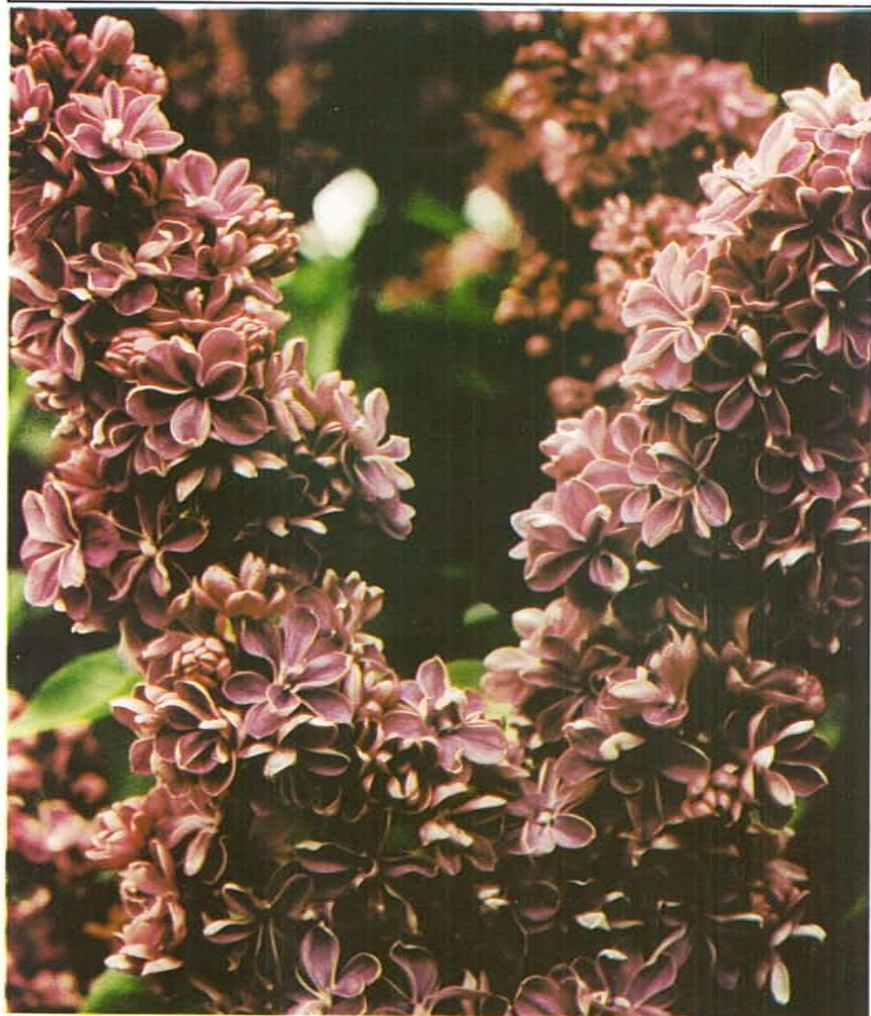


Lilacs

VOLUME 30, NUMBER 2
SPRING 2001



QUARTERLY JOURNAL

of the International Lilac Society

*IN
THIS
ISSUE:*

Convention Issue

VOLUME 30, NO. 2

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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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LILACS 2001

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Convention 2001

This year marks the 30th annual meeting of the International Lilac Society. The first annual convention was held May 19-21, 1972 in Rochester, New York.

Rochester was chosen as the site for the initial annual gathering due to Highland Park's premier lilac collection. A distinction that is still maintaining, although many other gardens have vastly improved their lilac collections. Highland Park has celebrated its famed lilacs since 1905 with a Lilac Sunday selected as the Sunday closest to peak bloom. In 1978 the celebration was extended to 10 days in mid-May. The Lilac Festival has grown to become the largest flower festival in The Northeastern USA, drawing close to 200,000 visitors annually.

Chicago has cows, Toronto has moose, Buffalo has bison. Be prepared to be greeted in Rochester by colorful horses and Lilac Festival banners as you approach the Hyatt Regency Hotel. I'm sure you'll be amazed by how a community of this size embraces the lilac.

After a day of interesting and educational lectures, meetings and tours, you will have extended free time to partake in the Lilac Festival activities. Free musical entertainment at various venues in the park will be available from 11:00 am to 8:00 PM daily. Visit the 16th annual Arts and Crafts show as over 100 artists compete for prize money with their beautiful works. Enjoy the unique plantings and many Horticultural facilities available in Highland Park. For a preview of festival activities visit the Lilac Festival website at www.roch.com/lilacfestival.

This is an appropriate time to 'return to our roots'. The ILS has gone through many changes over the past 30 years; however, our goal has stayed the same: to promote the growth of lilacs, their appreciation and research.

With this in mind the 2001 meeting will incorporate these goals: the propagation of lilacs, a commercial lilac nursery, a community wide celebration of the lilac and a cutting edge report on lilac research.

Consider arriving early or staying longer in the Rochester area and visit the Finger Lakes Region with lakes and valleys reminiscent of Europe and sample wines produced by various vineyards. Travel 60 miles west to view breathtaking Niagara Falls, or stay in the City to tour the George Eastman House, home of the International Film Museum, or take in a show at the Strasenburg Planetarium.

Cover Story

Front Cover

Syringa vulgaris 'Richard A. Fenicchia', a Rochester hybrid. Photo credit Robert Hoepfl.

Back Cover

(left) Seed of *Parasyringa sempervirens* (= *Ligustrum sempervirens*). See the article by Dr. Jianhua Li. Photo credit Jianhua Li and Jack Alexander.

(right) *S. vulgaris* 'Prince Wolkonsky'. Photo credit Simone Ahlers at the nursery of Colin Chapman.

Next Issue Deadline

The next issue deadline for material for the summer issue of *Lilacs* will be June 8, 2001.

Quarterly Reminder

If you like to prune when no leaves obscure the stems, now is the time.

CORRECTION • CORRECTION • CORRECTION • CORRECTION

*In his excellent article on the taxonomic treatment of the tree lilacs, we left off the last letter in the author's name. It should have been **Dr. Jianhua Li** not Jianhua L*

IN MEMORIAM

Alfred J. Fordham

Alfred Fordham, retired head propagator at the Arnold Arboretum, died December 6, 2000 in the Ellis Nursing Home in Norwood Massachusetts. He was 89. "Al" was born in Roslindale, Massachusetts, January 22, 1911. He was affiliated with the Arnold Arboretum for nearly 50 years and particularly noted for his work in woody plant seed germination.

Because the Great Depression prevented his attending a college or university for formal horticultural training, Mr. Fordham began working at the Arboretum as a student trainee. He worked with propagator E. J. Wilson, who traveled to China many times and introduced some 1000 plants to the Arboretum's collection. When Mr. Wilson died, Mr. Fordham took over his collection and was named assistant propagator.

In 1936 and 1937, he was a fellow at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew, England.

After three years in the Army, he returned to the Arboretum where he was named chief propagator in 1958 and held that and the title of Research Horticulturist until his retirement in 1977.

He was a long time member of the International Lilac Society and active in their affairs. He was the author of over 150 papers, mostly in technical journals. He was also the recipient of many awards from the International Lilac Society, the American Horticultural Society and the American Conifer Society as well as being named a lecturer at Harvard University.

He leaves a daughter, Ellen Belt of Sharon, Massachusetts.

A memorial service and a private burial were held in January. He will be missed.

INTERNATIONAL LILAC SOCIETY ANNUAL CONFERENCE

*Rochester, New York
May 24, 25 & 26, 2001*

Tentative Itinerary

Thursday, May 24

Registration - Hyatt Regency Hotel	2:00-7:00pm
Board Meeting	2:00-5:00pm
Hospitality Room open	8:00-11:00pm

Friday, May 25

Complimentary continental breakfast - for Hyatt guests	
Travel to Casa Larga Vineyard	8:45-9:15am
Program of Speakers	9:30-11:30am
Lunch at Casa Larga	Noon
Annual Meeting, Casa Larga	12:30-1:30pm
Tour of Casa Larga Vineyard (wine tasting) & Tour of Lilac Hill Nursery	1:30-4:00pm
Return to Hyatt Hotel	4:00-4:30pm
Social Hour	6:00-6:30pm
President's Dinner	6:30-8:00pm
Hospitality Room open	8:00-11:00pm

Saturday, May 26

Complimentary continental breakfast - for Hyatt guests	
Board Meeting	7:30-8:30am
Travel to Highland Botanical Park	9:00-9:30am
Free time to tour Lilac Collection & Arboretum	9:30-Noon
Lunch	12:30pm
Lilac Auction	2:00-4:00pm
Return to Hyatt Hotel	4:00-4:30pm
Social Hour	6:00-7:00pm
Awards Banquet	7:00-9:00pm
Hospitality Room open	9:00-11:00pm



Hyatt Regency Rochester
125 East Main Street
Rochester, NY 14604
(716) 546-1234

DIRECTIONS FROM ROCHESTER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT TO THE HYATT REGENCY ROCHESTER

- Exit airport and turn right at the stop light.
- Follow signs to entrance of *390 North*.
- Make a left turn onto ramp.
- Follow *390 to 490 East (exit 20A)*.
- Follow *490 to exit #13 (Plymouth Avenue/Downtown West)*.
- Turn right at the stop light on to *Plymouth Avenue*.
- Go to second stop light and turn left onto *Main Street*.
- Hotel will be 1/2 block past the fourth light on the right.

TRAVELING 390 NORTH TO THE HYATT REGENCY ROCHESTER

- Take 390 North to 590 North.
- Follow 590 North to 490 West.
- Follow *490 West to Exit #16 (Downtown-Clinton Avenue)*.
- Stay to your left on *Clinton Avenue*.
- At the third light, turn left onto *Broad Street*.
- At the next stop light, turn right on *Stone Street*.
- Follow Stone Street to the end (1 block), and turn left onto *Main Street*.
- Hotel is 1/2 block on the left.

TRAVELING 90 EAST (NYS THRUWAY) FROM BUFFALO TO THE HYATT REGENCY ROCHESTER

- Take *Exit 47 (LeRoy I-490)*, pay toll.
- Take *490 East* approximately 20 miles.
- Follow *490 East to Exit 13 (Plymouth Avenue West)*.
- Turn right at the stop light onto *Plymouth Avenue*.
- Go to second stop light and turn left onto *Main Street*.
- Hotel will be 1/2 block past the fourth light on the right.

TRAVELING 90 WEST (NYS THRUWAY) FROM SYRACUSE TO THE HYATT REGENCY ROCHESTER

- Take *Exit 45 (Rochester I-490)*, pay toll.
- Follow *490 West* approximately 15 miles.
- Follow *490 West to Exit #16 (Downtown-Clinton Avenue)*.
- Stay to your left on *Clinton Avenue*.
- At the third light, turn left onto *Broad Street*.
- At the next stop light, turn right on *Stone Street*.
- Follow Stone Street to the end (1 block), and turn left onto *Main Street*.
- Hotel is 1/2 block on the left.

LILAC AUCTION 2001 UPDATE

The International Lilac Society Convention is rapidly approaching (hard to believe, since about 9" of snow fell in Rochester today, March 2)! Below is a partial listing of lilacs to be provided by Highland Botanical Park and Royal Botanical Park.

<i>S. × diversifolia</i>	'William H. Judd'	S ?	RBG
<i>S. emodi</i>	'Variegata'	S V	RBG
<i>S. × hyacinthiflora</i>	'Angel White'	S I	HBP
<i>S. × hyacinthiflora</i>	'Clarke's Giant'	S III	HBP
<i>S. × hyacinthiflora</i>	'Doctor Chadwick'	S III	HBP
<i>S. × hyacinthiflora</i>	'Lavendar Lady'	S VII	HBP
<i>S. × hyacinthiflora</i>	'Pocahontas'	S VII	HBP
<i>S. × josiflexa</i>	'Agnes Smith'	S I	HBP
<i>S. × josiflexa</i>	'Guinivere'	S VI	RBG
<i>S. laciniata × pinnatifolia</i>		S	HBP
<i>S. × nanceiana</i>	'Rutilant'	S VII	RBG
<i>S. oblata</i>	(White Flowering Form)	S I	RBG
<i>S. × prestoniae</i>	'Elinor'	S III	HBP
<i>S. × prestoniae</i>	'Handel'	S V	HBP
<i>S. × prestoniae</i>	'Hecla'	S V-I	RBG
<i>S. × prestoniae</i>	'Valeria'	S II	RBG
<i>S. sweginzowii</i>	'Albida'	S I	HBP
<i>S. vulgaris</i>	'Athlene Wilbur'	D VI	HBP
<i>S. vulgaris</i>	'Carolyn Mae'	DIV-V	RBG
<i>S. vulgaris</i>	'Charles Baltet'	D IV	RBG
<i>S. vulgaris</i>	'Charm'	S V	HBP
<i>S. vulgaris</i>	'Dzhavakharlal Neru'	S VII	RBG
<i>S. vulgaris</i>	'Farrionensis'	S IV-V	HBP
<i>S. vulgaris</i>	'Fernand L. Pegot'	D VI	HBP
<i>S. vulgaris</i>	'Flower City'	S II-III	HBP
<i>S. vulgaris</i>	'Frank Klager'	S VII	HBP
<i>S. vulgaris</i>	'Frederick Law Olmsted'	S I	HBP
<i>S. vulgaris</i>	'General John Pershing'	D III	RBG
<i>S. vulgaris</i>	'Komsomolka'	D IV	RBG
<i>S. vulgaris</i>	'Kremlevskie Kuranty'	S IV	RBG
<i>S. vulgaris</i>	'Monge'	S VII	HBP
<i>S. vulgaris</i>	'Montaigne'	D V	HBP
<i>S. vulgaris</i>	'My Favorite'	D VI	HBP
<i>S. vulgaris</i>	'Ostrander'	D VII	HBP
<i>S. vulgaris</i>	'Pink Mist'	S V	HBP
<i>S. vulgaris</i>	'Porcelain Blue'	S III	RBG
<i>S. vulgaris</i>	'Prairie Petite'	S VII	HBP
<i>S. vulgaris</i>	'Rochester'	S I	HBP

<i>S. vulgaris</i>	'Sensation'	S VII	HBP
<i>S. vulgaris</i>	'Sorok Let Komsomola'	S IV	HBP
<i>S. vulgaris</i>	'Sovetskaya Arktika'	S I	HBP
<i>S. vulgaris</i>	'Triste Barbaro'	S VII	HBP
<i>S. vulgaris</i>	'Ville de Troyes'	S VII	RBG
<i>S. vulgaris</i>	'Violetta'	D II	HBP
<i>S. vulgaris</i>	'Yunost'	SIV-V	RBG
<i>S. vulgaris</i>	'Zulu'	S VII	RBG
<i>S. wolfii</i>		S	RBG

S. int. sp. hybrs.

'Alice Rose Foster'	S V	HBP
'Hedin'	S V	RBG
'Prairial'	S V	HBP

If anyone is interested in hybridizing lilacs, *S. vulgaris* 'Rochester' is one of the best parents to use in creating outstanding new varieties. Father Fiala and Richard Fenicchia developed many varieties using 'Rochester' as a parent, or crossed with itself. 'Flower City', another variety available, is an offspring of 'Rochester' crossed with 'Madame Charles Souchet'. It is a beautiful violet-blue with a flashy silvery reverse.

S. × hyacinthiflora 'Pocahontas' is a dependable early bloomer with a heavy abundance of single purple flowers. The specimens at Highland Park are fairly old, and seem to be maintaining a compact, dwarf habit. An excellent choice for a late blooming lilac is *S. × josiflexa* 'Agnes Smith'. It was developed by member Owen Rogers, and is a great addition to any lilac collection, with its clusters of white adorning a tall upright shrub.

More donations to the auction are welcome. If you would like to donate a lilac for the auction, please call me at 1-716-271-5391, so it can be included on the final auction inventory.

For these lilacs and more, be sure to come to the convention at Highland Park this May and stroll through the 20 acres of lilacs. If you are a horticulturist who enjoys more than the genus *Syringa*, there are plenty of other plants to enjoy, such as the azalea and rhododendron collections, a pansy bed of approximately 18,000 plants, and many unusual trees and shrubs throughout the arboretum. Finally there is the Lamberton Conservatory, which houses a seasonal room, orchid and epiphyte environment, rain forest, desert environment, and house plant and economic display. Hope to see you here in Rochester, New York in May!

*Kent Millham, Plant Propagator
Highland Botanical Park*

EUROPEAN NEWSLETTER

I have written about our National Collections in the past. Under a coordinating and administering body called the National Council for the Preservation of Plants and Gardens, there are about 600 collections ranging alphabetically from *Abelia* to *Zelkova*. Other countries, particularly France, have adopted a similar approach. These collections are assembled and kept by institutions or private individuals at their own expense because there is no public funding. NCCPG is organized into County Groups and revenue is raised through membership dues and voluntary contributions.

Within the scheme there are three National Collections of *Syringa*. There is the old collection at Brighton, now being renovated and reorganized by Philip Williamson, which contains species, hybrids and Lemoine-period cultivars as well as some surprisingly modern acquisitions also. There is our collection at Norman's Farm, and we have specialized in East European and North American cultivars as well as wild-collected species.

The third collection is held in Golden Acre Park in the City of Leeds. This collection was originally conceived as a combined one featuring the cultivars from all genera which were introduced by the firm of *Lemoine et Fils*. Changes in personnel and policy have deflected that original plan but the intention remains to concentrate the lilac collection mainly on the cultivars of Victor, Emile and Henry Lemoine. Now, in a very welcome development, Leeds City Council has taken Institutional Membership for the lilac collections. I am in contact with Plant Collections Coordinator Katherine Herridge. I look forward to working with her and helping to increase the number of Lemoine cultivars. It is gratifying to know that all three British National Collections are now in membership.

I also welcome Mr. Gordon Link as a member. Mr. and Mrs. Link run a small nursery in Shropshire and they are anxious to increase the lilacs which they can make available because, here too, the cultivars available commercially are dominated by the usual half dozen suspects. Amongst propagating material I have sent him to play with is the majestic 'Arch McKean'. Of the *Fiala* lilacs I have, this is the one which has adapted best to our East Anglian conditions. I also sent some material to Chris Lane, who not only holds one of our *Hamamelis* National Collections but has a formidable collection of 150 *vulgaris* and *hyacinthiflora* cultivars.

Just before Christmas I picked up a rumour from North America that Konrad Kircher might have retired. A query to him elicited from Konrad the same response as when the great Samuel L. Clemens read his own obituary in the press and sent word that the report of his demise was an exaggeration. Far from retiring he seems to be very active on the behalf of the lilac, and he included with his letter a color transparency in a large format I am not familiar with, so I am not sure if it will scan for the **Journal** cover. I hope it will, because it is a lilac I have not seen before: *S. vulgaris* 'Prince Wolkonsky' taken in Konrad's nursery by Simone Ahlers.

The lilac was bred by Claude Belion (*sic*) and, I quote Konrad, "he was my superior when working in the sixties in the nursery Minier, France".

He described another project which really grabbed my imagination: he is preparing a large consignment of cultivars to send to Cap a L'Aigle in Quebec. Apparently there are 713 inhabitants in the lilac village and they have the ambition to acquire a cultivar for every person living there. *Formidable! C'est une idee merveilleux mes amis et amies.* It should have a truly stimulating effect on the future birth rate of the village when the desire to reach one thousand cultivars takes hold. I cannot wait for a convention to be held there so that I can actively encourage that aim. OOOPS, Bad Boy!

Late one evening the phone rang and I was delighted to find Max Peterson on the line. Max had come across my number and had tried it out to see if it would work. Once again I was amazed by the way modern telephone technology made someone 5000 minutes away sound like he was in the same room. The phone also keeps me in regular contact with, among others: Old Heide, Frank Moro, David Gressley and Bruce Peart. Bruce is taking a break before his season starts at RBG Hamilton and is coming to Europe. We will welcome him here in late April. It will be too early to show him many lilacs but we will, most certainly, have quite a party. You know, that word "International" really does work for those who want it to.

Syringa vulgaris 'Arch McKean'. Fr. J. L. Fiala, Ohio, 1984 S VI

The late Fr. Fiala must have been filled with intense anticipation when he crossed 'Agincourt Beauty' with 'Rochester'. The thought of what might happen to those huge red-violet florets with the four whitish spots between the vee-junctions of the floret lobes should have filled him with chuckling delight.

The result is interesting. The buds are a deep red-magenta. This color is held by the medium sized florets (about 2cm) which have lobes that are proportionately longer and a little narrower than in either parent. As the flower ages, the margins become paler until eventually those little white smudges finally appear. What is truly distinctive about this cultivar is the health and vigor which gives it a majestic form and beautiful dark tone. It has a fine green leaf, a strong, upright habit and is one of the few lilacs which look better from a distance than close up. The Norman's Farm collection is planted geographically so it stands close to 'Adelaide Dunbar', and when the two come into flower they take the garden by the throat. I never met Arch McKean but I do have the honor of holding his award. I have frequently called upon his generous endowment, which allows us to print color photographs on the covers of this **Journal**. With this lilac I am also gladly compelled to remember him "with ever returning Spring".

Colin Chapman
Norman's Farm
Wyverstone, Stowmark,
Suffolk IP14 4SF
United Kingdom

A belated Thanks to all Thanks to all

I just wanted to thank everyone - late as usual - for coming to the 2000 ILS convention. The dates for the last quarterly deadlines came and went too fast.

My family and I very much enjoyed receiving everyone. It seems the 3 days went by so fast. I was very fortunate to spend time with Colin Chapman and Pauline Fiala on the Sunday morning. It seems like there is never enough time to spend with everyone for there is so much to exchange in 2 days it is impossible to accomplish. My time with Freek and Ina Vrugtman was also special for I have come to understand the need for accuracy more now than ever.

The only regret I did however have was not to bring the ILS to our newly planted collection of 1999 at the farm we have now rented. I did visit with Colin on the following Monday and was very surprised at how many flowers were actually out and how low the weeds were. Because of extra shipping in the spring and the Rochester lilac festival, I did not get a chance to visit the field prior and was worried about weeds being larger than the lilacs. Out of the 277 plants about 50-60% had flowers. We have now added this summer another 250 plants and will add another 200 plants in spring 2001. This will make a wonderful young collection to visit in 4-6 years. Thus I hope we will have the chance to do this again in the future.

At the same time we have moved all our nursery stock to the farm and have plans to start producing larger lilacs up to 45 gallon containers. This project starts in spring 2001.

We are now looking at a new spring and once again anticipation of another convention is on its way. Let's duplicate the attendance for 2001 in Rochester and make it even better by getting more people out for it. I am sure many of you who have never attended a convention wonder if it is worth the trip. It is a special gathering of old friends and resourceful people. Once you come out it is an addiction.

I hope to see you there at the end of May, and Select Plus Nursery will have a sales booth at the lilac festival for those of you who want to purchase some lilacs.

Show your energy and passions for lilacs; become as active as you can in this society.

*Frank Moro, Executive VP
ILS Canada*

ANNOUNCEMENT

Orders for The International Register of the Genus *Syringa* L. will be taken at the ILS conference in Rochester. Mr. Freek Vrugtman will have the most up to date information in the new register for 2001. Mr. Vrugtman has indicated to me that there have been many changes and additions to the book again this year. How can you dare to miss out on this one! The number of orders will deem the numbers that we reprint.

We have changed this from last year due to a couple of reasons. The book itself looks like it will cost about the same at @ \$20.00US or \$30.00CAN. The major change is in the postage and shipping. The \$5.00 of last year has rocketed to about \$15.00CAN to \$20.00CAN per unit to mail express in 4 to 7 days. Also RBG can now take your order electronically. If you send in: your Credit Card name (Visa, Mastercard, American Express, etc.), the full name on the Credit Card, and the Credit Card Number and expiration date.

RBG can make the transaction in Canadian Dollars and then mail out the Register. By doing it this way there is only one set of currency exchanges to go through.

MOST WANTED LIST!!

With every grower to lilac collector there are many lilacs that you would like. As a matter of fact we would like them ALL! But when reality hits us, we have to focus on what we would REALLY, REALLY WANT.

I have the fortunate situation of having Freek Vrugtman on the other end of my computer, through email, as do many of you, and having Dr. Jim Pringle in the office beside me here at RBG.

So my MOST WANTED plant from RBG 'staff' is: *Syringa + correlata*.

From the email that I received from Freek dated Jan. 21, 2001 he says, "It would be prudent to keep *Syringa + correlata* on your MOST WANTED list. *Syringa + correlata* is not a common item."

Two years from the time that we will receive this *Syringa + correlata* Dr. Pringle will 'have a look at it' and end up with a description. Then and only then will we know for certain that it is what it is.

Mr. Vrugtman makes reference to *Syringa + correlata* in his International Register in Appendix F. It is out there somewhere. IF you have a plant for scions or cuttings, we would be happy to talk with you. Thanks.

Bruce Peart, Royal Botanical Gardens
Tel. 905-527-1158 x250
Fax: 905-577-0375
Email: bpeart@rbg.ca

Lilacs in Australia

by Tom Thekathyl

Come spring and it becomes obvious that lilacs are very popular plants in this country with many gardens sporting several varieties. However the range available in Australia is fairly limited and varieties are usually planted by colour rather than by varietal name. Species and hybrids other than *S. vulgaris* and *S. × hyacinthiflora* are little known.

J.L. Fiala's book "*Lilacs: the genus Syringa*" has introduced many enthusiasts to the wide range available in North America and Europe and we are no exception. The collection at Lottah began a decade ago with species sourced from botanical collections across the country (many misidentified). Since this was fairly limited it did not take very long and the next step was to introduce them from overseas. After several years of fruitless inquiry we contacted Select Plus International Lilac Nursery owned by Frank Moro. He expressed his willingness to undertake the onerous task of preparing dormant plants to satisfy quarantine regulations in this country.

Over several years the collection has reached approximately 180 cultivars, most of which are small plants with many still in quarantine. Due to space limitations they are planted in dense rows and are not expected to demonstrate their mature habits at the current location. The objective is to extend the collection to include the following:

All the available species and subspecies

The most desirable hybrids chosen for flower size, colour and fragrance

Dwarf and semi-dwarf varieties

Repeat flowering cultivars

Representative collections from major breeders around the world

The first priority is to multiply the plants so that the loss of any one plant does not equate to loss of that clone. It may be several years down the track before the introductions are bulked up sufficiently to become available to the public.

The major problem we experience with *S. vulgaris* hybrids is the incidence of bacterial blight amongst young plants in spring despite fungicide applications. This could be caused by applying relatively high nitrogenous fertilizer or to the high incidence of cold and wet weather following a warm spell. Hopefully as the plants mature this will prove to be less of a problem. Apart from this, they are relatively pest free and do not seem to incur damage from the abundant wildlife hereabouts.

Best time to view lilacs in flower at Lottah is from mid-October to mid-November, extending to end of November for the late species and *×prestoniae* hybrids. *S. reticulata* ssp. *pekinensis* flowers from late

December to mid-January and the repeat flowering varieties, mainly derived from *S. microphylla*, provide intermittent flowering till late Autumn.

Never heard of Lottah? No reason to be embarrassed. We are currently entered in the Red Hat Linux competition for their 'most obscure location in the world' prize. It is a two-permanent-household ex once-bustling-tin-mining town situated on the slopes of Blue Tiers in north east Tasmania at an altitude of 300m. Closest major town is St. Helens, 24 Km. Distant.

The ILS website is a good place to keep abreast of our progress as we expect to update this page annually. For more information about the collection please contact Tom Thekathyl. tomt@vision.net.au

ONE UNUSUAL LILAC IS INDEED A PRIVET EVIDENCE FROM DNA SEQUENCE DATA

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We all know that lilacs (*Syringa*), especially tree lilacs, and privets (*Ligustrum*) share similar floral structures. They differ in fruit type: fleshy berries in *Ligustrum* and capsules in *Syringa*. Curiously, in the Olive family (Oleaceae) to which both lilacs and privets belong, there is one species standing morphologically between *Syringa* and *Ligustrum*. This species produces dehiscent (drying and splitting) berries, which is unusual since few berries are indehiscent. This kind of fruit occurs only in several families of flowering plants (Lawrence and Green 1994). The fruits of this species (*see photo*) are fleshy in the fall, as in *Ligustrum*, and later gradually lose fleshiness then split open as those of *Syringa*. The "aberrant" fruit type provides evidence for the affinity of *Syringa* and *Ligustrum*, which has been confirmed by Wallander and Albert (2000) in their sequence analyses of chloroplast genes of the Oleaceae.

This species was first described as *Syringa sempervirens* by Franchet in 1886 based on a fruit specimen collected from Yunnan, China. Since then, it has been controversial regarding how to treat this plant taxonomically. Several botanists, including Schneider (1911), Smith (1916), and Stapf (1933), based on its morphological intermediacy between *Syringa* and *Ligustrum*, recognized this plant as a unique genus, *Parasyringa*. Lingelsheim (1920), however, considers it to be a species of *Ligustrum* (*L. sempervirens* [Franchet] Lingel), which has been accepted by many authors, including Mansfeld (1924), Chang and Miao (1986),

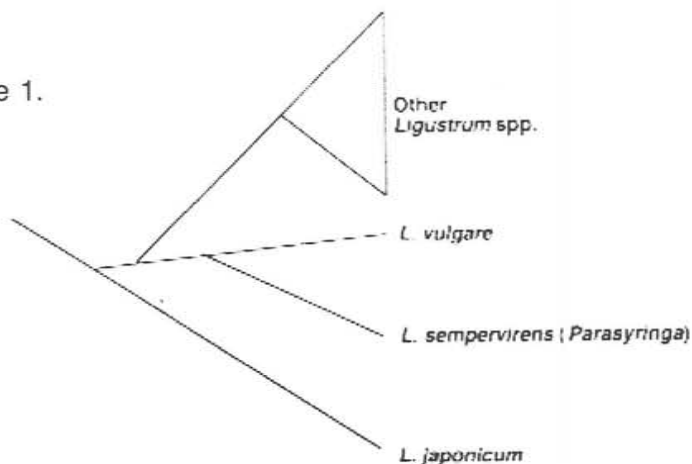
and Chang, Qiu, and Chang (1996).

Nevertheless, because of its unique fruit morphology, this interesting species has long been treated as a separate lineage from the remaining species of *Ligustrum* (Kohne, 1904; Mansfeld, 1924; Change and Miao, 1986; Change, Qiu, and Green, 1996). On this basis, Stapf (1933) stated that "whilst it can evidently not retain its original place in *Syringa*, its status within or without *Ligustrum* is debatable indeed and in the end merely a matter of opinion and convenience." Paraphrased, in an evolutionary sense, the debate dictates that in the *Syringa+Ligustrum* group, there are three separate lineages, namely *Syringa*, *Ligustrum*, and this unique species from Yunnan; and the relationship of this species with lilacs and privets remains unclear.

To understand the genetic relationship of this unusual species and to clarify whether it belongs to *Syringa* or *Ligustrum*, we analyzed DNA sequences of this unique species and all major groups of *Syringa* and *Ligustrum*. The genetic markers we used are sequences of both the internal and external transcribed spacers of nuclear ribosomal DNA - they have proved to be useful for resolving genetic relationships of lilacs (Li and Alexander 2000). Sequencing procedures are described in detail elsewhere (Li et al. 2001).

Our results clearly indicate that *Ligustrum* is a natural genus, and this unusual species from Yunnan is positioned genetically well within *Ligustrum*; *L. japonicum* is the first lineage of *Ligustrum* (fig.1); and *L. sempervirens* is likely to be closely related to *L. vulgare*. Green and Fliegner (1991), based on the resemblance of this species to privets in its habit, floral structure, and foliar morphology, suggest that this unique species is a typical privet except that its berries are dehiscent. Our results are consistent with Green and Fliegner, confirming that *Syringa sempervirens* or *Parasyringa sempervirens*, is indeed a privet, namely, *Ligustrum sempervirens*.

Figure 1.

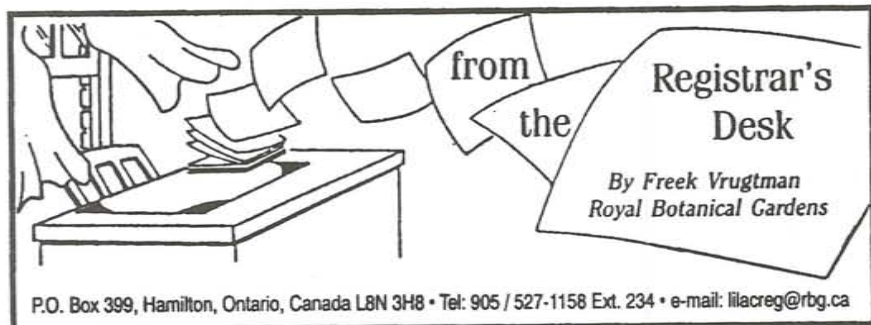


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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We thank Ms Xin Tian and Dr. D. Z. Li of Kunming Botanical Institute for collecting leaf material and voucher specimens of *Ligustrum sempervirens*. This project is partially sponsored by the International Lilac Society.



Lilac Cultivar Name Registration 1999

*Freek Vrugtman*¹

Royal Botanical Gardens, Box 399, Hamilton, Ontario L8N 3H8, Canada

All correspondence concerned with additional information or plants or propagules of newly registered lilac cultivars should be directed to the registrants listed below, not to the Registrar.

Commencing with 1995 lilac registrations standard portfolios are being established in accordance with Principle 3 and Articles 12, 22 (Recommendations 22G & 22H) and 32 of the *International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants-1995* (ICNCP-1995).

Previous registration lists of *Syringa* cultivar names appeared in AABGA Bulletin [13(4):105-110; 14(3):95; 15(3):71-72; 16(4):131-132; 17(3):67-69; 18(3):87]; HortScience [23(3):458; 24(3):435-436; 25(6):618; 26(5):476-477; 29(9):972; 31(3):327-328; 32(4):587-588; 33(4):588-589; 34(4):600].

Syringa vulgaris L. 'Atheline Wilbur' was registered 26 November 1999 by Charles E. Tubesing, Chief Horticulturist, The Holden Arboretum, 9500 Sperry Road, Kirtland, Ohio 02130, USA. The ortet (original plant) was originated, and selected prior to 1980 by the late John L. Fiala at Medina, Ohio, from progeny of the cross ('Rochester' × 'Edward J. Gardner') × 'Rochester'. The cultivar was named by Fiala in 1980 "to honor a lovely lady who cherished lilacs". The original descriptions appearing in *Lilacs - Proceedings* 9:8 [January 1981], and on pp. 102, 108 and 223, and with pl. 22 in: Fiala, J. L., 1988, *Lilacs - the genus Syringa*, Portland, Timber Press, are incomplete. – The Holden Arboretum received plants from the originator in 1983, accessioned as HA#83-366. Florets fully double, hose-in-hose, with 3 to 5 superimposed corollas. Lobes of the innermost corolla incompletely developed, one or more of these lobes being reduced and curled toward the center of the floret; 0 to 2 stamens per floret, indicative of staminodes contributing to the doubleness. Flower buds Red-Purple Group 58A (*Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart*, 1986 ed.). Interior

of newly-opened florets Violet-Blue Group 92D, and Red-Purple Group 75C on the reverse. Because the florets do not open all at once, an inflorescence containing unopened buds to fully open florets shows a combination of these colors. As the florets fade, the last colors listed become mixed with patches of White Group 155D. Fragrance light and pleasant. Introduced through The Holden Arboretum in 1993, and commercially available since 1995. A Standard portfolio has been opened at Royal Botanical Gardens Herbarium, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

The following two lilac cultivar names were registered 12 December, 1999, by Mr Max Peterson, RR#1, Box 273, Ogallala, Nebraska 69153, USA. The ortets (original plants) were originated, grown, selected, and named by Max Peterson at Meadowlark Hill Gardens. Standard portfolios have been opened at Royal Botanical Gardens Herbarium, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

Syringa vulgaris L. 'Beth'. Grown from open-pollinated seed; seed parent grown in 1978 from irradiated seed of unknown parentage. Seedlings flowered first in 1990; selection made in 1992; released to the nursery trade in 1997. Floriferous shrub of dense, bushy habit, slow growing, reaching 1.25 m after 8 years; suckering freely. Thyrses to 18 cm long and 20 to 23 cm across, of the C-12 type but thicker, as illustrated in Dvorak, J. Jr., 1978, *A four year study at Lilac Park, The Morton Arboretum, etc.*, p. 7. Thyrses produced clear to the ground; florets numerous and clustered heavily toward the end of the stem. Florets double, triple hose-in-hose, 0.7 to 1.9 cm in diameter; tube long and narrow, usually exceeding 2.5 cm. Corolla lobes of outer tier reflexed and acute; lobes of middle tier slightly reflexed and acute; inner tier lobes curved inward, forming a cup-shaped structure. Flower buds and florets white.

Syringa vulgaris L. 'Reva Ballreich'. Grown from open-pollinated seed of 'Carolyn Mae' in 1966. Seedlings flowered first in 1988; selection made in 1992; released to the nursery trade in 1997. Shrub of dense habit, reaching 2.5 m; suckering freely. Thyrses to 21 cm long and 10 cm across, of the C-3 type as illustrated in Dvorak, J. Jr., 1978, *A four year study at Lilac Park, The Morton Arboretum, etc.*, p. 6. Thyrses produced clear to the ground. Florets double, triple hose-in-hose, 1.9 to 2.6 cm in diameter; florets of type 4-G, Dvorak 1978, p. 5. Corolla lobes of outer tier reflexed and acute; lobes of middle tier curved inward and acute; inner tier remains closed for about three-quarters of the floret's life. Flower buds Red-Purple Group 70A (*RHS Colour Chart*, 1966), opening to Red-Purple 69D flushed white, with the corolla tubes remaining Red-Purple Group 70A; the inner corolla-tier remains Red-Purple Group 70A until it opens and turns Red-Purple Group 69D; finally the floret fades to off-

white. The progression of opening and fading florets produces a bi-color effect. The blossoms of 'Reva Ballreich' are comparable to those of 'Julien Gérardin', but larger, more pinkish, and with the innermost petals recurved.

Contribution N^o 94, Royal Botanical Gardens, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.
1) International Registrar, International Cultivar Registration Authority
Genus *Syringa* L. E-mail <lilacreg@rbg.ca>

Betty Stone and her Lilacs - Information Incomplete

The late Elizabeth (Mrs. Ralph W.) Stone was one of the collaborators in the 1953 Lilac Survey conducted by the Lilac Survey Committee, American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboretums, under the chairmanship of John C. Wister. Betty Stone (maiden name not on record) was born in Cleveland, Ohio (date of birth not on record¹). She became interested in lilacs about 1945. By 1953 she had developed a lilac collection featuring 214 cultivars, and growing to over 350 cultivars by 1970. At the time the Stones were residing at 2253 Nanking Road, Ashland, Ohio. There is no list on record of the lilacs grown by Betty Stone in those years. In her own words: "I became interested in lilacs thirty years ago and collected them as a hobby and just played around with them to see what I would get when I propagated them." (in lit. Dec. 3, 1976).

Betty Stone originated, selected and named seven *Syringa vulgaris* L. cultivars. The names 'Anna Nickles' (S IV), 'Betty Stone' (S IV), and 'Florence Christine' (S IV) were registered in 1963. Propagules were sent to the Arnold Arboretum. In the spring of 1977 ILS members Walter Oakes and Jack Alexander took a critical look at the plants; Jack Alexander writes: "...We (Arnold Arboretum) have only one plant of each cultivar and they are not in the best condition possible, but presented a good display. Walter and I agree in that these cultivars are worthy of distribution". These three cultivars are in cultivation today.

The names 'Florence' (S V), 'Lillian Davis' (S I), 'Mrs. Charles Davis' (D I), and 'Ralph W. Stone' (S VII) were registered in 1970; these four cultivars, however, were never introduced. It is questionable whether propagules of the original plants were ever distributed. Sometime between 1971 and 1976 the Stone property was sold. Betty Stone moved to 12 East 12th Street in Ashland. The new owners cleared the land for farm crops, and the entire lilac collection, including the original plants of the 1971 registrations, was destroyed. The moving date of 1979 given by Fiala [1988] is incorrect; Mrs. Stone uses the East 12th Street address in her Nov. 12, 1976 letter and refers to the earlier destruction of the lilac collection. She also writes that she had destroyed all her lilac records. The year of death of her husband is not on record.

The Ninth Annual Convention of the ILS took place at Medina and

Kirtland, Ohio, May 23 and 24, 1980, at which occasion Betty Stone received the ILS *Award of Merit* "For work in originating and naming new and better forms of lilacs of outstanding merit and distinction including 'Ralph W. Stone', 'Betty Stone', Anna Nickles', 'Florence', and 'Florence Christine'." The 'Ralph W. Stone' lilac, however, was already extinct as mentioned by Betty Stone in her letter dated Nov. 12, 1976.

In 1976, 1978, and again in 1982 we asked Betty Stone for biographical data and for a picture of herself to be included in the Lilac Originators files. She did not reply. She was still listed at the same address in the Ashland telephone directory of 1982. The date and place of her death are not on record. In the summer 1994 issue of **Lilacs - Quarterly Journal**, p. 7, we placed a note, appealing to ILS members for information on Betty Stone; alas there were no responses.¹ There is a picture of Betty Stone on plate 75 of Fiala, "Lilacs - The genus *Syringa*" [1988], but the original appears to be lost.

BETTY STONE'S CULTIVAR INTRODUCTIONS

The selections that are known to be in cultivation are *Syringa vulgaris* 'Anna Nickles' (listed by Fiala [1988] as 'Anna Nickels'), 'Betty Stone', and 'Florence Christine'. All three were described as single (S) and lilac (IV); no distinguishing features have been listed. The cultivar names were registered by J. C. Wister in 1963 and published in the April 12, 1963 issue of *Arnoldia*.

Fiala [1988, p. 95] also lists 'Anna Nickles' and 'Betty Stone' with identical descriptions: "Lilac IV...single, Stone 1963, fragrant, large florets, very fine."

References used:

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1) If at all possible, we would like to supplement, if not complete, the information on Betty Stone and her lilacs. Please contact the Registrar if you have any information or recollections that may help in this search.

A LILAC FIRST FOR MACKINAC ISLAND, MICHIGAN

by Peter Ely and William Horman

The year 2000 marked the 51st Annual Mackinac Island Lilac Festival on the limestone beauty spot that gently rises above the chilly waters of Lake Huron, between the state's lower and upper peninsulas. As far as we know, there are few celebrations of the lilac in the world that have such a praiseworthy duration. But it is not the longevity of this increasingly popular festivity that draws merriment; it is instead the steady succession of improvements to the festival's diverse program. The year 2000 was the second occasion that ILS was honored to play a role in adding luster to this distinguished lilac event. Our society first participated in 1997, when our annual meeting was held there, and the public was invited to listen to our lectures and join in our auction... the most profitable to date.

Through the kind invitation of Mr. Len Trankina, Executive Director of the Mackinac Island Chamber of Commerce, we drove five hours north of Detroit, using complimentary passes to be ferried in comfort to an island where horses replace autos, to a place where lilacs thrive with the same strength and vitality as typified the Island's earliest settlers. Our mission, not just as volunteers, but also as very well accommodated guests, was to share our zeal and knowledge of lilacs with anyone who wanted to attend our "Learning about Lilacs" program.

For several days prior to our check-in at the very comfortable Chippewa Hotel, we had worked together in Detroit to design and assemble our presentation, which included slides and offered literature handouts. We decided that in each session we would take turns talking about the history of lilacs, their diversity, best care, pruning, planting, landscape uses, propagation, and pest management. That system allowed the other person to operate the slide projector. To be sure, our sprinklings of ILS and Mackinac Island promotions added to the flavor of our serving and help bond our Society's goals with the those of the Island's Lilac Festival.

The four programs covered identical content, and each lasted one hour and was followed immediately by a thirty-minute opportunity for questions and answers. There was much interaction with the appreciative audience, which included island visitors and residents, some of whom promised to help resident and ILS member, Tim Leeper, provide care to the young lilacs donated to the people of Mackinac Island by generous ILS members in 1997.

The press also attended and provided fine earlier publicity about the programs, just as the Chamber of Commerce did an excellent job of promoting our talks. In fact, the Chamber delighted and surprised everyone attending by prefacing each of our productions with thirty minutes of

wonderfully soothing music played by a lovely violin soloist. The venue for our lilac talks was ideal in the luxurious Lake View Hotel. Over the two-day span of June 13th and 14th, 10am and 2pm presentations were made. *This marked the first time in the history of the Annual Mackinac Island Lilac Festivals that a formal lilac educational opportunity was intentionally made an integral part of this classic lilac gala.*

Looking back on our experience, we feel much gratitude. We were given the best hospitality while we were there, and we were assisted without hesitation whenever we had needs. Everyone we encountered treated us wonderfully well, so we regretted leaving this special island in Lake Huron. Though it was work to prepare and deliver our talks, we were too exhilarated in the process to notice, and sometimes thought we were really on a great vacation. We felt very honored to have been asked to be part of such a great lilac celebration! The spirit we carried to the Annual Mackinac Island Lilac Festival took the form of four casual talks called "Learning about Lilacs". From having had that experience, we became better educated about lilacs, too. We also learned more about infecting people with our love for lilacs. It is by serving the goals of our society that we honor each past and present member's leadership, service and inspiration.

It is our hope that the Annual Mackinac Island Lilac Festival will continue to include lilac educational opportunities. The Chamber of Commerce there has a unique phone number: 1 800 4 LILACS. Feel comfortable using it to plan your next vacation or to volunteer your lilac services! The Chamber and several residents of the island are members of ILS. The two of us would like others in our Society to help establish Mackinac Island as more than a lilac heaven on earth. It has the potential of becoming an exceptional lilac learning center. The Islanders would love to hear your ideas and would welcome your voluntary help, too.

PLAN AHEAD – DATES TO JOT DOWN

The 2002 International Lilac Society will be from April 3rd to the 6th at Descanes Gardens in California (near Los Angeles) with Rudy Shafer as host.

Editor's Note: The opportunity listed below was sent in by Emily Marlin along with her dues. If you have a similar notice or other newsworthy item, please include it with your dues. We will publish it for the information of our members.

Lilac Lane Pet Memorial



100 Special Pets...
100 Varieties of Lilacs



A unique opportunity to honor your beloved animal-friend (deceased long ago, recently or still living) by becoming a CHARTER MEMBER of the LILAC LANE PET MEMORIAL jointly sponsored by the Delaware County Historical Association and the Humane Society of Central Delaware County. By signing up now, you can COMMEMORATE your pet with a specially chosen lilac bush which will be planted with a permanent engraved marker on the lane leading from the Historical Association to the Humane Society on Route 10 in Delhi, NY. You will also get to participate in a yearly Memorial Day event celebrating our pets' lives, especially the planting ceremony next Memorial Day 2001.

Charter Membership includes:

- site design, selection, and purchase of the bush
- soil preparation and planting
- manufacture of your pet's marker
- perpetual care and maintenance of the Lilac Lane Pet Memorial by DCHA and HSCDC

For Information or to Volunteer: Call E. Marlin 607.746.7288
or email: emarlin@iopener.net

Please fill out the pet-marker form and enclose your check for \$100 made out to *Lilac Lane Pet Memorial*. Send to Emily Marlin, LLPM Coordinator, at R.R. 1 Box 419, Smith Hill Road, East Meredith, New York 13757. Please include your name, address and telephone number.

Lilac

Lane

Pet's Name _____
Year of Birth _____ Year of Death _____
Owner's Name _____
Address _____
Phone Number _____ Email _____

Editor's Note: The following letter was received from Connie and Charles Sherer. If anyone else has ideas that he or she would like to share, your editor would be happy to publish them.

The year 2000 proved to be an outstanding lilac bloom season. We had a mild winter and unbelievably, no spring frosts. All our flowers were magnificent, but our lilacs put on a show.

We hosted the College Place, Washington Garden Club. They came in the evening and it was cold and windy, but they all seemed so taken with the different varieties of lilacs they had never seen before. Many members wanted lilac starts and we promised to give them shoots in the early spring of 2001.

We were so fortunate in 1991 to get 16 lilacs not available now from nurseries, including 7 Russian cultivars of Leonid Kolesnikov, from Max Peterson. Our favorite varieties are the Russian hybrids and anyone who sees them are immediately drawn to their beauty.

We gave the Spokane, Washington Lilac Society sixty four lilac starts this past spring. We have given away approximately 186 lilac starts since our collection has grown and provided shoots. We have 81 lilac varieties and 119 plants. We are always happy to share their beauty.

Since we live on a cold low acreage, we get the early and latest frosts. When the lilacs start showing a little bud color, we have taken an idea from the local apple growers. We monitor the temperature starting about 3 am and when it falls to 30° we turn on our sprinkler system, which is on tall risers. We run the water on the lilacs till it warms up above freezing about 9 to 9:30 am. We turn the water off then and the lilacs will be coated with ice, as are the local apple trees treated in this manner. The lilacs and apple trees' limbs do not break as the ice melts off as it warms up. We had a hard time getting the water to the tops of the lilacs as they grew taller, but we keep them pruned back and raised the sprinkler heads. We have brought our lilacs to bloom this way for about 5 years. Perhaps some other lilac growers can benefit from this idea.

*Connie and Charles Sherer
2791 S. 3rd Avenue
Walla Walla, WA 99362*

Editor's Note: Larry Cadman sent the following letter asking for seed. If anyone can be of assistance, please contact him directly.

I am looking for a source of *Syringa oblata* var. *donaldii*: preferably seeds. David Gressley suggested you as a possible source or that you could publish my request in the ILS Journal.

I have been hybridizing Magnolias for about 10 years and want to get started on lilacs, too. This taxon would seem a good place to start. Any help you can provide will be much appreciated.

I have an assortment of Magnolia seeds (species & hybrids) that I'd be willing to share or trade. If you're interested let me know and I will send a list of what I have available.

Larry Cadman
4197 Saints Road
Blanchardville, WI 53516

Bickelhaupt Arboretum Celebrates 30th Anniversary

(Reprinted from the AABGA Bulletin, July 2000. Vickey Mattern, Editor)

Bickelhaupt Arboretum recently celebrated 30 years as part of the Eastern Iowa Community. The Arboretum, an outdoor museum of trees located in Clinton, held its anniversary in conjunction with its annual meeting and used the occasion to elect its new Board of Directors.

Board members include Francie B. Hill (daughter of Frances and Bob Bickelhaupt), President; Justin "Chub" Harper, Vice President of Operations; Linda B. Galanis (daughter of the Bickelhaupts), Second Vice-President; Dr. Kathryn Robbins, Secretary; and Frances K. Bickelhaupt (co-founder of the Arboretum, Treasurer. Other Board members include Robert Bickelhaupt, co-founder of the Arboretum, and Dr. Ed Hassellkus.

The Arboretum also announced the publication of *A Private Couple Creates a Public Garden* by Frances K. Bickelhaupt. The book, published by Vantage Press, chronicles the creation of the Arboretum. It details how, after traveling around the world seeking advice on plantings native to Eastern Iowa, the Bickelhaupts founded and maintained the private garden.

The event also included the dedication of the Kershner Bridges, honoring Helena and Dr. Frank Kershner.

Finally, the Arboretum announced the hiring of Francie B. Hill as Director of Public Relations and Programs.

ELECTION BIOGRAPHIES

Bradley Bittorf

“Official” photographer for the Society and a large contributor to the establishment of our web site.

Frank Moro

Eastern Canadian Vice President. Owner of Syringa International. He did the work to set up the web site.

Owen Rogers

Long time member. Currently Editor of the Quarterly Journal.

Bruce Peart

Curator of lilac plantings at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton, Canada.

Ellen Steward

She and Orville were there at the founding of the International Lilac

TIPS FOR BEGINNERS

Question: *Why can't I prune my lilacs in early spring? Why must I wait until after bloom?*

Answer: You can prune your lilacs anytime you wish - *tis better to prune now than not at all* - just be aware of the downside when you choose a date. Lilacs form their buds, both flower and leaf buds - in the summer. If you choose to prune anytime between leaf fall in autumn and leaf emergence in the spring there are no leaves to obscure what you are doing, but - downside - you cut off fully formed flower buds that would have opened in the late spring. From a horticultural point of view, the best time to prune is "after bloom and before new growth". The downside to this is that leaves will block your view of many of the stems and you'll be cutting off some new growth that started out before the bloom period is over.

If you would like more information on pruning, consult your "**Lilacs: Plants of History - Plants for Tomorrow**" bulletin. If you don't have a copy, write your editor; his address is inside the front cover.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

HERRIDGE Katherine, Leeds City Council, The Town Hall, The Headrow,
Leeds LS1 3AD, United Kingdom (Institutional Membership)

International Lilac Society

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— IV. HONORS, HISTORY, LEGAL —

HONORS AWARDS	Sarah (Sally) Schenker, Chairman
ARCHIVES	Daniel Ryniec, Co-Chairman

— V. LILACS —

REGISTRATION	Freek Vrugtman, Registrar
DISTRIBUTION	Frank Moro, Chairman
LILAC EVALUATION	Charles Holetich, Chairman

— VI. MEMBERSHIP —

MEMBERSHIP	David Gressley, Chairman
NOMINATIONS	Ellen Steward, Chairman
ELECTIONS	Pauline L. Fiala, Chairman



Parasyringa sempervirens (= *Ligustrum sempervirens*)