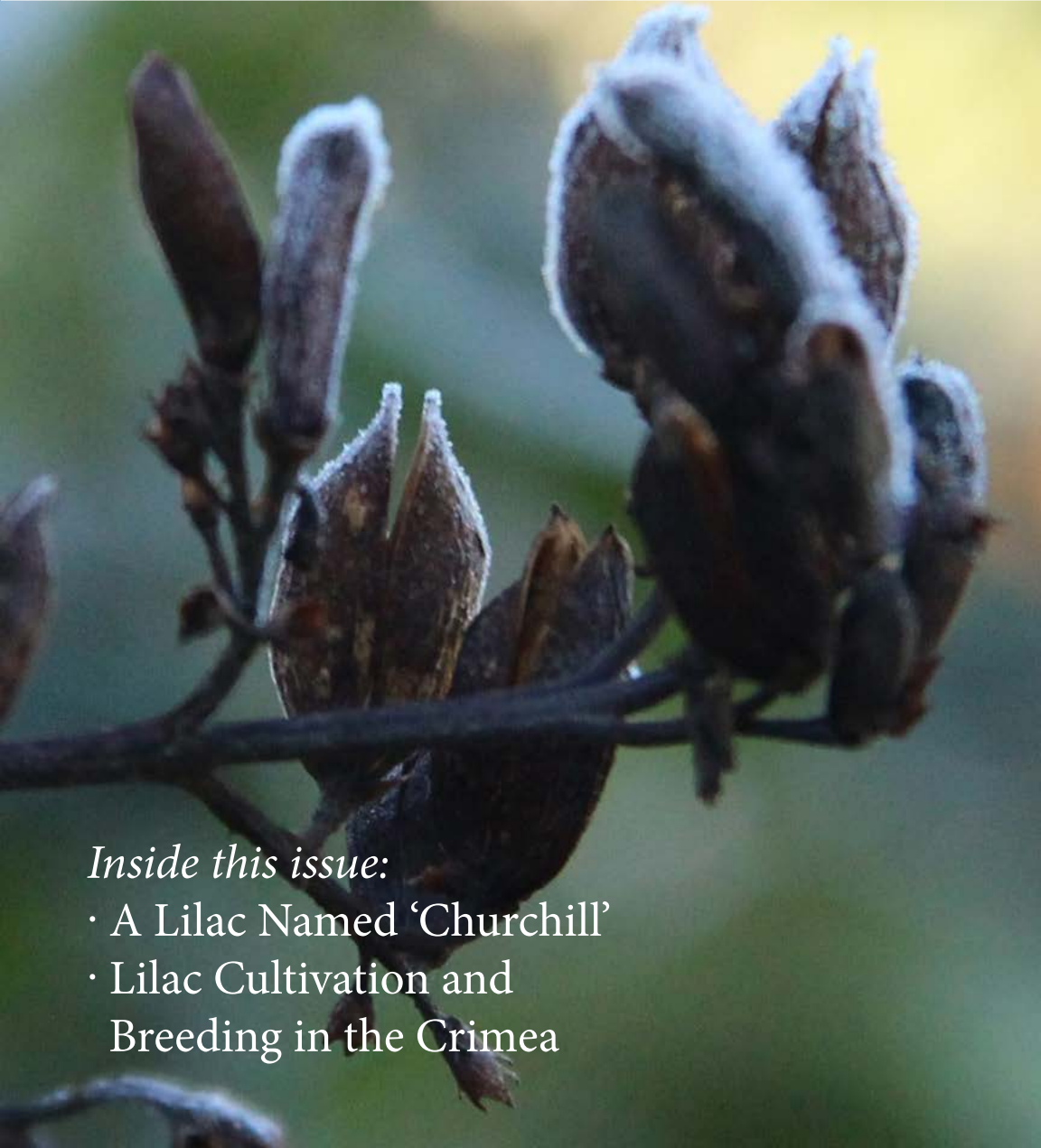


VOLUME 45 · NUMBER 4 · FALL 2016

Lilacs

Quarterly Journal of the International Lilac Society



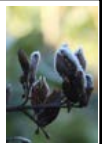
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On The Cover:
Autumn and Lilac
Photo by Tatiana Poliakova



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Lilac Friends,

Summer is almost over and here in VA USA we are glad. The temperatures have been extremely high (hot) and daily thunderstorms were very destructive. Let's hope fall will bring a respite for everyone, men, animals and plants. My 'Condorcet' has been reduced to half his size thanks to one of those terrible storms. The mini lilac *Syringa komarowii* from the Arnold Arboretum that we received thanks to Jack Alexander at the 2016 ILS Convention in Pennsylvania, USA is doing well. After staying for weeks in a petrified state it has now taken off and has multiple leaves. It is still mini and not out of the woods yet. It had an encounter with a raccoon that tossed it around and transported a short distance from its nursery. Fortunately I found it intact with only a little soil missing. I must say it is not a vigorous grower but it does not look fragile. I see a future for it.

Everything is rather quiet on the Robin. The convention is over and so is the lilac blooming season. Here, the crape myrtles are blooming like crazy and their blooms make me think of lilacs. They are everywhere and I wish it was the same for lilacs. Our local nursery only carried 'Miss Kim' this year. I told the manager that 'Krasavitsa Moskvyy' aka 'Beauty of Moscow', was voted by the ILS members at the convention this year and years before as the most popular lilac. He had never heard of it. At a big plant sale at the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden in Richmond, Virginia USA, a couple of vendors had a 'Beauty of Moscow' but both specimens were not in the best of shape. One of the vendors told me they get no request for it. He was a wholesaler. We had talked about that at the board meeting, how we need to let the wholesale nurseries and garden center nurseries know what great lilacs there are in the world. David Gressley is the new publicity chair and he is going to work on making that happen. There are a lot of people who would love to have in their gardens 'Krasavitsa Moskvyy' aka 'Beauty of Moscow' and many other lilacs if they were aware of their existence.

A little story, at the 2015 convention in Mascouche, Canada, Daniel Joboin, a brand new member of ILS, bid at the auction along with Myrna Walberg on 'Prince Wolkonsky' a lilac from Frank Moro collection. It came from the Pepiniere Minier, Beauford-en-Vallee, France. It was hybridized by Claude Bellion and introduced in 1995. The parentage of the "Prince" is 'Charles Joly' × 'Sensation'. It first flowered in 1980.

Daniel Joboin won the bid but Myrna Walberg was curious, who was Prince Wolkonsky? He turned out to be a famous Russian who was involved in theatre internationally, as actor, director, critic, etc. In 1936 at seventy six he married an American lady and they lived in Hot Springs, Virginia USA. The following year he died. He is buried in Richmond at Hollywood Cemetery. This very old cemetery dates from pre-Civil War times. Many soldiers from that war are buried there as well as two presidents of the USA, James Monroe and John Tyler and the only President of the Confederate States of America, Jefferson Davis. Many elites and famous people of Virginia are also interred there. It is a lovely place overlooking the James River. Yes, the Wolkonsky's graves are there. He and his wife are buried side by side. That is the history of that Lilac from Russia to France to Canada to here in Richmond, Virginia,

USA. Lilacs have interesting names and with a little research on the internet you can discover for whom or for what they have been named. There is a picture of 'Prince Wolkonsky' on the back cover of LILACS 2001 fall issue. Thanks to the work of Joan Speirs, Myrna was able to locate its picture.

As you know we have a new Editor, Tom Gober. Welcome to Tom! This is his first issue. We need to remember to send him articles and pictures so he can have a reserve to enable him to plan each issue. We have lots to say during convention and bloom time but our editor needs articles and pictures year around for the other issues too. Kent Millham, our past editor's last issue of Lilacs was full of great pictures of our 2016 convention. It brought back wonderful memories of a very enjoyable convention. I went back to Pennsylvania for an American Hemerocallis Regional Meeting in July. I saw outstanding daylily gardens comparable in beauty to the lilac gardens. That state is a gardener's paradise with public and private gardens on every corner. Remember Chanticleer that exquisite woodland garden? The horticulturist Przemek Walczek who guides us through it is going to speak about Chanticleer at a big daylily event in October. No matter what are our specialties who could not help loving that great garden?

Looking at old journals is interesting. What were the concerns of long ago remain the same. Membership is the biggest one. How to attract new members and retain the ones we have is a pressing problem. The new, soon to be published ILS coloring book, I'm sure will plant the seed in young minds that lilacs are beautiful, smell good and that everyone can grow one in their garden. I hope the parents will get on board, buy a lilac and join the ILS.

Soon it will be time for the New England "Let's Talk Lilacs" event in October. Jack Alexander, New England RVP, and Evie King are planning another exciting meeting. After, we can only dream of next year, the coming of spring, the lilacs blooming season and the 2017 convention in Boston. Of course we can always have a lively lilac chat on the Robin. Or exchange thoughts and pictures on Facebook.

Remember to renew your membership at the end of the year. We appreciate your support and we want to keep you! Again try to sign up one new member. If we all work on it we can double our number in no time...giving someone special a membership in ILS is also a nice present. I'm sure it would be greatly appreciated. See you on the lilac trail!

Mes amities,

Nicole Jordan
ILS President
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GREETINGS FROM THE NEW EDITOR

Many of you have heard and maybe some have not but Kent Millham has retired from being the editor of the ILS Quarterly Journal. I guess I happened to be at the right place at the right time and started chatting with Nicole and Karen. The next thing I knew, I was the new editor.

First of all, I would like to thank Kent for the job that he has done putting the journal together over the last 10 years. I am just learning that it is a great deal of work and I know all of the members of the ILS appreciate the time that you dedicated to providing us with an exceptional journal. In addition, I would like to personally thank him for helping me as I transition into the position.

I am a relatively new member to the ILS only joining in 2015. I have been to the last two conventions and plan on making it an annual tradition of attending the conventions. Although I am educated as a chemical engineer, I am now a small business owner of some retail shops. I left engineering in 2001 to pursue my passion for gardening and purchased a garden center and landscape company. My plant knowledge is all self-taught, starting with what I learned from my father while helping him in our family's vegetable garden. I sold the garden center in 2012 to focus on my retail stores and I satisfy my gardening passion by helping Bob Zavodny with his mom's historic lilac gardens in Kent, OH.

There is a great deal to learn in putting the journal together. I will have a little help as one of my employees is a graphic designer and she will take the materials that I collect from the members and put them in the appropriate format for printing. After I get this first edition under my belt, I will look to build upon what Kent has accomplished over the last 10 years.

Moving forward, you will see deadlines for submission of articles/materials as well as when you can expect the journal to arrive to your home. The submission dates will be a little different than they have been in the past as I need to adjust them for my work schedule so that I have enough time to complete the journal. In addition, I will improve the lead times as we learn the ins and outs of putting the journal together as well as the printing process.

Please feel free to submit photos, articles, or news to me at any time though. Items can be submitted electronically or by mail to my home, whichever works best for you. I will also try to put articles in the journal during the appropriate season so if you submit materials, it does not mean you will see it in the next journal. Finally, if you are submitting an article or photos for a friend, please note who should be acknowledged for credit.

We have a very diverse membership and my goal is to provide a variety of topics so that the journal is appreciated by all. I am open for suggestions too. If there is something that you would like to see in the journal, please reach out to me with your idea. I will be happy to reach out to our membership to see if one of our experts would be willing to write an article.

In closing, I would like to thank those of you that have provided materials for my first journal (and also to those who's material that I wasn't able to fit this time). You have certainly made that part easy for me and it has made this 'what the heck did I volunteer for now' thought turn into a good decision. I'm not perfect, I will do my best and I promise that as I learn the ins and outs of putting the journal together that it will improve over time. I look forward to working with all of you and hopefully meeting each of you in the future.

Best regards,
Tom Gober

Editor's Deadline for Winter Issue:

November 15, 2016

Winter issue scheduled to be mailed February 15, 2017

Lilac Booklets for Sale!

The newly revised lilac booklet *Lilacs; Plants of History-Plants for Tomorrow*, 2nd edition is now available. This is a great "how to" 24 page guide covering everything from lilac history, to care and maintenance. A heartfelt thanks to the authors John Alexander III and Nan Sinton.

The booklet retails for \$4.95, but ILS members may purchase it for the discounted price of \$2.00. Bulk orders (over 50 copies) are available for \$1.50 per copy.

Bulk Order S/H (US Only):

50-100 copies	\$15.00
101-200 copies	\$30.00
201-300 copies	\$45.00

Please contact Karen McCauley for additional information and shipping & handling charges.

mccauleytk@aol.com

CONVENTION CORNER CALENDAR

Up Next: 2017 ILS Annual Convention
Arnold Arboretum Boston, Massachusetts
Thurs May 11 - Sat May 13, 2017

Details for next year's convention are still being finalized. What I can tell you is the convention hotel will be located in Dedham, MA, which should offer the best of both worlds. We will be only a train ride away from bustling Boston, but the suburban location will offer a reasonable hotel rate (\$135) with free parking and easy access to many local attractions. Full registration details will be published in the winter journal and we will post the information online as soon as possible.

In the meantime, please consider potting up one of your favorite lilacs for the annual auction. We already have a donation plant of 'Rochester', which stirred up much conversation on the ILR this past year.

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 Convention Attendees



PHOTO CREDIT: MYRNA WALBERG

2016 CONVENTION LILACS

Written and Photographed by Brad Bittorf



'William Robinson' at Mount Cuba. Per Wikipedia, William Robinson (5 July 1838 – 17 May 1935) was an Irish practical gardener and journalist whose ideas about wild gardening spurred the movement that led to the popularising of the English cottage garden.



'Esther Staley,' up close, at Tyler Arboretum.

'Waldeck-Rousseau' at Tyler Arboretum. Waldeck-Rousseau was a French statesman.





'Hippolyte Maringer' fills the frame with both magenta and blue at Tyler Arboretum. Per the International Register and Checklist of Cultivar Names in the Genus *Syringa* L. (Oleaceae), it is named for Hippolyte Maringer, mayor of the city of Nancy, France, 1892-1904.



'Ellie-Marie' at Tyler Arboretum, in the classic Brad Bittorf "macro floret" style of photograph.



Amazing red bud color on 'Maréchal Foch' at Tyler Arboretum. It is named for Marshal Ferdinand Jean Marie Foch (2 October 1851 – 20 March 1929) was a French general and Marshal of France, Great Britain and Poland, a military theorist and the Supreme Allied Commander during the final year of the First World War.



For those who prefer pink, Tyler Arboretum has 'Virginité'.



'Miss Ellen Wilmot' displaces very heavy radial doubling at Tyler Arboretum. I recall counting over 20 petals. Ellen Ann Willmott was an English horticulturist. She was an influential member of the Royal Horticultural Society, and a recipient of the first Victoria Medal of Honour in 1897. (Source: Wikipedia)



'Triste Barbaro' at Tyler Arboretum. One the photographer has rarely, if ever, seen. I don't know what or whom it was named for.

Triangular form of 'Madame Charles Souchet' at Tyler Arboretum.



ILS 2017 CONVENTION IN BOSTON – SAVE THE DATE

Our spring conference and Annual Meeting will be in Boston May 11, 12 and 13 plus the option of attending Lilac Sunday festivities at the Arnold Arboretum.

Our hotel, the Holiday Inn Dedham <http://www.holidayinndedham.com/> is very conveniently located at the junction of I-95 and US 1. It is in the suburban town of Dedham, just outside of Boston. The hotel offers great facilities with complimentary internet, an indoor pool, fitness center, a breakfast nook and a restaurant in the hotel and another next door (no streets to cross) . There is free parking and shuttle service to Logan Express <https://www.massport.com/logan-airport/to-and-from-logan/logan-express/> which will take you directly to/from Boston's Logan Airport with stops at each terminal.

We will visit the Arnold Arboretum for a tour of its lilac collection (one of the world's best) of more than 370 plants of about 165 different kinds <http://www.arboretum.harvard.edu/plants/featured-plants/lilacs/> and there are about 14,500 other plants (non-lilacs) in the Arboretum's collections.

The ILS meetings officially end Saturday evening, the next day, we will have the option of attending the 109th Lilac Sunday Celebration at the Arboretum. It is Mother's Day and the day when Boston officially recognizes the arrival of spring. There are tours and many family events available. Over the course of the day, thousands of people visit the lilacs. Our Society is invited to participate and to provide helpful information about lilacs. See last year's press release here: <http://www.arboretum.harvard.edu/wp-content/uploads/Lilac-Sunday-2016-Press-Release.pdf>

The Boston area offers many other gardens and places of interest to gardeners; your convention team is working to provide visits to other gardens, a plant auction and speakers who will share their knowledge and expertise. Plan now to attend our 2017 ILS conference. If it were possible, we would offer all of these places on our tours. Since that is not possible, we will do our best and suggest that you watch for Convention Updates and consider extending your stay to visit some of those sites we were unable to include.

Places to visit:

Mt. Auburn Cemetery <http://mountauburn.org/>

Harvard's Glass Flowers <http://hmn.harvard.edu/glass-flowers>

Longfellow House <https://www.nps.gov/long/index.htm>

Tower Hill Botanic Garden <http://www.towerhillbg.org/>

Elm Bank <https://www.masshort.org/gardens-at-elm-bank>

Garden in the Woods <http://www.newfs.org/visit/Garden-in-the-Woods>

LILAC BREEDING AND CULTIVATION IN THE CRIMEA

Vera Zykova, PhD; Curator, Lilac Collection, Nikita Botanical Garden

Syringa vulgaris L. has been cultivated in the Crimea for about 250 years.

It was wide spread in landscaping of the medieval town of Mangup, a city which existed from the sixth until the eighteenth century. Nowadays it is an archeological monument. Four large *Syringa* coppices bloom annually within its territory. More than two centuries ago these plants decorated urban quarters and the prince's palace. The city of Mangup was the capital of the principality Theodoro, which had close connections with Constantinople, the source of lilac introduction into Europe. Perhaps, lilacs came to the Crimea from that region.

Today *Syringa vulgaris* and some of its cultivars such as 'Belle de Nancy', 'Président Grévy', 'Buffon', 'Michel Buchner', 'Ogni Donbassa', 'Mme Casimir Périer', 'Réaumur', 'Marie Legraye', and 'Andenken an Ludwig Späth' are widespread in landscaping of the Crimea. Lilacs' advantage is its blooming period; it launches when fruit trees and their ornamental relatives finish blooming, but roses have not yet started. Lilacs are used for making avenues and hedges, for group and solitary planting, for planting on cemeteries where they receive little care but still grow well.

Syringa vulgaris has been cultivated in the Crimea for two centuries and proved to be well adapted to edaphic and climatic conditions of the Crimea. In the Crimea the vegetative period of *Syringa vulgaris* lasts from the middle of February until the end of March. The difference in blooming periods at the subtropical South coast and the colder northern steppe regions of the Crimea amounts to from 7 to 10 days for the majority of cultivars. Early cultivars may bloom two weeks earlier on the South coast of the Crimea than in Steppe regions. In the northern Crimea sometimes inflorescences may be damaged by light spring frosts. Low air humidity has a negative impact on plants in the Steppe Crimea. At the South coast of the Crimea the vegetative period ranges on average from 255 to 302 days. Blooming period normally starts in mid-April and lasts up to mid-May. Approximately 22 percent of flowers produce fruits. Seed germination is not very high, usually about 20 percent.

Crimean diversity of lilac cultivars is reflected in collections of two botanical gardens. In the Nikita Botanical Garden (NBG), situated in the subtropical zone of the Crimea, the lilac collection was established when NBG was founded in 1812. For the past two centuries 18 *Syringa* species and botanical varieties have been investigated in terms of introduction. It was found that most cultivars of the Villosae Group suffer from drought in the Crimea, while cultivars in the Series Pubescentes are well-adapted to Crimean conditions.

Syringa × chinensis 'Duplex' is the most promising cultivar for the Crimea. Nurslings of this cultivar have two blooming periods in the South of the Crimea – in April-May and in August-November. In autumn there are few inflorescences, but they draw attention by their unusual flowering time. Blossoming of some inflorescences from August to November is typically for such cultivars as 'Mont Blanc', 'Sensation', 'Ogni Donbassa', and 'Nadezhda'.

Between 1940 and 2015 the NBG lilac collection increased from 8 to 70 cultivars. The basic collection initially consisted of cultivars introduced by the nursery of Victor Lemoine. In the second part of the 20th century the collection was replenished with cultivars of Soviet originators including L.A. Kolesnikov, represented by his outstanding selection 'Krasavitsa Moskvy'; I.I. Shtanko and L.I. Rubtsov. In recent decades, the Central Botanical Garden named after N.N. Gryshko, in Kiev, Ukraine, and the Principal Botanical Garden of the Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow, were the primary sources for expanding the NBG collection.

Today's collection at NBG includes cultivars from France, Netherlands, Russia, the USA, Belarus, Latvia, and Kazakhstan.

It was determined that on the South coast of the Crimea early-blooming cultivars, such as 'Buffon', 'Mrs Edward Harding', 'Paul Hariot', 'Président Loubet', 'Réaumur', 'Nadezhda', 'Ogni Donbassa', and 'Olympiada Kolesnikova' are the most valuable for landscaping. They present a more continuous blooming period which lasts up to three weeks. Blossoming period of late-blooming cultivars, such as 'Leonid Leonov', 'Taras Bulba', 'Mme Casimir Périer', and 'Milton' last for about one week if the daily average air temperature in the beginning of May rises above 15°C (58°F). This temperature quickly terminates lilac bloom. In 2011 a lilac show garden was created in honor of 200th anniversary of Nikita Botanical Garden; 150 bushes were planted. In 2015 this garden was expanded by 69 bushes of 8 cultivars, specially selected for the "Victory Lilac" project, commemorating the Great Patriotic War.

The second Crimean lilac collection is situated in the steppe zone of the Crimea, at the botanical garden of the recently founded Crimean Federal University at Simferopol. Since 2006 this collection has gained 57 cultivars and 13 species. This botanical garden also concentrates on the introduction, study of cultivars, and propagation of lilacs.

In the Crimea breeding work with lilacs is concentrated at Nikita Botanical Garden. It was initiated by Nikolaï Danilovich Kostetsky in 1941. For hybridization he used three cultivars, 'Andenken an Ludwig Späth', 'Jeanne d'Arc' and 'Mme Abel Chatenay'. In 1954 Vera Nikolaevna Klymenko selected four new cultivars from hybrids originated by Kostetsky, namely 'Yubiletnaya' (S V), 'Yalta' (S VII-II), 'Nikitskaya' (S IV), and 'Nikolay Kostetsky' (S IV).

Since 1955 hybridization of lilacs at the Nikita Botanical Gardens was carried on by Vera Nikolaevna Klymenko, Zinaïda Konstantinovna Klymenko and Aleksandr Grigor'evich Grigor'ev. In hybridization they used eight varieties of lilacs: *S. vulgaris* alba, *S. vulgaris* alba virginalis, *S. vulgaris* rubra insignis, 'Andenken an Ludwig Späth', 'Jeanne d'Arc', 'Leon Simon', 'Mme Lemoine', and 'Mme Casimir Périer'. As a result of 12 crossing combinations more than 10.000 nurslings, including 100 of the most promising, have been obtained and 20 new cultivars with single flowers of lilac, violet, purple, blue and pink colors have been created. These cultivars were used in landscaping of the Crimea and recorded into Tentative International Register of cultivar names in the Genus *Syringa* L. (Rogers 1976): 'Devich'e Schast'e', 'Fioletovyi Sultan', 'Yaltinskaya Prelest', 'Yuzhanka', 'Yuzhnaya Noch', 'Knipper-



PHOTO CREDIT: TATIANA POLIAKOVA

Chekhova’, ‘Krymskaya Krasavitsa’, ‘Krymskaya Lazur’, ‘Lesya Ukrainka’, ‘Lilovaya Purga’, ‘Lilovaya Raketa’, ‘Marsianka’, ‘Mechta Materi’, ‘Pamyat’ o Chekhove’, ‘Radost’ Pobedy’, ‘Sapun-Gora’, ‘Sevastopol’skiĭ Val’s’, ‘Sirenevyĭ Kaskad’, ‘Soyuz-Apollon’, and ‘Vesennyaya Krasa’.

Nowadays scientific objective of *Syringa* breeding in the Crimea is to obtain new cultivars with the characteristics such as high level of drought-resistance, early periods of flowering, pure and bright unfading color, large sized simple or double florets, and large thyrses.

In analyzing inheritance of morphological characteristics of flowers and inflorescences in controlled crossings it was found that maternal parent form has a prevailed effect on flower form and doubling, while paternal parent form has a prevailed effect on flower and inflorescence size.

At present two new lilacs cultivars of NBG breeders are going to be registered and eight new promising hybrids are being tested.

Nowadays the lilac collection of NBG includes six locally selected cultivars, namely ‘Nikolay Kostetskiĭ’ – S IV&I, single, lilac florets that bear a white center, very fragrant; ‘Yalta’ – S VII-II, single large dark purple-violet florets; ‘Sevastopol’skiĭ Val’s’ – S IV single, pinkish lilac large florets, very fragrant; ‘Eltigen’ – S IV, medium lavender florets, very floriferous; ‘Krymskaya Lazur’ – S IV-III, single, large violet florets turn blue, large panicles; and ‘Yuzhanka’ – S VII-VI, single reddish purple florets fade to pale magenta, large panicles.

The researches were granted by the Russian Scientific Foundation (No 14-50-00079).

LILAC NEWS

Syringa 'Tat'yana Polyakova...

This late blooming cultivar has green flower buds, pure white single flowers (diameter more than 3 cm) and large inflorescences. A bush of medium size, spreading.



PHOTO CREDIT: SERGEY ALADIN

A new cultivar named after me- *Syringa Tat'yana Polyakova*. Thank you Vladimir Arkhangelsky, Olga Aladina and Sergey Aladin for this gift. To become a flower, to bloom every spring- could I ever dream about it?

-Submitted by *Tatiana Poliakova*



PHOTO COURTESY OF TATIANA POLIAKOVA

PHOTO CREDIT: NED NEWTON



Repeating blooms...

Many hybridizers are working on lilacs with repeat blooming periods. It just seems to be the rage right now. So, it was with great excitement when I noticed my tree lilac blooming away in September, and it is my favorite tree lilac too! The lilac is a *Syringa pekinensis* 'Zhang Zhiming' (BEIJING GOLD™) which I purchased from Select Plus as a two-footer back in 2006.

Photos taken in September 2015.

-Submitted by Ned Newton

Repeating blooms, part 2...

Joshua Miller has also seen some repeating blooms.

This was taken of *Syringa* (Villosae Group) 'Miss Canada' in September. She's rebloomed for me twice in the past two years...

Photo taken in September 2016.

-Submitted by Joshua Miller



PHOTO CREDIT: JOSHUA MILLER

PHOTO CREDIT: KAREN MCCAULEY



It's raining purple lilacs...

Lilacs draped a tapestry of Prince at his home/studio which is in our neighborhood in Chanhassen, Minnesota. The number of people that showed up to pay their respects with heartfelt notes and artwork, left at the makeshift memorial at Paisley Park, was astounding. To this day fans are still showing up.

RIP Prince 4/21/2016

-Submitted by Karen McCauley

LILACS IN THE FALL...

Photographs by Irina Okuneva





A LILAC NAMED ‘CHURCHILL’

Written and Photographed by Myrna Walberg

In the Tyler Arboretum that we visited during the ILS Convention, there is a large old lilac named ‘Churchill’. It is about nine feet high and twenty feet wide. It shows its venerable age by the knobby trunk and its serpentine branches underneath the leafy canopy. (See photos.) A branch or two must have reclined on the ground long ago or they were blown down in a storm but the lilac continued to grow and thrive and elongate the shape of the shrub.

While it might be a pruner’s nightmare, it would be a child’s dream of a magical place to play. A place where a child could spend glorious hours in the fragrance of lilac and unknowingly get hooked on lilacs, and then later in life join the ILS.



I had never encountered a ‘Churchill’ lilac before and immediately thought of Churchill, Manitoba where people go in summer to see polar bears and beluga whales. Then it occurred to me that perhaps this is a Skinner lilac. Skinner named some of his creations after local places or people (ie Lilac ‘Assissippi’, a river near Dropmore Manitoba, which in the Cree language means stony river) . Brad Bittorf was in the vicinity so I asked him about the lilac. He whipped out his smart phone and checked the Lilac Register, and yes it was a Skinner lilac and a *Syringa ×hyacinthiflora*.

While we were admiring the lilac, Jack Alexander came by and joined the conversation. He had taken a photo of this very lilac thirty years ago while attending a lilac convention. He said that the lilac was big at that time. Hopefully one day Jack will come across his earlier photo and send it to LILACS along with his recent photo of ‘Churchill’.



Although the Lilac Register states ‘Churchill’ was named for Sir Winston Churchill I suspect it was named for Churchill Manitoba on the shores of Hudson’s Bay.

This shrub demonstrates the toughness and the tenacity of lilacs but it is puzzling and concerning why it had not bloomed. The vulgaris lilacs around it were in full bloom but not hyacinthiflora ‘Churchill’. It was covered with buds but not one floret was open. Does anyone know why it would be late to bloom? Could it be suffering something? Hope someone will offer some answers or suggestions.

Myrna Walberg
Dunham, Quebec

TEN QUESTIONS WITH BOB HOEPFL

By Joshua Miller

1. *What role have you played in the lilac community?*

As Superintendent of Horticulture from 1978-1997 at Highland Park I was the media contact in regard to the lilac collection's blooming progress each year for the 10 day Lilac Festival.

2. *When did you first become involved with lilacs?*

One might say I grew up in Highland Park, working there from age 19, learning the lilacs by collecting cuttings and scions, and pruning.

3. *How did you first become interested in lilacs?*

Working under Richard Fenicchia, he demonstrated his technic of hybridizing lilacs, which I was then responsible for tending through flowering.

4. *Assuming you own some lilacs, when did you obtain your first?*

Our first named lilac was acquired following the purchase of our house in the late 1960's.

5. *How many different cultivars do you own?*

Eventually we had 7 named lilacs, which were all that I could accommodate due to size and shade. Today I have none, however I maintain 10 on a friend's property. I also have a number of hybrid seedlings at Fenicchia Farms.

6. & 7. *If you could only have 5 lilacs, what would they be and why?*

Syringa vulgaris 'Rochester' – It was developed at Highland Park and its radial doubling gave rise to the Rochester hybrids.

Syringa vulgaris 'Krasavitsa Moskv'y' – Great bloomer with distinct pink buds and double white flowers.

Syringa × *chinensis* 'Saugeana' – Long flowering stems, brilliant color and very fragrant.

Syringa vulgaris 'Adelaide Dunbar' – Double deep purple and always made an outstanding show in Highland Park.

Syringa *S.* (*Villosae* Group) 'Fountain' – Late flowering and a good color contrast between bud and flower.

8. *What development in lilac cultivation do you appreciate the most?*

Radial doubling.

9. *What new breakthrough would you like to see?*

Presently I have 3 groups of seedlings totaling about 50 plants that are 3 - 4 years old and have yet to flower. I can only hope for something special, and live long enough to see the end results, that is if anything shows promise.

10. *What is it about lilacs that have captivated you?*

When I look closely at *Syringa vulgaris* 'Azura Plena', I am amazed and greatly appreciate the time and talent of hybridizing this plant and all of its offspring.

INTERNATIONAL LILAC REGISTER ON THE WEB

Two ways to access the Register:

- Short link to International Lilac Register: <https://goo.gl/tYfqQu>

If the link does not work, please contact:
lilacreg@rbg.ca or lilaceditor@gmail.com

-or-

- Access the ILS Homepage
- Click on: Names & Registrar
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