

Lilacs

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of the International Lilac Society

IN
THIS
ISSUE:

ILS Convention 2014 and the
Lilacs of Veronica Bibikova



50 year hybrids of Veronica Bibikova
Photo Credit Igor Semenov



Syringa vulgaris 'Zor'ka Venera' (Virgin Mary Star)
Photo Credit Igor Semenov

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*Front Cover: Syringa vulgaris 'Minchanka' (Lady of Minsk); a beautiful
Bibikova hybrid. Photo credit Igor Semenov*

Editor's Deadline for Spring Issue:

*****September 1*****

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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 Friends,

Another well done convention has come to pass. Not a single lilac was blooming but that did not deter us from having a wonderful time and talking lilacs. In Cleveland, USA, we visited University Circle Cultural Gardens, The Cleveland Botanical Garden, Holden Arboretum and Lake View Cemetery. We saw magnificent trees of all kinds. At the Holden Arboretum our guide, Anthony Johnson, was a fountain of knowledge. He knew every tree and its history. There we saw many rare tree specimens. At the Cleveland Botanical Garden a Japanese Lilac tree planted in 1941 was a spectacular specimen. Later as we meandered through the garden we came upon a two hundred and twenty four year old tulip tree, *Liriodendron tulipifera*. The sign did say two hundred twenty two but Bradley Bittorf remarked that two years had already elapsed, making the tree two hundred twenty four. Ohio was not yet a state when the seed sprouted. The Glass House was a tropical jungle filled with exotic plants from the Dominican Republic and other parts of the tropics. Butterflies fluttered from flower to flower. In their glass enclosure lived giant Madagascar Cockroaches.

We did tramp through the mud and it was raining at time; but what fun. We traveled in an old school bus driven by a lovely lady. We had lunch at the Cleveland Botanical Garden. Dr. Hongxia Cui from the Beijing Botanical Garden was our speaker. Her power point presentation on Chinese lilacs was very interesting. She made us all want to go to China to see the lilacs growing in the wild and the research she is doing. Meeting her was wonderful! The Annual Membership Meeting went smoothly. The minutes of all the meetings were posted almost immediately on the ILS Web Site along with the election results for board members and the Popularity Poll. Karen McCauley, Convention Chair, showed the amazing DVD Frank Moro put together about the 2015 ILS Convention he is hosting in Canada.

Lake View Cemetery was very impressive. We first visited the Wade Chapel, a beautiful building with huge mosaic murals representing the history of Judaism and Christianity, as was explained by our guide Wayne Bifano. Outside on the grounds we did see a lilac showing signs of wanting to bloom. David Gressley our host give us the grand tour. It is an immense cemetery where the notables of Cleveland are buried. We visited the monument where US President Garfield is entombed along with his wife, daughter and son in law. Garfield was assassinated in 1881. The building was built with donations that came from all over the world. France gave \$1,000, the most of all the countries in Europe. The tour guide, Bob Hook, was proud to share that with me.

We had five wonderful ladies from Russia attending the convention. Tatiana Poliakova, RVP for Russia and Asia, led the small delegation on a grand tour: Natalya Belmysheva, Nadezda Marchevskaya, Tatiana Poliakova, Natalya Poliakova and Irina Sapozhkova. Not only were they attending our convention but also they were going to visit the New York Botanical Garden and had plans to go to Rochester to see more lilacs before returning home. They were so friendly and had such enthusiasm for lilacs it kept us on a high. We really enjoyed their company. They give us all gifts and brought delicious Russian chocolate to the hospitality room. Each of us received a picture of Leonid Kolesnikov, the renowned Russian lilacs hybridizer and a picture of a painting done by his daughter Tamara, representing a basket full of lilacs. Tatiana Poliakova showed us in the hospitality room a video of Kolesnikov in his garden talking about his lilacs.

During the Presidential Dinner we had our silent auction. Lovely things were given by our members. The money made went to our treasury. Karen McCauley, ILS Convention Chair, and her husband Tim ran the silent auction and hosted our hospitality room. They deserve a big thank you. For the Honors and Awards Banquet we walked a short distance to a well-known restaurant located in an historic building transformed into an indoor mall. Myrna Walberg, Honors and Awards Chair, did the presentations. Tatiana Poliakova presented ILS with an award of recognition. It was an honor for me to accept this award for ILS.

The live auction took place at the Lake View Cemetery. It was raining, windy and chilly, and then the sun would shine. Some of us took refuge in the bus to let the storm pass. But most of us huddled under the tent. Many lilacs were donated by Bill Homan. A big thank you to Bill for his generosity. Thank you to Frank Moro for also contributing lilacs. He had offered to ship and procure the certificates for the lilacs coming into the USA making it worry-free getting the lilacs from Canada. Dr. Deborah McCown, owner of Knight Hollow Nursery, brought many pots of the lilac 'Blanche Sweet' she had propagated. They were for sale for \$10 each. She sold some at the Presidential Dinner and sold more at the auction. Each time they were gone in no time. All the proceeds went to our treasury. Thank you so much to Deborah.

A young woman from Ohio, Renee Case, contacted me about coming to the auction. Surprise, I learned she was a life member! David Gressley arranged her visit. She came with her mother and bid and won lilacs at the auction. It was nice to meet her and to see how genuinely she was interested in lilacs. Our auctioneer Bruce Peart did a fantastic job to part us from our money. The auction was a success!

This is just a glimpse of the convention 2014. Thank you to David Gressley for all the work he did organizing it all. Thank you to all of you who attended. Thank you to all the board members who dutifully came and attended the meetings.

It was so nice to see William Tschumi, Assistant Treasurer, and his wife Shirley. Candace Wentz, ILS Web Site Manager, was there with her mother, Marilyn Bonnett. Robert and Marcia Hoepfl came to the convention so did many other lilac friends: Irene Stark and her husband Jim, Amy Plamann and Kevin Gossens, Pheobe Hibbard, Connie Simonnet, Jan and Jeff Young and many more. At the end of the president dinner, Jan Young presented to Hongxia Cui a small hand-made quilt she had created with oriental fabrics. A very thoughtful gift. I must say friendships could not have been better.

Read more in this issue of *Lilacs*. I wish we could all have been able to come. The convention was great and the city of Cleveland on lake Erie was beautiful. Next year we are going to Mascouche, Canada. Frank Moro is our host. He has the convention all planned and full of wonderful things to do and see. And we will see lilacs; Frank promised. So make plans to attend now! See you next year on the lilac trail...

*Mes Amities,
Nicole Jordan
ILS President
Njordan236@aol.com*

Cleveland 2014

Wow, it's over. Forty-one devoted International Lilac Society members came to Cleveland to savor lilacs and fellowship in the first such gathering here since 1989. I would be remiss not to mention that I was deeply honored to have five lovely women travel all the way from Russia to be part of this Convention. Had I foreseen our winter from a frozen hell, I would have scheduled our event a week or two later. Although the lilacs failed to welcome us, Cleveland made amends with her cultural and architectural depth and a noticeable cleanliness. Staying at the Marriott on the Square afforded impressive views and situated us in the heart of downtown Cleveland where a short walk ended at the nearby Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Lake Erie and the Warehouse District of late 1800 architecture buildings. Public Square houses the soon to be Nationally Registered Civil War Soldiers and Sailors Monument across from Tower City and the new Horseshoe Casino. The world class Cleveland Orchestra performed Mozart's Requiem, The Cleveland Museum of Art displayed a special exhibit of Repetitions of Van Gogh and Playhouse Square lit a grand outdoor chandelier accenting the Theater District while we were having our own grand dinner to mention some of the attractions. If we could have stayed another week to wait

for the lilacs, there would have been plenty more to see.

Thursday took us to The Holden Arboretum where our best chance to see lilacs would be revealed. President and CEO Clem Hamilton greeted us and Ethan Johnson, the Plant Recorder led us through the gardens and collections. We toured new gardens nestled between the Display Garden and the Helen S. Layer Rhododendron Garden that were hallmarks while I was with Holden. Two lilacs awoke from winter's cold to greet us on our tour: *Syringa xhyacinthiflora* 'Gertrude Leslie' and *S. xhyacinthiflora* 'Swarthmore'.

Friday sent us to the second hub of Cleveland; University Circle where no other city can boast of its concentration of cultural institutions, university and medical facilities. A tour of the unique Cultural Gardens honoring most of Cleveland's ethnic groups along the city's most scenic drive was followed with a visit to The Cleveland Botanical Garden. Dr. Hongxia Cui, a gifted scholar, was our Keynote Speaker from Beijing, China and is currently at UCLA. She addressed the gathering on the history of lilacs in China and her current research. We also lunched and held the Annual Meeting before touring the indoor and outdoor gardens. A fine relaxing dinner at the Marriott with an evening silent auction finished the day.

Saturday was the day we visited Lake View Cemetery where we were entranced by the history and beauty of Wade Chapel by its scholarly docent, Wayne Bifano and one of the most ornate Presidential Monument's in the country dedicated to James A. Garfield. I was honored to have its veteran and just as scholarly docent Bob Hook guide us through the President's crypt and rotunda. Wayne and Bob are two persons I most miss and esteem at Lake View. Lunch was held under a tent in the Sod Field which shielded us from an afternoon rain drowned out by the competition and excitement of the Lilac Auction. Many thanks to the donors and organizers who made the auction possible and successful. Saturday's dinner at Morton's Steakhouse was a fun and elegant affair finished with dessert and awards.

Thank you deeply to everyone who helped organize this ILS convention making it a wonderful and enjoyable event.

Dave Gressley
June 2014

2014 International Lilac Society Awards, Cleveland

President's Award

Lake View Cemetery

12316 Euclid Avenue Cleveland, Ohio

For being a gracious host for the 43rd Conference of the International Lilac Society.

For preserving one of North America's most historically significant landscape cemeteries designed by Adolph Strauch.

For respecting his design and for incorporating lilacs into the landscape.

Botanical Garden of the Biological Faculty of

Lomonosov Moscow State University

For their outstanding excursion program during lilac time.

For preserving rare lilac varieties.

For scientific work with lilacs.

For popularizing the lilac.

Distinguished Recognition Award

Franklin (Woody) Barnes Jr.

Julian, California

For serving as Auctioneer for the Annual Lilac Auction.

For his dedication to the International Lilac Society throughout the years.

For his generous financial support and contributions of lilacs for the auctions.

Candace Wentz

Danville, Kentucky

For administering and maintaining the International Lilac Society website.

For her dedication to the International Lilac Society.

Award of Merit

Dr. Hongxia Cui

A Scholar of Chinese Lilacs, Beijing Botanic Gardens

For her dedication to extensive research on various aspects of the lilac.

For publishing many research papers on the genus *Syringa*.

David Gressley

Director of Horticulture, Spring Grove Cemetery and Arboretum

For serving as Host Chair for the 43rd annual International Lilac Convention.

For his contribution to improving the horticultural program at Lake View Cemetery.

For his continued dedication to the International Lilac Society.

Elke Haase

Director of Piccoplant

For her outstanding work promoting lilacs throughout Europe.

For strengthening friendship between peoples through lilacs.

For her generous donations of lilac plants throughout Europe.

Natalya Polyakova

Curator of the Lilac Collection, Botanical Gardens, Institute of Ufa,

Scientific Centre of the Russian Academy of Sciences

For her participation in lilac projects.

For her work with lilacs

For popularizing the lilac.

Connie Simonnet

Polo, Illinois

For serving as Awards Chair (2010 - 2013).

For her dedication to the International Lilac Society.

For her commitment to teamwork in preparing the awards.

Tatiana Veremyova

Chairman of the Lilac Section, Moscow Floriculturist Club

For outstanding efforts to save the Lilac Garden of Leonid Kolesnikov,

For successful leadership as chairman.

Convention Photos

Day 1



Walking through the collections at the Holden Arboretum
Photo Credit Tatiana Poliakova



Walking through the collections; part II
Photo Credit Tatiana Poliakova



Fun times in the Hospitality Room
Photo Credit David Gressley



Connie Simonnet, Nicole Jordan and Tatiana Poliakova talk about lilacs
Photo Credit David Gressley

Day 2



Gloria Schreiber and Connie Simonnet and a beautiful azalea
at the Rockefeller Greenhouse
Photo Credit David Gressley



ILS members listen attentively on the Cleveland Cultural Gardens Tour
Photo Credit David Gressley



Keynote speaker Hongxia Cui speaking about lilacs in China
Photo Credit David Gressley



David Gressley and tulips at Cleveland Botanical Garden
Photo Credit Tatiana Poliakova



Tulips and artistic gate at Cleveland Botanical Garden
Photo Credit David Gressley

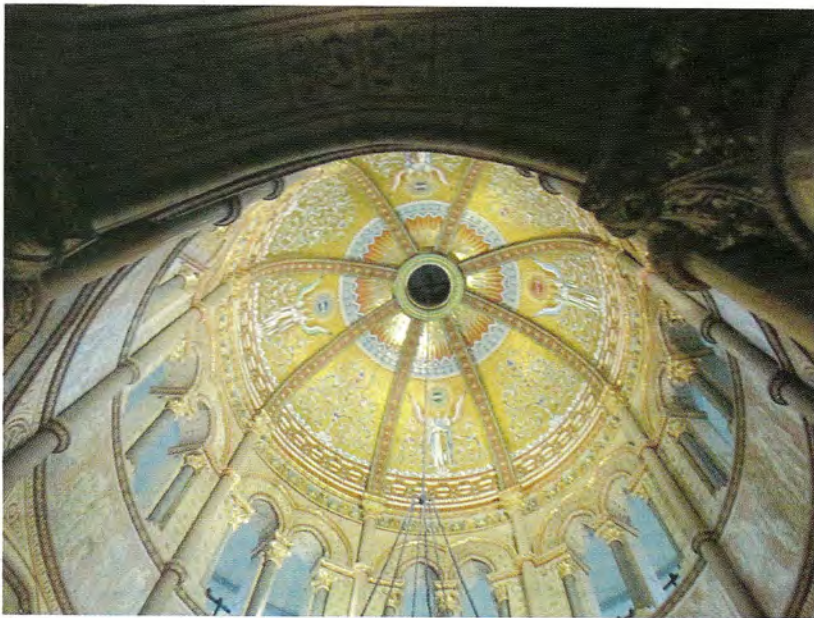


Dinner at the Marriott
Photo Credit Tatiana Poliakova

Day 3



Inside a chapel at Lake View Cemetery
Photo Credit David Gressley



Beautiful stained glass dome at Lake View Cemetery
Photo Credit David Gressley



Auctioneer Bruce Peart and Bill Horman boosting up the price on a lilac
Photo Credit David Gressley



David Gressley accepting Award of Merit
Photo courtesy of David Gressley



Candace Wentz accepting Distinguished Recognition Award
Photo Credit David Gressley



ILS President Nicole Jordan accepting award of recognition
to ILS from Tatiana Poliakova
Photo Credit David Gressley

Treasurer's Report 2014

Fiscal Year 4/1/13 - 3/31/14

KeyBank Checking Account Balance 4/1/14		\$ 18,929.74
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		\$ 75,424.92
Special Accounts (Included in the above total)		
Life Member/Endowment Fund	\$ 39,444.57	
Plant Propagation Fund (Laurene Wishart)	1,795.54	
Education & Research	3,488.75	
Youth Program Fund	1,397.01	
Reva Ballereich Memorial Fund	287.36	
Total Funds in Special Accounts	\$ 46,413.23	
Total Funds in General Accounts	\$ 29,011.69	
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	\$ 75,424.92	
Income		
Membership Dues		\$ 7,455.39
Contributions to ILS		380.00
Interest Income		2,542.40
Auction Income		2,864.00
Misc Income (Royalties, Old Journals, CD & Lilac Bklt sales)		165.59
Convention Earnings		989.69
2013 & 2014 Convention Registrations (Credit card)		4,700.00
Total Income		\$ 19,097.07
Expenses		
Journal		\$ 8,263.26
Postage		1,620.18
Bank Fees		647.35
Web site expenses		0.00
Awards		21.26
Insurance		517.50
Misc Expenses (Digitizing journals, Brochure design)		594.00
2013 & 2014 Convention funds reimbursed to local chair		6,200.00
Total Expenses		\$ 17,863.55
Net Income (Loss)		\$ 1,233.52

Membership Report: Fiscal Year End 3/31/14

Current Membership: 255

(Includes 105 Life, 8 Complimentary and 2 Honorary members)

Breakdown by Country:

Australia	3	
Austria	1	
Canada	20	
Croatia	1	
Denmark		1
Finland	1	
France	2	
Germany		4
Greece	1	
Hungary	1	
Israel	1	
Italy	2	
Japan	2	
Netherlands	3	
New Zealand	1	
Norway	1	
Peoples Rep of China	1	
Republic of Belarus	1	
Russian Federation	27	
Serbia	1	
Switzerland	1	
Ukraine	2	
United Kingdom	2	
United States	175	

In addition to the above, there are 58 memberships that expired Dec 2013.
Renewal reminder postcards will be mailed later this month.

Submitted by,
Karen McCauley
ILS Interim Membership Secretary

SAVE THE DATE – Let's Talk Lilacs at the ILS New England Fall Festival

Again this year, there will be a gathering of lilac enthusiasts here in New England. Our official gathering is on Saturday, October 4, in the vicinity of Concord, NH, exact location yet to be confirmed. If you come for the weekend, on Sunday we can keep talking about lilacs as we are invited to drop in for an open house at the new location of Syringa Plus Nursery, in Hookset, NH.

On Saturday, we'll have presentations about lilacs, we'll try to answer questions about lilacs and any problems you have growing them. These events often last well beyond our published times. We just can't stop talking about lilacs.

Come to visit your fellow lilac enthusiasts. Take some extra time to view the fall foliage, take a hike or visit some of the State's covered bridges. <http://www.nh.gov/nhdhr/bridges/>. There's lots to see and do. <http://www.visitnh.gov/what-to-do/event-calendar.aspx>

Free and open to the public. See agenda below.

ILS members, please reserve your space. The lilac is the State Flower of New Hampshire and we anticipate public interest and attendance.

Bring a picnic, or pre-order lunch for \$12 per person.

Call Evie King www.SyringaPlus.com at 1-978-352-3301 or email Lilacs@SyringaPlus.com or email Jack Alexander at ilsnevp@gmail.com

***** preliminary Schedule updates to follow*****

October 4, 2014***ILS New England Fall Festival**

Presented by the New England ILS members

9:30-10:00 a.m. Coffee & Treats Meet & Greet Time

10:00-11:30 a.m. Presentations

12:00-1:45 p.m. Lunch (Note: Lunch will be \$12, but the presentations are free)

2:00- 4:00 p.m. Q & A and demonstrations

October 5, 2014 ILS New England Fall Festival Part 2

10:00-3:00 "Let's Talk Lilacs" casual get together at Syringa Plus Nursery's new location in Hookset, NH

The New England group is gathering again. Evie King at Syringa Plus and Jack Alexander, New England Regional VP, are planning another get together on October 4 & 5. This year the main event on Saturday will be held in or near Concord, NH. Lectures & demos are on the agenda.

If you're interested in coming or have any questions, contact Evie at 978.352.3301 or Jack at ilsnevp@gmail.com to reserve lunch. Sunday will be a casual gathering over coffee & treats to share information and talk lilacs. Send us your email address and we will add your name to our email list.

Looking Ahead to ILS Convention 2015

Dear lilac enthusiasts,

A great round of applause to Dave Gressley who did a wonderful job for the 2014 convention.

In 2014 I was given the greatest gift, to host a second convention for 2015. I remember from the 2000 convention so many great things like the members, food, visits. I remember Reva Ballreich saving after she put on 6 lbs in 3 days. My time with Colin Chapman and Pauline Fiala on the day after the convention were magical.

Once we got the okay for 2015 I must confess Karen the outlines were finished the next day for the convention. Sara and I wanted this coming convention to be different. We wanted to focus more on friends and heritage.

We wanted more time to spend time with members and more actual workshops. Well within 24 hours the hotel was reserved, ideas were on the table and we hammered out all the details. As much as Montreal is a beautiful place we wanted people to get out of the city and into quiet places.

The first day of touring will be just north of Montreal to visit a winery that makes wine with strawberries and raspberries. they make gellies and all kinds of stuff. they also have a gift shop with many handmade products from the region. Gellies, maple syrup etc. We decided to make you all taste a real Quebecois sugar shack lunch for the Friday. Following that we will go up and see the largest herd of Bison in Quebec. there is some tasting there also. Gourmet supper at the hotel after.

Saturday morning is Italian day at the farm. we will have workshops on lilac fragrances, lilac oils and propagation. We will have the lilac auction there in a closed tent. There will be some lilac dedications. we are naming some lilacs that day. the rest is a secret.

We will have a guest speaker on hostas and a local painter will be present. Our gardens will hopefully be up to par for photos and we have some 275 lilacs in ground. The lunch will be totally Italian from breads to cheeses to sausages and some wine from my families winery in Italy. we will have some great soft Italian music at the same time at lunch.

I have also been promised by my cousin who owns a winery some very special wines not on the market.

I hope everyone loves Italian Espresso. the Moro family is taking the secret arsenal out of home made pastries and pizzas.

There will be some lilacs at the auction that will be first time release from us. Yes bring your bidding wars on!!

We want the Saturday to be informative without moving around anywhere and have members spend time to talk. I hope with all this that we will encourage a big turn out. There is a special lilac planting of a few lilacs also.

On Sunday there is an optional day at the Botanical Gardens in Montreal and there is a horticultural show on there at the same time.

We will also have many little goodie plants for sale at the nursery and they can all be mailed out to you after the convention with ease.

Sara and I and the family invite you all to pass the weekend with us and to re-discover lilacs and friends and to get excited about our favorite plants.

Lilac photo attached is one of our Newest hybrids. It is a open pollination of 'Frederick Law Olmsted'. Sara is calling it *Syringa vulgaris* 'Blushing Nova'. Her selection and what a beautiful lilac!

Let's make 2015 the biggest convention attendance ever. There is too much to miss, too much to learn and too many friends we have not seen for a long time.

Come si dice in italiano.

Spero di vedervi nel 2015.

Ciao a tutti

The Moro Family

Collections or Museums?

Recently the University of Vermont decided to significantly revamp the arrangements of the plants at their Horticulture Research Center (the Hort Farm) in line with new plans for the property, including new buildings. The Board of the Friends of the Hort Farm this year has been discussing ways to deal with all the plants in light of the new plans.

By Far the largest collection on the Hort Farm is the Lilac Collection with 125 plants and 2 ½ acres of land. Started in 1954, the collection was to display the great variety of lilac plants (mostly *vulgaris*) and be used as an educational tool for proper propagation and display. The display plan followed those of many other gardens and arboretums by putting the plants in neat rows one after the other. The idea being to have a grand display for a few weeks a year.

Today this grand display for a few weeks is precisely the problem: 2 ½ acres which a few see for a few weeks and then it just sits waiting for its turn next

year, not a good use of the resource. I was struck by this very fact when touring the Holden Arboretum, where they took out their "collection" and integrated the lilacs with many other plants so that all the garden is used all the time. But an even greater quality is showing how the lilac does integrate nicely into almost any setting and with a nearly limitless number of other plants. If the lilacs at the Hort Farm were integrated into an all-encompassing garden people would get to see lilacs utilized the entire growing season not just for a few weeks.

The Maine Coastal Botanical Gardens, a new, very large (over 400 acres) garden on the coast of Maine has done an excellent job of integrating many different kinds of plants (including many lilacs) into a refreshingly new format that at times takes your breath away.

I recently completed a new 13,000 sq ft park garden in which I worked in 'Josee', 'Tinkerbelle', 'Palibin', 'Miss Kim' and 'Prairie Petite'. Instead of putting them in their own section, I distributed them throughout the garden as a constant reminder of their versatility.

The Friends of the Hort Farm held their annual Bloomtime on May 17th but sadly only Evangeline was in bloom and only by a couple of days. Many of the lilacs did not bloom at all, testimony to the toughest winter in Vermont in 20 years. This is the latest I have ever seen the lilacs bloom in Vermont. My 'Wonderblue' is just now coming to peak boom on the first of June; it is usually passed by Memorial Day.

Jeff Young
May 31, 2014



Jeff and Jan Young (center) enjoy Bloomtime at the Univ of Vt Hort Farm with Intern Supervisor Allie Brody (left) and Friends of the Hort Farm President Kristina Bielenberg in front of the lilac collection with just 'Evangeline' in bloom of the 125 lilacs on May 17th.

Digitizing and Indexing International Lilac Society's Journals

The International Lilac Society was founded in 1971 and the first publication, *Newsletter*, was printed in September of that year, where the historical beginning and a report of the First Organizational Meeting in May were detailed. The first president was Mr Orville M. Steward and the first editor J.L. Fiala. The intention then was to have the publication appear quarterly in September, January, April and July. By 1974 *Newsletter* was replaced with *The Pipeline* and this was produced monthly. Conventions were in separate publications *Lilacs*, *Proceedings*, or *Lilacs Proceedings*. In 1978 *The Pipeline* was replaced by *Lilac Newsletter* and this continued on a monthly basis until the end of 1988 at which time it became the quarterly *Lilacs* as we now know it and with no separate issue devoted to printing convention lectures – the last *Lilacs Proceedings* was in 1988.

Indexes were prepared and published in the journals up to the first half of 1993 and these are now available for viewing on our website under Publications – Indexes. These are either a cumulative list of articles or broken into categories similar to what we have done with the indexing from the last half of 1993 to the end of 2013. In our case we used titles similar to those in *Lilacs A Gardener's Encyclopedia* by John L. Fiala, revised and updated by Freek Vrugtman in 2008. Our indexes: General, Lilac Cultivar Names, *Syringa* Scientific Plant Names, and Authors, can be found on our website under Publications – Indexes. We hope to update these annually.

All journals have now been digitized and are on our website, general access, except for the last three years which are available to members only. The journals from 1989 (the start of the present day *Lilacs*) were scanned commercially while all before were done by me. Many journals were loaned from Archives, Arnold Arboretum. Many thanks to Candace Wentz for technical assistance and of course getting everything on the website.

Joan Speirs
May 2014

Thanks from Highland Botanical Park to our Russian Friends

After attending the ILS convention at Cleveland this year, Tatiana Poliakova, Natalya Poliakova, Marchevskaya Nadezda, and Irina Sapozhkova came to visit Highland Botanical Park. Unfortunately, the lilacs here weren't quite blooming yet either. However, they didn't come to just see the lilacs. They all came to help out with pruning. So for about 6 hours my very gracious friends spent all day near the pansy bed area pruning lilacs; filling a number of garbage bags full of their work. I greatly appreciate their help, and was very happy to meet all of them, and see Tatiana again. Hopefully the next time they come the lilacs will be in full bloom (like they were last year for Tatiana).

Kent Millham
May 2014



Getting ready to help prune lilacs!

left to right: Tatiana Poliakova, Natalya Poliakova, Marchevskaya Nadezda,
Irina Sapozhkva

Photo Credit Kent Millham

Congratulations to Newly Elected Board Members

John Bentley
John Kirk
Frank Moro
Tatiana Poliakova
Myrna Walberg

Beautiful Veronica's Lilacs

*Half a century has passed since Veronica Bibikova (1930—2004) completed her brilliant work on intercultivar hybridization of *Syringa vulgaris* in Minsk Central Botanical Garden, National Academy of Sciences of Belarus (in the former Soviet Union). This work was supervised by Academician N.A. Smol'skii.*

Bibikova launched her large-scale crossing program in 1958—1959 when she was not yet thirty. Already in 1964, as a result of strict selection and strain testing, 16 highly ornamental forms were chosen from selection stock that already finished blossoming. They gave rise to wonderful lilacs of Belarusian selection. First Belarusian cultivars were notable for their own inherent charm. These outstanding forms turned out to be recognizable and easy to remember.

Choosing original cultivars for selection, Bibikova paid attention to the properties that she was anxious to reproduce and emphasize in new hybrids. Key roles belonged to German 'Hyazinthenflieder' and French 'Réaumur'. These parental forms were used twice in three major combinations. In these combinations, 'Hyazinthenflieder' was first paternal and then maternal form. 'Réaumur' in both cases acted as a source of paternal material.

A short time later, new Belarusian lilacs showed their worth. They bloomed abundantly. Their large fragrant florets of original shape with long tubes and canary anthers as if falling out from the fauces turned out to be resistant to fading and preserved color during long spans of bad weather. Subsequently, Bibikova did not record any changes in morphological and ornamental characteristics of florets and inflorescences of the produced hybrids. The shape and size of the florets as well as their doubleness remained conservative traits. Thus, rejection and selection of the most promising hybrid seedlings were successfully performed as early as after 2 or 3 years of flowering. This speed was one of surprising and valuable properties of Belarusian selection.

Bibikova's selection program was accompanied by preliminary analysis and description of lilac collection produced in Minsk Botanical Garden as well as investigation of flowering biology, fertilization, and setting of full-fledged seeds therein. She paid special attention to looking after hybrid seedlings from the first days of their life, creation of comfortable conditions for rapid growth and normal development of plants at least before blooming.

By 1964, Bibikova's experimental population numbered 1210 promising hybrid seedlings obtained as a result of 23 crossing combinations. The plants produced from seeds in 1958 and 1959 began to blossom. This made it possible to make primary hybrid analysis by morphological and ornamental characteristics of their florets and inflorescences. The obtained seedlings covered a range of transitions between initial parental forms. Some of them looked more like maternal plant, others—like paternal. It depended on specific parental couple.

In the 'Hyazinthinflieder' × 'Andenken an Ludwig Späth' combination, the size and color of maternal florets were predominant features. By 'hyacinth' shape of florets, hybrids also turned out to be more similar to the maternal cultivar. At the same time, paternal heredity showed in the size and structure of inflorescences with 80% of hybrid seedlings having large pointed conical inflorescences. Nevertheless, 'Hyazinthenflieder' transferred its traits most strikingly.

In the 'Andenken an Ludwig Späth' × 'Hyazinthenflieder' combination, the majority of hybrid seedlings adhered to paternal form by color, shape, and structure of the floret.

In the 'Hyazinthinflieder' × 'Réaumur' combination, where this cultivar was maternal, the majority of hybrids had the color, structure, and size of the floret similar to 'Hyazinthenflieder'. In all the tested combinations, German lilac dominated in the transfer of its characteristics to posterity.

At the same time, two thirds of the seedlings obtained as a result of crossing double white 'Mme Abel Chatenay' with single magenta 'Réaumur' had floret structure like the paternal form, and half of all the hybrids produced colorless corollas like the maternal plant. As to the structure of petals and size of the florets and inflorescences, hybrid posterity was uniformly distributed between the parental forms. Exactly this parental couple produced outstanding hybrid seedlings that gave rise to the majority of cultivars, including all forms with white florets. As a result, Bibikova's selection program comprised only four cultivars, which she used in 3 combinations.

Cultivars of Belarusian lilacs selected by Smol'skoï and Bibikova (1964) and combinations of parental couples they were produced from:

'Andenken an Ludwig Späth' × 'Hyazinthenflieder' – 'Partizanka', 'Belorusskie Zori', 'Polesskaya Legenda', 'Pamyati A.T. Smol'skoï'.

'Hyazinthenflieder' × 'Réaumur' – 'Svityazanka', 'Konstantin Zaslonoï', 'Zor'ka Venera', 'Tanechka', 'Marat Kazei'.

'Mme Abel Chatenay' × 'Réaumur' – 'Minchanka', 'Lebedushka', 'Pavlinka', 'Vera Khoruzhaya', 'Zashchitnikam Bresta', 'Lunnyi Svet', 'Khoroshie Nastroyeniya'.

Igor Semenov,
Natalia Balakshina,
plant physiologists, Moscow, Russia

All the photographs were taken by Igor Semenov. A historic picture of Veronika Bibikova was presented to Igor Semenov by her husband Yuri Bibikov.



A young Veronica Bibikova
Photo Credit Yurii Bibikov



'Vera Khoruzhaya'; a single lilac to pinkish bloomer
Photo Credit Igor Semenov



Syringa vulgaris 'Lebedushka', (Swan Beauty); a beautiful single white
Photo Credit Igor Semenov



Syringa vulgaris 'Partizanka'; with narrow thyrses
Photo Credit Igor Semenov



Syringa vulgaris 'Konstantin Zaslونov'
Photo Credit Igor Semenov



Syringa vulgaris 'Lunnyi Svet', a double white
Photo Credit Igor Semenov

THREE NEW LILACS

Having been employed at Highland Botanical Park for 35 years and associated with the area for over 50 years I developed a relationship with lilacs. Everything from propagation to pruning, planting, removal and maintaining the park for the annual 10 day Lilac Festival. Working under Richard Fenicchia was both an education and at times frustrating, as Dick emphasizes that any hybridization done while he was in charge he would be credited with. Dick taught me much; at times I was unaware of this teaching due to his subtle way of involving myself and others with daily chores.

Following Dick's retirement I became deeply involved in all aspects of horticulture and park development, and much time was spent organizing the work force. Eventually I found the time necessary to undertake hybridizing lilacs. It has been a great joy to experience the rewards and disappointments of this endeavor. Many crosses never produced seed and some seedlings died or were lost. These newly named lilacs have come from open pollinated seed of 'Flower City'. This method is similar to Al Grant's collecting seed from 'Edith Cavell' which resulted in the 'Rochester' lilac. Presently I have seedlings of other crosses maturing at Dick's nephew Louis's farm. We'll see if anything develops from these hybrids, all of which have 'Rochester' genes.

FC 15 is a single flowered shrub attaining a height of 7 feet at 15 years and a spread of about 8 feet. The foliage emerges reddish and retains this shade throughout the flowering period. Red-purple florets mature holding a wine color with the outer edge fading to white. Many florets display radial doubling.

The wine colored flowers and foliage suggest Merlot Wine a favorite of Marcia's; thus the name 'Marcie Merlot'

FC 20 is a single flowering shrub that has a spread equal to its height. The large blue florets with cupped petals display a silvery reverse and many radial double florets. This striking plant caught the eye of Charles Holetich as he wandered the Park a couple years back. I felt it appropriate to name this selection 'Highland Park'.

FC 07 has a unique hose'n'hose double with reddish buds opening to a dark purple and magenta flowers. The very tightly packed florets exhibit Quad or 4 whorls each, with a white reverse. An extremely fragrant bouquet on an upright shrub.

According to the sign of the Zodiac the planet Mars rules over Aries and Scorpio and associated with Tuesday. These are the astrological signs of Marcia and me, so I named it 'Tuesday.'

*Robert Hoepfl
June 2014*



'Marcie Merlot'; formerly known as FC 15
Photo Credit Kent Millham



'Highland Park'; formerly known as FC 20
Photo Credit Kent Millham



'Tuesday'; formerly known as FC 07
Photo Credit Kent Millham

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Syringa vulgaris 'Zhemchuzhina' (Pearl of Minsk)
 Photo Credit Igor Semenov



Sorry; couldn't resist- this years pansy bed
 at Highland Botanical Park
 Photo Credit Kent Millham



Group photo of attendees of the ILS Convention 2014 in Cleveland, Ohio, USA
Photo Courtesy of David Gressley