

VOLUME 47 · NUMBER 1 · WINTER 2018

# Lilacs

Quarterly Journal of the International Lilac Society

2018  
ILS Annual  
Conference

*Dappled*  
Dawn

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2018  
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*Dappled  
Dawn*

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-or-

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If so, please fill out this form and mail to:

John Kirk  
892 Woodard Hill Road  
West Halifax, VT 05358

Or, you may email your change to:

[membership@internationallilacsociety.com](mailto:membership@internationallilacsociety.com)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

This is not required and can be removed at any time when you notify John of your wishes.

These lists of address information will not be shared with any other organization.



**- ON THE COVER -**  
**PHOTO BY**  
**Tatiana Poliakova**

Lilac winter bud.



*Photo by Tatiana Poliakova*

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PHOTO BY  
TATIANA POLIAKOVA

**- EDITOR'S DEADLINE -**  
FOR SPRING ISSUE:  
MARCH 20, 2018

*please send photos + articles*

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INTERNATIONAL LILAC SOCIETY is a non-profit corporation comprised  
of individuals who share a particular interest, appreciation, and fondness for li-  
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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# Ballot for Board of Directors

INTERNATIONAL LILAC SOCIETY 2018

*Vote for no more than 4 candidates*

Mark L. DeBard, MD

Tim McCauley

John H. Alexander III

J Giles Waines

\_\_\_\_\_  
Write in candidate

## **Ballots must be received by April 6, 2018**

Send to the Elections Chairman:

Nancy Latimer

P.O. Box 444

Emory, VA 24327

To vote by internet ballot, please send an email to  
**[vote@internationallilacsociety.org](mailto:vote@internationallilacsociety.org)**  
and you will receive an email with electronic  
voting instructions

Newly elected members for 2018 will be announced at  
the annual meeting in California, USA

# Candidate Bios

## FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### **Mark L. DeBard, MD**

Dr. DeBard's interest in lilacs dates to 1983 and his first visit to Mackinac Island, where he saw hundreds of large lilacs in bloom and started a lifelong love affair with them. He joined the ILS in 1980's, but didn't get actively involved until his retirement 2 years ago as an emergency physician at The Ohio State University College of Medicine.

Mark lives in Columbus, Ohio with Linda, his wife where he started a lilac garden on a small plot of land. He now has the second largest collection of lilacs in Ohio, with 143 taxons and 130 unique cultivars.

He is well-acquainted with the leaders in the ILS and has attended Board meetings. He has visited major collections in Highland Park and Royal Botanical Gardens, and knows many of the major lilac nursery leaders. His interests include variegated lilacs (on which subject he plans to present at the Syringa Conference in Russia in 2018), lilac photography, lilac history, and lilac genomic research. He foresees the ILS bootstrapping on its wonderful past achievements and developing into a larger and more professional organization.

### **Tim McCauley**

Tim has been an ILS member for 18 years. With wife Karen, they have developed a gorgeous acreage with lilacs and peonies adjacent to the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, where Tim has worked part time for the last ten years. As a life member, he is an enthusiastic supporter of the ILS, and has attended every convention since 2000. He is the Chairman of the Lilac

Preservation Committee and has traveled to Nebraska on two occasions to rescue lilacs that were slated to be destroyed. He has served as an active board member since 2012.

### **John H. Alexander III**

Jack Alexander recently retired from his position as the Plant Propagator of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University, a position he held for 40 years. He is a third-generation nurseryman. Jack is ILS New England Region Vice President, has received several awards from ILS and has served numerous terms on the Board of Directors. He is also the principal author of the booklet Lilacs Plants of History – Plants for Tomorrow. In 1995 he was named a Fellow of the Eastern Region of the International Plant Propagator's Society and in 2004 he was awarded their prestigious Award of Merit and he was twice the recipient of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society's Jackson Dawson Medal. Syringa × chinensis 'Lilac Sunday', Syringa 'Purple Haze' and Syringa 'Foxy Lady' are cultivars that he introduced. See also an article about Jack at: [http://www.arboretum.harvard.edu/wp-content/uploads/Spring-2016-Silva\\_Gift-for-Growing.pdf](http://www.arboretum.harvard.edu/wp-content/uploads/Spring-2016-Silva_Gift-for-Growing.pdf)

### **J. Giles Waines**

J. Giles Waines received his BS in botany & horticulture from Reading University in the UK. He studied begonia genetics The Netherlands, and completed his doctorate in wheat genetics at University of California, Riverside. After studies in Missouri, Oxford and Virginia Tech, he returned to UC Riverside in 1974 to work on protein genetics in wheat and legumes. Later as director of the UCR Botanic Gardens he took over the lilac breeding program of Louis Erickson. One semidwarf cultivar from Erickson's program 'Ramona' has been released. Another is ready to be released. Giles has selected semidwarf lilacs out of open pollinated 'Pocahontas' seeds, some of which were susceptible to Xylella bacterium, which attacks several members of the olive family. He serves as chair of the Research and education committee of ILS and is local organizer of the 2018 ILS convention in Riverside and Idyllwild.



# President's Message

---

Dear Lilac Friends,

I hope all of you lilac lovers had a wonderful holiday season. I know everyone was busy with all the end of the year activities. I hope you remembered to give an ILS membership to a family member, a friend, a colleague or a youth. For someone who has everything or someone who just becoming interested in lilacs, what makes a better present than a membership in ILS. You will have given them a year of discovery, learning, meeting other lilac aficionados, and fun.

The weather is dreary and cold in my part of the world. We are wishing for spring which is still months away. Our lilacs are dormant, quietly waiting for the days to get longer and the temperatures to rise. By the time you receive this issue of Lilacs, it may be lilac time or close to being lilac time. 2018 is going to be a year of discoveries. During the winter months, you may have had time to plan a trip to the ILS Convention April 19-21, 2018 in Riverside, CA USA, and I hope you have already registered. Dr. Giles Waines and Gary Parton are hosting our convention. Planning a convention is not a small task, so reward our hosts and ILS Convention Chair, Karen McCauley, with a great turnout. We will be visiting Alpenglow Gardens that have a large collection of lilacs and the famous Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens. It will be different and exciting. First, we will be in southern California where many of us have never been and, second, the exciting thing is to see how lilacs and what lilac cultivars thrive in that area of the USA under dry and sunny conditions. Sadly, the state has experienced huge wild fires for the last couple months of 2017 that devastated acres and acres of land, destroyed houses, vineyards, and business costing millions of dollars. The area that we are going, thankfully, has been spared.



*Photo by Tatiana Poliakova*

Back home from our ILS Convention and after having a few day's rest, a small group of us will depart for the Lilac Symposium in Russia. First, we will be going to Moscow May 21st -24th, 2018, then traveling on the 25th to St. Petersburg for the second part of the Symposium May 26th - 27th. Our host is the Moscow Botanical Garden celebrating the 125 birthday of Leonid Kolesnikov who gave us 'Krasavitsa Moskvyy' also known as 'Beauty of Moscow'. That, mes amis, will be an incredible adventure. I hope you have registered. Both cities are beautiful and the spirit of lilacs is everywhere. The program in each city will be very interesting with diverse subjects. We will reconnect with all our lilac friends, some of who we know from their visit to the USA and attendance at our conventions. We will see again our great friend, Tatiana Poliakova, RVP for Russia and Asia and meet for the first time Elke Haase, RVP for Europe and owner of Piccoplant Nursery in Oldenburg, Germany. Consider joining us for this opportunity to see great botanical gardens, rare lilacs and two beautiful cities.

While looking through old journals, I discovered a brief history of the International Lilac Society on page 70 of Lilacs Vol. 25, Number 3 Summer 1996 in an article by Robert B. Clark, a historian to the society. He described how in 1971, fifteen lilac lovers gathered at the Bayard Cutting Arboretum in Great River, New York. Their mission was to see if a valid organization devoted to lilacs could be formed. The group agreed, and three objectives were proposed: (1) to study lilacs (*Syringa*) in all



*Photo by Tatiana Poliakova*

aspects (horticultural, botanical, cultural, etc.) (2) To communicate the lilac's virtues in the various communities (horticultural, scientific, commercial and the public at large) and (3) to encourage the planting of lilacs in home grounds, public parks, and arboretums, wherever climate and growing conditions permit. Read the whole article. It can be found on our web page.

On page 71, see Table 1, Clark proposed a Lilac Hall of Fame. He wanted to establish a Hall of Honor for the plant persons who have made noteworthy

contributions to our knowledge of lilacs. Take a look at his list. The first person is Count de Bushecq {Osier Ghisdin}, who introduces the common lilac to Vienna in 1563. You will recognize some, most or all of the names. It ends with Donald R. Egolf, an American hybridizer who worked at the National Arboretum and bred early hybrid lilacs among many other plants. He tragically died of injuries sustained in an accident. He gave us the beautiful Rose of Sharon 'Diana', a pure white sensation. It ends with Donald R. Egolf, an American hybridizer who worked at the National

Arboretum and bred early hybrid lilacs among many other plants. I propose we add to this illustrious list and recognize the many others who continue to make notable contributions with their work on lilacs.

Going to Russia for a symposium is very inspiring. Why not have an ILS Fall Symposium here in the USA? You all know that an excellent meeting 'Let's Talk Lilacs' is held in New Hampshire under the leadership of Jack Alexander, RVP for New England, and Evie King, owner of Syringa Plus Lilac Nursery in West Boxford, Massachusetts USA. The International Lilac Symposium could be held anywhere and be moved around. Most of us are free of garden chores and can get away before the start of the holidays. The symposium could be a one or two day symposium. The focus would be education. It would include speakers, workshops, panel discussion, auction with pictures, silent auction and of course a lot of networking with other lilac enthusiasts and gardeners.

Mes amis, we have a lot to do and see this year. Come to our convention! Information and forms are on the ILS web page. Karen McCauley, our convention chair and our hosts in California have put together a fabulous program. We will travel on buses and we are staying at The Mission Inn and Spa in Riverdale, CA. It is registered with the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Make your reservation early. I hope to see you there. Someone said, "with every returning spring, comes new excitement and expectations" and this year is no exception. It promises to all that in our quest to see our favorite and rare *Syringa* that we should travel far and wide.

I'll see you either in California or Russia or maybe both on the Lilac Trail.  
Amities,

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





# Convention Corner

UP NEXT: 2018 ILS ANNUAL CONVENTION

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## Riverside, California

Thursday, April 19 – Saturday, April 21, 2018

I hope all of you will be able to make the journey to the lovely town of Riverside, California and enjoy the almost perfect Southern California weather, which is a little different from what we normally encounter at our annual conventions. We will be staying at the beautiful, historic Mission Inn Hotel, surrounded by quaint cafes, shops and wineries. We'll be driving toward the coast to visit the impressive century-old, The Huntington, with one of the world's great libraries, art collections and botanical gardens with plants from around the globe. The next day, we will be driving up the hills to the Village of Idyllwild, to view the lilac collection at Alpenglow Gardens, which was inspired greatly by Reva Ballreich, one of our former ILS Presidents. Giles Waines & Gary Parton will be our local hosts this year.

May 21-27, 2018 | International Lilac Conference dedicated to the celebration of the 125th Birthday Anniversary of L.A. Kolesnikov, famous Russian lilac breeder.

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

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

Updated information will be posted online.

Thanks for your cooperation.

Karen McCauley  
Convention Chairman  
952.443.3703  
mccauleytk@aol.com



# International Lilac Society 2018 Convention & Annual Meeting

TENTATIVE AGENDA

## Riverside, California

Thursday, April 19 - Saturday, April 21, 2018

### April 18th (Wednesday)

7PM - 9PM | Early Registration check in table

### April 19th (Thursday)

9AM - 12PM | Registration check in table

9:30AM - 12:30PM | Board of Directors meeting

2PM - 4PM | Speakers TBA

4PM - 5PM | General meeting

5PM - 7PM | Dinner on your own

7PM - 9PM | Meet & greet Hospitality Suite @ the hotel

### April 20th (Friday)

8:45AM | Meet in hotel lobby, board bus to Huntington Gardens

10AM - 12PM | Huntington Gardens guided tours

12PM - 2PM | Lunch on your own & exploring the rest of Huntington

2PM | Board bus to hotel

3PM - 4PM | Optional stop to be determined

4PM | Bus returns to hotel

6PM | Meet in lobby & depart for dinner (2 block walk).

Dinner will be at the Spanish inspired Café Sevilla. Wear a light sweater as we will be dining on the patio.



### April 21st (Saturday)

7:45AM - 8:45AM | Board meeting

8:45AM | Board bus to the Village of Idyllwild

10AM | Arrive at Idyllwild Library; Introduction to and visit the local collections at the library, Idyllwild Inn & St. Hugh's Church

11AM | Short bus ride to Alpenglow Lilac Gardens where Gary Parton will discuss its creation and his longtime mentor, Reva Ballreich

12PM | Lunch buffet in the garden

12:30PM | Speaker

1PM - 1:15PM | Break/Auction set up

1:15PM - 3:15PM | Auction

3:15PM | Bus returns to hotel

6PM | Banquet at hotel. Cash bar & Silent Auction. Dinner will be served at 6:45PM. Speakers not confirmed yet.



# 2018 Tentative Auction List

*S. (Villosae Group)* 'Snowdrift'

*S. amurensis* (*S. reticulata*) (Seed from wild source)

*S. josikaea*

*S. microphylla* (Seed from wild source)

*S. oblata* (Seed from wild source)

*S. oblata* x 'Betsy Ross'

*S. vulgaris* 'Aucubaefolia'

*S. vulgaris* 'Blue Delight'

*S. vulgaris* 'Burgundy Queen'

*S. vulgaris* 'Emile Gentil'

*S. vulgaris* 'Glacier'

*S. vulgaris* 'Gortenziya'

*S. vulgaris* 'Idyllwild'

*S. vulgaris* 'Indiya'

*S. vulgaris* 'James Stuart'

*S. vulgaris* 'Katherine Havemeyer'

*S. vulgaris* 'Komsomolka'

*S. vulgaris* 'Letha House'

*S. vulgaris* 'Lourene Wishart'

*S. vulgaris* 'Mother Louise'

*S. vulgaris* 'Ogni Moskvj'

*S. vulgaris* 'Pat Pesata'

*S. vulgaris* 'Pol' Robson'

*S. vulgaris* 'Sarah Sands'

*S. vulgaris* 'Sonia Colfax'

*S. vulgaris* 'Souvenir d' Alice Harding'

*S. vulgaris* 'Vesper'



1 | *S. vulgaris* 'James Stuart' photo by Bruce Peart and Margaret Walton;  
2 | *S. xhyacinthiflora* 'Descanso Princess'; 3 | *S. vulgaris* 'Ogni Moskvj'; 4 | *S. vulgaris* 'Pol' Robson' photo by Želimir Borzan



## Continued Auction List

- S. vulgaris* 'Victor Lemoine'
- S. vulgaris* 'Yankee Doodle'
- S. vulgaris* 'Znamya Lenina'
- S. vulgaris* 'Purple Mystery'
- S. vulgaris* 'President Lincoln'
- S. wolfii* (Seed from wild source)
  - S. xchinensis* 'Duplex'
- S. xhyacinthiflora* 'California Rose'
  - S. xhyacinthiflora* 'Declaration'
- S. xhyacinthiflora* 'Descanso Princess'
  - S. xhyacinthiflora* 'Gertrude Leslie'
- S. xhyacinthiflora* 'Grace Mackenzie'
  - S. xhyacinthiflora* 'Pink Cloud'
  - S. xhyacinthiflora* 'Ramona'
  - S. xhyacinthiflora* 'Royal Purple'
  - S. xhyacinthiflora* 'Sister Justina'
- S. xhyacinthiflora* 'Bardwell' (unregistered hybrid selection of Louis Erickson out of Pres. Lincoln)
- S. xhyacinthiflora* 'Excel x Pocahontas' (unregistered selection of Louis Erickson)
- S. xhyacinthiflora* 'Libby Erickson' (unregistered selected by J.G. Waines)
  - Polly Hill an unregistered Father Fiala plant

*S. xhyacinthiflora* 'Pink Cloud' photo by Želimir Borzan



*S. vulgaris* 'Indiya' photo by Tatiana Poliakova

## Registration Form

ILS Convention in Riverside, CA | April 19 - 21, 2018

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**name (s)**

---

**city / state / country**

**zip / postal code**

---

**address**

---

**telephone**

**email**

---

**name (s) as you would like on name tag**

---

**any dietary needs/restrictions?**

### BEFORE March 15

Registration Fee: \$250.00 US / Registration Youth Fee: \$200.00 US

### AFTER March 15

Registration Adult Fee: \$290.00 / Registration Youth Fee: \$250.00

Registration includes: Thursday lectures & Hospitality Room; Friday & Sat tours & transportation, Saturday lunch; Awards and President's banquets. Friday lunch will be on your own at the Huntington.

### SEND REGISTRATION FEES TO:

Karen McCauley / 952.443.3703 / mccauleytk@aol.com  
325 West 82nd Street  
Chaska, MN, 55318

NOTE: Payment by check preferred but Visa/MasterCard credit cards accepted.  
Make checks payable to: International Lilac Society (ILS)

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**credit card #**

---

**credit card expiration date**

*Cancellation Penalty: No refunds after March 15, 2018*

## Where to Stay

ILS Convention in Riverside, CA | April 19 - 21, 2018

### HOTEL RESERVATION INFORMATION

International Lilac Society Convention  
Riverside, California  
April 19-21, 2018

### The Mission Inn Hotel & Spa

3649 Mission Inn Avenue  
Riverside, CA 92501

800-843-7755 or 951-784-0300 x850

Hotel reservations must be made by **March 15, 2018** by calling either of the above numbers (mention International Lilac Society). Rooms need to be secured with a major credit card. Any special room arrangements must be made at the time of this call.

Deluxe Single or Double / \$121.00 (plus taxes)

*Price will be honored from 4/18-4/22/2018*

Based on the availability of the hotel pre & post rooms will be honored at ILS rate. Rate includes: Complimentary internet access, fitness center, steam room, and business center. Hotel offers reduced overnight self-parking at the rate of \$10.00 per night per vehicle.

All room prices are guaranteed until **March 15, 2018**. After that date, rooms will be open to the public. Please mention International Lilac Society convention when making your reservation.

**NOTE:** Breakfast is NOT included. There is a variety of onsite dining options plus restaurants within walking distance.



# International Lilac Society Awards

## Honor and Achievement

Highest award given by the Society, given only for outstanding work, dedication and service to promoting the lilac or the Society. To be considered for the award the individuals contributions must be truly outstanding and of benefit to the whole Society. It is awarded only to individuals and not to institutions, given only once to an individual and need not be presented annually

## Directors' Award

Awarded by the Society only to those engaged in the improvement of the lilac through hybridization, scientific selection or selective research to improve the quality of the flower of the plant. It is intended as an award for outstanding work with the lilac. It is to be considered as the highest scientific horticultural award given by the Society.

## President's Award

Awarded to the arboretum, public or private park or garden for outstanding collections and public display of the lilacs, work with promoting the growing and landscape uses of the lilac, outstanding landscaping with lilacs or major research with lilacs. It is an institutional or park-garden award. Its purpose is to encourage the planting of lilacs for public display and education. It is not intended for strictly private gardens (no matter how great their excellence).

## Arch McKean Award

For publicizing the lilac and promoting the International Lilac Society. This award need not be given each year.

## Award of Merit

Given to an individual or institution, public or private, for outstanding contributions in promoting, growing, researching or working with the lilac or the Society. It is intended to be given regionally as an "International Recognition for work over and above the average"- for outstanding promotion, for public education, for scientific research or for horticultural excellence. A recipient may receive this award only once for the same work (but more than once for several contributions of equal merit)

## Distinguished Recognition Award

Given at the discretion of the Society to recognize an outstanding act or contribution to the International Lilac Society.

## *To Nominate a Candidate for an Award*

Please consider carefully a nomination for an award. List and explain your reasons why your nominee is worthy of an award and suggest in your opinion which of the six awards would be appropriate.

Send your nomination to me at least two months before our annual conference.

[myrlberg@outlook.com](mailto:myrlberg@outlook.com)

Myrna Walberga | ILS Honors and Awards Chair

## In Memoriam

EDWARD “TED” COLLINS



APRIL 12, 1928 – JANUARY 8, 2018

Edward Frank Collins, known to most as Ted, was born April 12, 1928 to Charlie and Frances Collins. The seventh of ten children, he was raised on the property of Riverside Cemetery in Rochester, NY, where Charlie was the Superintendent.

Ted's early years in school were not the smoothest, and at one point, he left school entirely, setting off with dear friend Tom McGuire to see the country. They worked on farms, national parks, and various other places along the way. When he returned, two forever loves came into Ted's life – Janice and horticulture, both determining his future path. With the mentoring of dedicated horticulture teachers and the maturity gained during the years away, he embraced school whole heartedly, coached in sports, and was elected President of the Student Association. He graduated from Charlotte High School in 1950, and immediately enlisted in the Korean War. After the service, Ted came home to Rochester, married Janice on October 31, 1953, and soon enrolled in the Farmingdale Horticulture program, thanks to the GI bill and

a love for the field. Upon graduation, they returned to Rochester and Jennifer was born in 1956. In 1960, Matthew was born, and their family was complete!

There was no doubt that Ted intended to start his own business, be his own boss, and do things “his way”. Although there were a few early versions of the business, Ted Collins Associates, or TCA (later Ted Collins Tree and Landscape) was officially started somewhere around 1956. Starting in Charlotte, the business moved to Pittsford when Ted realized from his work at Oak Hill Country Club as Tree Supervisor, that the county's growth and potential for a landscape business was more on the east side, and moved the business to Pittsford. For a few years, TCA operated from Schoen Place, with a Garden Store and Fireplace Shop as retail operations while the landscape business grew. It grew too large for the constraints of Schoen Place and moved to Victor in the 1970s, where it remains today.

The family moved only twice over the years. When Ted and Janice first came to Rochester, they lived in an idyllic setting on Rock Beach Road, where Ted was the grounds man for a lakeside estate. The first move was to Frey Street – close to family, friends, and the neighborhoods they had both grown up in. They made more dear friends, but the commute to Pittsford and the small space was intolerable for Ted, and after quite the extended search, Janice found their lifelong home on Turk Hill Rd – “the Hill” to most of us now. Their family and friends thought Ted and Janice to be crazy – moving to “the country” in 1968 – but, their choice was the best for all, as evidenced by Ted being there until his last day.

Ted Collins Associates has a long, interesting history itself, but perhaps the most important piece of it is the 100s of people and connections that came into the Collins family lives because of the business. Ted was a hard worker, set high expectations for everyone around him, but also liked to tell stories, connect with people, and sold Ted Collins Associates in 1989, he did not ever really “retire”. proclaimed Doc Lilac, working close to home with family members all around him. Although he dissolved Lilac Hill Nursery in 2017, he still made dozens of beautiful lilac arrangements and Christmas

wreaths up until only a few weeks ago.

Ted's list of loves, talents, hobbies, and characteristics is long, varied and colorful, to say the least! While his business was often all-absorbing, Ted's free time was focused on Janice, his children, his grandchildren, Andrew, Jason, and Abbey – and all of his “adopted grandchildren” – countless called him Papa or Gramps. Long summer days by the pool on the Hill or winter ones on Hutchinson Island, with his loved ones surrounding him, were Ted's joy. Family members and all their friends knew that food, drink, and stories would be plentiful. While recent years brought him more loss than he could bear, he always enjoyed the simple pleasure of being together.

Ted loved everything about the outdoors. Besides trees being his business, he made them his passion. He prided himself on being able to identify any plant or tree – even making it a challenge to those around him to try to “stump” him. Sharing his knowledge came naturally – a teacher until the last moment of his life. He also loved to hunt and fish – that lifelong passion started as a very young man and continued throughout his life, including trips to Alaska, British Columbia, Colorado, and of course, fishing on the Indian River Lagoon in Stuart, FL. His other talents included gardening, playing the piano and harmonica, writing poetry or song words for every special occasion, and most recently, writing his memoirs. It is difficult to capture Ted in words, yet those who love him know he never was at a loss for words – in person or in writing. A conversation with Ted brought dozens of stories of his life and adventures. Although he rarely expressed his love for people verbally, he wrote prolifically and expressed himself beautifully in the 1000s of notes and letters to the important people in his life. His larger than life presence will be missed by all.

# Some Lilac Diseases of Note

By Margery Daughtrey | Cornell University  
Section of Plant Pathology and Plant-Microbe Biology  
Long Island Horticultural Research & Extension Center

---

For most gardeners, there is only one disease of lilac, and that's powdery mildew. For those who really pay attention to lilacs, however, there are some other contagious diseases that can bother the plant—and bother its growers as well!

## Bacterial Blight

Bacterial blight, caused by *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *syringae* will affect Japanese, Persian, and Chinese as well as common lilac, creating symptoms that look very much like winter injury. Some other woody plants are affected by the same kind of bacterium—blueberry, cherry, maple and pear, for example. The bacteria produce a toxin called syringomycin that is toxic to plant tissues, and also a protein that acts as an ice nucleus, thus making lilac tissues extra-susceptible to frost injury. In this way two problems go hand-in-hand: the *Pseudomonas syringae* bacteria on lilac can make a late frost more damaging, and the resulting frost wounds allow the bacteria to get into the plant.

At the start of the disease, there will be small brown spots on leaves and stems, sometimes with a yellow halo. Because these killed areas do not expand normally, they may cause the leaves to be somewhat distorted and tattered looking (Fig. 1). In extended wet weather, the leaves blacken from the tip or margins, dying back towards the petiole very rapidly if they are young and tender. The disease is most often noticed, however, when flower buds blacken—large parts of flower clusters may be blighted. Mature wood isn't affected, but young shoots of lilac may be girdled and killed. Sometimes one side of the shoot will develop a black canker.





Infected shoots may wilt and droop, and the leaves on these shoots will be browned (Fig. 2). This disease is favored by cool, wet, rainy weather, especially if the rain just follows a late frost.

One defense is to have good air circulation within the canopy of lilacs: prune to keep them from being too dense, and maintain space between individual plants. Prune out cankers and discard them (bag or bury what you clip off). And be careful to prune in dry weather, cutting below the visible injury and using 70% alcohol as a disinfectant on pruners between cuts or at least between plants. Both copper resistance and streptomycin resistance have been reported from nurseries in the Pacific Northwest, which means that

**Bacterial Blight-Resistant Lilacs**

- S. josikaea*
- S. komarowii*
- S. microphylla*
- S. pekinensis*
- S. reflexa*
- Syringae oblata* var. *dilatata* 'Cheyenne'
- S. chinensis* 'Red Rothomagensis' and 'Saugeana'
- S. meyeri*

your own efforts at chemical control may not be very successful. If treating, it is suggested to spray before fall rains and also just before spring budbreak with a copper fungicide. Because *Ps. syringae* pv. *syringae* is widely distributed in nature, living on the surface of lilacs

and other plants, it seems wiser to manage it (in true integrated pest management fashion) than to try to eliminate it. Plant lilacs in sites where they will not be likely to catch the brunt of late frosts, and avoid any cultural stresses to the plants that might predispose them to infection. Grow species of lilac that are less susceptible to the problem, or choose cultivars of *Syringa vulgaris* that are relatively less prone to bacterial blight.

Plastic hoop houses in production nurseries can provide frost protection and thus reduce early spring infections by the bacteria.

**Common Lilac (*S. vulgaris*) with Less Susceptibility to Bacterial Blight**

- Edith Cavell
- Glory
- Ludwig Spaeth
- Pink Elizabeth
- Fr. John L. Fiala
- General Sheridan
- Katherine Havenmayer
- Kasavitsa Moskv
- Montaigne
- Nadezhda
- President Grevy

Fig. 1. Photos by Margery Daughtrey





Fig 2. Photo by Margery Daughtrey

## Verticillium Wilt

Lilacs are susceptible to a systemic fungal wilt disease called Verticillium wilt, but it will be seen rarely unless there is drought stress to predispose the plants to infection. Inoculum for this disease resides in the soil and infects through the root system. Fortunately, lilacs are not as prone to this problem as are Japanese maple and smoke tree (*Cotinus*). *Syringa reticulata* may show cankering and vertical splits if it has had a bout with Verticillium wilt. Fertilizing and watering a lilac may help it to outgrow an attack by *Verticillium*.

## Fungal Leaf Spots

Fungal leaf spots are not half so damaging to lilacs as *Pseudomonas*, but they can damage foliage at times. *Alternaria* and *Ascochyta* species are occasional spotters of lilac leaves. On *S. vulgaris*, *Alternaria* leaf spot disease appears as fairly large, rounded, medium-brown spots. *Ascochyta* blight causes similar leaf spots, but

it may involve shoots as well, causing blighting that looks similar to bacterial blight but occurs somewhat later in the spring, when it is a little warmer. Rainy periods allow infection. If you look very closely at spots or shoot cankers you will be able to see the tiny black dots that are the spore structures (pycnidia) of the fungus *Ascochyta*. *Alternaria* spp., in contrast, produce spores in tiny, exposed chains on dead leaf tissue. The same techniques for avoidance that keep bacteria in check work here: keep lilacs well spaced and prune to encourage air movement. Avoid allowing the foliage to be hit directly by irrigation: instead, use trickle irrigate at the base of the plant. A number of fungicides are labeled for control of this disease in nursery production.

## Lilac Witches' Broom

Witches' broom is caused by a very curious organism known as a phytoplasma. A phytoplasma is a type of bacterium that dwells in the phloem of plants—its parasitism leads to symptoms that were once thought to be caused by viruses. Typically phytoplasmas cause yellowing and the strange proliferations of shoots known as witches' brooms. They are moved about during the exchange of plants or cuttings, or during the feeding of certain leafhoppers or psyllids.



Fig. 4. Photo by Margery Daughtrey



The lilac witches' broom in the Northeast and Midwestern United States is now known to be caused by the same kind of phytoplasma that infects ash to cause the disease ash yellows—researchers have been able to move the pathogen between ash trees and lilac and back again using dodder as the go-between. Lilac and ash are both members of the Oleaceae, so this shouldn't be too surprising. The pathogen is called *Candidatus* Phytoplasma fraxini, and it cannot be grown in pure culture—which makes studying it fairly challenging. A survey in the past discovered this phytoplasma in 19 species and hybrids of 9 major lilac collections, so it is not as rare as one might think.

There is a range of susceptibility, with some of the most susceptible cultivars showing dieback, decline and, eventually, death because of the infection. Late bloomers are relatively prone to lilac witches' broom: *Syringa* (Villosa group) Royalty is one cultivar that suffers badly from this disease. Leaves may be small, yellow, scorched and distorted, root development may be suppressed, and brooms may form (from suppression of apical dominance). The brooms often appear at the base of a plant and are killed back during winter (Fig. 4). There are no treatments for this disease; avoiding the planting of highly susceptible lilac cultivars and removing diseased plants from collections once detected will help to minimize the problem.

**Lilacs susceptible to  
Lilac Witches' Broom**

- S. ×diversifolia***
- S. ×henryi***
- S. ×josiflexa***
- S. josikaea***
- S. julianae***
- S. komarowii***
- S. laciniata***
- S. meyeri***
- S. microphylla***
- S. ×nanceiana***
- S. oblata***
- S. patula***
- S. ×persica***
- S. ×prestoniae***
- S. sweginzowii***
- S. tomentella***
- S. villosa***
- S. vulgaris***
- S. yunnanensi***

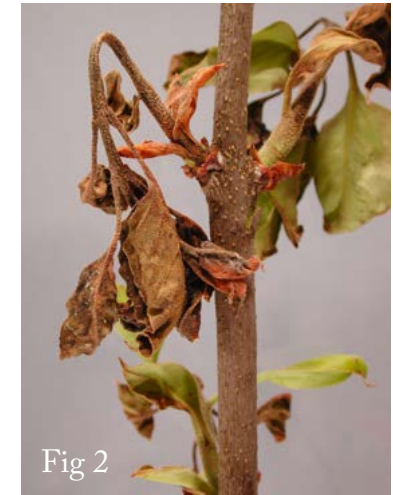


Fig 3. Photo by Alan Windham

## Powdery Mildew

A few different kinds of powdery mildew fungus can attack lilac but most reports are of *Erysiphe syringae* on common lilac. The white material you see on the upper surface of the leaf is a combination of the mycelium of the fungus and upright chains of conidiophores that bear the airborne spores of the mildew (Fig. 3). It is an annual affliction of lilacs, but you may notice that it appears earlier some years than others depending upon weather factors. Years ago, we did a two-year trial to observe the powdery mildew development in new lilac hybrids (see table) compared to some very susceptible *S. vulgaris*. We noted that the percent coverage of powdery mildew on the lilacs varied immensely between the two years. In 2006, Edith Cavell showed almost 50% leaf coverage with mildew, whereas the same cultivar showed less than 10% powdery mildew coverage the next year, when the weather was less conducive to the disease. Some cultivars showed little to no powdery mildew in either year, so these are excellent alternatives for those who are troubled by the talcum powder decorated look on their plants. No mildew, or only a trace of mildew, was seen on *S. ×josiflexa* 'Agnes Smith', *S. ×prestoniae* 'Minuet', *S. ×prestoniae* 'Miss Canada', *S. meyeri* 'Palabin', or *S. pubescens* ssp. *Patula* 'Miss Kim'.

If treatment is desired, horticultural spray oil or potassium bicarbonate products may be used on a weekly basis, while systemic fungicides may allow a slightly longer interval of application. If systemic fungicides are used, they should be rotated with contact action materials or with systemics that have a different mode of action in order to avoid the development of fungicide resistance in the powdery mildew in your garden or nursery. Although powdery mildew fungus certainly does not improve the beauty of lilacs, it may be worth enduring its late-season appearance in order to enjoy the large flower heads and incomparable aromas of some of the lilacs that are quite susceptible to it.



<b>Lilac Cultivar</b>	<b>Powdery Mildew Coverage (%)</b>	
	<b>2006*</b>	<b>2007*</b>
<b>Arch McKean</b>	<b>2.5 ab</b>	<b>0.0 a</b>
<b>Agnes Smith</b>	<b>0.0 a</b>	<b>0.0 a</b>
<b>Miss Canada</b>	<b>0.0 a</b>	<b>0.0 a</b>
<b>Edith Cavell</b>	<b>47.4 d</b>	<b>8.1 ab</b>
<b>Cheyenne</b>	<b>18.9 c</b>	<b>0.6 a</b>
<b>Evangeline</b>	<b>0.2 a</b>	<b>0.0 a</b>
<b>Betsy Ross</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>10.4 b</b>
<b>Miss Kim</b>	<b>0.0 a</b>	<b>0.0 a</b>
<b>Lilac Sunday</b>	<b>4.7 ab</b>	<b>0.2 a</b>
<b>Minuet</b>	<b>0.0 a</b>	<b>0.0 a</b>
<b>Palabin</b>	<b>0.2 a</b>	<b>0.0 a</b>
<b>Prince Charming</b>	<b>12.9 bc</b>	<b>3.5 ab</b>
<b>Pocahontas</b>	<b>0.5 a</b>	<b>0.1 a</b>
<b>Tinkerbelle</b>	<b>0.0 a</b>	<b>0.0 a</b>

\* Values represent means of 7 replications of one plant per cultivar. Values in a column followed by the same letter are not significantly different. (Fisher's Protected LSD, P=0.05)

Fig. 1. Minor spotting injury from *Pseudomonas syringae*, the cause of bacterial blight. (M. Daughtrey)

Fig. 2. Shoot blight caused by *Pseudomonas syringae var. syringae*. (M. Putnam, Oregon State Univ.)

Fig. 3. Powdery mildew caused by *Erysiphe syringae*. (A. Windham, Univ. of TN)

Fig. 4. Lilac witches' broom symptoms at the base of a shrub. (M. Daughtrey)



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# News from the Lilac Museum

## LE MUSÉE DES LILAS | ST GEORGES, CANADA

*By Claire Fouquet*

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In 2012 The Lilac Museum was founded as a non-profit organization. It is completely independent and is governed by a Board composed of volunteers who are full of determination and goodwill. Since the lilac collection is planted on city land and in city parks, The Lilac Museum has a partnership with the city, which provides some financial assistance and guidelines for the development of the museum.

The collection is planted on Pozer island in the Parc Veilleux, which is part of the Domaine de la Seigneurie (Lord's estate). Pedestrian bridges and paths allow the visitors to admire the lilacs. A large part of the collection is also accessible to people with reduced mobility.



*View of a section of the Canadian cultivars.  
Photo credit: Claire Fouquet*





*View of a section of Russian cultivars.  
Photo credit: Claire Fouquet*

The Lilac Museum carefully plans all the plantings. The museum is organized into sections that divide cultivars primarily by hybridizers from different world regions: Americans, Russians, Eastern and Western Europeans, and Canadians, plus Fiala, dwarf and variegated

lilacs, lilacs of unknown origin, and so on. After planting, every plant is carefully evaluated at bloom time and documented photographically as being true to its cultivar description. When in doubt, the plant is tagged for monitoring in following years. Each plant has or will have an identification (ID) plate placed in front of it for the benefit of the public. This ID plate contains information on the cultivar and a close-up picture of the inflorescence, so people can admire the beauty of the blooms even when they are not in bloom. The 8 x 8-inch bilingual (English and French) plates are made of brushed aluminum and covered with an epoxy. Great care is taken with the accuracy of the information.

Establishing a large collection of lilac cultivars, with the goal of reaching 1,000 different cultivars, requires a significant financial investment. The Lilac Museum is not only dependent on its hard-working volunteers but on its financial partners. The city of Saint-Georges, the Caisse Populaire (credit union) du Sud de la Chaudière, the Altrum company, and a private citizen all provide sponsorship, and their contributions are acknowledged directly on the ID plates.

We also have a sponsorship program for citizens that would like to



support the museum. Being situated on public property, The Lilac Museum cannot charge an entrance fee, limiting its income sources. For a few hundred dollars, an individual person can be recognized as the sponsor of a specific lilac, for a period of 4 years. This program could potentially become a significant source of income. The Lilac Museum also received, through discretionary grants, small contributions from different Quebec government ministries.

Currently the collection contains 638 different planted cultivars. Of them, 533 (83.5%) have been confirmed true to their description. The remainder of the cultivars remain under surveillance or are awaiting their first bloom. The Lilac Museum is in growing Zone 4. Every year a few plants die from a cold, dry, or limited snow winter, or sometimes from flooding in the spring. Each year between 65-85 % of the lilacs bloom. No special attention is given to the shrubs, except that mycorrhizae (beneficial fungal inoculum) is added to the root ball at planting and granular fertilizer is added one year later. No supplemental water is provided; the plants rely on nature to water them. The collection can be accessed on the website ([www.thelilacmuseum.com](http://www.thelilacmuseum.com)). We do our best to keep it up to date. The data base is searchable by species or cultivar names as well as alphabetically. The museum is in the process of establishing partnerships with other lilac collection owners with the goals of expanding our collection and those of others, and of preserving and displaying cultivars that may otherwise be lost.

Each year on the first Sunday of June, The Lilac Museum holds its “Fête des Parfums” (liberally translated as the fragrance festival). It is a one-day event where visitors can take a guided tour of the collection, listen to musical performances that provide ambiance, and classical performances that set the tone for a signature event that is very different from all the other festivals and activities in town. We don’t want to become a flea market with music or shows that can be seen just about anywhere. Vendors are related to fragrances, flavors, landscaping, horticulture for children, the photo

contest, plants and lilacs, and are hosted in tents or under very large umbrellas. Workshops and short conferences are also held. The Lilac Museum “Fête des Parfums” sells greetings cards made from our own photographs of our lilac collection. Each year it attracts some 4,000 people in one day. Every other year some person or an organization is chosen to receive the “Silver Lilac Award” which recognizes their contribution in beautifying the city or to horticulture in general. The name of the award was chosen because it represents the glow of the full moon shining on the lilac leaves.

With time, the “Fête des Parfums” will take place over more than one day. Revenues generated by the event (free entrance), the number of volunteers, and the desire to maintain our uniqueness are the factors that will guide the expansion of the “Fête des Parfums”.

The Lilac Museum would like to acknowledge the significant contribution that Frank Moro made to the lilac world and the number of cultivars that he developed. Mr. Moro was a collaborator in establishing the museum. It is our sincere hope that his contributions to lilac cultivars and ornamental horticulture will be remembered.



*From left to right : Claude Morin (mayor), Christian St-Pierre (President of The Lilac Museum), Paul Baillargeon, Lawrence Létourneau (private sponsor)  
Photo credit: Alain Rodrigue*

**June 4th, 2017 | Paul Baillargeon receiving the Silver Lilac Award for his contribution in initiating the project.**



# Twilight of *Syringa vulgaris* 'Dappled Dawn'

By Mark L. DeBard, MD, FACEP and Freek Vrugtman, BSc, MSc

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Variiegated cultivars of *Syringa* are unusual but not rare. The International Lilac Register (ILR) lists 51 cultivars as being variegated out of about 2000; the names of 22 of these cultivars have been “established and accepted” under the provisions of the International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants (ICNCP), but only 15 are registered names.<sup>ii</sup> The ILR shows that plants with variegated foliage occur in many of the major species, including *vulgaris*, *villosa*, *reticulata*, and *emodi*, with *vulgaris* dominating with 29 cultivars. There is, however, only one listed as a ×*hyacinthiflora*, namely ‘Corrina’s Mist’, S V, Moro, 2001.<sup>iii</sup>

In this group, perusal of the ILR shows that singles dominate with all Wister color groups present. However, White (I) is over-represented, and Bluish (III) is underrepresented. There are only 4 doubles, with just one of them registered, ‘Aucubaefolia’, which is the only double bluish (D III). Until recently, the only single bluish (S III) was thought to be ‘Dappled Dawn’, but this had come into question more recently, with all photos of ‘Dappled Dawn’ seeming to show double flowers.

Variiegation in lilacs is not welcomed by all. Father John Fiala notes in his book that the prolific and famous hybridizer Isabella Preston in 1921 grew 299 ×*prestoniae* seeds after discarding all 60 variegated ones! (He expressed regret at her choice).<sup>iv</sup> Yet variegation in lilacs has been around for a long time. The ILR again shows that two cultivars were known before 1730, and 18 were known before 1900, crossing many species. Their pace of discovery has accelerated since then, with 27 of the 51 noted since 1960, 9 of them registered (though three are *S. reticulata*).

One of us (DeBard) became interested in the unusual beauty (to his eye) of two variegated lilacs labeled ‘Dappled Dawn’ in the collection of Dawes Arboretum in Newark, Ohio, after having just purchased ‘Aucubaefolia’, a double bluish with variegated foliage. He learned from the ILR that ‘Dappled Dawn’ was supposed to be a single bluish based on an AAGGA bulletin in 1981 (corrected from its original purple-mauve as well as its earlier correction to magenta in 1976), but the ones at Dawes were a double bluish. He convinced the curator and horticulturalist to relabel them as ‘Aucubaefolia’.

Then the other of us (Vrugtman) re-labeled ‘Dappled Dawn’ in the ILR as a double bluish in April 2017 based on photographs in the Jorgovani/Lilacs 2015 DVD. This piqued the interest of the other (DeBard) to investigate the provenance of ‘Dappled Dawn’, starting with its listed originator of Hauck in 1966.

This led to the discovery of Cornelius J. Hauck’s original U.S. Plant Patent application for ‘Dappled Dawn’. While the patent states that it was a bud variation (mutation) of a common *Syringa vulgaris*, it unfortunately did not list the flower form, but did mention the leaf variegation, a bud color of “biscay green” or “mosstone”, and panicles with bright purple-mauve florets.<sup>v vi</sup> When we discovered that Mr. Hauck (1893-1967) was from Cincinnati and had bequeathed his city gardens known as “Sooty Acres” to the Cincinnati Parks, inquiries were made.

The Hauck Botanical Garden (as it had been renamed), eventually became part of the Civic Garden Center of Greater Cincinnati,<sup>vii</sup> which as it happened was celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2017. Since it was a major anniversary year, its Executive Director, Ms. Vickie Ciotti, was very interested in this piece of history and kindly made inquiries of retired horticulturists.<sup>viii</sup> She learned from Chuck Schramm, who worked for the Cincinnati Parks since the late ‘60’s, that Fred Payne was the horticulturist for the Park Board in 1966 and propagated ‘Dappled Dawn’ for Mr. Hauck. Fred Payne planted a ‘Dappled Dawn’ at the Hauck Botanical Gardens, but it only lasted for a couple of years before dying.

It wasn't a strong plant. The area where it was planted is now covered by a parking lot. <sup>ix</sup> Mr. Payne (1933-2005) was a horticulturist with his degree from Ohio State, eventually ending his career as Director of the Cincinnati Parks Department.

According to Mr. Payne's son, Jeff Payne, there were two plants. The second one was planted at Fred Payne's house in Mt. Washington near Stanbery Park, which was then transplanted to his son Jeff's house upon his death.

Jeff Payne is a landscape architect in Cincinnati. He stated that he has the 'original plant' growing in his yard. He described it as "far from a beautiful specimen at this point in its long life but it is still alive." It is over 50 years old and roughly 9-10 feet in height. He notes that

a deer killed half the plant in 2016 with its antlers. He noted that his father developed it with the help of Cornelius Hauck. But since there was no real interest in commercially propagating it during Fred Payne's life (Jackson & Perkins was approached but had no commercial interest, and has no records today from those years and no employees from then who might remember<sup>x</sup>), he never propagated anymore.



Photo by Jeff Payne

Fred kept it proudly tucked into a corner of his garden as work that he and Cornelius Hauck had done together, and Jeff inherited it. To his knowledge, it is the only one from his father's original find still left. <sup>xi</sup>

Jeff Payne included pictures of it in bloom in 2017, as well as several of its leaves, in his email of June 30. <sup>xii</sup> As you can see, it is a variegated single blue, confirmation of its original history. We are hoping to take more pictures in 2018 as well as secure a few cuttings and herbarium voucher specimens to be deposited in the RBG Herbarium (HAM) and the Ohio State Herbarium (OS) together with the full text of the US Plant Patent.



In conclusion:

*Syringa vulgaris* 'Aucubaefolia' D III

*Syringa vulgaris* 'Dappled Dawn' S III

We believe that all plants marketed in the past and at present as 'Dappled Dawn' which are double blues, are in fact 'Aucubaefolia', and the nursery trade, collectors, and arboretums should so relabel them.

'Dappled Dawn' is down to one aging, injured plant, and may not survive. But as the only variegated single blue *Syringa vulgaris* ever found, it deserves its place in history.

# Lilac Promenade

By Elena Belyh and Tatiana Poliakova

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- <sup>i</sup> Contribution No. 226, Royal Botanical Gardens, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada
- <sup>ii</sup> Brickell, C.D., et al. 2016. International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants. Ninth Edition. ISHS. *Scripta Horticulturae* No. 18.
- <sup>iii</sup> Vrugtman, F. International Register and Checklist of Cultivar Names in the Genus *Syringa L.* (Oleaceae); Work-in-Progress document; www.SyringaRegistry.info
- <sup>iv</sup> Fiala, Fr J.L. 1988. Lilacs: The genus *Syringa*. Timber Press; Portland, OR; pp. 202-203.
- <sup>v</sup> U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: filed 8 November 1962 by Cornelius J. Hauck (Ser. No. 236,465), and granted 22 March 1966 (USPP No. 2,614), found at this web site: <http://pdfpiw.uspto.gov/.piw?PageNum=0&docid=PP002614&IDKey=97BF275C93E4&HomeUrl=http%3A%2F%2Fpatft.uspto.gov%2Fnethtml%2FPTO%2Fpatimg.htm>
- <sup>vi</sup> Maerz, Aloys, and Paul, M. Rea: A Dictionary of Color. McGraw-Hill Book Company, Incorporated, 1930. Plate 21, column and rows K7 and L1.
- <sup>vii</sup> Civic Garden Center of Cincinnati, cited on the web at: <http://www.civicgardencenter.org/gardens/hauck-botanic-gardens/>
- <sup>viii</sup> Personal Communication, email from Vickie Ciotti to Mark DeBard, June 22, 2017.
- <sup>ix</sup> Personal Communication, email from Vickie Ciotti to Mark DeBard, June 23, 2017.
- <sup>x</sup> Personal Communication, email from Steve Jackson of Jackson and Perkins to Mark DeBard, June 26, 2017.
- <sup>xi</sup> Personal Communications, emails from Jeff Payne to Mark DeBard, June 30 and July 14, 2017.
- <sup>xii</sup> Uploaded to Microsoft OneDrive Public Shared Album of Mark DeBard, July 15, 2017 at: <https://1drv.ms/a/s!At2JWq3BooUKgbdHNSer8ELLKorXEA>

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For the first time, a festival dedicated to lilacs was organized in the Pavlovsk State Museum-Reserve on June 5, 2016. Brought to Russia more than 200 years ago, the charming modest lilac shrub with small cross-like flowers has over the years become a decoration of the palace parks and gardens of St. Petersburg, a symbol of the Russian aristocratic palace, an obligatory decoration of the country house and yard, and muse of writers, poets, composers and artists. Therefore, when talking about lilacs, many use the term “Russian lilacs,” since without lilacs it is difficult to imagine Russia. For many of us, lilacs are always a memory of the motherland.

The Grand Duke Konstantin Konstantinovich Romanov, a famous poet who wrote under the pseudonym ‘KR,’ wrote the poem “Fragrant Breath of the Lilac”, his heart aching with longing for a distant homeland, while Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky wrote music for his poems. Tchaikovsky’s marvelous “romance” (like the French “mélodie”, an emotive, sentimental song melding gypsy and folk music with formal western musical influences based on Russian poems) is still performed to this day. Clusters of white lilacs inspired the poet E. Beketova (aunt of the famous Russian poet Alexander Blok) with music by composer Sergei Rachmaninoff (“Lilacs,” Op.21, No. 5):

*Photo by Tatiana Pavlovsk*



*In the morning at the dawn  
In the dewy grass  
I will go to breathe the fresh morning,  
And in the fragrant shade,  
Where close lilacs  
I'm going to look for happiness.  
In my life of happiness one  
I find destined  
This happiness lives in the lilacs.  
On the green branches,  
On fragrant racemes  
My poor happiness blossoms...*

Fragrant clusters of lilacs on the sunny veranda, wet from the morning dew and warm summer rain, inspired the masters of painting P. Konchalovsky, I. Levitan, M. Vrubel, and K. Korovin. In 1945, the lilac became a symbol of the Great Victory. War veterans who returned from the war were met with lilac bouquets. Each of us has our lilac story, nostalgically touching and delightful. For the Pavlovsk State Museum-Reserve, the choice for the theme of the festival was not accidental, since the imperial owners of Pavlovsk loved lilacs; today, at the end of spring and in early summer, Pavlovsk park is awash in lilac blooms.

Since 1802, starting with the founder of the Pavlovsky Palace and Park ensemble, the Empress Maria Feodorovna, lilac shrubs have been purchased to decorate the park. The love for lilac horticulture has been preserved by other eminent owners, one of them the Grand Duke Konstantine Romanov who, enchanted by lilac blossoms, wrote:

*Lilacs bloomed at your door  
And beckon with purple brushes:  
Oh, go outside! Again we will admire  
them  
With our delighted eyes.  
Look: the branches are all bent in  
magnificent color,  
How plentiful and fluffy they are!  
There is not long to look at their beauty  
And to inhale their fragrant scent.  
Spring will flash by like a fleeting shadow,  
As a winged dream will fly away ...  
Hurry! Let's look at this lilac  
And get drunk with its scent.*

*June 6, 1888*





*Above | Photo of Katya Romanova*

*Below | Photos by Tatiana Pavlovsk*





The Pavlovsk Park was created as a “perfect work of art” under the auspices of Apollo, the muses, and the goddess Flora. The statues of these patrons are located in the area of Old Sylvia, where from the sculpture of Apollo of the Belvedere, rays are divided into 12 paths, each leading to statues of ancient goddesses and muses.

Nine Muses, nine ancient inspirations, were to contribute to the development of all kinds of creative directions: to awaken the sounds of music and poetry, and to inspire painters; the goddess Flora was supposed to inspire gardeners to create an image of the park, pleasing to the eye. These traditions, laid down in the creation of the park, are preserved today, and all of them were reflected in the large and interesting festival program dedicated to the lilac.

The main areas of the “Lilac Promenade” were the parade ground near the Pavlovsk Palace, the Lilac Alley at the Viskontiev Bridge, the Volyer Pavilion, the Rose Pavilion and the Festival Square. The guests of honor for the festival took part in the solemn actions: the planting of lilacs on the Parade Ground and at the front entrance to the palace, and the planting of shrubs of the white lilac cultivar ‘Madame Lemoine’.

Along with ‘Madame Lemoine’, other lilac cultivars were also planted in the park: ‘Den’ Pobedy’ (Victory Day), ‘Mikhailo Lomonosov’, ‘Vechernyaya Moskva’, donated by the originators Olga and Sergei Aladin and Tatyana Polyakova. Also, a lilac cultivar ‘Pamyat’ o Kolesnikove’, or in English ‘Memory of Kolesnikov’, received as a gift from Elke Haase, owner of the Piccoplant nursery (Germany), was planted.

The Volyer pavilion was decorated with bouquets of lilacs and paintings by contemporary artists with scenes of the picturesque areas of Pavlovsk Park. Young Russian poets became winners of the Sixth International Youth Poetry Competition named after Grand Duke Konstantin Konstantinovich ‘KR’, in a special competition dedicated to the lilac, sponsored by the Pavlovsk Museum-Reserve.

One of these poems I would like to quote:

*The lilac was burning as a white flame,  
The branches whistling in the wind.  
Its blossoms called me  
From the house to go out in the morning.  
Its flowers flew in sparks  
And lighted the paints of the day.  
Lilacs innocent and sincere  
blossomed, in love with me.  
And to the insensitive fool  
It tried to give the breath of sweetness.  
It blossomed. And in this flurry  
The soul of a woman was shining.*

*Tikhonov Alexander*

Among the musical programs of the festival were the string quartet “Music of the Neva”, the quartet “FluteMasters”, and winners of international competitions Natalia Kapustina (flute) and Alina Svetlova (piano).

Visitors for the festival, accompanied by guides, were able to walk along a specially designed promenade from Volyer Pavilion to Lilac alley in the Valley of the Slavyanka River, in order to admire the flowering of the lilacs, to breathe in the fragrance of its flowers, and to relax from the all the bustle. On the lilac promenade, in the inner part of the natural lilac art space, children and adults participated in the creation of the collective art canvas “Pavlovskaya Lilac”. Those who wanted were photographed in a stylized photo frame against the background of flowering and fragrant lilac bushes.

In the Rose Pavilion there was a lecture “All About Lilacs ...” Leading specialists present were from Siberia, Russia, Belarus, Germany, and also members of the International Lilac Society: T Polyakova, Regional Vice-President of the International Lilac Society for Russia and Asia; E. Haase, General Director of PICCOPLANT, Oldenburg, Germany; I. Okuneva, curator of the collection of lilacs of the Main Botanical Garden, N. Makhedonskaya, curator of the collection of lilacs of the Central Botanical Garden of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus;; O Aladina, Professor of the Russian State Agrarian University, K.A. Timiryazeva, Doctor of Agricultural Sciences, and A. Aladina, breeder.

O Filippova, Superintendent of the Parks of the Tsarskoe Selo State Museum-Reserve, told the lilac amateurs and specialists about the variety of lilacs, unique collections of lilacs, modern varieties, and the care, propagation and planting of lilacs. Interesting presentations were made by N. Vershinina, Chief Researcher of the Pavlovsk State Museum-Reserve titled “Lilacs in the Art of Decorative Textiles”; and M. Yakovleva, Deputy General Director of Perfume House BROCARD/NOVAYA ZARYA/ NOUVELLE ETOILE, titled “Masterpieces of Brocard: the Persian lilac”, which were about the famous lilac scents which became the glory of Russian perfumers.

In the festival program in the Rose Pavilion there was an exhibition of paintings called “A Bouquet of Lilacs”, provided by the Petersburg Artist Museum and Exhibition Center, with still-lives and landscapes of Russian and Soviet artists of the 1950’s-2000’s, done with watercolors, pastels, and oils. There were also master classes for adults and children in the lilac style, creating exquisite cards using the techniques of scrapbooking, quilling (paper filigree), and decoupage to decorate various items. Festival visitors had the opportunity to create their own lilac perfume with the help of specialists from the Guild of Perfumers of St. Petersburg.



The festival was attended by about 9000 residents and guests of the Northern Capital, and each of them not only had a good time in one of Europe’s finest landscape parks, but also got acquainted with the history of the palace and park ensemble and the history of the appearance of lilacs in Russia and Pavlovsk park and its unique cultivars, got expert advice, discovered their creative abilities, participated in the creation of community art paintings, and enjoyed beautiful music and poetry.

“Lilac Promenade in Pavlovsk Park” was bright, diverse, informative, and atmospheric. This festival, so popular with the public as evidenced by numerous rave reviews, was again held the next spring with great success. More than 10,000 people took part in the festival in 2017. In 2018, the festival “Lilac Promenade” will be one of the most exciting events that awaits the participants in the International Lilac Conference in St. Petersburg.

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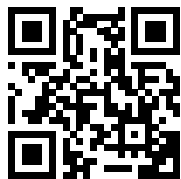
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Two ways to access the Register:

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



If the link does not work, please contact:  
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International Lilac Society

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