

Lilacs

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QUARTERLY JOURNAL

of the International Lilac Society

IN
THIS
ISSUE:

Membership Roster &
Lilacs of Berlin



A thick screen of dark purple lilacs helps hide the ugly blue structure in back in Berlin
Photo Credit Igor Semenov



A dark purple lilac adds to the beauty of a quaint house and fence in Berlin
Photo Credit Igor Semenov

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Front Cover: The cupola of Reichstag and Tiergarten lilacs in Berlin
Photo Credit Igor Semenov

Editor's Deadline for Spring Issue:

*****March 7, 2016*****

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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,

What do you think of this weather? It has been warm in Virginia, USA and after a few very cold days in November and the return of warm temperatures the plants now think it is spring. Oh no! The lilacs have swelling buds, the forsythias are showing yellow, and the honeysuckle smells sweet... A friend has a cherry tree in full bloom. Magnolias blooming, and daffodils already six inches high are reported in Pennsylvania. If it keeps up the grass will need to be cut. I know that in France the same is happening. The ski stations have no snow. In the USA very bad weather has caused tornados, flooding, major power outages and flight cancelations and delays at major airports. It makes one wonder how spring is going to play out. I'm sure Mother Nature has a plan; at least I hope she does.

On this last day of 2015 I can said that it was a very good year for ILS. We had a wonderful convention in Mascouche, Canada hosted by Frank Moro and his family. We had a good auction to enrich our treasury. Thank you to all the donors, the buyers and our auctioneer Bruce Peart. We signed up new members. Thanks to the efforts of Tatiana Poliakova the number of ILS members in Russia is growing rapidly. ILS also joined Facebook. We saw beautiful lilacs, saw many of our old friends and even made new ones.

Only four months to go and it will be time for us to travel to Media, Pennsylvania for the 2016 ILS Convention. We are going to enjoy some of those beautiful estate gardens. The four gardens we will visit are really exceptional. Longwood Garden is probably the most famous of all but the others are equally wonderful. So please come to this convention. Woody and Jane Barnes, William (Bill) and Shirley Tschumi and David Gressley told me they were coming. Our only ILS member in New Zealand, Beryl Lee is coming again this year to attend. She was with us last year in Canada and took fantastic pictures. We should have a great turnout. Many of you will be able to drive making it less expensive. The convention 2016 registration form and the hotel information were included in our newsletter Vol. 44, NO 4 Fall 2015. Karen McCauley, ILS Convention Chair, also gave you the calendar of events on page 93 of that same issue. Don't forget we will have an extraordinary auction of rare lilacs donated by the Max Peterson Family.

Remember I ask everyone to sign up at least one new member this year. I hope you have done it or at least trying. Let see how many of you will be on target by the time of the convention. I have been asking for articles for our magazine. Kent Millham, ILS Editor, always need material. I'm happy to know two ILS members, Robert (Bob) Zavodny and Tom Gober from Ohio have written a very good article on the Wolcott Lilac Gardens in Kent, Ohio. It is Bob's mother's garden and Bob is restoring it with the help of Tom. That is very exciting. Their

goal is to establish it as a lilac public garden!

Let's Talk Lilacs! held in Hooksett, NH USA was another great success this fall. Thank you to Jack Alexander and Evie King for hosting the event. I hope you read all about it in the fall 2015 newsletter. Love the pictures of Team Lilac and "Dogs love lilacs too!" on the inside front cover. The front cover picture of the Historic Octagon House in Hudson, Wisconsin, USA is so beautiful. The style of the house and the pink lilacs are a perfect match. Excellent pictures throughout the journal, and thank you to all of you who submit pictures.

To think that in a few hours it will be 2016. I hope everyone will have a wonderful and healthy year and that the lilacs all over the world bloom in profusion. By the time we meet in Pennsylvania already four months will have passed. We will elect new board members for the term 2017-2019. Look over the slate of candidates include in this newsletter. Please vote either by mailing the paper ballot to Nancy Latimer, Election Chair, or by voting electronically. It is very efficient to do it that way. It can be done at any time of the day. Please send your ballot before the deadline. It is important for you to vote for the candidates of your choice. Thank you to those candidates who volunteer to run, some for a second term and others for the first time.

Mes amis I'll see you on the lilac trail in Pennsylvania. I know you are excited about this upcoming convention. There is so much to see in that state come early and stay a while.

I wish you the best of everything!

*Mes amities,
Nicole Jordan, ILS President
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SLATE OF CANDIDATES FOR ILS BOARD 2017-2019 TERM

Franklin L. Woody Barnes Jr.

I have been interested in lilacs since childhood. My parents had received lilacs plants from my mom's parents as a wedding gift in 1924. By the time I was born our house was surrounded with lilacs.

We still raise lilacs on a mini commercial scale. I'm a life member of the ILS and greatly enjoy the organization and hope I can contribute a little as a board member. For many years I served as the auctioneer at the ILS convention.

David Gressley

My background with International Lilac Society spans about 25-years of my working life going back to the 1988 ILS Convention in Rochester. I have been privileged to know most of the founding generation of ILS from my 20-year tenure with The Holden Arboretum as the Horticulturist and the untitled Curator for the *Syringa* Collection adding new Fiala, Rochester hybrids and Russian introductions while culling misidentified accessions. I was a Member of the Board and the Membership Secretary beginning in 1989. I extricated myself from the board to concentrate on the membership post and to avoid any conflict of interest between the two governing bodies. I attended all the annual conventions for the 15-year period I was the Membership Secretary and was able to streamline the membership roll and mailing list into a single operation during the introduction of the computer age. I introduced lilacs to the landscaped grounds of Lake View Cemetery, Cleveland's historic cemetery during my tenure with that institution. I hosted the 2014 ILS Annual Convention in Cleveland, organizing it primarily from my new employ in Cincinnati at Spring Grove Cemetery and Arboretum. I have since purchased over 60 different lilac taxa that are being grown to constitute what will be the *Syringa* collection at Spring Grove and will advocate Cincinnati as a first time ILS Annual Convention host site when the society meets again in the mid-west.

Bruce Peart

114 Cameron Ave,
Dundas Ontario Canada

Bruce obtained his Horticultural Diploma and began his career at Royal Botanical Gardens in Burlington/Hamilton as Head Gardener in 1975. He continued doing horticulture for his career at RBG until 2003. From 1999 -2003 he was Curator of the RBG Lilac Collection and joined the ILS. Since he left RBG he has managed 2 large Private Estates as their Private Horticulturist and presently full-time Horticulturist at a private golf course north of Toronto and planting Lilacs whenever the time is right.

Bruce and his spouse, Margaret, are avid travelers and have been to all 7 continents and continue to travel whenever they can. Bruce has been an active ILS board member in previous years and for the last 4 years has been the auctioneer at the ILS annual plant sale. Bruce says: 'It is time to throw my hat into the ring again.'

Robert Zavodny

I am a General Dentist in Akron Ohio and currently Vice President of our regional professional organization. I inherited the love of gardening from my parents and planted my first lilac as a teenager. When I was in college my parents purchased a historic home on two acres in Kent, Oh and as we began to restore the home we found many unusual plants and lilacs on the property. After a little research we found that the property was the Wolcott Lilac Gardens. For the last 30 years I have been working on restoring the gardens and in 2015 we opened the gardens to the public for the first time in 60 years. We had approximately 1800 people come through over two weekends and received overwhelming support to continue the tradition. Our goal is to establish the Lilac Gardens as a nonprofit public garden not only for the enjoyment of the local community as well as visitors to the area but also for education purposes. We currently have over 150 varieties of lilacs on the property.

Jeff Young

For the last ten years Jeff Young has been a leader in the Master Gardener organization. He owns and operates Lilac Torr, LLC which does consulting in open space management such as campuses, parks and streetscaping. He has served on the City Council, the Vermont Legislature, and currently serves on the Regional Planning Commission, as Vice President of the Friends of the Hort Farm at UVMs Horticultural Research Center, the Park Commission, the Downtown Board and recently retired from Vermont's Urban Forestry Council after seven years of service. He also serves on the Board of NOTCH which oversees 5 federal rural healthcare and dental clinics. But his passion is gardening and his first love is lilacs. Jeff and Jan Young do many lilac talks and workshops every year including Mackinac Island Lilac Festival for 11 years.

Mail your ballot to:

Nancy Latimer
ILS Election Chair
P.O. Box 444
Emory, VA 24327

To vote electronically go to vote@internationallilacsociety.org

To vote, send an e-mail to this address to request voting instructions. You will then receive a website at which you can vote, and a "Voter ID" —kind of a password to ensure that only members' votes are counted.

Vote for four (4) candidates only. **Deadline April 20, 2016**

Convention Corner: 2016 Convention Update ILS Convention in Media, Pennsylvania Thurs April 28- Sat April 30, 2016

The convention will be starting on Thursday afternoon at 2:30 p.m. Board meeting will be earlier in the day at 10:00a.m. Agenda was not available when this journal went to press. Please watch the ILS website for the final agenda. The agenda will be emailed to convention registrants. Please get those registrations in as soon as possible & make those hotel reservations.

NOTE: Some members are not able to participate in the full convention, due to work and/or financial restraints. If you would like to attend the convention for one day we will be offering a 1-day rate, which will include the bus tour to Tyler Arboretum, the auction, lunch, Scott Arboretum (time permitting) and our Saturday night banquet & silent auction for \$100.00. Please contact me if you are interested, as this rate will be as space allows. This rate will not be available until after the full registration cutoff of March 31, 2016.

*Karen McCauley,
Convention Chair
mccauleytk@aol.com*

Optional Sightseeing Suggestions for Pre and Post Convention Days

Winterthur, Delaware

Founded by Henry du Pont, this is a museum, library, and a 60 acre naturalistic garden set amidst 1,000 acres of rolling meadows and woodlands. Eight miles from the convention hotel. <http://www.winterthur.org/>

Ladew Topiary Garden, Monkton, Maryland

22 acres of topiary and garden rooms. 64 miles SW of the convention hotel. <http://www.ladewgardens.com/>

Philadelphia is America's Garden Capital with more than 30+ gardens within 30 miles of Philadelphia.

(Too many gardens to list here).

Learn more at www.americasgardencapital.org

Valley Forge National Historical Park, King of Prussia, Pennsylvania

Historical site (no gardens) that is part of the US National Park Service. 25 miles N of the convention hotel. <http://www.nps.gov/vafo/index.htm>

Visit Philly Official visitor and travel site

Philadelphia is approximately 23 miles from the convention hotel.

<http://www.visitphilly.com/>

Philadelphia Sightseeing Hop on/Hop off Bus tours

<http://www.philadelphiasightseeingtours.com/>

International Lilac Society Request for Research Proposals

The International Lilac Society solicits research proposals on lilacs for the 2016 season. Up to \$8,000 is available as one large grant or several smaller grants. Researchers (including faculty or students) in university or college departments of life sciences, horticulture, or botanic gardens are eligible to apply. Proposals, 2-3 pages long, should contain an executive summary, short introduction, objectives, materials and methods, and expected results along with a projected budget. Please send proposals, electronically or hard copy, to Dr. J.G. Waines, Department of Botany & Plant Sciences, University of California, Riverside, CA 92521-0124, USA, by March 1, 2016. <giles.waines@ucr.edu> Proposals will be reviewed by the research committee.

The Wolcott Lilac Gardens of Kent, OH (Est. 1863)

The Wolcott House is a fine example of eclectic Western Reserve and Gothic Revival with influences of Victorian and Arts and Crafts from the 1918 additions.

Simon Perkins Wolcott started construction of the home at 450 West Main St. in 1863. Wolcott, a noted politician and civic leader entertained many at the home through the years including Presidents Garfield and McKinley. It was at this home where Simon and his wife Mary Brewster raised three children including son, Duncan Brewster, who would eventually own the home.

Although there were some gardens initially present, it was not until Duncan married Evelyn Daisy Lodge of Silver Lake in 1906 that the infamous lilac gardens began to take shape. Duncan and Daisy were both avid gardeners and they set out to build one of the finest home gardens in the area.

The Wolcott's garden was far from a formal garden, it was more of a series of rambling paths, terraces, stone walls as well as grassy lawns and flower beds. They purchased additional property to expand the gardens and continued to add with new and unusual trees, shrubs, and flowers.

In 1920 the "Lilac Gardens" began to take shape when Daisy received a gift from her uncle, Col. William R. Plum. Col. Plum owned the largest collection of French lilacs in the world and he sent Daisy more than 100 varieties for her garden. The Wolcotts carefully tended their lilacs and added more as time went on.

When Duncan died in 1930, Daisy opened the gardens to the public to raise funds to put her sons through college. The gardens attracted visitors from around the world. It became a Mother's Day tradition to visit the Lilac Gardens and at one time had 8000 visitors in one day.

Daisy passed away in 1955 and her sons maintained the property for a few years until eventually they sold the property. The home and gardens went through a few different owners and came upon difficult times and fell into disarray. In 1973, a developer proposed purchasing the property and developing it into an apartment complex. Fortunately the City Council rejected the planned and rezoned the area to prevent any future redevelopments.

In the fall of 1985, Stephen and Eleanor Zavodny purchased the property and set out to restore the estate. Not initially knowing the history of the property, they were intrigued to find lilacs and some other unusual plants amongst the overgrowth. After a little research the Zavodny's were thrilled with their purchase of the historic Lilac Gardens. At that time, only 70 of the original lilacs had survived. The original garden areas were cleared and azaleas and rhododendrons were planted. A rose garden with a central fountain was also added.

After the passing of Stephen in 2007, Eleanor and her son Robert continue the restoration of both the home and gardens. It's a labor of love and far from complete. In 2013 while researching the history of the home and gardens, Robert Zavodny saw a home movie in color of the Lilac Gardens from 1946 at the Kent Historical Society Museum. This was his motivation to continue the restoration of the house and gardens. Over the last few years, many more lilacs have been added and the gardens currently have over 140 varieties on the property.

The source of many of the recently added lilacs is Select Plus, a grower and hybridizer from Montreal, Canada. This past summer, they offered an opportunity to have naming rights to a newly hybridized variety. Robert wanted to pay tribute to Daisy Wolcott and had a lilac named in her memory. The Daisy Wolcott lilac has blue florets with a white center and has a very strong aroma. The plants will be available on the market in a few years.

2015 marked the sixtieth anniversary of Daisy's passing and the Zavodnys decided to open the Lilac Gardens for tours, feeling that this would be a befitting tribute to the lady who started the tradition in 1930. The tour received an overwhelming response from the community with over 1800 people visiting over the two weekends including several ancestors of Daisy Wolcott. More information can be found on Facebook under Lilac Gardens or we can be reached by email at lilacgardenskent@gmail.com. The Lilac Gardens are beginning the application process for 501(c)3 status to insure the property will be around for future generations.

*Robert Zavodny and Tom Gober
December 31, 2015*

Pleasant memories brought back

Recently, I was a recipient of an e-mail from our friend and ILS member in Moscow, Tatiana Poliakova. She visited Dr. Nikolaï Leonidovich Mikhailov, now 92 years of age, who was a long time curator of the plant collections at the Moscow Main Botanic Gardens. She sent me 3 photos of Dr. Mikhailov to show that he is still energetic and active in relation to lilacs.

It brought back some pleasant memories of the time when during the 80s there was significant exchange of numerous lilac cultivars between the two botanic gardens. Considerable number of new lilac cultivars were introduced to lilac lovers on both continents.

Dr. Mikhailov organized the details with plant inspection and customs people in Moscow and I did the same in Hamilton, Canada. In order to preserve the moisture in lilac scions (winter twigs) and eliminate the dehydration of it, the transit time needed be as short as possible.

I invited Dr. Mikhailov to correspond with me in Russian, which I understand about 70%. It was sufficient for the purpose of our handling the lilac scions exchange.

I recall an example when Dr. Mikhailov had the air shipment of lilac scions from 3 different locations of the Asiatic part of “the testing and cultivar evaluation stations of Soviet Union” flown to Moscow, repacked them, added the additional scions of cultivars in Moscow and within 48 hours, they were on my office desk at RBG Hamilton, Canada, delivered by courier.

Scions were grafted onto *Syringa josikaea* understock in order to show variation of the foliage of stock and understock, when pruning was applied. During planting to its permanent location in the collection, the graft union was planted about 10cm below soil level and in few years rejected by the parent plant. New lilacs were shared with Lilac collections and Arboreta of US and Canada, as well as appearing frequently at the ILS Convention auctions.

Another unusual episode was that during the 80s, Hungary was politically part of the USSR, however most of their Lilac propagating material of lilacs by Russian hybridizers were sent to the University of Budapest collection from RBG Hamilton.

Work with Lilacs bring along sometimes the unusual twists and challenges. Here is one I wish to share with you: A nursery from England shipped about 60cm in size lilac. They failed to wash the root system and treat it with nematode control chemical, though it was the requirement as per import permit regulations. In the plant inspection office, at the Toronto International Airport I offered to wash the roots and do the necessary chemical application, but was not allowed to execute

it. After learning that the problem was in the root system only I asked for the saw, cut the root portion of the plant and handed it them, while I took the upper part of the plant, delivered it to RBG propagation department, who after keeping it for two months in a container with water, induced growth, took and rooted 15 cuttings and secured the plant.

My early retirement also enabled me to explore the native lilac habitats in Europe, while at the same time begin working on the Lilac book with Dr. Zelimir Borzan, professor emeritus of Dendrology and Forest Genetics at the Faculty of Forestry, Zagreb, Croatia. A reliable book on Lilacs was needed for people of Croatia, Serbia, Macedonia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro and Slovenia. After 12 years of work, it came to its fruition in 2015, with an accompanying DVD depicting over a thousand lilac cultivars. My hope is that the ILS members and other individuals associated with Lilacs will continue contributing authentic photos of missing lilacs cultivars for the ongoing expansion of the Lilac DVD and that updated versions would periodically be issued as a reference source.

Where there is a will, there is a way! Produce, share and communicate!

Charles D. Holetich
December 2015



Charles Holetich



Dr. Mikhailov with 2 outstanding books
about his beloved lilacs
Photo Credit Tatiana Poliakova



Dr. Mikhailov and Tatiana Poliakova
with Jorgavani; the new lilac book by Charles Holetich and Dr. Zelimer Borzan
Photo courtesy of Tatiana Poliakova

S. vulgaris 'Vera Khoruzhaya' & 'Tanechka' (Smolskii, Bibikova, 1964)

In our article "Beautiful Veronica's Lilacs" we incorrectly identified cultivar of single-flowering pinkish magenta lilac (Lilacs, Summer 2014, p. 87). This cultivar exhibited in the Syringarium of Central Botanical Garden, National Academy of Sciences of Belarus (Minsk) was designated as 'Vera Khoruzhaya'.

Our photo taken in Minsk shows quite another form. If this lilac belongs to selection by Smolskii and Bibikova, it is most likely 'Tanechka'. However, it is only an assumption since we have never encountered this cultivar. Veronica Bibikova named it after her daughter. This cultivar is rare in occurrence and for some time was considered lost.

Cultivar 'Vera Khoruzhaya' is uncommon in Belarus and Russia. However, in neighboring Poland it is found fairly often. Here we present photos of this lilac taken in the Syringarium of the Institute of Dendrology, Polish Academy of Sciences (Kórnik) and in a famous Elzbietowka private garden. It is obvious that 'Tanechka' and 'Vera Khoruzhaya' are absolutely unlike each other. They are two quite different forms.

In conclusion, I cite original author's description of these cultivars made up by Veronica Bibikova in 1968. In this book, she also published the first black-and-white photograph of 'Vera Khoruzhaya'.

'Vera Khoruzhaya', seedling of 'Mme Abel Chatenay' x 'Réaumur'. Florets are single, lilac-rosy with blue veins along the central part of petal, large, 2.8 cm in diameter. Petals are glossy, narrow, grooved, deflected outwards. Elongated buds are bright lilac. Large inflorescences are wide-pyramidal, 30 x 16—18 cm in size. Lateral branches are long; therefore inflorescences look loose and broken. Produce pleasant fragrance. Blooming lasts for 19 days.

'Tanechka', seedling of 'Hyazinthenlieder' x 'Réaumur'. Single florets are graceful with a long tube of corolla (up to 1.2 cm), 2.5 cm in diameter. Petals are light blue or rosy, in the center they are rather purple. Anthers hang out from the throat of corolla, which makes the floret especially expressive. The buds are rounded and elongated; they open slowly. Inflorescences are large, 25 x 18 cm in size, of medium compactness, wide-pyramidal. Produce pleasant fragrance. Blooming lasts for 17—18 days. Seedling is decorative owing to some inflorescences of delicate bluish-rosy tint.

Literature

1. Bibikova V.F., Boborenko E.Z., Vakula V.S., et al. 1968. Trees and shrubs, roses and lilacs. *Brief results of introduction*. Editor - N. V. Smolskii, Corresponding Member of Academy of Sciences of Belarus Soviet Republic. Central Botanical

Garden, Academy of Sciences of Belarus Soviet Republic. Minsk: Science and Technology Publishing. Part 3, *Lilacs*, pp. 321—346. (in Russian)

2. Semenov Igor. 2014. Hyacinth-Réaumur Lilacs. Moscow: Bulletin of Garden-er, no. 2/38, pp. 14—18. (in Russian)

Igor Semenov
Moscow



Syringa vulgaris 'Vera Khoruzhaya' at Kornik
Photo Credit Igor Semenov



Syringa vulgaris 'Tanechka' at Minsk
Photo Credit Igor Semenov

LILACS BLOOMING ON CHRISTMAS DAY

The last few years I have had lilacs blooming in our house during the Christmas period, the blossoms are as fragrant as during the spring and they usually have enough blossoms to not only enhance your house but enough for a few bouquets for your friends as well.

I begin by purchasing a healthy potted lilac from a nursery during the spring, I acquire one that is in bloom for two reasons, a) I know its mature enough to bloom and b) I know it's a colour I will enjoy.

I then set it up in my gardens and leave it in the pot for the summer. I treat it like any other lilac, giving it adequate water and dead heading spent blossoms. It has adequate nutrients in the pot and blends into the appearance of the garden.

I leave it in the pot until after it has had a couple of hard frosts in November. Frost times vary as you know so the timing of all of this may or may not take place by Christmas day but should occur during the Christmas season

I then bring the potted lilac inside the house and put it in the a window setting where it will receive at least 6 hours of sunlight per day . Of course the temperature of the house plus the light fools the plant into believing it spring and the lilac comes out of its dormancy. About six weeks later, you will have blooms that rival the fragrance in spring, and it will also have plenty of blooms. The rewarding part is also that the blooms and fragrance last longer . It isn't affected by the heat or direct sunlight that bleaches the colour we so often experience outside. I leave it inside for the balance of the winter and then remove the plant from its pot and plant in the garden in the normal fashion.

I never have blossoms that year from this plant in the garden, but the following year, the lilac has oriented its cycle to any normal season . The plants do not seem to be harmed in any way and continue to flourish for me today.

It's a fun experiment, simple and quite a pleasant addition to the Christmas festivities, or in some cases to the new year's festivities depending on the cooperation you get in November.

Allan Kerr
Canada

The Lilacs of Berlin: A Photographic Story

Editor's Note: All photos taken by Igor Semenov in May 2015 in Berlin, Germany



Beautiful specimen of *S. vulgaris* 'Andenken an Ludwig Späth'
a very common cultivar in Berlin



Different colors of *S. × chinensis* at Red Army Memorial in Tiergarten



Lilacs in a small public garden near S-Bahn station Bellvue.
note the beautiful combination of white with purple



This lilac shows a noticeable recurving of the petals,
one of the many forms seen in lilac florets



Several colors of lilacs add beauty to the entrance of a gateway in Kopening or East Berlin



Nothing better to hide an ugly wall in Berlin than a beautiful, well-branched floriferous lilac



This dark purple lilac has a very impressive single trunk
Again, it is probably 'Andenken an Ludwig Späth'



Dark purple lilacs against an eye-catching black roof
make a bold statement of color and texture



This old lilac with flaking bark is thriving despite the presence of a large borer hole in the trunk



This single-trunked lilac towers over the home it beautifies



Sculpture of a Soviet soldier at Red Army Memorial in Tiergarten



A heavy blooming lilac competes with a crabapple in the background

Membership Roster as of 12/31/2015

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Lilacs help beautify a nondescript landscape border
 Photo Credit Igor Semenov



A mass of lilacs and bright green foliage is a beautiful sight to behold
 Photo Credit Igor Semenov



Different colors of *S. × chinensis* at Red Army Memorial in Tiergarten

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