

# Lilacs

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of the International Lilac Society

**IN**  
**THIS**  
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**Syringa Classification**

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INTERNATIONAL LILAC SOCIETY is a non-profit corporation comprised of individuals who share a particular interest, appreciation and fondness for lilacs. Through exchange of knowledge, experience and facts gained by members it is helping to promote, educate and broaden public understanding and awareness.

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Owen M. Rogers, Editor, 38 College Road, Durham, NH 03824-3544

## Cover Story

### *Front Cover*

The Island House on Mackinac Island.

The June 13-15, 1997 Convention will be housed and headquartered in this totally restored hotel with the auction scheduled for the sweeping lawn near the hotel.

### *Back Cover*

A lilac "tree" constructed by Carolyn McKenzie of Dover, New Hampshire.

When I wrote asking for permission to publish this picture, I also asked for information about how the "tree" was conceived and constructed. This, edited for space, is her answer.

Starting when my father was in the third grade, he made up such trees for a number of school projects. It was something that his whole family had done for years, so it was only natural for him to do the same and for him to pass it on to me. It is a very tedious job – it took me four hours to complete what you see. No one in the family could believe that I had done it, but when we received your letter, they finally had to believe me.

To construct the miniature lilac trees, I went out and collected a couple of stems to use. Then, I took a sharp pencil and poked holes through the paper so that I could insert individual florets into the holes. I used glue to hold everything in place. I'm glad you enjoyed it. It was a pleasure making it.

## Next Issue Deadline

The deadline for material to go into the next issue of **Lilacs** which will come out in April 1997 is **March 8, 1997**.

This April issue will be the last one before our June Convention so it is important that it be out on time.

## Editor's Notes

This is an important issue since, in addition to the Membership List, it includes the newest taxonomic organization of the genus *Syringa* in an article by Dr. James Pringle. There have been several important taxonomic studies in the genus and Dr. Pringle's article is an excellent and authoritative summary of those projects.

Daniel Ryniec writes that he is looking for individuals to help in continuing the Archives Project which has been stalled for over a year. As Chair of this project, he is trying to locate people who would be interested in helping to preserve the history of I.L.S. An understanding of Library Science and archival work would be very helpful. Anyone interested in this project should contact Daniel directly at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 1000 Washington Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11225.

## Correction      Correction      Correction

In the fall issue of Editor's Notes (page 113, line 5) I incorrectly listed 1997 as the date for the Convention meeting in Canada. That date should have been **1998**. The correct sequence is this :

The 1997 Convention will be June 13-15, 1997 at Mackinac Island, Michigan (see related articles in this issue) and

The 1998 Convention will be at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Canada.

## Dues Increase      Dues Increase

At the convention in New York, the Board voted to increase the dues from \$15.00 to \$20.00 U.S. This action was necessary for the financial health of our organization and as a foundation for future projects. So please remember this fact and send \$20.00 U.S. not \$15.00 U.S. when you are renewing your membership. The full schedule of dues is on the membership renewal form. Our dues are still very modest. Check and see how much you are paying to the other plant societies to which you belong.

## 1997 Convention

The registration form for the 1997 I.L.S. Convention are included as an insert in this issue. The cost will look high but that is because it's a package deal. The one fee includes both convention expenses and housing and includes

- confirmation gifts of round trip ferry boat passes
- festival collector's poster
- guide book and color business locator map + baggage handling
- taxes and gratuities
- two dinners
- one luncheon
- three full breakfasts
- evening hospitality suite
- Carriage Tour of Mackinac Island
- ½ pound of "Ryba's" famous Mackinac Island Fudge
- discount shopping coupons with potential value of \$50.00
- Mackinac Island Lilac Festival Memento

Accommodations are at The Island House, the island's first and oldest hotel. Poshly restored, The Island House was originally constructed in 1853 and is now a historic landmark of Michigan. Its harbor view of the lighthouse and verandah that stretches a lovely lawn area create an ideal I.L.S. lilac auction site. (See the front cover of this issue.)

In addition we will be on the island during a very busy lilac festival week and are invited to participate in all the week's events.

Some Festival events:

**Friday, June 13th** – Historic Story Telling, Family Hayrides, Walking Tours and a Casino Night.

**Saturday, June 14th** – Fancy Horse Hitches on display, a giant "Kid's Day", Outdoor Musical Performances and the International Lilac Society's Auction at The Island House.

**Sunday, June 15th** – Band overtures in Marquette Park and the 48th Mackinac Lilac Festival, all horse hitch, Grand Parade.

We have received a very warm welcome for Mackinac Island and the community is excited about our imminent visit. If you need more information about Mackinac Island or the Lilac Festival you can call 1-800-4-LILACS. Do plan to come.

This promises to be a most enjoyable I.L.S. Conference.

## President's Message

First of all, many thanks to Bob and Sabra Gilbert, who, with great spirit and much effort put together a fine 25th anniversary meeting for the International Lilac Society. It was a first class affair, well organized and well staffed. Attendees were treated to a slide presentation by Colin Chapman of lilac work and progress taking place in the European theater, along with many slides of his own accomplishments in the lilac field which left little doubt as to how busy he has been. Thank you, Colin.

Also, a great thank you must go to Win Aldrich for his timely report on the "History of The Hudson Valley". So much history in such a small area. Also, thanks to all committees involved with making our anniversary a very memorable one.

The International Lilac Society members in Nebraska are developing two large lilac displays, one at the Arbor Day Foundation Headquarters in Nebraska City and one at the Omaha Botanical Gardens. Sixty nine named lilacs and species lilacs were planted by ILS members with help from the Park Staff on Arbor Day at Arbor Lodge. Future plantings will border an entire walkway on both sides. ILS members have planned the plantings of over 150 lilacs at the Omaha Botanical Gardens this coming spring. There is overwhelming enthusiasm for both projects. More lilac plants are needed to continue these worthwhile Eastern Nebraska projects. If you hear from Max Peterson, please respond.

Under the watchful eye of Rudy Schaffer, the Descanso Gardens in La Canada, Flintridge, California, is increasing their lilac collection beyond those hybridized by Dr. Lammerts and Mr. Sobeck. The lilac area is shaping up quite nicely. I have donated a number of lilac plants to be planted this spring. Also, on February 2, 1997, I shall speak at Descanso on the history of the International Lilac Society and its premise to study, research and promote the genus syringa. Dr. Lou Erickson was to join me in the presentation, however his wife, Libby, passed away last week and he has declined the engagement.

What is the future of lilacs? Surely you must be pleased with the flurry of lilac articles appearing in magazines, newspapers and television in the past few years. Now, with all this PR we must not become complacent. We must not let our lilac suppliers become satisfied with the lilac plants they have to offer but to inform them of newer varieties they could offer. Many superior cultivars have been introduced in the last 50 years. In its educational

objectives I believe ILS has the obligation and responsibility to bring these newer varieties and novelties to the public's attention and appreciation. I would like to see our Distribution Committee propagate some of these novelties and offer them through the Distribution Program to our members and ultimately, to the public. At this time we need more research in lilacs. Perhaps with tetraploid and octoploid lilacs, we also need accurate chromosome counts and more intensified programs of breeding for specific results. Father Fiala had about 100 tetraploid and octoploid of vulgaris and species. The main result of his work with those was the production of two and three foot dwarfs and heavier substance. It was a significant start.

Speaking of something phenomenal, wait until you see the huge lilac trees on Mackinac Island. I have seen only pictures of them so I can hardly wait to see them for myself. It is not too early to make your plans to attend this 26th Annual Lilac Convention. There is more information elsewhere in this issue of **Lilacs**. Hope to see you on the Island.

May joy and good health be yours in the New Year.

*Reva Ballreich, President  
December 1996*

## Obituaries

### Hanssen Schenker

*March 15, 1919*

*September 2, 1996*

Col. Hanssen Schenker, U.S. Army Medical Services, retired, of Freedom, died September 2, 1996 in Mountain View, Ossipee.

He was born in Holyoke, Massachusetts where he attended local high schools. He received a bachelor's degree in entomology from the University of Massachusetts in 1941 and a master's degree in entomology from Cornell University in 1953.

He served in the U.S. Army from 1941 to 1972. During his career he served in Europe from 1944 to 1945 and was commander of a tank battalion in the Battle of the Bulge, in Japan from 1946 to 1949, Okinawa from 1956 to 1958 and Germany from 1964 to 1968. Col. Schenker was the recipient of the Bronze Star, and was awarded the Purple Heart, the President's Unit Citation with Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Legion of Merit Award with Oak Leaf Clusters.

He retired in 1972 and moved to Freedom where he has been a resident for a quarter of a century.

Col. Schenker was a member of the Carroll Lodge 57 F&AM, Freedom, a member of the Calvin Topliff Chapter O.E.S., Freedom, a member of the Scottish Rite. For many years he was active in the scouting movement, serving as a Scout Commissioner. He was a friend and supporter of the First Christian Church of Freedom. For many years he was active in the International Lilac Society where he was known for his organization of the lilac auction and his exuberant service as auctioneer.

The family includes his wife of 53 years, Sarah (Nielson) Schenker of Freedom; two sons, Carl R. Schenker of Nashua and Robert W. Schenker of Trumbull, Connecticut; five grandchildren; and two brothers, Richard M. Schenker and Warren Schenker, both of Spring Hill, Florida.

### Dr. Walter E. Lammerts

*1904 - 1996*

Dr. Walter E. Lammerts recently passed away at the age of 92. He was an active plant breeder and was well known to International Lilac Society members as the creator of 'Lavender Lady' (see article in **Lilacs** Vol. 24, No. 4 pg 97-99 Fall 1995) as well as 'Lavender Lassie' and 'Sierra Snow'.

He was also an ardent rosarian and his place in history is assured through his rose introductions including 'Charlotte Armstrong', 'Chrysler Imperial', 'Queen Elizabeth', and 'Golden Showers'. Dr. Lammerts worked at Rancho del Descanso for many years and was the creator of the original Descanso Rose History Garden. Dr. Lammerts passed away June 3, 1996 near his family in northern California.



## Ruth G. Sipp

*December 22, 1899*

*October 28, 1996*

Whether you knew her as mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, friend, or simply as "Cappy", Ruth Sipp was loved by us all. And though we are saddened by her passing, we cannot help but admire the way she faced her 96 years of life and service to the community with determination, humor and love.

Ruth was born in New York City at the turn of the century. She grew up there and in New Jersey. While living in New Jersey she met her husband, Jack. They were married in 1924.

The couple moved briefly to Massachusetts, where their daughter Jacqueline, was born. Seven years later their son, John, was born while they were living in Manhattan.

The family moved to Flushing, New York in the late 1930's. It was there that Ruth began her long time affiliation with The Girl Scouts. She started out as a group leader for her daughter's troop, but served that organization for many, many years. She earned the nickname "Cappy" from her girls (as in "captain of the ship"), and friends and family knew her as Cappy for the rest of her life.

During World War II she continued her work with the Girl Scouts. She also served as a nursing aid for the Red Cross, Farmerette and teacher.

It was in Flushing that Ruth began her lifelong love of gardening. She loved all of nature, but had a special affection for flowers, dogs and birds. She was an avid gardener, and spent much of her later life tending her flowers and trees. She also served as a long time member of both the International Lilac Society and the North Carolina Botanical Garden.

Jack Sipp passed away in the early 1950's, but Ruth wished to be known as Mrs. John Herbert Sipp for the rest of her life. After moves to Florida and New Jersey, Ruth retired to North Carolina in 1973 to be closer to her grandchildren.

It would be Ruth's wish that during this time you think not of her passing with sadness. Instead, remember the humor and love that she brought to life.

## Elizabeth G. Erickson

*April 6, 1913*

*November 27, 1996*

Elizabeth G. Erickson died November 27, 1996 in Riverside, California. She was born in Eldorado County, Kansas where she attended local schools. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in Botany and a Master of Science degree in Taxonomy in 1939. She married Dr. Louis C. Erickson on January 1, 1941. She was active in a number of organizations including the International Lilac Society where she was an unflinching participant for many years.

She is survived by her husband, two sons and four grandchildren. There will be a private interment.

## **Nominating Committee**

The Nominating Committee is pleased to nominate seven individuals who have all contributed to the advancement of the International Lilac Society. All are lilac enthusiasts and will continue to advance I.L.S. interest in the years to come. The ballot is included as an insert. Please choose five (5) from the list of seven (7).

**Reva Ballreich**

*President of I.L.S., tireless in promoting lilacs*

**Mark Clements**

*Recording Secretary to the Board of Directors*

**Walter Eickhorst**

*Board member, past president, editor and treasurer*

**Robert Gilbert**

*Board member, assistant treasurer, last year's convention chairman*

**James Hasting**

*International Lilac Society Treasurer*

**Julie London**

*Board member, owner of Falconskeape Gardens*

**William Utley**

*Board member, former executive vice president, owner of Grape Hill Gardens*

# An Updated Summary of Classification in *Syringa* at the Ranks of Species, Subspecies, and Variety

by James S. Pringle

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

Since my last update of the generally accepted classification and nomenclature of *Syringa* (Pringle, 1990), much original research has been undertaken on the systematics of this genus, especially by Meichen Chang, of the Shanghai Museum of Natural History, and her associates in the People's Republic of China (including Xinlu Chen, now at the Beijing Agricultural College, some of whose work has previously appeared in *Lilacs*), and by Peter S. Green, of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, U.K. These studies have led to changes in the classification of some lilac taxa, and hence in their scientific names. A summary of the classification of *Syringa* advocated by these researchers, listing the accepted taxa by their scientific names, is presented here for the convenience of readers of *Lilacs*, along with some explanatory notes. I am grateful to Dr. Ihsan Al-Shehbaz, of the Missouri Botanical Garden, for making a copy of the treatment of *Syringa* in the *Flora of China* available for my study prior to its arrival in the library of the Royal Botanical Gardens.

The present paper also provides an opportunity to introduce readers of *Lilacs* to the standardized citations for the names of authors of scientific names, applicable to *Syringa*, following a recently published list by Brummitt et al. (1992). This will explain to observant readers why, in authors' names where initials are required, there is no space between the initials and the surname immediately after scientific name, whereas there is a space when these names appear in other contexts.

The new classification summarized here is not "official" in the sense of having been designated the only legitimate classification by a vote or similar action at an International Botanical Congress. Contrary to what some people believe, no actions are taken at such conventions, nor do the rules of botanical nomenclature contain provisions, that give official status to some classifications and prohibit the use of others. With flowering plants, there are so many families, genera and species and such diversity in evolutionary patterns that no one plant taxonomist would feel qualified to choose among competing proposals affecting the classification of families or genera outside those with which he or she had the opportunity to become especially familiar. Strictly nomenclatural matters, related to the validity or priority of publication, are usually unequivocally dealt with by the rules of nomenclature, and seldom lead to differences of opinion. Matters of classification, in contrast, usually become less controversial as more information becomes available, but variation in nature is so complex that different researchers on the same genus may hold different opinions as to

the preferable classification even when they have access to the same information.

Taxonomic papers published in scholarly journals are subject to peer review, which means that qualified persons, usually knowledgeable about the genus or family that is the subject of the paper, review the manuscript before it is accepted for publication. The process does not deprive anyone of freedom of the press, but a paper that was greatly at variance with "mainstream" taxonomic concepts would not likely be accepted by such journals as *Novon* (as was one of the papers cited below), this being a relatively prestigious journal within its special field.

It will generally be acknowledged among taxonomists, moreover, that Chang, Green, and their associates have conducted more extensive studies of the systematics of *Syringa* at the species level than have any of their contemporaries, and that they have done so with significantly more specimens representing the genus than were available to their predecessors, and in cases of the Chinese botanists, with more experience with *Syringa* in the field. Also, Meichen Chang was selected to be the senior author of the treatment of *Syringa* in the *Flora Reipublicae Popularis Sinicae* (Flora of the People's Republic of China), and Peter S. Green was selected as the co-author of *Syringa* for the revised, English-language version entitled *Flora of China* (Chang & Green, 1996). He was also selected to be the author of the treatment of *Syringa* in a forthcoming volume of the *European Garden Flora*, the successive volumes of which immediately become very useful references, routinely consulted for the identification and nomenclature. Selection for authorship by the editorial committees of such works implies recognition as a leading authority on a genus by one's fellow plant taxonomists.

Also, although the *International Code of Botanical Nomenclature* does not make Chang & Green's classification the only one that may legitimately be followed, theirs is likely to become widely regarded as "standard." Such encyclopedic references as the *Flora of China* and the *European Garden Flora* tend to be widely followed, not only because of the reputations of the respective authors but also because of the convenience of following well-known, widely available references.

From my own studies of nomenclaturally significant specimens of *Syringa*, I became very much aware of the similarity among the specimens that typify some of the names in series *Pubescentes*, for example, the similarity of the types of the names *S. pubescens* and *S. julianae*. I was also conscious of the similarity among plants in this series cultivated under different species names, such as *s. microphylla* and *S. potaninii*, although I allowed for the possibility of misidentifications or the hybrid origin of plants grown from seeds derived from open-pollination. Likewise, the differences between well-documented plants called *S. debelderorum* and those identified as *S. patula* seemed comparable to the differences among cultivars of the latter species

rather than to differences among species. I was not surprised, therefore, to learn that further studies and sampling of additional populations indicated that the combinations of characters once thought to distinguish some of these "species" from others did not actually occur as distinct syndromes, but that instead some of these "species" as originally defined were actually connected by many intermediates. The better representation of these species now available for study, largely as a result of recent explorations by Chinese plant scientists, indicates that there is more variability within populations, and less differentiation among populations, than could be determined from the limited representation historically available in Occidental horticulture and in the modest number for herbarium specimens collected by plant explorers from Europe and North America. The recent revisions to the classification of *Syringa* represent better knowledge of variation patterns in the genus and should provide a more practical basis for identifying the new plant material that is being introduced into Chinese and western horticulture.

The two names *Syringa komarowii* and *S. reflexa* were published simultaneously by C.K. Schneider in the same work, so neither epithet (that is, the adjectival component of a binomial indicating the species) has priority over the other. These two taxa were first formally treated as components of a single species by Chang and Chen (1990), who adopted the epithet *komarowii* for the species as they circumscribed it, adhering to an unpublished choice made earlier by Zhuopo Jien. The **International Code of Botanical Nomenclature** requires others who subsequently accept this circumscription of the species also to accept their choice of epithet. To some extent, I was disappointed that they chose the epithet that is the less familiar in horticulture; henceforth, references to the well-known Nodding Lilac will require the full combination *S. komarowii* ssp. *reflexa* M.C.Chang & X.L.Chen. The positive aspect of their choice is that we shall be induced to be more precise. If *reflexa* had been chosen as the species we should be tempted to refer to the Nodding Lilac simply as *S. reflexa*, whereas routine use of the trinomial will eliminate the ambiguity as to whether one refers to the species in its entirety or only to its more widely cultivated subspecies.

From Green & Chang's 1995 paper, one might infer that they equated all plants of *S. meyeri* then in cultivation outside China with the cultivar 'Palibin'. In an earlier paper, however, Green (1979) indicated clearly that he was aware of plants of *S. meyeri* in occidental gardens in addition to those identified as cv. 'Palibin'. Such plants are illustrated in McKelvey (1927) and are cultivated in a number of botanical gardens, including the Royal Botanical Gardens. From the more recent paper, however, it is evident that Ms. Chang's discovery of var. *spontanea* in the wild extends the known range of intraspecific variation in *S. meyeri* beyond what had hitherto been known to taxonomists from horticultural material only.

As the table indicates, I do not concur with the opinion expressed by

Fiala (1988, p. 6, not entirely consistent with opinions expressed elsewhere in the same work) on *S. afghanica*, that this species has never "existed or been a valid species." It is true that plants cultivated in European and North American gardens as *S. afghanica* have been reidentified as *S. protolaciniata*. I have, however, seen the specimens of *S. afghanica* in the herbarium of the Arnold Arboretum (AAH) cited by McKelvey (1927), photocopies of specimens in the herbarium of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (K), and a more recently collected specimen, also from Afghanistan, in the herbarium of the Smithsonian Institution (U.S.). All of these specimens represent a species clearly distinct from *S. protolaciniata* and all other known species of *Syringa*, which has simple, unlobed, oblong leaves, small for those of a *Syringa* species. Fiala (1988) also expressed doubt as to whether *S. pinetorum* was appropriately recognized as a species. The many plants in cultivation formerly (and in some gardens still) designated *S. pinetorum* were apparently derived from a single introduction, which is now identified as *S. yunnanensis* (Pringle, 1979-1980; Green & Chang, 1995). However, the recent studies by Chang and Green indicate that the true *S. pinetorum*, as represented by the type specimen, is indeed a distinct species native to China (Yunnan and Xizang). This true *S. pinetorum* appears not to be represented in occidental horticulture, but it is to be hoped that both this species and the true *S. afghanica* will someday be introduced into cultivation.

Some familiar names, or names not previously accounted for in Lilacs, have been reduced to taxonomic or heterotypic synonymy; that is, they are included within taxa the accepted names of which do not include the same epithet, or Latin word, at any rank. These include:

- S. buxifolia* Nakai, name proposed for rejection under provisions of the **International Code of Botanical Nomenclature** that were first included in the 1983 edition (Green, 1995). This name, now regarded as a synonym of *S. protolaciniata*, has rarely been used since its publication, because of uncertainty as to its correct application.
- S. chuanxiensis* S.Z.Qa & X.L.Chen, included in *S. mairei*.
- S. debelderorum* J.L. Fiala [*"debelderi"*] included in *S. pubescens* ssp. *patula*.
- S. giraldiana* C.K.Schneid., included in *S. pubescens* ssp. *microphylla*. This name, never widely used, is not to be confused with *S. giraldii* Lemoine or *S. oblata* var. *giraldii* (Lemoine) Rehder, which are now regarded as synonyms of *S. oblata* ssp. *oblata* (Green, 1984).
- S. pinnatifolia* var. *alashanensis* Y.C.Ma & S.Q.Zhou, not considered taxonomically separable from typical *S. pinnatifolia* by Chang & Chen (1990).

- S. rugulosa* McKelvey, now called *S. mairei*, this epithet having priority.
- S. tigerstedtii* HarrySm., included in *S. sweginzowii*.
- S. tricholphylla* T.Tang, included in *S. pubescens* ssp. *microphylla*.
- S. wardii* W.W. Sm., included in *S. pinetorum*.
- S. wulingensis* Skvortsov & W.Wang, included in *S. pubescens* ssp. *pubescens*.

A few other names originally published at the rank of variety that were never in common use in horticulture have been reduced to the status of form or to complete synonymy. Earlier reductions to synonymy of names formerly used in occidental horticulture were noted in my previous paper on this subject. (Pringle, 1990).

There is one minor departure from the **Flora of China** introduced here. In accordance with the requirements of Article 60.8 of the **International Code of Botanical Nomenclature** (1988 ed.) I have corrected the spelling of the varietal epithet *flavoanthera* to *flavanthera*. The connecting vowel -o- would be appropriate only before a consonant.

The merger of some species may raise questions as to the proper use of certain Latin binomials for interspecific hybrids. Lilac enthusiasts are already well aware that the name *Syringa* × *hyacinthiflora* is applicable to all hybrids between *S. vulgaris* and *S. oblata* in the broad sense, regardless of which subspecies of *S. oblata* was represented in the parentage of any individual cultivar. The same principle applies with other Latin binomials for interspecific hybrids. The binomial *Syringa* × *prestoniae* McKelvey will be applicable to all hybrids of *S. villosa* with *S. komarowii* in the broad sense, whether the latter species was represented by ssp. *komarowii* or ssp. *reflexa*. If one wanted to indicate, by name alone, whether a certain hybrid was *S. villosa* × *S. komarowii* ssp. *komarowii* or *S. villosa* × *S. komarowii* ssp. *reflexa*, one could coin a new scientific name at the rank of nothosubspecies, i.e., hybrid subspecies, under *S. ×prestoniae*. Green & Chang were not obliged to create such a name, however, and under present circumstances, there does not seem to be a pressing need for such a name.

Likewise, the name *S. ×josiflexa* I.Preston ex J.S.Pringle will be applicable to all hybrids of *S. josikaea* with *S. komarowii* in the broad sense, whether *S. komarowii* was represented by ssp. *komarowii* or ssp. *reflexa*. The same principle applies to the use of the name *S. ×swegiflexa* Hesse ex J.S.Pringle for hybrids between *S. sweginzowii* and *S. reflexa* in the broad sense. The

fact that the epithets *josiflexa* and *swegiflexa* are derived in part from *reflexa* rather than *komarowii* does not mean that new epithets for these hybrids are required or even permitted under the **Code**. The possibility that the name of a parental species may be changed is one of the reasons that the **Code** recommends (but does not require) that the epithets of the parental species. In these cases, however, the epithets *josiflexa* and *swegiflexa* had already been widely used for decades before I gave them the status of valid publication under the **Code**; it was obvious, therefore, that the cause of nomenclatural stability would better be served by their validation than by their replacement with new epithets (Pringle, 1978). The names *Syringa* × *henryi* C.K.Schneid., for hybrids combining *S. josikaea* and *S. villosa*, and *S. × nanceiana* McKelvey, for *S. × henryi* × *S. sweginzowii*, are not affected by these changes in classification.

Another clarification appears to be appropriate here, since a potentially misleading statement on this subject, doubtless based on a misinterpretation, was attributed to me in a recent publication on lilacs. A species consists of all of its component subspecies and/or varieties, if it is so divided, and the name of a species, therefore, refers to all of its component subspecies and/or varieties, not to just one of them. For example, it is correct nomenclaturally to refer to *Syringa reticulata* without designating any subspecies thereof, but when one does so, one refers to the species as a whole without reference to its taxonomic subdivisions, i.e., to *S. reticulata* ssp. *reticulata* + ssp. *amurensis* + ssp. *pekinensis* considered collectively. To refer only to the Japanese tree lilac exclusive of the other subspecies, one must specify *S. reticulata* ssp. *reticulata*. Likewise, to refer precisely to the downy lilac, i.e., *S. pubescens* in the older, narrower sense, without inadvertently encompassing all four subspecies of Chang & Green's classification in the reference, one should specify *S. pubescens* ssp. *pubescens*. (An alternative would be to refer to *S. pubescens* in the strict sense, thereby indicating that one is not following Chang & Green's classification.) Also, using the term "the species" to mean only the nomenclaturally typical subspecies or variety of that species, when contrasting it with another subspecies or variety of the same species, is a grammatical absurdity as well as being an obsolete practice (if indeed it ever was acceptable) in plant taxonomy. One part of anything can differ from another part, but one part cannot differ from the whole of which it is a part.

Some readers of **Lilacs** may find my papers on type specimens and on typical varieties and autonyms (Pringle, 1983a, b) useful in interpreting the foregoing discussion and the list that follows.



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**Subgenus *Ligustrina* (Rupr.) K.Koch**

*S. reticulata* (Blume) H.Hare

ssp. *reticulata*

ssp. *amurensis* (Rupr.) P.S. Green & M.C. Chang

ssp. *pekinensis* (Rupr.) P.S. Green & M.C. Chang

**Subgenus *Syringa***

**Series *Syringa***

*S. vulgaris* L.

*S. oblata* Lindl.

ssp. *oblata*

ssp. *dilatata* (Nakai) P.S. Green & M.C. Chang

*S. protolaciniata* P.S. Green & M.C. Chang

*S. afghanica* C.K. Schneid.<sup>1</sup>

**Series *Pinnatifoliae* Rehder**

*S. pinnatifolia* Hemsl.

**Series *Pubescentes* (C.K. Schneid.) Lingelsh.**

*S. pubescens* Turcz.

ssp. *pubescens*

ssp. *patula* (Palib.) M.C. Chang & X.L. Chen

ssp. *julianae* (C.K. Schneid.) M.C. Chang & X.L. Chen

ssp. *microphylla* (Diels) M.C. Chang & X.L. Chen

var. *microphylla*

var. *potaninii* (C.K. Schneid.) P.S. Green & M.C. Chang

var. *flavanthera* (X.L. Chen) M.C. Chang<sup>1</sup>

*S. meyeri* C.K. Schneid.

var. *meyeri*

var. *spontanea* M.C. Chang<sup>1</sup>

*S. mairei* (H.Lév.) Rehder<sup>1</sup>

*S. pinetorum* W.W.Sm.<sup>1</sup>

*S. wardii* W.W.Sm.<sup>1</sup>

**Series *Villosae* C.K. Schneid**

*S. villosa* Vahl

*S. emodi* Wall. ex Royle

*S. wolfii* C.K. Schneid.

*S. josikaea* J.Jacq. ex Rchb.

*S. komarowii* C.K. Schneid.

ssp. *komarowii*

ssp. *reflexa* (C.K. Schneid.) P.S. Green & M.C. Chang

*S. tomentella* Bureau & Franch.

*S. sweginzowii* Koehne & Lingels.

*S. yunnanensis* Franch.

*S. tibetica* P.Y. Bai<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Not known to be in cultivation, or not known to be in cultivation outside China. Plants cultivated under some of these names or nomenclatural synonyms thereof in Europe and North America have been misidentified (see Pringle, 1979-1980, 1990).

## Seeking Donated Lilacs for 1997 I.L.S. Auction and Mackinac Island

Dear Fellow Members,

**D**uring my near 20 years participation in our "Society", the annual lilac auction has remained a highly anticipated, exciting and successful event. This has only been made possible by the many kind people who have donated plants, hotly bid on their favorites, and worked on the "auction team" to make the "auction block" work so efficiently. Each year many people are needed to accomplish the important auction goals of

- 1.) distributing the largest possible assortment and quantity of quality lilacs,
- 2.) boosting the I.L.S. treasury (*where all monies earned go to the "Society" for the good of all members including efforts to advance the status of lilacs through promotion, public education and research*) and
- 3.) having plenty of fun and hearty fellowship while strengthening our mutual lilac bonds.

This year I especially note the sad passing of dear friend, fellow member, and lilac auctioneer extraordinaire Col. Hanssen Schenker. Amazingly this mighty, yet jovial, military leader also had the talent and passion to convey every lilac's delicate beauty with irresistible style and persuasion! No doubt, he will continue to watch over and inspire every following auction from a higher place! And certainly all of us so blessed to have known him will continue to salute his many years of spirited loyalty and dedication to all I.L.S. projects and goals.

This coming I.L.S. meeting will be extremely exciting and a milestone for both I.L.S. and the people of Mackinac Island, MI. Our host is as new to us as we are to them! Immediately upon learning about our Society's friendliness and desire to foster a strong link between lilacs and all people, they joined us last year. Through frequent correspondence and phone conversations, I learned that the Island population has intense desires to

- 1.) expand their present lilac plantings to include as many different kinds as possible,
- 2.) to establish a "Lilac Trail" where the public could enjoy an impressive assemblage of lilacs,
- 3.) to get as much expert help as possible in identifying the true names of established lilacs, so they can be properly labeled, and
- 4.) to learn more about every aspect of lilacs for the sake of best maintaining their own plants and educating the great multitudes of annual visitors.

By helping the people of Mackinac Island attain their lilac goals, our

Society will be making great strides in spreading the good news of lilacs. In large part this is due to the very high favorable profile the Island has earned in the travel industry, and its key position in the vigorous Michigan State Park Department.

I volunteered to help coordinate the gathering of lilacs for this year's auction and for the Mackinac Island Chamber of Commerce. Unless the donor informs me otherwise, I will proceed as follows:

- whenever there is a duplication of lilacs received, one plant will be put aside as a gift from the donor to the people of Mackinac Island. Its care and eventual permanent planting for public benefit will be a responsibility agreeably accepted by the Chamber of Commerce. A donor may specify a donation of more than one plant per named kind.

Plants sent may be bare root, if dormant. I will pot them. All plants should be labeled using waterproof ink, or embossed or inscribed labels. Ship plants to me at below address (not P.O. Box).

By contacting me before shipping, and by checking the list that follows, unnecessary duplication can be avoided.

Although plants of 8 to 24 inches are probably most suitable for the auction, I will gladly accept all lilacs under 4 foot.

Often our auctions also included donated lilac related items such as paintings, fragrances, and textiles as well as plants that are not lilacs, yet are unusual. Such items can also be sent to me if donor is not able to attend the meeting.

All costs of shipping are to be paid by the donor unless other arrangements are made. No C.O.D. accepted.

March 15 – June 1st is ideal receiving time here. If other items suit donors better, please contact me before shipping.

The following lilacs are known to be growing on Mackinac Island, MI, as of October 31, 1996:

Alphonse Lavallée	Miss Ellen Willmott
Belle de Nancy	Mme. Antoine Buchner
Buffon	Mme. Lemoine
Charles X	Night
Congo	Oblata var dilatata
Diplomat	Paul Deschanel
Esther Staley	President Grévy
General Pershing	Rene Jarry-Desloges
George Bellair	Ruhm van Hortenstein
Le Printemps	Sensation
Macrostachya	Souv. de Louis Chasset
Maurice Barrés	Waldeck-Rousseau
Michael Buchner	William Robinson

To volunteer to help with the auction, contact:

John Carvill, 138 Old London Road, Latham, NY 12110.

If you wish to speak to someone on Mackinac Island regarding lilacs, our upcoming June meeting there, etc, here are additional contacts:

Mackinac Island Chamber of Commerce  
Mr. Len Trankina, Executive Director  
1-800-4-LILACS

I.L.S. members Mr. & Mrs. (Tim & Patty) Leeper  
1-907-847-6286

By donating plants you will be rewarded by knowing that your kindness and generosity is helping spread the good news of lilacs far and wide in the nicest of ways.

Whether you can help supply lilacs or not, your membership participation, when possible, in I.L.S. is invaluable. I hope to see all of you next June on Mackinac Island for our nicest meeting and best auction yet.

Thanks for your support in this endeavor and, as always, best regards.

Sincerely,

Bill Horman (William H.)

5745 Kensington St., Detroit, MI 48224-2044

1 - (313) 886-9343

## Distribution Committee Report

The Distribution Committee has two lilacs for distribution. Both are in the 15" to 18" size range. These plants are larger than with previous offers and should improve chances of success following transplanting. The two lilacs are these:

### *Syringa xjosiflexa* 'Elaine'

\$13.00 U.S., \$16.00 Canadian.

Produced by Isabella Preston in 1934, 'Elaine' is a single white. Pure white is difficult to find in a late blooming lilac so this is a unique offering. As with other cultivars of this type, the plant is very floriferous and produces many flowers every year.

### *Syringa vulgaris* 'De Miribel'

\$10.00 U.S., \$13.00 Canadian.

As was mentioned in an earlier Distribution Report, we hope to include one lilac at an extra reduced rate. This time it is 'De Miribel' introduced by Lemoine in 1903. It has long conical clusters and is listed as a single violet but it has deep blueish tones near the center and lighter tones along the edges.

There is no limit on quantity on these lilacs and the shipping and handling charges are included in the low quoted price.

For those wishing a complimentary catalogue from Select Plus International Nursery, please write to nursery at the address on the insert.

## Lilac Planting



*October 27th, a beautiful clear fall day, brought a group of about 65 friends and neighbors to Eleanor Roosevelt's Val Kill, known today as the "Stone Cottage" here in Hyde Park (Long Island, New York, U.S.A.).*

The occasion was the planting of a lilac that was developed by Dr. Joel Margaretten. The planting ceremony was presided over by Bob Gilbert with the aid of Orville and Ellen Steward. The friends were given a brief history of I.L.S. and the lilac plant took its place among many other lilacs. After the planting everyone went inside and heard a 30-minute talk given by Bob Gilbert relating his memories of the Roosevelt family. Many interesting stories were told by Bob, most of which had not been heard before. After the talk refreshments were served and congenial conversation was enjoyed for the next hour.

Dr. Joel Margaretten, a long time admirer of the Roosevelts hybridized this lilac plant and named it 'Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt'. He also hybridized another plant and named it 'Pres. Franklin D. Roosevelt'. That plant was put in the ground at the FDR Homesite without ceremony. It took a bit of doing to get the National Park Service to consent to these plantings.

*Sabra Gilbert*

## European Newsletter

by Colin Chapman, Executive Vice President - Europe  
Norman's Farm, Wyverstone, Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 4SF England

December 3, 1996

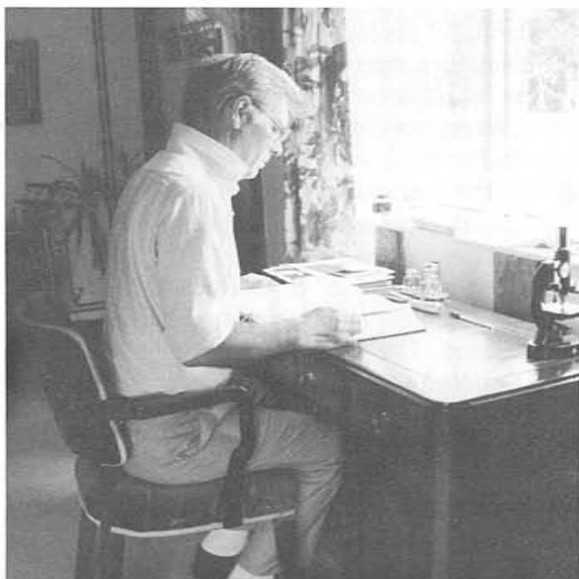
I had hoped to present a substantial article on propagation for this edition, but it remains incomplete due to recent ill-health. I should be able to submit it for consideration for the next edition.

**I**n *Lilacs* Vol. 23 No. 4 (1994), I wrote about a problem we had with a planning application on our boundary which would have blighted

our garden and the whole lilac collection. On that occasion, I.L.S. put in several severe objections on my behalf and we were fortunate enough to secure rejection of the application. I have now learned from Valeria van Jenisch that an intrusive and environmentally damaging development has been proposed alongside her country garden in Castelfranco E, Modena. Letters of protest have now been sent to the relevant Italian protection agency by President Reva Ballreich, Charles Holetich and myself. I know from my own experience how upsetting, frustrating and utterly unfair such a situation can be, and I sincerely hope that this intrusion onto Valeria's garden, with its big lilac collection, is dealt with as successfully as mine was. If you think you can help, please contact Valeria directly.

In my last article, I did commit an error in naming and, because I do not want to create an unfortunate synonym, I must point out the lilac I held in such awe was *Syringa vulgaris* 'Zhemchuzhina'.

This column has reached a state of pressing need; of exigency. I have written in detail of my own activities for more than a year – to such an extent that I.L.S. - Europe is in danger of sounding like a one-man-band. I cannot pass on news if I do not receive any, so please communicate with me. Any articles or comments for publication I will gladly pass on and, if you are unsure, any remarks you send to me with permission to use I will cheerfully edit or rewrite for you in my own inimitable way. The amount of



*The European Newsdesk*

work and development going on out there must be astonishing because our “European” designation is much wider than the actual continent.

You, the readers out there, are capable of telling us what is happening with lilac planting, breeding, development and discovery – as well as horticultural problems – across three-quarters of the world because our membership ranges from Ireland to Japan and from Finland to New Zealand. Please let us know what is happening. I will gladly act as clearinghouse, filter, interpreter, sub-editor and even, if you want it, poet. Just pick up a pen and write! I want every non-North American member to contact me during the year with some information of some kind, and even you Yankees can chip in provided you can take a little irreverent Anglo-Saxon humor in your stride!

At last my plant of *S. v. 'Rochester'* has set seed. I will sow a few to ensure that they are viable and, if they are, I will start hand-pollinating next season. The thought of crossing ‘Rochester’ with ‘Pol’ Robson’, or ‘P.P. Konchalovskii’ sends icy fingers of anticipation up and down my spine.



International Lilac Society

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