

Lilacs

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of the International Lilac Society

IN
THIS
ISSUE:

In Memoriam: Pauline Fiala
Lilacs in China



* *Syringa vulgaris* 'Pauline Fiala'
Photo Credit Kent Millham



Pauline Fiala posing for granddaughter
Photo Courtesy of Marilyn Bonnett

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Cover photo:

Pauline Fiala standing next to her favorite flowers

Photo Credit Marilyn Bonnett

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INTERNATIONAL LILAC SOCIETY is a non-profit corporation comprised of individuals who share a particular interest, appreciation and fondness for lilacs. Through exchange of knowledge, experience, and facts gained by members it is helping to promote, educate, and broaden public understanding and awareness.

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President's Message

Dear Lilac Aficionados,

Happy New Year to all of you here in the USA and in the far corners of the world. First I must say that we lost a very special person at the end of 2007.

Pauline Fiala, the Grande Dame of Lilac, departed this life in early December..... We had the wonderful pleasure to see her at the 2007 Convention on Mackinac Island in June. We were all so grateful that her daughter brought her.

Many of us including me had never had the pleasure of meeting Pauline. It was a real treat to have her among us. The moment is even more special now...

The new year is bringing new expectations for all of us. I hope you have made up a wish list, and that it includes adding to your lilac collection, attending the convention in Minnesota, signing up new members, promoting lilacs, etc. We all love our lilacs and we must, we must, keep on talking lilac. I continue to read about lilacs being promoted for landscaping not just in our private gardens but even in cities. I also received e-mail from nurseries asking for rare lilacs. I think we must look toward our hybridizers to launch into creating more lilacs suitable for the gardener of today. If someone could develop lilacs that really grow in the deep south with little care, the demand would be endless. How many phone calls do I receive from folks living in Florida who want a lilac so bad but cannot manage to grow one because of the climatic conditions. So let that be a challenge, gentlemen and ladies; go to work and give us new "modern" lilacs.

Being the beginning of a new year, let me tell you a little about your society. All is quiet right now but it does not mean that the board members are not at work.

Our Treasurer, Karen McCauley, is also the co-chair with her husband Tim, of the 2008 International Lilac Society Convention in Minnesota, USA May 8th through Saturday May 10th. Prepare yourself for an exciting convention. All the information will be in the Spring issue of Lilacs. Please plan to attend. We had 66 people at last years convention and we would love to go over that number. Those of you who have never attended are missing a fantastic experience. Not only do you see at each convention lilacs growing in a different areas of the world, but you also can make friends with other lilac aficionados. The reason I speak of the 2008 convention now is to allow you time to plan ahead; first and foremost by saving that time slot. Lots of work goes into planning such events and the organizers really appreciate great turn out.

As you know we have a new ILS Secretary, Amy Plamann, and she is ready to help you. Please remember to pay your dues for 2008. What can be easier since ILS now accepts credit cards year around. William Tschumi, Assistant Treasurer, can process your membership for you. It is so simple this way, especially for our foreign members. Bruce Peart is working on an ILS CD to be used for presentations. We really need a uniform message. The voice of ILS

should be heard and what better way to do that then by having publications besides the Journal issued by ILS. Our web page is in constant state of flux. So much information is to be entered. Jeff Young, ILS Web Master, can use some help. Feel free to send him information. We are also looking for someone to work with our Registrar, Freek Vrugtman. Lilacs need to be recorded and the list must be kept up to date. It involves sitting at the computer and entering the data. Any volunteer out there for this most important job? I want to thank Allison Brown, ILS Member from Gray, Maine, who for six years did a wonderful job for us. We also need to remember that sending material to the ILS Archives is very important. Members of the ILS Board of Directors, the Regional Vice-Presidents, and the Committee Chairmen, need to make a conscious effort to collect information and preserve it. Kent Millham is our Archivist and all material should be sent to him. He will then forward it to the Arnold Arboretum Archivist for safe-keeping. The chairman of the Long Range Committee, Frank Moro, is working on putting together ideas to move ILS into the future.

Time marches on, and very soon we will be in our gardens looking at our lilacs. Lilac fever will take over and carry us all through a new season. I can still smell the lilacs of the past summer. I look forward to the new year like I do every year because it always brings wonderful things to my life. One of these things is seeing, smelling and bringing bouquets of lilacs indoors. The French painter Edouard Manet (1832-1883) died at the peak of his career. Stricken by a locomotor disease he still managed to paint until the very end. He would paint the flowers his friends were giving him in abundance; knowing that he loved them. One of these paintings is at the Berlin Staatlich Museum. It is called "White Lilacs" and is one of Manet's very last paintings. On a black background Manet painted the bouquet of white Lilacs in a crystal vase. Magnifique!

To those of you who live in the USA; have you seen the television ad for the laundry detergent Tide? It is described as having the smell of white lilacs.

Beside the package lies a white lilac blossom. I'm telling you there is a Lilac Renaissance going on... We must play a big part in this movement. Get on your soap box and keep spreading the word about our wonderful lilacs. And don't forget to speak to young people. They are the future of our society. Being exposed early to lilacs makes a lasting impression. I know it did it for me...

May all of you have the lilac(s) of your dreams blooming in your garden this year... Mes amis, I'll see you very soon on the Lilac Trail!

*Amities,
Nicole Jordan
ILS President
Chester, VA
January 7, 2008
Njordan236@aol.com*

Thoughts from the Editor

In August of 2008, the long awaited revision of Father Fiala's tome on lilacs will be released. *Lilacs: A Gardener's Encyclopedia*, by Father John L. Fiala and Freek Vrugtman, will be published by Timber Press for \$59.99, and will be available from Amazon.com for the pre-publication price of \$37.77 plus free shipping within the USA. This book is a must for any serious lilac lover.

For those wishing to see a more readable version of the maps printed in the Fall issue, please contact Charles Holetich, 5th Concession Road East, Waterdown, ON L0R 2H1, Canada, or by e-mail at holilac@cogeco.ca.

Lilac Profiles, a new department installed last issue, continues in this issue with the description of 3 more lilacs. This will be a continuing installment, to provide information and photos about different cultivars. Members are welcome to send their photos of cultivars that they have seen.

Finally, on December 4, 2007, one of the pillars of the International Lilac Society, Pauline Fiala, passed away at the age of 87. Although not a charter member of ILS, she joined shortly thereafter, and became a very active and loved member of our family. Throughout the years, she served many times on the Board of Directors, and was Chairwoman of the Awards and Election Committees for many years, as well as an active member of the Auction committee. Through at least 1992, she attended every convention. The Autumn 1992 issue of *Lilacs* was dedicated to her. In her testimonial, she proudly stated that she was the "mother of eleven and grandmother of thirty-one (now thirty-four), and that she was a retired rural letter carrier. She continued "I'm a domestic engineer, taxi for kids, but most of all a lilac lover."

Bill Horman summed up her significance to the International Lilac Society when telling me that "she made us all feel like brothers and sisters, and that she represented the family spirit of ILS." She will be greatly missed by all in ILS.

Kent Millham

Errata

Due to an unfortunate printer error in the Fall issue, the first page of From the Registrar's Desk was omitted.

The article is repeated in its entirety in this issue.

Due to another unfortunate error, double multiplication signs appeared where single multiplication signs should have been.

As Freek stated in his article, the importance of using proper names and nomenclature can't be overstated.

European Newsletter

I have in front of me a book. It was published in Moscow (2007) and was conceived by Natalya Balmysheva. It is a very beautiful book with a stylish and dramatic blending of text and photograph that was designed by Slava Vinogradov to a standard that is "state of the art". The prime mover of this book is ILS Vice President Tatyana Polyakova and the name she gave it was "Vremia Sireni", which means "Lilac Time". I do not speak Russian and I can hardly read any of it, but I have made it my business to be able to decode Cyrillic script and to understand enough to be able to handle a good Russian/English dictionary. Thus I can derive understanding of, and appreciation for, this book even though I cannot enjoy it to the fullest.

The main body of the text introduces the lilac breeders and/or the regions in which they worked. There are chapters on the lilacs of the Ukraine (written by ILS member V. K. Gorb) and Belarus as well as individual breeders such as Hulda Klager, Professor N. K. Vekhov, the Lemoines and Kolesnikov. There are also chapters on species, hybrids and cultivation. "In addition there are chapters on species, hybrids and cultivation." The cultivars picked are shown in date order so that any improvements over time might be noticed. All the time the senses are pounded by the superb photographs (about 60 of which were taken by Tatyana herself) and I always leave the book with the conviction that the lilac is God's greatest floral creation: - so there's nothing different there, then!

Bit by bit, I translate words that tell me of the contributions of other people.

The excellent photographs of Fr. Fiala's lilacs are by Tom Thekathyl. The Botanical Garden and cultivation sections are by Dr Irena Okuneva. The Kazakhstan chapter is by Milada Dzevitskaya. There are contributions to the "In Vitro" chapter by ILS members Vladimir Upelnik and Alexandr Kudryavtsev.

There are additional photographs by Sergey Terekhov, Hongxia Cui and also by Galina Vikhrova, who is head of the Lilac Section of the Moscow Flower Club.

Even I have a modest contribution to the prologue and to the description of 'Krasavitsa Moskv'. (Well, I would, wouldn't I?). In all, Tatyana tells me that no less than 13 ILS members contributed to the book. One of the features I most enjoy follows from the tremendous research she has put in which has made it possible to feature small black-and-white inserted portraits of the people commemorated in the names of lilacs. I particularly love the ferocious looking 'Bogdan Khemelnitskii' and the exquisite picture of Kolesnikov's daughter ('Doch Tamara') in a hat that makes her look for all the world like a 1940's film star. The book is a rare joy and if one ever comes your way, don't hesitate for a moment. I know of two copies in North America and I do hope the owners will display their copies at future conventions.

One would have thought that producing such a book would be enough effort for one year but Tatyana is made of sterner stuff. As a Christmas present, I received from her a parcel containing 14 copies of the Russian magazines "Vestnik Tsvetovoda" (Floricultural Bulletin), and "V Mira Rastenii" ("From the Plant World"). All 14 copies were dated throughout the months of 2007 and all 14 contained an article or a feature by Tatiana. The articles range from a mighty lilac feature complete with a two-page spread photo gallery, through a magnificent presentation on Hostas. There is also a small column on the odd thoughts of a certain Englishman. The contribution of our Russian Vice President to the popularization of the lilac has been prodigious.

Did anyone notice the odd triple coincidence in the last issue of lilacs? Kent provided a picture and a profile of the lilac 'Prince of Wales' by James Dougall of Ontario in 1874 - one of the earliest cultivars bred in North America. In the member profile of Gary Parton there was an appeal for information leading to the capture of 'Queen Victoria', also by Dougall in 1874. (Incidentally, if anyone has a lead on this lilac I would appreciate a word also). The third came in Karen McCauley's picture of the lilac walk at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. If you follow the walk forward, just round the corner to the right stands a superb specimen of 'Princess Alexandra' also by Dougall 1874. I must investigate. There must have been a royal visit around that time. The Prince became King Edward VII and Alexandra his Queen and they succeeded, of course, Queen Victoria.

Finally, I must mention the tremendous feeling of sadness I had on hearing of the passing of Pauline Fiala. She was not only a sterling worker on the behalf of the Society but she was a delightful friend with an impish sense of humour. I first met her in 1991 at the Lombard, IL convention. It was a grand and glorious affair but she and Bill Utley and Walter Eickhorst took the overawed English member in hand and not only took care of him but promoted him to Executive Vice President for Europe before the end of the meeting. Hearing that I was flying from Chicago to Rochester she incited me to take up Bill Utley's offer of a lift to Rochester via his place - Grape Hill Gardens. Little did this novice traveler realize that by missing the Rochester flight he would thereby cancel his subsequent flights to New York and then home to London. Nevertheless, I would not have missed the experience for the world.

Every year, Pauline sent me her personal calendar at the New Year. This had all the North American public holidays and memorial days marked so I was able to show a flair and familiarity in my writing that would not have been there but for her. In the company of her and Frank Moro I spent one of the truly satisfactory days of my life. After the Millenium convention in Montreal, the three of us made a tour of the old town that included a marvellous lunch at a pavement (sidewalk?) cafe. Pauline's conversation was a delight and during it she said

something that was the most magically comical comment I ever heard. Sorry, but I cannot repeat it here!. I shall miss Pauline with an ache like a hole in my heart. She was more than a friend. She was my North American mum.

Colin Chapman
Norman's farm
Suffolk
January 8th 2008.

The following obituary and comments are provided by Marilyn Bonnett, one of Pauline Fiala's daughters, and all in the International Lilac Society would like to express our condolences and sympathy to the family at this time of their sorrow.

Pauline L. Fiala

Pauline L. Fiala, 87, of Chatham Twp., OH died Tuesday, December 4, 2007 at home.

Born in Cuyahoga Falls, OH on October 10, 1920 to John and Lavinia Truby Policy, graduate of South High School and resided in Chatham area since 1953. widowed since 1975. She worked as a rural letter carrier for over 20 years.

Member of Jesus Our Savior Catholic Church in Spencer and International Lilac Society.

Survived by children:

Paulette Houston, Bellevue, WA

Marilyn Bonnett Spencer, OH

Michele Hamey Medina, OH

Barb Masters Spencer, OH

LeRoy Fiala Medina, OH

John Fiala Litchfield, OH

William Fiala Spencer, OH

Thomas Fiala Spencer, OH

Robert Fiala Medina, OH

Bernard Dedor (who was like a son) Hiram, OH

34 grandchildren

23 great-grandchildren

Preceded by husband Louis Jr, sons Louis III and Terry, her parents, brothers, and sisters.

Funeral service, Saturday, December 8, at 11:00 AM at Jesus Our Savior Catholic Church, 356 N. Main St., Spencer, OH.

Burial, St. Francis Cemetery in Medina.

Visitation, Friday 2-4 & 7-9 PM at Parker & Son Funeral Home, 202 East Main St., Spencer, OH (330-948-1122).

Memorial contributions to Our Lady Help of Christians Parish, 9608 Norwalk Rd., Litchfield, OH 44253

Pauline was very active in the International Lilac Society Always giving her time to serve on various committees. She was on the Board of Directors, Nominations committee, Awards committee, Elections, and basically anywhere she was needed. She truly enjoyed going to the conventions, learning what was new with the lilacs, and especially enjoying the many friendships that she had acquired over the years. Her friends were so important to her.

Pauline often told people that she was Fr. Fiala's favorite sister-in-law. If you listened closely you would hear her say an afterthought "of course I'm his ONLY sister-in-law."

Pauline and her husband Lou join the society soon after it's formation by Fr. John Fiala & friends. She continued going to the conventions many times with other members; missing a few because of health. She always came back with lilacs to plant on her farm. This year's convention was so important to her and she looked forward to going to Mackinac. It was a highlight of her year & talked extensively about it. Whenever she met anyone new she would tell them about the Society and invite them to the conventions or to join the ILS. She was living "A Lilac in every Garden"

*Marilyn Bonnett
daughter of Pauline Fiala*



Pauline Fiala walks to stage to present award
at 1992 convention in Boston, MA

Photo Credit Woody Barnes

Lilac in our Life

*The blossoming splendor of a lilac~
Is a wonder to the eye~
Its color, shape, and glorious scent~
Strike all who pass nearby.
Its very presence shows the work~
of God's most intricate hand~
The way the things he creates~
are all part of His plan.
And in that plan divine~
Bloomed a precious treasured soul~
an exquisite rare beauty~
Flourished for the world to know.
A mother hard working and dedicated~
Providing day to day
In laughter, tears and challenges
Her example led the way.
A grandmother filled with love to give~
Her wisdom passing on~
To each and every life she touched~
Her memory remains strong.
Great-grandmother and the super fan
of many a little face~
The joy would light her eyes alive~
Children shared a special place.
A wife, a sister, a daughter and friend~
She gave what was in her heart~
Sharing all that was herself~
and loving from the start.
The Scrabble champ and crochet queen~
the lilac in our life~
It's hard to think about the world~
and what it will be like.
Without her smile and laugh~
Without her strength and wit~
a journey lived with fervor~
a cherished life and gift.
And as our lilac shared her life~
a change has come this season~
and in our sadness, pain and grief~
We look to find a reason.*

Provided by Marilyn Bonnett
from Pauline Fiala's niece

2008 ILS Convention – Tentative Agenda

May 8 – 10, 2008

Chaska, Minnesota

Thursday May 8

10:00 – 2:00 Registration

10:00 – 2:00 Directors' Meeting

2:30 – 3:00 New members meeting

3:00 – 3:30 Shuttle bus to a nearby ILS members' garden

3:30 – 4:00 Hands on Pruning & Maintenance workshop

5:00 – 7:00 Welcome reception (linger amongst the lilacs with wine and cheese and meet & greet new and old friends)

7:00 – 7:30 Shuttle back to Oak Ridge Hotel

7:30 – 9:00 Registration

7:30 – 10:00 Hospitality

Friday May 9

7:00 – 8:30 Breakfast

8:30 Board buses

9:30 Tour Bailey's Wholesale Nursery Compound

12:00 Lunch

1:00 Tour an ILS members' Lilac collection

3:30 Buses return to Oak Ridge Hotel

7:00 President's Dinner and speaker

Saturday May 10

7:00 – 8:30 Breakfast

7:30 – 8:30 Directors' meeting

8:45 Board buses to the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

9:00 Bus tour of Arboretum, Tour the Arboretum Lilac collection and Lilac walk

12:00 – 1:00 Lunch and general meeting

1:15 Buses return to Oak Ridge Hotel

2:00 – 4:00 ILS Auction

6:30 Cash bar

7:00 Awards Banquet

2008 CONVENTION INFORMATION

Chaska, Minnesota, May 8, 9, 10, 2008

Our hotel, the Oak Ridge, is in Chaska, about 25 miles from Minneapolis/ St. Paul International Airport. The airport is a major Northwest Airlines hub. Consequently, NWA offers nonstop flights from many US and international cities.

Taxi service is readily available from the airport to the hotel and will run about \$55 per vehicle one way. Super Shuttle (www.supershuttle.com) also offers service to and from the hotel for \$39 one way.

Driving Directions:

From the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport and East Metro - Take I-494 West approx. 8.7 miles to Hwy 5 West (exit 11C). Take Hwy 5 West 11 miles to Hwy 41 South. Turn left on Hwy 41 South and proceed 1.7 miles. Watch for the green directional sign that says "Oak Ridge Drive". Turn right on Oak Ridge Drive.

From the Southern Metro - Take I-35W North and exit I-494 West. Take I-494 West approx. 5 miles to Hwy 5 West (exit 11C). Take Hwy 5 West 11 miles to Hwy 41 South. Turn left on Hwy 41 South and proceed 1.7 miles. Watch for the green directional sign that says "Oak Ridge Drive". Turn right on Oak Ridge Drive.

A map with directions will be included with the registration confirmation. For more information, visit the following web sites.

Oak Ridge Dolce Conference Center www.oakridge.dolce.com

Minnesota Landscape Arboretum www.arboretum.umn.edu

Minnesota Dept of Tourism www.exploreminnesota.com

International Lilac Society www.internationallilacsociety.org

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. Please call if you have any questions.

Karen & Tim McCauley
952.443.3703
mccauleyth@aol.com

Lilac Profiles

Syringa vulgaris 'Pauline Fiala'

The well-known International Lilac Society member, Father John Fiala, who was the brother-in-law of the recently late Pauline Fiala, named one of his special hybrids in her honor in 1983. It is a single-flowered lilac that is classified as a violet and white (S II & I). It is a result of a cross of 'Sensation' and 'Flora 1953'.

At Highland Botanical Park, we have one young specimen that was given to us by Select Plus Nursery in 2000. The violet color extends to about 4/5ths of the inner petals, with a pale margin on both sides of the flower. The photo in this issue illustrates the pale margin also extending to the reverse side of the petals.

Syringa vulgaris 'Triste Barbaro'

This is a little-known and rare cultivar; found only in a few private and public lilac collections. It is one of the darkest purples found at Highland Botanical Park. I have found it to be a lilac that is mid-sized; with old specimens no taller than about 7 feet, with a well-rounded form. It has very dark, single blooms that are average size, and the total inflorescence is somewhat small.

Syringa vulgaris 'Topaz'

This lilac has spectacular inflorescences; both in height and width. Also, the individual florets are large; approaching an inch in width. They are classified as a single violet, and a cluster of these will thrill any lilac lover the world over. They were named by Ukrainian hybridizer Zhogoleva, a horticulturist at Central Botanical Garden in Kiev in 1976. This cultivar is far superior to its parent, 'Andenken an Ludwig Späth', because of the sheer size of its flower clusters.

Lilacs in China

An elegant species, lilacs have been cultivated for nearly one thousand years in the temperate countries special in northern hemisphere. The rich genetic biodiversity has been represented by hundreds of hybrids across countries in long-term cultivation and so much as some of them linked to some special history events in eastern or western countries and became commemorative monuments. At this meaning the value of lilac has been extended far beyond its original enjoyment.

Many excellent hybrids of this genus, whether from natural or selected pollination, should be attributed to the diverse wild germplasms definitely. As the typical China-originated temperate species, wild species are mainly distributed in China particular in the southwest and the north of China. At the level of species, the most wild and natural-crossed species can be found in China except for *S. vulgaris* and *S. josikaea*, two wild species currently distributed on the European continent. At the level of series within genus, even fortunately, all of four series in combination with the Ligustrina (a section in this genus) are completely distributed across the most provinces of China.

Syringa is just like a harmonious family composed of unnumbered colorful offsprings, however, every sub-family runs their strict principle when they communicate with other lilac members. So is 'isolation' an important rule represented by germplasms at species and series level, although there are not so many species in *Syringa* genus compared with other genera. The first one, which is experienced by lilac breeders for a long time, is reproduction isolation existing between the series; especially in those genetic distant species. In other words, it has been impossible to get an offspring through the sexual hybridization of Villosae, Ligustrina and other series. Hereditary conservation among series could be well exhibited by different blooming seasons (early blooming species for *Syringa* and Pinnatifoliae Series and late blooming species for Villosae Series) and incompatibility in fertilization and biochemical mechanisms. Apparently, it is not helpful for breeders to get some excellent objective individuals through controlled pollination, but it is extremely significant to maintain the inner-genus inherent diversity. Besides, geographical isolation is another distinctive characteristic in this small genus. Typical disjunction, known well by us, is about the distribution of two closely related species, *S. oblata* and *S. vulgaris*, which are located in Eastern Asia and Eastern Europe respectively. Another example, *S. josikaea* is isolated from other species in Villosae Series (panicles from terminal buds) which are distributed in southwestern provinces of China. These two Eastern Europe-distributed species, as some researchers mentioned, might be isolated by the geological movements. In fact, a similar circumstance also happened in another China-distributed species of *Syringa* and Pinnatifoliae Series. *S. protolaciniata* and *S. pinnatifolia*, for example, the distributions are localized in several western provinces separately. They are indeed

special not only for their leaf shapes but also for their narrow geographical span in longitude and latitude, even for their high altitude-limited area in mountain regions in the southwest and northwest area. For many other species, such as *S. oblata* and its homologous varieties (var. *alba* and var. *giraldii*), as well as *S. reticulata* subsp. *amurensis* in Subgenus *Ligustrina*, they are widely distributed by longitude, latitude and height from the west to the northeast of China, and even extend to the Far East and the Korea Peninsula ; spanning at least 200-2000 m in altitude.

Just for their wide spreading, pretty flowers, elegant scent, winter hardy and heat tolerance, as well as their outstanding resistance to drought and barren conditions, lilacs have been a favorite ornamental woody plant of Chinese people for several centuries. The primal introduction and cultivation of lilacs in China, as recorded, could be traced back to the late period of Tang Dynasty (618-907) and more application in gardening landscape was recorded in Song Dynasty (960-1279). Lilacs were more widely planted with the flourishing construction of royal gardens and private yards, particularly in Ming (1368-1644) and Qing Dynasty (1636-1912). Lilacs linking to Buddhism and temple cultures (*S. oblata* and *S. reticulata* subsp. *amurensis* are common in these special areas) are easily found because of their good adaptation to cold weather in north China and they have become the consecrated replacement for banyan. We could find some old lilacs in antiquated yards and Buddhistic temples, such as Taer Temple in Qinghai Province, Fayuan Temple and Jietai Temple in Beijing, and could imagine the historically prosperous lilac scenery.

Currently, the habits of lilacs are mostly understood by the citizens who live in the lilac distribution area and some wild species propagated from seeds are usually utilized in the local landscapes. Of the numerous wild species, *S. reticulata* subsp. *amurensis* and *S. oblata*, together with the white-flowered varieties are the most common in the landscape from the northwest to the northeast. In current decades, lilacs have been used widely in the roadside and the industrial areas; especially for their absorption of gaseous pollutants. In native regions, lilacs were legally designated as province flower (Heilongjiang Province) and city flower in Xining (the capital of Qinghai Province) and Haerbin (the capital of Heilongjiang Province) in 1985, 1986 and 1988 respectively, aiming to emphasize the spiritual fortitude implied by lilacs.

Additionally, medicinal functions of lilacs were developed by ancient Chinese people. Some species are used traditionally in minority medicine to cure diseases, after some parts of plants are separated and processed. The negative aspect is, inevitably, to result in the decrease in population quantity of lilacs before the special protection has been conducted effectively.

For botanical gardens, introduction and domestication have been important tasks. The primal collection was done by BBG-IBCAS in the end of the 1950's. At that time, lilac introduction was attached to the general introduction, being

carried out un-specifically. But the quantity of species accumulated quickly with the frequent wild expeditions supported by the national government. Systematic lilac collection was established as a part of the woody plant introduction project by BBG-IBCAS, and Prof. Zang was appointed to undertake this task (at that time she just graduated from Beijing Forestry University as a graduate of landscape-design major) under the help of other experienced staff (Mr. Baohua Dong, Yinghan Fan and Zhiming Zhang etc.). The north of China and north-west-distributed species and Europe-derived cultivars were concentrated from the early 1960's. The germplasms including cultivars became richer and richer rapidly by purposeful introduction across the distribution areas and exchanges with the overseas botanical gardens. The first lilac garden of China was built in BBG-IBCAS in 1985 on the basis of nearly completed wild germplasm collection (except for several species originated in southwest mountain areas). Meanwhile, a breeding program was launched and going on fruitfully, depending on collections and the research on interspecific-cross affinity that was evolved. In recent years, more and more overseas cultivars have come to our botanical garden under the zealous help of overseas arboretums, botanical gardens and private gardens. Time always passes quickly. Mrs. Zang has become an experienced Professor for her 40-year's outstanding lilac work. She retired in 1999 and the *Syringa* genus work was succeeded by younger researchers. Just like before, she often walked into our lilac garden to enjoy the colorful lilacs in blooming seasons and was always very excited when she listened to the youth's lilac work, and proposed her own suggestions on the current research.

In recent years lilac research on the breeding, introduction and domestication, conservation and propagation of special species have been carried out by BBG-IBCAS, several forestry or agriculture universities and local botanical gardens in China. Among these, BBG-IBCAS was trying to push the current work from *ex situ* to *in situ* through the effective cooperation with local administration depending on her research basis and extensive communication. Meanwhile, a few local landscape institutions are lucky to be approved to launch small projects to encourage studies on this typical native species. For institutes like IBCAS, it is lucky to get financial aid from government to take on practical technology study, including field propagation and micro-propagation to enlarge the propagation scale special for those excellent cultivars bred by ourselves many years ago. It could be imagined that the mechanisms of lilacs on breeding, adaptation and systematic development will be well-understood scientifically and more gorgeous lilacs will be appreciated by the public.

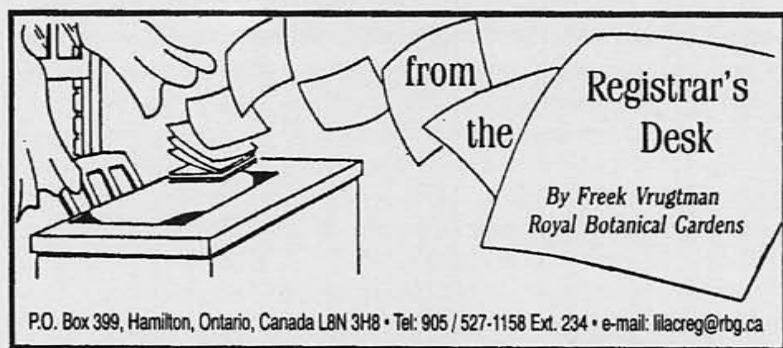
I have loved lilacs for many years not only for their elegance and perfume, but also for the friendships formed. I got to be reacquainted with many friends and peers together with their gardens through letters back and forth, such as Mr. Freek Vrugtman, David Gressley, and Kris Bachtell etc.. And I would like to give my heartfelt thanks for their warmhearted help on my lilac information taking and cultivar introduction. More excitedly, several friends (Mr. Ethan

Johnson, Mr. Bruce Peart and Mrs. Tatiana Poliakova) pre-arranged special time to enjoy Chinese lilac scenery when they visited China. I always felt very happy and cordial when we had personal touch with each other and talked about our favorite lilacs face to face. Also, I am expecting that more and more friends and peers have the opportunity to realize our lilac-driven meeting in your Chinese trip in the future.

Hongxia Cui
Beijing Botanical Garden, Institute of
Botany,
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China
(BBG-IBCAS)

-Editor's Note

"The Importance of Maintaining the Correct Names for Lilacs" is being repeated in this issue because of the printing error in the last issue that resulted in the omission of one page of the article



The Importance of Maintaining the Correct Names for Lilacs

- Notes from the 2007 ILS Convention
by Freek Vrugtman

If you happen to be a lilac fancier who loves lilacs, but does not care about their names, do not read any further, because this write-up is not for you.

Readers familiar with Lewis Carroll's "Through the Looking Glass" may recall the scene where Alice found herself sitting quietly under a tree while the Gnat (for that was the insect she had been talking to) was balancing itself on a twig just over her head, and fanning her with its wings. It certainly was a very large Gnat, "about the size of a chicken," Alice thought. Still, she couldn't feel nervous with it, after they had been talking together so long. "Then you don't like all insects?" the Gnat went on, as quietly as if nothing had happened.

"I like them when they can talk," Alice said. "None of them ever talk, where I come from."

"What sort of insects do you rejoice in, where you come from?" the Gnat inquired.

"I don't rejoice in insects at all," Alice explained, "because I'm rather afraid of them—at least the, large kinds. But I can tell you the names of some of them."

"Of course they answer to their names?" the Gnat remarked carelessly. "I never knew them to do it." "What's the use of their having names," the Gnat said, "if they won't answer to them?"

"No use to them," said Alice; "but it's useful to the people that name them, I suppose. If not, why do things have names at all?"

Alice hit the nail right on the head. Lewis Carroll (pseudonym of Charles 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



*Hongxia Cui standing near newly completed Great National Theater
Photo courtesy of Hongxia Cui*



*The homeland of Syringa yunnanensis
Photo Credit Hongxia Cui*



Propagation area of experimental field at Beijing Botanic Garden
Photo Credit Hongxia Cui



Plants derived from tissue culture
Photo Credit Hongxia Cui



*A very floriferous specimen of Syringa protolaciniata
at Beijing Botanic Garden
Photo Credit Hongxia Cui*



*More beautiful lilacs at Beijing Botanic Garden
Photo Credit Hongxia Cui*



Research area at ICBA in China
Photo Credit Hongxia Cui



Colorful gardens in Beijing Botanic Gardens-IBCA's
Photo Credit Hongxia Cui

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 ICRAs, were initiated soon after the Code was published. ICRAs 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?"

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Lilacs Planted at the Susan B. Anthony House

In 1866 Susan B. Anthony, legendary American woman's rights advocate, and her family moved to a house at 17 Madison Street in Rochester, New York. The house would be her home for the next forty years. They were the most politically active years of her life and where she was arrested for voting in 1872.

The Susan B. Anthony House is undergoing extensive restoration and the landscape has been rehabilitated. Photographs of the side and back yards of the house when the Anthonys were in residence were not available to assist in determining the historically appropriate plant material that would appear on the

planting plan for the House. According to the Secretary of Interior's Standard for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes, the project cannot be considered a restoration but rather a rehabilitation.

The Anthony House Landscape Committee worked with Thomas Elmore, ASLA, a landscape architect who specializes in cultural landscape preservation from Suffield, Connecticut, in preparing the planting plan. The Period of Significance for the project was the last eight years of Miss Anthony's life. She died in her home in 1906 at the age of eighty-six.

Several factors entered into determining the plant material found in the landscape. Miss Anthony and her sister Mary who occupied the house were elderly and would have been unable to maintain a Victorian garden filled with colorful flowers. Growing conditions prevented using plants that required sun during most of the day.

Every plant, tree, and shrub included in the final planting plan was carefully researched. Because of Miss Anthony's penchant for plants with a sweet fragrance springtime visitors to her home will be greeted by the fragrant white blossoms of *Syringa vulgaris* alba, a common lilac found on the sunniest portion of the landscape. This variety was appropriate to a middle class garden of the time.

The earliest settlers brought *Syringa vulgaris* from southeastern Europe prior to 1700. Since that time, it has become well-known and is used by gardeners around the world. Lilacs were often planted for their beauty, fragrance and ease of cutting large bouquets that were brought into the home and enjoyed.

The Common White Lilac is often planted as hedge or single accent, such as at the home of Susan B. Anthony. The large fragrant flowers will bloom for nearly ten days in mid to late May. The plant is hardy to -35 degrees F and survives well in hardiness zones 3-9. It will grow to 10 feet tall and 10 feet wide if left to naturalize. This plant has an upright form, prefers sun to part shade, likes dry to medium wet soils and adapts well to many types of soil. These characteristics make this plant as popular today as it would have been during Miss Anthony's lifetime.

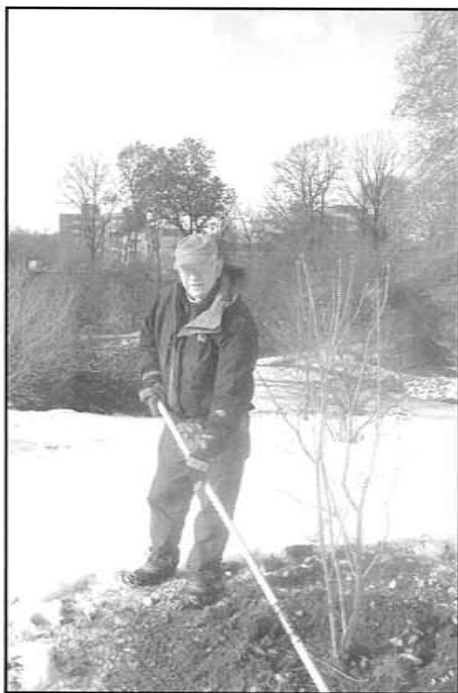
Jean Czerkas
December 5, 2007

Who Says You Can't Plant Lilacs in the Winter?

On a warm winter's day in December in Rochester, New York, USA, Elmer Dustman, a faithful volunteer at Highland Botanical Park finishes planting one of two 'Frederick Douglass' lilacs into the collection. Although there was snow on the ground, the air temperature was warm, and the ground was not at all frozen. Also that day, a 'Miss Kim' lilac was B&B'd (balled and burlapped), for future use as a shrub for forcing in the spring garden show Gardenscape in Rochester.

At the opposite end of the spectrum, Brad Bittorf reported on the International Lilac Robin in early January that a windstorm in southern Arizona had finally caused most of the leaves to drop off of the lilacs, although his *Syringa vulgaris* 'Nadezhda' still had most of its leaves. Brad further reported that after a very short dormant season, lilacs there bloom as early as late March.

Kent Millham
Highland Botanical Park



Elmer Dustman finishes planting 'Frederick Douglass'
on a December day at Highland Park

Photo Credit Kent Millham

International Lilac Society

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Syringa vulgaris 'Princess Alexandra'
Photo Credit Colin Chapman



Syringa vulgaris 'Triste Barbaro'
Photo Credit Kent Millham



Shane Millham standing next to a huge inflorescence
of *Syringa vulgaris* 'Topaz'
Photo Credit Kent Millham



Syringa x hyacinthiflora 'Maiden's Blush'
Photo Credit Kent Millham