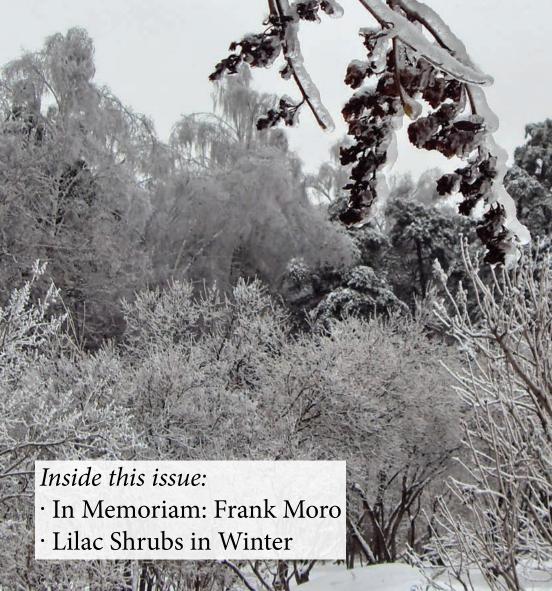


Quarterly Journal of the International Lilac Society





Top left photo by Tatiana Poliakova

Top right photo by Igor Semenov

Bottom photo by Nancy Latimer





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On The Cover: Photo by Irina Okuneva Back Cover: Photo by Bryan Leonard

Editor's Deadline for Spring Issue: March 1, 2017

### VOLUME 46, NO. 1 QUARTERLY JOURNAL A Publication of THE INTERNATIONAL LILAC SOCIETY

Copyright 2017 Editor ISSN 1046-9761

Copies of this publication are available for \$5.00 (U.S.) by writing to the International Lilac Society, c/o Karen McCauley, 325 West 82nd Street, Chaska, MN 55318-3208

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> Membership Classification (U.S. Funds) Single/Annual \$25.00 Family \$35.00 Institution/Commercial \$55.00 Life \$500.00

Mail membership dues to Asst. Treasurer William F. Tschumi, 3 Paradise Court, Cohoes, NY 12047-1422

MASTERCARD and VISA credit cards accepted International Postage Fee \$10 (Excludes U.S. & Canada) additional to dues.

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

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International Lilac Society Web Site Address: www.internationallilacsociety.org

# **President's Message**

Dear Lilac Friends,

As I write this, it is fall and winter soon will be there for the Northern Hemisphere. The leaves are falling and carpeting the ground in gold. Some of us in Canada and Russia have already had snow. The air is crisp in the morning and automobile windshields must be scraped of frost. In the USA, we have switched to daylight saving time. Night now comes early, making our time to putter in the garden shorter and shorter. It is time to stay close to home, time to cuddle by the fire and time to dream of next year's lilac season.

In late October, we sadly lost one of our most prolific lilacs hybridizers, Francesco (Frank) Moro of Mascouche, Canada. He was an ILS board member, the RVP for Eastern Canada and ILS Long Range Committee Chairman. In 2015 Frank and his family hosted our ILS Annual Convention for the second time. We spent three days visiting sites of interest: a Bison farm, a sugar shack, a strawberry farm and the large lilac collection at the Montreal Botanical Garden. On Saturday, our final day, all the activities were at the Moro's farm/nursery, where we saw lilacs and more lilacs, including many of Frank's own. We are thankful for Frank's contributions to the ILS.

Our next ILS Annual Convention will be May 11-13, 2017. We will meet at the Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University in Boston, Massachusetts USA. Plans are being made by Karen McCauley, ILS Convention Chair. The registration form is included in this issue. If you attended the 2016 convention in Pennsylvania, USA, you know how fantastic of a convention it was. It is educational, fun, and you will have an opportunity to see many well grown lilacs. The Arnold has one of the largest collections in the USA. You will be with your lilac friends who come from the four corners of the world. The prospect of getting great lilacs at the auction is also here. Don't miss this opportunity to add that rare lilac to your collection. I want to see you there, SAVE The Date!

I hope you have received your copy of LILACS Fall 2016. Our new editor Tom Gober did a great job! The journal has a fresh modern look. Thank you to all of you who sent him pictures which are especially good and professional. I loved Tatiana Poliakova's photo gracing the front cover. Brad Bittorf sent stunning pictures too. 'Tatiana Polyakova' the lilac, is just lovely just like our friend for whom it was named. Congratulations, what an honor to have such a

beautiful lilac named after you. The pictures of lilac autumn foliage by Irina Okuneva show the glory of lilacs just not in bloom, but post bloom, a facet we don't think about. They are just as beautiful. A lilac named 'Churchill' by Myrna Walberg-wow! I just love the picture of its trunk, that is an old, old venerable fellow...Remembering Prince-It's Raining Purple Lilacs-he loved the color purple, thank you Karen McCauley for that picture. Thank you to Ned Newton and Joshua Miller for their photos of Repeating blooms...

Vera Zykova, PhD; Curator of the lilac collection at the Nikita Botanical Garden in Crimea, in her very detailed article repeats the presentation she gave at the Awards and Honors banquet at the ILS Convention 2016. We loved her enthusiasm and appreciate her sending the article to be published for all the ILS membership to read it.

Please keep sending Tom articles and more pictures. I know it is the familiar refrain but seriously to make the journal great we need you to contribute. Tom will publish what is time sensitive right away and other articles and pictures in latter issues. Communicate with him, let him know what you would like to see published in our journal and become a regular contributor! I saw lots of contributions and energy in this fall journal! Let us continue to support our editor and enrich our journal.

When you receive this issue of Lilacs, the Holidays will be long passed and spring won't be but a few weeks away. Prepare yourself for the upcoming lilac season when our gardens will once again be transformed by their beautiful blooms and fragrance that Marcel Proust so masterfully wrote about in "Remembrance of Time Past". In the meantime mes amis think lilacs and dream lilacs.

One last thing! We need to grow our membership so don't forget to sign up a new member. Remember you, a lilac enthusiast, is the best person to recruit, inform, mentor and help us grow our membership. Thank you for making it happen.

See you on the Lilac Trail!

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

# ILS Executive Vice President Report

Living here in Arizona, we have an especially short dormant season. Lilacs here typically drop their leaves right around the turn of the new year, and the next season's leaves and buds show in early- to mid-February for a bloom which is usually at the end of February or March, lasting into April.

This makes it difficult to transplant and remove suckers, although we recently had some success with this. Lilacs do truly seem to be sun-loving plants, even in the Sonoran desert where the sun seems excessive, and the young ones seem to be doing well on the patio in pots. I'm hoping to be able to contribute some of these for the annual ILS convention auction in the near future.

On a personal note, my father, Fred, died in November. He was not a gardener except for vegetables, but he did have a special connection with trees and forests. Dad would clear dead branches from our Northwoods property in Wisconsin regularly, and no tree would lie long on the forest floor before it was collected and sawed into firewood. (Dad didn't believe in power equipment, and we had no wood stove, so the wood was typically given away. This was not work for Dad, but relaxation from the stress of being a high school principal.)

Dad looked forward to each spring to see what bloomed, what survived the winter, what plants sent new shoots where they were not expected. His parents had lilacs at his boyhood home in Egg Harbor, Wisconsin. Anybody who walked to their front door had to literally pass through the lilacs. The lilacs were the local ambassador of spring, and likely provided a reassurance when he returned from the Army or went back to visit.

I encourage each of you to find what anchors and refreshes you. Know that you can explore, try new things, expand your possibilities. When you need to, return to your anchor, whether it be your lilacs or garden, a special friend or place, or my dad's woods, and grow anew.

**Brad Bittorf** 

## **ILS 2017 Convention in Boston**

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 May 14th where we may participate by answering questions about lilacs and informing visitors about the International Lilac Society.

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 cultivars (all of which are labelled) http://www.arboretum.harvard.edu/plants/featured-plants/lilacs/ and there are about 14,500 other plants (non-lilacs) in the Arboretum's collections.



Pictured: The Hunnewell Visitor Center at the Arnold Arboretum at Harvard University

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 tours, a plant auction and speakers who will share their knowledge and expertise. Plan now to attend our 2017 ILS conference.

#### Planned Tours:

- Mt. Auburn Cemetery http://mountauburn.org/
- Harvard's Glass Flowers http://hmnh.harvard.edu/glass-flowers
- Longfellow House https://www.nps.gov/long/index.htm

The city has an abundance of historical, cultural and entertainment attractions. You may wish to extend your stay to allow time to visit some of them.

http://attractionguide.com/boston/

http://www.tripadvisor.com/Attractions-g60745-Activities-Boston\_ Massachusetts.html

Please Note: Final agenda will be posted online when it becomes available.

Please send any questions to Jack Alexander at ilsnevp@gmail.com.

# **New England Fall Meeting**

On October 22, 2016 a small group of ILS members met at the home of Elizabeth and Ned Newton in South Dartmouth, MA. The day was cold and drizzly, however, the group kept warm and enlivened, talking lilacs throughout the day. Good food always makes a meeting go well, and this was no exception. A large tureen of hot butternut squash soup brought by Arlene Alexander was particularly welcoming.



Between raindrops, Ned treated the group to a tour of their gardens which include a collection of around 65 lilacs which are now watered by a recently installed drip irrigation system. The gardens are not limited to lilacs but include a wide array of plants. Informal conversation about gardening gave members ideas for each to try at home.

The group discussed lilac cultivars that each hoped to acquire and how to best propagate them. The upcoming annual meeting of the ILS was also discussed and the group is excited to show off the Boston area with the Arnold Arboretum being the featured host. Everyone left with excitement about hosting the 2017 convention and welcoming the ILS to the Boston area.

The meeting ended with a small auction with members going home with some wonderful plants which they were particularly pleased to try. Many thanks to Sylvan Nursery of Dartmouth and Hope Spring Nursery of Hopewell Junction, NY for their fine contribution of plants.

Edmund Newton & Jack Alexander

### In Memoriam: Frank Moro

All you need is passion. If you have a passion for something, you'll create the talent. – Yanni.



Frank's passion – his family and his love for lilacs. Frank has left quite a legacy in the lilac world and was one of the most dedicated people in this world that we know. How did his passion for lilacs start?

Frank found a leaf mutation in *Syringa reticulata* 'Ivory Silk' while working at a local nursery. From there, he wanted to register this lilac he called S. reticulata 'Cameo's Jewel' and found his way to the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton, ON. He looked down into the lilac dell and saw hundreds of lilacs and the one that started the lilac dream – *Syringa vulgaris* 'Duc de Massa'. As someone who only knew of the few lilacs that were available at the marketplace, he told us about how he was speechless at the time. It was there that his lilac dream stemmed from and he called Sara to tell her that lilacs were his new passion.

Lilacs became part of our family. The nursery, Select Plus Lilac Nursery, started off small around 1991. My (Corinna) memories of the nursery in the backyard was an amazing experience. As I started memorizing names, colors, helping with orders, I started realizing how deeply lilacs were engrained into our family. At 8 years old, I became integrated in the lilac world and my dad's love for lilacs.

Frank's dreams were bigger than just our farm in Mascouche, Quebec. He wanted to have the largest collection in the world. He sought out new varieties to add to the collection every year, excited to see the colors they will be. Many lilacs we had at one point were described solely by their color and classification.

Spring time in Mascouche was declared when *Syringa hyacinthiflora* 'Anabel' bloomed against the balcony. One of the most beautiful sights in our home is when 'Anabel' flowers at the same time as the magnolias. Magnolias were another favorite in our household. Frank's mother, Mildred, had a large *Magnolia stellata* 'Pink Stardust' in her backyard. While 'Anabel' flowered, so did many of these magnolias.

In 2000, our family hosted the ILS convention at our home. This was a milestone for our father, as he always wanted to celebrate lilacs and show people their beauty. On our property, a Father Fiala hybridization called *Syringa vulgaris* 'Windsong' was in full bloom. I still remember the number of cameras that were pulled out during the lilac tour – the first photos of 'Windsong' were taken. The rosée buds that opened into huge immaculate pink trusses. One memory he always brought back to life every year was how everyone gawked at 'Windsong' and all its beauty. The convention was a huge success, not only as an event, but as a reinforcement that lilacs can bring people around the world to a single location. Lilacs are the universal language of love.

Around 2010, our Finnish late blooming lilacs began to bloom. We were star struck by *Syringa henryi 'Ainola'*. The orchid violet colored long trumpet florets were gorgeous. The florets were so densely packed into huge panicles that a flower head weighed a pound! The heavenly spicy fragrance topped off this ethereal beauty. It quickly became one of our favorites at our farm.

With passion comes the talent. As the Yanni quote I used, Frank decided that he wanted to contribute to the beauty of lilacs. He began hybridizing lilacs with hopes of contributing to new, exciting varieties that would be available to the market. In the fall, we would collect seeds from our collection beds and seed them in the spring. These little lilacs would grow and can take anywhere from 5-10 years before they would bloom. Patience is a virtue, and Frank was patient. Investing into the future, we had beds dedicated to these seedlings. In the spring, his children would run into these beds, hoping to see a few promising flower buds. Anything that had even a single bud was brought up to the front of the building as we waited in anticipation. We'd take pictures, decide the strength of the smell, and just watch the flower progress. These were fond memories that we cherish.

The 2015 ILS convention in Mascouche, Quebec was an amazing get-together. Many of the kids were too young to remember much of the 2000 convention. During planning, we decided that lilacs are our heritage. Frank was born to an Italian father and Italian-Canadian mother. His roots were Italian and decided he would let others indulge in his heritage. There were lists of cheeses, salume, pasta, meats, and anything in between that were found in Italian stores in our area. These were all foods we ate at the home. The preparation, as many people saw, was done by our family. All the kids (Corinna, Cameo, Jordan, Riccardo, Alessandro, and Colby) have played a major role in preparing that lunch. In our house, everyone took care of the guests. In Italian culture, nothing beats good, hearty meals with your family, extended family, and friends.





Left: Frank Moro with Bob Hoepfl at Cap-à-l'Aigle, June 2003. Right: Frank receiving an award.

As many know, Select Plus Lilacs is a family run nursery. With our our area. These were all foods we ate at the home. The preparation, as many people saw, was done by our family. All the kids (Corinna, Cameo, Jordan, Riccardo, Alessandro, and Colby) have played a major role in preparing that lunch. In our house, everyone took care of the guests. In Italian culture, nothing beats good, hearty meals with your family, extended family, and friends.

As many know, Select Plus Lilacs is a family run nursery. With our father, Frank and our mother, Sara, the kids (Corinna, Cameo, Jordan, Riccardo, Alessandro, and Colby) learned that the nursery was part of the family.

We love lilacs. Lilacs symbolize our family. Spring and Summer months are always about flowers, making bouquets, taking pictures, and discussing our love for lilacs. Over the Spring and Summer 2016, Frank began taking pictures of lilacs in an artistic perspective with his wife, Sara. Seeing pictures of them enjoying lilacs in an artistic manner brought them both joy and heartfelt memories for our mother. Frank bridged the gap between family and lilacs in a different perspective. Our mother called him the "Lilac Alchemist" as he perfected the arts of lilacs. Frank and Sara photographed many new varieties that were to be named. They dreamed together of the endless possibilities of their new varieties. He shared the pictures with his children and we began discussing how to describe the colors, the structure of the florets and trusses, and finding a unique name that would capture the essence. Little did we know; these were going to be the final memories we had of him.

Life is short, but lilacs are everlasting. My dad's life was dedicated to his family and his love for lilacs. In honor of him, we are currently working on naming a lilac in his honor to show that even after death, his legacy will forever be a written part of history.

Corinna Kellogg Eldest daughter of Frank and Sara Moro

Note: The Moro family plans on reopening Select Plus Nursery in the spring of 2017 with a formal announcment in May 2017.



Syringa vulgaris 'Moondust'

### **Tributes: Frank Moro**



Frank Moro was elected numerous times to the Board of Directors of the International Lilac Society. Frank served as Regional Vice President for Eastern Canada and was previously Executive Vice President for Canada.

At the 2000 ILS conference in the Montreal area, Frank received the Arch McKean Award from the ILS. Frank hosted two conventions in the Montreal area.

He was known as a businessman, family man, and man of vision. Frank's family was immensely important to him. They were all involved in the operation of Select Plus Nursery. His wife Sara is, in fact, the Principal of this business. When we visited their home and "farm" in 2015, it was clear that the business and family were greatly intertwined.

Frank considered ILS members as kind of an extended family, which was reflected in his care to ensure that each person who traveled to Montreal had a ride to and from the airport, often from the Moro family itself. Frank made a late-night run to pick me up at the Montreal airport and deliver me to the hotel, even though he had many preparations to make for the conference early the next day.

Frank also had a number of behind-the-scenes influences on behalf of ILS and the advancement of lilacs. He made trips and donated plants to Mackinac Island to help with the enhancement of the collection there. He gave advice to, and assisted with, the development of the lilac collection and the hosting of an ILS conference at Cap-à-l'Aigle, Quebec, Frank developed a prototype International Lilac Society web site which promoted lilacs more broadly than we had done before.

Frank and Sara have a special needs son, Colby. They embraced his specialness by naming a lilac "Colby's Wishing Star." The promotion of this lilac also raised awareness for special needs people throughout the world.

Frank had vision and was always looking toward the future and improvements that could be made. He developed a "long-range plan" for ILS which I will admit I didn't pay enough attention to. Frank was gracious situations in which we had differing opinions, and I always regarded him as a friend; he always made me feel welcome.

We will fondly remember the good times that we have had in the company of Frank and his family. That is, I believe, what Frank would want.

Bradley Bittorf Executive Vice President, ILS

Frank's passing is a great loss for the world of lilacs. Frank has registered 35 lilacs and has sold lilacs worldwide. The lilac business was a family affair. His wife Sara and their six children all took part and worked the farm. We hope the family will continue his work. Preserving Frank's legacy is important and efforts are being made to accomplish just that. As we say goodbye to Frank, we are grateful for his contributions to the ILS and world of lilacs.

Nicole Jordan President, ILS Frank Moro was a person driven toward accomplishment and achievement. If I had to describe Frank in one word, it would be "Driven". He strove for high ideal and high quality in his endeavors. As we saw in Montreal during the ILS convention in May 2015 at the Moro Farm, Frank compiled an impressive lilac collection. By all accounts Frank was still building his collection because as anyone in horticulture knows, "A garden is never finished". I think Frank's lilac collection was emblematic of his person showing us his drive to amass and curate rare, unique and hard to find lilacs.

Frank was bold in thought, speech and action; steering and driving toward the ideal. Many of our conversations were about what if and why not, stimulating me to think about the matter at hand in a different and higher plane. Some of these conversations occurred at ILS conventions where I got to know Frank at the mid-1990s Mackinac Island convention. As was the habit with some of us at these conventions, the most informative moments emerged in the hospitality suite; this time in the Island House hotel. It was there I surmised that Frank was on a mission to become a renowned nursery producer and collector of lilacs. From his family run nursery, Frank attended major Eastern North America winter and spring nursery trade shows building the name of his operation. He developed a superior internet website that further increased nursery sales.

Frank showed many of us photos of lilacs he named and strove to introduce these past couple years but his first introduction named for his son Colby has been long available and I'm proud to say it has been in my front yard since the earliest days of its introduction.

Named, *Syringa* 'Colby's Wishing Star', Frank selected this seedling of *Syringa* x 'Josee' that is now produced by Briggs Nursery. Frank found the gifts that only a special needs child could give and wanted to develop a park-like enclave where special needs children could have outdoor sensory experiences. As far as the lilacs go, I thought Frank was a likely candidate to venture into closed cross pollination hybridization of lilacs.

Frank showed great pride in being able to host two ILS conventions. I was privileged to share in the millennial ILS convention that Frank and Sara celebrated with the magnum of Moet and Chandon in their backyard. There's a great story that goes with that bottle which still held a sixth of its content after Frank opened it, toasted the new century and most of the conventioneers left for the next venue; however only the folks who were brave enough to not waste a good Champaign hold that tale. I'm grateful to have the pose that was

taken with that bottle at the 2015 ILS convention, especially now knowing how much that bottle meant to Frank.

Frank was one of those persons that made life fun and stimulating. His generosity, kindness and sense of humor taken together are qualities few people can match. I was blessed to know Frank during his years with International Lilac Society and is further proof that ILS attracts brilliant people.

### **Dave Gressley**



In the summer of 2004 Elizabeth and I headed up to Montréal for our honeymoon. We had emailed Frank Moro at Select Plus for a collection of over 20 lilacs. We arrived, and they were all lined up and ready to go. Cheerfully Frank showed us around, explained about the different lilacs, recommended a few more, and even put in another for good luck and a happy marriage. What fun! With a fist full of paper work, we headed home. We kept up an email contact with Frank and could not have continued with our lilac collection without him. At that time Frank, and sometimes his daughter, were coming down to the New England Flower Show in Boston. It was always a high point of the show to sit and talk lilacs with Frank. Last year we got back to Montréal to the ILS spring convention. We could not believe the amount of effort that Frank put in to make us all welcome and to ensure that we had a good time. And that we did!

Edmund and Elizabeth Newton

### FROM THE REGISTRAR'S DESK

by Freek Vrugtman | Royal Botantical Gardens PO Box 399, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8N 3H8 Tel: (905) 527-1158 Ext. 234 Email: lilacreg@rgb.ca

### Who has seedlings of Rogers' *Syringa* (Villosae Group) No 86-1?

Long-time ILS members who attended the 1994 ILS Convention in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, may recall that the late Dr Owen M. Rogers distributed open pollinated seedlings of his selection *Syringa* (Villosae Group) 86-1, a radial double (ILS Journal 23[4]:107). His great hope was, "that one of those seedlings will produce consistent double flowers on a bush with good habit and no mildew on the foliage."

The late Walter W. Oakes of Dixfield, Maine, was one of the recipients, taking home a batch of those 1992 seedlings of 86-1. One of these seedlings showed great promise when first flowering in 1995. Propagated in 1997 it was named 'Marie Rogers'; the name was registered in 2003. The new cultivar was introduced by Syringa Plus Nursery.

To this date this has been the only selection of the original 1992 batch of seedlings to be named and introduced. To our knowledge Walter Oaks appears to be the only person who reported back to Dr Rogers.

Who has seedlings of Rogers' *Syringa* (Villosae Group) No 86-1 growing in their collection? Alas, we neither have a list of recipients of those seedlings, nor is there a list of participants of the 1994 Portsmouth Convention; hence no opportunity to approach individual members.

There is a long-standing network of ILS members in New England. If you, Dear Reader, are part of that network, please ask your friends who may have collected lilacs in the 1990s about any recollections about seedling they may have received from Owen Rogers. Some coordinated detective work may turn up a few clues; this was Owen Rogers' life work, we must make some effort to preserve it. For feedback on this project contact RVP J. Alexander at <jackalexanderiii (at) gmail.com> or the Registrar at lilacreg (at) rbg.ca> With your action we may get some results.

Contribution No. 221, Royal Botanical Gardens, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

# A summary of the lilac selections by Francesco (Frank) Moro, 1960-2016

cultivar name; species affiliation; S or D & Wister Color Code; year

```
'Alessandro'; S.; ??; pre 2016
'Anastasia'; S.; S VI; 2000
'Bacio di Amore'; S. vulgaris; S VI; 2010
'Bella Donna Sara'; S. vulgaris; S I; 2008
Blushing Nova; S. ?; ? ?; pre 2016
Brenda Parker: S. vulgaris: S V/VI-I/VI (?): 2010
'Cameo's Jewel'; S. reticulata subsp. reticulata; S I *; 1995
'Cameo's Passion'; S. vulgaris; S V; 2013
Christine's Butterfly Dance; S. vulgaris; ? ?; 2013
'Cinderella'; S. pubescens subsp. patula; S V; 1998
Colby's Rainbow; S. pubescens subsp. patula; ??; pre 2016
'Colby's Starburst'; S. pubescens subsp. patula; S I; 2010
'Colby's Twinkling Little Star'; S. pubescens subsp. patula; S VII;
2009
'Colby's Wishing Star'; S.; S V; 2003
'Corinna's Mist'; S. ×hyacinthiflora; S V *; 2001
'Cristalli di Cortina'; S. vulgaris; S I; 2010
'Daisy Wolcott'; S. ×hyacinthiflora; S III; 2009
'Elizzz': S.: S III: 2010
'Forever and Always'; S. vulgaris; S to D V; 2013
'Jubilee'; S. vulgaris; S VI; 2007
Létourneau; S. ?; ??; pre 2016
'Lover's Spell'; S. ×hyacinthiflora; S VII; 2009
Mélanie Grégoire; S. ?; S I; 2016
'Moondust'; S. vulgaris; D I & VII; 2008
'Nebbia d'un Bacio': S. vulgaris: S V: 2013
'Nostalgia'; S. ×hyacinthiflora; S I; 2009
'Patriot'; S. (Villosae Group); S VII; 2002
'Sara's Reflections of Passion'; S. ×hyacinthiflora; D III & I
'Sleeping Beauty'; S.; S V; 2001
'Snowstorm'; S. meyeri; S I; 2000
Sweet Moments; S. ?; ?? (S V?); 2016
'Taylor Mitchell'; S. vulgaris; S V-IV; 2010
Ti Amo Sara; S. ?; ? ?; 2015 ?
'Ville de Saint-Georges'; S. vulgaris; D I; 2008
'Wedding Bells'; S. vulgaris; S V; 2013
'Winter Sky'; S. vulgaris; D III; 2013
```

Compiled 16 November 2016 from all available sources

'Wonderland'; S. pubescens subsp. patula; S I; 2009

### **Endnotes:**

Cultivar names in **bold** type have been registered.

Names not enclosed between single quotation marks indicate that these names have not been established and accepted as cultivar names in accordance with the provisions of the ICNCP 2016.

"S." without a species epithet indicates that the cultivar is of inter specific parentage.

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### Which Prince Wolkonsky?

In the President's Message, Lilacs 45(4):103-104 (Fall 2016 issue), reference is made to the origin of the name *Syringa vulgaris* 'Prince Wolkonsky'. Erroneously the cultivar epithet was linked to Prince Serge Wolkonsky, a.k.a. Sergei Mikhailovitch Volkonsky (Cepre й Миха йлович Волко нский), 1860 - 1937, known in the USA for his involvement in theatre.

Actually, *S. vulgaris* 'Prince Wolkonsky' was named by Claude Bellion, plant breeder at Pépinières Minier, Beaufort-en-Vallée, Maine-et-Loire, France, for Prince Peter Wolkonsky, 1900(?)-1997, painter and horticulturist, creator of "Les Jardins de Kerdalo" in Trédarzec, northern Brittany, France. The garden, created in 1965, is still taken care of by his daughter Isabelle Vaughan, a horticulturist who trained at the RHS Gardens, Wisley, UK. Isabella is married to Tim Vaughan, landscape architect in France.

The Gardens of Kerdalo were designated "Best Park in France" in 2004 and are listed as a Historic Monument since 2005.

### Selected references:

http://www.french-gardens.com/gardens/jardindekerdalo.php http://www.nytimes.com/2001/06/17/travel/gardens-that-tellstories.html

http://arrosoirs-secateurs.com/Les-jardins-de-Kerdalo-en-novembre?lang=fr

https://www.instagram.com/p/BAEVugalcrW/

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### A Lilac Named 'Churchill'

In her recent note with the above heading, LILACS 45(4):120-121, Myrna Walberg raises a question about the naming of *Syringa* × *hyacinthiflora* 'Churchill', suggesting that the cultivar was named for the Arctic Ocean seaport of Churchill, Manitoba.

Nowhere in the writings by Frank L. Skinner (1882-1967), and in the catalogues of Manitoba Hardy Plant Nursery (later Skinner's Nursery), I have seen is there a reference to why he named this lilac selection 'Churchill'.

However, in his autobiography, *Horticultural Horizons: Plant Breeding and Introduction at Dropmore, Manitoba*, Published by The Manitoba Department of Agriculture and Conservation (1966), p. 49, Skinner recorded that 'Churchill' was first listed in 1945. The year, 1945, tipped the scale in favour of Sir Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill, 1874-1965, British statesman, rather than the town of Churchill, Manitoba.

Establishing the etymology of cultivar epithets can be a challenge, or a game of hit and miss. Comments from readers always prompt a review of available sources of information, sometimes resulting in updates in the Register. Comments are always welcome.

# 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
- $\cdot$  Click on: Click here for the International Lilac Register and Appendices

# Syringa vulgaris 'Vera <u>Kh</u>oru<u>zhaya</u>' & 'Tane<u>ch</u>ka' – A rebuttal

In his article "S. vulgaris 'Vera Khoruzhaya' & 'Tanechka' (Smol'skiĭ, Bibikova, 1964)", published in Lilacs: Quarterly Journal of the International Lilac Society; Winter 2016, Vol. 45 Issue 1, pp. 13-14, Igor Semenov called into question the trueness to name of 'Vera Khoruzhaya' plants in the collection of the Central Botanical Garden of National Academy of Sciences (CBG NAS) of Belarus, Minsk, and suggested that it was really 'Tanechka'. We suppose that Semenov made his conclusions based only on two factors:

- 1. the descriptions by Veronika Federovna Bibikova which had been made during the first year of flowering of the seedlings before testing;
- 2. his own impressions and photos which he had taken during one flowering season in different localities and in different flowering stages without any observations in dynamics.



Prior to the publication in Lilacs, Semenov consulted the lilac collection curators, Dr. Irina Okuneva, <u>Tsits</u>in Main Botanical Garden, Russian Academy of Sciences (MBG RAS), Moscow, and Dr. Natal<u>ya</u> Makedonska<u>ya</u>, CBG NAS of Belarus, Minsk, on this question. Both curators told him that there were no good reasons to doubt the identity of the plants of 'Vera <u>Khoruzhaya</u>'. Nevertheless, Semenov published his article, alas with erroneous information. Therefore, we have to provide the refutation of that view.

The lilac collection of CBG NAS of Belarus, Minsk has been building up since 1932. In 1959, the first crosses were made in order to obtain new lilac cultivars. The hybrid seeds were planted in 1960, and the plants came into flower for the first time in 1964. Then, Bibikova described promising selections and gave them conventional names. Later, the descriptions were included in her thesis work and subsequent publications.

In 1967, the promising Belarussian hybrids were presented in the Floriculture and Greening Pavilion of the Exhibition of Achievements of National Economy (VDNKh), Moscow. Although these hybrids did not pass through the official testing and registration procedures, the cuttings of these named selections were distributed to curators of Botanical Gardens of the USSR.

A great number of hybrids were obtained in CBG NAS as a result of crossings in 1959, 1963, 1965 and 1966. Most of them were turned out to be very similar. At that time, long-term cultivar (variety) testing was needed for state registration in the USSR. From 1972 to 1993 Emma Andreevna Burova was curator of the lilac collection at CBG NAS of Belarus; she obtained the collection from Bibikova, originator of the Belarussian cultivars. It was Burova who tested the Belarussian hybrids; she did it carefully over a long term of years and, therefore, it gave her title to be included into the authors list of the cultivars.



Based on test results, Burova selected 16 cultivars (8 lilac cultivars of different shades, 3 double-flowered and 5 white cultivars) from the 18 cultivars described by Bibikova in 1964. Two unpromising hybrids 'Marat Kazei' and 'Tanechka' were excluded from the collection. The last flowering of 'Tanechka' was noticed in 1972 and 'Marat Kazei' in 1989.

After the dissolution of the USSR, the official registration of the Belarussian cultivars in the USSR was stopped, and CBG NAS of Belarus did not receive any appropriate confirming documents. It is common knowledge that many lilac cultivars look different in early and late flowering periods. Flowering and flower quality of a number of cultivars depend on the weather conditions throughout the year.

To form a clear view of a lilac cultivar, long-term observations, usually several years, including the whole flowering period are needed. In 'Vera <u>Khoruzhaya</u>', for instance, petals are flat and symmetrical in early flowering, but then they gradually begin to bend back (reflex) as Bibikova has described. At the end of flowering, the petals change to a lighter shade. In different seasons, some lilacs are able to change the colour of their petals from pale lilac to deep lilac.

Besides the author's description of the cultivars, the distinctive characteristics of the Belarussian lilac cultivars were reported by many specialists in different periods and localities. All these, more or less detailed, descriptions provide only a general impression about the cultivars, and we must not infer a conclusion of trueness of a grade name to the cultivar from the descriptions. However, there is one distinctive character of 'Vera Khoruzhaya' indicated in all the descriptions, namely blue streaks in the center of a floret. This peculiarity is also described in 'Vera Khoruzhaya' from the collection of CBG NAS of Belarus.

The plants of 'Vera <u>Khoruzhaya</u>' grown in MBG RAS (Moscow) are identical to the ones cultivated in Minsk. They were obtained from Minsk in the form of scions for grafting in 1968 and in 1978. The inflorescences of 'Vera <u>Khoruzhaya</u>' from Minsk and Moscow are presented in pictures taken in different years.

As for 'Tane<u>ch</u>ka', this cultivar is absent in collections of Botanical Gardens. It was rejected by specialists from Minsk as unpromising. In all events, the lilac presented in the photo by Igor Semenov does not match the 'Tane<u>ch</u>ka' description given by himself: 'Tanechka', *seedling of* 'Hyazinthenflieder' × 'Reaumur'.



Single florets are graceful with a long tube of corolla (up to 1.2 cm), 2.5 cm in diameter. Petals are light blue or rosy, in the center they are rather purple. Anthers hang out from the throat of corolla, which makes the floret especially expressive. The buds are rounded and elongated; they open slowly. Inflorescences are large, 25 x 18 cm in size, of medium compactness, wide-pyramidal. Produce pleasant fragrance. Blooming lasts for 17—18 days. Seedling is decorative owing to some inflorescences of delicate bluish-rosy tint.

The distinctive trait of 'Tane<u>ch</u>ka' is the presence of sizeable anthers protruding from the throat of the corolla tube. However, this feature is not presented in the photo as well as the "*long tube of corolla*" referred to in the description of 'Tane<u>ch</u>ka'.

We are of the opinion that the conclusions of Igor Semenov were hasty and misconceived. We also regret that he did not take into account the professional viewpoint.

Natal<u>ya</u> Makedonska<u>ya</u>, PhD Irina Okuneva, PhD

# The Pages of Lilac Shrubs' Chronicle Turned Over in Winter

Examination of lilac shrubs in winter makes it possible to follow the history of development of recently produced shoots and scrutinize the shape of mature branches and stems. In winter we can confidently forecast the destiny of young shoots in the years to come. While rambling through Moscow yards and parks, I examined only unattended lilac shrubs that had not undergone pruning for shape or regenerative pruning and were not looked at after all.

All the vegetative shoots of 2 or 3 recent years usually preserve dichotomy and consist of regular furcae (forks) of younger shoots. Their strict geometry permanently reproduced as *a code unit* is initial 'architectural cell' of the crown.

Pseudodichotomy of young green shoots is also preserved as the shrub becomes older and starts blossoming. Thyrses produced on the tops of last year's vegetative shoots spatially move young green shoots away to the second place. Numerous lavishly flowering cultivars produce on the tops of shoots the so-called bouquet inflorescences consisting of 2--5 consecutive pair of floral buds. In this case, vegetative buds are shifted even farer. However, *floral panicles are only ephemeral annual structures* performing their specific functions and making us happy. The same as green shoots, they form the furcae of inflorescences. Genetic relationship between floral and green shoots is convincingly suggested by the appearance in the crown of the same cultivar of a series of intermediate forms, for instance, of panicles bearing well-developed leaf blades. On the other hand, the axils of leaves on vegetative shoots sometimes carry tiny undeveloped inflorescences consisting of just a few florets.

Two panicles together with a following pair of green shoots form an ideal and reliable end *node of development* of the shrub. This important structure ensures both sexual reproduction (initiation of seeds) and permanent vegetative growth of the shrub (green shoots). Inflorescences are only seasonal structures that are bright but terminal element of development of last year's shoot; they become its conclusion (a sort of gag). The peak of blossoming coincide with the start and spurt of two new green shoots located just below the panicles. If they are not timely removed by the beginning of next spring, the remains of panicles look like long ago forgotten herbarium specimens.





Left: Dichotomy of vegetative growth and thyrses. Right: Dichotomy in five year old branches.

It is worth noting that in the course of life span, lilacs often come across the situations when one or the other element of the node of development becomes more important. For instance, after excessive pruning or barbarous breaking flowering branches, on the next year the shrub forms branches that produce not only one but several pairs of equally strong shoots of renewal with floral buds on the tops. This circumstance probably accounts for a mistake widespread in Russia implying that lilacs blossom abundantly after persistent removal of branches. Merciless and backward public does not bother about the fate of shrub exposed to permanent stress and perishing because of starvation.

And vice versa, in some cultivars of Latvian selection produced by P. Upitis with many times improved sexual function, on the tops of crowns the shoots of bouquet type are massively produced consisting of 2--4 pairs of panicles. These wonderfully blossoming creatures are essentially devoid of leaves and therefore do not participate in vegetative growth of the shrub.

The shoots of old generations, which become branches, always manifest a decline of a weaker arm. Very often the forks of large branches are indistinguishable and at first sight they altogether vanish except for those that have already determined the structure of the

shrub. However, they left a visible scent on its architecture in spite of drying up and secession of the weaker arm. Stronger half always turns out more viable. From year to year, this branch becomes larger and thicker as if assembled of separate sections diverging from each other at different angles. It gets a shape of zigzag. Each of its fragments is a distant element of a train of young shoots (furcae) initially set in the course of shrub ontogenesis. As a result, we observe an intricate serpentine convolution of branches characteristic of old lilacs.

Thus, architecture of lilac shrub very much depends on interminable alternation of two opposite trends: persistent production of new shoots (furcae) and inevitable disappearance of the majority of them. If this did not occur and both halves of the fork always successfully developed, the crown would quickly and inevitably become close, the shrub would prematurely become old, and its development would cease. The oldest branches of a considerable size merging and uniting gradually become twisted anticlockwise and in decades can even form common stems. In this respect, I find the most picturesque a lilac shrub surviving in ancient Yelgava (Mitava), the capital of Kurland (the part in Latvia). It looks like a real tree with the stem consisting of several twisted elements and is declared by the city an object of special value. It looks as at least 100 years old. I observed the oldest lilacs in the square near Riga Opera Theater. They seem to be at least 120 year old. Individual specimens look like true trees with a single stout stem. These giants are cautiously looked after by townsfolk of Riga. Here in Moscow, long-live lilacs decorate St. Basil's Cathedral in Red Square and Kremlin Wall in Alexander Garden not far from Kutaf'ya Tower. Until recently, they were an element of decoration of the stairs of Pashkov House. Old lilacs with magnificent crowns are preserved in Tverskoi Boulevard opposite the Mansion of Rimsky-Korsakov and in the region of Nikitskie Gates at the Theater of Mark Rozovskii. A very old shrub, cv. Pierre Joigneaux, presently grows in a legendary Spaeth-Arboretum in Berlin probably from the time of its most famous owner Franz Spaeth (the verge of the 19th and 20th centuries).

Igor Semenov, Moscow

Translated by Natalia Balakshina

# **Lilac News**

### On the Lilac Train...

The paintings on this train are replicas on canvas with high digital printing. -Submitted by Tatiana Poliakova



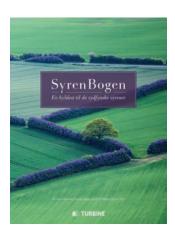


Lilacs at sunrise...
Photo taken at Culp Farm.
-Submitted by Curtis Culp



### A Visit to Ole Heide's Lilac Garden...

Last May, after dreaming about it for three years, we made a wonderful trip to Ole Heide's lilac garden - one of the biggest lilac collections in Europe. Denmark welcomed us with nice and sunny weather. Ole gave us a tour of his collection which now is divided in 2 parts: one consists of hectares of lilacs, all old plantings, since decades ago, growing freely around the forest that protects the lilacs from strong winds. Another part is situated closer to the house and represents a lilac showroom in a compact but still large space, Ole planted different lilac varieties, as many as he could plant, matched by color and habits, so you just follow the logic of the path and see different lilacs in all of the small details. Nameplates show varieties and its origins help you realize how small is our world! Rare varieties from Europe, United States, Russia, Canada, Ukraine, Belarus and other parts of the world grow together showing us endless shades of color and sophisticated forms of florets.





HOTO COURTESY OF IRINA NOSOV.

Ole gave me a present - the book about lilacs, joint creative work of many people, united by one common idea – to promote lilacs, their beauty and to make people more familiar with their history, breeders, varieties and many other things. As Ole said: "This book is my small contribution to promote the understanding and the beauty of lilacs on our planet".

The book contains many photos, articles, useful and practical things (types of grafting, agriculture...) for nurseryman growing lilacs. And this book is full of things related anyhow to lilacs, like arts, stories, and even cooking receipts including such "tasty" ingredient - lilac florets!

-Submitted by Irina Nosova

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### Errata & corrigenda LILACS 45(4), Fall 2016 issue:

- p. 103 'Komarowii' should be *Syringa komarowii*; 'Beauty of Moscow' should be 'Krasavitsa Moskvy' aka beauty of Moscow.
- p. 116 Tatiana Polyakova should be *Syringa* 'Tat'<u>ya</u>na Pol<u>ya</u>kova'.
- p. 117 correctly: *Syringa pekinensis* 'Zhang Zhiming' (BEIJING GOLD <sup>TM</sup>); *Syringa* (Villosae Group) 'Miss Canada'.
- p. 122 *Syringa vulgaris* 'Rochester'.
- p. 123 *Syringa vulgaris* 'Krasavi<u>ts</u>a Moskvy', *S.* ×*chinensis* 'Saugeana',
- S. vulgaris 'Adelaide Dunbar', S. (Villosae Group) 'Fountain', S. vulgaris 'Azurea Plena'.
- p. 125 Frank Vrugtman should be Freek Vrugtman.

Inadvertently diacritical marks on certain cultivar names were omitted.

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