

Lilacs

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of the International Lilac Society

IN
THIS
ISSUE:

2011 ILS Convention, Reports
and
Lilacs in Florida



Syringa vulgaris 'Col. Wm. R. Plum'
Photo Credit Colin Chapman



Syringa vulgaris 'Lilovaya Piramida'
Photo Credit Colin Chapman

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*Front Cover: Attendees of the 2011 ILS convention are protected from the rain
by their 'Krasavitsa Moskvyy' umbrellas.*

Photo credit Guy Lawyer, Lombard Camera Club President

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

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President's Message

Dear Lilac Aficionados,

The 2011 ILS Convention seems to have happened long ago. The lilacs were not in bloom but it did not dampen our spirit even though we had rain at times during the event. Marymae Meyer had thought of everything. With an army of volunteers from the Village of Lombard, USA she orchestrated the convention from beginning to end. From the welcome in the hotel lobby to the guided tour into the city of Chicago, to the banquets, the BBQ dinner and brown bag lunches on the river boat ride and at Lilacia Park. Striking lilac banners designed by Brian Diskin, an artist friend of Marymae, were everywhere to be seen. We knew we were here to celebrate Lilacs!

Everyone was so welcoming. The volunteers were easy to spot wearing purple vests and large name tags. The Mayor of Lombard, Bill Mueller and his wife Eileen visited with us several times extending the warm welcome of the Village. At the BBQ dinner on Friday evening we were graced by the company of the Lilac Princesses dressed in lovely gowns. The All Volunteer Plank Road Band played the 1930's song, "Lilac Time in Our Town" and we all joined in. The next day the Lilac Queen was selected outdoor in Lilacia Park in front of a large crowd. The Village of Lombard is all about lilacs. After our departure in the following two weeks a lilac festival was to be launched with a big parade; Marymae Meyer leading it as the Grand Marshall. She was also being honored for being named Woman of the Year for all her contribution to lilacs in the town of Lombard.

It was raining and cold the day we went to visit Lilacia Park. A few of us jumped out of the bus but quickly returned. The lilacs collected by Colonel William R. Plum (1845-1927) were not open. We did visit an unusual garden in the City of Chicago. Lurie Garden in Millennium Park is built on top of a parking garage. Native plants representing the flora of North America are used in the landscaping. Volunteers help maintain this garden. With a view of the lake, green spaces and the skyscrapers reflecting the life of the city, the park is an urban oasis.

We experienced a long traffic jam at rush hour on our trip back to Lombard. We used this down time to get to know each other better. Our bus driver told two delightful jokes. My bus companion, Harry Latimer sang a couple songs. We enjoyed our ride. We did miss his wife Nancy who remained in Virginia babysitting the lilacs!

On Friday evening at the President Banquet lovely centerpieces created by Jan Mills, one of the Park District Commissioners, were made up of potted lilacs given by Dan Meier of Briggs Nursery. After the dinner everyone was happy to take one of these little treasures home. We all enjoyed a presentation on tulips. Those colors! The speaker told us that tulips makes great companion plants for

lilacs. They come in a multitude of shapes, the most unusual being the Turkish tulips that have the twisted look of flames. They are a very old species of tulips often seen in old books and illustrations.

The auction on Saturday afternoon was a great success. Our new auctioneer, Bruce Peart, did a fine job. He told us he had never done an auction before but he smoothly worked the audience and got excellent bids. Once again the Lombard volunteers did a superb job keeping everything going at a nice pace.

The lilac selection was outstanding and some of the cultivars were huge. Only the lucky attendees who had come with cars could bid on those beauties. Thank you to the nurseries and individuals who gave so generously. Some of the donors include Dan Meier of Briggs Nursery, Evie King of Syringa Plus, Ted Collins, Bill Horman, Roy Klehm, Deb McCown and many more who gave not only to the live auction but also gave items for the silent auction. Deb McCown had a supply of tissue cultured 'Reva Ballreich' lilacs available in the hospitality room for a \$10 donation to ILS. Needless to say they all quickly disappeared. A beautiful Lilac Quilt created by Meadowlark Quilters Club and a quilt rack donated by Cher Herlache, Lombard Garden Club co-president, were raffled and won by Kathy Hogan, a park commissioner, who was working as a cashier at the auction. She was delighted!

At the Awards and Honors Banquet on Saturday evening Warren Oakes was remembered by his friends. A special table was set with candle, pictures and a guest book that many filled with comments about their friend Warren. Helen Thurlow gave a very touching memorial telling us about his life, his many interests and his philosophy. Lilacs and ILS were at the forefront of the things he loved most. He lived his life with gusto. We all missed his joyful spirit.

The two board meetings and the membership annual meeting were well attended. No, we did not yet choose a ILS logo. The board liked two designs. It was therefore decided to get back to the graphic designers and see what logo could be created incorporating both ideas. The ILS Preservation Committee was joined by Tim McCauley. The committee has now decided how to collect the data and how to store it. As part of ILS mission it is a very important project. We must know where collections are located world wide and we must identify rare lilacs in danger of extinction.

We discussed creating a new ILS award to recognize hybridizers. It would be called The Victor Lemoine Medal. The criteria for selecting a winner are still being discussed. It is complicated since lilacs need to be evaluated and show merit before a hybridizer can be the recipient of this award. It will not be given annually. We table the idea for now but it will be resubmitted next year in Nancy, France. What better place to initiate this award then at the birthplace of the French Hybrid lilacs and the town where Victor Lemoine did his work.

Board members have finished their terms, new ones have joined the board and other have been reelected. Thank you for your work and dedication. Several chairmanships had to be filled. Mary Lizotte is now chair of Nominations and Joan Speirs accepted the chairmanship of Education and Publication. Gloria Schreiber is the new ILS Membership Secretary. A big thank you to all of you for filling these posts.

Thank you to Karen McCauley who stepped in as Interim ILS Membership Secretary at a very critical time. Karen has done an excellent job. She holds others ILS jobs, one being ILS Treasurer and the second ILS Convention Chair. She is truly dedicated to ILS.

Again I want to said thank you to Marymae Meyer and all the wonderful people from Lombard Village including Mayor Bill Mueller, the Executive Director of Lombard Park District, Paul Freidrichs and all the others notables who came to celebrate lilacs with us. Thank you to Allen Meyer for giving his time and talent and doing those marvelous caricatures of us in the hospitality room. They are a great souvenir of our time spent in Lombard, Illinois...

Next year's convention in Nancy, France is being planned. Contact Karen McCauley, ILS Treasurer, to reserve your place at that convention. The Nancy Botanical Garden sent a CD to give us a peek into the gardens and the city. Plan on coming! There is much to see in Nancy. This convention will be different as it will have a French flair! I know some Russian members are planning to attend, and it will be a great opportunity to meet them.

One last thing; remember to sign up a new member. I'll see you soon on the lilac trail...

*Amities,
Nicole Jordan
ILS President
Chester, VA USA
Njordan236@aol.com*

ILS Convention Highlights of 2011

Last spring in Vermont when I so boldly “sang” the invitation, “Come to Lilac Time in Lombard, and we’ll steal your heart away!!” I had every confidence that Lombard’s hosting of the 2011 ILS convention would be a great success. A year earlier my helpers and I had chosen the theme “plant preservation in an urban environment” because — in the 100 years since “Colonel” William R. Plum and his wife Helen brought the first two Lemoine lilacs from Nancy, France to plant in their then-rural Lombard yard — our village has become surrounded by Chicago’s urban sprawl.

Backed by a small army of proud Lombardians eager to prove to the world The Lilac Village’s devotion to our beloved Lilacia Park, I set out to convey relevant local history and would include a “must see” trip to the world-renowned Lurie Garden of Millennium Park in Chicago. I’m proud to say that, true to the can-do spirit of our community, literally dozens of fellow Lombardians stepped up to volunteer as greeters, tour guides and entertainers. It was due to the generosity of numerous local businesses’ and civic organizations’ discounts, contributions, and donations, that we were able to provide each attendee with a wonderful goody bag, extra food and beverages. The gift of custom-made umbrellas featuring my own photo of *S. vulgaris* ‘Krasvitsa Moskv’ was a contribution from Lombard Garden Club through a special community-wide project funded by West Suburban Bank. Meadowlark Quilters donated a hand-made quilt displayed on another donation — a quilt rack— from Lombard Garden Club co-president Cher Herlache. Drawing for the quilt was held at the Saturday auction, with the winner being Lombard Park District Commissioner Kathy Hogan.

In a spring so cruel that we had not one lilac in bloom, on our very first outing we were deluged with a rain and accompanying biting wind strong enough to ruin the guided part of our Lilacia Park tour. Ironically, the rain allowed us to show off the recently-developed labels which I created from our new lilac database and which Lombard Park District graphic artist Eric Roegner expertly finished onto a product called Hydro-Ban. Rain-soaked and wind-whipped, attendees found their way to shelter and warmth in the big blue and white tent that Lombard Park District prepared for our Welcome Dinner pig roast. There we were greeted by Miss Illinois, Whitney Thorpe-Klinsky, Village President Bill Mueller, Lombard Park District Executive Director Paul Friedrichs and the Plank Road All Volunteer String Band which played throughout the evening. Just about everyone had his or her photo taken with Miss Illinois. When the five Lilac Princesses arrived, the audience joined in a sing-a-long of the 1930s song “Lilac Time in Lombard”. The pig roast ended with Nicole Jordan performing a ceremonious cutting of the cake provided by Lombard Historical Society.

In the hospitality suite, my husband Allan, a caricature artist, made drawings for

members while others visited and bid on numerous silent auction items displayed around the room. One of the most talked-about items was *Lilacs* by Susan McKelvey which had belonged to Walter Oakes, then Warren, and was donated by Warren's partner Bill. Gloria Schreiber created "table questions" to generate discussion at both the President's Dinner and the Awards Dinner where the correct answers rewarded three recipients with *S. vulgaris* 'Arch McKean' lilacs donated by Arch McKean's granddaughter, Lise McKean. Briggs Nursery donated small lilacs which Lombard Park District Commissioner Jan Mills dressed up as "take-home" centerpieces for the President's Dinner. Mother Nature reserved the one gloriously sun-filled day for our Chicago tour after the continental breakfast annual meeting. A docent from Chicago Line Cruises' architectural tour boat kept the sold-out tour's attention as she described the many famous buildings that line the Chicago River while we lunched. Afterward we were given a guided tour of Lurie Garden in Millennium Park where 25 acres of park land has been phenomenally built atop an active parking garage and railroad near Chicago's Lake Michigan shoreline.

Not everything happened as planned — namely the computer glitch that hampered complete demonstration of our searchable lilac database — but after a nice President's Dinner at Carlisle Banquets on Friday night, Jill Selinger from the Chicago Botanic Garden entertained us with an informative talk about tulips, the flower most notably paired with lilacs in Lilacia Park. Jack Alexander kicked off Saturday morning's panel discussion with a PowerPoint program covering lilac basics and later that morning Dan Meier presented another PowerPoint program "Performing Color Classification". Until lunchtime, panel members Bill Horman, Deb McCown, Giles Waines, Jack Alexander and Dan Meier shared their expertise and answered dozens of audience questions. We paused on the way to lunch to pose for our annual group photo on the steps next to the pool at Lilacia Park and again for two special "umbrella" photos.

Perhaps the highlight of this year's convention was Bruce Peart's debut performance as ILS auctioneer. Not only did he prove himself to be an amazing auctioneer, but his and Bill Horman's convivial, entertaining lilac banter also succeeded in coaxing record-setting winning bids from the audience, resulting in a more than \$6,000 fund-raising achievement! Congratulations to both Bruce and Bill and many, many thanks to Dan Meier of Briggs Nursery, Evie King of Syringa Plus, Ted Collins of Lilac Hill Nursery, Deb McCown of Knight Hollow Nursery, Bill Horman of Sunny Fields, Inc., and Roy Klehm of Klehm's Song Sparrow Nursery — for their generous lilac donations.

Kunso Kim, Head of Collections and Curator at the Morton Arboretum, Lisle, Illinois addressed the group after dinner at the Westin Hotel on Saturday evening with his topic, "Conserving Endangered Species at the Morton Arboretum". Afterward, Connie Simmonet presented the awards, Karen McCauley presented a PowerPoint preview of the 2012 convention in France and the evening ended with distribution of winning silent auction bids. I suggest that one might sum

up the 2011 convention as proof positive that blooms are not a requirement of a successful, memorable convention, rather it very simply takes people working positively together. Trite as “it takes a village” may sound, that’s exactly the approach we Lombardians took as hosts to the ILS annual meeting and, in the end, created for ourselves a local “happening” not soon to be forgotten.

Marymae Meyer
2011 ILS Convention Host

2011 International Lilac Society Awards at Lombard, Illinois

President’s Award: to Village of Lombard

for honoring Colonel William R. Plum’s bequest of his beloved Lilacia to the people of Lombard in the 20th century, and establishing the lilac as the iconic representation of Lombard, Il., now known nationally as “The Lilac Village.”

President’s Award: to Lombard Park District

for the park district’s commitment to preservation and management of the historical Lilac Collection, begun by Colonel William R. Plum and his wife Helen M. Plum, in 1911.

Award of Merit: to Jill Selinger

for your presentation of tulips, the primary companion plantings to lilacs in Lilacia Park, Lombard.

Award of Merit: to Kunso Kim

for your Presentation at The Awards Dinner, “Conserving Endangered Species, at The Morton Arboretum.”

Award of Merit: to Jerry Budd

for your horticultural standard of excellence, of the Lilacia Collection at Lilacia Park.

Award of Merit: to Marymae Meyer

for serving as Host Chair of the 40th annual ILS Convention, and her contributions to promoting lilacs in Lombard and many other places.

Honor and Achievement: to Freek Vrugtman

for his dedication to the Registrar, ICRA, and attention to detail to insure correct classification of lilac cultivars.

Distinguished Recognition Award: to Robert and Marcia Hoepfl

for their many years of service as Award Chair.

Distinguished Recognition Award: to William Horman

for your growing and maintenance of Sunny Fields Botanical Park, the yearly lilac festival, and generous donations of lilacs for auction, and to members and friends.

Distinguished Recognition Award: to Warren Oakes

for his devotion to the society in many areas of service, and most recently his dedication as Membership Secretary.

Award of Merit: to Ludmila Pshennikova

for growing, breeding, research, and publication about lilacs.

Award of Merit: to Natalia Makedonskaya

for your years of service with an outstanding collection of lilacs and popularization of lilac culture through Russian and Belarusian magazines and lectures.

Award of Merit: to Olga Molkanova

*for your extensive scientific research work promoting *Syringa vulgaris*.*

Treasurer's Report 2011

Fiscal Year 4/1/10 - 3/31/11

KeyBank Checking Account Balance 4/1/11	\$6,286.47
KeyBank Certificate of Deposit .15%	6,722.48
Edward Jones Company Investments:	
HSBC Finance 5.00%	5,000.00
Tennessee Valley Auth Gbr Pwr 4.65%	20,000.00
FHLMC Note 5.625	18,000.00
South Broward HDFB Municipal Bond 6.978%	5,000.00
Franklin Adj US Govt Secs	8,000.00
Money Market/Cash	495.18

TOTAL	<u>\$69,504.13</u>
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Special Accounts (Included in the above total)

Life Member/Endowment Fund	\$38,444.57
Plant Propagation Fund (Laurene Wishart)	1,609.57
Education & Research	3,125.47
Youth Program Fund	1,251.55
Reva Ballreich Memorial Fund	257.44

Total Funds in Special Accounts	\$44,688.60
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Total Funds in General Accounts	\$24,815.53
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TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	\$69,504.13
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Income

Membership Dues	\$7,890.00
Contributions to ILS	235.00
Interest Income	2,680.51
Auction Income	3,761.00
Misc Income (Research donations, CD sales, royalties, etc.)	3,240.18
Convention Earnings	0.00
Reva Ballreich Memorial Fund	25.00
Total Income	\$17,831.69

Expenses

Journal	\$8,949.65
Postage	2,568.99
Bank Fees	447.30
Web site expenses	119.50
Printing (Brochures, booklets, postcards)	2,585.58
Awards	493.11
Insurance	367.50
Insurance - Convention	75.00
Office Supplies	269.11
Robert Gilbert Memorial Fund expenditure for DVD conversion	193.19
Total Expenses	\$16,068.93

Net Income (Loss)	\$1,762.76
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NOTE: The C.C. Clark Memorial Fund, Arch McKean Fund and the Colored Photo Separation funds were consolidated under the General Accounts. The balance of the Publica-

tions (other than journal) fund was transferred to the General Accounts for the new Lilac booklet.

Submitted 4/15/11 by Karen McCauley, ILS Treasurer

This past fiscal year we experienced a net income of \$1,762.76. This, in part, was due to royalties in the amount of \$1,115.18 received from Timber Press for the republication of *Lilacs; the Genus Syringa*, which was revised last year by Freek Vrugtman. Our thanks to the author, the late Father John Fiala, who remembered the ILS in his will, and Freek Vrugtman, for his efforts in revising this masterpiece. In addition to the royalties income, we also received a very generous \$1,000 donation for research from Dr. Craig Hibben. Questions regarding the annual report may be sent to mccauleytk@aol.com

Start Planning Now for 2012 in Nancy, France!

check the ILS website at www.internationallilacsociety.org

and see the powerpoint of the beautiful botanical gardens in Nancy, France,

host of the 2012 ILS convention.

Also, if you can't wait that long, attend the New England

regional meeting at King's Tree Farm and Nursery

in West Boxford, Massachusetts on October 8, 2011.

Editor's Report April 2011

From the Summer 2010 issue of *Lilacs* through the Spring issue 2011, 132 pages were published. This included 49 color photos of lilacs, convention events, or people and places connected to the International Lilac Society.

There was a wide array of topics presented, including convention events and ILS news, memoriams to ILS members, poems about lilacs, thoughts of Thoreau on lilacs, an interview with Tatiana Poliakova, notes from the Lilac Registrar, a look at an historic Ellwanger & Barry catalogue, and much more.

Also, the 2nd edition of the lilac booklet written by John Alexander III and Nan Sinton was published. It is comprised of 24 pages, and contains new updates on lilac diseases and revised nomenclature, as well as the proper culture, pruning and maintenance of lilacs. It is entitled *Lilacs: Plants of History-Plants for Tomorrow*.

Thirdly, although not an official publication of the International Lilac Society, *The Plantsmen of Rochester Parks*, by Alvan R. Grant is being republished in May 2011, with an update by Kent Millham, ILS editor and a horticulturist at the Monroe County Parks. There are only a few copies of the original edition. This publication should be of interest to many ILS members, and approximately 250 copies of the new edition will be printed, and more will be printed if the demand exceeds the supply.

Kent Millham
ILS editor

International Lilac Registrar Report for 2010

The "International Register and checklist of cultivar Names in the Genus *Syringa*" and associated Appendices A to H have been updated several times during 2010. The Register and Links to this website can be found on the ILS and RBG web sites.

Information on the 2008, revised and updated edition of John L. Fiala and Freek Vrugtman, *Lilacs: A Gardener's Encyclopedia* is also available on the above web site. Readers spotting errors or omissions in the book are requested to bring them to the attention of the author; corrections and comments received have been greatly appreciated. Addenda and corrigenda to the book are being compiled and are available on request.

Cultivar names registered in 2009 awaiting publication in *Hanburyana* are:
Syringa reticulata subsp. *reticulata* 'Bailnce'; plants of this cultivar are marketed under the trademark SNOWDANCE™.

Syringa pubescens subsp. *patula* 'Colby's Twinkling Little Star'.

Syringa 'Penda'; plants of this cultivar are marketed under the trademark BLOOMERANG™ PURPLE.

Publications by the Registrar

Vrugtman, F. 2010. New lilac registered-'Colby's Twinkling Little Star'. *Lilacs-Quart. Jour.* 39(1):12.

(Announcement of registration of cultivar name (announcement erroneously credited to Frank Moro).

Respectfully submitted

March 21, 2011

Freek Vrugtman

Curator Emeritus

Royal Botanical Gardens

Hamilton, Ontario, Canada

European Newsletter

My apologies to all European members because a series of illnesses have kept me away from the keyboard for most of the last two years. I cannot say that we are both fully well, but at least we now seem to be walking towards recovery. Much has happened that I shall inform you about in the editions to come but I will tell you now of one miraculous addition to the plants here. I show a plant called 'Lilovaya Piramida' which was bred in Kazakhstan by A. F. Mel'nik (date unknown). I cannot give a formal description because this is its first flowering in the greenhouse, so its colour will prove to be paler than it should be. Nevertheless, it is worth showing because of the complex and dense floret structure which breathes promise of a very desirable lilac. It is my only specimen so I dare not plant it out until I have propagated one or two reserve plants. I just want you to know that it is here and I shall devote much time in establishing that it is indeed the lilac that it claims to be. There will be more to come!

I enclose two other pictures to accompany this article. The first is a lilac which was donated to me by my good friend Konrad Kircher and which I have inexcusably neglected in past writings. It is *S. v. 'Fürst Bülow'* (H.L. Spath, Berlin 1921). My specimen is one of my own grafts which does not seem to have established its own roots so, consequently, has been rather small but, this year, it took off and grabbed my eyeballs with its striking, upright panicles of good-sized single florets with a startling red-purple colour and a deep violet eye. It is superb, and joins another Konrad donated masterpiece - '*Vergissmeinnicht*' as something to look forward to seeing for years to come.

The other picture I could not resist. Because of illness, I could not attend the recent convention in Lombard, IL. This saddened me because it was the venue of the first of my eleven conventions twenty years ago in 1991. I wrote up that incredible experience in my first article for this Journal in the Summer 1991 edition. It was there that I met legends like Joel Margaretten, Mark Eaton, Bill Utley, Bill Heard, Winfried Martin, Al Fordham and Louis Erickson. It was there that I made friends with the Gilberts, Charles Holetich, Owen Rogers, Jack Alexander, Dave Gressley and, of course Reva and her daughter Karla - plus many others. On my return to England I made a priority request of scionwood of *S. v. 'Col. Wm. R. Plum'* as a memory of my visit to Lilacia Park. My picture shows a lovely pannicle as it was flowering here on April 26th 2011 to remind me of that wonderful experience, and also to feed my regret that I could not be with y'all this year also.

In a recent entry on the Lilac Round Robin Tanya Poliakova mentioned a Moscow lilac exhibition in which '*Krasavitsa Moskv*y' was introduced by quoting my now well-known comment about this lilac. I looked up the original description that I wrote and was surprised to find it was as long ago as LILACS Vol 28, No. 1, Winter 1999. Since there must now be many members who have joined since that date I repeat that description now. The famous sentence referred to is the fi-

2011 ILS Convention Memories at Lombard, Illinois, USA



Volunteer Nancy
Krawczykowsky, Miss
Illinois and Marymae
Meyer discover Jack
Alexander's purple
hair.

Everyone enjoys Jack Alexander's streak of purple hair!

Photo Credit Joelyn Kott



The All Volunteer
Plank Road String Band

The Plank Road String Band livens up the party even more!

Photo Credit Joelyn Kott



Rose Roth with the centennial cake celebrating the 100th anniversary of lilacs at Lilacia Park
Photo Credit Joelyn Kott



The Cake Cutting
L-R: Marymae Meyer, Lombard Village President Bill Mueller, Nicole Jordan, Lombard Princess, Miss Illinois and Exec. Paul Friedrichs
Cutting of the cake: Marymae Meyer, Lombard Village President Bill Mueller, Nicole Jordan, Lombard Princess, Miss Illinois and Exec. Paul Friedrichs
Photo Credit Joelyn Kott



Bill Horman describes
Pheobe Hibbard and
Marymae Meyer as
'Sensation'

Bill Horman admires the "Sensational" purple and white haired
Phoebe Hibbard and Marymae Meyer
Photo Credit Joelyn Kott



Enjoying a cruise through the city!
Photo Credit Joelyn Kott



Touring
Lurie Garden

The ILS group arrives at Lurie Gardens
Photo Credit Joelyn Kott



Lombard Village President Bill
Mueller and his wife Eileen
with Bruce Peart

Bruce Peart meets Lombard Village President Bill Mueller
and his wife Eileen
Photo Credit Joelyn Kott

nal one in this piece. I prefaced the piece with these words:- "The particular lilac is sublime and I will try to convey some of the sense of wonder it gives to myself and especially to my visitors who see it for the very first time."

Syringa vulgaris 'Krasavitsa Moskv'y' (Beauty of Moscow).

Leonid Alekseevitch Kolesnikov. Moscow, 1947.

This is Kolesnikov's masterpiece which he bred from his own lilac with the sumptuously coloured - but messily shaped flowers - *S. v.* 'I.V. Michurin' and Lemoine's elegant *S. v.* 'Belle de Nancy'. It has pale, pink satin buds which open to give pearly-white, triple florets which are symmetrically formed like little noisette roses. At the "half-bud stage", when the flower spikes are one-third pink and two-thirds white, and the pink of the buds is reflected in the white sheen of the florets, the effect is ravishing.

The habit is somewhat upright and, if this lilac has a fault, it is that the flowers tend towards the top of the shrub rather than being evenly distributed all around and from top-to-toe, but this can be modified by good pruning. It flowers at mid-season and is the star of the second half of the *Syringa vulgaris* display here.

The end comes as an exquisite dying fall when the final, fleeting, flush of pink lingers on to haunt the reverses of the last florets to open. Visitors compete to find these last tints of pink amongst the full, fabulous flowers which now give off a sweet fragrance of wonderful, airy potency. Can some bio-chemist somewhere please explain to me what kind of molecule gives a colour so transient that it can fade through these beautiful, successive stages of chromatic dilution? These last breathless traces of pink arouse a sorrowful sense of impending loss - like being moved to tender concern by the helpless throbbing of a mortally wounded bird. At first, there is a sense of grief that such loveliness must pass, but then there is a lift of joy as we realize that we will be able to welcome it, and mourn it anew - in Walt Whitman's words - "with ever returning Spring".

This is not just a wonderful lilac but is one of the great flowering shrubs. If there is a lilac in Heaven then I believe that this will be the one.

Colin Chapman.
Norman's Farm, UK
June 3, 2011

Russian Report 2011

Editor's Note: I changed the wording in some sentences to make the meaning more clear, since the translation from Russian to English didn't always use the proper words or grammar.

The popularity of lilacs continues to grow in Russia. This year the greatest activity was shown by two organizations- Children's Public Organization Flower Team, headed by new ILS member Nadezhda Pronina, and Lilac Section (Moscow Flower Club) led by new chairman Tatyana Veremyova.

The Flower Team for several years has planted lilacs in schoolyards and on city streets. Last spring they planted 65 lilac shrubs in city parks in honor of the Victory in the Second World War. The project of the team has received Ministry for Foreign Affairs support. Children will plant lilacs near monuments to lost soldiers and in burial places of Russian soldiers in other European countries. This spring they plan to plant a lilac at the monument to Marshal Konev in Prague, Czechoslovakia on May 8th, and also lilac bushes at the Mauthausen concentration camp in Austria on May 9th.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Russia not only has approved this project, but also has at their disposal the help of Russian embassies in Europe in planting lilacs.

The 4th International Children's Summit took place from March 22 until March 24th, with "The Earth- Our Common Home" as the theme. Nadezhda Pronina has handed to each participant of the summit a small lilac shrub. Children will take lilacs to Moldova, Belarus, as well as to many different cities in Russia.

In April, members of the Flower Team will plant a specimen of the 'Kosmos' (Space) lilac in honor of the anniversary of the flight of Yuri Gagarin. Lilac saplings will be given to the team on behalf of ILS for their excellent work. Nadezhda Pronina has paid for all of the lilacs distributed.

Three exhibitions of lilacs will take place in Moscow this spring. Two exhibitions will be organized by the Lilac Section. One exhibition will be held on the club's premises, and the other at a biological museum. The Russian branch of ILS will hold an exhibition at the Poklonnaya Gora Museum.

The chairman of Lilac Section Tatyana Veremyova has done outstanding work. She has managed to contact the city department that is responsible for the lilac garden of Kolesnikov, and they have also received documents from the archives (of Kolesnikov).

It is the plan of plantings of Kolesnikov's cultivars. The lilac garden has been located at the former nursery of Leonid Kolesnikov. More than 40 years it was without attention of expert horticulturists, and existed as a public garden. Many rare cultivars and anonymous seedlings of Kolesnikov are in this garden. Most

of the shrubs need pruning and additional care. We have obtained permission to work in the garden. Twice in April we have pruned and cleaned up the garden.

Irina Okuneva has received an award recognizing her as one of the best authors from the newspaper "*Arguments and the Facts*" in which she writes a column about ornamental shrubs, and of course, lilacs.

A debate has taken place in the magazine of Flower Club between Tatyana Poliakova (Moscow) and Natalia Poliakova (Ufa). I asserted that single lilacs look more effective than doubles. Natalia defended the double flowers. In this dispute Tom Thekathyl (Australia) helped us with photos, because lilacs in his garden at the time of these articles (December) were in bloom. He took photos of individual florets with different shapes.

The most unusual and largest ILS member is Mosvodokanal- the largest organization of Moscow uniting 12,500 persons, and continues to participate actively not only in lilac popularization, but also in cultivation of lilacs for city gardening. At an exhibition of biotechnologies, the stand of Mosvodokanal drew attention to a blossoming lilac while in the street there was a snowfall.

Now we are in the midst of a very interesting time. The new wave of hybridization of lilacs has begun in Russia that began some years ago. Interesting hybrids were made by Olga Molkanova, crossing 'Rochester' with 'Frank Paterson'. We are waiting for good news from Sergey Aladin, who has begun registration of new cultivars.

Tatyana Poliakova
Regional VP Russia

Advertising Rates

Advertising space is available in *Lilacs*. Please send your advertising message, set up as you wish it to appear, in its proper size and in camera ready condition.

Full page ads	\$100.00
Half page ads	\$ 50.00
Quarter page ads	\$ 25.00

Please send your camera ready copy and remittance to:

Karen McCauley, ILS Treasurer

325 W. 82nd Street

Chaska, MN 55318

mccauleytk@aol.com

U. S. Mountain Region Report

Record cold temperatures in the Desert Southwest caused pipes to freeze and break, electricity to go out, and many plants that were less hardy were killed. At my own home outside Tucson, temperatures dropped to 14 degrees Fahrenheit. The lilacs, however, were happy to deal with the hard freeze by blooming normally and profusely, just a little later than is typical.

The region has such dispersed members that events are impractical. Individual visits are scheduled when possible. Travel distances are large, however, and lilacs here are more a novelty than the norm.

There has been some work done on a notional, but detailed plan to host a future ILS convention in the Sonoran Desert near Tucson. If held, this would be a convention that differs in character from our traditional convention. Each individual lilac plant would be celebrated. Seldom is there a collection of more than 4 plants in the region, and it is remarkable when just one or two blooming lilacs are found.

If the ILS is interested in this kind of convention, which would be a celebration of the hardiness of the lilac across different climactic conditions, further planning can be done. Potentially a convention could be set up for a future year (tentatively 2017). Possible highlights of the trip would include:

- Neighborhoods where lilacs succeed in the desert
- Tour of one of the largest tomato producers in the region (or a cactus nursery)
- Historic sites and lilacs: Tombstone, St. David, and University of Arizona "Old Main"
- Lilac auction would probably be held at either the Tucson Botanical Gardens or the Arizona Sonoran Desert Museum, or perhaps at the University of Arizona
- Biomes of the Sonoran Desert
- Possible presentations: phenology, xeriscape
- Optional visits: Saguaro National Park, Organ Pipe National Monument, Mount Lemmon (a place with a northern climate just 30 miles from Tucson...at nearly 9000' elevation)

Brad Bittorf
U. S. Mountain Region VP

Pacific Northwest Report

There isn't much to report this year. The Hulda Klager Lilac Garden has taken on an unaccustomed and temporary job of growing and supplying our own lilac plants this year. Due to Roberta Peterson's decision to retire from the nursery business, we purchased her remaining inventory. Six members with little extra room at their homes are tending to the plants in the hope of selling the plants during Lilac Days, April 16 -May 8. The logistics of the situation has yet to be worked out. As volunteers, we took the process for granted for a lot of years and are now overwhelmed with how little we paid attention. Thanks to those of you who tolerated my frantic emails, pleading for growing advice. Your response and support have given me a whole new appreciation for the ILS.

Compared with the weather in the rest of the USA, the Pacific Northwest had a fairly mild winter with just 1 or 2 little cold snaps. Our lilacs are now assuming winter is over and have begun to show some color. Hopefully they haven't jumped the gun. If I have learned nothing else from working at the HKLG, anxiety has no influence on the growing season. Camellias are blooming as are crocus and violets. Daffodils and tulips will soon follow. Thanks for the International Lilac Robin and for the opportunity to represent the ILS in our area.

*Ruth Wendt, RVP
March 16, 2011*

Send Pictures of the Lilacs You've Seen

Please feel free to send photos of lilacs you've seen this year

or descriptions about your own lilac gardens.

ILS will be happy to hear about all of our members' lilac gardens!

Please send any photos or stories to the editor:

Kent Millham
253 Burnett Road
Webster, NY 14580
kmillham@monroecounty.gov

2011 ILS Convention Attendee Roster

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F L. "Woody" and Jane Barnes
Marilyn Bonnett
Iris Cannata
Cindy Crawshaw
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Jean M. Herrington
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Mary Hopkins
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John and Ellen Thurlow
William and Shirley Tschumi
Giles Wainess
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Margaret Walton
Candace Wentz
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Amy Whitman-Litz

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Princeton, MN
Julian, CA
Spencer, OH
Foxboro, MA
Yucca Valley, CA
Elgin, IL
Princeton, MN
Appleton, WI
Morongo Valley, CA
Port Orchard, WA
Rochester, NY
Yucca Valley, CA
Detroit, MI
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Elma, WA
Lombard, WI
Niles, IL
Richmond, CA
Dundas, ON, Canada
Appleton, WI
Wheaton, MD
Lombard, IL
Hartville, OH
Polo, IL
Ottawa, ON, Canada
Luddington, MI
West Newbury, MA
Cohoes, NY
Riverside, CA
Dunham, Quebec, Canada
Dundas, ON, Canada
Danville, KY
Nahant, MA
Nahant, MA

Convention Corner Calendar

October 8, 2011 ILS New England Fall Roundup
10:00 – 3:00 Presented by the New England ILS
members
King's Tree Farm & Nursery, Rte 133
West Boxford, Massachusetts

May 3-5, 2012 ILS Convention at Nancy Botanical
Garden in Nancy, France

May 2013 ILS Convention in Madison, Wisconsin

First of all, I would like to thank everyone involved with the festivities in Lombard. In my experience, the community support and involvement for this convention was unsurpassed. It was a great convention and we had our most successful auction ever! Everything is still being tallied but we earned over \$6,000. A huge thanks to all of our vendors who support this venue year after year and of course kudos to all of the big & small spenders.

With the success and growing attendance at the last two New England fall meetings, I just received word from Evie King at Syringa Plus announcing plans for another get together on October 8. This casual gathering seems to have found its niche in sharing ideas and having fun, while winding up the gardening season.

Details surrounding the 2012 Convention in Nancy were discussed at the Lombard Convention and can be found online. In order to facilitate planning, and gauge participation, we are asking for a Pre-registration & advance deposit of \$50 (due July 1) for this convention. You can find the Pre-registration/deposit form, tentative agenda, along with a PowerPoint presentation on Nancy, online at *InternationalLilacSociety.org*. This convention will be a bit different in that we will be doing more walking, using public transportation and having lunches on our own which will help to keep the registration fee down. Final price for the convention registration will be determined later this year. If you have any questions about this convention please contact me. I will send out updates via email to everyone that pre-registers answering any questions and sharing any travel tips or concerns that are brought up. Hopefully, many members will be able to attend the first ILS Convention held outside of North America.

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. Discussions are underway with local members wishing to have a convention in the following locations: Montreal, Quebec and Cleveland, Ohio. Thanks for your cooperation.

*Karen McCauley
Convention Chairman
952.443.3703
mccauleyth@aol.com*

New England Fall Roundup October 8, 2011

Fall Lilac Festival Saturday, October 8th, 2011 from 10AM - 3PM

Syringa Plus and King's Tree Farm and Nursery will be hosting a Fall Lilac Festival and informal regional ILS meeting.

Location: King's Tree Farm and Nursery, Rt. 133 West Boxford, MA. Propagation and lilac planting demonstrations will be given.

ILS members, New England Lilac enthusiasts and family and friends are welcome! Bring a lunch or order out from the nursery. For more

HOT OFF THE PRESS!

The newly revised lilac booklet *Lilacs; Plants of History-Plants for Tomorrow*, 2nd edition is now available. This is a great "how to" 24 page guide covering everything from lilac history, to care and maintenance. A heartfelt thanks to the authors John Alexander III and Nan Sinton.

The booklet retails for \$4.95, but ILS members may purchase it for the discounted price of \$2.00. Bulk orders (over 50 copies) are available for \$1.50 per copy.

Bulk Order S/H (US Only):

50-100 copies \$15.00

101-200 copies \$30.00

201-300 copies \$45.00

Please contact Karen McCauley for additional information and shipping & handling charges at:

mccauleytk@aol.com

Inventory Reduction Sale

ILS Lilacs Quarterly Journals from decades past

Decade bundles from the '90's and 00's are available for \$25.00. Approximately 35 issues in a decade bundle (not a complete run). Price includes S/H in the US.

Also, for a limited time only select individual issues can be ordered for \$1.00 plus shipping.

For additional information please contact

Karen McCauley, ILS Treasurer

mccauleytk@aol.com

952.443.3703

Marketing Towards the World Wide Web

Have you recently looked at the ILS website? Have you noticed the changes that have taken place? Do you have a contribution you would like to make to the ILS website? If you have answered 'yes' to any of these questions, then we need your help!

A few years ago, the ILS website was redesigned to better accommodate the end-user. It was organized in such a way that would be easy to promote and educate lilac lovers and enthusiasts from all over the world. Now that the design is done, we need help in determining what direction the ILS website should move forward.

Two goals for the ILS website are promoting and educating about lilacs. This website should be the first place lilac enthusiasts' click on to get the latest information about lilacs. It is also our hope to increase membership for the ILS. These are two good goals, but we need help in making this happen.

We are looking for ILS members to help us in educating and promoting lilacs. Do you have your own FAQ sheet you would like to share? Is there a certain technique (pruning, planting, etc.) about lilacs that you would be willing to have on the ILS website? It can be a graphic, a PowerPoint file, a video, etc. There are a lot of knowledgeable people in the ILS organization and we need your help in making our website more successful.

We also have a lot of people who just love lilacs and want to learn all they can from our 'experts'. To these individuals, is there something that you always wanted to know about lilacs but you can't find it on our website and you go to a different link? If so, what is it?

If you have an idea, photos, videos, or something you created and you would like to share it with the world, please email Candace Wentz at candace.wentz@centre.edu. Anything you contribute will be given credit to you. So why not help make the ILS website be the #1 choice for people who love lilacs! Why not help make a part of history and make the lilac website even better!

Power Point of 2012 ILS Convention News

Be sure to check out the information and photos about the 2012 convention site on the ILS website at www.internationallilacsociety.org

The extensive botanical gardens at Nancy, France are beautiful!

Lilac Culture in Florida

For many of us who have spent our childhoods growing up in cold winter climates, one of the fondest memories we hold onto is the gentle wafting of the fragrance of lilacs through the spring gardens of our parents and grandparents. Even though we may have moved to warmer climates later in our lives, where the distinction between fall, winter and spring has become blurred, we still hold dear those nostalgic memories, and wish we could again experience the visual and olfactory delights we remember so vividly.

A few years ago, near the end of my career as Head Gardener of a estate in north central Florida, with more free time and access to unlimited information via the internet, I took up a search for low chill Lilacs. Early on I was encouraged by what I found.

One of my earliest searches turned up work being conducted by Dr. J. Giles Waines, Director of the Botanical Gardens at the University of California at Riverside. Dr Waines was continuing research started by Dr. Louis Erickson, also of UC Riverside, who had been building upon even earlier breeding studies at Descanso Gardens by Walter Lammerts. Lammerts was the developer of the first low chill Lilacs, *hyacinthiflora* hybrids. Lammerts, Erickson and Waines were trying to increase the number of Lilac cultivars that could be successfully grown and flowered in the warmer, low chill environment of southern California. The *hyacinthiflora* hybrids eventually formed the basis of the Descanso Gardens lilacs.

The research reports I found, written by Dr Waines were immediately exciting because they seemed to indicate there were a number of Lilacs that would perform well in warm climates. While it was true that southern California's climate differed from Florida's in some respects, the number of winter chill hours experienced at UC Riverside was similar to those experienced here in north Florida.

I immediately contacted Dr Waines and related to him my desire to flower Lilacs in Florida. He generously passed along to me some advice and a list of Lilacs, mostly *hyacinthiflora* hybrids, that he felt were good candidates for testing.

I was also interested in another Lilac, *S. oblata* 'Betsy Ross', which was developed specifically for warm climates, guaranteed to bloom down to USDA Zone 8 and, in addition, had a high tolerance for powdery mildew. It was named and released by Dr Margaret Pooler of the US National Arboretum in July, 2000. Before purchasing the plant, however, I contacted Dr. Pooler and asked her opinion. She re-affirmed 'Betsy Ross's potential for warm climates and mentioned it had done well in South Carolina. So, I added 'Betsy Ross' to my list.

Probably the most exciting and most promising information came from Descanso Gardens itself, the beneficiary of much of the research conducted by Lammerts, Erickson and Waines. Descanso Gardens is located in LaCanada Flintridge, in Los Angeles County, California. The climate of Los Angeles County

is variable because of the topography, but is generally mild throughout the year. The average annual high is 75F (average annual range 68F – 85F) and the average annual low is 56F (48F – 66F). Rainfall is low, about 15" per year, occurring mostly in the winter months. Summers are dry. Winter chill hours range from 56 to 373, depending on location. Descanso Gardens is in AHS Heat Zone 9, Sunset Zone 21 and USDA Zone 9.

The climate of Citrus County, Florida, where I reside and garden, is similar to Los Angeles County. The average annual high is 82F (70F – 91F), the average annual low is 58F (44F – 71F). Rainfall totals and timing is very different, however. Citrus County experiences 51" of rainfall per year, mostly during summer months. Winters are cool and somewhat dry. Citrus County falls in AHS Heat Zone 10, Sunset Zone 26 and USDA Zone 8B-9A. More significant is the number of chill hours Citrus County experiences – about 500 hours in an average winter – higher than Los Angeles County.

These figures gleaned from the literature coupled with Dr Wainess's optimistic outlook for Lilacs here gave me every reason to believe that some Lilacs could be successfully flowered this far south. The only potential problem might be the combination of high heat and humidity of the southeastern US summers. At this point I felt it was necessary to contact the horticultural staff of Descanso Gardens to get their perspective from working directly with the plants. After sending a few e-mails to staff members there, I received a phone call from Wayne Walker, Chief Horticulturist of the Gardens, who was kind enough to discuss Descanso's collection.

Wayne told me that the majority of Lilacs they grew were *hyacinthiflora* hybrids. He also confirmed their growing zone as USDA Zone 9 and Sunset Zone 21. Wayne felt that drought, coupled with natural chill, forced dormancy and floral bud formation and that he and his staff used those environmental conditions to bring Lilacs into flower each year. To support his theory he mentioned that when irrigation to the Lilacs was allowed to continue through the winter, and a warmup occurred, the Lilacs could bloom as early as November or December. He also thought the number of chill hours listed for the area was probably correct. Wayne generously agreed to send me a complete list of the Lilacs grown at Descanso Gardens.

Convinced that it was possible to successfully flower Lilacs here in Florida I used Dr Wainess's list and the Descanso list as a starting point, and in the spring of 2009 I purchased a number of Lilacs and planted them out in my Garden. The Lilacs I started with were *S. × hyacinthiflora* 'Angel White', *S. × hyacinthiflora* 'Excel', *S. × hyacinthiflora* 'Asessippi', *S. × hyacinthiflora* 'California Rose', *S. × hyacinthiflora* 'Evangeline', *S. pubescens* subsp. *patula* 'Miss Kim' and *S. × hyacinthiflora* 'Pocahontas'. Because it was billed as low chill variety, I also planted out four *S. Blue Skies*™. In the spring of 2010 I planted out one *S. oblata* 'Betsy Ross' *S. 'Pocahontas'*, *S. 'Miss Kim'*, two *S. Blue Skies*™ and *S. 'Betsy Ross'* stood about three feet tall and one and one half to two feet wide. All the others were

younger, multiple-trunked and about one and one half to two feet tall.

The winter of 2009-2010 was colder than average for Citrus County. By the middle of March 735 chill hours had been accumulated, more than 200 above normal. By mid April *S. 'Pocahontas'* bloomed. Later in the month *'Miss Kim'* bloomed as well. None of the other Lilacs bloomed in the spring of 2010.

During the growing season of 2010 all plants received supplemental watering between rain events. North Florida soils are sandy and porous, unable to hold moisture near the surface for more than a few days. During the dry intervals it's usually hot and humid, very stressful and necessary to provide additional water. This stressful environment took a toll on some of the lilacs. Although *'Pocahontas'* had performed well during 2009, adding new branches and foliage, culminating in a bloom early in 2010, it developed branch dieback and was lost by the end of summer. Also lost during 2010 was *S. 'Asessippi'*.

The winter of 2010-2011 was again colder than average, but less so than the previous year. By mid March Citrus County had received 653 chill hours. All Lilacs had gone dormant over the winter and began to show signs of growth by early March. The first to bloom was *S. 'Betsy Ross'*. Close behind was *'Miss Kim'*, its second consecutive year of bloom. *'Betsy Ross'*, about three and one half feet tall, bloomed on five inflorescences. *'Miss Kim'* produced more than forty inflorescences. *'Miss Kim'*, at more than four feet high is by far the fullest Lilac. As the flowers formed so did new leaves, and both continued to fill out with new growth as the spring progressed.

Syringa 'Angel White', though it did not bloom, filled out with new foliage quickly and increased in height and width. It also grew well during 2010. All other Lilacs have added new foliage, but slowly.

Although it is too early to declare that Lilacs will definitely grow and flower in North Florida, results so far are encouraging. More time (some Lilacs are still young and not yet fully established) and more average winters will contribute to a better understanding of which Lilacs can be successfully grown here. However, we do know that *'Miss Kim'*, *'Pocahontas'* and *'Betsy Ross'* will flower as far south as Florida USDA Zone 8B-9A (and at least 653 chill hours). Based on the work of pioneers Louis Erickson and Walter Lammerts, who developed a tempting list of low chill varieties, and to the ongoing research being conducted by scientists like Dr. Giles Waines of UC and Dr. Margeret Pooler of the US National Arboretum, and through careful selection, it may be possible to extend the southern range of flowering Lilacs further than we previously thought.

Richard Devine

International Lilac Society

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Syringa vulgaris 'Fürst Bülow'

Photo Credit Colin Chapman



Colin's headquarters at Norman's Farm

Photo Credit Colin Chapman



2011 ILS Group Photo
Lilacia Park, Lombard, Illinois

Photo Credit Guy Lawyer, Lombard Camera Club President