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Lilacs

Quarterly Journal of the International Lilac Society



Remembering
Freek



S. vulgaris 'Mrs Watson Webb'
by Kitty Werner UVMHF

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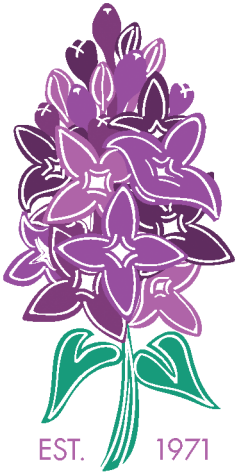
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S. vulgaris 'Montaigne'
by Kitty Werner UVMHF



INTERNATIONAL LILAC SOCIETY

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by Milada Dzevitckaya

ON THE BACK

S. vulgaris 'Atheline Wilbur' by Kitty
Werner, UVMHF

EDITOR'S DEADLINE

FOR Spring 2023 ISSUE:
January 31, 2023

[Please send photos *at least 300dpi*
+ articles]

President's Message



Dear Lilac Enthusiasts Around the World,

It was amazing to finally hold an in-person event for the International Lilac Society. Our 50th Annual Convention happened May 12 to May 14, 2022. It went off without an issue. Many thanks to the Rochester/Highland Park team for hosting and planning the convention. And many thanks to Karen McCauley for her involvement and organization of her final convention. She will be missed. The 50th Convention Program was beautiful, and should be available on the website to view, for those of you who weren't able to attend.

The weather in Rochester and the lilac gods showed favor upon us, by giving the ILS mid 80's F temperatures and ideal blooms for all of us to enjoy. It was a feast for all of the senses. We spent hours at Highland Park just roaming through hundreds of blooming lilacs. There was also the commemoration of a plaque honoring Robert Hoepfl and his years of dedicated work at Highland Park. I assisted Josh Miller in identifying several lilacs on his list of endangered varieties. We even found a blooming seedling of one lilac, that had very large purple florets, making it worthy of being named. It was, of course, growing out of two different lilacs.

We had the opportunity to explore Sonnenburg Gardens and Mansion State Historic Park, located in Canandaigua, New York. It is an 1887 Queen Ann style mansion, built as the summer home of Frederick Ferris and Mary Clark Thompson. He was a prominent New York City banker and she was the daughter of Myron Holley Clark, Governor of New York State in 1855. The Gardens were developed between 1902 and 1920, and were fashioned in a variety of styles, including Victorian, Italian, Colonial and Japanese influences.

The Executive Committee and Board of Directors met twice during this Convention. The results of the past two years of elections for the Board of Directors were announced. The members up for re-election

were re-appointed. Difficult decisions were made regarding membership dues. The cost of printing the journal 'LILACS' continues to cost more than the dues amount. The decision to increase the cost of membership, in which one receives a printed and mailed copy, increased. Several new membership types were added. To see full changes, please see the minutes of the meeting. Life Members dues will increase to \$1000 and went into effect, immediately. The other membership due increases will start in December/January. At the second Board of Directors meeting, the election of the Executive Committee occurred. All existing Executive Members were elected for another term. Claire Fouquet's term was not up as of this term.

The lilac auction and silent auction brought in record funds for the Society! It is always great fun. I got to bring home 25 new or replacement lilacs for my Garden. There were a record number of plants up for auction. Thanks to all who donated plants this year.

Later in May, I had the opportunity to work with the Preservation Committee and Josh Miller, once again. He asked if I lived near Cambridge Springs, PA, the location of The Lilac Farm. It was the lilac collection of Wayne and Millie Hughes. Mr. Hughes was also a hybridizer of a few lilacs: 'Mr. Wayne', 'Miss Millie', 'Kathy', 'Mary Ellen', and 'Sunny'. Tom Gober and myself headed to the collection on May 29th. We had an old map and an aerial photo, provided by the current owner. Tom and I were able to identify four of Mr. Hughes cultivars, and we were given permission to dig suckers of three we could positively identify, and one we think might be 'Sunny'. 'Sunny' is one that Mr. Hughes described as a more yellow 'Primrose'. We also tagged a few of the cultivars we could from the faded blooms and location. We plan on returning during peak bloom to further label the collection. So far, the gathered suckers are doing well. These will be headed to the Preservation Committee's designated holding garden. The plus, of all of this attention, is that the current owner and his wife have been motivated to preserve the remaining lilacs on their property. They have sent pictures of the before and after of the work they started; they removed roses and volunteer trees and plan to remove the grass from around the lilacs. This is the kind of important work being accomplished around the world by the Preservation Committee.

This edition of the journal is dedicated to Freek Vrugtman who passed away in March. I never had the opportunity to meet Freek as a planned visit was canceled due to covid. His memory will live on through the many contributions to the ILS and the genus *Syringa*. Memory eternal!

On a final note, the convention scheduled for Oldenburg, Germany has been rescheduled to 2024. The 2023 convention will be held in Minnesota hosted by Kelly Applegate and organized by Mark Debard and Claire Fouquet

Dr Robert Zavodny
ILS President



The Celebration of Life

The Celebration of Life was planned by Ina Vrugtman's niece Carola Van Teunenbroek, Carola's husband Tom, and close family friends Leslie and Tim Borrows and Gisela and Urit Wittenberg, with Dr. David Galbraith, RBG's Head of Science.

Coordination of the event was provided by RBG staff member Brookelyn Archer. The celebration was planned to honour Freek and also Ina, and we were very grateful that Ina was present. Carola and Tom came from the Netherlands for the event.

The event was held in the outdoor Pavilion in RBG Arboretum, adjacent to the Katie Osborn Lilac Garden on June 2, 2022. About 45 guests participated in the celebration of life. Following a greeting on behalf of RBG and a land acknowledgment by David, Freek and Ina's friends spoke about their long and fascinating lives, many passions, and fascinating experiences. After several presentations and poetry readings, RBG's Curator of Collections Alex Henderson led a tour of the Lilac Garden. After the tour, Sarah Jane Burton of "Dancing with Parkinson's" led everyone in gentle exercises that everyone enjoyed.



Barsingerhorn, the Netherlands

June 17th 2022

Dear friends of Freek and Ina,

With this message I want to thank you on behalf of Ina and myself, for the many letters and e-mails you have sent, not only of condolence and comfort, but also the sharing of interesting and moving memories. The letters and e-mails have all been read to Ina by Uri and Gisela Wittenberg when they visit and many times Ina has been able to read the messages herself, also enjoying your beautiful cards and pictures.

Right now we look back on a very heartwarming celebration of the lives of both Freek and Ina on Thursday June 2nd. We want to thank all those who were able to come and enjoy the pleasant encounters that took place. My husband Tom and I have been in Dundas an extra week to share time with Ina and to organize things in Ina's apartment at Amica, so we were able to talk quite a lot with her about the gathering. She was happy to have been able to greet all of you!

For those of you that were not able to come to the celebration it might be of interest to know a little about the program we shared. After a welcome by David Galbraith and then Tom and I, we shared a lunch and then later, memories by David Galbraith, myself, Tim Burrows, Uri Wittenberg and Sarah Jane Burton. Sarah Jane's speech was also the introduction to three short dances which we did while sitting on our chairs like they are done in the "Dancing with Parkinson's" classes. After that, Alex Henderson, the current Curator of Collections was so kind to lead a tour through the lilac garden. Eventually we finished with a closing circle led by Sarah Jane to the beautiful *Canon in D* by Pachelbel.

The speeches memorialized both the personal and professional lives of Freek and Ina, which were so rich and interesting! Besides stories, some poems further illuminated us and during the whole celebration we enjoyed a wonderful photo presentation on a big screen made by Tim Burrows. The photos were found among other things, in Ina's many photo albums and scrapbooks and then set to lovely music. We also had some enlarged pictures from my own archive on big boards.

As I did at the celebration itself, I once more want to thank David

Galbraith and his team, Brookelyn Archer and Anna Solich, for organizing all the practical details: organizing the registration, finding us such a beautiful location, catering a lovely lunch and organizing the technical equipment!

As an additional, special surprise, Uri Wittenberg compiled a beautiful collection of photographs from the celebration itself and a video of Ina's participation in the "dancing" we did that day. It is a wonderful tribute to the memory of Freek and to the lively presence of Ina!

As we think many of you might like to look at the slideshow made by Tim and enjoy the photographs and video taken by Uri, they are accessible at <https://youtu.be/Msa6hJEhUBM> or if you just [click here!](#)

A final appreciation goes to Uri Wittenberg as my fellow POA (power of attorney) of care, supported by his wife Gisela and to Tim and Lesley Burrows as POAs of property and to Murray Weaver who did this work until last year. I think it says something about Freek and Ina that they have such a lovely bunch of people willing to do "the job" and to support Ina in her loss and all the challenges that have yet to be faced!

One last thank you goes to those who donated money to Amnesty International or—as we were very pleasantly surprised to find—RBG. Ina really appreciates these initiatives!

With warmest regards, on behalf of Ina, Tom and myself,
Carola van Teunenbroek



Freek Vrugtman email comments on receipt of ILS Lifetime Achievement Award

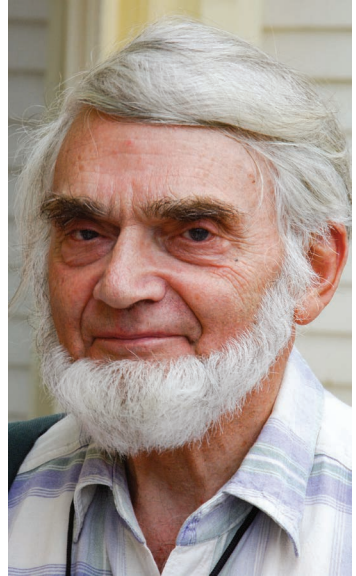
June 6, 2019

Being the first recipient of the ILS Lifetime Achievement Award was a great surprise to us. Thank you!

I vividly recall the worldwide search for a new ICRA and Registrar about 1972/73 when John C. Wister announced his desire to retire as Registrar, only to realize that Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG) was best equipped to accept the task ahead.

Looking back over the years since the appointment of RBG I see how my network as Registrar gradually evolved. It would be an impossible task to list everyone who has had input in, or connection with the International Lilac Register since 1976. I am grateful for assistance received from archivists, botanists, colleagues at RBG, collectors of ephemera, computer whizzes, correspondents, curators, historians, horticultural writers, horticulturists, ILS members, librarians, lilac fanciers, lilac originators, nurserymen, taxonomists, typists and volunteer translators (in the pre-Google era). Last but not least special thanks to my wife Ina who relentlessly processed my inter-library loans at RBG until 1996 and tolerated lilac talk at home and on our travels, and to the late William Edwards (1951–2015), my computer guru, who introduced me to computer (and DOS!) and internet (about 1995), and who's technical advise and assistance made it all possible.

Since official retirement from my job as Curator of Collections in 1992 successive administrators at RBG have continued to support my by then all-volunteer work as International Lilac Registrar by providing storage space and access to RBG services and facilities without which the task of compiling the International Lilac Register





2006 Laking Book Launch

could not have been accomplished, and without which future progress and dissemination of information would have been severely handicapped.

Having found a new ICRA, ILS, and a capable Registrar, Mark DeBard, has made it much easier to slow down with my involvement with lilacs—Old Registrars never die, they fade away with the lilac bloom.

Thank you.
fv



2014 Year End Letter from Nemo View

Dear relatives, friends, and other hanger-ons.

We are running fast out of time, to write this letter, that is—actually, we have run out of time already.

A year ago we had just regained electrical power; the furnace ran again, we were warming up, could make coffee, taking much needed showers, and flush the toilets.

It took a full day with the chainsaw to clear the driveway of branches that had broken off the oak and maple trees through the weight of the ice. Now we could get the car to the road which, by that time, had been cleared of trees and branches, electrical and telephone wires.

The path from driveway to front door of our house was another story. That path was totally blocked by broken trees and branches. Moreover, one of the birches had completely arched over; the crown had reached the ground and the branches were frozen solid into the ice-covered snow.

The only material damage was a broken laundry-line. Others were not so lucky; falling trees damaged houses and cars; basements were flooded; food in refrigerators and freezers had to be discarded.

Since we moved here in 1973 we had deer only on very rare occasions. This past winter we frequently had up to 12 deer at a time either passing through our property or bedding down in the deep snow overnight.

It was not until the second week of April that snow and ice had thawed and the birch began to lift its crown. It never broke, but we now have a semi-weeping birch in front.

The sightseers came in spring with “Ohs and Ahs” and “we did not know it had been that bad.” Clearing the broken trees and branches, cutting, carrying it uphill to the woodshed, splitting the wood to stove-size, and stacking it to dry, has taken us all spring and summer.

Mid March Ina flew to California for a two week visit with Eva, her school friend of the 1940s. With pre-arranged assistance at airports the trip went smoothly.

Report by Ina:

“A few highlights of my visit were the incredible sea aquarium at Monterey Bay, S. of San Francisco, which we had visited in the late 1980s. At that time I was so disappointed because nothing remained

of Cannery Row which had inspired Steinbeck to write his novel. The aquarium has been greatly enlarged and is a really fantastic museum. It is quite a long drive from Berkeley, via six-lane thoroughways. The exhibits are so remarkable and one cannot do it justice in one day. As one enters the building one is confronted with an enormous 4 story high saltwater tank showing all the different phases of sea creatures from the bottom to the top of the ocean. I overheard a guide saying that more than 20,000 species live in this space! Every night the water is renewed in order to provide the algae and diatoms as food for the living creatures. Then there are beautiful exhibits of anemones, jellies with their graceful tentacles, as well as some mammals, like the little black-footed South African penguins, which are taken for a walk in the museum trailing behind their caretakers who monitor their fish diet each time they feed them; a comical procession. These are probably born in the museum—they are certainly a great attraction for the public. All the aquariums are carefully maintained; how they do it is a puzzle, but besides a huge scientific and maintenance staff they rely on many volunteers. In the entrance hall they also display huge skeletons of whales, dolphins etc.

I thought it was so interesting to see large Aloe's in full bloom, besides the tall blue spikes of *Echium* sp., just looking at the gardens in and around Eva's neighbourhood I saw lovely pungent smelling Rosemary, and in the lawns Freesia. Just as people think of our Dandelion being a menace to their lawns, Berkeley people regard the yellow flowering Oxalis in the same way. I thought it looked so springlike and lovely. Once it is past its flowering state the foliage dies down till next year. I made a lovely bouquet of all the flowering plants, even climbing roses and Camellia. The contrast was so pronounced; from snow covered Ontario to be dumped into this green world was amazing to me.

I was lucky; with Eva, who is a keen photographer, we went to Tilden Botanical Park, which specializes in plants native to California, and to Berkeley Botanic Garden. What a treat to see so many plants in full bloom.

Another impressive outing was to Sausalito, to the Marine Mammal Center established in 1975, where rescued injured mammals are treated, which are found along the 600 miles of California's coast. It is very impressive the work the vets and volunteers do.

One more interesting item is that I was shown the enormous San Francisco Bay bridge from the top. This is now possible because one of the presidents (Kennedy or Ford?) declassified this vast area, no longer serving military purposes, namely to guard the Bay against invaders. The army stored here nuclear weapons. Crazy, these nuclear bombs were just lying there...! Fortunately, all have been removed and the area is now for the citizen for recreational purposes.

In the distance one could see the new bridge that connects Oakland to San Francisco, via Treasure Island. The new bridge runs parallel to the old one, which has been sold to China and is slowly taken apart brick by brick, which is going to be a 3-4 year project.

Eva, who works as an usher for the S.F. Opera, and all the theatres in Berkeley, was able to still get me a ticket for a very interesting concert, the Vienna Philharmonic conducted by Loren Maazel. It was completely sold out. It was an impeccable performance of Schubert's "Unfinished Symphony". There were now 4 lady violinists in the back. Until recently the orchestra forbade hiring females. After the intermission we were treated to Mahler's Symphony no. 4. I found it full of surprises, therefore more interesting for somebody like myself with no musical background. I also thought the musicians were enjoying themselves more, and that Maazel is a typical autocratic type. The Vienna Philharmonic is certainly one of the largest orchestras, with more than one hundred musicians.

We have mentioned our involvement with Courtcliffe Park, a local 25 ha (100 acre) tract, once used as a trailer park, today partially conservation area (floodplain and forest) and home to a set of junior soccer pitches. Now, twelve years after commencing the cleanup of the trailer park,

Bronte Creek, which bisects the Park, was chosen by Trout Unlimited Canada as its current national restoration project. It is very exciting to see this happen.

Ina participates in Hamilton City Ballet's "Dance for Parkinson's" program. It is modeled after the English National Ballet's direction. Classes are based on the full length ballet that is currently staged by Hamilton City Ballet and reflect the storyline and choreography.

Everyone participates to the best of their ability. Because of this connection to the local ballet world we went to see the Nutcracker. Ina had seen it so many times on TV but never been to a life perfor-

mance. It was great fun and had a very good review. The conductor of the orchestra is also the flutist for our PD dancing sessions; yes we have life music. His wife plays the violin. They came to Hamilton about four years ago from Lebanon where they were for 12 years with the philharmonic orchestra. Originally they are from Hungary. We are fortunate to have these very talented people.

In September Ina's cousin Carola and husband Tom came to Ontario from The Netherlands for a 16-day visit. Although our actual wedding date is in August, we had delayed the celebration to have it during their visit. On the invitations we had stipulated informal dress, preferably colourful. We also asked for contributions in the form of song & dance, poetry or prose. There were a number of presentations, including letters from Tunisia and Croatia read by the Master of Ceremonies, but the team of Carola & Tom stole the show—someone thought we had hired professionals! The event was held in the Teahouse of Royal Botanical Gardens. To get to the Teahouse one has to walk from the parking lots through part of the gardens. Some of our guests had not been to the gardens for years, or never before. RBG got some favourable comments—and some donations.

When Freek started writing this letter he thought we would get it out on New Year's Eve. Well, we didn't. The first two days of 2015 were cool, but dry and mostly sunny; that is a good start.

We wish everyone a Good and Healthy 2015,
Freek and Ina

P.S. And just to remind ourselves that it is winter, here is the forecast for 3 January 2015: "Most areas will see an initial burst of snow Saturday evening followed by a brief changeover to ice pellets or freezing rain before changing to rain overnight. Travel will be treacherous during the initial blast of precipitation, so even though overall snowfall amounts may not be huge (less than 5 cm near Lake Erie, 5-10 cm for GTA), roads will likely be snow covered and slippery at the start of the storm. Very cold air will charge back in by Sunday afternoon, setting up wicked snow squalls. These squalls will likely impact traditional snow belt communities such as Barrie and Stratford, but may also come far enough inland to affect the 401 corridor."
Cheers to all!

Meeting Freek Vrugtman, International Lilac Registrar

Milada Dzevitskaya PhD

Translated By Liudmila Bochkariova

*There are no uninteresting people in the world.
Y.Yevtushenko*

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

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

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

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

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

Letter from Canada

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



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

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

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

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

the authors of “Lilac Time” the lilac cultivars by my parents Mariam Sagitova and Tadeush Dzevitskiy became widely known in the world.

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

Long-awaited meeting

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

We were lucky to see many interesting cultivars. He explained that the present day was not the best time for the lilac collection because the public funding cuts affected this famous garden. The absence of modern watering system threatened the future of the world’s largest lilac collection and it could not but bother Freek Vrugtman who put so much of himself into the garden.

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

In Unity with Nature

The invitation to visit their cozy house built in 1973 on one acre in Carlisle (Ontario) was a nice surprise for us. Freek and Ina’s house was in the forest that surrounds their house from all sides like a wall. Both Freek and Ina had their own offices where they spent hours free from work in the garden. These offices brought to our minds museum halls with a large number of books, all sorts of awards and souvenirs from different countries. Ina showed me the house, her crafts

room and...a magician-healer studio where she created lotions and creams based on herbs for herself and her friends. I was lucky to get a jar of a face cream as a gift. It was difficult to imagine that the cream was made by this woman rather than by industry.

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

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

The kind hostess prepared very tasty vitamin drink and a unique cherry pie. In the warmth of the setting sun we were sitting on the patio, drinking the magic drink and talking about life. On behalf of all lilac admirers who respect Freek's a contribution to the world of lilacs, I asked Freek some questions. I believe his answers will be very interesting for the readers.

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

I was born in Rotterdam, the Netherlands in 1927. The city name means "the dam on the Rotte." Nowadays Rotterdam ranks second in population just behind Amsterdam. It has the largest cargo port in Europe. The Rotterdam's motto *Sterker door Strijd* means "stronger from struggle". City inhabitants were constantly fighting to claim land from the sea which means that they were fighting for survival. Zest for life and resilience are in our blood. I was a teenager during

WWII and could not finish school because I needed a job. I became a deckhand on a Rhine river barge. Then I found a job at the nursery garden where I learned how to look after plants. Later I got apprenticeship in a tree nursery and worked as a gardener. Before I left for Canada I was plant propagator in one of the German nurseries. I emigrated in 1952. By the way, Ina went to the USA behind the back of her parents. She followed her friend to Ithaca, NY.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Freek, Milada, and David

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

How did you meet Ina?

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

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

What happened next?

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

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

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

When did lilacs enter your life?

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

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

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

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

We have several bushes of unknown lilac in our garden among other trees and bushes. The young plant was brought from Rowancroft Garden where Mary Blacklock and Minerva Castle worked with peonies and lilacs. The bush turned out to be very prolific for 50 years and its propagules were planted in the neighborhood. Some of them ended up in our garden and continue to fight for survival against

the local plants. For us, it is a history of our garden rather than the expression of our professional interest. We do not have any certified cultivars of lilacs in our garden.

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

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

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

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

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

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

What amazes you in lilac?

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

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

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

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

Milada Dzevitskaya, PhD (biology),
Honored Inventor, co-author of two lilac cultivars.

Lilac Trivia

Freek Vrugtman

Lilicia

In the 1870s Colonel William Plum and his wife Helen Maria Williams Plum settled in the new village of Lombard, formerly known as Babcock's Grove, Illinois. The Colonel purchased land on the corner of Park and Maple. The estate eventually became known as "Lilacia", said to be the Latin term for lilac. Challenge: We have not been able to find the word "Lilacia" in any dictionary or encyclopaedia; let us know if you can find it.

THE FRANKTOWN LILAC TOKENS

As everyone in Lilacdom knows (Ed. Note: according to the people of Franktown). Franktown, Ontario, is the "Lilac Capital of the World", and the place where the annual "Franktown Lilac Festival" takes place. However, only the local residents and a few collectors will know that in 1998 Franktown (Township of Beckwith) issued a five dollar (Canadian) Municipal Trade Token. Designed by Serge Pelletier, it is a 38 mm diameter, plain edged, enamelled token. The 1,000 circulation tokens are Antique Bronze enamelled. Also issued were 200 collector tokens, 100 Silver Plated enamelled and 100 Gold Plated enamelled. The design, you guessed it, shows lilac florets and buds. This Municipal Trade Token made history in the numismatic world, because it was the first circulating enamelled token. Color reproductions can be seen on the web site <http://www.eligi.ca/Eligi_Consultants_Inc/eng/ish/index.html>, click on "Municipal Trade Tokens" (in the bottom bar), and you can learn more about these tokens; click on "Archives", followed by "Municipal Trade Tokens", and you can find the picture of the "Franktown, Ontario - 5 Dollars 1998" token. The designer, Serge Pelletier, is a graduate of l'Ecole des arts visuels de l'Universite Laval, Quebec; he is a painter, sculptor, goldsmith and writer.

Syringa oblata var. *donaldii* - not a validly published name

The late John L Fiala, in his book “Lilacs-The Genus *Syringa*” (1988; Portland, Timber Press), on pages 61-62, proposes a new botanical variety, *Syringa oblata* var. *donaldii* RB. Clark & JL Fiala However, the publication of the name *Syringa oblata* var. *donaldii* did not constitute valid publication under the provisions of the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature (ICBN). Article 7 establishes the requirement of a nomenclatural type (holotype); it is the element to which the name of a taxon is permanently attached. Article 8 states that for the purpose of typification a specimen is a gathering, or part of a gathering, of a single species or infraspecific taxon made at one time. Article 37 establishes the requirement that the name of a new taxon is valid only when the type of the name, the nomenclatural type, is indicated in the publication. The name *Syringa oblata* var. *donaldii* was published without the citation of the type in the sense required by the ICBN; therefore the name was not validly published.

Although R.B. Clark & J.L. Fiala appear to cite a herbarium specimen at the United States National Arboretum (USNA), Washington, D.C., as the type, this can not be considered a single specimen prepared at one time. The number cited, namely NA. 39951, is the accession number assigned to the particular seed-lot at the time it was received by the U.S. National Arboretum. The first generation progeny of this seed cannot be considered to constitute a single specimen prepared at one time.

The correct name of the plants grown from the seed-lot NA 3951 probably is *Syringa oblata* subsp. *dilatata* (Nakai) P.S. Green & Mei-Chen Chang. The name originally attached to this seed-lot.

History

According to the records at the U.S. National Arboretum, the seed was collected from four different trees of wild provenance in the Republic of Korea, and sent to the USNA by Dr YimKyong Bin, Seoul National University College of Education. It was received in December 1978 by USNA and accessioned as NA 39951.

May 2004 there are 32 plants of this accession growing in the research collection at USNA. Earlier, Dr Donald Egolf (1928-1990), had selected 17 of the seedlings, assigning selection numbers beyond

the initial NA. 39951 accession number. Three of these selections were assigned Unique NA numbers and distributed in 1994 to nine to eleven nurseries for evaluation.

Acknowledgements

The writer is grateful to Dr James S. Pringle, Plant Taxonomist, Royal Botanical Gardens, for his suggestions and interpretation of the ICBN; and to Dr Margaret Pooler, Research Geneticist USDA/ARS USNA, providing information on the lilacs of accession NA 39951

Contribution No. 124, Royal Botanical Gardens, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

Do you have *Syringa pinetorum* growing in your collection?

If you do, please check its identity.

Why do we ask? To our, albeit limited knowledge *Syringa pinetorum* has not yet been introduced to cultivation. Susan D. McKelvey stated that in her book in 1928; John L. Fiala repeated it in his book in 1988; James S. Pringle confirmed it in 1990, and Peter S. Green repeated it in 1995. They also explained why there are still plants in collections and nurseries growing under the name of *Syringa pinetorum*. About 1914 George Forrest collected in China seed of a lilac he believed to be *S. pinetorum*, sending it to Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh; from there the seeds were distributed to other botanical gardens. Plants grown from those seeds turned out to be *Syringa yunnanensis*. As it happens so often, some people got the message, others never did. Some people realized that they did not have what they were supposed to have received and updated their records accordingly; some realized they had *S. yunnanensis*, others were puzzled, or careful, changing the label to *Syringa* sp., or unknown Wac.

The labels and records concerning *Syringa pinetorum* in a number of collections will have been updated this spring, 2004. Most of the plants concerned turned out to be *Syringa yunnanensis*, but a few were not; they were not even closely related species. So, do not just change the name and the record, but take a closer look at your plant and its characteristics.

In addition, if you know where you obtained your plants originally, contact the people who supplied you with your plant and share

this information with them. With your help we may, finally, after almost ninety years, remove an erroneous name from collections and commercial nurseries, perhaps just in time before the real *Syringa pinetorum* enters our gardens.

One or more plants labelled *Syringa pinetorum*, source unknown, were auctioned off during the 16th Annual Convention of the International Lilac Society at Denver, Colorado. Should you have bought one, do update your records and labels. Following is the description of *Syringa yunnanensis*, which may be of help in determining what you have, or do not have, under the name of *Syringa pinetorum*.

Syringa yunnanensis

Shrubs 2-5 m. Branchlets terete or slightly four-angled, usually glabrous. Petiole 0.5-2 cm, glabrous; leaf blade elliptic, emptic-lanceolate, to oblanceolate, 2-8(-13) ? 1- 3.5(-5.5) cm, glabrous or abaxially rarely pubescent along veins, base cuneate or rarely subrounded, apex acute or short acuminate. Panicles erect, terminal, 5-18 ? 3-12 cm; rachis and pedicel puberulent or rarely lanose. Pedicel 0.5-1.5 mm. Calyx 1-2.5 mm, glabrous or rarely lanose. Corolla white to lilac-red, 0.7-1.2(-1.7) cm; tube funnellform, 5-8(-13) mm; lobes oblong, spreading. Anthers yellow, usually inserted up to 2 mm from mouth of corolla tube. Capsule oblong, 1.2-1.5 cm, slightly lenticellate. Flowering May to June, fruiting in September.

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From PAPPUS 8(3):6-7 (1989) — the RBG's quarterly publication:

Curator of Collections Visit to China

Freek Vrugtman

On September 20 our Curator of Collections, Mr. Freek Vrugtman, left for the People's Republic of China to attend the International Symposium on Botanical Gardens to be held at Nanjing Botanical Garden Mem. Sun Yat-Sen September 24 through 29. He stopped over for one day at Beijing visiting the Institute of Botany, Academia Sinica, in the western suburbs of Beijing, meeting professors Lung Yayi (plant introduction) and Zang Shuying (plant breeding, including *Syringa*), and Jin Xaiobai, a Ph.D. student interested in the International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants – 1980 (ICNCP-1980) and its application in China, and seeing some of the plant collections and experimental plots of the 58 ha Beijing Botanical Garden or Southern Garden. He paid a brief visit to parts of the 400 ha Northern Garden, a historical garden and park complex centred around the seventeenth century Sleeping Buddha Temple (Shi Fan Pu Jue Temple) at the foot of Mount Shouan and the Valley of Cherries. The garden is administered by the Beijing municipal government and a popular place for Chinese visitors and vacationers.

Nanjing, or “southern capital”, is an ancient walled city, situated about 32°N, south of the Yangtze River, and between the Yangtze River and the Purple Mountain, with wide tree-lined thoroughfares (mostly London plane trees) and a population of about four million. Nanjing is one of China's ancient cities, its history reaching back some 2400 years. As the capital of Jiangsu Province, Nanjing today is an important industrial and agricultural centre; it has 14 institutions of higher learning, the Jiangsu Institute of Botany and Nanjing Botanical Garden Mem Sun Yet-Sen being one of them.

The International Symposium on Botanical Gardens, the first one to be held in China, was attended by 255 people, including 193 from the People's Republic of China (representing 23 of the 28 provinces) and 62 from other Asian countries, Europe, North America, Africa and Australia. The Symposium took place in the “Ontario, Canada – Jiangsu, China Science and Technology Centre” (planned in 1985



Yu Garden, Shanghai, China

as a joint Ontario-Jiangsu project; built in 1986 by Jiangsu Province and furnished by Ontario; officially opened in 1987). The emphasis of the Symposium was on the role of Botanical Gardens in the conservation of threatened and endangered plants, but many other interest to botanical gardens' personnel were covered.

Delegates to the Symposium had an opportunity to see and study the collections of the Nanjing Botanical Garden. Founded in 1929 in memory of China's democratic revolutionist Dr. Sun Yat-Sen (1866–1925) this is the oldest botanical garden in China, but it suffered heavy destruction during the Sino-Japanese War (1937–1945) and Civil War (1945–1949). Reconstruction started in 1954 and once more after the Cultural Revolution (1966–1977). The garden now is gaining importance under the able direction of Prof. He Shan-an.

The climate in Nanjing is influence by monsoons from the Pacific; annual precipitation is about 900 to 1000 mm, concentrated in late spring and summer; summer temperatures usually go up to 39° or 40°C, with 43°C the highest temperature recorded; winter temperatures usually go down to -10° to -13°C, with -16° the lowest temperature recorded. (It is interesting to note that public buildings and homes in regions south of the Yangtze River, and this includes Nanjing, usually have no central heating systems.)

The Botanical Gardens covers 186 ha, about 100 ha of which are in

natural secondary forest devoted to the establishment of rare and endangered species. Major living collections include ornamental plants concentrated in the 13 ha central part of the Garden surrounding the main buildings, the 10 ha Arboretum and the 7 ha Pinetum, and a 6 ha Systematic Garden in which more than 300 species are arranged according to Bessey's System of classification to illustrate evolution and relationship of present-day plants.

The collection of medicinal plants, with well over 600 taxa, is one of the major research collections of the Institute; it is also classified as a National Collection. Other important research collections of economic plants are those of European olives (*Olea europaea*; more than 450 cultivars), East Indian lotus (*Nelumbo nucifera*; 203 cultivars), Chinese chestnuts (*Castanea mollissima*; 59 cultivars, and common jujubes (*Ziziphus jujuba*; 50 cultivars). The 1,300 square meter display greenhouses contains a collection of tropical and sub-tropical plants and, as a special feature, a collection of Chinese miniature landscapes or Penjing.

Research at the Botanical Garden focuses on exploration, utilization, improvement and conservation of plants and plant resources. Ranking high among current research projects are compilation of a Flora of China and regional floras. A two-volume Jiangsu Flora was published in 1982. Several volumes on Chinese medicinal plants have been published. Research on and exploration of yams (*Dioscorea spp.*) has culminated in a breeding and selection program for high diosgenin content.

The Herbarium of the Jiangsu Institute of Botany (NAS), also founded in 1929, has been moved recently into a new building; the 620,000 sheet collection is stored in movable "compactor" cases, and work areas have natural day light; the mini computer data system in place is said to be the most modern of its kind in China. Important collections include ferns, fern allies, and flowering plants of Guangzi Zhuang Autonomous Region, and flowering plants of Guizhou, Jiangxi and Yunnan provinces.

Immediately following the symposium, Freek Vrugtman taught a six day short course at the Jiangsu Institute of Botany. Focus of the course was on the International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants – 1980 (ICNCP-1980), on cultivar name registration, and

on National Registration Authority (NRAs) for cultivar names in the People's Republic of China.

The idea for the short course had emerged from discussions among Prof. He Shan-an, Director of the Jiangsu Institute of Botany, and Messrs. C.D. Brickell (Director General, Royal Horticultural Society, UK) and Freek Vrugtman, Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively, of the ISHS Commission for Horticulture Nomenclature and Registration. Prof. Chen Shan-Qi coordinated the course and Mme Mei Huiming, Editor of the Gardens Journal, Shanghai, interpreted.

There were 58 participants, academic and professional people representing a wide spectrum of disciplines in plant science, ranging from agricultural crops through forestry dendrology, horticultural crops, landscape design and seed testing to vegetable crops. Thirty-four participants came from 16 provinces and regions of the People's Republic of China; 24 were staff members or students at Jiangsu Institute of Botany and Nanjing Botanical Garden Mem. Sun Yat-Sen.

The course was timely, following the publication of the Chinese translation of the ICNCP-1980. The Cultivated Code was translated into Chinese by two staff members of the Nanjing Botanical Garden, Xu Dingfa and Mme Yun Yiwei, and was published in *The Bulletin of the Nanjing Botanical Garden Mem. Sun Yat-Sen*, 1987, pp. 159-174.

The short course was to serve four main purposes, namely to increase awareness and use of the ICNCP-1980 in China, to spot any areas in the Code that may not adequately accommodate Chinese language and Chinese traditions of naming cultivars, to explain the need for and the process of cultivar name registration, and to explore the possibilities of establishing NRAs for cultivar names in China.

The lively and sometimes heated discussions which evolved were very useful, clearing up misconceptions and establishing accurate Chinese equivalents for some special terms. This course initiated the use of the spacious lecture amphitheater building next to the herbarium building, both completed quite recently. It appears that this intense course was well received, and there is no doubt that many new contacts were established among the participants during these six days at Nanjing Botanical Garden.

While in Nanjing, Mr. Vrugtman had the opportunity to visit some sites of special interest, such as Xuanwuhu Park (444 ha) with its

lake (the beginning of which dates back to the 4th and 5th centuries), its islands, greenhouse, Penjing collection and demonstration area; Zhanyan Garden, built in the 14th century; the Western Garden of Hong Xiuquan's Palace, one of the few remains of the Taiping Heavenly Kingdom (1851–1864) and the only remaining garden of this era; Sun Yat-Sen Mausoleum, built from 1926 through 1929 and covering 80,000 square meters; the Nanjing Yangtze River Bridge, constructed in the late 1960s, the major link between China's North and South; and the wholesale market for fruits and vegetables where local vendors purchase produce for resale.

On October 5, Mr. Vrugtman moved on to Shanghai. With a population of 11 million (15 million including suburbs), Shanghai is China's largest city and seaport.

At Shanghai Botanic Garden, Mr. Vrugtman met the Director, Zhang Lian-Quan; Ms. Chen Nian Nian (plant introduction) was his guide. Shanghai Botanic Garden is situated 5 km south of the city limits. Develoed since 1974 its gardens cover 30 ha out of a total 67 ha and are located on the site of the former Lunghua Nursery which specialized in Penjing and floricultural crops. Shanghai Botanic Garden built on this Penjing tradition and made its special collection which is displayed to its greatest advantage. Behind the scene and not accessible to the public are Penjing production areas including stonemason workshops. Other features of the Garden are collections of peonies, roses, azaleas, and medicinal plants. As a municipal institution the Shanghai Botanic Garden is dedicated to education and edification of the general public. Since 1978 Shanghai Botanic Garden and Montreal Botanical Garden have had a twinning agreement.

One of the famous gardens in Shanghai, visited by 8,000 to 10,000 visitors per day, is the Yu Yuan or Yu, the Mandarin's Garden, located in the older part of the city, only a few blocks from the Huangpu River and the Bund. Laid out originally in 1559 by Pan Yuanduan, a provincial governor, in honour of his father Pan En, a government minister, the garden suffered damage in 1853 during the Taiping Revolution and during subsequent wars. By the middle of this century, the eastern fringe of the property had become a street market. A 2.3 million Yuan, 2½ year reconstruction program was undertaken in the late 1950s under the personal direction and supervision

of Prof. Chen Congzhou, who had just now (1988) retired as Professor of Architecture at Tongji University, Shanghai. Mr. Vrugtman had the special privilege of meeting Prof. Chen Congzhou at the Yu Yuan and to be treated to a personal guided tour of the garden and some of its buildings normally closed to visitors. (A detailed account and photographs of the Yu Yuan can be found in “The Chinese Garden”, 1978, by Maggie Keswick, in the RGB Library). In 1977, Prof. Chen Congzhou joined Dr. Weng Fong, forming the research team responsible for the Astor Garden Court construction at the Metropolitan Museum in New York in the early 1980s, the first authentic Chinese garden outside of China.

On October 9 Mr. Vrugtman returned to Canada.

Acknowledgements:

The trip to China was made possible through travel grants from the Arts Branch of the Ontario Ministry of Culture and Communications and Royal Botanical Gardens. Without the able assistance of staff and the transportation provided by the Institute of Botany, Academia Sinica, at Beijing, the Jiangsu Institute of Botany at Nanjing, and the Shanghai Botanic Garden, many hours, if not days would have been wasted. Nanjing Botanical Garden Mem. Sun Yat-Sen hosted Mr. Vrugtman for the duration of the short course and hired the interpreter. The CIDA pre-departure China briefing attended in Toronto, without cost, provided invaluable. Last but not least I am grateful to Mr. Leo Wong, artist, of Toronto, who helped in a number of ways, and to Mr. D. Y. Chang, a senior calligrapher, of Willowdale, who kindly wrote the Chinese characters for the three cities of Beijing, Nanjing and Shanghai.

Freek Vrugtman

Photo Credit:

Yu Garden, Shanghai, China: Stefan Fussen, CC BY-SA 3.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons

Lilac Blooming Order and Selection

Mark L. DeBard, MD



'Evangeline'



'Declaration'

While lilac blooming dates vary by location and even in the same location by date, the dates consistently follow a certain number of growing degree days (GDD) for each Series or species.

GDD is directly related to phenology, the cyclic and seasonal study of natural phenomena, especially in relation to climate and plant life, which easily describes blooming order in lilacs. Here is summary information on GDD (Ohio State University Extension at <https://weather.cfaes.osu.edu/gdd/glossary.asp>):

“Growing Degree Days are a measurement of the growth and development of plants...during the growing season. Development does not occur at this time unless the temperature is above a minimum threshold value (base temperature)...a base temperature of 50 degrees Fahrenheit is considered acceptable for all plants...”

GDD can be calculated by several methods and starts on January 1 in the temperate Northern Hemisphere. The simple method has 3 steps:

- Calculate the day's average temperature: $\text{DayAvg} = (\text{DayHigh} + \text{DayLow})/2$
- Subtract the base temperature of 50 from the DayAvg (0 is the minimum).
- Add the result to the previous days total GDD, for the year's total GDD on that date.

Most states have an academic or industry site to calculate this for you. In Ohio, it is at: <https://weather.cfaes.osu.edu/gdd/default.asp>

You can't accurately predict a specific type of lilac bloom date even in the same locale unless you use the GDD (and even the GDD has some limitations). Here is a chart to confirm this, in which the average first blooming date of each lilac category (with my latest 3 year average first bloom GDD shown in the column headers) shows highly variable GDD's by year. This shows that average starting bloom dates are unreliable predictors.

**GDD West Worthington, Ohio by Year and Lilac Category
Average Starting Date**

Year	Hyacinthiflora 4/17 (3 yr GDD 210)	Chinensis 4/19 (3 yr GDD 225)	Vulgaris 4/23 (3 yr GDD 246)	Pubescentes 5/09 (GDD 3 yr 348)	Villosae 5/21 (GDD 3 yr 468)
2022	175	175	214	344	578
2021	258	269	274	404	545
2020	179	182	193	287	407
2019	168	189	214	368	490
2018	120	122	139	303	553
2017	291	321	354	475	660
2016	213	241	281	401	499
2015	167	193	204	393	569
2014	127	141	174	322	484
2013	164	194	211	388	586
2012	349	367	385	599	769
2011	126	138	157	257	380
2010	260	266	297	475	611
2009	180	199	210	418	544
2008	140	160	209	375	449
2007	220	226	271	462	616
2006	193	211	260	398	470
2005	176	209	235	310	435
2004	76	95	110	181	297
2003	228	252	277	464	596
2002	235	281	291	408	478
20 Year Average	194	213	237	384	522

GDD information from Ohio State University Extension at: <https://weather.cfaes.osu.edu/gdd/summary.asp>



'Duplex'



'Lover's Spell'

Past lilac blooming dates can be used as a reasonable guide to the future for 2 or 3 years in the future but are at best rough guides. In Columbus, Ohio, *S. ×hyacinthiflora* average start dates for the last 4 years were 4/10, 4/19, 4/22, and 4/23, a 2 week range. In Des Moines, Iowa, bloom dates for the last 12 years have ranged from March 30 in 2012 to May 7 in 2011 (Ewing Park press release data).

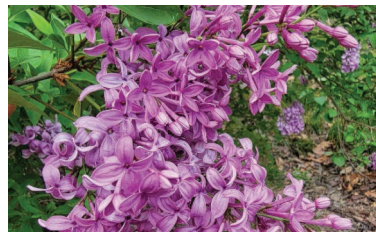
The advantage of GDD is a much more precise estimate; the disadvantage is that it is predictable only about 2-4 weeks in advance as it depends on that year's spring weather, and that prediction could be off if the predicted weather changes significantly.

Within each Series or species, individual taxons or cultivars tend to have a recurrent phenological blooming order. Generally, taxons or cultivars can be grouped into early, middle and late seasons within their own Series or species. This information can enable intelligent choices of cultivars to extend the blooming season within each Series or species. It also allows for planning for pictures and cuttings reproduction.

Below are tables for the last 3 years for 103 different lilacs from my personal garden in Columbus Ohio. Note that the Ligustrina (tree lilacs) are excluded due to low numbers. Starting and ending date ranges and medians are indicated, along with GDD starting and ending ranges and medians.



'Spokane'



'Lilac Sunday'

HYACINTHIFLORA & OBLATA	2020	2021	2022	Average
Season Start(mdd)	408-509	405-426	404-504	406-503
Start Median (mdd)	419	410	423	417
Season End (mdd)	503-524	430-519	509-519	504-521
End Median (mdd)	517	508	514	513
Days Duration	11-38	17-42	16-36	15-38
Days Median	25	28	22	25
GDD Start	129-293	150-281	125-311	135-195
GDD Start Median	182	230	214	210
GDD End			344-529	344-529
GDD End Median			422	422

CHINENSIS, PERSICA, LACINIATA	2020	2021	2022	Average
Season Start(mdd)	414-424	408-425	415-428	412-426
Start Median (mdd)	419*	412*	426	419
Season End (mdd)	516-520	503-508	512-515	510-514
End Median (mdd)	518*	506*	514	513
Days Duration	23-37	9-31	17-31	16-33
Days Median	30*	25*	18	24
GDD Start	179-199	199-279	172-253	183-244
GDD Start Median	189*	240	250	225
GDD End			400-467	100-467
GDD End Median			444	444
* = average due to low numbers				

VULGARIS	2020	2021	2022	Average
Season Start(mdd)	419-514	405-429	409-505	411-505
Start Median (mdd)	429	414	424	423
Season End (mdd)	513-524	502-528	510-521	508-524
End Median (mdd)	522	513	514	516
Days Duration	9-34	15-49	14-34	13-39
Days Median	20	28	22	23
GDD Start	167-371	150-336	129-316	148-341
GDD Start Median	236	252	249	246
GDD End			362-578	362-578
GDD End Median			482	482

PUBESCENTES	2020	2021	2022	Average
Season Start(mdd)	422-521	418-514	426-513	422-516
Start Median (mdd)	516	502	508	509
Season End (mdd)	522-604	512-530	515-527	516-531
End Median (mdd)	528	523	522	526
Days Duration	9-27	11-30	10-24	10-27
Days Median	15	20	14	16
GDD Start	190-441	263-425	250-422	234-429
GDD Start Median	348	363	333	348
GDD End			467-662	467-662
GDD End Median			591	591

VILLOSAE	2020	2021	2022	Average
Season Start(mdd)	518-525	504-523	509-520	511-523
Start Median (mdd)	524	517	516	521
Season End (mdd)	604-607	521-608	525-603	527-606
End Median (mdd)	607	602	529	602
Days Duration	11-18	11-26	8-21	22-Oct
Days Median	16	18	16	17
GDD Start	314-522	392-568	344-554	350-548
GDD Start Median	468	449	482	468
GDD End			629-809	629-809
GDD End Median			720	720

Cultivar and taxon order of blooming is arbitrarily divided by Series and species into early (yellow), middle (green) and late (blue), as indicated in the below tables. Within each color, they are listed from early to later blooming dates.



'Nadezhda'



'Wonderblue'

Series and Species Blooming Period:

yellow=early	green=middle	blue=late
Hyacinthiflora and Oblata 2022	Chinensis, Persica, Laciniata 2022	Vulgaris 2022 (part 1)
Evangeline	Duplex Chinensis	Kosmos
Excel	Lilac Sunday	Spokane
Sweetheart	Red Rothomagensis	Lourene Wishart
Royal Purple	laciniata	Fiala Remembrance
SMNSHBBL (Scentara Double Blue)	Persian	President Grevy
Esther Staley		Spring Parade
Mount Baker		Miss Ellen Willmott
Lavender Lady		Glacier
Maiden's Blush		Margaret Fenicchia
Declaration		Lois Ameer Utley
Purple Haze		P.P. Konchalovski
Sister Justina		Silver King
Blanche Sweet		Nadezdha
Pocahontas		Monge
Rosie Beach Party		Atheline Wilbur
Betsy Ross		Charles Joly
Lover's Spell		Marie Frances
Asissippi		Frederick Law Olmsted
Snowy Beach Party		Gortenziya
Cheyenne		Monique Lemoine
Daisy Wolcott		L'Oncle Tom
Purple Glory		Cora Lyden
Vulgaris 2022 (part 2)	Pubescens 2022	Villosae 2022
Avalanche	Superba	wolfii
BILTZ	Pink Perfume Bloomerang	Alexander's Pink
Paul Thirion	MORjos 060F (Josee)	Anna Amhoff
Znamya Lenina (Banner of Lenin)	Colby's Wishing Star	josikaea
Firmament	Foxy Lady	Bellicent
Agincourt Beauty	Karen	villosa

Sesquicentennial	Red Pixie	Julia
Andenken an Ludwig Spaeth	Garlizabar (Be Right Back)	James McFarlane
Primrose	Hers	Ainola
Flower City	SMNSDTP (Baby Kim™)	Elaine
Common Purple	SMNJRPU (Blooming dwarf purple)	Minuet
Prairie Petite	Yuki-usagi	Kum-Bum white
General Sheridan	Shishi	Kum-Bum (violet)
Albert F. Holden	Bailbelle (Tinkerbelle)	Royalty
Etna	Senkohanabi	Lark Song
President Lincoln	Miss Kim	Floreal
Triste Barbaro	Palibin	komarowii
Yankee Doodle	George Eastman	Miss Canada
Wonderblue	Pink flower Select (Dream Cloud)	Donald Wyman
Miss Ellen Willmott	Jeflady (Little Lady)	Nocturne
Croix de Brahy	JN Upright Select (Violet Uprising)	Rosea yunnanensis
Gismonda	Korean pubescens pubescens (meyeri)	

Assembling a lilac collection should involve choosing at least one lilac from the 3 blooming periods of each of the 5 Series or species to prolong the season of each. Within those 14 (there are no late chinensis, though Duplex lasts from early to late) categories, one would then choose based on flower form and color.

Of course, this does not take into consideration other factors, such as mature size, frost resistance, variegation, powdery mildew resistance, leaf disease resistance, and autumn leaf color. These additional considerations, were enough data available, would lead to a list of the



'Bailbelle'



'Colby's Wishing Star'



'George Eastman'

best cultivars and taxons for a lilac collection.

My personal collection that has bloomed for at least 3 years is shown here and was assembled from available sources over 7 years, which can be done by anyone. Here are my choices from them if I were forced to pick just one lilac from each of the 14 categories, and considering my personal knowledge of the additional factors mentioned above:

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Evangeline | 8. Wonderblue |
| 2. Declaration | 9. Colby's Wishing Star |
| 3. Lover's Spell | 10. Bailbelle |
| 4. Duplex | 11. George Eastman |
| 5. Lilac Sunday | 12. Anna Amhoff |
| 6. Spokane | 13. Minuet |
| 7. Nadezhda | 14. Miss Canada |

These fourteen are featured in pictures taken by me in my garden this year scattered throughout this article.

If I were allowed to pick at most two more from each category, I would add these:

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Sweetheart | 11. Albert F. Holden |
| 2. Royal Purple | 12. Yankee Doodle |
| 3. Maiden's Blush | 13. Red Pixie |
| 4. Pocahontas | 14. Hers |
| 5. Purple Glory | 15. Korean (S. meyeri) |
| 6. Laciniata | 16. Alexander's Pink |
| 7. Persian | 17. Kum-Bum |
| 8. Spring Parade | 18. Royalty |
| 9. Atheline Wilbur | 19. Donald Wyman |
| 10. Marie Frances | |

These 36 available lilacs should form the heart of anyone's collection in North America.



'Anna Amhoff'



'Minuet'



'Miss Canada'

2023 ILS Convention

The convention will be held from May 25 to May 27, 2023 in Princeton, Minnesota, USA. A great many of our members were really interested in having a convention in Minnesota to be able to visit Kelly Applegate's extensive private labeled lilac collection. Your wish has been granted and we will be spending most of one day visiting the collection and having time to exchange with other members, which we seldom have the time to do. Further details will be published in upcoming issues.

See you all in Minnesota!

Claire Fouquet and Mark DeBard, Convention Co-Chairs

Convention Update

2024 - Oldenburg, Germany hosted by Elke Haas

2025 - Kent/Akron, Ohio hosted by Robert Zavodny



Kelly Applegate's garden

2022 Rochester Convention Recap

After several years of anticipation, it finally happened—our 50th Anniversary Convention. The get together was smaller than expected as there was still some Covid apprehension. Those who did attend experienced long overdue camaraderie and peak bloom at Highland Park. The plant auction was our most successful ever making \$6,895, and the silent auction brought in another \$855. The bidding on two very small starts of the lilac Marcie Merlot raised \$635. Marcie Merlot was hybridized by Robert Hoepfl and named after his wife. Robert initially started the planning for this convention but unfortunately passed before it's fruition. I would like to thank Marcia Hoepfl and her family for their assistance and support with organizing the convention. And of course, a huge thank you to all the donors and bidders for making this convention so financially successful.

Signing off as Convention Chair,

Karen McCauley



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S v 'Monge'
Photo by Kitty Werner UVMHF

