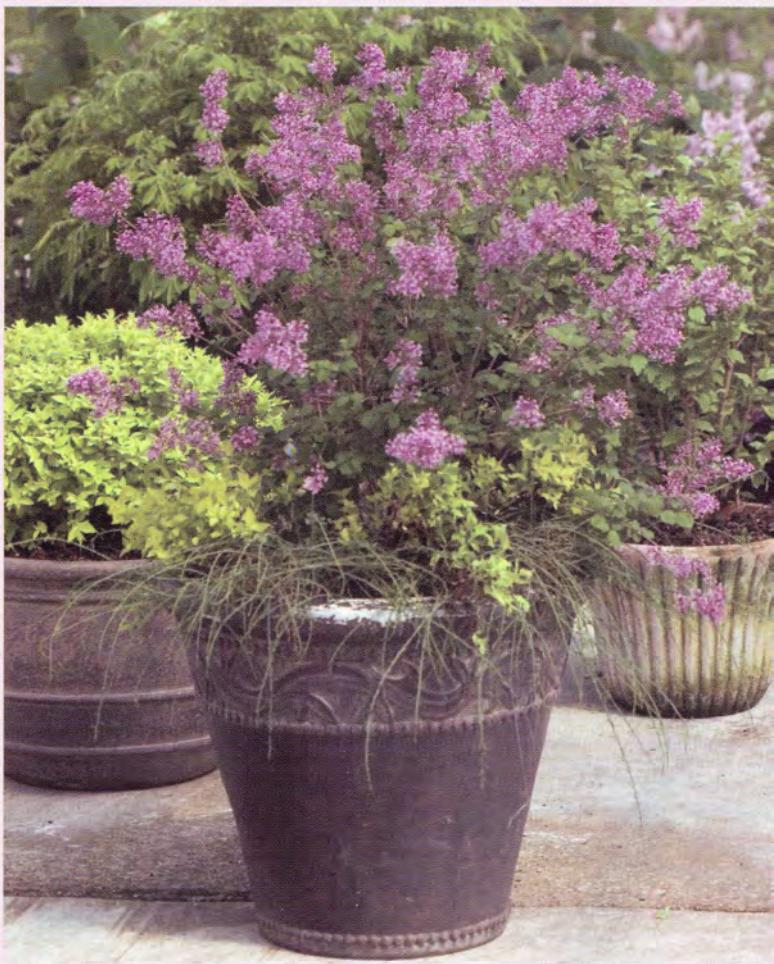


Lilacs

VOLUME 38, NUMBER 4
FALL 2009



QUARTERLY JOURNAL of the International Lilac Society

IN
THIS
ISSUE:

New Lilacs for Now
and the Future



Syringa vulgaris 'Henry Wadsworth Longfellow' inflorescence
on shrub at Central Experimental Farm in Ottawa, Canada

Photo credit Kent Millham



Syringa vulgaris 'Podorak Mame', with its "reflexed and
propeller twisted petals"

Photo Credit Colin Chapman

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*Front Cover: BLOOMERANG™ lilac in container
Photo Courtesy of Tim Wood*

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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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LILACS 2009

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President's Message

Dear Lilac Aficionados,

Another season has come and gone and we now looking at the winter months coming, at least in the Northern Hemisphere. I think it has been a good season for most of us. The lilacs performed well in Virginia, USA and other parts of the world. Of course we saw the most beautiful lilacs in Ottawa during the 2009 Convention. These were magnificent! I know one gets antsy when the days get short and the temperatures drop. But we all know that spring will come again and the lilacs will bloom. So my friends- have patience. Use that time to plan for the next season. Catalogues should be coming in. Nothing like going to the mailbox and surprise of surprises a plant catalogue among all the bills and advertisements. Can 't wait to go in and curl up in a comfortable chair and browse, dream and choose a great lilac for that special spot in the garden. I always look for lilacs among the colorful pages. Not so long ago it was rare to find a single lilac in a catalogue. But things are changing and the lilac selection is getting better and more sophisticated.

After the convention things got back to normal. A few subjects come up from time to time on the ILR and start an e-conversation. It is always interesting and a way to learn new things about our favorite shrub. Most of the lilacs are taking a break too. A few have re-bloomed making their owners very happy. Imagine getting one more whiff of perfume. It is said that the first and the last flowers of the year are the most meaningful. How true, that very first bloom and the very last one are the one we remembered most.

Everybody knows about naming plants. Many plant groups and genera have an International Registrar for Cultivar Names. That person is the key to having cultivar names registered and published. You send in the appropriate registration form, the name of the plant with all the stats plus money in some cases (it's a free service for lilac cultivar names!). The Registrar reviews the information and looks over his records carefully to make sure no other plants in that genus carry the same cultivar name. There are rules about naming plants published in The International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants. Once the name is accepted the cultivar is recognized as such and no other selection in that genus will share that name. We have plants that are registered under one name but show up in commerce under another name. Be aware that some cultivars have been trademarked. We all know the symbol TM. For example a cultivar called 'Blanche du Bois' can actually have a registered trademark such as WHITE PERFECTION™. A trademark is not a cultivar name. Because some nurserymen and some plant collectors omit the trademark symbol (™) and do not enclose cultivar names with single quotation

marks, it is sometime hard to know which is which and causes great confusion. We, as members of ILS should be very conscientious about clear distinctions between cultivar names and trademarks. Right now we have a very good example with the lilac 'Penda', the new introduction by our fellow ILS member Tim Wood of Spring Meadow Nursery. 'Penda' is marketed in North America under the registered trademark BLOOMERANG™ PURPLE. Although the cultivar name 'Penda' appears in the International Register and Checklist, the name has not yet been registered. "At the convention in Ottawa I formed the ILS Preservation Committee. Dr. Deborah McCown is the chairman. Right away the committee has taken action. The members of the committee understand the task at hand. It is a big one. The mission is to locate lilac collections, public and private, collect data and preserve lilacs so that none disappears over time. We must make sure they will not be destroyed by actively identifying and propagating lilacs in risk of annihilation. You, our members can help too. If you have or know of a collection in your part of the world let the ILS Preservation Committee know about it. It is too sad to hear that someone's lilac collection has been uprooted to make room for a housing development, or that a new owner of a property has no interest in keeping the lilacs for whatever reason. Even the big botanical gardens sometime no longer want to maintain a large lilac collection. So the lilacs are culled to make room for other plants. This project will be ongoing and The ILS Preservation Committee will let you know of their progress with articles in Lilacs.

Can I remind you again to sign up a new member. If everyone of us did it we would double our membership. It is easier then you think. All you need to do is to talk about lilacs to someone. Most of the time they immediately, at first mention of lilacs, remember their grandparents or their parents having a lilac in the garden or by the back kitchen door. Many have never heard of the International Lilac Society so have a little speech ready and direct them to our web page. Tell them to join so that they can receive our quarterly *Lilacs*, attend conventions, and meet other people with the same interest in lilacs. Tell them that they can join ILS, and also participate on the International Lilac Robin (ILR). Here is a great place to ask questions and learn about all aspects of lilac culture and more. I believe any question can be answered there since we have so many of our lilac experts participating. Be inspired by our member Tatiana Poliakova of Moscow, Russian Federation. She is constantly signing up new members, and has signed up many individuals and schools. She tirelessly promotes lilacs and is the leading force for all the planting of lilacs in Moscow.

I must talk about the role our members play in the society. Things in a society happen only if the membership gets involved. I know we are all volunteers, many of us with jobs and our time is limited. But a little effort by everyone makes the difference between a vibrant society verse a dormant one. I like to see more of you writing articles of interest for the journal. Your little

lilac stories may not seem important to you but it records the history of the society. Write about your lilacs and the lilac gardens you visit. We are very curious about the lilacs grown in far away places where we seldom have the opportunity to travel. I really like to know how our members in Alaska manage their lilacs and what about our members in Russia? How do they deal with the severe winters? We also need member's stories. We have lost several members over the years that were very active in the lilaç society but little is known of them. Write about that wonderful lilac collector you know. In the future a book can be put together with all those stories. These suggestions take only a little effort and a little time. So mes amis take out that pen and pencil or set at your computer and write, write... Kent Millham, our editor, will be very pleased and the journal will be better for it.

Even though it is only October think about next year's convention in Vermont. Jeff Young, past ILS Board Member, is hard at work preparing for our visit. So let's dream of lilacs as we cuddle by the fire and wait out the winter months. Soon it will be lilac time again...

*Mes amities,
Nicole Jordan
ILS President
Chester, VA USA
October 7, 2009
Njordan236@aol.com*

COME TO VERMONT IN 2010!

If you've never come to an ILS convention before, be sure to come to Shelburne, Vermont in May 2010. Jeff Young will be our host at the Shelburne Museum and enjoy the lilacs and meeting fellow ILS members.

European Newsletter

First of all I must remind all European members that ILS-Europe is now officially closed for the receipt of membership fees which must be paid to the Assistant Treasurer as per the inside of the back cover of the Journal. I will soon consult the bank to find out how to close the account and transfer the funds.

At the end of my last contribution I said that I was planting a book on the new land and would explain what I meant. I have mentioned before that we were lucky to have the opportunity to buy 4 acres (2 ha.) of land adjacent to our southern boundary. It was land deemed to be for agricultural use, but when we inquired if we could get change of use we were delighted to find that our status as a National Collection entitled us to use it for horticultural purposes because under our planning law, horticulture is subsumed under the term "agriculture". It took us two years to complete the purchase and then convert a stubble field into harrowed and newly seeded grassland. Thus our 3 acres became 7, and decisions had to be made about the nature of the planting.

Norman's Farm is so called after a William Norman who farmed it in the eighteenth century, although its origins are much older and probably go back to Anglo-Saxon times. The house dates from, at least the late sixteenth century but the central core is probably older still. We possess an auction-sale notice for the break-up of the farm in 1875 but it continued as a smallholding, and when we bought it 26 years ago, it had, indeed, been a smallholding for raising pigs. It had a barn and a row of derelict farrowing units that I used in the condition they were in, but we are now in the process of converting them into a better plant propagating facility. The site was ovate and oriented west to east. A winter stream flows lengthwise through the site and divides it into a two-acre paddock to the south and two smaller paddocks on the northern side. It was along the northern bank of that stream that I began, in 1984, to plant a lilac walk. I needed 40 lilacs for that walk but, at that time, the lilac was so out of fashion that there were not 40 different lilacs available to buy. Thus the game was afoot, and the hunt was on. The hunt created the interest, the game created the passion, and the passion created the Norman's Farm collection - and membership of ILS.

Through the generosity of Charles Holetich and RBG Hamilton in particular I accumulated scionwood on the behalf of myself and also for RBG Kew in London. My three way efforts then, were to reward me later with two of the plants I will illustrate today. I had never grafted a scion in my life before but, of that first consignment of 30 lilac cultivars, I got 29 of them through. By a happy accident, the first ones to reach planting sizes were some Californian *xhyacinthiflora*s. It so happened that at the west end of the site were some large trees and where I had also planted some fruit trees. Knowing that Californian

bred lilacs would need some protection from our ferociously unpredictable spring climate, I planted them amidst the protection of the trees and the orchard. When I had planted them and looked upon my work and was well pleased, I turned around and looked east to the bare 2 acre paddock in front of me. It then hit me. I was in the west of Hollywood and cowboy legend so I must next plant the lilacs of the midwest, then New England, then leave a narrow strip for the Atlantic Ocean before planting the Lemoine cultivars of France. The vision then extended through Germany, the Netherlands, Poland and the Baltic States, to Russia, the Ukraine and Belarus and , across a strip one step wide which would take me through the Steppes of Central Asia into China in the Far East of the site. Thus the original collection here was planted geographically. Then, suddenly, having covered the world in 2 acres, we had 4 more acres to plant somehow. How we resolved that dilemma by planting a book I will explain in my next Newsletter.

Finally, I have the pictures to show you of three of the lilacs I mentioned last time. All three are rather sensitive issues and I offer them simply to let the senior lilac organization in the world know of their existence. The first is the discovery in 1989 by Chang and Qin of a form of *Syringa meyeri* in the wild. The original of this species was discovered by Frank Meyer in a garden in Fengtei, near Beijing in 1908 and a cultivar, *S. meyeri* 'Palibin', arose but both were known as cultivated plants until the wild form was discovered by Chang and Qin who gave it the most apt and sensitive name *Syringa meyeri* var. *spontanea* - the spontaneous discovery of the long lost wild Meyer Lilac. An herbarium specimen was sent from Shanghai B.G. to Kew. The seeds of that specimen were germinated and plants were retained by Kew and, I am proud to say, two of them were sent to me in 1997. I give you a picture, the quality of which speaks for itself. In order to hold this plant, and the next, I have had to sign the legally binding Convention on Biological Diversity Policy.

The second plant is more problematic because, at the moment, I cannot locate the original paperwork from Kew. I know that in the 1990's, X. L. Chen spent a year at RBG Hamilton and donated some wild collected seed of *Syringa pubescens* (subsp. *microphylla*) var. *microphylla* from a 1992 expedition, with the proviso that they were not to be donated elsewhere. Nevertheless in (I think, but am not sure) 1994, I gratefully received from Kew 4 tiny plants germinated from that seed. I saw the Kew plant a few years ago and was truly impressed. This year my own plants equaled that display with what I described in the last edition as "a fabulous eruption". My picture will show partly what I meant, but in the sunlight those arching branches were like waving wands of light. The plants are labeled, for brevity, *S. microphylla* CHEX (my code for "Xin Lu Chen Expedition"). Three of the plants are identical but one of them shows intriguing little differences. If the differences hold true I will feature that one at another time. Hopefully, by then, I will have discovered the Kew paperwork too.

My third plant is possibly a little too soon to show but I simply cannot contain my knowledge of it. This is its first flowering outside, so its colour might not yet be true. What I cannot hold back from showing you is its form, which is breathtaking. It is one of Mar'ym Sagitova's lilacs from Almaaty in Kazakhstan. This, dear members, is *Syringa vulgaris* 'Podarok Mame' which I believe translates as "A present for Mum"! With its long narrow lobes, which are strongly reflexed and propeller twisted, it is almost unique. Some present! Some mum! Thank you Milada for arranging for this lilac to be sent to me. I wouldn't be without it.

Colin Chapman

Norman's Farm

Suffolk UK. September 11th 2009.

Editor's Message

In this issue, the beginnings of ILS are looked at in Part I of a series that will continue for a number of issues. This look at ILS history will explore why ILS was founded, what the original vision was, and how ILS is progressing in its mission.

Dr. John Wister, one of the original founders of ILS, hoped for more research by amateurs, scientists and nursery professionals to improve the cultivars of the genus *Syringa*. In answer to this challenge, in this issue are several articles about current lilac cultivar developments. Tim Wood of Spring Meadow Nursery talks about BLOOMERANG™, a new selection with prolific reblooming. Frank Moro reveals that Select Plus Nursery has applied for plant patents, and will soon be releasing a number of exciting new hybrids.

Finally, I will once again ask members to contribute photos and articles about lilacs you are excited about, personal collections, and any amusing or serious lilac story that you would like to share with all of the members. This journal doesn't write itself, and can only improve with contributions from all of its members.

Kent Millham

ILS Editor

October 2009

Convention Corner

Well, as winter approaches it's time to start thinking ahead to next year's convention in Shelburne Vermont, May 13-15, 2010. It's never too early to start searching for a good airfare deal. Once the hotel information becomes available, please keep in mind when reserving your room, that it would be very helpful to book the negotiated ILS convention rate. This not only helps the local convention planning committee with monitoring attendance, but oftentimes satisfies a minimum room obligation. There will be complete information regarding the hotel and registration in the Winter Journal.

The following events are in the works:

May 13-15, 2010	ILS Convention in Shelburne, Vermont Details TBA in the Winter Journal
April 28-30, 2011	ILS Convention in Lombard, Illinois (tentative dates)
April, 2012	ILS Convention in Nancy, France

If you're contemplating having a convention in your area, please contact me. We're always on the lookout for new sites and would welcome revisiting sites from decades past. Thanks for your cooperation.

Karen McCauley
Convention Chairman
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ILS Convention 2010

Shelburne Museum, Friends of the University of VT Horticulture Farm and The VT Master Gardeners all welcome you to Vermont for the 2010 ILS Convention to be held May 13, 14 and 15. We look forward to sharing with you the horticultural accomplishments of the area and hope you will come early and stay late to enjoy all that beautiful Vermont has to offer.

Burlington International Airport offers convenient service from many US cities as well as AMTRAK service to nearby Essex, VT.

We will explore Shelburne Museum, which was named by Conde Nast as one of the 5 must see museums in the US. Home to one of America's premier Americana collections, the Museum was founded by Electra Havermeyer Webb, the niece of Lilac propagator Theodore Havermeyer (founder of the

Domino sugar fortune). We will also visit the famous Shelburne Farm (former home of the Webbs), one of America's "castles", now an Inn and Restaurant. We'll also do lunch on Burlington's Church St, and visit the newly renovated waterfront on beautiful Lake Champlain, celebrating its 400th year since discovery. Although the convention will end on Saturday, we hope you will stay for Lilac Sunday, May 16 at the Museum. There are over 240 lilacs on the grounds. We had over 2300 people attend last year, a record.

Jeff Young, Local Convention Chairman

ILS Preservation Committee Report

Nicole Jordan, our ILS President has for some time been telling members of the ILS Executive Board and VPs that we needed to take an active interest in lilac collections. President Jordan established the Preservation Committee with the following members; Deb McCown, Chair, Freek Vrugtman, Frank Moro and Gloria Schreiber as secretary. Due to personal reasons, Frank resigned and was replaced by Charles Holetich.

The committee has been very actively addressing the purpose which has several facets.

1. An inventory of public & private lilac collections both in the US and International.
2. Establish a mechanism for collection/cultivar preservation.

We have been developing a database on lilac collections and have a good start with the existing list compiled in Freek's *Lilacs A Gardener's Encyclopedia*. Deb has obtained a sample database used by Plant Collections (<http://plantcollections.pathf.com>) developed by the Chicago Botanic Gardens and the American Public Gardens Association. If the ILS can merge our clearly defined and narrow lilac database with the one developed for Plant Collections this will be a huge time and cost saving measure. It will also assist Plant Collections by gathering the data they need for the genus Syringa. Dr. Giles Waines, Chair of the Research Committee is also assisting us in a possible grant funding the project.

The elements that will be included in our database are still under discussion. The committee has also discussed how to handle collections that are in danger of being lost or destroyed and rare lilacs that are no longer in production and may be at risk of being lost completely. The protective policy for private owners will also be developed.

Expenses for the project are being considered as well for postage and stationery. Data entry should begin by spring and by the time we gather in Vermont we hope to have the project in full swing.

Gloria Schreiber

Northeast Regional Roundup

Our Northeast Regional Roundup October 4th at Syringa Plus was a total success. 28 lilac lovers arrived in heavy rains to meet, greet, talk and absorb all the latest interest in our corner of the map. After introductions from each attendee with a little of their story, the focus of the meeting was on Plantings in Public Places.

My guest, Gertrude Daneau, chairwoman of the Norwell Town Cemetery Committee, spoke on the town's development of a new cemetery- size yet to be determined- and some of the challenges we are facing,; the least of which is the box turtle habitat.

John Bentley talked on his Swampscot N.H. project that started out as a lilac planting in memory of his 4-year old daughter Katie who died of complications from pneumonia. A large number of lilacs were planted by a bench near her school. Later, lilacs were planted on either side of the gates at a cemetery near a ballpark. Nine lilacs, funded by donations to the Katie Bentley Lilac Fund, were planted at the entrance to her school- clumps of 1' to 3' in height. John brought posters with coupons promoting the Katie Bentley Lilac fund with examples of weatherproof markers to identify the plantings, including name of lilac, donor and in memory of- all fabricated at \$7 per marker.

The focus has turned to enhancing public buildings with private plantings. A past article in the journal mentioned ILS member Louis Gallo involved with public planting of memorials in his town; offering plants and shrubs at \$200.

From New Hampshire Guy Giunta brought calendars produced by the D.O.T. All photos had to be of lilacs grown in New Hampshire. Hundreds of photos were submitted. Only 12 were chosen. He also offers other lilac items including a lilac/wildflower commission booklet put out by the Governor's Commission at ggiunta@dot.state.nh.us.

John Bentley brought up the subject of costs of printing the journal and questioned whether we should be using a tax-exempt number. A new logo that his printer had fired off was presented, and later done in color to view on the web. Another idea presented was a buttoned front cotton workshirt in purple with a contrasting colored logo over the heart area done by silk screening or embroidery. It was enthusiastically voted to follow through on this idea for the Northeast Region. However, although everyone wanted one, we can vote on this only for our regional group; not for all of ILS.

Coffee was provided by Roger and Evie group from Syringa Plus. Others brought delicious baked goods, and lunch was ordered take out.

We discussed the Round Robin, need for new members, e-mails and telephone numbers, a lilac photo contest and developing a photo collage; perhaps at the

convention if time permits. Personally, I sent out invitations to all Northeast ILS members for our Roundup. New attendees were from Caribou, Maine and upper New York State; both 2 day trips. One couple had seen our Roundup news on the internet.

The Northeast Roundup is our principle means of actual physical contact with our members. We have tremendous enthusiasm that has built over time. Always there are new members with new ideas. Ned and Elizabeth Newton have come aboard as members of the Hospitality Committee as well as Myrna Walberg from Quebec, who we met in Ottawa. Luckily for us she is bilingual and could translate our new friend Jean-François Gonot's message. His group plans to invite us to Nancy, France for the 2012 convention.

Northeast Roundup Attendees:

Peter & Charo O'Meara, Mary Roberts, Mary Lizotte, Gertrude Daneau, Charlene Marnsell, Guy Giunta Jr., Cindy & Kimber Noyes, John Kirk, James Allen, Michael McGrath, Edmundand Elizabeth Newton, Jamie Greagar, John & Ellen Thurlow, John Bentley, Evie King, Roger Coggeshall, Warren Oakes, Eva King, Owen Rogers, Paul Rushlow, Cheryl McCarthy, Michael Bowling, Tristan Noyes and friend of Mary Roberts.

*Mary Lizotte
Northeast Regional Vice-President
October 18, 2009*

Editor's Deadlines

December 8, 2009

March 8, 2010

June 8, 2010

Bloomerang™ Lilac Starts a Controversy

Who would have thought that BLOOMERANG™ Purple Lilac (*Syringa 'Penda'* ppaf) would create such a controversy? First Slate magazine comes out with an article entitled "How Bloomerang Lilac is Ruining the Lilac Season," and then MacCleans Magazine follows up with an internet article titled the "Ever-blooming Lilac Wars." It seems that some people feel a lilac should bloom only once and only in the spring. I disagree and so do the thousands of people that rushed to buy BLOOMERANG™ when Better Homes and Gardens magazine did a limited release in March of 2009. Expecting to sell just a thousand plants, BH&G sold over 11,000 plants and turned away a throng of disappointed, potential buyers.

BLOOMERANG™ Lilac is not the first reblooming lilac. In 1917 Charles Sargent of the Arnold Arboretum noted that *Syringa microphylla* (*S. pubescens* subsp. *microphylla* var. *microphylla*) "... if it keeps up its habit of flowering a second time in autumn it will be at least interesting even if other lilacs are more beautiful. In her 1928 book "Lilacs" Susan McKelvey noted that *S. microphylla* has "... the curious habit of blooming twice in one season." *Syringa JOSÉETM* ('MORjos 06F) a small leafed, pale pink flowered cultivar introduced in 1974 by Minier Nursery of France is another noted remontant lilac. *JOSÉETM* is a complex cross (*Syringa pubescens* subsp. *microphylla* x *Syringa pubescens* subsp. *patula* (syn *S. velutina*) x *Syringa meyeri* subsp. *meyeri*) developed by Georges Morel. More recently, Frank and Sara Moro of Select Plus International Nurseries of Quebec, Canada introduced several reblooming cultivars. So why all the fuss about BLOOMERANG™ lilac?

There are a number of things that have put BLOOMERANG™ in the spotlight. From my observations, (and a good many of the 400 garden writers that trialed the plant) it is the most consistent and prolific remontant lilac to date. The initial bloom is heavy and appears in mid-May. It goes through a rest in June and then begins to rebloom in July and continues on until frost. While the summer and fall panicles are not as large as those in the spring, it puts on a very good show. Every single branch bears flowers (not just an occasional flower). One of the reasons for its propensity to flower is its strong growth. As long as it continues to grow it continues to produce new flowers. You don't have to prune it get it to rebloom, however, a light shearing after the initial bloom results in a fuller plant with more branches and thus more blooms.

The flower color of BLOOMERANG™ lilac has also contributed to its success. Purple flowered lilacs, regardless of the species, sell better than other colors. It's like selling hollies; people expect red fruit and red fruited varieties outsell plants with yellow berries. While most other rebloomers range from pale pink to magenta, the flowers of BLOOMERANG™ are purple in bud and open to a traditional lilac-lavender. The bloom color is even darker in summer and fall.

I'm not sure where this plant gets its flower color. The original cross was made in an isolation block with three varieties; JOSÉE™, 'Red Pixie' and 'George Eastman' none of which has purple flowers. I collected the seed from JOSÉE™ so I know she's the mother, but I'm ashamed to say I don't know for certain whether George or Red is the papa.

The health and performance of BLOOMERANG™ lilac also makes it a unique plant among rebloomers. It's not uncommon for us to lose a fair percentage of JOSÉE™, 'Superba' (and other cultivars with 'Superba' blood) to root rot each year. BLOOMERANG™ lilac has performed excellently in containers and we have not seen any root rot problems in production, nor have our growers. This may be due in part to our selection process. When we planted out the 2,500 seedlings from our initial cross they were grown in a section of our field that was low and prone to flooding. After two straight years with episodes of standing water we lost about 75 percent of the progeny and only the strongest plants survived. This is not to say BLOOMERANG™ is a plant for wet or heavy clay soils, but it does seem to be healthier than any other reblooming lilac that we've grown.

As far as its ability to bloom and bloom I have no doubt. In the selection process, I tagged only the seedlings with the most prolific summer bloom. Each year I repeated the process and in the end I chose the three plants with the most tags. These three, strongly remontant selections, were then propagated and evaluated further in production and in the garden. Eventually we selected one plant and introduced it as BLOOMERANG™ Purple. Of the remaining two plants, one appears special enough to introduce and should be out in a few years.

Our *Syringa* breeding program continues on. I have sowed out F2 crosses and have selected five more remontant plants of various shapes and colors. I have also made crosses that draw in new genetics to obtain plants with dwarf habits, glossier foliage, better fall color and larger flowers. Many of these plants look promising but only prolonged testing and evaluation will determine which, if any, are worthy of introduction. But the plan is to offer a range of plants under the Bloomerang series.

As the Product Development Manager at Spring Meadow Nursery, one of my main functions is to find new and superior plants for the Proven Winners flowering shrub line. The shrubs in this line are selected based on a specific criterion that in its most general terms focuses superior performance, improved disease resistance, ease of production and culture, compact and dwarf habits, attractive foliage, and extended or multiple seasons of interest. Adding lilacs to the line was a goal of mine because they offer many fine attributes that make them popular. Most notably lilacs bloom in the spring when people are in the garden center, they offer excellent hardiness, they're well recognized by consumers, they're very colorful in bloom and they offer



Not only the cluster, but the individual florets on 'Arch McKean' are gigantic!

Photo Credit Kent Millham



3 very large 'Rochester' at Highland Botanical Park

with a backdrop of Pin Oak and Sweetgum

Photo Credit Kent Millham



An old cultivar with narrow thyrses, 'Downfield'
Photo Credit Kent Millham



A closeup of the delicate florets of the new cultivar BLOOMERANG™
Photo Credit Tim Wood



*Promising lilac selection of Bob Hoepfl with radial doubling
along with delicate petals*
Photo Credit Kent Millham



*Bob Hoepfl, Lou Fenicchia and Kent Millham
inspecting some of Bob's lilac seedlings*
Photo Credit Sandy Fenicchia



A massive cluster of 'President Grevy'
Photo Credit Kent Millham



A massive grouping of 'Rochester' flowers against a brilliant blue sky
Photo Credit Kent Millham

fragrance. On the other hand lilacs typically offer only one season of interest and are susceptible to Powdery Mildew, *Pseudomonas* and *Phytophthora*. Bloomerang addresses all of these issues and as a result is off to a very good start.

Still, I'm not sure why BLOOMERANG™ or any other reblooming lilac is so controversial. It seems to me that some journalist's just love to create controversy even where there is none. I guess it helps them sell magazines and attract blog subscribers. Regardless, it's strange to read people comment " Of all the things that plant hybridizers could be focusing on, this type of indulgence is a waste of creativity... (GardenRant.com, August 9, 2009 "How much plant improvement can we stand?"). How can I respond except to say go ahead and call me indulgent and blame me for ruining the joy of lilacs. It will only sell more plants and beautify more yards.

Tim Wood
Spring Meadow Nursery

New Lilacs in Motion

We can only dream of lilacs that we see in photos in Russia and other countries and only hope they will arrive here on our continent at some time. There has not been extensive crossing in North America that I know of after the greats like Father John Fiala and Richard Fenicchia.

There comes a time in one's life to make dreams come true and have those special Moments in Time. One of my first successful lilacs was 'Colby's Wishing Star' and that in honor of Colby.

We did do extensive seeding in 2002 but sort of put everything on hold and let things grow. This year was the second year some of our seedlings flowered and we found some very wonderful items in amongst the little future treasures.

A couple of variegated *tomentella* selections and a *patula* 'Excellens' seedling that flowers variegated, repeats bloom and has a color heart that is mesmerizing. I can not unravel too much information as of yet since a PPAF on the plant is in working. There are seedlings from many of the Fiala selections and some are very interesting also.

There is also some great news for the 'Colby's Wishing Star' and the new dwarf around the corner and how they will be marketed in the future.

This year we seeded much more than usual and we have noticed all kinds of leaf mutations in many seedlings and hope they will continue to do the same

for the next few years. Thanks to tissue culture we will be able to get them on the market much quicker.

The next Maison Lemoine is on the way and our plans are to revolutionize the name of lilacs and spike interest everywhere more than ever. Over the last few years gardens are becoming smaller, people are not gardening as much as in the past, spending more time at the gym, and on computers. But there are still gardens out there and the campaign we have planned will touch everyone who even has planted a lilac, young or old in the future as well.

I can honestly say I have not been excited as much as this for years. As soon as everything is in place I will be more than happy to give more specifics but a few more months are required.

Thanks to Corinna and Cameo who have taken on so much responsibility at the farm for seedlings to keep records, photography and most of all put up with my requests on the inventory of these new babies. The hardest part is picking names for all the new lilacs as everyone in the family wants to get in on it.

For those interested a PPAF plant is a patent pending and this will mean control over who will be able to propagate the plant and a licensed name for it.

Frank Moro
Select Plus Nursery

Editor's Note: Every year at the International Plant Propagators Society Eastern Region annual meeting, Jack Alexander hosts a New Plant Forum. With permission of the editor and the authors, the following articles are reprinted from the proceedings of the 2007 Proceedings of the IPPS Eastern Region.

Syringa reticulata subsp. *pekinensis* 'Zhang Zhiming' BEIJING GOLD™ Peking Lilac

BEIJING GOLD™ Peking lilac is a selection of Peking lilac (*Syringa reticulata* subsp. *pekinensis*) selected by Zhang Zhiming at the Beijing botanical Garden in People's Republic of China. The Morton Arboretum and the North America-China Plan: Exploration Consortium obtained the plant from him and introduced it into the U.S.A. market through the Chicagoland Grows Plant Introduction Program.

BEIJING GOLD™ is unique for several reasons. Unlike common shrubby lilacs, it is a tree form. It can grow 20 ft. tall with 15 ft. spread. When young, it

forms a narrow upright habit gradually developing into a vase-shaped, wide-spreading crown as it matures. Flowers are primrose-yellow which are produced in great profusion in mid-June. The fragrance is not as strong as common lilacs, but pleasant. Ovate leaves are soft green throughout the growing season, turning yellow-gold in the fall. When leaves are defoliated, its attractive cinnamon-colored bark can be fully appreciated. One of the important attributes of this selection is its apparent resistance to phytoplasma, a virus-like disease that has killed many hybrid lilacs. *Editor's Note: Phytoplasmas attack mainly xprestoniae and xjosiflexa hybrids.*

BEIJING GOLD™ Peking lilac is hardy to U.S.D.A. Zones 4-7. As a small-statured tree with excellent adaptability, it is suited for several different landscape uses including residential landscape, street planting in urban and suburban situations, and near large buildings.

Kunso Kim
IPPS 2007

Syringa reticulata 'Baince' Snowdance™ Japanese Tree Lilac

- Mature height: 18' tall x 20' wide
- Shape: vase shape, spreading
- Exposure: Full sun
- Foliage: dark green
- Fall color: insignificant
- Flower color: creamy white
- Attracts birds
- Fragrant: yes
- Zone: 3-7
- Introduction year: 2007

Selected by Rod Bailey because of its exceptionally heavy bloom. Although the species tend to flower biannually, Snowdance™ flowers well annually and begins flowering at an earlier age than the species. Large, fragrant panicles of creamy white bloom in June. This variety hasn't produced untidy, brown seedheads thus it is thought to be sterile. Lustrous, dark green foliage is slightly larger and darker than the species. Graceful, vase-shaped habit with attractive, shelved branching. A pest and disease free lilac tree for residential and park use. Equally attractive as a specimen as it is in-group plantings.

Jeff Stoven
IPPS, 2007

Origins of the International Lilac Society

The idea for formation of our society was the result of 3 years of meetings between a number of individuals; most well-known to those in ILS. Mark Eaton, Father John Fiala, Dr. Robert Clark, Mr. And Mrs. Franklin Nietz, Walter Oakes, Mr. And Mrs. Orville Steward, Mr. Fred VanOrden and Dr. and Mrs. John Wister.

As a result of the informal meetings, the first official meeting was set for May 15, 1971 at the Bayard Cutting Arboretum in Oakdale Long Island, New York. Sixteen founders appeared at this meeting, and the incorporation and organization of the International Lilac Society was established. The original officers were selected, which included Orville Steward as President, Walter Oakes as Secretary(son Warren Oakes is now the Secretary), Fred VanOrden as Treasurer, Father John Fiala as Editor, and two regional Vice-Presidents; including William Utley for the Eastern US, and Mrs. Lourene Wishart for the Western US. Also, a very ambitious program of committees was formed. These committees included the Color Survey Committee(Franklin Nietz), Flowering Records Committee, Pulication (Father John Fiala), Public Relations Committee (Dennis Brown), Registrations Committee, Research and Breeding Committee (Father John Fiala), Bud, Scion and Seed Exchange (Dr. Robert B. Clark), Slide Collections, and the Incorporation and Legal Committee (Mr. And Mrs. A. T. Wilder).

Many things were discussed and established at this first meeting, and much of the original vision of the International Lilac Society was seen in the following letter written by Dr John Wister that was read at the meeting, and reprinted in the very first ILS Newsletter Vol. 1, No. 1; September 1971;

"A number of gardeners have been discussing the possibility of organizing a Lilac Society. Do we need a Lilac Society? If so, have we enough people with both enough knowledge and enough enthusiasm to get one started, and what is more important, to keep it going?

I have been associated with a number of societies devoted to one special genus of plants. I know, at least something, of their methods, their problems, their successes and their failures. I have taken it upon myself to jot down the following notes concerning the history of the Lilac as a garden plant, its present unsatisfactory position in American gardens and its possible greater importance in the future.

The common lilac became a popular garden shrub in the late 17th and 18th Century in Europe, and in the late 18th Century in this country. Its hardiness, vigor, ability to withstand neglect and its beauty and fragrance made it a most important hardy shrub in this country throughout the 19th Century.

It has not retained its importance for several reasons. First and foremost, it has had new competition from dozens of genera and hundreds of species and varieties of hardy trees

and shrubs brought into our gardens in the past fifty or hundred years. Consider for a moment, the magnolias, the flowering cherries, crabapples, peaches, plums and quinces, the bush honeysuckles, forsythias, mockoranges, rhododendrons (including Azaleas), roses, spiraeas, viburnums and many more flowering trees, shrubs; and the many now improved herbaceous plants that now occupy space in our gardens.

Second, our houses and their surroundings and gardens have grown smaller, much, much smaller, and most of the big private estates are gone.

Third, as a result of this competition and of the smaller gardens with less room for big shrubs, the demand for new lilac plants from amateur gardeners has fallen off.

Fourth, this in turn has resulted in nurseries offering fewer and fewer plants of fewer and fewer lilac varieties. Indeed, the number of nurseries offering what we might term adequate numbers of varieties has dropped from over sixty in 1941 (the year of the First Survey sponsored by the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arborets) to thirty in 1968. And of these 30, 10 nurseries catalogued less than 20 varieties; 12 offered between 21 and 50 varieties, leaving only 8 with 50 or more varieties.

Fifth, we have no recent horticultural literature dealing with lilacs. The three American Lilac books, Mrs. McKelvey's great monograph and the small handbooks of Mrs. Edward Harding and of John C. Wister have, since the 1930's been high priced collector's items if, indeed, they are ever to be found in second hand bookstores. The supply of the 1953 edition of Lilacs for America is also exhausted and there is no immediate prospect that a new and revised edition can be printed. Magazine articles have been few and far between.

These are some of the discouraging facts. What now can be said to be encouraging facts?

First, many parks, experiment stations, arborets and botanical gardens have been putting quite large collections of species and varieties for the public to see. In 1941 the AABGA Survey recorded a dozen such collections. Today there are over three dozen, many of them with several hundred or even more varieties. In some of them highly trained horticulturists are taking a special interest in them. The spectacular floral display when the lilacs bloom attracts enormous crowds. It must in time inspire many people to plant lilacs.

Second, since 1953, about a dozen new breeders (a few of them trained geneticists) have appeared on the scene and over four hundred new varieties have been registered. It is too soon to tell how many of these varieties are distinct from, and superior to those already in commerce, or even to tell how many of them will be introduced or widely distributed. But it does show that there is a real interest in producing new varieties.

Third, the manuscript for a new edition of Lilacs for America has been prepared, and subject to last-minute retyping, is ready for the printer, if and when a sponsor and the necessary money can be found.

Now what is the future of lilacs in our gardens and what should, would and could such a society do? And what can it learn from other special plant societies, large and small, successful or just struggling?

First let us admit the climatic limitations of the lilac and write off (for the present at least) the South and the Pacific Coast.

Second, let us consider the area from Boston and Philadelphia to Cincinnati and perhaps Chicago. This is the area of the largest population and of the greatest number of enthusiastic gardeners who are the most apt to join a new society. It is also the section of the country where lilacs have the most competition from most of the plants mentioned at the beginning of these notes. Let us readily admit this competition and then point out, as strongly as possible, that the lilac still deserves an important place in any garden big enough to hold more than one or two shrubs.

Third, this brings us to the area where the lilac is supreme and without any competition to amount to anything. This area has a smaller population than the others, but geographically it is larger than the other two put together. It stretches from Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire across northern New York to Michigan and not only to the Rockies but also to the coldest parts of Canada. Even in Alaska a few lilacs can be grown in sheltered places. What a horticultural empire is there for the asking!

It seems clear that those who wish to establish a lilac society should put their first and most important efforts into both the region of the largest population of gardeners and the extra cold region where the lilac (as well as the Peony) is supreme. They should not ignore the fact, however, that within the past decade two new breeders in Southern California have registered about a dozen new seedlings and that further breeding in warm climates should be encouraged.

Now what can a lilac society do? First, it can bring together those who already love the lilac and ask them to help increase its popularity. If more people ask nurseries for good lilacs, more nurserymen will stock them, propagate them and introduce and illustrate them in their catalogs.

Help should be given to the three dozen public gardens now growing lilacs. Some grow too few kinds and some others too many. A six hundred variety collection is all right for Rochester or the Arnold Arboretum where lilacs have always been a specialty but that many kinds are hardly needed elsewhere. Many collections might be better if restricted to the finest two or three hundred varieties, if a society could recommend those kinds and tell which nurseries were offering them.

A lilac society should do just what many other special plant societies have done so remarkably - encourage breeding (both by trained geneticists and by plain amateurs). True, the Iris and Hemerocallis Societies have the advantage that their breeders can produce a new generation every three or four years. The fact that a lilac generation may take 5 to 10 years slows down progress. But magnolias, rhododendrons and daffodils may take as much time and that has not prevented their societies from recruiting breeders.

What kind of breeding? The common lilac is already beautiful! Sixty years ago Prof. Sargent said little if any improvement could be expected. But had he lived we can be sure he would have admired the later improvements that came from Emile Lemoine and Theodore Havemeyer. He would have recognized the value of the newer "Early Hybrida"

of dilatata and of the "Late Hybrids" of villosa, reflexa, and a dozen other species.

I am sure that breeders will produce plants with still better flowers. We still need better substance so that the flowers will stay in bloom longer without fading or losing fragrance in extra hot sun, or in sudden rain storms. We need earlier and also later blooming kinds, or even some that will rebloom a little in the autumn.

But much, much more we need improvement in plant habit. Too many of today's varieties grow too big or are too spindly and leggy. We need attractively shaped plants, more compact plants and even smaller and smaller plants for small gardens. We need plants that send up enough yearly suckers to supply needed flowering wood for future years and yet not a whole forest of hundreds of suckers that constantly have to be pruned out.

We need better foliage that does not mildew or fall off in September. We need disease resistant plants-resistant to troubles that may develop in several climatic areas.

But most, most, most of all we need to get together! We need to know each other and to enjoy the lilac flowers together so much that we will necessarily attract other gardeners to join us and to speak our language. Together we can put the lilac in the important place in ... Horticulture that it does not now have but which we are convinced it deserves to have."

John C. Wister

ILS Four Decades Later

The previous letter written by Dr. John Wister helped guide the formation and vision of ILS back in 1971. Some of the premises are no longer applicable, but many of the original concerns have been addressed, with progress being made or goals met.

For example, demand for lilacs is now up, not down, and large garden centers and nurseries often carry 20 cultivars. Many knowledgeable customers may often ask for cultivars by name, and names such as 'President Lincoln', 'Miss Kim', BEAUTY OF MOSCOW™, and others are well-known and requested.

Since Wister's letter was written, there have been 2 editions of Lilacs, by Father John Fiala, and the current 2nd edition revised by Freek Vrugtman entitled Lilacs A Gardener's Encyclopedia that is the most comprehensive, complete and readable volume about lilacs to date. This book alone educates and excites people about the beauty and diversity of the *Syringa* genus.

Regarding breeding, this challenge has been and is being met, as is even shown in this current issue of Lilacs, with the exciting BLOOMERANG™ by Tim Wood, and new hybrids awaiting to be registered by Frank Moro of Select Plus Nursery. The reblooming of lilacs occurs now in a number of cultivars.

We should continue to strive, as Dr. Wister asks, to get together to talk lilacs, and put *Syringa* at the forefront of world horticulture, and that goal is aptly said in our current President Nicole Jordan's mission statement of "A lilac in every garden the world over".

-Kent Millham

The doors are all wide open; at the gate

The blossomed lilacs counterfeit a blaze,
And seem to warm the air; a dreamy haze
Hangs o'er the Brighton meadows like a fate,

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

The work of preserving historic homes and gardens is important in maintaining our connection to our past. A wonderful example of this work is to be found in Portland, Maine, and the story involves a great New England poet and an historic lilac.

Van Wyck Brooks terms the period from 1815 to 1865 as “the flowering of New England.” Henry Wadsworth Longfellow’s life spanned this historical period, and he made a great contribution to it. Longfellow is perhaps connected in many peoples’ minds with historic Craigie House in Cambridge, Massachusetts, his residence from 1834, when he was appointed to a professorship at Harvard, until his death in 1882. But Longfellow was a native Mainer, born in Portland in 1807. Longfellow’s childhood home is located on Congress Street in Portland. It was built by General Peleg Wadsworth, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow’s grandfather, during 1785 and 1786 (when Maine was a district of Massachusetts) with bricks from Philadelphia. In 1901, Henry’s sister, Anne Longfellow Pierce, bequeathed the house and grounds to Maine Historical Society, with the stipulation that a library should be built as a permanent home for MHS. It was opened to visitors in that year, making it the first “historic house museum” in Maine.

In 1924 the Longfellow Garden Club was formed, by which time the Wadsworth-Longfellow garden had grown neglected. The club started a fund for the garden’s upkeep and has been tending it since its creation. In 2007 the garden was dismantled to allow for restoration of the library. Among the plantings was an old-fashioned pale purple lilac that, according to Betsy Umbrel, president of the garden club, is the one original plant known to have been planted by the poet.

But this historic lilac, old, tall, and scraggly, is not lost. It was dug up in December 2006 and moved miles away to O’Donal’s Nursery in Gorham. The fully dormant plant was held there in mulch, irrigated and fed, until it was replanted. The reopened garden is smaller, but only what is historically correct is to be planted there. The club has stipulated that no admission will ever be charged to see the garden so that anyone may experience what Longfellow did when he wrote, “The lilacs are in bloom, and the apple trees. The whole world is a flower garden: and all the birds are singing, singing, singing.”

Warren Oakes
October 2009

Lilac Profiles: ‘Henry Wadsworth Longfellow’

Syringa vulgaris Henry Wadsworth Longfellow is a double magenta lilac that was developed by Highland Botanical Park horticulturist John Dunbar in 1920. This cultivar is at the present time not in its original collection at Highland Park, but is located at the Central Experimental Farm in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. It was in bloom this year at the ILS convention in Ottawa, although it was a little past peak.

John Dunbar named this cultivar after the well-known American poet written about by Warren in the previous article. Dunbar named cultivars in 4 major categories: Army and Navy figures, American Presidents, family members and Rochester, NY local figures, and noted statesmen and personalities (such as the poet H. W. Longfellow).

A photo of ‘Henry Wadsworth Longfellow’ is found in the color photo center section of this journal.

Kent Millham
Highland Botanical Park

Update at Fenicchia Farms

This May, during the height of the Lilac Festival at Highland Botanical Park in Rochester, NY, USA, I ran out of small lilacs to sell to the busloads of tourists. Early in the morning, I took a twenty minute drive to nearby Fenicchia Farms, which has a good selection of 1 and 2 gallon lilacs; many of them Richard A. Fenicchia hybrids (who also happened to be Louie Fenicchia’s uncle).

Bob Hoepfl, former ILS President, was also there, since Bob maintains the lilacs for sale at Fenicchia Farms.

After selecting the lilacs that I needed; Bob, Louie, and I took a tour of the lilac seedlings that are lined out in nursery rows. Bob is in the process of growing and evaluating these seedlings, some of which show some exceptional promise. (As mentioned in *Lilacs* Volume 36:2, Bob also has a number of hybrids being evaluated at Highland Botanical Park; including the floriferous, blue FC 20). Bob showed me his most promising and unique seedling, and it was definitely one worth looking at. Not only did it show evidence of radial doubling, as many of the hybrids with any trace of ‘Rochester’ lineage show, but this lilac also had the unique additional trait of having radially double florets that were ‘frilly’, or delicate in appearance; in contrast to the heavier, large

petals of radially doubled 'Rochester', 'Blue Diamond', 'Dwight D. Eisenhower', and others developed by Richard Fenicchia.

After the tour of the lilac seedling testing field, we looked at some of the old resident lilacs at the homestead of Fenicchia Farms. Several of the old-timers had large trunks that were very large with the spirally twisted trunks that indicates a very old and vigorous lilac. The age of these lilacs was probably at least 100 years old; about the same number of years as our combined work years at Highland Botanical Park. It was interesting to note that on the large trunks were buds ready to form new branches if the lilacs were ever pruned back or damaged. I've found that many of the older cultivars are so vigorous that you can rejuvenate them with a chainsaw, and they will sprout new branches quickly from a 6" trunk.

However, since this day was in the midst of the Lilac Festival, I had to leave soon, so we loaded up the truck, and I returned to the frenzied atmosphere of the Lilac Festival, where I continued my mission of selling lilacs to eager customers and answering thousands of questions about lilacs and their culture.

Kent Millham
ILS editor
Highland Botanical Park
October 2009



Large trunk of *Syringa* showing spiral twisting.
Also note branchlet sprouting from 6" plus trunk
Photo Credit Kent Millham

Ten Questions with Freek Vrugtman

Welcome to a new feature that will be appearing in the journal on a semi-regular basis. The purpose of "Ten Questions" is to spotlight members of the lilac community, whether they be professionals or just avid collectors. I hope you enjoy learning more about your fellow lilac enthusiasts via their responses to the questions below. Think about how you might answer "Ten Questions". You never know when you may be the next one asked!

1. What role do you play in the lilac community?

As International Lilac Registrar I keep the "International Register and Checklist of Cultivar Names in the Genus *Syringa*" and associated files up to date. In addition I research the history of the garden lilacs, namely the cultivars and their originators.

2. When did you first become involved with lilacs?

In 1968.

3. How did you first become involved with lilacs?

When I was hired as Curator of Collections by Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG) in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, labelling of the plants in the Gardens' collections became my responsibility. This included labelling the lilacs. RBG was appointed "International Cultivar Registration Authority (ICRA) for *Syringa*" in 1974. In turn, RBG appointed me Registrar, which expanded my involvement. After retirement in 1992 lilacs became a total commitment.

4&5. Assuming you own some lilacs, when did you obtain your first? How many different cultivars do you own?

We have a few (unnamed) lilacs growing among the native trees & shrubs on our one-acre lot.

When we built our house (1973) we had two long retired elderly friends, one a veterinarian, the other a physician, who had a large property. When they built their house in the late 1920s they were acquainted with Mary Blacklock (1860-1956) and Minerva Castle (1891-1976) who operated Rowancroft Gardens (you'll find their names in the Lilac Register) and where they obtained the plants to landscape their 20-odd acres. Among those plants were also unnamed lilac seedlings which, after 50 yrs had spread, suckered and produced more seedlings. Some of those suckers and seedlings were transplanted to our place 30 yrs ago where they had to compete with the native vegetation; some lost that competition, some have produced seedlings of their own. To us they are a bit of nostalgic history.

6&7. If you could only have 5 lilacs, what would they be and why?
As lilac registrar I am impartial. I'm not promoting any particular cultivar.

8. What development in lilac cultivation do you appreciate the most?

The development of propagating techniques. When I was a nurseryman apprentice in the old country in the 1940s we grafted lilacs. Some nurserymen still do. When I worked at the Dominion Arboretum, Ottawa, Ontario, in the 1950s we experimented with softwood cuttings being rooted under mist and using rooting hormone. In the 1980s Virginia Hildebrandt pioneered in vitro propagation (tissue culture or micro-propagation) of lilacs, now a widely used technique. Incidentally, Dr. Hildebrandt has her nursery just a few miles up the road from where we live.

9. What new breakthrough would you like to see?

I would like to see more people, be they lilac collectors or lilac producers, use the correct names for their lilacs (identification), and use those names correctly (nomenclature).

10. What is it about lilacs that have captivated you?

It is the literally around the world interest in lilacs.

Interviewer's note: A big thank you to Freek for being the first to be spot-lighted in "Ten Questions". We hope everyone now knows a little more about Freek, other than the fact that he has recently contributed the beautiful revision of Father Fiala's lilac book, entitled "Lilacs - A Gardener's Encyclopedia".

ILS WANTS YOU!

With over 400 members, there should be at least
400 members that want to share photos and
stories about their lilacs!

CONTRIBUTE TODAY!

Lilacs

Little-petaled blossoms hang
In soft clusters of
Lavender lace
Adorning spring's greenery
Catching honeybees with
Sweet perfume.

by Elaine Magliaro

Lilac

*sunlight pours in as waves
gently caressing my face
the symphony of cars on gravel
birds serenading from their branches
a cool breeze through the trees
fills my cluttered mind
i throw back the covers
and step towards the open window
and smell lilac;
sweet and innocent
drifting in to greet me
this morning
is beautiful
a taste of something new
of something life-changing
so i'll walk outside
and cut a bit of lilac
of beauty
to hold throughout the day
so i'll remember
today is an open window*

by Oceanview

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Heavily blooming branches of *Syringa pubescens*
subsp. *microphylla*; grown from wild-collected
seed from Xin Lu Chen's 1992 expedition

Photo Credit Colin Chapman



Syringa meyeri var. *spontanea* discovered by Chang &
Qin that confirms the Meyer lilac in the wild

Photo Credit Colin Chapman



BLOOMERANG™ in spectacular full bloom

Photo courtesy of Tim Wood