

Lilacs

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of the International Lilac Society

IN
THIS
ISSUE:

In Memoriam:
Reva Ballreich



*The Lola and Milton Flack Lilac Collection at Maxwell
Arboretum of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Photo Credit Emily Levine*



*A specimen of *Syringa vulgaris* 'Snow Showers'
at the Lola and Milton Flack Lilac Collection
Photo Credit Emily Levine*

Table of Contents

President's Message.....	39
European Newsletter.....	41
Editor's Notes.....	43
Reva Ballreich: In Memoriam.....	44
Reva, Grande Dame of Lilacs and Piano, Passes.....	46
Remembering Reva Ballreich.....	48
Our Friendship with Reva.....	49
Named Selections of Reva Ballreich.....	49
Lilacs in Honor of Reva Ballreich.....	49
Convention Notes	
Convention Agenda.....	50
ILS 2009 Tentative List of <i>Syringa</i> for Auction.....	51
<i>Syringa</i> at the Central Experimental Farm.....	52
Cultivar versus Variety.....	57
How do Plants Get Their Names?.....	58
From the Registrar's Desk	
Corrections to a Popular Lilac Book.....	59
<i>Syringa oblata</i> 'Giraldii'-old name, new perspective.....	60
Do you have <i>Syringa afghanica</i> growing in your collection?.....	63
Who has the Real 'Susan B. Anthony'?.....	65
Lola and Milton Flack Lilac Collection.....	66
Member Section	
In the Names of Lilacs.....	69
New Members.....	74
Reva Ballreich 1925 - 2009	

*Front Cover: Reva Ballreich standing in front of 'Dwight D. Eisenhower' at the Petersons' Meadowlark Hill in Ogallala, NE in 1993.
Photo Credit Jeff Peterson*

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President's Message

Dear Lilac Aficionados,

It smells like spring I'm telling you. The birds are working diligently building nests. The temperatures are still down but here in Virginia, USA the gardeners are beginning to reappear doing chores in their gardens in preparation for spring. My ornamental grasses are being cut and I can see a few green blades peeking out of the grass stumps. The buds on the trees are visible and I already have daffodils blooming; one of those old varieties, the name forgotten, that was planted long before I came to live in this hundred year old house.

Spring is coming for sure. I know some of you who live in very cold regions have a longer wait for this annual ritual to begin. But patience; it will come and fill you with good feelings.

The Lilacs are showing their buds too. I decree that this year is going to be the "Year of the Lilac". What better time to dedicate this season to Reva Ballreich? A concert pianist of great talent, she embraced lilacs upon her retirement from the stage; unable to play because injury to her hands caused by the multiple hours of practice. She planted a huge number of lilacs in her garden in Idyllwild, CA USA. Some eight hundred thirty seven cultivars filled the land of her family home. Each year she opened her garden for all to view her lilac collection. She was known in the community as The Lilac Lady. In 1992 she became president of ILS. She took over the reins of our society enthusiastically moving it forward. Recognized for her lilac garden designs, she was asked to design the garden at Will Rogers' birthplace. There she planted only American lilacs, saluting his heritage. At the garden at the base of the Statue of Liberty she used magenta, white and blue lilacs to approximate the colors of the American and French flags. One of her friends, longtime ILS member Bill Horman, quoted her as saying "I want to make sure that everyone in ILS knows, that the greatest honor in my lifetime, was to serve as ILS president." Reva Ballreich will be missed. Gary Parton, a close friend of Reva, sent me an envelope full of newspaper articles about her. She lived a rich life gathering praises as a pianist from the like of pianist Valdimir Horowitz. Miss Ballreich was my most talented student... were his words. She performed under the baton of Leonard Bernstein at the New York Philharmonic in Lincoln Center. Traveling extensively she spread the word about lilacs advising private and public gardens and collecting lilacs. Yes she was "The Lilac Lady", The Grande Dame of Lilacs!

It is time to make arrangements to go to the ILS Convention May 28-30 in Ottawa, Canada. I hope that many of you are planning to attend. Joan Speirs and the Friends of the Farm have worked very hard to welcome us. Registra-

tion and the hotel information plus the program can be found in the Winter Issue 2009 of Lilacs. I like to see many of you there. Our speaker for the Saturday banquet is no other than Charles Holetich. Come and learn about the lilacs in Serbia. Remember last years convention in Minnesota, USA? The lilacs did not bother to bloom for us, except for one that is. But surprise of surprises we all had a fantastic time. The camaraderie warmed the cold air and we shared a wonderful time basking in lilac talk and all other things lilac. So mès amis do not miss this convention and the opportunity to be with your friends and all things lilacs...

I went to France in December and I visited the places of my childhood. I wanted to pay a visit to the lilacs I remember. High-rises and parking lots replaced the old landscape. Gone were all the lilacs... A visit to my school-teacher, who is now eighty-eight, and lives in the small village of Epone about thirty kilometers from Paris, brought a pleasant surprise. Madame Pichot has a big old lilac in her garden. The house was her in-laws and she said the lilac was there ever since she can remember. It blooms every year. It is snuggling against the stone wall in one corner of the garden. It is mauve she said and smells so good. Going from one small village to the next looking at century old churches I did see lilacs in the cemeteries and peering over walls of tiny private gardens. So all is not lost. It is just that lilacs are not growing wild like in years past. A visit to the Chateau de Versailles produced no lilacs. For sure I thought lilacs were growing around Marie Antoinette's Hameau, her private farm where she liked to play..

So our mission continues to be 'A Lilac In Every Garden The World Over'.

Let's make this year a year of remembrance for Reva Ballreich and let us celebrate the Year of the Lilacs by planting lilacs wherever you are. Take a cue from Tatiana Poliakova. She is promoting Lilacs so well that Moscow is being transformed into Lilac City. Thank you for your great efforts Tatiana. Thank you to all the members who volunteer to help ILS remain relevant and vibrant.

I will see you in Ottawa! I look forward to it. Until then think about the next place you are going to plant that very special lilac. Spring is just around the corner and soon we will rejoice in seeing our favorite of favorite shrub bloom and perfume the air.

*Amities,
Nicole Jordan, ILS President
NJordan236@aol.com*

European Newsletter.

In my last Newsletter I suggested that I would close ILS-Europe at the end of January, but the Edition was not circulated until after that date. Thus, I will accept dues in Sterling or Euros until the end of May and then balance the books with Bill, Warren and Karen. After that date, dues renewal must be as indicated inside the back cover of the Journal.

Today, I reverentially, and with great respect, pruned and tended a lilac I had previously neglected. It was one of the seedlings that John Dunbar introduced to Highland Park, Rochester in 1923 as 'President John Adams'. So neglected is this lilac that I do not even have a picture of it to show you. The only thing I can say in my defense is that it is planted alongside the eponymous lilac of someone I loved and treasured as if she were of my own family - 'Pauline Fiala'. My change in attitude results from the showing on British Television of the series "John Adams" which, through a mesmerizing performance by Paul Giamatti, told the story of the man who was the principal advocate for independence, was the first Ambassador to the Netherlands and then to England. He became the first Vice President, the second President, and was also the father of the sixth President. The series was full of incident, of reflection, and of searing philosophical analyses. It was quite simply one of the greatest film biographies I have ever seen. It left me with the yearning that the people concerned would also tackle the life of President Lincoln.

So, what has this to do with lilacs? Just believe that a lilac is more than a flower. Like the rose it defines a colour and has a history that is bound with our existence as human beings. It is part of our social history. I am getting old, but there are two venues that I would dearly love to attend as conventions. The first is Claremore, Oklahoma - for reasons I will elaborate at the end of this article. The other is the National Arboretum in Washington DC, provided some kind friend with a vehicle would drive me to two places I also want to experience. The first is the pack-horse bridge over Antietam Creek, so that I can pay my respects to the casualties in the Civil War. The other is so that I can stand close to the spot at Gettysburg where Lincoln redefined, in a final and absolutely conclusive way, the very concept of democracy.

So, God Bless you 'President John Adams' for bringing all this into my mind. I usually end this column by describing a lilac. If you flower in the coming season then in the Summer Edition I will feature you, plus all the other Dunbar seedlings that come out to support you. This means, of course, that this will not now be the final European Newsletter as promised. I will keep ILS-Europe open until after that Summer Edition.

So what should I close with now? As it happens, there is one remarkable lilac I have not mentioned before. It is remarkable because ever since Charles

Holetich sent me a scion of it in 1992, it has lived in a pot. It is early flowering and is vulnerable to our late frosts, so it is kept in a tub by the front door of the house to collect any leaked warmth from the house on a frosty night. In a half-metre tub, it now stands twelve feet high (3.5 m) and flowers so prolifically that it has been featured twice in gardening magazines. *Syringa xhyacinthiflora* 'Pink Cloud', Clarke, California, 1947.

It is indeed a pink cloud that hovers against the straw thatched roof attracting admirers for both its presence and its mode of growth. I have yet to meet anyone who has seen such a lilac in a tub. I am not going to describe this one, I am simply going to let you see it in its glorious and majestic presence. It is one of the constant stars of the collection here, yet the two I have planted outside, have not survived.

Finally, I have to say that I am much moved by the passing of Past President Reva Ballreich. I will leave the formal tribute to her to people who were closer. I first met her, and her daughter Karla, at the convention in Lombard, IL in 1991. She was one of the members there who simply swamped me with their knowledge (but who also had no idea of just how fast I was able to learn). We met frequently after that, often meeting at venues other than convention sites. Eventually, in 1996, at the Poughkeepsie convention, Reva presented me with the President's Award. She should not have done so because that award is for collections only, but on that occasion she presented it to me. However, that was not her greatest gift to me. After meeting her once at Highland Park, I happened to mention in the Journal how taken I was by my first sight of *S. vulgaris*. 'Jean Mace' with "a double floret like a punk on a bad hair day". Later that year, an anonymous package arrived with scions of that lilac, with a mysterious postmark of "Idyllwild".

But not even that was her greatest gift to me. My childhood had been hijacked by the Blitz and the Second World War. Immediately after that war our lives were brightened by two American musicals. The first was "Annie Get Your Gun" - a form of which was performed to us by the 12th grade students at my school in 1947. The second was the incredible "Oklahoma!". I cannot describe the impact of this show on our nation just starting its recovery from that war. Its glorious wide-open spaces became part of my psyche that could never be forgotten. In the fullness of time I acquired the book "Broadway" by Brooks Atkinson (Cassel 1970) which told me that the show was derived from a Broadway play called "Green Grow the Lilacs" by one Lynn Riggs. Desperate to know why those lilacs grew "green" I appealed in the Journal for help.

The help came from "guess who?" Reva approached our South Central Regional Vice President L. D. Allison because she knew that Claremore, Oklahoma was the home of Lynn Riggs. A notable citizen of Claremore was the wise-cracking, rope twirling comedian, Will Rogers. Both Reva and Max Peterson had contributed to a lilac collection in the Will Rogers Park, so Reva

called in a favour on my behalf. L.D. sent her a copy of the first night script of "Green Grow the Lilacs" which was performed at the Guild Theatre, New York on Monday evening January 26, 1931. She sent it to me and this remains one of my most precious possessions, and shows why I want to visit that town and be able to thank L.D. personally, and also offer a prayer of thanks to Reva. And I will tell you something. I have watched the film with that script in my hand and have been amazed by how close the film dialogue is to the original dialect words of Lynn Riggs. If you want to know why the lilacs were green, I will tell you on another occasion. For now, Reva is there controlling the arguments and disputes between the Lemoines, Kolesnikov and Fiala about the lilac collection in Heaven. Good luck, my love, and be aware that one day I will join you on your side. Oh yes - one afterthought - can anyone sneak to me a scion of 'Reva Ballreich'?

And there is more! This week, Gary Parton sent me a posthumous gift from her. It is a CD of three of her concert piano performances. I had heard one of them before but had never been able to obtain a copy. Thank You Gary. Thank you Reva. Thank you Lilac World.

*Colin Chapman
Norman's Farm
Wyverstone
Suffolk. UK.
March 5th 2009.*

Editor's Notes

This issue has been dedicated to the memory of one of ILS's most beloved presidents-Reva Ballreich, who passed away on February 8, 2009. We learn from several members and long-time friends what she meant to them personally, and we also learn about her many contributions to the world outside the realm of lilacs. Her many contributions in music and in lilacs will continue to enrich the world for years to come, and she will certainly not be forgotten. As president of ILS from 1992-1997, she spread goodwill throughout the world with the power of her personality, and with her gardener's love of plants; especially lilacs.

Also featured are some lilac cultivars selected by Reva, as well as 2 cultivars that were named in her honor. Photos of 'Idyllwild' and 'Spokane' are found in the color center section, as well as the 2 'Reva Ballreich' cultivars; selected by Max Peterson and Dr. Joel Margaretten.

Those wishing to make a contribution in her memory may make a donation to the International Lilac Society, c/o Karen McCauley, 325 West 82nd St., Chaska, MN 55318-3208; or The Idyllwild Garden Club, c/o Gary Parton, P.O. Box 1647, Idyllwild CA 92549. On the check to the above organizations, make a note that the contribution is in memory of Reva Ballreich.

Reva Ballreich: In Memoriam

I didn't want to write these words because I didn't want to say goodbye to Reva, in fact I was beginning to believe she would see one more season of lilacs in bloom to help her through her difficult days or to guide her on the journey we all must take. Language doesn't convey an accurate enough tribute to and for Reva that will give you the full meaning, depth and scope of who she was. You had to know Reva to realize the wonders of her capacity. Still waters run deep.

I'm not sure why I happened to be placed in the same time connected to International Lilac Society with Reva but that time is a period I will treasure for the remainder of my life. My memory of Reva is a chapter in being and becoming. A flood of adjectives and warmth rekindles memories of what she taught and showed me about leadership, about graciousness, about instilling beauty in our lives; glimpses of Reva's substance-like the flames dancing atop a blazing fire.

I didn't know Reva as an accomplished concert pianist earlier in her life. About a year ago she sent to me a CD recording of Beethoven's Concerto No. 5 for Piano and Orchestra, Opus 73 in E-flat Major rescued from a deteriorating reel tape made long ago at a performance with the Istanbul Symphony Orchestra. (Thank you, Gary for saving Reva's recordings.) Beethoven wrote the opus but Reva instilled it with depth, color, emotion; this same beauty in sound was later transformed in sight with her lilacs. Reva's home was built by her father with a great room overlooking a mountainside that she filled with lilacs planted over a slope plunging 4000 feet in elevation. The lilacs of Idyllwild flower in phases because of the change in elevation. Picture the intricate weaving and cascading of lilacs in bloom; the bold and delicate the stark and subtle; an impressionist painting of a mountain slope bathed in color and fragrance all directed by Reva. Winter snow depth protects them from harsh mountain exposure. Father Fiala knew that his life's work would thrive when he entrusted his entire collection to Reva near the end of his life. Thrive they do. Reva insured that Father's lilac collection would continue to thrive when declining health prodded her to leave her beloved mountain.

How is it that Reva arrived at the right time and place to rekindle the life spirit of International Lilac Society? In something of a stalemate, the society ebbed as the founding generation passed. Reva took the Presidency with direction, dignity and stateliness. I'm sure her energy pervaded others just as it germinated in me. Reva overrode the critique of being a woman in a heretofore male society. The remaining founders became mentors as Reva's gifted leadership was stead by example. Always soft spoken with deliberate words, Reva exuded wisdom. Our many hours of conversation brought focus, conviction, respect, loyalty and friendship. I believe also that our ragtag society rejuvenated Reva's

life force, giving it an outlet of lilacs that she thankfully shared with many. Reva's eye for lilacs selected several specimens that she named including *Syringa vulgaris* 'Karla', *S. 'Spokane'* and *S. vulgaris* 'Idyllwild'.

Lilac articles command the spring edition of many garden publications. I was just getting my feet on the ground as Membership Secretary when, Reva published an article in *Country Woman* magazine about her lilacs in Idyllwild. The response was immediate and consistent all season long as more than 500 letters inquiring about every aspect of Reva's article arrived to my Holden Arboretum address. Reva's demeanor was a calming agent as I began to feel the fear of failure. Overwhelmed at the time because I couldn't respond to the flood of letters, Reva welcomed the parcel of mail I sent to her which insured that every letter was answered. ILS gained about thirty new members and Reva single handedly started what I saw as a revival of the lilac in American gardening. I continued to receive inquires years after the publish date when worn copies of that *Country Woman* issue still lay in doctors' offices. I realized after subsequent years of seeing other lilac articles in spring issues of gardening magazines that Reva's article was special and unique by touching a cord in the soul, igniting a flame in the spirit; something a person must possess in order to give or project such qualities.

Reva was true to the presidency for International Lilac Society, even being afforded as the Grand Dame of Honor in the Spokane, Washington lilac parade. I recall her now beaming so proud and regal in the back seat of that elegant open top finned Cadillac with every aspect perfectly glossed. The scene repeated in the back of the horse drawn carriage for the most renowned Lilac Festival Parade on Mackinac Island several years later. Reva gave International Lilac Society a pre-eminent stature and respect that can only be earned. I felt compelled to add "President Emeritus" to Reva's mailing label after she left the Presidency; something which Reva recognized as much as her ILS bestowed awards. Bill Horman reminded me that I accepted the ILS Honor and Achievement award for Reva at the Omaha conference. Telling me that I spoke from my heart when I accepted it, I only wish Reva could have heard my acceptance as I would have handed her the award with a gracious hug.

I had a standing invitation to visit Reva's home in Idyllwild and unfortunately during the only occasion when I was in southern California, Idyllwild was deep in snow and passage up the slope was impossible even with chains on the vehicle. The Descanso ILS convention was a wonderful learning experience about commercially produced lilacs for the cut flower market. Seeing Reva on her home turf showed me another layer of the respect she was given. Nothing but the highest praise was spoken of her. All the organizers and many others were mindful of Reva's declining endurance as the convention progressed but she pushed herself attending to every detail. Thanks in great part to Reva's

attention of detail, organization and direction, the Descanso convention stands as one of the greater successes for ILS. I toured Descanso Gardens where I first met *Syringa vulgaris* 'Reva Ballreich'. Anyone can designate a plant with their own name but to be given that honor by a peer speaks volumes. Max Peterson's introduction is truly worthy of Reva's namesake and I have every intention to add a specimen to Lake View Cemetery's lilac collection where I can be reminded of Reva's presence.

From the names that plants speak, Reva holds the highest esteem in having a second common lilac named in her honor by Joel Margaretten. Only General John Pershing of World War I fame holds such a parallel. Reva truly was a godsend who came to show those of us lucky to know her how to appreciate life's beauty.

*In Memoriam,
David Gressley
Former Membership Secretary*

Many thanks to Marshall Smith and the editor of the Idyllwild Town Crier, who allowed the reprinting of the following tribute, which originally appeared in Vol. 64 No. 8 issue of the Idyllwild Town Crier on Thursday, February 19, 2009.

Reva, grande dame of lilacs and piano, passes

On Sunday, Feb. 8, 2009, Reva Ballreich, widely known as "The Lilac Lady," died peacefully in Rancho Mirage at the age of 84, three days after her birthday.

A piano prodigy who gave her first concert in Germany at age 8, Ballreich enjoyed a luminous career as a concert pianist primarily in Europe. Vladimir Horowitz, with whom Ballreich studied, said of her, "Miss Ballreich was my most talented student. The beauty of her playing is not to be found in books or scores. It is the purest God-given talent I have ever known. Many, many times I have been reduced to tears when I have listened to her play."

Ballreich performed with the New York Philharmonic, under the baton of Leonard Bernstein, as a substitute soloist when Russian violinist Peter Chzeryng cancelled because of illness. After 11 curtain calls, the diminutive Ballreich walked off the stage to a standing ovation.

Her international career came to an abrupt halt in 1971, when carpal tunnel

syndrome, developed over years of repetitive practice and performance, forced its end. Ballreich was only 46 at the time.

Ballreich's Idyllwild property had been in the family for 81 years, built by her father in 1928. She retired there in 1982. Friend Gary Parton, commenting on how Ballreich dealt with a sudden end to an illustrious concert career, said, "She turned her intelligence to raising lilacs." Mentored by Idyllwild local Tommy Emanuel, known as "The Lilac King," Ballreich planted her first lilac shrub in Idyllwild shortly after her return. She became a member, and then served as president, of the International Lilac Society, planting, hybridizing, cultivating, and eventually displaying more than 887 lilac cultivars on her property. Each spring, Ballreich opened her garden to the public – her gift to the community.

Ballreich's expertise in raising lilacs soon eclipsed her fame as a concert pianist. Most online searches turn up Ballreich's fame as a lilac grower and aficionado, and little of her concert career. She designed the lilac garden at the base of the Statue of Liberty, using French lilacs in magenta, white and blue, honoring the flags of both the United States and France, the donor of Miss Liberty. For the garden at Will Roger's Oklahoma birthplace, Ballreich used only American lilacs.

Her Idyllwild garden will bloom again this spring. Even though she will not be there to see it, its beauty will again remind Idyllwild of gifts given the town by this multi-talented and spirited woman.

A memorial service for Reva Ballreich will be held March 14 at the Idyllwild Community Presbyterian Church at 3 p.m. A reception with refreshments follows the service. Ballreich is survived by daughters Julie Boyer and Carla Davis; granddaughter Teresa; and great grandchildren Kyle, Liam and Caitlin.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Idyllwild Garden Club, P.O. Box 681, Idyllwild, CA 92549, or the International Lilac Society, Warren Oakes, Corresponding Secretary, 63 Roak Street, Auburn, ME 04210-6741.

*Marshall Smith
Idyllwild Town Crier
February 19, 2009*

Remembering Reva Ballreich

Remembering Reva is such an emotional state for our family. I may not have a very fancy way of describing her but it comes from the heart.

Joining the ILS back in 1994 if I remember right was the most important thing I had done for a while. I met many people from that date and thereafter that helped forge my destiny. One of them was Reva. She was quite the person; always having positive things to say and encouraging me to increase our cultivars at the nursery. I remember her introducing me to the ILS at a convention when she gave a little talk.

She shared cultivars with Sara and I and pretty much became an adopted mother to our family. She spoke so many times over the years on the phone. When we hosted the 2000 lilac convention in Montreal it was really great. I remember Reva saying after the convention how she put on almost 4 lbs in 3 days because of the food.

In 2002 when Colby was born with Down Syndrome, I was very emotionally affected. She spent some time with me on different calls and a letter that will always keep my head up in life and let me know that there are exceptional people in the world like her who can give hope and encouragement at the right times.

Her dedication to the ILS and lilac genus was a passion and way of life for her. Even last fall when she called me and we spoke for a while on the phone after a long lapse of time, it was like 2 best friends never having spent time apart.

I had the chance to call her back one more time in late fall and we spoke about lilac cultivars and she went over how she enjoyed the book I wrote in French and how her Spanish helped her understand a lot of it.

If there was ever anyone who represented the lilacs as a genus it was Reva. She was so active in getting lilacs in magazines for articles and then later with the California chapter of lilac enthusiasts it was just amazing. She held ILS together in critical times.

Life will never be the same without her around again. Her love for lilacs was 'Until the Last Moment.'

Sara and Frank Moro and our family

Our Friendship with Reva

Our friendship with Reva has blossomed through the years. Our family has made wonderful memories through music and flowers. Max has a degree in Piano Performance, so they always had that music bond between them.

Her time spent in our home at "Lilac Time" in 1993 will always be special. Also, spending time in her lovely Idyllwild garden and mountain home in 1999 brings back such wonderful memories.

Max, Darlene, Jeff and Beth Peterson

Named Selections of Reva Ballreich

Syringa vulgaris 'Idyllwild'- A single, blue lilac selected by Reva reported in *Lilacs* 28(4) and 32(4). The cultivar name was not established, but an excellent picture has been provided courtesy of Knight Hollow Nurseries. The petals appear to be somewhat recurved. This lilac was named after Reva's beloved town of Idyllwild, California, USA.

Syringa 'Spokane'- A beautiful double, pink cultivar that was named in honor of the city of Spokane, Washington, USA. The cultivar name was established and accepted in 1995, and the petals are a medium pink in color, with dark pinkish to pinkish-red buds.

*Kent Millham
March 2009*

Lilacs in honor of Reva Ballreich

Syringa vulgaris 'Reva Ballreich'- Selected by Max Peterson in 1988 in honor of Reva, this cultivar is a seedling of *S. vulgaris* 'Carolyn Mae' crossed with an unknown male parent. The cultivar name was accepted in 1995. It has light pink florets, and is darker in bud.

Syringa vulgaris 'Reva Ballreich'-Joel Margaretten also chose to honor Reva with a named cultivar, and selected a double white form. The cultivar name was not established. 'Mme. Lemoine' was the female parent; which is also a double white. The florets are tightly packed in the inflorescence, and have many individual florets.

*Kent Millham
March 2009*

2009 ILS CONVENTION – TENTATIVE AGENDA

May 28-30, 2009

Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

Thursday May 28

9:00 am – 10 pm Registration at Travelodge

10:00 am – 2 pm Directors' Meeting

2:45 – 6:00 Bus to Parliament Buildings and grounds of the Governor
General's residence for walking tours

7:30 – 11:00 Hospitality

Friday May 29

8:30 am Bus to Franktown "Lilac Capital of Ontario"

10:15 – 11:00 Tour of Franktown's lilacs

11:00 ILS Annual Meeting and lunch at Franktown

1:00 Bus to Ornamental Gardens, Central Experimental Farm (CEF)

2:15 Walk along the lilac rows

3:15 Introduction to the Preston Heritage Collection of lilacs.

Refreshments. Walking tours of lilacs, peonies, irises.

5:00 Bus to hotel

6:30 – 7:00 Cash bar for beer and wine

7:00 President's Dinner. Speaker Mary Pratte "Lilacs and Peonies • a perfect pair".

Charles Holetich's CD of *Syringa* cultivars and species.

Saturday May 30

7:00 – 8:00 am Directors' Meeting

8:30 Bus to CEF

9:00 – 12:00 Talks on Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada research

12:15 Box lunch

1:15 Walking tour of Arboretum

2:30 ILS Auction. Open to public

5:00 Bus to hotel

6:30 – 7:00 Cash bar for beer and wine

7:00 Awards Banquet. Presentation of awards. Speaker Charles Holetich, "Native Habitats of *Syringa vulgaris* in Serbia".

ILS 2009 Tentative List of *Syringa* for Auction

Name	Species	Flower	Originator	Date
'Agnes Smith'	<i>S. xjosiflexa</i>	S I	Rogers	1970
'Albert F. Holden'	<i>S. vulgaris</i>	S II-VII	Fiala	1980
'Alice'	<i>S. xprestoniae</i>	S VII	Preston	1928
'Ami Schott'	<i>S. vulgaris</i>	D III	Lemoine	1933
'Anabel'	<i>S. xhyacinthiflora</i>	D V	Hawkins	1956
'Angel White'	<i>S. xhyacinthiflora</i>	S I	Lammerts	1971
'Asessippi'	<i>S. xhyacinthiflora</i>	S IV	Skinner	1932
'Aucubaefolia'	<i>S. vulgaris</i>	D III*	Gouchault	1919
'Belle de Nancy'	<i>S. vulgaris</i>	D V	Lemoine	1891
'Betsy Ross'	<i>S. oblata</i>	S I	Egolf & Pooler	1992
'Clarke's Giant'	<i>S. xhyacinthiflora</i>	S III	Clarke	1948
'Colby's Wishing Star'	<i>S.</i>	S V	Moro	2003
'Donald Wyman'	<i>S. xprestoniae</i>	S VII	Skinner	1944
'Esther Staley'	<i>S. xhyacinthiflora</i>	S VI	Clarke	1948
'Firmament'	<i>S. vulgaris</i>	S III	Lemoine	1932
'Freedom'	<i>S. xprestoniae</i>	S V	Preston & Leslie	1936
'Isabella'	<i>S. xprestoniae</i>	S IV	Preston	1927
'James Macfarlane'	<i>S. xjosiflexa</i>	S V	Yeager	1959
Josée™	<i>S.</i>	S IV-V	Morel, G.	1974
'Katherine Havemeyer'	<i>S. vulgaris</i>	D V	Lemoine	1922
'Krasavitsa Moskvyy'	<i>S. vulgaris</i>	D I	Kolesnikov	1947
'Kum Bum'	<i>S. (Villosae Group)</i>	S II*	Fiala	1969
'Lilac Sunday'	<i>S. xchinensis</i>	S VII	Alexander, J.H.III	1997
'Lucie Baltet'	<i>S. vulgaris</i>	S V	Baltet	pre 1888
'Maiden's Blush'	<i>S. xhyacinthiflora</i>	S V	Skinner	1966
'Mary Short'	<i>S. xhyacinthiflora</i>	D V	Fiala	1979
'Michel Buchner'	<i>S. vulgaris</i>	D IV	Lemoine	1885
'Miss Canada'	<i>S. (Villosae Group)</i>	S V	Cumming	1967
'Nadezhda'	<i>S. vulgaris</i>	D III-IV	Kolesnikov	pre 1974
'Patricia'	<i>S. xhyacinthiflora</i>	D VI	Preston	pre 1931
'Pocahontas'	<i>S. xhyacinthiflora</i>	S II	Skinner	1935
'Prairie Petite'	<i>S. vulgaris</i>	S VII	Viehmeyer	1998
'Primrose'	<i>S. vulgaris</i>	S I	Maarse Jbzn, G.	1949
'Purple Haze'	<i>S.</i>	S VII	Alexander, J.H.III	2005
'Red Pixie'	<i>S.</i>	S VI-V	Peterson	about 1987
'Sarah Sands'	<i>S. vulgaris</i>	S VII	Havemeyer	1943
'Silver King'	<i>S. vulgaris</i>	S III	Lemke	1941
'Sister Justina'	<i>S. xhyacinthiflora</i>	S I	Skinner	1956
'Spokane'	<i>S.</i>	D V	Ballreich	1995
'Valeria'	<i>S. xprestoniae</i>	S II	Preston	1928

'Windsong'	<i>S. xhyacinthiflora</i>	S V	Fiala	1984
'Wonderblue'	<i>S. vulgaris</i>	S III	Fiala	1989

* variegated and/or golden foliage

Donors of live plants (listed above): Frank Moro, Select Plus International, Québec; Linda Blackman and Bonnie Culp, British Columbia; Boughen Nursery, Manitoba; Myrna Walberg, Québec; and Joan Speirs, Ontario.

Donors of gift vouchers for lilacs: Evie King and Roger Coggeshall, Syringa Plus Nursery, MA; Karen and Tim McCauley, MN.

SYRINGA AT THE CENTRAL EXPERIMENTAL FARM, OTTAWA

S. 'Bailbelle' (TINKERBELLE™)

S. 'Grace Mackenzie'

S. 'Purple Haze'

S. xchinensis

S. xchinensis

'Metensis'

'Saugeana'

S. xdiversifolia

'William H. Judd'

S. emodi

S. xhenryi

'Lutèce'

'Summer White'

S. xhyacinthiflora

'Alice Eastwood'

'Berryer'

'Buffon'

'Charles Nordine'

'Clarke's Giant'

'Doctor Chadwick'

'Evangeline'

'Gertrude Leslie'

'Hyacinthiflora Plena'

'Lavender Lady'

'Maureen'

'Mount Baker'

'Necker'

'Patricia'

'Anabel'

'Blanche Sweet'

'Catinat'

'Churchill'

'Daphne Pink'

'Esther Staley'

'Excel'

'Grace'

'Lamartine'

'Maiden's Blush'

'Montesquieu'

'Muriel'

'Norah'

'Peggy'

'Pink Spray'	'Pocahontas'
'Sunset'	'Turgot'
'Vauban'	'Viscountess Willingdon'
<i>S. xjosiflexa</i>	
'Agnes Smith'	'Bellicent'
'Elaine'	'Guinevere'
'James Macfarlane'	'Lynette'
'Nellie Bean'	'Redwine'
'Royalty'	
<i>S. josikaea</i>	
<i>S. komarowii</i>	
<i>S. komarowii</i> subsp. <i>reflexa</i>	
<i>S. meyeri</i> 'Palibin'	
<i>S. oblata</i>	
<i>S. oblata</i> subsp. <i>dilatata</i>	
<i>S. palibiniana</i> var. <i>hamibayashii</i>	
<i>S. pekinensis</i>	
<i>S. xpersica</i>	
<i>S. xprestoniae</i>	
'Adriana'	'Alice'
'Audrey'	'Basia'
'Beacon'	'Caliban'
'Calphurnia'	'Charmian'
'Constance'	'Coral'
'Danusia'	'Dawn'
'Desdemona'	'Diana'
'Donald Wyman'	'Dorcas'
'Elinor'	'Francisca'
'Freedom'	'Goplana'
'Handel'	'Hecla'
'Helen'	'Hiawatha'
'Isabella'	'Jaga'
'Jagienka'	'Juliet'
'Katharina'	'Lavinia'
'Nerissa'	'Nike'
'Nocturne'	'Oberon'
'Olivia'	'Patience'
'Portia'	'Regan'
'Romeo'	'Silvia'
'Telimena'	'Titania'
'Ursula'	'Valeria'
'Virgilia'	'W.T. Macoun'
<i>S. pubescens</i> subsp. <i>julianae</i>	
'George Eastman'	'Hers'

- S. pubescens* subsp. *microphylla*
 'Superba'
- S. pubescens* subsp. *patula*
S. pubescens subsp. *patula*
 'Cinderella'
 'Miss Kim'
- S. reticulata*
S. reticulata
 'Chantilly Lace'
 'Ivory Silk'
- S. reticulata* subsp. *amurensis*
S. xswegiflexa 'Fountain'
S. sweginzowii
S. sweginzowii 'Superba'
- S. tomentella*
S. villosa
S. villosa 'Dr Bretschneider'
- S.* (Villosae Group)
 'Alexander's Aristocrat' 'Ethel M. Webster'
 'Ferna Alexander' 'Hedin'
 'Hunting Tower' 'Minuet'
 'Miss Canada' 'Mrs J. Herbert Alexander'
 'Pallens'
- S. vulgaris*
S. vulgaris
 'A.B. Lamberton' 'Adelaide Dunbar'
 'Agincourt Beauty' 'Alba Grandiflora'
 'Albert F. Holden' 'Alexander Hamilton'
 'Ami Schott' 'Andenken an Ludwig Späth'
 'Anne Shiach' 'Arthur William Paul'
 'Astra' 'Atheline Wilbur'
 'Aucubaefolia' 'Avalanche'
 'Azurea Plena' 'Banquise'
 'Belle de Nancy' 'Boule Azurée'
 'Bright Centennial' 'Calvin C. Laney'
 'Capitaine Baltet' 'Capitaine Perrault'
 'Charles Baltet' 'Charles Joly'
 'Charles X' 'Christophe Colomb'
 'City of Gresham' 'City of Longview'
 'Comte Adrien de Montebello' 'Comte de Kerchove'
 'Comte Horace de Choiseul' 'Condorcet'
 'Congo' 'Crépuscule'
 'Croix de Brahy' 'Decaisne'
 'De Saussure' 'Diplomate'

'Docteur Charles Jacobs'	'Downfield'
'Doyen Keteleer'	'Dr Lindley'
'Dr von Regel'	'Duc de Massa'
'Edith Cavell'	'Edmond About'
'Edward J. Gardner'	'Ekenholm'
'Engler Weisser Traum'	'Erzherzog Johann'
'Ethiopia'	'Etna'
'Etoile de Mai'	'Frank Paterson'
'Fritz'	'General John Pershing'
'General Kitchener'	'General Sherman'
'Georges Bellair'	'G.J. Baardse'
'Godron'	'Heavenly Blue'
'Henri Martin'	'Henry Wadsworth Longfellow'
'Hippolyte Maringer'	'Hugo Koster'
'Jacques Callot'	'Jean Macé'
'Jeanne d'Arc'	'Johan Mensing'
'Jonkheer G.F. van Tets'	'Julien Gérardin'
'Katherine Havemeyer'	'Kingsville'
'Komsomolka'	'Königin Luise'
'Kosmos'	'Krasavitsa Moskvya'
	(BEAUTY OF MOSCOW)
'Lady Lindsay'	'La Tour d'Auvergne'
'León Gambetta'	'Le Printemps'
'Linné'	'Lucelle'
'Macrostachya'	'Madame Charles Souchet'
'Madeleine Lemaire'	'Maréchal Foch'
'Maréchal Lannes'	'Marengo'
'Margot Grunewald'	'Marie Legraye'
'Marlyensis Pallida'	'Masséna'
'Maud Notcutt'	'Maurice de Vilmorin'
'McMaster Centennial'	'Mechta'
'Michel Buchner'	'Midwest Gem'
'Miss Ellen Willmott'	'Mme Abel Chatenay'
'Mme Antoine Buchner'	'Mme Casimir Périer'
'Mme Florent Stepman'	'Mme F. Morel'
'Mme Kreuter'	'Mme Lemoine'
'Mme Léon Simon'	'Monge'
'Mons. Léon Mathieu'	'Mons. Lepage'
'Mons. Maxime Cornu'	'Mons. Van Aerschot'
'Montaigne'	'Mont Blanc'
'Mrs Calvin Coolidge'	'Mrs Edward Harding'
'Mrs H.J. Cran'	'Mrs Watson Webb'
'Mrs W.E. Marshall'	'Nadezhda'
'Obélisque'	'Olivier de Serres'

'Paul Deschanel'	'Perle von Stuttgart'
'Pierre Joigneaux'	'Pink Dan'
'Pinkie'	'Pink Mist'
'Planchon'	'Pom Pom'
'Porcelain Blue'	'P. P. Konchalovski'
'Prairie Petite'	'Président Carnot'
'Président Fallières'	'Président Grévy'
'President Lincoln'	'Président Loubet'
'Président Poincaré'	'President Roosevelt'
'Président Viger'	'Primrose'
'Prince Impérial'	'Prince Notger'
'Princess Alexandra'	'Princesse Camille de Rohan'
'Princesse Clémentine'	'Prinzessin Klotilde'
'Priscilla'	'Prodige'
'Professor Sargent'	'Redbud'
'Ruhm von Horstenstein'	'Sarah Sands'
'Sensation'	'Silver King'
'Slater's Elegance'	'Souvenir de Simone'
'Spectabilis'	'St Joan'
'St Margaret'	'Sweetheart'
'Thunberg'	'Tombouctou'
'Toussaint-Louverture'	'Vestale'
'Victor Lemoine'	'Violet Glory'
'Viviand-Morel'	'Weddle'
'Wedgwood Blue'	'William Robinson'
'William S. Riley'	'Woodland Blue'
'W.T. Lee'	'Yankee Doodle'
'Znamya Lenina'	

S. vulgaris var. *alba*

S. vulgaris var. *purpurea*

S. wolfii

S. yunnanensis



*Syringa 'Spokane', a selection of Reva Ballreich
Photo Courtesy of Knight Hollow Nursery- Deb McCown*



Syringa vulgaris 'Idyllwild', selection of Reva Ballreich
Photo Courtesy of Deb McCown



Syringa vulgaris 'Reva Ballreich'
double pink selection of Max Peterson
Photo Courtesy of Deb McCown



Syringa vulgaris 'Reva Ballreich'
double white selection of Dr. Joel Margaretten
Photo Credit Bruce Peart

The following article originally appeared in the February 6, 2008 edition of *Horticulture & Home Pest News*; a publication of Iowa State University Extension.

Cultivar versus Variety

As a horticulturist, it is important that I use the right terms the right way (at least most of the time). Variety and cultivar are two terms often abused by gardeners and horticulturists. What's the difference, you ask? Quite a lot.

Both are part of the scientific name. Both appear after the specific epithet (second term in a scientific name). Both refer to some unique characteristic of a plant. However, this is where many of the similarities end.

Varieties often occur in nature and most varieties are true to type. That means the seedlings grown from a variety will also have the same unique characteristic of the parent plant. For example, there is a white flowering redbud that was found in nature. Its scientific name is *Cercis canadensis* var. *alba*. The varietal term "alba" means white. If you were to germinate seed from this variety, most if not all would also be white flowering.

Cultivars are not necessarily true to type. In fact cultivar means "cultivated variety"; therefore, a cultivar was selected and cultivated by humans. Some cultivars originate as sports or mutations on plants. Other cultivars could be hybrids of two plants. To propagate true-to-type clones, many cultivars must be propagated vegetatively through cuttings, grafting, and even tissue culture. Propagation by seed usually produces something different than the parent plant.

Varieties and cultivars also have differently naming conventions. A variety is always written in lower case and italicized. It also often has the abbreviation "var." for variety preceding it. The first letter of a cultivar is capitalized and the term is never italicized. Cultivars are also surrounded by single quotation marks (never double quotation marks) or preceded by the abbreviation "cv.". For an example of a cultivar of redbud, consider *Cercis canadensis* 'Forest Pansy' (or *Cercis canadensis* cv. Forest Pansy) which has attractive dark purple spring foliage and pinkish-purple flowers.

Can a plant have both a variety and a cultivar? Sure. One good example is Sunburst Honeylocust. Its scientific name is *Gleditsia triacanthos* var. *inermis* 'Sunburst'. The term "inermis" means without thorns and "Sunburst" refers to the bright golden spring leaf color.

In today's world of horticulture, cultivars are planted and used more than varieties. Yet we often still refer to a type of plant species as a variety instead of what is actually is a cultivar. Let's kick off the New Year by being more accurate and start using the term cultivar.

By Cindy Haynes, Department of Horticulture
Iowa State University

HOW DO PLANTS GET THEIR NAMES?

Find some of the answers on the internet.

HORTAX, the Horticultural Taxonomy Group, was formed in 1988. It is a small working group of plant taxonomists and horticulturists based in the British Isles with a professional interest in the classification and nomenclature of cultivated plants. Currently (2009) HORTAX has twelve members; its website can be found at <http://www.hortax.org.uk>

Members of the group have published several articles, some of which will be of interest to the readers of this Journal.

The Names of Garden Plants - a brief outline of how cultivated plants are named. <http://www.hortax.org.uk/gardenplants/index.html>

Plant Names - a guide for horticulturists, nurserymen, gardeners and students. <http://www.hortax.org.uk/plantnames/pdf/booklet.pdf>

Trademarks are not Names.

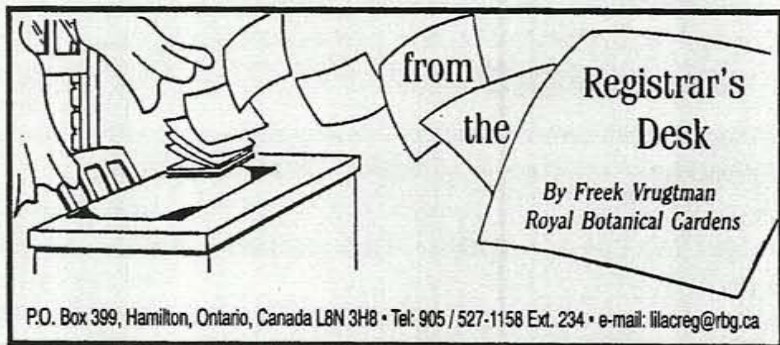
<http://www.hortax.org.uk/hortaxnews/text5.html#sect8>

If you are interested in a particular article but don't have access to the internet at home, try your local public library, or ask a fellow member of ILS to print it out for you.

*Freek Vrugtman
manuscript revised February 25, 2009*

Errata Winter Issue

In the Winter Issue 2009, after Colin carefully explained the difference between 'Lesya Ukrainka' (S VII) and 'Lesya Ukraynka' (D I), I still mislabeled the caption. The caption of the double white lilac featured on the inside back cover should have read 'Lesya Ukraynka'. A change of one letter in these two cultivars means the difference between a single purple lilac, or a double white lilac. Hybridizers should also take care not to make names so similar to each other.



Corrections to a Popular Lilac Book

by Freek Vrugtman and Bruce Peart

Bennett, Jennifer. 2002. *Lilacs for the garden*. 1st edition, 2002; 128 pages, colour photographs. Published by Firefly Books Ltd, Willowdale, Ontario, Canada; and Firefly Books (US) Inc., Buffalo, New York. ISBN 1-55297-580-0 (bound); ISBN 1-55297-562-2 (paperback).

Many ILS members own a copy of this very informative lilac book. It is still available in hardcover and softcover editions. In spite of all precautions taken, a few errors slipped in. Following is the list of *errata*.

Page 25 - lower right column; the quotation from Parkinson's 1629 herbal may be correct, but "double white pipe tree" may not refer to a lilac.

P. 32 - "... the grass killer 2,4-D (Roundup) directly to the circle of sod....." 2,4-D will kill only the broadleaf weeds in the grass, but not the grass itself. Roundup (glyphosate) will kill nearly all green vegetation, grass as well as broadleaf plants.

P. 48 - 'Chantilly Lace' belongs in *Syringa reticulata* subsp. *reticulata*; listed correctly on p. 92.

P. 67 - 'Dappled Dawn' may not be the correct caption for this picture; 'Dappled Dawn' is a single blue; the florets in the picture appear to be double.

P. 82 - The picture is of *Chionanthus virginicus*, fringe tree; information in the left column does not apply to *Syringa emodi*.

P. 95 - 'Prophecy' is the correct spelling; the tetraploidy of this cultivar has not yet been confirmed.

P. 96-97 - The picture on p. 97 is not of 'Palibin', but probably of a *Syringa Villosae* Group cultivar.

P. 117 - mid-page, right column; correct spelling: Freek Vrugtman.

P24 - 'Prophecy' is the correct spelling.

In the Index, pages 119-126, commas following cultivar names should appear following the closing single quotation mark, not preceding it.

Syringa oblata 'Giraldii'— old name, new perspective

by Freek Vrugtman

While collecting plants and seeds in China the Italian missionary-botanist Père Guiseppe Giraldd gathered seed of a lilac in the province of Shaanxi in 1891. Giraldd's herbarium specimens are preserved at *Herbarium Universitatis Florentinae* (FI), Museum of Natural History, Florence, Italy. The lilac seeds reached their destination at the nursery of Carl Ludwig Sprenger, nurseryman, botanist and plant breeder at Naples, Italy, and in his final years superintendent of the German Kaiser's garden on the Greek island of Corfu. Sprenger germinated the seeds and raised the plants; when he realized that he had a lilac he had never seen before he named it *Syringa villosa Giraldd*, publishing the name without a description in his 3rd *List of Plants* issued in 1903.—Although the epithet *Giraldd*, or the genitive of its Latinized form, *Giraldii* (of Giraldd), would be retained, the taxon has undergone several recombinations.

The nursery of *Victor Lemoine et fils*, Nancy, France, obtained some of the plants, listing them in their *Catalogue No. 155* (1903) as *Syringa Giraldd* without a description (nomen nudum). In 1926 Alfred Rehder, taxonomist at The Arnold Arboretum, reclassified this lilac as *Syringa oblata* var. *Giraldii* (Lemoine ex Bellair) Rehder, Under the currently accepted classification of the genus by Mei-Chen Chang and Peter S. Green *S. oblata* var. *giraldii* has been "absorbed" in *S. oblata* subsp. *oblata*.—So, why do we propose the cultivar name *Syringa oblata* 'Giraldii'?

McKelvey writes, "The first description of this variety was taken from a cultivated plant and appeared in the catalogue issued in 1903 by the firm of V. Lemoine et fils, Nancy, France. It reads:

Syringa Giraldd (*Syringa villosa* Sprenger). Cette espèce nouvelle, qui a été introduite du Nord de la Chine par le Père Giraldd, a les tiges cylindriques, brunes, couvertes d'un tomentum blanchâtre; les feuilles moyennes, cordiformes ou triangulaires, souvent plus larges que longues, sont couvertes

sur les deux faces et sur le pétiole, d'un fin duvet serré qui les rend douces au toucher et tout à fait veloutées. Cet arbuste n'a pas encore fleuri en Europe.

It is probable that many of the plants of this variety now in cultivation were distributed from this source."—A few collections in North America list *S. oblata* var. *giraldii*, however this is not the sole reason for proposing the cultivar name 'Giraldii'.

Émile Lemoine recognized the early-flowering trait of the Giraldi lilac and used it in his breeding programme. The first record of progeny resulting from these crosses appeared in the Lemoine *Catalogue No. 179*, 1911, as "Lilas hybrides de *Syringa vulgaris* et de *S. Giraldii*", resulting in the common phrase "Early Hybrid of giraldi" and its abbreviation "EH-G". Since all cultivars resulting from the cross *Syringa oblata* x *Syringa vulgaris* go by the name *Syringa xhyacinthiflora*, the connection to the history of the Lemoine "Early Lilacs" and to John C. Wister's EH-G or "Early Hybrids of giraldi", namely *Syringa Giraldi*, would be lost without providing a link by establishing and accepting the cultivar epithet 'Giraldii'.—In order to preserve history we sometimes break the rules; it is unlikely that all lilacs in cultivation bearing the name of Giraldi are ramets of the same clone.

The International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants (ICNCP) provides for the naming of cultivar groups. Although Wister's designations "Early Hybrids of giraldi" (EH-G) and "Early Hybrids of dilatata" (EH-D) appear to qualify as cultivar groups, there has been no attempt to give them that status. When *Victor Lemoine et fils* introduced their *S. vulgaris* x *S. Giraldii* selections 'Lamartine' and 'Mirabeau' in 1911 and those that followed, there was a clear distinction. Continuous crossing and backcrossing of *S. vulgaris* and *S. xhyacinthiflora* cultivars over the past century has eliminated these distinctions in more recent cultivars.—There is no merit in establishing two cultivar groups that cannot be clearly distinguished.

Harold N. Moldenke in 1956 proposed the nothospecies *Syringa xlamartina* for the progeny of the cross *Syringa oblata* var. *giraldii* x *S. vulgaris*. However under the provisions of the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature (ICBN), Appendix I, Names of Hybrids, all hybrids between any subspecies (subsp.) or varieties (var.) of *S. oblata* and *S. vulgaris* must have the name *S. xhyacinthiflora*. As James S. Pringle pointed out in 1990, "These two groups of hybrids could properly be differentiated at the rank of nothovariety (a hybrid of varietal rank), but the nomenclatural combination has not been published." Very likely for the same reason as stated above.—A decade later Owen M. Rogers corroborates, "So many successful crosses and backcrosses have been made in this complex that finding a clear dividing line between *S. oblata* and *S. vulgaris* is nearly impossible."

“So, what is the practical application of all this,” you may ask.

Firstly, if you are growing plants in your collection or nursery named *Syringa oblata* var. *giraldii*, and if you are satisfied that they are correctly identified, then you should update the name to *Syringa oblata* ‘Giraldii’.

Secondly, the designations “Early Hybrids of giraldi” (EH-G) and “Early Hybrids of dilatata” (EH-D), although useful in the 20th century, have lost their definitions; all cultivars with *Syringa oblata* x *S. vulgaris* parentage belong in *S. xhyacinthiflora*.

Suggestions by Dr A. C. Leslie, principal registrar, Royal Horticultural Society, and Dr J. S. Pringle, plant taxonomist, Royal Botanical Gardens, are gratefully acknowledged.

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

by Freek Vrugtman

If you do, please check its identity.

Why do we ask? To our, albeit limited knowledge true-to-name *Syringa afghanica* C.K. Schneider has not yet been introduced to cultivation, either in Europe or in North America. Plants in cultivation under the name *S. afghanica* mostly turned out to be *S. xlaciniata*. In 1978 Dr James S. Pringle, plant taxonomist at Royal Botanical Gardens, published a detailed review of the literature on *S. afghanica* and the sources of the existing confusion. Alas, thirty years later the confusion still exists.

The German botanist C. K. Schneider described and named *Syringa afghanica*. Schneider based his description on herbarium specimens collected in Afghanistan in 1870 by James Aitchison.

A good description of *Syringa afghanica* appears in the current on-line version of the Flora of Pakistan <www.efloras.org> namely:

“Shrub with spreading, lenticellate branches. Leaves entire, 1-3 cm long, 2-8 mm broad (on fertile branches), lanceolate to narrowly oval, almost sessile. Inflorescence dense, of almost capitate appearance at the ends of branchlets, the leafless panicles arising from subterminal (terminal) and uppermost lateral buds only. Calyx 1-2 mm long, more or less distinctly 4-toothed. Corolla lilac, tube cylindric, 8-10 mm long, lobes c. half the length, oval. Capsule ovoid to cylindric, c. 1 cm long, 4 mm in diameter, slightly bent, acuminate, opening into 2 halves.”

The most significant statement here is that the leaves of *Syringa afghanica* are entire. The foliage of *S. xlaciniata* and that of one of its parents, *S. protolaciniata*, is 3- to 9-parted to -divided or entire, and *S. xpersica* may have the occasional lobed or laciniate leaf. It is these three taxa that may turn up under the label of *Syringa afghanica*, therefore the leaf-shape is the key characteristic in spotting the misidentifications. An additional source of confusion is the common name applied to *S. protolaciniata* and its cultivar, *S. protolaciniata* ‘Kabul’; both are occasionally listed as Afghan lilac or Afghanistan lilac.

When we search the internet for the name *Syringa afghanica* hundreds of web pages turn up. Many of these pages are accompanied by photographs or descriptions which show or describe deeply lobed foliage. To the careful observer it immediately becomes clear that we deal with misidentifications. True-to-name *Syringa afghanica* has entire leaves!

If you spot a misidentification please do not just change the name and the record, but take a closer look at your plant and its characteristics and determine what it really is. In addition, if you know where you obtained your plant

originally, contact the people who supplied you with your plant and share this information with them. With your help we may remove an erroneous name from collections and commercial nurseries, perhaps in time before the real *Syringa afghanica* enters our gardens.

Literature citations

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Who has the real 'Susan B. Anthony'?

The unmatched description (florets single) and photograph (florets double) of *Syringa vulgaris* 'Susan B. Anthony' on page 290 of the recently published *Lilacs: A Gardener's Encyclopedia*, obviously undetected by author and editor, was immediately spotted and reported by observant readers. This discrepancy turned out to be more than just an unfortunate slipup.

The original description (florets single) in 1928 by Susan McKelvey was based on the original plant at the Rochester Parks; it confirmed what John Dunbar, the originator of this cultivar, had stated in his 1923 letter ("Flowers single"). We quickly learned that plants currently labeled 'Susan B. Anthony' at major collections such as Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton, Rochester Parks, and Meadowlark Hill Lilac Garden at Ogallala, all have double florets.

There are at least two commercial nurseries that are now aware of this mix-up. They would like to find a source of the real 'Susan B. Anthony', the one with single florets. So we ask: Who has the real 'Susan B. Anthony'? – If you do, please contact the Editor or the Registrar.

Freek Vrugtman
March 2009

Lola and Milton Flack Lilac Collection

Earl G. Maxwell Arboretum

University of Nebraska–Lincoln USA

A small but interesting lilac collection can be found at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln's East Campus in the Earl G. Maxwell Arboretum. For seven years, I was privileged to care for the Milton and Lola Flack Lilac Collection and now, as part of the UNL Gardens project housed in the department of Agronomy and Horticulture, I have the rewarding job of letting the public know about this horticultural resource.

At the present time, the collection consists of nine species including 39 different cultivars. Because we have early *xhyacinthiflora* as well as *villosa* species and everything in between, during an average year (there is no "normal" in Nebraska) we get bloom from mid-late April to the beginning of June. During this time, if you stop by on a weekend, you're likely to see a large number of people, ice cream cones from the nearby UNL Dairy Store in hand, appreciating the display. Unfortunately, I started seeing so many people helping themselves to blossoms, armloads in a few cases, that I had to post signs asking that the plants be left alone for all to enjoy.

The collection was begun in 1981 when Lola Flack gave a donation to the UNL Landscape Services Department in order to memorialize her husband Milton, the former State Dairy Extension Specialist. Director Bud Dasenbrock did his homework before a single plant was purchased. He consulted Lincolnite Lourene Wishart, former Mid-Western Vice President of the ILS and Max Peterson current vice-president of what is now called the Plains region, as well as Walter Oakes for suggestions on cultivar selection. (Over the years, Max donated a number of lilacs to the university—specifically those bred by the Nebraska Sass family.) Precipitously, the ILS convention was held in Des Moines, Iowa that year, less than a three hour drive, and some of our first plants came from the ILS convention auction. Additional plants were purchased from commercial sources and everything was put in the nursery to grow for a year. In the meantime, Campus Landscape Architect Kim Todd developed the design for the collection and the following spring the first plants were installed.

I began caring for the Flack Lilac Collection around 2000 as the Grounds Supervisor for Maxwell Arboretum. My predecessor had been working on identification and renovation of the collection; I continued her work and produced an accurate up to date map. I worked on making sure the names we

had were taxonomically correct and produced new labeling. We use 2 1/2 by 4" aluminum photo metal plates with black lettering. The labels include family name, Latin genus and species, cultivar if applicable, and common name. I attached the labels with pop rivets to black powder-coated stakes the tops of which are bent at an angle that makes it easier to read the sign. The stakes were then sunk into holes I drilled with a soil auger bit and had tossed a bit of concrete in. On a college campus one must defend against vandalism.

I joined the International Lilac Society after corresponding with Bruce Peart at the RBG and obtaining the latest Lilac Register. The following year, the society's conference was less than an hour away in Nebraska City. The fates were one my side! It was wonderful to meet fellow lilac enthusiasts. Talking to "regular" people about lilacs just isn't the same as discussing the beauty of *Syringa* with kindred spirits. Listening to Colin Chapman at the auction describe in poetic detail every lilac with his beautiful accent is a memory that stays with me as well as the way he referred to John Fiala simply as 'Father.' I purchased a number of plants; the 'Red Pixie' that I planted at my house right along the sidewalk gets rave reviews. And I was able to meet Owen Rogers whom I had written when I was trying to discern the correct species for the beautiful 'Jesse Hepler' that he bred at the University of New Hampshire. (I had seen it attributed to two different species.) All in all it was a wonderful time and I would recommend attending a convention for any member who has yet to do so.

Around 2004, I began a pruning program to get the collection into shape. I experimented with a couple of rejuvenation techniques and have been pleased with the results. Although I left before I could get through the entire collection I think it was a good start in seriously renovating the collection and demonstrated to visitors the correct way to do this pruning—and to not be timid about it. I also stopped the practice of using our straight nitrogen turf fertilizer anywhere near the root systems of the lilacs and I believe that has helped to control vegetative growth and has increased blooms. We edge the beds with a Trenchmaster and use wood chip mulch produced here on campus from tree pruning and removals. I produced a photographic record of flower clusters from each of the plants and began recording bloom times for every cultivar and straight species in 2005. This year I'll be recording for the 5th straight year. I love that our collection is planted in small groups separated by narrow turf walkways. As you walk between the beds you are surrounded and engulfed by lilacs on all sides.

For a small collection we have representatives from a good variety of lilacs, but as other addicts can attest, you always want more—all of them! The collection currently has the seven color groups represented as follows:

I white	5 cultivars
II violet	2 cultivars
III blue	4 cultivars

IV lavender	2 cultivars
V pink	8 cultivars
VI magenta	8 cultivars
VII purple	8 cultivars

Twenty-seven of our plants have single florets and twelve are doubles. The species breakdown is as follows:

<i>xhyacinthiflora</i>	5 cultivars
<i>vulgaris</i>	26 cultivars
<i>xprestoniae</i>	3 cultivars
<i>xjosiflexa</i>	2 cultivars
<i>patula</i>	1 cultivar

and 1 grouping of each of the following species:

villosa, *reflexa*, *xchinensis*, and *xlaciniata*.

Our two latest acquisitions are 'Declaration,' introduced by the U.S. National Arboretum, and 'Lilac Sunday' the wonderful Jack Alexander introduction from the Arnold Arboretum. Both plants were given by the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum.

I am often asked which is my favorite lilac in the collection. Isn't this like asking which one of your children is your favorite? That said, as I worked with the lilacs my appreciation grew for the species that bloom at the early and late edges of the season, the *xhyacinthifloras* and *xprestoniae*s. I love their scent and the shape of their buds. I also noticed that I often liked a lilac more before the buds were open all the way; the two toned or multi-colored effect is very stirring to me. Among our *vulgaris* I am partial to 'Decaisne,' 'Olivier de Serres,' and 'Monge.' And H.E. Sass's 'Snow Shower' is striking with the long hanging white clusters that give the cultivar its name. This is a plant that should be more widely grown.

I welcome you all to visit the Milton and Lola Flack Lilac Collection. Give me a call and I'll show you around. Until you can visit in person, you can learn more about the collection at my website, <http://unlgardens.unl.edu> . Click on the main Earl G. Maxwell Arboretum page and scroll down till you see Lilacs in the right hand column. You'll find a plant list and map of the collection, photographs and history, as well as general information about the species, and a PDF database of all the cultivars that we have. Please let me know if there are any corrections that I need to make; you are the expert.

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Member Section

Editor's Note: In the following article, Myrna not only talks about the lilacs in her collection, she explains the meaning behind the names. In fact, I was going to start a new continuing column about "The People Behind the Names" this issue or the next, but Myrna has started the column for me. In the future, I'm hoping more members will come forward to talk about their collections, whether large or small, since ILS would like to know!

In the Names of Lilacs

Is it important to know the names of the lilacs in our gardens? Is it important to know the propagators, the year and place of origin? It is probably not important for most people. Many people are still surprised that a lilac might have a name. For the unacquainted, a lilac is a lilac is a lilac - just a lilac! But is it? Every lilac has its story if you take time to investigate. Through each name you can find connections to foreign places, other people, other times and contributions to the world that impact our lives today. This information gives you something interesting to contemplate as you go about your gardening tasks. Occasionally the gardening tasks are interrupted by a question that comes to mind about a lilac and you drop your tools and rush to the computer to find the answer. Satisfied with the answer you can return to the garden and continue your tasks and more contemplation as to what is in a name.

As I gradually learn about the history, and stories of the lilacs in my garden, my lilacs take on new life. None of my lilacs are "just a lilac". Each one takes on a new significance and meaning as they become living monuments, commemorations, tributes to some place, person or event. I invite you to tour with me, my growing collection of lilacs as they take on new life.

Appropriately, the first is the 'Belle de Nancy', (Lemoine 1891) She stands as a living monument to the Ville de Nancy, France, home to the renowned Lemoine Nursery - cradle of early lilac hybridizing. With this early beauty Victor Lemoine honored his city, his region, his home for the world to know.

The next lilac is 'Charles Joly' (Lemoine 1896) -the first lilac I bought for my newly acquired property. At the time I thought it odd that a lilac would bear a man's name. I knew nothing about lilacs at that point. In an old gardening book I discovered that Charles Joly (1818 -1902) (a contemporary of Victor Lemoine) was a physician and had an avid interest in horticulture. He wrote many articles on horticulture and was the president of the very prestigious 'Societe Nationale d'horticulture Francaise'. He must have known Victor Lemoine and Victor esteemed him enough to honor him with a lilac as his namesake. My first lilac purchase happened to be exactly the same as the one old lilac that grew on my property.

'Michael Buchner' (Lemoine 1885) -the lilac that shocked me into a lilac awakening along with Fiala's book "Lilacs The Genus Syringa". For more than ten years I had enjoyed the blossoms and fragrance of this lilac taking for granted that it was a species — after all it was a very old shrub. On examining its florets for the first time I was surprised to find that it was a double, a cultivated specimen. Then began the search for its identity. This lilac has stood the test of time and has been used extensively in hybridizing. It was named for Micheal Buchner ,a horticulturalist from Munich, Germany. He visited the Lemoine Nursery in the early years of hybridizing. Victor and Micheal probably had many discussions on hybridizing and perhaps shared the excitement of first new blossoms. One can only speculate but Victor esteemed Micheal enough to put his name on a beautiful lilac.

'Mme Lemoine' (Lemoine 1890) Another beautiful lilac that I enjoyed for ten years before examining closely its florets. I took for granted that it was a species because it was an old shrub. Another shock— it was double which of course led to more investigation in order to find its identity. Victor named this beautiful double white lilac to honor his wife. The beautiful blossoms are still a vision of white against a clear blue sky gracing numerous gardens. Madame Lemoine is credited as being ' Victor's eyes' as she put pollen on the hard to find pistils of 'Azurea Plena'

'Monge' (Lemoine 1913). The brilliant colored 'Monge' commemorating Gaspard Monge 1746-1818. He was a brilliant, gifted mathematician and physicist who lived during the turmoil of the French Revolution. He supported the Revolution and he became a friend of Napoleon Bonaparte. Monge worked in Egypt in the service of Bonaparte and received many honors from him. When Napoleon fell from power in 1815, Monge was expelled from the French Academy and was deprived of all his honors. He narrowly escaped the guillotine. Such was the background situation of his life. His mathematical genius was in evidence from a very early age and he was called upon to serve in academia in a number of roles. He was one of the leading scientists in Paris and was one of the founders of the famed Ecole Polytechnique in Paris, a prestigious school of engineering. He is credited as being the Father of Differential Geometry. ' Monge Matrices' named for its discoverer are used in computer science today. Merci Monsieur Monge. Emile Lemoine must have been inspired by Monge and honored him and his contribution to society with a brilliant colored lilac as his namesake.

'Président Poincaré' (Lemoine 1913). Raymond Poincaré (1860-1934) was a lawyer and a contemporary of Emile Lemoine (1862-1943). Poincaré served in the French political system all of his life. He held a number of political offices. He was the 10th President of the French Republic from 1913-1920 which included the years of WW1. He also served his country as Prime Minister on five separate occasions. He was a career politician. In French political life he was a heavyweight - just like the blossoms of the lilac that bears his name.

Emile Lemoine honored Poincaré with a lilac namesake in the year that he became President.

'Katherine Havemeyer' (Lemoine 1922) This is a much admired lilac that took Award of Merit in 1933 and the Royal Horticultural Society Award of Garden Merit in 1969. Katheryn and her husband Theodore A. Havemeyer (also a hybridizer) visited the Lemoine Nursery about 1910. They returned home with some of the finest Lemoine lilac cultivars of the time and wise counsel on how to proceed in hybridizing. The Lemoines made a great impression on the Havemeyers and the sentiments were evidently reciprocated. One can imagine that they continued communication and kept each other up to date on their respective achievements. Emile Lemoine named a beautiful lilac Katherine Havemeyer in 1922 to honor the American woman.

'Krasavitsa Moskvu' (Kolesnikov 1974) My 'Beauty of Moscow stands proudly as a living monument to the City of Moscow where another wave of important hybridizing and advancement took place in the lilac world. Leonid A. Kolesnikov, (1893-1973) produced many beautiful lilacs at his home in Moscow and honored his city with one lilac that many lilac fanciers consider to be the ultimate in lilac development in its form, color and fragrance. It is an exquisite lilac and it happens to be an offspring of the 'Belle de Nancy'.

'Nadezhda' (Kolesnikov pre 1974) It blooms reliably and abundantly as it breathes its own namesake 'Hope' — a word in all languages the world over to which people relate, a fitting tribute to the universal desire for better times.

'PP. Koncholvskii' (Kolesnikov 1956) A beautiful lilac to commemorate a Russian Painter. It is worth a session at the computer to research 'Pyotr Konchalovsky (1876-1956) Russian Painter'. His works are so impressive that once you have seen a sample of his works you will never forget that he was an artist. He was a prolific painter leaving 5000 works of art. Many of his works are strong and richly hued. There are several memorable paintings of baskets of lilac blossoms.

'Wedgwood Blue' (Fiala 1981) A young lilac that has not yet bloomed in my garden. Its name pays tribute to the color of the pottery created by Josiah Wedgwood in England. It also pays tribute to Fiala and his love for blue.

'Wonderblue' (Fiala 1989) Another beautiful lilac which stands in my garden to commemorate the work of Father John Fiala. Not only did he contribute many beautiful lilacs to the world, his book on lilacs, fondly known as the 'Lilac Bible', probably converted many people into lilac devotees.

'Sulte' (Origin not known – pre 1936) A very worthy beautiful mauve late blooming lilac (a *josiflexa*) whose origins seems to have been lost to time. Presumed to be named for Benjamin Sulte (1841-1923) a French Canadian poet, journalist, social critic, historian and author of an eight volume "Histoire des Canadien Francais". Sulte had an interesting and varied life, mainly self

educated and he had a passion for history. He became an editor for the Government of Canada and a translator for the House of Commons. He retired in 1903. Throughout his life he contributed numerous articles to newspapers and periodicals and published two volumes of verse. In his retirement he became a popular and impressive speaker. His life and accomplishments provide interesting reading as one steps back in time into Canadian history. Presumed or not, in my garden this lovely lilac is a commemoration to Benjamin Sulte.

'Agincourt Beauty' (Slater 1968) This lilac is still a small plant in my garden and has not bloomed. It was named for Leonard Slater's hometown Agincourt, Ontario. Agincourt was founded as a village in 1868 with the opening of the Post Office. At that time it served a rural community. With the establishment of two rail services which greatly improved access to and through this village, it grew to meet and become the eastern portion of the Toronto metropolis.

'Mount Baker' (Skinner 1961) A beautiful fragrant early lilac that is sometimes more white than green—a large mound of white that can be seen from any point in the garden. Aptly named after a mountain that keeps its white peak all year. Mount Baker in Washington State USA, borders Canada and its permanent snow-covered peak can be seen for great distances around -always visible in clear weather from Vancouver, Canada.

'Maiden's Blush' (Skinner 1966) What an appropriate name for a difficult to describe warm pink in this early, reliable fragrant lilac. The name seems to conceal something like the Mona Lisa smile and it begs the question 'Why is she blushing?' This beautiful lilac is a fitting tribute to all maidens -blushing or not!

'Anabel' (Hawkins 1948) A beautiful, double lilac of delicate soft spring color contributed to the lilac world by Roy Hawkins, an Iowa farmer. He named the lilac in honor of his wife.

There are also a number of 'No Name' lilacs that came to me from friends. Four of them are still too small to bloom. Should I find their real names they will share tribute with the givers.

The first two lilacs came from Bonnie. These are my 'Prince George Lilacs' as in Prince George, British Columbia. One is white, suckers profusely and is probably a species. The other lilac is eight feet tall (semi-dwarf?), has large and abundant clusters in a lilac/pink. It has single florets and is very fragrant. Does it have a name? Could it be a Klager lilac since it came from the west side of this continent?

Two fragrant white lilacs came from Lise. They are single, have medium sized clusters and the plant sends out very few suckers. These lilacs came from an old garden in Quebec and I wonder if it could be an early Lemoine lilac 'Mont Blanc' (1915) named for the highest peak in the French-Italian Alps. Lise also

gave me about two dozen Preston lilac seedlings to make a hedge. These are undoubtedly "begots begot" lilacs so I spend no time trying to identify them . They do their job, they are fragrant, bloom profusely in many shades of pink and are at times dripping with yellow swallowtail butterflies. All of these lilacs pay tribute to my very accomplished friend and gardening mentor.

A lilac from Noreen. It has huge single florets and is in the color range of magenta /purple and has fairly large thyruses. It came from an old garden whose former owner was a renowned gardener in the area. My plant has flowered only once . It is very beautiful and is definitely not a 'No Name' lilac!

A lilac from Norma. A beautiful medium dark pink/purple lilac that has no fragrance .Its redeeming quality is that its buds are exactly the same strong color as the open florets giving the blossoms a very rich appearance. What lilac could this be?.

Lilacs from Therese : Therese brought me one offshoot and 12 seedlings of a beautiful lilac her sister had acquired at a botanical garden. Therese raved over its beauty and fragrance and was thoroughly frustrated by her father cutting down the offshoots as he mowed the grass. One spring she brought me all she could find because she knew in my weakness for beautiful plants that I would take care of them. I kept the offshoot and two seedlings . Eventually I gave the others away. The offshoot and seedlings have bloomed twice. What a thrill!! Yes they have fragrance! The seedlings have a touch more pink in the flowers than the offshoot. All three have large clusters of single flowers. Is it Pocahontas and her descendants? In the last two years the early lilacs have bloomed at the same time as the mid-season lilacs so bloom time is not yet an indicator.

A lilac from Claire . Two lilacs appeared growing in her garden. The larger one bloomed a beautiful pink. She gave me the small one which had small roundish leaves. How did these plants arrive in her garden? She had not bought lilacs. Did they come as seeds in some other potted plant? Did birds distribute the seeds? This lilac has not yet bloomed. It is undoubtedly a 'No Name' lilac so it will become a tribute to Claire, a good neighbor and friend. Should it turn out to be a worthy lilac I would name it after the giver.

From Gracia comes an offshoot of an old lilac that she says passersby always stop to admire. It is very dark in color. There are no other details. Is it another 'Charles Joly'?

The Lilac that made me love lilacs: The lilac from my brother's grave that caused me consternation and frustration for most of my life because it would not grow big and I did not know that dwarf lilacs existed. There are six offshoots of it presently growing in my garden and doing extremely well. I am still waiting to see its blossoms. Will it be a 'No Name' or will it have a name?

There is a list of 'Must Have' lilacs that I want to add to my garden. At the top of the list is 'Prof. E. H. Wilson' (Havemeyer 1943) . When I see Wilson's name , the image of a mule train comes to mind on a narrow mountain trail in the hinterland of China, a pain racked Wilson with a leg broken in two places lying across the path as 50 mules gingerly step over him. He is the epitome of an intrepid plant explorer who endured extremes for the sake of plants and plant lovers. Wilson himself was obviously an avid plant lover. Not only was he a plant explorer but he also wrote numerous books about his adventures of exploration and about plants. He was also responsible for coining the word 'Lilacdom". In his book "Aristocrats in the Garden" published in 1917, he devoted a chapter to lilacs. The heading of Chapter XII, on page 213, is IN "LILACDOM". ... (Information taken from an e-mail from F. Vrugtman who verified the word's origin.) . The new word 'lilacdom' must have created a pleasant refuge in thought for Wilson after his ordeals. A commemoration to the man that brought us so many beautiful plants and lilacs deserves to have a prominent place in the garden.

The lilac is truly an international shrub. And through their names and histories we can celebrate our connectedness to the rest of the world.

*Myrna Walberg
Dunham, Quebec*

Sending in Dues

When sending in dues, be sure to send them to Bill Tschumi
(not Warren Oakes). Bill's address is:
3 Paradise Court, Cohoes, NY 12047-1422
Photo Credit opposite page Brad Bittorf



Reva Ballreich
1925 - 2009

International Lilac Society

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Syringa x hyacinthiflora 'Pink Cloud'
Photo Credit Colin Chapman



Syringa vulgaris 'Mar'yam', a Sagitova hybrid
Photo Credit Colin Chapman



*Max Peterson and Reva Ballreich 1993
at Meadowlark Hill in front of 'Dwight D. Eisenhower'
Note the same shrub as on the front cover, with a less stark sun angle
shining on it allows the full color of the blooms to be seen
Photo Credit Jeff Peterson*