

Lilacs

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of the International Lilac Society

IN
THIS
ISSUE:

Fall Meeting in Hooksett &
The Many Forms of a Lilac Flower



Team Lilac gets in the spirit of the event!
Photo Credit Kent Millham

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Front Cover: Lilacs in front of the beautiful Historic Octagon House in Hudson, WI
Photo Credit Bryan Leonard

Editor's Deadline for Winter Issue:

*****January 1, 2016*****



Dogs love lilacs too!
photo of a slide from Barbara Rollins presentation "Lilac Photography"

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c/o Karen McCauley at the address below. \$5.00 (U.S.)

International Lilac Society

President *Nicole Jordan*
Njordan236@aol.com
15500 Harrowgate Road, Chester, VA 23831

Executive Vice President..... *Bradley Bittorf*
bittorfbradley@yahoo.com
13902 East Placita Ocho Puntas, Vail, AZ 85641

Secretary *John Kirk*
892 Woodard Hill Road, West Halifax
VT 05358
ibitinobi@hotmail.com

Treasurer *Karen McCauley*
(952) 443-3703. mccauleyth@aol.com
325 West 82nd Street, Chaska, MN 55318-3208

Assistant Treasurer..... *William F Tschumi**
3 Paradise Court, Cohoes, New York 12047-1422
Phone: (518) 237-6107

Editor..... *Kent Millham*
kmillham@monroecounty.gov
253 Burnett Road, Webster, NY 14580

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Kent Millham, Editor, 253 Burnett Road, Webster, NY 14580

International Lilac Society Web Site Address:

www.InternationalLilacSociety.org

President's Message

Dear lilac friends.

Voila! Fall has arrived in Virginia, USA and the leaves on the trees are changing color. I always think about France, the Chateau de Versailles and running down its grand allees stirring up the fallen leaves. What fun it was! Now it is time to rake and compost the leaves. That is a different kind of pleasure. After fall will come winter; then springtime or Lilac Time for us. That is what we are all looking for; that magic moment when our lilacs are blooming again. In the meantime we are going to sit in our armchairs and think about our lilacs. Are they going to endure the winter? Are they going to bloom profusely? Which ones will outdo all the others or will that new lilac acquired at last year's auction survive? Then we will think about next year's lilac acquisitions. Next year the ILS Convention will be at Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, PA. We are going to visit others nearby famous gardens; including Mount Cuba Center, Chanticleer Garden and Tyler Gardens, and have a great auction. Be sure to reserve the dates April 28-30, 2016. Karen McCauley, ILS Convention Chair, has wonderful things planned for us. Let's have a great turnout! Maybe our friends from Russia will come again for this convention. We would love to have them with us again.

After all the excitement of the 2015 convention in Canada hosted by Frank Moro and his family, things have slowed down a bit. But all is not finished. Jack Alexander, New England Region VP, with Evie King and others lilac enthusiasts from New Hampshire have their 2015 fall festival 'Let's talk Lilacs' on October 17th, that includes an open house Sunday 18th at Syringa Plus Nursery owned by Evie King. Evie had to relocate her nursery a couple years ago after losing her business partner, the late Roger Coggeshall. Now she is fully established in Hooksett, NH. Be sure to attend her open house. At this meeting a very special presentation on Lilacs by Ben Miller and four Harvard College research students is to be the piece de resistance of the meeting. I hope many of you will have had the chance to attend. This meeting first organized by the late Mary Lizotte has become very popular with ILS members and the public. Mr. Miller is publishing a book on lilacs.

I just learned from Freek Vrugtman, ILS Registrar, that a book on lilacs has been published recently by Zelimir Borzan. Mr. Borzan and Charles Holetich have finished the second edition of the lilac video. Mr. Vrugtman hopes someone fluent in Croatian could review them for our journal.

I was looking through Lilacs, A Gardener's Encyclopedia by John Fiala revised by Freek Vrugtman. There is so much information on lilacs in this book that anyone new to lilacs should have a copy. To me this book is a most for any lilacs enthusiasts. It covers all you need to know about lilacs from a to z. The pictures, hundreds of them, are beautiful. What I like is to read about the lilac personalities. Their personal stories on how they got started and how they hybridized their well-known lilacs. It is a good book not only for reference but also to reread.

Have you seen all the great pictures of our convention 2015 in the summer issue volume 44 Number 3 of Lilacs? Resting at the Montreal Botanical Gardens by Beryl Lee, looking at lilacs at Frank's Moro Farm, sniffing lilacs, our brand new member bidding (all three pictures by Claire Fouquet), Dave Gressley doing a workshop on pruning lilacs, Jack Alexander teaching us how to make beautiful grafts and the picture of our host the Moro family all by Brad Bittorf. Yes we had a good time!

Thank you to Igor Semenov for his article Lilacs of Academician Komarov and the pictures of this unusual lilac. I do like what the British call it, nodding lilac. Mr. Semenov has become a regular contributing writer to our journal. We appreciate always his interesting articles. With winter approaching I think many of you could sit down and write one article for the journal. With every issue Kent Millham, ILS Editor, has to scramble for material. Send him an article or two so he can have a bank of articles on hand. Your article(s) may not appear right away, unless it is time sensitive, but they will be published later. Contact Kent and ask him what type of articles he needs for future journals.

Now back to membership; we need more members. So please be diligent and try to get one person to join the ILS. It should not be too hard. Let me know if you succeed. I will give a talk on lilacs to a garden club soon and I'm prepared to really, really work on getting that one person to join. If you need brochures contact Karen McCauley and get a packet. John Kirk, ILS Membership Secretary, is taking ILS information to the meeting in New Hampshire. He hopes to sign up a few members on the spot. Even one would be a success.

Board members and committee members are working behind the scenes for us. Thank you to all them. Brad Bittorf, Executive Vice President, deserve many kudos, so does Karen McCauley, ILS treasurer and ILS Convention Chair. William (Bill) Tschumi, Assistant Treasurer, also needs our thank you. He has done that job for many years. Of course Kent Millham also deserves our thanks for his long time tenure as ILS Editor. Thank you to John Kirk our ILS Membership Secretary and Auditor.

Let's brace ourselves for the winter ahead and prepare for next year springtime. Remember that all our journals are digitalized and can be found on our web page. The last three years publications are on the member-only page. All have been indexed so you can search and look up articles etc. that interest you. In the next issue of Lilacs you will have all the information about our convention 2016. Register early you don't want to miss on the fun. Pennsylvania is a garden Mecca. They are so many gardens to visit, so plan to stay longer or arrive earlier to explore that wonderful state.

See you next year on the Lilac Trail! Mes Amities.

Nicole Jordan
ILS President
Chester, VA USA
Njordan236@aol.com

Convention Corner Calendar : Up Next 2016 ILS Annual Convention in Media, PA; Thurs. April 28- April 30, 2016

Well, it's that time of year; our gardening chores are winding down as most of us (who deal with four seasons that is) are putting the garden to bed. It's also time to start pondering attending the next ILS annual convention.

We will be meeting in rural Pennsylvania, about 20 miles from the Philadelphia International Airport. Several small towns converge in the area we will be visiting. Our hotel will be located in Glen Mills, a town of 18,000.

On Thursday afternoon we will travel a short distance to Kennett Square (population 6,100) where Longwood Gardens is located. We will be given a *Behind the Scenes* tour followed by free time to take in some of the 1,000 acres of this beautiful estate garden. After roaming the grounds we will reconvene for Happy Hour to officially kick off the convention.

Friday will start with a short bus ride to Chanticleer Gardens in Wayne. Chanticleer is an absolutely charming garden, approximately 30 acres with over 5,000 plants to meander through. From there we will travel to Mt. Cuba Center in Hockessin, Delaware where we will have lunch, our annual meeting and time to tour the gardens that are dedicated to native plant preservation.

On Saturday we are off to Tyler Arboretum in Media. We will start the day with our Auction featuring a selection of hard-to-find varieties of lilacs never before offered at auction, followed by lunch and then a tour of the lilac collection.

Although we will be visiting several small towns, time on the bus will be limited as everything is within a 17 mile radius

All this and a few other surprises! If you have any questions, please email me at mccauleytk@aol.com. You may also call but I will be unavailable by phone for much of January & February. Thanks for your cooperation.

Karen McCauley
Convention Chairman
952.443.3703
mccauleytk@aol.com

PS: Please, we really need members to step up and offer to host a convention in your area. If you're contemplating having a convention and have questions, please contact me. We're always on the lookout for new sites and would welcome revisiting sites from decades past. Every city has something unique to offer.

2016 Partial Auction List

Cultivar Name	F	Color	Originator	Date
'Blu e Delft'	S	III	Fiala	1982
'City of Longview'	D	V	Klager	1930
'Dana Horton'	?	?	Berdeen	
'Erzherzog Johann'	S	IV	origin not known	pre 1864
'Florence Christine'	S	IV	Stone	
'Frank Paterson'	S	VII	Paterson	1960
'Galina Ulanova'	S	I	Kolesnikov	
'General Elwell S. Otis'	D	IV	Dunbar	1906
'Gertrude Child'	S	VII	Child	pre 1976
'Grace Orthwaite'	S	V	Brand	1937
'Kate Bergen'	D	V	Berdeen	
'Lee Jewett Walker'	D	V	Berdeen	1981
'Léopold II'	S	IV	Stepman-de Messemaeker	
1908				
'Lesostepnaya'	D	V-VI	Vekhov	1952
'Little Bit'	?	V	Berdeen	
'Lourene Wishart'	D	V	Fiala	1980
'Madame A. J. Klettenberg'	D	I	Klettenberg	1930
'Mary Short'	D	V	Fiala	1979
'Midwest Gem'	D	V	Sass, H.P.	ca. 1942
'Nadezhda'	D	III-IV	Kolesnikov	
'Nebo Moskvyy'	D	III-IV-VI	Kolesnikov	1963
'Night Song'	D	II	origin not known	pre 1982
'Olimpiada Kolesnikova'	D	IV-V	Kolesnikov	1941
'P.P. Konchalovskii'	D	III-IV	Kolesnikov	1956
'Prof. Edmund Jankowski'	S	III	Karpow-Lipski	1958
'Prof. Józef Brzezinski'	D	V	Karpow-Lipski	1938
'Quadricolor'	S	IV	Behnsch	pre 1890
'Reine Marguerite'	D	V	origin not known	pre 1897
'Sorok Let Komsomola'	S	IV	Kolesnikov	
'Su merki'	S	II-III	Kolesnikov	1954
'Ukraina'	S	IV-V	Zhogoleva	1974
'Utro Moskvyy'	D	IV-V	Kolesnikov	1938
'Valentina Grizodu bova'	D	V	Kolesnikov	pre 1974
'Vera Khoruzhaya'	S	IV-V	Smol2skii & Bibikova	1964
'Zhemchuzhin	D	V	origin not known	
'Purple Mystery				

The above donations are courtesy of the Max Peterson Family.



LONGWOOD
GARDENS

Our story began and continues today with legacy, innovation, and stewardship at its core.

In 1700, a Quaker family named Peirce purchased the property from William Penn and established a working farm. Joshua and Samuel Peirce began planting an arboretum on the farm 100 later, and by 1850 the site was known as one of the nation's finest collections of trees. In 1906, Pierre S. du Pont, industrialist, conservationist, designer, engineer, and philanthropist, purchased this arboretum to save the trees from a lumber mill. This one act led to the creation of one of the great gardens of the world. The great-grandson of DuPont chemical company founder Eleuthère Irénée du Pont, Pierre du Pont turned the family business into a corporate empire and used his resulting fortune to develop Longwood Gardens.

Mr. du Pont followed no grand plan, creating gardens when inspiration struck and often drawing heavily on the Italian and French styles he experienced in his travels. Today, the Gardens encompasses 1,077 acres featuring 20 indoor gardens, 20 outdoor gardens, meadows, and woodlands showcasing more than 11,000 types of plants.

Our seasonal displays elevate the art of horticulture, spotlighting unusual but also ordinary plants, all grown to extraordinary effect. Our grand 4-acre Conservatory, which debuted in 1921, is the cornerstone of our garden experience. A vast array of plants from around the world is artistically displayed in ever-changing combinations throughout the year. Our horticultural endeavors extend beyond the boundaries of the gardens to include a thriving research and production program that furthers our reputation as an innovator among public gardens.

Our research and production team works with horticulturists the world over to find, obtain, and trial 500 to 1,000 new plants each year. New plants are obtained from plant exploration trips around the globe, through seed distributions from international specialty plant societies and public gardens, purchases from nurseries, cooperation with breeders, and gifts. Non-hardy

plants trials and greenhouse experiments are conducted in our 5,500 square foot research greenhouses and hardy plant trials and field research occupy about eight acres at our nursery. In June 2013, we introduced the first Trial Garden in the public area of our Gardens, giving guests the chance to learn more about the trialing process and to see more than 250 cultivars under review. In addition to trialing, our research group continues a long history of improving crops through breeding and selection. More than 130 new cultivars have been named and distributed by Longwood Gardens.

In keeping with Mr. du Pont's desire to establish "a school where students and others may receive instruction in the arts of horticulture and floriculture," our education programs were born. Since the 1950s, we have taught, inspired, and groomed future generations of gardeners, craftsmen, scientists, educators and more to enter the field of public horticulture and make a difference in the lives of others. Thousands of students from all over the world have participated in our continuing education classes, domestic and international internships, a two-year professional gardener program, and a master's degree program in public horticultural administration with the University of Delaware.

The performing arts also hold a place of distinction in our Gardens. In 1914, Mr. du Pont premiered an Open Air Theatre, inspired by an outdoor theater at the Villa Gori near Siena, Italy. The Open Air Theatre hosts numerous concerts, plays, musicals, dance and children's performances as part of our expansive performing arts program. The Conservatory, in addition to its horticulture displays, houses an enormous Aeolian pipe organ, which was expanded in 1930 to include 10,010 pipes and refurbished in 2011. In 2013, the Longwood Organ took center stage when we hosted the International Organ Competition, awarding the organ world's largest prize.

Like performing arts, Mr. du Pont loved fountains and personally designed these hydraulic masterpieces back in the 1930s, including the 600-jet Italian Water Garden, which is based on the Villa Gamberaia near Florence, and the Main Fountain Garden in front of the Conservatory, which recirculates 10,000 gallons of water a minute, jetting as high as 130 feet. Our Gardens are home to more fountains than any other garden in the United States.

Since the 1990s we've made substantial capital improvements including rebuilding the Italian Water Garden, renovating the Orangery, Exhibition Hall, and East Conservatory, and debuting an enlarged Indoor Children's Garden. The East Conservatory Plaza, featuring the largest green wall in North America debuted in 2010.

Through innovative programming and a refreshed approach to strategic planning and the guest experience, we've become the most visited public garden in

America with more than 1,000,000 guests annually. Highlights include: Nature's Castles: The Treehouse Reimagined, a 2008 exhibition of grand treehouses; the 2010 exhibition Making Scents: The Art & Passion of Fragrance; and Light: Installations by Bruce Munro, which received critical acclaim in 2012 and is on view at numerous public gardens around the world. In June 2014, we unveiled our expanded Meadow Garden, 86 acres of native wildflower plantings, trails, and an engaging narrative that tells the story of the landscape through the seasons. In summer 2015, we debut Nightscape: A Sound and Light Experience by Klip Collective, which will take guests on an immersive evening journey through the Gardens using the landscape and plant material as the canvas for this artistic installation.

Our vision for the Gardens—to become a world apart, a place accessible to all—is the driving force behind all that we do to ensure we preserve and enhance this extraordinary experience for future generations.

For more information, visit www.longwoodgardens.org.

ILS Executive Vice President Notes

Some people may wonder, "What does the ILS Executive Vice President do?" Actually, there are written responsibilities for the Executive VP, along with those of all the officers, in a document called "Duties for Officers," and coincidentally, that is something that I maintain.

I also manage many of the technical and administrative documents of the ILS, including our governing "By-Laws" and the "Certificate of Incorporation." You can also find these documents within the ILS web site.

Over time, I have inherited a number of other, less official roles, as well. These include:

- * Assisting with the administration and oversight of the ILS web site.
- * Ensuring that meeting reports and official documents are maintained.
- * Determining regions and boundaries and other administrative aspects of ILS governance.
- * Working with the Elections Committee to ensure smooth and trustworthy elections, for both those who choose to vote electronically or by paper.
- * Consulting with other members of the Executive Committee (President, Treasurer, Secretary) on many matters not readily covered elsewhere, or about the overall well being of the Society.

The Executive VP also has signature authority for financial matters related to the Society. In fact, the Executive VP may authorize expenditures, and is one of

only four officers empowered to do so. (The others are the President, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer.)

Here is a bit of a history lesson related to ILS. The term “Executive” indicated authorization to handle financial transactions. You are probably aware that there are many vice presidents. We usually refer to these as “Regional Vice Presidents.” In the past, before the financial accounts of ILS were consolidated, we had several Executive Vice Presidents. In particular, both Europe and Canada had Executive Vice Presidents who managed those respective ILS funds. When all the ILS accounts were consolidated, the Board of Directors decided to eliminate the other “Executive” vice presidents and reclassify them as (regional) vice presidents. So my role title has now become unique. It is also unique in that it is the only five-year term among officers. Our founders set that up to provide continuity for the organizational leadership.

(I will also note that, because of my acquaintance with, and understanding of, the intentions of many of our founders, I have gradually been becoming the “historian” of the ILS, too, though you won’t find this role in any book. Perhaps the Archives Committee also has some similar objectives.)

Oh, right, and there’s also the main thing cited in the Executive VP duties—I’m the backup for the President! The Executive VP is in frequent communication and consultation with the President. But most officially, if the President is unable to serve duties for some reason, the Executive VP is the stand-in. This happened most recently during our Woodland, Washington conference at Hulda Klager Gardens. Some of you may remember that our President (Colin Chapman) was unable to make the trip from Europe that year, and as Executive VP, I presided over that convention until our new President was elected.

Additionally I have become the “de facto” Parliamentarian, and that reminds me that I also “take over the gavel” at meetings when the President may have a conflict of interest or otherwise be unable to preside. This most often happens during the annual election of officers, when the Exec VP presides over election of the President.

If you have any questions, please ask! You can reach me at ILSExecVP@gmail.com, or you can post a comment to the “International Lilac Robin.” (I manage that too.)

Brad Bittorf
International Lilac Society Executive Vice-President (term ends 2020)

“Let’s Talk Lilacs”

On October 17 in Hooksett NH, about 40 attendees; including around 25 ILS members, attended the annual fall meeting of the New England region of ILS. The day at the Hooksett Public Library included a full schedule of morning and afternoon speakers and presentations, with a meet and greet coffee hour, and a lunch of about a dozen different types of pizza.

The morning program began with membership chairman John Kirk. He spoke benefits of an ILS membership, and the upcoming exciting convention to be held at Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, PA, USA.

His talk was followed by Guy Giunta, Jr. of NH, who spoke about the New Hampshire program to promote lilacs; the New Hampshire state flower. The New Hampshire Lilac Commission program includes planting of lilacs in New Hampshire, an annual photo contest; with the winners being published in a calendar; cooperation between the state of New Hampshire with towns and garden clubs to plant lilacs, along with the production of promotional materials such as lilac ties, hats, shirts, etc.

Barbara Rollins, also of the New Hampshire Lilac Commission, gave a detailed talk on Lilac Photography. (see notes in article to follow this recap). Barbara covered all areas including camera settings, lighting, and composition. Many of her photos included extra interest by having a dog sitting in front of the lilacs.

Chris Wilson of West Newbury, VT, USA gave a talk about hosting a lilac event. For years he has hosted a lilac time tea. This event has grown over the years, and now includes live music and people dressing in their fancy clothes and hats, along with the tea and ambience of the lilacs.

Bill Horman came all the way from Michigan (with fellow ILS member and friend Peter Ely of Illinois) to give a talk about his lifelong project: Sunny Fields Botanical Park. Bill has been working on it for 53 years; embarking on his lifelong project in his teens. He has taken 40 acres of sandy soil and turned it into a beautiful botanical park that includes over 300 lilac cultivars. Plants are intermingled, rather than grouped in collections like most arboreta.

Bill related how he saw a small announcement in a magazine about an ILS meeting, and he attended it in the 1970’s. At his first lilac auction he purchased 23 different cultivars for Sunny Fields. Members would quit bidding on the lilacs he was trying to get so he would win plants to start his collection. Bill spoke of how he considers ILS his family, and I’m sure other people feel that way too.

The morning speakers concluded with John Bentley giving a talk about the progress of the Katie Bentley Lilac Project, and also on the history of the oldest lilacs in New Hampshire. The auction was begun before lunch, with many cultivars of lilacs up for bid.

After a very filling lunch of pizza and other refreshments and pastries, Kent Millham, ILS editor led off the afternoon by giving a talk entitled “The Many Forms of a Lilac Flower”. Often, the general public might just focus on color in lilac flowers, so this talk not only covered the different colors found in lilac cultivars, but other things to look for, such as single or double florets, size of the florets and inflorescences, shape of the petals, and unique characteristics. (see article following detailing this talk).

The afternoon presentations concluded with a very innovative performance of “The Lilac Project” by Ben Miller and Team Lilac. “ Ben Miller and his research assistants conducted original archival, historical, literary, cinematographic, and even personal research on the lilac and its many representations and meanings across the globe”... (taken from “The Lilac Project” poster), and gave us an avant-garde show of readings and performance by the 5 team members that gave a whole new meaning to lilacs!

Following this last presentation, the meeting at the Hooksett Public Library finished with the conclusion of the auction. ‘Beautiful Susan’ got the highest price with a winning bid of \$50 from Ned Newton. Also, lilac souvenirs such as candles , NH lilac shirts, hats and ties were auctioned. The day at the library concluded around 4:00, although a number of us adjourned to Evie’s for more talk and food.

Once again, Jack Alexander and Evie King hosted a very fun and informative fall meeting, and I was happy to meet a couple of people I had corresponded with, but never met.

*Kent Millham
October 2015*



Barbara Rollins giving tips about lilac photography
Photo Credit Kent Millham



During lunch speaker Chris Wilson explains to Guy Giunta (and others) the technique of tying a bow tie
Photo Credit Kent Millham



John Bentley leads the lilac auction with assistant Ned Newton
Photo Credit Kent Millham



Kent Millham talking about what to look for when examining a lilac flower
Photo Credit Susan Roberts

Lilac Photography: Notes on talk by Barbara Rollins (reported by Kent Millham)

Equipment

- DSLR (digital single lens reflex camera)
- tripod
- remote shutter release or timer shutter reflex lenses (telephoto, close up)

The tripod and remote shutter release provide steadiness to the camera so the photo is not blurred.

Settings

- ISO 100-200
- shoot in RAW setting
- white balance- daylight
- drive mode- single shot
- small apertures $f/22$ DOF maximizes details throughout photo
- wide apertures $f/1.4$ provides sharply focused subject (with background out of focus)

Lighting and Weather

- bright overcast weather best- not full sun or windy
- early mornings or evening are best: not midday
- reflectors can direct light to shaded areas of photo
- sometimes a polarizing filter can help, but watch out to be sure the actual color of lilac floret isn't altered

Composition

- use the rule of thirds in composing shot. divide the shot into 9 sections
- don't place subject in exact center for best composition



Team Lilac performs "A Lilac Project" for the captive ILS audience
Photo Credit Kent Millham

April 28-30, 2016 at Longwood Gardens: Circle the Dates!

This will be the dates of the next ILS convention. It will take place in one of the premier botanical gardens in the United States. Besides their many outside gardens, there is a gigantic conservatory with an outstanding seasonal display as well as permanent displays and a constantly rotating display of orchids.

The Many Forms of a Lilac Flower: Talk by Kent Millham

Often, the general public may only focus on the color of a lilac bloom. In fact, they may be interested in just one color: dark purple (or deep, deep purple as I often hear it referred to). However, there are many variations in lilac flowers, and I am going to elucidate what to look for when looking at a lilac flower.

There are 5 major things to look for when examining a floret. These are whether the floret is single or double, color, size of the floret, shape of the floret, and unique characteristics. For the purposes of this discussion, I am mainly considering 3 species and their cultivars: *Syringa vulgaris*, *Syringa oblata*, and *Syringa × hyacinthiflora*.

Single or Double: *Syringa vulgaris* is native to the Balkan Mountains of Eastern Europe, *Syringa oblata* is native to Korea, and *Syringa × hyacinthiflora* is a hybrid between *vulgaris* and *oblata*. In the wild, the common lilac (*S. vulgaris*) has single flowers with 4 petals, as does Korean Early lilac (*S. oblata*). Some nice examples of single lilacs include *Syringa × hyacinthiflora* 'Blanche Sweet', 'Helen Agathe Keessen', and 'Triste Barbaro'. 'Blanche Sweet' is a large-flowered blue developed by Father John Fiala. 'Helen Agathe Keessen' is a little-known white cultivar of Keessen. 'Triste Barbaro' is a rare dark purple cultivar of unknown origin developed sometime before 1938.

A double lilac is one that has 2 or more sets of 4 petals. Victor Lemoine, the early great hybridizer of lilacs, was especially interested in developing showy double-flowering lilacs. Thereafter, other hybridizers also developed many showy doubles of many forms. A few examples are *× hyacinthiflora* 'Anabel', 'Abel Carrière', 'Edith Cavell', 'Émile Lemoine', and 'Pamyat o S. M. Kirove'. 'Anabel' is one of my favorite early-flowering doubles, with its delicate, rounded light pink florets. It also is a perfect example of hose-in-hose doubling, with the second set of petals nestling perfectly between the first set. 'Abel Carrière' is a very full blue double; with the petals very dense and closely packed. 'Edith Cavell' is a double white form, with large florets; and is the parent of the 'Rochester' lilac. 'Émile Lemoine' is a very fine example of a traditional lilac-colored form of lilac developed by Victor Lemoine, and named in honor of his son. 'Pamyat o S. M. Kirove' was developed by the outstanding Russian hybridizer Leonid Kolesnikov, and is a large-flowered double lilac color.

Color: This is the trait that most people notice when looking at a lilac flower. In its native habitat in the Balkan Mountains, *Syringa vulgaris* has lavender florets that is so synonymous with lilacs that the color is also known as lilac. However, on the mountainsides, other colors such as white and purple are seen, so *Syringa* breeders have been able to select and breed for other colors. John Wister designed the Lilac Color Code Classification, and it includes 7 colors: white (I),

violet (II), blue (III), lilac (IV), pink (V), magenta (VI), and purple (VII). The official color is determined by comparing the floret with a color chart, such as the RHS Color Chart. The official color is determined when the floret is young, because as it ages, the intensity of the color gradually fades.

There are many fine examples of each color. 'Independence', a Richard Fenicchia hybrid, is a very floriferous single white with large florets that is outstanding. Another of Fenicchia's whites is 'Frederick Law Olmsted'. Although having small florets, the shrub is covered with blooms; appearing like a white puffy cloud. 'Miss Ellen Willmott' is an old selection by Lemoine that may have even 3 sets of petals, and is one of the later *vulgaris* types to bloom.

There are fewer selections in the violet class, but an outstanding example is 'Jessie Gardner'. It has large florets, and 2 large specimens are along the walk at Highland Botanical Park. It is so eye-catching that people often ask for it during the lilac sale every year at Highland Park.

'President Lincoln' is an excellent deep sky blue single developed by John Dunbar. He selected it in 1916, and this vigorous cultivar is readily available in the nursery trade today. A new selection by Robert Hoepfl, former president of ILS, is 'Highland Park'; formerly known as "FC 20". In a good flowering year the shrub is almost hidden by all of the clusters of single blue blooms. 'Nadezhda' is a very fine selection by Kolesnikov, and is a full blue double with contrasting lavender buds.

In the lilac class are many examples, since this is the color associated with wild *Syringa vulgaris*. 'Nokomis' is an early blooming single *× hyacinthiflora* cultivar that is very fragrant. 'Victor Lemoine', selected and named for the owner of V. Lemoine et Fils Nursery, is a fine example of a very full double lilac color. Another of his selections, 'Maurice de Vilmorin', is one of my favorites with its attractive star-shaped petals.

Two of my favorite pinks that catch my eye are 'Lucie Baltet' and 'Edward J. Gardner'. 'Lucie Baltet' is a somewhat small lilac shrub; rarely getting much larger than 6' in height. Its single flowers are a pure pink color, with no undertones of blue in them. 'Edward J. Gardner' can be a very vigorous grower, and has open clusters of double pink florets.

Magenta lilacs are between pink and purple; so appear fuchsia color; or reddish-purple. One of the finest examples is 'Congo', which can be described as a wine-reddish color; not quite purple. 'Paul Thirion' is an excellent double example, and when first opening, the combination of open florets and full buds expanding but not opened are a sight to behold.

Purple is the color class that seems to draw the most attention. A few examples are 'Andenken an Ludwig Späth', 'Fürst Bülow', 'Mrs. W. E. Marshall', and 'Ostrander'. Both 'Andenken an Ludwig Späth' and 'Fürst Bülow' were developed at the Ludwig Späth nursery. Often people ask me for the deep, deep purple lilac

that there grandmother had. I believe it must have been 'Andenken an Ludwig Späth', since that is a very old cultivar; registered in 1883. 'Mrs. W. E. Marshall' is considered one of the darkest purples.

As a final note on color in lilacs, it should be noted that most color on the petals, other than white, can be very complex. If you look closely at the petals, you will see various gradations and intensity in the hues. Also, at different times of the day they may appear differently to the human eye, and as the petals age the intensity of the color decreases. Also, I have noticed that the blue lilacs often have pinkish overtones, and many classified as pink are not pure pink.

Size of Florets: On a wild *Syringa vulgaris*, the size of the floret is not very large; usually the diameter of the floret is less than ½". Some lilac cultivars are outstanding because of the floret size. A few examples of this are 'Glory', 'Agincourt Beauty', 'Yankee Doodle', 'Arch McKean', 'Margaret Fenicchia', and 'Frank's Fancy'. The diameter of the florets in all of these selection is 1" or greater. Also, the individual petals on the florets are much broader than the relatively narrow ones of the common lilac; *Syringa vulgaris*. The resulting inflorescences are often very large also.

'Glory' is one of the last of the *vulgaris* types to bloom, and the heavy clusters have so much weight that they are pendulous. Another interesting feature of 'Glory' is seen at the center of the flower. There are whitish markings at the center which contrast with the darker part of the petals.

'Agincourt Beauty' is a very showy large flowered single purple. I still remember seeing one at the 2000 ILS convention in Montreal. At the Montreal Botanical Gardens, as we pulled up next to it on the tram, everyone oohed and aahed when they saw the size and beauty of 'Agincourt Beauty'.

'Arch McKean' and 'Yankee Doodle' are 2 very large flowered lilacs created by Father Fiala. The size of the inflorescences of 'Arch McKean' are even more impressive than the floret size; sometimes 18" or more in height.

A newer cultivar, 'Frank's Fancy', has florets that can be 1½" or more in diameter! The petals are cupped, and there are sometimes 6 rather than 4 petals.

Shape of Florets: If you closely examine flowers of lilacs of different cultivars, you will quickly discover that there are many different shapes to the petals. The petals of the common lilac, *Syringa vulgaris*, are relatively flat. Hybridizers have developed many different petals from this original flower structure.

'Anabel' is one of my favorites because of its beautifully rounded petals. The tips of the petals are rounded too. *Syringa* × *hyacinthiflora* 'Fraser' has florets with reflexed petals. This means that they curve under and back towards the center. 'Pamyat o Kolesnikovoe' is a double white that stays tight and compact, and reminds me of pearls. 'Flower City' is a deep violet developed by Richard Fenicchia that is single with radial doubling (which I will explain later). The flower petals are cup-shaped, and this cupping reveals the silver underside of

the petals. 'City of Longview' is a double pinkish-lavender selected by Hulda Klager. Its petals are pointed and densely packed; presenting almost a "frilly" appearance. 'Edward J. Gardner' is a double pink that has open spaces between the petals, and appears almost like a pinwheel. 'Richard A. Fenicchia' is a rare cultivar that is a double purple, and its petals are twisted somewhat. There are many other interesting shapes in lilac florets; these are just a few examples.

Radial Doubling: This characteristic can be seen occasionally in a number of cultivars, but was first noticed in numerous florets in the cultivar 'Rochester'. Radial doubling is a number of extra petals on one plane, so in contrast to a normal double lilac that is 2 or more sets of 4 petals, it is one set of petals of more than 4. In 'Rochester', up to 25 petals have been counted. Because of this astounding trait, 'Rochester' has been used extensively as a parent by Fenicchia, Fiala, and other hybridizers, and now there are a number of cultivars that exhibit this trait. 'Flower City', 'Sesquicentennial', 'Dwight D. Eisenhower', and 'Blue Diamond' are other examples of cultivars with radial doubling developed by Richard Fenicchia. 'Cavour' is an example of a Lemoine hybrid that frequently shows radial doubling.

Other Unique Characteristics: Examining lilac florets closely sometimes reveals other unusual characteristics. Igor Semenov of Russia has discovered that some cultivars have occasional florets with 2 and 3 petals. In the cultivar 'Mikolaj Karpow-Lipski, a number of petals are fused together so the floret has 2 large petals, rather than 4, or sometimes just one set is fused together so there are 3 petals. 'Poltava' is another cultivar that may show dimetry, or 2 petals.

'Krasavitsa Moskvj' is the only white *vulgaris* cultivar I know of that has lavender or pinkish buds that open to a double, pure white flower. (However, 'Agnes Smith', a × *josiflexa* cultivar, has flesh-colored buds and white flowers, although that species hasn't been a part of this discussion).

'Etoile de Mai', an old Lemoine cultivar, has the interesting trait of appearing reddish and white, with its rounded, curved petals when first opening.

'Federico Garcia Lorca' is a very unusual new cultivar registered in 2011. It is classified as having a double, multicolored flower. It is a beautiful combination of pink and lavender; lightening towards the center, and in the middle of the floret appears yellowish- an outstanding cultivar.

'Primrose' and 'Sensation' are 2 well-known cultivars that are among the most distinct of all the lilacs. 'Primrose' is a creamy-yellow; more noticeable when planted near a pure white lilac. 'Sensation' is a dark purple with a very bold white edge. Both resulted as a bud mutation on lilacs being forced for cut flowers.

I hope the next time you look at lilac flowers, you will examine them closely. The beauty is not only in the color of the florets, but also in all of the variations that can be found when looking at them carefully.



'Helen Agathe Keessen'; a rare single white cultivar
Photo Credit Kent Millham



'Maurice de Vilmorin', an old but beautiful double selection
of Victor Lemoine. note the star-shaped florets
Photo Credit Kent Millham



Syringa × *hyacinthiflora* 'Fraser'
note the recurving of the petals
Photo Credit Kent Millham



'Pamyat o S. M. Kirove', a double lilac colored selection of Kolesnikov
Photo Credit Kent Millham



'Arch McKean', a Fiala selection
note the huge size of both the florets and the inflorescence
Photo Credit Kent Millham



'Lucie Baltet'; one of the finest of the pink lilacs
Photo Credit Kent Millham



The beautiful reddish and white blooms of 'Etoile de Mai'
Photo Credit Tatiana Poliakova
from Lilacs DVD of Charlie Holetich and Zelimir Borzan



'Federico Garcia Lorca' displays multicolors and a yellow center
Photo Credit Tatiana Poliakova
From Lilacs DVD of Charlie Holetich and Zelimir Borzan

Book Review: Jorgovani, by Želimir Borzan and Charles D. Holetich

I wish I could understand Croatian, because I have in my possession a brand new copy of Jorgovani, a newly published book about lilacs. It is a complete book about the genus *Syringa* and many of its cultivars. It is 411 pages with 650 lilac photos, and includes with it the Jorgovani or Lilacs DVD, which has approximately 3000 photos of lilacs.

The book itself is loaded with photographs, and for people who don't understand Croatian, it is still a very nice reference, because the names of the lilac species and cultivars are still the same. The quality of the photographs is excellent, and the lilac coloration, which is notoriously difficult to capture, is very good in the photographs.

This book covers the classification of the genus *Syringa*, an extensive section on cultivars, a section on pruning and propagation, and a glossary of botanical terms. It is also very current, since 2 newly named cultivars such as 'Federico Garcia Lorca' and 'Highland Park' are included.

I would highly recommend this excellent work for any lilac lovers library. To purchase one, contact Zelimir Borzan at <zelimir.borzan@zg.t-com.hr>. It can be purchased for \$105 US or 93 Euros.

review written by Kent Millham



Announcements

ILS HAS JOINED FACEBOOK

Do you like to see beautiful lilac pictures and like to keep up with all your lilac friends? Well, ILS has created a closed FACEBOOK page. We have 34 people that have joined already but it's not just for ILS members. Anyone with a love of lilacs can become a member. Hopefully it will be not only a source for us to share pictures but also a source for cultural lilac information and ILS information.

A closed page only means that you have to ask to join the page. We decided to make it a closed page to avoid spam and advertisements. To join search International Lilac Society and click JOIN and one of three administrators will approve you. Note that any inappropriate posts will be deleted.

PLEASE, WE NEED YOUR HELP! Upcoming Convention Sites Needed

After the 2016 convention in Pennsylvania, there are no confirmed conventions planned. We desperately need members to step up and offer to organize a convention in their area. Please email or telephone me if you have any questions, thoughts and concerns about arranging a convention. The society is only as good as its volunteers.

Thank you,
Karen McCauley
Convention Chair
952.443.3703
mccauleyth@aol.com

Thanks to Jack Alexander and Evie King for hosting a great New England region Fall Meeting in Hooksett NH. It was informative, fun, and the food was great!

AN ODE TO POLISH “CLOUDLET”

For the first time, I saw an exceptionally original and brightly flowering lilac, cv. Chmurka (pronounce as Khmurka — Small Raincloud, or Cloudlet), at the Institute of Dendrology, Polish Academy of Science, located in Kurnik near Poznan. This acquaintance became an emotional shock and unforgettable occasion. Cv. Chmurka is literally a phenomenal masterpiece produced by an outstanding Polish hybridizer Mikolaj Karpow-Lipski. To my mind, this cultivar is his most notable contribution to the treasury of world lilacs.

At first glance, this cultivar is quite ordinary. 'Chmurka' is a seedling of the cv. Maréchal Foch. It was produced as a result of free pollination involving “a legendary seven” of the best cultivars of French selection once brought by Karpow himself from the Lemoine's nursery in Nancy. The seedling was selected by the breeder in his formerly famous garden in Konczewice near Torun. It was registered as a cultivar in 1971.

'Chmurka' has single florets of bright pink-violet color. . The florets are medium-sized, even minute, regularly shaped, and fragrant, with visible anthers. Conjugate panicles are very large, loose and composite, with panicles of the second order. Inflorescences are large, sometimes simply huge, often spherical, and graceful, with blurry contour like that of a swarm of bees. They are not just inflorescences but true bouquet structures as if living in the air.

Inflorescences located in the upper storeys have even more composite structure. They are produced on the tops of strong shoots and consist of several pairs of large panicles and numerous single underdeveloped small panicles that follow them. These shoots are sky-rocketing, and the inflorescences tower above the shrubs like small rainclouds drifting in the sky.

In other cases, the inflorescences are formed on very long and thin weakly foliated or leafless shoots. These floral shoots look exceptionally spectacular with huge dark-pink “balloons” on the tops. Such inflorescences often occur in the cultivars produced by a remarkable Latvian hybridizer Peteris Upitis.

Thus, the inflorescences are the primary outstanding trait of 'Chmurka'. This cultivar is notable not for florets or panicles but rather for whole large inflorescences, loose and graceful. Bowing inflorescences of 'Chmurka' are especially impressive when located on long-legged shoots leaning towards the observer. They do not droop but sometimes assume a level position. These inflorescences make the short upright shrubs of 'Chmurka' elegant and perfectly fascinating. It is impossible to confuse cv. Chmurka of Polish selection with any another cultivars!

Here in Moscow you can see 'Chmurka' in the collection of Main Botanical Garden, Russian Academy of Sciences, in Ostankino.

*Igor Semenov, Moscow
translated by N. Balakshina*



Large inflorescences of 'Chmurka' float from the shrub
Photo Credit Igor Semenov



An inflorescence of 'Chmurka' in a horizontal orientation
Photo Credit Igor Semenov

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Syringa vulgaris 'Edward J. Gardner' with beautiful pinwheel shaped florets
 Photo Credit Kent Millham



The very heavy clusters of 'Glory' droop with the weight
 Photo Credit Kent Millham



Syringa vulgaris 'Highland Park', a very floriferous blue cultivar selected by Bob Hoepfl

Photo Credit Kent Millham