

Lilacs

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of the International Lilac Society

IN
THIS
ISSUE:

Convention Issue

In Memoriam: Susan Millham



Dr. Elena Lyakh at lilac collection in Siberia
Submitted by Dr. Elena Lyakh



Marquette Park at Mackinac Island
Photo Credit Connie Simonnet

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Susan Millham standing near <i>Syringa vulgaris</i> 'Frederick Law Olmsted'	
at Highland Park, circa 1993	
Photo Credit Kent Millham	

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International Lilac Society

President	Nicole Jordan Njordan236@aol.com 15500 Harrowgate Road, Chester, VA 23831
Executive Vice President	Bradley Bittorf bittorfbradley@yahoo.com 13902 East Placita Ocho Puntas, Vail, AZ 85641
Secretary	Amy Plamann 1619 North Mason Street, Appleton WI 54914
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

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President's Message

Dear Lilac Aficionados,

Well, Well! The convention on Mackinac Island was great fun. Ask anyone who attended. Going to this lilac Mecca was everything I expected. The beautiful lilacs that put on a show for us, the great hospitality we received from everyone on the Island, the good, good food, the horses and carriages, the bicycle riders, the children scurrying all around, the manicured hotels and homes, the beautiful scenery-blue sky meeting blue lake water, and all the ILS members made for a wonderful convention.

Thank you to the Mackinac Island Tourist Bureau Director, Mary McGuire Slevin. She and her staff facilitated the planning of the convention. Thank you to Peter Ely and his committee for making it all happen. We enjoyed a welcome party at the Hotel Iroquois as guests of Mrs. Margaret McIntire. We enjoyed delicious hors d'oeuvres, a beautiful view of Lake Michigan and Lake Huron, the lovely gardens around the hotel, plus the company of local residents. We got to meet Freek Vrugtman, the International Lilac Registrar. He and his two friends from Croatia, Charles Holetich and Dr. Zelimar Borzan gave our convention a real international flair.

On Thursday, Jack Alexander was our first speaker. He works at the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University, Jamaica Plain, MA USA. His talk was about *Making the Purple Lilac- Syringa 'Purple Haze'*. He was followed by Charles Holetich, who for 35 years worked at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. In charge of the arboretum, he developed the largest lilac collection in the world. At the time of his retirement, the collection numbered 837 different lilac cultivars. He now resides in Croatia; his native country. They were followed by Dr. Brent McCown from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Department of Horticulture, who gave an enthusiastic lecture on Genetic Improvements of Some Woody Landscape Plants; all to be applied to lilacs.

Trish Martin, Mackinac Island historian and writer, walked us after lunch through the Natural History of Mackinac Island from the coming of Father Jacques Marquette to the tourist destination it is today; including the history of lilacs on Mackinac. Freek Vrugtman, Lilac Registrar, followed. He reminded us of the importance of registering lilacs correctly. He told us how to do it and why we do it. At the President's Dinner, Dr. Borzan showed us a wonderful program on Croatia. We saw lilacs growing in the wild out of crevasses in the mountains in a true Mediterranean climate. We hopped from one island to another to see lilacs and more lilacs. After the presentation, we all wanted to go to Croatia on a vacation.

Bruce Peart and Margaret Walton surprised us at the end of the convention with

a presentation on their journey to China. While there, they visited with Cui Hongxia, curator of lilacs at the Beijing Botanical Gardens. To see the Great Wall of China they climbed, the deep gorges they crossed on wobbly bridges, the tea plantations so green, the markets full of exotic fruits etc., was captivating.

The auction was lively. Woody Barnes as always was the auctioneer extraordinaire. The plants were beautiful. Thank you to Bill Horman, who potted and nurtured many of them, and transported them to Mackinac. We took a fantastic carriage ride through the island woodland. Lily-of-the Valley blanketed some spots on the sides of the road. Forget-me-not and yellow Lady Slippers mingle under the canopy of native trees, showing us that Mother Nature is the ultimate gardener. On the way we had passed the Grand Hotel, several stables, home for the six hundred working horses that pull the carriages, the Stone Church and the golf course. We stopped at the Butterfly House and visited the carriage exhibit nearby, which included a horse-drawn hearse, topped by a gold crown and cross. It is still used today.

Continuing our journey we stopped to look at a limestone arch. Carved by water over the centuries, it was spectacular. Cameras clicked and clicked when we visited that natural wonder. Seeing the lake through its opening was definitively a picture.

The board meeting went very well. Thank you to all the board members for their dedication to ILS. We bid good-bye and thank Robert Hoepfl and Bill Horman, who have finished their terms and were attending. New board members joined us at the Friday morning board meeting. Welcome Woody Barnes (CA), Nancy Latimer (VA), Warren Oakes (ME), and Max Peterson (NE). Thank you to all of them for volunteering to serve on the board.

We now have a new ILS Secretary. Amy Plamann is replacing David Gressley, who served in this capacity for fifteen years- yes fifteen years. That is dedication! Thank you very much David. Peter Ely also retired from convention chair and nomination chair. He too served many years in these roles. A big thank you to Peter too for a job well done. Among others, Peter and David each received an award for their service to ILS.

I met the mayor of Mackinac Island. Margaret Doud has been mayor for thirty-two years; the longest term for a mayor in the USA. I met her beagle, Bushy, the island's first dog. Like all the islanders, Bushy knows how to welcome you. He puts out the red carpet or should I say a welcome paw. Melanie Cook is a part-time Mackinac resident and a new ILS member. She and her husband own a florist shop in the quaint little street behind Main Street. Melanie gave me a tour of the back alleys of Mackinac. How fun to peek over the white picket fences to look at the lovely gardens and see the venerable lilacs tucked in these little paradises.

Thank you to Jeff Young who conducted a lilac tour for us with the help of

Bruce Peart. We looked at the lilacs given and planted by ILS members a decade ago. Freek and the two gentlemen from Croatia brought an instrument to do some boring in order to date lilacs. The oldest they found of those they tested was 94 years old. We can attest that some lilacs had trunks of extraordinary size. The Church of St. Anne had a lovely planting of *Syringa*. Beauty of Moscow was soooooo fragrant! *Syringa vulgaris* 'Beth Turner' caught the eyes of Deborah McCown.

Fort Mackinac had beckoned us earlier. It offered a beautiful view from the top of the lilacs in Marquette Park below and of Haldimand Bay. We ate a delicious box lunch prepared by none other but the Grand Hotel. No wonder it was so gourmet.

The Mackinac Island Lilac Festival started on Friday. I attended the coronation of the Lilac Festival Queen. The teenager had just graduated from high school. By tradition only a child from a permanent Mackinac Island resident can have the honor to be chosen as queen of the festival.

Jeff Young, his wife Jan and their daughter Shelli stayed on the island after the convention. Jeff was to give lilac tours, Jan to do programs on lilacs for the young visitors, and Shelli, their ten year old, to spread cheers. She was, along with Pauline Fiala's great-grandson Chase, attending the convention. It felt good to have youngsters among us. We were honored by the presence of Pauline, a longtime member of ILS. The Grande Dame of Lilacs was escorted by her daughter Marilyn Bonnett, granddaughters Candace Bonnett and Tracy Yost, and great-grandson Chase Yost. Thank you Pauline for coming and showing us that we can enjoy lilacs all of our life.

Now we all have returned home. I have talked to some of you. Funny, most of you were in your gardens. Irene Stark was pruning her lilacs. David Hightshue and his wife Barbara were in their garden contemplating their auction purchases. Woody Barnes and his wife Jan were getting ready to leave on another trip. Everybody did agree that the convention was success.

Now that we have recharged our lilac batteries, it is a good time for you to talk to your family, friends, colleagues and other gardeners about signing up. Tell them how much fun it is to be a member of ILS. Share with them the joy of being involved with our society. Remember if every member would sign up one new member, we would double our membership. We had four hundred and seven members as of June 2007. You know what they say in America; the more the merrier! Imagine a convention with a couple hundred members: Oo- La- La!

Finally, thank you to all of you, who attended, donated plants for the auction and worked during the convention. By the way, about half of the convention attendees were at their first ILS convention. The manager and staff at the Murray Hotel, site of the convention, could not have been nicer. It was so pleasant to have those college students greeting us and answering our requests with a smile. Next year we are going to Minnesota. Convention Chairman

Karen McCauley and her husband Tim promise us a wonderful time. So mes amis, I look forward to seeing all of you and many more in St. Paul, MN USA in 2008 for another GREAT CONVENTION!

Amities,
Nicole Jordan
ILS President
Chester, VA
USA

June 19, 2007
NJordan236@aol.com

Editor's Notes

Errata:

In the Spring issue of *Lilacs* on the inside front cover, a photo of the *Syringa* collection at Beijing Botanical Garden was inadvertently placed above the caption that was for a photo of a magnificent specimen of *Syringa reticulata* from Bickelhaupt Arboretum. This photo will be found in this issue on the inside rear cover.

Warren Oakes Address:

Warren Oakes, who was elected to the Board of Directors for a 3 year term, was not mentioned in the Membership directory from the Winter issue. His address and contact numbers are as follows:

Warren K. Oakes
63 Roak Street
Auburn ME 94210
Tel. # : 207-783-7839
e-mail: roblesc@adelphia.net

Fall Issue Deadline:

The submission deadline for the Fall issue of *Lilacs* is September 15th.

Editor's Message

On July 3, 2007, my beautiful wife Susan passed away after a long illness. Although Susan wasn't known by many in ILS, she accompanied me to some of the events at the 2001 convention in Rochester, New York. Susan, a very friendly, sociable, and kind woman, easily made friends with all that she spoke to.

Shane and I will always miss Susan, and will forever feel great sadness without her physical presence in our lives. However, Susan's final resting place is a small but scenic cemetery literally just down the road and around the corner from our house, so we can visit every day.

I am grateful to all my friends and family for supporting Shane and me in our time of sorrow. I am also thankful for the support I have received from the International Lilac Society during this time, and for the beautiful flowers that were sent to the service. ILS is not only a society of people who love lilacs, but also a close-knit family of friends that take care of each other in good times and sad.

Although Susan had a long struggle with multiple sclerosis in the final years of her life, she would not want her illness to define who she was. The following article details her life and some of her many accomplishments.



SUSAN MILLHAM
1951 - 2007

Thoughts about Susan Millham

Susan (Taskett) Millham was born in Rochester, New York on March 20, 1951. She had 3 brothers and 2 sisters, and grew up with a love of music, animals, and nature; and was a member of the 4-H club as a child. Among her many other interests were knitting beautiful handmade sweaters, and playing the harp.

Eager to enter college, she graduated from Webster Thomas High School in 3 years. She then earned her BS degree in Psychology with a minor in Business Administration from the University of Rochester in 1977. Susan became a very successful saleswoman and business person, achieving many sales awards from Control Data Learning Center, and later Control Data Corp. in Minnesota.

When called back to Rochester to care for her ailing mother, Susan continued her career by establishing her own temporary employment service, Taskett Temps, Inc., that specialized in providing skilled secretarial positions to accounts ranging from Fortune 500 companies to law firms and local businesses. She became extremely active in civic affairs and environmental causes.

Susan did extensive research on illness clusters in the Webster area; developing a highly detailed study that she later submitted to the Monroe County Health Director Dr. Andrew Doniger. Because of all of her work in environmental causes, Rochester Chamber of Commerce, and many other civic groups, Susan was nominated for 1989 Webster Woman of the Year, an award that honors women who significantly affect the lives of those around them.

In 1991, Susan first came into my life. Susan placed a personal ad in the Rochester Democrat & Chronicle that I answered. She described herself as an attractive 40-year old woman who was seeking someone who liked animals, classical music, and gardening! What followed was 16 very happy years with each other, and Susan and I became the proud parents of our son Shane.

Susan is survived by her husband Kent, son Shane; brothers Vincent, Jim, and John; and sisters Jeanne LaFever and Ann Taskett, and in-laws Richmond and Marian Millham.

Kent Millham
July 2007

The following eulogy "Things I Will Always Remember" was read for me at Susan's memorial service on July 7, 2007, by the Reverend Lawrence De Vuyst.

Things I Will Always Remember

Susan and I had 16 wonderful years together, too short a time, but a time I will always cherish.

I will always remember the first time we met at Webster Park near the pier, after responding to her personal ad in the Democrat & Chronicle. She liked me immediately, and brought me back to her house to meet her huge Newfoundland Baby Bart, and her cats Fritz and Geraldine, as well as the many outdoor cats that she fed.

I will always remember Susan pruning the dead wood on the large 100-year old shrub roses in the spring, and cutting small bunches for our dinner table.

I will always remember cutting the grass of our large yard; sweating profusely, and Susan coming out on the porch to bring me a cold drink.

I will always remember looking forward to opening the lunch bag at work, and finding a huge egg salad sandwich she had made, that I could barely get my two hands around.

I'll always remember Susan teaching me how to can tomatoes, and together one year canning about 80 quarts fresh from the garden.

I'll always remember her love of frogs and frog knickknacks. Four shelves of a bookcase were devoted to it, and every year more were added. (I even gave her a couple of frog and toad audio cds)!

I'll always remember her love of children, and how she lovingly held Shane and cared for him while she still could.

I will always remember Susan calling me at work several times a day, and never finishing the call without saying, "I love you", in her beautiful voice.

I will always remember Susan coming to Highland Park with our dog Chui to see me at work, and never leaving without giving me a kiss goodbye.

Although Susan's illness progressed, her outgoing and sunny disposition never changed. One smile from Susan could cheer up any nurse or caregiver who came in to see her.

I will always remember holding Susan's hand when she was sleeping or awake, and getting as much comfort from her as I hope she got from me.

All of these things and more I will remember about Susan. Although Susan's physical struggle was long and difficult, her inner spirit of love and generosity remained unchanged, and that is what I will remember most of all.

Somewhere In Time!

For me that meant nine hours of driving in intermittent downpours, which prevented smooth driving conditions to Mackinac Island. We were not to be deterred by the various obstacles that many of the ILS attendees endured, while traveling to Mackinac Island. The arrival was worth the journey. What a vision to behold. As our gracious guest speakers told the lilac story, "Purple Haze", was spot on. The familiar perfume lingering in the air as you strolled the paths on the island, was comforting. How wonderful to see lilacs still in their glorious bloom!

My first encounter with an ILS member was Jeff Young. What luck to run into him so early in the day. More on Jeff later! Then there was the registration in the afternoon, with a lot of new faces, lots of warm and welcoming smiles, and a cool waterfront drink on the property of The Iroquois Hotel. This was where the familiar and the not so familiar, members came together.

The next day was down to business. Meeting the ILS President, Nicole Jordan, and listening to her absorbing vision for the future of ILS. Thanking all of those people who work tirelessly to continue to get the message out to the world, about ILS and working towards a "Lilac In Every Garden, The World Over". There will always be more to do, and much more to accomplish. It is important to further educate ourselves and the world about the planting and care of lilacs. I was pleased to learn from all of the guest speakers; all of whom spoke informatively and eloquently about where lilacs have originated from, and where their future is growing.

Fort Mackinac was a step back in time. They could use a few lilacs! The sick room display was an eye opener! Our box lunches were shared with new and renewed friends. We did manage to get in a group photo that day, in the park, among the blooming lilacs. Jeff Young gave an informative walk and talk on the main street. He is very much in his element on the island! We had many questions about the cultivars that were newly planted on the island a few years ago. Jeff showed how and where, to prune the younger lilacs, to continue the most desirous growth and shape of the lilac. There was the stop to view the large tree that was brought down by the Thursday evening storm. I was awakened by this storm, but did not hear the tree come crashing down on the next-door bed and breakfast hotel.

Friday evening was filled with many laughs, and much appreciation and admiration, for the recipients of the awards. The willing and able members of ILS put on a great show for the 2007 meeting. The icing on the cake was the fantastic slide presentations of both Croatia and China. How wonderful to travel for a few relaxing moments, into the homeland of foreign friends. Thank you to Nicole Jordan, and all of the board members, officers, volunteers, and attendees. What a great bunch of lilac aficionados, all of whom have that

comical view of living life to the fullest! Each person brought to the meeting a little bit of their own original "Purple Haze". I have to add, the drive home was a cheerful, sunny journey. The perfect ending to the chance of going "Somewhere In Time"!

*Respectfully,
Connie Simonnet
US Zone 4-5
Polo, Illinois 61064*

Lilac Stone Soup

Greetings!! This is a story of Lilac Stone Soup. During last winter I told Mary McGuire Slevin that I would like to contribute to the Mackinac Island Lilac

Festival by offering a children's program. I thought I had enough information about Lilacs, by osmosis, to teach the next generation some basics and plant some cuttings to take home. Thank you Jack Alexander for helping me avoid that disaster!

While discussing this with Jack during the ILS convention Dan Meier from Briggs Nurseries saw the "oh, no, what do I do now" look in my eyes and offered to send me "some plants" to help me out. He asked for a mailing address and said he would have them sent overnight so I would have them in time for my first group on Monday. He also said they were tissue cultures that would be ready for transplanting, so I would need some planting material and pots. Again the "oh, no" look that was seen by my next set of guardian angels; Jay and Melanie Weber (from Weber's Florist on Mackinac Island), who heard what was needed and said they would have soil and pots sent over on the ferry for Monday. Let's see; plants, soil, pots...compost, Father Ray (St. Anne's Church on Mackinac) to the rescue. In his back yard, being the gardener he is, there was a small mountain of compost. I am beginning to breathe again.

The "some" plants that Dan sent turned out to be about 300 baby 'Paul Thirion' double magentas. The potting soil and 300 pots also arrived; then with a "borrowed" wheelbarrow full of compost I was off to Saint Anne's church. I held the classes Monday, Wednesday and Friday, each days attendance growing exponentially from the last. Friday's class had many Islanders and some young-at-hearts in their 80's! Each person, young or not so young left to take home as a souvenir of their time on the island.

Without Jack, Mary, Dan, Jay, Melanie and Father Ray I would have never been

able to make this contribution to the Festival. I have learned much. I am very grateful to get this opportunity to publicly thank those people that provided me with the tools that made this year's Lilac Festival on Mackinac Island very special for me; thank you so much for your support, your wisdom and most important your friendship. Stone soup anyone?

*Jan Young
Saint Albans, Vermont
June 2007*

International Lilac Society Awards 2007

HONOR AND ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Presented to

Peter Ely

For serving as Executive Vice-President for the past seven years and guiding the Societies leaders in proper protocol. For serving as Convention Chair and successfully arranging annual meetings from coast to coast with many stops in between. In grateful appreciation for your dedicated service to ILS and the promotion of its goals.

HONOR AND ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Presented to

David Gressley

For serving as Membership Secretary since 1993 and endeavoring to bring ILS into the computer age. For your service as Board Member, Regional Vice-President, promoting the ILS, and the Lilac by cultivating the collection at the Holden Arboretum.

DISTINGUISHED RECOGNITION AWARD

Presented to

Jeff Young

For your willingness to share your knowledge and expertise in establishing the ILS official website. For serving as Recording Secretary, Board Member and actively promoting Lilacs.

PRESIDENTS AWARD

Presented to

Mackinac Island Tourist Bureau

For the promotion and preservation of a truly outstanding public display of Lilacs. For coordinating educational presentations with ILS during the Lilac Festival and for hosting the 36th ILS convention.

AWARD OF MERIT

Presented to

Charles Holetich

For your enlightening presentation on *Syringa vulgaris*, as it is found growing in its native habitat.

AWARD OF MERIT

Presented to

Jack Alexander

For your informative presentation on *Syringa protolaciniata* 'Purple Haze' and the creation of this new cultivar.

AWARD OF MERIT

Presented to

Dr. Brent McCown

For your presentation 'Breeding Ornamentals for Adaptability and Beauty: Birch, Viburnums, and Spirea'. Including Lilacs in this lecture.

AWARD OF MERIT

Presented to

Freek Vrugtman

For presenting a program entitled 'The Importance of Maintaining the Correct Names for Lilacs'

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Presented to

Margaret McIntyre

In appreciation of your generous hospitality at the 36th annual Convention of ILS.

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Presented to

Dr. Zelimir Borzan

For sharing the award winning film The Mediterranean As It Once Was and introducing ILS members to the natural beauty of Croatia.

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Presented to

Trish Martin

For your participation in the 36th annual ILS Convention and updating us on the Islands natural history.

AWARD OF MERIT

Presented to

STELLA KING

Founder of the Mackinac Island Lilac Festival, and also for her tremendous contributions in popularizing Lilacs.

Mackinac Island Convention Attendees

Alexander, Jack
Barnes, Franklin
Barnes, Jane
Binoniemi, Amanda
Blackman, Linda
Card, Judy
Cook, Melanie
Coombs, Sheila
Culp, Bonnie
Davies, Brian
Davies, Sharon
Ely, Peter
Fiala, Pauline
Giles Waines
Goodbody, Joan
Greager, Bob
Greager, James
Greager, Ruth
Griffith, Karen
Herrington, Jean
Hibbard, Pheobe
Hightshue, Barbara
Hightshue, David
Hoepfl, Bob
Hoepfl, Marcia
Holetich, Charles
Hopkins, Mary W.
Horman, William
Hulen, Sharon
Jordan Nicole
Kratzenbert, Earl

Kratzenbert, JoAnn
Latimer, Harry
Latimer, Nancy
McCauley, Karen
McCauley, Tim
McCown, Brent
McCown, Deborah
Meier, Dan
Northcut, Frances
Oakes, Warren
Parton, Gary
Peart, Bruce
Peterson, Darlene
Peterson, Max
Plamann, Amy
Rogers, Owen M.
Schreiber, Gloria J.
Simonnet, Connie
Sowle, Virginia
Speirs, Joan
Spellmeyer, Minyon
Stange, Fran
Stark, Irene
Stark, Jim
Vrugtman, Freek
Walton, Margaret
Wendt, Ruth
Young, Jeff
Young, Jan
Young, Shelli
Borzan, Dr. Zelimir

European Newsletter

Greetings all, I am back. After two years of uncertainty about whether or not ILS Europe still existed, I can now return to default mode and start writing again. There is so much to catch up on that I hardly know where to start. So why don't I do what the man almost said and start at the end and work right through the beginning.

The recent season see-sawed between disaster and triumph. January brought gales that reduced work possibilities to just standby and rescue. On the 16th, we had a storm which registered 98 mph (about 150 KM per hour), and that brought down trees, removed the roof of the propagating unit, flattened the rabbit and deer fences, and scattered all the plant labels across two counties. It also shredded our willow shelter belt, and dumped tons of broken twig-wood across the whole site; rendering grass cutting impossible until it was all raked up. We spent the next months recovering from this, and there is still much to do.

Then came the hottest April this country has ever known. Even worse, we had just one millimeter of recorded rainfall- and this was the month immortalized by Mr. Jolson in the song "*April Showers*". Thus, the searing hot dry days were followed by night after night of sharp frost. We lost two *hyacinthifloras* and a 'Wonderblue', which were frosted to death, and all premature flowers wilted upon opening because they were so dry internally. Miraculously, some flower heads remained closed or only partially opened until the onset of May, that came in as cold, as wet, and as windy as March should have been. The remaining flowers then stood up to be counted. They began to sing "*There's No Business Like Show Business*".

For ten days they opened and the flowers themselves continued to grow. 'Massena' had just six panicles, but each one was so big and heavy that they drooped and resembled bunches of burgundy grapes. 'Zulu' was simply prodigious, and was ordered by every single visitor who made it to the revised season (all appointments had to be brought forward by two to three weeks). 'Firmament' hovered at the entrance to the main collection like a pale blue mist, and 'Prinses Beatrix' and 'Flora 1953' slugged it out toe-to-toe for the "heavywhite" championship of Norman's Farm. 'Zhemchuzhina' survived all the hostile elements to make an eight-foot (2 m) globe of exquisite shell-pink, and confirm my opinion of its exceptional class. 'Cavour', as usual, glowing ultra-violet as twilight emerged; so once again, with gin-and-tonic to hand, we waited with bated breath for the fairies to appear. 'Sumerki' (the name means "Twilight"), also glowed in the same way, but typically, whilst we looked at 'Cavour', the fairies swarmed around 'Sumerki' and vice versa. We will catch them out one evening.

Generally, the flowering was not long-lived, but it was truly spectacular. This

was even more remarkable when the Chinese species opened and revealed the considerable frost damage that had been inflicted on them during April. *S. josikaea* 'Holte' flowered for the first time out in the field with buds and new florets the colour of amethysts, and first flowers also appeared on 'Mar'yam', 'Maximus', 'Suyunshi', 'Sheremetev', 'Vek', and 'Nina' in the holding bay in the barnyard, where they wait patiently in their containers until conditions are right for planting. Despite the conditions, all visitors left us dazed and satisfied.

A week ago, our friend with a digger came and did some significant work. He removed the fallen trees and also the root-stumps of ten other trees that had fallen in previous pears' storms. He put in a wide gravel drive from the house to the barn and propagating unit, so that we no longer will have to trudge through a quagmire in winter; and can now drive through and unload bales of compost, etc. at the door. Dredging has started on the waterway that runs for 200 yards through the property, and most importantly, he scraped the turf away from a hundred locations on the new land, which will save me both time and a sore back when I start planting again. He then put in another hundred holes for me on our remaining exposed boundary to accommodate my birthday present. Shelagh went out with a friend and they came back with 109 assorted trees, shrubs and fruiting plants to make a shelter-belt. The details of the progress on the new land I will leave to another time.

When I was functioning as your President, I was pleased to shed some of my work and place it on the capable shoulders of Tatiana Poliakova (who is superbly aided and abetted by her sister Irina Semyonova, who has immaculate English). The consequent expansion of the Russian membership is there for all to see in the published membership lists. The work that Tanya (she is my friend so I am entitled to use the diminutive of her name) has done has been inspired. She started by writing a series of twelve consecutive monthly articles for the first class Moscow magazine "*Vestnik Tsvetovoda*" (Floricultural Bulletin). Then she inveigled them into producing a class bound, paperback volume of the articles for which I was proud to provide a preface. To date, she has produced and published over twenty lilac articles in Russia, and has raised national awareness about the plant.

From then on she has cultivated her expanding Russian membership. I cannot mention them all now, but you can meet and greet them all on Tanya's blog. Do beg her to reveal the site address to you, for it is superb. It is in Russian, but Irina has provided short and clear English translations to each entry. I am personally indebted to member Sergey Terekhov and also to Natalia Makedonskaya, who is lilac curator at the Botanical Garden in Minsk. I have long been interested in the Belorussian lilacs and I hope to cooperate with her to produce a feature about lilac breeders N. V. Smol'skii and V. F. Bibikova. Above all, I am amazed by the contributions to our knowledge of the lilac provided by Dr. Irena Okuneva of the Main Botanic Garden, Moscow. She is a formidable presence in the lilac community, and I have four superbly produced articles by

her, two small booklets on lilac cultivation and now her new book on lilacs produced this year. Nor can I forget the indomitable presence of the ladies from the lilac section of the Moscow Flower Club and their exhibits at the Moscow Flower show. You will be reading much more about our new friends in this column in the future.

Also, Tanya has recruited a whole school into membership. Local lilac growers are donating plants for them to grow and study. One day, School 542, I will come to visit you and see for myself the fruits of your enterprise and dedication. Keep up the good work because you, and people like you throughout the world, are the future of the lilac.

Finally, my apologies go the Mackinac Island committee. I loved my visit there ten years ago, and indeed point out (Vol. 27 No. 1) that we ignored 1776 and, with typical good taste, did not leave the Island until the Treaty of Versailles in 1815. The illuminations dressing the boats in the harbour for the Lilac Festival, the fairy tale British Fort, the stupendous naturalized lilacs, the hospitable hotels and the friendly receptions from the likes of the Yankee Rebel Inn, the Oyster Bar and the Pink Pony all endeared the place to this old limey heart. Sadly, as last year, I was still not up to making a complex, long and broken journey. I do hope, however, to be able to make what should be a straightforward bus ride from London to Minneapolis next year.

Oh yes, at this stage I usually discuss a specific lilac. Here is one of Shelagh's favourites. *Syringa vulgaris* 'Mulatka'. N. L. Mikhailov and N. I. Rybakina, Moscow, 1980. I mentioned this lilac in Vol. 27 No. 1 1998, and I queried its name, which translates as "Mulatto". It is very early flowering here in East Anglia, so it is frequently frosted in our treacherous spring climate. Somehow, it survived this year unblemished.

The buds are a strong, deep pink with silvery tones and they open to good sized florets with semi boat-shaped lobes on a medium to long tube. The lobes pale towards the center and the margins, but inside the end half of each lobe there is a "thumb-print" of a darker magenta-pink. As the florets age, the pale parts fade paler but the "thumb-print" takes on a tint of brown. Towards the end- just before going over- the floret colour, as a whole, reminds me of the surface of a cup of creamy 'café au lait'. At last, I am able to see where the name of this unusual and delightful lilac is coming from. Irina tells me that Nikolai Leonidovich had the lovely first thought of giving it the name that children use for a pot of a milky chocolate drink: - Shokoladnitsa. Sadly though, he was not able to use it because it is not a proper grown-up Russian word. Nevertheless, it will always be Shokoladnitsa to me.

Colin Chapman
Wyverstone
Suffolk
June 12th 2007

Report from Russia 2007

The peak of popularity of lilacs in Russia was in 50's-60's of last century, when Leonid Kolesnikov received the Stalin prize for his new lilac varieties and was granted an opportunity to found a state nursery, which was specializing in growing, propagating and breeding lilacs. Kolesnikov's initiative was so famous that many botanic gardens started their own breeding programs, but after his death in 1968, the interest in lilacs started to fall little by little. Disintegration of the Soviet Union, the wrecking of the connections between the botanic gardens in the republics, and the economic issues of the transition period led to not only the loss of many cultivars, but to a complete disappearance of interest in the lilac. In the gardens, people were growing not the decorative plants, but mostly fruits and vegetables for food.

In 1999, 20 lilac lovers formed the "Lilac" section of the Moscow club of floriculturists ("Tsvetovody Moskvyy" club). Our main goal was to revive interest in the lilac. We also started our own lilac collections, with the main accent being the search for the rare cultivars of Kolesnikov, Vekhov, and other Russian breeders. A huge amount of work has been done during past 7 years. Our annual lilac shows attract more and more visitors; our collections today are pretty impressive and diverse. During the first years, we were gathering knowledge and experience, learning from the specialists from Main Botanical Garden, University Botanical Garden, and other scientific organizations whom we were inviting to lecture at our section meetings, and who are also giving us practical sessions on grafting and pruning. Today we are giving lectures ourselves to various gardening clubs and also at the Floriculture Pavilion of the All-Russian Exhibition Center.

We published numerous articles on the lilac, and eventually, these had a huge impact. The main force behind this was ILS member and lilac curator at the MBG, Dr. Irina Okuneva. She wrote 16 scientific articles, 40 popular articles in the most popular Russian floricultural and gardening magazines and 5 books about lilacs. She holds excursions and seminars, and has an extended lecturing program. Also Dr. Okuneva is an author and presenter of a radio program about lilacs on radio "Rossiya".

A number of articles were published by Irina Podosinkina, our main expert on the horticulture of the lilac. She is a professional agricultural chemist, and she knows everything about soils and the most modern and effective fertilizers. She teaches us how to make our lilac strong and healthy. Her lectures are highly popular and enjoy great success wherever they take place.

I am an author of 20 articles about the lilac that were published in "*Vestnik Tsvetovoda*" (Floriculturist Bulletin) magazine. The articles about Colin Chapman's, Ole Heide's and Tom Thekathyl lilac were published in this magazine too. A number of my features about the lilac were published in other

federal newspapers and popular magazines.

I took part in production of the film "The Lilac of Good Luck", about L. Kolesnikov for the central Russian television. Radio "Rossiya" (Russia), which broadcasts to foreign countries in many foreign languages, made a program about Russian lilacs, which I participated in.

Dr. Okuneva and I took part in a TV program dedicated to the lilac and its role in alternative medicine, which was on the air on May 23, 2007 (on the 1st federal channel), and on the 21st of May we made a proposal to make the lilac an official flower symbol of Moscow in the news program on the Moscow municipal television.

My book "Lilacs" was published in 2006. Two new books dedicated to lilacs will be published in Russia this spring. The first one, "Lilac Collection of the Principal BG: History and Current State", is written by Dr. Irina Okuneva. The other one is called "Lilac Time". It's a result of the shared work of Natalya Balmysheva, Irina Okuneva and Tatiana Poliakova. This book is a colorful photo album featuring 250 varieties of Kolesnikov, Lemoine and other lilac breeders. The stories describe the cultivars in geographical and historic aspects. The book also includes a chapter about M. Sagitova and T. Dzevitsky, the breeders from Kazakhstan, which is written by Milada Dzevitskaya.

I would like to thank Colin Chapman and Tom Thekathykil who helped us in our work on this book. In search of information for this book, I was repeatedly asking for help from ILS members David Gressley, Evelyn King, and Roger Coggeshall, and my requests were always met with their support and understanding. I also would like to thank Pauline Fiala for her help in preparing the chapter about Fr. Fiala's lilac.

Many of you might have noticed that there are many new members from Russia, who have recently joined ILS. I will introduce each one of them to you in my blog "Lilac time" soon. You will be able to see not only the photos of them, but also learn about their professions, hobbies, their favorite lilac cultivars, and many other interesting things. Our friends from Byelorussia-Dr. Natalya Makedonskaya (lilac curator of MBG Minsk), and Ukraine-Dr. Sergey Tereshchenko (lilac curator of Donetsk BG) are taking part in this project too. I hope this will give you an opportunity to learn more about us.

I would like to say a special word about our collective member- school 542. It's a special school for the children with limited physical abilities. The collective of teachers at this school proposed an interesting program, which was supported by many other schools in Moscow. The program is based on lilac research projects with many different aspects; historical, cultural, and botanical. Not only the planting of lilac gardens at the school sites planned, but also propagation, including planting from seeds; the main goal of which is to give free planting material to children's hospitals and hospitals for war veterans. Late

autumn, the Russian members of ILS gave about 30 lilac plants to the school garden, effectively marking the beginning of carrying out this project.

This year Russian ILS members will bring a present to all of those who love lilacs- we will hold a lilac festival which is going to take place at the State Biological Museum named after K. A. Timiryazev (famous Russian scientist, botanical physiologist). Two large halls and a patio will be filled with cut and potted lilacs. An artistic atelier of Sergey Artov will exhibit lilac paintings, and a special exhibition of kids' drawings and plasticine and beads works that are all about lilacs will take place during the show (22-25th of May). Our major concern, as always, is weather, and we hope and pray for warm and sunny days to bring our lilacs to bloom on the dates.

In conclusion, I would like to say how necessary it is to create a cultivar photo bank at the ILS web site. Here in Russia we are faced with the problem of lack of essential pictorial representations. Today the popularity of lilacs is so high that many nurseries started importing from USA, Canada, Poland, and Germany. The labels are usually printed and placed on the plants already in Russia, which often leads to mistakes and confusion. Often the traders have no idea what the cultivars of Fr. Fiala, Fenicchia, and others that are not represented in collections of our botanical gardens look like. I also know that in different countries, different cultivars are being propagated under the same name. We have to clarify those issues by creating the photo bank. I propose that all possible cultivars should be shown as shrub, a cluster and a close-up of an individual floret. I myself can provide the site with the digital photographs of more than 100 cultivars.

*Tatiana Poliakova
Executive VP for Russia
and rest of Asia
May 23, 2007*

VP Canada Report

First I want to make some remarks about the 2006-2007 year. This has been a very fruitful year in advancements for ILS. Nicole has done some great changes with the conference calls and the ILS chat room she and Brad set up. These were important advancements for ILS to make in the new era of communications, and this will help improve and speed up our decision-making process.

Membership is still at a point that we need to rethink our ideas. I have attended 2 new, smaller shows in the Ottawa area this spring, and hopefully have given the bug about lilacs and ILS to customers at our booth. For 2008, Select Plus plans to attend the Canada Blooms show in Toronto, where some 100,000 people visit every year. This will make a great target for ILS, and I plan on



Welcome to ILS from Mackinac Island

Photo Credit Bruce Peart



Karen and Tim McCauley enjoying themselves at the convention

Photo credit Bruce Peart



Jim Stark waiting to board the horse-drawn "wagon"

Photo Credit Bruce Peart



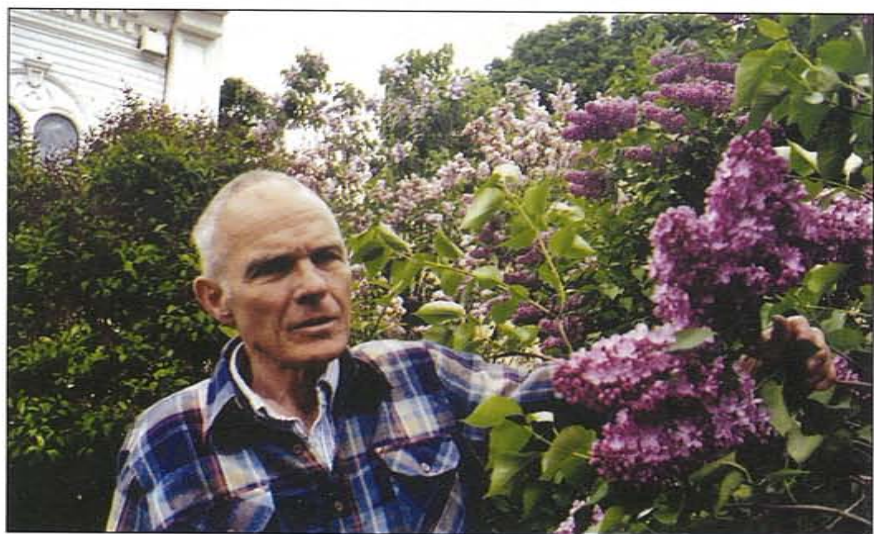
The Petersons near a psychedelic turtle
Photo Credit Irene Stark



Lilacs add to the beauty at the Mackinac Island Boating Facility
Photo credit Connie Simonnet



Vigorous adventitious shoots sprouting from old trunks on Huron Street
Photo Credit Connie Simonnet



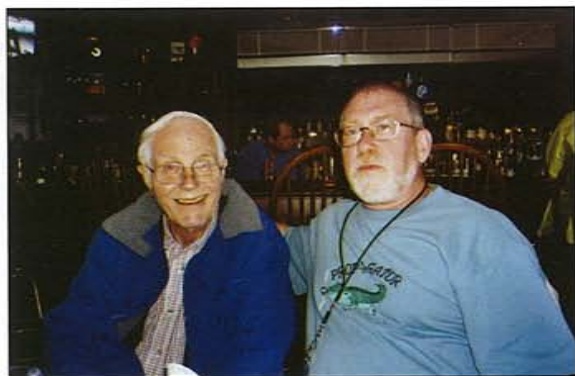
Peter Ely examines a lilac in St. Anne's churchyard gardens
Photo Credit Bill Horman



President Nicole Jordan and Jack Alexander
at Yankee Rebel Restaurant
Photo Credit Bill Horman



Dr. Giles Waines and Irene Stark
at Yankee Rebel Restaurant
Photo Credit Bill Horman



Dr. Owen Rogers and new Board Member Warren Oakes at Yankee Rebel
Photo Credit Bill Horman

bringing free giveaways for membership applications. I find myself working many more US shows, and being more of an international ambassador at all times.

The new pamphlets will be a great help, but they must be used in the most effective ways. If I can get a number of them when we do large shows, Ils would not have to pay for booth space or worry about manpower at booths.

This year at our yearly fundraiser, I have put a small French pamphlet together to introduce people to lilacs that they have never seen in the past and on the ILS website. We should see some 1000-1500 people pass through our open house, and the same pamphlet is to be used at the Botanical Gardens Hort Weekend on May 25-26-27. I will also have Jean François Gonot visiting us from May 25 to June 4 to attend both our fundraiser and Botanical Gardens weekend show to give lectures on lilacs. His enthusiasm and knowledge of the Lemoine lilacs is unsurpassed by few.

I think my biggest excitement this year is the fact of setting up some scion wood from Milada Dzevitskaya and Tatiana Poliakova for winter 2007-09. So we will be treated in North America soon with some new lilac bloodlines.

As for the Distribution committee, there has been no activity this year, and I plan to come up with some ideas over the summer to begin the distribution of lilacs once again through the ILS site. Nurseries will be contacted this summer with information.

*Frank Moro
VP ILS Canada
May 2007*

ILS Regional Report for Eastern Canada 2007

Even at a young age, my knowledge of lilacs continues to increase endlessly. Grafting this winter was exciting. I spent time looking over some of the reasons why certain lilacs were named and I was intrigued greatly. Who would have known the history behind every lilac was so interesting? I even had to look some of the names up since I was unaware who some of these people were. I have been doing flower shows this winter with my father, Frank. I got to interact with many people and brought up the society many times.

Joan Speirs has contacted my dad, and we both have given out support for the 209 convention in Ottawa. Joan has also asked us for some plants for the convention plant auction, and we are more than glad to supply the plants.

We will be doing Canada Blooms next year and push the society's word during

the 5 days. This show attracts 100,000 people.

The lilac season seems to be very promising this year. I am very anxious for the spring and the many varieties in the nursery that will be in bloom. I know I will be in the fields taking many pictures this year.

Corinna Moro
Regional VP for Eastern Canada
May 2007

VP Report Region 3- South

I spoke to garden clubs and to The Virginia Cut Flowers Society at Virginia State University, Petersburg, Virginia in March. ILS brochures were handed out to all participants. One lady became a member. I have several other speaking engagements up to February 2008 on my agenda. The interest in lilacs is very high at the present. A very good power point presentation would be helpful when giving talks. I had to borrow a slide presentation.

My goal for the year was to get 5 new members. I did achieve this goal. With a great journal, an attractive brochure, the International Lilac Robin and a Web page, it is easier to "talk lilac" and get people interested. I would like to see our region membership grow so that we may form a "club" and have at least a couple of activities a year in strategic locations.

The membership in our region has increased. I do notice that many of the members are life members. We had four no renewals this year. I will forward a letter to each of them.

It is challenging to get the region members together, since we are so dispersed. But with the interest in lilacs growing, I'm hopeful that small chapters will form; then grow in size adding to the ILS membership.

Submitted by Nicole Jordan
May 1, 2007
"A Lilac In Every Garden The World
Over"

Northwest Regional Report

It seems like such a short time, it was 1997 at Mackinac Island convention. John Carvill was just taking over the reigns of President of International Lilac Society from Reva Ballreich. John remembered his visit to Spokane for the convention in 1993, and he felt confident the former convention chairman would serve ILS in the same manner.

It has been my honor to represent a great area of wonderful lilacs and wonderful lilac folks. This makes my tenth report and I feel it is time for someone else from the Northwest to write about the lilac happenings of importance for our members. At next year's convention in Minnesota, the ILS President should appoint a new Northwest Regional Vice President.

It is difficult to know what is going on in your region outside of one's own immediate area, especially when the states are large. The newsletters that were sent to me from the University of Idaho Arboretum were most helpful; they were full of projects and upcoming plans, many thanks to Richard Naskali & Paul Warnick.

The U of I Arboretum Associates celebrated 30 years in April with a special guest speaker, Lauren Springer Ogden. Lauren worked in public gardens on both sides of the Atlantic before receiving her master's degree in horticulture from Penn State. At Denver Botanic Gardens, she designed the Watersmart and Romantic Gardens. She has also written several books on gardening. Lauren and her husband Scott Ogden have written a new book together, on garden design due out in the spring 2008 from Timber Press.

Spokane Lilac Society continues to sell the new lilac *Syringa vulgaris* 'Spokane.' After introducing it in 2005, the society has sold out of it again this year. Briggs Nursery in Elma, WA who has provided the tissue cultured plants, do not plan on propagating any additional plants at this time. They will carry the plant for another 2-3 years as it works its way through their production. It's first come, first serve basis on who gets the remaining plants. If they had a large enough demand for the plant within the next year or two, then they might consider putting it back into production. Spokane Lilac Society has urged area nurseries to order and stock this very popular lilac for the Spokane area. If anyone is interested in purchasing 'Spokane' for their nurseries, contact Dan Meier at his email: Dmeier@briggsnursery.com

As President of Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs, I've had several opportunities to present lilac programs on the west side of WA State. I am amazed at the interest in lilacs at the presentations. The fragrance & nostalgia are always mentioned, and seem to be two of the strongest selling points for lilacs.

It does disturb me that members do NOT remember to send in their dues when due on January 1st. Maybe we need to think of a better way to remind members about delinquent dues. I just sent out thirteen reminder letters to my Northwest Region members. I hope they do better next year! Sorry to have missed the 2007 convention along with a chance to visit this enchanting area once again. Thank you to our ILS Officers, Board Members and Regional VP's who continue to accept responsibility for this society so all the members may enjoy the sharing of LILACS.

*My Best Wishes,
MarvaLee Peterschick.
Regional VP, Northwest Region*

Long Range Committee

This is probably going to be one of the most important committees ILS will ever have, and I have been given the trust of Nicole Jordan to head this committee. I will, however, need much help from many others to make this as successful as I have goals for. This group will brainstorm for ILS with a master development plan which will include everything from a business plan to projections on members and how to get there. We have much catching up to do as a society, and I am convinced that with the right people on the committee, we can achieve high goals. I will be seeking out some help outside ILS, as I have many contacts in the business community and many key people to refer to in their specialty jobs.

From this committee, a 10 year plan will hopefully emerge including not only where we are, but how to make our society become the flagship for innovative ideas, whether it is in communications or membership ideas. We have a big agenda here, and many challenges to meet. This for me will be the most exciting task that I have ever taken part in for ILS. We are a business amongst others asking for people to spend their money with us through a membership. Although we are the only lilac society, every other society is our competition, as they want the same dollars from people also.

The board will have final approval for all plans. I am launching the initial request for anybody that would be interested in this committee to let Nicole or I know during the convention. Unfortunately, I cannot attend the convention this year. Running a business keeps me tied down more, but as our children are now getting older and able to take care of business more, I do plan to start to attend on a more frequent basis starting next year.

*Frank Moro
Chair Long Range Committee
May 2007*

Youth Report 2007

We have only a few young people in ILS: Shane Millham and Corinna Moro come to mind. Corinna of course is very active. She is very involved in her parents' lilac nursery business. She is also the Regional Vice President for Eastern Canada.

In our budget we have put aside \$1,000 toward youth expenses. I like to see ILS offer scholarships to young people interested in horticulture and lilacs.

This year the convention registration fees for youth members was set at \$140. The board also voted in Spokane, WA that any youth attending the convention would get a year membership in ILS.

What is important to remember is to engage young people and share your enthusiasm for lilacs with them. Give them a lilac, take them to look at lilacs, talk about lilacs and let them smell the lilacs. Remember how you got started loving lilacs? Then recreate that experience for the young people in your life.

*Submitted by Nicole Jordan
Youth Committee Chairman
May 1, 2007*

Report of the Publication/Education Committee

The Committee is pleased that Kent Millham has stepped into the post of Editor so smoothly. He started off running and is doing a great job. He needs your support and submission of articles and news items for publication in *Lilacs*. Publication of articles for use in *Lilacs* offers you a forum that is seen by the total membership four times a year. Take advantage of it.

A new membership brochure is now out and available for use by the membership. The brochure is the result of effort by a large list of people who have worked long and hard to produce an informative brochure that will present us in a good light. Anyone interested in having copies for use can get them from Kent Millham or Nicole Jordan. We had 5000 copies printed and will have more printed as necessary.

Under the heading of good news is the word from Timber Press that the second edition of Father Fiala's book "*Lilacs-The Genus Syringa*" should be ready by spring 2008. This is a major renovation of Father Fiala's book by Freek Vrugtman that includes much that is new plus all the changes, corrections and renovations of the First Edition of the monumental book. I wish the date was firm, but we can all keep our fingers crossed. I'm sure that Kent will get the information out as soon as it is published.

Jack Alexander is making progress in the preparation of a Lilac Care Bulletin which should be ready for publication in 2008. A budget has not yet been established, but one will be submitted to the Board as soon as it is ready. No Board action is needed at this date.

*Owen M. Rogers
Committee Chairman*

Editor's Report 2007

The year since the 2006 ILS convention has been a year of many changes for *Lilacs*.

In July 2006, Erie Park Press, our printer for over 20 years, abruptly went out of business. A new printer had to be found quickly, and Empire State Weeklies has been a quality replacement.

From the Summer 2006 issue through the Spring 2007 issue, 152 pages were printed; 28pp., 36pp., 44pp., and 44pp., (40 + a four page color section). To expand the coverage of the journal, several new features were instituted.

The first goal has been to expand the international, or non-North American coverage of lilac collections, research, and members. Excellent articles from Finland, central Siberia, and Beijing Botanical Garden have been featured, and more are forthcoming. This will be an ongoing mission of the journal, as our society is an international organization.

Another goal has been to cover as many arboreta and other public displays of plants such as university grounds that include *Syringa* collections, whether large or small. Universities are a resource of plants that are often overlooked, and Hofstra University, although not having a large *Syringa* collection, used them in a sensory garden; an interesting and unique use.

Member and ILS news, along with stories about members own collections and favorite lilacs have been organized in the Member section. In order for this feature to be fully utilized, I may have to enlist the help of the regional vice-presidents in soliciting articles from the members. This personal side of the journal is one of the facets of ILS that is important in uniting our members with stories about ourselves and our lilac anecdotes.

In the Fall issue 2005, glossy paper was used as an experiment. It has been continued this year, and is now our standard that we use, since it greatly adds to the professional appearance of the journal. Another feature added in the Spring issue that enhances the flashiness of the journal was the 4 page color photo center section. This extra feature may draw in members that want more pictures in their magazine as well as quality articles. The cost of this extra was \$265.

Shrink-wrap was added for mailing the US journals to prevent losses by the USPS, which occurred occasionally when the paper sleeve was torn from the magazine. At 15 cents per mailing, this is a small price to pay.

In conclusion, I will continue to strive to obtain quality articles about lilacs, collections, and member news, along with the accompanying color photos of lilac cultivars. Any suggestions for future articles or topics will be greatly appreciated.

Treasurer's Report 2007

Fiscal Year 4/1/06 - 3/31/07

KeyBank Checking Account Balance 4/1/07	\$5,735.55
KeyBank Certificate of Deposit 1.48%	9,305.14
Edward Jones Company Investments:	
Bear Stearns Co. Inc. 3.5%	5,000.00
Federal Home Loan Mortgage Note 5.0%	5,000.00
Federal National Mortgage 5.25%	41,000.00
Federal National Mortgage 6.0%	8,000.00
TOTAL	\$74,040.69

Special Accounts (Included in the above total)

Life Member/Endowment Fund	\$30,446.43
Plant Propagation Fund (Laurene Wishart)	1,369.56
Education & Research	7,270.18
Publications (other than journal)	891.78
C.C. Clark Memorial Fund (Interest deferred to C	5,000.00
Arch McKean Fund (Interest deferred to Color Phot	5,000.00
Colored Photo Separation Fund	6,253.57
Youth Program Fund	1,064.92
Robert Gilbert Memorial Fund	440.00

Total Funds in Special Accounts	\$57,736.44
Total Funds in General Accounts	\$16,304.25
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	\$74,040.69

Income

Membership Dues	\$5,740.87
Interest Income	4,229.17
Auction Income	2,225.00
Misc Income (ILS shirts, publications)	780.00
Convention Earnings	1,844.00
Gilbert Memorial Fund	440.00
Youth Program Fund	22.42
Total Income	\$15,281.46

Expenses

Journal	\$6,173.66
Postage	1,232.53
Printing (other than journal)	1,108.08
Bank Fees	55.50
Misc Expenses	1,146.93
Color Photos	170.00
Awards	692.80
Total Expenses	\$10,579.50

Net Income (Loss)	\$4,701.96
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*Submitted 5/1/07
Karen McCauley
ILS Treasurer*

2007 ILS Annual Meeting Minutes, Mackinac Island, MI

Ms. Jordan called meeting to order at 11:30AM.

Ms. Jordan announced the election of the following nominees to the Board for three year terms: Woody Barnes, Evelyn King, Nancy Latimer, Warren Oakes, Max Peterson. Ms. Jordan expressed thanks to Ms. Amy Plamann for the work of the Elections Committee.

Ms. McCauley announces that Owen Rogers will audit the Treasurer's Report and publish his findings.

Ms. Jordan acknowledged the fine job that Mr. Millham has done with the journal. She also expressed the Society's sadness on news of the illness of Mrs. Millham, and that we send our best wishes to Kent and Shane.

Ms. Jordan noted that the society now has 407 members, an increase after several years of decline. She also announced the resignation of David Gressley as membership secretary due to a change of jobs. She expressed the thanks of the Society for his 15 years of service. A hearty round of applause.

Mr. Young gave a brief review of the Website and plans for the future.

Discussion regarding using the CD that Bruce Peart did for presentations on lilacs. Bruce said he would update and find a way to make it available.

Ms. Jordan announced that the Board had decided to open a credit card account to facilitate purchases, membership and convention registrations. She also said that the Board would facilitate the availability of a CD for lilac presentations.

Mr. Ely made a plea to those in attendance to volunteer to help on the various committees.

Ms. McCauley noted that she had sold all the ILS shirts except 5 (which she had available for sale).

Ms. McCauley gave a presentation on the convention for next year in Minnesota. The Convention will be held at the Oakridge Dolce Conference Center in Cheska, Minnesota outside Minneapolis, Thursday May 8th to Sat May 10th. The convention will be visiting the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. Karen and Tim McCauley will be hosts. Registration deadline will be April 1, 2008. The McCauleys can be reached at 952.443.3703 or at mccauleyth@aol.com

Mr. Holman gave a brief history of the lilac plantings on Mackinac Island and of the ILS's efforts. Volunteers planted 138 lilacs between 1995 and 1996. Ms. Jordan commented that the lilac "round robin" is going well and encourages more to participate.

Ms. Jordan moved: the Board thanks all the speakers that made the convention special. Without objection.

Mr. Peart moved to adjourn. Mr. Alexander seconded. Unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 12 Noon.

*Submitted by Jeff Young
Recording Secretary
June 2007*

Introduction of Lilac Cultivars in Central Siberian Botanical Garden

Urban plantings take on great significance in formation of contemporary view of cities and industrial landscape. In this regard, aesthetical requirements on plant assortment and spacing increase. The lilac, one of the most widespread shrubs in our country, occupies an important place in the greening of cities. *Syringa vulgaris* L. is the most valuable ornamental shrub; many species and cultivars of which grow well and flower in Siberia.

The first Russian cultivars were developed by I. V. Michurin. Well known Russian breeders such as L. A. Kolesnikov, N. K. Vekhov, A. N. Gromov, L. I. Rubtsov, Z. S. Luneva and N. L. Mikhailov also worked with lilacs. Lilacs are very promising plants. Of particular interest are plants with very large or double flowers of white, rose, blue and wine colors. When propagating lilac cultivars, the method of grafting on a stock of *S. vulgaris* or *S. josikaea* Jacq. is used most often, and the latter forms much growth. Severe winters with low-power snow cover lead to frost injury of the above-ground part, which usually results in dying of grafted plants. That is why one of the best-suited ways of propagation is by green cuttings; necessary for receiving own-rooted material.

In 1986 in the Laboratory of Dendrology of Central Siberian Botanical Garden, SB RAS, the author began to work with green (half-lignified) cuttings of lilac cultivars to create a collection for subsequent selection of the most promising cultivars for extreme continental climate of the forest-steppe zone of West Siberia and for greening of Siberian cities. Green cuttings of 31 *S. vulgaris* cultivars were received from Z. I. Luchnik (M. A. Lisavenko Institute of Siberian Horticulture, Barnaul). In the nursery half-lignified cuttings were placed in the green houses with mist forming setup where high humidity was kept automatically - the main condition for propagation by green cuttings.

The cultivars 'Krasavitsa Moskv', 'Ogni Donbassa', 'Katherine Havemeyer', 'Mme. Antoine Buchner', 'Pamyat o S. M. Kirove', 'Andenken an Ludwig Spath', 'Altaiskaya Rozovaya', 'Victor Lemoine', 'Plantain', 'Dafna', 'Michel Buchner', 'Fioletoviy Gigant', 'Capitaine Baltet', 'Monge', 'Charles Joly', 'India', 'Nadezhda' and 'Mont Blanc' showed the best rooting. Seedlings of these cultivars made a start on the collection of lilac cultivars created in 1993.

In succeeding years many different cultivars of *S. vulgaris* were tested. A great quantity of green cuttings were brought from the collection of N. V. Tsitsin, Main Botanical Garden, RAS (Moscow): 11 cultivars in 1999, 21 in 2001 and 34 in 2005. Altogether 66 cultivars of introduction and breeding of Main Botanical Garden were tested. Also green cuttings of 7 cultivars were brought from M.A. Lisavenko, Institute of Siberian Horticulture (Barnaul) and 12 cultivars from Institute of Botany, Czech Academy of Sciences (Prukhonitse, the Czech

Republic).

Observations and analysis of resistance of various cultivars are performed both in the nursery and demonstration plot of CSBG and in different sites of Novosibirsk and Krasnoyarsk. In 2000 in the territory of Krasnoyarsk Combine Plant and in 2003 in the territories of the Memorial of Glory and S. M. Kirov Garden, landscape groups consisting of 12 *S. vulgaris* cultivars representing a variety of colors. At present phenological observations of these groups are being carried out, and resistance of introduced plants to diseases and pests in urban conditions is being studied. To study resistance of the plants introduced in different climatic zones, several seedlings of lilac cultivars were planted in the nursery of Forest and Park Administration, Chaoyang, Liaoning province, China.

To create a collection of lilac cultivars in Kemerovo Botanical Garden and in the Botanical Garden of Irkutsk State University, we passed to them seedlings of the most resistant cultivars of *S. vulgaris* recommended for planting in Siberia.

Over the last 20 years the author has tested 116 lilac cultivars of foreign and domestic breeding. At present the collection of lilacs of CSBG contains 33 cultivars selected as the most resistant to extreme continental climate of the forest-steppe zone of West Siberia:

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|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. 'Victor Lemoine' | (Lemoine, 1906) |
| 2. 'Capitaine Baltet' | (Lemoine, 1919) |
| 3. 'Katherine Havemeyer' | (Lemoine, 1922) |
| 4. 'Condorcet' | (Lemoine, 1888) |
| 5. 'Andenken an Ludwig Spath' | (Spath, 1883) |
| 6. 'Mme. Lemoine' | (Lemoine, 1890) |
| 7. 'Michel Buchner' | (Lemoine, 1885) |
| 8. 'Monge' | (Lemoine, 1913) |
| 9. 'Monique Lemoine' | (Lemoine, 1939) |
| 10. 'Montaigne' | (Lemoine, 1907) |
| 11. 'Plantain' | (Lemoine, 1908) |
| 12. 'Flora' | (Eveleens, Maarse, 1953) |
| 13. 'Charles Joly' | (Lemoine, 1896) |
| 14. 'Krasavitsa Moskv'y' | (Kolesnikov, 1947) |
| 15. 'Pamyat o S. M. Kirove' | (Kolesnikov, 1943) |
| 16. 'Altaiskaya Rozovaya' | (Luchnik) |
| 17. 'Olimpiada Kolesnikova' | (Kolesnikov, 1941) |
| 18. 'Ogni Donbassa' | (Rubtsov, Zhogoleva, Lyapunova, 1956) |
| 19. 'Dafna' | (Luchnik) |
| 20. 'India' | (Kolesnikov, 1955) |
| 21. 'Nadezhda' | (Kolesnikov) |
| 23. 'Fioletoviy Gigant' | (Luchnik) |
| 29. 'Kruzhevnitsa' | (Luchnik) |

31. 'Krasnaya Moskva'

(Kolesnikov)

32. 'General Pershing'

(Lemoine, 1924)

33. 'Lady Lindsay'

(Havemeyer, 1943)

The cultivars selected are characterized by high winter hardiness in the southern area of Siberia and can be recommended for wide use in park and garden design in the regions of Eurasia and North America with low winter temperatures and short vegetative period. Study, selection and introduction of promising *S. vulgaris* cultivars are being continued.

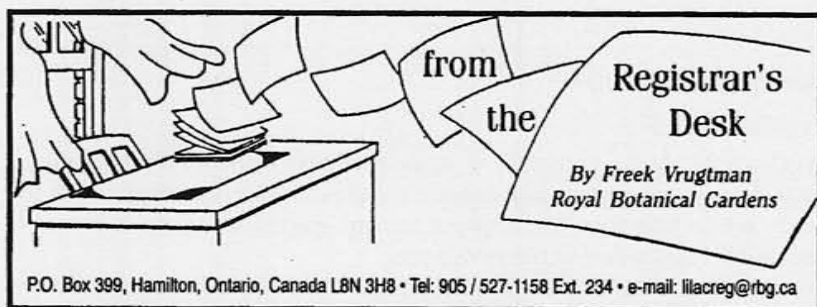
Elena M. Lyakh

Central Siberian Botanical Garden

SB RAS

Novosibirsk, Russia

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Syringa vulgaris SENSATION WHITE REVERSION

by Freek Vrugtman

Syringa vulgaris SENSATION WHITE REVERSION is a new name that has appeared in some nursery catalogs. SENSATION WHITE REVERSION is not a cultivar name, but a selector's designation or cognomen; the lilac this cognomen has been attached to may not be a single clone or a cultivar.

Syringa vulgaris 'Sensation' is a cultivar with bicolor or "two-tone" florets, namely white and purple. 'Sensation' arose in the 1930's as a mutation of *S. vulgaris* 'Hugo de Vries' and is the perfect example of a periclinal chimera. The plant tissue of a periclinal chimera is not homogeneous or uniform in structure; periclinal chimeras consist of two distinct tissues, one of which produces cells with purple pigmentation, the other produces cells which lack the purple pigment and appear white. On close inspection of the flowers of *S. vulgaris* 'Sensation' one will notice that the ratio of the two colors, purple and white, is

not uniform. Sometimes there is more purple, sometimes more white; sometimes all florets of a thyrse are completely purple, sometimes all florets of a thyrse appear to be white, lacking purple pigment in their cells.

Syringa vulgaris 'Sensation' is propagated vegetatively, either by grafting scions on a seedling rootstock, or from softwood cuttings, or by micro-propagation (meristem cuttings). Propagation of lilacs may be done at various times during the year, but it is never done when the lilacs are in bloom. Unless propagators have done their homework ahead of propagating time, tagging branches from which to cut the scions or to take the cuttings, the nursery stock produced may show variations. At one end of the scale there may be plants that produce florets that are all-purple and very similar to *S. vulgaris* 'Hugo de Vries'. At the other end of the scale are plants that produce only white or whitish florets; these are the plants that appear to be marketed as *S. vulgaris* SENSATION WHITE REVERSION.

Contrary to what the cognomen appears to indicate, this is not a "reversion" or mutation, but it is one part of the periclinal chimera that has been selected, albeit unintentional, and propagated. This phenomenon has been known for a long time; quality control of their output of uniformly flowering plants of 'Sensation' is a problem and challenge for nurseries specializing in large-scale micropropagation.

Nota bene

A cognomen (plural: cognomina or cognomens) is a Latin expression meaning "name known by"; it refers to a distinguishing nickname or epithet, which may or may not include numbers, acquired through usage over a period of time, used to label material of uncertain identity.

Memories from Mackinac Island



Bill Horman presents Peter Ely with Honor and Achievement Award for his years of service as convention chairman and Executive Vice-President

Submitted by Bill Horman



Bruce Peart accepts Honor and Achievement Award for David Gressley
for Dave's 15 years of service as Membership Secretary
Photo Credit Bill Horman



Jeff Young receives Distinguished Recognition Award from Jack Alexander
for his yearly educational presentations at Mackinac Island
Photo Credit Bill Horman



Charlie Holetich receives Award of Merit from Bob Hoepfl
for his presentation on *Syringa vulgaris*
Photo Credit Bill Horman



Bob Hoepfl presents Dr. Brent McCown with the Award of Merit
for his presentation on Breeding Ornamentals

Photo Credit Bill Horman



Jack Alexander receives the Award of Merit
for his development of the cultivar 'Purple Haze' and his presentation

Photo Credit Bill Horman



Syringa Registrar Freek Vrugtman accepts the Award of Merit
for his presentation on the importance of using proper nomenclature

Photo Credit Bill Horman



Deputy Mayor of Mackinac Island Mr. Horn accepts Award of Merit
on behalf of Stella King for her founding of the Mackinac Island Lilac Festival
Photo Credit Bill Horman



Dr. Zelimir Borzan receives Certificate of Appreciation for his presentation
on Croatia. He is also the co-author, along with Charlie Holetich,
of a book on *Syringa*
Photo Credit Bill Horman

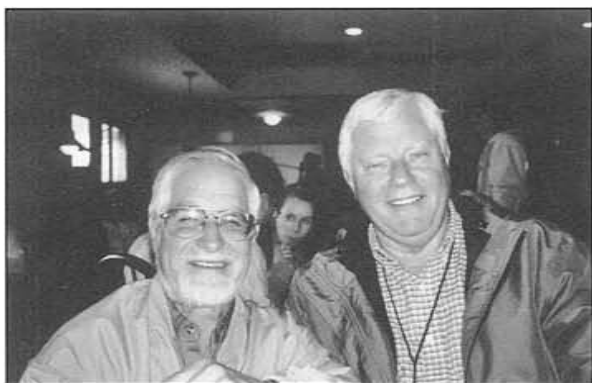


Four generations of the Fiala Family
Photo Credit Bill Horman



Group picture at Mackinac Island 2007

Submitted by Irene Stark



Bill Horman and new member Gary Parton
enjoying dinner at Yankee Rebel Restaurant

Submitted by Bill Horman



Charlie Holetich and Pauline Fiala
in lobby of Murray Hotel

Photo Credit Bill Horman



The Inn at Mackinac
Photo Credit Bill Horman



Old gnarled, twisted trunks of Syringa
Photo Credit Connie Simonnet



Nancy Latimer, Harry Latimer, and Phoebe Hibbard
 at ILS plant sales table on Main Street
Photo Credit Bill Horman

International Lilac Society

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Syringa vulgaris "Mulatka"
Photo Credit Colin Chapman



Beautiful specimen of *Syringa reticulata*, planted 1981
located at Bickelhaupt Arboretum
Photo Credit William Cornelius



Deb and Brent McCown examine *Syringa vulgaris* 'Beth Turner'

Photo Credit Bill Horman



Beautiful purple lilacs near house on Market Street

Photo Credit Connie Simonnet



Lilacs on the Boardwalk - Huron Street

Photo Credit Connie Simonnet