

Lilacs

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of the International Lilac Society

IN
THIS
ISSUE:

Lilacs of Siberia
Lilac Arboreta



Lilacs at Mackinac Island near St. Anne's Church
Photo submitted by Mary McGuire Slevin



Lilacs near Harbour View Inn at Mackinac Island
Photo submitted by Mary McGuire Slevin

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Front cover: Pansy bed with lilacs in the background at Highland Botanical Park 2006
Photo Credit Gene Lupinetti

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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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President's Message

Dear Lilac Aficionados, Bonne Année à tous! By the time you receive this journal we will be in 2007. I hope everyone is looking forward to this new year. We have exciting things to look forward to. Peter Ely, Convention Chairman, has planned for early June, a superb convention in Mackinac island, Michigan. Already, registrations have been coming in. I'm hoping for a great turn out. In 2006 our convention in Washington State was so much fun. Why? Because it was fun to meet other members of ILS, fun to visit Klager Gardens and see their superb lilac collection, fun to be together and share our love of lilacs, fun to participate in the auction and take home some very special lilacs etc., etc. If you want to experience all the above and more, register for our 2007 convention.

The ILS Board met, via phone conference, in October 2006. It was a very worthwhile meeting. For over two hours, twelve board members discussed a prepared agenda, addressing a list of issues such as insurance for ILS and its officers, publication of the Lilac Care Booklet, web page development, printing of the new brochure, our excellent journal, etc. Our next conference will be Saturday, February 24, 2007. That is a very good way for us to keep in touch and avoid misunderstandings. I can assure you that your board is working diligently to make ILS a true International Society.

Bruce Peart and Margaret Walton visited China in October and reconnected with Cui Hongxia, an important lilac contact at the Beijing Botanical Garden. Coincidentally, Tatiana Poliakova, from the Russian Federation also visited the Beijing Botanical Garden a week later. Bruce took thousands of pictures of this magnificent country. He is in the process of editing them and putting together a CD of their fabulous voyage. He and Margaret have other trips planned. Anyone who travels is an ambassador for ILS. The more we reach out and visit other ILS members, botanical gardens with lilac collections, lilac growers, lilac originators and lilac nursery owners, the stronger our ties will be.

We all have our favorite things that attract our interest. Personally, I'm fascinated with the lilac personalities past and present. Who are these people who have been giving us lilacs to grow and love? Who are these people who have put together collections worth our envy and admiration. The love of lilacs is universal. Hearing about lilacs is becoming commonplace. At a Christmas party recently I walked up to a small group. The subject of the conversation was, to my pleasant surprise, lilacs and how each one in the group remembered grandmothers, grandfathers and neighbors growing at least one lilac in their garden. Of course the most talked about remembrance was the scent of the lilacs. We must be very careful not to breed out what is perhaps the most loved attribute in lilacs; their fragrance.

Right now we are all quiet getting ready for the Holidays, but think about it: in a

very few weeks we will turn our thoughts to planting lilacs, seeing lilacs bloom, convention, etc. It is hard to wait for the season to begin again. Chatting on the International Lilac Robin (ILR) is a great way to keep the lilac talks going during the lull. On ILR I asked a question about forcing lilacs. Several members responded that they had forced lilacs or knew of someone who did it. I think it would be a great goal to plan on having a booth at one of those famous spring flower shows the like of The Philadelphia Flower Show, or the grand Royal Horticultural Society Chelsea Flower Show in England; or even at places like the Highland Botanical Park or the U. S. National Arboretum in Washington. We could really inspire people to join ILS, don't you think?

Thanks to Dr. Owen Rogers, Kent Millham, and our new printer Empire State Weeklies, we are going to have a great product to disseminate all over the world. I want those brochures to go to as many botanical gardens, lilac nurseries and garden centers as possible. You can help identify these sites. The distribution of our brochures will spread the word about lilacs and ILS.

As the New Year approaches I'm very optimistic. I feel that ILS is on the right track now. I'm going to create a Long Range Planning Committee whose role will be to map out the future course of ILS for the next ten years. We are up there competing with many plant societies. I want ILS to be the best and have the foresight to leap into the future with confidence, and imagining a world full of lilacs. It's not a child's dream but a real possibility. A Lilac in Every Garden The World Over is an easy goal to achieve. Inspire the youth, and engage them, for they need to be part of the plan if we want ILS to keep growing...

I wish all of you the best holiday festivities and of course a very Happy New Year full of lilac dreams and realities.

See you soon on the Lilac Trail.

*Amities,
Nicole Jordan
ILS President
Chester, VA
December 14, 2006
Njordan236@aol.com*

Editor's Message

In this issue of *Lilacs*, our mission of reporting on the use of lilacs around the world continues and expands, in keeping with the new motto of the International Lilac Society: "A Lilac in Every Garden the World Over". Dr. Elena Lyakh elaborates about her important research on hardy lilac cultivars for use in urban Siberia. Colin Chapman adds additional comments in his Siberian Newsletter, and speaks of several cultivars virtually unknown in North America. This mission will be followed further in the Spring issue, as Bruce Peart and Tatiana Poliakova report on their separate trips to Beijing Botanical Garden.

Lilacs, as well as the people who admire them, are ambassadors of good will. I remember well several years ago walking through the lilac collection at Highland Botanical Park taking early morning photos. I said hello to another early morning visitor to our lilacs who was also taking photographs, and discovered that his name was Kang Wang, a research horticulturist from Beijing Botanical Garden. Later that day, I gave him a personal tour of our collection, and because of lilacs, had a new friend from far across the world.

Arboreta and large university campuses are important venues to display lilacs to the general public, and another mission to be promoted in this and future issues will be reporting on these institutions and their lilac collections, both large and small. Often landscapers and casual gardeners try to emulate in their own gardens the plants or displays they see in large public gardens, and this series will help promote this cause.

Of course, the heart of our society is our members, and the member section of our journal is meant to report about and serve our membership. With the risk of sounding like a broken record, please send in any article about your own collection, personal lilac favorites, and personal lilac anecdotes.

This issue will be the first to report on some of the discussions on the new benefit of the International Lilac Society; the International Lilac Robin. A number of important and interesting topics have been discussed, and when lilac blooming time returns, we can track exact blooming times around the globe if you report it on this chat group. This is important data for research, especially when analyzing it with global weather and climate patterns.

Finally, the yearly membership list is presented once again. Use it to your advantage, and contact people around the world with whom we have something very important in common: the love of lilacs.

Kent Millham
ILS Editor
December 2006

In Memoriam: Robert Bickelhaupt

On October 27, 2006, Robert Earl "Bob" Bickelhaupt passed away at the age of 92. A lifelong resident of Clinton, Iowa, he was a renowned personage in the world of horticulture, and a civic-minded business leader in his community.

Bob was the owner of Bickelhaupt Motor Company, and achieved many business awards from the automobile industry throughout his career, as well as numerous awards from his community for his many civic accomplishments.

After retiring from his business in 1970, Mr. Bickelhaupt became the co-founder and co-director of the Bickelhaupt Arboretum. For twenty years, the Bickelhaupt Arboretum was a member of ILS. He will be fondly remembered by the International Lilac Society for hosting our convention in May 1995 in Clinton, Iowa. The Award of Merit was awarded to the Bickelhaupt Arboretum as "a private operating foundation for its public education and horticultural program". Robert and his wife Frances were presented the Presidents Award "for their vision and dedication in establishing Bickelhaupt Arboretum and for hosting the Society's 24th Annual Meeting".

Bill Horman, a long-time, devoted ILS member, sums up well the knowledge and generosity of Bob Bickelhaupt in the following story:

"When ILS had its annual meeting in Clinton, Iowa, hosted by Bob and Frances Bickelhaupt, we were treated to a visit to their outstanding arboretum, and given wonderful hospitality in their lovely home. The family and many friends made sure that we received the warmest hospitality imaginable. A delicious meal was served as part of their hospitality." At a previous annual meeting, Bill recalled telling Bob B. about how he was also attempting to start a park. "Bob remembered our conversation, and while he and his family hosted a house full of ILSers, he asked his daughter to find me and bring me to him as he waited alone in his study. I was surprised to be invited to talk privately to him during his busy time. He took about thirty minutes to visit with me, telling me of what he and his wife, Frances, had learned as they began building the arboretum. He shared the stories of their successes as well as stories of their difficulties. Furthermore, he saw to it that he gave me all of the best information in writing on many sheets of typed pages. He wanted me to succeed in my project and provided tips from their experiences."

"He encouraged me to dream and showed that he cared for me and my project. More importantly, he demonstrated his strong belief in the concept of sharing one's garden work with all people for the good of all. He was a kind, generous man of great vision and compassion who went out of his way to make the world a much better place."

Mr. Bickelhaupt earned awards from many other horticultural institutions,

such as the National Arbor Day Foundation (Lawrence Eversen Award for commitment to tree planting and conversation in community involvement), Iowan Urban and Conservation Forestry Council (Outstanding Volunteer Award), National Arbor Day Foundation (Education Award), and served on the Board of Governors of the International Society of Arboriculture. Bob was a charter member of the American Conifer Society, and a member of many other societies as well.

He will be greatly missed by all in his home community, the horticultural community, and all of the members of the International Lilac Society.

Sources for this tribute were from an obituary that appeared in the Quad City Times provided by Ed Hasselkus, ILS awards information from Bob Hoepfl, and the remembrance of Bill Horman.



Robert Bickelhaupt
1914-2006

The Lilacs at The University of Guelph Arboretum

The University of Guelph Arboretum spans 165 hectares (408 acres) of land within the city of Guelph, Ontario, Canada. Formally implemented in 1970, The Arboretum is now home to hundreds of thousands of woody plants being represented by over 1700 taxa (species, varieties, hybrids & cultivars). Within the site boundaries are formal display gardens, old-growth forest, a nature reserve with a provincially significant wetland, a gene bank for the rare woody plants of Ontario and 33 woody plant collections.

The woody plant collections at The Arboretum are arranged by botanical family with lilacs being represented in the *Oleaceae* (Olive family) collection. While a few specimens of *Syringa* are included in this collection, along with related kin such as *Forsythia*, *Chionanthus* and *Forestiera*, it was decided that to fully display the diversity within the lilac genus a separate collection would be required. Hence, the implementation of the Lilac Collection in 1985.

While there are over 250 lilac plants being cultivated in various parts of The Arboretum, the Lilac Collection itself contains 110 lilacs with representation from 60 unique taxa. The aim of this collection is to display representatives of the different hybrid groups and species of *Syringa*, without containing more than a small percent of the thousands of cultivars in existence. The range of colour, floret structure and bloom time is emphasized. This allows visitors to grasp the diversity of the genus in comparison to the naturalized *Syringa vulgaris* that is found commonly in several parts of Ontario. The site for the Lilac Collection was strategically placed on the side of a drumlin in an area that receives heavy visitor traffic. This location was chosen not only to benefit the plants with full sun, good drainage and ample air circulation, but also to allow visitors to stand back and view the collection as a whole while they peer up the hill. This especially inspires awe during the height of the spring blooming season.

Bloom time itself ranges from the first few days of May for *Syringa x hyacinthiflora* 'Assessippi', to mid-July for *Syringa pekinensis*.

Some of the average bloom periods for selected *Syringa* taxa in Guelph, Ontario are as follows:

May – Early June: *Syringa x hyacinthiflora* 'Assessippi', *Syringa oblata* var. *dilatata* 'Cheyenne', *Syringa vulgaris* 'cvs.'

Early June – Mid June: *Syringa x nanceiana* 'Floreale', *Syringa meyeri* 'Palibin', *Syringa x prestoniae* 'cvs.'

Mid June – Late June: *Syringa x josiflexa* 'Royalty', *Syringa patula* 'Miss Kim',

Syringa villosa, Syringa x sweginflexa, Syringa reticulata

Late June – Early July: Syringa pekinensis

In addition to the Lilac Collection, The Arboretum also exhibits lilacs in several display gardens, the synoptic World of Trees collection and the Hospice Wellington Memorial Lilac Garden. This garden was developed in 1995 in partnership with the county's local Hospice group to celebrate the lives of lost loved ones during each respective year. A new lilac is dedicated during a ceremony each spring. There are currently 35 plants taking root in this garden.

A full list of the lilacs at the University of Guelph Arboretum is listed below

Syringa 'Miss Canada' (int. sp. hyb.)

Syringa x chinensis 'Saugeana'

Syringa emodi

Syringa x henryi

Syringa x hyacinthiflora 'Assessippi'

Syringa x josiflexa 'James McFarlane'

Syringa x josiflexa 'Royalty'

Syringa josikaea

Syringa josikaea 'Pallida'

Syringa komarowii

Syringa meyeri

Syringa meyeri 'Palibin'

Syringa x nanceiana 'Floreale'

Syringa oblata

Syringa oblata var. *dilatata* 'Cheyenne'

Syringa oblata var. *giraldii*

Syringa patula

Syringa patula 'Miss Kim'

Syringa patula var. *kamibayashii*

Syringa pekinensis

Syringa pekinensis f. *pendula*

Syringa x persica

Syringa x prestoniae 'Coral'

Syringa x prestoniae 'Dawn'

Syringa x prestoniae 'Desdemona'

Syringa x prestoniae 'Hiawatha'

Syringa x prestoniae 'Isabella'

Syringa x prestoniae 'Jessica'

Syringa x prestoniae 'Nocturne'

Syringa reflexa

Syringa reticulata 'Ivory Silk'

Syringa reticulata var. *mandshurica*

Syringa reticulata var. *reticulata*

Syringa rhodopea
Syringa x sweginflexa
Syringa tomentella
Syringa villosa
Syringa vulgaris
Syringa vulgaris 'Alphonse Lavalle'
Syringa vulgaris 'Ami Schott'
Syringa vulgaris 'Andenken an Ludwig Spath'
Syringa vulgaris 'Andre Csizek'
Syringa vulgaris 'Belle De Nancy'
Syringa vulgaris 'Charles Joly'
Syringa vulgaris 'Congo'
Syringa vulgaris 'Edith Cavell'
Syringa vulgaris 'Firmament'
Syringa vulgaris 'Katherine Havemeyer'
Syringa vulgaris 'Krasavitsa Moskvyy'
Syringa vulgaris 'Lucie Baltet'
Syringa vulgaris 'Miss Ellen Willmott'
Syringa vulgaris 'Mme. Antoine Buchner'
Syringa vulgaris 'Mme. Lemoine'
Syringa vulgaris 'Monge'
Syringa vulgaris 'Mrs. Harry Bickle'
Syringa vulgaris 'Nadezhda'
Syringa vulgaris 'Paul Thirion'
Syringa vulgaris 'Primrose'
Syringa vulgaris 'Prodige'
Syringa vulgaris 'Sensation'
Syringa vulgaris 'Vestale'
Syringa vulgaris 'Viviand Morel'
Syringa vulgaris 'Woodland Blue'
Syringa wolfii
Syringa wolfii var. *hirsuta*
Syringa yunnanensis 'Rosea'
 For more information about The Arboretum, University of Guelph, please visit
www.uoguelph.ca/arboretum.

Sean Fox
 University of Guelph
 December 14, 2006

Hofstra University: a Campus Arboretum.

From a distance , your first impression of Hofstra University is that of a typical college campus with a compliment of academic buildings, the dormitories and athletic complexes along with turf and trees to soften the mix, but it is truly much more.

In the late 1970s the description of Hofstra University was quoted , in the Village Voice , as a 'Concrete Jungle'. Dr. James M. Shuart , then president of the university , moved quickly to change not just the appearance of the landscape, but the attitude of the public toward our growing school.

At that time, Japanese Black Pine could be found by the thousands all over our campus as well as multitudes of overgrown and unnamed crabapples. There were groves of Black Locust seeding themselves randomly around with numerous old Norway Maples.

The Maples were in varying stages of decline, were hazardous, and needed replacement. The Black Pines, being two-needled, had problems with Diplodia Blight and were being cut down by the dozens each year. I left most of the locust because they were providing some degree of cover; and the crabapples, although overgrown, provided flowers at a time of year when graduation is held and so remain serviceable to this day. They do require excessive pruning each winter but at a time of year in which we can afford it.

A program was initiated to replace each dead or dying tree with two new ones. With this " 2-for 1 Tree Planting Program" we were purchasing new varieties each time we removed one of the problem trees, and in the process were learning a lesson in "diversity". The collection began to grow and now holds some 625 different taxa. With this increase in trees also came the acquisition of other woody plants as well as vines, herbaceous perennials, grasses and a myriad of ground covers.

In the mid 1980s we joined the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta and have been a member in good standing ever since. Their help over the years, along with committee work within the organization , has been invaluable in building our reputation as an arboretum.

Now, thirty years later, we have a respectable collection of plants for the temperate climate as well as special collections and events of interest.

As an adjunct to our perennial plant collection we also display thousands of annual blooms as well as hundreds of thousands of bulbs. Each year on the first Sunday in May, in celebration of Hofstra's heritage , we hold a 'Dutch Festival'; welcoming visitors to campus for an experience of Dutch crafts , food , music and dancing , as well as a chance to stroll campus and admire daffodils , tulips, hyacinths , frittilaria , grape muscari and more.

The Pinetum contains over 110 taxa of gymnosperms including; *Araucaria araucana*, the Monkey Puzzle Tree and *Cunninghamia lanceolata*, the China Fir. Both these curios are on our borderline for hardiness but have been growing well for over 15 years with no protection. In addition, we have a dwarf conifer garden housing numerous varieties of evergreens, in a pleasing landscape, behind Hofstra Hall.

The award winning Sensory Garden for the blind and physically challenged houses tactile and aromatic plants. It changes with the seasons and is most active with annuals during the summer months but has numerous woody plants of interest. Around the borders, which are raised for easy wheelchair accessibility, are a pair of Donald Wyman Lilacs, a deep reddish pink hybrid named for the famous plantsman who was horticulturist for the Arnold Arboretum for 35 years. Alongside these are some of the newer more compact varieties such as *Syringa meyeri* 'Palibin', *Syringa patula* 'Miss Kim' and the little Tinkerbelle™.

The Sensory Garden was created by landscape designer Carol Mercer, and donated to Hofstra University. It was originally called The Secret Garden when it was built for the 1993 New York Flower Show. It won 2 Gold Awards at the Show, and was permanently installed by the Grounds and Carpentry Departments at Hofstra University in the fall of 1993. The entire garden is approximately 1200 square feet and sits beneath an eighty year old Red Oak tree. It contains raised planter seat walls with wide brick walkways and a small 8 foot round pond, in which we have goldfish and where we grow tropicals and water lilies in the summer. There is a fountain that splashes, to add to the sensory appeal.

At the entry to the garden, just outside the archway, grow a pair of *Syringa reticulata* 'Ivory Silk', Japanese Tree Lilacs. These were 2" caliper trees when I installed them in 1993 and are presently 7" caliper, but only about 14 feet tall. The 'Miss Kim' was planted a few years later, and in spite of the fact that it is under the heavy canopy of the oak, it blooms reliably each year. There are no *Syringa vulgaris* in the Sensory Garden, although we do grow them in the arboretum, including a group of large 9-10 foot 'Mme. Lemoine' by our Café on the Quad.

The Bird Sanctuary and Environmental Studies Center is a two acre recharge basin in disguise. It houses a 5,000 square foot pond, an eight foot high waterfall with an eighty five foot stream bed through which we recirculate the water and keep it moving to prevent stagnation and the mounting problems with mosquitoes. Most of the plant material growing in the basin was brought in by seeds dispersed via bird feces or on the webbed feet of ducks. However, Hofstra adds plants regularly to promote habitation as well as visitation by birds both local and migratory. It is used by a number of classes from the University as well as tours given to local garden clubs, horticulture and

environmental groups, grade schools, scout troops and the like. Native cattails, rushes and iris grow along the waters edge and a boardwalk allows visitors a closer look into the life of birds and other wildlife. It is the only wild place on campus outside of the dormitories.

The Sondra Rudin Mack Garden, which is an Oehme van Sweden designed New American Garden, is located behind our University Club. This half acre mixed border garden is crafted using ornamental grasses and perennial drifts beautifully integrated into a woody plant landscape. It is well labeled with a self-guided brochure.

A Shakespeare Garden to the west of our Playhouse, which has been on campus for over 25 years, is under renovation and is scheduled for completion in Fall of 2007.

The Labyrinth, a forty foot Minnesota granite inspirational garden, is a remake of the 12th century labyrinth from the Charte Cathedral in France. This magnificent space is surrounded by a cobblestoned plaza, and seat walls with parterres and knot gardens made of English and Korean Box, as well as Purple and Golden Leaved Barberry.

Evergreens play a particularly important role in the landscape of Hofstra University. With a campus located in the North Eastern United States students return at the end of each summer to find a setting of lush plant growth. The greens of the deciduous forest quickly change to colors of autumn only to be followed by leafless silhouettes. With much of our tree canopy bare, for the remainder of the school year, the evergreens come into play. And play they do. For 20 years, in the midst of our landscape improvements, the Grounds Department was set by policy to design each new landscape, as well as all new tree and shrub accessions, with 70% being evergreen.

I mentioned the Pinetum which specializes in gymnosperms. Hofstra's soil profile is of the Hempstead Plains type and that provides for a foot deep loam covering 30 feet or more of bank run. Drainage is excellent when undisturbed. Certain plant types obviously do quite well and that includes the genus *Ilex*, or Holly. We grow hundreds of varieties of holly and our native *Ilex opaca*, leads the list in both height and vigor. It is not unusual to find 40' foot American Hollies around some of the older academic buildings. The hybrid *Ilex opaca* 'Jersey Princess', which was bred by educator and hybridizer Elwin Orton from Rutgers University, is a splendid addition to campus. 'Mary Nell', a multiple cross with *cornuta*, *pernyi* and *latifolia* in it, is one of my favorites, and produces a stunning plant with shiny deep green leaves and good fruit set. Most likely hardiness is zone 6 to 9 probably due to the *cornuta* blood in it, but my experience has shown no damage in the 10 years on campus in exposed situations. We are zone 6b and average winter low temps in the single digits.

Other evergreens that have shown particular merit and are favored by me as substitutes for *Rhododendron*, mostly because I have problem growing many of them, are Portuguese laurel, *Prunus lusitanica*, and the Cherry Laurels, *Prunus laurocerasus* both 'Otto Luyken' and 'Schipkaensis'.

The Hofstra University's campus arboretum is modeled after the Jeffersonian approach to landscape design in that "Every tree, every brick, every blade of grass adds to the educational experience". Our mission is primarily to attract and retain students but the bigger picture is in creating an environment that is comfortable and conducive to learning while adding a fuller experience for all.

We welcome visitors and are open year round with no admission charge. Late April through mid-May is a particularly pleasant time to visit with tulips blooming and the native dogwoods coming into play. Late summer and throughout autumn is another fine season for walking the campus with the annual display at its' peak and the fall foliage is golden. Come... visit.

Hofstra University Arboretum is part and parcel of the entire 240 acre campus of Hofstra University and is in Hempstead, New York 11549. Take the Long Island Expressway to the Meadowbrook Parkway south to Exit M4. We are located just 1/2 mile west on Route 24, Hempstead Turnpike. Stop by the Hofstra Information Center, on the corner of Hempstead Turnpike and California Ave. for a self-guided walking tour brochure.

Fred Soviero
Director of Grounds and Landscaping
Hofstra University
Hempstead, N.Y. 11549

Travel Directions to Mackinac Island

Mackinac Island is easily accessible by either car or plane. If you wish to fly, Pellston, Michigan is the closest major airport. Fly from most places to Detroit on an airline of your choice. From Detroit, Arrange to fly to Pellston, MI via Northwest Airlines (1-800-225-2525). From Pellston airport there is taxi/shuttle service to the Mackinaw City Ferry Docks (about 25 miles) by either the Mackinac Shuttle (1-888-349-8294) or the Wolverine Stages (1-800-825-1450) where you will be taken to the ferry for Mackinac Island. Both are located at Pellston airport, costing about \$45, round trip and be sure to arrange this transportation ahead of time. Ferry information will be in a future issue of the Journal.

Charter airline service to Mackinac Island Airport (1-906-847-3231) via Great Lakes Airlines (1-906-643-7165) can be arranged from Pellston, about \$85, or from St. Ignace, MI, to Mackinac Island for about \$25. Also, you may fly a private plane into Mackinac Island airport from your home (1-906-847-3231 airport) and (1-906-847-3778).

By car, I-75 is an excellent, direct route from the south (Toledo, Ohio and Detroit, MI) or from the north (Sault Ste. Marie, Canada) to Mackinaw City. Watch for the well-marked exit signs to the Ferry Docks in Mackinaw City along the road. A ferry to Mackinac Island also leaves from St. Ignace. There is ample parking at the Ferry Docks.

A free guide to Michigan travel, including a map and information, can be requested from the Michigan Travel Bureau (1-800-543-2937). The Mackinac Island Tourist Bureau is happy to assist in making your travel to, and stay, at their island most enjoyable. Feel free to call them at (1-800-454-5227).

Miles to Island

Chicago	390
Cleveland	430
Detroit	280
Indianapolis	460
Toronto	470
Minneapolis	500
Sault Ste. Marie, MI or Canada	55

Peter Ely
Sely634929@aol.com
Convention Chairman

Mackinac Island Letter to ILS

Dear ILS members,

I invite everyone to come to Mackinac Island for the International Lilac Society annual convention during our 58th Annual Lilac Festival and am honored that our Island was chosen for this wonderful symposium about all things lilac.

From the 17th to 19th centuries, Mackinac Island was a center of the intercontinental fur trade. Madame LaFramboise ran the fur trade from her home at today's Harbourview Inn and upon retiring sold her assets to America's first known millionaire, John Jacob Astor of the American Fur Company. Madame LaFramboise's home has beautiful old lilacs with beautifully gnarled trunks and knotty excrescences alongside her home and lining her front yard. These are old and magnificent examples of Mackinac's most common lilac-*Syringa vulgaris*. We invite everyone to be sure to visit her collection while here. It is thought that she also donated the lilacs at the rectory across the street from Ste Anne's church. One particular lilac in the front yard is thought to be one of our oldest specimens as well.

Other old lilacs may be found on Market Street at Astor and on Cadotte Avenue at the William Backhouse Astor home, which is now housing for the employees of the Grand Hotel. In fact, the entire lawn at the old Astor home was planted with lilacs over the years and the scent of lilacs on this walk is wonderful.

In 1949, Island nurse Stella King created our lilac day and planted many lilacs at Marquette Park just under Fort Mackinac. There are many varieties and we hope the members of ILS will have time to sit under these beautiful lilacs and take in the view of Haldimand Bay. Briggs and Stratton continually votes Marquette Park as one of the top ten lawns with a view. We feel this designation is due in part to our lilac collection at Marquette Park.

Originally established as a national park in 1875, Mackinac Island later became Michigan's first state park. Eighty percent of the island is parkland with very distinctive limestone formations like Arch Rock and Sugar Loaf and shadowed by canopies of cedars and birches. The limestone of Mackinac Island is what many lilac enthusiasts and scholars consider part of what makes Mackinac Island a favorable place for the lilac. With shallow soil, a limestone bedrock and undisturbed development, the lilacs of Mackinac Island have found an ecological niche. While we are still unsure of the provenance of our lilacs, we do believe they began to grow here during the 1850's or 1860's and to whoever brought them, we are grateful.

We will be sure to have a directory of lilacs available for all ILS members. Bruce Peart and Margaret Walton mapped our lilacs over the years and we use their GIS map as our guide. Bill Horman is also a good friend to our lilac collection and we continually learn from his generous recommendations. Jeff Young has also contributed much to our knowledge towards proper care of our collection. His popular "Walk and Talk with Lilacs" symposium during our festival has given Jeff the opportunity to really see our lilacs in various stages close up and his recommendations for care has become a valuable index of what we need to do to better maintain our collection. State Park officials, master gardeners, business owners, city councilpersons and homeowners with lilacs continue to learn from Jeff and the Island is most grateful for his expertise. Because our lilacs have been undisturbed for so long, many need dire attention and with the continued knowledge we receive from ILS members, we are better able to know what we need to do as a community to care for our lilacs.

Should anyone like to receive our visitors guide to learn more about what Mackinac Island has to offer, it is available for immediate download on our site www.mackinacisland.org/downloads.html or just call 800-454-5227 and my staff would be happy to mail a copy. Again, I am very excited to see everyone this coming June and if you have any questions, naturally I remain available.

Sincerely,
Mary McGuire Slevin,
Executive Director
Mackinac Island Tourism Bureau
director@mackinacisland.org

ILS Convention 2007, Mackinac Island, Michigan

(Convention Wed. June 6 to Sat. AM June 9, 2007)

ILS will be returning to Mackinac Island in June 2007 after having first convened there in June 1997. Plan to arrive on Wed. June 6, 2007 for a Welcome reception, Registration and Board of Directors meeting in the afternoon, as well as a musical presentation in the evening. June 7 and 8 we will have two days of ILS activities, Lilac related tours, programs and our Famous Annual Lilac/Plant Auction. There will be leisure time throughout the program to enjoy the Island's charm and many attractions within the setting of beautiful homes and gardens. Our hotels are situated in the downtown area, near the waterfront and shops, all surrounded by numerous displays of large and old lilacs. We will have our festive President's Dinner and Awards banquet as two of the highlights of our convention. On Sat. morning, June 9, 2007, we will depart for home and leave the magic of this place and its numerous and vast lilac collections, as a memory to hold forever.

If you desire to come earlier or stay later, make your plans very early with the hotels and Mackinac tourist bureau. The Island is mostly handicapped accessible, with individual Electric Scooters for rent on a daily or hourly basis. We will be transported by horse drawn wagons to our lilac activities and programs. We strongly encourage everyone who would like to visit this Island to please consider attending and we will endeavor to make the visit as easy as possible for you. If you have special needs or any Convention questions or concerns, please let Peter Ely know at 2430 Cape Cod Circle, Elgin, IL 60123, phone (630) 862-2934, or email Sely634929@aol.com and he will try to accommodate those needs.

Details of our Convention schedule will be published in the next *Lilacs*.

Note: Please remember that our convention begins on WED. afternoon and concludes on SAT. morning. This is a change from previous years.

Peter Ely
Convention Chairman
September 16, 2006

Uses of Lilac Cultivars in Urban Plantings in the Southern Regions of Siberia

Species and cultivars of lilac have been spread across the world since early times. *Syringa vulgaris* L. is one of the most ornamental and promising shrubs for urban planting in Siberia. It grows and flowers well, although not all cultivars are winter hardy in our conditions of a sharply continental climate.

In this regard, selection and introduction of the most resistant cultivars have been practiced in the Central Botanical Garden, SB RAS since 1986. These cultivars are widely used in park and garden design, and in urban plantings in Siberia. When propagating lilac cultivars in ornamental horticulture, the method of grafting is often used. However, the harsh Siberian winters and weak snow cover in some years lead to frost-killing of the above-ground part of the garden cultivars(scions), so that the grafted plants die off. Thus, the most appropriate method of propagation is by softwood cuttings.

We have tested 31 lilac cultivars of foreign breeding and also those of our own country. Softwood cuttings were planted in the greenhouse in a mist propagation unit in early June. The following lilac cultivars are the most promising for our climatic conditions.

Hardy Lilac Cultivars for Urban Planting in Siberia

'Altaiskaya Rozovaya'
'Andenken an Ludwig Spath'
'Capitaine Baltet'
'Condorcet'
'Fioletoviy Ghigant'
'Indiya'
'Katherine Havemeyer'
'Krasavitsa Moskvyy'
'Mme. Antoine Buchner'
'Mme. Lemoine'
'Nadezhda'
'Ogni Donbassa'
'Olimpiada Kolesnikova'
'Pamyat o S. M. Kirove'

The lilac cultivars selected are characterized by high winter hardiness in the southern regions of Siberia and can be recommended for widespread use in park and garden design in similar regions of Eurasia and North America having low winter temperatures and a short vegetative season. The work on the selection of promising lilac cultivars is being continued.

Dr. Elena M. Lyakh
Central Siberian Botanical Garden
Russian Academy of Science,
Siberian Branch
Novosibirsk, Russian Federation

Siberian Newsletter

I received the above letter from Dr. Lyakh on March 24th, 2005, but serious illness and the associated accumulative backlog of work prevented me from publishing it until now. Also, I wanted to add a few comments of my own but it has taken me some time to find the original source material.

Dr. Elena Lyakh works in the Laboratory of Dendrology of the Central Siberian Botanical Garden. She is a specialist in the genus *Myricaria*, which was the subject of her PhD. She has been engaged on the introduction of lilac and other decorative woody plants and their systemics. She regularly goes out on botanical field expeditions to the Lake Baikal area and to the Russian Far East.

You will note two new names in her collection, namely 'Altaiskaya Rozovaya' and 'Fioletoviy Ghigant'. There is also a third one mentioned by Dr. Lyakh in a letter to Freek Vrugtman that she calls 'Daphna' (sic).

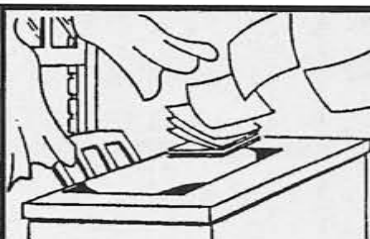
'Altaiskaya Rozovaya' and 'Daphna' were bred by Z. I. Luchnik at Bernaul, and I recall reading a copy of a letter from the breeder claiming that they were resistant to temperatures of (if I recall accurately) about -60 degrees Fahrenheit. I believe that 'Fioletoviy Ghigant' might have been bred by Klimenko (V. & Z.) and Grigor'ev at Yalta Botanic Garden because they are also credited with a lilac called 'Fioletoviy Sultan'.

Colin Chapman
October 17th, 2006

Dues were Due!

All non-life memberships expired on December 31st, 2006.

If you haven't remitted them yet, please send them immediately
to the Assistant Treasurer, William Tschumi. Refer to the
renewal form for the address and appropriate membership level.



from
the

Registrar's
Desk

By Freek Vrugtman
Royal Botanical Gardens

P.O. Box 399, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8N 3H8 • Tel: 905 / 527-1158 Ext. 234 • e-mail: lilacreg@rbg.ca

Syringa vulgaris 'Lila Wonder', Bunnik 2005¹

Syringa vulgaris 'Lila Wonder' was introduced on 23 March, 2005, at the Aalsmeer Flower Auction in The Netherlands, the world's largest flower exchange; it is the first new lilac cultivar for forcing introduced in 75 years, bringing the current assortment up to 16 cultivars.

'Lila Wonder' is a bud mutation or sport of 'Dark Koster', discovered in 1997 by Gerard A. Bunnik (1954-x) of Alb. Maarse nursery, Aalsmeer, and introduced by them. 'Dark Koster' is a well known forcing lilac which originated as a sport of 'Hugo Koster'.

'Lila Wonder' is a fragrant, bi-color cultivar; its florets are single, 2 to 2.5 cm in diameter, with a violet to light-violet heart (RHS Colour Chart, Violet Group B5C) and a pure-white margin; the corolla lobes are cucullata, the calyx lobes have acute tips. Plant breeder's rights protection for 'Lila Wonder' has been applied for with the Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO), a European Union agency, which manages a system of plant variety rights covering the 25 member States.

It took eight years of preparation, i.e. propagating the sport, testing it for its suitability as a forcing lilac, and building up a stock of 3,000 plants for commercial forcing. Market prices constantly fluctuate depending on supply and demand, and on the popularity of an item. 'Lila Wonder' appeared to be an immediate success; much of the first lot entered at the auction in March 2005 sold for 2.85 a branch, and was purchased by a Japanese buyer.

At the annual awards competition of forced shrubs, such as forsythia, lilacs, and snowball, held at the Prins Willem Alexander Pavilion at the Keukenhof, *Syringa* 'Lila Wonder' came a close second in the colored lilacs class, just behind an entry of top-quality 'Primrose' branches, a favorite for Easter cut-flower sales.

Although it has been stated that *Syringa vulgaris* 'Lila Wonder' is marketed

exclusively by Van Vliet New Plants BV, plants of 'Lila Wonder' appear to be offered for sale via a Russian internet site.

A note about the Aalsmeer nurseries and the auction clock

Climatic and edaphic conditions around Aalsmeer are perfect for lilac forcing. Mild winters and a long growing season, in combination with low-lying fields, the fertility of which is renewed regularly with the silt dredged from local lakes and canals. There are about forty lilac forcing operations remaining in Aalsmeer; during an average forcing season they deliver about 5.5 million lilac branches to the Flower Auction Aalsmeer. Because of the rising costs of production a number of growers has discontinued this labor intensive crop. The average nursery, such as Alb. Maarse, cultivates about 60,000 lilac shrubs; while 30,000 shrubs are forced in the greenhouse, 30,000 are in the field, regaining strength for their next forcing cycle. Other forcing crops make up the remainder of the forcing schedule. The work in a nursery this size is handled by about three people.

The Flower Auction Aalsmeer or VBA comprises five auction halls, four for flowers and one for plants. There are thirteen auction clocks altogether. The plant hall, which accommodates 600 bidders, has four clocks. Altogether, the five auction halls provide space for 2,000 buyers. Auctioning goes by the Dutch-auction system; the lights around the clock's edge run backward from 100 to 1. These lights indicate the price. The clock, therefore, runs from the highest to the lowest price, which is always per unit, i.e. per single flower or plant. When the light indicates the price that a buyer is willing to pay, he quickly hits the button, stopping the clock at that price. The number on this buyer's card appears on the clock's face, indicating that he or she was the first to push the button and therefore is the buyer. He then tells the auctioneer, via the desk intercom, how much of the consignment he will buy; the remainder is again put up for auction. Data about concluded transactions is immediately entered into the central computer, from which invoices for buyers, payments for growers and statistics are processed. For each clock, some 1,500 transactions can be effected per hour (that's one transaction every 2.4 seconds!).

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Royal Horticultural Society. 1995. RHS Colour Chart. London & Leiden; Royal Horticultural Society and Flower Council of Holland.

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Endnote

(Endnotes)

1. Contribution No. 170, Royal Botanical Gardens, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

Freek Vrugtman
April 12, 2006

PHYTOPLASMA IN LILACS AT OTTAWA'S CENTRAL EXPERIMENTAL FARM

by T. Barasubiye^a, C. Wood^a, J. Speirs^b and C.A. Lévesque^a

^a Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, 960 Carling Avenue, Ottawa, On K1A 0C6

^b Friends of the Central Experimental Farm, Building 72, Arboretum, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, On K1A 0C6

The first report of lilac witches'-broom was in 1951¹ on a Japanese tree lilac in Maryland and was thought to be caused by a virus. In a 1986 report², mycoplasma-like organisms (MLOs) were found by microscopy in several lilac species at Morton Arboretum, Ill., where many lilacs had been deteriorating for more than 20 years with numerous symptoms, including witches'-brooms (in lilacs within the *Villosae* series). Publications in 1989³ and 1991⁴ reported the presence of MLOs in several lilac and ash collections in Ontario, Canada (Dominion Arboretum, Ottawa; Royal Botanical Gardens, Hamilton; and Centennial Lilac Garden, Niagara Falls) and in the U.S. (Arnold Arboretum, Mass.; Highland Park, NY; Holden Arboretum, Ohio; Lilacea Park and Morton

Arboretum, Ill.; and Boerner Botanical Gardens, Wis.). There was infection in 93 lilac taxa, among 19 species and hybrids. Late-blooming lilacs appeared to be especially susceptible. There was infection in 12 ash taxa, previous studies showed *Fraxinus americana* to be particularly susceptible. It was shown that MLOs in lilac and ash are related and intertransmissible. AshY may have occurred in northeastern USA since the 1930s but was not described until the 1980s⁵. Terminology was changed from MLO to phytoplasma in 1994 and the name '*Candidatus Phytoplasma fraxini*' was proposed in 1999⁶ for the phytoplasma group affecting lilac and ash. The pathogen is an obligate parasite, lacks a cell wall and cannot be grown in pure culture. It inhabits and multiplies in plant phloem and insects, mainly leafhoppers.

As reported previously^{7,8}, Friends and grounds staff of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's (AAFC) Central Experimental Farm (CEF) have been working, for several years, on rejuvenating the Preston collection – those late-blooming *Syringa* (*Villosae* Group) cultivars originated by Isabella Preston, on staff at the Farm 1920-46. Many of these have been lost over the years and we have been acquiring, to our nursery, missing ones from other sources. In spring 2005, 19 of these were large enough to transplant into a new area in the Ornamental Gardens – one which will feature Preston originations but contain as well late-blooming cultivars of other originators. At that time it was evident that several of the imported cultivars were stunted because of short internodes – leaves were abnormally small, and the short, multi branches, arising from the base, resembled a broom. '*Ca. Phytoplasma fraxini*', was suspected and we confirmed its presence by a molecular test based on direct sequencing of phytoplasmal DNA amplified from total DNA extracted from the plant specimen.

Also tested, over several months, were several established plants at the Farm – 31 lilacs and two ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*). The ash and four taxa of *S. vulgaris* were negative; 18 of 24 late-blooming lilac taxa (in the *Villosae* series, species and hybrids) were positive and one of three taxa, in two other lilac species, was positive. Of the 19 positives, 11 appeared healthy at the time collected but by the next year five of these had branch dieback and/or witches'-brooms. Seven of the positives, when collected, had disease symptoms such as small stature, shortened internodes, branch dieback, leaf chlorosis, and drought intolerance. One plant had a witches'-broom.

Identified as the causal agent of the yellows diseases and witches' brooms, phytoplasmas are known to infect about 1000 agricultural and ornamental plant species. Despite a broad range of symptoms, the common result to an infected plant is a loss of vigour, dieback and premature death. In the course of our study, we have developed a shortened, rapid and accurate method of detecting and identifying '*Ca. Phytoplasma fraxini*' in lilac and '*Ca. Phytoplasma asteris*' in canola (*Brassica*) by direct sequencing of amplified ribosomal DNA⁹.

The literature was examined for possible control measures. None were found

for 'Ca. Phytoplasma fraxini'. The antibiotic, oxytetracycline has been used successfully for some plant phytoplasmas. This, however, is only bacteriostatic and continual treatment is needed. Fluoroquinolones, broad spectrum and bactericidal, have been used successfully for mycoplasmas (the animal equivalent of plant phytoplasmas) and might be tried for the control of phytoplasma. Heat treatment, by water or steam air, has been used successfully for several phytoplasmas. In the future, as time and funding priority permit we hope to do further testing and examine the use of control methods.

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- ⁵ Sinclair, W.A., Griffiths, H.M. Ash yellows and its relationship to dieback and decline of ash. *Annu. Rev. Phytopathol.* 32:49-60, 1994.
- ⁶ Griffiths, H.M., Sinclair, W.A., Smart, C.D., Davis, R.E. The phytoplasma associated with ash yellows and lilac witches'-broom: '*Candidatus* *Phytoplasma fraxini*'. *Int. J. Syst. Bacter.* 49: 1605- 1614, 1999.
- ⁷ Speirs, J. Reviving a lilac collection: Ottawa's Central Experimental Farm. *Lilacs* 32 (1), Winter 2003: p. 32.
- ⁸ Speirs, J. An appeal for help for the Preston heritage lilacs at Ottawa's Central Experimental Farm. *Lilacs* 33 (1), Winter 2004: p. 28.
- ⁹ Barasubiye, T., Chrystel, O., Wood, C., Speirs, J., Lévesque, C.A. Identification of phytoplasma associated with *Syringa* and *Brassica* diseases by direct sequencing of rDNA. *Conjoint meeting of Canadian Phytopathological Society, American Phytopathological Society and Mycological Society of America*, Quebec City, July 29 - August 2, 2006.

Northeast Region ILS Fall Report 2006

Light rain and a dark day could not dampen the familiar faces at the fall meeting of the Northeast Regional Chapter of the ILS.

As is their gift and generosity, Roger Coggeshall and Evie King of Syringa Plus in West Newbury, MA played hosts at their nursery barn to 26 ILS members and their friends. All northeast states were represented except for Rhode Island. Food and refreshments were provided to sustain us and fueled our enthusiasm. We reacquainted with each other, and in some cases met for the first time some of our members who had never been to an ILS Convention.

We listened to reports on:

Woodland, WA Convention 2006. Many shared their experience.

Reminder of the need for new members- each one of us was urged by our new President, Nicole Jordan to put effort into year-round recruiting to increase the society's membership. It is crucial.

The Quarterly's reminder sheet to let David Gressley know if members wish to list their telephone numbers or e-mail addresses.

Report on the status of our Web page. Clarification, plans and actions taken by Jeff Young, and how we are doing. Not having a computer I plead ignorance. This is a level of mystery that I leave to those in the know, and officers in the Society who cope with these 21st Century challenges in our technological age.

Report on 2007 Mackinac Island Convention from Peter Ely.

Update reprints of our International Register of Cultivar Names in the Genus *Syringa*, and new membership brochures to be sent to ILS regional representatives and passed on as needed.

Evie turned out the lights and closed the barn doors at 9:00 P.M. It was a joyful gathering. We had a great day!

*Northeast Regional VP
Mary Lizotte
(781) 826-4590
P.O. Box 93
Norwell, MA 02061*

Member Section

A Lilac Experience

Several years ago I attended a lecture on lilacs at the spring garden show in Hartford, Connecticut. Applications for membership were distributed and shortly thereafter, I joined the organization.

I recall, from my childhood, the springtime fragrance coming from lilacs planted in many yards. They were easy to grow and inexpensive to obtain. Most people had limited incomes, so they obtained root suckers from neighbors and friends. Sharing was prevalent during those times.

Frequently in the springtime I take long drives in Connecticut and Massachusetts, and am impressed with the many large lilacs blooming profusely around older homes. These plants had not received much attention and they put on a magnificent showing.

In the late 1970's I purchased an old one-room schoolhouse with nearly five acres of land in Massachusetts. Behind the building was one lilac doing poorly because of the lack of sunshine, but it had many suckers arising from the base. I dug up some and planted them along the street, and each spring they provide me with a beautiful display.

On a trip to Montana I spotted Jennifer Bennett's book highlighted in a bookstore window and had to purchase it. In her book she mentioned finding an exceptional plant in a automobile parts store. I had a similar experience when I discovered 'Ruhm von Horstenstein' at a home improvement center. Since then I have found many exceptional plants at these chain stores. With these regular purchases, and the planting of root suckers, I now have seventy plants, and the number should increase with spring purchases.

In my search for spiritual answers to life I came across a statement that the scents of various flowers were related to various angelic realms. On a trip to New York City I entered a Barnes and Noble bookstore and headed to the garden section. I reached for a large book and discovered it to be Fiala's publication. In that book he recalled his experience while viewing his grandmother's lilac collection in bloom. The thought came to him that "heaven must be something like this". I'm certain that he found this to be true.

To many of us, lilacs are mainly an intense aesthetic and mystical experience.

*Anthony Gardocki
New England Region
October 4, 2006*

A Passion for Lilacs

A wise person once asked me in 1994 if I envisioned being able to do lilacs full time. At that time I immediately said "YES". This mentor was Charles Holetich. It was not long that Sara and I became engulfed with our little nursery and started fine tuning it for lilacs.

At this point our daughter Corinna was 6. She helped out as any child would when she was around us. By the age of 9 Corinna became quite the helper; coming to shows and planting lilacs in pots at the nursery.

Over the next 7 years our little girl has come quite a long way. She has grown into an amazing walking computer of lilac knowledge.

She attends all of our major shows in the winter and runs the booth with a confidence that surpasses everyone. At home she helps in every stage of the nursery. This has been going on for the last 3 years at this level. She propagates, grafts, sets up the production, inventory and shipping schedules, programs the internet site and does basically everything as I do.

With all of the prior knowledge, she also knows pretty much where the inventory is exactly, and information about most of the lilacs.

What really surprises me on an ongoing basis are the remarks she will make about coloration of leaves, stems or seed pods, or different characteristics of seedlings we have grown that have not even flowered yet.

She has become a lilac lover as us all. She tends to lean towards the Fiala lilacs especially; those like 'Joel', 'Drifting Dream', 'Bluets', 'Bluebird' and many of the Russian lilacs. When I work with her day today, sometimes I forget she is 16 and maybe expect too much from her. I only get this information from Sara when Corinna complains about me once in a while.

She is really what the future of lilacs will be about. At the age she is now I do not believe that anyone has started at such a young age. She will have so much to offer in the future, and Sara and I are so proud of having a child with the passion about plants in her at such a young age.

She has broadened her interests this year with having us start 11 varieties of lady slippers, and has her eyes set on tissue culture. We just recently put up a 100 foot polyhouse and she guided the employees through it very well.

Corinna sits as the regional vice president for eastern Canada for ILS and has contributed many ideas to ILS for the youth program that was discussed in 2005 at the convention. Every family is proud of their children, but to have her really shine above others that far surpass her age is truly above a father's expectation. My biggest job is to keep her challenged.

But alas there are other young Moros that are surfacing. With 6 children we

hope a few will catch the bug and build on the work we have done so far.

In the nursery industry, the year goes by so fast, and before you can see a lilac collection mature, quite a few years go by. Planting lilacs is a project for the future, and the investment of our youth must be done now.

Hats off to you Corinna, and we hope you can be an inspiration to others.

*Frank Moro
Vice President ILS Canada
September 2006*



Corinna Moro
photo reprinted with permission
of Select Plus Lilacs

International Lilac Robin

In late July, one of our new member benefits, the International Lilac Robin(ILR) was installed on the internet. On this chat group, we can discuss topics of any import in relation to lilacs. Excerpts from these discussions will be reprinted in *Lilacs*.

Reblooming:

8/1/06 Kent Millham of Webster, NY writes "... a *Syringa* 'Bailsugar' is blooming... I was wondering if anyone has reblooming lilacs at the moment".

8/1/06 MarvaLee Peterschick of WA: "Yes, *Syringa meyeri* 'Palibin' in Zone 5. It just has a few blooms at this time. It normally blooms around Memorial Day".

8/3/06 Steve Schneider of Arnold Arboretum, Boston: "Our Sugar Plum Fairy™ is in full bloom also. Our Fairy Dust™ has a few blooms on them."

8/3/06 Jeff Young of St. Albans, VT: "My 'Colby's Wishing Star' is just starting to fade after a very full second blooming. Right now 'Josee' is starting a second bloom and should be full next week. My 'Josee' has bloomed 3 times a season each of the last 3 years".

8/6/06: Bill Horman of Michigan: "The following are presently with some flowers here in St. Clair County, MI: Tinkerbelle™: a few stems with flowers; 'Karen' abundant flowers; *microphylla* 'Superba' blooming again for nearly a month with more and more buds forming on branch tips; 'Josee' putting on a nice display".

8/12/06: Ruth Wendt of Hulda Klager Lilac Garden: "I just noticed that several of our *microphylla* 'Superba' are putting out a nice second bloom. We have had a fairly dry summer with a rain storm or two. When I have seen a rebloom in the past, it has been pretty sparse, but this time there is at least half what the first bloom was"...

8/21/06 Warren Oakes, Maine: "I was just talking to Evie [King of *Syringa* Plus], and telling her about my Sugar Plum Fairy™, which is re blooming heavily, and still has blooms that have not gone by".

9/05/06: Kent Millham, New York: Today I spotted 5 inflorescences on *Syringa reticulata*.

9/26/06 Bill Horman, Michigan: "'Bellicent' and 'Helen' opened this week. 'Bellicent' has one huge inflorescence, and 'Helen' has a few clusters of small blooms".

10/04/06: Nancy Latimer of Virginia: "'Dancing Druid' started blooming in August and is still putting out fragrant bloom. 'Lilac Sunday' and 'Hers' bloomed (one truss each) in late August.

10/06/06: Kent Millham of New York: "I spotted a x *hyacinthiflora* 'Assessippi'

with a few florets on the terminals. Then I went to check the *x diversifolia* 'Nouveau', because that always has some reblooming every year. My jaw dropped when I saw it, because it was in Full Bloom!"

10/17/06: Jeff Young of Vermont: "We haven't had a frost in northern Vermont yet. My 'Josee' just gave me 2 small blooms this week".

10/30/06: Kent Millham of New York: "*Syringa x diversifolia* 'Nouveau' continues to have some faded blooms, and *S. x hyacinthiflora* 'Scotia' has some scattered terminal florets".

11/08/06: Evie King, Massachussetts: "Last Sunday morning temp was 20 degrees. That afternoon Mark spotted *Syringa x chinensis* 'Lilac Sunday' with color; 4 florets open and looking wonderful".

Mistletoe:

8/21/06 Brad Bittorf, Arizona writes with an unusual problem: "It appears my lilac 'Purple Haze' may have developed a case of mistletoe. Mistletoe(not the Christmas kind, the desert kind) will attack palo verde and mesquite trees, but also has been known to live on different hosts. Since lilacs don't normally grow near mistletoe, there is probably not much record of this possibility".

Sudden Oak Death:

8/21/06: Warren Oakes, Maine: Warren reports from the Sun Journal, Lewiston, Maine, August 13th: that a lilac shipped from Oregon tested positive for Sudden Oak Death Disease, and 13 other lilacs were received in the shipment.

8/27/06: Evie King of MA: Evie added further that lilacs are listed as an "associated", rather than an "alternate" host of Sudden Oak Death Disease. "Lilacs show little damage if infected but can transmit this disease to other plants...", such as rhododendrons, etc. More info on Sudden Oak Death at www.aphis.usda.gov.

Editor's Deadline

Spring Issue 2007: March 1st

Summer Issue 2007: June 15th

Fall Issue 2007: September 8th

Winter Issue 2008: December 1st

THREE STAR NEWSFLASH!!!

Recently, while sorting through some Highland Botanical Park files, I located a story by Alvan Grant on lilacs. Trying to find the original publication, I followed a hunch (also suggested by Bob Hoepfl) to check the Garden Center Bulletin. The Rochester Civic Garden Center, located in Highland Park, is a horticulture educational facility that publishes a bulletin 6 times a year. Researching through the old publications, I located the article in the May 1993 issue. Curious, I checked more bulletins and found more articles, written by such illustrious plantsmen as Alvan Grant, Richard Fenicchia, Robert Hoepfl, James Kelly (taxonomist), Dr. Robert Clark, and Bernard Harkness. These articles are of value to Highland Park, and to ILS. In the future, I will reprint some of these articles, and also will contribute copies to the archives of ILS. I will carry this research further.

Kent Millham, editor and Archives Chairman

International Lilac Society

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Syringa vulgaris 'Krasavitsa Moskvyy'

Photo credit Dr. Elena Lyakh



Syringa vulgaris 'Indiya'

Photo credit Dr. Elena Lyakh



Syringa vulgaris 'Mme. Antoine Buchner'

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Syringa vulgaris 'General Grant'
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Syringa vulgaris 'President Poincare'
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