

Lilacs

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of the International Lilac Society

IN
THIS
ISSUE:

Finding Kolesnikov
Membership Roster



Syringa vulgaris 'Galina Ulanova', a Kolesnikov hybrid
Photo Credit Colin Chapman



Syringa vulgaris 'Nevesta', a Kolesnikov hybrid
Photo Credit Colin Chapman

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Cover Photo: A trio of penquins amused visitors at Lilacia Park
in Lombard, Illinois, USA

Photo Credit Marymae Meyer

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President's Message

Dear Lilac Aficionados,

2010 has come to an end and the New Year is here. What is 2011 going to bring us? I'm sure many good things. First let me wish you all a Great New Year! May the ILS membership grow and I hope that we all enjoy a wonderful lilac season in all parts of the world.

Looking back, 2010 was a very good year. We enjoyed a great convention in Vermont, USA with all our friends. Already we look forward to next years convention. I believe all is in place for our visit. Marymae Mayer and the town of Lombard, Illinois have dotted all the I's and crossed all the T's to make sure we have a fantastic convention. Save the date: April 28-30, 2011, and plan on coming. Getting together refreshes everybody; it is like a dip in lilac water. Everyone goes back to their respective region energized. That enthusiasm moves us forward the rest of the year.

From time to time we go over some "rough" patches but things get resolved and we move on. We have a great group of volunteers in ILS.

The board members work behind the scene to their assigned tasks. The Regional Vice Presidents are on task too. They promote lilacs and work diligently on getting new members. I must again say thank you to our editor Kent Millham. His job is not an easy one. Remember to send him articles and pictures. We all want a great interesting journal. Only with your help can we achieve this. So don't be shy; send Kent your lilac news. In the issue of Lilacs Fall 2010 the Ten questions with Tatiana Polyakova by Joshua Miller and the article Lilacs are for Eating by Anne Morrow Donley were excellent and "new" in context. I hope these two writers inspire others to write.

I just came back from France, Paris to be exact. The World Championship of Fencing was in full swing. I could not help to think about our 2012 visit to Nancy, France for our convention. Please, please plan on going.

I constantly met people who tell me they love lilacs. It is amazing to me and it makes me think that our ILS membership should be huge. What is preventing this? We are not the only society struggling with low membership. Maybe we have too many choices or not enough time. Gardeners want easy plants to grow and fast growing plants. I know lilacs are easy to grow but maybe they are too slow. I'm just talking to all of you. What do you think? Those of you with nurseries give me your opinion. Maybe we don't work hard enough to promote lilacs. Tatiana Poliakova is very successful making lilacs the favorite shrubs of Moscow and Russia for that matter. She works constantly, writing lilac

articles and she is full of original ideas to promote lilacs. Her dedication and persistence give results.

Forming local groups of lilac lovers, and advertising in local papers are ways to attract new members. Nothing really replaces one-to-one contact. When speaking we must inspire people in the audience to want to grow lilacs. Why not contact local clubs and offer to do a presentation on lilacs. Bring ILS brochures, available through our editor; bring books on lilacs, information on our conventions and membership forms. Make it easy for them to sign up on the spot. Sell the good points for joining ILS.

The hybridizers of lilacs need to look to what the public wants in lilacs. Certainly fragrance is the number one priority. Longer blooming time and rebloom are another. Smaller lilacs; I'm talking really dwarf lilacs should be another pursuit, and so are lilacs blooming in all climates. We have seven lovely colors, but as Tatiana says in her interview about orange or contrasting tricolor or for that matter black...Hmm, that may not be everyone's choice of color but other plants propagators always search for those colors that seem impossible to create. Remember the white Marigold and the prize that went with it for the hybridizer achieving that goal... That is an idea to offer a prize for the development of a truly new lilac color!

I also think ILS needs to look toward technology to help us reach new members. So many of us have iPads, iPods/iPhones, Kindle, Nook etc. Think about doing a virtual lilac garden for those who have no real garden or live in regions where lilacs don't grow well. Using social networks such as Facebook, MySpace etc. can be a source of new members. Regarding having Lilac videos on YouTube, we could offer an e-journal, to the members who choose to receive it in that form. It would always be on time and lower the cost of printing it. Could one of our members do an ILS app and put it also on iTunes for free or 99 cents...It would be good publicity and even a source of revenue.

You know it is a new year and I don't know about you but we need to look at things with fresh eyes. This is the 21st Century and it is time to keep pace with today's innovations and use them to our advantage. Any other ideas? Contact your Regional Vice Presidents, the list is in the inside back page of Lilacs, and let them know what you have in mind to make ILS friendlier to a larger membership. I will leave you with these thoughts. Again have a wonderful lilac season. I'll see you on the Lilac Trail in 2011. I look forward to that and the convention.

*Més amities,
Nicole Jordan, ILS President
Chester, VA, USA*

2011 ILS Convention Preview

Remember, the Westin will honor your convention rate two days prior and two days after our scheduled dates of April 28, 29 and 30 so you may want to plan to visit one or more of Chicagoland's attractions. The Morton Arboretum (<http://www.mortonarb.org>), of course, is one of our nation's premier botanical sites just a fifteen minute drive from Lombard in our neighboring suburb of Lisle. Another "must see" on your list is likely to be the Chicago Botanic Garden (<http://www.chicago-botanic.org>) in Glencoe, an hour's drive to the north (Public transportation direct from Lombard is not available for either location). ILS members visited both of these suburban sites during the 1991 convention. For those who can spend more time in the area, we can recommend two other very close (10-15 minute drives) places of interest, Cantigny Gardens (<http://www.cantigny.org>) and Mayslake Peabody Estate (<http://mayslakepeabody.com>). Your convention goody bag will contain information on those and other local points of interest.

Our lunchtime architectural cruise will give you the very best possible short-trip, traffic-free view of downtown Chicago just before we experience Lurie Garden at Millennium Park, one of the most imaginative urban gardens in the world — 25 acres built atop an active railway and massive parking garage. Should you not have a car while you are here, consider traveling to and from the City the way we locals do — by train. The Westin's shuttle service can take you to the Lombard Train Station (which is just across the track from Lilacia Park!) where Metra's West Line commuter trains run almost hourly to and from Chicago Monday-Friday, every two hours on the weekend. If the Lombard station ticket office is not open, tickets can be purchased from the conductor at a slightly higher rate (round trip cost is approximately \$5). Seniors receive discounts and tickets can be purchased at Chicago's Ogilvie Center, the downtown central station where bus, taxi, trolley and water taxi services can be taken to destinations such as Navy Pier, the Shedd Aquarium, and the Field Museum. The Willis Tower — formerly called Sears Tower — is within easy walking distance of Ogilvie Center.

Members have begun to ask what lilacs will be in the 2011 ILS Auction. While there may be more to come, as of November, the following are expected to be included. The plan is to set aside the less common cultivars as part of the silent auction which will be open only to ILS members. The Auction Chair will make those selections upon arrival at the convention, and bidding on those and other non-plant donations will take place in our hospitality suite over the course of the three-day event. All other lilacs will be auctioned on Saturday afternoon, April 30, where members of the public will also be bidding.

2011 Auction Lilacs

- S. pubescens* subsp. *julianae* 'Hers'
- S. vulgaris* 'Michel Buchner' D IV
- S. vulgaris* 'Mme Casimir Périer' D I
- S. pubescens* subsp. *reflexa* 'Beautiful Susan' S V
- S.* (Villosae Group) 'Agnes Smith' S I
- S.* (Villosae Group) 'Marie Rogers' D II
- S.* 'Betsy Ross' S I
- S.* 'Josée' S IV-V
- S.* 'Purple Haze' S VII
- S.* 'Spokane' D V
- S.* ×*hyacinthiflora* 'Asessippi' S IV
- S.* ×*hyacinthiflora* 'Declaration' S VI-VII
- S.* ×*hyacinthiflora* 'Anabel' D V
- S.* ×*hyacinthiflora* 'California Rose' S V
- S.* ×*hyacinthiflora* 'Excel' S IV
- S.* ×*hyacinthiflora* 'Old Glory' S III-VII
- S.* ×*laciniata* S IV
- S. pinnatifolia* var. *alashanica* S I
- S. vulgaris* 'Sesquicentennial' S II
- S. vulgaris* 'Albert F. Holden' S II-VII
- S. vulgaris* 'Arch McKean' S VI
- S. vulgaris* 'Atheline Wilbur' D VI
- S. vulgaris* 'Duc de Massa' S III
- S. vulgaris* 'Hallelujah' S VI
- S. vulgaris* 'Margaret Fenicchia' S VII-II
- S. vulgaris* 'Mechta' S III-IV
- S. vulgaris* 'Triste Barbaro' S VII
- S. vulgaris* 'Yankee Doodle' S VII
- S. vulgaris* 'Agincourt Beauty' S I
- S. vulgaris* 'Andenken an Ludwig Späth' S VII
- S. vulgaris* 'Aucubaefolia' D III
- S. vulgaris* 'Belle de Nancy' D V
- S. vulgaris* **BURGUNDY QUEEN®** S VII
- S. vulgaris* 'Charm' S V
- S. vulgaris* 'Congo' S VI
- S. vulgaris* 'Edith Cavell' D I
- S. vulgaris* 'Etna' S VII
- S. vulgaris* 'Firmament' S III
- S. vulgaris* 'Krasavitsa Moskvyy' D I
- S. vulgaris* 'Lucie Baltet' S V
- S. vulgaris* 'Martha Stewart' S I-II
- S. vulgaris* 'Mrs. Harry Bickle' S V
- S. vulgaris* 'Nadezhda' D III-IV

S. vulgaris ‘**Paul Thirion**’ D VI

S. vulgaris ‘**Reva Ballreich**’ D V

Plant donations shipped in advance should be addressed to Jerry Budd, Lombard Park District, 227 W. Parkside Ave., Lombard, IL 60148. Voicemail messages can be left for Jerry at 630.620.3570; he has asked me to coordinate all email messages in this regard: marymaemeyer@gmail.com.

Don't forget the promise I sang to you last spring, "Come to Lilac Time in Lombard, and we'll steal your heart away!!"

Marymae Meyer
Host Chair 2011

Link to Lilac Register

For information on all of the cultivars of *Syringa*,

go to www.SyringaRegistry.info

to view the "International Register and Checklist of Cultivar Names
in the Genus *Syringa*" and all of its appendices.

Important Renewal Info Check Mailing Label

Karen McCauley
325 W. 82nd Street
Chaska, MN 55318

Dec 2010

If this reads Dec 2010 your membership has lapsed
Please renew to continue receiving the *Lilacs* Journal

2011 ILS Convention & Annual Meeting Lombard, Illinois - April 28, 29, 30

Thursday, April 28

8:30am – 12:30pm	Directors' Meeting Governor's Suite, Westin Hotel
9:00am – 10:00pm	Registration Lobby, Westin Hotel
1:00pm – 2:00pm	Guided on-bus tours of historic sites: Cemetery, Peck Homestead, Orphan Annie House, Maple Street Chapel
2:00pm – 3:00 pm	Guided walking tour of Terrace View Prairie Restoration
3:30pm – 5:00pm	Guided walking tour of Lilacia Park
5:30pm – 7:30pm	Welcome Dinner Blue and White Tent, Lilacia Park
7:30pm	Bus return to Hotel
Hospitality Suite	open until 10:00pm Governor's Suite, Westin Hotel

Friday, April 29

7:45am	Bus to Continental Breakfast Annual Meeting Lombard Commons Bldg.
10:15am	Bus to Chicago Line Cruise Architectural Boat Tour
12:00pm-1:30pm	90-minute Historical Lake/Architectural Cruise, Lunch on board
1:45 pm	Bus to Lurie Garden tour Millennium Park
3:30pm	Bus return to Westin
6:00 pm	Westin Shuttles take guests to Carlisle Banquets (5 min.)
6:30pm-7:00pm	Cash bar for beer and wine Carlisle
7:00 – 8:30pm	President's Dinner: Presentation "Preserving Lilacia Lilac Collection" Speakers: Marymae Meyer, Park District
8:30-9:00 pm	Westin Shuttles return guests to Westin
Hospitality Suite	open until 10:00pm Governor's Suite, Westin Hotel

Saturday, April 30

	Attendees' Breakfast on their own
7:30am – 8:30am	Directors' Meeting Governor's Suite, Westin Hotel
8:45am	Bus to Panel Discussion at Helen Plum Library Auditorium (ten minute ride)
11:30- 1:30pm	Lunch Helen Plum Library Deck
2:00pm – 4:30pm	ILS Auction Open to public Blue and White Tent, Lilacia Park
5:00-5:30pm	Bus return to Hotel
6:30pm – 7:00pm	Cash bar for beer and wine Cypress Room, Westin Hotel
7:00pm	Awards Banquet/Speaker: Kunso Kim, Director of Collections, Morton Arboretum Cypress Room, Westin Hotel
Hospitality Suite	open until 10:00pm Governor's Suite, Westin Hotel

Biographies of Board Candidates 2011

JOHN BENTLEY

John is a graduate of NHTI and Southern NH University. He is the founder of the Katie Bentley Memorial Lilac Project and the Katie Bentley Memorial Charity. The lilac project is engaged in planting lilacs at public locations in central New Hampshire, USA, including cemeteries, town offices, and public schools and in promoting greater awareness of the possibilities of lilacs. He works closely with the New Hampshire Governor's Lilac Commission to promote the planting of lilacs, and lives with his family in Salisbury, NH, where he makes his living as a contractor.

JOHN KIRK

John is a relatively recent lilac enthusiast and joined ILS only two years ago, but already he has volunteered to be ILS auditor. Inspired by Evie and Roger as well as collections such as those of the Arnold Arboretum, Hamesbest, and the Lumley's Lilacland, he is rapidly building a lilac collection in the foothills of the Green Mountains. He hopes to learn more about the collections at the New York Botanical Garden and the New Jersey Botanical Garden this Spring. John looks forward to Convention 2010 at Lilacia Park in Illinois and meetings in coming years in Fance and Wisconsin.

DAN MEIER

Dan is production/operations manager at Briggs Nursery near Elma, Washington. He has been employed with Briggs for 30+ years. He is accountable for all plant growing requirements, which include 500,000 *Syringa* on an annual basis. It became evident, to Dan, there were many lilacs in the trade that were not true to type (per the registered description). His desire to make a difference in correcting these problems prompted him to seek experts in the *Syringa* field. This led Dan to attend his first ILS conference in 2003 (Cap-a-l'Aigle). He has since set up field plantings of lilac for evaluation and research. Dan's desire is to facilitate and support the ongoing lilac activities that ILS members undertake.

WARREN OAKES

Warren, a member since 2005, comes naturally by his interest in lilacs and in the society, being the son of an ILS founder. He is an enthusiastic gardener, active in local flower and garden events. He has also been an enthusiastic supporter of ILS, serving as corresponding secretary and chairman of the nominations committee. He wants to work to keep the society growing, to keep it true to the

vision of its founders and the bylaws that ensure its survival, and to keep the "international" in ILS. He believes it is important for a descendant of a founder to be active in and serve the society

GARY PARTON

Gary Parton of Idyllwild, California, is past president of the Idyllwild Garden Club. He has served on the ILS board of directors for 4 years. He is currently involved with a community volunteer group committed to planting 1000 lilacs, donated by Gary, over the next three years. Lilacs are being planted all over the community at businesses, churches, and other public places, not just at private homes. The goal is to establish a lilac festival starting in 2015 and going on from there. Gary often attends our annual conventions where he is present at board meetings and contributes to decision making.

TATIANA POLIAKOVA

Tatiana is the initiator and author of the project "Moscow - City of the Lilac." (The project was approved by the city government in Moscow in October, 2008). She is the author of more than 70 articles (half of them about the lilac) published in federal newspapers and popular magazines. She is also the author of the books "Lilacs" (2006), "Lilac Time" (2008), and "History of the Russian Lilac" (2010). Tatiana has 147 lilac cultivars in her private collection and is presently serving as ILS regional VP for Russia and the rest of Asia".

JOAN SPEIRS

Since retiring after 32 years with the Canadian government in the fields of mycology, virology, and food microbiology, Joan has been lilac advisor and lilac team coordinator for the Friends of the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa. Her work has included identifying and labeling, pruning, propagating, adding new stock, preparing and maintaining a descriptive database, and preparing a CD-Rom "Lilacs at the Farm." Joan has an Honors B.A. in botany and chemistry and in retirement has completed several college courses in horticulture. She was local chairperson of the 2009 convention in Ottawa.

New England Region Fall Roundup

October 16, 2010

The New England Chapter of the ILS had another Fall Roundup at Syringa Plus Nursery in West Newbury, Massachusetts. 41 lilac enthusiasts showed up at the Saturday, October 16th, 2010 event. It was a glorious, mild, color filled fall day. All New England was represented including New Jersey and New York.

Owen Rogers reported on our past Burlington, Vermont convention and the anticipated Illinois 2011 Convention and also the 2012 convention in Nancy, France. He encouraged all to attend all.

Ned and Elizabeth Newton enjoyed our group so much that they have agreed to be co-representatives for New England. Ned mentioned adding a few more of these round ups around our area in order to engage more members. He and Elizabeth have started a lilac collection in Dartmouth, Massachusetts.

John Bentley reported on his experience with his Memorial Lilac Planting Project. He does not hesitate to reach out to encourage others with his enthusiasm for memorial plantings. His dedication to his daughter's memory and work on behalf of others' needs is an inspiration to all the membership. He presented a report on recent projects.

Audrey Castle spoke on behalf of John Dostal's historical lilac planting career. Audrey's mission is to carry on John's planting work making Burlington, Vermont the Lilac City in Vermont. He invited everyone to visit and see for themselves. Sounds like the destination for another convention.

Kent Millham arrived with his son, Shane, to round out our event. Shane's so good with the computer that we'll soon give him a job.

In the afternoon Jack Alexander gave a power point presentation in the barn. Then folks stayed on until 6 pm. Had we known how popular this would be, we could have had a catered happy-hour. As it was all the food and drink was eaten. Not one of Warren Oakes's (the Membership Chairman) pecan cider cookies was left to be taken home.

Once again, Evie King and Roger Coggeshall were excellent hosts. As this event grows in numbers, we are going to need to bring our own chairs.

Respectfully submitted;
Mary Lizotte (781-826-4590)
MaryLizotte@gmail.com

Some Notes on a New England Meeting

Lilacs in October!! (October 16, 2010) What a time to have a lilac meeting! Lilacs may be sleeping but not their fans. But, what fun; 30 or 40 lilacers gathered around Evie and Roger's barn to discuss lilacs, and to talk of earlier visits to beautiful lilacs, of heady perfumes, and of gorgeous bouquets.

The weather could not have been better (was someone cold?) The trees were wonderfully bright and the fields were green. The hunt rode by with red coats and black jackets.

We should have more of these events!! So, I, Ned Newton, stuck my neck out and suggested that gatherings featuring tasty lunches and snacks are extremely popular. Just see how well attended Evie and Roger's Fall Lilac Roundup was. It was suggested that a handful of these popular events be held through out our Northeast Region. Maine and northeast Massachusetts have regular events and Boston has Lilac Sunday at the Arnold Arboretum. Not exactly an ILS event, but one we could piggy back on by having our flyer at the information booth. A great addition would be a gathering in western Massachusetts or southern Vermont, perhaps one in the Connecticut River Valley near Amherst? And, then the south coast of Massachusetts. So, since I was talking, I volunteered to have an event at my house June or July in Dartmouth, Mass. This may be after the big push of blossoms but dead heading should be underway. Perhaps some hands on pruning demonstrations would also be possible.

As given on Syringa Plus web site there are Lilac events in the spring at: West Newbury, Mass; South Paris, Maine; Portsmouth, N.H.; and Boston, Mass. Assuming that these events will carry on next year, a few more in the western part of our region would cover our area quite well.

There was an encouraging upbeat report from New Hampshire by John Bentley. A program is a foot there to place lilacs in all public places. Although the caretakers for these places can move slowly, a constant cheerful pressure can show all what a beautiful thing it is to have lilacs.

Lunch was called in to fill our bodies with a fun collection of sandwich items. What was that salsa type stuff that tasted so good? I added it liberally to both my sandwiches. And were there special cookies? Where did those go so fast?

Beautiful shirts monogrammed with a beautiful NE Chapter ILS logo were offered for sale. They are a stunning lilac/purple color and should be worn at all the garden, flower, and farming events that you attend (why note family events too). They can even be purchased slightly large and worn as a jacket.

Jack Alexander gave a wonderful presentation covering all manner of lilac fun, problems, and cares. His talk was a good balance for beginners and the seasoned aficionados, and was well illustrated from his laptop. Kent Millham

brought a Draft Copy of Jack's newly revised and updated book, *Lilacs, Plants of History-Plants for Tomorrow*, 2nd Edition. This is to be published and made available shortly. I would recommend that you all buy many copies, since extra copies are an ideal gift for those friends of yours who have lilacs, don't have lilac and should, or just need an interesting read. It will not replace Fiala and Vrugtman's: *Lilacs: A Gardener's Encyclopedia*, but it is easier to carry around. I think it was mentioned that copies will be available directly from Syringa Plus. Keep in touch with their web site.

Ned Newton
October 2010

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The second edition of this lilac guide has now been published

by authors John Alexander III and Nan Sinton.

3000 copies of this 24 page guide to lilacs have been printed,

and are currently being stored at the Arnold Arboretum.

Ordering and shipping details will be made available

at the convention and in the next issue of *Lilacs*.

Finding Kolesnikov

by Colin Chapman

In March 2009, I was invited by Tatiana Polyakova, along with several other ILS members, to contribute a piece to the forthcoming book "A History of the Russian Lilac - In Memory of Kolesnikov". I obliged with some observations on how I became involved with Kolesnikov's lilacs, and these were duly published in her magnificent book. Tanya has kindly given permission for my original article in English to be published here. I am grateful to the author and publisher Penta for this permission. Below is the piece:

Finding Kolesnikov

(Colin Chapman. Formerly a geologist, a teacher of statistics/mathematics, and Past President of the International Lilac Society. Now retired and living in Suffolk, England and blissfully surrounded by the National Collection of Lilacs which I own.)

In 1989, I read a newspaper review of the book "Lilacs. The Genus *Syringa*" by Fr John L Fiala. It was a revelation, since it brought to my attention the lilacs produced in North America and what was then the Soviet Union. I bought the book and read it from cover to cover. I joined the International Lilac Society, and in May 1991, I caught a flight for my first ever trip to the United States to attend the ILS Convention in Lombard, Illinois.

Arriving a day early, I was kindly met by the then Treasurer Walter Eickhorst who took me for a private visit to the Morton Arboretum. I had, by this time, aroused my own interest in Russian breeder Leonid Alekseevich Kolesnikov, and I was anxious to see his lilacs because I had already lost my heart to pictures seen of 'Krasavitsa Moskv' – the "Beauty of Moscow". Suddenly, at the Morton Arboretum, there it was in front of me in full flower. One third of its buds were gorgeous satin-pink, whilst two-thirds of its triple, white florets were displayed like small, elegant, polyantha roses. The lustrous sheen of its petals picked up reflections of the pink buds. It was so exquisite that my eyes misted over and little tears pricked my eyelids.

Later, during that trip, I visited the lilac collections at Falconskeape – the private collection of Fr Fiala who had died the previous December, and those at Highland Park, Rochester and the Royal Botanic Gardens in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. It was at the latter venue that I met and befriended Charles D. Holetich, the Russian speaking resident arboriculturist. This encounter changed my entire life.

During the nineteen-seventies, Charles had contacted Nikolai L. Mikhailov at the Main Botanical Garden, Moscow and between them they arranged a series of exchanges of lilacs. Thus, at Hamilton, I came face to face with lilacs from LILACS, Winter 2011

Moscow, Minsk and Kiev which had been bred by Kolesnikov, Smol'skii and Bibikova, and Lyapunova et al. I looked into the eye of 'Nadezhda' and felt love all over again. I looked into the exquisite pink depths of the double 'Pamyat' o S.M. Kirove' and was transported to the ballet at the Mariinsky Theatre, and was then further entranced by finding the prima ballerina 'Galina Ulanova' who had enchanted London just after the war and whose single white floret, when plucked and inverted in one's fingers, resembles a "tu-tu". I then saw in the distance 'Znamya Lenina' and was so mesmerised by its astonishing deep red-purple colour that I trudged like a mindless zombie towards it ignoring everything along the way and intent only on standing in its presence.

Charles generously offered to send me scionwood so that I could graft my own plants. I dare not tell Charles that I had no idea how to graft. I simply requested scions of 30 lilacs and hoped for the best. When I got home I sought out my copy of R. J. Garner's "Grafter's Handbook" (Faber & Faber 1950). I found the inverse cleft graft which seemed to be the simplest one for me to tackle and read up the technique one hundred times. At 6am one fateful January morning, the postman knocked on the front door. He stood there with four centimetres of snow on his cap and a parcel from Canada in his hands. I duly rewarded his diligence and retired inside the house. With bated breath I opened the parcel and lifted out the first little package of scions. The label read 'Krasavitsa Moskvyy' and this time, my eyes did not just prickle, those eyes just flooded with grateful tears. I had never grafted a plant in my life, but 29 of those 30 lilacs survived and still flower in this garden today. Over the years Charles never refused me a request and from Hamilton, from The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew in London and other collectors, I have built up a big collection of lilacs which originated in Russia, Belaruss, Ukraine and Kazakhstan.

I do not read Russian but I have made myself familiar with the Russian alphabet and have a good Russian-English dictionary. This allows me to extract the gist of an article although not the details and subtleties. Thanks to my friend and colleague Tatiana Polyakova I now have enough Russian books and articles to last me five lifetimes at my current rate of progress. Nevertheless, I have been able to appreciate several things about Kolesnikov. He first planted some Lemoine lilacs sometime around 1916. He soon started sowing open pollinated seeds and then, later, hybridized seedlings and embarked on a distinguished career dedicated to studying the breeding process of the lilac. He read the works of K. A. Timirazev, of the great pomologist I. V. Michurin and, in particular, he was influenced by the daring Californian Luther Burbank. He soon formed a preference for large double lilacs and, because these tend to be pollen sterile, he developed innovatory methods of stressing them to induce them to produce seed. In 1952, he produced a book which introduced those methods but it was decades before those methods became known to us in the west. In 1943, he made the cross between his own 'I.V.Michurin' and Lemoine's 'Belle de Nancy' to produce that self-same 'Krasavitsa Moskvyy' which reduced me to tears when I first saw it.

My search continued and I discovered many wonderful things. There was 'Leonid Leonov' with magnificent, single, red-purple florets. There was also the lovely lilac-blue 'Sholokhov', which reminded me of just how "Quiet Flows The Don". A wonderful find was his tribute to the black American bass singer in 'Pol Rob'son' which is a single lilac with bluish centres to the florets, but they also have glowing magenta tips which seem to be almost fluorescent and which remind one of a sunset captured on the end of a stick. Then there is 'Sumerki' which not only glows at the approach of evening, as the light fades from the infra red end of the spectrum to the ultra violet, but I swear that, from a distance, I can see the sparkling glint of the wings of the lilac fairy as she flies circuits around this deeply sensuous shrub.

However, there are two more which have such absolute beauty that they alone place Kolesnikov in the Premier Division of plant breeders. The first is the ravishing 'Nevesta' whose big pinkish-white single florets on huge, vertical panicles absolutely dominate our three hectare collection of 500 varieties of lilac when in flower. The other is softer and utterly exquisite. It is 'Pamyat' o Kolesnikove' which opens with white, globular, closed florets. By a wonderful chance I planted this where it is directly in line with the setting sun. At that time, the golden rays strike the florets which reveal a magical translucency and they begin to glow with that golden light. It is one of the loveliest things I have ever seen in nature and I dearly hope that when my time comes I might, myself, leave to the world such a glorious memorial as this. It makes my search for Kolesnikov complete, and I regard myself as a most privileged Englishman for having found him. Oh yes, I also forgot to mention that every time I look out through the window of my home, I see on the left of the window 'Ogni Moskvyy', and on the right – yes, you have guessed correctly - none other than my beloved 'Krasavitsa Moskvyy'.

*Colin Chapman.
March 2009.*



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FROM THE REGISTRAR'S DESK

by Freek Vrugtman

Syringa (Villosae Group) MISS JAPAN and MISS POLAND

Two cultivars originated by Ms. Isabella Preston at the Central Experimental Farm in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, in the 1930s have been marketed since about 2004 by Nursery 't West in the Netherlands. Piet Noordam, owner-operator of Nursery 't West <www.twest.nl> has been marketing these two cultivars not under their registered cultivar names but under unregistered trade designations. MISS JAPAN and MISS POLAND are not cultivar names. Although it is claimed on the website that these trade designations have been registered, this could not be confirmed. Moreover, Mr Noordam has refused to disclose the original cultivar names, claiming that this is a trade secret and that he must protect his business. Since these unregistered trade designations have also appeared on web sites of other European nurseries it may be only a matter of time before they show up in North America and the United Kingdom.

Trademarks and trade designations are marketing tools that differ from the original cultivar name. Trademarks are not names. Trademarks are regulated and protected by law; trademarks need to be clearly identified by a trademark symbol (® or ™). Nurserymen and collectors sometimes forget to add the trademark symbol, consciously or unconsciously, which makes the trademark appear as a cultivar name, which is confusing to a buyer or a visitor to a collection.

By contrast, trade designations are names, but not cultivar names. Sometimes they are translations of cultivar names, such as BEAUTY OF MOSCOW for

'Krasavitsa Moskv'y'; note however that the German translation of the name is a registered trademark, namely SCHÖNE VON MOSKAU™. Trade designations that are used without disclosing the original cultivar name are applied to confuse the buyer. They are clearly unethical; there is no doubt about that.

How can prospective buyers protect themselves? Trademarks and trade designations known to the Registrar are listed and cross-referenced with the established and accepted cultivar names in the International Register and Checklist of Cultivar Names in the Genus *Syringa*. When spotting a lilac with an unfamiliar name, check it out in the Register <www.SyringaRegistry.info> If it is not listed in the Register, ask the Registrar.

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FROM THE REGISTRAR'S DESK

by Freek Vrugtman

Syringa vulgaris 'Helen Blasberg'

ILS members viewing the lilacs at the University of Vermont Horticulture Farm last spring may have noticed a lilac with single, pinkish flowers and the unfamiliar name 'Helen Blasberg'. We were not there, but we spotted the name on a list. Our question to Jeff Young, curator of the collection, about the background of this lilac touched off a bit of detective work on Jeff's side.

The first bit of evidence turned up in the September-October 1999 issue of the Newsletter of the Friends of the Horticulture Farm: "The highlight was an after-dinner ceremony in honor of Helen Blasberg, the widow of Dr. Charles Blasberg, who founded the Hort. Farm. A new lilac cultivar, given to us by the International Lilac Society in May of this year, was named in her honor and planted in the Hort. Farm Lilac Collection—*Syringa vulgaris* 'Helen Blasberg,' a hybrid selected from the famous 'Rochester' lilac." This pointed Jeff's search in the right direction and, true enough, it was ILS Executive Vice President Robert Hoepfl who presented the Horticulture Farm with an unnamed 'Rochester' F₂ seedling grown at the nursery of Highland Botanical Park, Rochester, New York.

A single plant, even if it has been given a name, is not a cultivar. A lilac cultivar has to be a clone. In other words, the original plant must be propagated vegetatively (cloned), producing a population of plants that is Distinct, Uniform and Stable (passing the DUS test). Jeff Young has observed this lilac for several years; he did not consider it to be outstanding or an improvement over any of the lilac cultivars he knows. Therefore, 'Helen Blasberg' will remain a single plant in the Hort. Farm collection and not be developed into a cultivar.

International Lilac Society

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Syringa vulgaris 'Pamyat 'o. S. M. Kirove'
a Kolesnikov hybrid
Photo Credit Colin Chapman



The newest lilac quilt that will be raffled
at the 2011 Convention at Lilacia Park
Photo Courtesy of Marymae Meyer



Group photo of happy convention attendees at 2010 ILS convention in Vermont, USA

Photo credit Margaret Walton