Lilacs

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Convention Details



Annie Trudell in front of a lilac on Bluff Street, Marquette, Michigan.

Photo credit: Peter Ely

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COVER PHOTO: Syringa komarowii subsp. reflexa 'Alba' Photo credit: Colin Chapman

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President's Message and Newsletter

As I write, an astonishing year has come to a close. I told you last time about the poor flowering of 2005, which was redeemed by the mighty surge of growth that followed. When I wrote that last article, I did not know that we were about to have the mildest end of year on record and that wonderful conditions for planting would set in and last up to, and including, Christmas Day. As a consequence, I managed to plant roughly 80 lilacs out on the new land when I had planned to put in only about 30.

In addition, I also put in about 50 of my own *S. vulgaris* seedlings on the former rough grass fence-line that divided the old collection from the new land. I planted these just two feet apart in the belief that only about one in ten would be worth keeping for further study after first flowering. Subsequently, any worthwhile ones would soon have their own elbow room as I weeded out the inferior ones. Last year, two very exciting late, red singles flowered and one of them appears to be a very clear red, indeed. My spacing theory fell flat on its face, however, because—just my luck—they happen to stand side by side, only two feet apart. I will have to propagate both before I dare risk moving one of them.

I wrote about my plans for the new land a year ago in *Lilacs*, Vol. 34, No. 1, but that was when I had planted just five specimens. Now, with roughly 100 named lilacs in the ground out there, I am in a better position to outline the way that things are going. It also occurs to me that this would also be an opportunity to introduce you to the whole of the garden at Norman's Farm.

When the Flemish tribe the Angles invaded in the 5th Century they split into two groups. The North Folk occupied what is now the county of Norfolk whilst the South Folk settled here in Suffolk. They gave their name to the region, which is East Anglia, and hence their name Angle Land to the nation, which became England. Thus, we live in one of the cradles of Anglo-Saxon civilization. Stowmarket, our small market town, is just 80 miles north of London on the main line from Liverpool Street Station to Norwich (meaning Nor-wick, the town of the North Folk). Thus, I can be in central London just two hours after closing the front door behind me.

Norman's Farm is named after William Norman, who farmed here from 1795 until 1840. The timber framed, thatched house is older and probably dates back to the 1580s. There is evidence that the site is even older because the *Domesday Book of 1086* names three farmers living on the water meadows (now drained) on which we stand. When we came here, the house had with it three acres (1.2 ha), a timber framed barn, and some derelict pig farrowing units which, now converted, make up my propagation centre.

This part of East Anglia is a flat farming area, growing cereals and sugar beet. It is very reminiscent of Iowa. One of its glories is the vast, unimpeded sky. The sunsets can be so spectacular that we decided to keep the skyscape as open as possible. Instead of planning the garden as a set of clearly defined and bordered rooms as modern fashion dictates, we adopted a Russian Doll approach. Thus, we have mixed all plants together but as the seasons unfold, different collections dominate. As one doll recedes when one collection fades, so another doll comes into fruit or flower in its place.

In January and February, we have the variegated conifers and the winter flowering shrubs—the star of which is the Grecian Strawberry Tree (*Arbutus* × *andrachnoides*) that simultaneously, in January, bears its pearly-white flowers and red, ripe fruit. March and April feature the massive daffodil collection that Shelagh has assembled. The flowering of the lilacs and the blossoming of the top fruit then follow. In June, come the roses, of which we have roughly 100 different cultivars. These are succeeded in August by the *Buddlejas* with their lovely attendants, the butterflies. I have bred some *Buddlejas* myself and I have two that I am quite pleased with. I grow these as a sideline because E.H. Wilson referred to them in the wild as "summer lilacs."

In September, the apple, pear, and plum season is upon us. We have two orchards and specialise in very old cultivars, one of which dates back to Roman times. As the fruit season extends, it coincides with the autumn colouring of the trees we have planted. Along with the old, centenarian, native guardians of the place, we have planted small groups of birch, mountain ash, maple, buckeye, hornbeam, oak, ash, willow and other individual specimens selected mainly for their fall colour. Our current pride and joy though is a Paulonia tomentosa that, each year at lilac time, throws a full head of foxglove flowers. Amongst all this, we have recorded 60 species of wild bird, 20 species of butterfly, and noted the return of wild bee orchids. Thus we have sufficient here to keep us entertained and engaged throughout the year. Also, add a resident goose who sleeps on the front doorstep, 20 pheasants that strut around the place like peacocks, and 6 wild ducks and other waterfowl on the pond, and you will see that poor Tigerlily has to put up with more tribulations and indignities than any self-respecting cat should. We are not an immaculate and regimented formal planting but neither are we ever dull or lacking in interest.

I will introduce you to the lilac gardens next time. I will also then seek some feedback from anyone who is considering a trip here in 2008 so that I can make a first estimate of numbers to find if the idea is feasible.

My attention this year has been diverted by the transition to a new editor for this journal and I have been delighted by the quality of Tory's first two editions. The experiment with glossy paper was just that and is open to review, so please let your Regional Vice President know if you have strong views for or against. Personally I find it difficult to read but I note also that it has transformed the quality of the black and white pictures inside the journal.

Consequently, I have had little time for my usual international enquiries and features. As well as doing some writing, I have been interviewed for features about us and spent a day filming for a future edition of the BBC brand, leading programme *Gardeners' World*. I submitted for publication, or was featured in, the following in 2005:

- I contributed a preface to the book Les Lilas, by Rock Giguere and Frank Moro, Les Editions de l'Homme, 2005 (in French).
- May 2005: RHS Journal The Garden, Vol. 130, Part 5. Article written by myself.
- 3. Article on the new lilac garden by Katherine Swift. The Times, May 14, 2005.
- 4. June 2005: *Gardenlife*, "Purple Haze," by Marion Welham with stunning pictures of this collection by Marianne Marjerus.
- 5. June 2005: My photo of S. pinnatifolia was published in RHS The Plantsman.
- 6. November 2005: Vestnik Tsvetovoda (Floricultural Bulletin), Moscow. "If There Is a Lilac in Paradise..." by Irena Semyonova (in Russian).
- Preface written for a special edition of lilac articles by Tatiana Polyakova in Vestnik Tsvetovoda, Moscow, 2006.
- Preface to a picture album of lilac photographs by professional photographers, with descriptions by Tatiana Polyakova and Irena Okuneva, Moscow, 2006.

Add to those, the four articles I wrote for *Lilacs*, and the four talks I have given to Garden Societies (using my own slides taken over the past 15 years both here and at convention venues) and you can see I have been gainfully employed in your name over the last 12 months.

In view of the frost damage sustained in May, the publicity generated by all that exposure could have been embarrassing, but I managed to save part of the season because I could at least show those lilacs that came into flower before the frosts struck, as well as those that flowered without interruption afterward. One of the latter was something very special: *Syringa komarowii* subsp. *reflexa* 'Alba' E. A. Upton, Michigan, 1940.

Of all the literature on the lilac, my favourite for bedtime reading is the collected work known as *The Edward A. Upton Scrapbooks of Lilac Information*. The original scrapbooks were donated by his daughter Maude E. Upton to the Arnold Arboretum, and permission was given to this Society to produce facsimile copies in 1980. It is a miraculous fount of both scholarship and ephemera, gleaned from every source possible throughout the first half of the 20th Century. It is no less than a monument to both the man, himself, and to those ILS stalwarts who financed the project and prepared the work for publication.

Edward Upton reported that in June 1932, he flowered some 500 seedlings of *Syringa reflexa* (as it was known then) and found four plants with lighter foliage and "chaste, creamy-white flowers." One of these (or a descendant of one of these) he selected and introduced with the name *S. reflexa* f. *alba*. It is a rare lilac and one that deserves to be better known.

My plant has now flowered for three years. It stands nearby a fine shrub of the typical, rosy-pink species that has been a late-season star of this collection for some years. The white one, however, has charmed the socks off anyone who has seen it in full flower. Having tight panicles, with a fully pendant habit that complements the graceful, arching stems of the bush, it is a wonderful get-down-on-your-knees-and-admire-me vision. I am truly grateful that Mr. Upton introduced it and am indebted to the Royal Botanical Garden, Edinburgh, Scotland for preserving it and kindly giving me propagating material.

Along with *S. yunnanensis* 'Rosea', it is my favourite of all the cultivars derived from the wild Chinese species. With charming understatement, Mr. Upton adds "I have hopes of increasing this new form vegetatively, thus adding another good lilac to the world's gardens." I sincerely wish that I could propagate those scrapbooks vegetatively, and so make them available to all the world's lilac lovers.

Colin Chapman President ILS Suffolk, England February 9, 2006 lilacprez@hotmail.com

Olga Rudenko

As we go to print, we have received the news of the passing of ILS life member Olga Rudenko. Colin Chapman will write a tribute to this fine lady in the next edition because she once gave him a little word of advice that changed his life forever.

ILS Executive V.P. Notes

Hello all!

It's hard to believe it is already spring! In the past year, the ILS has had its own share of re-awakening as well. Substantial work has been done on the ILS web site (www.internationallilacsociety.org). For this web portal to the ILS to successfully attract and hold members, it needs your help and ideas. Please respond kindly and generously when asked for ideas—and consider what adds the most value. Increasingly, the web site will be the way the world views the International Lilac Society.

We have a great convention planned. If you can travel to Woodland, Washington to see the historic Hulda Klager Lilac Farm (HLKF), please do so. You will meet or be reunited with kind and kindred spirits, united in our love of lilacs. We will have fun as we explore, learn, and grow as an organization. We particularly welcome youth and any new members. Before or during the convention, please submit your ideas for the ILS to your leadership. We plan to have feedback forms as part of your registration information, but any member of the Executive Board will happily collect your feedback (even if you cannot attend). We need to learn who is willing to serve the ILS—your ILS—in any volunteer capacity.

Speaking of volunteers, countless thanks go to Jim Hastings for his decade of service to the ILS as our Treasurer. We have known that the ILS financial matters were in good and reliable hands for a long time. Now it is time for another person to serve the ILS as Treasurer. Whoever takes on that role will benefit from Jim's guidance and the counsel of Assistant Treasurer Bill Tschumi. We also have extensive written Treasurer's instructions. If you, or someone you know, may be interested in serving as Treasurer (or in any other role), please notify me.

The ILS is also looking ahead to future conventions. We are now selecting sites for the 2007 convention and beyond. We continue to plan a 2008 convention in the United Kingdom. During this year's convention, we will again survey the members to determine how many of us are able to make the trip. I'm personally excited about the chance to visit some of our European members closer to their homes, and to meet some members for the first time. Please be ready to share whether you realistically will be able to attend this convention. Our planning depends on it. We will announce future convention sites at the 2006 Annual Meeting.

It seems like there ought to be some motto or battle cry with which to close. How about, "Semper Syringa!"? (Lilacs Forever!)

Brad Bittorf, Executive V.P. ILS bjbittorf@raytheon.com

A Word from a Lilac Newbie

I grew up on a 17-acre farm near Gettysburg, in rural Pennsylvania. At the time, I took for granted all of the space that we had to plant flowers, trees, and shrubs. I wasn't really interested in gardening and didn't pay much attention to what my parents had planted, except for one time of the year—springtime, when the lilacs bloomed. My parents had three old fashioned, purple lilacs and one old fashioned, white lilac. My brother, sister, and I delighted in cutting off not blooms, but whole branches, to arrange a bouquet that we thought would be fit for a queen. It was always interesting to see what my mother could come up with to hold such an arrangement. Miraculously, she always found something nice to put them in.

Flash forward 25 years, and I now live in Beverly, Massachusetts. During a typical day at work, I joined in a discussion with fellow coworkers, including Lynette Sirois (Mascioli). Lynette was circulating an article that discussed her grandfather, Ken Berdeen, and his work with lilacs. This article was enlightening to me, as it mentioned the fact that there were more colors of lilacs than just white and purple. While living in Pennsylvania, I had heard mention of magenta lilacs but never had the fortune of seeing one. In my ignorance, I foolishly chalked it up to being an urban legend. This article renewed my interest in lilacs, especially now that I own a place where I can plant one or two. In a following conversation, Lynette suggested that I visit Evelyn King and Roger Coggeshall at Syringa Plus in West Newbury, Massachusetts. Little did I know what that visit would do to me.

My wife and I arrived at Syringa Plus where two of the friendliest people in New England greeted us. Evelyn had no idea how uneducated we were about lilacs and nonchalantly mentioned that we were welcome to take a walk up to their lilac orchard, but we should know that the *hyacinthiflora* were ending their blooming period and that the *vulgaris* were just peaking. I remember thinking "hyacintha-what?", but completely forgot what she said as we walked up over the peak of the hill, to an orchard of color that I never realized could exist. That day, we spent a couple of hours photographing them, taking it all in, and left with not *one* or *two*, but *six* lilacs—one of what we thought was each color variety. At the time, I was so overwhelmed that although I had noticed that some of the shrubs in that orchard looked distinctly different from one another, I didn't give it much thought or consider that it could be attributed to reasons other than just color variation.

Needless to say, after our visit, my interest became greater. I purchased Father Fiala's book on lilacs, *Lilacs: The Genus* Syringa. It opened up a whole new world to me. Although Evelyn and Roger have always been willing to answer any questions that I have, they certainly do not have the luxury of time necessary to educate me on flower types, thryse shapes, cultivar lineage, and Rochester hybridization, to name a few of the aspects of lilacs that I previously knew

nothing about. A lilac CD provided by Frank Moro fed my addiction even more, providing an incredible resource of pictures to satiate my curiosity regarding certain lilac cultivars. I have since spoken to people from various lilac suppliers in New York, Pennsylvania, and New England, to find that not only are they very helpful-they are some of the friendliest folk around and their love of lilacs is quite apparent. Now, I have joined the International Lilac Society. My addiction is stronger than ever and I never tire of discussing lilacs with the lilac community. And as much as I have learned about lilacs, there is still so much that I think I have yet to learn, as well as questions that linger. Is there a way to find out what varieties of lilacs are at each Arboretum so that I can see them firsthand? How do I find out where I can locate a specific variety of lilac that no retailer seems to offer? When will more of the exquisite Russian lilacs be available in the U.S.? How can we make more people aware of how many varieties of lilacs exist? What can be done to introduce newer lilac varieties to the common retail outlets? And maybe most importantly, how can I possibly fit another lilac on my half acre of land?

In retrospect, I have my parents to thank for my love of lilacs. As this passion is now rekindled, I thought it only fair that the old, 17-acre farm near Gettysburg, Pennsylvania receive a new (and very fitting) *S. vulgaris* resident, 'Abraham Lincoln'. And since I'm running out of room on my half acre, something tells me that it won't be the last.

Joshua Miller Beverly, Massachusetts Joshuaandpaula@MSN.com

Lilac Induced Blessings

On June 15, 2000, the *Detroit News* published an interview of Mrs. Annie Trudell (see *Lilacs*, Vol. 29, No. 4), which, as long-time lilac enthusiasts, caught our attention, stayed in our minds, and seemed worthy of investigation. On June 7, 2005, we drove ten hours north of Horman's Sunny Fields in Emmett, Michigan arriving in Marquette, Michigan as night fell. Early the following morning, our hosts, Annie and her husband Cliff, greeted us as if we were close family members. This first meeting was a result of some sparse, lilac-themed communication soon after the newspaper published Annie's interview. We investigators had no idea just how this shared interest in lilacs would turn out. Why we waited so many years to visit is something we will never know. With each passing year, we became more determined to meet her in person and see some of the lilacs in Michigan's far northern peninsula.

The sunshine and rustic beauty of this region, which formerly contributed to American strength by giving up rich deposits of iron ore and timber, has a love affair with lilacs that has not yet been fully explained. The residents, largely of Scandinavian, English, French, and Italian decent, demonstrate their lilac

affection when anyone engages them in conversation on the topic. Just mention lilac and smiles broaden and eyes sparkle, as if reflecting from the waters of nearby Lake Superior. And it is not just talk. There seems to be a greater abundance of lilacs in the connected towns of Marguette, Negaunee, Ishpeming, and National Mine, Michigan, then one typically finds in regions surrounding the Great Lakes.

In quick time, it became obvious why the newspaper reporter interviewed Annie. She is a non-stop, goodwill ambassador who is overly blessed with charisma, fondness for people, the community, and lilacs. She has created a fascinating brochure about lilacs in the area, including a map, cultivation tips, and some natural history. In fairness, we happily report that her husband, a retired miner, is also well known as a civic leader and participant in local good causes. The two of them treated us royally, in part, because we are related through our love of lilacs and, in part, because that's just the way they are, even with people they have never met.

June 8, 2005 opened our eyes to fun new experiences! En route to the TV studio, our host told us their plans for our day and it proved to be most ambitious and delightfully surprising. We briefly stopped at the area's TV station to meet and collect reporter, Steve Wolford, of station WBKP. Steve later interviewed us in front of a randomly selected, lilac-adorned, centennial home on Bluff Street, owned by Daniel Stone. Like the vast majority of lilacs we saw that day, for the interview we stood in front of a gracefully bending specimen, supporting perhaps too many glorious blooms, as if to say "Though I am the common purple lilac, see how magnificent I am!" The old lilacs on this street were gifts to the home owners in about 1864 from Mr. Harlow, a local industrialist.

When we asked whether such heavy lilac bloom was unusual, we were assured by everyone that this display was typical of every spring. The white forms of *Syringa vulgar*is were present, though noticeably out numbered by those of "lilac" color. The growing conditions in this setting must be ideal for these plants. There is no shortage of limestone, and Lake Superior, accompanied by many other lakes, affects the temperature and precipitation. It seemed odd that lilacs here were blooming a week before those on Mackinac Island, a five-hour drive south. We learned that the soil in this part of the Upper Peninsula commonly does not freeze to hardness because of the constant snow cover, beginning in late autumn and ending in spring. This location's snow is measured in feet more often than in inches.

Might this most northern tip of Michigan someday also become known for its lilacs? Marquette's lakeside Chamber of Commerce is centered amongst lilacs, which not only includes common lilacs but also several *Syringa* × *prestoniae* and at least one *Syringa* × *chinensis*. Annie Trudell has organized a group of lilac fanciers whose vision is to establish a diverse lilac display that will be easily accessible and compliment the urban area. As she promotes lilacs, she finds

that few local people are aware that there are 20 species, seven colors and two flower forms and that by means of careful specie selection, it is possible to display six weeks of lilac bloom annually.

We were grateful for the warm welcomes and hospitality we received wherever Cliff and Annie Trudell took us. We talked lilacs as we steered into a parade of curious folks who were slowly cruising the local cemetery, trying to catch a glimpse of a young, errant moose that had become somewhat of a local celebrity. He evaded us. We sandwiched our words about lilacs as the Saint Joseph's ladies quilting club paused for lunch. We drew in the proprietor and customers at a local art studio. The dedicated volunteers working to retain the integrity of a recently closed ore mine conveyed its majesty and need for preservation. They, in return, accepted with respect, the nuggets of lilac information we gave them. Before sunset, an enthusiastic audience of local folks enjoyed a slice of Annie's sensational, homemade blueberry cheesecake and coffee while watching our slide-projected, razzle-dazzle, lilac show and talk. Ms. Stacy Willey, owner and lilac aficionado, kindly loaned the hall, which once was the preferred hang out of the cast of the classic film, *Anatomy of a Murder*.

Soon after leaving the hall, we arrived at the Trudell's country home. Crafted handsomely by Cliff's own hands, it is filled with comfort. As we dined on delicious homemade pasties, a regional specialty, we could see raccoons and deer crossing the open field from the dense woods. They showed us a tew of Annie's growing collection of lilacs. As darkness set in, we said our goodbyes and returned to our motel room, where we arrived just in time to see our TV lilac interview filmed earlier in the day.

To say it was a wonderful day would be an understatement, and would not capture the essence of what June 8, 2005, was all about for us and those we met. Would we have ventured so far from our homes into unfamiliar territory, chancing to meet new people and seeing exciting new things, if it were not for the lilac as the common denominator on which the adventure focused and evolved? Such is also is the basic truth that brings us to annual ILS meetings. For those of us who share our lilac plants, it is the same phenomenon. We live new great experiences because of our common interest in lilacs! Through our veins runs such a strong fondness for lilacs that it pulls us to places we might not ever otherwise visit and we would be poorer for having missed the opportunity. Likewise the lilac thread draws us to people we might not otherwise meet, people who enrich our lives, and holds us together in friendship. Such are the people who are, and those who will become, the International Lilac Society. We were even able to excite the Trudell's and a few others into joining the ILS. They appreciated our visit and promised they will be working to keep the spirit of the lilac alive by developing lilac activities in their area each year. Our trip up north made us more aware of the many lilac induced blessings.

Bill Horman and Peter Ely

The Swampscott Lilac Arboretum

The Swampscott Lilac Arboretum began in January 2005 as a means to beautify the historic seaside town of Swampscott, Massachusetts. It connects the present day with one of the town's treasures, the Frederick Law Olmsted–designed monument area that serves as the town center. The Lilac Arboretum also offers townspeople a chance to honor a friend, a favorite teacher, or a family member forever, by purchasing a lilac plant in honor of a loved one.

The Swampscott Lilac Arboretum is the brainchild of Louis Gallo, a member of the Swampscott Historical Commission. Donna Mayers, a local resident, contacted Gallo in the hopes of finding a way to remember her late friend and neighbor, Roisin O'Cullanan. Ms. O'Cullanan lived near the Olmsted-designed monument area in town and worked at the Olmsted-designed Arnold Arboretum in Boston. This gave Gallo the idea to develop a project that could connect the town's historic relationship with the renowned designer and still honor Ms. O'Cullanan.

Frederick Law Olmsted is recognized as America's premier landscape architect. He created Boston's famed Emerald Necklace—a string of parks that meander through the city from Franklin Park and the Arnold Arboretum to Boston Common, through the Fens and out to the Riverway. Olmstead did not like flowering shrubs or formal bushes and he insisted that plants be displayed in their natural settings. Olmsted planted rare and unusual specimens from around the world in the Arnold Arboretum, which now houses one of the largest lilac collections in the country.

In 1888, Olmsted designed a residential area of Swampscott now known as the Olmsted Historical District and it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The centerpiece of this district is Monument Avenue. The avenue is lined with memorials in honor of local soldiers from the Revolutionary War who died serving the country. An Olmsted-inspired design would have to incorporate these memorials and stay in keeping with Olmsted's vision for natural landscaping. What's more, Monument Avenue spills out at the ocean and the beautiful views had to be kept intact.

Lilacs were an obvious solution.

Gallo got in touch with the people who have worked on the lilacs at Arnold Arboretum for several years. Employees of Syringa Plus of West Newbury, Massachusetts, were excited about the Swampscott lilac project and set about researching antique and modern lilac strains, color varieties, and hardiness. Eventually, they came up with 41 varieties that are expected to bloom throughout the season. There are currently 90 bushes that have been planted along Monument Avenue by Syringa Plus.

Walking along the avenue, you'll see that each lilac in the Swampscott Lilac Arboretum is marked with a brass plate featuring the common and botanical names of the shrub, as well as a designated honoree. The lilacs are planted in a flowing stream from the base of Monument Avenue up to the memorials. At the lower end of the avenue, designers have planted a Lilac Grove dedicated to Lady Deborah Moody, whose 1,200 acre farm, Swampscott, was the namesake of this 154-year-old town. Gallo hopes that the lilac project will grow and that eventually the town will be abloom with lilacs every spring. "The Swampscott Lilac Arboretum is a fitting tribute to the history of the town and its remarkable friends," he believes. If you are interested in dedicating a lilac, write to: Swampscott Lilac Project, 22 Monument Ave., Swampscott, MA 01907.

Pamela Wheaton Shorr

Tip for Beginners

Where should I plant my lilac? I've just acquired a new plant and I'm trying to determine where to put it in my yard.

Of course, the real answer is: It depends.

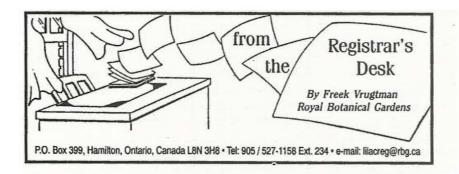
Select a site that has good drainage. Although lilacs like to be watered, they don't like their roots to be swimming. Also, if you have a moist area of your yard, the plant may be susceptible to powdery mildew later in the growing season. (If you are stuck with an area with poor drainage, consider mounding or planting in elevated beds.)

Lilacs need lots of sun. If you are planning to plant in an area that receives at least four hours of sun per day, this is great. Don't plant beneath the canopy of other trees especially pine trees, which drop needles and tend to contribute to an acidic soil. (If you are in a very warm climate, you may wish to protect your lilac from too much sun, however.)

Lilacs prefer an area with slightly alkaline soil. If you don't have this type of soil, you can amend it by adding some of your own lime or another alkaline source. Sure, lilacs will grow even in areas with a less than ideal pH, but we want to give them the best chance we can of succeeding.

Finally, consider how big the plant will get. Do not plant lilacs too close to one another or to a house or structure, or they will overwhelm their neighbor as they mature. A mature lilac can easily reach 8' to 20' in canopy diameter. If you don't like the appearance of a few small plants far apart, you can plant them closer and then transplant them as they get larger. Keep in mind that you may want to mow or mulch around the lilac base—leave enough room to do this.

More questions? Submit them to the editor and we will answer them in a future issue.



Syringa 'New Patriot'— A New, Variegated Lilac Cultivar¹

by Freek Vrugtman and Jimmy Krsnak

Lawrence Hatch, the heart and brain of NOS (New Ornamentals Society) and one of my long-lasting correspondents on cultivars, brought to my attention a new, variegated lilac cultivar that may become available in the near future.

In 1985, Jimmy Krsnak discovered a bud mutation or sport with variegated foliage on a lilac growing on the site of an old farmstead in Mitchell, South Dakota. The original plant no longer exists; most likely it was an older *Syringa vulgaris* or *S.* × *hyacinthiflora* cultivar as the sport produces thyrses with double florets.

Jimmy Krsnak, the discoverer and originator the 'New Patriot' variegated lilac is associated with Anderson Nurseries, Inc., of Wentworth, South Dakota, and formerly with the Office of Plant Industries, South Dakota Department of Agriculture, Pierre, South Dakota.

Initial propagation of the selection took place at the McCrory Gardens, South Dakota State University at Brookings, under the supervision of Norman Evers.

One distinguishing feature of *Syringa* 'New Patriot' is that the variegation shows on upper and lower surfaces of the leaves; other variegated cultivars such as *S. vulgaris* 'Dappled Dawn' may show variegation only on the upper surface. The variegation of 'New Patriot' covers from 10 to 100 percent of individual leaves, subsequently, it is safe to presume that we are dealing with a chimera. As the season progresses some leaves are *greening*, taking on the dark blue-green color of older lilac leaves by blocking out the chlorophyll deficient creamy-white cell layers. Unfolding leaves are variegated creamy-white to pale yellow and green with light rose tints on the margins and throughout the center of the leaf. The rose color is noticeable on upper and lower surfaces of the leaves, but fades completely as the leaf unfurls and matures.

Young petioles may vary in color, they often are creamy-white with the same light rose coloring that appears on the leaves, lingering for several weeks. With age the colors change to yellow-green, and finally to darker green.

The florets have been described as being double with petaloid stamens; the petals are light violet-blue on the outside, and white on the inside (Wister code: D II/III). The four outer petals are reflexed, the four to eight inner petals more upright. The flowers are mildly fragrant. These characteristics may open the way for identification of the original cultivar.

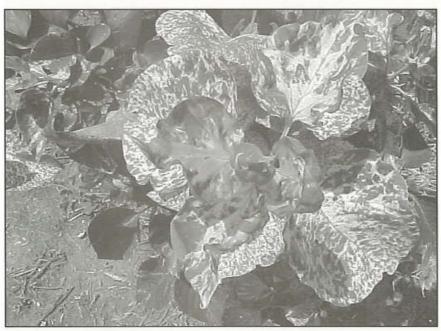
The rate of growth is relatively slow; at maturity shrubs will reach a height of eight to ten feet and a width of four to six feet. The shrubs are hardy in USDA Hardiness Zone 4. A sunny location is recommended for best color development of foliage and flowers.

The historic and descriptive information has been gleaned from the U.S. Plant Patent application posted on the internet:

http://www.freshpatents.com/Lilac-plant-named—new-patriot-variegated-lilac—dt20051222ptan20050283870.php?type=description

Endnotes

1. Contribution No. 130, Royal Botanical Gardens, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.



Syringa 'New Patriot', a new variegated lilac Photo credit: Jimmy Krsnak

The RHS Mini Colour Chart, New and Affordable

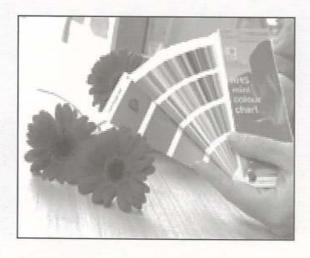
by Freek Vrugtman

Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Colour Charts have been the standard reference for plant color identification for 65 years. The charts have been indispensable to plant breeders, horticulturists, and botanists who require accuracy in the identification of plant colors. The RHS Colour Chart, 2001 edition, was developed to match nature's own colors, adding 76 new colors to the existing 808 of the 1986 edition. These fill gaps in certain color ranges of which dark purple-black is of importance for lilacs. The colors are arranged in four fans; each color patch has a central porthole which can be laid over the object being matched. The fans come with full instructions in six languages. At £135 or about US\$242 a set, prospective buyers often hesitate.

In 2005 RHS, in association with The Flower Council of Holland, produced the RHS Mini Colour Chart. This quarter-size version of the full RHS Colour Chart is arranged as one single fan. It contains 244 RHS colors—each one carefully chosen to represent the broad spectrum of color found in the full version. This is now available at the more affordable price of £25.

(At the time of printing, when ordering from Canada or the U.S., the full price, including S&H is £25.49 or about US\$46; truly a bargain as one need not pay the Value Added Tax [VAT].)

For full information visit the RHS web page http://www.rhs.org.uk/Learning/publications/pubs_library_colourchart.asp



For enquiries on ordering contact:

RHSE Ltd Mail Order Dept RHS Garden Wisley Woking, Surrey GU23 6QB England

Email: mailorder@rhs.org.uk Fax: +44 (0)1483 212447 Tel: +44 (0)1483 212357

Following is a brief, annotated review of RHS Colour Chart editions.

Horticultural Colour Chart 1 & 2, also known as the Wilson Colour Chart (Robert F. Wilson). 1939 & 1942. London; British Colour Council & Royal Horticultural Society; printed by Henry Stone and Son, Ltd. (800 colour patches; each colour with a unique name; 5,000 copies printed; price to RHS members: 10 shillings).

RHS Colour Chart. 1966. London; RHS. (792 colour patches; colours are no longer named but numbered; 7,000 copies printed; price: £5 5s). Accompanying the 1966 edition is a Table of Cross-References of the RHS Colour Chart to the Horticultural Colour Chart (HCC), the British Colour Council Dictionary of Colour Standards (BCC), the British Colour Council Dictionary of Colours for Interior Decorations (CC), the Nickerson Color Fan (Nickerson), and the Commission Internationale de l'Eclairage or International Commission on Illumination (CIE). The cross-references to the CIE are of particular importance as the colors are expressed in co-ordinates obtained with a Hilger and Watts Jasco-J40 spectropolarimeter, with check measurements made on a Beckman spectrophotometer.

RHS Colour Chart. 1986. London & Leiden; RHS & Flower Council of Holland. (808 colour patches; reprint of the 1966 edition, but some of the colours, particularly in the red-purple hues, no longer match the 1966 ones; price: £25).

RHS Colour Chart. 1995. London & Leiden; RHS & Flower Council of Holland. (884 colour patches; a true reprint of the 1966 edition with 76 new colours that were previously hard to match, primarily dark purples, bright orange, bronze, greys and greens; price: £70).

RHS Colour Chart. 2001. London & Leiden; RHS & Flower Council of Holland. (884 colour patches; identical to the 1966 and 1995 editions; price: £135; still available in 2006).

RHS Mini Colour Chart. 2005. London & Leiden; RHS & Flower Council of Holland. (244 colours, each one carefully chosen to represent the broad spectrum of colour found in the full version; initial edition: 10,000; price: £25).

Parentage of Dunbar Hybrids

Recently, while researching some of John Dunbar's lilac hybrids to put in the Names table of BG-BASE (a collection database management system for botanical gardens and arboreta), I discovered that some of Dunbar's cultivars have no parentage listed in the Lilac Register. Looking through old records of Highland Park, I found the seed parents for all of Dunbar's hybrids. The seed parents are also listed in a small pamphlet entitled "John Dunbar, Rochester Plantsman," by Robert B. Clark. This was published by the Monroe County Parks Department for the ILS convention in Rochester in 1988.

Below is a list of all of John Dunbar's named lilac hybrids. Also listed is the original Dunbar number for each hybrid. Unfortunately, there is only a record of the seed parent, and none of the male parents are recorded in either John Dunbar's or Highland Park's records.

Named Dunbar Lilacs		
Variety Name	Dunbar No.	Seed Parent
'A. B. Lamberton'	201	'Marie Legraye'
'Adelaide Dunbar'	200	'Aline Mocqueris'
'Admiral Farragut'	306	'Gilbert'
*'Alexander Hamilton'	334	'A. B. Lamberton'
*'Calvin C. Laney'	308	'Monge'
*'Clarence D. Van Zandt'	236	'Aline Mocqueris'
*'Elihu Root'	334	'Gilbert'
*'General Elwell S. Otis'	323	'Gilbert'
*'General Grant'	268	'Scipion Cochet'
'General Haig'	unknown	
'General John Pershing'	240	'Aline Mocqueris'
*'General Kitchener'	243	'Aline Mocqueris'
*'General Sheridan'	274	'Princess Alexandra'
'General Sherman'	225	'Marlyensis Pallida'
*'George W. Aldridge'	218	'President Massart'
*'Henry Clay'	329	'A. B. Lamberton'
*'Henry Wadsworth Longfellow'	245	'Aline Mocqueris'

Variety Name	Dunbar No.	Seed Parent
*'Henry Ward Beecher'	345	'Princesse Clementine'
*'Hiram H. Edgerton'	216	'Lilarosa'
*'Joan Dunbar'	343	'Thunberg'
*'Patrick Henry'	300	'Vestale'
*'President Harding'	235	'Aline Mocqueris'
*'President John Adams'	321	'Thunberg'
'President Lincoln'	202	'Alba Virginalis'
*'President Monroe'	340	'Thunberg'
*'President Roosevelt'	229	'Aline Mocqueris'
*'Susan B. Anthony'	271	'Scipion Cochet'
*'Thomas A. Edison'	230	'Aline Mocqueris'
*'Thomas Jefferson'	228	'Scipion Cochet'
*'William C. Barry'	227	'Marlyensis Pallida'
*'William S. Riley'	219	'President Massart'

^{*}Seed parent and Dunbar number not previously published in *International Register of Cultivar Names in the Genus Syringa L. (Oleaceae)*, by Freek Vrugtman (April 2001).

Obviously, much more can be said about John Dunbar and his impact on Highland Botanical Park and the world of horticulture, but that would be the subject of several more articles.

References

Clark, Robert B. 1988. "John Dunbar, Rochester Plantsman"

Vrugtman, Freek. April 2001. International Register of Cultivar Names in the Genus Syringa L. (Oleaceae)

Highland Botanical Park records

Kent Millham Highland Botanical Park February 15, 2006

Errata: Volume 35, Number 1

Please note the following corrections to the Winter 2006 issue.

On page 3, in the "President's Message and Newsletter," the editor incorrectly changed the forerunner of *Lilacs* from *The Newsletter* to *Lilac Newsletter*. The change should not have been made. The correct title is indeed *The Newsletter*.

At the bottom of page 12, in the "Lilac Cultivar Name Registration 2004" article, the last two lines dropped off the page. The final sentence on page 12 should read: "Jianhua Li, John Herbert Alexander, III, and Donglin Zhang demonstrated convincingly that *S. pekinensis* should be given species status. (Li et al., 2002)."

On page 13, at the conclusion of the article "Lilac Cultivar Name Registration 2004" the following should be listed: "Contribution No. 126. Royal Botanical Gardens, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada."

Next Deadline

The deadline for the summer issue of *Lilacs* is June 15, 2006. Convention coverage will be greatly appreciated. Please contact: *tory.woodruff@verizon.net*.

We Need You

Do you have a few minutes a month? Can you manage money? The ILS is looking for candidates for Treasurer. What does our Treasurer do? The Treasurer, with the help of the Assistant Treasurer, accounts for ILS funds, reimburses expenses, and helps plan future finances for the organization. More detailed duties are listed in the "Duties for Officers" publication, which will be provided to anyone interested. If you'd like to help the ILS, notify any of the officers or send an email to <code>lilacs@tucsonspin.org</code>.

Wanted: Convention Reporter

The journal needs your help. And badly. Noel Johnson has generously offered to be a photo journalist for the convention. But we will need words to accompany his pictures. I am looking for an energetic reporter to recount the stories, details, and highlights of the convention. If you are interested, please contact the editor at tory.woodruff@verizon.net or (617) 451-6292.

A Glimpse at the 2006 Convention

The 36th Annual International Lilac Society Convention will convene in Woodland, Washington, with pre-registration beginning on Wednesday evening, April 19. The host of the 2006 ILS Convention, the Hulda Klager Lilac Society, has shifted into high gear preparing for the event.

On Thursday, early bird arrivals will have the opportunity to tour the Lewis River Valley area. The first stop will be the Lelooska Cultural Center, which hosts history and artifacts of early Northwest Native Americans. A visit to the historic Cedar Creek Grist Mill, one of only 23 of its kind in the continental United States, will conclude the tour. On April 21, conference attendees will spend a grand Lilac Day at the Hulda Klager Lilac Gardens.

Known as Woodland's Lilac Lady, Hulda Klager was a leading horticulturist and lilac hybridizer in the mid-20th century. A Victorian garden greets visitors in front of the historic house. Three and one-half acres of lilacs grow behind the house, which has been restored by the Hulda Klager Lilac Society and made into a museum honoring the Lilac Lady. Lunch will include presentations about the national historic site and Woodland's Lilac Lady. The ILS Auction will also be held at the lilac gardens in the afternoon.

The fertile Northwest houses many nationally known nurseries and gardens. The morning of April 22 promises a tour of the Holland America Bulb Farm, internationally known for colorful tulip, hyacinth, and iris varieties. ILS convention attendees have the unique opportunity to see the lilac gardens and tulip farm in full bloom during Woodland's Annual Lilac and Tulip Festival, which coincides with the ILS convention. Peterson Farms, the supplier of lilac starts for the Hulda Klager Lilac Gardens, will host a lunch for the conference attendees followed by a tour of the farms.

A very special optional tour is scheduled for Sunday, April 23. Woodland is within an hour's drive to a view of one of the nation's most spectacular natural wonders: the Mount Saint Helen's Volcano. Many will remember the dramatic 1980 eruption when the mountain literally blew its top off. Nature's work is not yet complete as seismic and volcanic activity resumed early in 2005 and the mountain steams and quakes consistently.

The 2006 ILS Convention offers first timers to the West Coast an opportunity to visit the Pacific Ocean located only one and a half hours by automobile from Woodland. Want to learn more about the Hulda Klager Lilac Society and other Woodland area attractions? Visit the Hulda Klager Lilac Society's web site at www.lewisriver.com, for information on the many interesting and unique attractions the Woodland area offers visitors.

ILS Convention Speakers, 2006

Friday, April 21 Before or after Annual Meeting or after Dinner Speaker

Dr. J. Giles Waines: Professor of Botany and Plant Sciences, at the University of California at Riverside and the Director of the Botanic Gardens and University Herbarium. Dr. Waines heads up the lilac project at Riverside with special interests on the adaptation of lilac species to areas with warm winter climates and for small urban gardens. His convention presentation relates to flower initiation in lilacs and Pierce's disease that attacks some lilacs in warm climates. Dr. Waines has presented his interesting research work with lilacs at previous ILS conventions

Melissa Finn: Soil Biologist, Nature's Needs, Hillsboro, Oregon, M.S. in Biology, Fairfield University in Connecticut, 2-years experience working in microbiology. Melissa has performed research for the Hulda Klager Lilac Gardens as we attempt to bring back our soil to proper production levels. Specifically, she has consulted with local college horticulture experts about what the problems might be and about how we can fix the problems without taking out our raised beds.

Gudrun Mahrt: Columbia River Carbonates, Woodland, Washington. Gudrun, originally from Germany and now a member of the Hulda Klager Lilac Society, works with fertilizers developed for specific plant families at the local carbonates factory. She will talk about the importance of pH levels in growing lilacs. She will also share her knowledge on lilacs in Germany.

Saturday, April 22 Speaker's Panel

Steve McCulloch: B.S. and M.S. in Horticulture with emphasis in plant micro propagation, University of Wisconsin. Steve is a much respected expert in micro propagation known for the accuracy of his tissue culturing of lilacs. He will tell us about the lab process and the earliest development of a lilac.

Dan Meier: Production manager for Briggs Nursery. Dan has worked for one of the most respected wholesale nursery operations in our area. The Hulda Klager Lilac Garden has depended on Briggs for quality lilac liners for several years. Dan will talk about rooting the tiny tissue cultures, the next step in the life of a lilac.

Kila Benge: Briggs Nursery. Kila will continue where Dan's talk ended by telling us about the repotting and planting of the tiny lilacs.

Other Speakers

Roberta Peterson: owner of the Peterson Farm where the Hulda Klager Lilac Garden gets the lilacs sold to the public during Lilac Days. Roberta will share with you the growth of potted lilacs and the details of her operation. Peterson Farms has taken cuttings from Hulda's old lilacs and helped to preserve the Hulda's legacy, without which we are just another garden.

Additional Information for ILS Convention Attendees

Welcome to Woodland, Washington! The 2006 ILS Convention coincides with Woodland's annual Lilac Days and Tulip Festival. The fragrant lilac gardens and acres of colorful tulips are bound to be a special event for this year's convention attendees.

Local Native American history will come alive at the Lelooska Cultural Center, while the Cedar Creek Grist Mill offers another step back in time to the milling of grain done by a waterwheel.

Lilac enthusiasts will spend a day at the historic Hulda Klager Lilac Gardens, where the well-known hybridizer dedicated her life to developing lilac varieties. Tours of the Holland America Bulb Farm and Peterson Farms are a natural event for convention attendees. The joint Lilac/Tulip Festival has become a tradition in Woodland. Peterson Farms is a supplier of lilac starts for the Hulda Klager Lilac Gardens. Woodland is roughly an hour from the Mount Saint Helen's National Monument, this year's optional event. It is going to be a great convention!

Do you have questions about the convention agenda? Email gardener@lilacgardens.com, Attention: Joyce Carlson, President, or telephone Joyce at (360) 225-7514.

Motels

The Best Western Woodland Inn and Suites serves as the 2006 Convention motel. The Lewis River Inn is within walking distance to the Best Western. Both motels offer king and queen size beds, in-room refrigerators, and microwaves. Each provides guests with a continental breakfast. The Best Western Woodland Inn and Suites also offers a swimming pool and sauna.

Special Needs

If you require a special diet, please email your name and the type of food required to gardener@lilacgardens.com, Attention: Barb Chester. Barb will forward your request to the banquet manager at the Oak Tree Restaurant.

Driving

From the Portland International Airport: Follow signs for I-205 North. Within minutes of leaving the airport you will be on a bridge crossing the Columbia River, heading north. I-205 will merge with I-5. Follow signs for I-5 North. Woodland is roughly 30 minutes from the Portland Airport at Exit 21.

From the south: Follow signs for I-205 North or I-5 North to Exit 21. If you are staying at the Best Western Woodland Inn and Suites, make a left turn at the exit stop, preparing to make an immediate right onto Atlantic Avenue (faces the Oak Tree Restaurant). The Best Western sign faces the road on the right. The motel is set back on the property. Guests staying at the Lewis River Inn will make a right turn at the exit stop, stay in the right lane; the motel is about one block from the traffic intersection on the right.

From the north: Follow signs for I-5 South to Exit 22. Drive south on Pacific Avenue. Stay in the left lane, preparing to make a left turn under the overpass. Continue to the Best Western Woodland Inn and Suites, pull immediately in the left hand lane, turn left at the first traffic light, and go north on Atlantic Avenue. The Best Western sign faces the road on the right. The motel is set back on the property. To drive to the Lewis River Inn, proceed straight through the intersection, preparing to turn right into the Lewis River Inn parking lot, roughly one block from the traffic intersection on the right.

Taxi Service Available from PDX Airport to Woodland

An established taxi service in Woodland, Washington, the Woodland Taxi, runs regular shuttles to and from the Portland Airport. This service may be useful to ILS members who would rather not rent a car and need to drive to Woodland, Washington.

The service is available 24 hours a day. Woodland Taxi charges a \$3 drop fee, in addition to \$2 per mile and \$1 for each additional passenger over the first. Smith said the average cost from the Lewis River Inn in Woodland (one of the ILS convention hotels) and the Portland Airport is roughly \$60.

ILS members who would like to use this service should telephone Woodland Taxi at (877) 225-7314 and pre-arrange a pickup time at the Portland Airport. Networking with other convention attendees will reduce the cost of the taxi. The total charge can be divided by the number of passengers in the taxi.

ILS members interested in using Woodland Taxi should make arrangements by April 10, 2006. If necessary, the firm has the resources to provide additional transporters if more than four people have reserved pickup service.

2006 International Lilac Society Convention Schedule

Wednesday, April 19, 2006

5 p.m. to 9 p.m.: Registration at the Best Western Woodland Inn and Suites.

Thursday, April 20, 2006

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.: Registration at the Best Western Woodland Inn and Suites.

8 a.m.: Buses board for trip to Lelooska Cultural Foundation, Cedar Creek Grist Mill, lunch at the home of Margaret Colf Hepola, Hulda Klager Lilac Garden Board Member. Tour originates at the Best Western Woodland Inn and Suites.

2 p.m.: Buses return to the Woodland motels.

5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.: Directors Meeting at the Best Western Woodland Inn and Suites conference room.

7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.: Welcome Reception at the Oak Tree Restaurant.

Friday, April 21, 2006

8 a.m.: Buses board for trip to Hulda Klager Lilac Gardens, lunch, and Annual Meeting at the Oak Tree Restaurant, speakers, and ILS Auction and Plant Sale.

5 p.m.: Buses return to the Woodland motels.

7 p.m.: President's Dinner followed by speaker at the Oak Tree Restaurant.

Saturday, April 22, 2006

7:30 a.m.: Directors Meeting at the Best Western Woodland Inn and Suites.

9 a.m.: Buses board for trip to Holland America Bulb Farm.

11:30 a.m.: Buses board for trip to Peterson Farms, lunch, tour, Speakers Panel.

5 p.m.: Buses return to the Woodland motels.

7 p.m.: Awards Banquet at the Oak Tree Restaurant.

Sunday, April 23, 2006

Optional tour with additional fee, see registration form.

10 a.m.: Buses board for trip to Mount Saint Helens National Monument.

2 p.m.: Buses return to the Woodland motels.



Nick Iocooa, ILS' youngest member Photo credit: Syringa Plus

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Syringa pekinensis 'Copper Curls': This lilac grows to a mid sized 25-30 ft. tree. Its bark is most attractive point is golden and peeling. The florets are single, creamy in color and have a honey fragrance. Z4-7 36" \$25.00 24" \$20.00 USD, 36" \$30.00 24" \$24.00CDN free shipping for members

Syringa reticulata 'Snow Dance': 'Snow Dance' is a selection of 'Ivory Silk' lilac that flowers heavily every year and does not skip a year as 'Ivory Silk' has the tendency to do. H25-30ft. Single, creamy honey fragrance and Z4-7 36" \$31.00 USD, 36" \$36.00 CDN free shipping for members

No discounts on these products because of free shipping

International Lilac Society

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Bill Horman among typical lilac display in Jacques Marquette Park, Marquette, Michigan. Photo credit: Peter Ely



Holland America Woodland Tulip Field, a stop on Saturday's convention tour Photo credit: Noel Johnson



Syringa along the bank of the North Fork Lewis River Photo credit: Noel Johnson