

VOLUME 46 · NUMBER 3 · SUMMER 2017

Lilacs

Quarterly Journal of the International Lilac Society

Inside this issue:

- 2017 ILS Convention
- Kawashimo Park



On The Cover:
Photo by Dawn Sparling

A Dish of Lilacs

Thanks to the long cool spring the lilacs endured longer than usual in our 4a zone. Toward the end of season I picked a sampling of different lilacs to bring to French class to show teacher Judith and classmate Dawn the many varieties in colour, form and shape of petals. Informing was my main motivation but perhaps too, creating a little diversion from the French lesson--(if truth be known). It was the end of year and of course we discussed the lilacs in French.

Dawn was smitten with the lilacs. At the end of class she took the dish of lilacs home with her and took a photo of it. I was smitten with her photo and had enlargements made to be framed. What a delightful subject, teaching tool and diversion a dish of lilacs can be with its seduction of fragrance!

Can you recognize the individual lilacs by colour and/or petal shape in Dawn's photo? 'Edward J. Gardener', 'Firmament', 'Pocahontas', 'Mount Baker', 'Anabel', 'Biala Anna', 'Krasavitsa Moskv'y'. 'Maiden's Blush', 'Madame Lemoine', and 'Nadezhda'.? 'Michel Buchner' seems to be hidden from view. There are a few others that I do not know the names. It is surprising what one can do with a dish of lilacs without including the obvious, a very low floral centre piece for a dining table.

-Myrna Walberg

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Back Cover:

Photo by Margaret Walton

**Editor's Deadline
for Fall Issue:
September 15, 2017**

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Published August 2017

President's Message

Dear Lilac Friends,

Another convention, yes, another GREAT convention! The 2017 convention was a success. It was well organized, interesting and fun. Forty-three of us came to Boston where we attended a very educational convention. The Arnold Arboretum was spectacular and the lilac collection outstanding. We spent a lovely sunny afternoon going from one lilac to another with our guide, Jack Alexander. These lilacs have no secret for him since he work for years as plant propagator at the Arnold. He was the perfect guide to tell us their history. People visiting the arboretum joined us at times, intrigued and curious to learn about the lilacs and wondering who our group was. We had a couple who joined the ILS on the spot and other visitors asked for ILS information. It was unexpected and Karen McCauley scrambled to jot down the ILS email and John Kirk's, ILS Membership Secretary, contact number and address.

Armed with cameras and iPhones, each lilac was photographed from every angle. Everyone had their favorite and it was a pleasure to see them in all their glory. The trees at the Arnold were magnificent. What a great place to wander, jog, walk dogs, take children, ride bikes and look at the lilacs. Lilac Sunday was the next day and the lilacs were putting on a show.

Earlier in the morning on Saturday, we visited Mount Auburn Cemetery outside of Boston. Not only it is a cemetery, but also an arboretum. One hundred seventy four acres (70 hectares), it's ten miles (16 KM) of roads meander through mounts and valleys. It too had magnificent trees, some five thousand plus, with shrubs and herbaceous plants mixed with turn of the century monuments. It was called a rural cemetery when designed, a new concept at that time. It is the resting places of many notables including the poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. We walked and walked along the paths with our very knowledgeable guide, Jim Gorman. We could have spent the whole day there.

At Harvard University Museum of Natural History, we visited the Glass Flowers Collection. The exhibit has been completely restored. Leopold and Rudolf Blaschka, a father and son from Dresden created the hundreds of flowers, representing eight hundred plant species, out of glass from 1887 to 1936. Looking at the "specimens" it is hard to believe they are made entirely of glass. They are so accurately

executed down to the smallest of details. On the same floor, the Mineral Museum was spectacular. Rocks of all sizes, shapes and colors put on a show for the visitors. A third museum, also on the same floor, displayed fossils of a menagerie of animals from around the world, including a whale. There was not enough time to see it all but a good reason to return in the future.

We had a terrific lunch on Friday at the Arnold prior to the Annual Membership Meeting. We have a new archivist, Jack Alexander. Anything to go to the archives should be sent to him from now on. Myrna Walberg is now RVP for all of Canada. Ned Newton is the new auditor. He replaces John Kirk who gave up the duties since he will now be handling money as ILS Membership Secretary. Thank you to all for volunteering. The assistant treasurer position has been retired. William 'Bill' Tschumi, who held that position for the past 20 years, passed away just before the convention. We are so grateful for Bill's service. We will remember him for his dedication to ILS and for being a wonderful gentleman. Board members elected were announced. We welcome Ned Newton who will serve its first term. Kelly Applegate, ILS Youth Chairman, rejoined the board after a year hiatus. Thank you to those who departed the board after their years of service. You can read the detailed minutes of the two board meetings and the annual meeting on the ILS web page or a shortened version in this edition of Lilacs.

A big thank you goes to the staff of the Arnold Arboretum. We attended talks and visited their places of work. We learned about plant record keeping and labeling from Kyle Port, the Arnold's Manager of Plant Records. It's interesting how they are tracked from the moment they are collected and become part of the collection. We learn about how plants are labeled and about the different types of labels and how they are attached to the plants (ex: on trees). We learned how plants are collected from the wild from the Arnold's Curator and how they are prepped for their voyage back to the arboretum. We also learned about diseases and pests affecting lilacs from Rachel Brickman. Jack Alexander told us about the founders of the arboretum. Margery Daughtrey told us all about lilacs diseases. All of the talks were interesting, thank you to all of the speakers.

Our auction held at our hotel was awesome. Thank you for all the plant donations. I think everyone went home with at least one lilac. I too got into the spirit after being told I could take them in my suitcase. I won three and Evie King helped me prepare them for the flight back home. Robert Zavodny and Mark DeBard were the big spenders. They left the room with hotel carts full of lilacs to add to their collections.

Bruce Peart, our auctioneer, kept a fast pace and achieved some big bids and kept it fun too.

The convention closed with the Honors and Awards Dinner at a restaurant near the hotel. We walked there, enjoyed a glass of champagne and enjoyed a delicious dinner. Nan Sinton, a dear friend of Jack Alexander, was our speaker. Her presentation, Gardens that Evoke Memories, took us to exotics gardens she has visited on her travels abroad. Myrna Walberg, ILS Honors and Awards Chairman, presented the awards to the recipients. This year Hideo Ihara from Japan received the Director's Award for his work with lilacs in Sapporo and sent a very lovely message of appreciation to ILS.

The evening ended with Giles Waines presenting a video of what is in store for us next year when we attend the 2018 ILS Convention in California in April. He and Gary Parton will co-host the convention. They have some exciting places and things to show us, including lilacs from the late ILS president Reva Ballreich. She was a concert pianist and the music on the video was a recording of her playing the piano. Very touching...plan on going to California. It will be an exciting trip, a new adventure on the lilac trail.

Again, a big thank you to Jack Alexander and Rachel Brickman, Karen McCauley, Arlene Alexander, who did a great job with planning the hospitality snacks and for saving the day by providing an impromptu lunch when the expected food trucks where a no show on Saturday. Thank you to Bruce Peart, Margaret Waldon, who kept the records at the auction, Bradley Bittorf, who kept the minutes and to Gary Koller, landscape architect, who give us a tour of an exquisite garden he had designed for one of his clients, a true masterpiece tucked away in a milieu of a historic neighborhood. Thank you to everyone, speakers, tour guides and all of you who attended. You made the 2017 convention a success!

See you next year in California on the Lilac Trail.

Mes amities,

Nicole Jordan
ILS President
Chester, VA USA

Convention Corner

Up Next: California here we come...April 19-21, 2018

We had a great time in Boston in May. The weather was a bit chilly, but the lilacs were in bloom for us. Rachel Brinkman & Jack Alexander pulled together a diverse agenda which kept everyone happy. We had a record breaking 9 members attend their first convention (and one of them



was our big spender at the auction, but I won't name names). Between our plant auction and our silent auction we earned \$3,348. And, the board meetings were very positive & productive. All board members in attendance came to the table with new ideas for growing the society and/or had made progress in their respective committee they're heading (monies have been allocated for a new research project, the youth coloring book is in its final editing stages, the preservation committee has narrowed down their target plant list, the Assistant Treasurer duties are being consolidated into the Membership Secretary position which will make it more efficient and expedite new member packets, etc.). I would like to thank our local hosts, the core group of volunteers that keep the conventions running smoothly, along with all of our auction donors, and of course the auction bidders for a successful auction.

Next year the convention will be in Riverside, California, which is about half way between Los Angeles and Palm Springs. Please look for information in the upcoming journals. The following year we will be heading back to the Midwest United States.

Thanks for your cooperation.

Karen McCauley
Convention Chairman
952.443.3703
treasurer@internationallilacsociety.org

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.

A BIG THANK YOU to all of you who donated to the Auction & Silent Auction:

Arnold Arboretum
Kelly Applegate
Bradley Bittorf
Candace & Marilyn Bonnett
James & Sheila Graeger/F&A
Farms
Eric Wetzel/Fox Hill Lilac Nursery
Charles Holeteich
Jamie Powers/Hope Springs
Nursery
Nicole Jordan
Kincaid Plant Markers
Knight Hollow Nursery

Nancy & Harry Latimer
Kent Millham
Karen & Tim McCauley
Josh Miller
Elizabeth & Ned Newton
Max Peterson & Family
Gloria Schrieber
Evie King/Syringa Plus
Timber Press
Cordetta Valthausen
M. Yanny
Robert Zavodny



S. vulgaris 'Kapriz' at the
Arnold Arboretum
Photo credit: Brad Bittorf

Creating an Alpine Lilac Village

By Gary Parton

Lilacs have been planted in Idyllwild, California in large numbers for decades. Reva Ballreich, past president of the International Lilac Society, had over 800 cultivars covering many acres. It was one of the largest collections in California. I was fortunate to retire in 1998 into this ideal mile high community above Palm Springs, California. I looked forward to the challenge of gardening in Idyllwild after teaching visual arts in Secondary School for 35 years while also pursuing an interest in landscape design. In 2003, with a gift of 15 lilacs from Reva's garden, my lilac garden began. Through her acres of lilacs in full bloom, she led visitors like the Pied Piper of Hamelin. Reva's enthusiasm and wonder of lilacs gave me a retirement mission and at present, thanks to her generosity, I have over 165 cultivars. I have separate gardens dedicated to Victor Lemoine, Father Fiala, Reva Ballreich, Frank Skinner and a Russian garden. A generous collection is woven between the main gardens.

Alpenglow Lilac Gardens opened in spring of 2009 with a goal of making lilacs the flower of Idyllwild, townspeople refer to as "The Hill." I formed a Lilac Celebration Committee to plant and promote lilacs in Idyllwild. Each year the committee spends several weekends digging suckers from the best named lilacs and planting the previous years established plants throughout the town. Between 200-300 five gallon plants are planted each year for businesses, churches, schools and the library. All for FREE. The committee has planted over 1200 lilacs in town. We also operate our Lilac of the Week program, which provides arrangements to businesses in town for 4 weeks, each week a different lilac with a label indicating the name, hybridizer and date of its release. We are launching a 4th and 5th grade lilac unit at Idyllwild School this year, where students will study poetry, art, biology and geography through a bouquet of lilacs.

Alpenglow and the Idyllwild Garden Club sponsor a High Tea held in my rambling backyard and patio. This year, due to extraordinary publicity, (Westways magazine listed this event) the tea welcomed 400 visitors to the garden for the High Tea. Docents led tours of the lilacs, artists displayed their work and everyone had a marvelous time. My mission is to create a Lilac Celebration that is self sustaining.

I would like to invite the International Lilac Society and anyone bitten by the magic of lilacs to come and enjoy this special garden.

Russia Conference Announcement

Lomonosov Moscow State University Botanical Garden invites you to take part in the International Lilac conference dedicated to 125th Birthday Anniversary of L.A. Kolesnikov – outstanding Russian lilac breeder.

Moscow, May 21-24, 2017
St. Petersburg, May 25-27, 2017

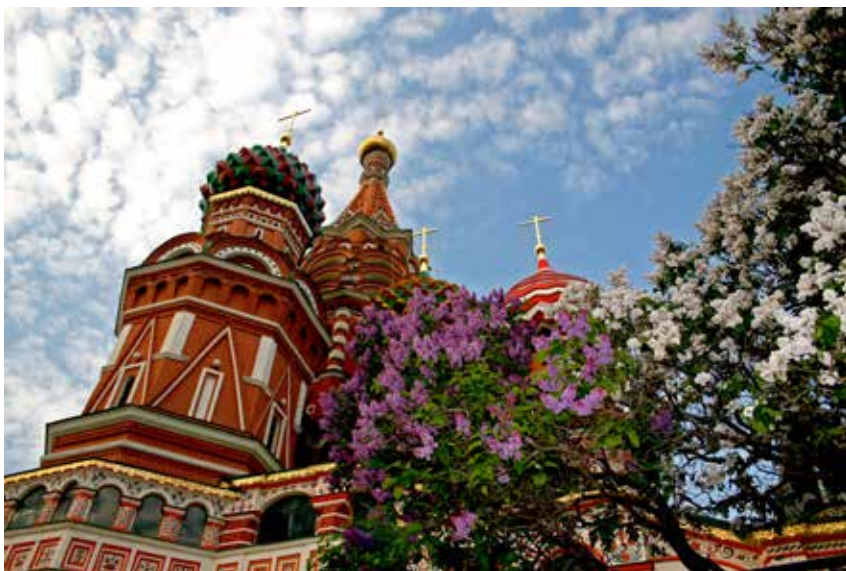


PHOTO CREDIT: FATHANA POLJAKOVA

Spring is the best time to come to the two Russian capitals – official and cultural!

Conference program will include: presentations, excursions to the best lilac collections, sightseeing tours of Moscow and St. Petersburg, tea and dinner receptions.

Meet colleagues who share your love of lilacs!

*If you wish to take part, please, contact Katya Romanova,
esromanova77@mail.ru*

2017 Auction List

<i>Lilac Name</i>	<i>Winning Bid</i>
'Agnes Smith'	\$25.00
'Ami Schott'	\$170.00
'Anabel'	\$10.00
'Beautiful Susan'	\$50.00
'Bellicent'	\$40.00
'Betsy Ross'	\$30.00
'Betty Stone'	\$60.00
'Blanche Sweet'	\$20.00
'Blue Delft'	\$35.00
'Blue Delight'	\$35.00
'City of Longview'	\$75.00
'Colby's Wishing Star'	\$55.00
'Congo'	\$35.00
'Excel'	\$15.00
'Fiala Remembrance'	\$20.00
'Firmament'	\$50.00
'Foxy Lady'	\$55.00
'Foxy Lady'	\$50.00
'Foxy Lady'	\$50.00
'Foxy Lady'	\$30.00
'Foxy Lady'	\$45.00
'Frank's Fancy'	\$30.00
'General Sherman'	\$65.00
'Gortenziya'	\$65.00
'Kate Bergen'	\$35.00
'Katherine Havemayer'	\$20.00
'Katherine Havemayer'	\$20.00
'Lavender Lady'	\$20.00
'Madame A.J. Klettenberg'	\$30.00
'Maiden's Blush'	\$60.00
'Marie Francis'	\$40.00
'Minuet'	\$40.00
'Nadezhda'	\$20.00
'Old Glory'	\$30.00
'Pom Pom'	\$35.00
'President Lincoln'	\$10.00
'President Lincoln'	\$10.00
'Primrose'	\$20.00

'Quadricolor'	\$45.00
'Reticulata'	\$25.00
'Rochester'	\$270.00
'Royal Purple'	\$15.00
<i>S. patula</i> 'JN Select Upright' (Violet Uprising)	\$120.00
<i>S. patula</i> 'UNH'	\$80.00
'Sesquicentennial'	\$25.00
'Silver King'	\$25.00
'Silver King'	\$15.00
'Sister Justina" (qty 24)	\$120.00
'Sweetheart'	\$35.00
'Tinkerbelle'	\$25.00
'Vera Khoruzhaya'	\$105.00
'Vesper Song' (qty 24)	\$120.00
'Wedgwood Blue'	\$25.00
'Yankee Doodle'	\$15.00
'Yankee Doodle'	\$15.00
'Znamya Lenina'	\$40.00
LIVE AUCTION TOTAL	\$2,710.00



S. vulgaris 'Ami Schott'
Photo by Tom Gober

2017 International Lilac Society Attendees

Boston, Massachusetts



PHOTO COURTESY OF MYRNA WALBERG

Alexander, Arlene · Sandwich, MA
 Alexander, Jack · Sandwich, MA
 Applegate, Kelly · Princeton, MN
 Barnes, Woody · Julian, CA
 Barnes, Jane · Julian, CA
 Bittorf, Bradley · Vail, AZ
 Buchanan, Ruth · North Pomfret, VT
 Buchanan, Norm · North Pomfret, VT
 DeBard, Mark · Columbus, OH
 Dixon, Ann · Philadelphia, PA
 Dock, Steve · Ft Clyde, ME
 Gober, Tom · Akron, OH
 Gressley, David · Cincinnati, OH
 Jordan, Nicole · Chester, VA
 King, Evie · SyringaPlus, MA
 Kirk, John · W Halifax, VT
 McCarthy, Cheryl · Byfield, MA
 McCauley, Karen · Chaska, MN
 McCauley, Tim · Chaska, MN
 McGrath, Mike · Concord, MA
 Mechur, Ann · Oak Bluffs, MA
 Mechur, Ron · Oak Bluffs, MA
 Miller, Josh · Beverly, MA
 Newton, Edmund · S Dartmouth, MA

Newton, Elizabeth · S Dartmouth, MA
 Peart, Bruce · Dundas, Ontario, CA
 Reinke, Diane · Silver Spring, MD
 Reinke, Budne · Silver Spring, MD
 Schreiber, Dennis · Hartville, OH
 Schreiber, Gloria · Hartville, OH
 Valthausen, Cordetta · N Royalton, OH
 Valthausen, Joe · N Royalton, OH
 Waines, John Giles · Riverside, CA
 Walberg, Myrna · Dunham, Quebec, CA
 Walton, Margaret · Dundas, Ontario, CA
 Wilson, Carolyn · Ft Clyde, ME
 Zavodny, Robert · Akron, OH

One Day Attendees Only

Dunlop, Jeff · Windham, ME
 Dunlop, Joyce · Windham, ME
 Gouldsbury, Michele · Hopewell Junction, NY
 Kean, Susan · CA
 Powers, Jamie · Hopewell Junction, NY
 Sliker, Jill · Briggs Nursery

International Lilac Society 2017 Board of Directors Meeting summary, May 11, 2017, Dedham, MA

Note: These minutes are only a summary. Complete meeting minutes are available on the web site: www.InternationalLilacSociety.org, or by request from the Secretary.

Present: Dr. Mark DeBard (member), Brad Bittorf (Executive Vice President), David Gressley*, Bruce Peart*, Woody Barnes*, Robert Zavodny*, Tom Gober (editor), Kelly Applegate*, Dr. Giles Waines*, Myrna Wahlberg*, John Kirk* (Secretary), Tim McCauley*, Jack Alexander*, Nicole Jordan (President), Karen McCauley (Treasurer)

** member of Board*

Nicole Jordan, President, called the meeting to order and quorum was confirmed.

Correction to minutes of 2016: ‘Beauty of Moscow’ (‘Krasavitsa Moskv’y’) *does* do well in the west per Woody Barnes.

John Kirk/David Gressley made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Passed.

President’s report-Nicole Jordan:

Both Frank Moro and Bill Tschumi passed away this year. Each was remembered and honored. Frank served as regional vice president for Eastern Canada and previously Executive Vice President for Canada; and Bill served as Assistant Treasurer.

John Kirk will take over the former assistant treasurer role. These duties will be absorbed into the role of Secretary.

The membership is changing; there are more members in Asia and fewer in some traditional areas such as Canada and France.

Discussion of how to increase membership throughout the world. Nicole said we should get more involved with media. We can talk about plants on small videos or promote the Society. We could add YouTube content about ILS. Could we add a video about the Society—3 minutes of introduction? Giles Waines will investigate putting an advertisement in the Royal Horticultural Society journal.

Rachel Brinkman, Jack Alexander, and Karen McCauley were praised for putting together this 2017 Boston conference.

The ILS Facebook group, web site, and lilac robin are all active.

Nicole said we are keeping the Society together and we have professional members of the society.

Executive Vice President's report--Bradley Bittorf:

Brad Bittorf said that there is publicized lilac activity and much enthusiasm for lilacs in Asia.

The rare lilac 'Mrs. J. Herbert Alexander,' has been located at Denver Botanic Garden. It is named for Jack's grandmother. Rare lilacs are being preserved by ILS in some collections. Brad is working with Denver Botanic Garden to get plant material from Denver to help preserve this cultivar.

Treasurer's report-Karen McCauley:

Our income is down a little because interest rates going down. A full balance sheet is also available.

Editor and Publicity Report-Tom Gober:

Tom took over in the fall and has been figuring out how to assemble the content. The journal look has been updated and modernized. Tom is replying to submissions with an acknowledgment stating when they might be used. There may be an opportunity to reduce cost in the printing of the journal.

We could modernize a logo. Some drafts were created. To create a consistent brand, we need to use the logo everywhere, including online and printed materials. Members of ILS will review the drafts during the conference and make recommendations.

We could put out ILS press releases for events, for special themes, etc. Lilac articles could be put out about using lilacs in landscape; award-winning lilacs, plant of the year, etc. We could put out press releases on the lilac of the year; or the fact that May is International Lilac Month. There are various publications that pick up lilac articles and reuse them.

Marketing is a big component of the success of lilacs. Karen proposed we do a lilac poll in the winter so that it is available at bloom time. We could also do a regional poll, or by color, etc.

Are there guidelines for which lilacs to grow in each region? None was identified.

Membership report-John Kirk:

The Secretary can both collect membership information and send information to the members.

Membership is now 271 members. 192 of these are in the USA.

We need to have a process for renewing membership and determining whether members are still active. Labels for journals have an expiration date printed on them. However, labels for journals going outside the United States are manually marked.

Regional VP's should follow up on expiring memberships.

It is uncertain whether the Select-Plus lilac nursery will continue, given the death of Frank Moro. The lilac "disability collection" in honour of Colby Moro and others will be maintained.

Awards Committee-Myrna Walberg:

The historic list of awards has been updated. There are six categories of awards that the ILS has presented in its history. This list will be put on the web site.

The Award process is not formal; anybody can nominate people for an award. We will publish how to nominate people for an award in the journal and on the web site.

Preservation Committee – Tim McCauley:

We have received additional lilac inventory lists from several other public collections. This helps us track lilacs that are only available at one or two (known) places (in the United States—this list will eventually be updated to include other locations). We could target these for further effort to preserve.

Dr. Giles Waines – Research Committee:

A request for proposal was received from Hope College, MI (Dr. Jinhua Li). The Research Committee approved it for funding, and this funding will be supplied this year, up to \$6000. The project is called "Exploring Powdery Mildew Resistant Genes in Lilacs Using next Generation Sequence Analysis."

Publication Committee Report – Dave Gressley:

The Joan Spiers memorial was put in place at the Central Experimental Farm in Ottawa. It cost less than was expected. There was an article about it in the CEF "Friends of the Farm" newsletter.

New England report--Jack Alexander:

Held a regional meeting October 22, 2016. It went well and is documented in the journal. Jack also did a grafting demonstration.

Long Range Committee--Robert Zavodny:

ILS needs to do press releases and other communications to indicate we are a lilac authority and to keep the ILS presence fresh in the minds and knowledge of the public.

Robert is asking for answers to a questionnaire about future lilac society vision.

Children's' and Education Committee--Kelly Applegate:

Kelly has worked with a graphic designer and has a prototype for a "Kids Activity Book of Lilacs" at the meeting. After review at the conference and corresponding corrections, it will be printed. How will it be distributed? One proposal will be to give it to gardens, especially those who conduct children's' tours of the facilities. We need to know who to send them to and how many to each of them. They could also be sent to places that do children's story time. Woody Barnes suggested we add a copyright to each page, but allow them to copy it for themselves. Jack said we could add a copyright statement but allow reproduction for educational purposes, but you cannot sell it. Bruce and Jack indicated that the logo should be included on each page.

Nicole will also use the booklet in working with the children in her area.

Asia Regional Report --Tatiana Poliakova (written report submitted):

There is much active promotion of lilacs in Asia. Tatiana has been very active in organizing and promoting conferences and shows. Tom Gober said we should consider this as a best practice and example of how we can promote lilacs in other places.

Convention Committee-Karen McCauley:

Next year's convention will be in Idyllwild, California, tentatively the last week in April, 2018. We haven't set the location for later meetings yet. Moscow has volunteered to be host of a meeting. A lilac symposium and regional meeting may be held there in May 2018.

New Business:

All topics covered earlier.

Adjournment:

David Gressley / Myrna Walberg made a motion to adjourn. Passed.

**International Lilac Society 2017 Annual Meeting,
May 12, 2017
Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts**

Present: a quorum of members (>25)

President Nicole Jordan called the meeting to order at 12:43 PM Eastern Daylight Time.

Nicole reminded the members that May is International Lilac Month.

Executive Vice President Brad Bittorf announced the winners of the election: Tatiana Poliakova, Kelly Applegate, Ned Newton, and Myrna Wahlberg. These people will serve terms ending in 2020.

Gloria Schreiber told people she is the nominations chair. People should please talk to her with any suggestions for nominations for next year.

Robert Zavodny, the new long-range committee chair, was introduced. Bob said that he wants the ILS to be recognized as “the authority” in lilacs. We also want to be sure that lilacs are available for people to buy. We should promote and coordinate selected lilacs.

Nicole added that lilacs we promote should be commonly available.

Youth Chair Kelly Applegate told the group that there is a children’s activity book in progress. A draft of the book is available for review at the convention—please report suggested changes to Kelly. If you are working with libraries, public gardens, groups of kids, etc., you can use these books as an aid. Kelly is also working with Crayola® to come up with a custom box of lilac-colored crayons. These will be an educational tool that will be used for engaging youth.

Preservation Committee chair Tim McCauley reported that the committee has been collecting lilac inventory lists within the United States. Right now there is a list of lilacs for which there is only one or two known plants in the United States. It currently represents public collections. We are now adding in private collections to enhance the list. This list does not include collections outside the USA. These will be added later.

Jack Alexander was designated as the new Archivist for the International Lilac Society.

Assistant Treasurer William (“Bill”) Tschumi passed away after 18 years of service. Assistant Treasurer duties will be combined into the role of Secretary. This change only affects the “duties for officers” document; the Assistant Treasurer role was not established in the By-Laws.

Membership of the ILS has been declining somewhat. If everybody gets one person to join ILS, we would double in size. Please try to get people to join.

Nicole talks to children in school. She is doing youth outreach in her local area. She said we need to work with little ones to get them interested in lilacs.

Executive Vice President Brad Bittorf spoke about maintaining the by-laws, curating the Lilac Robin, managing the web site and the electronic voting process. He said that the meeting minutes are available on-line on the web site.

Gloria Schreiber said that there is an International Lilac Society Facebook group. Anybody can join, but you must request to be added. Brad said the board is now down to 12 members and our transition from 15 to 12 board members (approved by the board several years ago) is now complete.

Editor Tom Gober reported he just completed his third issue. We have a diverse group from novice to expert. Tom is more than willing to use any submissions. Please either submit articles, or ideas for articles. Tom reminded people that cover photos have to be in “portrait” orientation.

Treasurer Karen McCauley reported that ILS has about \$74,600 (US) in the bank. We approved an expenditure of \$6,000 to support a lilac research project at Hope College in Michigan. We planned to pay for the development of the children’s lilac activity book; this is budgeted.

Dues will now be sent directly to the Secretary. Membership and promotional material will be adjusted to reflect this.

Convention chair Karen McCauley thanked Jack Alexander and Rachel Brinkman for organizing this event. First-time attendees were recognized.

Secretary John Kirk reported that this year, unfortunately, we only have only members from North America in attendance. (In the past we have had other continents represented.) We will clean up the database of members. If you have a new email, please submit it to John Kirk. The label of the journal that tells you when your membership expires.

Nicole asked for a volunteer auditor for ILS. Ned Newton was designated as auditor

Question: is ILS a non-profit organization? Yes, it is.

Steve Dock made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Woody Barnes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 1:31 PM EDT.

(Meeting notes captured by Brad Bittorf)



Above:

Longfellow's Tomb
Photo credit: Tom Gober

At Left:

S. vulgaris 'Charm'
Photo credit: Tom Gober



Meeting summary of the meeting of the newly-elected board

International Lilac Society 2017 Board of Directors Meeting (newly elected board), 13 May 2017, Dedham, Massachusetts

Present: Myrna Walberg*, Tim McCauley*, Karen McCauley (Treasurer)*, Brad Bittorf (Executive Vice President)*, Nicole Jordan (President)*, Jack Alexander III*, Giles Waines*, John Kirk*, David Gressley*, Robert Zavodny*, Bruce Peart*, Kelly Applegate*, Woody Barnes*, Tom Gober (Editor)*

** member of Board*

Nicole Jordan, President, called the meeting to order. Brad Bittorf, Executive Vice President, confirmed that quorum was present.

The Board approved the results of the Board of Directors election, that elected the following members for 2017-2020 terms:

Tatiana Poliakova

Kelly Applegate

Ned Newton

Myrna Walberg

(Motion made by John Kirk/ seconded by Robert Zavodny. Motion passed.)

Karen McCauley said we should authorize further funding for the children's activity book. John Kirk/Tim McCauley made a motion to authorize spending of up to \$5000.00 for this book. Motion passed.

Elections

The following officers were elected:

Nicole Jordan was elected as President.

(Brad Bittorf remains Executive Vice President--he has a 5-year term expiring in 2020.)

John Kirk was elected as Secretary.

Karen McCauley was elected as Treasurer.

Tom Gober was elected as Editor.

Regional Vice Presidents:

New England – Jack Alexander

Atlantic – Ted Collins

South- Nicole Jordan

Central-Connie Simmonet

Plains – Max Peterson

NW – Nicole Jordan
Pacific – Nicole Jordan
SW Mountains – Brad Bittorf
South Central – Nicole Jordan
Canada – Myrna Wahlberg
Europe – Elke Haase
Asia & Europe – Tatiana Poliakova

Jack Alexander was confirmed as the ILS Archivist. The Archives are physically located at Harvard University.

Bruce Peart announced that there is a new version of the Jorgovani DVD which contains photographs of many lilacs, provided by Charles Holetich. This is the third revision of this DVD. An index will be added to catalog those photographs. Discussion that we want to keep the list updated with new lilac introductions, and with photos of lilac cultivars that are not included on the current DVD. Updating the list and photo collection will be controlled by the chairman of a new committee to organize and control the access to the list.

Discussion that we should reduce the number of regions maintained by the ILS. Brad Bittorf said that he created the current map. He can change it to reduce the number of regions. This work will need to be coordinated with the Secretary and the Editor. *Action: Brad will work on this and present a proposed new regional map at the 2018 meeting.*

Woody Barnes / David Gressley made a motion to adjourn. Motion passed.

Note: These minutes are only a summary. Complete meeting minutes are available on the web site: www.InternationalLilacSociety.org, or by request from the Secretary.

Membership Renewal Notice

The address label on the envelope indicates when your membership expires. After your name, you will see the expiration date. If there are any questions, please contact John Kirk at membership@internationallilacsociety.org.

2017 ILS Convention Memories Boston, MA



Clockwise from top left:

Private Gardens
Photo credit: Tom Gober

S. vulgaris 'Prairie Petite' at the
Arnold Arboretum
Photo credit: Brad Bittorf

Jack Alexander, Arlene Alexander,
Karen McCauley, and
Rachel Brinkman
Photo credit: Tom Gober

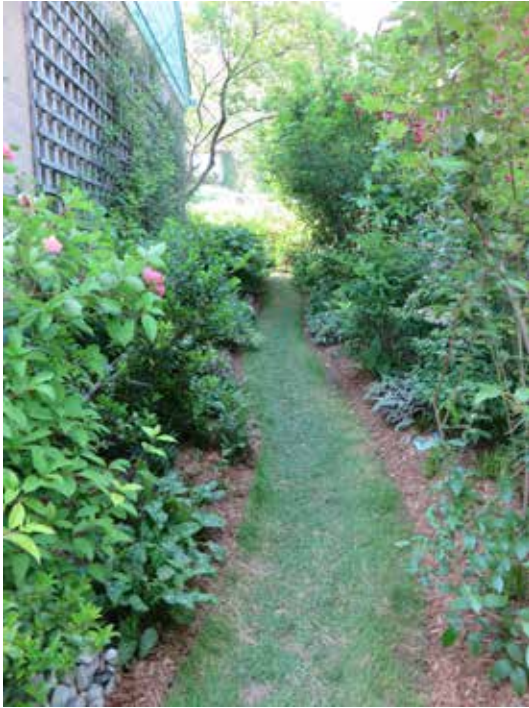
Kyle Port explaining plant records
Photo credit: Tom Gober

Jack Alexander surrounded by lilacs
Photo credit: Margaret Walton









Clockwise from top left:

Jack and Arlene Alexander in front
of 'Lilac Sunday'

Photo credit: Tom Gober

Lilac pathway

Photo credit: Margaret Walton

Specimen taken by Susan McKelvey

Photo credit: Tom Gober

Touring the gardens

Photo credit: Margaret Walton



Above:

Garden Tour

Photo credit: Margaret Walton

At left:

ILS members on a tour

Photo credit: Brad Bittorf



2017 International Lilac Society Awards

May 11 - 13 , Boston Massachusetts

Honor and Achievement Award

Kent Millham

- For an outstanding contribution of ten years as editor of LILACS, editing forty issues of LILACS, (four issues a year).
- For the computerization and continued maintenance of the Rochester Parks Lilac Collection.
- For serving as ILS Archivist and for his many years of involvement with the lilac world.

President's Award

The Arnold Arboretum

- For their continued work in conservation, collecting and maintaining lilac species (and other plant species) from known wild sources.
- For travelling to the sources and collecting specimens and seeds.
- For hosting the ILS convention for the fourth time.

Kawashimo Park

- For the biggest lilac collection in Japan and for holding an annual Lilac Festival.
- For its lilac activities and for popularization of the lilac.

Directors' Award

Hideo Ihara

- For hybridizing new dwarf varieties of lilacs.
- For promoting the lilac and for many years of work with lilac collections.

Award of Merit

Irina Sapozhkova

- For outstanding work on the popularization of lilacs in St. Petersburg.
- For her love and devotion to the lilac.

Yuri Kiris

- For his outstanding efforts in the preservation of the historically important lilac collection of Botanical Garden of Moscow State University
- For his devotion and love for lilacs.

Rachel Brinkman

- For being Chair/Host of the 46th Annual International Lilac Society Convention.

Jack Alexander

- For co-hosting the 46th Annual International Lilac Society Convention.
- For his numerous efforts and contributions to the lilac world.



PHOTO CREDIT: TOM GOBER

Jack Alexander receiving award
from Myrna Walberg

Treasurer's Report 2017

Fiscal Year 4/1/16 - 3/31/17

KeyBank Checking Account Balance 4/1/17		\$ 18,020.18
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%		26,617.52
TOTAL		<u>\$ 74,637.70</u>

Special Accounts (Included in the above total)

Life Member/Endowment Fund	\$ 40,444.57	
Plant Propagation Fund (Laurene Wishart)	2,013.72	
Education & Research	3,912.67	
Youth Program Fund	966.76	
Total Funds in Special Accounts	\$ 47,337.72	
Total Funds in General Accounts	\$ 27,299.98	
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	\$ 74,637.70	

Income

Membership Dues		\$ 4,953.00
Interest Income*		1,520.66
Auction Income		5,447.00
Misc Income (Royalties, Lilac Bklt sales, Advertising)		135.03
Convention Income (2016 Registration fees)		8,760.00
Total Income		\$ 20,815.69

Expenses

Journal		\$ 9,561.40
Postage		1,354.57
Bank Fees		320.11
Web site expenses		0.00
Insurance		417.50
Misc		868.50
2016 Convention Payments & 2017 deposits		8,937.15
Total Expenses		\$ 21,459.23

Net Income (Loss)		\$ (643.54)
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*Interest Income down \$1000 due to the callin of two bonds last year. The monies reside in an adj money mkt fund until they can be reinvested in the bond mkt.

NOTE: Misc Expenses includes a \$600 deposit for proposed coloring book project artwork.

Submitted 4/16/17 by Karen McCauley, ILS Treasurer		
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ILS Convention History with the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University

By Myrna Walberg

The Arnold Arboretum has hosted the ILS convention four times: 1973, 1992, 2005 and 2017. Each time the ILS presented the arboretum with the President's Award. The accolades read as follows:

1973

- For its pioneering work in collecting, introducing and preserving lilacs in the first outstanding public collection.
- For outstanding work in planting, public education and park landscaping, promoting the lilac and encouraging its planting.
- For outstanding work in researching the lilac and promoting its scientific study and hybridizing.

1992

- For its sponsorship of worldwide exploration for plants adapted to eastern North America. Especially for species of lilacs and for its scientific studies and popular exhibition for over 120 years and for hosting this society for a second time.

2005

- For the continued research, development and introduction of plant species, especially lilacs and the cutting edge research into lilac DNA.
- For hosting the 2005 ILS Convention.

2017

- For their continued work in conservation, collecting and maintaining lilac species (and other plant species) from known wild sources.
- For travelling to the sources and collecting specimens and seeds.
- For hosting the ILS Convention for the fourth time.

Meeting Freek Vrugtman, International Lilac Registrar

By Milada Dzevitskaya, PhD

There are no uninteresting people in the world.

-Y.Yevtushenko

In 2013 I was fortunate to meet Freek Vrugtman, a man whose name inspires awe in all lilacs breeders and lovers in the world.

Freek Vrugtman, who is the International Lilac Registrar, Curator Emeritus of Royal Botanical Gardens, the author and co-author of 199 publications, recipient of multiple awards by the International Lilac Society and Botanical Garden Associations, celebrated his 90 birthday on July 6, 2017.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MITILDA DZEVITSKAYA

On behalf of lilac lovers in Kazakhstan and Russia who know Freek Vrugtman, and on my own behalf I congratulate Freek Vrugtman on his 90th anniversary and wish him vital power and good health. I extend my congratulations to Ina Vrugtman, Freek's loyal wife and assistant.

Dear Freek, your professionalism, your unlimited knowledge, life experience, thoroughness in work, love of nature, your wish to help people are exemplary. Happy Anniversary!

This interview was written in Russian and published in the Moscow online version of Kalitka magazine in 2013. The Russian version included facts of Freek Vrugtman's life from his biography (<http://alumni.landfood.ubc.ca/profiles/freek-vrugtman>). It was well received by Russian-speaking lilac lovers.

Letter from Canada

The final years of the 20th century and the beginning of 21st century were the last years that I spent in Almaty, Kazakhstan. I was fighting to rescue the Lilac Garden which was created by my parents. The garden was considered to be a natural heritage before the USSR collapsed. The priorities shifted and the land on which the Garden was set up became more important than the Garden and the unique variety of lilac that had

taken my parents 50 years to grow. In addition all lilac bushes in various parts of the city were scheduled to be destroyed.

Sadly, the attempts to attract attention to the problem with the help of the media, local and international communities and concerned people just postponed the inevitable destruction of the lilac garden.

On one of these joyless days I was given a copy of a letter received by the City Hall from Canada. A scientist from Royal Botanical Gardens was interested in the lilac variety created by my parents which was about to be destroyed. It was Freek Vrugtman who managed the most important lilac book- the International Register of Cultivar Names in the Genus *Syringa* L. (Olaceae).

The letter and the correspondence that followed played a great role in preserving the memory of the lilac variety to which my parents devoted their lives. Freek not only included all of their certified lilac cultivars into the International Register but helped me to contact Tatiana Polyakova, regional vice-president of ILS for Russian & Asia. Thanks to Tatiana who did a lot to preserve and revive the lilac and to the authors of “Lilac Time” the lilac cultivars by my parents Mariam Sagitova and Tadeush Dzevitskiy became widely known in the world.

Many years passed. The garden was destroyed. I moved to Canada and got an opportunity to go to Ontario and visit the Royal Botanical Gardens and meet Freek Vrugtman in person.

Long-awaited meeting

At last we were in Hamilton. The meeting was going to take place at the Botanical Garden office where Alex Henderson, Curator of Collections, and Freek Vrugtman were waiting for us. Anxious to meet them, I was reflecting on what I had heard about Freek Vrugtman. He was said to be a person of high principle, scrupulous and meticulous in every detail of his work – only such a person could be entrusted with International Lilac Registry. As soon as I saw his surprisingly bright and expressive eyes radiating positive energy, my anxiety calmed down immediately. The shock of grey hair, peculiar skipper’s small beard and a kind smile did not match the image of a scientist who is out of touch with the world, a bookworm and a perfectionist. Freek showed me a lilac collection and a lilac herbarium and explained how RBG process each lilac cultivar for the herbarium.

We were lucky to see many interesting cultivars. He explained that the present day was not the best time for the lilac collection because

the public funding cuts affected this famous garden. The absence of modern watering system threatened the future of the world's largest lilac collection and it could not but bother Freek Vrugtman who put so much of himself into the garden.

Freek and Ina Vrugtman, his loyal wife and assistant of more than 50 years, invited us to their house where we continued our conversation.

In Unity with Nature

The invitation to visit their cozy house built in 1973 on one acre in Carlisle (Ontario) was a nice surprise for us. Freek and Ina's house was in the forest that surrounds their house from all sides like a wall. Both Freek and Ina had their own offices where they spent hours free from work in the garden. These offices brought to our minds museum halls with a large number of books, all sorts of awards and souvenirs from different countries. Ina showed me the house, her crafts room and ...a magician-healer studio where she created lotions and creams based on herbs for herself and her friends. I was lucky to get a jar of a face cream as a gift. It was difficult to imagine that the cream was made by this woman rather than by industry.

As both of them are vegetarians and adherents of a healthy lifestyle, they spend a lot of time in their garden. Together they grew flowers and various vegetables. Their water came to the house and the garden from an artesian well, and was not chlorinated. Neither of them drank alcohol. At that time Ina danced folk dances and practiced martial arts (Tai-chi or taytszi-tsyuan).

Freek told me that he cuts the grass with a scythe rather than with a lawn-mower. In my opinion Freek and Ina's style of life explained why they looked younger than their biological age. Their garden was clearly visible from the spacious patio where Freek and Ina spent their time having unhurried conversations, reading books and watching birds the names of which they knew very well. Right across the patio on a tall pole a hummingbird was showing who was an owner here. Freek told us that the bird came here every summer for many years. The considerate owners of the house grew various flowers and had a feeder full of syrup for it. Two big important-looking cats lived in the house. They had come from God knows where and found care and shelter. One of them tried to run away to get freedom and measured its strength with raccoons and that caused concern to the owners.

The kind hostess prepared very tasty vitamin drink and a unique cherry pie. In the warmth of the setting sun we were sitting on the patio,

drinking the magic drink and talking about life. On behalf of all lilac admirers who respect Freek's a contribution to the world of lilacs, I asked Freek some questions. I believe his answers will be very interesting for the readers.

Freek, where were you born and how did you end up in Canada?

I was born in Rotterdam, the Netherlands in 1927. The city name means "the dam on the Rotte." Nowadays Rotterdam ranks second in population just behind Amsterdam. It has the largest cargo port in Europe. The Rotterdam's motto *Sterker door Strijd* means "stronger from struggle". City inhabitants were constantly fighting to claim land from the sea which means that they were fighting for survival. Zest for life and resilience are in our blood. I was a teenager during WW2 and could not finish school because I needed a job. I became a deckhand on a Rhine river barge. Then I found a job at the nursery garden where I learned how to look after plants. Later I got apprenticeship in a tree nursery and worked as a gardener. Before I left for Canada I was plant propagator in one of the German nurseries. I emigrated in 1952. By the way, Ina went to the USA behind the back of her parents. She followed her friend to Ithaca, NY.

How were your first years in Canada? It is not always easy to find your place in a new country.

As most of immigrants, I had a lot of jobs. At first I was a farm worker in Donegal (Ontario). That was the job on my immigration application. At that time Canada needed farm workers. Only those who agreed to be farm workers and worked there for a specific period of time became permanent residents. When I came to the farm, the owners were out. Instead of idling away my time I found a can of paint and a brush and painted the front of the shed. It turned out to define the farmer and his family's attitude towards me. They treated me as a member of their family. I worked and ate with them which were rare at that time. They even trusted me with their children when they left the house.

I worked in Manitoba, British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec. In 1956, four years after my arrival to Canada I filled the vacancy of Curator of the UBC Botanical Garden.

You left the Netherlands without finishing school. How did your relationships with the science developed? Today you are one of the most respected botanists in the world.

Dr. W.L. MacDonald, Professor Emeritus of English asked me why I had never got post-secondary education. I explained to him that in 1944 I had not been able to finish school because of the World War II and school graduation was a requirement for entering University. He advised me to send my report cards to the Department of Education in Victoria for an evaluation and I followed his advice.

After completing Grade 13 in night school I enrolled as a mature student while continuing to work part-time.

It looks like you were an experienced practitioner by that time. What was your major?

Yes I was the only student who could identify a flail, who could use a scythe and a horse-drawn plow. I also learnt Latin in school. Unlike my classmates who studied the textbook “Horticulture History” by D. Ingles. I learned the history of horticulture in practice.

I majored in ornamental horticulture and plant taxonomy.

How did you meet Ina?

After graduating from UBC I went on to graduate studies at Cornell University where I also worked as a teaching assistant. In 1963 I was teaching Taxonomy of Cultivated Plants and Ina van Teunenbroek was one of my students. In 1964 we got married and never separated.

In 1965 Ina graduated from Cornell University with major in Botany, Plant Classification. I received a MS in 1966, with a major in plant taxonomy and a minor in floriculture and ornamental horticulture.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MITILDA DZEVITSKAYA

What happened next?

Awards and grants received in 1966 supported our postgraduate study of botanical gardens in the Netherlands, United Kingdom, Germany and Austria.

In 1968 I was invited to work at Royal Botanical Gardens, Hamilton, Ontario where I was Curator of Collections till 1992. At the same time I worked part-time at the University of Toronto, was a visiting research associate at the University of Applied Sciences in Germany and served as an advisor in China and Philippines.

Ina volunteered in the library and RBG department for many years. In 1972 she became a head of the library and held the position until her retirement. She was the editor of Canadian Horticultural History published by RBG, President of the Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries, head of horticultural international organizations and clubs facilitating the exchange of information between libraries.

When did lilac enter your life?

In 1960, RBG started Katie Osborne Lilac Collection. I was Curator of Collections and had the responsibility of compiling lists of the existing plants, making description of cultivars and attaching the labels. In 1974, RBG was selected to be the International Cultivar Registration Authority for Syringa. In 1975, I was appointed International Lilac Registrar and elected as a board member of the International Lilac Society where I worked till 1980.

After my retirement I have devoted myself to lilacs. As a registrar, I take care of the International Register of Cultivar Names in the Genus Syringa L. (Olaceae). The information on files is constantly changing. I also study the history of lilac, the development of new cultivars and biographies of their authors. It allowed me to introduce some updates and additions to the iconic book by John L. Fiala, "Lilacs: The genus Syringa" (1988). The revised and updated edition was published in 2008 by Timber Press, "Lilacs: A Gardener's Encyclopedia".

Note: First published in 1988 by award-winning American hybridizer Reverend John Fiala, this unique reference book quickly became known worldwide as the lilac lovers' bible. The latest revision combines Fiala's passion for lilacs with the expertise of Canadian plantsman Freek Vrugman, the international lilac registrar.

As a lilac specialist you are expected to have many cultivars of lilac in your garden. How many varieties do you have and what are they?

We have several bushes of unknown lilac in our garden among other trees and bushes. The young plant was brought from Rowancroft Garden where Mary Blacklock and Minerva Castle worked with peonies and lilacs. The bush turned out to be very prolific for 50 years and its propagules were planted in the neighborhood. Some of them ended up in our garden and continue to fight for survival against the local plants. For us it is a history of our garden rather than the expression of our professional interest. We do not have any certified cultivars of lilac in our garden.

You are a lilac expert. In your opinion, what are the best 5 varieties and why?

As a Lilac Registrar I have to be impartial. I try to promote lilac rather than specific cultivars.

What do you consider the most valuable in the process of development of lilac in the world?

The most valuable are the new methods of reproduction of lilac. In 1940s we used the grafting method. This method is still used in some nurseries. When I worked in Dominion Arboretum, Ottawa, Ontario we experimented with cuttings rooted in mist and with growth hormones. In 1980 Virginia Hildebrandt pioneered in vitro reproduction. Nowadays the method of micro cloning is widely used in the world. By the way, Dr. Hildebrandt's nursery is very close to our house.

What do you expect to see in the world of lilac?

I would like lilac amateurs, collectors and lilac breeders to use the correct names for lilac (identification) and use their names properly (nomenclature).

What amazes you in lilac?

I am amazed by the interest to lilac all over the world.

The time of the interview was limited. We were to visit Bruce Peart, a former colleague of Freek. I will never forget this day which was completely devoted to lilacs.

The example of Freek who despite twists and turns of fate managed to go from an immigrant doing manual jobs to a scientist known in the world proves that dreams do come true if you work hard.

I continue to be in touch with Freek and Ina Vrugtman, the unique couple who stayed together and supported each other for more than 50 years. I wish them all the best.

In Memoriam

William 'Bill' Tschumi



Bill passed away on Saturday, April 8, 2017 after a long illness. Bill was a long time member of the ILS and handled the ILS Assistant Treasurer duties, accepting membership dues since 2001. Bill and his wife Shirley attended a convention after receiving an invite from a friend and so enjoyed the camaraderie, that they became members. They attended conventions until Bill's health limited his ability to travel although he maintained his assistant treasurer duties until his passing. He was one of our hardest working volunteers over the years.

Bill was born and educated in Troy, NY. He was a graduate of Troy Business College and a US Navy Veteran serving on the Rogers S. Blood. He retired as Vice President of Sales from Walter G Hiney, Inc, after many years of service. In addition to being a member of the ILS, Bill was Past Master of Cohoes Lodge #116, a member of the Right Worshipful Association, a member of Past Masters Association Old 17th Masonic District, member of the Shriner's, Grand Sword Bearer 1979-1980 Rensselaer Schenectady Grand Lodge F &A M, New York. Bill was also a member of Calvary United Methodist Church in Latham and served on several of the church boards.

Bill leaves behind his wife of almost 67 years, Shirley, his daughter Ellen (Donald) Frederickson and his granddaughter Chrissy Frederickson. Bill's funeral was held on April 12th in Latham, NY.

Marie Rose Rogers

Marie passed away Saturday, May 13, 2017 after complications from a long illness. She had planned on coming to the convention awards dinner with her daughter before falling ill.

Marie attended high school in Solvay, New York and was active in sports, scouts and the glee club. She enlisted in the United States Marine Force on December 4, 1950. Upon completion of training at Lakeland AFB in Texas, Marie was assigned to Mitchel Air Force Base in Long Island, N.Y., serving as Staff Sergeant. There, she eventually met and married her husband, the late Owen M. Rogers. Marie's years of military service were among her most cherished memories.



Marie arrived in Durham in 1959 where she resided for the rest of her life. Marie was very active over the years with volunteer work at the local hospital, church and later, an organization she helped found: Oyster River Educational Workshop (OREW), designed to provide aide services to teachers and the school district that eventually transformed into Marie's various full time positions at Oyster River High School. She always loved spectating ORHS sporting events, and served as softball coach for Oyster River Middle and High Schools for many years. She was known and appreciated by two generations of Oyster River students when Marie went back to Mast Way Elementary School in 2005 as a volunteer classroom aide. The students especially loved seeing her courtside for basketball games and on the sidelines for lacrosse games, sitting in her iconic lawn chair at both.



'Marie Rogers'
Photo © Jack Alexander

Marie was very generous to many charities and enjoyed old western shows and movies on tv, reading, rug hooking art pieces, embroidery, knitting and most recently enjoyed creating beautiful pictures in coloring books for adults. Marie and Owen were long time members of the International Lilac Society.

Marie is survived by her daughters, Mary Rogers LaPolice and Lucy Ann Parkman, son-in-law Matthew LaPolice and grandson Troy LaPolice. A private funeral service was held for Marie in Lee, NH.

‘Declaration’: One of My New Favorite Lilacs

By Kent Millham

PHOTO CREDIT: KENT MILLHAM



Years ago, I wrote several articles about my favorite lilacs. I frequently add new lilacs to that list, depending on the quality of the specimens I have seen. Now, it is time to add *Syringa × hyacinthiflora* ‘Declaration’ to that list.

This lilac is a fairly recent introduction, registered by Egolf & Pooler of the United States National Arboretum in 2007. I planted one in Highland Botanical Park in 2012. In a few short years it has developed into a vase-shaped shrub of about 6’ tall; fairly narrow and completely loaded with flower clusters. The clusters themselves are very long, and some of the branches had over 2’ of flowers coming off the stems. The single florets are a rich reddish-purple color. Like all of the *× hyacinthiflora* lilacs, they are very fragrant.

In the short time it has been planted in Rochester, New York, ‘Declaration’ has been doing very well. Because it was developed at the USNA in Washington, DC, I thought it would be a good lilac to try in Virginia Beach, VA, where my fiancée Susan lives. There are very few lilacs planted in Virginia Beach other than ones like ‘Miss Kim’ or tree lilacs.

In October 2015, I planted a 3 gallon ‘Declaration’ at Susan’s house. It did well as expected over winter, and the following spring it bloomed. I wasn’t too surprised at this, however, because it had spent part of the year in the Rochester climate. One surprising thing that occurred was that it sent up a new shoot that was about 6’ long; the biggest growth spurt I had ever seen in a lilac.

This spring was the true test, because 2016 was the first whole year ‘Declaration’ spent in Virginia Beach. In very early April 2017, the ‘Declaration’ burst forth with several large inflorescences. I will continue to monitor its progress, but it appears that this cultivar is a very good choice for some southern locations.

Thus, as a chosen lilac on my list of favorite lilacs, ‘Declaration’ has earned its place because of its rapid growth and establishment in a landscape, the richness of its reddish-purple florets, the size of the flower clusters, its magnificent fragrance, and its ability to grow in more southerly climates than many lilacs.

Lilacs in the University of Idaho Arboretum

By Tara Roberts



PHOTO CREDIT: UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO

To discuss lilacs with Richard Naskali is no simple conversation. The sweltering May afternoon I spent doing so was, instead, an adventure that meandered across topics from genetics to etymology to botany to Dr. Naskali's childhood. At times it launched into narratives that departed from lilacs for long stretches of time before finding its way back.

I learned that the story of lilacs spans the world. I learned that the white outlines on one of my favorite purple lilacs are the result of a mosaic, or two genetically different tissues combining to form one 'Sensation' flower. I learned not to confuse "variety" with "cultivar," and the correct way to punctuate such a name.

And I left with a greater appreciation for a complex and beautiful plant that is central to the University of Idaho Arboretum and Botanical Garden -- and for a complex and interesting human whose passion for botany has shaped the Arboretum and its lilacs for decades.

The Arboretum was first planted in 1982, but the story of its lilacs begins on a rainy April afternoon in 1987, when Arboretum supporters and members of the Idaho State Federation of Garden Clubs met to plant the U.S. Constitutional Lilac Grove in honor of the 200th anniversary of the Constitution's signing. Lillian Pethel, a garden club leader and a key player in the arboretum's early days, presided over the planting of 23 French lilacs along with Naskali, UI President Richard Gibb and state federation president Louisa Cone.

The Constitutional grove features primarily *Syringa vulgaris*, commonly called French lilacs. Hungarian and French lilacs are native to Europe, though Naskali is quick to point out that "French" is a misnomer. These lilacs are not originally from France, but a French family, the Lemoines (father Victor, mother Marie Louise and son Emile), shaped the species through aggressive hybridization. They developed multiple color variations and popularized the double-flowered lilacs. Among the Arboretum's collection are the fragrant white cultivar 'Mme. Lemoine.'

The Lemoines developed dozens of cultivars, which Naskali points out is still just a small slice of the incredible array available worldwide.



PHOTO CREDIT: TERRY GRAY

“Today in the world, and mainly in the Northern Hemisphere, there are at least 1,800 cultivars of lilacs of various sorts,” he said. “And they’re still making them.”

Another of Naskali’s favored lilac hybridizers is the late Father John Fiala, a Roman Catholic priest from Ohio who wrote a major book about lilacs (Naskali’s annotated copy now lives in UI’s Stillinger Herbarium). A number of Fiala’s cultivars, including his famous large-blossomed ‘Wedgewood Blue,’ grow in the Arboretum.

The Arboretum is also home to numerous Asian lilacs. Among them are several *Syringa prestoniae*, or Preston lilacs, a cross of two Chinese species created by the intrepid Canadian breeder Isabella Preston, who Naskali appreciates for her forward thinking in developing cold-tolerant cultivars.

“She was merely an ag tech, but became world famous for the radical things she did,” Naskali says. He notes her ‘Miss Canada,’ a bushy pink lilac near the Arboretum kiosk, as among his favorites.

The Arboretum also houses Korean lilacs, the origins of which also hold an unusual story. For generations, the Korean lilac was largely unknown to the world. But when a botanist became stranded at a Seoul train station, he collected seeds and began to spread them. to Europe and North America.

“For a while, all the Korean lilacs in the world came from that collection,” Naskali says.

Several of the Arboretum’s Asian lilacs (especially those clustered near the kiosk) came to UI via Harvard’s Arnold Arboretum, home to one of the best lilac collections in North America. In the mid-1990s, Harvard, the University of Pennsylvania and the National Arboretum bankrolled trips to collect native plants from the mountains around Beijing. Using gift money from the Arboretum Associates and himself, Naskali worked

with Arnold Arboretum to receive seeds, including lilacs, from these trips. The plants were started and cared for at a nursery in Lewiston, and now are denoted in the UI Arboretum with the letters “HLJ,” for Heilongjiang Province, or BJG, for mountains around Beijing.

This expansive variety of lilacs -- more than 130 cultivars from around the globe, according to the 2013 Arboretum inventory -- is “important for an arboretum and botanical garden to have,” Naskali says.

And anyone who talks with Dr. Naskali knows his opinions about arboreta are not only passionate, but also grounded in a life of dedication to botany that began when he was a shy, impoverished boy from Ashtabula County, Ohio, who loved flowers instead of sports. After dedicated teachers led him to earn bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees from Ohio State, Naskali joined UI’s newly formed Department of Biology in 1967 and immediately took an interest in the diversity and care of campus plantings.

Naskali was instrumental in the early group that met on nights and weekends in the 1970s to discuss what the Arboretum should be and gathered donations to bring their dream to fruition. The Regents accepted the master plan in 1980, and the first plants went into the ground on Easter Sunday 1982. Naskali became Arboretum coordinator not long after, and then Arboretum director.

“I did everything from supervising students to mowing, planting and raising funds,” he says.

He retired in June 2003, but has maintained a presence at the Arboretum, on campus and in the community. He also maintains as well an encyclopedic knowledge of the Arboretum, its plants and its stories, along with a fierce sense of devotion and pride.

Back in 1987, when the Constitutional Lilac Grove was planted, Naskali told the *Idahonian* newspaper that he wanted the Arboretum to be known for its lilacs.

“Ten to 20 years from now the grove will be the best of the lilacs in the West,” he said.

And now, nearly 30 years later, the families, students and community members who wander through the Arboreteum in spring, catching the scent of ‘Sensation,’ resting beneath the shade of the ‘China Snow’ Peking lilac, or examining the pale-pink flowers of ‘Krasavitsa Mosky’ (“Beauty of Moscow”) can agree: it is.

The Latimers' Fabulous Lilac Collection

By Nicole Jordan

Many of you know members Nancy and Harry Latimer: two lilac enthusiasts from Virginia. They live in what is defined as ILS Region 3 in the Clinch Mountains in Meadowview Virginia, USA, at an elevation of 2000 plus feet (600m).



From attending the convention auctions, I knew that their collection was important and large. I decided to visit them one Saturday in April. A quick e-mail confirmed that yes, they would be there and they were welcoming my visit. They live five hours away from me. It was raining all along the way but I made it at the announced time. The drive is lovely. Green pastures and mountain views made the traffic bearable. Virginia Interstate 81 is known for its truck traffic and yes there were trucks lumbering one behind the other like a herd of elephants, making them hard to pass because of the mist created by their tires on the wet road.

Once off the highway, all was tranquil and smooth. What a lovely corner of the world they live in, very rural, lush and green not far from the state of Tennessee in the western corner of Virginia, USA. I found their driveway and up my little car climbed to the house. Harry came out of the house greeting me with open arms. I soon met their two very friendly dogs, Lovey and Glimmer, and of course Nancy. She had prepared a delicious lunch and we sat down to eat and talk. Later, the rain having let up a bit, we put on our boots and armed with umbrellas we went down the hill to tour the lilac collection. They have over one hundred and thirty plus lilacs. Some had already passed bloom time others were in full bloom. Nancy and Harry built the house sixteen years ago on this eighty five acres (34 hectares) property, so the collection is not that old. They do have two very old lilacs that came from Nancy's grandmother's garden. Their names are unknown, so Nancy and Harry have baptized one Grandmother Vaughan the other 2910 4th Avenue, the name and address of her grandmother. They are purple and look great. I saw *Syringa vulgaris* 'Madame Lemoine', 'Monique Lemoine', 'Victor Lemoine', 'Président Grévy', 'Glacier', 'Spring Parade', Harry's favorite, *S. ×chinensis* 'Lilac Sunday', Nancy's favorite, and many more as you can imagine. 'Jesse Gardner' is the rarest one they have.

The front porch of their house overlooks the lilac collection. In this peaceful setting Nancy and Harry have created a little paradise. Harry also collects conifers and magnolias and he has presently twenty five of each.

Blooming by the back deck was a pink magnolia named Magnolia 'Jane' (*M. lilliflora* 'Nigra' × *M. stellata* 'Rosea') and one recently acquired named *Magnolia* × *brookynensis* 'Yellow Bird' (*M. acuminata* × *M. lilliflora*). It was covered top to bottom with the brightest of yellow blooms it was spectacular. Large metal sculptures created by their son, Kent, add a touch of class to the land.



The sun porch overlooks Nancy's garden. Sitting at the large dining table we were entertained by the birds: Eastern Bluebirds, Yellow and House Finches, coming in and out of the nesting houses. The Mourning Doves, Cardinals, Towhees and Blue Jays were busy eating at the base of the bird feeders. The garden is full of perennials and chipmunks were zipping in and out of the foliage. It was too early to see to many flowers but the peonies and daylilies were preparing to bloom.

Nancy and Harry would not let me go home so I spent the night. Nancy had put a sprig of Lily of the Valley on the night stand just for me. From the bed by the moon light I could see the dark forest that surrounds their house. They had told me "there is no need to close the curtains we only have deer and bears". The next morning, Harry and I had breakfast and we had a long chat while watching the wild life in Nancy's garden.

Time to leave and Nancy went to dig asparagus for me to take home. It was a great, great visit. I must say I could not but wonder who will be the next owners of their property. It is for sale and I hope lilac enthusiasts will purchase it. It would be sad to have the collection destroyed to make room for a pool... Anyone for an instant lilac collection?

Kawashimo Park Lilac Collection

By Masoto Oishi

A public election was held in 1960 to decide the city's symbol, when the population of Sapporo exceeded five hundred thousand. During this election, the city's "tree," "flower," and "bird" were decided, and the lilac was selected as the tree of Sapporo.

In 1991, the city of Sapporo decided to put in a collection of lilacs in the Kawashimo Park, which was scheduled to open in 1999. At that time, the city did not have a collection of lilac trees for which they had cultivar names, so most of the lilacs were supplied by the Royal Botanical Gardens in Canada.

Kawashimo Park, located on the eastern part of Sapporo, calls the area in which the lilac collection is located, the "lilac forest." There are now 270 cultivars of lilacs, of which 1700 trees comprised of 240 cultivars of lilacs are displayed. It is the largest collection of lilacs in Japan.

Lilacs bloom from mid-May to early July. The trees are planted in the form of a walk, rows according to cultivar, screens and hedges, to be more entertaining to visitors. A clone of the Japanese tree lilac, which Dr. William Smith Clark, professor at the Sapporo Agricultural University (present-day Hokkaido University) sent seeds from Sapporo to the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University in 1876, is also planted here. This Japanese tree lilac returned home in 1998, after being away from Sapporo for 120 years.

Though the climate in Sapporo is cool and fit for lilacs, the snowfall is heavy (exceeding 1m), so bamboo is tied together to protect the branches from breaking. Further, due to strong south-easterly winds that blow through Kawashimo Park between spring and summer, coniferous trees are planted each year to increase protection against the wind.

The Sapporo Lilac Festival has been held annually since 1959 in Odori Park, with Kawashimo Park entering the action as a festival venue in 2008. Public concerts and other cultural events are held during the festival, while Kawashimo Park staff hold seminars, sell saplings, and hand out free saplings to visitors to spread awareness and increase lilacs.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MASOTO OISHI (3)



The festival will commemorate its 60th anniversary in 2018. Special events, such as adding to the collection a clone of the first lilac that was brought to Japan in 1880, are scheduled to be held.

Besides the publicly displayed lilacs, research and cultivation of lilacs is conducted in the nursery. Small lilac saplings that have grown to be about one meter are planted in lilac forest. Propagated lilacs are then planted throughout the city's parks, or supplied to citizens.

Though Sapporo is a young city, with a history of a mere 150 years, lilacs have been a prominent part of the lives of people in Sapporo. While coexisting with the streets of Sapporo, Kawashimo Park will strive to infiltrate the city with lilacs.

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
- Click on: Click here for the International Lilac Register and Appendices



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