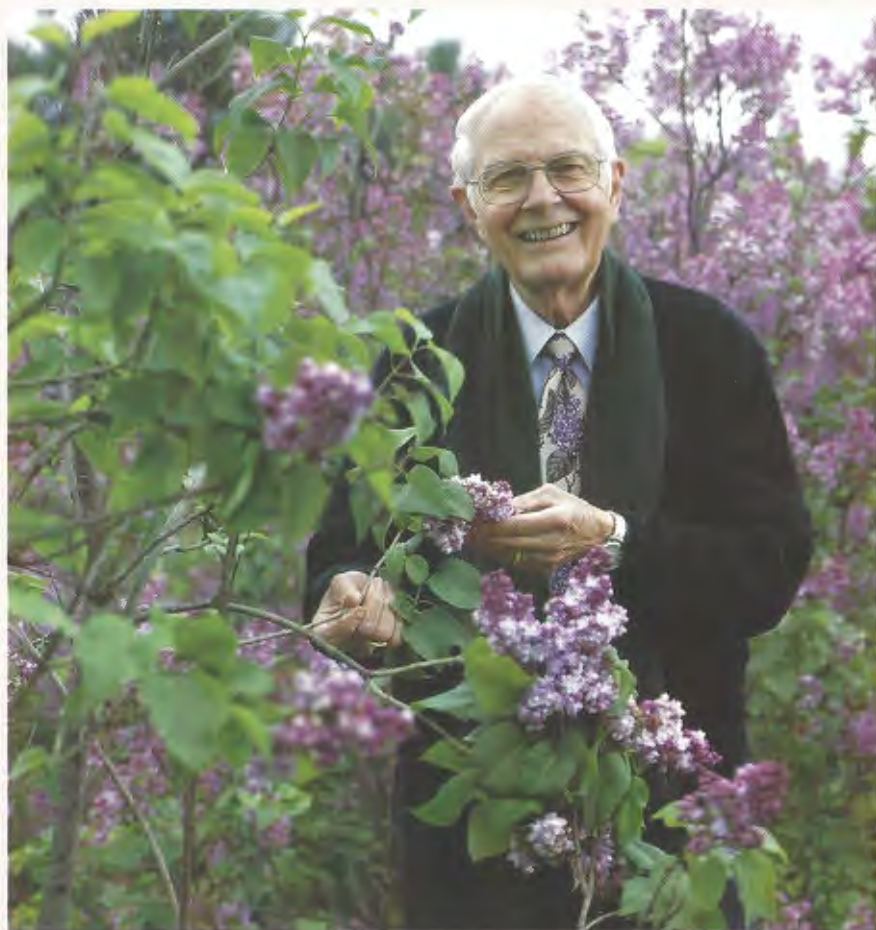


# Lilacs

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SUMMER 2016



## QUARTERLY JOURNAL

of the International Lilac Society

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IN  
THIS  
ISSUE:

In Memoriam: Owen Rogers  
& 2016 ILS Convention

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## President's Message

Dear lilac friends,

Our 2016 convention in Media, Pennsylvania, USA was just fantastic. Karen McCauley, ILS Convention Chair, did a super job planning it. We saw many, many beautiful lilacs. Some we knew about but had never seen before except in pictures. It rained a little but we did not care because it was too exciting and special to see lilacs in all their splendor. Those of us who attended will not forget this 2016 convention. Imagine us trekking through gardens and arboreta to see our very favorite shrubs. We all went home glad to have attended the convention and wishing that all ILS members from around the world could have been there!

We were welcome at all the venues and given special attention. The staff at Longwood gardens give us a behind the scenes tour. Our guides told us and showed us what is involved in producing flowers for the numerous and enormous flower beds in the park and conservatory. It is no small job and takes planning and knowledge of the plants to make the flower beds come to life according to the designer's drawings. Longwood had a long hedge of lilacs. We saw them from far away being inaccessible because of construction. We did manage to take their pictures but not close up.

A reception at Longwood gave us time to rest, chat with each other and enjoy the refreshments and nice hors d'oeuvres. Their large gift shop was also the place to visit. Many of us purchased gifts and treasures to bring home.

Next we visited Chanticleer Garden. Wow! That garden was just so lovely. The horticulturist Przymeslaw Walezak has been there twenty years. He has developed the woodland garden. It was subdued, peaceful and full of surprises at every bend of the walk. Our guide knew every plant and he gave us an incredible tour. We were all in awe at the beauty of this garden. That is one not to miss if you are ever in Pennsylvania, USA.

From there we visited Mount Cuba Center the former estate of Mr. and Mrs. Lammont du Pont Copeland. The garden had been designed by landscape architect Thomas W. Sears of Philadelphia, PA USA in 1936. It included a long beautiful allee of lilacs. We had the Annual Membership Meeting in one of the large rooms of the mansion. Mount Cuba is known for its rare Trillium collection. The trial garden provides valuable information to the public since 2010.

Later we carpoled to a local restaurant for the Friday night banquet. It turned out this mode of transportation not only saved money, since buses are so expensive, but was a great way to get to know each other.

The next day we hopped on a bus and went to Tyler Gardens. This garden was child friendly; they were everywhere having a wonderful time. We had our auction in a very large comfortable room. The lilacs from Max Peterson and family plus others lilacs who were donated brought some very nice bids. A gentleman who showed up for the auction only was the big spender. He alone got thirteen lilacs. The bidding was heated. The highest starting bid was \$200!

After that excitement we went to look at the lilacs. They were magnifiques! John Wister the gentleman who gave us the lilac color chart had been director of both Tyler Gardens and Scott Arboretum at Swarthmore College. The lilacs at Tyler Gardens were planted in the 1950's. They were tall and exuberant. A stand-out in that garden was 'Firmanent'. I think everyone had their picture taken on front of it. Their large blooms were the prettiest blue just like the sky on a beautiful day.

In the evening we carpooled again to another restaurant for the Honors and Awards Banquet. After a lovely dinner Vera Zykova, ILS member from Crimea, give us a very interesting presentation on the lilac collection at the Nikita Botanical Garden where Vera is the curator of the collection. She did a great job explaining how they cultivate and grow their lilacs. She showed us pictures of the magnificent cultivars grown there. Vera and Beryl Lee from New Zealand had traveled the farthest to attend the convention. Several Canadians ILS members, our good neighbors, also attended the convention.

Myrna Walberg, ILS Honors & Awards Chair, announced this year recipients. See in this issue who were recognized for their service to ILS.

We had our Board Meeting on Thursday and the second one on Saturday morning. We said thank you for their years of services to the board members finishing their term. We welcome the new board members: Franklin 'Woody' Barnes, David Gressley, Bruce Peart, Robert Zavodny.

Dr. Giles Waines, ILS Research Committee Chair announced he had received from Jianhua Li's a research proposal "Exploring Powdery Mildew Resistant Genes in Lilacs Using Next Generation Sequencing Technology" just before coming to the convention, not in time for the research committee to review it. After the convention and after the proposal was reviewed the power of e-mail enable the board to vote and it passed by a majority of votes. The funds for \$6,000 were approved. All were YES votes. The board also voted on the ILS By-Laws changes. They were approved by majority votes. They are now posted on the ILS Web page. Thank you to Brad Bittorf, ILS Executive Vice President, for preparing the By-Laws and to Candace Wentz, ILS Web Page Manager, for posting them.

Coming up is a new publication; an ILS Coloring book. Kelly Applegate, ILS Youth Chair, had submitted several bids to have the book designed. Instructed by the Board to go forward he, after final approval of the design will have the

book printed. Anyone from Children to adults will be able to use the books. The rage now is coloring for adults as I'm sure you know. The ILS coloring books can be used in schools, sold at arboreta and garden gift shops etc. They will contain information about our society and how to join it. They will promote ILS in a happy fun way.

Connie Simonnet is now the RVP for the Central Region. She replaced Irene Stark who resigned after many years of service. Thank you Irene! Bruce Peart is now the RVP for Western Canada. Elke Haase is the new Europe RVP. David Gressley is the new Publicity Chair.

After 10 years of service to ILS Kent Millham is retiring as editor of Lilacs. Kent has served ILS well; putting out wonderful issues year after year. Kent now wants to travel and visit gardens close and far away. Thank you Kent for a job well done! We appreciate your service to ILS. This is Kent's farewell issue. Thomas 'Tom' Gober, ILS member from Ohio is taking over starting with the fall issue. We were at Tyler Garden. Kent and I had just talked about his decision to retire. Karen McCauley and I immediately looked for a replacement among us at the convention. The second person we asked was Thomas Gober. Having experience with publishing, he has agreed to be our next editor. Thank you Tom. Please send articles and pictures to our new editor.

Dr. Owen Rogers a longtime member of ILS and a dear friend passed away on May 24, 2016. Owen as we knew him was a professor at the University of New Hampshire until his retirement. He spent his long career doing researches on lilacs. He was a lilac expert and was known around the world. He served as president of ILS and also as its editor. He and his wonderful wife Marie attended conventions. The Vermont convention was the last they were able to attend. Owen was a true gentleman. He had a great sense of humor. We thank Owen for his long years of service to ILS and for all the great work he did with lilacs.

After our convention the ILS Members in Russia and surrounding countries attended on June 2<sup>nd</sup> a great lilac festival in the city of St. Petersburg, Russia. I was invited but regretfully could not attend. I'm sure Tatiana Polakovia, RVP Russia and Elke Haase, RVP Europe, will tell us all about that event and send us great pictures.

So much news, read all about it in this issue of Lilacs. Going to conventions reinforces the bonds of friendships among us. It is nice to know we come together to celebrate lilacs and along the way we make great friends too. Again a big thank you to Karen McCauley for planning this wonderful convention! Where we will go next? Could it be Belgium? Canada? China? France? Germany? New Zealand? Russia? Somewhere in the USA? The possibilities are endless. So stay tuned...

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

## Editor's Farewell Message

It has been a long time since I first began as editor. Back in 2006, I went to the convention in Woodland, WA with my then 10 year old son Shane. At the time, I was on the Board of Directors, and at the board meeting I found out that Tory Woodruff, the editor for 3 issues, had resigned because she recently had a baby. At the meeting, I volunteered to try being the editor. Little did I know I would keep this title for over 10 years, or 41 issues.

I had little idea how to put together a magazine, but Tory coached me on how to use Adobe Pagemaker, which is the program I use to put the journal together. Every issue presented different challenges, but I always felt a sense of accomplishment after each one was completed. It is a great privilege to put out a magazine for lilac lovers all over the world, and while being the editor, I have made connections with people I may never have met or corresponded with otherwise.

I have tried to publish a lilac journal that is accurate in terms of nomenclature, and thanks to Freek Vrugtman's International Lilac Register, there is always a ready reference to refer to. I am glad to have published articles about lilac collections in many different countries, and have tried to improve the readability and appearance of the journal by including many quality photos. The old saying "a picture is worth a thousand words" is true, and a good photo of a lilac can keep us happy until we see that lilac in bloom.

I am now stepping down as editor, but still hope to contribute to the journal in the future by continuing to write articles. I am now turning the reins over in the Fall issue to the new editor, Tom Gober, and I encourage everyone to help support him in his role by sending him articles and photos.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Kent Millham  
ILS editor  
June 2016*

## New Editor Contact Information

The new editor of the ILS Quarterly Journal as of Fall 2016

is **Tom Gober**.

He can be contacted at : [lilaceditor@gmail.com](mailto:lilaceditor@gmail.com)

## Treasurer's Report 2016

Fiscal Year 4/1/15 - 3/31/16

KeyBank Checking Account Balance 4/1/16	\$ 18,663.72
Edward Jones Company Investments:	
Miami-Dade Cnty Aviation 4.25%	5,000.00
Tennessee Valley Auth Gbr Pwr 4.65%	20,000.00
South Broward HDFB Municipal Bond 6.978%	5,000.00
Franklin Adj US Govt Secs .04%	26,469.31
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$ 75,133.03</u></b>

### Special Accounts (Included in the above total)

Life Member/Endowment Fund	\$ 39,944.57
Plant Propagation Fund (Laurene Wishart)	1,936.64
Education & Research	3,762.91
Youth Program Fund	1,506.79
<b>Total Funds in Special Accounts</b>	<b>\$ 47,150.91</b>
<b>Total Funds in General Accounts</b>	<b>\$ 27,982.12</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE</b>	<b>\$ 75,133.03</b>

### Income

Membership Dues	\$ 5,195.00
Contributions to ILS	500.00
Interest Income	2,491.69
Auction Income	2,565.00
Misc Income (Royalties, Old Journal sales, Lilac Bkts)	142.04
Convention Income (2016 Registration fees)	675.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 11,568.73</b>

### Expenses

Journal	\$ 8,851.34
Postage	923.99
Bank Fees	263.21
Web site expenses	27.57
Insurance	417.50
Misc	453.86
2016 Convention Deposits	890.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 11,827.47</b>

**Net Income (Loss) \$ (258.74)**

NOTE: Two of our bonds HSBC & FHLMC were called in. Funds were invested in Miami-Dade Cnty Aviation bond & Franklin Adj Govt Secs. Reva Ballereich Memorial was added to the general fund. Submitted 4/16/16 by Karen McCauley, ILS Treasurer

## 2016 ILS Convention Attendees List

Alexander Jack	8 Pine Tree Circle	Sandwich, MA
Applegate Kelly	8733 33 <sup>rd</sup> Street	Princeton, MN
Barnes Woody	PO Box 1570	Julian, CA
Barnes Jane	PO Box 1570	Julian, CA
Bittorf Bradley	13902 East Placita Ocho Puntas	Vail, AZ
Bonnett Mary	7060 Congress Road	Spencer, OH
Bonnett Bill	7060 Congress Road	Spencer, OH
Ely Peter	2430 Cape Cod Circle	Elgin, IL
Faber Brian	8733 33 <sup>rd</sup> Street	Princeton, MN
Gober Tom	1085 Mt. Vernon Avenue	Akron, OH
Gressley Nessa	7556 Johnnycake Ridge Road	Mentor, OH
Gressley David	7556 Johnnycake Ridge Road	Mentor, OH
Hoepfl Bob	305 Maryview Drive	Webster, NY
Hoepfl Marcia	305 Maryview Drive	Webster, NY
Horman William	5745 Kensington Avenue	Detroit, MI
Jordan Nicole	15500 Harrowgate Road	Chester, VA
Kirk John	892 Woodard Hill Road	Halifax, VT
Kwolek Edward	183 St. Johns Road	Drums, PA
LaBonte Francine	272 Jeanne-Mance	Cowansville, QC, Canada
Latimer Harry	PO Box 444	Emory, VA
Latimer Nancy	PO Box 444	Emory, VA
Lee Beryl	14 Auld Street	Musselburgh Dunedin, NZ
McCauley Karen	325 W 82 <sup>nd</sup> Street	Chaska, MN
McCauley Tim	325 W 82 <sup>nd</sup> Street	Chaska, MN
Millham Kent	58 Glenridge Lane	Rochester, NY
Myers Arlene	8 Pine Tree Circle	Sandwich, MA
Newton Edmund	427 Horseneck Road	So. Dartmouth, MA
Newton Elizabeth	427 Horseneck Road	So. Dartmouth, MA
Pearl Bruce	114 Cameron Avenue	Dundas, ON, Canada
Reinke Diane	2503 Henderson Avenue	Silver Spring, MD
Reinke Budne	2503 Henderson Avenue	Silver Spring, MD
Sandt Carol	382 River Road	Pequea, PA
Schreiber Gloria	14319 Tope Road	Hartsville, OH
Simonnet Connie	PO Box 326	Polo, IL
Valthausen Cordetta	5872 Akins Road	North Royalton, OH
Waines John Giles	Botanic Gardens UC	Riverside, CA
Walberg Myrna	PO Box 306	Dunham, QC, Canada
Walton Margaret	114 Cameron Avenue	Dundas, ON, Canada
Young Jan	12 Forest Hill Road	St. Albans, VT
Young Jeff	12 Forest Hill Road	St. Albans, VT
Young Nathaniel	12 Forest Hill Road	St. Albans, VT
Zavodny Robert	1085 Mt. Vernon Avenue	Akron, OH
Zykova Vera	P. Nikita dom. kv5	Yalta, Crimea, Russia

## Convention Corner June 2016

Well the 2016 Convention in Pennsylvania was a huge hit, with lilacs in glorious bloom. We visited 5 fabulous gardens; Longwood, Chanticleer, Mt. Cuba, Scott Arboretum and Tyler Arboretum. If you were unable to attend, I would highly urge you to visit these five gardens, which all offer something unique. A special thanks to our two speakers, Dr. Vera Zykova, Lilac Curator at the Nikita Botanical Gardens in Crimea, and Jack Alexander III, Plant Propagator Arnold Arboretum. Also, the live auction was the most successful to date, earning **\$4,955**. Thanks to all of you that donated your time, goods or plant material, making the event a success. Some members who couldn't attend were curious as to what was auctioned and the winning bids, so I've included the final auction list. Due to privacy concerns, winning bidders will not be published.

Karen McCauley, Convention Chair

[mccauleytk@aol.com](mailto:mccauleytk@aol.com)

**Donor Key:** EK=Edward Kwolek, MP=Max Peterson, WH= William Horman, GW= Giles Waines, GS= Gloria Schreiber

Cultivar Name	Form/Color	Hybridizer/Yr	Donor	Price
'Albert F. Holden'	SII-VII	Fiala 1980	EK	20
'Angel White'	SI	Lammerts 1971	EK	25
'Atheline Wilbur'	DVI	Fiala 1980	EK	40
'Blue Delft'	SIII	Fiala 1982	MP	60
'City of Longview'	DV	Klager 1930	MP	20
'Dana Horton'	??	Berdeen	MP	75
'Edith Cavell'	DI	Lemoine 1916	EK	40
'Etna'	SVII	Lemoine 1927	EK	50
'Fiala Remembrance'	DII	Margaretten 1991	EK	25
'Florence Christine'	SIV	Stone	MP	70
'Frank Paterson'	SVII	Paterson 1960	MP	105
'Galina Ulanova'	SI	Kolesnikov 1953	MP	85
'General Elwell S. Otis'	DIV	Dunbar 1906	MP	95
'Gertrude Child'	SVII	Child pre 1976	MP	50
'Grace Orthwaite' (2)	SV	Brand 1937	MP	120,55
'Kate Bergen'	DV	Berdeen	MP	100
'Lee Jewett Walker'	SV	Berdeen 1981	MP	55
'Léopold II' (2)	SIV	Stepman de Messemacker 1908	MP	45,20
'Lesostepnaya'	DV-VI	Vekhov 1952	MP	130
'Little Bit' (2)	? V	Berdeen	MP	130,115
'Lourene Wishart'	DV	Fiala 1980	MP	125
'Madame A.J.Klettenberg'	DI	Klettenberg 1930	MP	30
'Marie Frances'	SV	Fiala 1983	EK	45

Cultivar Name	Form/Color	Hybridizer/Yr	Donor	Price
'Mary Short'	DV	Fiala 1979	MP	20
'Midwest Gem'	DV	Sass ca.1942	MP	110
'Monique Lemoine'	DI	Lemoine 1939	EK	50
'Nadezhda'	DIII-IV	Kolesnikov 1968	MP	60
'Nebo Moskvyy'	DIII-IV-VI	Kolesnikov 1963	MP	170
Night Song	DII	origin not known	MP	100
		pre 1982		
'Olimpida Kolesnikova'	DIV-V	Kolesnikov 1941	MP	135
'P.P. Koncholvskii' (2)	DIII-IV	Kolesnikov 1956	MP	135,110
'Paul Thirion'	DVI	Lemoine 1915	EK	60
'Prof. Edmund Jankowski'	SIII	Karpow-Lipski1958	MP	65
'Prof. Józef Brzezinski'	DV	Karpow-Lipski1958	MP	65
unknown			MP	30
'Quadricolor'	SIV	Behnsch pre1890	MP	85
'Reine Marguerite'	DV	or.unk. pre 1897	MP	110
'Sesquicentennial'	SII	Fenicchia 1988	EK	100
'Silver King'	SIII	Lemke 1941	EK	90
'Sorok Let Komsomola'	SIV	Kolesnikov 1959	MP	115
'Sumerki'	SII-III	Kolesnikov 1954	MP	80
'Sweetheart'	DVI	Clarke 1953	EK	35
'Ukraina'	SIV-V	Zhogoleva 1974	MP	110
'Utro Moskvyy'	DIV-V	Kolesnikov 1938	MP	105
'Valentina Grizodubova'	DV	Kolesnikov pre1974	MP	90
'Vera Khoruzhaya'	SIV-V	Smolskii & Bibikova 1964	MP	160
'Wedgwood Blue'	SIII	Fiala 1981	EK	50
'Yankee Doodle'	SVII	Fiala 1985	EK	55
'Yankee Doodle'	SVII	Fiala 1985	GS	50
'Zhemchuzhina'	DV	or.unk.pre1994	MP	250
'Charles Joly'	DVII	Lemoine 1896	WH	20
'Excel'	SIV	Skinner 1932	WH	45
'Leon Gambetta'	DIV	Lemoine 1907	WH	40
'My Favorite'	DVI	Klager 1928	WH	105
'Olive Mae Cummings'	DV-II	Berdeen 1979	WH	70
'Président Grévy'	DIII	Lemoine 1886	WH	40
'Redwine'	SVI	Morden Res. Sta pre 1942	WH	105.
'Lavender Lady'	SVII	Lammerts 1954	WH	110
'Ramona'	SVII	Erickson and Waines	GW	100

## International Lilac Society 2016 Annual Meeting, 29 April 2016 , Hockessin, Delaware

### Present: a quorum of members (>25)

President Nicole Jordan called the meeting to order at 1:49 PM Eastern Daylight Time.

Nicole stated that the minutes for the 2015 meeting are available on the internet. No changes were identified for the 2015 meeting minutes.

Karen and Tim McCauley were recognized for setting up the meeting.

Board members and regional vice presidents were recognized.

### Treasurer report (Karen McCauley):

Karen McCauley said we have \$75,133.03. We took in and spent about \$11,000 last year. Overall we lost about \$250 last year. Most of the loss was due to the auction costs. Last year's auction made \$2510. Some of the ILS bonds were called in and new safe ones were purchased. The books were audited and found to be in order.

Question: is there a long-range plan for using the money? Answer (Nicole Jordan) There is not a long range plan, but there is a proposal for a children's book, and there is also a proposal for a scientific research proposal. Details of the scientific proposals are still being reviewed by the research committee.

Question: how much did the journal cost for the year? Answer (Karen McCauley): It was \$8851 total for the year.

### Editor Report (Kent Millham):

Nicole introduced Kent and asked people to produce articles for the journal. Kent said that he produced 148 pages plus covers which comprise about 6 photographs per cover. Kent would appreciate any photos, articles about personal collections, and names of cultivars and any people shown in photos. Sometimes not everything can be fit into one journal and so some submissions may wait until the next edition of the journal to be submitted. The last 5 editions included 90 photos of lilac cultivars. If you submit a photo, please send it in high resolution.

### Membership (John Kirk):

John recognized members from Crimea and from New Zealand who attended, plus members who came to their first convention. We have about the same number of members from Canada and from Russia.

Question: can we advertise in journals of other plant societies to request

membership? Suggestions included the rhododendron and azalea society, and the day lily society. The other societies would be willing to exchange advertising for membership in other societies. Please send information about any other societies to Nicole. Nicole asked everybody to enroll one additional member.

Executive Vice President Brad Bittorf announced the people who won the elections. Members of the Board of Directors whose terms will expire in 2019 are Robert Zavodny, Franklin (Woody) Barnes, Bruce Peart, and David Gressley.

Question: How do people who don't have the internet get a copy of the minutes? Nicole said that anybody can go to the library and get a copy there. Brad added that the minutes are also published each year in the journal.

Question: How many people voted? Brad replied that 35 voted, but this was incorrect—it represented the number of votes the top vote-getter received. 47 ballots were issued. More than half of the ballots issued were requested electronically.

Question: Why is the list of lilacs available for the auction different than the list that was published in the summer issue of the journal? (Note, it was later determined that this question was inaccurate...the auction lilac list matches the preliminary list published in the summer and fall editions of the journal.)  
Response by Tim McCausley: Each year there are some different lilacs available than originally planned, but the intention is to provide the lilacs that are advertised. Some plants die or are needed to preserve rare cultivars, etc.

Comment by Bill Horman: Please volunteer to help.

Comment by Jeff Young: Some plant organizations produce their journals electronically. Response by Karen McCauley: the board has decided to continue to print journals on paper—this was the request by the majority of the membership during prior ILS conventions.

Comment by Peter Ely: Only 27% of the membership published an email; some are concerned about privacy of their email and phone numbers. It is important to publish all decisions and official business in the journal. Karen McCauley concurred that many members are concerned about privacy and are not comfortable releasing all their information.

Comment by Peter Ely: Members of the Board of Directors should receive a copy of the meeting minutes within 30 days per the By-Laws. It was pointed out that some members of the board do not have e-mail or the internet and cannot access the meeting minutes on line. Brad said that he would send paper copies of the board meeting minutes to any board member who does not have

electronic access. He added that meeting minutes are published in the journal, but acknowledged this would not happen within 30 days as required by the By Laws.

Nicole asked members to please share their e-mail address with the ILS so we can communicate more effectively with you.

Budne Reinke/ Tim McCauley made a motion to adjourn. President Jordan adjourned the meeting at 2:32 PM.



ILS President Nicole Jordan addresses the membership at the annual meeting held in the meeting room of the Mt. Cuba Nature Center  
Photo Credit Kent Millham



ILS Executive Vice-President Brad Bittorf addresses the membership at the annual meeting  
Photo Credit Kent Millham

# 2016 INTERNATIONAL LILAC SOCIETY AWARDS

## Media, Pennsylvania

### Award of Merit

#### **Tyler Arboretum & Amy Mawby**

Director of Public Programs

For their collaboration and effort in making the 2016 International Lilac Society Convention a success.

### Award of Merit

#### **Dr. Sarmite Strautina,**

Dr. of Biology,

Leading scientist at the Institute of Horticulture, Latvia University of Agriculture

For saving the unique Lilac Cultivar collection of the breeders P. Uptis and I. Karklins in the Lilac Garden in Dobeles, Latvia and for promoting lilacs.

### Award of Merit

#### **Irene Stark**

For her long service to the International Lilac Society as Regional Vice-President for the Central Region and for promoting lilacs.

### Distinguished Recognition Award

#### **Karen and Tim McCauley**

For their many outstanding long term roles and contributions to the International Lilac Society:

Treasurer; Convention Chair; Preservation committee Chair; Members of the board; Interim Secretary.

For sustaining continuity of the International Lilac Society by organizing the annual conventions and for rescuing rare lilacs for the ILS Auction.

### Distinguished Recognition Award

#### **Jack Alexander**

For continuing the legacy of Mary Lizotte with the fall lilac gathering in New Hampshire.

For his loyal and ongoing support of ILS as RVP, as a member of the board and for serving as an authority on lilacs.

### Director's Award

#### **Dr. Olga Aladina**

Professor and chief scientist at the Russian State Agrarian University

-Moscow Agricultural Academy by K.A. Timiriazev

For the long term significant contribution made to the hybridization of lilacs. For the development of methods of accelerated propagation and cultivation of new varieties of lilacs.

For her work in educating the public on lilac culture and for promoting the lilac.



Myrna Walberg, Awards Chairman, with award recipients  
Tim McCauley, Jack Alexander, and Karen McCauley



## Enjoying Lilacs, Gardens and Camaraderie at the 2016 ILS Convention

After a long absence from the annual ILS conventions (2009 in Ottawa was the last one I had attended), at long last I was able to attend at the last minute. It was almost literally the last minute, since I couldn't attend unless I finished planting the 2016 pansy bed at Highland Botanical Park. The pansy bed is approximately 25' by 50' and holds up to 15,000 pansies. My helper and I finished Wednesday April 27<sup>th</sup> at noon, so I made a last minute decision to attend the convention the next day.

Karen McCauley, the Convention Chair, arranged an excellent 3 day convention that included visits to 5 spectacular gardens. The first visit was to one of the premier botanical gardens in the United States; Longwood Gardens. Entering the gardens, we were met by James Harbage, leader of the Floriculture Division. He proceeded to give us a behind-the-scenes tour of the growing and research greenhouses of Longwood. Not only are a large number of plants grown here for the seasonal shows in the conservatory and outdoor gardens, but research and hybridization is a major operation. Recent work with the Kaffir Lily, *Clivia miniata*, has produced a red cultivar in a plant that is normally orange. Planning for seasonal shows often begins a year or more ahead of time, so that ample numbers of plants can be produced.

After the tour was over, we had about an hour and a half to explore the massive conservatory, or to touch upon the large number of outdoor gardens. With 20 display gardens and 4.5 acres in the conservatory, I barely had time to explore it. One room, the Exhibition Hall, had a marble floor flooded with a few inches of water to reflect the display. It was lined with massive Australian Tree Ferns, *Cyathea cooperi*. Other rooms of interest included the Orchid House, Silver Garden, Palm and Cycad House, and North America's largest green wall (14' high and 300' long).

Outside near the conservatory, a massive renovation of the spectacular fountains is nearing completion. Nearby was a small hedge wall of lilacs that overlooked the hedge garden. It was in bloom, as was a long entrance walkway nearby lined on both sides by mature empress trees, *Paulownia tomentosa*. After all this astounding horticulture, we had a hospitality hour reception at Longwood in the Founders Room.

On Friday we explored 2 more horticultural gems, Chanticleer Gardens and Mt. Cuba Nature Center. Chanticleer Gardens is the former residence of the Rosengartens, and has since been developed to house many different gardens on 47 acres. One of the entrance gardens is the Teacup Garden, which has a large 5' teacup surrounded by an interesting array of foliage plants. Other gardens included several shade and woodland gardens, an alpine garden, and a very

interesting serpentine garden. Each year the serpentine patterns are planted with different species of grains. Also, there was a small lilac collection near the Chanticleer House.

From there we drove to the Mt. Cuba Nature Center, where we had lunch and our annual meeting. Although it is an arboretum that focuses on native plants, included was a special garden called the Lilac Allee. Here there were about 25 cultivars of lilacs, and they were in full bloom. It has been aptly named; the lilacs have been planted to form an alley with a grass path between the two borders of lilacs. Underneath the lilacs, a border of lavender-colored pansies were planted to complement the lilacs. Some of the cultivars on display included 'Paul Thirion', 'Montaigne', 'Vestale', 'Mme F Morel', 'Decaisne', 'Mme Lemoine', 'Edith Cavell', and 'Mont Blanc'.

On Saturday the garden tours continued as we traveled to the Tyler Arboretum for the annual ILS auction. It was one of the best auctions ever, with many rare lilacs available; many root suckers from rare plants at Max Peterson's that have never been available before. Many of the plants went for \$100 or more, and I was able to go home with 3 rare ones. 'Galina Ulanova', a single white Koleznikov selection, and 'Little Bit' and 'Kate Bergen'; both Berdeen hybrids.

Tyler Arboretum is comprised of 650 acres, and includes a pinetum, crabapple collection, rhododendron collection, magnolia collection, and cherry collection, as well as a very nice lilac collection. The original lilac collection was planted by John C. Wister, the first director of the Tyler Arboretum from 1946-1968 (it should be noted that John Wister developed the Wister Color Code for lilacs-I White, II Violet III Blue, IV Lilac, V Pink, VI Magenta, VII Purple). This collection was originally comprised of 63 cultivars and 84 specimens when first planted. One of the highlights of the lilac collection was the outstanding light sky-blue Lemoine hybrid 'Firmament'. It seemed to draw the ILS members to it like a magnet. Of course, there were many other beauties in the collection. One grouping I especially enjoyed was the dark double 'Charles Joly' planted next to a pure white double 'Mme Lemoine'. When people come to me asking about purchasing a deep purple lilac, I often try to explain to them they should have other colors along with purple; especially white, since the white next to a dark seems to bring out the beauty of both.

There were too many cultivars to reiterate all of them, but a few other of my favorites in the Tyler collection included 'Thunberg'; an old double lilac-colored Lemoine selection; 'Souvenir d'Alice Harding', an exquisite double white Lemoine hybrid, and 'Priscilla', a single magenta selection of Havemeyer with large florets. A future visit is in store for me, both to spend more time with the lilacs, and a day to explore the rest of the arboretum.

The final garden stop of the convention was at the Scott Arboretum of Swarthmore College. This arboretum is part of the college campus. John Wister also worked here, and was the first director of the Arthur Hoyt Scott Horticultural

Foundation, which ran the public arboretum at Swarthmore College. The lilac collection is right on the campus, and we all got to see more lilacs in full bloom.

The convention came to a close Saturday evening at Harry's Savoy Grill, where we had an excellent dinner, along with the Silent Auction, and two after-dinner talks.

The first talk was by Dr. Vera Zykova about "Lilac Cultivation and Breeding in the Crimea". Vera talked about the use of lilacs in the Crimea in landscaping, and they have been used for 250 years. She talked about the breeding and cultivation of lilacs at the Nikita Botanical Garden, which has been going on since 1955, and continues now. Currently, they are working on developing cultivars with drought resistance, early flowering, vibrant colors and large florets. A complete article of her talk will appear in the Fall issue.

Jack Alexander's talk was entitled "*S. komarowii*- How to Cope with and Grow Seedlings". Jack described the long process involved to produce the *komarowii* seedlings. First seed was collected in China. Then the capsules were dried, and the lobes flattened in order to extract the seeds. Then the seeds were cold stratified and planted in a common germination mix along with sand. The seeds were sowed 2-3 times deeper than the width of the seed. Then, after germination, they are grown in 50% shade for the first couple of years, and then ideally can be transplanted when about 18" high. Every attendee received one of the *komarowii* seedlings.

Although I find it difficult to be able to attend the annual convention of ILS, since they usually take place at the same time as the Lilac Festival at Highland Botanical Park, I will have to try to attend them much more frequently. I had a great time, and got to see many old friends and to make new ones, and we all got to see many beautiful lilacs.

Kent Millham  
June 2016

### **Congratulations to the Newly Elected**

ILS Board Members:

Franklin "Woody" Barnes

David Gressley

Bruce Peart

Robert Zavodny

## ILS Convention 2016

### Day One



Dr. James Harbage explains about the 50 soil mixtures made at Longwood  
Photo Credit Kent Millham



One wall of orchids in the Orchid House at Longwood  
Photo Credit Kent Millham



An intricate *Phalaenopsis* hybrid  
Photo Credit Kent Millham



The hedgerow of lilacs near the Hedge Garden at Longwood  
Photo Credit Kent Millham



A spectacular specimen of *Bougainvillea*  
Photo Credit Kent Millham



Enjoying hospitality hour at Longwood  
Photo Credit Kent Millham

ILS Convention  
Day Two



Przemyslaw Walczak begins the tour at Chanticleer Gardens  
Photo Credit Kent Millham



One of the Woodland Gardens at Chanticleer  
Photo Credit Kent Millham



The unique Teacup Garden at Chanticleer  
Photo Credit Kent Millham



A ring of multi-colored tulips surrounds a pool at Mt. Cuba Nature Center  
Photo Credit Kent Millham



Connie Simonnet and Gloria Schreiber enjoy a 'Paul Thirion'  
Photo Credit Kent Millham



The Lilac Allee at Mt. Cuba, with a border of lavender pansies  
Photo Credit Kent Millham

## ILS Convention 2016 Day Three



Master auctioneer Bruce Peart at work  
Photo Credit Kent Millham



As of a few weeks ago, married couple Jack and Arlene pose next to  
'Firmament'



Kent Millham, Diane Reinke and Bud Reinke enjoying dinner  
Photo Credit Cordetta Valthausen



The two attendees who came the farthest; Beryl Lee of New Zealand  
and Vera Zykova of Crimea  
Photo Credit Cordetta Valthausen

## Some Lilacs of Tyler Arboretum



'Souvenir d'Alice Harding'; an excellent double white Lemoine selection  
Photo Credit Kent Millham



'Henri Martin'; a double lilac selection of Lemoine in 1912  
Photo Credit Kent Millham



Note the narrow full thyrse and deep rich color of ‘Charles Joly’  
Photo Credit Kent Millham



A very fine single blue hybrid of Lemoine, ‘Maurice Barrès’  
Photo Credit Kent Millham

*The following article has been reprinted with the permission of the author, Lori Wright, and the University of New Hampshire.*

## UNH Mourns the Loss of Professor Emeritus Owen Rogers:

### Researcher Devoted Career to Breeding Lilacs

The University of New Hampshire mourns the loss of Owen Maurice Rogers, 85, professor emeritus of plant biology in the College of Life Sciences and Agriculture, who passed away Tuesday, May 24, 2016. Rogers devoted his career to breeding lilacs, the New Hampshire state flower, and was instrumental in developing UNH’s lilac breeding program that spanned 60 years, the longest continuous lilac breeding program in the United States.

“How could you not be enamored by the lilac? The virtues that it has, there are many. Between the variation in size of plants and colors of plants, the lilac fills all the bills. The fragrance is very nice. You can hardly go wrong with the lilac,” Rogers said in a short documentary “For the Love of Lilacs” produced by the Wentworth-Coolidge Commission.

### Nationally Known Lilac Expert

Known nationally for his lilac expertise, Rogers conducted much of his research at the UNH Woodman Horticultural Research Farm, a facility of the NH Agricultural Experiment Station, which supported Rogers’ lifetime of research. Recalling his early mornings among the lilacs at Woodman Farm, Rogers remembered standing alone, gazing at a brand new cultivar, a flower no one else on earth has ever seen before. “Now that,” Rogers told the UNH Magazine in 2007, “that is really worth something.”

Rogers was among UNH’s lilac breeders who solidified UNH’s place as the center of lilac breeding for six decades beginning in the 1940s. UNH scientists with the New Hampshire Agricultural Experiment Station developed 10 varieties of lilacs. The three principal UNH scientists engaged in this work were

Elwyn Meader, Albert Yeager, and Rogers. The experiment station's Woodman Horticultural Research Farm still exhibits the fruits of this lilac research with many varieties blooming every year. In addition, lilacs developed at UNH can be seen behind Thompson Hall on campus and in the faculty neighborhood. Rogers retired from UNH in 1996.

“The primary work being done with lilacs at UNH is to develop species that will extend the bloom season. Our accent is on breeding better lilacs, which will come into bloom after the common lilac has peaked and faded,” Rogers told the New York Times in 1979.

Rogers cross-bred many cultivars of lilacs and introduced three new lilacs. The ‘Agnes Smith’ lilac is a white lilac Rogers introduced in 1970. It is named for Agnes Greene Smith of Portsmouth, the first president of the New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs. It was marketed in Germany as the Miss USA. ‘Agnes Smith’ was chosen as the best plant introduction of 1973 by the International Propagators Society and is considered one of the finest white lilacs in the world. The ‘Jesse Hepler’ lilac is a purple lilac Rogers introduced in 1981. It is named for Jesse Hepler, UNH professor emeritus of horticulture.

The ‘Marie Rogers’ lilac is a light violet lilac introduced in 2003 by Rogers and Walter Oakes of Dixfield, ME. This lilac was named by Walter Oakes for Owen's wife Marie Rogers. Marie met Owen while they were both in the U.S. Air Force, where she worked as a recruiter. In 1951, Marie was stationed in Rochester, NY, home of the Rochester Parks Lilac Collection. Oakes was a founding member of the International Lilac Society and selected the plant from a batch of open pollinated seedlings received from Rogers in 1992.

“ ‘Jesse Hepler’ has been introduced but not widely propagated or marketed. It is important because it is the latest blooming lilac in New England, and possibly the world. No other lilac is known to bloom as late, which extends the lilac bloom time by several weeks,” said John Bentley, author of *Lilacs: A New Hampshire Perspective*.

Rogers was an active member of the International Lilac Society, serving s

president, editor, and in other capacities. He is the recipient of the Director's Award (1979), the Honors and Achievement Award (1984), the Arch McKean Award (1991), and the Distinguished Recognition Award (2001) of the International Lilac Society. He also served as a commissioner on the NH Governor's Lilac and Wildflower Commission.

In addition to his lilac breeding work, Rogers taught classes in plant genetics and breeding at UNH, judged flower shows, and served in the U.S. Air Force Reserve for 20 years. He was considered the unofficial spokesman for lilacs in New Hampshire, appearing in magazine articles and on television to promote lilacs well into his retirement.

### **Birth of the First Lilac Register**

While on sabbatical in 1975, Rogers compiled the *Tentative International Register of Cultivar Names in the Genus Syringa L.*, a lilac register patterned after *Lilacs for America* (1953). Published by the NH Agricultural Experiment Station in 1976, it became the cornerstone of the *International Register and Checklist of Cultivar Names of the Genus Syringa L.* (2007).

“The success of the Tentative registry eventually led to it becoming the registry of lilacs. Thus, anybody who wanted to announce a new lilac had to go through UNH. This encouraged much interchange of information about lilacs with the UNH staff, who in turn connected to a larger network worldwide,” said Bradley Bittorf, executive vice president of the International Lilac Society.

Freek Vrugtman, curator emeritus of the Royal Botanical Gardens, Ontario, Canada, and International Lilac Registrar for the Royal Botanical Gardens, now manages the registry of lilacs. He first met Rogers in the early 1970s at an annual convention of the International Lilac Society.

“When in late 1974 I was asked to take on the international registration of cultivar names of lilacs, Owen encouraged me to accept. Not only that, Owen also dedicated his sabbatical leave to creating a card index of all lilac cultivar names he could find in the available horticultural literature—this was the pre-computer and pre-internet era! His findings were summarized in the



“Tentative International Register of Cultivar Names in the Genus *Syringa*,” NH Agricultural Experiment Station Research Report No. 49; April 1976. At the top of the first page of the copy Owen sent me he had written, ‘This is where your troubles begin,’” Vrugtman said.

“The box of index cards and the Tentative Register gave me the tools for a head start and provided the pattern I followed for about two decades. Consultations would go both ways; Owen was a horticultural geneticist, I a horticultural taxonomist. Owen was interested in lilac genetics and in finding or predicting the genetic combinations that would give the best results in hybridizing. I was interested in obtaining good descriptions of new cultivars and being able to classify them according to their genetic background. Having access to the University of New Hampshire library, Owen was always helpful in locating literature references I may be looking for,” he said.

Following his retirement, Rogers sorted his lilac papers and correspondence, and Vrugtman said from time to time, he would receive envelopes or parcels with a wide variety of papers. “Owen knew the value of personal letters and notes that were relevant to the history of the garden lilac. Notes that have found their way into files that may be of interest to future researchers and writers.”

“Owen’s values, his knowledge, and ideas have been passed on to the younger generations. I was lucky to get to know him and work with him,” he said.

### **Colleagues Share Memories**

Janet Sullivan, adjunct associate professor of biological sciences and collections manager of the Hodgdon Herbarium, shared an office with Rogers after the department moved to Spaulding Hall from Nesmith Hall in 1996.

“He was a very gregarious person, and he loved UNH. He felt he had been blessed in life as far as his academic career and opportunities. He loved his family, and was especially happy to be able to spend time with his grandson. He fully enjoyed his retirement, doing the things he loved: sharing his knowledge and love of plants (especially lilacs), socializing and keeping everyone

connected, and traveling. He was generous with stories and advice,” Sullivan said.

Sullivan said Rogers’s appointment as editor of the *Lilac Journal* enabled him to stay connected to his colleagues in the International Lilac Society in a meaningful way after retirement. He kept current with nomenclature, new cultivars, research, and looked forward to the annual meetings.

Rogers also loved being involved with Elderhostel and Interhostel. “It gave him the chance to travel and to talk to people. Every fall for a few years after retirement he went on a fall foliage bus trip up into the White Mountains, where they had him ride at the front of the bus with a microphone — a captive audience and a free meal! I still circulate in class each year a piece of bark from a cork oak that he brought back for me from the Mediterranean,” Sullivan said. Staying in contact with former and current colleagues was important to Rogers, who organized monthly coffee socials for the Department of Plant Biology. “He organized these gatherings with a lot of enthusiasm; he would call all the retired members of the department and invite them to attend (and enjoyed the chance to chat with each on the phone). He loved the chance to connect with everyone, and to get everyone together so that we could all interact in an informal way. He also loved organizing the annual Holiday Greens Party. This was another opportunity to bring members of the department together to socialize,” Sullivan said.

“Professionally, his work was well respected. Folks would call the office frequently to ask about his plantings out at the farm. I think he was especially proud of the ‘Marie Rogers’ lilac cultivar he created and named for his wife. He retained his curiosity and love of ornamentals throughout his retirement; he made routine tours of campus to check out new plantings or to report on what was in bloom. If he found something new he’d come back to the office to confirm his ID and look up the details in *Dirr’s Manual of Woody Landscape Plants*,” she said.

Barb Rollins, landscape specialist supervisor with the NH Department of Transportation, worked with Rogers for many years on the NH Governor’s Lilac

and Wildflower Commission. "He was a true delight to work with, a gentleman, and his wit was always a welcome! He was also a judge for the many entries in the annual Lilac Photo Contest held in August, something he enjoyed and took pride in. I feel privileged to have known and worked with Owen and will miss him very much," Rollins said.

Art Mathieson, professor of plant biology at UNH, said Rogers "was always outgoing and very friendly. In particular, he made special efforts to enhance social interactions within the Plant Biology Department, often hosting teas and special activities. He was a very kind and thoughtful man and always helped with various projects and activities. I miss his wonderful smile and interactions."

Jim Stewart, professor emeritus of biochemistry at UNH, said Rogers was a "genuinely enthusiastic teacher. He brought his sense of humor, always gracious but sometime edgy, into the classroom. Students always paid rapt attention and actually enjoyed his classes."

"One thought always came to the forefront was his research for many years with breeding lilacs suitable to New Hampshire and his promotion of lilacs throughout the state. He was a patient man since it could take 10 years to develop a new lilac variety. Over the years he introduced new varieties, one even named after his wife, Marie," Stewart said. "After retirement Owen stayed active in some aspects of the Plant Biology Department. He even originated, organized, and prepared a coffee break meeting for faculty, staff, and students centered on a new dessert each month."

Bittorf, of the International Lilac Society, recalls one of his first memories of learning about the academics of lilacs at a hotel in Clinton, Iowa, where the society was meeting. Ed Hasselkus, now professor emeritus at the University of Wisconsin who also did much work in lilacs, and Rogers "were exchanging stories about plant biology, tree bark habits, and so on at a poolside table over drinks. Somehow, they had received an extra drink at their table, and they invited me to sit down, enjoy the drink, and hear the science and the stories. I often say this was the start of my 'absorption of information by osmosis' about

lilacs. I was honored to share time with these two prominent professors."

### **Community Service Planned**

Rogers was born on July 4, 1930, in Worcester, Mass. He received his bachelor's degree in 1952 from the Massachusetts Agricultural College, now the University of Massachusetts-Amherst; his master's degree in 1954 from Cornell University; and his Ph.D. in 1959 from Pennsylvania State University. He was a Master Mason.

He is survived by his wife Marie Rogers of Durham; two daughters, Mary Rogers LaPolice and her husband Matthew LaPolice of Durham, and Lucy Parkman of Dover; and a grandson, Troy LaPolice of Durham. Funeral services for Rogers are private. A community celebration of his life is planned for a later date at the Durham Community Church.

*Lori Wright, NH Agricultural Experiment Station*



Owen Rogers finest hybrid; 'Agnes Smith'  
Photo Credit Lori Wright

International Lilac Society

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Peter Ely, Cordetta Valthausen, Bill Horman and Jack Alexander gather around 'Firmament'  
 Photo Credit Kent Millham



Robert Zavodny, Eddie Kwolek, and Tom Gober at the hotel after a long day of buying and admiring lilacs  
 Photo Credit Kent Millham



A beautiful woodland setting at Chanticleer Gardens

Photo Credit Kent Millham