

VOLUME 46 · NUMBER 4 · FALL 2017

Lilacs

Quarterly Journal of the International Lilac Society

2018
Russian
Conference

Hastula
in Lilac

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in Lilac

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West Halifax, VT 05358

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- ON THE COVER -
PHOTO BY
HIDEO IHARA

Lilacs showing variety of fall color.



Photo by Hideo Ihara

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lacs. 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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- ON THE BACK -
PHOTO BY
TOM GOBER

- EDITOR'S DEADLINE -
FOR WINTER ISSUE:
DECEMBER 15, 2017

please send photos + articles

President's Message

Dear Lilac Friends,

It is a quiet time for lilacs. They are now entering their dormant period waiting for their rebirth in spring time. We can dream of that time when again our favorite shrub will be perfuming the air covered in spectacular blooms. We have a lot to look forward to in 2018. We will spring into action in mid-April to attend the ILS Convention in Riverside, California USA. Then in May, some of us will depart for Russia to attend a two-part lilac conference in Moscow and St. Petersburg. Both are very exciting events. It will take some planning.

In California, USA, Gary Parton and Dr. Giles Waines will introduce us to the lilacs that thrive on that west side of the North American continent. We will be near Los Angeles. In Russia, we will join our Russian members to celebrate the 125th birthday of Russian Hybridizer, L.A. Kolesnikov who gave the world many outstanding lilacs.

The summer 2017 issue of Lilacs was so good. It was an international issue that represented our society. Our editor, Tom Gober who has been on the job a year is doing an excellent job. Thank you to all of you for sending articles and photos. Re-read the article "Creating an Alpine Village" by Gary Parton. It is an invitation to come to California to experience the magic of lilacs at the ILS convention that he is hosting with Dr. Giles Waines. The ILS Convention in California is April 19-21, 2018.

We barely return from California and we will depart for Moscow, Russia a month later. Part 1 begins in Moscow from May 21-24, 2018. Part 2 is in St. Petersburg from May 25-27, 2018. Plan to go. Our hosts are planning a wonderful lilac experience for us. We going to see a profusion of lilacs, some we have seen only in pictures and books and some we have never seen.



Hidea Ihara, 2017, fall foliage

The back cover picture with the classic belvedere reflecting in the water of the lake surrender by the flowering trees and shrubs is just magnificent! Many other pictures were taken at the convention. I love another picture by Margaret Walton, the one of Jack Alexander looking through lilac blooms at the Arnold Arboretum on the Lilac Walk.

Pictures are worth a thousand words and it is true. In this summer issue the front cover picture by Dawn Sparling and the back cover picture by Margaret Walton are so beautiful. "A Dish of Lilacs" soft and delicate is so lovely. You can just imagine the fragrance. What better way to teach the children, then to bring a dish of lilacs in the classroom. They can touch the blooms, smell them and talk to their parents about the beauty of lilacs. What a great idea for show and tell!



Tatiana Poliakova, 2017, autumn lilac leaves



Hidea Ihara, 2017, fall foliage

The tributes written about the late William 'Bill' Tshumi, past ILS Assistant Secretary and Marie Rose Rogers, widow of Owen Rogers, enlighten us. We knew them as lilac enthusiasts. Reading about their life accomplishments was impressive. We will miss them both.

Freek Vurgtman interview by Milada Dzevitskayo, PhD, about his work with lilacs is excellent. A life of dedication for both he and his wife, Ina. We are grateful to have such scientists dedicating their

life work to lilacs. What a journey for them! We are the recipients of their labor. Thank you to both of them.

Kawashimo Park Lilac Collection by Masoto Oishi made us discover a new lilac destination worth a visit to Japan. This very large collection of 270 cultivars, 1700 lilacs in total is a lilac paradise. How exciting it must be to visit this forest of lilacs at blooming time. That was a huge project. Congratulations to city leaders for their foresight and to all who worked creating and maintaining this marvelous park. Celebrating sixty years in 2018, The Forest of Lilacs has stood the test of time and generations will continue to enjoy its beauty.

The ILS Children Coloring Book will soon be out. Thank you to Kelly Applegate, ILS Youth Chair, and Helena Shimizu, the graphic designer, for their hard work creating this wonderful book for children and adults alike. I hope everyone will get a copy. It will make a great gift for children of all ages and those of us young at heart. I am sure it will revive interest in lilacs. It is sure to start lilacs conversations between our young and adults with adults recalling their memories about the lilacs in their parents' and grandparents' gardens. We are planting the seed with this booklet, hoping it will germinate and one day these children will want to grow lilacs in their own gardens, join the ILS and become originators of new lilacs.

Any of you know Louie the Lilac? He was one of the many villains battling with Batman. He wore a purple suit, hat, and tie. He cornered the flower market in Gotham City. He also had a Flower Mobile - a purple automobile filled with lilacs. Look him up on YouTube just for fun. I wonder who was the author of this character, maybe someone who either loved lilacs or maybe not. The series was shown in the US in the sixties and Milton Berle played Louie. Anyone remember him?

Please plan on attending the ILS Convention in California. Plan to visit Moscow and St. Petersburg, Russia. Karen McCauley, ILS Convention Chair, is consulting with the respective planning committees. They promise us educational, fun and exciting lilac adventures. Find all the information in this issue of Lilacs.

While winter visits us, think about spring and all the exciting lilac adventures awaiting us. Make list of cultivars you wish to have. Redesign your garden to put them in. Dream, dream about your lilacs blooming again and filling the air with their perfume.

See you in 2018 in California or Russia or both on the Lilac Trail,

Nicole Jordan
ILS President
Chester, VA USA



Convention Corner

Up Next: 2018 ILS Annual Convention

Riverside, California
Thurs April 19 – Saturday April 21

Details for next year's convention are still being arranged. What I can tell you is the convention hotel will be located in Riverside California, which is half way between Palm Springs and Los Angeles. The closest airport is Ontario California, which is a smaller regional airport. Air fare is much more reasonable flying into Los Angeles or Palm Springs but then you will need a car. We will be visiting Alpenglow Gardens with a collection of over 150 lilacs, and the renowned Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens. Full registration details will be published in the winter journal and we will post the information online as soon as possible.

Please note: You cannot bring plants into California, but we will have a huge variety of auction plants donated by Gary Parton of Alpenglow Lilac Gardens and others in California. We will publish an auction list in the winter journal.

Also coming up next May in Russia, will be a symposium dedicated to the celebration of the anniversary of L.A. Kolesnikov, famous Russian lilac breeder. Please see the attached letter of invite. Full details for both events were not available when this journal went to print, but will be posted online as soon as possible.

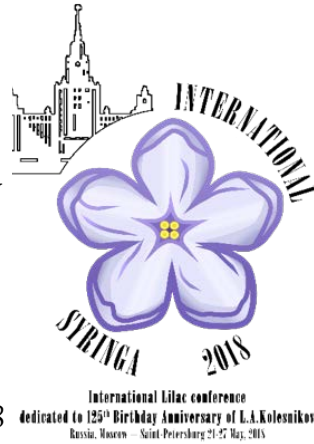
Thanks for your cooperation.

Karen McCauley
Convention Chairman
952.443.3703
mccauleytk@aol.com

Russia Conference

Dear Colleagues!

We are glad to invite you to take part in the International Lilac conference dedicated to 125th Birthday Anniversary of Leonid Kolesnikov – outstanding Russian lilac breeder



Terms: May, 21–28, 2018

Place: Russia, Moscow · May 21–24, 2018
St. Petersburg · May 25–28, 2018

Topics of the Conference

Sessions

- 1 | Lilac species in collections and gardening
- 2 | Historical cultivars in modern collections: search, conservation, study.
- 3 | Modern directions of selection and hybridization of lilac.
- 4 | Techniques of lilac propagation (incl. biotechnology)
- 5 | Cultivation and ways of protection against diseases and pests
- 6 | Lilac and its lovers (festivals, events, tours, unusual collections)

Sessions 1–5 will be held in Moscow, May 21–24, 2018

Session 6 will be held in St. Petersburg, May 26–27, 2018

Ways of Participation

- 1 | Speaker
 - 2 | Participant
 - 3 | Accompanying person
 - 4 | Partner of the conference
- (possible to display your own advertising board)*



Top left: lilac bushes; top right: five petal floret; bottom: discussion of the program of the International Syringa Conference by the members of the organizing committee Alexander Rappoport (deputy director of the BG MSU), Tatiana Polyakova (Moscow), Elke Haase (Germany), Irina Sapozhkova (St. Petersburg), Tatyana Galaktionova (St. Petersburg).

Organizing Committee

Chairman | Mikhail Kirpichnikov | Dean of the Biological Faculty of Moscow State University Academician

Co-Chairs

Tatiana Polyakova | Regional Vice President of the International Lilac Society (Russia&Asia)

Dr. Vladimir Chub | Director of the Botanical Garden of Moscow State University

Karen McCauley | Chairman Convention Committee, ILS

Elke Haase | Dipl.Biol., Regional Vice President of the International Lilac Society (Europe)

Executive Secretary | Junior Researcher of the Botanical Garden, Katya Romanova, Ph.D.

Organizing Committee

Alexander Rappoport | Ph.D., Deputy Director of the Botanical Garden of Moscow State University

Sergey Efimov | Ph.D., Scientific secretary of the Botanical Garden of Moscow State University

Yury Kiris | Curator of the collection of lilac, Botanical Garden of Moscow State University

Irina Okuneva | Ph.D., Curator of the collection of lilac, Main Botanical Garden RAS, Moscow

Svetlana Fedorova | Ph.D., Deputy Director of Pavlovsk Park, St. Petersburg

Yury Kalugin | Ph.D., Deputy Director, Botanical Garden Institute RAS, St. Petersburg

Irina Sapozkova, Ph.D., ILS

Maxim Leschinsky | Keeper of the Smolny Lilac collection, St. Petersburg

Tatyana Veremyova | Curator of Kolesnikov's Lilac Garden

Preliminary program

May, 21 (Monday)

Welcome of participants, registration, tour of the MSU Botanical Garden, Tea reception

May, 22 (Tuesday)

Presentations (10-18), after 18.00

Evening bus tour of Moscow (*Not Included in fee*)

May, 23 (Wednesday)

Excursions (Lilac Garden, N.V. Tsitsin Main Botanical Garden, Moscow Timiryazev Agricultural Academy (laboratory))

May, 24 (Thursday)

Presentations (10-17), 18.00-21.00

Dinner reception in MSU Botanical Garden

May, 25 (Friday)

10.00 Departure to Saint-Petersburg by train (alternative – Friday night),

16.00 Walking tour of evening St. Petersburg. Train tickets cost 40-50 \$ depending on ruble rate

May, 26 (Saturday)

Tour of the Botanical Garden of Komarov Botanical Institute of Russian Academy of Sciences, presentations - history of lilac in St. Petersburg, show of modern lilac cultivars of St. Petersburg

May, 27 (Sunday)

Festival at the Lilac promenade in Pavlovsk
Presentations of session 6 (unusual collections)

May, 28 (Monday)

Departure of the participants

Additional sightseeing program

On May, 28-30, tours to the palaces and parks of St. Petersburg suburbs and visit to the Hermitage are scheduled. The cost of all excursions will be about 300 € which includes bus travel, museum tickets, tours in English, lunch. The final pricing will be announced when all registration forms are received.

Registration fees

- Registration fee for speakers and participants will be 250/300 €.
- Registration fee for participation only in the Moscow part of the conference will be 150/200 €.
- Registration fee for accompanying persons will be 150/200 € (entire conference), only Moscow part - 100/130 €. Includes only Tea and Dinner receptions, tours on May 21, 23, 26-27.
- Registration fee for conference partners will be discussed individually.

In case of Russian visa refusal, registration fee will be returned.

- Registration fee includes coffee breaks and lunches in MSU, bag of the participant, Tea and Dinner reception, simultaneous English translation, printed 'Procedures of the Conference'.
- Registration fee does not cover visa costs, airline tickets, transfer from the airport, accommodation in Moscow and St. Petersburg, trip from Moscow to St. Petersburg, evening tour of Moscow on May 22, 2018.

Early bird rate | before December 1, 2017

Standard rate | before March 1, 2018

Hotel information on the hotels near Botanical Garden is coming soon.

Oral presentations and posters are scheduled.
Languages: English and Russian.

To submit your abstract and application form, please, use the e-mail: syringaconference2018@gmail.com.

Application form should be sent *before* **November 15, 2017**.

Please, provide separate application form for each accompanying person.

Abstracts should be received before January 1, 2018.

Please, note that we won't be able to print abstracts received after this date.

All abstracts should be not more than 5 pages, typed in Microsoft Word, Times New Roman, size 12pt, no formatting. All abbreviations and symbols should be deciphered.

Please provide annotation (volume 100-250 words) and key words (5-10).

It is planned to print the book of 'Procedures of the Conference' which will also be published on the MSU Botanical Garden web site <http://www.botsad.msu.ru> by the beginning of the conference.

Organizing committee will be pleased if you share this information with interested colleagues!

Please provide your registration form *before* **November 15, 2017**.

If you need to apply for Russian visa, please, attach the scan of your passport or send paper copy on the mailing address: Russia, Moscow, 119234, Leninskie Gori, 1/12, Botanical Garden of MSU.

Registration form

Editor's Note

INTERNATIONAL SYRINGA 2018

Russia, Moscow · May 21-24 · St. Petersburg · May 25-28

surname / given name

country

organization

address of organization

position

contact phone number

email address

postal address to send invitation to

way of participation
circle one

/ speaker

/ participant

/ accompanying person

/ partner of the conference

preliminary presentation title · type of presentation / oral / poster

event attendance
circle one

/ entire conference

/ just Moscow portion

/ just St. Petersburg portion

The five-petal lilac floret shown on the Russian ILS Convention poster is considered to be the 'lilac of happiness' in Russia. From Russian folklore, finding a five-petal lilac floret and eating it will bring you luck and happiness. The Russian organizing committee is using the 'lilac of happiness' in their advertisements to bring success to their convention.



Photo by Tatiana Poliakova: 'Lilac Happiness'



Lilac Time

A Poem by Eleanor Zavodny

It's lilac time

A sensual delight

Branches dip low overhead

Pregnant with their precious burden

The blossoms' subtle, pastel, springtime tones

Gently wake our senses from their winter's sleep

Last summer's brighter hues appear too jarring to awakening eyes

The heavy nighttime air embraces us with its sweet perfume

A passionate embrace to keep true our love 'til again we meet

A year from now, next May.



Photo by Robert Zavodny

Eleanor with her son Robert

Eleanor Zavodny passed away in October of 2016. She was the mother of Robert Zavodny. As she was nearing death, one of her children asked her if there was anything else that she wanted. She replied, "I wish that I could smell my lilacs one last time." Robert reached out to some florists, asking if there was any way to obtain some lilacs for his dying mother but each time the answer was no, lilacs are not a florist flower. The next day Robert stopped by his mother's home to check on things and wandered through her gardens to clear his head. It was an unseasonably warm October and he found a couple of small blooms on 'Bloomerang' which he picked to take to his mother. As he walked back up towards her home, he happened to look up and saw two blooms on the lilac next to the side porch. It is a white lilac and the first lilac that Eleanor would see when she would walk to her gardens. Robert took those to the hospice center that evening and held them for her to smell, she awoke to smell them and said, 'lilacs' with a small smile. She passed away the next morning. Robert found this poem and many others that she had written when going through her belongings.



Lilac for Small Spaces

by Hideo Ihara

The lilac is the symbol tree of Sapporo from the citizen vote of 1960. In Sapporo, you can see many *Syringa vulgaris* or *S. xhyacinthiflora* in the parks and private gardens. Especially at the end of May the town is filled with the flowers and lovely scent of it.

In recent years, planting has increased in public facilities such as parks, but it seems to be decreasing in individual gardens. Every year, several stocks disappear from my commuting route. The majority of the reasons stem from increasing tallness and having robust rhizomes. It can be resolved by lecturing on the pruning method to keep the back low.

However, the insufficient of the space for cultivating would be the main reason. The general housing site of Sapporo is narrow, 100-200 square meters, and in recent years more houses without gardens are also increasing. Also, apartments that do not need snow removal are becoming popular.

As housing conditions are changing, people's lifestyles are diversifying more. Under these circumstances, in order to increase lilacs in town, I need not only to convey the splendor of flowers and scents, but also to propose a lilac suitable for each place. Especially the smaller lilac for cultivating in bowls is more suitable for many places such as a small garden or balcony. Many of the Pubescentes series such as *Syringa meyeri* and *S. pubescens* subsp. *microphylla* are suitable for growing in small bowls.

We have been suggesting the smaller lilac in Sapporo since 2000, with exhibition of it as bowls and distributing it as memorial trees. These are favorably accepted, and 7 out of 10 people choose the smaller lilac. At first only a few cultivars of smaller lilacs were introduced in Sapporo, so more cultivars were necessary to further our objective.



I started the cross-breeding of dwarf lilacs with *S. meyeri* 'Palibin', *S. pubescens* subsp. *microphylla* 'Superba', *S. Josée* etc. since 2003. Since I lived in an apartment at that time, I decided to grow them by bowls at my balcony. Although it normally takes 3 to 4 years from germination to flowering, the sunshine of this place was as short as 4 hours, it took more than 6 years.

Many of these cultivars grow slowly, and when grown in bowls it will be as high as 40-80cm in about 10 years. These can be easily increased by cuttings, mid June is the optimum, but it is possible until mid August. The plants bloom two years after cuttings. Every year, growing is the best if you replant it in a larger bowl. Choosing a bowl that suits each lilac has become one of my pleasures.



In addition, the autumn leaves range from yellow to red, purple, orange, or brown, and the range of mutation is wide and it is one of the charms of this group. Several cultivars were selected for autumn

leaves rather than flowers. The lowest temperature here is -23°C (Z 6 a) which is not very cold, but the maximum snow depth is as deep as 1-1.5 m, and it often receives the damage of the above ground due to snow rot. I am working on this resistance.

I registered 19 varieties by 2017, but since the flowers are small, it is necessary to be somewhat careful to see the features. Smaller lilacs may not contribute much to the scenery of Sapporo like common lilac or tree lilac, but they will brighten up smaller environments such as balconies and patios. I believe that there will be lilac in various environments.



Photos by Hideo Idhara



Photo by Yuri Kiris

In the collections of ornamental woody plants of the Botanical Garden of Moscow State University lilacs were introduced in the early 1950s. At that time the best cultivars of foreign breeding were planted and some of them have survived to the present day. The pride of the collection of our Garden is the most complete collection of cultivars of the outstanding lilac breeder Leonid A. Kolesnikov. A special place is occupied by cultivars by Kolesnikov with his disciple Vladimir D. Mironovich. In the collection of lilacs of our Garden there are also cultivars of Nikolai K. Vekhov and other domestic breeders. Also in the collection of lilacs of the Botanical Garden of Moscow State University there are cultivars of foreign breeders, mostly French of Victor and Emil Lemoine.

In the collections of ornamental woody plants of the Botanical Garden of Moscow State University lilacs were introduced in the early 1950s. Thanks to its unusual color *Syringa vulgaris* ‘Mulatka’ (Mikhailov and Rybakina, 1980) is one of the most popular lilacs with visitors of the Botanical Garden. The shrub is tall; the buds are dark purple; the florets are single, purple-lilac, smoky chocolate, 2.5 cm in diameter; the thyrses are 18 cm long. The one interesting shoot was found on the ‘Mulatka’ in 2013. The thyrses formed on this shoot were differed in color shade from the color of the remaining thyrses. When in full bloom the florets of this mutant shoot were more lightly colored but at the same time retained the original shade of ‘Mulatka’. The unique color of the thyrses was preserved in the following years. This suggests that there is a bud mutation of ‘Mulatka’. Material taken from this shoot was propagated by soft-wood cuttings and grafting. The new lilac was named “Tatyanin Den”, Russian for Tatiana’s day. Tatiana Day (Russian: Татьянанин день, Tatyanin den’) is a Russian religious holiday observed on 25 January according to the Gregorian calendar, 12 January according to the Julian.

***Syringa vulgaris* ‘Tatyanin Den’, bud mutation of ‘Mulatka’**

by V. V. Dvortsova and Y. N. Kiris

In the collections of ornamental woody plants of the Botanical Garden of Moscow State University lilacs were introduced in the early 1950s. At that time the best cultivars of foreign breeding were planted and some of them have survived to the present day. The pride of the collection of our Garden is the most complete collection of cultivars of the outstanding lilac breeder Leonid A. Kolesnikov. A special place is occupied by cultivars by Kolesnikov with his disciple Vladimir D. Mironovich. In the collection of lilacs of our Garden there are also cultivars of Nikolai K. Vekhov and other domestic breeders. Also in the collection of lilacs of the Botanical Garden of Moscow State University there are cultivars of foreign breeders, mostly French of Victor and Emil Lemoine.



Photo by Yuri Kiris

It is named after Saint Tatiana, a Christian martyr in 3rd century Rome during the reign of Emperor Alexander Severus. In Russia, Saint Tatiana is the patron saint of students, and the day of St. Tatiana's memory is celebrated as the Day of Russian Students. On 25 January 1755 Empress Elizaveta Petrovna signed a decree establishing the Moscow University. Tatiana's Day began as a celebration of the birthday of the University, and later became a holiday for all Russian students. Since 2005, the day of January 25 is officially celebrated as the Day of Russian Students.

Description of *Syringa vulgaris* 'Татьянин День' - 'Tatyanin Den' (Dvortsova & Kiris)

The shoots are straight; the leaves are broadly ovate, dark green in color; the length of the thyrses is 20 cm; the florets are single, there are about 140 florets



Photo by Yuri Kiris

in the thyrses; the diameter of florets is 2 cm. The petals are oval and cucullate. Flower buds are light yellowish pink, Orange Group 27 A (R.H.S. Colour Chart 1995 edition) and fully opened florets are pale yellowish pink, Orange Group 27 D. The main distinguishing feature of this cultivar is the color of the florets.

¹ Valentina Vasil'evna Dvortsova (Валентина Васильевна Дворцова), Ph.D., Senior Researcher; M.V. Lomonosov Moscow State University, Biological Faculty, Botanical Garden, Moscow, Russia.

² Yuriï Nikolaevich Kiris (Юрий Николаевич Кирис), agronomist, M.V. Lomonosov Moscow State University, Biological Faculty, Botanical Garden, Moscow, Russia.

³ Vladimir Chub (Владимир Чуб), director, M.V. Lomonosov Moscow State University, Biological Faculty, Botanical Garden, Moscow, Russia.

Falling in Love with Lilacs

by Jane Kirkpatrick



Photo by Hideo Iihara

Lilacs have been a part of my life since I walked past a bush on my way to my first-grade one-room school in rural Wisconsin. Their purple beauty, fragrance and sturdiness marked many a farm and school in the Midwest. When I was a teenager, my parents took me to the homestead of my great-grandparents not far from LaCrosse, Wisconsin. Nothing remained but a stone chimney and the lilacs. Their presence might even have been the origin of my interest in history as lilac bushes thrived while the cabins and clapboard houses they once stood beside were ravaged by weather and time. I found myself imagining the lives that lived there looking out across rolling hills, seeing those pioneers cutting a cluster of lilacs for the Bell jar to grace their plank table.

Seeing lilacs endure was as close to growing one as I'd come before Hulda Klager's lilac gardens. <http://www.lilacgardens.com/> I do not have a green thumb. In fact, plants will wilt in the nursery as

I'm watching, I think to prevent me from buying them and giving them a slow demise at home. I suspect they perk up as soon as I'm gone. So when a descendant of Hulda Klager, the 19th Century Washington State self-taught hybridizer of more than 250 original varieties of lilacs suggested I write Hulda's story, I declined. I couldn't begin to capture this woman's passion nor her perseverance during her years of pain-staking work and her own willingness to pull up plants she felt did not meet her exacting standards.

This descendant sent me pamphlets through the years about the Hulda Klager Lilac Gardens, begun in the 1880s, thrived at the turn of the century and nearly died out in the 1940s. Hulda's gardens in the late sixties were forgotten and then restored by a group of women in the 1970s. They thrive today. Betty Mills, the descendant, wanted me to experience them.

One year I happened to be driving near the little town of Woodland, Washington and arranged ahead of time to meet Betty at the gardens a few miles north of Portland, Oregon. It was during the three weeks prior to Mother's Day when the old homestead is open for tours, people meander the five acres of glorious grounds and volunteers do a booming business selling lilac starts and bouquets to the thousands of visitors while madrigal singers in period costume serenade the lilac lovers. The garden is open year-round to visit the magnolias, peonies, rhododendron and dozens of other plants in addition to the lilacs that offer respite to weary travelers. The house tour and sale only happen during lilac blooming time from mid-April until early May.

When Hulda had her gardens in the 1920s, more than 20,000 visitors visited weekly when arriving there was not as easy as today. Hulda's lilacs were famous and still are.

Following up on my appointment, I pulled into the parking area of the gardens, made my way to the two-story frame house through the flatiron-shaped garden in front. (Hulda created that iron-shaped garden because she said it was as close to an iron as she wanted to get!).



Tatiana Poliakova, 2017, autumn lilac leaves

I met that lovingly persistent descendant in the parlor. She was ready for me. With her were members of the board of directors, horticulturists, the historian and other volunteers who operate the garden.

All assured me they'd do everything they could to help me research and tell Hulda's story authentically.

"But I don't know anything about growing lilacs or even if I should be saying 'raising' lilacs or 'growing' them," I protested. That didn't seem to matter to them. They knew that my penchant for writing about strong historical women would make me fall in love with Hulda. And that once I saw the gardens and heard the short version of her story, that I'd want to research and write a novel.



Hulda Klager's garden

It was not only the incredible success of Hulda's self-taught efforts that intrigued me though, it was her great generosity. She gave thousands of starts away because she wanted others to experience the pleasure she had from her effort. It was that generosity that resulted in the rescue of the garden following that disastrous 1948 flood. When I learned that, I was hooked. And have been ever since. I visit the gardens every year.

One of the first mentions of lilacs I found while researching about the plant occurred in New Hampshire in the late 1700s on a ship's manifest. Lilac starts were not listed with grains or other agricultural items but rather appeared under the "kitchen" list with herbs and bulbs, as though our ancestors knew beauty was essential for hearth and home. Hulda's family, it's said, brought tulip bulbs in her baby cradle with Hulda cuddled beside them as the family made its way from Germany to Wisconsin to Washington State. Plants were in Hulda's blood.

Married at sixteen with an eighth-grade education, Hulda and Frank Klager began their lives as dairy farmers living at the confluence of the Lewis and Columbia Rivers in Washington state. Sandhill cranes flew over their small farm and still do today. Hulda and Frank raised their four children in that two-story farm house with a summer porch where she prepared to dab pollen with a turkey feather on just the right plant. She had what all great horticulturists have, the ability to see what the rest of us can't see at first glance: how one plant is slightly different from another. Perhaps one is more fragrant or has a slightly deeper color or leans toward more petals or is hardier. And she knew how to hybridize toward those desirable features. It's said that Luther Burbank – who didn't keep notes I was told – knew the history of every plant in his garden and could see what Hulda could see and knew how to work toward that ultimate goal of a certain color, hardiness, size and scent. Hulda corresponded with Luther Burbank, the two sharing stories of their work.

Hulda began hybridizing because she wanted a larger apple easier to peel to make baking pies easier. With that success, she moved to dahlias and then lilacs. When she became serious, she and Frank committed money and Hulda ordered six lilacs from France. Three Lemoine survived and became the core of the 250 other varieties she developed. I

like to think that the intensity of her work helped her through the many tragedies her family faced. Beauty heals when it's tended with great love.

One of the stories that defined Hulda and her commitment to the garden is her reaction to the constant river flooding.

For most of Hulda's life

on that farm, there were no levies or dams to control the spring run off so her little five acres was often under water in March. At the first sign of high water up river, Hulda, Frank their children and helpers, (young girls who lived with them to attend high school in town and bucket boys who watered her many plants in the summer) would pull up the lilacs and place them on wooden rafts Frank had built. They'd tie the rafts to the Monkey Tree or Ginkgo tree (Washington State's oldest) in the garden to float until the water receded and they'd plant again. Imagine the effort! Imagine the care.



Hulda Klager showing her love of gardening



Tatiana Poliakova, 2017, autumn lilac leaves

Without giving away the ending of this amazing story of a woman and her lilacs, I'd be remiss if I didn't share this fact: if your lilac bush has been around a long time, it may well have come from Hulda's hands. With all those thousands of visitors through the years and Hulda's giving so many starts away, Hulda Klager lilacs dot the gardens from Arnold Arboretum at Harvard to Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania and the Havemeyer estate near New York City and many more gardens large and small. She corresponded through the years with well-known people and often named a variety after them. Consider the Will Rogers lilac. Friends and family were honored with a lilac name as well. You may have one of those varieties among your bushes.



Photo by Tatiana Poliakov

For those seeking details of the lilacs grown, given to others and then returned as gifts after the flood of '48, Freek Vrugtman, registrar of the Royal Botanical Gardens, Hamilton, Canada, published an article in the 1999 issue of Lilacs titled "The

Hulda Klager Lilacs Reviewed." The Hulda Klager Lilac Society still seeks varieties that might be found in gardens across the country hoping one day to have all 250 varieties returned.

Research teaches that what brings on the bloom of any flower is not only the tending, the good soil and fertilizer, but also the lengthening of the days. It's the increased exposure to the light that allows the garden to display its richness. Hulda lived a long life, outliving her husband and children and her light exposed horticulturalists and novices like me to the pleasure that comes from falling in love with lilacs. I hope you'll visit the gardens and see love in bloom.



About the author

Jane Kirkpatrick is the New York Times bestselling author of 31 non-fiction and novels based on the lives of historical women. Her works have won the Western Heritage Wrangler Award, the WILLA Literary Award, the Will Rogers Gold Medallion, and USABestBooks.com Award and been short-listed for the Oregon Book Award, Spur Award and Christy Award. She lives with her husband in Central Oregon where she nurtures three Hulda Klager lilacs. Where Lilacs Still Bloom is her novel based on Hulda Klager's life. It received the 2013 CAROL Award for Fiction from the American Christian Fiction Writers. She can be found at:

www.jkbooks.com



Photos by Igor Semenov

1

Hastula in Lilac

by Igor Semenov

I suggest that the botanical term “hastula” used in palm leaf morphology be applicable to lilac to denote one or several dried terminal internodes of green shoot with an underdeveloped single bud on the tip. It looks like a small spear (Latin), or short dart (English), or kop’etso (Russian). Andrey Gromov (1963) defined it as a soft short spike.

“The hastula in lilac” is easily detected essentially in all the growing shoots as early as at the time of blooming (photo 1). At first, this small green structure (often several millimeters in size) looks rather large as compared with a pair of tiny buds set nearby (photo 2). However, we usually do not pay attention to it since we are focused on inflorescences. By the end of summer, the buds vastly expand, and withered “hastula” of invariable size is still noticeable although it is frequently lost between them (photo 3).

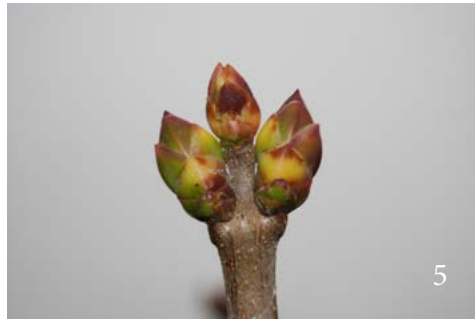


2



3

Photos by Igor Semenov



Photos by Igor Semenov

During the several first years of life, leading shoots of young shrubs are always set with three buds: an apical and two lateral (photo 4). A well-developed apical bud dominates and has a rather short internode. It is undoubtedly this bud that gives impetus to vigorous initial growth of the young shrub. Typical bud trimery almost always repeats in young plants and on the tips of the shoots of the second and third orders.



Two opposite buds that follow the central one are visible although in the beginning they are less developed. Dominance of the apical bud in green shoots of young shrubs lasts for only several years and gradually decreases. On the contrary, the pair of lateral buds with their vigorous cataphyllary leaves becomes larger and eventually takes on a leading role in development (photo 5). At that time, the going out apical bud with its internode is finally discriminated and transformed into a physiological outcast – a barely perceptible blank flange of the green shoot or more likely an abortive rudiment as if inserted between two shoot or floret (photo 6) buds (Freek Vrugtman, 2016, personal communication).

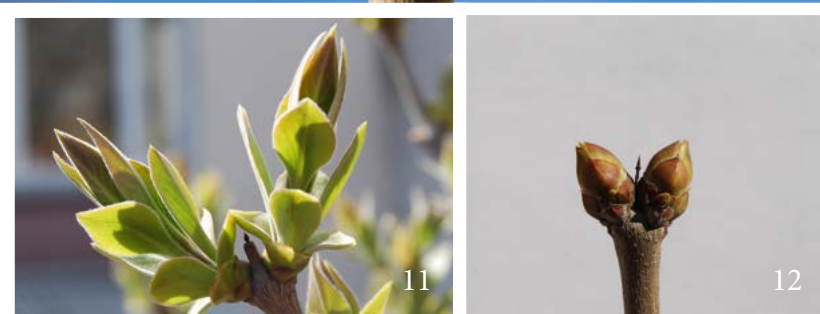
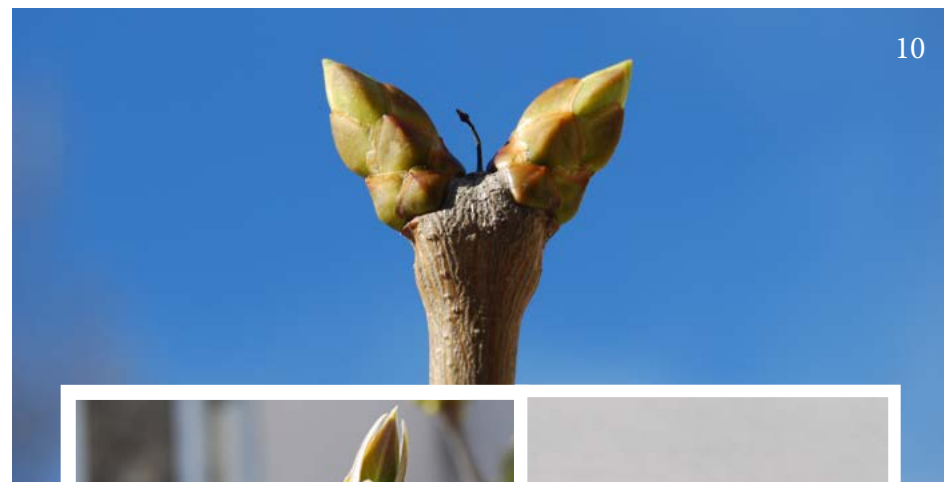
Photo by Igor Semenov

It might seem that in mature shrubs bud trimery as one of the genetically fixed types of shoot tip organization has exhausted its potentialities. However, this is not the case. It occurs fairly often but is associated not only with shrub growth since the apical bud is always floret-bearing. Trimery can also be reproduced in the form of three buds with inflorescences (photo 7). But even here, a developed internode with the apical bud, which looks like terminal, is in fact the last (extreme) segment of bigemmate shoot tip where one of the opposite buds failed to be properly realized because of the lack of the cataphyllary leaf. Very often it shows as a tiny structure resembling hastula (photo 8). However, sometimes opposite bud is formed but it looks underdeveloped and is inclined to wither (photo 9).



Photo by Igor Semenov

Thus, on the one hand “the hastula in lilac” is an almost unnoticeable reminder of the initial single-bud preference in the type of development and branching, as for instance in more primitive conifers as well as in oak or closely-related ash-tree. In other words, this structure is also a sort of illustration of the basic law of development of the organisms saying that ontogenesis repeats phylogenesis.



Photos by Igor Semenov

On the other hand, natural withering of the shoot tips may act as a top removal blockading their spring growth already at the time of blooming. It promotes a rapid lignification and accordingly improves winter hardiness and drought resistance of the young shoots in general. That is why terminal internode with a single bud is permanently set. It is detected not only in juvenile shrubs right after transition to lateral or dichotomic (bigemmate) development but also in mature lilacs that entered a phase of floral ripeness.

It is interesting to compare the types of this rudiment in different cultivars of lilac. In certain lilacs, “hastulas” have an elegant and highly artistic shape (photos 10-12). The best time for such an examination is the end of summer or the beginning of autumn when the blooming is over and the pair of terminal buds of the shoot is fully developed, with barely perceptible “hastulas” still remaining in place.

LILACS

You intoxicate
And set us adrift
To memories past

© Doug Houseworth

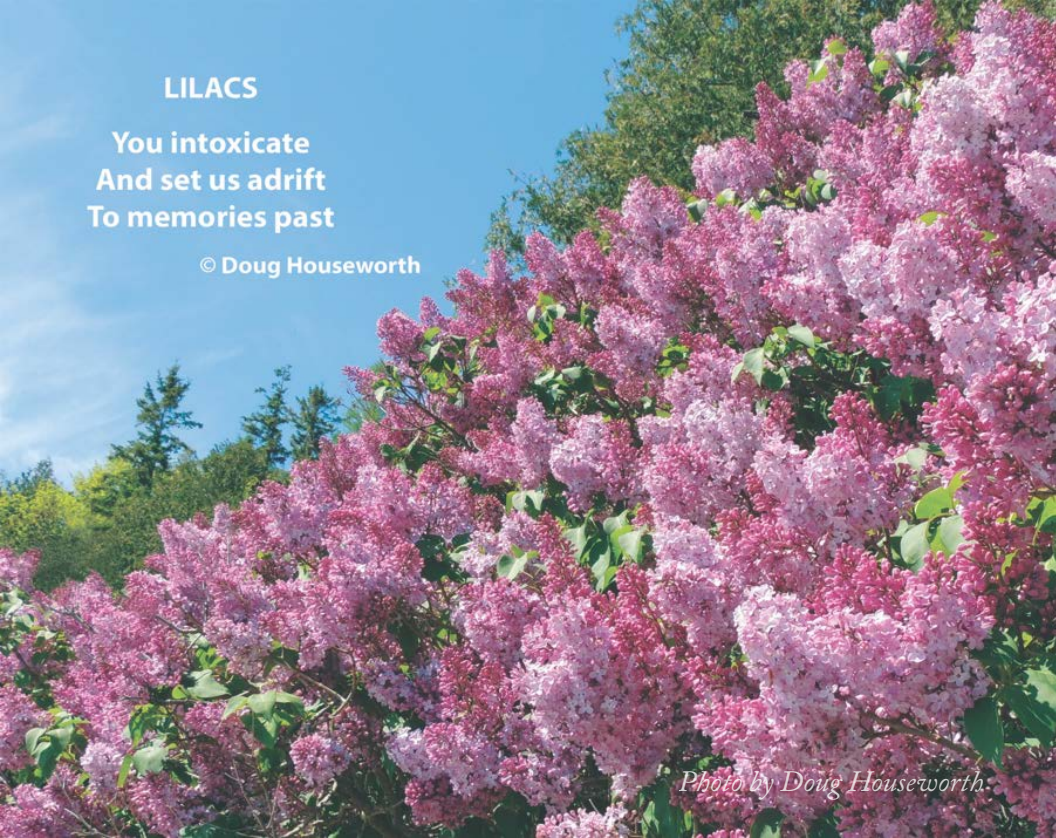


Photo by Doug Houseworth.

Behind the Poem

The first and only time I had ever entered a photo art show, and displayed both photography and poetry, a woman introduced herself as a member of the International Lilac Society. She wondered if I had any poems or photos of Lilacs. I had a couple of photos but no poems. She was very enthusiastic about my “Poetography”, and requested that I write a poem and put it with a photo. She also said she would submit it to be possibly published on the Society web page. As a poet, my habit is to only write about things that inspire me. This was a difficult challenge. She explained the importance of lilacs. Because of their intoxicating fragrance and beauty, memories are imprinted and associated with the spring blooming of this amazing shrub.

I set about writing a poem and inserted it into what images I happened to have. She didn't like the images and said the poem still needed work. As lilac season was many months away, I told her that I would go to Mackinaw Island during their annual Lilac Festival. The poem remained a work in progress. Just before the bloom peaks, the unopened buds offer a color contrast. The timing of the photo shoot was perfect. Doing what photographers do, I selected a walking route of key iconic images, and then tried to frame the shot with lilacs. This was done in both morning and afternoon light. Images of just lilacs were also selected, with enough sky in the frame to place the poem. After this baptism in lilacs, I was inspired and finished the poem. Sometimes the photo comes first. There are several other images that include the poem. Included with this gallery is a troop of Boy Scouts I encountered while on the Island.

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Correction from last issue:
Liudmila Bochkariova
translated Meeting Freek
Vrugtman. Her name was
inadvertently omitted from
the Summer 2017 Edition.

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



Additional Announcement:
Lilac Society meeting will be
in Riverside, California
April 18-21, 2018



Photo by Hideo Idhara

International Lilac Society

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