

# Lilacs

VOLUME 36, NUMBER 4  
FALL 2007



## QUARTERLY JOURNAL

of the International Lilac Society

---

IN  
THIS  
ISSUE:

*Syringa* in its Native Habitat

*Ramorum* Blight and Lilacs



*Syringa vulgaris* 'Prince of Wales'  
Photo Credit Kent Millham



Another Look at Mackinac Island- near Townhall  
Photo Credit Jean Herrington

# Table of Contents

---

President's Message.....	127
Thoughts from the Editor.....	129
European Newsletter.....	130
VP Report, Atlantic Region.....	133
Archives Report.....	133
ILS Convention 2008.....	135
Lilac Capital of Ontario- Franktown.....	136
Lilac Trivia.....	137
Bridge Between Generations.....	138
Ramorum Blight and Lilacs.....	140
Native habitat of <i>Syringa vulgaris</i> L. ....	147
From the Registrar's Desk	
The Importance of Maintaining the Correct Names for Lilacs.....	157
Syringa Plus Fall Open House 2008.....	160
Lilac Profiles	
<i>Syringa vulgaris</i> 'Prince of Wales'.....	160
Member Section	
Welcome New Members.....	161
Member Profiles	
ZeZe.....	161
Gary Parton.....	161
Fenicchia Farms.....	163

Cover photo:

Reflexed petals of one of native *Syringa vulgaris*, Romania

Photo Credit Charles Holetich

A Publication of  
THE INTERNATIONAL LILAC SOCIETY

Copyright 2007 Editor

ISSN 1046-9761

Copies of this publication are available by writing to the International Lilac Society, c/o Amy Plamann at the address below. \$5.00 (U.S.)

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

Membership Classification (U.S. Funds)

Single or Family/Annual .....	\$ 20.00
Sustaining .....	30.00
Institution/Commercial .....	50.00
Life .....	500.00

\* Mail membership dues to Asst. Treasurer William F Tschumi

MASTERCARD and VISA credit cards accepted

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.

OWNERSHIP STATEMENT

©2007 by the International Lilac Society

All rights reserved, no part of this work may be reproduced without written permission of the publisher. Published by the International Lilac Society.

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

International Lilac Society Web Site Address:

[www.InternationalLilacSociety.org](http://www.InternationalLilacSociety.org)

# President's Message

---

Dear Lilac Aficionados,

Fall is here and it seems that our convention on Mackinac Island was a long time ago. The trees in Virginia, USA are just beginning to turn color. The air has definitively cooled down a few degrees. The gardens too are preparing for the new season. It is a down time. What are we to do while waiting for the next lilac season? I'm sure the garden chores are going to occupy most of us for a while longer. Then we can retreat to our armchairs and dream of springtime and the beauty of our lilacs.

As an international society we have members dispersed all over the world. I'm sorry I only know two languages. It would be so much fun to be able to write to all of you in your language. No matter what, we are united by one passion, the love of lilacs. We can understand each other. When you say lilac and I say lilac we are on the same track. We are friends and eager to share our lilac stories. Last May I received three lilacs books from Tatiana Poliakova. Some of you saw two of them at the convention. The third book, *The Lilac Time*, is here on my desk as I write. It is a beautiful hardback edition filled with absolutely magnificent pictures of lilacs. I cannot read a word of Russian. I can determine that the picture of lilacs are attributed to our great originators and named after very famous people. 'Victor Lemoine', 'Jacque Callot', 'President Grevy', 'Michel Buchner', 'Mme. Lemoine', 'Emile Lemoine', 'Belle de Nancy', 'Condorcet' and on and on, two hundred twenty nine pages total. From what I guess the personage is identified and a short biography is given. You see I like the lilac 'Condorcet' and there it is on page 17. I have the plant but have never seen it bloom. Now I know what to expect. Dear Tatiana how about an English translation of this great book?

What makes ILS a great society, is its members. We have all types of members. Some pay their dues and quietly enjoy their lilacs. They are satisfied to receive the journal *Lilacs* and read all about the happenings of the society. Then you have the members who attend conventions and visit lilacs gardens the world over. You have members who are scientists and are originators of lilacs. You have the members who serve on committees. These members give many hours of their time to ILS. Look at our editor Kent Millham. He spends many days putting each issue of the journal together. It is a real task to gather the information, the good articles and the many pictures that grace the pages of *Lilacs*. By the way, thank you to all who submitted pictures of the convention for the summer issue 2007. Thank you to those who send articles, reports and stories to make our journal a true international publication. Did you read Lilac Stone Soup on page 95 of the 2007 summer issue? This is the way I see our society. Every member brings something unique to the table and voila! That is what makes ILS...

Yes some members give a lot of themselves to ILS. On September 29, 2007 Evie King and Roger Coggeshall of Syringa Plus were holding an open house. They live in the New England region and they are continually having activities to generate interest in lilacs. Youngsters are always welcome at these get-togethers. That is one of the secrets of longevity for ILS or any other societies. Get young people involved; plant that lilac seed. Many of us recall our grandmother's lilacs. We cannot count on those souvenirs with the new generation. Today we must attract people young and old to lilac activities like the one sponsored at Syringa Plus Nursery. Frank Moro, owner of Select Plus lilac nursery is from Mascouche, Canada. He is the chairman of the Long Range Committee. He too is very active promoting lilacs and ILS. His daughter Corinna is an ILS youth member who spends lots of time devoted to lilacs. The above-mentioned have lilac nurseries, but the job of promoting lilacs falls on all the members. I see that in Russia lilacs are planted on the streets of that city with much fanfare. The lilac renaissance is in full swing and we must take advantage of it. ILS has excellent brochures, so if you know of a botanical garden, nursery or other venues near you that would display or distribute our brochures, contact our editor for a supply.

Now that our archives are safely at the Arnold Arboretum Library, I would like to ask that you contact Kent Millham, ILS Archivist, if you have things of interest pertaining to ILS. For many reasons it is important that we preserve our history. For example Freek Vrugtman, Registrar, reminds us to keep all the records of our auctions. Only with them can we track disseminated cultivars and make corrections if needed.

Well mes amis, enjoy the season. Dream of a world full of lilacs. Pledge to sign up one member this year. Think about the next convention in Minnesota and remember our motto: A Lilac In Every Garden The World Over. Sound impossible you say? Yes, yes everything is possible. Hannibal did cross the Alps with his elephants. Napoleon did it again, but without elephants. I'm sure it sounded impossible at the time. So our dream of A Lilac In Every Garden The World Over can happen if we all bring something to the table. Here is that idea of a Lilac Stone Soup again....

Amities,  
Nicole Jordan  
ILS President  
Chester, VA  
USA

September 26, 2007  
Njordan236@aol.com



# Thoughts from the Editor

---

In this issue, two new features will be tried. I am welcoming members to send in pictures of themselves and their families near lilacs at home or on vacation. For this issue, I am starting this feature by including a picture of Shane standing near lilacs on rugged Monhegan Island, Maine. Of course, for this feature to continue, members will have to share these pictures with ILS. Also, I am starting a short column on lilac profiles. A brief description of a lilac cultivar or cultivars will be presented, along with a color picture to be shown either in the color section or on one of the covers.

As a horticulturist at Highland Park of Rochester, NY USA for almost 32 years, it has been my privilege to work with many rare and unusual plants, as well as maintaining our large and historical *Syringa* collection, where over 50 named cultivars have been selected.

Another one of my duties is the administration of the memorial tree and shrub program. This program was developed to raise money for our Monroe County Parks System, and allows people to dedicate plants in honor or memory of loved ones, or to commemorate special occasions such as weddings and anniversaries. It has also enabled us to replace diseased plants and expand our collection by providing extra funds.

Every memorial plant is given a memorial plaque, upon which is inscribed a message to honor the recipient, or a remembrance or saying to cherish the memory of a loved one.

Recently I received a memorial that had 3 lines from a Walt Whitman poem. Upon doing further research, I learned this poem was entitled "*When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd*," from *Memories of President Lincoln*, which was included in Whitman's collection *Leaves of Grass*. There are 16 sections to this poem. Here are excerpts from the parts devoted to lilacs, since it is a very long poem:

*When lilacs last in the dooryard bloom'd,  
And the great star early droop'd in the western sky at night,  
I mourn'd, and yet shall mourn with ever-returning spring.*

*Ever- returning spring ,trinity sure to me you bring,  
Lilac blooming perennial and drooping star in the west,  
And thought of him I love.*

*In the dooryard fronting an old farm-house near the white-wash'd palings,  
Stands the lilac-bush tall-growing with heart-shaped leaves of rich green,  
With many a pointed blossom rising delicate, with the perfume strong I love,*

*With every leaf a miracle—and from this bush in the dooryard,  
With delicate-color'd blossoms and heart-shaped leaves of rich green,  
A sprig with its flower I break.*

*...Passing, I leave thee lilac with heart-shaped leaves,  
I leave thee there in the door-yard, blooming, returning with spring.*

*...Lilac and star and bird twined with the chant of my soul,  
There in the fragrant pines and the cedars dusk and dim.*

I'm sure Whitman's words ring especially true with all ILS members, for whatever the time and circumstances of life or year; no matter where we are, we will always look forward to spring, when the lilac flowers return and bloom once again.

Kent Millham  
ILS Editor  
October 2007

## European Newsletter.

---

The deadline for copy is rather too close so this might be shorter than usual. Nevertheless, I must find the time to welcome two new members I have registered. Mrs. Francine Standen of Warwick, England, is a very experienced and knowledgeable plantswoman who has a background in music. She is a daffodil specialist who crosses her cultivars to produce her own hybrids. She and Shelagh are already swapping items bigtime. Sadly, some seed she sent to us I have failed to propagate so I am feeling inadequate. She is a member of the American Rose Society and she has an interest in peonies so I am sure she will be at home in this Society. She is already growing lilac seedlings from seed that I sent her.

Albert Neel has a farm at Yville Sur Seine in Normandy in France. He initially contacted me in slightly puzzling circumstances. He is a member of the American Holly Society and was to be visiting this country with that Society to see holly collections over here, including a collection I had visited myself.

However, it was not hollies he wanted to talk about but lilacs. He had been led astray, and captured by the plants, by someone with the name of Mr. Konrad Kircher. Albert started a lilac collection with scion wood sent to him by our very own Konrad and he was anxious to visit me. He could not do so then, so I sent him a parcel of scions in January. Albert came here for an enjoyable, informative, and utterly hilarious visit on Sept 3rd so we had a good tour of the old homestead. Thus we have added two active and informed members to our circle. Welcome to you both.

Work continues around that old homestead. An old, large shed that leaked and



flooded has been gutted back to its framework and the old cladding disposed of. A drainage ditch has been dug around it by our digger-man, and a drainage pipe laid from it out to the pond. The new cladding was put up last week and looks so nice that Shelagh is already calling it our "little house on the prairie". Two sides and half the roof are solid and will provide a garden office, whilst the other two sides are glazed and see-through, so will give me a cleaner and tidier base for tricky propagation work than I have in the old converted pig sty. Planting is not yet possible because we are into a lovely Indian summer that leaves the clay soil too hard and compacted to work. To save time later, I am getting the plants lined up in planting sequence and have already taken supplies of compost and wood chippings up to the planting sites. The historical walk, telling the *vulgaris* story, is almost told. By the time of the next edition after this one the walk should be complete so I will then be able to describe what I have been up to.

The last edition of the Journal was so full of colour pictures that I am going to chance my arm with several pictures of lilacs I have mentioned in the past. First, I enclose 'Firmament' which I said last time "hovered at the entrance to the collection like a pale blue mist". It is one of my absolute favourites and one of the most aptly named of all lilacs. The picture shows it in full flower with large, single, reflexed lobes that are the same colour as the background sky. I once read a description of 'Firmament' saying that it had "Heaven's colour - the blue!".

Freek once asked me to comment on the differences between *S. yunnanensis* and *S. yunnanensis* 'Prophecy'. I dutifully took photographs of the two plants and began to pen a comment on both. I decided to consult McKelvey to see what she said about the species and I was very surprised to find out that she had a rather low opinion of it. Surprised because, to me, it is my favourite of all the species except *S. reflexa*. I looked at my photograph and yes, there was the flower display which charms me and most other people who see it. There they were, the long drooping tassels of pink which made each branch resemble a chinese lantern held aloft on the top of a ceremonial mace. It is exquisite; how could anyone doubt it? I checked Father's book and, sure enough, he had the same opinion as Susan McKelvey. Then the mental thunderclap burst in my head. My plant, and hence my picture, was not of *S. yunnanensis* but of *S. yunnanensis* 'Rosea' which is evidently a superior form, thus I also submit a picture of 'Rosea' to show you what I mean. So, I am sorry Freek, but your request did not get addressed for that reason. However, last year I planted a substantial *S. yunnanensis* grown by me from wild collected seed, donated, via the NCCPG, by an expedition to China of the Alpine Garden Society. When that comes into flower, I will finally give you the comments you requested. In 1996, Dr Vasily Gorb sent to Ole Heide some very special plants from Kiev Botanical garden in the Ukraine. I have mentioned these in the past and many of them, like *S. \*chinensis* 'Duplex', have made their ways into other international

collections. What I have not mentioned were some seedlings which Dr Gorb had raised himself and I note that one of them, FOTO 40 V.K. GORB, has appeared in the register with the comment "cultivar name not established". I can throw some light on this. The name I have just used is not a cultivar name but simply the cognomen by which Ole and I refer to it. (I can use the classy term "cognomen" with the safe and sure conviction that you will all understand because you will have read Freek's explanation of the word in the last edition of this Journal). I will not introduce this formally, since the plant belongs to Dr Gorb, but, since I do have a picture of it I can point out that it is a very worthwhile lilac indeed.

The plant is now seven feet tall and will be planted out this autumn in the Ukraine section of my historical lilac walk as my own tribute to Dr Gorb. Until I get permission I will not now describe it but it is a DVI *vulgaris* and I hope to let its quality speak for itself sometime soon. I am pleased to add that last January Ole sent me a scion so I now have FOTO 40 V. K. GORB growing lustily also.

In the winter of 2000 - 2001 the stream overflowed its ancient banks and flooded about a third of the collection. The old watercourse, with a thousand years' worth of old tree stumps, contained the lethal honeyfungus (*Armillaria*) and the flood spread the spores into the old collection. As a result 90 lilacs died. I subsequently lifted about 30 dead ones but the rest had to wait - and wait. Two years later, small lilac shoots began to emerge around the corpses; they were anything from a foot to ten feet away (30cm to 3 m).

I have explained in the past how I only import scionwood that I graft onto privet. I then plant with the graft union buried so that after about two years the scion forms its own roots. Thus, when the honeyfungus struck there must have been underground-rooted shoots that survived. Eventually, about 70 of the dead lilacs regenerated themselves and are still growing to this day.

I was reminded of this incident when, last season, one of my favourites showed distinct signs of infection. It was growing in the original flooded area but had not been affected at the time. Seeing its plight I took two precautionary grafts and waited for it to die. It did die but the tribulations of the past year prevented me from digging up the cadaver. Again I am glad, because *S. vulgaris* 'Sweet-heart' (Clarke, California, 1953) has thrown a shoot which is now two feet high (60 cm) and growing well. Why am I glad? This is a tear-jerker which opens with dark-pink, double florets which gradually fade until its colour becomes no more than a pink-tinted, heart-melting blush. I have shown a picture of it at this stage because I think every lover should have one. To see it in its darker mode, refer to the cover of LILACS Vol. 24 No. 2 1995.

Colin Chapman  
Norman's Farm, Wyverstone  
September 15th, 2007

## VP Report, Atlantic Region

---

This spring was a busy, eventful year in our region (more specifically the Rochester, NY area), as weather conditions were ideal. A highlight was a visit by Martha Stewart to Highland Botanical Park and our nursery; covered very thoroughly by the media. She visited the park in 1996 when a Richard A. Fenicchia lilac selection was named after her. This time she received 20 lilacs from our nursery, and we and lilacs enjoyed great coverage on national television.

Shortly thereafter, *Better Homes and Gardens* visited us for an article on lilacs for their May '08 edition. I hope to get a plug then for ILS.

I am very grateful for cooperation by Kent Millham, Highland Park, and Lilac Festival, Inc. for their help in promoting lilacs. Chris Kogut, lilac photographer extraordinaire also promotes lilacs very effectively by selling stunning photos of them in a wide area of New York.

Ted Collins  
VP Atlantic Region  
September 3, 2007

## Archives Report

---

Briefly, I will recap the events pertaining to the ILS archives of the past two years. After talking to Dennis Eveleigh of Royal Botanical Gardens on April 26, 2005, I learned that there was a possibility that the RBG library, along with the archives, might be moved to the University of Guelph, where we had no agreement of holding. I decided as a precautionary measure that the archives should be transferred temporarily to Highland Botanical Park, until a permanent site could be found. The ILS archives were transferred from the Royal Botanical Gardens of Hamilton, Ontario Canada on May 25, 2005 to Highland Botanical Park of Rochester, NY USA. Dr. David R. Galbraith of RBG released the archives to Kent Millham, and it was witnessed by Marie Minaker of RBG. Bob Hoepfl and I drove them to Highland Park, where they have been stored while awaiting transferal to their new home.

At the 2005 Board of Directors meeting, Jack Alexander made an offer on behalf of The Arnold Arboretum and their archivist Sheila Connor to house the archives at their library. It was agreed that this would be an excellent site to house the archives permanently, due to their excellent facilities and their secure financial position.

On August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2007, Shane and I arrived at The Arnold Arboretum, where we were met by Jack Alexander. He helped us bring approximately 14 boxes of materials upstairs in the library, and they were turned over to the research

archivist, Sheila Connor. Sheila, as representative of the Arnold Arboretum, signed the loan agreement with ILS and the archives transferal documents. The loan agreement is for a period of ten years, after which it may be renewed. Sheila will organize any documents that haven't been sorted yet, as well as new archives that are received.

All issues of *Lilacs*, as well as meeting minutes, become part of the archives. As a reminder to all members, any documents or pictures relating to the International Lilac Society and its history; science and research articles about *Syringa*; correspondence between members, and other lilac-related material may be an important contribution to our archives and history. Please send any to Kent Millham, 253 Burnett Road, Webster, NY USA. It will then be forwarded to the Arnold Arboretum and Sheila Connor.

Kent Millham  
ILS Archives Chairman  
September 2007



Archives delivered to Arnold Arboretum on August 7, 2007  
Sheila Connor, Shane Millham, and Kent Millham  
Photo Credit Jack Alexander

# ILS Convention 2008

---

Next year, for the first time, the ILS will be meeting in Minnesota. The event, scheduled for May 8-10, will be centered on the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. The Arboretum's 1,000-acre property is home to a wide selection of plant collections including a display of approximately 200 lilacs. Also in May, the 400 varieties of crabapples in bloom should provide a pretty spectacular show.

The Convention will be held at the small, but lovely Oak Ridge Dolce Conference Center located in Chaska—a western suburb of the Twin Cities (a.k.a. Minneapolis & St. Paul), about 3 miles from the Arboretum. We also plan on visiting a couple of private gardens and will be touring Bailey's Nursery Compound, one of the largest wholesale nurseries in the country.

If you are bringing your family, I think you'll find plenty to do here in the Land of 10,000 lakes. Everything from walleye fishing, the Minnesota Twins, outstanding dining, museums, theatre, and, of course, the Mall of America, the largest indoor shopping center in the country. And remember, we don't have sales tax on clothing here!

While we are zone 4, contrary to popular belief, we are not the frozen tundra—at least not in May. The average temperature on May 8 is 68 degrees. Of course, that does mean it could be 50 or 80, so please plan accordingly.

The Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport is a hub for Northwest Airlines, so you'll find non-stops flights from many parts of the world. The Airport is approximately 25 miles from the Conference Center in Chaska.

We experienced a four-month drought this spring and summer that was followed by an all time record breaking rainy August. After this cruel season, I think we're due for a spectacular spring next year!

If you have any questions about the area and or convention please feel free to contact us. We're very excited about hosting this event and hope to see you next May in Minnesota.

Additional information and the convention schedule will appear in the next issue of *Lilacs*.

## ILS Auction 2008

Of course, it wouldn't be a convention without our annual auction. For many members, the auction is the most popular ILS event. For the society, it is our main fundraiser. The good news is that we have already started to receive donations for the auction. We understand that you've heard this appeal before, but...we need donations, both plant material and related merchandise. It's your contributions that will help make our auction a success.

Our aim is to acquire some plant material that has not appeared at recent auctions, along with a sampling of always-popular varieties. If you have something to donate, be it unique or an all time favorite, please contact us with your selection/s so that duplication can be avoided. Please remember that the auction will be open to the public so all donations will be considered. We would like to compile a tentative list of auction plants by March 1, 2008, which will be published in the spring issue of *Lilacs*.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and generous support.

Karen & Tim McCauley

952.443.3703

[mccauleytk@aol.com](mailto:mccauleytk@aol.com)

*Karen McCauley  
Convention Chairman  
September 15, 2007*

## LILAC CAPITAL OF ONTARIO – FRANKTOWN

---

Lilacs probably came to Franktown in the early 1800s, with Scottish and Irish settlers. A lilac behind Franktown's old stone store is thought to be the oldest surviving specimen, brought from Scotland in someone's purse in 1807. Today naturalized lilacs thrive on many untended acres – truly a magnificent sight.

Conditions at Franktown are obviously agreeable to lilacs, which flourish in full sun and well-drained, sandy loam. A County Soil Survey has shown that the soils are predominantly Farmington Sandy Loam, a sandy loam till which is generally less than a foot deep over sandstone rock and is well drained.

The townsite of Franktown goes back to 1818, when it was surveyed and divided into 24 park lots consisting of 25 acres each, with reserved lots for a church, a school and a cemetery. Park lots were granted to early inhabitants and disbanded soldiers and, by 1850, Franktown was a thriving community. But in 1860 a railroad was built connecting Brockville, on the St. Lawrence River, with the Upper Ottawa River Valley. This bypassed Franktown and is thought to have brought about the town's demise. Today it is a bedroom community for people working in surrounding larger towns and Ottawa.

Franktown's acres of naturalized lilacs attract many visitors each spring, and in 1994 the municipality applied for and was granted the designation 'Lilac Capital of Ontario'. Since 1995, the residents have hosted an annual Lilac Festival on the third Saturday in May. In 1998, the town issued a five dollar Municipal Trade Token (featuring lilac florets and buds) which sold out within three days and is now a collector's item.



In May, 2007, several members of the Lilac Team, Friends of the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, examined lilacs in and adjacent to one of the 25-acre Park Lots. The area was thick with suckering lilacs of variations within *Syringa vulgaris* (Common Lilac), and were lovely in peak bloom. Suckering was so intense in many areas that other plant species were mostly excluded.

The lilac flowers were predominantly single and pinkish in colour. About 10% were white and single. Other colours for singles were lilac, magenta, and bluish. The latter were last to bloom. Around clearings – pathways or rocky areas, where one could walk readily among the plants – there were occasional plants of other species. Of great interest were some young non-suckering lilacs with double florets. We noted five plants with pinkish flowers and two with white. Of interest too was a lilac with single white flowers but with pink buds. We surmise that these individuals started from seeds produced by natural hybridization within the neighbouring lilacs. Seedlings were able to become established because of some clear area away from the dense suckering. We did not find a large plant with double flowers that might have served as a parent for the doubles.

The Friends of the Farm are hosting an International Lilac Society Convention in 2009. We believe that attendees would be pleased to have an opportunity to view and comment on Franktown's lilacs. Like all lilac enthusiasts, they would appreciate Franktown's high regard for these lovely plants and its designation as the Lilac Capital of Ontario.

*Joan Speirs, Lilac Advisor, Friends of  
the Central Experimental Farm and  
Cora Nolan, Committee Chairman,  
Franktown's Lilac Festival*

## Lilac Trivia

---

Did you know, that Nikita Sergeyevich Krushchev (1894-1971), Premier of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), presented Dwight David Eisenhower (1890-1969), President of the United States (USA), with a lilac?

A tree lilac, *Syringa reticulata* subsp. *amurensis* (Rupr.) P. S. Green & M. C. Chang, was received by National Plant Germplasm System (NPGS) on 04-Jan-1960. Maintained by the National Arboretum, it was accessioned as NA 17044, PI 262704. (PI assigned: 1960; inventory volume: 168).

We are indebted to Laurence Hatch, New Ornamental Society, for spotting this record and bringing it to our attention.

# Bridge between generations

---

Everybody has his own Victory. For a child, it is his first step, first word, first "five" in school. (The highest grade in school in Russia). As adults there are many more victories to remember. But there is a generation, for which "victory" means the Victory Day in World War II (The Russians celebrate the Victory in WWII on May 9<sup>th</sup>). Our Regional Public Organization "Children and the City" did not want the celebration of the Victory Day to become just another holiday for our children. Thus, we came with an idea, which was turned into a real life project "The Lilac of Victory".

"The Lilac of Victory" project started as a result of many circumstances that came together at the right time and the right place. But let's talk about everything in its order.

The main activity of our Regional Public Organization "Children and the City" is to provide after school programs for children. The Silvant center has been created to serve this purpose. All of us at Silvant are very energetic and creative people. We also enjoy outdoors and love nature. However, where we live, in a new district in the suburbs of Moscow there is little nature to love and enjoy. You might think that we have only two seasons: summer – when the lawns are green and winter when the lawns are white. We have no "new tender leaves coming through the spring" and no "bright redness of maple leaves" in the fall. (It's a citation from Russian writer Kaverin.) This is the first circumstance.

The second circumstance is probably more private. I love flowers and when I read an article by Tatyana Polyakova in "Vestnik Tsvetovoda", which was called "The lilacs of Victory WWII", and fell in love with Lilacs. From this moment I was talking non stop about the lilacs of Russian selection. I was trying to describe the picture, I have seen in the special magazines and on the Internet.

Once this love of Lilacs had blossomed, a third circumstance came to pass when one of the mothers of the children interrupted me by saying "Let's plant something. I really want to plant something. We need more greenness in the district." I now had a partner. At this very moment we also thought that it should be more then just planting green trees in the new district Lyublino. All of us, young families and WWII veterans, will plant the trees together. We were left with the question, "What should we plant?" There was only one answer: Lilacs.

There is something from the black-and-white pictures in the lilac florets. You look at them and think about the soldiers coming home in the dusty train cars and young women meeting them at the train station with lilacs in their hands.

We really wanted to plant the lilacs, which were named after the heroes of WWII and created by Russian hybridizer Leonid Kolesnikov : 'Gastello', 'Alexei Maresyev', 'Zoya Kosmodemyanskaya'.

The next question was "Where to get the lilacs?" We wanted to plant the blooming bushes so we could have more than just a one year plants. Thanks to the providence and the Internet! We met a wonderful and dedicated to their business couple. Elena and Sergei Terekhov. Not only did they supply 16 lilac bushes that were already blooming so that we were able to enjoy them this year, but also they helped to plant them in the ground and to educate us how to take care of the plants. Here are the names of the bushes that we planted: 'Olimpiada Kolesnikova', 'Izobilie' (Abundance), 'Utro Rossii' (Morning of Russia), 'Mechta' (Dream).

At first we wanted to plant just a few bushes around the WWII Veteran gazebo (we have those in our area). In the very last moment our initiative was financed and supported by The Public Relations Committee of Moscow Government and our local administration Lyublino. So, we made a decision to plant an alley instead and name it "Alley of Victory".

Finally, the day came! The head of the local administration, the Veterans of WWII along with the many generations of their families were all planting "the Alley of the Victory". Many of them were wearing the T-shirts with the logo of the project (by the way, the logo was designed by the President of "Children and the City" Nikolaeva E.A.)

Later that day we had a real celebration. There were children playing on the playground, family games, a potluck meal, cooking contests, a concert, and many speeches about WWII and our project. The event was organized by the "The Sun Circle" organization.

Victory... Everybody has his own victories, some are bigger than others. Our small Victory is every time a child goes to water his OWN tree that he planted together with a Man, who brought a big Victory to our country in the World War II.

*Klyachkovskaya Natalya  
(Co-founder of "Children and the  
City")*

# Ramorum blight and lilacs.

Nina Shishkoff, Research scientist, ARS/USDA, Foreign Disease/Weed Science Research Unit, Frederick, MD 21702  
[Nina.Shishkoff@ars.usda.gov](mailto:Nina.Shishkoff@ars.usda.gov)

Background: In the 1990s, Californians began to notice that native oaks were dying in unusual numbers. By 2001, it was clear that a new pathogen, *Phytophthora ramorum*, was causing the stem cankers on oaks and foliar lesions and stem dieback on a number of other plants, in the U.S. and in nurseries in Europe<sup>11,25</sup>. The distribution of the pathogen in US forests was limited to parts of California and Oregon, but because of the potential for spread by the movement of water, soil, plants and plant products, an interim quarantine was placed on affected counties in 2002<sup>8</sup>. In 2004, infected containerized ornamentals were inadvertently shipped from California to at least 40 states<sup>22</sup>, leading to the instigation of an Emergency Federal Order, which placed additional restrictions on all California, Oregon and Washington nurseries that shipped known host plants out of state<sup>8,3</sup>. At first only a handful of host plants were known, but the list currently includes almost 50 genera<sup>4</sup>. Among these hosts is lilac. In 2003, the first infected lilacs were found in British nurseries<sup>5</sup>. In 2004, an infected lilac was found in a nursery in New Jersey and in 2006 one was found in Maine<sup>9</sup>. Since lilacs are a popular ornamental and *P. ramorum* sporulates abundantly on them<sup>5</sup>, it is important to be able to recognize symptoms of the disease and how it spreads. It may also be useful for plant breeders to know if there are sources of resistance.

Symptoms on lilac: Lesions caused by *P. ramorum* develop on leaves and buds. The foliar lesions are typical of symptoms caused by other species of *Phytophthora*: the lesions are dark and water-soaked when fresh, with defined margins (Fig 1). When lesions dried out, they turned brown and brittle, distorting thinner leaves. Generally lesions did not expand to encompass a whole leaf unless the leaf was young and not fully expanded. In some hosts like *Camellia* and *Rhododendron*, infections on leaves spread down the petiole and into the stem, causing die-back, but this was not observed in lilac. Badly diseased leaves often fell off the plant, but not to the degree seen in *Camellia*<sup>21</sup>. Lilac buds were sometimes found to be externally infected, with the outer bud scales showing small dark lesions. When lilac roots were inoculated in greenhouse tests, they could become infected, although no symptoms were observed<sup>19,20</sup>. In some host genera, infections in roots have been shown to travel up the stem and cause cankers<sup>17</sup>, but it isn't known if this can occur in lilacs.

Spread on lilac: *Phytophthora ramorum*, like many "water molds" or Oomycetes, can produce a number of different infective propagules. It produces structures called sporangia that can either germinate directly like big spores, or produce a swarm of swimming spores called zoospores. In diseased stem and leaf tissue, *P.*

*ramorum* produces large (30-100 microns: large for a spore) globose structures called chlamydospores. These spores can be moved in various ways. *P. ramorum* has been found in soil, litter, rainwater and stream water at infected forest sites<sup>12</sup>. It has been spread by human activity along hiking trails<sup>10</sup>. In laboratory experiments, infected lilac leaves placed on the surface of nursery pots first produced sporangia, and then as the leaf tissue decayed, released chlamydospores into the soil. Roots of lilacs exposed to such fallen leaf tissue became infected<sup>20</sup>.

Relative susceptibility of cultivars: In our studies, 14 taxa in *Syringa* were tested for susceptibility to *Phytophthora ramorum*, as well as four other genera in the family Oleaceae (Table 1). Plants were evaluated for number of leaves infected and degree of infection<sup>19</sup> (in Table 1, simplified to a 0-4 scale). There was not much difference in infection among plants with the exception of the hybrids *Syringa* <sup>xx</sup> *josiflexa* 'James MacFarlane' showing no foliar symptoms and *S.* <sup>xx</sup> *prestoniae* 'Alexander's Pink', where few leaves became infected. *Fraxinus* and *Ligustrum* showed somewhat less susceptibility to *P. ramorum* than lilacs in general. Work on relative susceptibility has also been done comparing lesion size on detached lilac leaves: *S.* 'Bailbelle' had the largest lesions, followed by *S. pubescens* subsp. *patula* 'Miss Kim' and *S. vulgaris* 'Charles Joly', then a mass of cultivars with similar sized lesions<sup>14</sup>. Smallest lesions were found on *S. reticulata* 'Ivory Silk', *S. vulgaris* 'Mme. Lemoine', and *S. vulgaris* 'Katherine Havemeyer' <sup>16</sup>.

The low susceptibility of *Syringa* <sup>xx</sup> *josiflexa* 'James MacFarlane' and *S.* <sup>xx</sup> *prestoniae* 'Alexander's Pink' means that breeders have sources of resistance available through 'James Macfarlane' ('Alexander's Pink' is a cross of 'James Macfarlane' with another lilac). However, when quarantine makes the detection of infected plants important, resistant plants with less obvious symptoms are not an advantage. Detection is currently carried out by nursery inspectors looking for symptomatic plants and collecting samples. Cultivars with high levels of disease might prove to be useful as "canaries in the coal mine": interspersed among less susceptible cultivars, they would show symptoms more readily.

Why lilac growers should care about *P. ramorum*: The United States Forest Service has created a "risk map" for the U.S. that shows that, based on climate, mountainous areas in the southeast, like the Smoky Mountains, are at high risk for the establishment of *P. ramorum*<sup>23</sup>. The genetic population structure of *P. ramorum* in Europe is different from that in the U.S.<sup>15</sup>, so what's happened in Europe can't help us to predict what might happen in the Eastern U.S. However, in England, *P. ramorum* has not spread into forested areas, but has been found on *Rhododendron* in estate gardens and arboretums, often in historically important sites. These sites are important in Britain's tourist industry and can't simply be clear-cut or planted to pampas grass. In Cornwall, where both *P. ramorum* and another new and destructive *Phytophthora* species has been found (*P. kernovii*<sup>7</sup>), scientists are trying to conserve heritage rhododendrons and

camellias by micropropagation<sup>13</sup>.

We have other examples of what has happened when an exotic *Phytophthora* has been introduced to new regions. *Phytophthora cinnamomi* is a chlamydospore-forming species that survives in soil and on living roots, which also has a wide host range and is a common pathogen in containerized nurseries. When it was introduced to Australian forests in the 1920s, it proved one of the most destructive pathogens ever documented<sup>18</sup>, and when it was introduced to the southern U.S. sometime in the late 1800s, it killed off chestnuts in the southern part of their range, chestnut blight removing the rest <sup>2</sup>. It persists today as one of the most common *Phytophthora* species encountered in eastern forest soils<sup>6</sup>. Another example of an introduced *Phytophthora* is *P. palmivora*, a pathogen with a wide host range which probably originated in Central or South America, but which has been spread on infected plant material to many parts of the world starting in the 1880s. It is primarily a problem in cocoa tree, papaya and rubber tree plantations, where it does economically significant damage, but it causes damping off, fruit rots, root rots and foliar blights on dozens of other hosts, including coconut palms, citrus, breadfruit trees, and black pepper <sup>14</sup>.

After leafing out, lilacs in nurseries outside the affected western states may be at risk of infection if they come in contact with infected plants. The American Landscape and Nursery Association has been assembling a series of "Recommended Industry Best Management Practices for the Prevention of *Phytophthora ramorum* Introduction or Establishment in Nursery Operations" to help growers make their nurseries as uncondusive to the pathogen as possible<sup>1</sup>. This should help growers protect lilacs and all other plants from infection while in the nursery.

## LITERATURE CITED

1. American Landscape and Nursery Association, 2006. Recommended industry best management practices for the prevention of *Phytophthora ramorum* introduction or establishment in nursery operations (draft under revision). [Available online at [http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/plantpath/activities/societies/ornamental/Pramorum\\_rBMP\\_draft-06.pdf](http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/plantpath/activities/societies/ornamental/Pramorum_rBMP_draft-06.pdf)]
2. Anagnostakis, S.L., 2001. The effect of importations of pests and pathogens on a native tree. *Biological invasions* 3: 245-254.
3. Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, 2007. 7 CFR Part 301. Federal Register Vol. 72, No. 38 [available online at [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant\\_health/plant\\_pest\\_info/pram/downloads/pdf\\_files/01-064-3.pdf](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/pram/downloads/pdf_files/01-064-3.pdf)]
4. Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, 2007. APHIS List of Regulated Hosts and Plants Associated with *Phytophthora ramorum* (revision dated Feb. 2007). [Available online at [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant\\_health/](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/)]



5. Beales, P.A., Schlenzig, A., and Inman, A.J. 2004. First report of ramorum bud and leaf blight (*Phytophthora ramorum*) on *Syringa vulgaris* in the UK. Published online. New Disease Reports, Volume 9 [http://www.bspp.org.uk/ndr/volume.asp]
6. Balci, Y., Balci, S., Eggers, J., MacDonald, W., Juzwik, J., Long, R., Gottschalk, K., 2005. Occurrence of *Phytophthora* species in central and eastern U.S. oak ecosystems. *Phytopathology* 95:960 [Published online at <http://apsnet.org/meetings/2006/abstracts/a06ma46.htm>]
7. Brasier C.M., Kirk S.A., Denman S., Rose J., Beales P.A., 2005. *Phytophthora kernoviae* sp. nov., an invasive pathogen causing bleeding stem lesions on forest trees and foliar necrosis of ornamentals in Britain. *Mycological Research* 109: 853–859.
8. California Oak Mortality Task Force, 2007. Chronology. [downloaded April, 2007 from <http://nature.berkeley.edu/comtf/html/chronology.html> ]
9. California Oak Mortality Task Force, 2007. USA *Phytophthora ramorum* Nursery Chronology. [downloaded April 2007 from <http://nature.berkeley.edu/comtf/html/chronology1.html> ]
10. Cushman, J.H. and Meentemeyer, R.K. 2006. Human activity linked to spread of pathogen that causes Sudden Oak Death. Proceedings of the sudden oak death second science symposium: the state of our knowledge. 2005 January 18-21; Monterey, CA. General Technical Report PSW-GTR-196, Albany, CA; Pacific Southwest Research Station, Forest Service, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture; pp 161-163. [Published online at <http://forestry.berkeley.edu/sodsymposium/abstracts/31Cushman.html>]
11. Davidson, J. M., Werres, S., Garbelotto, M., Hansen, E. M., and Rizzo, D. M. 2003. Sudden oak death and associated diseases caused by *Phytophthora ramorum*. Published online. Plant Health Progress doi:10.1094/PHP-2003-0707-01-DG. [<http://www.plantmanagementnetwork.org/pub/php/diagnosticguide/2003/sod/> ]
12. Davidson, J. M., Wickland, A. C., Patterson, H. A., Falk, K. R.; Rizzo, D. M., 2005. Transmission of *Phytophthora ramorum* in mixed-evergreen forest in California. *Phytopathology* 95(5): 587-596.
13. Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs, United Kingdom, 2007. DEFRA Science and Research. Conservation (micro-prop) of rare plants from *P. ramorum* infected site in the South West (PH0316). [downloaded April

2007 from: [http://www2.defra.gov.uk/research/project\\_data/More.asp?I=PH0316&SCOPE=0&M=PSA&V=AF%3A090](http://www2.defra.gov.uk/research/project_data/More.asp?I=PH0316&SCOPE=0&M=PSA&V=AF%3A090)

14. Erwin DC, Ribeiro OK, 1996. *Phytophthora Diseases Worldwide*. St Paul, MN, USA: APS Press.
15. Garbelotto, M. (2004) Sudden Oak Death: A tale of two continents. *Outlooks on Pest Management* 15, 85-89 [available online at: <http://www.cnr.berkeley.edu/garbelotto/english/publications.php>]
16. Grunwald, N.J., Kitner, M.L.C., Larsen, M.M., Linderman, R.G., Parke, J.L., 2006. Evaluation of lilac cultivars for susceptibility to *Phytophthora ramorum*, 2005. *Biological & Cultural Tests* 21:O005
17. Lewis, C.D., Roth, M.L., Chouquette, C.J., and Parke, J.L., 2004. Root infection of rhododendron by *Phytophthora ramorum*. *Phytopathology* 94:S60. [published online at <http://apsnet.org/meetings/2004/abstracts/a04ma0402.htm>]
18. Newhook, F.J., Podger F.D., 1972. The role of *Phytophthora cinnamomi* in Australian and New Zealand forests. *Annual Review of Phytopathology* 10, 299-326.
19. Shishkoff, N. 2005. Susceptibility of lilac to *Phytophthora ramorum*, the sudden oak death pathogen. Published online as Publication no. P-2005-0034-PTA at <http://www.apsnet.org/meetings/div/po05abs.asp>
20. Shishkoff, N., 2006. Behavior of lilac leaves infected with *Phytophthora ramorum* when placed on the surface of nursery pots. *Phytopathology* 96:S107 [published online as <http://apsnet.org/meetings/2006/abstracts/a06ma683.htm>]
21. Shishkoff, N. 2006. Susceptibility of camellia to *Phytophthora ramorum*, the "sudden oak death" organism. Published online. *Plant Health Progress*. DOI=10.1094/PHP-2006-03S-01-RS [<http://www.plantmanagementnetwork.org/sub/php/research/2006/camellia/>]
22. Tubajika, K. M., Bulluck, R., Shiel, P. J., Scott, S. E., and Sawyer, A. J. 2006. The occurrence of *Phytophthora ramorum* in nursery stock in California, Oregon, and Washington states. Published online. *Plant Health Progress* doi:10.1094/PHP-2006-0315-02-RS. [<http://www.plantmanagementnetwork.org/sub/php/research/2006/ramorum/>]
23. Venette, R.C., and Cohen, S.D., 2006. Potential climate suitability for establishment of *Phytophthora ramorum* within the contiguous United States.



*Martha Stewart visiting Syringa vulgaris 'Martha Stewart'*

*Photo Credit Kent Millham*



*closeup of Syringa vulgaris 'Martha Stewart'*

*Photo Credit Kent Millham*



*Shane Millham and Syringa vulgaris 'Martha Stewart'*

*Photo Credit Kent Millham*



*Family planting *S. vulgaris* 'Mechta' as part of "Lilacs of Victory" project  
Submitted by Elena and Sergei Terekhov*



*Many participants help plant lilacs in Russia for "Lilacs of Victory"  
Submitted by Elena and Sergei Terekhov*





*Syringa in its native habitat in Romania growing on cliffs*  
*Photo Credit Charles Holetich*



*Syringa with cliffs in background in Romania*  
*Photo Credit Charles Holetich*



*Lilacs to look forward to at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum*  
*Photo Credit Karen McCauley*



*Shane Millham next to lilacs on rugged Monhegan Island, Maine*  
*Photo Credit Kent Millham*



24. Vrugtman, F. 2006. International register and checklist of cultivar names in the genus *Syringa* L. (Oleaceae). Database last updated 7/24/2006. URL:<[http://www.rgb.ca/pages\\_sci\\_conserv\\_lregistrar.html#top](http://www.rgb.ca/pages_sci_conserv_lregistrar.html#top)>

25. Werres, S., Marwitz, R., Man In't Veld, W., De Cock, A. W. A. M., Bonants, P. J. M., De Weerd, M., Themann, K., Ilieva, E., and Baayen, R. P., 2001. *Phytophthora ramorum* sp. nov., a new pathogen on *Rhododendron* and *Viburnum*. Mycol. Res. 105 (10): 1155-1165.

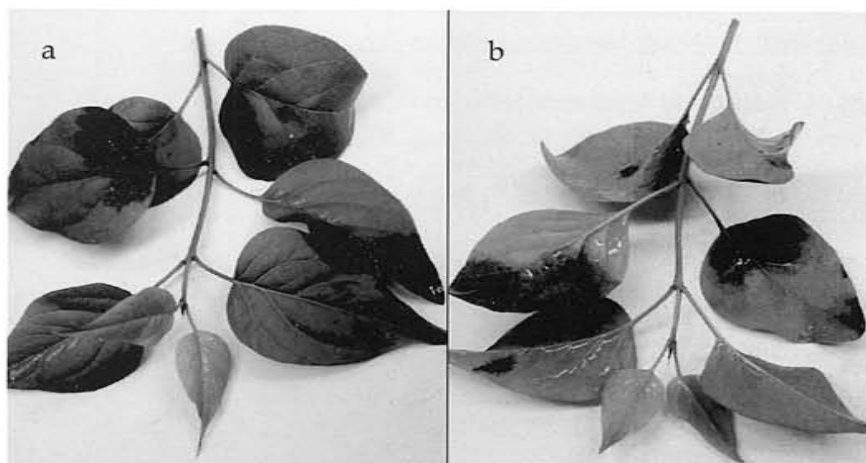
**Table 1.** Response of lilacs and other plants in the Oleaceae to infection by *Phytophthora ramorum* graded using a 0-4 severity scale.

Plant		Disease rating <sup>b</sup>
Lilacs <sup>a</sup>	<i>Syringa</i> (Villosae Group) 'Alexander's Pink'	1
	<i>S.</i> (Villosae Group) 'James Macfarlane'	0
	<i>Syringa</i> 'Lark Song'	3
	<i>S. x chinensis</i> 'Lilac Sunday'	3
	<i>S. x hyacinthiflora</i> 'Blanche Sweet'	4
	<i>S. x josiflexa</i> 'Royalty'	3
	<i>S. x laciniata</i>	3
	<i>S. x oblata</i> 'Betsy Ross'	3
	<i>S. meyeri</i> 'Palibin'	3
	<i>S. oblata</i>	3
	<i>S. pekinensis</i> Summer Charm™	3
	<i>S. pubescens</i> subsp. <i>patula</i> 'Miss Kim'	3
	<i>Syringa vulgaris</i> (wild type)	4
	<i>Syringa vulgaris</i> (seedling)	3
Oleaceae	<i>Abeliophyllum distichum</i>	2
	<i>Forsythia x intermedia</i>	2
	<i>Fraxinus americana</i>	1
	<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	1

a= For the taxonomy of lilacs, I have followed Vrugtman<sup>24</sup>. 'Alexander's Pink' is a hybrid of *S. x josiflexa* 'James Macfarlane' x *S. x prestoniae* 'Ethel M. Webster'; 'Betsy Ross' is a cross of *S. oblata* with an unknown; 'Blanche Sweet' is a cross of ('Rochester' x *S. oblata* subsp. *dilatata*); 'James Macfarlane' is a cross of *S. x josiflexa* 'Royalty' with an unknown; 'Lark Song' is a cross of (*S. sweginzowii* x *S. tomentella*) x *S. komarowii*; 'Lilac Sunday' and 'Royalty' have unknown parentage; "Summer Charm" ('DTR 124') is not an officially registered cultivar; *S. x laciniata* is a hybrid between *S. protolaciniata* and an unknown.

b = Disease was originally rated based on the percent symptomatic leaves and degree of infection using a general linear model with Tukey's Studentized Range test<sup>19</sup>. Here, plants are rated on a 0-4 scale, with 0= no disease; 1= small lesions (roughly 1-10% of leaf area) on only a few leaves (roughly 1-10%); 2= Lesions on a greater proportion of leaves (10-20%); 3=lesions found on 20-50% of leaves; 4= lesions found on >50% of leaves.

**Figure 1-** Typical leaf symptoms on *Syringa vulgaris*. a) Upper surface b) Lower surface



**Recommended Websites:**

**The California Oak Mortality Task Force Website:**

<http://nature.berkeley.edu/comtf/>

A comprehensive website for news on sudden oak death in California, constantly updated. It includes a useful chronology of events, lists of hosts, pictures of symptoms, maps giving the extent of the infestation of natural areas in the west, and information useful to growers, as well as links to other sites.

**Sudden Oak Death in Oregon:**

[http://extension.oregonstate.edu/emergency/oak\\_death.php](http://extension.oregonstate.edu/emergency/oak_death.php)

Includes three good extension publications for nurseries and Christmas tree growers.

**The online symposium “Sudden Oak Death: How concerned should you be?”:**

<http://apsnet.org/online/proceedings/SOD/>

The symposium dates from 2003, but it provides a good overview of sudden oak death from an international perspective.

**The U.S. Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Website:**

[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant\\_health/plant\\_pest\\_info/pram/index.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/pram/index.shtml)

Gives the official list of regulated hosts and current regulations for the United States.

**Great Britain’s Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)**

**Website:** <http://www.defra.gov.uk/planth/pramorum.htm>

This website deals with *P. ramorum* in the United Kingdom with photos and FAQs.

# Native habitat of *Syringa vulgaris* L.

by Charles D. Holetich

The story about the native habitat of *Syringa vulgaris* I am about to give you stems from information gathered by personal visits to various sites and also from miscellaneous literature.

Various individuals in different countries were helpful in informing, guiding and often transporting me (or us) to the site(s) in all terrain vehicles and often pointing at or providing the desired literature. Names, addresses and e-mails of some of them will be disclosed in this article, so if any of you decide to undertake a visit to common lilac homeland, you may use those contacts to organize the visit. Take with you a copy of the ILS publication where information about native lilac sites will be published, as a guide to selected places to be visited. For me, to jigsaw puzzle the information together took some time and effort, especially, since it was done on a stringent budget.

Information in the literature about native habitat of *Syringa vulgaris* L., from period of 1900 and up to Second World War, is sporadic, which includes McKelveys Monograph Lilacs of 1928. More frequent phytocenological surveys (phyto - meaning plant, ceno - meaning association or community, logia meaning science) on larger scale began in early 1950s and on.

*Syringa vulgaris* is a member of a shrubby plant which often forms very dense thickets known as "shibljak". It is often a pioneer plant found mainly on eroded and degraded soils of karst (calcium carbonate and/or dolomite - thus alkaline base), but also less frequently on silicate (acid) base.

Formation of *Syringa vulgaris* tightly netted, shallow roots are capable to exclude growth of other plants within. It may survive on sun exposed steep cliffs, developing roots into sparse soils or decomposed organic material in crevices of the rocks. It may form monolithic stands or communities with *Carpinus orientalis*, *Cotinus coggygia*, *Prunus mahaleb*, *Fraxinus ornus*, *Acer monspessulanum* and others.

My intention is to point at the locations of larger lilac groups, which may be composed either as dominant stands or as mixed association with other plants, capable to withstand specific soil or better said soil-less locales within specific climatic condition. Often those stands may be visible from the road, boat, walking path, or a distance, so if you plan to follow the trek, don't forget your binoculars. Those with refined noses may lead themselves to the location by following the lilac scent.

Lilacs are plants able to survive in locations where other plants cannot. They occupy the areas where a long time ago mainly oak forests were dominant. The

forest was cut by invaders and/or domestic people during course of millennia and centuries, without much thought about its future. Shallow soils were eroded, forest moderating climate disappeared and "survival of the fittest" was the name of the game.

As to the geographic and climatic regions, *Syringa vulgaris* L. is found not far away from the shore of the Black Sea, and the Sea of Marmara (also known as Marmara) in Turkey, through Bulgaria mountains, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, insignificant small areas in Greece and Albania, Eastern part of Serbia and Western part of Romania.

It must be said, however, that the common lilac has the phenomenal ability to adapt, or naturalize itself to various climatic and soil condition. It can be found in self-sustaining groups in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Germany, as mentioned in McKelvey's monograph Lilacs. Some literature mentions Poland, Hungary and Ukraine, which in my opinion do not support native but rather adopted locales. I have seen groups 100 meter (300') or more in size at 3 different locations in Ontario, Canada.

To further point the resiliency of the common lilac and its wide climatic and geographic range of growth, from the shore of Adriatic Sea in Croatia as a landscape companion to a Palm tree, all the way to Anchorage, Alaska, where its cultivars are found to grow in a number of private gardens and public park areas. It is also found to grow 4-6 feet above the water surface of Danube River in Romania and 2-4 feet above the water levels of canals in Netherland.

Its ability to survive and grow under a wide range of soil and climatic conditions, and to take care of itself, made it also the state flower of New Hampshire, and of course is doing very well here at Mackinac Island, Michigan where trunks 60cm (2 feet) in diameter measured at 60cm (2 feet) height above the soil could be found. So if you did not know where the ILS got its resiliency from as the Society, now you know!!!

Back to the truly native habitats. Out of the 21 lilac species known to exist today in the world, *Syringa vulgaris* L., or the Common Lilac has through its lineage about 1200 progeny (offspring), or cultivars with either full degree of acceptance as cultivars, or some as naked names, without proper description, a degree, or a pedigree. Other 20 lilac species combined have about 800 named cultivars.

While in Bulgaria and Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Common Lilac enjoys a mixture of Mediterranean and Continental climate, eastern Serbia and western Romania are more in Continental climate zone. In both Serbia and Romania, the large mass of water body from the river Danube and its tributaries have climatically moderating effect, in creation of more moderate winters and summers with higher air (moisture) humidity. Areas exists where morning fogs and dews will linger on into the late mornings, during summer months. Native

lilac is found in gorges and canyons with a running river or a creek which during hot summer months will keep the air cool and moist. As soon as one steps on the open flat fields where the wind dries the air, native lilac disappears.

As one gets into Macedonia and Bulgaria where the climate is closer to sub-Mediterranean and where along east-west river beds and valleys warmer air flows from Black Sea inland, the valleys supporting native lilac may be wider and still retain sufficient air humidity to support its survival.

The lesson we can learn from nature is: if you expect a lilac to grow well, don't plant it in an open wind-swept area. Regardless, whether a lilac is growing in alkaline or acid soils, it as a rule has in its habitat a stream or a river at the base of the canyon, gorge or valley creating high air moisture or relative humidity.

As cold winds during late fall, winter and early spring pass over the gorges and/or canyons, some cold air drops to its bottom. It causes the inversion, hence the plants able to sustain low temperature better than lilacs will be found at the bottom, while *Syringa vulgaris*, known as thermophile (warmth loving) plant will occupy higher, warmer slope locations generally facing sun hence on south slopes.

Movement of air masses from the Black Sea along east-west positioned river-beds, canyons and gorges create considerable precipitation in them which is not the case further inland in more flat terrains. Those factors result in the creation of unique and rich vegetation, often intermixed with sub-Mediterranean plants.

If any of you are contemplating to visit the sites of the native lilac I suggest you do so during the end part of April for Bulgaria and Macedonia, first 7 to 10 days of May for Serbia and from May 10th to 20<sup>th</sup> for Romania.

Since the peak of bloom may differ from spring to spring, more precise information may be obtained from a knowledgeable contact at the site. Several individuals should organize the trip together so the cost of a guide and the terrain vehicle is shared.

It would be nice if you could take with you a reliable GPS (Global Positioning System) unit capable of giving you the co-ordinates of places visited. Calibrate it at a coordinate known point in a nearby city or village. Find from the internet or other sources what the (approximate) coordinates are for a given place, and do the minor adjustments on the site if need be.

If one combines a visit to native lilac sites with visit to other tourist attractions in various countries, one should be able to make a quick adjustment for a day or two at the site, if the peak of bloom was advanced or delayed few days from the anticipated or planned time. I would suggest you combine Macedonia and Bulgaria as one visit, while Serbia and Romania should each be considered as separate visits.

Peak of native lilac bloom may vary 15 to 22 days from Black Sea area to inland

of Eastern Romania, hence some good planning is a must.

If you choose to organize your trip via a travel agency be prepared that you may be taken to a nearby public garden or a park and shown samples of a planted *Syringa vulgaris* or some related cultivars, with commentary "what you see is what you get!"

Contact for Bulgaria and (Former Yugoslav Republic of) Macedonia is Dr. Vlatko Andonovski, Forestry Institute, St. Vasil Gjorgov 20/58 (street), 1000 Skopje, Republic of Macedonia. E-mail: [forestryinstitute@mt.net.mk](mailto:forestryinstitute@mt.net.mk) Dr. Andonovski is fluent in English and may be helpful in suggesting the best itinerary for the trip for both, Bulgaria and Macedonia.

Contact for Serbia is: National Park Djerdap, 19220 Donji Milanovac, Serbia, or e-mail [npdjerdap@npdjerdap.com](mailto:npdjerdap@npdjerdap.com). If there was a group of 8 individuals or more who would contemplate a visit during spring of 2008 (Djerdap and surrounding area only) I would be prepared to act as organizer and guide supporter. Contact: Charles Holetich, 265-5<sup>th</sup> Concession Rd., East, Waterdown, Ontario, Canada, e-mail [holilac@cogeco.ca](mailto:holilac@cogeco.ca)

Contact for Romania are: Daniel Turcu, 40 J. Gabriel Street, 300154 Timisoara, Romania, or office 1 Alea Pandurea Verde, 300310 Romania [turcu\\_dani@yahoo.com](mailto:turcu_dani@yahoo.com) and/or Brad Radu-Remus, Ghe. Lazar 30-32, Sc. A1, Ap.14, Timis-County, Timisoara, Romania [brad\\_radu@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:brad_radu@yahoo.co.uk) Both speak English and are familiar with native vegetation of Romania.

## Specific location of *Syringa vulgaris* habitat

### In Bulgaria

- 1) Association *Syringa vulgaris*. In Lozenska mountain at 900 m elevation, at village Lozen, near capital city of Sofia, described in Ganchev I., 1961, Vegetation of Lozenska mountain, Sofia, described in Report of Botanical Institute, VI Sofia.
- 2a) Association *Syringa vulgaris* and *Dactylis glomerata*. First location: Vrachanska mountain, elevation 300m; in area of place Vracha. Described in Velchev V., 1971, Plant covers of Vrachanska mountains, described in Report of Botanical Institute, XXIV, Sofia.
- 2b) Second location: Besaparski ridove (mountains), elevation 600 m., near village Mirjanci, Pazardzik region. Described in Stanchev S., 1986, Trees and shrubs of Besaparski ridove, Phytology 32, Sofia.
- 3) Association *Syringa vulgaris* and *Geranium macrorrhizum*. Vrachanska mountains, elevation 300-400m. Location: near place Vracha. Bibliography: Velchev V., 1971, Plant Cover of Vrachanska mountains, described in Report of Botanical Institute, XXIV, Sofia.
- 4) Association *Syringa vulgaris* and *Jasminum fruticans*. Besaparski ridove (mountains) elevation 600 m. Location: near place Mirjanci in Pazardzik region. Bibliography: Stanchev S. 1986, Trees and shrubs of Besaparski mountains.



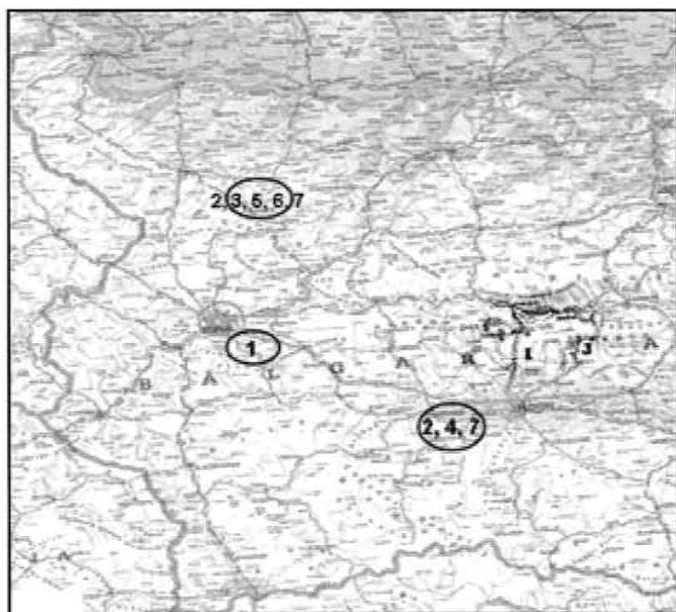
Phytology 32, Sofia.

5) Association *Syringa vulgaris* and *Poa nemoralis*. Vrachanska mountains, elevation 300-400 m. Location near place Vrach. Bibliography: Velchev V., 1971, Plant Cover of Vrachanska mountains, described in . Report of Botanical Institute, XXIV., Sofia.

6) Association *Syringa vulgaris* and *Spiraea media*. Vrachanska mountains, elevation 300-400 m. Location: near place Vrach. Bibliography: Velchev V., 1971, Plant Cover of Vrachanska mountains, described in Report of Botanical Institute, XXIV., Sofia.

7) Association *Syringa vulgaris*. First location: Vrachanska mountain, elevation 300 m. Location: near place Vrach. Bibliography: Velchev V., 1971, Plant Cover of Vrachanska mountains, described in Report of Botanical Institute XXIV, Sofia.

Second location: Bosparski mountains, elevation 600 m. Location: near place Mirjanci in Pazardzik region. Bibliography: Stanchev S., 1986. Trees and shrubs of Bosparski mountains. Phytology 32, Sofia.



*Syringa vulgaris* sites in Bulgaria

## In Macedonia

Found individually or in small groups in association with *Carpinus orientalis* in areas 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, and *Buxus sempervirens*, mainly on calcium carbonate in areas 4, 5, 8, 9, at 100 – 800m above the sea level.

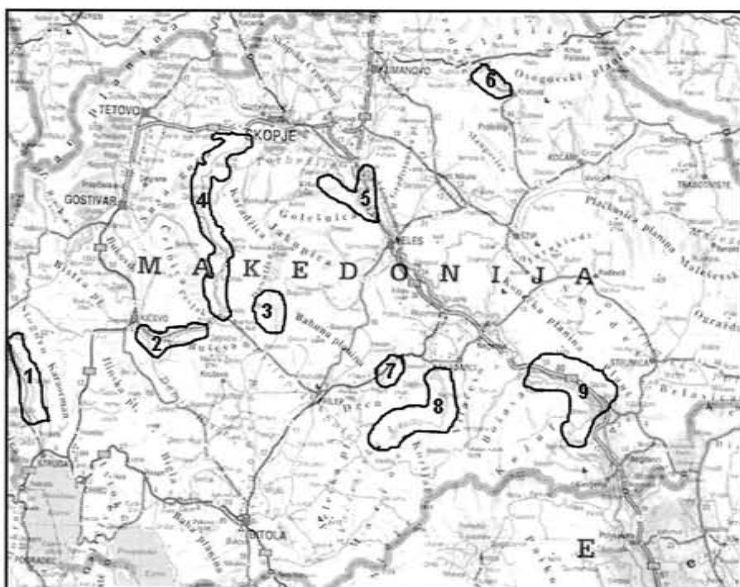
Area 1 is along the stream of river Crni Drim from Struge up to Debar.

Area 2 is upper area of river Treska near place Kičevo.

Area 3 are south-east slopes of Dautice mountain.

Area 4 is canyon of river Treska from Skopje to Makedonski Brod.  
 Area 5 is valley of river Vardar from Skopje to Veles.  
 Area 6 is Kratovska river on slopes of Osogovske mountains.  
 Area 7 is Raečka klisura near place Kavadarci.  
 Area 8 is klisura of river Crna Reka from Kavadarci up to Marihova.  
 Area 9 is klisura Demir Kapija from Demir Kapije up to Gevgelija.

If time is of the essence, visit areas No. 2 and 9, for easy access and abundance of lilacs. Otherwise rely on advice of local guides for which e-mail and address contact is provided earlier in the text.



*Syringa vulgaris* in Macedonia

## In Serbia

Native habitat of *Syringa vulgaris* in Serbia which is worthwhile visiting will be found primarily in National Park Djerdap and surrounding area on slopes adjacent to Danube River, and in East-West Gorges or Canyons, thus being sheltered in winter from cold north and east winds while retaining high air moisture in summers.

For peak of bloom consider any 7–10 days at the beginning of May or make e-mail or telephone inquiry at the National Park office (visit internet under Djerdap). Try to be flexible by visiting other points of interest for which the dates are not as critical as blooming dates of lilacs. Fly to Belgrade, take bus to Donji Milanovac, check into hotel/motel, visit office of National Park or follow

pre-organised tour.

Locations to visit are:

1) Golubačka klisura, Livadice and Jelenske stene

About 5 km from town of Golubac along Danube River is the fortress of Golubac, built in 13<sup>th</sup> century. It is also known as Jerinin Grad. On its slopes a native lilac may be found intermixed with *Carpinus orientalis* and *Cotinus coggygria*.

The road goes through the fortress and follows the shore of Danube where lilacs may grow on cliffs as low as the roads. In nearby Livadice and Jelenske stene lilac may be found in groups, growing in shallow skeletal soils.

2) Čoka Njalta sa Pesačom

An area with steep calcium carbonate slopes past Bosman where Danube narrows and turns into South-East direction, soon after location known as Dojka and a bit further at place known as Čoka Njalta nearly pure stands of *Syringa vulgaris* can be found, but also native lilac in association with *Carpinus orientalis*, *Corylus colurna*, *Acer monspessulanum*, *Fraxinus ornus*, *Prunus mahaleb*, *Rhamnus cathartica*, *Viburnum lantana*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Crataegus oxyacantha*, *Rubus idaeus* and some others.

3) Gospodjin vir and Lepenski vir

At place known as Bivolje stene where Čoka Njalta ends and up to the junction where Boljetin River flows into Danube, at base of Koršo mountain is known as Gospodjin vir and archeological site Lepenski vir. Both locales display *Syringa vulgaris* in association with mainly *Carpinus orientalis* and *Cotinus coggygria*.

4) Boljetinsko brdo

Covers the area from junction of Boljetin River with Danube to the area where Donji Milanovac Valley begins. On steeper (35 - 50°), exposed slopes *Syringa vulgaris* forms stands of a permanent characters (*Syringetum vulgaris typicum*). On slopes 10 - 20° lilac is found in association with degraded oak, *Quercus pubescens* and *Quercus ceris*, *Carpinus orientalis*, *Fraxinus ornus*, *Acer monspessulanum*, but retains dominant position.

5) Canyons Veliki and Mali Kazan with Veliki and Mali Štrbac

As Danube changes its flow in North-Easterly direction and the canyon becomes narrowest and deepest. Morning fogs are frequently rising above Danube during summer droughts. *Syringa vulgaris* forms largest shibljkas (thickets) in Serbia on Veliki and Mali Štrbac.

6) Klisura Vratne

Located near place Jabukovac. On South slopes along the river Vratne *Syringa vulgaris typicum* and *Syringo* in association with *Carpinus orientalis* is found.

7) Klisura Zamne

Located near place Plavna along river Zamna, at road from Negotin to Klokočevac. Found in association with *Carpinus orientalis*, *Prunus mahaleb*,

*Cotinus coggygia* and as *Syringetum vulgaris typicum*.

8) Klisura Peka

Located along river Pek, near places Debeli Lug and Majdanpek. This deep East-West gorge supports well both mesophile and thermophile plants. Lilac appears either in association with other plants or as nearly pure stands as described under 7 – above.

9) Klisura Vitovnice

Located along river Vitovnica near village Vitovnica and nearby mountains Fik and Vranj on the East. This klisura (gorge) ends near monastery Vitovnice. Inversion of vegetation is evident in this deep gorge, hence at lowest places we find association of *Fago-colurnetum mixtum* and in higher elevations *Syringo-Carpinetum*.

10) Gornjačka klisura

Located along river Mlava near place Ždrelo. Also known as klisura (gorge) Gornjak. Some associations of *Syringa vulgaris* with *Carpinus orientalis*, and *Quercus* sp., is found there, on elevation of 180 – 300 m.

11) Manastir Gornjak

Near junction of river Mlava and Dubočica is the location of monastery Gornjak, where nearly pure stands of *Syringa vulgaris* could be found.

12) Ribarska klisura

Located along river Mlava, from village of Ribare up to Krepoljin. *Syringa vulgaris* is found in association with other plants but more sporadically.

13) Resavska klisura

Located near place Strmosten, East of Despotovac. Smaller groups of *Syringa vulgaris* in association with other plants or nearly pure smaller stands are found there.

14) Kanjon Lazareve Reke

Located near place Zlot. There are several small rivers (Lazareva reka, Mikuljska reka, Pojelska reka) and gorges along them rich and diverse in vegetation. *Syringa vulgaris* forms associations with *Cotinus coggygia*, *Carpinus orientalis*, *Prunus mahaleb* and others in lesser degree.

15) Klisura Crne Reke

Near place Rgotine on road from Bor to Zaječar. The gorge is not easily accessible. In smaller groups on slopes of 40 to 50° lilac is found in association with *Prunus mahaleb*.

16) Klisura Grze and Ivanštice

Located near place Izvor, which is located 11 km east of Paraćin. *Syringa vulgaris* could be found near monastery St. Dorde (George) in nearly pure, dominant form.

17) Suvodolska klisura

It is located along Selačka River which is tributary of river Beli Timok, near place Miničevo, on road from Zaječar to Knjaževac. Monastery Suvodol is located there also. *Syringa vulgaris* forms there *√ibljak* (thickets) in association mainly with

*Cotinus coggygria*.

18) Klisura Moravice

Located east of Sokobanja, along river Moravice which is tributary of river Južna Morava. Native lilac are found in following associations: *Syringo-colurnetum mixtum*, *Syringo-monspesulo-colurnetum*, *Cotino-Syringetum vulgaris*, *Syringo-Carpinetum orientalis* and *Syringo vulgaris typicum*.

19) Klisura Svrliškog Timoka

It is located north of place Svrlijig, which is on road from Niš to Knjaževac. Lilac forms the association mainly with *Prunus mahaleb* in sporadic locales.

20) Sičevačka klisura

Formed along river Nišava between place Sičevo and Gradište. Growth of *Syringa vulgaris* is vigorous and found in numerous locations from the shore of river Nišava up to the tops of the stoney hillsides, making associations with *Quercus sp.* and *Carpinus sp.*

21) Klisura Jarne

Located east of Dmitrovgrad (also known as Caribrod) near Bulgarian border. It forms the gorge along river Jarne. There are great variations of exposures and configuration of land, creating noticeable differences in vegetation. Lilac is found in following associations: *Syringo-colurnetum mixtum*, *Syringo-Carpinetum orientalis*, *Syringo-Aceri intermediae-colurnetum*, and other less visible groups.

22) Šibljaci jorgovana in acidic soils

They are located along highway connecting Kraljevo and Raška, few kilometres north of place called Ušće. On slopes 20 - 30° with southern and south-east exposure on acid base soils of 5.8 pH and 400-500 m above the sea level. Here Lilac captures and expands into free areas where rarely any of the neighbouring plants could develop.



*Syringa vulgaris* sites in Serbia

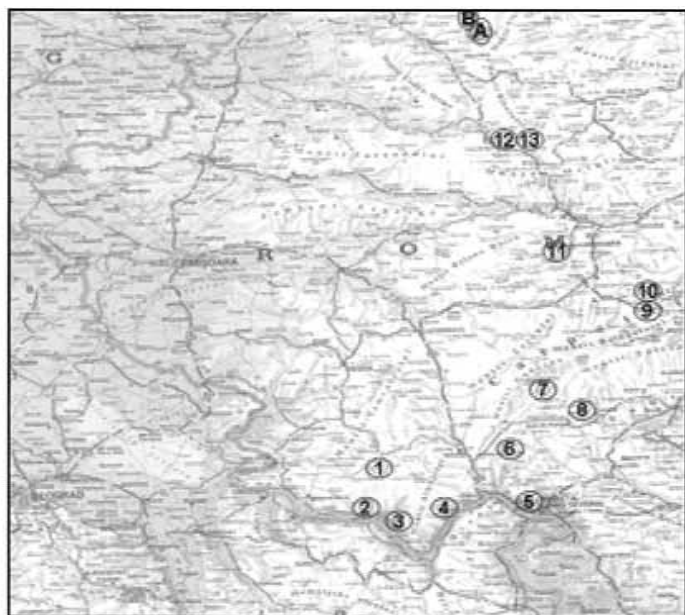
Plant associations there were described by Jovanović B. and Vukićević E., and an article translated and printed in one of previous ILS publication Lilacs. Information about locations of native habitat of *Syringa vulgaris* L., in Serbia was obtained mainly from the book Šumska Vegetacija Klisura i Kanjona Istočne Srbije, by Vojislav Mišić, Belgrade 1981.

## In Romania

Locations of native habitat of *Syringa vulgaris* L., taken from the map Forest Plant Vegetations in Romania "Mapa Monografia Geografica a R.P.R. 1960".

Places 1–14 represent locations of *Syringa vulgaris*, while A and B represent locations of *Syringa josikaea*. Take note that location No. 14 for *Syringa vulgaris* is near place Buzău which is 100km by air distance north east of Bucurest.

General opinion is that places nearer Danube River are richer in size and number of common lilac groupings. For details rely on guide of domestic experts.



*Syringa vulgaris* and *Syringa josikaea* sites in Romania

Acknowledgement: Trip to Romania and Macedonia was organized by Prof. Dr. Želimir Borzan and his contacts in those countries. The photos taken in Romania shown in this paper were taken by both of us.

Charles D. Holetich

progress even more. In spite of that some noteworthy events took place. In 1923 Liberty Hyde Bailey, Dean of Agriculture at Cornell University, coined the term "cultivar", which gained world-wide acceptance in 1953. At the International Botanical Congress of Berlin (1936) the Nomenclature Committee proposed the acceptance of Susan D. McKelvey's The Lilac: a Monograph (1928) as the standard of nomenclature for the genus Syringa, thereby designating this publication as the starting point for cultivar naming of lilacs. It was not until 1953 however, 86 years after De Candolle presented his "Lois", that the international botanical and horticultural community agreed on and accepted the International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants. William Stearn, editor of the 1953 Code, well aware that a code is effective only when used, wrote in his introduction, "The following Code can only achieve the aims set out in its first article, i.e. to promote uniformity, accuracy and fixity in the use of names and to debar or discourage procedures leading to confusion and error, if it is adequately supported and widely adopted. The breeders and introducers of new plants are urged, in their own interest, to give names which are in accordance with the Code."

The first International Cultivar Registration Authorities, or ICRA's, were initiated soon after the Code was published. ICRA's and their Registrars are there to assist breeders and introducers. Their primary functions are to compile and publish International Registers and Checklists of the cultivar names in the genera or plant groups they have been assigned, to interpret the Code, and to advise and assist breeders and introducers in choosing cultivar names that are in accordance with the Code. The Code is there to prevent confusion; the Registrar is there to assist you in naming your new lilac in accordance with the Code. As Alice said, "it's useful to the people that name them, I suppose. If not, why do things have names at all?"

-----  
Literature consulted:

Bailey, L. H. 1923. Various Cultigens, and Transfers in Nomenclature. *Gentes Herbarium* 1(3):113. [proposal of the term "cultivar"].

Barry, Patrick. 1868. Report of the Committee on Pomological Rules. *Proceedings of the 11<sup>th</sup> session of the American Pomological Society* 11:153-155.

Beal, A. C. 1920. *The Peony: a flower for the farmer*. Cornell Reading Course for the Farm, Lesson 154. Ithaca; New York State College of Agriculture, Cornell University.

Carrol, Lewis. 1871. *Through the Looking Glass and what Alice Found There*; Chapter 3: Looking-Glass Insects.

Coit, J. E. 1907. *A peony check-list*. Ithaca; New York State College of Agriculture, Cornell University.

Downing, Andrew J. 1847. *The Rules for American Pomology*. The



Lutwidge Dodgson; 1832-1898) happened to write his story in an era when many new crop and garden varieties were being developed, introduced and marketed. It was an American, A. J. Downing, who realized that naming this steady stream of plants had lead to problems. Andrew Jackson Downing (1815-1852), was a horticulturist and landscape designer, who worked on plans for the grounds of the White House and the Smithsonian Institute, and who initiated the idea of a major park for New York City which was to become Central Park. Together with his brother Charles, A. J. Downing wrote "Fruits and Fruit Trees of America" (1845). He made such an impression that he was invited to become the first editor of "The Horticulturist and Journal of Rural Art and Rural Taste" (1846-1852). It was in this magazine that Downing published "The Rules for American Pomology", a set of 13 rules which appears to be the first attempt to bring order to one sector of horticultural nomenclature. One year later, in 1848, the First North-American Pomological Convention was held in Buffalo, New York, its major agenda being nomenclature of tree fruits.—George Ellwanger and Patrick Barry, partners in operating the Mount Hope Nursery, Rochester, NY, played a key role in organizing this convention.—In 1867 Patrick Barry proposed a set of rules concerning testing, naming and description of new fruit varieties, which was adopted in 1868 by the American Pomological Society.

Problems in naming cultivated plants were not restricted to fruits. The Committee on Varietal Nomenclature of the American Society of Agronomy was formed in 1911. The American Joint Committee on Horticultural Nomenclature was formed 1915, consolidating the efforts of the American Association of Nurserymen and the Ornamental Grower's Association. Rising purchasing power stimulated the development and introduction of ornamental plants. Peonies had always been popular in North America; naming the many new selections entering the market place soon lead to confusion. Much of the work of sorting out the garden forms of peonies was done in the early 1900s at Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, by J. E. Coit and A. C. Beal. Their compilations are among the earliest checklists of its kind in North America.

In Europe the movement for unified rules for naming plants was initiated in 1862 when the Swiss botanist Alphonse de Candolle (1806-1893) published his first proposal for a worldwide agreement on the naming of cultivated plants; one of his most important suggestions was the use of only non-Latin epithets for garden forms. De Candolle's "Lois de la Nomenclature botanique" were accepted at the 1867 International Botanical Congress of Paris, France. These "Lois" or laws, as they became nicknamed, form the basis of today's International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants.

From that point on discussions took place on an albeit limited international level, mostly at Botanical Congresses, but progress was slow, there were differences of opinion and a succession of delegates. World War I (1914-1918), the Great Depression of the 1930s, and World War II (1939-1945) slowed down

progress even more. In spite of that some noteworthy events took place. In 1923 Liberty Hyde Bailey, Dean of Agriculture at Cornell University, coined the term "cultivar", which gained world-wide acceptance in 1953. At the International Botanical Congress of Berlin (1936) the Nomenclature Committee proposed the acceptance of Susan D. McKelvey's The Lilac: a Monograph (1928) as the standard of nomenclature for the genus Syringa, thereby designating this publication as the starting point for cultivar naming of lilacs. It was not until 1953 however, 86 years after De Candolle presented his "Lois", that the international botanical and horticultural community agreed on and accepted the International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants. William Stearn, editor of the 1953 Code, well aware that a code is effective only when used, wrote in his introduction, "The following Code can only achieve the aims set out in its first article, i.e. to promote uniformity, accuracy and fixity in the use of names and to debar or discourage procedures leading to confusion and error, if it is adequately supported and widely adopted. The breeders and introducers of new plants are urged, in their own interest, to give names which are in accordance with the Code."

The first International Cultivar Registration Authorities, or ICRA's, were initiated soon after the Code was published. ICRA's and their Registrars are there to assist breeders and introducers. Their primary functions are to compile and publish International Registers and Checklists of the cultivar names in the genera or plant groups they have been assigned, to interpret the Code, and to advise and assist breeders and introducers in choosing cultivar names that are in accordance with the Code. The Code is there to prevent confusion; the Registrar is there to assist you in naming your new lilac in accordance with the Code. As Alice said, "it's useful to the people that name them, I suppose. If not, why do things have names at all?"

#### ----- Literature consulted:

Bailey, L. H. 1923. Various Cultigens, and Transfers in Nomenclature. *Gentes Herbarium* 1(3):113. [proposal of the term "cultivar"].

Barry, Patrick. 1868. Report of the Committee on Pomological Rules. *Proceedings of the 11<sup>th</sup> session of the American Pomological Society* 11:153-155.

Beal, A. C. 1920. *The Peony: a flower for the farmer*. Cornell Reading Course for the Farm, Lesson 154. Ithaca; New York State College of Agriculture, Cornell University.

Carrol, Lewis. 1871. *Through the Looking Glass and what Alice Found There*; Chapter 3: Looking-Glass Insects.

Coit, J. E. 1907. *A peony check-list*. Ithaca; New York State College of Agriculture, Cornell University.

Downing, Andrew J. 1847. *The Rules for American Pomology*. The

Horticulturist and Journal of Rural Art and Rural Taste. 2:273-275. Published in Albany, New York.

Stearn, William T. 1953. International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants. London; Royal Horticultural Society. [Historical Introduction; pages 3-10].

## Syringa Plus Fall Open House 2007

---

September 29; a perfect day. The New England Lilac Region had its fall Lilac Party at Syringa Plus in West Newbury, Mass. It was a record turnout of 48 members and friends of the ILS. Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Dartmouth on the Mass./Rhode Island border, Pennsylvania and many from Massachusetts turned out in high spirits on a gorgeous, sunny day.

Evie King and Roger Coggeshall and their families were all present. New members and old friends were greeted and served some great food. For those who had never been to our annual gathering, Owen Rogers talked on the convention at Mackinac Island.

Jack Alexander gave a reprise of his talk from the convention on the evolution and parentage of his creation 'Lilac Haze', that was introduced through the Arnold Arboretum at the Boston Convention in 2005. He and his computer brought us up to date.

New Members attended with their stories of how they came to become Lilac lovers. We talked lilacs, weather, water conservation and farming; our favorite topics. It was a terrific party. Wake up New England members! This is one under the radar lilac event. Everyone had a great time.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Lizotte  
New England Regional VP*

## Lilac Profiles

---

*Syringa vulgaris* 'Prince of Wales'

This cultivar is an old, relatively rare cultivar developed by nurseryman James Dougall of Canada in 1874. According to McKelvey in The Lilac, this cultivar was first offered by Ellwanger & Barry Nursery in 1888. It is a nice example of a single, lilac(IV)-colored *Syringa* with curved, widely-spaced petals on each floret (see photo on inside front cover).

## Member Profiles

---

### Zeze

Welcome to a very special life member. Born in Brazil, Zeze is a floral designer.

He and his wife Peggy O'Dea own a shop on 938 First Avenue, New York, NY USA. They have been featured in the March 2007 issue of House & Garden, a USA publication. They own a farm in upstate New York. Flowers and animals, from miniature donkeys to chickens, ducks, doves etc. and a pure white peacock share the space. Flamboyant, exuberant and vibrant is Zeze style. He and his wife use the flowers they grow to compose the floral arrangements.

They maintain a cutting garden just for this purpose. His parents had a farm on the outside of Rio. He developed his love for flowers and animals there. We are happy to have Zeze join our society. Yes, he loves lilacs and has several planted at his farm. He looks forward to his association with ILS. Check him out at [zeze@zezeflowers.com](mailto:zeze@zezeflowers.com).

### Gary Parton

New ILS member Gary Parton arrived a few days before our annual meeting began on Mackinac Island, MI so he could discover the charming city and its majestic and beautiful lilacs, and to get an early start meeting his fellow Society members. He was anxious to immerse himself into our club of lilac fans, and has recently begun a sterling collection of *Syringa vulgaris* numbering about 150 different cultivars proven to be especially well adapted to the environment of his Idyllwild, CA estate.

His interest in horticulture became apparent early in his life as he worked through both high school and college years at a nursery, and doing freelance landscape work to produce both an income and education.

Soon after his semi-retirement as a high school art teacher and college art professor, where he put good use to his master's degree in art education, this friendly and youthful grandfather and lifelong southern California resident, who also specializes in drawing painting, ceramics and photography, decided to settle in the mountains of Southern California, where the elevation is 6000 feet. Before very long, he joined the local garden club and met another Idyllwild lilac fan; ILS leader Reva Ballreich, who led our Society as President for several years, and who established her own world class lilac collection. Before long, their meeting became a solid friendship that flourishes today, as Reva generously

serves as Gary's lilac mentor, and has provided him with many exceptional lilac cultivars for his collection. He has named his collection "Alpenglow Lilac Garden", which describes "a reddish glow often seen on the summit of mountains just before sunrise and just after sunset". He looks forward to sharing the beauty of his young lilac collection with all who love to view the plants in bloom, by appointment. Several other prized lilacs have also been provided by Reva's daughters, Karla and Julie, as well as from ILS pillar, board member and professional lilac propagator Evie King of Syringa Plus Nursery.

While admitting he has some favorite lilacs, such as 'Edith Cavell' for its sheer beauty, and 'Monge' for the beautiful bouquets it provides as cut flowers, he also mentions the biggest challenge in maintaining his sizeable lilac collection is the labor, effort, and expense of providing water to his lilacs. For that reason, he is considering future sales of young plants to help ease the financial burden.

Gary has ideas of how he would like to further use his passion for lilacs. "I hope to organize an annual get-together at Alpenglow Lilac Gardens during the bloom time so ILS members within a one hundred mile radius can get better acquainted. We can learn from one another and have fun, too. Members need to be better connected", he said. At future annual ILS meetings, he envisions using his skills in graphic design to enhance the signage, and perhaps present a workshop on the topic of drawing lilacs.

Speaking of his commitment to ILS and its members, Gary doesn't hesitate to say "I'm in it for the long haul." Presently, he is in search for 'Queen Victoria'... the lilac, which has a special place of honor waiting in his garden section reserved for royalty and presidents. Please feel free to call him (1-951-659-9711) if you can help him find this elusive *Syringa*, or, if you'd like, just to say hello and welcome him to ILS.

*Bill Horman  
August 23, 2007*

## Fenicchia Farms

Recently, Fenicchia Farms became a member of ILS. Lou Fenicchia, along with his wife Sandy, and helped by their 3 sons Michael, Joe, and Anthony operate Fenicchia Farms. Bob Hoepfl, our former president, helps out with growing the lilacs that they raise.

Lou has had a long history with horticulture and lilacs, with deep family roots in this profession and avocation. Lou's grandfather had a big garden, his father Mario worked in the greenhouses and arboretum at Highland Botanical Park, and many of his uncles, such as Steve and the great hybridizer Richard A. Fenicchia, were devoted to horticulture. As young as 4 years old, Lou went with his father to Uncle Dick's farm on Saturdays to help out; learning about growing and propagating plants.

Lou began his career at Highland Botanical Park in 1973, and continued there until his retirement in October 2002. During those 30 years, he held various titles such as Greenhouse Worker, Nursery Foreman, Horticultural Aide, and Horticulturist. At various times, his responsibilities included being in charge of the arboretum at Highland Park, and responsible for the greenhouse operation, which at the time raised thousands of annuals for all of the Monroe County and city of Rochester Parks. Also grown were a large variety of floral and tropical plants for the seasonal shows and tropical displays at the Lamberton Conservatory.

Upon "retiring" in 2002, Lou continued and expanded his own specialty farm and greenhouse operation. Fenicchia Farms raises about 3000 flats of annuals and hundreds of hanging baskets; many of which are sold to St. John Fisher College, the University of Rochester, the George Eastman House, and the City of Rochester for their parks and street beautification program. Fenicchia Farms also grows hundreds of 24" combination tubs for the Buffalo Bills training camp that is held at St. John Fisher College every summer.

Seven acres of Fenicchia Farms are devoted to growing vegetables. These vegetables supply their roadside stand and several booths at area farm markets, as well as the annual Agricultural Fair at the Genesee Country Museum. Also, their specialty produce and herbs help feed up to 3,000 students and faculty at St. John Fisher College, as part of the "Farm to Fork" program of Bon Appetit, a university food catering service that provides both gourmet and healthy meals.

Fenicchia Farms also sells lilacs, and Lou specializes in growing the hybrids of his uncle, Richard A. Fenicchia. 'Frederick Law Olmsted', 'Margaret Fenicchia', 'Sesquicentennial', 'Charles Lindbergh', 'Flower City', and 'Dwight D. Eisenhower' are just some of the cultivars for sale, along with popular cultivars from other hybridizers, such as 'Rochester', 'Sensation', 'My Favorite', etc.

One of the most important things Lou learned from Dick Fenicchia was that "a paint brush isn't just for painting, but can be used for hybridizing." ILS welcomes the Fenicchia family and Fenicchia Farms, and are glad to know that the Fenicchia legacy in lilacs continues. They may be contacted at Fenicchia Farms, 163 Humphrey Road, Scottsville, NY 14546, [sfenicc43@frontiernet.net](mailto:sfenicc43@frontiernet.net).

## Winter Issue 2008

Please submit articles by December 8, 2008.

Featured in this next issue will be an article by Hongxia Cui  
of Beijing Botanical Garden.

Also, be sure to send pictures of your family at home  
or on vacation, with lilacs in the photo.

The member section needs your input

International Lilac Society

# STANDING COMMITTEES

## I. ADMINISTRATIVE

### EXECUTIVE

President .....	Nicole Jordan	Recording Secretary .....	Jeff Young
Executive Vice President .....	Bradley Bittorf	Treasurer .....	Karen McCauley
Membership Secretary .....	Amy Plamann	Assistant Treasurer .....	William F. Tschumi
		Editor .....	Kent Millham

### REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS

1. New England...Mary Lizotte	5. Plains.....Max Peterson	8b. South Central.....LD Allison
2. Atlantic ..... Ted Collins	6. Northwest ML Peterschick	9. Eastern Canada ..... Corinna Moro
3. South ..... Nicole Jordan	7. Pacific..Elizabeth Kilcoyne	10. Western Canada ..... L. Blackman
4. Central ..... Irene Stark	8a. S.W. Mts. Bradley Bittorf	

### EXECUTIVE VP

For Canada .....	Frank Moro	For Europe.....	Colin Chapman
For Russia & the rest of Asia .....	Tatiana Poliakov		

### AUDIT

Dr. Owen M. Rogers

#### 2008

JOHN ALEXANDER III  
KENT MILLHAM  
ERIC WELZEL  
NICOLE JORDAN  
JEFF YOUNG

#### 2009

BRUCE PEART  
MARY LIZOTTE  
KONRAD KIRCHER  
IRENE STARK  
DR. J. GILES WAINES

#### 2010

NANCY LATIMER  
FRANKLIN (WOODY) BARNES  
WARREN OAKES  
MAX PETERSON  
EVELYN KING

## II. CONVENTION

CONVENTION .....	Karen McCauley, Chairman
AUCTION .....	Franklin (Woody) Barnes I, Chairman

## III. EDUCATIONAL

EDUCATION .....	Dr. Owen M. Rogers, Chairman
RESEARCH .....	Dr. Giles Waines, Chairman
PUBLICATIONS .....	Dr. Owen M. Rogers, Chairman

## IV. HONORS, HISTORY, LEGAL

HONORS ,AWARDS .....	Robert Hoepfl,Chairman
ARCHIVES .....	Kent Millham,Chairman

## V. LILACS

REGISTRATION .....	Freek Vrugtman, Registrar
DISTRIBUTION .....	Frank Moro, Chairman
LILAC EVALUATION .....	Bruce Peart, Chairman

## VI. MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERSHIP .....	Amy Plamann, Chairman
NOMINATIONS .....	Peter Ely, Chairman
ELECTIONS .....	Amy Plamann, Chairman





*Syringa vulgaris* 'Firmament'  
Photo Credit Colin Chapman



*Syringa vulgaris* 'Sweetheart'  
Photo Credit Colin Chapman



*Syringa yunnanensis* 'Rosea'

Photo Credit Colin Chapman