

Lilacs

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of the International Lilac Society

*IN
THIS
ISSUE:*

Welcome
New Members

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

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LILACS 2004

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Covers

Front

Syringa vulgaris 'Old Fashioned' about ¾ open. Will droop further and lose all red tones.

Photo Credit Colin Chapman

Back

Colin Chapman on right and "friend" on the left.

To show the courage of our President, notice who is carrying the gun.

If he is brave enough to face John Wayne, surely he can handle the Lilac Society with a little help from the membership.

Photo Credit Irene Stark

Next Issue Deadline

The next issue deadline will be December 8th. The issue will be labeled "2005" Since it will come out in 2005.

Don't forget memberships run out December 31 so dues are renewable as of that date. You can use the form on the back mailer sheet since it also contains Bill Tschumi's address. You can send checks or use your Visa or Master Card.

Quarterly Reminder

Now is the time to make notes on what went wrong - or could be improved - in your garden this year. Later on, after lilacs have dropped their leaves, will be too late to see diseases or other kinds of injury.

It is also a good time to plant new plants or move some from shade into more sun or to a place with better air circulation. Plant them in a generous-sized hole and don't let them dry out during the transplanting.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My main message for this edition is contained in the International Newsletter. Here I must give some time to express thanks to retiring servants and to take my first tentative steps in bringing in people who can help me in my plans to launch new technology and associated ideas within this Society.

I wish to thank John Carvill for his time as Chairman of the Auction Committee. A glance at the Treasurer's Report will show that membership dues no longer fund the whole costs of producing and posting copies of the Journal to all members. This is now subsidised by the sums raised at the auctions held at each Convention. We are thus dependent on the generosity of the donors of plants who have responded magnificently to our appeals. Just how magnificently can only be understood by reading carefully the names of the lilacs that have been sold at Conventions over the past few years. That list is awesome. Nowhere else in the world could such lilacs have been bought, each with an impeccable provenance. We have also been dependent on the skill of John as auctioneer. I for one will miss his inimitable style and I make a personal appeal here that he will continue to help and lend his presence to each sale. We are very fortunate indeed to have someone as capable as Woody Barnes in the wings and he has accepted my request to take over as Chairman.

It is simply an honour to thank Ellen Steward for her service as Chair of the Nominations Committee and wish her good health and good fortune. Ellen, Mrs. Orville M. Steward, is a Founding member of this Society and was a member of the Board of Directors at the First Annual Convention at Rochester in 1972. I can say no more than that she has been one of the stems from which the International Lilac Society has branched and grown.

Also, I need to thank Fran Northcut for her time as a member of the Board of Directors. Fran has retired before her term of office is complete so it is my intention to co-opt Mrs. Karen McCauley in her place. Karen has much expertise that I need to call upon when I need advice. She is Treasurer of the Minnesota Peony Society, but she has also been Treasurer of the Minnesota Hosta Society, and she was so at the time when they hosted the Convention of the American Hosta Society. That Convention had over 500 delegates which is more than we have members in total. She and Tim have also researched the origins of that group of Minnesota lilac and peony breeders which included Mabel L. Franklin, Bob Tischler and Archie Mack Brand. I hope to induce them both to produce an article about the origins of this fraternity. I have been exceptionally privileged to see the early results of that research.

I will retain the title of Executive Vice president for Europe, Asia and Australia. I am merely the figurehead because the job is essentially a bank account, and Shelagh is the Secretary of that. We have several libraries around the world in membership, and their annual fees are paid to us through international agents. Any change to those financial arrangements would involve several changes in currency, addresses and account numbers and I do not have the time to get involved in that, so I intend leaving those arrangements in place. If, however, anyone wishes to take on any of the jobs of Regional Vice President of Europe, of Asia, or of Australia, then please get in touch with me.

In the last edition Dr. Owen Rogers declared his desire to retire from the position of Editor of *Lilacs Quarterly Journal*. He made an appeal for anyone reading this who is ready and willing to take on this most critical of tasks to come forward and volunteer, and I must repeat that appeal now, and ask anyone who might be interested to contact either one of us. If you feel nervous about making a commitment then be assured that we will offer all the support that is possible and all the induction that might be necessary. I will not mention the contribution of Dr Rogers to this Society now. I will wait until he has actually hung up his quill pen before releasing the fireworks, opening the champagne and showering him with encomiums.

Colin Chapman,
President

INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER 1.

What is it about the lilac which draws us together to combine our talents and interests and put them to the service of studying and promoting this most lovely shrub? I know that we would all answer this question in a different way. One day it might be worthwhile collecting those different answers and compiling a feature for this journal.

It is this lovely flower that we have each made the conscious decision to come together, in this Society, to celebrate. Yet we can muster only about 400 of us throughout the whole world. Surely, we can do better than that? There must be more people out there whom we can contact and invite to join us. Do you realise that if each of us recruited just one new member we would double the size of the Society? Also, there must be some of you, dear readers who, instead of going on to give up membership, might be encouraged to stay if only we understood what you wanted, and were then able to tend to your needs. Please help me in my quest for more members by trying to recruit friend and stranger alike to the cause and, if you should decide to let your membership

lapse, please write to your Regional Vice President to tell of your expectations and how we have failed them. As a last desperate measure you can always write or e-mail me. Moan at me if you want to. Cuss me if you have to. At least, react to me. If you feel that you must go, then please tell me why and tell me what we might have done that might have tempted you to stay.

I'll tell you what. Deliver me a membership of 800 and I will sing you a song at the next Convention. Deliver a thousand to me and I will perform for you a rain dance in public. Double that for me and - oh dear me, we would all be in trouble then! In view of my promise (in LILACS vol. 32, no. 4, Page 148), future Convention attendees might just live to regret you doubling the fee for a rain dance! And, yes, I am winding you up and making a challenge, but only if all of you are up to taking me on and accepting the awesome consequence of achieving it. The important thing is that we are failing our favourite plant if we are not prepared to confront the whole cool temperate world in extolling her beauty and trying to recruit converts to the cause. I will make a start by coaxing my son into membership - by giving him an offer he can't refuse.

I wrote last time about the three phases of this season's flowering at Norman's Farm, but I wrote about them before that flowering was completed. Since one of the great complaints about the lilac is its short flowering season, then these notes might be of interest. It is not possible to equate the climate of East Anglia to any hardiness zone in North America. The United Kingdom has a mild maritime climate that is profoundly affected by the Gulf Stream. Last year, this country recorded its first ever temperature over 100 degrees F and a night temperature of minus 10 degrees F is regarded as very cold indeed. The country has a reputation for generosity of rainfall but the Eastern bulge into the North Sea where we live puts us outside the track of the Atlantic depressions so we have an average of 24 inches (60 cm) of rain and, memorably, in 1996 we had just 12 inches. Our greatest problem is winter and spring variability. We can experience May in January and midwinter freezing just as the lilacs open in May. This is not an ideal place to raise lilacs. Having said that, when the year is consistent and the previous summer moist, there is probably no place better.

Flowering begins in late March, under glass, when the exquisite white, stephanotis-like flowers of *Syringa pinnatifolia*, the Chinese feather-leaved lilac, begin to open. For me the fault of this extraordinarily foliaged plant is its tendency to become bare in the centre as it extends its flowering tips ever outwards and upwards. In April there appear the early *S. xhyacinthiflora* hybrids. These are very vulnerable to our frosts so they must be sheltered. I have written of big, bold 'Esther Staley' before and she has continued to be, for me, the Mae West of lilacs, flowering often for six weeks. 'Pink Cloud', 'Tom Taylor', 'Norah', and 'Buffon' are usually outstanding and I am now looking forward to planting, in

the shelter of the new Spinney, the cultivars so kindly sent to me by Nikolai Mikhailov.

The first vulgaris cultivar to flower I will mention at the end. These come through in three distinct, if overlapping, phases. Very early May brings the likes of 'Edward J Gardner', 'Silver King' and 'Mrs Trapman', but these are too early and are also usually devastated by late air frosts. Second and third weeks of May are usually free of frost so the main flowering begins and 'Krasavitsa Moskvyy' becomes the star of this next phase, and so does 'Utro Moskvyy', which stands just outside the window here, with small, neat, flower heads, the colour of a bronzed maiden's lipstick. (Yes, I am an unreconstructed male chauvinist, I admit but, at least, this is a much weaker image than the one I actually have in mind). This second phase is the main flowering of the vulgaris cultivars so we usually reach peak bloom here around May 14th. The third phase crosses the third and fourth weeks of May to end the vulgaris flowering with 'Taras Bul'ba', 'Etna', and 'Znamya Lenina' together with an unnamed seedling of my own which, at the moment, seems to be the last to flower.

Several of the Chinese species and the late-flowering Villosae Group will flower well into June. Of these the pale, amethyst 'Desdemona' is refined and elegant, and is easily my best but then she does stand shoulder to shoulder with 'Esther Staley' and in some years they have been seen flowering simultaneously. I mentioned the two reflexas last time, and I was also thrilled when I realised that *sweginzowii*, *tomentella*, *wolfii* and 'Miss Kim' had reached maturity at last, and that they had become an utterly spectacular adornment to mid June. My two tree lilacs, *S. pekinensis* L 1623, and what I take to be *S. reticulata* subsp. *amurensis*, (it was given to me by Kew as unidentified wild collected, but without a collection number), extend the flowering season into early July.

So, from late March to early July there are three and a half months of almost continuous flowering and still there are three more possibilities to come. This year they failed, but in the previous six years my two plants of *S. ×swegiflexa* both repeat flowered fully in late July. If the dead flowers are carefully removed, *S. meyeri* 'Palibin' will sometimes give a second flush in August. Triumphantly, in one memorable year, a senior horticulturist with an aversion to short-lived lilacs was sorely put out when he came to dinner here on November 24th and found in front of his plate a freshly cut posy of *S. pubescens* subsp. *microphylla* 'Superba'. That's the way to show an unbeliever!

This is a lilac that always quickens my heart when it flowers and, without fail, it impresses the visitors. It flowers so profusely and so early in the season that I suspect it is an hyacinthiflora in disguise. On March 14th this year, it was already showing 2 inches of primary flower bud expansion.

Syringa vulgaris 'Old Fashioned'. J. Clarke, San Jose, California, 1967.

This flowers so early that I have not yet dared plant it out to face our searing East Anglian winds. I have a substantial plant which is six feet (2 m) high and just as wide growing in an 18 inch diameter (50 cm) tub. The lilac is root pruned each year and repacked with compost and slow-release fertilizer, and it is now 11 years old. It grows in a small, enclosed, walled yard open to the sky. For this reason I will not give a formal description but one straight from the receptive old heart which it captivates every year.

In shape it is a globe, but that might be a factor of container growth and rigorous pruning rather than natural habit. As I have said, initial bud expansion is very early - so early that for nine years I failed to appreciate that a replacement must be grafted two months before the normal time for most lilacs. I have remembered these last two years and I now have two more small plants.

Secondary bud expansion comes about two weeks later so the first florets usually open here in early April. This is lethally early but the sheltered conditions allow the flowers to thrive. In each of the last eight years it has shown flowers for more than a month.

The initial flowering is a disappointment. Small, dull, mauve-lilac nonentities open in small upright spikes with no visual impact. One looks and one notes, though, that the single lobes are unusually long and slender. The separate flowers open slowly relative to one another so that even after three weeks there are still flower heads to open.

It is only after a week that two extraordinary effects begin to emerge. First, the long lobes get longer. As they age they first fold inwards longitudinally, and then they begin to reflex backwards. It is then that one begins to suspect that the little flower heads are getting bigger. Disbelief causes close observation and that leads to the inevitable conclusion that the flower heads continue to grow even after flowering has started and even after full flowering has been attained. And, believe me, this post-flowering growth is a marvel to behold. As the flower head gets bigger it also gets heavier and so it begins to droop and bend over until it becomes three-quarters pendant.

It is also ageing so the red tones fade, and the colour begins to slip towards the ultra-violet end of the spectrum until there is left a cool, steel blue flower. It is at this stage that visitors believe they are looking at a new form of shrub Wisteria, and are amazed to discover that it is a lilac. As the florets fade, the under margins of the lobes become silvery and the flower head reaches its most spectacular phase when it looks as if it has been sculpted on a lathe from freshly-turned stainless steel, and seen in a pale blue light. And it has yet one

more delight to offer, for in its maturity it breathes a delicate fragrance of almond essence. It is an incredible delight, and is the cultivar which has given me the conviction that a lilac can be neither appreciated nor understood by looking at it just once. It has to be observed over the whole course of its flowering and that could mean, with some, it is necessary to consult them at least once a day, and in some complex cases, every single hour. The mood changes of some lilacs can be as rapid, as subtle, and as satisfying as that.

Colin Chapman

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September 2nd 2004

RICHARD FENICCHIA-GREAT PLANTSMAN AND HYBRIDIZER

by Kent Millham

During my early years at Highland Botanical Park, I had the great privilege of working directly with Richard Fenicchia. I was educated in floriculture and ornamental horticulture at Cornell University, but it was working with Dick at Highland Park when my education in plants really began.

Dick was always a very devoted grower, hybridizer, and selector of plants; not only lilacs, but rhododendrons, azaleas, magnolias, dwarf conifers, begonias, kalanchoe, cacti- basically almost all plants. At the former growing greenhouses at Highland Park, the end house, which we called "Dick's house", contained a huge diversity of rare and unusual plants. The plants were accessions from other botanical gardens or arboreta, seedlings sowed from seed exchange material, or Fenicchia's own hybrids and selections. At any one time you might encounter *Rhododendron zoelleri*, an orange rhody from New Guinea, *Streptocarpus wendlandii*, a unifoliate cape primrose with one leaf up to 3' by 2 1/2', a cineraria almost 4' in height, and many named and unnamed selections of Dick's that were being propagated and evaluated.

Richard Fenicchia had no formal training in horticulture, but gained a love of gardening and plants from his father. In 1925, at the age of 16, he was hired by another great horticulturist of Highland Park, Barney Slavin. Under Slavin's tutelage, Fenicchia began his hybridizing experiments. One of his first hybrids was a white begonia, which was rare at the time. His hybridization efforts continued with azaleas, rhododendrons, viburnums, magnolias, and lilacs. One of his early azalea hybrids, *Rhododendron macranthum* 'Indica Alba', served as a focal point of the Easter or Spring Show at Lamberton Conservatory for 75 years.

His skills in propagation and hybridizing were honed to a great degree from 1925 to 1934. In 1934, however, Dick lost his job due to a change in the city government party. Dick refused to switch political parties because of his strong beliefs. During the interim period of 1934 to 1950, almost all of Dick's hybrids which weren't planted in the park were lost, including all of his early rhododendron crosses.

Dick's dedication to and love of plants ruled his life even during World War II. When stationed on an army ship near Australia and New Guinea, while other soldiers went on shore to go to the local pubs, Dick was exploring the countryside to investigate the local flora and to collect seeds.

In 1950, Dick was rehired to serve as Plant Propagator, and later Superintendent of Horticulture for Monroe County Parks until his retirement in 1978. With the return of Richard Fenicchia, the important propagation of woody plants began again in earnest in the Rochester Parks. Soon after he returned, in 1953 he noticed a flower on one of Alvan Grant's lilac seedlings which had 20 petals. He immediately recognized the importance of this breakthrough. Not only was the lilac named 'Rochester' beautiful, with its large, showy white clusters with an occasionally many-petaled floret, but it served as the foundation for a new lilac hybridizing program. The 'Rochester strain' of lilacs, with 'Rochester' as one or both of the parents, includes many outstanding varieties, such as 'Flower City', 'Frederick Law Olmsted', 'Sesquicentennial', 'Margaret Fenicchia', 'Dwight D. Eisenhower', and 'Alvan R. Grant'.

Dick's presence was important in many areas of horticulture. His contributions in developing many varieties of lilacs were monumental to horticulture and ILS, but by no means his only contribution. Over 300 hybrids were developed by Mr. Fenicchia in various genera such as *Syringa*, *Magnolia*, *Rhododendron*, *Viburnum*, and *Malus*. Some of his best include *Rhododendron* 'President Kennedy', *Rhododendron* 'Mrs. Alvan Grant', and *Magnolia liliflora* 'Nigra x Mag. x soulangeana 'Lennei', a late blooming dark purple magnolia which is unaffected by late Rochester frosts. Dick was an important member of many plant societies, including ILS, International Plant Propagator's Society, American Magnolia Society, and American Rhododendron Society.

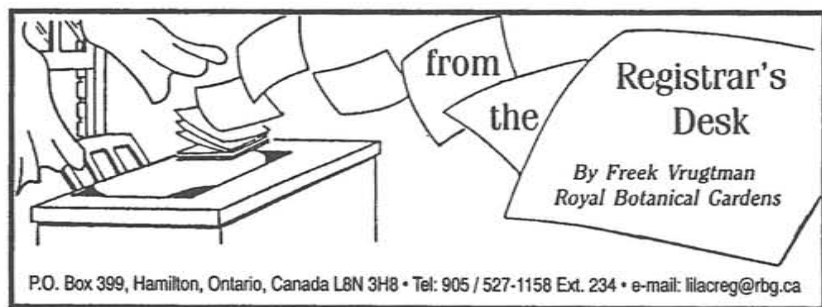
Dick was also interested in saving the American Chestnut, and grew many seedlings of American Chestnut in the county nurseries. Several would get to 20 ft. in height before succumbing to Chestnut Blight. He felt that the process of natural selection would eventually develop a resistant seedling.

Although Dick retired in 1978, he continued to come on a weekly basis to Highland Park. Every Tuesday, he would tend to his cuttings and seedlings in the propagation house. He continued to make cuttings of rhododendrons and lilacs every year. In 2002, the last of his unnamed azalea hybrids were planted in Highland Park in the Pinetum collection, providing a showy entrance to this part of the arboretum.

In 1979, along with Alvan Grant, Mr. Fenicchia helped form a non-profit support group called Monroe County People for Parks. The purpose of this group was to promote the growth and expansion of Monroe County Parks, which is an especially important mission in these times of budgetary constraints. Other projects he became involved with after retirement included being a donator and volunteer in forming a new arboretum in Webster, NY, with many plants from his own nursery donated to enrich the collection.

As I stated, Mr. Fenicchia's importance to the horticultural world was monumental, due to his creation of many new and outstanding hybrids, and development and fostering of Highland Botanical Park as an arboretum. He greatly expanded the Rhododendron collection, which now looks like a native grove growing under an open coniferous forest. The lilac collection now includes many superior varieties of Dick's creation. His love of the hybrids was always evident, because when they were blooming, he would frequently stop, grab a handful of blooms, and smother his face in it to inhale the heavenly fragrance. However, I fondly remember Dick because I considered him my teacher and mentor, and he taught me many valuable lessons, both small and large.

One of the most important lessons, although it was a small detail, was when planting a tree, always tamp the soil around it with your heel, not your toe. This lesson he passed along from his mentor, Barney Slavin. When planting rhododendrons, put a 4" pot of sulfur in the bottom of the planting hole, as well as a large dose of peat moss. In the nursery, remove competition next to the plants, including removing persistent weeds such as dock or bindweed (a task I performed when waiting for more important jobs). Hybridizing is important to create new varieties of plants, but propagation is important to perpetuate varieties and the plant collection. Rejuvenation is an important job to be done with lilacs, in order to stimulate the more vigorous new growth. Forcing of plants is an art, and forcing woody plants for shows must be carefully scheduled. Put the background of a floral display in first. Most importantly, all tasks involved with growing and cultivation of plants are important, whether it be watering, spraying, pruning, weeding, record keeping, planting, propagation, or hybridizing. Finally, don't concentrate on the love of one type of plant, because there is interest and beauty in all types of plants.



Syringa (Villosae Group) 'Charisma' and 'Shantelle'—phytoplasma induced lilac cultivars

In 2002 two new cultivars in the Villosae Group appeared on the market. *Syringa* ×*prestoniae* 'Charisma' was selected, named and introduced by Ron Boughen, Boughen Nursery, Valley River, Manitoba, Canada. *S. ×prestoniae* 'Shantelle' was selected, named and introduced by Ed Bron, Bron & Sons Nursery Co., Grand Forks, British Columbia, Canada.

'Charisma' and 'Shantelle' are characterized by slow growth and bunched branchlets, a habit that suggests their suitability as hedge plants. Their blooming habit, single and purple, is identical to that of *S.* (Villosae Group) 'Royalty'; in fact they appear to have derived independently from lilac witches'-broom on 'Royalty', caused by mycoplasma-like organisms or MLOs.

Through cooperation of Dr Thompson tissue samples of 'Charisma' were analyzed at the Centre for Plant Health, Sidney, British Columbia. The presence of phytoplasma was confirmed, most likely being lilac witches'-broom; precise identification of the phytoplasma would require additional laboratory work. (In litt Thompson to Vrugtman, December 8, 2003.)

The process of deriving cultivars from witches'-broom is not a new one; coniferous cultivars with congested foliage such as 'Blue Shag' white pine, 'Little Gem' Norway spruce, and 'Hobbit' Japanese larch were originally propagated from witches'-brooms. Some of the newer cultivars of poinsettia (*Euphorbia pulcherrima*) are virus induced. The International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants recognizes that, "Plants of a clone which are derived from aberrant growth may form a cultivar" (Chapter 2, Article 2.8; Example 4). Similarly, plants derived from aberrant growth are not excluded from protection under Plant Breeders' Rights legislation.

There is, however, one significant difference between planting a conifer cultivar derived from a witches'-broom to the conifer collection in one's garden, and planting a lilac infected with lilac witches'-broom in one's lilac collection! A dwarf or slow-growing conifer cultivar derived from witches'-broom is usually not considered a diseased plant since the organism that causes the witches'-broom does not appear to spread to other nearby plants. Introducing plants infected with lilac witches'-broom to a lilac collection (or garden, park, or nursery) not yet afflicted by that disease, however, may not be a wise thing to do.

Being knowledgeable about the plants one obtains and about their sources is

the best protection.

Acknowledgments

The Registrar is indebted to Frank Moro, Select Plus International Nursery, Mascouche, Quebec, for alerting him to these new cultivars; to Ron Boughen, Boughen Nursery, Valley River, Manitoba, Canada, for making available tissue of 'Shantelle'; and to Dr Dan Thompson, Centre for Plant Health, Sidney, British Columbia, Canada, for obtaining and analyzing tissue samples.

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BOERNER Peking Tree Lilac – neither a clone, nor a cultivar

DataScope® Botanical Index, Guide to Commercial Nomenclature, 1995 ed., p. 112, lists *Syringa pекinensis* Boerner; no source of information recorded.

Select Plus International Nursery, in its Spring 2000 electronic catalogue, p. 27, lists *S. pекinensis* Boerner. The 2004 on-line catalogue confirms that this item is in production. No description accompanies these listings.

After a long investigation we have pieced together the history of this lilac.

Boerner Botanical Gardens, Milwaukee, MN, obtained seed of *Syringa pекinensis* from the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, Chanhassen, MN. From this seed two plants were raised as single-trunk specimens (accession numbers 82-7A and 82-7B). In the late 1980s cuttings were taken to Knight Hollow Nursery, Inc.,

Middleton, WI, for vegetative reproduction of the two trees. (The original trees at Boerner Botanical Gardens, 82-7A & B, have since died.) (M. Zautke, in litt.)

Knight Hollow Nursery propagated 82-7A & B; for convenience the resulting plants were tagged "Boerner Selection". Since it had not been a requirement to propagate the two accessions separately, the resulting plants were a mixture. Of the potted liners produced (total number not on record) six were returned to Boerner Botanical Gardens. (Of the six plants returned to Boerner Botanical Gardens three were planted in the trial garden, but were removed and discarded during construction of the new visitor center in 2001. There is no record of the other three plants.) (D. McCown, in litt.)

Charles Klehm & Son Nursery, South Barrington, IL, received some, if not all, of the remaining liners of the one-time propagation at Knight Hollow Nursery, Inc. There are no accurate records, but Charles Klehm & Son Nursery sold these lilacs; no plants remain. (R.G. Klehm, in litt.)

Longenecker Garden, the University of Wisconsin Arboretum, Madison, WI, purchased a Boerner tree lilac from Charles Klehm & Son Nursery in 1995. Since, as an ornamental tree, it was inferior to 'Morton', it has been removed and discarded. (E. R. Hasselkuss, in litt.)

Select Plus International Nursery, Mascouche, Quebec, Canada, obtained its original plant from the University of Wisconsin Arboretum, Madison, WI, in 1999 or 2000.

It has become clear from the, albeit incomplete record trail that this Peking tree lilac does not fit the definition of either a clone (the aggregate of the asexually produced progeny of an individual plant), or a cultivar. The plants grown under the designation BOERNER have no distinguishing characteristics other than those of *Syringa reticulata* subsp. *pekinensis* (Rupr.) P.S. Green & M.C. Chang.

Sources of information:

DataScape® Botanical Index, Guide to Commercial Nomenclature, 1995 ed.

Select Plus Nursery, Spring 2000 electronic catalogue.

in litt. M. Zautke to F. Vrugtman, February 3, 2003.

Select Plus Nursery, 2004 on-line catalogue.

in litt. D. McCown to F. Vrugtman, January 29, 2004.

in litt. R. G. Klehm to F. Vrugtman, January 30, 2004.

in litt. E. R. Hasselkuss to F. Vrugtman, February 2, 2004.

in litt. F. Moro to F. Vrugtman, February 4, 2004.

'Ville de Troyes' Lilac – some plants are not true to name

Our Moscow, Russia, correspondents Tatiana Poliakova and Irina Semyonova inquired about apparent discrepancies in descriptions of *Syringa vulgaris* 'Ville de Troyes' (Baltet pre 1868), originally describes as single and magenta, or S VI. Sergey Tereshchenko (2003), in his book "Lilacs in the South-East of Ukraine" describes 'Ville de Troyes' as "3 corollas, diameter 2 cm, purple outside and deep-pink inside. Flower clusters 16 cm". In their book "Lilacs" Rubanik, Mel'nik and Parshina (1977) describe

'Ville de Troyes' as "D VII, 3 corollas plus one petal, diameter 2.0-2.3 cm, flower clusters 20 cm long". Rubtzov, Zhogoleva and Lyapunova (1961), in "Lilac Garden", describe 'Ville de Troyes' as "Florets red, double, up to 2 cm in diameter, flower clusters up to 18 cm long. In dendrarium we have six 7-8 years old shrubs."

Misidentifications of 'Ville de Troyes' are not restricted to eastern Europe. Joseph Dvorak, in his "Lilac Study", describes it as "2 to 3 corollas, beautiful pink effect. Inner corollas pale pink to creamy, outer corolla pink".

The most reliable reference appears to be Susan D. McKelvey's book "The Lilac-A Monograph". Here one finds all the early description; the florets always single and purple. McKelvey also describes the plants she saw at Rochester Parks, New York, "Flowers single, medium to large in size; lobes only sometimes cucullate; tone dark; color in bud Dark-Maroon Purple to Auricula Purple; when expanded Magenta with margin of Liseran Purple without, a solid color within. Clusters pyramidal, open, medium size."; the plants described were received from Victor Lemoine et fils in 1907. We asked Bob Hoepfl and Kent Millham to check the records and learned that these records also confirm that their plants had single flowers.

So, the question is, where did these errors enter the lilac literature or, more precisely, where did they enter the lilac collections where these descriptions were prepared? In Europe the initial error must have occurred in the 1950s or earlier; a search of the plant records of the collections involved may take us closer to the original misidentification.

Joseph Dvorak carried out his "Four year study" at The Morton Arboretum; the annotation "ARB." indicates that Dvorak was drawing flowers from a plant in the Arboretum. "Woody plants of The Morton Arboretum-a handlist . . .", lists one 'Ville de Troyes', # 2424-22; the 1990 edition of "Woody plants . . ." no longer lists 'Ville de Troyes'. We checked with Ed Hedborn, Plant Records Manager at The Morton Arboretum, and learned that the 1975 Morton Arboretum catalogue has the notation "probably not true". Plants remained in the lilac collection until Floyd Swink, Plant Taxonomist, annotated them as "Not True" in 1979. All Arboretum 'Ville de Troyes' plants were subsequently discarded in 1980; no 'Ville de Troyes' lilacs remain in their living collections. Unfortunately, there are no herbarium vouchers of # 2424-22, the only 'Ville de Troyes' accession the in The Morton Arboretum ever had. In the end, we do not know what Dvorak looked at, but as Ed Hedborn states in his communication: "I would assume that Dvorak used what turned out to be not true material for his drawings [of 'Ville de Troyes']."

We acknowledge and thank Tatiana Poliakova and Irina Semyonova for pointing out the discrepancy and for translating the relevant passages from Russian to English.

References:

Dvorak, J. jr, J. L. Fiala, editor. 1978. A four year study at Lilacia Park, The Morton Arboretum, etc. International Lilac Society. (p. 69).

Eickhorst, W.E., et al. 1972. Woody plants of The Morton Arboretum-A handlist of plants established or tried in the woody plant collections. The Morton Arboretum. (p.

Hedborn, E., in litt. to F. Vrugtman, February 11, 2004.

McKelvey, S.D. 1928. *The Lilac-A Monograph*. Macmillan, New York. (pp. 395-396).

Poliakova, T., and I. Semyonova, in litt. to F. Vrugtman, April 15, 2003.

Tereshchenko, S. 2003. Lilacs in the South-East of Ukraine. Donetsk - in Russian (p. 93).

Rubanik, V.G., A.F. Mel'nik, & Z.I. Parshina. 1977. Lilacs. Alma-Ata - in Russian (p. 57).

Rubtzov, L.I., V.G. Zhogoleva & N.A. Lyapunova. 1961. Sad Sireni (lilac garden). Kiev; Ukrainian Academy of Sciences - in Russian (p. 67).

Lilacs That Go by Another Name

It is unfortunate, it is confusing, but some lilac cultivars enter the market-place not under their legitimate cultivar name, but under a trade designation. The reasons for using this marketing device vary. Nurserymen may want to retain the right to sell their product under a brand or trademark; these are not names, they never replace the cultivar name, but they are used in addition to the cultivar name or, using legalese, in addition to the varietal denomination. We distinguish two types of trademarks; the ones that are established and maintained by usage usually have the symbol TM, the ones that have been registered have the symbol ®; we say "usually", because there appears to be no great consistency. That is of course where the problem starts; whenever the symbols TM and ® are omitted a trademark or trade designation can easily be mistaken for a cultivar name.

Not all trade designations are trademarks. Some cultivar names are cumbersome and were shortened by the nurserymen selling them. The well-known purple lilac 'Andenken an Ludwig Späth' has been on the market in North America as LUDWIG SPAETH for as long as anyone can remember. LUDWIG SPAETH is a trade designation, not a cultivar name; trade designations are not enclosed in single quotation marks; trade designations are not synonyms of the legitimate cultivar name.

Some cultivar names appear to be unacceptable or undesirable in certain countries. Australians object to the name 'Kum-Bum', introducing the trade designation PHILLIP ADAMS.

Article 15 of the International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants-2004 recommends that trade designations be distinguished typographically, such as by using small capitals as is done in this article, and as has been done in the International Register and Checklist of Cultivar Names in the Genus *Syringa*. If this precaution is not taken trademarks and trade designations will easily masquerade as *bona fide* cultivar names and give rise to confusion.

Following a list of trade designations know to us at the present time. For more information consult the Lilac Register and Checklist.

Trade designation:

Cultivar name:

BEIJING GOLD™	'Zhang Zhiming'
BLUE SKIES®	'Monore'
BURGUNDY QUEEN®	'LECBurg'
CHINA SNOW™	'Morton'
COPPER CURLS™	'SunDak'
ELFE™	'Dark Night'
ELFENKÖNIG™	'Sunset'
FAIRY DUST™	'Baildust'
FLAMINGO™	'Edward J. Gardner'
FRAU HOLLE™	'St Margaret'
IVORY PILLAR™	'Willamette'
JOSÉE™	'MORjos 060F'
LUDWIG SPAETH	'Andenken an Ludwig Späth'
MISS AMERICA	'Agnes Smith'
MISS SUSIE™	'Klmone'
MISS USA™	'Agnes Smith'
PHILLIP ADAMS	'KUM-BUM'
REGENT®	'PNI 7523'
REGENT BRAND	'PNI 7523'
RÊVE BLEU™	'Delreb'
ROSENROT	'Maiden's Blush'
SCHNEEWEIßSCHEN™	'Mount Baker'
SCHÖNE VON MOSKAU™	'Krasavitsa Moskvj'
SIGNATURE™	'Sigzam'
SNOWCAP™	'Elliott'
STERNTALER™	'Primrose' (Holden)
SUGAR PLUM FAIRY™	'Bailsugar'
SUMMER CHARM®	'DTR 124'
TINKERBELLE™	'Bailbelle'
WATERTOWER®	'Morton'

Literature references:

Brickell, C. D., et al. 2004. International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants. 7th ed. Acta Horticulturae 647. Leuven; International Society for Horticultural Science.

Trehane, P. 2001. Trademarks are not names! Hortax News 1(5):27-32.

Vrugtman, F. 2004. International Register and Checklist of Cultivar Names in the Genus *Syringa* L. (Oleaceae). Hamilton; Royal Botanical Gardens.

LILAC TRIVIA

by Freek Vrugtman

LILACIA

In the 1870s Colonel William Plum and his wife Helen Maria Williams Plum settled in the new village of Lombard, formerly known as Babcock's Grove, Illinois. The Colonel purchased land on the corner of Park and Maple. The estate eventually became known as "Lilacia", said to be the Latin term for lilac. Challenge: We have not been able to find the word "Lilacia" in any dictionary or encyclopaedia; let us know if you can find it.

THE FRANKTOWN LILAC TOKENS

As everyone in Lilacdom knows (Ed. Note: according to the people of Franktown), Franktown, Ontario, is the "Lilac Capital of the World", and the place where the annual "Franktown Lilac Festival" takes place. However, only the local residents and a few collectors will know that in 1998 Franktown (Township of Beckwith) issued a five dollar (Canadian) Municipal Trade Token. Designed by Serge Pelletier, it is a 38 mm diameter, plain edged, enamelled token. The 1,000 circulation tokens are Antique Bronze enamelled. Also issued were 200 collector tokens, 100 Silver Plated enamelled and 100 Gold Plated enamelled. The design, you guessed it, shows lilac florets and buds. This Municipal Trade Token made history in the numismatic world, because it was the first circulating enamelled token. Color reproductions can be seen on the web site <http://www.eligi.ca/Eligi_Consultants_Inc/english/index.html> , click on "Municipal Trade Tokens" (in the bottom bar), and you can learn more about these tokens; click on "Archives", followed by "Municipal Trade Tokens", and you can find the picture of the "Franktown, Ontario - 5 Dollars 1998" token.

The designer, Serge Pelletier, is a graduate of l'École des arts visuels de l'Université Laval, Québec; he is a painter, sculptor, goldsmith and writer.

***Syringa oblata* var. *donaldii* – not a validly published name**

The late John L. Fiala, in his book "Lilacs—The Genus *Syringa*" (1988; Portland, Timber Press), on pages 61-62, proposes a new botanical variety, *Syringa oblata* var. *donaldii* R.B. Clark & J.L. Fiala. However, the publication of the name *Syringa oblata* var. *donaldii* did not constitute valid publication under the provisions of the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature (ICBN). Article 7 establishes the requirement of a nomenclatural type (holotype); it is the element to which the name of a taxon is permanently attached. Article 8 states that for the purpose of typification a specimen is a gathering, or part of a gathering, of a single species or infraspecific taxon made at one

time. Article 37 establishes the requirement that the name of a new taxon is valid only when the type of the name, the nomenclatural type, is indicated in the publication. The name *Syringa oblata* var. *donaldii* was published without the citation of the type in the sense required by the ICBN; therefore the name was not validly published.

Although R.B. Clark & J.L. Fiala appear to cite a herbarium specimen at the United States National Arboretum (USNA), Washington, D.C., as the type, this can not be considered a single specimen prepared at one time. The number cited, namely N.A. 39951, is the accession number assigned to the particular seed-lot at the time it was received by the U.S. National Arboretum. The first generation progeny of this seed cannot be considered to constitute a single specimen prepared at one time.

The correct name of the plants grown from the seed-lot N.A. 39951 probably is *Syringa oblata* subsp. *dilatata* (Nakai) P.S. Green & Mei-Chen Chang, the name originally attached to this seed-lot.

History

According to the records at the U.S. National Arboretum, the seed was collected from four different trees of wild provenance in the Republic of Korea, and sent to the USNA by Dr YimKyong Bin, Seoul National University College of Education. It was received in December 1978 by USNA and accessioned as N.A. 39951.

May 2004 there are 32 plants of this accession growing in the research collection at USNA. Earlier, Dr Donald Egolf (1928-1990), had selected 17 of the seedlings, assigning selection numbers beyond the initial N.A. 39951 accession number. Three of these selections were assigned unique NA numbers and distributed in 1994 to nine to eleven nurseries for evaluation.

Acknowledgements

The writer is grateful to Dr James S. Pringle, Plant Taxonomist, Royal Botanical Gardens, for his suggestions and interpretation of the ICBN; and to Dr Margaret Pooler, Research Geneticist, USDA/ARS USNA, providing information on the lilacs of accession N.A. 39951.

Contribution No. 124, Royal Botanical Gardens, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

Do you have *Syringa pinetorum* growing in your collection?

If you do, please check its identity.

Why do we ask? To our, albeit limited knowledge *Syringa pinetorum* has not yet been introduced to cultivation. Susan D. McKelvey stated that in her book in 1928; John L. Fiala repeated it in his book in 1988; James S. Pringle confirmed it in 1990, and Peter S. Green repeated it in 1995. They also explained why there are still plants in collections and nurseries growing under the name of *Syringa pinetorum*. About 1914 George Forrest collected in China seed of a lilac he believed to be *S. pinetorum*, sending it to Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh; from there the seeds were distributed to other botanical gardens. Plants grown from those seeds turned out to be *Syringa yunnanensis*. As it happens so often, some people got the message, others never did. Some people

realized that they did not have what they were supposed to have received and updated their records accordingly; some realized they had *S. yunnanensis*, others were puzzled, or careful, changing the label to *Syringa* sp., or unknown lilac.

The labels and records concerning *Syringa pinetorum* in a number of collections will have been updated this spring, 2004. Most of the plants concerned turned out to be *Syringa yunnanensis*, but a few were not; they were not even closely related species. So, do **not** just change the name and the record, but take a closer look at your plant and its characteristics.

In addition, if you know where you obtained your plants originally, contact the people who supplied you with your plant and share this information with them. With your help we may, finally, after almost ninety years, remove an erroneous name from collections and commercial nurseries, perhaps just in time before the real *Syringa pinetorum* enters our gardens.

One or more plants labelled *Syringa pinetorum*, source unknown, were auctioned off during the 16th Annual Convention of the International Lilac Society at Denver, Colorado. Should you have bought one, do update your records and labels.

Following is the description of *Syringa yunnanensis*, which may be of help in determining what you have, or do not have, under the name of *Syringa pinetorum*.

Syringa yunnanensis

Shrubs 2–5 m. Branchlets terete or slightly four-angled, usually glabrous. Petiole 0.5–2 cm, glabrous; leaf blade elliptic, elliptic-lanceolate, to oblanceolate, 2–8(–13) ? 1–3.5(–5.5) cm, glabrous or abaxially rarely pubescent along veins, base cuneate or rarely subrounded, apex acute or short acuminate. Panicles erect, terminal, 5–18 ? 3–12 cm; rachis and pedicel puberulent or rarely lanose. Pedicel 0.5–1.5 mm. Calyx 1–2.5 mm, glabrous or rarely lanose. Corolla white to lilac-red, 0.7–1.2(–1.7) cm; tube funnelliform, 5–8(–13) mm; lobes oblong, spreading. Anthers yellow, usually inserted up to 2 mm from mouth of corolla tube. Capsule oblong, 1.2–1.7 cm, slightly lenticellate. Flowering May to June, fruiting in September.

Literature cited:

Chang, Mei-Chen, & Peter S. Green. 1996. *Syringa* L. in *Flora Reipublicae Popularis Sinicae* (Flora of the People's Republic of China) Volume 15, pp. 282. (English translation; St Louis, Missouri Botanical Garden).

Fiala, J. L. 1988. *Lilacs—The genus Syringa*. Portland; Timber Press.

McKelvey, S. D. 1928. *The lilac—A monograph*. New York; Macmillan.

Green, P. S. 1995. Some taxonomic changes in *Syringa* L. (Oleaceae), including a revision of series *Pubescentes*. *Novon* 5:332.

Pringle, J. S. 1990. An updated summary of currently accepted botanical nomenclature at the specific and varietal levels in *Syringa*. *Lilacs. Quarterly Journal of the International Lilac Society* 19(4):79.

Syringa pubescens subsp. *patula* 'De Belder' De Belder & Fiala 1988; S IV

Synonym: *Syringa debelderorum* R.B. Clark & J.L. Fiala (*Syringa debelderi*)

Robert De Belder (1921-1995) and his wife Jelena De Belder-Kovačić (1925-2003), amateur horticulturists and, at the time, proprietors of Arboreta Kalmthout and Domain Hemelrijk (Essen), Belgium, collected seeds of a lilac in Mount Sorak National Park, South Korea. The seeds were distributed; some of these seeds were received by The Arnold Arboretum and by the United States National Arboretum (NA 42179). Robert B. Clark and John L. Fiala named and described *Syringa debelderi* (Fiala 1988, p. 48); because the name was chosen to honor the De Belders, the epithet was subsequently corrected to *Syringa debelderorum* (P. S. Green 1989). Since the plants appear to be well within the (descriptive) range of *Syringa pubescens* subsp. *patula*, and since the plant at Falconskeape (NA 42197-F3810) has been vegetatively propagated and introduced, we have proposed the cultivar name 'De Belder'.

Plants of 'De Belder' are slow-growing, to about 70 cm high and to 40 cm in diameter (six year old plants); canes and branches slender, slow-growing and somewhat twiggy. Leaves to 7 cm long and 5 cm wide, opposite, apex narrowly acuminate, elliptic-ovate to oblong, base broad-cuneate to rounded, dull medium-green, slightly pubescent to glabrous above, slightly whitish pubescent beneath. Primary and secondary veins conspicuous and raised beneath. Inflorescences originating from terminal and lateral buds; thyrses to 6 cm long and to 3.5 cm wide. Flower buds lavender-purple; tubes paler lavender, about 4 mm long; florets single, opening to a medium to pale lavender-purple; slightly fragrant but not pronounced. Seed capsules from 1-1.4 cm long, warty, often with 4 seeds per capsule; self-fertile. 'De Belder' appears to be entirely hardy to -20°C, or USDA hardiness Zone 6; we lack reports on hardiness in colder zones.

References consulted:

De Belder, Jelena. 1998. Het leven begint in de herfst—vier seizoenen in het Arboretum Kalmthout. Warnsveld, Terra/Lannoo. (in Dutch).

Fiala, John L. 1988. Lilacs-The Genus *Syringa*. Portland, Timber Press.

Green, Peter S. 1989. Lilacs, The Genus *Syringa*. Fr. John L. Fiala. [book review]. The Kew Magazine 6(2):90-92.

Tringus

SUDDEN OAK DEATH ON THE MOVE

This report is taken with permission as a pest alert from the Massachusetts Introduced Pests Outbreak Project. It was published in the Horticultural News Notes in the ASHS Newsletter Vol 20 (7) July 2004.

The pathogen causing sudden oak death, *Phytophthora ramorum*, has been found outside the quarantine area in California. In March 2004, two nurseries in southern California, Monrovia Nursery in Azusa, California (Los Angeles County) and Specialty Plants inc., in San Marcos, California (San Diego County), had Viburnum and Camellia plants that tested positive for *P. ramorum*. *P. ramorum* has a broad host range infecting about 50 species, including lilacs, in 15 different plant families.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has contacted nurseries and consumers who received plant material as part of their trace forward survey. Over 1200 establishments across the United States have received plant materials from Monrovia including four in the state of Massachusetts. Infected stock has been detected in California, Florida, Washington, Oregon, Texas, Colorado, Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina, New Mexico, Tennessee, and Virginia. Specialty Plants, Inc., a web-based retailer, ships plants all over the country. Two hundred customers in Massachusetts alone received mail order plants from them. New regulations were put in place on April 22 requiring that all nurseries in California shipping out of state must test negative for *P. ramorum*. For the most up-to-date regulatory information and a list of regulated hosts visit the USDA, APHIS website: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ispm/sod/>

Sudden oak death surveys will be conducted around the United States. In Massachusetts, 25 nurseries will be sampled this year as part of the USDA Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey. Inspectors from the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (DAR) will collect samples and plant pathologists from the University of Massachusetts will analyze them. In addition, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation and the U.S. Forest Service will conduct a survey concentrating on natural areas in Massachusetts.

Nurseries are the first line of defense to prevent this pathogen from becoming established in the Northeast. If the presence of the pathogen can be detected early, we are more likely to minimize losses and limit the spread or prevent establishment of this pathogen. Look for symptoms of *Phytophthora* infection on known host plants received from California. Photos and descriptions of these symptoms and links to further information on sudden oak death are available at: <http://www.massnrc.org/pests/pestFAQsheets/suddenoakdeath.html>. If you have suspect plants, do not move plants or discard them in the compost pile.

Phytophthora can persist in soil and water, and we do not want to be distributing the pathogen outside of the nursery where it may find wild hosts to survive on. Call the MDAR at (617) 626-1779 to report suspect plants.

The pest alert is from the Massachusetts Introduced Pests Outreach Project, a collaborative project between the Massachusetts Dept. of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) and the UMass Extension Agriculture and Landscape Program aimed at preventing the establishment of new pathogens and pests in Massachusetts.

DANGER UNDERGROUND

ARMILLARIA – A DESTRUCTIVE GARDEN PATHOGEN*

**Taken from an article published in The Garden Nov.1997 by Dr. Debra Whitehead and Ana Pérez working on species of Armillaria some of which are destructive garden pathogens.*

New diagnostic technique to identify species of *Armillaria* (honey fungus):

Although especially common in the southeast of England, honey fungus occurs in all parts of the UK and in many other countries. It is the subject of at least 10% of all queries received by the Plant Pathology Department at Wisley.

The name 'honey' refers to the light brown caps of the toadstools, which are usually formed in early autumn, so toadstools found growing at other times of the year are usually innocent bystanders. Most mushrooms and toadstools in gardens do no harm at all, and some are beneficial in that they break down organic matter into simpler nutrients that can be used by plants. Honey fungus toadstools vary greatly in size and hue, and can be difficult to identify positively. However, they are only one indicator of disease, and other symptoms should be checked.

As the fungus has a wide host range of both broad-leaved and coniferous trees and shrubs, the death of an established plant should always be investigated. Death may occur almost overnight or follow a decline over a year or two. This will often depend upon the vigour of the plant before it was attacked. A period of drought, which weakens the plant, will increase the severity of the disease and hasten death.

Recognising honey fungus

The most reliable symptom of honey fungus attack is fungal growth, or mycelium, in the roots. This will be revealed when the bark of the roots or the main stem at or below ground level is peeled off. The mycelium is a thin, creamy or dirty-white layer or fine fan, that has a strong mushroomy smell. If infection is well advanced the bark will come away easily from the roots and the wood will resemble soggy balsa wood.

Once a tree or shrub becomes infected, the honey fungus will feed on the dead or dying plant while traveling in the soil to its next victim by means of long strands or rhizomorphs. These give honey fungus its other name – bootlace fungus. Like the toadstools, rhizomorphs vary greatly, resembling chunky bootlaces or thick button thread. They are very tough, brown or black in colour, and grow at about 1m (3 feet) a year in the soil, mostly through the top 20cm (8in). When the tip of a rhizomorph reaches the roots of the next

host, it penetrates the bark and begins to invade the wood. It can also spread by direct contact between diseased and healthy roots.

Prevention is better than cure because chemical control is rarely effective. Where gardens are infested with this disease, it is wise to avoid growing trees or shrubs that show susceptibility to honey fungus (see list below) and to concentrate on bulbs, herbaceous plants and annuals: except in extreme circumstances these are unlikely to succumb.

TREES AND SHRUBS SUSCEPTIBLE TO HONEY FUNGUS

Acer (except *A. negundo*)
Araucaria araucana
Betula
Ceanethus
Cedrus
Chamaecyparis
Cotoneaster
Crataegus
×*Cupressocyparis leylandii*
Cupressus
Forsythia
Hamamelis
Hydrangea
Juglans regia
Laburnum
Ligustrum
Malus
Paconia
Picea omorika
Pinus (except *P. patula*)
Prunus (except *P. laurocerasus* and *P. spinosa*)
Rhododendron
Ribes
Rosa
Rubus
Salix
Sequoiadendron giganteum
Syringa
Thuja plicata
Ulmus
Viburnum
Vitis
Wisteria

CONVENTION

THE MEMORIES OF GOOD TIMES



photo Bill Horman



l-r John Carville, Ann Carville and
Owen Rogers photo Bill Horman



Awards night-Nebraska
photo Bill Horman

'le Pretemps'
Mackinae Island,
Mi. 11 June 2003

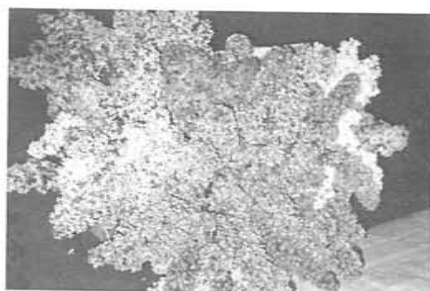


photo Bill Horman

ILS Awards
committee member
Amy Plamann
presents
Distinguished
Recognition Award
to Bruce Peart on
June 2003 photo
credit Brad Bittorf



Lilac boquet
photo Bill Horman



Together now
Ready
Set
Click

Wow nice
picture

2005 CONVENTION INFORMATION

These dates are firm, the agenda is tentative.

Boston, Massachusetts, May 12, 13 and 14, 2005.

Jack Alexander and Steve Schneider, Co-chairing the Convention.

Our hotel is just outside of the city of Boston with convenient access to Logan Airport, major highways and ample free parking. The city has an abundance of historical, cultural and entertainment attractions. You may wish to extend your stay to allow time to visit some of them.

<http://attractionguide.com/boston/>

http://www.tripadvisor.com/Attractions-g60745-Activities-Boston_Massachusetts.html

We plan to visit one of the local National Park sites as a pre-convention activity on Thursday afternoon while our board of Directors is meeting.

Friday's schedule - visits to:

- Syringa Plus Nursery <http://www.syringaplus.com/>
- Newburn Perennial Gardens & Nursery <http://www.newburyperennialgardens.com/>
- Tower Hill Botanic Garden <http://www.towerhillbg.org/>
- In the evening - the President's Dinner

Our Saturday events will include:

- Lilac Collection of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University http://www.arboretum.harvard.edu/plants/lilac_intro.html There will be ample time to linger in this lilac collection whose oldest plant, a Japanese tree lilac, dates from 1876. It is believed to be the oldest specimen of *Syringa reticulata* in North America
- Speakers
- Lilac Plant Auction
- Awards Banquet

Sunday, after the official end of the Convention, thousands of Bostonians, young and old, will be enjoying Lilac Sunday at the Arnold Arboretum. It is the day when Boston's populace gathers to usher out winter and celebrate spring, by reveling among the blooming lilacs. Current plans call for a bus to bring you from the hotel to the Arboretum and back so that you may participate in the day's activities.

Unable to attend all days of the Convention? Expect the option of single day registration.

Full details and registration information will be in the Winter and Spring issues of the Journal. Make plans now to visit Boston May 12, 13 and 14, 2005.

TIPS FOR BEGINNERS

Fall Fertilization

Question: A newspaper article in our home town stated that fall fertilization was good for lilacs (and other deciduous shrubs) and actually improved their ability to stand the winter. Is this true?

Answer: Yes, it is.

I've been fertilizing my lilacs in the fall for years because it is good for the lilacs, and because that's when I have time to do it. The reason that fall fertilization for lilacs is not widely practiced is because people thought that new growth would be stimulated so late in the year that the shoots would be winter-killed.

However, remember that an occasional shoot, or even a bloom, late in the year is normal on any large lilac bush. Every time such a shoot appears, there is always a question as to whether it was caused by late fertilization. We tell them that the shoot would have appeared fertilizer or not, and that fall shoot appearance is not the result of fertilization. You might want to go back to *Lilacs* Vol 27 No 3, 1998 pg 91 for more tips on lilac fertilization.

SAN DIEGO LILAC FARM

For Sale

Gorgeous home & Lilac Farm

on 15+ acres in mountains of San Diego.

*3 excellent quality, new wells, pumps, a windmill,
15,000 gallons of water storage.*

*Over 1,000 mature, healthy, producing **lilac** bushes (10
years old appx.)*

*100+ tree **apple** orchard, separate family orchard and
garden with **grapevine** fence, all on timed water system.
196 esf flower cooler, various farm equipment and storage
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*The home is 1947 square feet, clean, spacious, 3 BR, 2
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*Many upgrades, every modern convenience, and country
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***Family has made income from lilacs on a hobby basis,
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and cleared for horses,
granny flat, more lilacs...*

Would make a great vineyard and winery as well.

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Private, beautiful, a great place to live & farm!

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