

Lilacs

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of the International Lilac Society

IN
THIS
ISSUE:

Convention Highlights
and Memoriams



Shane and Kent Millham enjoying their visit
to Lelooska Cultural Center

Photo credit: Bill Horman

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COVER PHOTO: Amy Plamann enjoying the fragrance of lilacs at the convention. Photo credit: Noel Johnson	

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International Lilac Society

President	Nicole Jordan Njordan236@aol.com 15500 Harrowgate Road, Chester, VA 23831
Executive Vice President.....	Bradley Bittorf bittorfb Bradley@yahoo.com 13902 East Pacita Ocho Puntas, Vail, AZ 85641
Secretary	David Gressley dgressley@holdenarb.org c/o The Holden Arboretum, 9500 Sperry Rd., Kirtland, Ohio 44094-5172 Phone: (440) 946-4400 ext. 178
Treasurer	Karen McCauley 325 West 82nd Street, Chaska, MN 55318-3208
Assistant Treasurer.....	William F Tschumi* 3 Paradise Court, Cohoes, New York 12047-1422 Phone: (518) 237-6107
Editor.....	Kent Millham kmillham@monroecounty.gov 253 Burnett Road, Webster, NY 14580

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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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Kent Millham, Editor, 253 Burnett Road, Webster, NY 14580

International Lilac Society Web Site Address:

www.InternationalLilacSociety.org

President's Message and Newsletter

Dear Lilac aficionados,

Bonjour! First let me introduce myself. I'm Nicole Jordan, your new president. Born in Bordeaux, France, I came to the United States in 1959. I landed in Virginia because my husband was stationed at the Quartermaster base in Fort Lee, VA. We never moved from this very hospitable state. Today I live in Chester, a small town a few miles from Richmond, Virginia and about 2 hours south from Washington, D.C. I joined the ILS a long time ago and became a life member. I love lilacs; that goes without saying. We planted them in our four acre garden. Every spring I waited for the first blooms and went around smelling their sweet perfume and declaring to anyone present "It smells like France". Yes mes amis, it does smell like France in springtime when the hedgerows of my childhood were full of lilacs swaying in the gentle winds and filling the air with their fragrance.

In Virginia lilacs can be found in the old plantations, old farms and old neighborhoods. Often planted next to the house, they have grown tall and the blooms are sparse. They seem forlorn to me but they are survivors and have persevered. Time has passed since the original gardeners have planted them and waited with trepidation for those first blooms. We all remember grandmother lilacs. Ah sweet memories...

Garden magazines are mentioning lilacs again. Television gardening shows are exulting the qualities of lilacs. People are asking questions and lilac speakers are in demand. In the southern states of the USA, gardeners are asking about lilacs that can take the heat and survive the drought. They also ask for reblooming lilacs. I hope that our hybridizers are working on improving the genus *Syringa*. Why not; other plant societies struggle with getting that evading blue flower? We have that in our lilacs. So let's make them rebloom, fight the heat and grow knee high to suit small gardens. I think we are entering an exciting period. ILS must be the leader in this fantastic revival. Now is the time to grow our membership. I'm asking every member to bring one new member to ILS. This is a very feasible goal. Ask a friend, family member or colleague to join our society. Even better, sponsor a member for a year. The more members we have, the more we can do. Of course we need to offer all of our members values. We all need to ask ourselves why we joined ILS. I know why; because I wanted to read about lilacs. I wanted to learn about lilacs. I wanted to know people who knew about lilacs. I wanted to know the best sources for lilacs. I wanted to know about the newest and the best lilacs in the world. I simply wanted to be involved with an organization which promotes lilacs. I'm sure I'm not alone feeling that way. Whatever your reason for joining, you are now part of ILS and your role as promoter of the society is important. Don't miss any opportunity to speak about lilacs and ILS.

We need to focus on youth members. ILS cannot remain viable without young people in the society. The board at the 1006 meeting adopted several motions to look into making ILS youth friendly. Of importance were talks about scholarships, reduced rate at conventions, seed money so that youth oriented projects can begin. We have a few youths in ILS. Corrina Moro, daughter of Frank Moro, has the distinction of serving as Regional Vice President of Eastern Canada. Shane Millham attended this year's convention with his father, Kent, who is now our new editor. Nick Iocooa is ILS's youngest member, thanks to his grandmother. These young people one day will march in our footsteps. We need to recruit more of them and plant the seed that one day will blossom into ILS leaders.

The ILS web page is in the hands of Jeff Young, our Web Master. I have hope for it to become a vehicle for great communication, where visitors from all over the world can come and gather information about lilacs and ILS. The possibilities are limitless. We also need a site for a public forum where we can exchange ideas and maintain contact with each other between the conventions.

All of the board members and officers are hard at work for ILS. We have a new editor, Kent Millham, and a new treasurer, Karen McCauley. Let's welcome them. I want to say thank you to all of you who volunteer and give generously of your time for ILS. Thank you to those of you who own nurseries and really promote lilacs. You are often the first step toward converting a gardener into a lilac lover, after grandmother that is... Last week I saw a lilac sticking out of the back of a car going 45 miles per hour down the road. A lilac on the go, and I wonder where it was going to be planted. A lilac in every garden should be our goal, don't you think?

Amities,

Nicole Jordan

ILS President

Chester, VA

June 5, 2006

Njordan236@aol.com

Editor's Note

Erie Park Press, our publisher of 24 years, suddenly and unexpectedly went out of business on Monday, July 10th, while our journal was there in production, causing a delay in the final production date while a new publisher was found.

In Memoriam: Olga Rudenko

We received the news of the passing of life member Olga Rudenko on February 3, 2006, just as the last edition was going to press.

Olga Rudenko was born in Seymour, CT on August 16, 1916. She was the second of the four daughters of Feodor and Efrosinia Rudenko, who were immigrants from the Ukrainian village of Bila Thservka. She graduated from Seymour High School in 1944, and was a long time resident of Seymour.

She was loved by her family, and was generous to everyone in the local community. To her sister's children she became a second mother, and to their children a beloved great aunt. She donated hundreds of flowers to her colleagues in the Seymour Garden Club, and never failed to offer a helping hand to friend and stranger alike.

She was a member of the Russian Orthodox Church, and sang in her local church choir. She never lost touch with the Russian language, and made two visits to the former Soviet Union, including a difficult and arduous pilgrimage to the village where her parents were born.

Olga was happiest when she was outside in her garden working from dawn 'til dusk. In particular, she collected and maintained more than a hundred different kinds of lilacs. People came from near and far to see her collection. The lovely picture of her carrying a bunch of her own lilacs from the 2005 flowering show the astonishing size and quality of bloom which she achieved. It is fitting that these were the lilacs she saw and enjoyed at her final flowering.

Olga was a life member of the International Lilac Society. She attended her first convention in 1985, and was a regular thereafter. She brought to these functions a larger-than-life presence, a big smile, a steely determination, and tremendous support. Speaking -as an English observer, I would have to say that Olga Rudenko struck me as being the very salt of the American earth.

Postscript:

I have a special reason for remembering Olga Rudenko. I met her for the first of many times when I attended my first convention in 1991 at Lombard, IL. I was too excited by that experience to get to know many people, but significantly, I saw there, for the first time, the lilac that conquered and colonized my heart- 'Krasavitsa Moskv', the "Beauty of Moscow".

The following year at the Boston convention I peppered my conversation quite generously with comments about "Crass-ervitsamoskv" (with the accent on syllable "Crass"). After a while, Olga could bear it no longer, so she took me aside and gently gave me my first elementary lesson in Russian pronunciation. It is "Kruh-saah-vitsuh musk-vwee", she pointed out (with the first accent stronger than the second one). For the rest of the convention I buttonholed Olga and

sought her advice on the pronunciation of every Russian name I could think of. When I returned home I bought an English-Russian Dictionary and also signed up for a BBC Television course on "Russian Language and People". Though I was too old to learn to speak Russian, and I only read it slowly and with great uncertainty, I did translate the Russian descriptions of Nikolai Mikhailov's new lilacs into English and publish them in this Journal. It was the greatest intellectual feat that I ever achieved, and one that set me on a new course for the rest of my life.

Thus, when Olga took me aside and kindly set me right, she made it possible for me to become what I am today. In trying to thank that gracious lady, as my last act as President of ILS, I made her our Regional Vice President for Heaven.

Colin Chapman
March 20, 2006

Robert S. Gilbert: In Memoriam

I was writing my appreciation of Olga Rudenko when the news arrived of the passing of Rob Gilbert, former Assistant Treasurer of this Society. I am not in the same position to write a formal appreciation of Rob, as I was with Olga, because I do not have detailed biographical notes around which to weave a story. Nevertheless, I cannot let the moment pass without sharing with you some reminiscences of my old friend.

I cannot recall when I first met Rob and Sabra Gilbert. It was either at the Glen Ellyn, Chicago Convention of 1991 or the Arnold Arboretum Convention in Boston 1992. What followed was a wonderful gesture of their understanding and generosity. They came to England and stayed with us in December 1992 and then moved on to revisit the station in England where Rob had served during the Second World War. I missed the Convention in 1993 in Spokane but then, at a time when I could not have afforded to attend entirely on my own resources, they welcomed me to their home for the next three years in succession, and drove me to the Conventions in New Hampshire in 1994, Clinton Iowa in 1995, and the one they themselves hosted in Poughkeepsie in 1996. There were many highlights, but most memorable was the long drive across a third of America from Hyde Park, NY to Clinton on the western bank of the Mississippi River.

During my three stays Rob took me out and about their corner of New York State and he taught me to love that wonderful area. We visited places like the elegant town of Rhinebeck, the historic Huguenot village of New Paltz, and the lilacs at the Mohonk Mountain House garden. At Vassar College, Rob gave me my first sight of *Acer rubrum* 'October Glory' standing in front of the library, a must-have tree that now lights up this garden in the fall. At the Vanderbilt Man-

sion I saw the dogwoods in breathtaking blossom. We lunched each day and we talked and talked and talked. My picture of Rob is at one of our typical lunch-time venues beside his beloved Hudson River, and you might note that the lime daiquiri in the foreground is mine to return to after taking the photograph.

Especially, we talked about former Hyde Park resident Franklin Delano Roosevelt who used to call in at Rob's home when he was a child to converse on farming topics with his father. Rob took me to the Roosevelt home in Hyde Park, and in the rose garden, within a white rope supported by gleaming brass posts, there were the graves of FDR and Eleanor with a flag at the head of the grave of the former President.. There was no one else in the rose garden except an immaculate, armed, Honour Guard in full dress uniform complete with white gloves and cravat. He had a face like Mount Rushmore and, in his impassive presence, I remembered that I had been a child in wartime England who had survived the blitz. I wanted, at that moment, to approach the President's grave in order to express appreciation for what he had done for my country in its darkest hour of need. The rope was unhooked and for a few moments I was privileged to stand and reflect at the grave of one of the absolute heroes of my life. Thanks Rob; that was a great one.



Bob Gilbert at lunch near his beloved Hudson River

Rob and Sabra took me into their home and treated me like family. They took me to "Pie In The Sky", their lilac collection which Joe Bertino described so eloquently recently. Rob also took me off the beaten track to show me a small, secret grove of lilacs he knew that, among others, certainly included 'Glory' and 'Ambassadeur'. Most memorably, on the final evening of my final stay we dined

at a restaurant on the West Bank of the Hudson River on a decking terrace suspended over the river itself. As I dined on lobster in that most romantic of locations, there suddenly erupted, on the opposite bank, the fireworks of graduation night at Vassar College which blazed across the sky for an hour and set seal on a blissful occasion.

I last met Rob and Sabra at the 1999 Convention in Burlington, Vermont and I have neither seen them nor, to my shame, communicated with them since. Thus the news of the passing of that fine and genial, practical man was a shock and it brought instantly to my mind the words of the poet John Donne.

"No man is an island, entire in it self.....any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in Mankind; And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; It tolls for Thee".

With the passing of Rob Gilbert I know that I am diminished and I do hear the bell tolling. Our hearts go out to Sabe and the family, and I am pleased to note that the board has voted to set up a fund in his memory.

*Colin Chapman
June 2nd 2006*

In Memoriam: Bob Gilbert

On March 21, 2006, ILS lost one of its most distinguished members, Robert (Bob) Stockholm Gilbert Sr. after a long illness. Always an active member of society, he served his country, ILS, and many other organizations with enthusiasm and vigor.

Mr. Gilbert served as a first lieutenant during World War II, and was awarded a number of medals, including 2 Battle Stars, a Bronze Star, Combat Infantry Badge, and 4 other decorations.

He spent most of his life in Hyde Park, NY, running a dairy farm with his brother Thomas, specializing in golden Guernsey cattle. He used this experience further when working as a livestock nutritionist for Cargill Corporation.

Bob was a volunteer tour guide at the Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site for many years, giving almost 1,600 hours of service. Other organizations he was a member of included The Wilderness Society, Sierra Club, the 100th Infantry Division Association, the Bioneers, Town of Hyde Park Historical Society, and of course the International Lilac Society. He was a master gardener, and the scope of his interest went beyond lilacs, with one of his other specialties being heritage roses.

Bob Gilbert and his second wife Sabra joined ILS in 1984, and served it in many capacities. He was on the Board of Directors for many years, and served the society as Assistant Treasurer. That alone would distinguish Mr. Gilbert as an ac-

tive and important member of ILS, but he also served on many committees, and along with his wife Sabra, hosted a very good convention in 1996 in Hyde Park and Poughkeepsie, NY.

Bob's love of lilacs led Sabra and him to eventually purchase "Pie-in-the-Sky" for their lilacs, a beautiful 5.75 acre property near the Catskill Mountains. Knowing that the land previously supported alfalfa crops, and upon examining the soil, Bob determined the pie-shaped field to be the perfect location for their beloved lilacs. On this land, Bob and Sabra have planted approximately 175 lilacs, almost all purchased at ILS auctions. They even went to the trouble of relocating 40 lilacs from their previous land to the new location.

Bob Gilbert's service to ILS, and his friendship with its members will be sorely missed, but his legacy will continue to be served by his wife Sabra, as their lilacs continue to be shared with all lilac lovers who come to see and smell them at "Pie-in-the-Sky".

Mr. Gilbert is survived by his wife, 2 sons, Robert S. Jr. and Charles B., daughter Edwina, stepdaughter Kimberly Jones Baxter, 4 grandchildren, a step-grandson, 4 nieces, and 2 nephews.

Sources for this tribute were Bob Gilbert's obituary, ILS service information provided by Peter Ely, and a long telephone conversation with Sabra Gilbert.

Robert Gilbert Memorial Fund

ILS members may contribute to the Robert Gilbert Memorial Fund by sending a check to the International Lilac Society c/o Karen McCauley, Treasurer, at 325 West 82nd Street, Chaska, MN 55318-3208. Please note on check 'Gilbert Fund', and make out to ILS.

Highlights of the ILS Convention 2006

John and I just returned from another wonderful ILS convention. The convention was held in Woodland, Washington and was hosted by the Hulda Klager Lilac Gardens. Everyone in Woodland outdid themselves showing us such a great time. What a beautiful day we spent at the Gardens. All of the lilacs were in bloom and the weather, though a bit cool, was great for viewing all of the flowers. Woody did a fine job as auctioneer for the Lilac Auction, under a tent in the gardens, despite the interruption of the trains going by. (I think Owen counted 84 cars on one of the trains.)

We visited the Holland America Bulb Farm and saw an impressive display of Holland tulips. The owner, Benno Dobbe, gave a wonderful talk on how he and his family came to this country with nothing, and started this farm.

The Peterson family showed us around their berry farm and we saw how they bagged and froze the berries for sale. It was quite an operation!!! Roberta's sewing and quilt room was a hit with all the ladies...(I hope I win the quilt in the raffle). Roberta also let us enjoy seeing the lilacs that she cares for before they are sent to the Klager Gardens for sale. We had a yummy lunch at Roberta and Gerry's daughter's property, and it looked so festive with all of the lilac flowered tablecloths and napkins.

On Sunday, some of the members stayed to visit Mt. St. Helens. We had seen the mountain from a distance most of the week, so it was nice to get a closer view. Mt. Hood, Mt. Adams, and Mt. Rainier, as well as Mt. St. Helens are all snow covered.

After we got back from the mountain, John, Mary Lizotte and I went to see Margaret Colf Hepola's new home in progress. The others had seen it on Thursday before we arrived, so when I mentioned to Margaret that we were sorry to have missed it, she graciously invited us to come visit. It was as spectacular as other members had said, and Margaret was a wonderful hostess. We sat outside on one of her many patios and enjoyed the view and conversation...

I hope members will get in touch with Karen McCauley, to buy ILS shirts. It was nice spending time and talking with everyone and look forward to seeing you all next year.

*Ellen Thurlow
April 25, 2006*

My Memories from Woodland

I long looked forward to going to this year's convention in Woodland, Washington. In all of my travels, I had never been to the Pacific Northwest. As a plant lover and an avid birder, I wanted to observe the many species of flora and avian life found there that I would never see in upstate New York. One of the prime reasons that I wanted to go, of course, was to see the home of one of the best of the lilac hybridizers, Hulda Klager. Also, this would be the first plane trip for my son Shane, which was very exciting.

The first day, as almost all of the convention, dawned sunny and beautiful. Our first excursion was to the Lelooska Cultural Center in Ariel, Washington. We saw several towering examples of brightly painted totems. We were guided inside to a museum filled with many Native American artifacts, many from tribes of the Pacific Northwest. The highlight of this field trip, however, was the living

history program conducted in an authentic Kwakwaka'wakw ceremonial house.

We entered the dark interior of the large, log built structure, which was lit only by a small opening in the roof. This opening served as a skylight, but its chief purpose was to let out the smoke from the fire in the center of the room. The large central area for ceremonial dances was flanked on opposite sides by several tiers of long wooden benches rising up to the walls. Two towering Indian wooden figures stood on either side of the doorway, with two more opposite on the inner wall, all with their mouths agape. The ceremony began with a puff of feathers shooting out of the mouth of one of the figures!

Chief Tsungani served as the narrator for the long program, which included many dances representing the folklore of the Kwakiutl Nation. All of the beings and animals shown were played by family members of the Chief, including a raven played by a girl no more than 5 or 6 years old. Audience participation was a must, with the members of a large school group enthusiastically howling as wolves when cued by Chief Tsungani. Another fascinating tale of folklore was about the Old Man, or in further detail, "he who was created an old man in the beginning of the world". He was led out by one of the family members, portrayed by a huge wooden, cedar mask which also had moose teeth and mountain goat skin as components of the mask. This mask, as many others in the program, had movable parts, with the eyebrows moving up and down, eyes opening and closing, and the mouth closing with a loud, clicking sound.

We were all temporarily transported to another time and culture, brought there by the fire and dim light, colorful costumes and bizarre masks(many of which opened up to have an inner mask), and the rhythmic beating of the drum and rattles. Chief Tsungani's storytelling instantly drew us all centuries back in time to the origins of the earth and its creatures.

Reluctantly leaving the past, we rapidly came back to the present to be invited to an excellent lunch (really a big dinner!) at the newly built manor of Margaret Colf Hepola. Her home easily accommodated our group, and walking off the lunch led to a stroll on the winding walkways in the back, with water features, beautiful landscaping, and mountain views to admire. Also, this was the first location I observed an outstanding tulip mixture of velvety purple, magenta, and pink. This mix was also used at the Hulda Klager Lilac Gardens.

Later in the afternoon, we went to Cedar Creek Grist Mill, one of the few locations left to produce flour by this historical method. It was located next to the picturesque Cedar Creek, where upstream a fish monitoring project was also in place, using a drum trap. Over the creek was a beautiful covered bridge.

Friday was our long awaited trip to the Hulda Klager Lilac Garden. I was initially impressed by the large *Araucaria* tree in the front, which hitherto I thought to be a tropical tree. It rose at least 75 feet high, a grand sentinel to the garden. Walking along the entry path, we passed many overhanging flowering camellias. Shane and I went around to the back, where the lilacs were in peak bloom.

The collection was laid out in a pattern of interlocking beds, with the periphery beds holding many of the oldest Klager specimens. 'Pink Elizabeth' was the cultivar most in evidence, with its vibrant, pink blooms. Other Klager cultivars that I had never seen before included 'Hallelujah', 'Lady Lucille', and the white-bloomed 'Mount Hood', aptly named for its blooms the color of the mountain's snow cap. Klager varieties were not the only ones on display. One of the first that I spotted was a 'President Lincoln'; its blue florets contrasting to the many pink-hued lilacs in the collection. A young specimen of *Syringa x chinensis* 'Lilac Sunday' was in full bloom near the front of the beds. Again, the beautiful tulip mix of dark, velvety purple, magenta, and pink accented the lilacs, just as they added beauty to the landscape of Margaret Hepola's estate.

After examining all of the lilacs, we went inside the gift shop, and into the house. Inside the Klager home, a mark on the wall denoted where the floodwaters rose when the Klager property was devastated in 1948.

After lunch at the Oak Tree Restaurant, with talks on soils and fertilizers, we returned to the garden for the ILS auction on a brilliant, sunny afternoon. There were many excellent cultivars donated, and the bidding was spirited. Two of the highlights of the afternoon were brand new cultivars just named by the United States National Arboretum by Dr. Margaret Pooler. Both *Syringa x hyacinthiflora* 'Declaration' and *Syringa x hyacinthiflora* 'Old Glory' were originally selections by the late Donald Egolf, and named by Dr. Pooler. Syringa Plus provided the 2 plants for the auction, and I am happy to say that I was successful in obtaining one, with Shane's help in the bidding process!

In the evening, another great meal was had by most at the Oak Tree Restaurant, with an excellent talk by Giles Waines on flower initiation in lilacs, and Pierce's disease. Unfortunately, Shane and I missed it, because he wanted to have some "normal" food at Dairy Queen.

Saturday was another full day, with trips to the Holland America Bulb Farms, and Peterson Farms. Starting at the bulb farms, as far as the eye could see were the growing fields for the bulbs, and for the gardening tourists were two display gardens of tulips. The owner, Benne Dobbe, gave us a behind-the-scenes tour of the cut flower operation, which packages and sends more than a million flowers a week during peak periods.

Then we drove to Peterson farms for a mouth-watering lunch, and two talks on tissue culture of lilacs. Later, we saw the frozen berry operation, and the huge container nursery of lilacs, which is a source for the lilacs for sale at the Hulda Klager Lilac Garden.

In the evening, one of the highlights of the trip for me occurred when my son Shane was the presenter for the President's Award to the Hulda Klager Lilac Garden. He read the entire plaque without a slip, and received a big hug from Joyce Carlson.

Sunday, some people had to leave, but those who stayed were able to view Mt. St. Helens, site of the volcanic eruption that caused so much loss of life and devastation. In thirty seconds, the mountain was reduced by 1700 feet in height for over a mile! In the 25 years since the eruption, the landscape has recovered somewhat, with plants once again covering much of the area.

The hospitality of the Hulda Klager Lilac Society made this convention a huge success, and we returned home with many fond memories that we will cherish.

*Kent Millham
Highland Botanical Park*

ILS Annual Meeting Notes

21 April 2006

Oak Tree Restaurant

Woodland, Washington, USA

Note: Meeting events transcribed by Margaret Walker and typed by Brad Bittorf.
Meeting called to order by Executive Vice President Brad Bittorf at 5:40PM.

Quorum was present. Conveyed regrets from England and Colin as well as his statement that he would not be seeking re-election.

Regrets also from Konrad Kircher, David Gressley, Bob Hoepfl, Evie King, Charlie Holetich, Bill Tschumi, Reva Ballreich, Jim Hastings.

Membership: membership holding steady at 388 for 2006 (it had been 396 in 2005). Details for this and all committee reports are available from Brad and will be published in the Journal.

Need to concentrate on increasing membership. Vacancies include president, treasurer, regional VP's, lilac database inventory coordinator, editor of lilac journal.

Ballots for Board will be announced at President's dinner. [Note: results: Board members elected were Mary Lizotte, Konrad Kircher, Dr. Giles Waines, Bruce Peart, Irene Stark.]

Treasurer's report submitted by Jim Hastings. Highlights include:

\$13,957 credits for 2006.

\$17,000 spent in 2006.

\$69,338 in funds. Approved two projects for educational/research funding last year; these funds are committed but not yet spent.

Full report to be published in journal.

Board decided to consolidate funding from Canada and Europe into a single account.

Editor report: new things tried, formed a publication advisory committee. May also be able to help with web site – Dave Gressley, Nicole Jordan, Bill Horman, Brad Bittorf.

Policy statement developed for youth membership; we will be trying to do more things to attract and retain youth members.

Future conventions: 2007 at Mackinac Island, Michigan—probably June 7-9. 2008 United Kingdom – we will need an idea of how many can come—and are willing to pay! Will have a survey tomorrow on the journal, the Society, and conventions. We will also request members include their top three lilacs from visit today—Nicole will compile the results and we may generate some “lilac publicity” with this information.

Possibilities for England include 7-10 days around \$3000, with transportation to the U.K. separate. Need to know who to ensure we can have a successful board meeting.

2008 will be either Minneapolis or Ottawa.

By-Laws changes: The by-laws will be placed on the web site or are available from Brad. Changes in progress include possibility of direct election of President and term limits for board members.

Nomenclature: Remember to use proper scientific nomenclature (terminology) when writing about lilacs. Freek Vrugtman will proofread any submissions. The journal and web site will be reviewed with the intention of keeping proper terminology included.

Archives: The ILS archives are in safekeeping at Highland Park in Rochester. During the prior year they have been moved from RBG in Hamilton. The Board approved the relocation of them from Highland Park to the Arnold Arboretum

in Boston where they will be managed by the Archivist under agreement with ILS that will permit selective public access according to the agreement. ILS will cover expenses for this transfer.

The new website (<http://www.internationallilacsociety.org>) continues to be developed and will be managed for another year.

Roberta Peterson has volunteered to assist Freek Vrugtman with the Lilac Inventory Database (LID).

Jeff Young will provide tours and education for the 2006 Mackinac Island Lilac Festival as he did in 2005.

Fond memories and sadness expressed at the death of long-time member Bob Gilbert. An ILS fund will be established in his honor.

Motion to adjourn by Jeff Young. Second by Jack Alexander. Motion passed at 9:00PM.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

As of the 27th of March 2006, International Lilac Society has 388 memberships. I reported a total membership of 396 for 2005, 390 for 2004, and 465 memberships in 2003.

ILS members fall in the following categories: 270 annual memberships, 104 lifetime members, 11 complimentary memberships and 3 honorary memberships.

Geographical representation of ILS membership in 2005 as follows: ILS presently has 309 U.S. members, 45 European members, 28 Canadian members and 6 Asian members.

*Submitted 27 March 2006
Dave Gressley
Membership Secretary*

Treasurer's Report 2006

KeyBank Checking Account Balance April 1, 2006	\$1,178.22
KeyBank Certificate of Deposit 1.48%	\$9,160.51
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. National Mortgage Assn. 5.25%	<u>\$41,000.00</u>
Total Funds Available	\$69,338.73
Funds Held in SPECIAL ACCOUNTS 4/1/06	\$53,635.74
Total Funds in GENERAL ACCOUNT 4/1/06	\$15,702.99

Funds held in SPECIAL ACCOUNTS 4/1/06

Life Member/Endowment Fund

Brought Forward 4/1/05		\$28,860.21
L.M. 4/1/05=136+0=136	4/1/06	\$ 0.00
Miscellaneous contributions	4/1/06	\$ <u>345.00</u>
Credit	4/1/06	\$ 345.00
		<u>\$ 345.00</u>
		\$29,205.21

Plant Propagation Fund (Laurene Wishart)

4/1/05 = \$1,260.17 + Int. \$53.56	\$1,313.73	\$ 1,313.73
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Education & Research

4/1/04 = \$6,689.50 + Int. \$284.30	\$6,973.80	\$ 6,973.80
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Publications (other than Journal)

4/1/05 = \$820.56 + Int. \$34.87	\$ 855.43	\$ 855.43
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C.C. Clark Memorial Fund (Int. deferred

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

Brought Forward 4/1/05	\$5,403.57
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Interest Credit 4/1/06	\$ <u>425.00</u>
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Funds Available 4/1/06	\$5,828.57
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Debits: 4/1/05 – 5/1/06

Vol. 34 no. 2	\$100.00
Vol. 34 no. 3	\$100.00
Vol. 34 no. 4	\$171.00
Vol. 35 no. 1	<u>\$170.00</u>
	\$541.00
	\$ <u>541.00</u>

Balance in Funds 4/1/06	\$5,287.57	\$ <u>5,287.57</u>
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Total Funds in SPECIAL ACCTS. 4/1/06	\$53,635.74
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Total Funds in GENERAL ACCTS. 4/1/06	<u>\$15,702.99</u>
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TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	\$69,338.73
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Prepared April 1, 2006 by James P. Hastings, Treasurer

Audit Committee Report

To whom it may concern:

Let it be known that I the undersigned have examined the Treasurer's Annual Report – April 19-23, 2006, submitted by one James Hastings and find such in good order. In my opinion our Treasurer has prudently invested a major portion of available funds in substantial interest producing financial instruments, thus providing a financial structure, making available the necessary day to day monies needed in support of the Treasurer's minimal expenditures.

*Respectfully,
Walter E. Eickhorst
For the Audit Committee*

Volunteers Needed to Serve on the Board of Directors

The Nominations Committee has the responsibility of nominating members who are willing to serve on the Board of directors. A ballot will be prepared in the Spring of 2007 and will be sent to all members of the Society to vote for up to five persons from a list of six or seven nominees. The Directors serve for a three year term and can be re-elected for a second three year term. Members who are interested in serving as Directors or who wish to nominate another member, please contact the Nominations Chairman listed below. Since the important work of the Directors as well as the selection of the next years Officers is done during the Directors' meetings at each convention, it is beneficial that they attend as many of the three conventions as possible. It appears that as many as four of the present Directors whose term ends in June 2007, may not be returning. Therefore, it is very important that we come up with several members who may have never served before or who have not served for several years. Please seriously consider this opportunity to serve your Society as a Director. No experience is needed and we appreciate new ideas, new talents and interest that each Director can contribute to the board for the betterment of ILS. Please submit names to Peter Ely, Nominations chairman, at SEly634929@aol.com or phone number 203-888-2628, or address 57 Squantuck Road, Seymour, CT 06483.

Thank you.

ILS Future Convention Schedule

2007 Mackinac Island, Michigan

The tentative dates are Wed. June 6, (arrival day), Thurs. June 7, Fri. June 8 and Sat. June 9 (departure day), 2007. Specific plans and dates for the Convention will be announced in your October 2006 Journal and also on the ILS website. The above dates, remember, are tentative, at this time.

The convention Committee has been carefully considering all possible ways to hold the convention on Mackinac Island and at the same time keeping the costs of lodging and meals to a reasonable price. Since Mackinac Island is a resort community, their rates increase on the weekends. Therefore, that may be a reason to have our convention begin on Wednesday, rather than the usual Thursday and then our departure day would be on Saturday. Considerable thought is going into providing you with a quality convention, at a prime lilac site and at a reasonable cost on Mackinac Island. We will enjoy the famous Island collection of lilacs (several of them donated by ILS members when we were last there in 1997), have our usual convention activities and auction, and enjoy the many pleasures of this unique island. More specific details and registration information will be in the next Journal in late October 2006 and also on the ILS website. Please contact Peter Ely, Convention Chair, at 203-888-2628, or e-mail: SEly634929@aol.com for any information.

2008 Details for a convention in England are still in the planning stages at this time. Bruce Peart is the person responsible for preparing the information if ILS visits England. The alternative site, being considered in North America, will be in the Minneapolis, MN area and the organizers for that convention will be Karen and Tim McCauley. Details will be in the next Journal and on the ILS website.

2009 Conventions for 2009 and after, at various sites, are in initial stages of planning. Members are invited to send suggestions for Convention sites to the Convention Chairman or the President.

International Lilac Society Awards

Award of Merit

Presented to

The Woodland Chamber of Commerce and
Tourist Information Center

For promotion of the Hulda Klager Lilac Garden,
and the active advertising of the 35th annual convention
of the International Lilac Society.



Photo Credit Noel Johnson

Award of Merit

Presented to

City of Woodland

Doug Monge, Mayor

In recognition of the City of Woodland's support of the Hulda Klager Lilac Garden. By including them in city events, brochures, websites and generous financial backing.



Photo Credit Noel Johnson

Award of Merit

Presented to

Margaret Colf Hepola

For your generous hospitality at the 35th annual meeting of ILS.



Photo Credit Noel Johnson

Award of Merit

Presented to

Melissa Finn

For coordinating the efforts to return the soil of the Klager Gardens to the proper production level, and for sharing your results with the ILS.



Photo Credit Bill Horman

Award of Merit

Presented to

Gudrun Mahrt

For pursuing the development of fertilizers for specific plant families, and sharing the importance of pH levels in growing lilacs.



Photo Credit Noel Johnson

Award of Merit

Presented to

Holland America Bulb Farm

For allowing ILS to experience your unique contribution to the botanical world. This facility definitely compliments our trip to the Pacific Northwest.



Photo Credit Bill Horman

Award of Merit
Presented to
Steve McCulloch
For your informative and interesting presentation on
"The Lab Process" of accurate tissue culturing of lilacs.



Photo Credit Bill Horman

Award of Merit
Presented to
Kila Benge
For your presentation on the handling of tissue cultured
lilacs from repotting to outplanting the liners.



Photo Credit Noel Johnson

Award of Merit
Presented to
Roberta Peterson
For your presentation on the "Growth of Potted Lilacs",
and sharing the lilac experience of Peterson Farms.
For your part in preserving the Klager Lilac legacy,
Assisting in the ILS auction, and your hospitality at the
35th annual ILS convention.



Photo Credit Bill Horman

Distinguished Recognition Award
Presented to
The Energetic Committee Responsible
Providing an Interesting, Enjoyable, and
Successful 35th ILS Convention

Joyce Carlson	Betty Mills
Barbara Chester	Fran Northcut
Janice Fillman	June Paris
Virginia Fitz	Roberta Peterson
Joann Harshburger	Jerry Peterson
Margaret Hepola	Rebecca Roberts
Ruth Wendt	



Photo Credit Noel Johnson

President's Award

Presented to

Hulda Klager Lilac Society

For rescuing and restoring the home of this Lilac Pioneer. For preserving and maintaining her lilac legacy by continued improvements to her display garden.



Photo Credit Noel Johnson

Honor and Achievement Award

Presented to

Franklin L. "Woody" Barnes

For continuing his family's tradition of growing production lilacs as cut flowers. For promoting lilacs through post card mailings, department store displays, building a personally selected lilac collection, including many of his own seedlings, and serving as the ILS Auctioneer.



Photo Credit Noel Johnson

Director's Award

Presented to

Dr. J. Giles Waines

In recognition of your outstanding contribution and extensive Research working to adapting lilac species to warm weather climates and small urban gardens. For your presentation of "Flower Initiation in Lilacs & Pierce's Disease", and serving as ILS Research Chairman.



Photo Credit Noel Johnson

Remembrances of Woodland



One of friendly hosts of
Lelooska Cultural Center

Photo Credit Noel Johnson



Margaret Colf Hepola
in front of her house

Photo Credit Noel Johnson



Cedar Creek
Grist Mill

Photo Credit Noel Johnson



Margaret Colf Hepola's
beautiful new estate

Photo Credit Kent Millham



Sally Schenker next to
S. x laciniata

Photo Credit Noel Johnson



Enjoying lunch at
the Petersons'

Photo Credit Noel Johnson



Peter Ely and Roberta
Peterson at Lilac Gardens

Photo Credit Bill Horman



Walking to the Holland
America warehouses

Photo Credit Noel Johnson



"Hulda Klager"
pays a visit

Photo Credit Noel Johnson



Future Lilac Lovers

Photo Credit W. Horman



Brad Bittorf
describes lilac

Photo Credit W. Horman



Future ILS
speaker

Photo Credit W. Horman



New President
Nicole Jordan

Photo Credit W. Horman

Regional Reports

Southern Region ILS Report 2006

Region 3 has presently only 18 members. I have sent a letter to each of the members to encourage them to come to the convention. I have received three responses. Unfortunately none of the members responding could attend. I did like very much that they took the time to respond, two via e-mail, one by phone. In May I will be giving a talk on lilacs to a Richmond, VA garden club. Thank you to Bill Horman for sending me flyers and information on Lilacs. Thank you also to Nancy and Henri Latimer send me their Lilacs slides for the program. We need to spread the word about this wonderful plant. There is a "Lilac Renaissance" going on we need to take action. Speaking to garden groups is a good way to promote lilacs and hopefully increase membership. My goal for next year is to increase Region 3 membership by 5 new members.

*Submitted by Nicole Jordan
RVP Region 3*

Central Region, ILS Report 2006

I want to thank all of you who voted for me in the recent election for the Board of Directors. We had a very good voter turnout due to Peter Ely's idea of sending a ballot to each member.

Thanks for your letters-most recently from New Jersey and Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. I am here to help you, so just drop a line or phone me at (231) 843-8459(no e-mail address)

We had a great lilac bloom in our area of Michigan and a very long season due to the frequent rain plus the cool temperatures. My lilac 'Irene' flowered for the first time, and it was as Max Peterson described it: "the bluest blue". This first week of June we are enjoying the beauty and wonderful scent of the late lilacs, 'Miss Kim', 'Nike', and 'Miss Canada'.

I had an abundant supply of lilacs in May, so I decided that besides taking bouquets to the different businesses, I put a card next to the vase saying if someone wanted a lilac bouquet to phone 843-8459 and bring a pail. I had a wonderful response and I pruned the lilacs at the same time, besides making people happy.

I recently came across an interesting article that I had cut out of a newspaper a few years ago. In 2004, American researchers Dr. Richard Axel and Linda Buck shared the Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine for their work on the sense of smell. Their genetic work reveals family "receptor" proteins in your nose that recognize odors, and how the odor information is transmitted to the

brain. For example, they showed how a person can smell a lilac in the spring and recall it in the winter. Now we know why we can smell lilacs in the winter—it is all in our head, but isn't that scent fragrant?

*Irene Stark
June 7, 2006*

Eastern Canada Report 2006

Even if I am Regional VP for Eastern Canada for the ILS, I feel like there are no boundaries to this title. I travel to the US numerous times for flower shows in the late winter and the lilac Festival in Rochester, NY in May. These travels have all been lilac-related.

What a great year this has been! I have been getting into the lilac world more and more lately. I have attended a number of flower shows in the United States as well as the Montreal Botanical Garden Flower Show. I have been talking to the Botanical Gardens in Montreal and trying to get them to join the ILS. I have realized that they are a little weary knowing that there is no quarterly or any sort of letters in French in the ILS. Most of the Eastern region of Canada is franco-phone. This causes some kind of turn away for people to join in Quebec and regions in New Brunswick. I understood their point since French is mostly spoken in both provinces and most of the schools in Quebec are actually Francophone. English is not taught or only the basics are taught. I am sure that this is also a problem in other countries and not only Canada.

I have also been thinking about the youth program. I strongly believe that we should try getting some students from high school and college who are taking agriculture. I know that there are some schools that do have agriculture. While attending the Philadelphia Show in March, I saw that there are some nice displays those students from both college and high school had done. I have also realized Penn State from State College, PA had a booth there. Has anyone tried getting some bigger colleges in the United States and try to promote the ILS? There are many colleges, so we can always ask them if any of them are interested in expanding their knowledge on lilacs to join. Many want a change in the ILS, but there has to be some kind of force behind and make those changes. We cannot say we need something, and not do anything about it. I can try to promote the ILS in some of the major colleges, but I do not think this can be handled solo, but a few other members would need to join and give a helping hand.

I also thought about the ILS holding a photography contest. It is just about lilac season, so I think that this can be fun and also have inactive members join in. This could be placed in the quarterly or the website.

I also believe that we need a different medium to talk to everyone. My father, Frank, has sent an e-mail that we should try using an Instant Messenger. There are some IMing systems that have microphone options. I use MSN, AIM, Yahoo!, and Skype. I personally find that Skype and AIM would work the best in our

situation. Skype has a very easy setup and it doesn't have much of a delay. AIM is commonly used in the USA and it can withhold many people. This can help out for costly phone charges around the world and it's free to use the microphone. This can help out the suggestions and talk earlier or later throughout the year and not have to wait for the convention. If anyone has any suggestions or comments about this, feel free to e-mail me at: kitsunegirl20@yahoo.ca

I would like for some feedback about my ideas. E-mails would be very appreciated and I'd like to hear some suggestions on other peoples' behalf. With one idea, we could elaborate develop it. We need to play out our ideas and not just toss them around and do nothing to improve the society. We need members, and we need to improve our outdated methods.

Spring has finally arrived. The lilacs are looking exquisite and I cannot wait to see the lilac season in full swing. I miss the aroma of them, and I am quite anxious to take out my camera and start my photography once again.

*Regional VP for Eastern Canada
Corinna Moro*

International Lilac Society U.S.A. Mountain Region Report

During 2005-2006, I again answered several inquiries that were forwarded to me regarding care of lilacs in Arizona. Photographs of Arizona lilacs in bloom remain available.

There has been very little membership activity in this region because most of my time has been spent conducting Executive Vice President business.

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

*Brad Bittorf
ILS U.S. Mountain Regional VP
March 25, 2006*

Next Issue Deadline

Please submit articles for Fall 2006 by September 15, 2006. Articles may be submitted to kmillham@monroecounty.gov, or Kent Millham, 253 Burnett Rd., Webster NY 14580. Regions not reporting yet will appear in the next issue.

FROM THE REGISTRAR'S DESK

Neal S. Holland and his FAIRYTALE™ Series of Lilacs

by Freek Vrugtman

The Originator

Neal S. Holland owns and operates Sheyenne Gardens nursery and greenhouse in Harwood, North Dakota. He received a bachelor's degree from North Dakota State University, Fargo, North Dakota, in 1951 and a master's degree in horticulture in 1960. Among his successes as a plant breeder are 'Hazen' apple; 'Mantador' broccoli; 'Sheyenne', 'Cannonball', 'Dakota Gold' and 'Lark' tomatoes; 'Discus', 'Emerald' and 'Gold Nugget' squash (an All-America Selection); and, last but not least, the lilac cultivars in the FAIRYTALE™ series. Neal Holland, professor emeritus of horticulture, retired from NDSU in 1986 after 32 years, including three years as acting chair of horticulture. Holland has received several awards throughout his career; in 1966, he was the recipient of the American Seed Trade Association's All-America Selections Silver Medal for the development of 'Gold Nugget' squash.

The FAIRYTALE™ Lilacs

Since the late 1990s Bailey Nurseries, Inc. of St Paul, Minnesota, and their Canadian Agent, Jeffries Nurseries Ltd of Portage La Prairie, Manitoba, have introduced several new lilac cultivars in the so called FAIRYTALE™ series of lilacs which now appear to be widely available. The FAIRYTALE™ series contains selections made from among the progeny of the cross *Syringa meyeri* 'Palibin' H *Syringa pubescens* subsp. *microphylla* 'Superba'. There is no hybrid species (nothospecies) epithet for the progeny of this cross. Four of the five cultivars released to date have received United States Plant Patents (USPP), therefore the cultivar names are considered to be registered. Descriptive information on these cultivars has been gleaned from the USPP information posted on the internet. The RHS Colour Chart, 1995 edition, was used for color determination. The FAIRYTALE™ lilacs have registered trademarks. Since trademarks are not names they must be clearly identified (™); if used on plant labels, in plant lists or catalogs, they must appear with the appropriate cultivar epithet.

Syringa 'Bailbelle' (TINKERBELLE™)

Compact shrub, approximately 5 to 6 feet in height and width; flower bud color Red-Purple Group 71B; flower color Red-Purple Group 73C, fading to Red-Purple Group 69D; USDA Hardiness Zone 3 to 7.

Syringa 'Baildust' (FAIRY DUST™)

Compact to upright shrub, approximately 5 to 6 feet in height and width; flower bud color Red-Purple Group 63C (upper surface) and Red-Purple Group 65C (lower surface); flower color Red-Purple Group 65A (upper surface) and Red-

Purple Group 65D (lower surface), fading to White Group 155D with highlights of Red-Purple Group 65B on the upper surface; USDA Hardiness Zone 3 to 7.

Syringa 'Bailina' (THUMBELINA™)

Compact shrub, approximately 5 to 6 feet in height and width, said to be the most compact in this series, with a rounded growth habit. Flower bud color medium pink; in full bloom florets light pink with sweet fragrance. USPP has been applied for; more accurate descriptive information could not yet be located at time of writing.

Syringa 'Bailming' (PRINCE CHARMING™)

Compact shrub, approximately 5 to 6 feet in height and width; flower bud color Red-Purple Group 70A (upper surface) and Red-Purple Group 71B (lower surface); in full bloom flower color Red-Purple Group 70C with Red-Purple Group 69B and 69C at the margin, fading to Red-Purple Group 75A (upper surface) and Red-Purple Group 74D (lower surface); USDA Hardiness Zone 4 to 7.

Syringa 'Bailsugar' (SUGAR PLUM FAIRY™)

Compact, rounded dwarf shrub of approximately 5 to 6 feet in height and width; flower bud color ranging from Red-Purple Group 71A, with margin of Red-Purple Group 70C (upper surface), and Red-Purple Group 70B, blending with Red-Purple Group 70C and Purple-Violet Group 82C (lower surface); in full bloom flower color Red-Purple Group 73C and 73D with Red-Purple Group 69A at the margin (upper surface), and between Red-Purple Group 70B and 70C (lower surface), fading to Red-Purple Group 69A (upper surface) and Purple Group 78D with highlights of Violet Group 84C (lower surface); USDA Hardiness Zone 3B to 7.

New Editor's Message

I am very honored to be elected as the new editor for Lilacs. The previous editors' list is like a Who's Who listing of lilacdom, with such greats as Father John Fiala, Walter Eickhorst, Dr. Robert Clark, and Dr. Owen Rogers. Of course, I cannot omit Tory Woodruff, an experienced editor who brought the new computer age into the hands of the editor. Tory tutored me in the use of Adobe PageMaker, a software program that allows the editor to control the layout of the magazine, and lessens the chances for errors when changing hands from the editor to the publisher. Without her help, it would have taken me much, much longer to learn the basics of this program.

The International Lilac Society represents the Genus *Syringa*, and must provide quality scientific and informative articles in its journal. This I will strive to continue doing, with my contacts in the lilac, propagation, and horticultural communities, and with the input of many of our honored members of ILS.

Due to our reader demand, I will try to expand coverage of member news in our journal. This will include photos of members next to lilacs, important personal news such as births, graduations, deaths, and other personal milestones that we achieve.

I am now asking all of our members to send in an article, or a paragraph, describing their favorite lilacs, and why. It doesn't have to be a cultivar favorite; it may even be a particular specimen that has sentimental value. With all of our members, this can be a continuing feature of Lilacs.

Also, many of our members I know have large collections of lilacs. Send in your articles about your own collection, be it large or small, because ILS wants to know about the lilacs that all of our members have. In conclusion, I would like this journal to teach us not only about the Genus *Syringa*, but also about our great membership.

Kent Millham, ILS Editor



Olga Rudenko carrying trusses of lilacs.

Photo credit: Joanne DaSilva



Bob Gilbert at 1999 ILS Convention

Photo credit: Sabra Gilbert



Syringa vulgaris 'Pink Elizabeth'
at Hulda Klager Lilac Garden
Photo Credit Noel Johnson



Syringa vulgaris 'President Lincoln'
at Hulda Klager Lilac Garden.
Photo Credit Noel Johnson