

Lilacs

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of the International Lilac Society

IN
THIS
ISSUE:

In Memoriam: Mary Lizotte
and Lilac Photos from Nancy



Memorial to Victor Lemoine at Nancy, France
Photo Credit Ol'ga Aladina

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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 Lilacs Friends,

Bonjour! It has been an interesting summer. After our wonderful convention in Nancy, France we returned to our respective countries to deal with hot weather and other ordinary happenings. Thank heaven we are over this and fall is here, and there are no more water restrictions. I must say that thankfully we have wonderful members in ILS. As your president I first want to say thank you to all the board members who voted for me. Usually the president is elected at the annual meeting but because of different circumstances we had to hold an election after the convention.

I have been your president since 2006. A long time I must say. It has been fun at times and not so fun at other times. I deal with ILS issues every day. See today I'm writing to you!

I have been an ILS Life Member for as long as I can remember. In 2006 I attended the ILS annual convention in Washington State. It was really a fun convention hosted by the most wonderful people. I remember bouncing along the roads in an old school bus going to visit a huge flower shipping company. Mount Helena was watching over us. The lady at the wheel took us to her own operation, a large farm producing fruits and vegetables and sending them all over the USA. We actually were in the bus used to transport the migrant workers to the fields.

The highlight of that convention was visiting Hulga Klager's home and garden in Woodland, WA. The Woodland Federate Garden Club had come forward and fought to have the gardens and farm declared a State and National Historical Site in 1976, saving it from the claws of a developer and preserving it forever. At the present The Hulga Klager Lilac Society a non-profit organization manages the estate.

It was at that convention that I was asked by a group of board members if I would like to be president. Jeff Young, Bruce Peart, Jack Alexander and others were present. My response was I would try. I certainly had not planned on becoming president. Well mes amis as you can see I have tried and always with ILS in mind. I have no commercial or personal interest (business) in being associated with ILS. It's just that I love lilacs and wanted to be with people who share my own passion for this wonderful shrub.

Previously, after Father Fiala died, I was asked to be the regional vice president for Region 3 and I said yes. A simple yes can certainly leads to many interesting experiences. Region 3 like most other regions is large and goes down to Florida

and includes Virginia, North and South Carolina and Georgia. The membership is small. Think how difficult to nearly impossible it is to grow lilacs in some of those states compared to the northern states.

In Virginia lilacs have been grown for certain since the 1700's and probably earlier. A very famous gentleman, a planter named John Custis IV, in 1757 had a large collection of lilacs imported from England. He was great friend with Peter Collinson the British plant collectionner. John Custis would ship his tobacco to England and in turn Collinson would ship plants back to his friend. They would arrive not in the best condition and most of the time dead. The task of taking care of them was being left to the sailors who could care less. The ship came back full of goods needed for John Custis IV's plantation. In those days Custis had the largest collection of lilacs in Virginia. Now remember Virginia was at the time a very large territory spreading westward. Custis, a member of the Virginia Governor Council stayed in Williamsburg when it was in session. His plantation, Arlington, was too far to go back and forth. Today the house in Williamsburg is gone and only a small out building still exist and no lilacs are to be found on the site. The widow of his son, Martha Custis, married a second time to no other then George Washington. She probably influenced Washington to plant lilacs at Mount Vernon being familiar with the lilac collection of her former father-in-law.

Our members in Florida often inquire about growing lilacs. Having lived in the northern states from Pennsylvania to way up north in Maine they love their lilacs but the southern climate is not suitable to growing them. That is a real disappointment. I know that help is on the way. Some of our hybridizers are working on heat tolerant lilacs.

Now back to the present and the future of ILS. Let's get together and see how we can move forward. The old refrain is membership, how can we increase it and how can we retain members? I'm asking everyone to bring a new member each year but it has produced slim results. I would not throw the idea out. I still think that one to one contact works very well to engage your friends, family, colleagues and new acquaintances into joining our society. Since money talks I want the ILS Board to look into offering membership incentives to new members. We also need to attract young people. A youth membership and offering scholarships to those youth members can be an avenue to the future of ILS. We need to awaken their interest in lilacs. It may not pay off immediately but, when they become adults and settle down they will remember lilacs and seek either to join or rejoin the society. Exposure, exposure is what it is all about.

I want to start an e-newsletter. The time between each journal publication is too long. We need to communicate faster and keep the heartbeat of the society

going. The e-newsletter will be independent from the journal. It will have its own editor. It will be published one or twice between issues of the journal. Members will need to sign up for it so they can receive it. There will be no paper printing.

At the board meeting in Nancy, France I proposed a short 3 minute ILS promotional video, made to be posted on a social network. Anyone with talent to help with this project? I think it will expose ILS to a very large number of potential members. The video will be available on line to be used by anyone speaking to a group.

Plans are to digitalize the journal. The board needs to make decisions on how to handle the distribution and its timeline. Not everyone has a computer and can receive it in this form. Printing of the journal will continue. My experience with e publications and paper publications is that I like to have the real thing, by this I mean the paper edition, for those publications I have a great interest in and plan on keeping them. I don't mind downloading e-publications that I casually read and toss.

Another issue is our Regional Vice Presidents. Except for a few regions we hear little of the lilac activities in their area. The e-newsletter should help with that. Each year I ask for a report from board members, committee chairmen, regional vice presidents and I receive only a few. The regions need to wake up and become more active. We need everyone to help increase ILS membership, promote lilacs, and involve youth members. We also need to not forget our older members who can no longer be very active. They still play an important role in our society. We need to record their history and archive it. Many things can be learned from their experiences and knowledge. Regional Vice Presidents you are the eyes and ears of the society and we are counting on you.

More ideas coming in the next journal: an ILS store, an ILS credit card perhaps... We all need to roll up our sleeves to help ILS become the best plant society on the planet. The bottom line is that you the members make the society so let's work together to move ILS to 2020. It will be there before you know.

Mes amities,

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Membership Update

At the Board Meeting held in France on May 3, 2012 I made a motion that was passed to drop the Sustaining membership category. All publications when reprinted will reflect the new categories/prices.

Membership levels are now:

Individual - \$25

Family - \$35 (2 or more members living in the same household - 1 journal per address)

Commercial /Institutional - \$55

Lifetime - \$500

International Postage Fee \$10 (Excludes US & Canada) additional to Membership dues.

As a reminder, our membership runs from January 1 to December 31 each year. Please send dues to William F Tschumi, Asst. Treasurer, 3 Paradise Court, Cohoes, NY 12047-1422 USA. His email is willyshirl@aol.com. When sending your renewal, please note whether you would like your phone and email printed in the journal. Send all address and contact changes only to me, Gloria Schreiber at 14319 Tope Road, Hartville, Ohio 44632-9348 USA or by email at gsyringa@aol.com.

Please note: Only members paying at the Commercial level will be listed on our Retail/Wholesale source lists. If you are paying at the individual/family membership level, you will be listed under your personal name not your business name.

Additional voluntary contributions can be made above and beyond your membership dues and are tax deductible for U.S. Citizens. Help ILS grow by buying a gift membership for a neighbor or friend. Let's try to double our membership by all current members bringing in one new member this year. Thank you for supporting ILS!

Please contact me if you have any membership questions.

Gloria Schreiber
gsyringa@aol.com

Come to Beautiful and Historic Madison, Wisconsin for the 2013 International Lilac Society Meeting May 9th to 11th, 2013.

Plans for the 2013 ILS meeting are coming together! We have fun and exciting tours, meals, and education sessions ready for you. There is a wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm for lilacs and other plants in this Capitol and University City. Please keep an eye out for the registration and other information on the meeting in the next *Lilac Quarterly*. Take advantage of the reasonable prices we are offering for some truly spectacular displays and unique settings. We hope to see you all in May!

View of the Hotel and Rooms

The Best Western Inn on the Park will be the home base for the 2013 International Lilac Society Meeting. Originally built in 1871, the Inn on the Park graces the corner of South Carroll and South Hamilton streets. The hotel was built by some Madison businessmen in an effort to keep the state capital from moving to Milwaukee. In 1961 the original hotel was demolished and replaced with the current building. The Top O' the Park Restaurant (see curved windows in the picture) on the eighth floor, has spectacular views of lakes Mendota, Monona, and the Capital building, and is the venue for our banquet on Saturday night. Today the nine story hotel has 214 rooms, including 35 suites. The hotel features Jerome's Restaurant, which serves breakfast, lunch and dinner, and the Signature Lounge. The Signature Lounge is where legislators from across the street often debate issues of State business.

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Hotel Prices are \$129.00/night for a one bed room (1 to 2 people), \$139 for two bed (one to four people), and \$159 for suites. These are the same prices as the hotel for the 2010 meeting in Vermont!



Top O' the Park Hotel in Madison, WI, USA
Photo Credit Deb McCown

Farmer's Market & View from the 8th Floor

The view from 8th floor out the Top O' the Park windows shows Madison's Farmer's Market in early spring. The Saturday Farmer's Market is one of the most unique events in Madison and on our convention program. The market takes place on all 4 sides of the Capitol Square on Saturday from 6:30 am to 2 pm. Nearly 200 farmers sell home grown produce or delicious baked goods and everything that is for sale is grown or produced by the person selling it. But the market is more than just produce – the top of State Street (which connects the State Capitol with the University Campus) features booths with arts and crafts to compliment the vegetables. There is also live music, coffee, and sweets to draw the Madison community to the square.



View from 8th floor of Top O' the Park
Photo Credit Deb McCown



Tulips with the Farmers Market in the background in Madison
Photo Credit Deb McCown

TROUBLE WITH COLOR

by Joan Speirs

“The time has come for American Horticulture to adopt some uniform standard by which color can be accurately measured and uniformly judged and described the country over.” So said Donald Wyman in 1947¹ and again in 1957². And the same applies today. Very rarely is a lilac described using a code other than Wister.

As background: A Color Classification was drawn up in 1941 by the Committee on Horticultural Varieties of the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboretums. The aim was to assemble horticultural surveys of valuable garden trees and shrubs. The Committee chose the Lilac for its first survey and John C. Wister was the Chairman³. (He later became International Lilac Registrar from 1956 to 1975 and was a founding member of the International Lilac Society in 1971.) This Color Classification, known as the Wister code, is one we are all familiar with. It consists of: I=white, II=violet, III=bluish, IV=lilac, VI=magenta, VII=purple. It seems to me that this was an excellent code for their initial purpose •to rate cultivars from 38 collaborators. The project would be bogged down if a more precise color was needed; identifications would become suspect if exact matches were not obtained.

In 1928, Susan D. McKelvey’s⁴ lilac descriptions included a Ridgway color⁵ •with the book were four color charts of 154 selected colors. Alas, book and standard are out of print. We are lucky to have so many of the old cultivars described with Ridgway colors, since these can be compared with a current color standard. In 1947, Wyman was critical of Ridgway’s complete charts (800 colors) and also the Munsell Book of Color (about 884 colors)⁶. Instead he recommended Wilson’s Horticultural Colour Chart (1938)⁷, with 800 colors, which had been used in horticultural studies at the Arnold Arboretum for the previous nine years. (This would become the forerunner of the current Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Colour Chart⁸.) But in 1957, Wyman noted that this color chart had not become widely used in America. He recommended instead the just-published Nickerson Color Fan⁹, which was available to horticulturists through the American Horticultural Council’s Office at Arnold Arboretum. This horticultural chart developed by Dorothy Nickerson was published by Munsell and contained their color coding. At the time Munsell was a private, non-profit foundation owning the Munsell Company, and it was established to further research in color.

A search of the internet does show that it was used for at least: potatoes, strawberry leaves, avocado flesh, peanuts, *Forsythia*, honeysuckle, *Rhododendron*, and even for UFO’s. It was not suitable for daylilies because it included only a few shades of yellow and completely lacked orange¹⁰. I found

it used for some lilacs, including the 'Rochester' strain of lilacs¹¹ and some lilac cultivars registered in 1976, 1982 and 1983¹². There were plans for a revised version of the fan to be released in 1966¹³. It was to have 347 color samples as opposed to 262 in the original. I am not aware that this happened. I was able to locate one copy (1957) in our government library. X-rite, who now owns Munsell products, had no knowledge of this fan when contacted during summer 2011.

In 1991, Tucker et al¹⁴ compared 43 available color charts that were published for biological description and recommended the RHS Colour Chart of 1986. These dated from 1776 to 1986. Their requirements: non-fading mat pigments, arrangement of chips in single rows, central holes within the chips, 30-40 mm chip size, and cross references to other charts. Griesbach and Austin, 2005¹⁵ were concerned with precise color matches for daylilies and compared the Munsell Book of Color with the RHS Colour Chart. Unlike Munsell, RHS did not allow discrimination between cultivars that were distinguishable by eye.

Hatch¹⁶ has tested the Pantone GoeGuide Uncoated Fan for two years with many garden plants and found this to be the best color system for use in all of horticulture. GoeGuide was introduced in 2007 and gives 2058 colors.

When the Villosae group lilacs were in bloom last summer I attempted to describe the flower colors both with RHS Colour Chart of 2001 and Munsell Book of Color, Pocket Edition, 1942. A colleague and I found the latter more precise in matching to flower color. We are planning next bloom time to compare the GoeGuide.

As far as I can determine, three suitable color standards are being manufactured: Royal Horticultural Society Colour Standard, Munsell Book of Color, and Pantone GoeGuide. The former sells currently for at least \$200, the middle \$1000, and the latter \$79. All contain more colors than we need for lilac blossoms. The RHS Mini Colour Chart of 2005 has been found to have an inadequate range of colors for our purpose.

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Finding 'Nellie Bean'

By John Bentley

I live in New Hampshire, where we enjoy something no other state in the nation has: our state flower is the Purple Lilac. It is hard to articulate the deep rooted integration of the lilac into the culture of New Hampshire. Lilacs are found in every location where man has left his mark, from town and city squares, along the highways, to abandoned cellar holes over a century old. They stand in mute testimony to the love of the lilac across all cultural and economic strata.

Because of this unique standing of the lilac in New Hampshire, I undertook to document all that I could about the history of lilacs in New Hampshire. This journey eventually led me to the University of New Hampshire, and its lilac breeding program.

Acknowledging the important place of the lilac in New Hampshire's history, the University of New Hampshire was an important lilac hybridizing center for many decades, from the 1940's through the early 2000's. Albert Yeager, Elwyn Meader, and Owen Rogers were the three principal scientists engaged in this work. The ten cultivars introduced by UNH are listed on page 326-7, in the encyclopedia, *Lilacs: A Gardener's Encyclopedia*, by John Fiala, edited by Freek Vrugtman (2008).

Most of them are of the *Villosae* Group, late blooming lilacs chosen for the habit of blooming later than *Syringa vulgaris*, allowing them to escape the persistent late frosts so often seen in New Hampshire's variable spring weather.

Lilacs of the *Villosae* Group do not look like the lilac most of us are familiar with from our grandparents' house. The leaves are more elongated and upright, a darker green, and the flowers tend to have a trumpet shape. However, when in bloom, there is no mistaking the fact that they are indeed a lilac. Happily, we are more likely to see a consistent bloom from the *Villosae* Group cultivars in New Hampshire, guaranteeing them a place in our lilac gardens and collections.

Mr. Vrugtman has maintained the International Lilac Register for many years, available online at www.SyringaRegistry.info. The Register contains information on many aspects of lilacs, information beyond the basic data available to the casual lilac enthusiast. A key advantage of having the registry online is the ability to update and edit it as new information is introduced, uncovered and confirmed, making available the most recent changes to anyone who needs it.

Another key advantage is that everyone who desires to learn about lilacs beyond the basics may access it anytime, anywhere there is internet service, for free. This aspect is critical to the lilac researcher, which brings me to the heart of my story.

Some of the entries in the register concerning the background of the UNH cultivars contained gaps in the details. Specifically, biographical data of some of the celebrities after whom the UNH lilacs (and many others) were named was not available when the register and the encyclopedia were written. During the course of my research on the UNH cultivars, I had the pleasure of corresponding via email with Mr. Vrugtman. He asked me about a particular lilac, 'Nellie Bean', a cultivar on which he had little background information beyond the taxonomical facts provided by UNH. We did not know who Nellie Bean was, but we did know that she came from Franklin, New Hampshire.

Since I live very close to Franklin, I decided to start my research there. I called the Franklin Historical Society, who told me they had never heard of Nellie Bean.

They suggested that I go to the public library. One day, I stopped at the library, and walked up to the front desk. I started looking for the card catalog, when the attendant directed me to a computer station to the side of the front desk, and instructed me to enter my query in the appropriate location. I simply typed in Nellie Bean, and hit enter.

Immediately there appeared on the screen the obituary of Nellie Eva Cunningham Bean, from the local paper, dated July, 1945. As I read the text, I was amazed at the accomplishments of this lady. She was president of the Franklin Garden club for years, a renowned judge of flower shows state wide, well known in all New England flower circles. She was 75 at the time of her passing, in 1945. 'Nellie Bean' was registered by Yeager in 1961, ninety two years after her birth, and sixteen years after her death.

I was further intrigued at the place of her burial, the Proctor Cemetery in Andover, New Hampshire. I had never visited the Proctor Cemetery, but I had driven by it thousands of times in my travels. I decided to go there, and see if I could find the gravesite of this now famous lady. Many locally famous people are buried there, including a hero of the American Civil War, and later, the Indian Wars of the American Western Frontier, Major John Proctor Thompson. Major Thompson served as General Phil Sheridan's Aide de Camp. Major Thompson's gravestone bears an inscription penned by General Sheridan himself, which simply says, "In the van in every engagement." The Proctor Cemetery has two lilac connections.

As I walked around the cemetery, I couldn't help but notice the conspicuous absence of lilacs. There are lilacs along the road out front, but nothing in the cemetery or around the edges. Eventually I found her family headstone, bearing the simple inscription, Nellie Bean, 1869- 1945. Next to her stone was her husband's, Warren O. Bean, 1868 – 1949. Here, in quiet anonymity, lay Nellie Bean.

A short 60 odd years later, no one in Franklin or Andover knew who she was. Those in lilac circles knew her name, and the lilac named for her, but nothing else. I forwarded the fruits of my research to Freek, and he updated the online register with my findings. There are two more UNH cultivar names that are in need of similar research, 'Anna Amhoff' and 'Agnes Smith'. Soon I will repair to the Portsmouth, New Hampshire area and try my luck in the local library. Finding historical information in the age of the internet is now as simple as a few keystrokes.

Eventually, when I have access to a few good sized plants of 'Nellie Bean', I am going to plant them in the Proctor Cemetery, a fitting tribute to a famous flower lady who has now joined the ranks of lilac celebrities. I can probably find room for a few 'General Sheridan' lilacs as well.

"There is no reason why cemeteries should be places of gloom."

Sir Frederic Kenyon, "How the Cemeteries Abroad Will Be Designed", 1918.



Ten Questions with Deborah McCown

It has been a little while since “Ten Questions” has been published, partially due to the fact that it seems some people in the lilac community are a little shy when it comes to being the focus of such an interview! This time, to get a different perspective, I thought people may be interested to hear from someone in the nursery industry where lilacs are but one of many shrubs that they propagate. Fortunately, Deborah McCown, President of a wholesale nursery in Middleton, Wisconsin called Knight Hollow Nursery was kind enough to answer my questions.

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

I play almost no role in the lilac community except to donate plants to the UW Arboretum and Wisconsin Public Television for their spring Auction. In the spring, there are guided tours of the Arboretum horticultural collections and I do lead the one on Rhododendrons, but unfortunately never the lilac collection.

2. When did you first become interested in lilacs?

I have always liked lilacs as I live in the Midwest. I love how they signal spring with the masses of fragrant, lavender flowers. But as an aside – they are probably not my most favorite shrub because when they are not in flower they don't have a lot of ornamental interest.

3. How did you first become involved with lilacs?

I don't remember when I first started to propagate lilacs and I don't remember which cultivars were the first. I know when I started the tissue culture lab, Rhododendrons and Kalmia were the first plants I put into culture. Shortly after that I was asked to do a contract on some new Dutch Elm Resistant elm cultivars. But eventually I think I put *Syringa pubescens* subsp. *microphylla* ‘Superba’ in to culture. I remember The White Flower Farm people said it was difficult to propagate and I have been adding lilac cultivars ever since. I rarely get rid of a cultivar, but have on occasion. We were propagating ‘Susan B. Anthony’ but it turned out to be a double and the real cultivar was registered as a single. I have concluded that the “real” ‘Susan B. Anthony’ doesn't exist any more.

4. Assuming you own some lilacs, when did you obtain your first?

I do grow lilacs in a couple of places but I don't remember which cultivar was my first. Plants that are sent to us for propagation I generally keep the original

or Mother plant and those are all at my family's country house where there is a large enough space. I have a few planted around the perimeter of the business – it is full sun and they get plenty of water. Brent and I live in the city of Madison and have a very small urban yard. We did have 'George Eastman' but it was getting too big so we bit the bullet and cut it down.

5. How many different cultivars do you own?

I have 25 cultivars planted between my family's country place and the office – including the tree lilacs Summer Charm™, 'Ivory Silk', Beijing Gold™ and China Snow™. My China Snow™ is probably 15 feet tall, multi-stemmed and has the most gorgeous cinnamon-colored exfoliating bark. In culture I have 42 different shrub cultivars (plus the 4 tree lilacs). I have single flowered plants in all 7 color classes and doubles in the White, Pink, Magenta, and Purple classes. I mostly grow these lilacs because someone has asked me to propagate them.

6 & 7. If you could only have 5 lilacs, what would they be? And why?

My favorites are probably 'Sesquicentennial', 'Yankee Doodle', 'Atheline Wilbur' or 'Belle de Nancy', 'Dwight D. Eisenhower' (probably my favorite blue) and 'Vesper Song'. But there are lots of others – these give a good color range and I'd probably put 'Declaration' or 'Paul Thirion' in the mix also. I was just going through the lilac pictures I have on the computer and came across the flowers of 'Sweetheart' on the plant that Harry Latimer kindly sent me and they are truly lovely and charming. It is really very difficult to pick only 5 cultivars.

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

Reblooming habit would expand the interest over a longer season. There are a lot of people working on this characteristic – notably Tim Wood at Spring Meadow Nursery with their introduction of Bloomerang™. But so far this work has mostly been restricted to the *Syringa pubescens* subsp. *microphylla* group. I do expect new cultivars to be introduced shortly.

9. What new breakthrough would you like to see?

It would be nice to have absolute resistance to mildew in the *Syringa vulgaris* group. I walk through the greenhouses at this time of year and the *S. vulgaris* cultivars are covered with mildew – no amount of spraying can eliminate it. In the landscape, the mildew can be held in better check but most lilacs at this time of year still have a silver cast.

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

I like flowers with fragrance – maybe that's why 'Sesquicentennial' is one of my most favorite cultivars. The cultivar 'Triste Barbaro' has absolutely no fragrance for me and I find it very unsatisfying. And like Katie Bentley, I love the color purple – only green ranks higher.

Many thanks again to Deborah for taking the time to answer these questions, even though she didn't think she would be the best interview. I respectfully disagree. I found her answers very interesting! Until next time!

~ Joshua Miller

Editor's Deadline

Please send in any articles for the Winter Issue by December 15th

Due to popular demand, if any attendees of the 2012 ILS convention in Nancy, France have lilac photos to share, please send them to

the editor by email at kmillham@monroecounty.gov

or by mail to Kent Millham, 253 Burnett Road, Webster, NY 14580, USA

Lilacs in Nancy

photos and text by Tatiana Poliakova

French hybrids, Victor Lemoine, Nancy - for anyone who is in love with lilacs, these words sound like music. Who has not dreamed of visiting the city where beautiful lilacs were born more than a century ago?

I also have dreamed about meeting with friends who share my love of lilacs for years. Oceans and miles that separate us never prevented us from communication with each other, but meeting them in person and being able to shake hands - what could be more wonderful?

We arrived at the Botanical Garden Monte, to see the lilacs, which has long been a part of the world cultural heritage. The lilac grows in small rural gardens and

in large urban parks all over the world. Lilacs have been pleasing us with their beauty for over a hundred years. Lush clusters of the most diverse colors, large single and amazing double florets - all that we would never see if the master's hand didn't touch the lilac.

Later Kolesnikov, Havemeyer and others worked on hybridization of lilacs, but Victor Lemoine was the first. All subsequent breeding work was inspired by his creations, and his cultivars were the source material for new ones.

To discover anew the French lilac, growing under the sky of Nancy - what could be more wonderful? In this city, the time stopped at the turn of the XIX and XX centuries, and in the flavor of antiquity enveloping its streets, the notes of lilac sound clear and can be heard by everyone. The romantic atmosphere of this place made our walk among the lilac bushes so special and unforgettable.

Well known and loved for a long time 'Congo', 'Monge', 'Maximowicz', 'Maréchal Foch', 'Réaumur' and 'Cavour' were magnificent in their abundant flowering. You do not often get to see such excellent quality shrubs! Local beauty 'Belle de Nancy' habitually posed for photographers, looking down on the other lilacs. No, not because she feels superior or because her daughter, 'Krasavitsa Moskvyy', many times won a beauty contest - it just grows on top of the slope.

'Etna', like its namesake, just spewed into space a lot of purple inflorescences. In this collection, there are cultivars that have never been in our botanical gardens, as well as those that have long been lost. But all our plans to measure and immediately briefly describe them failed because 2 hours is too little. We just enjoyed the walk between the precious creations.

Which cultivars particularly struck me? 'De Miribel', 'Negro', 'Rochambeau' and 'Prodige', because of their very dark color that catches the eye like a magnet. 'Champlain' surprised with contrasting color of buds and florets. 'Georges Bel-lair' competing with 'Louis Henry' in abundance of flowering. Two cultivars were a real discovery for me - 'Rosace' and 'Rustica' with their beautiful florets with rose-like shape and delicate coloring.

Many times, I swore to myself and my family that my collection is complete, and new lilacs will never cross the gate of our garden. Less than a month after returning from Nancy, 'Rustica', 'Paul Thirion' and 'Etna', secretly arrived in my garden, and a little later they were joined by several of Lemoine's varieties. without which life has lost its joy.

I think that a special "lilac virus" flies in the air of Nancy, that only a very strong person can fight. Memories of meeting with friends and French lilacs will stay with us forever. I thank the organizers of the convention on behalf of the Russian delegation. I thank all participants for their smiles and friendship. I regret the fact that 3 of the day - is not enough to talk with all participants and get to know each other better. But I hope that the new meetings await us in the future.



‘Gaudichaud’

A double Lemoine selection introduced in 1903;
named after french botanist Charles Gaudichaud-Beaupré



‘Président Loubet’

A double magenta Lemoine selection named after
the 7th President of the French Republic



‘Georges Bellair’

Another double magenta Lemoine selection (1900)
named after French horticulturist (1860-1939) and
director of the Park of Versailles



‘Duc de Massa’

An excellent double lilac-colored Lemoine selection (1905)
with attractive rounded petals



‘Marc Micheli’

A double pink Lemoine introduction from 1898
named after a French horticulturist who lived from 1844-1902



‘Miss Ellen Willmott’

Beautiful double white Lemoine cultivar
introduced in 1903



‘Rochambeau’

A beautiful single purple developed by Lemoine in 1919.
 Named after Jean Baptiste Donatien de Vimeur,
 a Comte de Rochambeau



‘Congo’

A single magenta Lemoine selection; named after Congo dye

In Memoriam: Mary Lizotte

The following thoughts appeared on the International Lilac Robin, after the sad news of Mary Lizotte's passing:

Nicole Jordan:

The International Lilac Society has received sad news that Mary Constance Lizotte died unexpectedly on Monday, September 24, 2012 at age 77. Mary has served the ILS in several capacities, including as a Board of Directors member and regional vice president.

Mary was a very accomplished professional watercolor artist winning numerous awards throughout New England. In addition she was a longtime semi professional gardener and horticulturalist as well as member of the ILS for many years. According to her son, "My mothers gardens were her passion." She is survived by a husband, a sister and three sons and six grandchildren and many cousins.

The thoughts and prayers of ILS are with her family and friends.

Gloria Schreiber:

We should always remember her for sweetness, beauty and her love of ILS and LILACS. You will be missed Mary! RIP!

Ned, our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time of great loss! God Bless You!

Ellen Thurlow:

I just got home from doing some shopping including getting a birthday card for Mary.....Her birthday is October 6th. I went to the computer to email Mary about the New England Lilac weekend when low and behold was the email about her leaving us. I am so very sad...We had become dear friends since being members of the ILS.....We traveled together to and from France in May for the ILS convention in Nancy, but we first spent a few days in Paris with Tim and Karen McCauley.. I am pleased to know I have one of her Lilac paintings on the wall over my bed...Rest in Peace Mary. I have lost a wonderful friend.



Mary Lizotte, Ellen Thurlow, Karen & Tim McCauley
 Having our nightly toast at the Les Deux Magots in Paris France, May 2012.
 Photo submitted by Karen McCauley

Mary Lizotte was one of the first to extend a warm welcome to my husband and me at the first ILS Convention we attended in 2000. We shall always remember that red headed woman who kept outbidding us at our first auction. We will also miss our annual toasts together and always think of Mary when having a Kir Royale. The conventions won't be the same without her. Cheers Mary!



Mary heading the New England ILS chapter meeting at Syringa Plus in 2010
 Photo Credit Kent Millham

Fall Color in Lilacs

Lilacs aren't known for their fall color. However, many of the *oblata* and $\times$ *hyacinthiflora* lilacs may have purple or maroon color in the fall. Also, some of the late lilacs can have yellow or red fall foliage. This fall I took some photos of a few cultivars displaying some nice maroon and reddish hues. They look especially eye-catching with the sun in back of leaves that have a mixture of reddish and green color. -Kent Millham, ILS Editor



Syringa $\times$ *hyacinthiflora* 'Hyacinthiflora Plena'
showing maroon on the outer edges of the foliage



Syringa tomentella 'Kum-Bum'
displaying reddish-maroon fall color



Syringa oblata dilatata 'Cheyenne'



Syringa × *hyacinthiflora* 'Asessippi'

The maroon, red and green hues are outstanding
when backlit by the afternoon sun

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Myrna Walberg and Tatiana Poliakova
Photo submitted by Tatiana Poliakova



Some of the Russian attendees dressed in lilac shades
Photo submitted by Tatiana Poliakova



Lilac collection at Nancy, France
Photo Credit Ol'ga Aladina