

LILACS

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Michelle Kelly, age 5, Little Miss Lilac 1993, Marjorie Field Lilac Festival, Bristol, NH

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IN THIS
ISSUE:

Convention Proceedings

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Single or Family / Annual	\$ 15.00
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Life	150.00

**Mail membership dues to Asst. Treasurer Robert Gilbert*

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.

Published July, 1993

The Marjorie Field Lilac Festival

Five-year-old Michelle Kelly became Little Miss Lilac 1993 at Bristol (NH) Marjorie Field Lilac Festival May 22 (see cover). The three-day event traditionally held on the weekend following Mother's Day commemorates Marjorie Field who conceived and nursed it through the usual chamber of commerce sponsorship in 1983 into a community-wide (Ashland and Bristol) springtime gala built around the lilac motif even though in central New Hampshire lilacs often are not in full bloom until Memorial Day.

Service clubs, garden clubs, boy and girl scouts, and church groups cooperate to sponsor a children's parade, musical concerts, contests and breakfasts and suppers. Lilacs are planted along cemetery boundaries, in roadside parks and on grounds of public buildings. All these activities tie in with New Hampshire's observance of lilac season, the lilac being the state flower.

The Marjorie Field Lilac Festival is a not-for-profit corporation under the direction of Victor Field, P.O. Box 27, Bristol, NH 03222.

International Lilac Society's 22nd Annual Meeting

By MarvaLee Peterschick, Spokane Lilac Society

The 22nd Annual Meeting of the International Lilac Society was held at Spokane, Washington, with Spokane Lilac Society as hosts. Fifty-nine full-time registrations and six part-time made up for a great convention. Thirteen states were represented, three from Canada and two from Germany; 25 from Washington State with 17 from Spokane Lilac Society; 1 from Oklahoma, 12 from California, 8 from New York; 1 from Illinois; 2 from Ohio; 2 from Alberta, Canada; 2 from Iowa; 1 from Ontario Canada; 1 from Idaho, 2 from Minnesota; 1 from Michigan; 1 from Oregon; 2 from North Carolina; 2 from New Hampshire; 2 from Germany. This added up to 41 from Pacific Northwest which included California and Alberta Canada. Twenty-four others made up the convention.

A beautiful lilac and spring flower show was staged at the hotel where convention guests were staying. Lilacs were used in the lovely lobby designs which given the hotel a very festive atmosphere. Thursday night, May 13th, Board of Directors, which included Officers of ILS, along with the Regional

Vice Presidents and spouses were treated to a complimentary dinner at the Spokane Sheraton Hotel. That same evening, the hospitality room opened and everyone had a chance to renew acquaintances and make new ones too.

At promptly nine o'clock, May 14th, Chairman MarvaLee Peterschick greeted members and convention guests. Peggy Walls, co-chairman was introduced. Other members of Spokane Lilac Society were acknowledged including Donna McGown, registration chairman; Jean Hartman, treasurer; Lucy Littman, and Larry Littman, hospitality room; Herman Littman, photographer. Also, a theme map, "Lilac Spree in '93" with a map of the U.S. and lilac markers on it wherever the registrants came from was very interesting. Geri Odell, an absent member of Spokane Lilac Society, made the theme map.

Bobbee Eddy, President of Spokane Lilac Society, welcomed attendees and told about some of the activities and goals of Spokane Lilac Society. International Lilac Society President Reva Ballreich gave the welcoming response.

Bobbee Eddy introduced the first speaker on the panel, William Utley with Joel Margaretten following for the morning panel on Lilacs. One of the delightful aspects of Joel Margaretten's program on "Propagation by Pollination" was the thought of having a new lilac named "Spokane" after the Lilac City. It would be only appropriate as Rochester, another Lilac City, has a beautiful white lilac named after it.

After a coffee break and fellowship, President Reva Ballreich opened her business meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Following the adjournment of the business meeting, buses were loaded for the trip in the Spokane Valley to Arbor Crest for lunch. The weather was perfect, about 80°F for our sack lunches on the beautiful grounds of this magnificent estate. Blooming lilacs in unusual locations such as rock crevices greeted lilac lovers. Guests also had the pleasure of hearing how Arbor Crest came to be a National Historic Estate.

Arbor Crest was very pleasantly surprised by Awards Chairman Pauline Fiala with the ILS Presidents' Award.

At 1:30 p.m., the buses loaded and left for the trip to John Finch Arboretum. Pam Flibbert, caretaker, was waiting to greet convention guests. The Finch Arboretum occupies 65 acres. It contains over 2000 labeled trees and shrubs. Some of the trees are from 1907 but most plantings began in 1949. The lilac collection, recently renovated has about 60 varieties, with room for expansion. Pam was able to secure 28 new lilacs for the arboretum from the auction held at Manito Park.

After dinner at Cavanaugh's Fourth Avenue Friday night, Steve McCullough from Briggs Nursery at Olympia, Washington, put on an outstanding program on "Tissue Culture" accompanied by a slide presentation. One member of ILS told the convention chairman he had attended 10 straight ILS conventions and never heard a program as good as Steve's. He

also did the one and only nursery display in the foyer. Spokane nurserymen should take a lesson from Steve. The convention committee takes their hats off to Steve for his fine effort. (See Lilacs Q.J. 20(4) 98. Autumn 1991.)

Following Steve McCullough's program on "Tissue Culture," Pauline Fiala presented the following awards: To Steve McCulloch for his presentation; to Reva Ballreich as President; to Peg Stenlund, Hulda Klager Lilac Gardens; to Donna McGown for handling registration; to MarvaLee Peterschick for serving as Convention Chairman; to Spokane Lilac Society for serving as hosts to the 22nd annual convention.

Saturday was a very full day with many once-in-a-lifetime activities. The convention chairman requested everyone try to stay on schedule and everyone conformed to the rules to perfection making for a beautiful day. Weather was on the warm side, and shade was appreciated as we went through our exciting day.

Charles Holetich, a master in his field on lilacs, gave a program with slides on "Pruning." His expertise was greatly appreciated by Northwest lilac lovers who benefited most from his outstanding pruning program. Spokane Lilac Society and the area parks would like to adopt him permanently as a consultant on our beloved lilacs. Following Mr. Holetich's presentation, convention guests quickly loaded buses for the trip to Manito Park Lilac Garden where John Dodson, Horticulture Manager, was waiting to greet us. The lilacs in Manito Park had responded to the past four days of warm weather and were putting out the royal lilac welcome by their splendid burst of bloom. The convention chairman had resigned to the fateful fact we would have very few lilacs in bloom just a few days before the convention started, she told everyone she talked to from the east and other areas to please bring warm weather so the lilacs would bloom on time, and they did!! Pauline Fiala, awards chairman, presented a special award to John Dodson, and one for Manito Park for their tremendous effort in helping to prepare for the ILS 22nd annual convention.

At 11:00 a.m., everyone associated with the convention found themselves in River Front Park (the site of the World's Fair in 1974). We eagerly awaited the US Postal Service ceremony where officials unveiled the series of garden flowers including the lilac. It was very appropriate that it be unveiled during the Lilac Festival in the "Lilac City." Reva Ballreich, President of ILS, represented our group with honor and dignity. Her remarks concerning Thomas Jefferson planting lilacs fit the occasion. (Reva presented Dan Ruddell with a special award.) Everyone was able to purchase stamps and get the first day of issue postal stamp for a wonderful lilac memento. Following the dedication, we crossed the street to the Olive Garden for much appreciated cool drinks and a refreshing lunch.

1:00 p.m. found us back in Manito Park at the beautiful Japanese Gardens where John Dodson again welcomed everyone and told a brief history of the Japanese gardens.

At 2:00 p.m., the lilac auction started with John Carvill, chairman, in charge. Hot weather caused everyone to appreciate the shade of the awning in place. What a lively affair with the top lilac "Olive Mae Cummings" selling for \$47. When all was said and done, over \$2200 was raised for ILS at the auction.

At 5:15 p.m., everyone had been transported across town to Cavanaugh's beautiful "Inn at The Park" located on the North bank of the Spokane river. Convention guests were served a buffet dinner with the setting on the terrace. The warm temperatures made cool drinks very popular and sun glasses came in handy too. The atmosphere was wonderful after 26 days of rain in the month of April.

After our buffet dinner, Pauline Fiala awarded Pam Flibbert a special award for her work with lilacs in anticipation of the 22nd convention and also Finch Arboretum was given a special award.

Then it was time to get President Reva Ballreich in the parade line-up. She was one of the VIP's who would ride in a convertible with her name and ILS on the side.

All the convention guests who wanted to attend the parade were seated in a special block of grandstand seats. President Reva was number 22 in a parade line up of 197 entries. As she approached the grandstands everyone from the ILS convention cheered, stood on their feet, and waved to Reva so she would know where we were seated as she passed the viewing stands.

The weather stayed warm, almost 75 degrees even to the end at 10:15 p.m. Then, the buses returned everyone to Cavanaugh's Fourth Avenue and the hospitality room was a very popular place until 12:30 a.m. A final toast was given by President Reva Ballreich to "Lilac Spree in '93."

AND WHEE – What a Spree in '93.

Wonderful friendly people + beautiful lilacs + perfect weather.



ILS members at Finch Arboretum, Spokane, WA, May 15, 1993

**Remarks of Reva Ballreich, President,
International Lilac Society, Inc.
*Dedication Ceremony for the Lilac Postage Stamp,
May 15, 1993***

Lilacs have become so much a part of the American garden scene that many persons suppose they are native to North America. When we speak of Lilacs we do so passionately, possessively, and exclusively as "ours," but, actually the lilac is a native of the



Balkans, reported to have first been introduced into Vienna from Constantinople by the then Austrian ambassador to Turkey, in the mid-16th century. By the end of the 16th century, the lilac had become common in Europe and in turn was brought to North America by early settlers. In the late 1800s Victor Lemoine of Nancy, France, had developed so many new hybrids that the term "French Hybrids" was used throughout the lilac industry. However, we now have other celebrated hybridizers that we

look to for additions to our lilac collections.

The first mention of lilacs in Western literature was noted by a French naturalist stating he saw lilacs growing in Constantinople in 1563. The earliest mention of lilacs in American literature, we believe, was an entry by Thomas Jefferson in his *Garden Book* on April 2, 1767, that he had planted lilacs at "Shadwell," a tobacco plantation near Charlottesville, Virginia.

Attempts have been made to select the 100 best lilacs, but, I am influenced by Professor Charles Sargent's remark that "any dozen is 'best' if it includes the colors and forms you want."

This Little Piggie Stayed Home

By Robert B. Clark, Meredith, New Hampshire

Nor did he have roast beef! Instead he filled his eyes and nose with lilacs from Clyde, New York; Hampden, Maine and Greensboro, Vermont. Spring 1993 in the northeast, in spite of persistent wintry conditions, was remarkably compressed – the early hyacinthiflora hybrids were late and bloomed only slightly ahead of the light-toned French hybrids (the dark ones are notably late bloomers). And the blooming season accordingly was prolonged into early June.

Lilac time is spring. You can stroll among the lilacs lightly clad – sometimes needing rain gear. Lilac bloom signals the long outdoor season. Many communities observe lilac festivals. This year I.L.S. held its twenty-second annual meeting at Spokane's "Lilac Spree in '93," the first time west of the Continental Divide.

But this little piggie ventured no further than upstate New York and down east no further than Bangor, Maine, or north into Vermont's northeast kingdom, a virtual "little Switzerland." He could not, however, recall lilac blooms ever better. 'President Lincoln', for instance, its flower clusters always submerged in fresh green foliage, were covered deep blue this spring. John Dunbar could well have been proud of his most popular cultivar named to memorialize the Civil War president, its color worthy of the martyred Emancipator and Preserver of the Union.

At Grape Hill Gardens, Clyde, New York, the show stopper was the strategically planted 'Mount Baker' at the crest of the hillside path (see cover photo). In a new planting Bill Utley features my selection of *S. oblata* var. *dilatata* 'Birchwood' (see cover photo). Dr. Skinner of Dropmore, Manitoba, crossed this variety (not this cultivar) with *S. vulgaris* to produce a hardy, early-blooming, low- or slow-growing race of *S. x hyacinthiflora* American hybrids, ranging in pastel colors from pinks and blues to white.

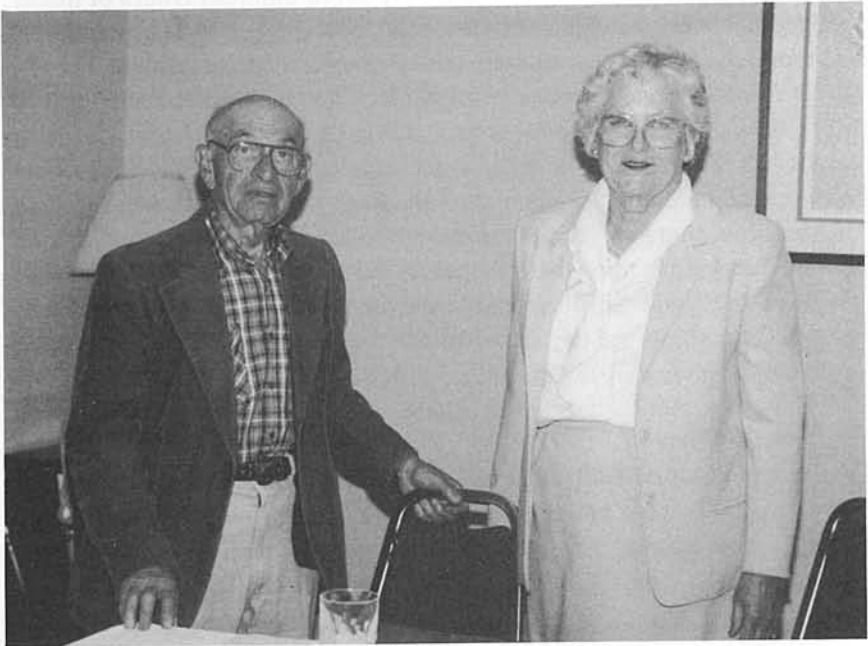
At Roger Luce's Butternut Hill Farm, Hampden, Maine, we found Assesippi, a pink early hybrid noted for its fragrance. Roger grows seedlings: lilacs, crab apples and magnolias. His choicest lilac he calls 'Sea Foam' for its feathery white thyrses. Like Bob Gilbert, he is a R.F., or in retirement from teaching has taken up farming, which he does mostly by himself.

At Dooryard Lilacs, Dan and Pat Cohen's farm at Greensboro, Vermont, we saw the large collection circling a woodland-bordered field in

early bloom on May 31st. Several contemporary cultivars of Kolesnikov and Fr. Fiala are featured.

In retrospect these lilacs, more than thirty cultivars, made a lasting impression on me; however, this short list in no way constitutes an endorsement of my favorites. It represents, rather, outstanding performance this spring, and measures up to Jack Alexander's six-fold standards (*Lilacs Q.J. 21 (2) 32-36, 1992*).

Anabel, Hawkins 1948, single pink early hybrid
Andenken an Ludwig Spaeth, Spaeth 1883, single dark purple
Assessippi, Skinner 1932, single lilac early hybrid
Charles Nordine, Skinner 1960, single blue early hybrid
Dr. Charles Jacobs, Stepman 1908, single purple
Leon Gambetta, Lemoine 1907, double lilac
Mme. Charles Souchet, Lemoine 1949, single pale blue
Mount Baker, Skinner 1961, single white early hybrid
Pink Perfection, single pink
Pocahontas, Skinner 1935, single purple early hybrid
President Lincoln, Dunbar 1917, single blue
Silver King, Lemke, single pale blue



Dr. Joel Margaretten, "Sally" Schenker

The Meadowlark Hill Lilac Collection

By Max Peterson, Ogallala, Nebraska

When you hear the name "lilac" we are sure you think of the white or lavender variety known as "Grandma's Favorite." Did you know that there are 24 species of lilacs? There are short ones, tall ones, early-blooming lilacs, late-blooming lilacs, little-leaved lilacs, big-leaved lilacs, cut-leaved lilacs, lilacs here, lilacs there, lilacs everywhere. (Reminds you of the song *Old MacDonald's Farm*, doesn't it?) "Grandma's Favorite" (*Vulgaris*) came from the Balkans. *Josikaea* came from Europe. All the rest came from eastern Asia. If you are interested in seeing the species, they are listed below and the location in the collection where they can be found. A yellow tag on a plant signifies that it is a species.

The name tags are usually found on the south side of the bushes, except in Section E which are on the east. All tags start with the name *Syringa*, the botanical name of lilacs. The next letter is either an X or a - . X signifies a hybrid and a - signifies a species. The next name is the species it is from and the name below is the cultivar name. Usually this is a person, place or event.

Now as to colors. Most people when they hear or think lilac, picture white or lavender. Did you know there are seven different colors of lilacs? Well, actually there are eight, but if you don't catch the yellow lilac (Primrose, B-K) the first day it opens, you will miss the color as it fades so fast. In the regular color choices, you have white, violet, blue, lilac, pink, magenta, and purple. Now don't expect to see a perfect blue or even a perfect magenta. If you put "ish" on the color names, you get along a lot better. You will discover that you really aren't color-blind after all. Don't forget that these are broad classifications, there are a lot of in-between colors, light and dark shades and color mixtures. Just enjoy the radiance. If you are interested in seeking out specimens that show the different colors, you will find a list below that tells where certain plants are that demonstrate the colors best. Those particular plants will have a color tag placed on it next to the name tag.

Have we mentioned flower shape yet? There are singles, petals recurving (Clarke's Giant, A-3-19), single cupped petals, "Bridal Memories," (D-6E), semi-doubles (Gertrude Leslie, A-5-30), primrose petaled (President Eisenhower, D-1), hose-in-hose Corolla tube double (Montaigne, D-5), double irregular form (Mme. Lemoine, D-1-1C), double recurved form (Pres. Poincaire, E-4-37), and finally hose-in-hose Corolla tube triple (Alice Harding, A-3-10).

Have a good time walking through the lilacs. If you have any questions, inquire from Max, Darlene, Jeff or Beth.

Meadowlark Hill is a working farm. (Something has to pay for all these lilacs.) Occasionally large machinery will move in and out of the farm. Be careful when this occurs. You enter the lilacs at your own risk and we will not be responsible for any accidents that may occur while you are here. Please do not enter any of the buildings and the main house is not open to the public. A portable restroom is installed west of Section A for your convenience.

While we do not charge admission to see the collection, some people have expressed the desire to donate a free-will offering. If you wish to do this, there is a receptacle on the information table for this purpose. We pledge to you that we will not use this money in riotous living or a trip to Tahiti, but will use it strictly for improving and maintaining the Lilac Collection. Thanks!

The lilac species are listed below and the locations where they may be found.

Series 1. Villosae

Emodi (A-1-16)	Wolfi (F-5-50)	Villosa (E-5-46)
Yunnanensis (F-2-1)	Reflexa (F-4-46)	Tomentella (F-2-8)
Tigerstadtii (*)	Komarowi (F-3-39)	Sweginzowi (*)
Josikaea (F-3-44)		

Series 2. Vulgaris

Julianae (B)	Pubescens (*)	Rhodopea (F-2-26)
Potanini (*)	Meyeri (D)	Vulgaris (F-5-9)
Pinetorum (A-7-9)	Oblata (A-3-3)	Laciniata (B)
Microphylla (F-4-48)		Debelderi (B)

Series 3. Pinnatifoliae

Pinnatifolia (*)

Series 4. Ligustrina

Pekinensis (F-4-49)

Reticulata (D)

*(Not Available Until 1994)

Lilacs to demonstrate color may be found at the following locations:

White	Pink
S-Vestale (A-1-17)	S-Victory (A-2-18)
D-Mme. Lemoine (D-1-1C)	D-Cora Lyden (B-C)
Violet	Magenta
S-Cavour (A-4-6)	S-Znamya Lenina (E-3-33)
D-Violetta (A-2-10)	D-Etoile De Mai (E-4-29)
Blue	Purple

S-Wedgwood Blue (E-2-10)

D-Olivier De Serres (A-4-23)

Lilac

S-Silver King (A-4-29)

D-Alphonse Lavallee (D-2-A)

S-Chris (A-6-11)

D-Adelaide Dunbar (F-5-3)

People always ask us where to buy lilacs. Below are three nurseries that we recommend.

Heard Gardens Limited

5355 Merle Hay Road

Johnston, Iowa 50131

Falconskeape Gardens

7359 Branch Road

Medina, Ohio 44256

Pepiniere Select Plus

1510 Pine

Mascauche P.Q. Canada J7L 2M4

Other lilac collections that we recommend you visit if you have the time:

Royal Botanical Gardens – Hamilton Ontario, Canada

Highland Park – Rochester, New York

Grape Hill Gardens – Clyde, New York

Reva Ballreich Estate – Idyllwild, CA (by appointment only)



Congressman Foley, Speaker of the House, at dedication of Lilac Postage Stamp, Spokane, WA, Saturday, May 15, 1993

Pruning and Rejuvenation of Lilacs

By Charles D. Holetich,

Royal Botanical Gardens, Hamilton, Ontario

If one were to review the literature on the subject of lilac pruning or the pruning of ornamentals in general, one would see that views differ in terms of its approach, the importance of the application of its various modes, and the best time for its implementation.

In my presentation I shall limit myself to pruning of lilacs in an open-field setting where the plant is accessible from all sides. This is the most desirable manner of planting. In such a setting the individual ornamental values of a plant are at their best.

L.H. Bailey in his *Pruning Manual* states that pruning is not a paramount practice in horticulture but only one of many cultural practices required. I fully concur with this theory. No pruning in itself will improve the ornamental value of a lilac if it is growing in shade, moist soils, dry sands, soils poor in nutrients or similar poor condition.

The general view is that pruning should consist of the removal of up to 30% of the total wood mass of all stems and branches. It should be done immediately after the completion of bloom. If a plant has no bloom, look for a similar one in the vicinity.

Rejuvenation (in theory) should be performed toward the end of winter, but before bud break. It consists of the removal of more than 30% (sometimes 95%) of the wood mass. The reasoning behind this theory is that, rejuvenating at that time, the plant will benefit the most in utilization of the stored carbohydrates (starches) in the root system and give the best response with the new growth of shoots. My problem in acting on this theory is that winter creates a need for heavy clothing, and with low temperatures and snow on the ground, working conditions, neither physical nor mental state of a worker, are conducive to the best pruning results.

During the '70s and early '80s some lilacs at the RBG Katie Osborne Lilac Garden were reaching a diameter of 8-12" (20-30 cm) at the base, thus being in desperate need of rejuvenation. At about the same time I saw or have read about what had been done on lilacs at the Morton Arboretum, Lisle, Illinois, and the Experimental Station at Morden, Manitoba. Though I did not follow either example to the letter, they were the inspiration to act and to combine the pruning, removal of the spent bloom and rejuvenation into one operation. It was carried out during mid-June on *Syringa vulgaris* and *S. x hyacinthiflora* cultivars and toward end of June on *S. x prestoniae*, *S. x*

josiflexa and other late-blooming hybrids. Otherwise the browning of the spent inflorescence should guide us when to begin pruning in different climatic regions.

PRUNING PROCEDURES

Each spring I would conduct an introductory review of pruning and rejuvenation. The workers would be asked to envision a "goal" lilac which should have 7-12 stems of different age and size, positioned so that they would not rub each other. This applies to the vast majority of lilacs, but there are exceptions. Such a "goal" might be 3-5 years away, thus our work is the continuation of previous work and equally a legacy on which others will continue in the future.

When pruning follow four basic steps:

- removal of dead and weak wood.
- removal of one of two branches that rub each other.
- removal of cross branches.
- shortening and thinning.

Branches must be removed almost flush to the plane of their origin, which could be a stem or a larger branch. **THERE SHALL BE NO STUBS!**

Sequence of approach shall be: rejuvenation first (if needed), pruning second and removal of spent bloom third.

Keep height of lilac shrub at maximum 6-9' (2-3 m).

Each stem may be shortened just above a bud or a lateral branch. Thus if a stem has 12 buds on the top shoot and 7 lateral branches it may be properly shortened at any of 20 locations, which include the ground level as the last possible cut. In selection of a suitable side branch in a stem shortening, one must bear in mind that carbohydrates used in the healing process of the wound are produced in the foliage. They flow in a downward direction through live cells under the bark. It therefore stands to reason that a two-inch wound will be more quickly healed by the carbohydrates produced on an end side branch of one inch in diameter than by branch one-half inch in diameter or thinner.

No two plants are alike, thus a rule given for one plant may be an exception for the other. For that reason an open-minded approach to pruning is the best.

The main reason for pruning lilacs are:

- to modify the vigor of the plant.
- to produce better flowers, leaves and stems.
- to keep plant within a desirable and manageable shape.
- to remove dead, injured, weak and superfluous wood.

The absence of a suitably sized lateral branch when shortening of the stem is needed creates a predicament in one's mind as to should I or shouldn't I? My suggestion is, do it, but come back a number of times within the next few months and in a year or two. Read the response of the plant. The answer the plant itself gives you is much more accurate than what I or any literature can offer. On the other hand, if you don't try, you'll never learn and will never know.

If you have a large quantity of similar pruning problems, try several approaches on a small scale; choose the best as the plant response tells you; and go back to complete the task.

REJUVENATION PROCEDURE

If a lilac has several stems, extend rejuvenation over 2-3 years by removing 1/3 this year and 1/3 in each of the subsequent years. Cut the stem(s) at the ground level or as close to it as you can. In the case of a poor plant or one with only two stems, fertilize and irrigate if necessary to induce growth during the summer drought. In the case of a single-stemmed lilac, cut back 1/2 to 2/3, fertilize and irrigate if necessary. Cultivate around the plant with a ground fork and deliberately injure some roots in the process of cultivation. The healing process of the root often produces a new shoot. If the plant does not respond, secure a new plant by propagating or air-layering, then at the end of the next winter cut the only stem 3" (10 cm) above the ground. If you have secured back-up plants the chances are the rejuvenated one will produce new shoot(s) from the root of the old plant. The number of such instances in our collection are limited.

The size of a flower cluster and the intensity of its color are dependent upon length of the growing season, the availability of nutrients, and also on the age of the stem. Stems 1 - 2-1/2 (3-8 cm) of diameter will produce a better quality bloom than 4" (10 cm) or thicker ones. Stems with fewer clusters will produce large inflorescences.

Lilacs may grow in high or low lands, flat or sloping sites, in water-retaining or porous soils. As long as we can read the condition of the plant responses and help when needed with mulching or construction of raised beds or hillets, we will greatly increase the range of lilac growth. The nutrients will move in the desired amounts from roots to foliage only if the ideal conditions exist – which are the right amount of moisture, oxygen and nutrients in the soil. All these factors may be manipulated to obtain an ideal or close-to-ideal-condition as possible. Let the books you read, the lectures you attend, the friends you consult be a guideline only. Return to the plant and learn how to read its state of happiness, survival or suffering. Learn how

to read the symptoms of deficiency or non-optimal growing conditions.

There is a balance between the roots and the crown. A correctly pruned top will inspire rapid new growth if good growing conditions prevail. If not, diagnose the problem and help. Take a spade, expose some roots and judge the root and soil conditions. Larger and healthy roots will supply a greater amount of nutrients to the leaves, which in turn will produce a greater amount of carbohydrates, which are used as growing (building) blocks for the roots and the crown.

If drought sets in after a heavy pruning, irrigate and fertilize if possible. Nutrients in the soil are useless to the plant if there is no water to transport them to the leaves. If water is a precious commodity in your area irrigate at night when evaporation is the lowest.

The area between and around the stems should be grass-free and weed-free, cultivated and mulched if soil has a tendency to dry out. Don't do things just because the Joneses are doing it! If not sure, try on a small scale and the plant will tell you.

Rich foliar growth and poor bloom indicate a shady location, too much nitrogen in the soil or too good growing conditions. To rectify such problems, immediately after bloom apply a fertilizer high in phosphate, such as 0-20-0 or 5-45-15.

There is no flow of nutrients into a stub. Don't leave them as "trade mark" of a poor pruning. The separation of the bark from the wood indicates an incorrect location of the cut. Come back and look at the plant's response. Remember, a plant can not begin its proper process of healing until the stub is removed.



International Lilac Society's 22nd Annual Meeting

May 14, 1993, Spokane, Washington

The Annual Meeting of the International Lilac Society was convened by President Reva Ballreich at 11:05 a.m.

RECORDING SECRETARY: Sarah Schenker

The minutes of the 1992 Annual Meeting were read and accepted.

TREASURER: Walter Eickhorst

The Treasurer's report was read and accepted. The total of funds available as of April 1, 1993, including checking account, money market account and certificate of deposit, is \$39,155.89. As a matter of comparison the funds available on April 1, 1992 were \$43,233.95. This difference reflects higher prices and lower interest rates.

Total money being held in special accounts equals \$24,104.57. This includes the Life Membership Fund, the Lourene Wishart Plant Propagation Fund, the Education and Research Fund, the Publications Fund, the John Wister Fund, the C.C. Clark Memorial Fund and the Arch McKean contribution. The money generated from the last two funds is used to pay for the color photo on the cover of "Lilacs, Quarterly Journal." With the present low interest rates and high cost of the color separation process, the fund is being depleted and adjustments will have to be made.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: David Gressley

Walter Oakes and Robert Gilbert were thanked for their help in making the transition to the new position.

Walter Oakes is still handling correspondence and Robert Gilbert is receiving the membership dues.

Current membership is parallel to 1991 with a total of 409. We now have members in Europe and Asia as well as Canada and the U.S.A.

PUBLICATIONS: Dr. Owen Rogers

There have been 4 issues of "Lilacs Quarterly Journal" published this year. Editor Robert Clark will resign after the next issue so a new Editor must be found. Publication of "Lilacs Quarterly Journal" will continue.

The "Upton Scrap Books of Lilac Information" is available as is the "Tentative International Register of Cultivar Names in the Genus *Syringa*" along with the Addendum and Corrigenda to the Register.

"Lilac Study" by Joseph Dvorak, Jr. has been reprinted and is on sale at \$10.00 per copy.

The new "Membership Pamphlet" is finished. 10,000 copies will be printed.

EDUCATION: *Dr. Owen Rogers*

In September there will be an educational exhibit at the Eastern States Exposition in Springfield, Mass. Volunteers are needed to man this exhibit.

There is a large number of slides available for use in programs. They will be organized in the coming year.

CONVENTION SITE: *Dr. Owen Rogers*

The next convention will be in Durham, N.H. on June 9, 10 and 11. The late lilacs will be featured. The Presidents' Dinner will be on shipboard somewhere on the Atlantic Ocean.

EXECUTIVE REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT –

ENGLAND AND EUROPE: *Colin Chapman*

Mr. Chapman sends greetings from England. He will submit a report for publication in "Lilacs Quarterly Journal."

LILAC EVALUATION: *Charles Holetich*

Mr. Holetich introduced new members who had traveled long distances to attend this convention: Konrad and Elfriede Kircher from Germany and Dr. Eugene and Gail Fox from Alberta, Canada.

To help in Lilac Evaluation it is important to exchange plants with gardens in other places to see what their performance is under different growing conditions. With this in mind, and to encourage the spread of interest in lilacs, lilac cuttings were distributed to England, Japan, Italy, Austria, The Netherlands, Russia, Greece, U.S.A., and Canada. A total of 1800 cuttings representing 360 cultivars were distributed.

Sapporo, Japan, will hold its first Lilac Festival May 22-27, 1993. They have formed their own Lilac Society of Japan.

Royal Botanical Gardens in Kew, England, is sending their curator of lilac collections to the Royal Botanic Gardens in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, to evaluate the lilacs and to select cultivars for their new "Coode-Adams Lilac Collection."

The U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, D.C. has called upon Mr. Holetich, Dr. Rogers and Mr. Alexander to help evaluate the lilacs from the crosses made by the late Dr. Donald Egolf.

At RBG, 400 new slides have been added to the lilac slide library which now totals 65,000.

Assistance in obtaining cuttings had been given to a nursery, Pepiniere Select Plus. They wish to establish a public display garden of lilac stock plants and to offer for sale over 100 cultivars.

Mr. Xinlu Chen of Western University of China is making preparations to come to Canada to research R.A.P.D. (random amplified polymorphic DNA markers).

In correspondence Mr. Chen has referred to a little known lilac, *Syringa buxifolia*, Nakai. A search is under way for a living specimen from which propagating material may be obtained. The type specimen is in an herbarium in Tokyo, Japan.

ARCHIVES: *Dr. Thomas Delendick*

All materials that have been received have been recorded. A complete set of the publications of the Society has been received and together with a complete set of minutes of the meetings, will form the core of the Archives.

The Winthrop Group of Professional Archivists has withdrawn from the project as they feel the Society can continue on its own. They are willing to help if there are questions or problems.

Society members will be approached for historical and personal papers.

ELECTIONS: *Pauline Fiala*

52 ballots were received. Those elected to the Board of Directors for 3 years are Daniel Ryniec, Peter Ely, Joel Margaretten, David Gressley and Orville Steward.

There were many write-ins. We will look to these people for future candidates for Board membership.

SUGGESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

Changes of address should be sent to David Gressley.

When sending membership dues Robert Gilbert requests that you underline the address you wish to appear in the membership list.

Mr. Allison from Claremore, Oklahoma, was introduced to report on the new lilac gardens in Claremore. The Book "Green Grow the Lilacs" by Lynn Riggs was written in this city. The book became the play, then the musical "Oklahoma." This was the inspiration to make Claremore a "Lilac City." Claremore is also the city where Will Rogers' grave is located. He was a lover of lilacs and things American.

The International Lilac Society was approached for help with advice and know-how. The president, with the blessings of members of the Board of Directors, went to their aid sending them 32 lilacs for a starter. A garden of American cultivars has been planted in the new Will Rogers Library Park. It was dedicated in April, 1993, by Reva Ballreich and I.L.S. Other gardens of all types of lilacs are planned for the city parks.

President Reva Ballreich gave special thanks to MarvaLee Peterschick and her committee for the hard work and outstanding organization that guaranteed such a smooth running and enjoyable convention.

The Meeting was adjourned at 11:50.

Respectfully Submitted,
/s/ Sarah Schenker, Recording Secretary

International Lilac Society, Inc.
22nd Annual Meeting
Spokane, Washington

Treasurer's Report — May 14, 1993

Checking Acct. — FIRSTAR Naper Bank, N.A.

136 South Washington Street, Naperville, IL 60566

Balance — March 31, 1993 \$ 5,431.96

Cks. outstanding — #1167 16.51

#1170 7.86

Adjusted Balance — March 31, 1993 \$ 5,456.33

Balance per Bank Statement — March 31, 1993 \$ 5,456.33

Money Market Account — FIRSTAR Naper Bank, N.A.

Balance — March 31, 1993 \$ 8,098.62

Balance per Bank Statement — March 26, 1993 \$ 8,098.62

Time Certificate — FIRSTAR Naper Bank, N.A.

Statement of Balance — Feb. 12, 1993 \$25,600.94

Orig. Deposit — Aug. 12, 1992 \$25,000.00

Interest Deposit — 11/12/92 298.50

Interest Deposit — 2/12/93 302.44

\$25,600.94

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE — April 1, 1993 \$39,155.89 \$39,155.89

RECONCILIATION — All Accounts

Balance Brought Forward — 4/1/92

Ckg. Acct. \$ 5,617.84

Money Market Acct. \$11,085.05 \$16,702.89

Outstanding Checks #1167, #1170 24.37

TIME CERTIFICATE \$25,600.94

Credit Ckg. Acct., Money Mkt. Acct. \$11,825.31

Total Funds Available — 4/1/92 thru 3/31/92 \$54,153.51

Debit Ckg. Acct., Money Mkt. Acct. \$14,997.62

BALANCE (on hand) brought forward — April 1, 1993 \$39,155.89 \$39,155.89

Checking Acct. — FIRSTAR Naper Bank, N.A.

136 South Washington Street, Naperville, IL 60566

RECEIPTS — 4/1/92 thru 3/31/93

Balance Brought Forward: April 1, 1992 \$ 5,617.84

Dues 3,790.00

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS (7) 1,050.00

Publications 311.50

AUCTION (Arnold Arboretum, Boston) 1,573.00

1992 Conference (advance monies) Refund 1,448.85

Funds Being Held in SPECIAL ACCOUNTS — 4/1/93

LIFE MEMBERS (60) — (\$6,780 + \$1,050)	\$ 7,830.00
Lourene Wishart (Plt. Propagation Fund) (\$615 + % \$31)	646.00
EDUCATION & RESEARCH (\$3,264.50 + % \$163)	3,427.50
PUBLICATIONS (\$1,802 + \$224.50 + % \$73 — \$587.02)	1,512.48
John Wister Fund (\$357 + % \$18)	375.00
C.C. Clark Memorial Fund) Interest Credit deferred to	5,000.00
Arch McKean (contribution)) Color Photo Separation Fund	5,000.00
	\$23,790.98

Color Photo (Journal) Separation Fund:

Balance Brought Forward — 4/1/92	\$ 533.59
Interest Credit — 3/31/93	500.00

Funds Available — 4/1/92 thru 3/31/93

Debit: Vol. 21 No. 2 \$200

Vol. 21 No. 3 160

Vol. 21 No. 4 160

Vol. 22 No. 1 200

Balance Carried Forward — 4/1/93

Total Funds Being

HELD IN SPECIAL ACCOUNTS: 4/1/93

I have examined the material provided by Walter Eickhorst. He is using standard and prudent management and recording techniques and has done a careful job of husbanding the Society's resources.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Owen M. Rogers, Audit Committee



Seated (l-r) Pauline Fiala, Owen Rogers, Walter Eickhorst. Standing: Reva Ballreich

1993 ILS Convention Financial Statement

Cash Receipts – ILS

59 Full time at \$100 each	\$5900.00
2 Part-time at \$20	40.00
2 Part-time at \$77	144.00
1 Part-time at \$30	30.00
1 Part-time at \$60	60.00
Single meal payments and hospitality sales	<u>257.51</u>
Total Receipts.....	<u>\$6431.51</u>

Expenses – ILS

Hospitality Expense	
\$100 Liquor	
\$100 Other	
\$ 20 Liquor Permits	\$ 220.00
Longhorn Barbeque for Sack Lunches	325.00
Arbor Crest – Wine Tasting \$1 per person.....	33.00
Arbor Crest – For Arbor Chair & Table Set-up	25.00
Cavanaugh's – Friday Coffee & Dinner	1073.84
Olive Garden Saturday Lunch	472.00
Cavanaugh's Inn at the Park Buffet	1063.90
Spokane Lilac Festival Association	
(60 Bleacher Tickets at \$3 Each)	180.00
KariVan Lilac Tour Bus – 2 Days.....	60.00
Film Expense & Developing	55.04
Communications (Postage and Copying)	111.50
Lilac Purchased at Auction for Manito Gardener	
For Care of Lilacs and Potting, etc.	<u>15.00</u>
	<u>\$3634.28</u>

Profit \$2797.23

Spokane Lilac Society.....	\$1398.61
International Lilac Society.....	\$1398.62
Deduct Auction Expense	
Tent Awning Rental	167.40
Rental of 20 Chairs at \$1 per Chair	20.00
Check to ILS	<u>\$1214.22</u>

*Respectfully submitted,
/s/ MarvaLee Peterschick, Convention Chairman*



Konrad and Elfriede Kircher (Haarenstroth 12, 2903 Bad Zwischrnahn, Germany)



President Reva Ballreich speaking at the dedication of lilac postage stamp, Spokane, WA, May 15, 1993.



Pam Flibbert (Finch Arb.), Pauline Fiala



John Dodson (Manita Park), Pauline Fiala



MarvaLee Peterschick



Bill Utley



"Sally" Schenker, Charles Holetich



John Dodson



Dorothy Burgin



Steve McCulloch, Pauline Fiala, Edith Stenlund



*MarvaLee Peterschick, Bobbee Eddy,
Donna McGown.*

Membership Secretary's Report

After weathering much difficulty during the learning phase of this post, I have acclimated myself to the requirements in a functional and efficient manner. Thanks to those assisting me, namely Bob Gilbert for being the buffer between me and the incoming flow of ILS mail. Thanks also to Walter Oakes for maintaining communication with me and for the time he devotes to answering the residual ILS correspondence that is addressed to Rumford, Maine.

Last year's transition of administration with this position may have created abnormal results with membership statistics (I do not possess a copy of the 1992 report). Four paid memberships from a total of thirty-two received during the transition period from May to November failed to remit replacement drafts. Billings or notices for lapsed memberships were sent to members in regions 4, 6, 7 and 8 in late summer with minimal response. Comparison of current membership statistics reveal a closer parallel to membership date reported for 1 May 1991. See the table below for membership statistics.

My earnest concern is vested in the delivery of the "Lilac Care Bulletin." Further delay increases the number of members who have not received a copy of this publication which is due to them as a stated benefit of membership.

MEMBERSHIP DATA FOR:	1993	1991
Life	50	38
Complimentary	14	23
Honorary	3	5
Canadian	51	72
European	25	Included with Canadian
Asian (Pacific)	2	Included with Canadian
American	331	345
Total	409	417

*Respectfully submitted,
/s/ David P. Gressley,
Membership Secretary*

Publications Committee Report

Four quarterly issues of "Lilacs" were put out by the Editor and his observations will be presented to the Board as a separate report. We note with regret that the Editor will leave his post after the autumn issue of "Lilacs." The Society will be hard-pressed to find as hardworking a person to replace him but will have to face the problem at the convention in Spokane.

The Publications Committee has also been working on several other projects. The following list indicates progress to date.

Reprint the Dvorak Book – Done and noted in "Lilacs." Copies are offered for sale at \$10 per copy. The Publications Committee recommends that this price be dropped to \$5 per copy as soon as the publications costs have been recovered.

Revise the Membership Pamphlet – In progress; the final decisions will be made at the Spokane Convention and the manuscript sent to the printer soon afterwards.

Lilac Care Bulletin – In progress under the direction of Jack Alexander and Nan Sinton.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Owen M. Rogers, Chairman

Education Committee Report

The Education Committee still has the slides collected by the Society but has not found anyone to organize them or develop talk around them. Volunteers would be gratefully received.

The Committee would also like to consider a Society exhibit in the New England Building at the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, Massachusetts, in September 1993. This consideration will be contingent on finding enough volunteers to man the exhibit and Board approval of a budget. The final decisions will be made before the end of the convention in Spokane.

Action required from the Board: Approve a budget not to exceed \$350 for use in staging a Society exhibit at the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, MA.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Owen M. Rogers, Chairman

Editor's Report

Lilacs Quarterly Journal is the official means of regular communication between the Society and its members. Each member in good standing is entitled to single copies of all regular publications of the Society. The Journal's pages are open to all members. The literature thus compiled reflects the current state of lilac culture. The Editor should be mindful of the three-fold objectives of the Society, namely, research, education, and enjoyment of lilacs.

Publication dates are as follows: No. 1, Winter, January 1, with deadline for copy on December 15th; No. 2, Spring, April 1, with deadline for copy on March 15th; No. 3, Summer, July 1, with deadline for copy on June 15th; No. 4, Autumn, October 1, with deadline for copy on September 15th; It is customary for authors to submit manuscripts typewritten and double-spaced, on one side only and numbered. The Editor reserves the right to circulate the manuscript among his colleagues for review, if he deems the contents to be controversial or unscientific.

Since the Society's twenty-first annual meeting at Boston, the Journal has contained 108 pages of which approximately one-third were devoted to lilac culture encompassing three notable collections, four lilac favorites, genetic engineering, five pages of news items and a poem. The proceedings containing committee reports occupied ten and one-half pages, while the membership directory consisted of ten pages. For the first time the fifteen members of the Board of Directors were introduced in six pages. Three numbers were dedicated to outstanding members. There were four obituary notices.

After eleven years the Editor finds it necessary to submit his resignation. So with the completion of volume 22, he bids his faithful readers adieu.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Robert B. Clark,
Editor

Lilac Evaluation Committee Report

The summer of 1992 and winter of '92/'93 were extremely busy for me. After adding approximately 400 new slides to the Lilac slide library, I helped a nursery near Montreal to select and collect lilac softwood cuttings during June 1991 and 1992. As a result in April 1993 they were able to offer 68 cultivars and further indicate 168 additional ones as available in spring 1994. Plans are to collect further 100-120 cultivars during June of 1993. The said nursery is also selecting stock plants which are being planted in a Lilac Collection public display setting. One may expect in a few years down the road a new comprehensive collection to join the World of Lilacs. For those interested in obtaining the list of available lilacs, please write to: PEPINIÈRE SELECT PLUS, 1510 PINE, MASCOUCHE, P.Q., CANADA J7L 2M4.

Lilac cuttings were also selected and distributed during January-February 1993 to: England, Japan, Italy, Austria, The Netherlands, Russia, Greece, USA and Canada. Total number of scions mailed was 1800 representing 360 cultivars. This being the second winter of lilac scions mailed to Japan, proved sufficient for the City of Sapporo to organize their first Lilac Festival, May 22-27, 1993 and to form their own Lilac Society of Japan.

Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew, England, are sending their Curator of the Lilac Collection, Mr. Tony Kirkham, to review with my help the Lilac cultivars at the Katie Osborne - RBG Lilac Collection, Hamilton, Canada, and select the suitable ones for their collection which is newly funded, and named "Coode-Adams Lilac Collection."

I have recently been called by Dr. Randy Johnson, at the U.S. National Arboretum, along with Dr. Owen M. Rogers and Mr. Jack Alexander, to give the qualitative opinion of their lilacs – mainly crosses of the late Dr. Donald Egolf. The lilacs are growing mainly on the grounds of the Arboretum and in part at Dr. Donald Egolf's former home.

Parameters taken into consideration during process of the lilac evaluation were:

- quantity and distribution of bloom..
- composition of shrub (smaller and spreading favored over leggy and upright).
- pleasing color of buds and floret.
- size and uniformity of florets and inflorescences.
- resistance to pest and diseases.
- quantity of bloom annually.
- duration of bloom.
- unique, distinguished with ease.
- stable, non-fading color, or fading into acceptable (pleasing) color.
- fragrance.

Foliage texture, fall color, ease of propagation, susceptibility to frost damage, performance under different climatic condition are also desired evaluative factors, which for reasons of limitation were not taken into consideration at this time.

Correspondence to organize arrival of Mr. Xinlu Chen, the lecturer at the Northwestern University of China is an ongoing matter. He received a passport and is in process to obtain the Canadian visa.

I have collected the lilac buds needed in research (RAPD – random amplified polymorphic DNA markers) of 24 lilac specimens and place them into deep freeze at the Biology Dept. of McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario.

Correspondence with Xinlu Chen produced a reference to a new, little known lilac in western world, *Syringa buxifolia*, Nakai. The information was forwarded to Mr. Peter Green, Associate Researcher at Kew Gardens, who in turn asked for delivery of the type specimen from a Herbarium in Tokyo. Color photo of the type specimen was mailed to me for deposit in the RBG Herbarium. Next important step is to find a live specimen of *Syringa buxifolia*, Nakai, and obtain the propagating material. I think Mr. Xinlu Chen will be helpful in locating the live plant in China, whether in wild or in cultivation.

In view that color changes drastically through progression of bloom in the same year, or due to various factors from year to year, such as bright haze or cloudy sunlight, soil and climatic conditions at different geographic locales, many lilacs do not fall into the traditional color categories, designated by the Tentative Register and the Addenda and Corrigenda. Furthermore, usage of color description such as 'true pink', 'true blue', 'off lavender', 'pastele' etc., only add to the existing confusion. We have expertise within the Society to produce a guideline of communication when dealing with a lilac description, so that readers of our publication whether in Japan, Australia, Europe or N. America know precisely what we are talking about or what to expect from a said cultivar, by reading a uniform message, rather than to rely on guesswork.

This is a challenge to the Society. I know that we have the knowledge to produce the guidelines. Whether we have the will to agree on the necessary parameters, the history will judge.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Charles D. Holetich,
Chairman

Report From Region #7 (California)

The Idyllwild public library has been helpful in featuring cut lilacs and displaying lilac material. The Idyllwild Garden Tour included viewing my collection this year. It was a great success. A slide show of the event is on the agenda for presentation later in the year for educational purposes. I will narrate. Also, a video of event.

By request of the Oklahoma State University, I helped establish a lilac collection for the Will Rogers Library Park at Claremont, Oklahoma. It was a very rewarding venture. I visited the site in April and am excited about the educational possibilities there. The promotion of lilacs is boundless in that state.

Several people who had attended my workshop on propagating by tip cuttings last year brought their viable cuttings to me requesting advice and "what is the next step?"

On May 27, 1993, I will hold a short meeting to show the Idyllwild Garden Club members how to cut the seed pods from lilacs. I will use my lilacs for the demonstration.

*Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Reva Ballreich, Regional V.P.*

Report of Executive Vice President for Europe Norman Farm, Mill Road, Wyverstone, Suffolk IP14 4SF, England Telephone 0449 781081

My apologies for not being able to be with you. God willing, I will see you all in New Hampshire next year.

I am shamed to admit that I am still far behind in correspondence. Most of my available energy (sadly in short supply since the personal and family health problems which appeared last February) has been devoted to receiving, grafting and coping with new plants. In the past two years, the collection here has grown from 30 to almost 300 taxa and, because most of them are still in pots or nursery beds, there is a full-time job to be done in terms of care and maintenance. A further problem follows from the fact that European collectors feel so out of contact with the lilac world that each letter of self-introduction generates an endless chain of correspondence. Progress has been slow but, because of new friendships being made, I hope it is deep and will be lasting.

For the record I outline the diary of significant events over the past two years.

January 1991 – Scions received from Hamilton. 29 *Syringa* forms propagated.

March 1991 – Research begun on Talbot Manor, Norfolk – a 30-acre garden with many lilacs planted in the 1940s. The planting records exist but many of the labels do not.

January 1992 – Scions collected and dispatched to RBG Hamilton. By kind permission of the Regius Keeper, RBG Edinburgh: *S. pekinensis* 'Macrothyrsa', *S. vulgaris* 'Candeur', *S. vulgaris* 'Nigricans'.

By kind permission of Mr. Tony Kirkham, RBG Kew: *S. josikaea* 'Pallida', *S. microphylla*, *S. wolfii* var. *hirsuta*, *S. vulgaris* 'Maud Notcutt'.

By kind permission of Roy Lancaster VMH, grown from wild seed personally collected in China: *S. pinnatifolia* L1616 (Jiuzhaigou, NW Sichuan), *S. pubescens* L1132 (Ba-da-Ling, Hopei), ? *S. microphylla* L1623 (Lower Jiuzhaigou, NW Sichuan), *S. yunnanensis* L934 (Pa La River, W Sichuan), *S. yunnanensis* L1684 (Yulongshan, NW Yunnan).

January 1992 – Scions received from RBG Hamilton. 83 *Syringa* forms propagated. Scions of 36 taxa forwarded to RBG Kew. Two grafted plants donated to the owner of Talbot Manor.

September 1992 – Commence planting of Pan Meadow Lilac Collection, Norman Farm.

December 1992 – Visit of Robert and Sabra Gilbert, Hyde Park, New York.

January 1993 – Scions of 36 *Syringa* forms received from RBG Hamilton. An additional 35 *Syringa* forms sent to RBG Kew. Received 6 verified species and hybrids from Kew.

February 1993 – Visit of Ole Heide from Denmark who brought scions of 14 *S.v.* cultivars.

March 1993. Interesting letter from Harald Oster in Austria. Permission being sought to submit for publication. Ole Heide makes contact with, and receives scions from, Dr. Bugala at the Kornik Arboretum. Ole also confirms receipt of scions from Mr. Max Peterson. Phone conversation with Konrad Kircher to advise on Spokane Registration.

The single greatest problem is the lack of bank account and access to funds. I will have another try shortly.

The centre piece of the RHS Spring show at the Wembley Stadium Conference Centre was a tableau based on the James Tissot painting 'Lilacs'. I charmed the model into posing before the painting holding a copy of the Journal but the flash unit on the camera chose that moment not to function. Curses!

My personal apologies to Editor Robert Clark. I will take up pen when I can get my hands free from potting, grafting, frost protection and my eternal war against the rabbit. And also to Marty who has been neglected, but not forgotten, as my first Euro-member. I hope to have an European Newsletter up and running this summer.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Colin Chapman

An Update

Dear President Ballreich:

The North American China Plant Exploration Consortium is quite honored to have received a grant of \$1,000 from the International Lilac Society in partial support for an expedition to China. Mr. David Gressley suggested that I write you to bring the Society up-to-date as to our activities.

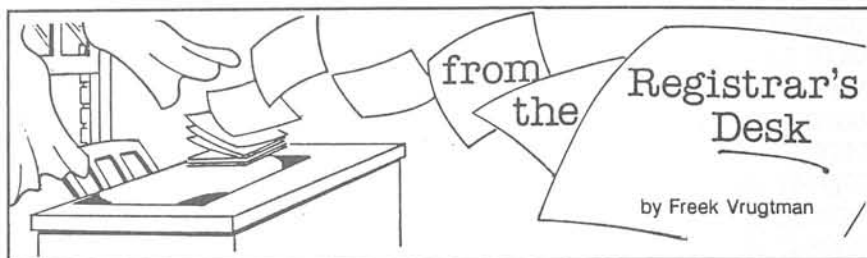
Mr. Lawrence Lee, U.S. National Arboretum, Dr. Calvin Sperling, Plant Exploration Officer, ARS, Mr. Paul Meyer, The Morris Arboretum, and myself, had full intentions of going to China in the Fall of 1992, as was explained in our original proposal. However, we ran amuck of the Chinese bureaucracy and communication snafus. We could not get the necessary invitations from China in time to participate on a trip that fall. Instead, we opted to postpone the trip for a year and properly plan for the fall of 1993. All correspondence to date has been positive though very slow. We have a commitment from China to visit this fall.

Our host is the Academy of Forestry and Heilongjiang Province. Over a four week period we will be visiting two to three of the research stations of the Academy. These stations have large tracts of land which have preserved native flora. All of the areas we will be visiting will be of a latitude greater than 43°N, which will have plants hardy for our area. At Jiangpo Hu, we will be looking for flora similar to that of the Korean peninsula. There are several species of lilacs we will be looking for in this area: *Syringa dilatata*, *S. pubescens*, *S. reticulata*, *S. wolfii*, *S. villosa* and *S. velutina*.

Besides this trip, there are other programs under way as I mentioned in my proposal for the I.L.S. One very positive result is an agreement with the Xian Botanical Garden. The Botanical Garden has sent to the National Arboretum two plants of wild collected *S. pinnatifolia*, which is rare in cultivation as well as in the wild. Once stock material is increased in numbers, I look forward to sharing this with I.L.S. members.

To date, the \$1,000 given by the I.L.S. to the North American China Plant Exploration Consortium is reserved to help with the supplies and expenses for the trip to Heilongjiang Province this Fall. When I return, you will receive a report of the expedition.

Sincerely yours,
/s/ Peter W. Bristol,
Horticulturist



Löbner vs. Steffen, or the Riddle of the Origin of 4 Lilacs

In the post-World War II years four new lilac cultivars appeared on the market in the German Democratic Republic (DDR) and in the Federal Republic of Germany (BRD), namely *Syringa* 'Amor', 'Jugendtraum', 'Maiennacht' and 'Max Löbner'.

Friedrich Meyer, in his horticultural treatise on lilacs (Flieder - Ein Einblick in die Gattung *Syringa* für Gärtner und Gartenfreunde; or in free translation: Lilacs – an insight into the genus *Syringa* for gardeners and garden fanciers) (Meyer 1952) credits Alexander Steffen with originating these four cultivars, and the firm of F.C. Heinemann in Erfurt, DDR, with introducing them in the nursery trade.

The 1953 Lilac Survey Committee of the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta in its report "Lilacs for America," published in October 1953, credits Steffen with originating three of these lilacs, namely *S. vulgaris* 'Amor', 'Jugendtraum' and 'Maiennacht' and lists F.C. Heinemann as the firm that introduced them. The fourth lilac, *S. x hyacinthiflora* 'Max Loebner' [sic] however, is listed as having been originated by Peter Radermacher, Bonn, BRD, and introduced by the nursery of Christian Fey, Meckenheim, BRD.

Why the conflicting information? Which one of the two publications is correct? Rogers (1976) did not see Mayer's treatise, he was not aware of the conflicting information, and he did not come across any other details concerning these four lilacs.

The name Max Löbner turned out to be the clue in the puzzle, and two German horticulturists, G. Bouillon and Gustav Lehmann of Bonn – Bad Godesberg, helped putting the other pieces into place.

Max Löbner (1869-1947) actually was the hybridizer and selector of these four lilac cultivars. From 1907 until 1917 Löbner was horticultural superintendent of the botanical garden in Dresden and the horticultural experiment station at Pillnitz-Dresden; in 1917 he was called to Bonn to organize and head the new horticultural training and research institute at Friesdorf. Löbner was interested in lilacs, and at least on one occasion he reported on his efforts in breeding and selecting superior rootstocks for lilacs (Löbner 1923).

Löbner retired in 1933. His successor as director at Friesdorf, Karl Hans Möhring, had been appointed in 1931. Personal relations between Möhring and Löbner during the final two years prior to his retirement appeared to have been very strained, and when Löbner left the institute in 1933 he took his lilac selections with him. Some of the plants were planted in the garden at his own residence on the Friedrich-Wilhelm-Strasse, some went to the garden of his friend Peter Radermacher, owner-operator of a florist shop in Bonn.

One of Löbner's former classmates was Alexander Steffen (1871-1954). In 1917 Steffen succeeded Löbner at Pillnitz-Dresden. Steffen, like Löbner, was interested and active in plant breeding. Following his retirement from Pillnitz he moved to Erfurt where, on the property of F.C. Heinemann, he had a plant-breeding plot at his disposal. At this point there is an information gap; it appears to be not known when Löbner sent his lilac selections to Steffen, and it is not known how many selections there were originally. However, Friedrich Meyer (Meyer 1952) knew by the spring of 1952 that F.C. Heinemann was going to introduce four named selections in the German Democratic Republic, and Meyer presumed that Alexander Steffen had been the originator.

Max Löbner died in 1947. Scions of the four cultivars were sent from Erfurt to Friesdorf in 1952 where they were grafted. Christian Fey, nurseryman at Meckenheim, BRD, had always maintained good relations with the institute at Friesdorf, and for many years there existed an informal mutual exchange agreement for plants. Fey received some of the lilac plants and introduced the cultivars in the Federal Republic of Germany. For the lilac 'Max Löbner' Fey used at least on one occasion also the name 'Gartendirektor Löbner'. In the early 1950s the four cultivars were planted in the "Neuer Teil" (= new section) of the park at Friesdorf. By the 1970s however the plants had lost their labels and location maps were not available.

POSTSCRIPT

For obtaining the lilacs 'Amor', 'Jugendtraum', 'Maiennacht' and 'Max Löbner' for the Katie Osborne Lilac Garden at Royal Botanical Gardens the firm of F.C. Heinemann was contacted in January 1972, and it was learned that plants of all four cultivars were in existence. By April 1972 RBG received scions, but by 1974 only 'Amor' had survived.

By the time a second attempt was made in 1976 to obtain the lilacs the firm of Heinemann had been incorporated into the state-run VEG Saatzucht - Baumschulen Dresden. The four lilac cultivars were no longer propagated, and the mother plants had been discarded. However, Dr. Muller, director of the company, was most accomodating in searching for plants of the missing cultivars. Later the same year he wrote that a few buds had been obtained and grafted.

In February 1982 RBG received once more scions of 'Jugendtraum', 'Maiennacht' and 'Max Löbner'. At the time of writing 'Maiennacht' had died, but *S. vulgaris* 'Amor' and 'Jugendtraum', and *S. x hyacinthiflora* 'Max Lobner' are well established in the collection.

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Syringa oblata var. *oblata* 'Nana'

Rogers (1976), on page 52 listed:

Nana

OBLATA GIRALDII

Syn – *oblata giraldii nana*

Living collection, Highland Park, Rochester (1974) - name only

When asked for background information on this cultivar James W. Kelly, plant taxonomist, Monroe County Department of Parks at Rochester, New York, wrote: ". . . it was definitely a mistake that it was in our collections in 1974. When I came to the Monroe County Parks in October, 1973, it was definitely not in the collection . . . two shrubs were purchased from Upton Gardens in Detroit in 1943 . . . R.E. Horsey made an annotation that they died in 1944. One shrub was purchased from the same firm in 1955. According to Bernard Harkness's checklist, the specimen was still in the collection in 1962 . . . it died or disappeared between 1962 and 1973." (Personal communication: Kelly to Vrugtman, Oct. 4, 1991). The later record bears the annotation "Single, bluish."

A search of the Upton Scrapbooks turned up a letter by Ernest Henry Wilson ("Chinese" Wilson, 1976-1930; at the time keeper of the Arnold Arboretum), dated July 1, 1930, about this lilac and an annotation by Upton that this was the lilac introduced by him as *S. oblata giraldii nana* (see Upton Scrapbooks Vol. I, p. 69).

In addition, on pp. 10 & 11, Vol. IV, of the Upton Scrapbooks there is

a reprint of an article by Maud Upton, Lilacs à la carte, published originally in *Horticultural News*, the official monthly publication of the Michigan Horticultural Society, Vol. 9, No. 10, pp. 3 & 4. What appears to be the valid publication of the name reads: "S. oblata giraldi nana seldom grows more than three feet high and is such an early bloomer that its mauve colored blossoms are sometimes caught by late frosts. It has low-spreading branches and attractive heart-shaped leaves."

The year of introduction given in one of the (undated) Upton Nursery Company catalogs is 1941.

Peter Green (1984) reviewed *S. oblata* and came "... to the conclusion that what has been called var. *giraldii* represents the type variety of the species. The nomenclatural consequence of this, in accordance with the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature, is that it should be called var. *oblata*." Therefore the correct name for the Upton introduction is *S. oblata* var. *oblata* 'Nana'.

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Syringa x *prestoniae* 'Silvia' (syn.: *S. josikaea* 'Sylvia' or Hungarian lilac)

In 1920 the late Isabella Preston (1881-1965) made the first cross between *S. villosa* (pistillate parent) and *S. reflexa* (staminate parent); resulting hybrids are known as *S. x prestoniae* McKelvey. One of the selections named by Miss Preston was 'Silvia' (No. 20.14.99); the name was published without description in the Report of the Dominion Horticulturist for the year 1928. No commercial introduction of 'Silvia' was reported in this or in subsequent reports of the Dominion Horticulturist.

Lilacs for America, Report of 1941 survey conducted by the Committee

on Horticultural Varieties of the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboretums, listed McConnell Nursery, Port Burwell, Ontario, as the sole source for *S. x prestoniae* 'Silvia'; the revised edition of Lilacs for America (July 1943) contained the first description of 'Silvia', namely: "SV" or single and pinkish. Isabella Preston was one of three Canadian collaborators on this survey. The Arnold Arboretum, in 1942, procured plants from McConnell Nursery under the name *S. vulgaris* 'Sylvia' (AA No. 360-42); plants propagated from this accession came to Royal Botanical Gardens in 1974 (RBG No. 74723).

Plant Buyers Guide, 5th Ed. (1949) listed Cottage Gardens, Lansing, Michigan, as offering 'Sylvia' lilacs for sale, without noting a species affiliation.

Lilacs for America (October 1952) repeated the information of the July 1943 listing and did not record the "Sylvia" misspelling.

Monrovia Nursery Co. of Azusa, California, in its Wholesale Catalog 1964-1965, p. 82, and Cat. 1968-69, p. 81, offered *S. josikaea* 'Sylvia', Hungarian Lilac. In the Wholesale Catalogs 1970 through 1979 the cultivar name was spelled 'Silvia', but 1980 through 1986, the final listing, it again read *S. josikaea* 'Sylvia', Hungarian Lilac.

During his term as lilac registrar (1958-1975) the late John C. Wister worked on a revision of the 1953 edition of Lilacs for America. The content of a letter (George W. Parmelee to Wister; July 8, 1968) clearly indicated that Wister was aware that Monrovia Nursery Co. had been advertising *S. josikaea* 'Sylvia' and that they (Parmelee and Wister) were aware that the correct name should be *S. x prestoniae* 'Silvia'. This information, however, was not entered into Wister's unpublished alphabetical list, and Rogers' Tentative International Register of Cultivar Names in the Genus *Syringa* perpetuated the error by listing:

- | | | | |
|--------|----|--|------------|
| p. 69: | SV | Silvia, Preston | PRESTONIAE |
| | | Monrovia Nursery Co. Cat., 14 (1974) | |
| p. 72 | | Sylvia, Monrovia | |
| | | Wister, Alphabetical List (1968) - name only | |

Royal Botanical Gardens, in June 1984, requested and received a plant labelled *S. josikaea* 'Sylvia', Hungarian Lilac, from Monrovia Nursery Co. for the specific purpose of establishing its true identity. Neither original plants of *S. x prestoniae* 'Silvia', nor authenticated plants propagated from the original one were any longer in the collection at the Central Experimental Farm and Dominion Arboretum at Ottawa. Instead, Dr. James S. Pringle, taxonomist at Royal Botanical Gardens, compared the Monrovia plant with our accession RBG No. 74723 mentioned above. In his report Dr. Pringle stated in part that *S. x prestoniae* 'Silvia' (74723) and the plant and picture supplied by Monrovia Nursery Co. are *virtually identical* in floral characters. The leaf shape seems to be very similar, allowing for expected differences

between a mature arboretum plant and a small potted plant. The flowers of both plants are incompatible with being "straight" *S. josikaea* or *S. x josiflexa*. *S. x henryi* would be difficult to rule out, but the morphology and color are most compatible with *S. x prestoniae*, which is what at least one, probably both are presumed to be.

Monrovia catalogues do not indicate any breeding and selection of their own lilac cultivars whatever; there are just a few cultivars of none-too-recent origin. Ergo, Monrovia probably got its 'Sylvia' [sic] from elsewhere, already named. Sylvia is the spelling of the feminine name to which Anglophones are accustomed, so the change could easily occur inadvertently. — Thus far the report of Dr. Pringle which confirms what Parmelee, Wister and others suspected already in 1968. The registrar is indebted to Dr. Pringle for his cooperation and input, and to Ms. Audrey Teasdale, botanist at Monrovia Nursery Co., for supplying catalogues and a plant.

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LILACDOM NEWS

As we go to press, June 15, **ARCH McKEAN** celebrates his 98th birthday. Aside from having to depend upon a motorized scooter, Arch keeps active and alert. Old time members may wish to send belated greetings (48011 Ridge Rd., New Buffalo, MI 49117).



Also active in his 96th year is **BERNARD McLAUGHLIN**, 101 S. Main St., South Paris, Maine 04281 who spends six hours daily in his lovely garden.



Special recognition to I.L.S. members: **ALFRED J. FORDHAM** of Westwood, Massachusetts, recently became a Fellow of the International Plant Propagators' Society. Al retired from the Arnold Arboretum as research horticulturist after nearly fifty years of service.



The Holden Arboretum recently received the James Newley award from the International Practical Training Association in recognition of successful work in the international student exchange program directed by I.L.S. member **WINFRIED K. MARTIN** of Chardon, Ohio (see Lilacs 22(1):Winter 1993).



Dooryard Lilacs, **DAN** and **PAT COHEN'S** Greensboro (VT) farm furnished nuclear collections of contemporary lilacs to lilac amateurs at Montgomery, Vermont, and North Sandwich, New Hampshire.



Our president **REVA BALLREICH** is active in the development of the Will Rogers Library Park, at Claremont, Oklahoma (See Secretary's Report).



Garden centers and nurseries are offering many contemporary lilac cultivars. As gardeners, designers and plant lovers become better acquainted with lilacs, **DR. LILAC** forecasts a renewed interest in planting "Grandma's [improved] Favorite."



Convention Committee Report:

Year	Site	Local Chair	Dates
1994	Durham, NH	Dr. Owen M. Rogers	June 9-11
1995	Clinton, Iowa	Bickelhaupt Arboretum	
1996	Millbrook, NY	Cary Arboretum	
1997	Mackinac Island, Michigan		
1998	Hamilton, Ontario	Royal Botanical Gardens	

Respectfully submitted
/s/ William A. Utley, Chair



ILS member **RICHARD A. FENICCHIA** of Webster, New York, received the Garden Center of Rochester 1993 horticultural award at its lilac celebrations on May 15. The citation, in part, recognized Dick's "diligent search for unique mutations of plant materials found in nature, his talented hybridization and cultivation of outstanding strains of lilacs and rhododendrons, in addition to his ability to propagate and nurture rare plants to perfection has added immeasurably to the fund of knowledge in the field of horticulture locally, nationally and internationally."

May 1993
International Lilac Society's
Arch McKean Award

Is Presented to

Dan Ruddell

Spokane Lilac Festival

For his vision and leadership in promoting the Lilac
and for coordinating the needs of I.L.S. with
Spokane's Lilac Festival

May 1993
International Lilac Society's
President's Award

Is Presented to

Spokane Lilac Society

For hosting the Society's 22nd Annual Meeting and
for its promotion of lilacs and its culture throughout
the Inland Empire.

Manito Parks of Spokane

For its horticultural programs for public education
and enjoyment, especially its display of lilacs.

John Finch Arboretum
Spokane City Parks

For its horticultural programs for public education
and enjoyment, especially its display of lilacs.

May 1993
International Lilac Society's
Award of Merit

Is Presented to

Donna McGown

Secretary, Manito Park

For her management ability in coordinating the needs and objectives of the International and Spokane Lilac Societies with the Spokane City Parks Dept. and for making I.L.S.'s 22nd annual meeting a success.

Pam Flibbert

John Finch Arboretum Caretaker

For her outstanding work in designing and relocating its lilac collection.

Steve McCullach

Olympia, Washington

For presenting the topic of propagating lilacs by tissue culture at the Spokane meeting.

John Dodson

Manito Park Supervisor

For his excellent work in maintaining its plant collections, especially the lilac

May 1993
International Lilac Society's
Award of Merit

Is Presented to

MarvaLee Peterschick

Spokane Lilac Society

For serving as Spokane Chairperson for the Society's
22nd annual meeting

Edith Stenlund

Hulda Klager Lilac Gardens

For her devotion to the Klager Memorial Garden
and for promoting the culture of lilacs.

Reva Ballreich

President, I.L.S.

For her vision and leadership in promoting the
Society's threefold objectives of research,
education and appreciation of lilacs.

INTERNATIONAL LILAC SOCIETY

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Syringa x hyacinthiflora 'Mount Baker.' Grape Hill Gardens, May '93



Syringa oblata var. *dilatata* 'Birchwood'
Grape Hill Gardens, May '93