.

DISTINGUISHED RECOGNITION AWARD
Presented to

IRENE STARK
For beautifying the community of Ludington MI by promoting plantings and keeping fresh lilac bouquets in public places. For publishing an ILS newsletter for the Central Region. For your spirited keen enthusiasm as an ILS member, Central Region Vice-President, Board member and all-around goodwill ambassador.

Photo Credit: Irene Stark

PRESIDENT'S AWARD
Presented to

ARNOLD ARBORETUM HARVARD UNIVERSITY
For the continued research, development and introduction of plant species, especially lilacs and for the cutting-edge research into lilac DNA. For hosting the 2005 ILS Convention.

Photo Credit: Irene Stark

HONOR AND ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
Presented to

JOHN ALEXANDER III
In recognition of your faithful service to the International Lilac Society. For serving on the Board of Directors, authoring scientific articles and publications on lilacs. For coordinating Lilac propagation and research programs at the Arnold Arboretum and thus improving the Lilac collection and for serving as co-chairman of the 34th annual Convention.

Photo Credit: Irene Stark

AWARD OF MERIT
Presented to

STEPHEN SCHNEIDER
For his devotion to the maintenance and improvement of the Arnold Arboretum and it's Horticultural collections especially the renowned Lilacs, and for serving as co-chairman of the 34th annual convention.

Photo Credit: Irene Stark

AWARD OF MERIT
Presented to

SYRINGA PLUS NURSERY
For a truly outstanding love and devotion in promoting the Lilac and for searching out new and outstanding Lilac cultivars. For promoting the Lilac and the ILS in lectures and publicity and in making newer Lilacs available to the general public.


Photo Credit: Irene Stark

AWARD OF MERIT
Presented to

BENJAMIN MICHAEL GOLDMAN-HUERTAS
For extensive research into Lilac DNA and for presenting an informative report 'Update on the Lilac's Family Tree at the May 2005 annual convention


Photo Credit: Irene Stark

AWARD OF MERIT
Presented to

NINA THEIS
For your interesting and informative presentation on the floral scent; produced by species within a genus, and the resulting comparisons and patterns.


Photo Credit: Irene Stark

AWARD OF MERIT
Presented to

JOHN THURLOW
For your enthusiasm in growing and promoting lilacs. For sharing your nursery techniques with the ILS, on the occasion of the 34th annual convention.


Photo Credit: Irene Stark

AWARD OF MERIT
Presented to

KING'S TREE FARM AND NURSERY
For a unique display of mature Lilac cultivars in a garden setting, and for sharing your love of Lilacs with the ILS on the occasion of the 34th annual convention.


Photo Credit: Bob Hoepfl

AWARD OF MERIT
Presented to

JAMES GORMAN
For presenting an informative and interesting talk n Frederick Law Olmstead and his unique design of Boston's Emerald Necklace

AWARD OF MERIT
Presented to

NEWBURY PERENNIAL GARDENS
For allowing ILS to experience your unique and beautiful gardens and hosting our annual meeting. Our visit definitely complimented the trip to the Boston area.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following officers were elected on the last day of the convention:

President	Colin Chapman
Executive Vice President	Bradley Bittorf
Editor	Victoria Woodruff
Treasurer	James Hastings
Assistant Treasurer	William Tschumi
Recording Secretary	

All of the Regional Vice Presidents were reelected, and the President was authorized to appoint people to vacant positions.

REFLECTIONS ON THE 2005 ANNUAL MEETING

American Cork Tree (175 years old) ILS Members in front of Adams Home & Library
Photo Credit:W. Horman

At Syringa Plus Nursery
Photo Credit: W. Horman

REFLECTIONS ON THE 2005 ANNUAL MEETING

John Thurlow
Photo Credit: I. Stark

Irene Stark
Photo Credit: W. Horman

Ellen Thurlow & Peter Ely
Photo Credit: W. Horman

Dr. Nina Theis
Photo Credit: W. Horman

Guy Guinta of the N.H. Lilacs Commission
Photo Credit: I. Stark

Auction Tally Crew
Photo Credit: W. Horman

Bill & Shirley Tshumi, Ann & John Carvill
Elaine St. Peirre at the Adams Home Site
Photo Credit: W. Horman

Eric Weitzel & J. Alexander
Photo Credit:W. Horman

Alexander & Schneider
Photo Credit: W. Horman

REFLECTIONS ON THE 2005 ANNUAL MEETING

The Syringa Tribute to Walter Oakes
Photo Credit: W. Horman

Lilac Wreath at Syringa Plus
Photo Credit: B. Bittorf

J. Alexander
Photo Credit: W. Horman

Speaker from New Hampshire State Lilac Commission Guy Guinta
Photo Credit: B. Bittorf

Steve Schneider addresses ILS at President's Dinner
Photo Credit: B. Bittorf

Warren Oakes
Photo Credit: I. Stark

Benjamin Goldman-Huertas Presents to ILS
Photo Credit: B. Bittorf

Peter Ely
Photo Credit: W. Horman

Nicole Jordan, David Gressley Mary Lizott, Elaine St. Peirre
Photo Credit: W. Horman

2006 CONVENTION DATES

Mark your calendar for the International Lilac Convention. It will be held April 20-23, 2006 in Woodland, Washington and Portland Oregon!

THE SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOUR OF HIGHLAND PARK-2005

Every year at lilac time, people enjoy walking through the 20 acre lilac collection of Highland Botanical Park. With about 1250 shrubs repre senting 550 varieties, there is a huge number of *Syringa* to see and compare to each other. A tour spotlighting different flower forms and species is an excellent way to get people more interested in looking for differences between the many cultivars, and closely examining the blooms.

In 1989, a crew of summer youth leveled a walkable path on the south-facing slope that meanders its way through the *Syringa* collection. Along this trail are 20 featured lilacs; each one marked by a large numbered post with an interpretive label describing the lilac and its history. The Lilac Festival Guide also includes the map and descriptions of the tour. The 20 lilacs featured represent a variety of bloom types, colors, species, and growth habits.

The following descriptions are the lilacs found on this year's Highland Park Self-Guided Walking Tour:

#1 *Syringa vulgaris* 'Jessie Gardner': This lilac is one of the finest examples in the violet color class. When the blossoms are viewed in the subdued early morning light, the color appears especially vibrant. A vigorous grower, it responds well to rejuvenation.

#2 *Syringa × hyacinthiflora* 'Nokomis': This lilac is an early hybrid, developed by Frank Skinner of Canada, who specialized in early varieties. It has single, lilac colored blossoms which appear on a uniform, rounded shrub.

#3 *Syringa × prestoniae* 'Handel': Although Frank Skinner specialized in early hybrids, this variety is an excellent late blooming type developed by Skinner. It blooms about 10 days to 2 weeks after the main collection of *vulgaris* types, and has single, tubular pink flowers. The shrub is fast growing, and can reach fifteen feet in height and width.

#4 *Syringa pekinensis*: The Peking lilac, native to China, is one of two *Syringa* species that becomes a tree. It is one of the last lilacs to bloom, flowering in mid-June in Rochester with large clusters of tiny, white flowers. The Peking lilac is an excellent ornamental shade tree, with its attractive flower clusters, and graceful, pendulous branches.

#5 *Syringa vulgaris* 'Avalanche': This is one of the top single, white cultivars with its large, drooping inflorescences and good sized florets. As Colin Chapman so aptly put it in the spring 2005 issue of *Lilacs*, the clusters "resemble lumps of precariously balanced snow which are just about to slide. "

#6 *Syringa vulgaris* 'Ostrander': 'Ostrander' is one of the finest hybrids developed by Hulda Klager. The double purple flowers are heavily ruffled, and have contrasting white flashes on the backs of the petals. I'm sure these should be well represented next year at our convention stop at the Hulda Klager Gardens in Washington.

#7 *Syringa vulgaris* 'Mme. Casimer Perier': This is one of the many excellent white doubles developed by the Lemoines. it has a very frilly appearance due to the tightly packed petals of the florets, which are sometimes triples. It was developed in 1894.

#8 *Syringa vulgaris* 'Sensation': This well-known cultivar is one of the most unusual lilacs with its unique combination of deep purple florets with an eye-catching white margin. It was discovered as a bud mutation or periclinal chimera on 'Hugo de Vries' by Dutch hybridizer Maarse, who was forcing lilacs for cut flowers.

#9 *Syringa × chinensis:* The Rouen lilac is a hybrid between the cutleaf lilac and the common lilac (*Syringa protolaciniata × Syringa vulgaris).* It is an excellent choice for the landscape because of its maintenance-free growth habit and abundant floral display. The old flower heads are inconspicuous, so need no deadheading, and the flowers are very fragrant and cover the entire shrub in a curtain of lavender, purple, or white, depending on the variety. Another added bonus is that they are very fragrant, with a very pleasing aroma.

#10 *Syringa oblata dilatata* 'Cheyenne': This early blooming light blue single hybrid is very cold hardy, even in the northern climate of Canada. They have a nice, rounded growth habit, and also have a nice orange fall color.

#11 *Syringa meyeri:* This species has not been discovered in nature, which leads some botanists to believe that it is a hybrid form of littleleaf lilacs. Its growth habit is somewhat dwarf, and has small rounded foliage and abundant clusters of flowers which open to become small, fragrant lilac-colored blooms. A dwarf from, *Syringa meyeri* 'Palibin', is the most dwarf of the lilacs, eventually reaching about 3.5 to 4 feet tall.

#12 *Syringa emodi:* The Himalayan lilac is native to the Himalayan Mountains of Afghanistan. It is notable for being the last of the lilacs to bloom, in mid-June in the Rochester area. It has large foliage, gray branches, and has small, tubular white flowers.

#13 *Syringa vulgaris* 'Flower City': Richard Fenicchia of Highland Park created this masterpiece by crossing 'Rochester' with 'Madame Charles Souchet'. One of the many excellent hybrids in the Rochester strain, it has violet/purple blooms with a contrasting silver reverse side, which is readily seen because of the cupped shape of the florets. Here and there are florets with radial doubling, a trait which is often a characteristic of hybrids in the Rochester strain.

#14 *Syringa × hyacinthiflora* 'Claude Bernard': 'Claude Bernard' is one of the largest of the shrub lilacs, reaching about 15 feet high by 25 feet wide. This is one of the many excellent Lemoine hybrids, selected in 1915, and has double pink flowers with slightly twisted petals, which bloom early in May at Highland.

#15 *Syringa vulgaris* 'Frederick Law Olmsted': One can never say enough good things about this beautiful single white developed by Richard Fenicchia in 1987. You can always spot this variety from far away with its globular shape completely covered from top to bottom with its abundant inflorescences. The

individual florets are small, but have a nice lacy appearance, and the sheer number is overwhelming. It is one of the earlier blooming *vulgaris* types.

#16 *Syringa vulgaris* 'Azurea Plena': This is the variety that Lemoine used to hybridize his first doubles, despite the difficulty of working with its tiny flowers. The flowers are tiny, double blue, and the thyrsi are small and narrow. The shrub itself becomes very wide in proportion to its height. The earliest cultivar to bloom in the Highland Park lilac collection, *Syringa* × *hyacinthiflora* 'Hyacinthiflora Plena', is one of the first seedlings of Lemoine using 'Azurea Plena' as a parent.

#17 *Syringa vulgaris* 'Primrose': 'Primrose' is another unique lilac developed by Dutch hybridizer Maarse. It is the only "yellow" lilac, although not as yellow as often depicted in catalogs. It is a creamy yellow most noticeable when in bud to 50% open, and the intensity may depend upon the site conditions. This year, I noticed that the yellow is concentrated on the center of the petals, with the surrounding area more white.

#18 *Syringa protolaciniata* × *Syringa pinnatifolia*: The hybrid cutleaf lilac is a cross between the cutleaf lilac and the pinnate lilac. The white flowers are suffused with lilac/purple and appear quite early, often second in the collection at highland after *Syringa* × *hyacinthiflora* 'Hyacinthiflora Plena'. It is covered with balls of flowers and has very attractive foliage. Unfortunately, it is not available in the trade, but makes an excellent ornamental screen.

#19 *Syringa vulgaris* 'Rochester': This is undoubtedly the king of the lilacs developed at Highland Park. 'Rochester' is the first variety to display radial doubling, with sometimes over 20 petals on one floret. As a hybrid parent, it often transfers this trait to its progeny. 'Rochester' was a seedling of double white variety 'Edith Cavell' that Alvan Grant, former Director of Parks in Rochester sowed. It is a dwarf shrub with dark green, glossy foliage that has upright flowers that are pure white.

#20 *Syringa vulgaris* 'Renocule': 'Renocule' is one of the first superior doubles developed by Victor Lemoine, and is a long-lived shrub that is very vigorous. When rejuvenating it, if an older trunk isn't cut to the ground, it often resprouts from an adventitious bud. It has double, traditional lilac-colored flowers, and can live 100 years or longer.

You've now reached the end of this year's walking tour, and have ended up near the Pansy Bed, another institution of Highland Park for over 100 years, where 12,000-16,000 pansies are displayed in a floral design. If you weren't able to come to Rochester this year, come in the future in mid-May to see 1250 lilacs covering the hillside, and breathe in the unforgettable fragrance!

FRAGRANCE EVOLUTION IN THE LILACS

By Dr. Nina A. Theis, Putnam Fellow
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Introduction

From the deceptive odors that mimic carrion and insect pheromones to the sweet scent of a rose, floral scents are remarkably diverse. While many of the most specialized pollination systems have been well studied, the more generalized systems have received far less attention (but see Borg-Karlson et al 1994, Theis and Raguso in press). Moreover, little is known about the relationship between phylogeny and scent patterns (Azuma et al 1999, Levin et al 2001). Technologically challenging, scent collection has only recently become quantitatively and qualitatively accurate enough to document the complexity of this basic natural history. Bringing together modern methods in chemistry and phylogenetics, we propose to use the genus *Syringa* to investigate major questions in plant evolution such as the relative roles of phylogenetics versus ecological pressures (specifically pollinators) in determining floral scents and the potential role of floral scent in speciation.

Hypotheses

With knowledge of the relationships between species established through molecular phylogeny (Li et al 2002) we propose to investigate the evolution of fragrance in *Syringa*. 1- We hypothesize that while specific compounds will show the full range between strict conservation and rapid change across species, compound classes with shared biosynthetic pathways will be generally conserved. We intend to extend our sampling to include the genus *Ligustrum* which has recently been recognized as being nested within the genus *Syringa*. 2- We expect that the close phylogenetic relationship between *Syringa* and *Ligustrum* will be reflected by similarities in fragrance composition. Furthermore 3- We expect that the fragrance produced by close relatives within *Syringa* is likely to differ to a greater extent if the species have overlapping geographic distributions. For species that are pollinated by generalists pollinators, such as *Syringa*, there could be interbreeding amongst close relatives with overlapping distributions unless floral characters such as scent differences promote pollinator fidelity. If there were no such mechanism, interbreeding and the loss of a species, would be the eventual outcome.

Goals

Using the comprehensive collection of true species of *Syringa* at the Arnold Arboretum, we propose to identify the complete scent profile of each species within this genus in order to investigate the evolution of floral scent. We will use the consensus tree of *Syringa to* map the presence / absence of each scent compound and its biochemical pathway. Moreover, quantitative measurements of the compounds in the scent blends will also be mapped into the phylogeny. In this way we can directly address the question

of lability of floral scent in *Syringa*, as well as the relationship of the fragrance blend of *Ligustrum* to that of *Syringa*.

The role of scent in speciation is an intriguing topic, but also one that is difficult to study. By comparing floral scent blends in geographically overlapping vs. non-overlapping species of *Syringa* we can address whether scent changes lead to reproductive isolation. In our analysis we disjunct (Kim and Jansen 1998). If reproductive isolation occurs due to changes in floral scent emissions, variation should be higher in overlapping species.

Methods

Chemical Methods for Volatile Collection: In order to collect a "dynamic headspace" sample, ambient air is blown over enclosed floral samples. The outgoing air-stream flows over an adsorbent material (Super Q) for collection. The time of day will be kept constant, and floral mass will be standardized. The compounds are eluted from the adsorbent with hexane and quantified using an internal standard (Raguso and Pellmyr 21998, Theis and Raguso in press). Ten samples from each species (and as many distinct individuals as possible) will be collected, both to determine variation level of particular compounds, and for accuracy of emission rates.

Analysis: Fragrance evolution (presence/absence) (compounds and pathways) will be assessed using phylogenic methods such as maximum likelihood and maximum parsimony (Pagel 1994, 1997). In order to compare variation within and between species, we will calculate a dissimilarity matrix using Euclidean distances of the relative and absolute amounts of each compound. Using this matrix, we can compare the pair-wise dissimilarities between individuals within a species, between individuals among species and between *Ligustrum* and *Syringa* using Wilcoxon signed rank test (Levin et all 2001). We will perform the same analysis to compare closely related species growing with overlapping distributions to those that are geographically disjunct in order to determine whether those that do not overlap are more similar in their scent blend, and whether those with an overlapping distribution are more divergent.

Expected Outcomes

Scent is believed to have evolved to promote cross-pollination and pollinator fidelity. However, only two studies to date have used molecular phylogenetics to assess the evolution of floral volatiles with broad sampling throughout a genus (or family) (Azuma et al 1999, Levin et al 2001). This study would be the first to be done with exhaustive sampling of the species within a genus. Moreover, this study is of particular interest because of the recent inclusion of *Ligustrum* nested within the phylogeny of *Syringa* (Li et al 2002). We have successfully collected and analyzed preliminary floral scent data from both *Syringa* and *Ligustrum* at the Arnold Arboretum in 2004. Funding of this proposal will allow us to complete this collection. From the few studies that have been done, it appears that scent is a highly labile character and pollinators may be the important selection pressure driving these rapid changes. If floral scent is highly labile and important for pollinator attraction it could play a potentially important role in speciation.

Value to ILS and Ornamental Horticulture

Recently biologists have proposed that fragrance is lost in horticulturally developed plants (Guterman et al 2002). Because lilacs are valued not just for their appearance but also for their intense fragrance, this loss of fragrance is particularly alarming for this group. Fiala (1988) affirms this point and moreover states that in general it appears that newer cultivars of lilac are less fragrant than their ancestral pedigree. An accurate documentation of the fragrance of the lilacs is a necessary first step to understanding the biology behind these observations. Only the species *S. vulgaris* has been analyzed previously (Wakayama et al 1974, Knudsen et al 1993). While this proposal focuses on the true species of lilac, future work could include documenting the changes that occur in fragrance through hybridization.

Budget:

$500	GC-MS Column
$100	GC-MS inlets
$150	GC-MS Microseal high pressure septum
$50	GC-Syringe
$100	GC filament
$50	GC ferrules
$100	Battery for vacuum pumps
$400	Vials, glassware, glass inserts, Teflon coated caps etc.
$200	Hexane high grade and Acetone
$50	Bags, tubing, twist ties, etc.
$1,700	Total

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ADAPTATION OF LILACS TO COASTAL SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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Introduction

There is interest to determine the adaptation of named lilac cultivars, hybrids and species to coastal growing conditions in Southern California. By coastal is meant the strip within 10 miles of the beach in San Diego, Orange, Los Angeles, Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo counties. These counties span over 300 miles of the coast from the Mexican border north toward San Francisco. There was construction of homes and gardens in this coastal strip, but knowledge of lilac adaptation is lacking. Some lilacs grow and bloom well inland in Southern California, especially at Julian in San Diego Co., Chino, Upland and Riverside, in the Inland Empire, and at Descanso Gardens in Los Angeles Co. Commercial lilac growers produce cut-flowers at Julian, San Diego Co., Beaumont, Riverside Co., and Acton, Los Angeles Co. but reports of lilacs planted nearer the coast are few.

Hypothesis

It should be possible to select lilac cultivars from among those already marketed in inland Southern and Central California, that are adapted to growing conditions in southern coastal areas.

Goal

To recommend lilac cultivars that will be successful most years for home gardens in the coastal strip of Southern California. This will help both gardeners and nurserymen.

Method

In February, 2003, 29 lilac cultivars, hybrids and species were planted at the University of California, South Coast Research and Extension Center, Irvine, in Orange Co. The location is six to seven miles from Laguna Beach, elevation 100 feet above sea level, in USA Hardiness Zone 10, Sunset Western Garden Book climate zone 23. The winter average minimum temperature varies from 30-40° F. Summer average maximum temperatures vary from 70-80° F, with occasional day temperatures reaching 90 or 100° F when the Santa Ana winds blow out of the Mojave Desert. The mornings are often foggy or cloudy, and the average daily temperatures are affected by the Pacific Ocean in winter and summer. The plant material was donated by Cook's Nursery in Visalia, Tulare Co. There are four replications of each entry planted in the field at Irvine, with a fifth kept in large pots in a lath house at Riverside, 50 miles in land, Sunset climatic zone 19. Notes on adaptation were started in January, 2004, one year after plants were established. Plant material included Descanso Hybrids and several other *Hyacinthiflora* types, *Vulgaris* types grown in central California, and *Syringa* × *Chinensis*. Data collected include height, number of main stems each January, date of leaf bud break, date of flower bud break, size and shape of inflorescence, flower color, diseases susceptibility, general attractiveness and suitability as a recommended flowering shrub for Irvine growing conditions.

Results:

Year 1: In March through June 2004, most plants appeared to leaf out well, but only a few bloomed. This is not surprising the first year after planting. As a group, the Descanso Hybrids, bred at Chino, and released for Southern California conditions, performed best, but several Descanso hybrid cultivars did not perform well and did not flower. Two of Skinner's *hyacinthiflora* cultivars, 'Excel' and 'Pocahontas', bred at Roblin, Manitoba, Canada, grew well and bloomed, but the inflorescences did not expand into cones but remained globose, and the individual flower stalks did not lengthen. The best cultivars appeared to be 'Angel White', a Descanso hybrid, and 'Ester Staley', a Clarke release from San Jose, CA. *Syringa* × *chinensis* also performed acceptably. Surprisingly, 'Lavender Lady', a Descanso hybrid, produced deep purple flower buds, which had difficulty opening. One major difference between Irvine and Riverside is the average day temperatures, which are higher inland at Riverside. Most of the 29 cultivars grow and flower at Riverside. Perhaps higher day temperatures are required for the individual flower stalks of 'Excel' and 'Pocahontas' to grow, and the flower buds of 'Lavender Lady' to open petals fully.

Year 2: March and April, 2005. Again 'Angel White' and 'Esther Staley" bloomed well with conical inflorescences. 'Excel' and 'Pocahontas' had lots of small, globose blooms that did not expand, and the × *chinensis* lilac performance was acceptable. Other varieties have still to flower. Some plants seem to be establishing themselves, and forming a root system.

Expected Outcome

We expect to derive a list of lilac cultivated varieties that will grow and bloom well on the 300 mile coastal strip of southern California.

Value to the ILS and Ornamental Horticulture

A question often asked by ILS homeowners in Southern California of nurserymen and horticultural sales people is: Will lilacs that flower well inland in Southern and Central California grow and flower will on the coast? This project is designed to answer this query from home gardeners to landscapers. While we hope to keep this experiment going for two more years, to be sure that plants are established, become adapted and show their true potential, the answer may not be as we would have predicted.

Budget

Land rental at Irvine to run the experiment and Experiment Station labor and plant maintenance costs per year $1,500
Travel: Rental of university vehicle to travel 100 miles round trip from Riverside to Irvine to record growing data, once in January, every two weeks in March through June, and monthly in July through December, a total of 15 trips @ $50.00 per trip subtotal $750
Total $2,250

Checks should be made payable to The Regents of I. C. Memoed "For the lilac project of J. G. Waines."

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