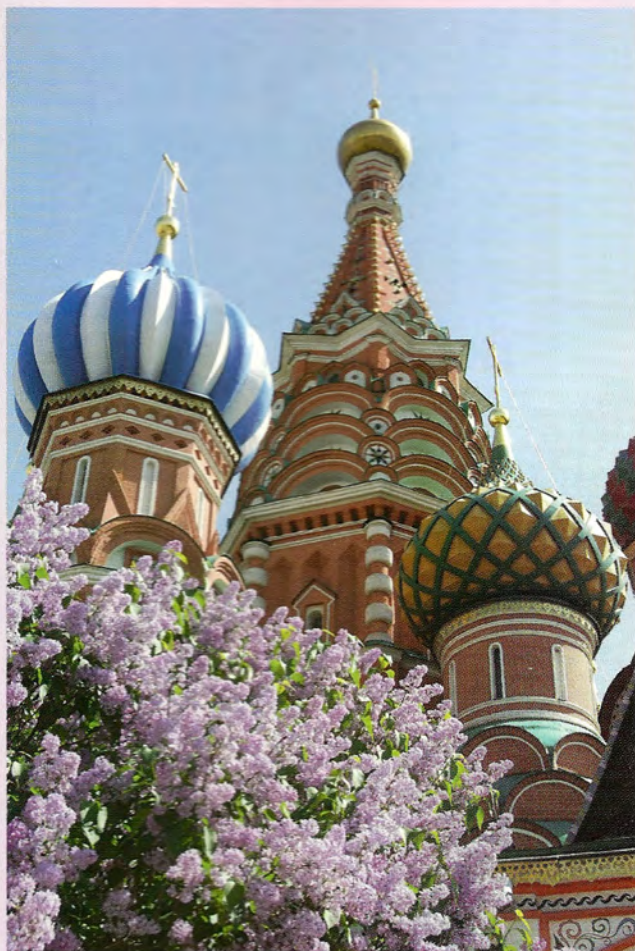


Lilacs

VOLUME 43, NUMBER 4
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QUARTERLY JOURNAL

of the International Lilac Society

IN
THIS
ISSUE:

**In Memoriam: Craig Hibben
and Lilacs in Moscow**



New Frank Moro cultivar *Syringa vulgaris* 'Daisy Wolcott'
Photo Credit Frank Moro



Syringa vulgaris 'Forrest Kresser Smith'; parent of 'Daisy Wolcott'
Photo Credit Brad Bittorf from **Lilacs DVD**

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Front Cover: Lilacs, a brilliant blue sky, and St. Basil's Cathedral in Moscow
present a dazzling array of colors to the eye
Photo credit Igor Semenov

Editor's Deadline for Winter Issue:

*****December 1*****

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President's Message

Dear Lilac Friends,

After the excitement of the ILS Cleveland Convention May 1-3, 2014 things are now quiet. It only means that the keepers of collections, the research scientists, the amateur gardeners are simply doing their work with diligence preparing lilacs for the next bloom season. Propagators are working on developing new cultivars tolerant of higher temperatures, tolerant of droughts and other climatic extremes but also producing lilacs with glorious blooms in colors perhaps never imagined.

Diseases and pests remain a problem for many plants. At this time I'm experiencing something called soot. I have an indigenous tree that has grown spontaneously near my house. This tree is quite lovely in shape and adds dappled shade to the deck. Nearby I have a *Syringa vulgaris* that seems to cohabitate with that tree nicely. It bloomed and seemed very contented until this year. I start noticing a strange black sticky material on the leaves and branches of the larger tree and the lilac. I did not know what it was and of course look it up on the internet so I could understand the problem and find a cure. I learned that several sucking pests and fungi can be the cause of this problem. In this case mealy bugs are the culprit. The black material 'honeydew' is the result of their droppings. That goo can affect the photosynthesis process of the plant. Yes I can see the mini bugs they are little tufts of white fuzz attached under the leaves. They are having a convention on this tree. They also have affected the poor *Syringa vulgaris*. It does have black leaves too who are curling longitudinally on themselves. The cure suggested is spraying the insects with a liquid detergent mix with water. So I have been treating both the tree and the lilac with the mixture. I must say that the little fellows are not easily dislodged but things are getting better. Let see what happens with the lilac next season.

I have been contacted by Dr. Pero Dimsoski. He is a life member of ILS thanks to Robert Clark he told me. He came to the USA as an exchange student in 1988 at Father Fiala's Falconsceap gardens in Medina, Ohio. He helped prepared the gardens for the 1989 ILS convention. Some of you may remember him. He is a geneticist but has specialized in DNA genotyping/identification technology development. Due to his work he move frequently and he and his family are currently in Charlottesville, Virginia USA only a little more than an hour away from where I live. So we are going to meet. He knew Father John Fiala and Robert Clark for many years. How exciting this is. He wanted to know if we had local meetings. Well now we can have a meeting of two.

I received, and so did Bradley Bittorf and Kent Millham, from Elke Haase of Piccoplant in Oldenburg, Germany, a letter thanking ILS for the award she received this year for all she does promoting lilacs. Her generosity to the multiple lilac projects throughout Europe has earned her this award. Tatiana Poliakova nominated her knowing first hand all the generous lilac donations she has made and continue to make. Included in her mailing is a beautiful catalogue with superb pictures of cultivars. A picture of a bouquet of 'Maiden Blush' accompanied by a pink champagne flute show the romance et elegance of that cultivar. This could have been photographed in any mansion or chateau.

An insert on Leonid Kolesnikov with pictures and descriptions in German of his lilacs is included. Also included is a catalogue in English explaining what the company does. The name Piccoplant means 'little plant', the company specializes in micropropagation. Elke Haase is the managing director. A biologist and economist she is committed to climate protection. Picture in the catalogue is the pet Rottweiler Quaestor sporting on his collar a lavender lilac bloom. He too loves lilacs. Piccoplant is quite an operation. A future ILS convention in Europe should certainly include a visit to Piccoplant.

By the time you received this edition of Lilacs the fall festival "Let's talk Lilacs" in New Hampshire will be over. Jack Alexander, RVP New England, and Evie King of Syringa Plus Nursery with the help of nearby ILS members are the driving force of this gathering. RVP's in the other ILS Regions should take notice and try to organize similar events either in the fall or spring. A Lilac Day in the spring when the lilacs are in bloom is ideal. Everyone wants to see lilacs blooming and smell their perfume and what an opportunity to sing up new members. While on the subject of membership don't forget to renew your own membership for 2015. The end of the year will be here soon and you don't want to miss any of the journals.

Next year convention will be in Canada. It may be October but it is never too early to think about attending. Frank Moro, our host, has everything in place for a fantastic convention. You will not be disappointed. He already gives us a taste of what is to come thanks to the exciting video he put together. It was shown by Convention Chair Karen McCauley at this years convention. Lilacs, good food, Bisons, wine, auction and a great time await us. Put the dates aside May 21-23 2015 and come and enjoy the company of other lilacs enthusiasts and see beautiful Canada.

Before we can enjoy our lilacs blooming we must live through the winter. While waiting for their rebirth in spring make a list of lilacs you wish for. Check it twice and dream...

*Mes amities,
Nicole Jordan, ILS President
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Convention News for 2015

Ciao a tutti i membri,
Hello to all members,

Fall is here and we are beginning to think where did the year go by? This is an invitation to all ILS members to come and reunite in the beautiful province of Quebec in 2015 and make a the next convention more about heritage and friends.

Yes we will have the regular lilacs in bloom. Sara and I have been working on all kinds of ideas since the last few months. Every convention is unique. Settings, people who show up etc. Its a moment in time.

Next year we will spend the Friday in the Quebecois way just north of the island to view some great entrepreneurs of the Lanoraie region. Bison to view and meats to taste. A strawberry / raspberry farm that make there own wines. They also have a great store of all kinds of stuff also from jellies to wine they make to mapple syrup products. But the fun part of the day will be to share with you will be the typical Quebec Sugar shack meal.

On Saturday I have so many things planned I just hope we can do it all. We have some workshops set up and a guest speaker for hostas and daylilies. Special wines and cheeses will be for tasting that are not readily available on the market. For those wishing to buy some of these bottles arrangements can be made also.

The lilac auction will be at our farm under a closed tent. I promise I have been keeping some goodies not on our website. So get ready to go home with your arms full. Of course if anyone wants to send some lilacs up please do or any kind of lilac memorabilia.

There will be other special lilacs and plants for sale also as we are a nursery and some of the proceeds from lilac sales will go to ILS on our behalf. We will have new perennials on the market, magnolias, new shrubs, some japanese maples hard to find peonies and other little dwarf evergreens.

The auction lilacs will only be 1 of each available. They will not be sold afterwards. In order to not have to do phytos for everyone. All product purchased will be mailed off the Tuesday after the convention weekend. There will be a small cost but it will be the equivalent to the cost of the phyto.

There will be some ceremonial plantings of lilacs and we have 2 lilacs that we have chosen that are our crossings whose names will be released the day of the event.

Italian food and wines to be served for lunch with Cappucino, Espresso and anything Italian you can thing of along with soothing Italian music. We will Italianize you that day.

Our collection of lilacs at the farm have some 275 cultivars. Our plants range from 3.5 ft to 7ft tall. With all the seeding we have done for lilacs there may be a few new cultivars on the way also. There should be interest for everyone. We have a small garden at the farm also that is very cute and wonderful to take photos in.

On Sunday there will an open day without transportation to the botanical gardens for those who want to visit. There is a horticultural show on that weekend with lots of vendors and of course the lilac collection and japanese gardens which are fabulous. I will post plenty of photos of the gardens on the ILS site shortly.

But mostly the convention is important because we want people to spend more time together and rekindle bonds and make new friends. We hope it will be a different atmosphere with plenty of stories to exchange.

I am working on a possible plan to have people shuttled from the Montreal airport if necessary. The hotel is new form I believe 2011 and thus in great shape.

A more detailed agenda will be posted in the next quarterly.

Hoping to see you all there in 2015

Sara and Frank Moro

Register Now for the 2015 ILS Convention

All registration and hotel information are included in this issue in the registration insert. One side gives all of the pertinent information related to the hotel, and the other side has the registration information.

New England ILS Fall Meeting- “Let’s Talk Lilacs”

This year the New England chapter of ILS met at Hooksett, New Hampshire, USA. Jack Alexander of the Arnold Arboretum, and Evie King of Syringa Plus were the hosts. Evie has completely moved her entire nursery from West Newbury, Massachusetts to its new location in Hooksett.

Jack and Evie lined up a full program that ran past the original time frame of 9:30 until 4:00. Everyone was having so much fun that the meeting didn’t break up until 5:00, and we never got to have the panel discussion, which could have taken another half hour or hour.

The meeting started with a lively meet and greet session that lasted for an hour. We made new friends, reconnected with old ones, and also were visited by some of the local people. Evie evened signed up a new member from New Hampshire, who later joined in the spirit of the auction, and ended going home with 3 new lilacs. Donuts, coffee and tea were an added bonus, and kept us going until our lunch.

The program was a full and varied selection of topics. Louie Gallo led off the program by talking about the Swampscott Lilac Project in Swampscott, MA. The project was conceived by Louie Gallo, and is located at the site of the former Swampscott Farm. The lilac arboretum has been created by dedicating lilacs as memorials, and each one has a memorial plaque. As of 2011, over 130 lilacs were planted in the memorial garden, and every spring many visitors come to admire the blooms.

John Bentley gave a talk on lilac projects going on throughout New Hampshire. The lilac is the state flower of New Hampshire, and has been heavily promoted throughout the state. John leads the Katie Bentley Project, named after his young daughter Katie who passed away in 2007. The project promotes the planting of lilacs at schools, cemeteries, towns, villages, and for other local beautification projects. Also, John described an upcoming grand project in Hooksett, New Hampshire that involves at least 90 acres, and the plans call for a hotel, winery, historic barn restoration, nursery and greenhouse, and a lilac arboretum, with landscaping that will include lilacs, crabapples, and peonies along with other landscaping. The entrepreneur of the project, Jeff Larrabee, donated the use of the building for the ILS meeting, and was on hand at the beginning of the session to explain about his ambitious project.

I gave the last talk before lunch, which was entitled “The Selections of Leonid Kolesnikov”. All of the photos used in my PowerPoint presentation were taken from the *Lilacs* dvd of Charles Holetich and Dr. Zelimir Borzan. Without the use of this dvd, I wouldn’t have had many slides, since many of these cultivars I have not seen in person. The biographical information about Kolesnikov I

learned from *Lilacs: A Gardeners Encyclopedia*, by John Fiala, and revised and updated by our lilac registrar Freek Vrugtman.

Following a delicious lunch of pizza and cookies, Rachel Brinkman of the Arnold Arboretum led off the afternoon talks. She is the curator of the lilac collection at the Arnold Arboretum, which has approximately 380 taxa of *Syringa*. Her talk was about "Lilac Pests and Diseases". The pests she covered included winter moth, lilac borer, oystershell scale, and one I had never heard of; tile-horned prionus. This pest was discovered in the lilac collection of the New York Botanical Garden. The diseases Rachel covered included lilac witches broom, verticillium wilt, lilac blight, and powdery mildew.

Guy Giunta, formerly of the New Hampshire Lilac Commission gave an impromptu talk (with Evie's encouragement) about the commission. Guy helped found this commission in 1984, which promotes the planting of lilacs throughout the state of New Hampshire. The lilac has been the state flower of New Hampshire since 1919.

Ned Newton talked about his own lilac collection, and the trials and tribulations that have gone along with it. He and his wife Elizabeth have amassed over 50 cultivars at their home.

John Bentley as auctioneer "squeezed" high prices out of the bidders for the lilacs donated for the auction. Included in the auction were 'Congo', 'Beautiful Susan', 'Yankee Doodle', 'Red Pixie', "UNH dwarf"(an unregistered cultivar of *S. pubescens* subsp. *patula*), and a Wentworth lilac(propagated from a historic lilac that is the oldest lilac in New Hampshire; possibly North America).

The final speaker of the day was Jack Alexander of the Arnold Arboretum, and the New England ILS region vice-president, gave a very informative talk on lilac botany. He covered the tips for identifying members of the genus *Syringa*, and covered the current classification of the genus. At the end of his talk, Jack also gave his valuable insights on hybridization, and the origin of some of his unique cultivars such as 'Lilac Sunday', 'Kabul', and 'Foxy Lady'.

This regional meeting was very informative and fun, and is something that every region should have. I am looking forward already to next years meeting, and I'm not even a member of the New England ILS region.

Kent Millham
October 2014



Jack Alexander and Evie King officially open
the New England ILS region fall meeting
Photo Credit Kent Millham



Louie Gallo describes the Swamscott Lilac Project
Photo Credit Kent Millham



Rachel Brinkman of the Arnold Arboretum describes
the pests and diseases of lilacs
Photo Credit Kent Millham



Guy Giunta tells the story of the New Hampshire Lilac Commission
Photo Credit Kent Millham



John Bentley boosts the price of 'Beautiful Susan'
Photo Credit Kent Millham



Jack Alexander enlightens us on the taxonomy and hybridization of lilacs
Photo Credit Kent Millham

The Selections of Leonid Kolesnikov

Leonid Kolesnikov (1893-1973) had an excellent eye for selecting superior lilac hybrids, and if you read the article about him in *Lilacs: A Gardener's Encyclopedia*, by John Fiala and revised and edited by Freek Vrugtman, you will see that many of his cultivars Fiala regarded as outstanding. Not many are available in North America, but of the few that are; several are some of the most popular because of their outstanding beauty, i.e. 'Krasavitsa Moskvyy', 'Nadezhda', and 'Znamya Lenina'.

Kolesnikov began his collection as an amateur grower along with roses, but by the age of 23 had already amassed a collection of over 100 cultivars. He favored the hybrids of Lemoine, and almost all of his original parent plants in hybridizing were Lemoine hybrids; the only exception being 'Andenken an Ludwig Späth'.

After years of using Lemoine hybrids as parents, he had selected a number of his own superior hybrids that he began using for hybridizing parents, such as 'K. A. Timiryazev', 'Leonid Leonov', 'Sumerki' 'I. V. Michurin', 'M. I. Kalinin', and 'Zarya Kommunizma'. Also, Kolesnikov often used some of his unnamed, numbered seedlings as parents.

As John Fiala and Freek Vrugtman point out in *Lilacs: A Gardener's Encyclopedia*, Kolesnikov preferred large-flowering double lilacs. Some examples of those hybrids he developed include 'Aleksi Mares'ev', 'Krasavitsa Moskvyy', 'Nadezhda', 'Nebo Moskvyy', 'Pamyat o S. M. Kirove', 'P. P. Konchalovskii' and many others.

Some of Leonid's crosses of the same parentage would yield completely different, but outstanding results. For example, by crossing 'Belle de Nancy' with 'I. V. Michurin', two very excellent but different results were obtained: 'Krasavitsa Moskvyy', and 'Pamyat o S. M. Kirove'. 'Krasavitsa Moskvyy', or BEAUTY OF MOSCOW as it is known in North America, has pale pink buds followed by double white florets. 'Pamyat o S. M. Kirove' is double but lilac-colored, with very large thyrses. Both cultivars are eye-catching in their beauty.

One of my favorite whites of Kolesnikov is 'Pamyat o Kolesnikove'. It has exquisitely formed double white flowers that are rounded, and almost remind me of pearls. That one is on my wish list.

Unfortunately, during World War II, Kolesnikov's garden was bombed, and many of his lilacs were lost. Others were lost too when his nursery was moved. However, his hybrids that survived gave Russia and the lilac world a rich heritage of beautiful and unique lilac selections.

Kent Millham
October 2014



Syringa vulgaris 'Aleksei Mares'ev'

Photo Credit Charles Holetich from Lilacs DVD



Syringa vulgaris 'Pamyat o Kolesnikove'

Photo Credit Tatiana Poliakova from Lilacs DVD



Syringa vulgaris 'Nebo Moskvj'

Photo Credit Bruce Peart and Margaret Walton from Lilacs DVD



Syringa vulgaris 'Leonid Leonov'

Photo Credit Tatiana Poliakova from Lilacs DVD



Syringa vulgaris 'Pamyat o S. M. Kirove' with very large thyrses
Photo Credit Charles Holetich from Lilacs DVD DDDVD



Syringa vulgaris 'Olimpiada Kolesnikova'; named after Kolesnikov's wife
Photo Credit Tatiana Poliakova from Lilacs DVD



Syringa vulgaris 'Sumerki'. note the cupped petals'
This is one of Kolesnikov's early hybrids that he liked to use as a parent
Photo Credit Tatiana Poliakova from Lilacs DVD



Syringa vulgaris 'I. V. Michurin', a Kolesnikov hybrid
that he used as one of the parents to produce 'Krasavitsa Moskvyy'
Photo Credit Zelimir Borzan from Lilacs DVD

Some Notes for Ned's Talk at the New England ILS Gathering

Hi all:

I am not a lilac professional; I just like them. My wife, Elizabeth and I have planted a collection at our home. We live in South Dartmouth, Massachusetts, just a mile from Buzzard's Bay. The soil under a thin layer of top soil is made up of small rocks with dust between, gravelly and very dry. Water or the lack of it has been my bane for all my plantings. We started our collection by driving to Montreal to collect 30 or so large bushes from Frank Moro of Select Plus. This is the location of the next ILS convention May, 2015. We had no trouble crossing the border with the station wagon jammed front seat to back with bushes.

Predators: the previous speakers had problems with kids and shrubs, not a predator I have to worry about, but I do have: lawn mowers, voles, rabbits, and deer. Lawn mowers are the worst, and I am the usual perpetrator. Just the lightest touch will strip the bark off a lilac stem. Deer, although always present and a threat, have not caused significant damage yet.

We had a great year this past spring. Better than ever before!! I am not sure what went right, but for the first time it was fun to stroll through the collection without noticing the pruning and other work yet to be done. No *Pseudomonas* this year! Our coastal area has this as a typical problem with the early lilacs. All the phases of the spring: early, regular, late and tree were wonderful. 'Sweet-heart' was the best this year; although there were many competitors. 'Lilac Sunday' also was particularly floriferous.

The down side of a wonderful year... dead heading! I know that it needs to be done very soon, 2 weeks, after blooming, but really, after a good year that is a lot of work! I am still dead heading...and it is fall. At least many of my lilacs don't have seeds. However, dead heading really does make the plant look better. The other good thing about dead heading is that it gives you a chance to get "up close and personal" with your individual plants. It is also a good time to cut down branches too tall and to clean out extra interior branches and clutter.

My wife and I have a lilac collection, so it is important to know what we have. Therefore, we have made up maps and tables of all our lilac plants. We also keep tags on all the plants. Over the years these have gone through several metamorphoses. Aluminum tags which are embossed with a ball point pen are very popular in our area. However, these are not always easy to read. Also they turn into interesting art work after they have been run over by a lawn mower. The fine tie wire does not stand up well to the constant wind that we have at our site. My eyesight, deteriorating with age, had me running back into the house to get my forgotten eyeglasses when I wanted to read the faint embossing. Night time walks also made for difficulty. So, a friend who makes plastic signs has

been making tags for all my lilacs. The lettering never fades. The contrast of white letters on the back ground color makes it possible to read even without eyeglasses, in bad weather, and even in the evening. If run over by the lawn mower, it is possible to piece the tag back enough to read the name.

An interesting disaster occurred three years ago called Irene. A hurricane: vicious wind, torrential rains, flooding, power outage, trees down, etc. Well, not exactly. Where we live was on the dry side of the storm. Hardly a drop of rain, but all the wind; hot, dry and strong. Many trees and shrubs, including many of our lilacs lost all their leaves to desiccation. After the storm it was another two weeks before we got some rain. The lilacs started to come back to life, putting out new leaves; and many even bloomed, some quite heavily. Well the loss of light, cold weather and frosts put them down for winter. When spring came they had no buds. The plants did not die but were heavily stressed, particularly the late lilacs. They did not set good bud for the next year. Now three years later, three have died outright and several more have not recovered yet. The blooming out of cycle is explained by the simulation of winter by the stress of the desiccating wind and lack of water, then the turnaround of mild weather and some rain; the plants thought that winter was over and spring had started.

*Edmund and Elizabeth Newton
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Don't Forget to Pay Your Yearly Dues!

It's hard to believe that it's almost that time, but the end of the year is fast approaching. Be sure to send in your dues to William Tschumi. His contact information is on the back side of the paper sleeve around

Lilacs. You don't want to miss a single issue of ***Lilacs!***

Lilac Collection of Edmund and Elizabeth Newton

vulgaris:

'Andenken an Ludwig Späth'
'Charles Joly'
'Frederick Law Olmsted'
'Hugo Koster'
'Katherine Havemeyer'
'Krasavitsa Moskvya'
'Lucie Baltet'
'Macrostachya'
'Martha Stewart'
'Monge'
'Monique Lemoine'
'Nadezhda'
'Paul Thirion'
'President Lincoln'
'President Roosevelt'
'Primrose'
'Sarah Sands'
'Wedgwood Blue'

× *hyacinthiflora*

'Blanche Sweet'
'Dark Night'
'Maiden's Blush'
'Pocahontas'
'Sister Justina'
'Sweetheart'

other

× *chinensis* 'Alba'
× *chinensis* 'Lilac Sunday'
× *chinensis* 'Rothomagensis'
× *chinensis* 'Saugeana'
× *laciniata*
oblata
oblata 'Betsy Ross'
'Purple Haze'

Late

Alexander's Pink'
(*Villosae* Group)
'Hagny' (*Villosae* Group)
× *josiflexa* 'Bellicent'
× *josiflexa* 'Royalty'
josikaea 'Holte'
josikaea 'Monstrosa'
meyeri 'Palibin'
'Miss Canada'
'Patriot' (*Villosae* Group)
× *prestoniae* 'Donald Wyman'
wolfii
yunnanensis 'Rosea'

Tree Lilacs

pekinensis BEIJING GOLD™
pekinensis CHINA SNOW™
reticulata subsp.
reticulata 'Ivory Silk'

Transplants/Small Plants

× *henryi* 'Julia'
protolaciniata

In Memoriam: Craig R. Hibben

The following obituary and photo appeared in The Journal News on May 20, 2014, and on the Beecher Flocks Funeral Home website.



Craig Rittenhouse Hibben, PhD, a longtime resident of Yorktown Heights, lost his battle with cancer on May 9, 2014. He was born May 25, 1930 in Montclair, NJ, to the late Samuel and Ruth Hibben. He leaves behind his wife of 55 years, Eleanor, son David R. Hibben of Stanley, NC, daughter Julie Hibben Diehl of Woodsboro, MD, 9 grandchildren and 1 great-granddaughter. He is also survived by sister Eleanor Waddell of Dallas, TX and brother Stuart Hibben of Swarthmore, PA.

Craig attended Penn State University graduating with a B.S. in Horticulture. After serving his country in the United States Army and being honorably discharged in 1956, he continued his education at Cornell University graduating with both a M.S. and PhD in Plant Pathology.

Craig's career started in 1963 at the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens Research Center at Kitchawan, as a Research Plant Pathologist and spanned 30 years before retiring as the Chairman of Research. His work included studies of diseases in woody plants including maple decline, tree viruses, and he was paramount in the early research which identified dogwood anthracnose. His research also included assignments with the U.S. Forest Service, where he worked on decline problems of forest and ornamental trees in the Western U.S. He has authored several books and numerous articles in the scientific community and gardening publications.

After retirement in 1993, Craig became a research associate with the Daniel Smiley Research Center at Mohank Preserve where he studied forest dogwoods and surviving American chestnut strands. He was also a well-known presence at

Lasdon Park and Arboretum where he had several undertakings that included dogwood cultivars, lilacs and a collection of American elms. In conjunction with the American Chestnut Foundation, he spent 20 years as the orchard creator and manager of one of the state's largest and best maintained American chestnut groves, also located at Lasdon.

Craig was among the founding members of the Taconic Men's Garden Club, an active participant in the beautification and landscaping projects in downtown Yorktown Heights and on the grounds of the First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown.

Though his list of accomplishments is lengthy, it was his exceptional character that will forever remain in the hearts of those who knew him. His gracious hand was always extended; whether to family, friends, colleagues, or passersby admiring his work, he simply gave of himself to others.

He quietly left his mark on this earth. Through his passion for research to the beautiful gardens he cultivated, one can look anywhere and easily be reminded of Craig.

*Editor's Note: The following article originally appeared in Brooklyn Botanic Garden's publication **Plants and Gardens**, Vol. 30, No. 4, and was reprinted in the ILS publication **The Pipeline**, Vol. 1, No. 11, August 1975. It is still the definitive work on lil roll necrosis, even though the research was done 40 years ago.*

Lilacs for Cities

by C. R. Hibben and J. T. Walker

Those old-time garden favorites, lilacs, are in trouble in the northeastern United States, particularly around cities. The peculiar malady that is afflicting them may be recognized late in the summer by several characteristics: a rolling or curling of the foliage; scorch marks between the veins of the leaves and on the leaf edges; browning of the undersides of the leaves; and the early dropping of the foliage. Shrubs losing their canopy of leaves sometimes produce a second flush of leaves and flowers late in the growing season. Because of the characteristic symptoms, we have named this the leaf roll-necrosis of lilacs, abbreviated LRN. There is strong evidence that this malady is a result of air pollution.

Members of the Kitchawan Research Laboratory of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Ossining, New York, have completed an investigation into the cause of LRN of lilacs. The ultimate health of lilacs, not to mention other forms of plant and animal life, depends on our willingness to cleanse the air in cities and suburbs. Until that occurs, however, a partial solution to the problem is to plant certain kinds of lilacs that are now known to resist air pollutants.

From our observations of LRN at several locations, it became apparent that certain cultivars and species were obviously affected less than others. This suggested a hereditary character or genetic basis for the differences. To determine if there were true resistance to the causes of LRN, the symptoms were rated yearly, beginning in 1968, for about 500 lilac cultivars and species in the following locations: Brooklyn Botanic Garden; Arboretum of the Barnes Foundation, Merion Station, Pennsylvania; Arthur Hoyt Scott Horticultural Foundation, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania; John J. Tyler Arboretum, Lima, Pennsylvania; Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts; Howard Taylor Memorial Lilac Arboretum of Rose-dale Gardens, Millbrook, New York.

The magnitude of the resulting data necessitated their transfer to punch cards for computer analysis to determine the statistical significance of apparent correlations among symptoms, location and year. Through the American Horticultural Society's Plant Records Center and the University of Georgia Computer Center, a multivariate analysis of the data enabled us to rate numerically each cultivar and species according to its sensitivity to LRN. We were particularly interested in those selections which occurred at all six study locations.

A final list of cultivars and species was grouped into three categories; least injured, or resistant; moderately injured; and severely injured, or susceptible. The list in the accompanying table includes a few of the more familiar resistant or susceptible lilacs. It is noteworthy that non-*vulgaris* cultivars and interspecific hybrids showed greater resistance to LRN than the *vulgaris* cultivars.

From this investigation, we recommend that growers consider the LRN disorder when choosing lilacs for city or suburban gardens. Some of the lesser known species and hybrids are not yet widely available from nurseries but may be worth the search if they have low numerical ratings in the table. Although not all have the strong scent or very large flower clusters of the common lilac, they have their own interesting traits and should perform better in polluted air. As an aid to sources for the less frequently encountered species, the grower may consult Brooklyn Botanic Garden handbook No. 63, *1200 Trees and Shrubs-Where to Buy Them*.

In addition, gardeners should know about a group of enthusiastic plantsmen—the International Lilac Society. It is a membership organization which issues a regular bulletin and periodic newsletter, and an annual convention is held. Particulars are available from the Society's secretary, Walter W. Oakes, Box 315, Rumford, Maine 04270.

From our early studies it was learned that microbial disease agents, insects and mites, nutrient deficiencies, herbicide injury, graft incompatibility, soil acidity and water shortages were not primary causes of LRN. However, as our research progressed, injury by air pollutants was suspected because some of the leaf markings on lilacs were typical of those caused by pollutants on other kinds of plants. Previous tests at the Botanic Garden in Brooklyn confirmed that plant-injurious air contaminants indeed occur in New York City, as they do in most urban areas.

Several experiments showed that air pollutants were likely contributors to LRN of lilacs. For example, current-year stem cuttings were harvested in Brooklyn from cultivars known to be susceptible to LRN. The cuttings were rooted and grown the next year at Kitchawan, which is in a rural location about 25 miles north of New York City. Whereas the parent shrubs in Brooklyn continued to show the effects of LRN, their vegetatively propagated-hence genetically identical-offspring recovered completely in the new environment. However, when transplanted back to the Garden, they again developed LRN symptoms. In another experiment, single branches of lilac shrubs exposed to city air were enclosed for 2 to 4 months in clear plastic filter chambers, designed to exclude air pollutants. Foliage on the protected branches remained healthier than portions of the same shrub continually exposed to the atmosphere.

Despite the annual recurrence of LRN, after 1968 we noticed a slight yearly decrease in its severity on lilacs at the Garden, and in several arboreta near Philadelphia. During the same time span, data from air-quality monitoring stations located in New York and Philadelphia showed a trend of decreasing levels of ozone and sulfur dioxide, the two air pollutants which probably cause more plant damage than any others. If this correlation is valid, we can expect an increase in LRN severity if current pollutant emission standards are relaxed.

We attempted to identify the pollutants which were injurious by exposing potted lilacs to ozone, sulfur dioxide, or the gases simultaneously, in laboratory growth chambers. Only some of the LRN symptoms could be reproduced with these toxicants. The diversity of LRN symptoms suggests that additional, as yet unidentified, air contaminants are also damaging lilacs in cities. This might be expected when one considers the many types of gaseous and particulate pollutants which are generated in urban areas.

Diversity of Lilacs

The lilac that gardeners are most familiar with is the intensely fragrant common lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*), of which more than 1,000 cultivars have been recorded. This species, which has its origins in the mountains of Eastern Europe, has also been hybridized with other lilacs, most notably the early lilac (*S. oblata*), a native of China and Korea. All told, there are about 25 true species of lilacs found in the wild in various parts of the world. Rather few of these others are widely grown in gardens, although some have been employed by breeders to create hybrid groups with their own cultivars.

INJURY INDEX

The lowest numerical rating indicates greatest resistance to air pollution injury to foliage. Flowers are single, except where noted. An asterisk denotes cultivars of the common lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*). This is a condensed list. Readers seeking air-pollution ratings for additional lilacs may turn to our forthcoming article in the *Journal of the American Society for Horticultural Science*.

Editor's Note: *Syringa velutina* has been updated to *pubescens* subsp. *patula* in the two cases it appeared in the table

Slightly Injured (Resistant)	
Peking lilac (<i>Syringa pekinensis</i>)	1.1
Meyer lilac (<i>S. meyeri</i>)	1.3
× <i>hyacinthiflora</i> 'Lamartine'	1.4
× <i>hyacinthiflora</i> 'Buffon'	1.5
Himalayan lilac (<i>S. emodi</i>)	1.5
× <i>hyacinthiflora</i> 'Esther Staley'	1.5
* 'Macrostachya'	1.6
<i>pubescens</i> subsp. <i>patula</i> 'Excellens'	1.6
× <i>hyacinthiflora</i> 'Montesquieu'	1.6
* 'Montaigne'	1.7
* 'Mrs. W. E. Marshall'	1.7
× <i>hyacinthiflora</i> 'Asessippi'	1.7
Little leaf lilac (<i>S. pubescens</i> subsp. <i>microphylla</i> 'Superba')	1.8
* 'Président Fallières'	1.8
Late lilac (<i>S. villosa</i>)	1.8
× <i>henryi</i> 'Lutece'	1.8
× <i>hyacinthiflora</i> 'Pocahontas'	1.8
* 'A. M. Brand'	1.9
Nodding lilac (<i>S. komarowii</i> subsp. <i>reflexa</i>)	1.9
Moderately Injured	
* 'Congo'	2.0
Hungarian lilac (<i>S. josikaea</i>)	2.1
* 'Lucie Baltet'	2.2
* 'Président Grévy'	2.2
Persian lilac (<i>S. × persica</i>)	2.2
* 'Charles X'	2.3
* 'Primrose'	2.3
<i>pubescens</i> subsp. <i>patula</i>	2.3
* 'Alphonse Lavallée'	2.4

* 'Charles Joly'	2.4
* 'Mme Florent Stepman'	2.4
* 'Leon Gambetta'	2.5
* 'Andenken an Ludwig Späth'	2.5
* 'Maréchal Lannes'	2.5
* 'Michel Buchner'	2.5
* 'Jan Van Tol'	2.6
* 'Miss Ellen Willmott'	2.7
* 'Vestale'	2.8
* 'Maurice Barres'	2.9

Severely Injured

* 'Boule Azurée'	3.0
* 'Edith Cavell'	3.0
* 'Katherine Havemeyer'	3.0
* 'Léopold II'	3.0
* 'William Robinson'	3.0

In Memoriam: Jean Herrington

I received the following sad news from one of Jean's daughters, Martha Hudson Crum 8/15/2014...Jean was a long time member of ILS, and she often went to the ILS conventions. Also, she once came to visit Highland Park in Rochester, NY, and we talked about Cornell University, where we both went to college, and we also talked, of course, about lilacs. She will be missed by her many friends in ILS.

"Jean left for her new "duty" station this morning, Thursday, August 15, 2014, at 09:00. Her "official" PCS time, (for non-military folks, that's Permanent Change of Station), however, was at 9:30 AM. She went quietly, seemingly surreptitiously, choosing a time when all four children were out of the house and with our ever faithful and loving caregivers holding her hands."

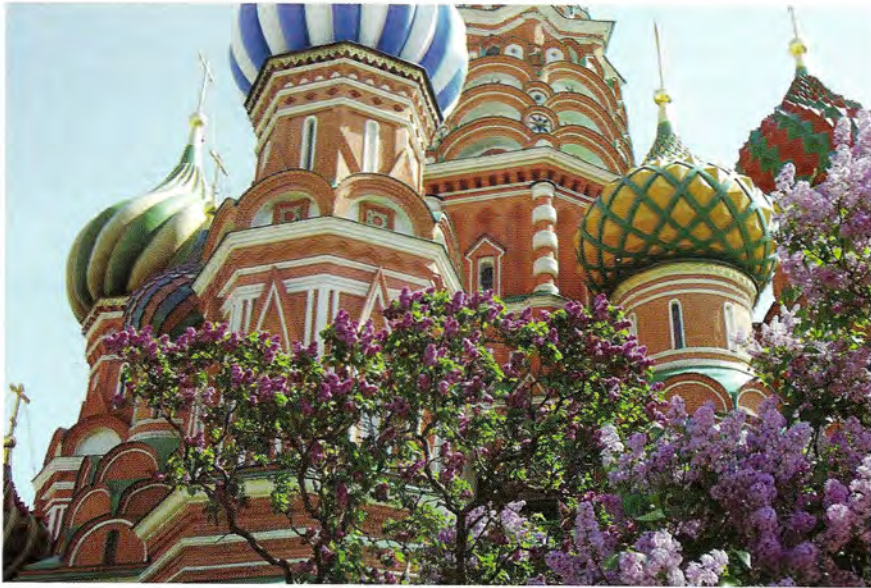
... "Our love and thanks for all your prayers, cards, letters, emails, phone calls, and flowers. She was able to acknowledge the receipt of all of those until early last evening."

... "We are thinking probably at a date in October for the memorial service to be able to coordinate as many busy schedules as possible."

Martha Hudson Crum

For Jean Herrington...she rests in peace

Lilacs in Moscow: A Photographic Essay



Beautiful lilacs near the very colorful St. Basils Cathedral in Moscow
Photo Credit Igor Semenov



The white lilacs don't "clash" with the vivid colors of St. Basils
Photo Credit Igor Semenov



'Krasavitsa Moskv'y' near the Sobakina Tower of the Kremlin
Photo Credit Igor Semenov



A cultivar of Leonid Kolesnikov near the Kremlin
Photo Credit Igor Semenov



Lilacs surround the statue of Yuri Gagarin; first man in space
Photo Credit Igor Semenov



Lilacs in front of the Kremlin arsenal
Photo Credit Igor Semenov



Lilacs near the Kremlin Wall
Photo Credit Igor Semenov



Statue of Lenin and the everpresent lilacs in Moscow
Photo Credit Igor Semenov

“Desperately Seeking Pauline”

First off, kudos to Joan Speirs and Candace Wentz for the time and dedication that they spent in scanning and posting all of the ILS journals to the ILS website. For someone relatively new to the society, it was fascinating to be able to get a glimpse into the history of the ILS. The camaraderie, the desire to identify and preserve the best of the existing cultivars and the development and discovery of new traits in lilacs have all been an interesting read.

After reading, it was also apparent how many critical members of the ILS have unfortunately passed away. The fact that with many of them, their private collections have disappeared as well have made the news of their passing even more tragic. It makes one wonder what might become of some of the more rare lilacs when fewer and fewer people are preserving them.

Fortunately the ILS has taken some proactive measures by forming the lilac preservation committee. There are several nurseries that have made a concentrated effort to select some of the best lilacs to cultivate. At least one ILS member has actively assisted in establishing and/or supplementing collections in France and Canada with some of the more rare lilacs.

So what does this have anything to do with the title of this article? Regardless of all of the great work that continues to be done, very often one still has to rely on the generosity of other people with private collections in order to locate and obtain one of the more rare cultivars. When looking for a certain cultivar that you cannot obtain from a nursery, it has been suggested to ask others in the society if they would be willing to share the cultivar via the ILS journal or post it on the ILS Robin, hence the title of this article.

I am looking for 'Pauline Fiala'. This is one of the last cultivars that I would like to obtain for my own private collection, a collection that once established I hope to pay forward someday by sharing some of the more hard-to-obtain cultivars with others (much like has been done for me) ensuring their continual existence.

Unfortunately I have not yet mastered the art of grafting but if anyone were willing to share a sucker, I would be willing to compensate him/her for it. Please feel free to contact me via email, phone or good old fashioned snail mail. I am hoping that someone in the society will be willing to share this cultivar, much like was done in the early days of the ILS!

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Hybridizing; a Passion

Over the years developing a lilac nursery went from having as many cultivars as possible to setting up a mail order company to now over the last 12 years to hybridizing lilacs. We still do many mail orders but we are now concentrating more on new lilacs.

This year in 2014 it has been our best year for new lilacs. 5 have been chosen from the lot that flowered. Two will be revealed in 2015 at the convention. All 5 lilacs are in tissue culture presently and we hope to have some available for the convention in smaller sizes. The other 3 we have chosen are as follows.

Syringa × *hyacinthiflora* '**Lover's Spell**'

This lilac is one of our darkest to date. It is purple in color and is a seedling of 'Forrest Kresser Smith'. It is quite fragrant and holds its colors well as it matures.

Syringa vulgaris '**Blushing Nova**'

This lilac is a seedling of 'Frederick Law Olmsted'. It presents itself with pink buds and opens to wonderful white twisted florets. It is extremely fragrant.

Syringa × *hyacinthiflora* '**Daisy Wolcott**'

A seedling of 'Forrest Kresser Smith'. It has a very heavy fragrant scent. The petals are a clear blue with distinct white markings around the eye of the flower.

The story behind the 'Daisy Wolcott' lilac is very unique. This following text sent to me by Robert Zavodny about the lilac he chose to name through us.

The Wolcott Lilac Gardens

"The gardens began when the home was built in 1863, but in 1906 when Daisy married Duncan Wolcott Jr. and moved into the home, they were greatly expanded. Both were avid gardeners and they acquired additional property for the estate. They planted exotic trees and shrubs, building one of the finest home gardens in the area.

In 1920, a shipment of French Lilacs was sent to Daisy Wolcott from her Uncle, Colonel Plum who owned one of the world's largest collections of French Lilacs, in Lombard, IL. More than 100 varieties of lilacs were planted that fall.

When Duncan died in 1930, Daisy opened the gardens to the public. This Mother's Day tradition at one time had 8,000 visitors in one day. Daisy became known as the Lilac Lady. She even hybridized a few lilacs and named them after her grandchildren. Daisy passed away in 1955 and her sons continued the tradition for a few years until the home and property were sold."

This would be a great place to have a future convention. Mr. Zavodny who has booked his flight to Montreal already is also becoming a member of ILS at the moment.

Frank and Sara Moro

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New Frank Moro cultivar *Syringa vulgaris* 'Lover's Spell'
Photo Credit Frank Moro



New Frank Moro cultivar *Syringa vulgaris* 'Blushing Nova'
Photo Credit Frank Moro



An exquisite specimen of 'Nebo Moskv'y' which translated means Moscow Sky
Photo Credit Charles Holetich from Lilacs DVD