

# Convention Corner

By Claire Fouquet and Mark L. Debard  
Convention Co-Chairs

Our 2023 Convention will be held in the Minneapolis area from May 25th to May 27th. In this issue you will find information on hotel reservation, registration form, tentative agenda, and articles on the sites we will visit. We did our best to keep the registration fee as low as possible and we could not possibly manage for less than we budgeted. Thanks to Mark, we got a great rate on the hotel which really helps reduce the overall cost. It might seem a lot but remember that the fee has been the same for many years and as you are all aware, inflation and pandemic effects have seriously impacted the cost of transportation and food. For example, car rental is now more than \$100/day. Fee for bus rental alone is over \$3400 and we got many quotes to find the lowest price. If you wish to get information on budgeted expenses, you can email the Convention co-chairs.

The theme of this year's convention is "Lilacs and Friendships", and activities are centered only around lilacs and time spent together.

Hope to see you all in Minnesota.

## Silent Auction

As usual there will be a silent auction during the convention. If you plan to bring items for this auction, we would appreciate if you could drop us a note about it. (c.fouquet@icloud.com)

## An Amazing Lilac Plant Auction!

Our master auctioneer is already at work and preparing a fabulous auction with around 100 rare lilacs to auction off. Attending the convention gives you this unique opportunity to acquire rare lilacs that you will not be able to buy on the market. Do not miss it!

## Kelly Applegate Lilac Collection

By Mark L. DeBard, Convention Co-Chair

ILS Board Member Kelly Applegate has what is likely the largest private collection of lilac cultivars in North America. (Although the similar-sized Sunny Fields Botanical Park in Michigan is privately owned by ILS member Bill Horman, it is routinely open to the public).

Kelly's collection has over 300 cultivars. It is located in very rural Princeton, Minnesota (pop. 5000), and about a one-hour drive north of Minneapolis. The lilacs are laid out on a few acres of flat land, beautifully spaced about 12 feet apart, with circular edge retainers surrounding the mulched bases, with grass for ground cover between the lilacs, all surrounding his charming home. They are meticulously labeled with excellent metal and plastic signs denoting the cultivar and species.

The collection is mostly *S. vulgaris* and *S. ×hyacinthiflora*. Most are mature shrubs, but an expanding area has smaller, younger shrubs that are also labeled nicely, with purple martin birdhouses scattered among them. Kelly annually hosts a day-long open house primarily for his neighbors to enjoy the lilacs.

This year, for the first time ever, ILS members are greatly privileged to be able to see this private collection that is unique in size and breadth for North American lilacs.



Partial view of Kelly's collection

**2023 Convention**  
**"LILACS AND FRIENDSHIPS"**  
**Tentative Agenda**

**Thursday May 25, 2023**

6 – 6:30p.m. Registration for those arriving early.  
Receive convention souvenir bag and information  
Dinner on your own.

**Friday May 26, 2023**

6:30 - 7 a.m. Registration  
7 - 8:45 a.m. Board of directors meeting  
9 a.m. Departing hotel by bus  
9:30 a.m. Arrival Minnesota Landscape Arboretum  
Noon Flowerpot lunch  
2 p.m. Departing Arboretum, back to hotel  
2:30 – 5 p.m. Lilac Auction  
5 – 6 p.m. Free and relax time  
6 – 10 p.m. President's Pizza Party  
Annual Member Meeting,  
Silent Auction

**Saturday May 27, 2023**

7:30 – 8:30 a.m. ILS Board of Directors meeting (if needed)  
8:45 a.m. Departing Hotel by bus  
10 a.m. Arrival at Kelly Applegate private collection  
11:30 - Noon "Looking Good" presentation  
Noon Lunch  
1 - 1:30 p.m. "What if I am Bored", presentation  
1:30 - 2 p.m. "Know your origins", presentation  
3 p.m. Departing by bus for hotel  
4 – 5:30 p.m. Free and relax time  
5:30 p.m. Departing hotel for restaurant, walking 0,6 mile  
6 – 10 pm. Awards Banquet

## Minnesota University Landscape Arboretum

By **Mark L. DeBard, Convention Co-Chair**

The ILS will spend an exciting day on May 26 at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum in Chaska, Minnesota, 10 miles from our hotel in Eden Prairie. Our discounted admission includes a box lunch with a flowerpot plus a 10% discount at the Gift & Garden Store.

The arboretum, founded in 1958, is a 1200-acre public garden with over 500,000 visitors/year and 30,000 paid members. It has nationally recognized tree collections with a Three-Mile Walk over paved paths.

The arboretum includes 44 plant collections, extensive works of art, 28 lush display gardens featuring roses, peonies, irises, and clematis, an All-America Selections Garden, a cold-hardy produce demonstration farm, and beautiful annual display gardens. It has almost 6000 unique species, cultivars, and hybrids.

The Hueg Lilac Collection is the oldest collection at the Arboretum. It is located an easy walk across the street from the visitor center and the bus parking, making it very accessible. It features 179 specimens, 123 cultivars, and a tremendous 26 species for the seventh largest display of taxons in the country.

More information can be found at its website: <https://www.arboretum.umn.edu/lilaccollection.aspx>

YouTube videos of the lilac collection can be seen at these links:

<https://youtu.be/BNtw2WN5r8Y>

<https://youtu.be/cU9uZd7V0DY>

# LILACS AND FRIENDSHIPS 2023 CONVENTION

## Hotel Reservation Information Eden Prairie, Minnesota, USA May 25-27, 2023

SpringHill Suites Minneapolis Eden Prairie  
11552 Leona Road Eden Prairie, Minnesota 55344  
11 miles from Minneapolis St-Paul International Airport

**Hotel Reservation** must be made by participants **no later than May 4, 2023** by using this link:

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1671481494846&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

or by calling 952-944-7700 and identify yourself as an ILS member. A major credit card is required and can be canceled up to 48 hrs ahead of arrival. Credit card will be fully charged if cancelled less than 48 hours prior to arrival

**Room Rate** (In US dollar plus 7.525% tax):

King Suite \$99/night

Double Queen Suite \$109/night

Check in: 3h pm, Check out : Noon

**Room Rate includes:**

Breakfast

Wireless internet in rooms and lobby

Free parking, fitness center, business center, pool, and coin laundry on site

If you need any help or additional information e-mail Claire Fouquet at [c.fouquet@icloud.com](mailto:c.fouquet@icloud.com) or Mark DeBard at [MLDeBard@gmail.com](mailto:MLDeBard@gmail.com)

ILS 2023 Convention Registration  
Form Eden Prairie, Minnesota, USA  
May 25-27, 2023

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ State/province \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) as you would like on Name tag: \_\_\_\_\_

DIET: Regular  Vegetarian  Allergies \_\_\_\_\_

**Transportation** : From airport (MSP) will be at the attendee's charge, no shuttle. I will be flying in.

I will be driving my own car to the convention

**Registration Fee**

Before April 1, 2023: \$325 USD

After April 15, 2023 : \$375 USD

No refund after May 1, 2023

**Deadline to register: May 1, 2023**

**Registration includes :**

Transportation for planned visits

Entrance fee at the Arboretum

Entrance fee at Applegate Collection

Two lunches

Two dinners

Two Water bottles

Souvenir bag

Name tag

All Convention documentation

Meeting room

**Not included:**

Airline ticket

Transportation to and from airport

Hotel room

Breakfasts (included in room)

Alcohol

Snacks

All meals on May 25th, 2023

**Make checks to :** International Lilac Society

**Credit card payment:** # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp: \_\_\_\_\_ Visa  MC

**Mail to:** John Bentley , Treasurer, PO Box 6, Salisbury, NH 03268-000

For payment inquiries email to : treasurer@internationallilacsociety.org

If you need any help or additional information e-mail Claire Fouquet at c.fouquet@icloud.com or Mark L. DeBard at mldebard@gmail.com

Tear away, photocopy or take a photo-print and mail

## International Lilac Society MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State/Province \_\_\_\_\_ Zip (Mail) Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Country \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

	USA and Canada		International	
	Digital	Paper	Digital	Paper
Individual	25 US\$	50 US\$	25 US\$	60 US\$
Family	35 US\$	60 US\$	35 US\$	70 US\$
Commercial- Institutional	55 US\$	80 US\$	55 US\$	90 US\$
Individual Life		1,000 US\$		1,000 US\$
Individual Sustaining	50 US\$	75 US\$	50 US\$	85 US\$

**Digital:** access to a digital PDF copy of the quarterly society journal LILACS.

**Paper:** digital PLUS mailed a printed copy of the quarterly society journal LILACS.

**Family membership:** includes 2 or more named individuals at one address.

**Life members:** automatically receive a printed copy of the journal.

**Sustaining members:** will be recognized for a charitable contribution of \$25.

Make Checks or Money Orders, payable in US funds, drawn on US banks only, to the International Lilac Society (ILS).

### Send dues to:

John Bentley, ILS Treasurer, PO Box 6, Salisbury NH 03268-0006

OR join online with a credit card or Paypal at

[www.internationallilacsociety.org](http://www.internationallilacsociety.org)

If you have any questions about the ILS, contact: Robert Zavodny, ILS President. (330)329-2993 or [president@internationallilacsociety.org](mailto:president@internationallilacsociety.org)  
 Please allow 4-6 weeks for your application to be processed. Membership year is January 1 - December 31. No prorated memberships. Applications after September 1 will be applied to the following year.