

Bulletin of the

January 2003

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IRIS SOCIETY



Photo: Finkel



BLACK GAMECOCK (LA) (see article on Dark Irises)
Stahly Siberian seedling 93-26



Photo: Aitken

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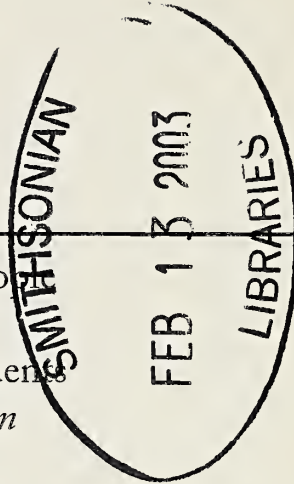
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AIS Bulletin

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The American Iris Society

Officers & Committee Chairpeople

THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY IS A NONPROFIT INSTITUTION INCORPORATED February 2, 1927, in the County of Philadelphia, State of Pennsylvania. By the terms of the Charter, the Corporation has no stockholders and exists for the sole purpose of promoting the culture and improvement of the Iris.

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Median Iris Society (Overseas members add \$5 per year for postage)	\$5.50	15.00	6.50	17.50
Society for Siberian Iris	5.00	13.00	6.00	15.00
Spuria Iris Society	6.00	15.00	8.00	18.00
Society for Japanese Iris	5.00	12.50	6.00	15.00
Reblooming Iris Society	7.00	18.00	8.00	21.00
Society for PCNs	6.00	15.00	8.00	18.00
Species Iris Group	9.00	24.00	10.00	25.00
Dwarf Iris Society	6.00	15.00	8.00	18.00
Historic Iris Preservation Society	5.00	12.00	6.00	15.00
Aril Society International	10.00	28.00	13.50	33.50
Society for Louisiana Irises	10.00	25.00	12.00	34.00

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President's Message

by Terry Aitken, Washington State

Affiliates

Let's talk about Affiliates. The AIS affiliated societies are the backbone of the American Iris Society. They are frequently, but not always, the sponsoring organizations for Regional and National meetings, conventions, tours, shows and plant sales. Affiliates are, by definition, a composite of AIS and non-AIS members. These non-AIS members are dues paying, voting members of the Affiliate societies. They vote on club expenditures, club officers, and club sponsored activities. Many of them are the volunteers that make our AIS activities viable. By association, these people are potentially the best candidates for becoming new members of AIS. We simply have to make it worth their while.



Terry Aitken, AIS President

It is important that our club activities include educational, aesthetically inspiring and socially satisfying activities for both AIS and non-AIS members. (Keeping AIS members is equally important since our normal annual rate of attrition runs between 1000 and 1500 out of a total membership of about 7500.) The new Affiliates contest offers prizes for outstanding club performance.


AIS is improving its incentives for clubs to become affiliates. Affiliates may receive a free AIS slide program, free medals at shows, free set of *Bulletins*, assistance in establishing non-profit status, and a substantial benefit in insurance coverage for AIS sponsored activities. At this fall's board meeting, we shifted our focus from the membership contest to the Affiliate contest established by Bob Keup, NY, and with a board representative, Nancy Pocklington, IL, keeping our attention on the contest. Affiliate applications, qualifications and records are maintained by Gerry Snyder. If there are other suggestions for incentives, please contact Bob Keup, Nancy Pocklington, Gerry Snyder or myself.

How do we recruit new affiliated clubs? Many general garden clubs put on iris shows, daylily shows, maybe even hosta shows. If we can demonstrate to these clubs that becoming an affiliate is worth their while, everyone benefits. Having served on many nominating committees at the local, regional and national levels, I appreciate how hard it can be to get the right person for the right volunteer job. By combining administrative roles, these clubs benefit many local gardening activities. RVPs need to contact non affiliated clubs in their Regions and assist them in qualifying as affiliates.

The Changing of the Guard

Each year a nominating committee consisting of a section president, two RVPs and two board members searches throughout North America for administrative candidates willing to commit time and effort towards the running of the society.

We welcome the new board members Louise Carson, John Ludi and George Sutton, whose introductory biographies will appear in the April issue of the *Bulletin*. John Jones will continue on for a second term, and we are happy to have Bill Mull as a replacement for Caryll Meyer who passed away last year. Another capable addition is Mary Brown who replaced Anner Whitehead as the new "MemSec" in September. We welcome Jill Bonino who moves from Recording Secretary to the ex officio (voting position) of Secretary, with the retirement of Sara Marley.

We bid a fond farewell to retiring officers Shirley Pope, who has served six years as Affiliates chair, and Riley Probst as RVP counselor. Mike Lowe will be leaving his position as a board member, but will be continuing as Policy chair. I also want to extend thanks to Harold Peters who will be retiring as Advertising Editor with this issue of the *Bulletin*. 

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Editor's Message

by Bruce Filardi, Oregon

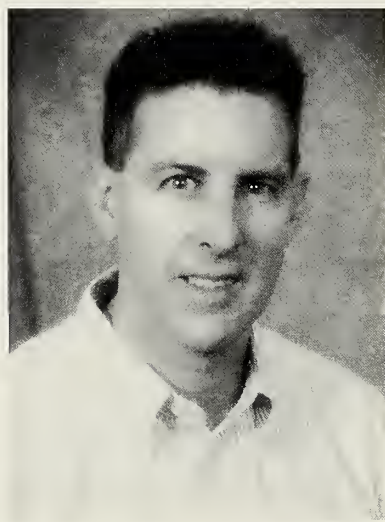
BLOOM SEASON IS APPROACHING! IN THREE MONTHS YOU'LL be seeing the first dwarf irises of the year, and the larger varieties will be close behind.

As bloom season comes nearer, I ask each and every one of you to think back to what got you involved in irises in the first place... I think that you will remember being captivated by the sheer beauty of this flower, by its color and its personality and even its distinctive scent.

As the year progresses from the MDBs and SDBs right through the last TBs and JIs, I urge you to cultivate that feeling of joy and enthusiasm that drew you to irises in the first place. It is important to take the time to really enjoy your irises, to allow them to enfold you in their tranquil beauty.

And I urge you to carry that feeling from your garden to all of your iris activities. Enjoy yourself! Help others – especially newcomers to the iris world – to share your pleasure and enjoyment. Leave behind frictions and personal agendas. Other members of your iris group are there for the same reason as you: because they love irises. We all share the same passion.

Accentuate the positive! Go to your iris garden and immerse yourself in its beauty. Go to your iris meetings and *have fun*. 🌸



Bruce Filardi, Editor

We would like to make a correction in the list of AIS Awards published in the October issue of the *Bulletin*. In the HMs for Louisianas: BAYOU BLUEBIRD should have been credited to hybridizer Henry Rowlan. Our appreciation to Lynn Markham of Massachusetts for noticing this error.

Youth Views

by Jean S. Morris, Missouri

Essay Topic Announced

“What I’d like to see in my garden, including companion plants.” This is the topic for the 2003 Ackerman Essay Contest announced by the AIS Foundation.

Essays should be written in 500 words or less and mailed by March 15th to Foundation Essay Chairman, Claire Honkanen, PO Box 235, Isle of Palms, SC 29451-0235. Prizes of \$100 will be awarded in two age categories: 12 and under, and 13 through 18.

If you are inexperienced at writing an essay, try these four easy steps. 1) Decide which irises and other plants would provide the perfect look in your garden. 2) Develop three or four paragraphs telling why you wish to add these particular plants or how they would improve your landscape design. 3) Add a short introduction paragraph at the very beginning and a short conclusion paragraph at the end of your essay. 4) Ask an adult (or your computer) to check your spelling and grammar before you recopy or type the final, corrected version of your essay.

Iris catalogs and web sites may help you decide which new irises would add beauty to your garden. Also, many youth members keep a “wish list” as they visit local gardens and shows.

Although parents are encouraged to proofread youth essays, we ask you to resist the urge to interfere in any way with your youth’s creative efforts.

This year’s essay topic is suitable to all age groups and is easy to write about by both experienced and new AIS youth members. So tell us what your dream garden would look like. Sharing your thoughts could make you \$100 richer. Good luck to all!

Thank You

Approximately 175 boxes of irises were sent out to AIS youth members this past summer. Those who mailed or donated rhizomes were: Bennett Jones, Roy Epperson, Al & Pauline Roderick, Terry Aitken, Bill & Ada Godfrey, Bruce Filardi, Riley Probst, Ron & Donna


James, Dave Silverberg, Linda Browning & the Jackson Area Iris Society, John Jones & the Westbay Iris Society, Eleanor Boyson & the Middle Tennessee Iris Society, Jim Morris & the Greater St. Louis Iris Society, Mike Hargrove & the Wichita Area Iris Society, Judy Eckhoff & the Hutchinson Iris Club, James Winzer & the Augusta Iris Society, Barb Fouts & the Washington Iris Club, and Jerry & Melody Wilhoit. Apologies if we missed anyone.

Thanks also to Janna Middleton of the AIS Gift Shop for donating two gift certificates to our 2002 Essay Contest winners.

Thank You, Iris Society of Dallas

At their November meeting, members of the Iris Society of Dallas approved a generous donation to two American Iris Society youth funds - the Clarke Cosgrove Award fund and the Classroom Iris Project (CIP) fund. AIS Youth Chairman Jean Morris was on hand to receive the check.

Youth membership in the AIS has now passed the 400 mark with about one-third of that number participating in the CIPs. Although the bulk of our CIPs are in schools, we also have 4-H and scouting groups taking part. CIP youths join AIS at the "No Bulletin" youth rate and the AIS pays the teacher's or leader's AIS dues from the CIP fund. The Clarke Cosgrove Memorial Award for Youth Achievement is given to one outstanding AIS youth each year and consists of a trophy and a cash prize.

The Youth Committee wishes to thank the Iris Society of Dallas members for their kindness. The contribution will benefit our young irisarians for years to come. 



ISD President Penny Maxham presents youth fund donation check to AIS Youth Chairman Jean Morris.

International News

From Clive Russell, England:

There is to be no Dykes Medal awarded this year in the UK. At the BIS main show held at Wisley on 8/9 June, I won the Josephine Romney Towndrow Trophy for best spike in show (the equivalent of your Queen of Show) with BRAVE NEW WORLD (A. Feuerstein '96). It is the first time it has been won by a Space Ager.

Trials have finished this year at Wisley for 3 iris types: Siberians, spurias, and ensatas. The following varieties are being recommended for the Award of Garden Merit (AGM):

Siberians: TRIM THE VELVET
seedling SSTT 133 (Cal-Sib hybrid)

Spurias: DRIFTWOOD
LOVE FOR LEILA
MONSPUR CAMBRIDGE BLUE
SUNSET COLORS
WYOMING COWBOYS

Ensatas: ALDRIDGE SNOW MAIDEN
MACHINUSUME
MURASAME
and seedling J11

From Sergey Loktev, Russia:

Here are some Russian Iris Society season results.

1.TB Awards (23 judges voting):

a) High Award (equivalent to the AIS Wister Medal):

IKAR (A. Volfovich-Moler) - 8 votes

b) AM:

DZHIGIT (V. Koroliov) - 9 votes

AZIAT (A. Volfovich-Moler) - 8

GUSARSKAYA BALLADA (S. Loktev) - 8

MYS HORN (L. Muska) - 5

PU ABI (L. Muska) - 5

c) HM:

SARAFAN (Y. Pirogov) - 10 votes
 ABREK (V. Koroliov) - 8
 LETUCHI GOLLANDETS (S. Loktev) - 6
 MIR DLIA DVOIKH (S. Loktev) - 4
 MOROZ I COLNTSE (S. Loktev) - 4
 NOCHNOY DOZOR (V. Koroliov) - 4

d) HC (for seedlings):

STEFAN TSVEYG (S. Loktev) - 3 votes


2. Top of TB popularity poll (49 ballots):

COPATONIC - 30 votes
 BEFORE THE STORM - 23
 SUPREME SULTAN - 22
 BEVERLY SILLS - 21
 ENGLISH CHARM - 20
 CELEBRATION SONG - 19
 MESMERIZER - 18
 HONKY TONK BLUES - 16
 SILVERADO - 14

3. Top of Median (BB, MTB, IB, SDB) popularity poll (34 ballots):

JAZZAMATAZZ (SDB) - 15 votes
 BROWN LASSO (BB) - 13
 BALET LESSON (SDB) - 9
 HULA HOOP (BB) - 9
 BEE'S KNEES (SDB) - 8
 APRICOT FROSTY (BB) - 7
 EYE MAGIC (IB) - 7
 GEISHA (IB) - 7
 ZERO (SDB) - 7

4. Top of SIB popularity poll (26 ballots):

CAMBRIDGE - 13 votes
 SULTAN'S RUBY - 11
 MOON SILK - 10
 LADY VANESSA - 8
 MAD MAGENTA - 8
 SIMPLE GIFTS - 8
 BUTTER AND SUGAR - 7
 EGO - 7
 PAS-DE-DEUX - 7 

How to Register and Introduce an Iris

These instructions apply to the registration of all classes of irises except bulbous irises.

Registration

1. Write to the AIS Registrar, Keith Keppel, PO Box 18154, Salem, OR 97305, for a registration blank, enclosing check for the registration fee payable to the American Iris Society. The fee is \$7.50 per registration, or \$10.00 if transferring a name from a previous registration.

2. At the same time, select a name which has not previously been used and submit it for approval. To determine availability of name, please refer to all ten-year Check Lists (beginning 1939) and annual Registrations and Introductions booklets (beginning 2001). Please also suggest alternate names. A name is not registered until the registration application has been completed and approved and a certificate of registration returned to you.

3. Names should follow the rules established by the International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants. Rules are subject to change, but at the present time the following names will not be permitted:
 - a. Names of living persons without their written consent, or names of recently (10 years) deceased persons without permission of next of kin or other authority.
 - b. Personal names containing the following forms of address or their equivalent in another language: Mr., Mrs., Miss, Ms.
 - c. Names including symbols, numerals, non-essential punctuation or abbreviations.
 - d. Names beginning with the articles "a" or "the" or their equivalent in other languages unless required by linguistic custom.
 - e. Names in Latin or in latinized form.
 - f. Slight variation of a previously registered name.
 - g. Names in excess of three words, ten syllables, or thirty letters

h. Names containing the word “iris” or “flag” or the species name of any recognized species of Iris, or formed wholly by recombining parts of the parental species’ names.

i. Names containing the hybridizer’s name in possessive form.

j. Names which exaggerate or may become inaccurate (e.g. Heaviest Lace, Tallest Black) or which are composed solely of adjectives which could be construed as a simple description (e.g. Pale Blue, Ruffled).


k. Names translated from the original language; they should be transliterated as necessary.

4. Previously registered names may be re-used only if (a) the original registration has not been introduced or distributed by name, (b) does not appear by name in the parentage of later registrations, and (c) a statement of permission is obtained from the prior registrant.

5. Names will not be released as obsolete unless there is proof that no stock now exists and that the iris was not listed as a parent in registrations.

Introduction

Introduction is the offering for sale to the public. Catalogs, printed lists, and advertisements in the American Iris Society Bulletin are acceptable means of introduction. It is a requisite of awards of the Society above that of High Commendation. A variety is not eligible for listing on the awards ballot until after it has been recorded as introduced by the Registrar-Recorder. Send the Registrar a copy of your list, catalog or advertisement by first class mail so verification of introduction can be made.

The Registrar will supply a sample application form upon request of a stamped self-addressed envelope. 

Flight Lines

compiled by Peter Weixlmann, New York

Bloomout

I am not a member of any AIS robin, but have just been reading about bloomout in "Flightlines" in the July *Bulletin* which I have recently received here in the UK. As John Bruce stated, when a plant blooms out, it takes a long time to regenerate, if at all. The reason for this is that with no leaves left, cutting off the bloom stalk removes its only remaining "building blocks" (i.e. chlorophyll). A tip I had a few years ago in the event of bloomout was to cut off the bloom heads, but leave as much of the stem as possible, as this will continue to photosynthesize. Obviously, the plant has to be monitored, in case the stem just rots away right into the rhizome, and if this seems to be happening, then the stem has to be cut back piece by piece until completely removed, but in most cases I have found that this is not the case. In fact, this past season I had a new seedling open which was one of the best in the patch, but it bloomed out. I just cut off the flowers, and (to be honest) forgot about it. A few weekends ago, when having a major weeding session, I came across a dried out stem, which easily broke off when pushed, and then I saw that there were 6 offsets. So you see, it does work.

Tobacco Mosaic Virus

Dave Silverberg seems to not want smokers in his garden in order to keep tobacco mosaic virus out! I live in the largest tobacco producing region in the world, so here it is probably hopeless to keep the virus at bay. But is it a problem of iris? I looked at [a website on this topic] and saw no problems unless you are growing tomatoes and peppers in the same field.

—Glenn Grigg, Raleigh, NC Zone 7

TMV infections typically require significant contact with infected plant material; being in tobacco growing country does not necessarily preclude effective management and control of TMV in the ornamental flower gardens and greenhouses. See the control measures recommended

[on the website]. “Because TMV infects few crops other than tobacco and because the virus survives poorly in the absence of living tissue, crop rotation is a highly effective part of disease management.”

—*Dallas Patterson*

Tobacco mosaic stunts the plants growth, causes blotches of mixed greens and yellows combined with normal leaf color, deforms fruit (seedpods) and flowers. Tobacco mosaic greatly reduces the looks of the plant but rarely kills it. As with all plant viruses, once the plant is infected with Tobacco mosaic, it is infected for life. Tobacco mosaic is one of the most common plant viruses found throughout the world.

Common plant hosts for Tobacco Mosaic Virus: African Violet, Tomato, Pepper, Petunia, Snapdragon, Delphinium, Marigold, Cucumber, Squash, Spinach, Celosia, Impatiens, Phlox, Zinnia, Aster, Banana, Chrysanthemum, Geranium, Gladiola, Grapes, Kalanchoe, Roses, Potato, Datura and many more. Not good companion plants for Brugmansia!

—*Richard L. Rush Lakeville, IN USDA Zone 5*

Iris Fragrance

We are looking for cultivars that present nice fragrance. Can any one here suggest names? We live in Minnesota not too far outside zone 3. We are formally zone 4 but on average we are more like zone 3.5. So a more southern variety wouldn't work for us. Thanks for any help.

—*John Ferman Minneapolis, MN*

Try SUGAR BLUES. It's a lavender blue TB with an absolutely delicious sweet scent. It's also one of very few surviving TBs in my garden this year, and I'm about 200 miles north of Minneapolis. I do have a few other TBs that survived with larger, more vigorous clumps, but they don't have the same degree of fragrance as SUGAR BLUES.

—*Laurie laurief@paulbunyan.net*

If you do not mind older irises and subdued colors, there is a selected form of *Iris pallida* known as ODORATISSIMA (Jacquin, 1797) that has the typical sweet *pallida* scent, but to a much more intense degree than in the standard species form.

—*Jeff Walters in northern Utah (USDA Zone 4/5, Sunset Zone 2, AHS Zone 7); HIPS Commercial Source Chairman*

Some fragrant iris that do well for me in zone 4 include CRINOLINE (Schreiner '65), PRAISE THE LORD (Boushay '72), ALADDIN'S WISH (Murawska '43), PRETTY PANSY (Sass '55),

DECOLLETAGE (Hager '68), QUEEN DOROTHY (RE Hal, '84). These are esp. sweet, but I have others more mildly fragrant, and of course there are many more I don't grow.

—Arnold & Carol Koekkoek, Sioux Center, IA 51250

Beardless

I have LAs planted ... and they are doing well. ... I did something new with some of my JIs last year. I actually put them in pots in my pond. They survived the winter, which surprised me since we had right much ice on the pond a couple times. They bloomed well this summer and are in bloom right now as a matter of fact. Others of my JIs are in a bed beside the pond where the overflow is located. Doesn't overflow often though. We usually have to add water to make up for evaporation from sun and wind, and with the drought conditions around here, we haven't let it overflow like we did that first year or two! I have read on here that you need to move the iris from time to time. We haven't done that, have had ours in the same location for 8 years.

—Donna Lockman NC zone 7/8

John, Sue, & Brianna wrote: Could be my climate but I've never before gotten a 3 foot tall sib. 2 feet tall is about it. Most of mine are oldies without a name, just good hardy stock but pretty enough so I'm hooked. Well, my SHAKER'S PRAYER bloomed today with 7 bloomstalks and five open. A sight for sore (and tired) eyes. The Tall Bearded are ready to bloom - I think - but refuse to open up in this cold weather. (The bums! :-) I measured SHAKER'S PRAYER at 43" today at bloom. It is registered at 33".. last year it was (I am guessing without looking in my 'bloom book') 50". I have found in my limited experience of growing irises in Zone 3 (about 9 years) that the tall bearded usually (but certainly not always) bloom shorter than the registered height but many times they surpass it.

Iris versicolor is more water-loving iris than Sibs, and if you can ensure good watering when you replant it, it is better to divide it in the Fall as early as possible (even the middle of August). Establishment of a divided plant in the spring can be difficult, part of the roots are lost... I follow the rule of lining out young seedlings as early as possible in the spring, dividing old clumps in early Fall. Generally if one uses good and knowledgeable care, any time is good to replant.

—Edmundas Kondratas, Lithuania

Pods and Hybridizing

I noticed that I had a large number of “bee crossed” pods on my iris so I decided to let them develop and this fall. I would give them to the members so they could go onto “phase 2” and plant them. Well these pods are drying and cracking and I’m collecting them and checking and there are no seeds! I guess the hot dry weather we are having is the reason? The pods grew as if they had seeds developing in them, but not a one had any! If not the hot dry weather, than what could be the reason?

—*Leslie Jobe, Owensboro, KY; zone 6, region 7*

I find setting a pod has a lot to do with the day or time of day. There are some days when I get a very low ratio of takes and other days when everything I cross sets a pod. This may be a humidity issue. My technique requires no equipment; I pull the anther with my fingers and rub it directly on the deepest part of all three stigmatic lips. No equipment means that nothing gets lost in the garden. I must admit that I prefer my nice set of bent pollen forceps but I just can’t find them.

— *CD zone4b*

I made 8 intentional crosses this spring, and it appears that 6 of them took. In addition, I got at least another 80 pods. My technique was sitting on the back porch in a rocking chair reading the newspaper — The New York Times seems to produce more pods — and drinking iced tea. It works!

—*James Harrison, Asheville, NC*

Because the weather heats up quickly here in the Phoenix area, I have had better luck at making crosses early in the morning. I prefer to cross flowers when they are freshly opened. I prefer the pollen to be fluffy and the stigmatic lip to be moist. Unfortunately, that is not always the case. A toothpick with a little saliva on it makes a wonderful tool for moistening up a stigmatic lip that is dry. Then, after applying the pollen, I give it a little “pinch”. This little trick which I picked up somewhere is by far no secret.

—*Patrick J Orr*

Pod setting: One unexpected find I had this year was that those irises which set pod more easily just happened to get more afternoon shade. (At least here for me in Arizona.) Those that received all-day sun rarely if ever took. And I also found in the past two years that if the temperature got over 85 degrees — give or take a few — NO

fertilization took place at all. Dry humidity didn't seem to play that much of a role for me.

—*Margie Oro Valley, AZ.*

I was able to try to make crosses on some cultivars this spring that usually can't even bloom for me due to my stressful microclimate/rockpile soil combination. Or if they have bloomed, they haven't produced normal anthers (no pollen), or if they produced pollen, it was all clumpy (not viable), or no flowers would set pods. We also hear that some cultivars are 'always' pod or pollen sterile in some folk's gardens, but are fertile elsewhere. So, I think that maybe the low rate of success is at least partly due to growing conditions not being quite good enough for pollen & eggs & all the 'equipment' the iris stalks of both parents need to produce mature seeds.

—*Linda Mann, east Tennessee, USA zone 7/8*

Rot

I've been wondering, which comes first, the death of the iris for whatever reason and then the rot? Does the rot set in after the iris is already dead or dying from some other cause? The mother rhizomes do die naturally and they are reabsorbed(?) by some process, right? Or does the rot itself kill the iris then feed on it?

—*Char Randall Melba, ID zone 6*

I always let rot run its course here - if the cultivar succumbs, I don't want it to be part of my hybridizing efforts. I have found that either soft rot kills the entire clump or is self-limiting. Part of the clump rots, the rest recovers with no treatment other than removing dead and dying leaves, if I notice the rot. A few years ago, one of the list members did some experiments with rot infested plants, treating some and leaving some to recover on their own. Not surprisingly, they found that the greater damage to the untreated plants set them back in subsequent growth and bloom. In my garden, rot seems to be most likely to occur in susceptible cultivars when plants are stressed - hard freezes while plants are actively growing, drought, drought followed by a lot of rain, rain in hot humid weather, etc., etc. Because of this, I thought that rot wasn't exactly an infectious agent, just an opportunistic decomposer of dead and dying iris tissue, but others have convinced me that it more likely attacks & kills weakened tissue.

—*Linda Mann, east Tennessee USA zone 7/8*

Stress, Pests, and Weather

Summing up the situation here this summer to-date: the emphasis is still on grasshoppers. They have eliminated the equivalent of 100% of any increase since spring. Any increase escapees have been more than offset by whole mature and likely blooming size rhizomes also being consumed. Following the previous three years of drought with a couple of summers of long, dreadfully intense heat, this summer has been very nice. Sufficient rain, lower temps and night temps actually cooling off rather than sitting in the mid 80s to low 90s for weeks on end. The rain appears to have departed now and the day temps are back near the century mark - status quo for our dog days in these parts. The weather should have made for a good year, but all the growth has been removed by the grasshoppers. The tallest fans are shredded leaves barely over six inches - most are from four inches down to ground level and into the rhizomes. This has resulted in SMALL rhizomes. The few I've dug have not had the opportunity to grow larger. So, to the questions:

Are you losing anything to rot that you have grown for a while and never lost before?

Yes. It has to be qualified though since they were moved from the old clay beds to the new raised beds.

Are you losing anything to rot at a dramatically different time of the year than ever before?

Maybe. I'm currently seeing more rot this week at the same time than in the last several years. I don't understand rot. I have it when the weather is warm but not hot under rainy conditions. But I have it much, much worse in totally dry conditions. All the rain early in July and I had only one case of rot (all fans in the clump eventually got it and are gone, despite digging, drying and bleach treatment). Currently the ground is very dry down to eight inches and I have more rot. The plants need water, but what happens if they get it with the rot I'm seeing? I'm afraid to give supplemental water under these conditions, but a summer shower may give the answer no matter.

Have you attempted digging and storing any rhizomes as opposed to leaving them in the ground?

Not this year. I've tried it in the past with mixed success.

I'm sure there are reasons other than rot for some deaths, what is the appearance of the affected rhizomes?

Some have been eaten until there were simply holes in the ground. Some have had the foliage eaten so short for so long they gave. Some

in the same category have begun to bake alive in our intense sun. With the fan left to shade them, or if they went dormant on their own, they might have escaped the cooking. On one the appearance is a pitted and gnawed rhizome. The others can be hard, withered and dry or very dry, but with an unnatural give when pressed. Dead tissue either way.

The names of the survivors and the names of the deceased are important info.

I'm not so sure... While I respect and tend to agree with the observations that lead to the conclusion, I remain unconvinced of how strongly the genetics should be blamed here. I would observe several things that have occurred this year and in the past on this piece of property. The new raised beds - good soil, more moisture retentive, excellent drainage. The iris grows better in them. They also die better. The very newest beds show the most rot. The newest beds last year did the same, but haven't the rot this year. Same plants essentially with a few new ones added, but no rot. New acquisitions have been hit the hardest. Next are those that were moved (excluding seedlings). Undisturbed clumps fare the best. This has been a consistent pattern over several years here now. Clumps that suffered rot several years ago and for several consecutive seasons, now seem to not fall prey to it... in the same soil, same spot. Some plants never quite recovered from the late bad freeze. Not surprisingly, they have not withstood the damage handed out to them as well the others. So the mortality rate is higher. But planting timing comes into play here as well. Those planted well past optimum planting time then failed to have lush growth when the freeze hit and did better. Not something that can be predicted. So the same cultivar planted on time in one place hasn't survived, but where it was planted too late has done pretty well. Everything else is more or less equal. So what would normally not be the best time to plant turned out better? Result - some plants were simply luckier. It was circumstantial, not genetic. Here I can't make the genetic aspect hold up. If I leave the plants alone and they survive two or three seasons, it stops. Disturbing clumps and moving them around causes it to appear where it hasn't before. Unfortunately, iris clumps must be disturbed [divided] to continue to perform their best. It just hasn't been the best thing the last few years here. But then the clumps have dwindled as often as grown, so it hasn't been as necessary as in years past either. The reasons for that aren't good either.

How are the arils and arilbreds doing?

I approach acquiring arils cautiously. The success hasn't been good. This year doesn't appear to be any better, or worse. I haven't the

experience or numbers to even guess. Arilbreds are also harder to evaluate. Under my conditions, nearly all tend to go dormant. This year with cooler weather and more rainfall, some did not go dormant that usually do. In the raised beds, almost none did. In the latter case this has been to their detriment with the grasshoppers. Without the pests, I think it might well have been to their benefit. However, they are my principle interest, so they were planted on time. They also tend to grow rapidly when they get enough warm days. The result is that many were savaged by the late freeze. Mostly, they never fully recovered. There was some rot early, some were eliminated by grasshoppers because I exposed the rhizomes early in July after the more than seven inches of rain to avoid rot and instead provided a 'hopper feast by doing so. They're dead, but they didn't rot. Now I'm seeing rot on some this week. All these were either moved or new last fall. I also think a couple have cooked now, but won't know for sure 'til fall growing comes around. The established clumps on those that didn't go dormant appear to be faring better. On those that went dormant as usual, I won't know 'til they start growing - or not - in the fall. I will be digging into a few soon, but haven't yet. Those that didn't go dormant due to the weather have been a favorite of the grasshoppers. It's a rare arilbred with more than an inch of green showing. All new growth has been kept pretty much mowed off. Increases, and there were a lot on these types, are history. I think their naturally smaller fans contribute to this as much as any other reason.

—*Donald Eaves, Texas Zone 7b, USA*

With the extraordinary losses in my iris beds after the last winter-spring transition, and the continuing losses throughout this growing season, I am extraordinarily impressed with the few that DID survive, that HAVE put on decent increase, and a few that even BLOOMED! They may not be the most beautiful or modern (though STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN came through admirably, although no bloom), but they have withstood the onslaughts of horribly compacted clay soil (read "concrete"), less-than-optimal sunlight, rampant soft rot, fungal leaf spot, borers, deer trampling and grazing, cat rolling, and the absolute worst climatic assaults northern MN can dish out. Thank goodness we have very few grasshoppers here with which to contend. I do believe genetics play a significant role. When hundreds of different cultivars are planted in the same bed under close-to-identical conditions and subjected to all the same tortures, there must be some genetic involvement in their survival or non-survival outcomes. Of course, when selected plants are subjected to varying stressors - as in plants that are dug, divided, and relocated in similar or entirely different

growing locations - it is not possible to make such clear comparisons (as, I believe, was Donald's point). It is, however, perhaps even more possible to identify the strongest survivors under such circumstances.

—Laurie

Leaf Spot

I suspect that controlling a fungus disease without using fungicides is an impossible dream. Why not use fungicides? I achieve excellent control by spraying my iris at the same time as I spray my roses. I use Manzate, which is a contact fungicide, every spraying. The rate is 1 tablespoon per gallon. With it I mix 1 tablespoon of Funginex, which is a systemic fungicide. I use 1 tablespoon per gallon. In addition I use 1 tablespoon of Miracid, which is put out by Miracle Grow. This latter product has had its name changed to Azalea, Camellia, and Rhododendron fertilizer. I am not sure the latter helps but it sure doesn't hurt. I have achieved perfect blackspot control for the first time in my life. I must mention that on alternate weeks, I use 1/3 teaspoon per gallon of Banner Max, instead of the Funginex. I am delighted with the results.

—Vernon Johnson Mesena, Ga.

Purple Leaf Base

I have researched the inheritance of PFB and concluded that it is partially dominant rather than fully dominant. I have collected information from a number of listers as well as checking my own records. I have Canadian Streaker which is PFB from two non PFB parents, Cup Race X Laced Cotton. Several other people had PFB seedlings from two parents that didn't show PFB. I also have Limesicle (SDB) that is strongly PFB from two non PFB parents. The records quoted in the *World of Iris* were not a controlled experiment but a PFB parent X non PFB parent, but no checking to confirm that the green-based plant wasn't a carrier of PFB gene. As far as I can tell you, get PFB with three or four PFB genes with occasionally faint PFB with two PFB genes in the right circumstances. Weather also plays a role in the showing of PFB. Dusky Challenger (probably two PFB genes) occasionally shows PFB in cool springs but not seen in all climates. Dusky Challenger has lots of anthocyanin as it is a dark purple so sometimes can show this in the foliage whereas a light colored flower might not. I have several examples of white-flowered plants (and pink) with strong PFB. I suspect that you can cross a strong PFB plant with a non-PFB plant and get no PFB in the offspring. For this you need a non-PFB plant that does not carry any PFB genes. I'm currently looking for this and feel fairly certain that I will find it. I have run numerous Punnett square hypotheses on

PFB and checked ratios of PFB in offspring of crosses with information of my own and that provided by different people. The partial dominant theory seems to be the best fit to the data. I'm collecting more data of my own. The problem is that so many of my crosses are made with seedlings and I hadn't kept records of PFB before now with the seedlings.

—*Chuck Chapman, Guelph, Ontario, Canada. Zone 4/5*

I too have been working with PBF, in my seedlings in Somerset, KY (Zone 6). The seedlings start showing PBF when they are 6 to 8 " tall. Keith Keppe's Night Game and Local Color will give a high percentage of PBF seedlings. As far as keeping the color it depends how dark the PBF expression is. If you have 3 genes of the 4 then it should be dark and keep the color most all season long. This modifier can vary in color from dark purple black to dark maroon red. It depends on the amount of anthocyanin and lycopene pigmentations are present in the flower. I have a seedling from Night Game X Picante that has dark RBF, and the flower is dark red maroon with red beards. I have been using Social Graces by Keith Keppel with good results. I also have some broken colors with PBF from Local Color. I have a VF/PBF seedling from Chuck's Canadian Streaker (VF/PBF)X InfernalFire (BC/PBF); if it blooms a BC, will I be a happy man!!!!

—*John Van Hook, Somerset, KY, Zone 6*

International Robin — Excerpts

I live in Aylburton, Gloucestershire, on a sandy south-facing hill overlooking the river Severn. The soil isn't quite as ideal for irises as I had thought, since with a sharp two-way slope and even sharper drainage, keeping any nourishment in the soil does prove a problem. However, any rot I've had has so far been curable! I have a minute patch in front of the house: a hot, stone-based desert, where seedlings take off, in trays or pots, like cannonballs. Sadly, they slow down like cannonballs too, and so far bloom no sooner than siblings out back. Probably I haven't got water/feeding right. Or do they really NOT feel "flowery" growing in pots? One day maybe I'll try oncos on that patch.

—*Pat Jacobsen (England)*

Try *I. lacustris* in a sandy soil in a well-drained location with semi-shade. This should more closely match its natural environment. It has grown well for me in shady areas. It hates hot direct sun. There is lots of mist and fog in its natural location as well as humidity from the high strong waves close by. I have seen many patches 8 to 10 feet across and perhaps 40 feet long — many smaller patches as well. I've seen them in

sand and in high humus soil mixed with sand — always in a well-drained location that is constantly moist. I did not measure ph but assume neutral.

—*Chuck Chapman (Ontario, Canada)*


On a recent visit to Reading to stay with my father, I contacted Sid Linnegar, the British Iris Society president. He very generously provided me with some 40 cultivars of shorter-growing and miniature-flowered irises that he reckoned might like our conditions [in Finland]. These, together with some 20 SDBs and miniatures I received from Chuck Chapman, are now planted out in ridges covered with permeable black plastic. My idea is to find out which ones do reasonably well over the next couple of years, and to use these as the basis of some breeding work. The tough old irises found locally ought to provide good winter hardiness and free flowering — the imports will have interesting flower forms and colours.

—*Peter Joy (Finland)*

The iris season now seems a long way off and the garden still needs a lot of work before winter comes. Unfortunately, I was in a road accident on the way home from the [BIS] convention at the end of May, injured my back and could not do anything in the garden for a month or so. However, I was pleased to have two nice pink seedlings from PINK CRYSTAL and CHANTED and also orange seedlings from MORNING BLUSH and [my seedling] 96/2/4 (registered as THELBEN in 2001). Interesting to know that it is cheaper to buy in Canada than in the USA. This year we had to pay customs duty of £24 on our purchases [from the US], which makes [importing irises] expensive.

—*Thelma Naylor (England)*

The iris season was rather lost to me this year for one reason or another. April was dry and fine, just like summer. September was dry, sunny and warm. In between was horrible: wet, windy, cold in general. I did get a few crosses done among the SDBs. Later crosses did not take more often than not. The pollen could not be kept dry or got washed off in sudden torrential downpours. In May, my mother became ill and subsequently died. During this time, the Bristol Convention came and went, my new seedlings came and went. I did manage to have a couple of therapeutic visits to the allotment to see what was flowering for the first time, but did not have time or inclination to assess anything properly. Next year there will be lots to see and the plants will have been given a second crack of the whip!

—*Olga Wells (England)* 

Meet the New RUDs

For 2003

Ginny Spoon: Region 4

Ginny Spoon was born in Alexandria, Virginia on July 12, 1946. She grew up in northern Virginia, and graduated from Fairfax High School in 1964. She attended Bridgewater College after high school then worked at the new Dulles International Airport. She married and settled in Leesburg, Virginia, on 13 acres, where she started her iris and daylily collection.



Ginny Spoon

She has a daughter, Bonnie, and son-in-law, Tom Fernandez, and four grandchildren: Raphael, Gabrielle, Michaela, and Sariel, all named after angels. They live in Madison, Virginia, on a 47-acre farm where Raphael (age 8), an AIS youth member, is starting his iris collection. Ginny's son, Bob Waddell, was married this summer to Jen, and they live in Leesburg, Virginia.

When her children were grown, Ginny worked at large estates in Middleburg, Virginia. She went back to school at the Northern Virginia and the Lord Fairfax Community Colleges, majoring in horticulture. Ginny grew up on a small farm where her family raised chickens, had a milk cow, churned their own butter, and grew their own vegetables. Her mother, Wilma, also grew many perennials on their farm, and especially loved irises.

Ginny joined the American Iris Society in 1991, just before the Washington Convention. At the C&P Iris Society auction in the summer of 1991, she tried to bid on irises to add to her collection. Don Spoon outbid her for most of the irises. She married Don in 1994, and they moved to Oracle, Arizona, where they worked for the Biosphere 2 project. They moved back to Cross Junction, Virginia, in 1996, where they have a combined iris collection of over 6,000 cultivars. Both are AIS Garden Judges, and both hybridize irises for Winterberry Gardens.

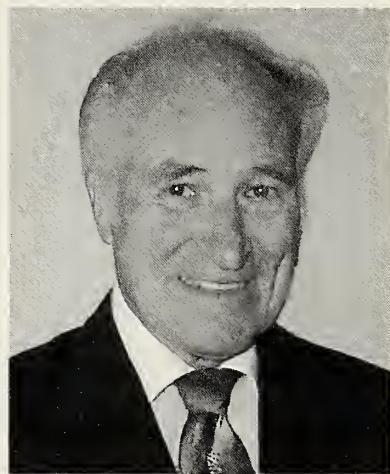
Ginny served as president of the C&P Iris Society for 5 years, and was editor of the *Reblooming Iris Recorder*. She is presently vice

president of the Dwarf Iris Society and editor of the C&P Iris Society Newsletter. Ginny and Don planted and maintain the master planting of over 1,000 guest irises for the 2003 National Convention at their garden in Cross Junction, Virginia.

Julian C. Wells: Region 10

Julian Wells was born and raised in Los Angeles, California, when it still had a small-town atmosphere. It was here that his mother's love for gardening rubbed off on him, and a friendship with Tom Craig, who hybridized many irises during that time, ensured his own lifelong interest in this flower.

During the 1950's, he ran an iris nursery, where he hybridized and sold many varieties of irises and daylilies. Alongside mentors like Tom Craig and Sidney Mitchell and friends like Ben Hager, Julian promoted and sent irises all over the country. In the late 1950's he was putting out his own color catalog.



Julian C. Wells

After graduating from Whittier College, he went to work for places such as Corning Glass, Infrared Industries, General Dynamics and Thermo Electron Industries. Moving to New Mexico, he purchased a large plot of land where he was able to get back into irises and established a nursery named "Rancho de la Flor de Lis", which boasted a listing of over 4,000 varieties of irises. The nursery was publicized by television and newspapers alike, including "The Wall Street Journal".

After retiring from the nuclear safety equipment business, Julian moved from New Mexico to Texas and eventually landed in Louisiana, where he bought a large Frank Lloyd Wright-style house on a "peninsula" on Lake Vernon, near Leesville. After planting over a hundred varieties of tall bearded irises, he was able only to grow a few due to the climate. Having met hybridizer Dorman Haymon earlier on, he was re-introduced to and was fascinated by another type of iris.

Although he had grown (and babied) Louisiana Irises in tubs earlier in New Mexico, he now had an iris that loved this climate and thrived in the moist habitat that encircled the grounds which he had just purchased. Along with his beloved irises (Japanese, Spurias and Siberians included), Julian grows over 800 varieties of daylilies, large collections of magnolias, camellias, azaleas, hollies, Japanese Maples and crinums.

His retirement hasn't slowed him down. He has served as President of the New Mexico Iris Society, President of the International Oleander Society, Vice President of the Society for Louisiana Irises, and

Secretary/Treasurer for SLI: Acadiana Chapter. Julian is looking forward to taking over the duties as RVP for Region 10.

Bruce Filardi: Region 13

Since AIS members are already familiar with me in my role as *Bulletin* Editor, I'll try to keep this bio short.

I am originally from New Jersey, and lived there until after college, with the exceptions of interruptions when my father's professional duties moved us to Italy and Texas. Those sojourns probably instilled in me the love of travel that is still a major interest in my life.

After college, I taught high school foreign languages for a few years, then joined a health care services company, with transfers to Denver, CO, Hayward, CA, and Kansas City, MO... I finally settled in Portland, OR, where I remain.

My love of irises probably received its first kindling when I was doing some volunteer work for the Sierra Club and the Peninsula Foundation in Palo Alto, CA. A member, Fran Adams, donated some rhizomes as a fundraiser, and these were my very first iris purchases.

One day, after moving to Portland, I was at a coffee shop and casually looked at a local gardening newsletter. There was a small ad for Schreiner's in this paper, and I happened to have a day off the next day. The rest – as they say – is history!

I drove to Schreiner's and was awestruck by the irises. Purely by chance, I must have hit close to the peak of bloom season. I spent several hours there, wandering around and photographing in their display garden and later in their fields. I had a pen with me, and I started my "must have" list — a list which has never ended to this day!

My total immersion in the iris world soon followed. I discovered that the Portland/Salem area of Oregon was a hotbed of iris production and iris activities. Will Plotner invited me to attend a GPIS meeting, and I soon knew many of the "famous people" who owned large iris gardens and hybridized irises. Can you imagine?!: Attendees at my first meeting included Keith Keppel, Bennett Jones, Dave Schreiner, Barbara & Terry Aitken, Duane & Joyce Meek, Jim & Vicki Craig, etc., etc. Friendships have developed and my iris field has grown and grown.

I am honored to have been asked to serve as RVP of Region 13.

Janice Tate: Region 24

Janice grew up on a farm. Her parents grew cotton and corn. The cotton was the main income of the large family of six children. Even at an early age she was taught to work with the soil, in the fields and the

garden. Her mother enjoyed having lots of beautiful flowers; iris was one of them. Some of the elderly people called them “flags” in that time.

Janice graduated from Hamilton High School, and went to Memphis to start nursing school. She was dating Clayton Tate, a boy from near her hometown. He wanted to get married, as he was being drafted into the Armed Services. He was drafted into the Artillery Division of the Korean War. After he returned home, the young couple bought a farm on the Buttachette River near Hamilton, Alabama, where they wanted to bring up their family. They have four very nice children.

Janice went back to school at night to study Metallurgy. She worked for 22 years at NTN-Bower as a Lab Technologist. She never lost her love for flowers and gardening. She grows about 200 iris and 600 daylilies. She enjoys hybridizing and sharing all the plants she has in her garden. She likes trading with friends and buying the latest new irises or daylilies. She is very interested in fostering a love of plants in young people and other gardeners, and this applies to all of God’s wonderful plants, including hostas, crepe myrtles, and almost any rare plants.

Janice enjoys the fellowship with club members and encourages others to come and join. She is a normal grandmother, thinking all her grandchildren are just wonderful and special. Her desire is to get more people, especially young people, interested in irises.

Janice and Clayton Tate just celebrated their 50th anniversary in October. She is now retired and hopes to have several years to grow the Wonderful Iris.

Linda Browning: Region 7

I grew up in the country, and my mom always had flowers or all kinds, including iris. This was the beginning of my love for flowers.

Larry and I have been married for 44 years, and we share the love of gardening. We work together as a team, but we have one perennial bed that is all Larry’s. (I am not allowed to even weed in this bed!) We have three children and two grandchildren.

Larry and I joined the American Iris Society and the Memphis Area Iris Society in June of 1979. At that time I had a large iris bed, which contained twelve different iris and two large peonies. It was growing well and we thought it was beautiful. We attended our first



Janice Tate



Linda Browning

iris meeting in March of 1979, at Memphis Area Iris Society, as guests of Mr. & Mrs. Louis Pyron. This was our first contact with irisarians. Oh, how innocent we were! We soon learned the dos and don'ts of growing iris.

We were Charter Members of the West Tennessee Iris Society organized in October, 1985. One of the highlights as a member of WTIS was being instrumental in organizing and planting the West Tennessee Iris Society Garden. We took a pie-shaped area of weeds and vines and made a lovely garden, and today it is still a beautiful garden. *[Editor's note: It was one of the highlights of last year's National Convention.]* We retired and moved to the country, and joined Jackson Area Iris Society in February of 1998, and I am currently serving as President of this club. I became a Garden Judge in 1986 and now serve as an Active Master Judge. I served as Secretary of Region 7 in 1991-1993. We have attended five National Conventions, and I have enjoyed participating in all the societies.


Larry and I grow many types of bearded and beardless iris, as well as lots of other perennials. We are enjoying retirement on our farm. My other activities include being a Master Gardener, flower arranging, sewing, and working in my Church and community. I am looking forward to serving as RVP for Region 7.

Thomas J. Miller: Region 12

I was born in the small northern Utah farming community of Wellsville. I became interested in floral arranging and the growing of iris at the early age of 12. My first purchase of iris was buying the "Bargain Basement Collection" from Cooley's, which was an assortment of about ten iris rhizomes.

During a four-year period while with the US Navy, I was stationed in Washington, DC, and I furthered my knowledge of the floral design industry by working on off-duty hours with Blackstone Floral. Upon release from the Navy, I married Linda L. Larsen, and we have two children who have added four grandchildren to our family.

Over the past 45 years I have worked in both the retail and the wholesale side of the floral business. For a period of ten years, Linda and I owned and operated a retail floral shop. The rest of the time I have spent working in the wholesale business along with other retail operations.

I have participated in both the artistic and horticultural aspects of iris shows with Cache Valley Iris Society and Utah Iris Society. I have served on the Board of Directors and as President of the Utah Iris Society. I look forward to working as RVP of Region 12. 

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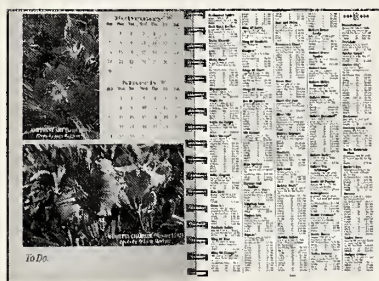
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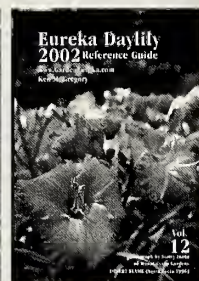
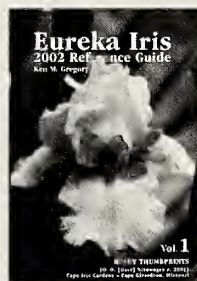
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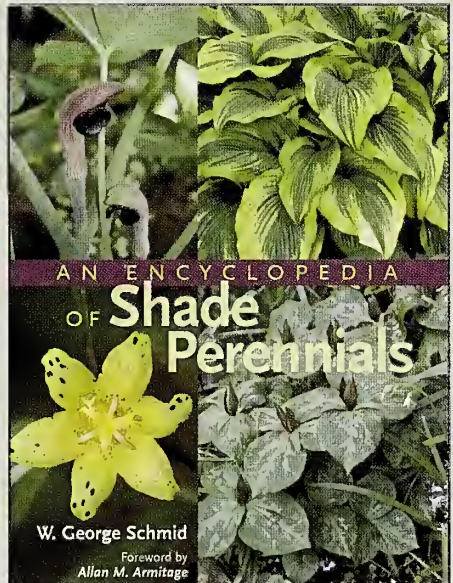
AURA LIGHT (Barry Blyth, r. 1993) AIS Award of Merit

Photograph by Lynn Denton of Willow Bend Farm at Eckert, Colorado

The Gardener's Guide
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Geoff Stebbings



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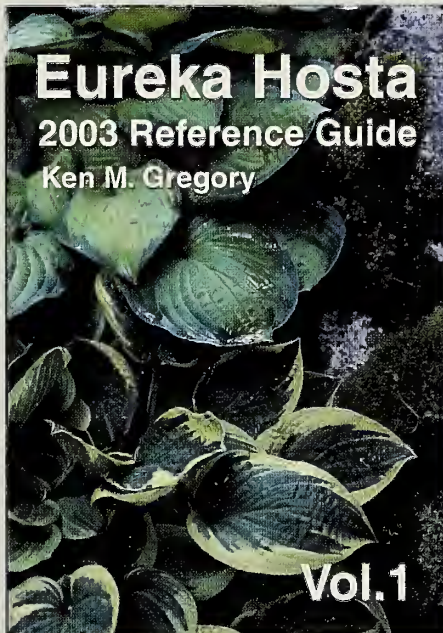
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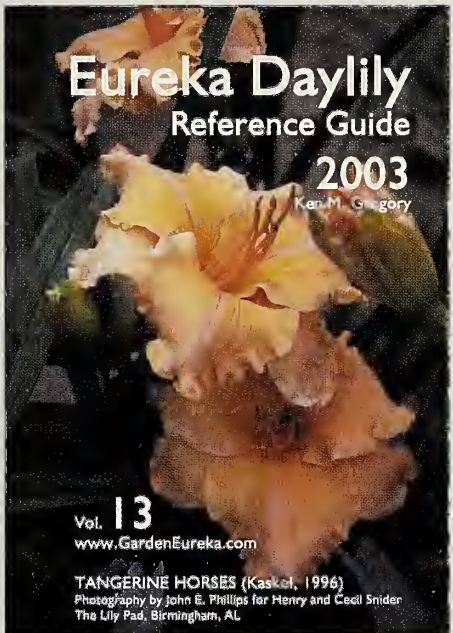


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TANGERINE HORSES (Kaskol, 1996)
Photography by John E. Phillips for Henry and Cecil Snider
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Caparne-Welch and Morgan-Wood Medals

by Clarence Mahan, Virginia

Caparne-Welch Medal

This medal is restricted to miniature dwarf bearded (MDB) irises. It is named in honor of William John Caparne (1855-1940) and Walter Welch (1887-1980).

William John Caperne was born in Newark-on-Trent, Nottinghamshire, in 1855, and his name was spelled "Caparn" until he added a final "e" in his later years. Both of his parents were artists and shared a love of gardening and flowers. He taught art at a local school and in his own studio, and he sold bulbs and seeds of difficult to obtain garden plants. After his wife died in 1894, he left his teaching position and in 1896, he moved to the isle of Guernsey in 1896. Living in a small cottage, he converted an old tramcar into an artist's studio. Here he lived, painted, and grew and hybridized irises and other flowering plants until he became totally blind in 1938. He died on Guernsey in 1940.

Caparne's life was much influenced by his friend Sir Michael Foster. Foster was an admirer of Caparne's paintings and asked Caparne to paint irises. Caparne developed an interest in breeding irises, and by crossing dwarf species with taller cultivars created a new "race" of intermediate irises. He also worked extensively breeding various dwarf iris species and was the first iris hybridizer to concentrate on smaller irises. Most of the dwarf irises cultivars grown in gardens in the first quarter of the 19th century were products of Caparne's hybridizing efforts. The art world saw a renewed interest in Caparne's paintings in the 1990s, and his works gained increased admiration and value. To learn more about William John Caparne, it is suggested you obtain two books by Robin A. Fenner: *A Genius Undeclared* (Tavistock, 1994) and *Guernsey - My Heaven on Earth* (Tavistock, 1998). These two books reproduce a number of Caparne's iris paintings, and *Guernsey - My Heaven on Earth* lists and describes many of the irises bred by Caparne.

The founder of the Dwarf Iris Society, Walter E. Welch, was born in Missouri in 1887. He studied at the Art Institute of Chicago and was a

talented interior decorator. After moving to Middlebury, Indiana, he worked for the U.S. Post Office. There he met Paul Cook and began hybridizing irises. He shared Cook's enthusiasm for dwarf irises, and set out to develop new forms. Welch introduced his first dwarf iris cultivars in 1950. One of these, 'Primus,' won the American Iris Society's Caparne Award, which was the top award restricted to dwarf irises at that time. Seven more of his dwarf introductions won this award: APRIL MORN (1954), BLAZON (1955), SPARKLING EYES (1956), VERI GAY (1958), CHERRY SPOT (1960), FASHION LADY (1964), and ATOMIC BLUE (1965).

Walter Welch organized the Dwarf Iris Club in 1950, later to become the Dwarf Iris Society. He published the first dwarf iris *Portfolio* that same year and edited the *Portfolio* for 12 years. He founded the dwarf iris robin program and at one time was serving as director for eighteen robins. Even after relinquishing his editor position for the *Portfolio*, he continued to contribute many learned articles. He organized the dwarf iris slide program. Walter Welch was tireless in his efforts to promote dwarf irises and to encourage younger hybridizers.

Morgan-Wood Medal

This medal is restricted to Siberian (SIB) irises. It is named in honor of F. Cleveland Morgan (1882-1962) and Ira E. Wood (1903-1977).

F. Cleveland Morgan was a pioneer Canadian breeder of Siberian irises and a founding member of AIS. Some of his magnificent cultivars still enhance gardens around the globe. Three of his best-known irises are CAESAR (originally 'Caezar'), CAESAR'S BROTHER, and TROPIC NIGHT. Educated in England and Switzerland, he was a director of the Henry Morgan Company and a patron of Canadian arts.

Morgan's association with the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts spanned a period of forty-five years, including 8 years as president of that institution. The museum held a special exhibition in 1961 to display more than six hundred works of art that he had donated. AIS instituted the Morgan Award for Siberian Irises, the predecessor of the Morgan-Wood Medal, in 1961.

Ira E. Wood, who was known as Sandy to his friends, and his wife Betty were both scientists who worked for Bell Telephone Laboratories in New Jersey. They shared their iris hobby and were active in the activities of AIS and the Society for Siberian Irises. They often undertook iris society projects as a team and one of these was the production of the Handbook for the American Iris Society Members and Officers. The AIS awarded them both the Distinguished Service Medal in 1974.


Wood hybridized Siberian irises, but he introduced only one cultivar, ONG'S HAT. He also served as a director of AIS and as its second vice president. 



Photo: Miller

SCRUPLES (L. Miller) Caparne-Welch winner, 2002
LAKE KEUKA (D. Borglum) Morgan-Wood winner, 2002



Photo: Aitken

IRIS COLORADO

2003 INTRODUCTIONS BY LOWELL BAUMUNK

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE TB.

The colors tell the story: In the dark of the night, her orange lamp offered hope and caring. Seedling 782E. Mid-season. 6". A very smooth, very dark red-purple self with prominent **orange beards**. Well branched. Seven buds. Strong purple based foliage.

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE was named by Nurse Practitioner and Iris Enthusiast, Karen Tomky, of Olney Springs, Colorado, to honor the nursing profession. Karen was one of six nurses who received the prestigious 2001 Nightingale Award given by the Colorado Nurses Foundation to honor nurses for excellence in caring.

For each rhizome sold this year, Karen will make a donation of \$5 to the Colorado Nursing Foundation for nursing scholarships. **In addition, all nurses who are A.I.S. members may purchase Florence Nightingale for \$20.** EC Denver 2002. (Horatio X Night Game) \$40 postpaid.



INTROSPECTION TB.

Seedling 673Q. Mid to late season. 40". An exceptionally vigorous, robust and distinctive plicata. We crossed Schreiner's huge and strong zonal, JAZZED UP, with a luminata seedling to produce this orchid and white, abundantly ruffled, flower. Nine+ buds.

Wide, modern form.

HC 2002. Pictured on page 97 of the October 2002 AIS Bulletin.

(Jazzed Up X (Prize Drawing x Flights of Fancy))

\$40 postpaid.

LESSER GOLDFINCH Species (Iris pumila).

Seedling B3A. Very early. 5". Provides a cheerful welcome to the bearded iris bloom season. The brightest yellow of any pumila we have grown. Strong and vigorous. Named for the delightful tiny lesser goldfinches that grace our bird feeders in the summer. From B.I.S. seed lot 18 (1997-98) collected near Stavropol, Northern Caucasus by "PK" (Russia). \$15 postpaid.



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100 Favorite Iris

2003 Tall Bearded Iris Symposium

Compiled by Gerry Snyder, California

Below are the results of the Tall Bearded Iris Symposium ballot, which was included in the July 2002 AIS Bulletin. Shown is the ranking for 2002 and 2003. All AIS members were eligible to vote, not just judges.

2002	2003	Cultivar	Total	Hybridizer	Year	Season	Height	Color
1	1	DUSKY CHALLENGER	625	Schreiner's	'86	M-L	39"	dark purple
2	2	JESSE'S SONG	458	B. Williamson	'83	M	36"	wht. & violet plicata
3	3	SILVERADO	418	Schreiner's	'87	M	38"	light silver blue
4	4	CONJURATION	408	M. Byers	'89	M-L	36"	wht. & violet wht. Horns
8	5	THORNBIRD	355	M. Byers	'89	M	35"	ecru tan vio. horns
6	6	BEVERLY SILLS	349	B. Hager	'79	M	36"	pink
10	7	STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN	336	L. Lauer	'93	E-M	40"	off wht. S./med. bl.F
7	8	STEPPING OUT	313	Schreiner's	'64	M-L	38"	wht. & violet plicata
13	9	HELLO DARKNESS	301	Schreiner's	'93	E-M	37"	purple black
12	10	BEFORE THE STORM	299	S. Innerst	'89	M	36"	near black
14	11	VANITY	298	B. Hager	'75	E-L	36"	pink
5	12	TITAN'S GLORY	293	Schreiner's	'81	E-M	37"	dark violet
9	13	EDITH WOLFORD	285	B. Hager	'86	M	40"	yellow S.;blue-violet F
15	14	LADY FRIEND	284	J. Ghio	'81	VE-E	38"	garnet red
16	15	YAQUINA BLUE	272	Schreiner's	'92	M	37"	medium blue
11	16	HONKY TONK BLUES	269	Schreiner's	'88	M	37"	hyacinth blue
21	17	MESMERIZER	249	M. Byers	'91	M	36"	white/white flounces
26	18	CELEBRATION SONG	248	Schreiner's	'93	E-M-L	37"	apricot-pink S. blue-lavender falls
19	19	SKATING PARTY	241	L. Gaulter	'83	M-L	40"	white
28	20	IMMORTALITY	226	L. Zurbrigg	'84	M&Re	30"	white
17	20	SUPREME SULTAN	226	Schreiner's	'88	M-L	40"	yellow S; crimson F
18	22	MARY FRANCES	225	L. Gaulter	'72	M	38"	blue-orchid
29	23	CLARENCE	220	L. Zurbrigg	'91	M&Re	35"	white S; lt. blue
20	24	LACED COTTON	218	Schreiner's	'80	M-L	34"	white
22	25	VICTORIA FALLS	215	Schreiner's	'77	E-L	40"	blue; wht. spot on F
24	26	SONG OF NORWAY	210	W. Luhn	'79	M-L	38"	powder blue
26	27	GOING MY WAY	205	J. Gibson	'72	M	37"	wht. & violet plicata
23	28	CHAMPAGNE ELEGANCE	200	D. Niswonger	'87	M	33"	pink & apricot
31	29	BREAKERS	189	Schreiner's	'86	M	36"	medium blue
29	30	ACOMA	187	T. Magee	'90	E	30"	pale blue/violet plicata
25	31	SUPERSTITION	182	Schreiner's	'77	M	36"	maroon black

2002	2003	Cultivar	Total	Hybridizer	Year	Season	Height	Color
43	32	FANCY WOMAN	168	K. Keppel	'95	VE-EM	38"	lilac purple luminata
32	33	JOYCE TERRY	163	T. Muhlestein	'74	M-L	38"	yellow & wht. yellow edge
38	34	AFTERNOON DELIGHT	162	R. Ernst	'85	M	40"	tan-gold/ maroon
37	35	RUSTLER	159	K. Keppel	'88	M	37"	gold-brown
39	36	CITY LIGHTS	157	M. Dunn	'91	M	37"	blue/white spot on F
35	37	JURASSIC PARK	156	L. Lauer	'95	EM	36"	yellow S. purple F
34	38	BOOGIE WOOGIE	153	H. Nichols	'93	M-L	36"	wht. S./F. cloudy. violet
42	39	BRIDE'S HALO	152	H. Mohr	'73	E-L	36"	white edged yellow
51	40	GYPSY ROMANCE	152	Schreiner's	'94	M-L	37"	violet raspberry
36	41	GAY PARASOL	151	Schreiner's	'74	M	35"	lav. wht./rose violet
45	42	SKY HOOKS	149	M. Osborne	'80	M	36"	soft yellow; violet horns
33	43	MYSTIQUE	145	J. Ghio	'75	E-L	36"	lt. blue S; dk. blue F
49	44	CODICIL	144	S. Innerst	'85	M-L	32"	lt. blue black beard
	45	SPLASHACATA	143	R. Tasco	'88	M	35"	purple on white dotted plicata
63	46	POND LILY	139	Ev. Jones	'95	M	38"	violet blended pink
41	47	EVERYTHING PLUS	137	D. Niswonger	'84	M	34"	blue-wht. & violet plic
45	48	RARE TREAT	136	Schreiner's	'87	E-M	34"	blue & white plicata
40	49	DAZZLING GOLD	131	D.C. Anderson	'81	M	29"	yell. veined brown
50	50	DIABOLIQUE	130	Schreiner's	'97	ML	38"	garnet purple
56	50	SWINGTOWN	130	Schreiner's	'96	L	36"	mulberry-claret
63	52	CROWNED HEADS	125	K. Keppel	'97	M	38"	wistaria S, lt. blue F.
43	52	TIGER HONEY	125	B. Kasperek	'94	EM	38"	butterscotch-caramel w/ wht. & yel. streaks
52	54	CAMELOT ROSE	124	C. Tompkins	'65	M-L	30"	lilac/burgundy
57	54	ROMANTIC EVENING	124	J. Ghio	'96	EL	36"	lilac S, dk red-purple F
91	56	ORANGE SLICES	123	D. Niswonger	'87	M	33"	light orange
79	57	CLASSIC LOOK	122	Schreiner's	'92	E-M	36"	white w/blue marks
61	58	LOCAL COLOR	119	K. Keppel	'96	M	40"	dk. violet S, darker F
58	59	BABBLING BROOK	116	K. Keppel	'66	M	38"	light blue
62	59	BLACK TIE AFFAIR	116	Schreiner's	'93	M	36"	inky black
54	61	RHONDA FLEMING	109	R. Mullin	'93	M-L	35"	white banded lilac
54	61	SWEET MUSETTE	109	Schreiner's	'86	M-L	37"	flamingo/rose
89	63	EPICENTER	108	J. Ghio	'94	EM	42"	black cherry S, salmon F. edged black cherry
59	63	PERSIAN BERRY	108	L. Gaulter	'77	M	35"	mulberry-lavender
53	63	WORLD PREMIER	108	Schreiner's	'98	ML	37"	blue white S, dk. blue violet F w white rim
59	66	FRINGE BENEFITS	106	B. Hager	'88	M	30"	orange
47	67	BEWILDERBEAST	105	B. Kasperek	'95	M	30"	mauve streaked silver
83	67	PROUD TRADITION	105	Schreiner's	'90	E-M	36"	S.lt. blue F. m. bl.
	67	SPIRIT WORLD	105	K. Keppel	'94	EM	36"	violet/yellow/white luminata
75	70	EAGLE'S FLIGHT	103	Schreiner's	'86	E-M	35"	blue & white plicat
86	70	HOLY NIGHT	103	K. Mohr	'83	E	35"	deep violet purple
67	70	RINGO	103	G. Shoop	'79	M	38"	white/grape edge
47	73	ANNA BELLE BABSON	101	B. Hager	'85	M	36"	bright pink
65	74	COPPER CLASSIC	99	E. Roderick	'75	L	30"	burnt orange
69	74	OWYHEE DESERT	99	L. Pinkston	'97	ML	36"	white S; rusty F w white rays, rim

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(P. Black '03) SDB



OPALESCENT DREAM \$45.
(O.Brown '03) TB



BOLD ENCOUNTER \$45.
(P. Black '03) TB

See preceding page for ordering information

2002	2003	Cultivar	Total	Hybridizer	Year	Season	Height	Color
	76	STARSHIP ENTERPRISE	97	Schreiner's	'99	ML	36"	white S; cream F w magenta band
74	77	BOYSENBERRY BUTTERCUP	94	L. Lauer	'97	EM	37"	creamy yellow S, lavender F w lt rim
93	77	MIDNIGHT OIL	94	K. Keppel	'98	M	36"	darker than eggplant
69	79	BAYBERRY CANDLE	93	C. DeForest	'69	M	36"	chart., gold & olive
68	79	LEMON MIST	93	N. Rudolph	'72	E	32"	lemon yellow
75	79	LULLABY OF SPRING	93	Schreiner's	'87	E-M	38"	mimosa yell./mauve
69	82	OKTOBERFEST	92	W. Maryott	'87	M	37"	red-orange
93	82	RUFFLED BALLET	92	E. Roderick	'75	M-L	30"	blue wht. S.; blue F
82	84	MULLED WINE	91	K. Keppel	'82	L	36"	raspberry-burgundy
66	84	QUEEN IN CALICO	91	J. Gibson	'80	M	34"	apricot/red violet plic
72	86	POEM OF ECSTASY	90	B. Hager	'97	M	36"	peach pink S, deep lavender F
98	87	CHERRY SMOKE	89	D. Meek	'78	M-L	34"	red black
83	88	NIGHT RULER	88	Schreiner's	'90	M	39"	dark purple
88	89	STUDY IN BLACK	87	G. Plough	'68	E-M	36"	red-black
97	90	KILT LILT	86	J. Gibson	'70	E-M	40"	tan-gold/maroon plic.
75	91	BLENHEIM ROYAL	85	Schreiner's	'90	M	38"	medium blue
72	91	GYPSY WOMAN	85	Schreiner's	'85	E-M	35"	yell.S; cream F
79	93	ARCTIC EXPRESS	84	J. Gatty	'96	EM	38"	pure white
89	93	SWEETER THAN WINE	84	Schreiner's	'88	E-M	35"	wht. S./royal purple F
	93	TOM JOHNSON	84	P. Black	'96	E	35"	dark purple, red orange beards
92	96	ALTRUIST	83	Schreiner's	'87	E-M	37"	pale blue
	97	KEVIN'S THEME	81	F. Kerr	'93	ML	38"	ivory yellow S; blue violet F
86	97	THRILLER	81	Schreiner's	'88	M-L	36"	cerise/claret
	99	CHASING RAINBOWS	80	B. Hager	'98	M	32"	peach S, buff/lavender/blue blend F
75	99	FEATURE ATTRACTION	80	Schreiner's	'94	L	37"	lavender-grape, white signal; laced
79	99	LORILEE	80	Schreiner's	'81	M-L	37"	rose-orchid
	99	SEA POWER	80	K. Keppel	'99	M	38	ruffled blue

Runners-up: ZANDRIA (78), BEST BET (76), OLYMPIAD (76), and SPICED TIGER (74)

New to the list: SPLASHACATA, STARSHIP ENTERPRISE, TOM JOHNSON, CHASING RAINBOWS, SEA POWER

Returning to the list: SPIRIT WORLD

Dropped from the list: BEST BET, OLYMPIAD, SPICED TIGER, EASTERTIME, NIGERIAN RASPBERRY



AIS Comes to Virginia in 2003

Guest Iris Gardens Await Your Visit

by Clarence Mahan, Virginia

THIS YEAR THE AIS CONVENTION HEADQUARTERS WILL be in Falls Church, Virginia, from May 12 to May 17. Our tour gardens are planted with more than 1,000 guest irises sent by 96 of the best iris hybridizers in the world. We will try to make sure you have ample time in each tour garden to enjoy the irises, take pictures, take notes, and have refreshments. We will visit our huge master planting in the Spoons' garden on two separate days.

Our convention hotel is just minutes from one of the largest shopping centers in the US at Tyson's Corner, Virginia, if you or your spouse is interested in that sort of thing. The hotel is just off the Washington Beltway, which provides convenience if you drive or rent a car. It is a few minutes away from the Washington rail transit station at West Falls Church. Our optional tours will afford you the means of viewing some of the major monuments in Washington, D.C.

There will be coffee and other drinks at every garden, along with homemade cookies, breads, and various other baked goods prepared by AIS members from all over Region 4. Carrie Winter and the Charlotte Iris Society are coordinating our effort to get "southern hospitality" of the edible type to our tour gardens. We will also have some veggies and fruits for those who can or must resist the sweets.

Our tour gardens encircle Fredericksburg in the south, and three of them will take us west across the Shenandoah River nearly to "almost heaven" West Virginia. These are the gardens that will be on tour:

Lois Rose's Garden

Lois Rose lives on her 50-acre horse farm near Partlow, Virginia, with six horses, a cat named Smokey, and, as she says, a million wild birds. Having seen the huge flocks of goldfinches she feeds outside her kitchen window, I can attest that "a million" may not be hyperbole. A librarian at the Library of Congress, Lois commutes 160 miles every



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US Funds

Canadian Registration

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registrations in Canadian funds

Pat Loy
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Etobicoke, ON M8Y 3M2
pat_loy@yahoo.ca
(416) 251-9136

\$200 per person
before 3/31/03
\$250 per person
3/31-4/30/03

Canadian Funds

- Registrations limited to only 300! Please send full name, address, phone number and e-mail address along with your check payable to: **Siberian-Species Convention 2003**, to the correct registrar (depending upon currency used)
- For more complete information – visit the convention website or contact either registrar
- Siberian-Species 2003 Convention website address:
<http://members.rogers.com/iris2003>
- Convention Hotel: Sheraton Hamilton 905-529-5515 or 800-514-7101
Rate is \$136 Canadian (approx. \$87 US), plus tax—single/double room. *Mention the Siberian-Species Iris Convention when making reservations.*

workday, and I am mystified by how she finds time to tend to her large personal collection of almost all types of irises and many other plants. She grows all sorts of bearded irises, including arilbreds, and nearly all types of beardless irises. She has a large collection of reblooming irises and a considerable number of historic irises, including a “Dykes collection.” The convention guest irises are planted in twelve island beds in what was once her vegetable garden. Since the Fredericksburg iris club was founded in 1984, Lois has been a staunch supporter of Region 4. You will find hostas, wildflowers, and many other interesting sights on your visit to Lois’s farm — and she says: “I never really considered myself a gardener, and still don’t.” If Lois does not wish to be called a “gardener,” fine with me. But she is definitely an iris grower *par excellence!*

Gardens of Gina and Jim Schroetter

Located west of Fredericksburg on eight wooded acres, the gardens of Gina and Jim Schroetter are in the Chancellorsville battlefield area of Spotsylvania, Virginia. History buffs know that it was at Chancellorsville in 1863 that the outnumbered Confederates won a great victory, but it is also where Stonewall Jackson received wounds that ultimately proved fatal. Here, not far from the battlefield, the Schroetters built their dream log house, and live with their son Austin, age 5, two Welsh corgis and two cats. Their personal collection of irises includes many types, both bearded and beardless. The Schroetters are particularly fond of reblooming and space age irises, and Gina is an enthusiast for iris with broken color patterns. Jim has been breeding irises since 1995, and is working with tall bearded, standard dwarf bearded, and Japanese irises. The Schroetters have recently started a commercial iris operation, Dreamland Iris Garden, and Jim has selected several of his own seedlings for future introduction. So in addition to seeing the official guest irises in the Schroetters’ garden, you will be able to see some new seedlings by an up-and-coming hybridizer.

Jack and Rosalie Loving's Garden

For more than 30 years, Jack and Rosalie Loving have made their home east of Fredericksburg in rural King George County. This county, formed in 1720 and named in honor of King George I, is the site of Port Conway, birthplace of James Madison. On property owned by Rosalie’s grandfather, the Lovings built their house and reared six children. Rosalie and Jack are both now retired from the U.S. Civil Service, having worked for many years at the nearby Naval Surface

Weapons Center in Dahlgren, Virginia. The Lovings are well known for growing many types of vegetables, and sharing them with family and friends. Their iris collection, the very old and the very new, expands every year. They have given up much of their vegetable garden to make room for nearly 600 guest irises. In Region 4, the Lovings' horticultural expertise is known as "the Loving Touch." Their irises always show lush, clean growth, and in May they are a mass of glorious color. Jack does not advertise it, but he has some Siberian seedlings that are really nice. And even if Rosalie gets upset with me for mentioning it, I can personally attest to the fact that, along with many other talents, she makes the best pickles in the world.

Garden of Kurt and Sonia Kuppert

The Kuppert garden is located near a number of famous battlefields in Spotsylvania County, on a corner lot in a pleasant, modern subdivision. This well-manicured garden packs in a ton of beauty in a small area. Sonia Kuppert's love of irises came from her parents, Jack and Rosalie Loving, and she and her husband Kurt are now carrying on the family tradition. A wide variety of shrubs, flowers and other plants fill their backyard, which has a dollhouse-like shed as a garden focal point. You will be amazed at what can be accomplished in a compact space when you see this garden in bloom with 250 guest irises.

Lord Fairfax Community College

The Middletown campus of Lord Fairfax Community College provides a serene setting for guest iris beds. Harry Reed planted 240 guest irises, and the beds are tended by Ginny and Don Spoon and by Don's son, Bryan. With the Allegheny Mountains in the background, and with many perennial plantings maintained by the horticulture department of the college, the college campus is a lovely place to visit. The campus is close to Cedar Creek Battlefield and the Belle Grove Plantation. The great Union victory at the Battle of Cedar Creek on October 19, 1864, ended Confederate power in the Shenandoah Valley. Belle Grove, which at one time had 7,500 acres, has a splendid limestone house built in 1797 for the sister of James Madison and her husband Major Isaac Hite.

State Arboretum of Virginia, Blandy Experimental Farm

The 170-acre Orland E. White Arboretum is part of the 700-acre Blandy Experimental Farm, a research station for the University of



Flat Irises
(see story, page 66)
Photos, clockwise from upper left corner:
Aitken seedling
UNFURLED FLAG
Sutton seedling
SIX PACK





All photos: Russell, Aitken

RHYTHM

I. aphylla 'LADY PHYLLIS'

Keppel seedling

IMPERSONATOR


"Fran's Flatty"

BEG TO DIFFER



Virginia. It was designated the State Arboretum of Virginia in 1986. Located sixty miles west of Washington, D.C., the Arboretum has a large collection of plants, including the largest variety of boxwood cultivars in North America. It also has more than half of the world's pine species, a native plant trail, and native trees and shrubs grouped by family. The Arboretum staff prepared the guest iris beds, and 472 guest irises were planted by Don Spoon. Don, Ginny and Bryan Spoon have cared for the beds. The beds are on a sunny slope just south of the azalea garden. After the convention the Arboretum will continue to maintain the irises that hybridizers designate to remain in the garden.

Winterberry Gardens

The garden of Ginny and Don Spoon is near Cross Junction in the northernmost part of Virginia. The garden borders a mountain ridge road and is a few miles from the West Virginia line at an elevation of 1,600 feet. Irises thrive in the low humidity and cool nights, and what irises they have! Winterberry Gardens is our master guest collection garden, with over 1,000 guest irises. Don and Ginny met through the Chesapeake and Potomac Iris Society, and when they married they merged their iris collections. They now have more than 7,000 different named cultivars. You might think you are in Salem or Silverton when you arrive at Winterberry, but there are some medians, dwarfs, rebloomers and historic irises here that you might not find in Oregon. Don and Ginny both hybridize irises, and there are thousands of seedlings here in addition to thousands of named varieties. A pair of brass Arabian horses, made by Ginny's son-in-law, the artist Tomas Fernandez, is a focal point in the center of the main garden. With more than 1,300 reblooming iris cultivars, 750 historic irises, almost complete collections of every named MDB and MTB iris available (and some not available elsewhere), hundreds of intermediates, SDBs, and BBs, arilbreds, beardless irises and species, "you ain't seen nothing like it!" The convention beds are set apart from the rest of the plantings in twelve raised box beds. Each bed was filled with 10 tons of sifted topsoil brought in from the Shenandoah River Valley, a ton of concrete sand, a ton of leaf mold, and twenty-five pounds of slow release fertilizer. If the iris bloom season is late, early, or on time, you will not be disappointed because there should be lots of irises in bloom. 

Come See the Stars

**2003 American Iris Society National Convention
May 12-17, 2003**

Convention Headquarters: Fairview Park Marriott

3111 Fairview Park Drive; Falls Church, VA 22042

Exit: Washington Beltway (495) at junction of Route 50

(703) 849-9400; Toll Free: (1-800) 228-9290

Rates: \$109 plus 6.5% tax for 1-4 occupants. Please make your room reservations directly with the hotel and state that you are with the American Iris Society. **All rooms blocked for this convention will be released after April 22.** Because May is full-bore tourist season in the D.C. area, room availability cannot be guaranteed after this date, so reserve early. Check in time is 4:00 PM; check out time is 12:00 noon.

Registration Fees: Postmarked by March 31, 2003\$198.00
Postmarked after March 31, 2003\$230.00
Youth 18 and under \$140.00

Partial registration rates are available as advance registrations only:

Welcome Banquet only.....\$35.00
Awards Banquet only.....\$35.00
Garden tours (includes lunch)\$128.00

As a courtesy to tour garden owners, there will be no garden visits prior to the convention.

Optional Tours: One daytime tour (\$28) and one night tour (\$20) on May 13, 2003. See details below. Please include payment for optional tour fees in your registration check. **Cut-off date for optional tours is March 31.**

While every effort will be made to provide full refunds, late cancellations may receive less than 100% reimbursement. **Registrations postmarked after April 30, 2003 will not be accepted.**

The choice of entree for the Welcome Dinner is **chicken** or **sea bass**; for the Awards Banquet **chicken** or **beef**. Vegetarian and diabetic plates are also available. Please include these choices and/or special dietary needs with your registration.

Aitken's Salmon Creek Garden



CRACKLING CALDERA (above)
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Dark Irises

(see story, page 73)

Photos, clockwise from top left:
STARRING, MIDNIGHT OIL, MIDNIGHT MOONLIGHT, OLD BLACK MAGIC, *I. chrysographes*

All photos: Schreiner, Aitken, Filardi



Make checks payable to: AIS Convention 2003
Mail registrations to: Anne & Mike Lowe
 12219 Zilles Road
 Blackstone, VA 23824-9394

Optional Day Tour, May 13, 2003

Time: 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Departure Time: 1:00 PM. Cost per person: \$28.00

Includes: Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation and guide service with licensed Washington guide.

Lincoln Memorial

It exemplifies the solidarity of the Union. The 36 marble columns represent the states of the Union at the time of Lincoln's death. Simply to mount the steps and enter the spacious chamber is to feel an overwhelming sense of awe.

Vietnam Memorial

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial is a symbol of the Nation's honor and recognition of the men and women of its armed services who served in the Vietnam War. The memorial is inscribed with the names of those who gave their lives or remain missing.

Korean War Memorial

An enduring and vivid expression of America's gratitude to the 143,000 men and women who were killed, wounded or lost in action during the war from 1950 to 1953.

Jefferson Memorial

Honoring our 3rd President whose views on Liberty and Democracy are inscribed on the walls of this beautiful monument.

FDR Memorial

One of the newest memorials in Washington, this stunning monument of stone, pools, waterfalls and statues is both extra serene and incredibly moving.

Iwo Jima Marine Memorial

This impressive memorial depicts the triumphant raising of the U.S. flag over Mt. Suribachi in 1945.

Arlington National Cemetery

Resting on a lush green hillside overlooking the city, the site was chosen by Abraham Lincoln as a burial place for soldiers during the Civil War. You will visit the Kennedy gravesite where the eternal flame marks the final resting place of JFK. You will also see the Changing of the Guards at the Tomb of the Unknowns which honors all Americans who have died in service to our country.

Optional Night Tour,**May 13, 2003****Time: 6:00 PM–10:00 PM****6:00 PM Departure.**

Cost per person: \$20.00

Includes: Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation and guide service with licensed Washington guide.

Lincoln Memorial:

It exemplifies the solidarity of the Union. The 36 marble columns represent the states of the Union at the time of Lincoln's death. Simply to mount the steps and enter the spacious chamber is to feel an overwhelming sense of awe at the heroic figure of the seated Lincoln.

The Jefferson Memorial:

Honoring our 3rd President whose views of Liberty and Democracy are inscribed on the walls of this monument.

Vietnam Memorial:

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial is a symbol of the Nation's honor and recognition of the men and women of its armed services who served in the Vietnam War. The memorial is inscribed with the names those who gave their lives or remain missing.

John F. Kennedy Center:

See this magnificent memorial to our 34th President whose bronze bust dominates the Grand Foyer.

The Iwo Jima Marine Memorial:

This impressive memorial depicts the triumphant raising of the U.S. flag over Mt. Suribachi in 1945.



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The Friendly Ones

Approved AIS Judges for 2003

Compiled by Hooker & Bonnie Nichols

Key:

A: Apprentice
G: Garden
AM: Active Master
RM: Retired Master
E: Emeritus

REGION 1

G Bruce Bennett
G Ruth Bennett
AM John H. Burton, II
AM Lucy G. Burton
G Paul J. Dostie
AM Chandler Fulton
AM Elaine Fulton
G Ellen M. Gallagher
G Ada Godfrey
G William Godfrey
AM Connie M. Hall
AM Dr. Warren C. Hazelton
G Mrs. Warren C. Hazelton
AM Lynn F. Markham
G Stephanie A. Markham
RM Mrs. F. J. McAliece
E Dr. Currier McEwen
RM Marilyn R. Noyes Mollicone
AM Russell B. Moors
AM Mrs. Russell B. Moors
G David Nitka
E William H. Peck
AM Mrs. Maurice B. Pope, Jr.
G Janet Sacks
G Robert H. Sawyer
G Martin Schafer
G David Schmieder
E Mrs. David Schmieder
RM Marian H. Schmuhl
RM Robert Sobek
AM Richard Sparling
RM Shirley A. Varmette
E Kenneth M. Waite
RM Mrs. Kenneth M. Waite
RM James R. Welch
G Andrew Wheeler
G Deborah Wheeler
G John W. White
G Rebecca Wong
AM Peter J. Young

REGION 2

AM David Baehre
G Joanne Bassett
AM James G. Burke
AM Ruth C. Burke
G Clayton Grandall
G Diane Crandall
A Anna Mae Cummings
AM Marie Gerbracht
RM James Gristwood
AM Kathleen Guest
RM Jane I. Hall
G Donna James
G Ronald James
G Robert A. Keup
G Eugene Koschara
G Mildred Koschara
G Don Lowry
G Donna J. Lowry
A Jerry Murphy
A Ella Murphy
AM Wendy K. Roller
A Linda Rosser
A Donald Salhoff
A Patricia Salhoff
G Dr. Carolyn Schaffner
RM G. M. Schifferli
A Betty Schnellinger
G Helen B. Schueler
A Linda Sedlmayer
G Mary Jane Shanley
RM Mrs. Granger S. Smith
G Dorothy Stiefel
G Judith Tucholski
G Peter J. Weixlmann

REGION 3

A Ruth Barker
RM Walter C. Betzold
G Charles Conklin
A Mike Corle
G Joyce Corrin
RM George W. Gerhardt
AM Harold L. Griffie
G R. Dennis Hager
G Edmund Jay Holcomb
E Sterling U. Innerst
G Theresa Jewell

AM Mrs. R. P. Kegerise
G Jason A. Leader
G Patricia A. Leader
G Vincent Lewonski
A Dorothy Mallozzi
AM Elwood Maltman
G Mrs. Arthur F. Martin
G Geraldine McFarland
G Robert M. McFarland
RM Mrs. Stephan Molchan
G Joan Roberts
G Ken Roberts
G June Roop
AM Ron Thomlan
RM Elizabeth Unruh

REGION 4

G Barbara Alexander
G David W. Bowen
G Pat Bowen
G Randell Bowen
G Sandra S. Bryan
G Libby A. Cross
G Glenna de Quoy
G S. Herman Dennis III
E E. Roy Epperson
E Mrs. Frank H. J. Figge
RM Mrs. Glenn Grigg, Jr.
G Ruth Brown Holbrook
AM Walter Hoover
G L. Bruce Hornstein
AM Mrs. Paul D. Kabler
RM Nancy Karriker
A Linda Laing
AM Anne Lowe
AM Mike Lowe
E Clarence E. Mahan
G Bill Mull
G JaNiece Mull
G Flossie Nelson
RM Dr. Joseph B. Parker, Jr.
G Dennis C. Pearson
G Bea Rogers
G Merrick E. Shawe
G William C. Smoot
G Donald M. Spoon
G Virginia Spoon
AM Mrs. Richard D. Steele

G Frances Thrash
 A David L. Traylor
 AM Ruth E. Walker
 E Mrs. Andrew C. Warner
 RM Dennis A. Wilkie
 G Carrie Winter
 G Joan R. Wood
 E Dr. Lloyd Zurbrigg

REGION 5

G Mary T. Bolton
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(see story, page 76)





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Flat Out and Up to Date!

by Clive Russell, England

IT MAY COME AS SOMETHING OF A SURPRISE TO SOME OF YOU TO learn that although it has been going on for centuries in Japan, iris hybridizing in the western world only started at the beginning of the last century. Yes, there are iris registered in the latter quarter of the 19th century, but these were the result of “natural” crosses, as the Victorian morality at that time was of the opinion that God and nature needed no help in their grand design. There appears to be no record of why there was a change in attitude, but with the big man himself (William Rickatson Dykes) at the forefront of this new development, there was little hope for a return to former attitudes, and, to mix metaphors, once the floodgates had been opened, everyone jumped on the bandwagon.

It was the UK that was originally at the forefront of hybridizing (as it became known), and remained so until the outbreak of WWII put an end to such activities. This gave US hybridizers the chance to leapfrog the work being done in the UK, which gave them a big lead that they have never relinquished, and, in the main, they are responsible for the majority of developments in the last 60 years.

And developments there have been. Dykes managed to isolate yellow in TBs before his untimely death in 1925, and out of the yellows came the pinks, and out of the pinks came the oranges. Other hybridizers were working on different lines, which produced not only new colors, but also new color combinations and blends, and novelties appeared such as Space Agers (SA), rebloomers (RE) and color breaks (CB). Surprisingly enough, the first introduction by Keith Keppel, who is not known for favoring “novelties”, was a CB, (HUMORESQUE ‘61) but he went on to become better known for his line of variegata plicatas, and now appears to be concentrating on luminatas and red bearded “blacks”, although BROKEN DREAMS (‘97) shows that he has not abandoned the CBs altogether.

There is, however, one form of TB known have been around since

the 1920's, but which, although surfacing from time to time, has, in the main, been studiously ignored by all and sundry, and that is the 6-fall type, or "flatty". But why? This form appeared in Japanese iris a long time ago, and was quickly recognized as very desirable, and consequently efforts were made to cultivate and develop it. There is even an *I. laevigata* flatty, (originally sold as MIDNIGHT, but subsequently renamed and registered as WEYMOUTH MIDNIGHT) which is a true flatty, as all 6 falls have a white blaze on midnight blue, and in the April 2002 *Bulletin* Marty Schafer makes mention of two 6-fall hybrids of *I. cristata*. So as the form is already in existence, and there is always a demand for "novelties", why has no one thought to take it up and develop it further in TBs? It is not as though there is nothing to work with, as the earliest registered variety I have been able to find is MAY ALLISON (Allison '20), although the 1939 Checklist only describes it as a Double. JAPANESQUE (Farr) (1) was registered the following year, then there seems to have been a 20-year gap, at the end of which RHYTHM ('50) was registered. NO-TOP followed in 1957, and then there was another gap until EXOTICA (Crossman) appeared in 1969. Maybe its introduction stimulated the hybridizers of the time, as there seems to have been a flush of registrations in the 1970's, including GO GO GIRL ('70), IMPERSONATOR ('74) and TOPLESS DANCER ('76). However, it is more likely that they were already working with the same varieties that produced EXOTICA, so the surge of flatties at the time might have been inevitable. (2) But where did they come from?

Before going any further, I should perhaps define a "flatty"... As you all know the standard form for iris is to have 3 upright petals called standards, and 3 pendant petals called falls. It is unlikely that we will ever know whether they were a result of deliberate crosses, or just Mother Nature being her usual perverse self, but forms of *I. ensata* appeared where the standards were moving out in varying degrees from the vertical to the horizontal. Crosses were made to encourage this development, especially when the standards were seen to be taking on the characteristics of the falls, and thus was created what has become known as the 6-fall type. However, it is interesting to note that even today, some *I. ensata* hybrids appear which do not know quite what they are, as the standards may not have the fall blaze, even though they are horizontal, or the blaze may be there when they are semi-vertical. (These are occasionally given names and registered, but strictly speaking, they are not eligible for any awards, as, although they may be stable in their own right, they are not deemed to be either 3-fall or 6-fall types. Not so the TB's, but I shall come to them presently.) So a *real* flatty will

consistently have 6 falls, all of which have the same characteristics, i.e. a yellow blaze in *ensatas*, a white blaze in *laevigatas* and a beard in pogons.

The obvious starting point was to find out the names of as many registered varieties as possible, and I am indebted to both Bruce Filardi and Mike Lowe for their continuous flow of e-mails, usually starting with "I have found another one". (The list is to be found at the end of this article, but I am sure it is not definitive, and I would be pleased to hear from anyone who can add to it - and even supply me with pieces.) The next stage was to look up their ancestry, and with international registrations starting in the 1920's, most of today's hybrids can trace their parentage back for many generations. What turned out to be most surprising was that in those parentages, there are only 3 named varieties that recurred (3), none of which were flatties themselves, and that none of the registered flatties have a flatty as an ancestor. This would seem to confirm that not only would the flat form appear to be genetically very recessive, but also that if there has been one, no one has seen fit to register the cross of a flatty with a flatty.

So why have flatties not had more work done on them? The probable answer is that whereas conversion to tetraploidy and the appearance of CBs, and even the advent of SAs maintained the traditional form of the TB, flatties are a complete break with the norm, and therefore anathema to traditionalists. But if the 6-fall form became acceptable in *I. ensata* for the Japanese, who are sticklers for "good taste", then there is no reason why, with some patience, it could not work for us in the western world with TBs. But it must be borne in mind that in these days of instant gratification, we are up against time, as we have no idea how long it took the Japanese.

Not all the varieties of flatties that I grow have bloomed for me as yet, but those that have are without exception all late bloomers, a virtue that would normally be extolled as being instrumental in extending the season. But, unfortunately, there are a number of faults with the current flatty form, which means that they are not yet really ready to make a formal debut.

The first problem is that unless the bloom can open very quickly, the edge of the blade seems to dry out, so that by the time the flower is fully open, the outer edges are papery and brown (see photograph of IMPERSONATOR). This in itself is unusual in iris, as under normal conditions the substance tends to go thin and watery as they are going over, and therefore it is one of the first problems that need to be solved. The alternative of giving them plenty of water does not seem to work, as here in the UK, we get *plenty* of natural water, and the problem persists.

Accompanying the report I wrote covering the 1996 AIS convention for that year's British Iris Society Year Book, there is a photograph of a dark maroon-red flattie, photographed in Joe Ghio's seedling patch. It was one of two, (the better one), but sadly, both have since been composted, as Joe described them as "unstable". And this is the second problem with flatties. With current varieties, it is highly unlikely that every flower on a stem will open flat, as the earlier blooms tend to open as expected, but the later ones can be indecisive, opening with any combination of standards and falls, with and without beards. However, they do seem to do better when grown in full sun, as I have found that those not given the maximum exposure possible not only do not open quickly, but also rarely develop fully flat blooms, and those in the least sunny part of the garden open as normal iris. (Playing musical iris around the garden has proved to me that relocation does make them bloom correctly.) In some cases, I have observed bicolored flatties opening with some of the non-standards as chimeras, in other words having beards, but one side of the petal the color of the standards, and the other side the color of the falls, and this could also be a result of less than ideal positioning in the garden.

A further problem is the succession of bloom, and the position of the blooms on the stem. For the second part of the last century, while hybridizers in the US were increasing bloom size and developing the different characteristics we have today, those in the UK were concentrating on increasing the bud count and bloom succession on the stem. Now, at the start of the 21st century, the two requirements have merged, and for TBs the norm is a *minimum* of 7 buds spaced evenly along the stem, with 3 out at any one time, although in the US you only approve of 2 out at a time. Another problem is that the fullness of 6-fall blooms at varying points on the stem not only detracts from the plant's appearance, but also prevents them opening out properly, and it would therefore appear that to look their best while in flower, flatties need to be produced that either hold their blooms at the top of the stem (much as *I. ensata* hybrids do), or hold them away from the stem in candelabra formation. To breed for the former, of course, would go against the grain of all the work that was done in the last century.

And the final, and probably least significant problem I have noticed is that in most varieties, the stems are bent as they come out of the leaves, (see photograph), although they do straighten up as the flowers develop and open.

So is there any future for flatties? Well, until someone actually starts working with them, we will never know, but I can offer a few pointers

from personal observations. Firstly, we need to find out whether flatties are fertile, then see what happens when one is used as either one or both parents, and it may be necessary to go unto the 9th or 10th generation, or even further, before any kind of conclusion can be drawn. At the same time, there is no reason why work cannot be done crossing flatties with regular TBs which have either candelabra or top branching. Ideally, to get it right first time, the person to do this has to be a latter day Monty Byers and have the Midas touch, but are there any volunteers?

If this article has stimulated your imagination, and you have no qualms about ruffling aged feathers, then you might like to try your hand at growing and hybridizing flatties. As with any kind of hybridizing, it makes more sense to utilize the work that has gone before, rather than starting from scratch, but with so few registered varieties, it might be better to first assess what is available before starting to daub the pollen. From what I have been able to deduce, in most cases, where a flatty has appeared, it has been the end of the line, with it either being registered if stable, or composted if unstable. The latest ones in my collection are WHAT A MIXTURE (Grosvenor '99) and BEG TO DIFFER (Kerr '99), but there are even newer hybrids in the pipeline. I saw two in maiden bloom in the Suttons' seedling patch in 1996, one a creamy yellow (parentage unknown), and the other a cross of (STARMASTER x SKY HOOKS) X sib (photographs of both), and I have heard on the irisvine that Terry Aitken has a spectacular white flatty in his seedling patch, which I look forward to seeing before too long. (This one has IMMORTALITY as one of its parents, which means that reblooming genes have now been introduced into the line. We only need to add SA and CB blood to have a full house, but I leave that up to Mike Sutton, as even my fertile imagination cannot cope with the result of that combination!)

I have been collecting flatties since first seeing them in 1996, adding a few each year as I became aware of them, but although I had AMARYLLIS early on, it has only ever bloomed once for me, rotting on every other occasion. Good bloomers are SIX PACK, FLAT RATE, IMPERSONATOR and INCOGNITO TOO, but these are all blue, which, being the dominant color in iris, means their "blood" is not too diluted and therefore they are stronger plants. Other blues, which have not performed as well, are TOPLESS DANCER and UNFURLED FLAG. The more recently registered varieties, WHAT A MIXTURE, and BEG TO DIFFER, (both bicolors) have given satisfactory first bloom, but JUDY MOGIL (another blue self), is taking a little longer to settle down. Two real surprises were RHYTHM and LADY

PHYLLIS MOORE. The former was registered as a TB, but at 24" is now considered too short for that category. From the form it has shown so far, it is more of an MTB than a BB type, as it is smaller and daintier than other flatties. The latter is an unregistered hybrid of *I. pallida* which consistently has 6 falls, but once established, blooms with 3 additional long, but very narrow (2mm wide) standards, as well as the 6 falls (see photo). Could it be the starting point for bearded doubles?

In the show "Oklahoma!", one of the musical numbers starts with the line: "Everything's up to date in Kansas City", and goes on to say, "They've gone about as far as they can go." We all know that the breeding of iris will carry on as long as there is anyone left sufficiently interested to do some pollen daubing, but one would think that by now all iris forms had been explored. However, in the April 2002 issue of the Bulletin there was a photograph of a newly introduced TB called TEACUP (Christopherson '01), which has 3 short open standards, and 3 very large falls. In other words, looking to all intents and purposes like a 3-F JI. Yet *another* TB form! They've gone about as far as they can go? NO WAY!

List of registered flatties

AMARYLLIS (R Goebel '89)
 BEG TO DIFFER (F Kerr '99)
 CLEMATIFLORA (W Vallette '60)
 EXOTICA (G Crossman '69)
 FLAT RATE (J Ghio '93)
 FLOPSY (Loomis '90)
 "FRAN'S FLATTY" (not registered)
 GAZOO (M Knopf '66)
 GO GO GIRL (L Noyd '70)
 IMPERSONATOR (S Babson '74)
 INCOGNITO TOO (K Mohr by B. Williamson '95)
 JAPANESE (Farr '21)
 JUDY MOGIL (J McWhirter by A Feuerstein '99)
 LITTLE FREAK (J Steel by R Nelson '99)
 MAY ALLISON (Allison '20)
 NO-TOP (LB Lawson '57)
 RHYTHM (WR Ballard '50)
 SIX PACK (G Slade '83)
 TOPLESS DANCER (L Bellagamba '76)
 UNFURLED FLAG (B Hager '82)
 WHAT A MIXTURE (G Grosvenor '99)

List of not exactly flatties

BLUE TULIP (FJ Knocke '62)

DAUBER'S DELIGHT (M Osborne by G Sutton '91)


HELLO HOBO (P Blyth '88)

PEACE AND HARMONY (J Ghio '91)

PINK MAGNOLIA (O Brown '68)

HELLO HOBO and PEACE AND HARMONY have been listed above as they consistently bloom for me with very open standards, and they might prove to have some flatty genetics in their background. BLUE TULIP and DAUBER'S DELIGHT are more magnolia form with upcurving falls which are trying to become standards, so there is obviously something in *their* genetic makeup that is not of the TB norm. PINK MAGNOLIA's registration details specifically state "no standards, 6 falls", but I am told that it is also magnolia in form, although it has yet to bloom for me.

- (1) There seems to be some discussion at the present as to whether FRAN'S FLATTY and JAPANESQUE are not one and the same. FRAN'S FLATTY does not appear to have been registered, so a comparison of parentage with JAPANESQUE is not possible. I cannot yet comment from the visual point of view, as whereas my piece of FRAN'S FLATTY has bloomed (see photograph), I am still waiting for JAPANESQUE.
- (2) Subsequent research has shown that although S Babson introduced SHIPSHAPE in 1968, and it became the pollen parent of IMPERSONATOR, none of the other registrations listed in this section have a common ancestor.
- (3) PIERRE MENARD (Faught '42) ROCOCO (Schreiner's '59) and SHIPSHAPE (Babson '68)

This article appeared in slightly different form in the Yearbook of the British Iris Society. 

In Memoriam

Mrs. J. Robert Hall (Maryland)

Joseph Hoage (Colorado)

Lawrence Speth (Missouri)

Fred G. Stephenson (Virginia)

Dark Irises

by Karen Platt, England

T

o those of you who do not know my name, I am an English plantswoman who enjoys most plants, but when it comes to dark plants, I find them irresistible. I wrote *Black Magic and Purple Passion*, the only comprehensive book on over 350 dark plants, and in June of 2002 I founded the International Black Plant Society to further knowledge of dark plants. I have been searching for dark iris for over ten years now, and have come across quite a lot of them.

I first became interested in bearded irises because my mother grew them. These stately yellow flowers would rise in the garden like the sun coming up in June. Naturally I begged a few rhizomes when I started my own garden. They grew well, and I often propagated them for friends. The first dark one I grew was BLACK SWAN, and I still like it today.

Dark irises like shining taffeta or silk make my pulse beat faster! I find them irresistible, more so because they are tantalizingly dark and they encompass all the color ranges that I associate with 'black plants'. The blue-black, magenta-black and purple-blacks are all so well represented in this genus. Inky blues, royal purples, and majestic magentas are easy to find. Contrasting beards of yellow or brick orange are intriguing, but I especially like the dark quality of the near black selfs. The best dark irises I have found in my research come from the U.S. I cannot disassociate dark irises from Schreiner's in Oregon, who have been breeding dark irises, amongst other colors, for many years, and who concentrate on tall bearded types. I believe their introductions to be among the best. Schreiner's excel at flower shape, form, bud count and color. It is little wonder that DUSKY CHALLENGER (Schreiner 1986) has been voted into the top favorites list by the AIS for three years running. It is worth growing for its silky deep purple flowers alone; add to that its ruffled quality and the branching stems, and it is an obvious choice and most deserving winner.

Color alone is not sufficient; iris growers look for bud count and repeat blooming too. I have found other breeders who have introduced perfectly good darks across almost all classifications of the genus. The aptly named hybridizer, Paul Black, has introduced quite a few dark iris, and Innerst had a great deal of success with the elegant BEFORE THE STORM, introduced in 1989.


I also admire bearded types with a bitone coloring of black and white. MIDNIGHT MOONLIGHT — such a wonderful name — is ready-made for the black and white garden; the white standards and near black falls are enchanting. Other bitones are available in darkest and palest blue. A favorite of mine is the rare species, *I. iberica*, a rhizomatous, bearded Onocyclus iris with narrow, grey-green leaves and solitary brown-veined white flowers, giving the appearance of a black and white flower from afar. The black forms of *I. chrysographes* are widely grown, sought after for the depth of color, near black, especially at a distance; this one enjoys moist soil. Another dark iris which does not need to be baked by the sun is the Louisiana hybrid, BLACK GAMECOCK (Chowning 1978), an intense black-purple which does well with wet feet at a pond margin.

The Memphis Area Iris Society and the Memphis Botanic Garden would like to thank the hybridizers who donated their rhizomes to the Botanic Garden and to the individual owners of host gardens on tour. They will be a wonderful reminder of a fun convention for years to come.

We also would like to thank all of the delegates who attended the convention for their efforts to slay the travel dragons, and without whose hopes and prayers it might have rained on the parade!

Elke Longsworth,
Convention Chairman

The most unusual but not the darkest iris I have found is the only dark one to have variegated foliage of cream and green, ZEBRA NIGHT (Kasperek 1998); it is a dark violet with an orange beard.

The color black seems to suit iris like it does no other plant. There is one plant which conjures up the right image of black plants for me, and that is OLD BLACK MAGIC, introduced by Schreiner's in 1996. The coal black petals with yellow beard are pleasantly scented. The smallish flowers are inky black, and this is a floriferous variety. The name evokes the song "That Old Black Magic Called Love," after which my book was named. 

Karen will be signing copies of her new book at the Seattle and San Francisco Flower Shows in 2003, where she has also designed dark gardens. You can visit her website at www.seedsearch.demon.co.uk

2003 Silent Auction Falls Church, Virginia

We are holding the Silent Auction again at the AIS Convention in Falls Church, Virginia! That means we need your contributions to ensure the success that we have enjoyed in the past years.

The Silent Auction has become a popular part of our conventions and it is a fun way to raise funds for the support of AIS. Many people have iris treasures they could donate, and it is a great way for hybridizers to get their new introductions seen in different parts of the country. We are looking for iris artifacts, iris books, and new or recent iris introductions. However, if you would like to donate any other irises that are rare or unusual, that would work fine also. Just drop us a note and let us know what you have.

This year's convention is scheduled for May 12-17, 2003, so please let us know what you can donate no later than April 1, 2003, so we can prepare the bid sheets. Send a short note to our address below, e-mail us or call. We look forward to hearing from you.

Rita and Tom Gormley
6717 Martha Drive
Cedar Hill, MO 63016
(636) 274-7435 GormleyGreenery@aol.com

Median Iris Society Symposium

by Riley Drobst & Shirley Trio, Missouri

2002 Rank	2001 Rank		Votes	2002 Rank	2001 Rank		Votes
IB'S				8	6	Minidragon	30
1	2	Starwoman	47	9	10	Bedford Lilac	24
2	2	Protocol	43	9	26	Jeweler's Art	24
3	5	Maui Moonlight	42	9		Marksman	24
4	4	Lemon Pop	41	12	14	Dot Com	23
4	1	Rare Edition	41	12	8	Gemstar	23
6	14	Prince of Burgundy	39	14	7	Captive Sun	22
7	7	Ask Alma	35	14	13	Dark Vader	22
8	7	Cee Jay	34	14	14	Firestorm	22
9	6	Country Dance	27	14	17	Orange Tiger	22
9	43	Fathom	27	14	33	Tweety Bird	22
11	9	Blue-Eyed Blond	26	19	33	Ruby Eruption	20
11	77	Delirium	26	19	52	Snow Tree	20
11	10	Honey Glazed	26	21	18	Jewel Baby	19
14	22	Dark Waters	25	21	18	Pumpin' Iron	19
15		Midsummer Night's		21	33	Trajectory	19
		Dream	24	24	14	Baby Blessed	18
15	28	Red Zinger	24	24	29	Little Show Off	18
17	19	Az Ap	23	24	33	Sun Doll	18
17	15	Hellcat	23	24	28	TuTu Turquoise	18
19	36	Bold Stroke	22	24	29	What Again	18
19	12	Magic Bubbles	22	29	10	Jazzamatazz	17
19	28	Ming	22	29	23	Rebus	17
22	48	Blast	21	Border Bearded Irises			
22	12	Bottled Sunshine	21	1	1	Cranapple	54
22	11	This and That	21	2	3	Brown Lasso	45
25	77	Blackcurrant	20	3	2	Batik	42
25	17	Londonderry	20	4	7	Pink Bubbles	30
25	61	Sailor	20	5	11	Jungle Shadows	26
25	43	Sonoran Sands	20	6	9	Baboon Bottom	25
SDB'S				6	4	Sonja's Selah	25
1	1	Chanted	46	8	11	Apricot Frosty	24
2	2	Chubby Cheeks	44	9	15	Blackbeard	23
3	3	Ice And Indigo	37	9	5	Lenora Pearl	23
4	8	Serenity Prayer	36	11	36	Friday Blues	22
5	3	Pele	34	11	6	Red Rooster	22
6	3	Vavoom	33	13		Christiana Baker	21
7	10	Starbaby	31	13	22	Little Mary Sunshine	21

2002 Rank	2001 Rank		Votes	2002 Rank	2001 Rank		Votes
13	11	Miss Nellie	21	<i>Aril-Median Irises</i>			
13	16	Oronoco Flow	21	1	1	Loudmouth	30
17	20	Tink	19	2	3	Omar's Gold	26
18	26	Orange Pop	18	3	17	Omar's Stitchery	20
19	16	Calico Cat	17	4	3	Bozrah	18
20		Classic Navy	16	5	2	Jewel Of Omar	17
20	31	Marmalade Skies	16	5	5	Patriot's Gem	17
20	11	Petite Ballet	16	7	6	Prairie Thunder	14
20	36	Romantic Interlude	16	8	8	Sizzle	13
20	23	Shenanigan	16	9	9	Omar's Torch	12
25	59	Anaconda Love	15	10	7	Anacrusis	11
25	26	Carousel Waltz	15	11	17	Green Eyed Sheba	10
25		Teapot Tempest	15	11	15	She Devil	10
<i>MTB'S</i>				13		Silent Tears	8
1	2	Bumblebee Deelite	60	13	12	Smoke With Wine	8
2	1	Bangles	57	15	12	Canasta	7
3	3	Frosted Velvet	46	15		Humohr	7
4	5	Apricot Drops	32	15		In Toto	7
4	8	Petite Monet	32	15		Jacob's Well	7
4	11	Reminiscence	32	15		Little Orchid Annie	7
4	6	Welch's Reward	32	20		Maroon Elf	6
8	4	Rosemary's Dream	31	21		Alladdin's Treasure	5
9	7	Steffie	28	21		April Fresh	5
10	66	Ace	27	21	17	Fall In Line	5
11	11	Chickee	26	21		Krojoy	5
11	14	Crystal Ruffles	26	21		Omar The Tentmaker	5
11	9	Pretty Quirky	26	21	9	Pinkeva	5
14	14	Merit	24				
15	17	Billie The Brownie	22				
15	19	Consummation	22				
17	24	Wistful Wisteria	21				
18	17	Abridged Version	20				
19	16	Carolyn Rose	19				
19	11	Pardner	19				
19	59	Madam President	18				
19	10	Mini Wabash	18				
19	20	Payoff	18				
24	20	Aachen Elf	17				
25	25	Spanish Coins	16				
25	43	Virginia Lyle	16				
25	20	Zula	16				
25	30	Chartres	15				
25	25	Lady Emma	15				

Exhibition Certificates

for 2002

compiled by Jason Leader

Tall Bearded

Baker, C.	9902 20010 20020	Niswonger, D.	42-00
Blais, R. & C.	98-96-35	Pierson, K. & C.	D/1-01-1
Blais, C.	99-00-45C	Roberts, M.	00-131A
Brand, D. & G.	829-11	Rogers, E.	C609-A2
Burseen, T.	99-190Y 98-570-B	Schick, O.	9848-MO3
Chapman, B.	E-3-94	Spoon, D.	97-89BT
DeRose, T. & I.	N-5-99-3 202-2	Spoon, W.	1993C
DeSantis, P.	83-11B	Sorensen, D.	S-97-2-26
Durham, C.	23	Squires, R.	98-3-1 99-12-1
Dyer, B. & P.	804	Tankesley-Clarke, E.	2930ALGPchLc
Ghio, J.	9042CM	Turner, H.	93 Sdlg
Green, J.	JG137	Vizvarie, C.	XYZ
Griner, Joe	99B1 99-01	Williamson, B.	1399-B
Grise, W.	2000-0S-1 FCB IXS-1	Willott, A. & D.	W01-117 W 92-227 W01-140
Grundler, L.	98-2-4 98-2-9		
Helsley, C.	00-02		
Hendricks, B.	NJ-93+RTW		
Jewel, T.	7-29		
Johnson, A. & R.	98-28		
Johnson, T	R 103 A R 107 A		
Keppel, K.	96-10B		
Kerr, F.	971201		
Kutz, M.	BBBHB		
Lange, A.	9-88-2		
Malevil Iris Gardens	98-51-7		
Markley, L.	00-SM-H-Y		
Meininger, L	EW Spec-00		
Miller, T & L	A 94		
Moorehead, J.	98-107		
Nebeker, D.	1034 1530		
Nichols, B.	2130 A		

Miniature Dwarf Bearded

Koschara, M.	99-4-4
Willott, A. & D.	W 93-17

Standard Dwarf Bearded

Aitken, T.	99-M5-1
Chapman, C.	J19 89 AA
Chapman, S.	94-02-7
Black, P.	I-185A
Hazelton, W.	WG-1 97 A-10
Sawyer, R.	99-12-22
Smith, M.	9720B
Sutton, G.	P-1-D RE
Walker, L.	99-25-5
Willott, A & D	W2K-104 W 2K-110 W 2K-119 W2K-154 W2K-169 W2K-203 W 01-52 W 01-84 W02-6
Wirth-Gendrikous, M	63-2

Intermediate Bearded

Bunnell, C.	E37-2
Craig, V.	64G 13 PK
Ensminger, A.	ENS 96-9
Probst, R.	QFSX7EE1
Willott, A. & D.	W2K128

Miniature Tall Bearded

Craig, V.	AH86K58
Hamblin, D	99-01
Loveland, J.	MTB-01-04
<i>(exhibited by Doris Loveland)</i>	
Probst, R.	ZMWX63PQ2
	Plum Quirky
Rombaugh, K.	CKR5
Spoon, D.	98-59
Wendel, B.	MTB-1
Willott, A & D	W 93-92A
	W 01-124
	W 01-125
Wulf, O.	97-29-1
	97-30-2
	Fairy Stitches

Border Bearded

Craig, V.	31H17PLC
Hager, B.	BB 5865
<i>(exhibited by E. & B. Tankesley-Clarke)</i>	
Ragle, J	97-38PLLL1

Siberian

Beersman, E	E-97-7
Bishop, H	Hapi Tok
Dougherty, W.	99-01
Helsley, C.	01-09
	97-2
Kontak, B.	K-97-11
Niswonger, D.	6-96
Perdue, A.	9901
Shafer, M. Sacks, J	S99-93-16
Varner, D. S.	96-403
Warner, C.	5
White, J.	96S-MW-1-1
Willott, A & D	W 98-19
	W 02-29

Japanese

Delmez, D.	DBVOPUST
	SRVO
	SMiBVO
	DWGS
	DWBE
Griner, J.	BSRV-1
Harris, C.	99JD1

00JF2

00JH1

99J98

J1099

J89-187

(exhibited by D. Hager)

Walker, L.	TET-99-137-3
	96-40-49
	C-96-63-20
	Tet 96-66-11

Arilbred

Annand, B.	91-99D AB
McGrath, P.	McAR91-1
	McAB99-6-2
	McAB-99-39
	McAB-99-73B
	McAR-95-120H
	McAB99-95
	McAB99-21
Norris, S.	95-D
<i>(exhibited by Stephanie Rust)</i>	
Rocha, S. & S.	R8-5-5
Rust, S.	THLNAB9151-2

Louisiana

Hall III, O. W.	99B-4
O'Connor, P.	02-06
Paquet, S.	L-6/B-3
Rudkin, P.	99-BV
Seabrook, S.	SEA 99/40
	9921

Species

Griner, J.	I. versicolor 94-03
Hoover, W.	I. versicolor WH05
Momrik, E	YW - 3
Willot, A. & D.	W 02-19

PCI	
Knipe, G	XPO 228 B-5
Laborde, E.	BBXGC1
Schmieder, D.	96K123-1
White, J.	PCI 15-R2
Wood, V.	22-23
	22-08
	22-28

OGB

Rocha, S. & S.	R8-5-5
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Spuria

Bowen, R. & P.	1-BTC-1-27-48
Cadd, D. & A.	SPU 8-91-17



ADS Shows

Winners of 2002

all lists compiled by Jason Leader

Region 1

Date	Place	Type	Best Specimen	Exhibitor	Silver Medal	Bronze Medal	REG #
May 25	South Paris, ME	IB	Carriwitched	The Moors	The Hazeltons	The Moors	068
Jun 2	Shelburne Falls, MA	MTB	Carolyn Rose	S. Smith	R & C Blais	S. Smith	176
Jun 9	Wellesley, MA	Spec	I. pseud. Beuron	S. Smith	M. Shafer & J. Sacks	S. Smith	063
Jun 15	Auburn, ME	TB	Dusky Challenger	The Moors	The Moors	B. Sawyer	069
Jul 13	Auburn, ME	JI	Dirego Red Rocket	J. White	J. White	P. Dostie	070

Region 2

May 26	Poughkeepsie, NY	TB	Ziggy	L. Rawlyk & H. Dash	B. Keup	F. Sorbello	147
Jun 2	Albany, NY	TB Hist	Rhages	R. Keup	R. Keup	V. Dorwaldt	121
Jun 8	Ithaca, NY	MTB Hist	Honorabile	C. Schaefer	D. Stiefel	M. Horak	035
Jun 8	Clay, NY	SPEC	I. Fulva	R. Keup	R. Keup	S. Marley	136
Jun 8	Buffalo, NY	MTB	Sand Princess	J. Bassett	C. Chapman	G. Schipperli	164
Jun 9	Queensbury, NY	TB Hist	Patterdale	P & D Johnson	R. Keup	P & D Johnson	178

Region 3

May 19	Townsend, DE	LA	Jeri	T. Jewel	R. Hager	E. Martin	088
May 25	York, PA	TB	Winning Ticket	G. Griffie	H. Griffie	P. & J. Leader	167
May 25	Mt. Lebanon, PA	TB	Captain's Joy	L. Grundler	L. Grundler	R. McFarland	145
May 26	Hockessin, DE	TB	Sotto Voce	G. Slagle	The Griners	J. Roop	089
Jun 16	Townsend, DE	JI	Dramatic Moment	R. D. Hager	R. D. Hager	T. Jewel	117

Region 4

May 4	Virginia Beach, VA	TB	Dusky Challenger	J. Hamm	M. Rogers	J. Hamm	094
May 4	Charlotte, NC	LA	Dural White Butterfly	J. Hindle	K. Steele	R. Holbrook	046
May 11	Hendersonville, NC	LA	Inner Beauty	R. & P. Bowen	R. & P. Bowen	F. Nelson	013
May 17	Winchester, VA	SIB	Twelfth Knight	C. Warner	C. Warner	C. Mahan	022
May 25	Baltimore, MD	SIB	Golden Edge	C. Warner	C. Warner	O & D Rebert	135
May 25	Spotsylvania, VA	LA	Voodoo Song	R. Loving	L. Rose	J & A Schroetter	153
Jun 13	Hendersonville, NC	JI	Hozan	W. Hoover	W. Hoover	N. Murphy	126

Region 5

Apr 6	Mcclenny, FL	LA	Acadian	V. Marlatt	S. Seabrook	R. & P. Bowen	060
Apr 17	Moncks Corner, SC	TB	Thornbird	B. Black	B. Hoats	C. Honkanen	125
Apr 19	Griffin, GA	TB	Artic Express	S. Kilgore	B. Jones	S. Kilgore	045
Apr 20	Milledgeville, GA	TB	Bye Bye Blues	J. S. Watson	E. Yearwood	J. S. Watson	085
April 27	Columbia, SC	TB	Edith Wolford	R. Bowen	R. Bowen	M. Goforth	024
May 3-4	Tucker, GA	TB	Suspicion	M. Bolton	M. Bolton	J. McRae	120
May 4	Spartanburg, SC	TB	Dusky Challenger	P. & R. Bowen	P. & R. Bowen	M. Goforth	148
May 25	Moncks Corner, SC	SPU	Just Reward	M. Goforth	M. Goforth	K. Woolsey	125
Nov 9	Milledgeville, GA	TB	Clarence	E. Lineberger	L. Chicvara	E. Lineberger	182

Date	Place	Type	Best Specimen	Exhibitor	Silver Medal	Bronze Medal	REG #
Region 6							
May 11	Akron, OH	IB	Ultralight	A. Willott	A. Willott	D. Fuhrmeyer	154
May 11	Grand Rapids, MI	MDB	Dutch Royal	M. With-Gendrikous	M. With-Gendrikous	L. Weir	059
May 11	Indianapolis, IN	BB	Shooting Sparks	D. Winton	C. Bunnell	R. & L. Miller	159
May 18	Middletown, OH	TB	Supreme Sultan	G. Schaffer	S. Rawlings	B. Schaffer	115
May 18-19	Muncie, IN	IB	Lemon Pup	K. Rumbaugh	K. Rumbaugh	E. Hobbs	020
May 18-19	Columbus, OH	TB	Blushing Diana	J. Nolin	J. Nolin	A. Sauers	174
May 25-26	Mansfield, OH	TB	Temple Gold	C. Cremeans	C. Cremeans	R. Tanner	093
May 25-26	Grand Rapids, MI	TB	Kids Clothes	K. Diedrich	D. Sorensen	M. With-Gendrikous	091
May 27	Kalamazoo, MI	IB	Starwoman	J. & J. Copeland	J. & J. Copeland	D. Langshaw	103
May 27	Akron, OH	IB	Northern Jewel	A. Willott	A. Willott	D & J Fuhrmeyer	155
Jun 1	Lansing, MI	TB	Joyce Terry	R. Esper	R. Esper	J. Sharpe	163
Jun 1	Royal Oak, MI	TB	Angel's Blush	A. Kline	B. Wilson	M. Perdue	139
Jun 1	Strongsville, OH	TB	Ride The Wind	S. James	A & D Willott	D & J Fuhrmeyer	156
Jun 2	Fort Wayne, IN	TB	Tazanian Tangerine	D. Poling	D. Poling	L. Higgins	084
Jun 9	Comins, MI	TB	Knock Em Dead	V. Copas	E. Momrik	D. Meinzinger	029
Region 7							
Apr 27	Memphis, TN	TB	Hello Darkness	M. Sandvig	M. Vernon	B. Belus	061
May 3	Dresden, TN	TB	Lady Friend	C. A. Carney	C. A. Carney	E. & D. Royal	001
May 4	Knoxville, TN	TB	Celebration Song	L. Wrather	J. Couturier	T. Parkhill	143
May 4	Lebanon, TN	TB	Maderio	B. Thompson	B. Wilkins	B Thompson	078
May 4	Paris, TN	TB	Select Circle	C. A. Carney	C. A. Carney	J. Claxton	171
May 4	Nashville, TN	TB	Song of Norway	S. & L. Gossage	S. & L. Gossage	D. Hester	012
May 4	Jackson, TN	TB	Thornbird	L. Shopher	J & I Zacharzuk	M. Vernon	106
May 5	Murfreesboro, TN	TB	Holy Night	O. Barnes	R & J Watson	D & M Scott	087
May 11	Florence, KY	TB	Loudoun Charmer	J. & E. Laws	J. & E. Laws	B. Cutlip	028
May 11	Lexington, KY	TB	Ozone Alert	H. & G. Thurman	Van Hook	L. Harvey	095
May 12	Louisville, KY	MTB	Bumblebee Deelite	R. Strohman	Lessie & Von Hook	S. Gardener	122
Region 8							
May 18	Hales Corner, WI	IB	Rare Edition	D. Vande	D. Vande	F. Rogers	111
Jun 1	Madison, WI	TB	Fancy Woman	L. Mohrmann	L. Mohrmann	L. Doffek	144
Jun 2-3	Blaine, MN	TB	Jessie's Song	T. Moore	T. Moore	I. Hampel	030
Jun 8-9	Hales Corner, WI	TB	Silverado	B. Poling	F. Rogers	D. Vande	112
Jun 12	Minneota, MN	TB	Lingering Spring	R. Dovre	M. Odenbrett	R. Engels	175
Jun 22-23	Minneapolis, MN	Spec	Iris Pallidia	M. Duvall	F. Nelson	M. Duvall	031
Region 9							
May 11	Clarendon Hills, IL	SDB	Sun Puppy	C. Simon	C. Simon	J. Moritz	072
May 11	Alton, IL	TB	Rip City	E & A Henson	E & A Henson	P. Hayden	077
May 25	Mattoon, IL	TB	Mountain Sunbeams	J & M Wilhoit	J & M Wilhoit	S. Varner	065
May 25	Glencoe, IL	MTB	Second Opinion	P. Segal	Lynch & McCannon	W. Hessel	034
Jun 1-2	Lombard IL	TB	Luxor Gold	L. Miller	C. Simon	J. Moritz	073
Region 10							
Apr 6	afayette, LA	LA	Camille Durand Foret	C. D. Foret	J. Leonard	P. O'Connor	004

Date	Place	Type	Best Specimen	Exhibitor	Silver Medal	Bronze Medal	REG #
Region 11							
May 18-19	Nampa, ID	TB	Stardust Memories	T. & I. DeRose	C. Coleman	C. Stevenson	110
May 25-26	Boise, ID	AR	Bionic Focus	C. & K. Coleman	C. & K. Coleman	S. Touchstone	137
Jun 8	Missoula MT	TB	Total Recall	S Gustafson	G Clark	S Gustafson	058
Region 12							
May 4	Salt Lake City, UT	SDB	Be Happy	F. Wheat	F. Wheat	V. & B. Wilson	161
May 18	Salt Lake City, UT	TB	Dear Jean	J. Brown	B & K Kasperek	V. & B. Wilson	158
Jun 7	Logan UT	TB	Silverado	D. Taylor & K. Tomassen	J Walters	L. Urness	141
Region 13							
Apr 20	Portland, OR	IB	Rare Edition	P. Black	K. Keppel	P. Black	038
May 18	Walla Walla, WA	TB	Art Deco	C. McMartin	M. McCrae	G. Dietrich	042
May 18-19	Portland, OR	IB	Blowout	V. Craig	C. Harris	J. Lundi	039
May 19	Silverton, OR	TB	Millenium Falcon	P. Black	P. Black	K. Keppel	010
Jun 1-2	Payallup, WA	SIB	Chilled Wine	R Butler	M. Kilborn	I. Martin	011
Jun 8-9	Spokane, WA	TB	High Stakes	B. Midkiff	L. Buelow	R. Karr	162
Jun 22	Portland, OR	JI	Caprician Butterfly	W. Plotner	W. Plotner	C. Harris	040
Region 14							
Apr 6	Fresno, CA	TB	Lemon and Spice	P. Kelley	G. Sutton	B. Tyson	062
Apr 13	Los Altos, CA	AB	Kalifa's Robe	D. & D. Eigenman	G. Knipe	J. & J. Jones	003
Apr 13-14	San Jose, CA	TB	Wishful Thinking	E. Fischer	G. Donnell	C. Schroter	016
Apr 20	Chico CA	TB	Kathryn Kay Nelson	C Owen	C Owen	C Barnes	108
Apr 20	Las Vegas, NV	MDB	Wise	J. Paul	B. Hunt	L. Silva	032
Apr 20-21	Oakland, CA	TB	Royal Kingdom	D. & D. Eigenman	B. & J. Canning	D. & D. Eigenman	105
Apr 20-21	Sacramento, CA	TB	Bay City	B. Brownlee	B. Brownlee	J. Ragle	048
Apr 20-21	Capitola, CA	PCI	Deep Blue Sea	J. Ghio	L. Belardi	J. Ghio	064
Apr 20-21	Henderson, NV	TB	Blutique	B. Ivens	H. Rusk	L. Pires	002
Apr 27	Walnut Creek, CA	TB	Lady Jane	C. Dekker	B. & J. Canning	R&B Circle Gardens	104
Apr 27	Auburn, CA	LA	Even-Handed	K. Braaten	K. Braaten	B. Brownlee	006
Apr 28	Ukiah, CA	BB	Victorian Charmer	J. McGrew	K. Loberg	J. McGrew	118
May 4	Santa Rosa, CA	TB	Conjuration	J & G Davis	D & A Cadd	R. Bevier	007
May 11	Redding, CA	Spec	I. Chrysophylla	S. Olsen	L. Harding	P. O'Hanlon	014
Oct 19-20	Orland, CA	TB	Billionaire	R. Olney	R. Olney	R. Clark	181
Region 15							
Apr 6-7	Tempe, AZ	TB	Mesmerizer	P. Orr	J. Poling	P. Orr	043
Apr 6-7	Arcadia, CA	TB	Babbling Brook	K. Ung	L. Moilwain	J. Daugherty	047
Apr 13-14	Tucson, AZ	LA	Creole Flame	K. Chilton	K. Chilton	P. Larson	067
Apr 13-14	Woodland Hills, CA	TB	Rare Treat	K. Ung	P. DeSantis	R. Squires	021
Apr 27-28	Palmdale, CA	TB	Dusky Challenger	C. Wood	C. Deaton	R. Stretz	054
May 15	San Diego, CA	TB	Swingtown	S & S Rocha	S & S Rocha	K & C Pierson	027
Region 16							
Jun 2	Burlington	SDB	Chubby Cheeks	C. Chapman	C. Chapman	G. McMillen	149

Date	Place	Type	Best Specimen	Exhibitor	Silver Medal	Bronze Medal	REG #
Region 17							
Apr 13	Belton, TX	TB	Hula Dancer	C. Canfield	R. Alexander	S. Robison	037
Apr 13	Fort Worth, TX	TB	Papriko Fono's	M. Legler	M. Legler	D. Perry	033
Apr 13	Odessa, TX	TB	Mountain Melody	D. Davila	W. Howell	Dr. J. Howlett	075
Apr 14	Midland, TX	TB	Titan's Glory	A. Lange	J. Lange	J & W Howell	071
Apr 20	Austin, TX	TB	Cinnamon Girl	C. & S. Hensly	K. & J. Sharp	J. Landers	036
Apr 20	Cleburne, TX	TB	Thornbird	B. Alexander	M. Hodges	B. Alexander	008
Apr 20	Mt. Pleasant, TX	TB	Change of Pace	J. Miller	E. Dyke	J. & B. Ferrell	049
Apr 20	Sherman, TX	TB	Private Dancer	C. Montgomery	A. Peters	E. Sullivan	051
Apr 21	Richardson, TX	TB	Queen's Circle	D. Perry	K & P Maxham	D. Perry	005
May 4	Denison, TX	TB	Silverado	C. Owens	C. Montgomery	M. McDowell	096
May 4	Lubbock, TX	TB	Chiffon Ruffles	Malevil I. G.	Malevil I. G.	M. A. Jones	052
May 12	Amarillo, TX	TB	Kevin's Theme	K. Mazurek	K. Mazurek	D. Boyer	053
Region 18							
Apr 20	Barnhart, MO	SDB	Yellow Girl	H. Boyd	T. Gormley	H. Boyd	056
Apr 28	Wichita, KS	IB	Vamp	L. Markley	K. Rohr	H. Reynolds	079
May 4	Augusta, KS	MTB	Abridged Version	J. Winzer	A. Markley	J. Winzer	097
May 4	Springfield, MO	TB	Designing Woman	B. DeWitt	B. DeWitt	C. Helsley	018
May 4	St. Louis, MO	TB	Jurassic Park	E. Sovar	Jm. Morris	R. Probst	130
May 4	Washington, MO	BB	Classic Image	S. Rust	P. Burton	M. Theissen	009
May 8	St. Louis, MO	MTB	ACE	Probst-Trio	Probst-Trio	Jim Morris	129
May 11	Mission, KS	TB	Master Touch	R & J Keisling	R & J Keisling	J. Durham	128
May 11	Parsons, KS	TB	Skating Party	B. Chapman	J. Spare	B. Chapman	165
May 11	Cape Girardeau, MO	TB	Vanity	D & N Elliot	D & N Elliot	D. Niswonger	142
May 11	Joplin MO	TB	Moon Love	S. Fields	S. Fields	I. Schultz	114
May 11	Jefferson City, MO	Spec	I. Pseudocorus	E. Tankesley-Clarke	E. Tankesley-Clarke	B. Schuette	157
May 11	Barnhart, MO	TB	Decipher	S. Stevens	S. Grien	T. Gormley	057
May 12	Hutchinson, KS	TB	Sunday Chimes	L. Hindle	L. Hindle	J. Eckhoff	055
May 12	Wichita, KS	TB	Acoma	C. Suchy	K. Rohr	H. Reynolds	080
May 18	Dodge City, KS	TB	Dusky Challenger	A. Sinclair	J. Sinclair	R. Preston	146
Jun 8	St. Louis, MO	Jl	All In White	D. Delmez	O & L DieKbant	D. Delmez	138
Region 19							
May 18	Moorestown, NJ	TB	Smiling Faces	R. Rogers	The Griners	R. Rogers	100
Jun 15	Medford, NJ	Jl	Oriental Eyes	J. Griner	D. Hager	J. Griner	101
Region 20							
Jun 9	Colorado Springs, CO	TB	Keeping Up Appearances	B. Roberts	L. Love	D. & P. Morgan	083
May 26	Rocky Ford, CO	TB	Wing Commander	P. Soland	R. McClain	P. Soland	152
Region 21							
May 11	Lincoln, NE	IB	Hubbub	A. Ensminger	G. White	E. Kalkwarf	098
May 25	Sioux City, IA	TB	Night Edition	R. Flick	L. Lacy	C. Reuter	177
MAY 25	Lincoln, NE	TB	Lark /ascending	G. White	E. Kalkwarf	G. White	099
Jun 8-9	Scottsbluff, NE	TB	Endless Love	J. Feil	J. Feil	F. Hara	082
Region 22							
Apr 27	Lawton, OK	TB	Villa Splendor	S. Finney	M. Puckie	B. Nease	066
Apr 27-28	Tulsa, OK	TB	Tennessee Gentleman	P. & C. Stonecipher	J. Minter	P. Meekins	025

Date	Place	Type	Best Specimen	Exhibitor	Silver Medal	Bronze Medal	REG #
Apr 28	Oklahoma City, OK	TB	Jurassic Park	R. Mathews	R. Mathews	P. Dyer	168
May 4	Enid, OK	TB	Celebration Song	D. George	A. Barrows	F. W. McVicker	150
May 4	Lawton, OK	TB	Vibrant	B. Nease	M. Puckett	S. Fennly	116
May 4	Ponca City, OK	TB	Afternoon Delight	L. Davidson	D. Dickson	A & M Barrows	090
May 4	Norman, OK	TB	Rhonda Fleming	T. Thompson	L. Carson	M. Stevens	132
May 4-5	Little Rock, AR	LA	White Umbrella	R. Treadway	R. Treadway	O. W. Hall III	074
May 5	Oklahoma City, OK	TB	Stairway to Heaven	E. Moore	R. Mathews	H. & G. Stout	170
May 11	Oklahoma City, OK	MTB	Ace	L. Carson	L. Carson	H & J Stout	169
May 11-12	Tulsa, OK	TB	Nigerian Raspberry	J. Minter	D & G Brand	P. Meekin	026

Region 23

Apr 27	Roswell, NM	Spec	I. tech. Dragon Fly	M. Herrington	G. Schoenecker	M. Herrington	127
May 4	Albuquerque, NM	AB-OGB	Babylonian Fires	P. McGrath	V. White	K. McGrath	131
May 11-12	Albuquerque, NM	TB	Coming Up Roses	K. McGrath	P. & J. Bonham	H. & P. Tien	107
May 18	Santa Fe, NM	TB	Quick Step	D. & C. Brown	J. & R. Cain	B. Mann	092

Seedling Shows

May 4	Rancho Cordova, CA	Region 14 Seedling Show	Best Seedling	W. Rudkin	LA	99-99-1	151
May 17	Springfield, MO	Region 18 Seedling Show	Best Seedling	Riley Probst	MTB	ZMWX63PQ2	019

AS Artistic Shows

Winners of 2002

Region 1

Date	Place	Best Design	Artistic Sweepstakes
May 25	South Paris, ME	Sharon Harvie	Sharon Harvie
Jun 2	Shelburne Falls MA	Shanna Desotle	Shanna Desotle
Jun 9	Wellesley, MA	Kathy Marble	Kathy Marble
Jun 15	Auburn ME	Nancy McNeil	Nancy McNeil
Jul 13	Auburn ME	Linda Ridlon	Sharon Harvie

Region 2

Jun 8	Clay, NY	Jamie Smith	Jamie Smith
Jun 8	Buffalo, NY	A. Eisenhardt	

Region 3

May 25	Mt. Lebanon, PA	Geraldine McFarland	
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Region 4

May 4	Virginia Beach, VA	Rebecca Elston	Mary Westfall
May 25	Spotsylvania VA	Martha Carter	Martha Carter

Region 5

Apr 6	Macclenny, FL	Betty Wester	Betty Wester
Apr 19	Griffin, GA	Lucy Stewart	Lucy Stewart
Apr 20	Milledgeville, GA	Earnest Yearwood	Joe Scott Watson
Apr 27	Columbia, SC	Hazel Hruby	Hazel Hruby
May 3-4	Tucker, GA	Robert Bolton	
May 4	Spartanburg, SC	Phil Burnett	Marshall Goforth

Date	Place	Best Design	Artistic Sweepstakes
Region 6			
May 11	Akron, OH	Dorothy Willott	Dorothy Willott
May 11	Grand Rapids, MI	Ruth Levanduski	Ruth Levanduski
May 11	Indianapolis, IN	Betty Polanka	Elsa Jones
May 18-19	Muncie, IN	Betty Thomas	
May 18-19	Columbus, OH	Catherine McCormick	Catherine McCormick
May 25-26	Mansfield, OH	Johanna Bodiford	Johanna Bodiford
May 25-26	Grand Rapids, Mi	Marilyn Wirth-Gendrikovs	Jacki Kropf
May 27	Akron, OH	Dorothy Willott	Dorothy Willott
1 Jun	Lansing, MI	Joan McComb	
1 Jun	Strongsville, OH	Carol McKeeman	Carol McKeeman
2 Jun	Fort Wayne, IN	Kathy Lee	
Jun 9	Comis, MI	Bernie McInnes	Dolores Meinzinger
Region 7			
Apr 27	Memphis, TN	Julie Wilson	Ginni Hill
May 4	Knoxville, TN	Geraldine Couturier	Geraldine Couturier
May 4	Lebanon, TN	Jeraldine Graves	Jeraldine Graves
May 4	Nashville, TN	Jean Thompson	Lou Ehrcke
May 5	Murfreesboro, TN	Joy McKee	Joy McKee
May 12	Louisville, Ky	Paul Owen	Paul Owen
Region 8			
Jun 1	Madison, WI	Keith Eirich	Keith Eirich
Jun 2-3	Blaine, MN	Inge Hampel	Inge Hampel
Jun 12	Minneota, MN	Rae Jean Gee	
Region 9			
May 11	Clarendon Hills, IL	Betsy Grimm	Rosemary Balazs
May 25	Glencoe, IL	Eve Southwood	William Hessel
Region 11			
May 18-19	Nampa, ID	Louise Cone	Louise Cone
May 25-26	Boise, ID	Louise Cone	Louise Cone
Jun 8	Missoula MT	James Sadler	James Sadler
Region 12			
May 4	Salt Lake City, UT	Thomas Miller	Charlotte Easter
May 18	Salt Lake City, UT	Thomas Miller	Thomas Miller
Jun 7	Logan UT	Charlotte Brennand	Charlotte Brennand
Region 13			
Apr 20	Portland, OR	Laurie Ystad	Laurie Ystad
May 18	Walla Walla, WA	Jean Detrich	Anne Overson
May 18-19	Portland, OR	Kay Lundi	Laurie Ystad
May 19	Silverton, OR	Dave Copeland	Dave Copeland
Jun 1-2	Payallup, WA	Eileen Smiley	Eileen Smiley
Jun 8-9	Spokane, WA	Larry Littman	Norm Lunden
Jun 22	Portland, OR	Kay Ludi	Kay Ludi
Region 14			
Apr 6	Fresno, CA	Bonnie Staley	Bonnie Staley
Apr 20	Las Vegas, NV	Shenna Brougher	
Apr 20-21	Saramento, CA	Betty Schmidt	Betty Schmidt
May 11	Redding, CA	Erlyne Owens	

Date	Place	Best Design	Artistic Sweepstakes
Region 15			
Apr 6-7	Arcadia, CA	Perry Gerald	Mike Monninger
Apr 13-14	Woodland Hills, CA	Eileen Fiumara	Eileen Fiumara
Apr 13-14	Tucson, AZ	Marion LeCompte	Bert Detwiler
Apr 27	Auburn, CA	Lynn White	Melanie North
Apr 27-28	Palmdale, CA	Joyce Yates	Joyce Bertram
May 15	San Diego, CA	Elba Costello	Mary Lou Gibson
Region 17			
Apr 13	Fort Worth, TX	Josephine Harp	Vincent Christopherson
Apr 14	Midland, TX	Barbara Larsen	Barbara, Larsen
Apr 20	Austin TX	Nelda Moore	Nelda Moore
Apr 20	Cleburne, TX	Lois Wall	Lois Wall
Apr 20	Sherman, TX	Charlene Owens	Charlene Owens
May 4	Denison, TX	Gordon Green	Gordon Green
May 4	Lubbock, TX	Rosemary English	Rosemary English
May 12	Amarillo, TX	Dawn Boyer	Dawn Boyer
Region 18			
Apr 28	Wichita, KS	Joyce Kirk	Joyce Kirk
May 4	Augusta, KS	Lowell Markly	Lowell Markly
May 4	St. Louis, MO	Nadine Wallenstein	Nadine Wallenstein
May 4	Washington, MO	Cindy Rust	Barbara Fouts
May 8	St. Louis, MO	Jean Morris	Jean Morris
May 11	Joplin, MO	Peggy Bates	Barbara Bowman
May 11	Parsons, KS	Lucy Pearce	Lucy Pearce
May 11	Mission, KS	J. Waddick	
May 12	Hutchinson, KS	LaDeana Hindle	LaDeana Hindle and Judy Eckhoff
May 12	Wichita, KS	Joyce Kirk	Jay Westervelt
May 18	Dodge City, KS	Marti Woods	Marti Woods
Jun 8	St. Louis, MO	Jean Morris	Jean Morris
Region 19			
Jun 15	Medford, NJ	Margo Griner Gospel	Matthew 22:34-46
Region 20			
May 26	Rocky Ford, CO	Linda Tomky	Rose McClain
Jun 9	Colorado Springs, CO	Jeremy Madrid	Betty Roberts
Region 21			
May 11	Lincoln, NE	Beverly Smith	
May 25	Sioux City, IA	Ruth Roghair	Ruth Roghair
May 25	Lincoln, NE	Beverly Smith	
Jun 8-9	Scottsbluff, NE	Kelly Jensen	Viola Schreiner
Region 22			
Apr 27	Lawton, OK	Brenda Nease	Marie Edwards
Apr 28	Oklahoma City, OK	Virginia Gregory	Virginia Gregory
May 4	Lawton, OK	Brenda Nease	Brenda Nease
May 4	Norman, OK	Linda Vaught	Nancy Kowalchyck
May 4	Enid, OK	Doris George	
May 4-5	Littlr Rock, AR	John Helmkamp	Imogene Miller
May 5	Oklahoma City, OK	Linda Vaught	Linda Vaught
May 11-12	Tulsa, OK	Melinda McLane	Melinda McLane

Date	Place	Best Design	Artistic Sweepstakes
Region 23			
Apr 27	Roswell, NM	Georgia Schoenecker	Georgia Schoenecker
May 11-12	Albuquerque, NM	Patricia Randall	Patricia Randall
May 18	Santa Fe, NM	Doris Jackson	Doris Jackson

Bronze Medals / Certificates

Awarded for Outstanding Commercial & Education Exhibits

Date	Location	Exhibitor	Region
Commercial			
Apr 6	Macclenny, FL	Seabrook Nursery	5
Apr 6-7	Tempe, AZ	Kary Iris Garden	15
May 4	Spartanburg, SC	Everett Lineberger	5
Education			
Apr 6	Macclenny, FL	Penny Raulerson	5
Apr 13	Fort Worth, TX	Donna Spears	17
Apr 20	Austin, TX	Nelda Moore	17
Apr 20-21	Sacramento, CA	Kathy Braaten	14
Apr 27	Lawton, OK	Marjorie Puckett	22
May 4	Lebanon, TN	Mary Anne Gannon	7
May 4	Lawton, OK	Marjorie Puckett	22
May 4	Spartanburg, SC	Pat Brown	5
May 11	Hendersonville, NC	A. D. Wilder	4
May 12	Louisville, KY	Lula Reynolds	7
May 12	Hutchinson, KS	Judy Eckhoff	18
May 12	Amarillo, TX	Dawn Boyer	17
May 12	Amarillo, TX	Billie, Corbell	17
May 18	Santa Fe, NM	Cindy Rivera	23
May 18	Santa Fe, NM	Pam Lackey	23
May 18	Santa Fe, NM	Patricia Randall	23
May 25	Moncks Corner, SC	Andy Woolsey	5
Jun 9	Colorado Springs, CO	J. & K. Gagnon	20
Jun 9	Wellesley, MA	Kathy Marble	1

AIS Youth Shows

Winners of 2002

Date	Place	Type	Best Specimen	Exhibitor	Silver Medal	Bronze Medal
Region 1						
Jun 9	Wellesley, MA	SIB	Caesar's Brother	Joel Bennett		
Region 3						
May 19	Townsend, DE	TB	Sunny Paradise	Brianna Hargett	Clair Jewel	Brianna Hargett

Date	Place	Type	Best Specimen	Exhibitor	Silver Medal	Bronze Medal
Region 4						
May 17	Winchester, VA	TB	Prospero	Kristen Laing		
Region 5						
Apr 20	Milledgeville, GA	TB	Tempting Fate	Bill Weathers	Bill Weathers	Brittany White
Apr 27	Columbia, SC	TB	Gold Ring	Olivia Gantt	Megan Wray	Olivia Gantt
May 4	Spartanburg, SC	TB	Dusky Challenger	Amber Wray	Megan Wray	Amber Wray
Region 6						
May 25-26	Mansfield, OH	TB	Bewilderbeast	Jordan Thomas		
May 27	Kalamazoo, MI	IB	Shooting Sparks	Cody Copeland	Elizabeth Langshaw	Jason & Jared Lindberg
Region 7						
May 3	Dresden, TN	TB	Breakers	Fred Hatler	Blake Stokes	Fred Hatler
May 11	Lexington, KY	SIB	Coronation Anthem	Vicky Adkins		
Region 12						
May 18	Salt Lake City, UT	TB	Sun Ray Reflection	Erika Wilson		
Region 14						
Apr 6	Fresno, CA	IB	Pacifier	Jessica Tyson	Jessica Tyson	
Apr 20-21	Sacramento, CA	TB	Idol	Justin Brice	Justin Brice	Kaitlin Brice
Apr 27	Walnut Creek, CA	TB	Pink Gala	Michael-Ann Boswell		
Region 15						
May 13-14	Tucson, AZ	TB	Tennessee Gentleman	Kara Kartchner		
May 15	San Diego, CA	TB	World Premier	Kate Rocha		
Region 16						
Jun 2	Burlington	SDB	Play Pretty	Jamie Chapman		
Region 17						
Apr 21	Richardson, TX	TB	Poet	Catherine Rowley	Catherine Rowley	Gwen Meredith
Region 18						
Apr 20	Barnhart, MO	OGB	Naked Eye	Stephanie Rust	Stephanie Rust	Joe Devous
May 4	Augusta, KS	TB	Sterling Mistress	Peter Christensen	Joshua Winzer	Peter Christensen
May 4	Washington, MO	BB	Classic Image	Stephanie Rust	Christopher Rust	Stephanie Rust
May 8	St. Louis, MO	MTB	Welch's Reward	Sergio Buchanan	Joe Devous	Sergio Buchanan & Crystal Harris
May 11	Cape Girardeau, MO	TB	Angelique Chimes	Gabe Lockhart	Gabe Lockhart	Jimmy Gilette
May 12	Wichita, KS	TB	Raspberry Wine	Jennifer Schmidt	Mathew Cliborn	Jennifer Schmidt
Jun 8	St. Louis, MO	JI	Cry of Rejoice	Christopher Rust		
Region 22						
Apr 27	Lawton, OK	TB	Lightening Streak	Jessica Miller	Whitney James	Jessica Miller
Apr 28	Oklahoma City, OK	TB	Flights of Fancy	Jean Moore		
May 4	Lawton, OK	TB	Poetic	Jessica Miller	Whitney James	Jessica Miller
May 4	Ponca City, OK	TB	Afternoon Delight	Laura Davidson	Kelsey Whitebay	Laura Davidson
Region 23						
May 11-12	Albuquerque, NM	TB	Coming Up Roses	Kelsey McGrath	Kelsey McGrath	Whitney McGrath

AIS Youth Artistic Shows

Winners of 2002

Date	Place	Best Design	Artistic Sweepstakes
Region 1			
May 25	South Paris, ME	Marie Austin	
Jun 15	Auburn ME	Caroline Mende	
Jul 13	Auburn ME	Donna Roberts	Donna Roberts
Region 5			
Apr 6	Macclenny, Fl	Hannah Masterson	Hannah Masterson
Apr 20	Milledgeville, GA	Brittany White	
May 4	Spartanburg, SC	Meagan Wyatt	
Region 8			
Jun 12	Minneota, MN	Megan Kack	
Region 11			
Jun 8	Misoula MT	Slade Couture	
Region 12			
Jun 7	Logan, UT	Josh Brown	Alissa Brown
Region 14			
Apr 6	Fresno, CA	Teresa Gates	Jessica Tyson
Apr 13	San Jose, CA	Kelsey Harris	Kelsey Harris
Apr 20	Las Vegas, NV	Kelli Jorgensen	
Apr 27	Auburn, CA	Kadee Felton	
Region 15			
Apr 13-14	Woodland Hills, CA	Christi Branch	Christi Branch & Erika Guzman
Region 17			
Apr 13	Fort Worth, TX	Gwen Meredith	
Region 18			
May 4	Augusta, KS	Charity Winzer	Charity Winzer
May 4	St. Louis, MO	Alexa Cahalan	
May 4	Washington, MO	Stephanie Rust	Nicole Grzeskowiak & Stephanie Rust
May 8	St. Louis, MO	Amy Huhn	
May 11	Jefferson City, MO	Meredith Muenks	
May 11	Joplin MO	Molly Wild	L. Brown
May 12	Wichita, KS	Jennifer Schmidt	
Jun 8	St. Louis, MO	Stephanie Rust	
Region 22			
Apr 27	Lawton, OK	Jessica Miller	Whitney James
May 5	Oklahoma City, OK	Renea Medrano	
May 4	Lawton, OK	Jessica Miller	Whitney James
May 11-12	Tulsa, OK	Harold R. Robins	



Importing Rhizomes: An Update


by Bruce Filardi, Oregon



IN THE OCTOBER ISSUE OF THE *BULLETIN*, I INCLUDED AN ARTICLE which outlined the procedure to apply for a permit to import irises, per information that I received verbally from the USDA in Maryland, and similar to info received by Margaret Sutton and Lynn Finkel on occasions when there were difficulties in importing shipments of rhizomes that were being processed through Los Angeles.

After submitting my permit request form (as outlined in the article), I received notification from the USDA that the previous information they had given me was NOT correct. They now informed me that *irises fit into the category of "bulbs and other underground parts ... which do not require a formal permit for entry [into the US] ... [but] are subject to (1) inspection and (2) treatment if plant pests of quarantine significance are found."* Also: "Bulbs must be free from soil." *This information is provided in USDA/APHIS circular # PPQ Q.37-3*, and I would suggest that you keep this number on hand in case you receive a call from the USDA or Customs, telling you that a shipment is not being allowed into this country because you do not have the appropriate permit!

Since writing the earlier article, I heard a sad story from Will Plotner, a well-respected iris grower here in Oregon, and President of SIGNA. He had a shipment of (rare) species irises coming through Customs from Mongolia, and the plant inspectors in Los Angeles kept insisting that he must have a permit. They refused to release the plants, even though Will repeatedly informed them that a permit was not needed. By the time he was finally able to get his shipment, the plants were dead. I think this is a real shame; it's relatively easy to replace many things we import from Europe and Australia, but the loss of rare species from a place like Mongolia really IS a terrible loss. This is made even sadder by the fact that we now know that the inspectors should not have been looking for a permit in the first place.

The bottom line is that – per the USDA/APHIS circular cited above – irises fall into the category of "bulbs" and do not need an import permit. 

So You're Thinking of Moving


by Mary E. Brown, Membership Secretary

YOU'VE DECIDED TO MOVE. THE HOUSE IS TOO BIG/SMALL. The climate is getting to you, it's just too hot/cold, wet/dry. Now there is so much to do: packing, clearing out things, more packing, deciding what moves and what doesn't, etc., etc. The last thing on your mind is your *AIS Bulletin* and your membership, isn't it?

Well, this is just a reminder that along with all the other people you have to notify of your change of address, your Membership Secretary would also really, really like to know.

As I sit here opening stacks of returned *Bulletins* – all changes of address, some with forwarding information, some without – I wonder how many calls I will get saying “I didn't get my *Bulletin*” — and that person's copy will be sitting on my desk!

In addition to being deprived of your wonderful *Bulletin*, and in addition to the work it causes the Membership Secretary, there is also the expense involved. We often don't think of all the hidden costs that go into the everyday work of running AIS, but here is an excellent example. The initial mailing of the *Bulletin* costs more than \$6000. That comes to .75 per *Bulletin*. The membership office then pays another \$1.42 for each one that is returned because of an incorrect address. If a request is then made by a member to have the *Bulletin* re-mailed (a service we are happy to provide), an additional cost of \$1.42 is incurred. Individually that isn't much, but multiply it by anywhere from a low of 5 to a high of 30 per week, and it really adds up!

So if or when you decide to make a move, please let the Membership Secretary know. We will all be much happier! And we won't have so many surplus *Bulletins* sitting around. Instead they will be out there in your hands doing what they were meant to do: entertain, educate and delight you! 


Membership Date Change

by Mary E. Brown, Membership Secretary

OVER THE YEARS THE 'MEMBERSHIP YEAR' HAS UNDERGONE several changes, and we are going to do it again. Memberships have in the past gone into effect at a certain period of the year, regardless of when a person sent in their check. At one time there were three periods when Memberships would begin. That was rather awkward, so the beginning dates were changed to 1 July and 1 January. That seemed to be a reasonable arrangement but, as it turned out, July is a very busy time for irisarians, so the July date was dropped. This meant that all memberships expired on 31 December. However that change created other problems ...

AIS has about 7,000 members, and generally almost half of them will have an expiring membership at the end of a calendar year. For example, in November of 2002, 3000 renewal notices were mailed to members. There are two problems with this: One is an overworked Membership Secretary (but she is not complaining – much!); the second problem is that the renewal notices arrive when everyone is also beginning to think about the holidays and when many of us have overspent on those same holidays. Frequently the renewal notice gets lost in the shuffle of end-of-the-year mail. Therefore AIS is once again going to try to simplify the expiration date:

Beginning in January of 2003, a new member's year will start with the month in which their application is processed, and will expire in the same month either one year or three years later. We hope that this will make renewal simpler for the member. In effect, the AIS membership will be handled just like a magazine subscription. This will not have an effect on those of you who are currently members – December 31 is still your membership expiration date.

Regional RVPs, Membership Chairmen, and Affiliates: Please take special note, as this change may have an effect on your own membership application forms. 

AIS Foundation Contributions

Contributions to the American Iris Society Foundation are used for the research of the genus iris, administration of scholarships and the support of the AIS Library through the Evelyn Jones Memorial Library Fund. This research includes the taxonomy as well as the cause of diseases and their cures. Over the years, grants have been issued to the top researchers and educational institutions throughout the United States as well as internationally.

April 1, 2002 - October 1, 2002

Contributions in memory of:

Stanley Bradeen (ME)

The Maine Iris Society

George Bush (PA)

Region 3, AIS

Lt. Col. Tom Cartwright (TX)

Waco Iris Society (TX)

Larry Ernst (OR)

Ted M. Lee (SC)

Elmohr Iris Society (CO)

Evelyn Hayes (CA)

Bob Brooks (HI)

Lewis Lawyer (CA)

Dolores Denney (CA)

Sydney B. Mitchell Iris

Society (CA)

Ted Mansfield (GA)

Summerfield Iris Society (SC)

Flint River Iris Society (GA)

Mary & Robert Bolton (GA)

Jack McCaskill

Dolores Denney (CA)

Stephen A. Molchan (PA)

Pittsburgh Iris & Daylily
Society

Frank H. Nickell (WA)

Inland Empire Iris
Society (WA)

Marie Niswonger (MO)

Elmohr Iris Society (CO)

Dolores Denney (CA)

Candy Scholes (CA)

Ted M. Lee (SC)

Vic Sellers (NE)

Greater Omaha Iris
Society (NE)

Kay Tearington (CA)

Bob Brooks (HI)

Marion Walker (CA)

Bob Brooks (HI)

Ed Wilkinson (CA)

Sydney B. Mitchell Iris Society

Lynn Wood (IA)

Siouxland Iris Society (IA)

How can you make a contribution or memorial gift to the American iris Society Foundation?

Checks should be made payable to the American Iris Society Foundation. When sending a memorial gift, please include the name and address of the next-of-kin, so an acknowledgement card may be sent. Your tax-deductible donations should be sent to:

The American Iris Society Foundation

Roger P. Mazur Sec./Treas.

815 South 67th Ave.

Omaha, NE 68106-1115

Minutes

of the AIS Board of Directors Meeting

FORT WORTH, TEXAS
NOVEMBER 1-2, 2002

The Fall Meeting of the Board of Directors of The American Iris Society was called to order by President Terry Aitken at 7:40 PM on November 1, 2002.

Present during the various sessions were **Officers:** President Aitken, 1st Vice President J. Plank, 2nd Vice President Epperson, Treasurer Hudson; **Administrative Officers:** Recording Secretary Bonino, Membership Secretary Brown, Registrar Keppel, Publication Sales Directors John & Kay Ludi; **Directors:** Carson, Gossett, J. Ludi, Mark, Jean Morris, B. Nichols, Pocklington, G. Snyder, G. Sutton; **RVP Representative:** M. Sutton(14); **Committee Chairs:** Mike & Anne Lowe, H. Nichols, J. Poling, Probst, M. Snyder; **RVP's:** Sawyer (1), Thrift (5), Ives (16), Smith (17), R. Keisling (18), Roberts (20), M. D. Faith (22), Randall (23); **Legal Advisor:** R. Plank; **Guests:** Dorothy & Tony Willott (6), Hugh & Mary Thurman (7), B. Aitken (13), A. Poling (15), Spears (17), J. Keisling (18), Jim Morris (18), Trio (18), I. Faith (22), McMartin (22).

President Aitken welcomed the group and encouraged all present to participate in discussions, with the reminder that only Board members may vote. All Board members, Committee Chairs, and audience members introduced themselves. In the absence of Sara Marley, G. Snyder moved, G. Sutton seconded to elect 1st Vice President J. Plank as Secretary pro tem for this meeting. Motion carried. By Board consensus M. Lowe was appointed as Parliamentarian for this meeting.

Minutes: Bonino handed out her report of corrections to the minutes of the Spring Board Meeting held in Memphis, Tennessee, as published in AIS *Bulletin* #326. Following is a list of all corrections received:

1. Following the STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT for ELECTRONIC SERVICES, minutes should read "Meeting recessed at 10:30 PM to be resumed on April 25, 2002 at 8:15 AM." Following the REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE, minutes should read "Meeting recessed at 11:30 AM to be resumed at approximately 9 PM following Executive Session to be held at 8 PM."

2. Under STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT for CONVENTION LIAISON the first sentence of paragraph two should read "Gossett reported" rather than Probst. Also the last sentence of paragraph two should read "Gossett moved, Pope seconded to accept this invitation."

3. Under the STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT for RVP COUNSELOR item #4 should be modified as follows:

"The conflict between the dates shown in the ByLaws and when the RVP Representative term actually begins and ends should be clarified. Currently, the new RVP Representative begins his/her term on October 1st and the term runs until September 30th of the following year. It was recommended that a ByLaws change be effected to correct this. Epperson suggested taking this out of the ByLaws and adopting a Standing Rule to set the RVP term of office."

J. Plank moved, Gossett seconded to approve the minutes as corrected. Motion carried.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

President: Seven items of business were discussed that had been previously handled via phone and email between the Spring 2002 and Fall 2002 Board Meetings. All issues have been approved by a majority of Board members via email, but all issues must be re-affirmed by voice vote at this Board Meeting:

1. Janna Middleton (AIS Gift Shop) requested permission to discount the AIS logo polo-shirts and sweatshirts. J. Jones proposed that for the length of this sale, that AIS forgive the payment of royalty on the sale of these items. Epperson moved, J. Plank seconded to affirm this item. Motion carried.

2. Epperson proposed that free-standing acrylic awards be purchased as "Keeper Trophies" for winners of the Walther Cup, President's Cup, and Franklin Cup each year. The initial numbers would include those in arrears (9) for the past three years, cost to be approximately \$400. Epperson moved, J. Plank seconded to affirm this item. Motion carried.
3. Due to Sara Marley's resignation as Secretary (to take effect December 1, 2002), a motion is needed to approve the appointment of Jill Bonino to the Office of Secretary. Early approval prior to the meeting of the Board was needed to allow some of the files to be shipped directly to Jill when Sara and Walter moved from New York to Ohio in mid September. J. Plank moved, G. Snyder seconded to affirm this item. Motion carried.
4. Motion to authorize leaving the office equipment with S. Marley, rather than shipping it to California (the copier/file cabinet are bulky and are easily found in discount stores) and for Jill Bonino to purchase a copier and file cabinet. Bonino already has the needed computer equipment. J. Plank moved, Gossett seconded to affirm this item. Motion carried.
5. The new Member Secretary is more familiar with MAC computer systems and is requesting equipment for her use in that capacity. Motion to authorize Mary Brown to purchase an I-MAC computer and FILEMAKER-PRO (budgeted item of \$2,500) program. J. Plank moved, Gossett seconded to affirm this item. Motion carried.
6. Epperson proposed that the AIS purchase 21 Wister Medals for a cost of \$676.20, plus presentation boxes. Not budgeted. Epperson moved, Pocklington seconded to affirm this item. Motion carried.
7. Motion to appoint current Slides Chair Bill Mull to fill the unexpired term of Director's position left by the death of Carryl Meyer. G. Snyder moved, Gossett seconded to affirm this item. Motion carried.

First Vice President: Report tabled until later in the agenda

Second Vice President: Report tabled until later in the agenda.

Secretary: J. Plank read the report from Sara Marley into the minutes. Sara thanked everyone for their support and patience during the prolonged illnesses of her husband and son and expressed her pleasure working with the Officers and Board members during the past 3 ? years.

Treasurer: Hudson distributed his Financial Report for the year ended September 30, 2002. This included his Report to the Board, Balance Sheet, Profit and Loss Statement along with other financial data for the last year.

Membership income shows a slight drop, but the Storefront shows improvement in spite of the change in location and management. Interest income on investment and general fund monies is still excellent due to the longer terms of certificates of deposit purchased a couple of years ago at higher rates than today.

The accounting for the Life Membership Fund held in reserve was discussed at length. Bonino recommended in her audit earlier in the year that this account seems overstated, and that an amount of an annual amortization of this account be determined in order to approximate a more accurate figure for this reserve account. After much discussion of the work it would take to do this, the Board by consensus decided not to pursue this project. The monies kept in certificates of deposit for the life memberships earn enough interest to cover the annual costs of these memberships.

Bulletin Editor: In the absence of Filardi, President Aitken reported that the budget for the *Bulletin* will be at least \$90,000 per year. This is for a 128-page *Bulletin*. Each 32-page reduction of an issue would save approximately \$2,000 per issue but the 128-page size seems to be the most cost effective.

REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

Membership Secretary: Brown distributed her report and summarized it.

On October 31, 2002 the total membership of the Society stood at 7,499. Region 14 continues to lead in the number of AIS members at 624. Region 18 is in second place with 596 members and Region 4 now occupies third place with 577 members.

Brown highly complimented former Membership Secretary Anner Whitehead for the very well organized and labeled files and materials that she received to start the job. Brown also suggested that Whitehead receive a special commendation for the excellent Operating Manual that she wrote. It is complete, detailed and readable.

The preparation of wallet-size Life Membership cards was again discussed. The Board agreed by consensus that the wallet-size Life Member cards are not needed, but a nice Life

Membership Certificate should be designed and sent to all new Life Members.

M. Lowe reported on the status of the conversion of membership reports from Whitehead's system to Brown's MAC system.

Due to the volume of mail going out of the Membership Secretary's office, Brown requested that a postage machine be purchased for her use. Hudson moved, Gossett seconded purchasing a postage machine for the Membership Secretary. Motion carried.

Registrar: Keppel distributed his report and summarized it.

For the Registrar's operating year (December 1 to November 30), more than 800 names have been researched and reserved, and 737 registrations completed to date. An added 94 applications just received from Russia await processing.

Keppel presented several quotes for prices to print the 2002 Registrations and Introductions. After some discussion, Pocklington moved, J. Plank seconded and all approved printing 900 copies of the 2002 R&I at a cost of \$1,618.70.

G. Sutton commended Keppel for all of his hard work as Registrar.

Publications Sales Directors: J. Ludi distributed his report for the Storefront activity as of September 30, 2002. This included a detailed inventory of goods on hand and a list of sales by item.

With the purpose of finding a use for the quantity of unsold 2002 AIS Calendars, a discussion produced several suggestions, such as sending some to Ann Violette to send out with the surplus Bulletins and sending some to J. Poling to use with her Public Relations work. J. Ludi suggested putting an ad in the Bulletin to sell them in blocks of 10 calendars for \$3.

With regard to the price of the 2003 Calendars, the Board agreed by consensus to reduce their price at the May 2003 convention to \$3 each or 10 calendars for \$20.

Meeting recessed at 10:40 PM and reconvened at 8 AM on November 2, 2002.

RVP Representative: Deferred until later in the agenda.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Revision of AIS ByLaws:

Epperson distributed the ByLaws Revision Committee "Working Draft of AIS ByLaws dated 10-25-02" to the Board.

Epperson proposed a resolution from *Robert's Rules of Order* page 580 Newly Revised Edition as follows: "Be it Resolved that the ByLaws Revision Committee be authorized to correct Articles, Section designations, punctuation, and cross references and to make such other technical and conforming changes as may be necessary to reflect the intent of the Society."

M. Sutton moved, Epperson seconded to adopt this resolution. Motion carried.

Each of the following five items were discussed and approved by the Board and will go to the General Membership for approval. Proposed new wording is in **bold** and wording to be deleted is struck out. These proposed changes to the AIS ByLaws will be printed in the January 2003 *Bulletin*.

1. Article III MEMBERSHIP

Section 2 (e) youth membership, which shall be limited to individuals under 19 years of age, who shall be entitled to full membership privileges at a reduced rate. Youth members living with ~~an adult~~ **another** AIS member who receives the *AIS Bulletin* shall be eligible for additional rate reduction, provided the youth desires no personal copy of the *Bulletin*.

Epperson moved, J. Plank seconded to approve the change to Article III Section 2 (e). Motion carried.

2. Article VI - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 2.(NEW) **The AIS Board of Directors shall have the authority between regularly scheduled meetings of the Board to conduct business via electronic mail provided there are adequate standing rules in place to protect the integrity of the deliberative process.**

Each Board Meeting will still include all email votes, so minutes are complete as to all Board votes during the year.

M. Sutton moved, G. Snyder seconded to add new Section 2 to Article V. Motion carried.

3. Article VI - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 2(b). One director who is a Regional Vice President in the second year of that office shall be elected by the AIS Board of Counselors at its annual spring meeting and

shall hold office for the succeeding fiscal year and until a successor is duly elected and qualified. The term shall be from the adjournment of the AIS Board of Directors meeting in the Spring to the adjournment at the next Spring AIS Board of Directors Meeting.

G. Sutton moved, Mark seconded to approve changes to wording of Article V Section 3(b). Motion carried.

4. Article VI - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 3(d). Any additional nomination shall thereafter be by petition signed by forty members, with not more than fifteen from any one AIS Region, and such petition shall be submitted to and received by the AIS Secretary on or before ~~September 1~~ **August 15** of the same year. A ballot including the names of the original nominees and any additional nominee or nominees shall be mailed to all AIS members on or before ~~October 1~~ **September 15** of each year, and returned ballots received by the AIS Secretary or the Election Committee, if one is appointed, on or before ~~November 1~~ **October 15** of the same year.

Pocklington moved, G. Sutton seconded to approve changes to wording of Article V Section 4 (d). Motion carried.

5. Article VII - OFFICERS

Section 2. (NEW) The AIS Board of Directors at its annual spring meeting in those years that the incumbent president is completing the last year term shall elect a President-elect to take office following the official elections at its annual fall meeting.

G. Snyder moved, Gossett seconded to approve adding new Section 2 to Article VIII. Motion carried.

Epperson proposed several other cosmetic changes to the ByLaws in order to relocate already approved sections where they are more logical and to renumber other sections accordingly. These were approved by Board consensus in accordance with the previously approved Resolution from Roberts Rules of Order.

Proposed Executive Committee of the Board:

Epperson distributed a proposed Standing Rule to protect and ensure the deliberative process when Board decisions are made via electronic means. This would support the proposed ByLaw change #2 listed above. The alternative to a Standing Rule would be to have an Executive Committee to decide issues of operations between Board meetings.

Epperson then distributed and read into the minutes a proposed resolution to create an Executive Committee of the AIS Board to consist of the President as Chair, the First Vice President, the Second Vice President, the Treasurer, the Secretary and the RVP Representative as members. This resolution had been researched and prepared by Legal Advisor R. Plank in accordance with Pennsylvania law.

The question for discussion became "Do we need an Executive Committee or a Standing Rule for electronic communications or both?" Several Board members commented that the Board has made a conscious effort to open up the Board meetings so they are more accessible to the general membership. The proposed resolution is clear that the Executive Committee authority would be limited and that the Board still would have the power to prescribe the manner in which a proceeding of the Executive Committee would be conducted. Minutes would be kept of all Executive Committee meetings. B. Aitken commented that if the membership turns down the electronic mail ByLaw amendment, then the Executive Committee would be the only alternative to carry on business between Board meetings.

Epperson read a report sent by Electronic Services Chair Jones where he offered support for M. Lowe's proposal that an Internet mailing list be used as a medium of communication between Board meetings. No action was taken on this item.

President Aitken asked for a hand vote of those in favor of creating an Executive Committee of the Board. Only one person voted "Yes". J. Plank moved, G. Sutton seconded not to establish an Executive Committee of the Board at this time. Motion carried.

Epperson recommended creating a Committee to establish the Standing Rules (based on his proposal) for implementing electronic mail communications. With no objection, a Standing Rules Committee was formed and President Aitken appointed the following people to serve on this Committee: Epperson, R. Plank, M. Lowe, Jones, and Bonino.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Operations Manual: Epperson reported that a draft will be brought to the Spring 2003 Meeting.

Bulletin Indexing: M. Lowe reported that this project is still progressing.

RVP Handbook Revision: Probst presented a list of changes to the previously distributed draft. Probst moved, Pocklington seconded to approve the RVP Handbook changes as presented. Motion carried. Following the incorporation of these changes, copies of the Handbook will be distributed to all new Board members and all RVPs. J. Ludi will hold the remaining copies in the Storefront. G. Sutton moved and G. Snyder seconded to put the RVP Handbook and the ByLaws (following updating) on the AIS website for downloading. Motion carried. Any future changes to the Handbook will go through the RVP Counselor.

Non-profit Incorporation Tax Exempt Status: Regions 2,3,4,5,6,9,11,13,15,18,19,24, SIGNA, SJI, and SPCNI have completed their requirements. Region 14 as a “public benefit” has different requirements. Regions 8,10, 22, and Section Reblooming Iris Society are in the process and others have been invited to start.

AIS Logo: Work is still ongoing to render the original Racetrack form (with the date corrected) as the official AIS logo and to formulate a policy for use of the seal.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

President: Gossett moved, G. Snyder seconded to nominate Terry Aitken for President. Epperson moved that nominations cease and the Secretary be directed to cast a unanimous vote. M. Sutton seconded. Motion carried.

First Vice President: G. Snyder moved and Gossett seconded to nominate Jeanne Plank for First Vice President. Epperson moved that nominations cease and the Secretary be directed to cast a unanimous vote. G. Sutton seconded. Motion carried.

Second Vice President: J. Plank moved, Gossett seconded to nominate Roy Epperson for Second Vice President. Mark moved that nominations cease and the Secretary be directed to cast a unanimous vote. J. Plank seconded. Motion carried.

Secretary: J. Plank moved and G. Snyder seconded to nominated Jill Bonino for Secretary. Epperson moved that nominations cease and the Secretary be directed to cast a unanimous vote. J. Morris seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer: Mark moved, J. Plank seconded to nominated Jay Hudson for Treasurer. Epperson moved that nominations cease and the Secretary be directed to cast a unanimous vote. Gossett seconded. Motion carried.

Bulletin Editor: G. Sutton moved, Gossett seconded to nominate Bruce Filardi for Editor. J. Plank moved that nominations cease and the Secretary be directed to cast a unanimous vote. G. Sutton seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting recessed at 11:30 AM for Executive Session to discuss and vote the Honorary Awards for 2002 and reconvened at 1:20 PM on November 2, 2002.

HONORARY AWARDS FOR 2002

Emeritus Judges: Barbara Aitken, Terry Aitken, Joan Cooper, Sterling Innerst, Jean Morris, Rosa Belle Van Valkenberg, Anthony Willott, and Dorothy Willott.

Warburton Medal: Dr. Maria Antonietta Colasante of Italy

Hybridizer's Award: Paul Black, Lynda Miller, and Lorena Reid

Distinguished Service Award: Keith McNames and Sara Marley

APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

G. Sutton moved, and Gossett seconded to appoint the following members as Administrative Officers. Motion carried.

Registrar - Keith Keppel

Membership Secretary - Mary E. Brown

Recording Secretary -

Publication Sales Directors - John & Kay Ludi

APPOINTMENT OF REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS

Epperson moved, J. Plank seconded to appoint the following members as RVP's. Motion carried.

Region	RVP	Region	RVP
1	Bob Sawyer	13	Bruce Filardi
2	Donna James	14	Margaret Sutton

3 Jay Holcomb	15	Jim Giles
4 Ginny Spoon	16	Sandy Ives
5 Joyce Thrift	17	Keith Smith
6 Sandra Rawlings	18	Ray Keisling
7 Linda Browning	19	Mary Townsend
8 Marsha VandeBrake	20	Betty Roberts
9 Jerry Wilhoit	21	Eugene Kalkwarf
10 Julian Wells	22	M. D. Faith
11 Eileen Allison	23	Patricia Randall
12 Thomas Miller	24	Janice Tate

APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

G. Sutton moved, Gossett seconded to appoint the following members as Standing Committee Chairs. Motion carried.

Affiliates - Gerry Snyder
 Affiliates Contest - Nancy Pocklington
 Awards - Roy Epperson
 Calendars - Olive Rice-Waters
 Convention Liaison - Paul Gossett
 Donations Secretary - Jeanne Plank
 Electronic Services - John Jones
 Exhibitions - Jason Leader
 Foundation Liaison - Roger Mazur
 Honorary Awards - Clarence Mahan
 Insurance - Michelle Snyder
 Judges - Bonnie & Hooker Nichols
 Judges Handbook Revision - Roy Epperson
 Librarian - Keith McNames
 New Historical Iris Chronicles - Clarence Mahan
 Policy & Historical Resource - Mike & Anne Lowe
 Public Relations & Marketing - Joyce Poling
 Registration - Keith Keppel
 Robins - Libby Cross
 Flight Lines - Peter Weixlmann
 RVP Counselor - Louise Carson
 Scientific - Dr. Chandler Fulton
 Scientific Research - Dr. William Shear
 Section Liaison - Maureen Mark
 Silent Auction - Rita Gormley
 Slides - Bill Mull
 Symposium - Gerry Snyder
 Webmaster - Chris Hollinghead
 Youth - Jean Morris

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Affiliates: G. Snyder read Shirley Pope's report. As of November 2, 2002 there are 178 affiliates. Region 16 now has two affiliates, the Ottawa River Iris Society and Toronto Iris Society.

Chair B. Keup's report on the 2002 AIS Affiliate Award Program was distributed. It has also been mailed to all affiliate Presidents. Nominations are due no later than January 31, 2003 and can be submitted to Keup as soon as 2002 activities are complete.

Awards: Chair Epperson reviewed his report. Since the Spring Board meeting the Committee has accomplished the following: (1) preparing, mailing, receiving and tabulating the Official 2002 AIS Ballot, (2) printing and mailing of the 2001 and 2002 AM and HM Award Certificates, (3) preparing and mailing keeper trophies for 2000, 2001, and 2002, and (4) preparation and receipt of a six-year supply of Wister Medals.

Calendars: No report.

Convention Liaison: Chair Gossett reported that the list of upcoming Spring and Fall meetings has not changed from the one passed out at the Spring Board meeting.

Electronic Services: Chair Jones's report was distributed.

Currently, there are 617 subscribers to the On-line Registration Checklist Database. The annual subscription fee of \$10 can now be paid by credit card through the Storefront.

Special promotions in the Gift Shop are moving the AIS logowear and orders are up significantly in October.

General discussion occurred concerning details of our credit card contract. It was agreed that the Treasurer should hold copies of all contracts.

Exhibitions: Epperson reported for Chair Leader.

There were 183 sanctioned shows this past year.

Epperson proposed changing the prices on several of the Show supplies. J. Plank moved, Gossett seconded to increase the sale price of Entry Tags (pack of 200) from \$10 to \$11. Motion carried. J. Plank moved, Gossett seconded to increase the sale price of Standard Award Ribbons (pack of 25) from \$9.50 to \$10. Motion carried. Gossett moved, G. Snyder seconded to decrease the sale price of the Large Purple Rosettes (each) from \$6.25 to \$6. Motion carried. G. Sutton moved, Gossett seconded to increase the price of Section Rosettes (each) from \$4.75 to \$5. Motion carried. G. Sutton, moved, Gossett seconded to increase the price of Small Rosettes (each) from \$4.75 to \$5. Motion carried.

Epperson proposed purchasing new Adult Silver and Bronze medals. The new medals will cost approximately \$7.50 each versus \$2.50 each. There are very few medals left from the previous batch. J. Plank moved, G. Snyder seconded to spend no more than \$4,000 for the die and casting of 200 each of the Adult Silver and Bronze medals and to increase the sale price of individual medals from \$10 to \$15. Motion carried.

Foundation: D. Willott, Vice President of the AIS Foundation, read Chair Mazur's report.

Several grants awarded in the past have shown some progress. Nina Alexeeva from Russia traveled to the Transbaikal region and collected some 53 specimens belonging to 12 iris species along with some seeds. Enkh TUYA Luvsanbaldan from Mongolia completed her Mongolian expedition and sent back several specimens. They were packed poorly and Will Plotner was only able to save two of them. Ms. Luvsanbaldan will send more plants in the future using better shipping methods outlined by Will. Dr. Seisums from Latvia completed his trip to Syria and collected many specimens of iris in the *Oncocyclus* group. He promises a full report by the end of the year. Erin Riggs from Oregon completed her master's degree and sent a copy of her thesis on *I. hartwegii* which will be available through the AIS Library. Yuval Sapir from Israel has begun his study to count the number of specimens of each iris species in certain areas of Israel, then go back repeatedly to see if that number is the same or has increased or decreased.

Insurance: Chair M. Snyder distributed her report. New coverage has been obtained from a new carrier at a much lower price than in previous years. In addition, the name insured on the policy is The American Iris Society, all Regions, Sections, Affiliates and all members thereof. The policy has primary coverage of \$1,000,000 and an additional \$4,000,000 under an Umbrella policy. There will be a special endorsement added each year for the national convention gardens with an extra charge which will be paid by the AIS. A clear explanation of AIS insurance coverage appears in an article by Chair M. Snyder in the October 2002 Bulletin on page 108.

M. Sutton moved, Gossett seconded to expand the coverage approved at the Memphis Board meeting, i.e., for AIS to pay for insurance coverage for the duration of the national convention each year, not just the tour gardens. Motion carried.

The Directors and Officers coverage will expire in March 2003. M. Snyder would like to switch this to our new carrier.

G. Sutton thanked M. Snyder for all of her work in taking care of this very important issue. This item alone shows how AIS helps the local clubs.

Judges: Co-chairs B. and H. Nichols distributed a list of Judges by Region to date. Board members supplied information to update the list, i.e., judges recently deceased or those who have changed addresses etc. B. Nichols asked for volunteers to present Judges Training at the next convention and to do JTs and programs around the country to fill Region needs.

The group discussed the "quota" of judges set for each Region shown on the report. Four regions are close to having the quota of judges allowed for these Regions. B. Nichols moved, G. Sutton seconded to abolish the quotas for judges by Region. Motion carried.

Epperson moved, J. Plank seconded to approve the list of Judges as presented. Motion carried.

Judges Handbook: M. Lowe distributed his proposal for a change in the Judges Handbook to prevent more than one blue, red or white ribbon from being awarded to any given cultivar during a Show.

After much discussion, Epperson moved, J. Morris seconded to change page 41 of the Judges Handbook (Revised 1/2000) SECTION C - THE IRIS SHOW, Chapter 4: Rules and Regulations of an Iris Show, AWARD RIBBONS to state: "Only one first place award ribbon (blue), one second place ribbon (red), and one third place ribbon (white) may be awarded to each cultivar *in any given section.*" Motion carried.

Epperson received a written request for permission to reproduce Section C of the Judges Handbook. It would be used for training purposes at garden shows. Board agreed by consensus to grant permission.

With Board consent, President Aitken appointed the following members to the Judges Handbook Revision Committee: Epperson, B. & H. Nichols, and Hilda Crick.

Library: Chair McNames' report was distributed.

All incoming materials are being inventoried on the computer and filed properly. Ongoing projects remain the inventorying of the Foreign Section and completing Individual Biographical information. The AIS Library currently receives bulletins from the British, Danish, French, New Zealand, and Russian iris societies.

Policy & Historical: Chair M. Lowe distributed his report. Requests have been dealt with as time and resources permit.

Public Relations: Chair J. Poling reported that she is helping Membership Secretary Brown with new member packets. Additionally, she requested pictures of iris on CDs that she can use to send with magazine articles or other promotional materials for publication.

Robins: Chair Cross's report was distributed.

With the help of RVPs, Section Heads, Robin Directors, and many individual Robin members, AIS has 19 active robins, with an average membership of nine. These figures do not include e-robins which enjoy healthy memberships in the hundreds. At present, all iris categories are covered with the exception of spurias, space age iris, Arts & Crafts, and iris photography.

Scientific: Chair Fulton's report was distributed.

Dr. Currier McEwen's involvement in the AIS Disease Project is coming to an end and excess funds from this project have been returned to the AIS treasury. Please refer to the October 2002 Bulletin page 59 for a report on Christy Hensler's putative JI x SIB hybrids growing in Dr. McEwen's garden.

Scholarship: Chair Shear's report was distributed.

Lisa Karst, Portland State University, has received the first installment of her award, following unanimous Committee approval.

The Committee would like to formally designate monies given out as a "Grant" and change the Committee's name to the Scientific Research Committee.

The Board by consensus agreed to the use of the word "Grant" instead of "Scholarship" and to change the Committee's name to "Scientific Research Committee".

Secretary of Donations: Chair J. Plank distributed her report along with the reports for the Silent Auction and the Geek Auction held during the Memphis Convention.

For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2002 AIS received a little more than \$4,000 in donations. Most donations are memorial tributes and the General (Unrestricted) Fund receives the most attention.

The 2002 Silent Auction produced total income of \$4,654, slightly down from last year. Younger and smaller in operation nonetheless, the Geek Dinner Auction brought in total income of \$865.

Section Liaison: Chair Mark distributed her report listing the names and address of current section and cooperating society leaders.

Slides: Chair Mull's report was distributed.

Since January 1, 2002, 152 requests for slide sets have been received showing a growth in popularity. New slide sets titled "Iris of the Millennium", "Iris of the Fabulous 90's", "Aril Irises", and "The Memphis Convention" are in the works. There is a critical need for slides of new introductions, of award winning irises, and of the gardens from the Memphis 2002 Convention.

Surplus Bulletins: No report.

Symposium: Chair G. Snyder reported that some results are still outstanding from some RVPs. Snyder plans to post next year's ballot on the AIS website for international response.

Webmaster: No report.

Youth: Chair J. Morris distributed and summarized her report.

There are currently 402 total youth members, 245 are regular youths and 157 are Classroom Iris Project (CIP) members. There is a Regional Youth Chairman (RYC) in every region except 4, 5, 10, and 16. Regions 7, 14, 15, and 18 have CIPs in place, and Regions 5, 15, 17, 18, and 22 offer a regional Youth award.

Hundreds of iris rhizomes were sent to AIS youth members this summer, thanks to the generosity of John Jones and the Westbay Iris Society, Ron & Donna James, Mike Theissen, Roy Epperson, Terry & Barbara Aitken, Schreiner's Garden, Bennett Jones, Dave Silverberg, Bruce Filardi, Linda Browning and the Jackson Area Iris Society, Eleanor Boyson and the Middle Tennessee Iris Society, and Jim Morris and the Greater St. Louis Iris Society. Also, Janna Middleton of the AIS Gift Shop donated gift certificates to some of our Essay winners. Thanks to all.

Currently, Region 18 maintains a website with information about the youth programs of the AIS. Region 18 feels it is now time for the website to be funded through the AIS Youth Committee budget. Proposed fees would be \$142.40 annually. The proposed name for the Youth website would be iris-youth. The whole address would be <http://www.iris-youth.com>.

J. Plank moved, M. Sutton seconded to approve adding funds to cover the cost of the Youth website. Motion carried.

BUDGET REVIEW

Treasurer Hudson distributed his Proposed Budget for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2003. This included a Profit and Loss Budget Comparison for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2002.

By consensus, the cost of three mailing label machines at \$250 each for the Membership Secretary, the Storefront, and the Exhibitions Chair was approved.

The previously approved cost for silver and bronze medals will be added to this budget.

Much discussion was spent on whether the Society needed to have a separate capital expenditures budget. Currently, all capital expenditures (computer equipment, office machines, etc.) are expensed in the year purchased. Bonino recommended during her audit that these costs could be capitalized and expensed over their useful life in order to better reflect the value of AIS assets, income and expenses. The consensus of the Board was to leave the accounting policies as they are for now.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Aitken made the following announcements:

1. The Spring Meeting of the AIS will be held May 12 - 17, 2003 in Falls Church, Virginia. Convention Chair is Clarence Mahan. Epperson described the gardens in the area that will be on the trek.
2. The Western Australia Iris Society Convention will be held in Perth October 20-26, 2003.
3. Many thanks to Joe Spears, Chairman, and The Fort Worth Iris Society Committee members for hosting the AIS Fall Board Meeting.

Epperson moved, G. Sutton seconded to adjourn the Board Meeting at 8:45 PM on November 2, 2002. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Bonino, Recording Secretary

AIIS Calendar

NATIONAL CONVENTIONS

2003: May 12-17
Falls Church, VA

Chair: Clarence Mahan
 7311 Churchill Road
 McLean, VA 22101
 (703) 893-8526
 cemahan@aol.com

Headquarters:
 Fairview Park Marriott
 3111 Fairview Park Drive
 Falls Church, VA 22042
 (703) 849-9400

2004: April 19-24
Fresno, CA

Chair: Betty Coyle
 P.O. Box 68
 Carlotta, CA 95528
 (707) 768-3940
 irislady@northcoast.com

Headquarters:
 Radisson Hotel
 2233 Ventura Street

Fresno, CA 93721
 (559) 268-1000

2005: May 9-14
Saint Louis, MO

Chair: Riley Probst
 418 North Van Buren
 Saint Louis, MO 63122
 (314) 822-2485
 rprobst02@earthlink.net

2006: May 22-27
Portland, OR

Chair: John Ludi
 35071 SE Highway 211
 Boring, OR 97009
 (503) 668-9230

2007: May
Oklahoma City, OK

Chair: F. W. McVicker
 Route 3 – Box 10
 Kingfisher, OK 73750
 (405) 374-3115

FALL BOARD MEETINGS

2003: November 7-9
Tucson, AZ

Chair: Louise Skerston
 2950 N. Placita Nueva
 Tucson, AZ 85715-3430
 (520) 751-1696
 Lskerston@comcast.net

Headquarters:
 LaQuinta Inn and Suites
 7001 South Tucson Boulevard
 Tucson, AZ 85705
 (520) 573-3333

(707) 431-7350
 fullerbc@aol.com

2005: November 4-6
Minneapolis, MN

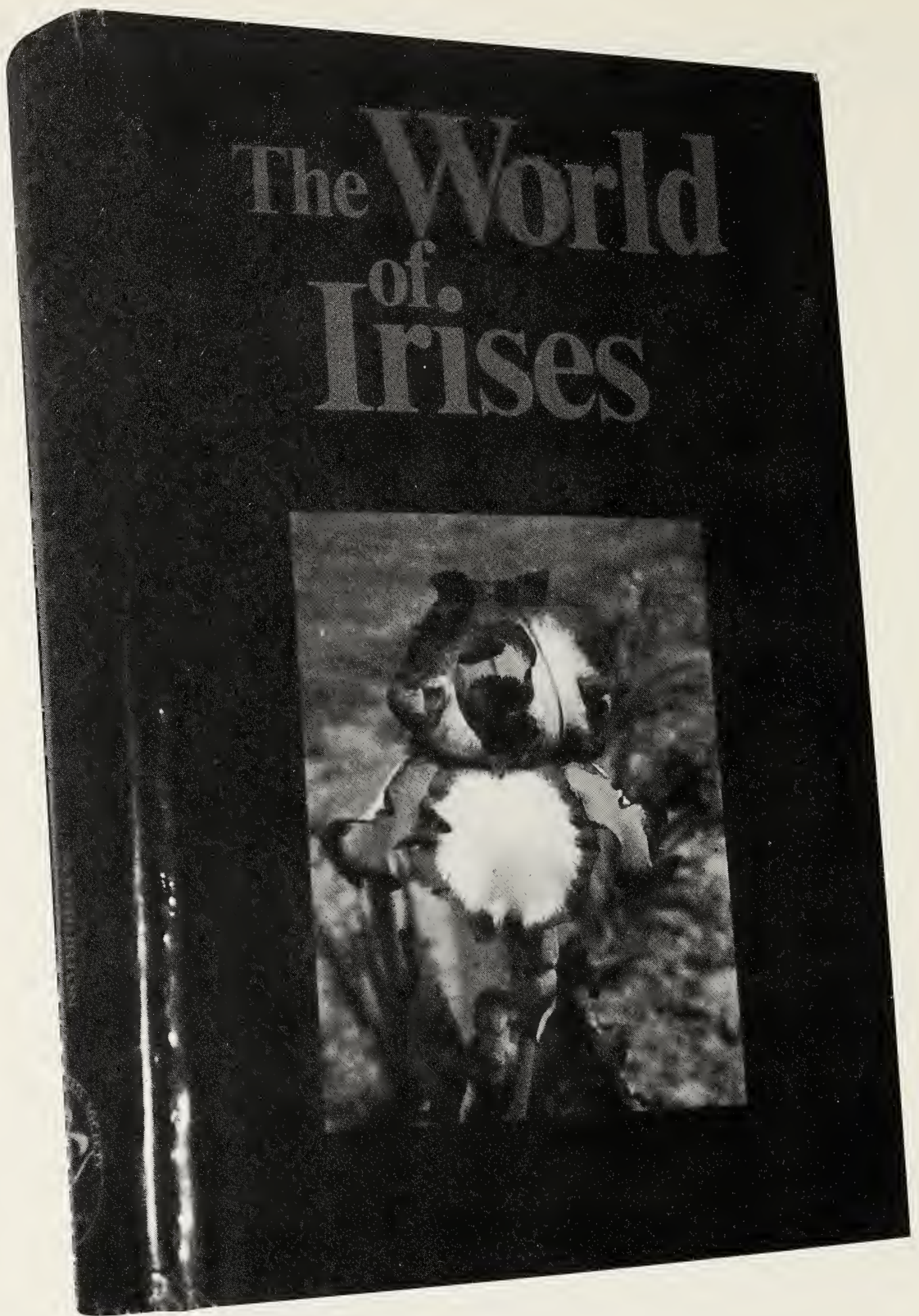
Chair: Marsha VandeBrake
 958 124th Lane NW
 Coons Rapids, MN 55448
 (763) 755-5869
 msvande@aol.com

2006: November 3-5
Kansas City, MO

Chair: Judy Keisling
 12119 A Highway
 Liberty, MO 64068
 (816) 792-1848
 keisling@swbell.net

2004: November 5-7
Santa Rosa, CA

Chair: Carolyn Fuller
 302 Mountain View Drive
 Healdsburg, CA 95448



The World of Irises

Highly recommended! 32 pages of full color. Edited by Warburton and Hamblen, 34 contributors and authors including international authorities. Published in 1978 and most authoritative book on all phases of irises. Scientific and popular. 6" x 9" hard bound cloth cover, 526 pages. \$27.00

Quantity discounts: 20% off for 10 or more / 40% off for 100 or more

RENT SLIDE SETS FROM THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

The American Iris Society Slide Set Menu

They say that a picture is worth a thousand words. If you want to create an interesting and educational meeting, an AIS slide set may provide the atmosphere you desire, and stimulate your chapter's interest. There are many different slide sets on the AIS Slide Men; sets that will fit almost any theme that you may wish to present for your program. They are constantly being upgraded, and new subjects added to the list. If you want a current list or need suggestions for your program please e-mail me. Remember, garden clubs are a great source for membership.

To Order: Requests for specific slide sets should be made well in advance, preferably four to six weeks. Please request alternate choices. Clearly print your name, address, phone number, and date of meeting if you mail your request by regular mail.

If you have an emergency situation and need slides immediately: **CALL ME!** I prefer that you order using e-mail. (AISslides@aol.com)

Only one set is allowed per request date. Slides are to be returned by Priority Mail the day after viewing.

Cost: The rental fee is \$10, payable to AIS, and mailed to the address below. Affiliate Chapters are entitled to one free set per year.

Bill Mull

7112 Fox's Lair Ct.

Norfolk, VA. 23518-4435

Phone (757) 858-8085

Fax (757) 858-5529

E-mail AISslides @aol.com

Reliable Iris of the 1980s

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Reliable Iris of the 1990s

Iris of the Fabulous Nineties

Iris of the Millennium

2001 Introductions

2002 Introductions

Beardless Irises

Beautiful, But Little Known Iris

Median Bearded Iris-

(MDB, MTB, SDB, BB, IB)

Unique and Novel Irises

Japanese Iris

Louisiana Iris

Siberian Iris

Arils

Spuria Iris

Subgenus scorpis - (juno)

Iris Trivia: This is a small set with questions that can be used for fun and informative meetings. It takes about an hour (per set average), using the slides, asking the questions and getting audience response. E-mail for further details.

The Family Iris: This set is an introduction to the world of iris. It shows the different classes of bearded iris and the different species of iris. It can be used for all levels of viewers, new to experienced iris growers. Great for garden club programs

Hunt Valley, MD, Convention - 2001

Dykes Medal Winners

Dr. Loomis Memorial Iris Trial Gardens - Videos:

1998 - 1999 - 2000 - 2001

Requests for specific slide sets should be made well in advance

AIS Storefront

Sale Items & Publications

The World of Irises

Highly recommended! 32 pages of full color. Edited by Warburton and Hamblen, 34 contributors and authors including international authorities. Published in 1978 and most authoritative book on all phases of irises. Scientific and popular. 6" x 9" hard bound cloth cover, 494 pages. \$27.00
Quantity discounts: 20% off for 10 or more / 40% off for 100 or more

Handbook for Judges and Show Officials

New release! Sixth Edition ©1998. \$15.00

Basic Iris Culture. Booklets. Great information for new iris growers. Ideal for clubs or shows. \$1.50 ea., or 25 for \$15.00 domestic/\$20.00 overseas

Convention Handbook. Free

AIS Bulletins: Back Issues

AIS Bulletins (current year and last year): \$5.00 each domestic/\$6.50 each overseas
Older issues (not all available): \$2.00 each domestic/\$4.50 each overseas

Check Lists: 1939, 1949, 1959, 1969, & 1979.

Reprint. Soft cover. \$14.00 ea. domestic/\$20.00 ea. overseas

Check Lists: 1989 or 1999

Hard cover. Ten-year compilation of registrations.

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Registrations and Introductions: 2000, 2001, 2002.

\$7.00 ea. domestic/\$10.00 ea. overseas

Registrations and Introductions:

Years 1984, 1985, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1997, 1998, 1999.

Clearance Sale: \$2.00 each!

View Before You Buy!

The official AIS Website now has photos of several of the Storefront sales items, so you can see what they look like.

Go to: www.irises.org

75th Anniversary Commemorative Medal

Solid Silver, 1½ inches across. Only 500 struck. \$25.00

75th Anniversary Bulletin. \$2.00 domestic/\$4.50 overseas

Bronze 50th Anniversary Medals

The AIS 50th Anniversary medal in antiqued bronze. Suitable for pendants, show prizes, and special awards. \$2.50

AIS Seals (50 per pack)

Self-adhesive ovals are larger than a half dollar. Official design in blue and green on silver background. \$2.50, 1 pack; \$10.00, 5 packs

2003 Iris Calendar

\$6.00 each, or \$33.00 domestic/\$40.00 overseas for packs of 10

2002 Iris Calendars – great for promotional use: clearance sale – 10/\$3.00

Iris Post Cards (16 per pack)

\$4.00, 1 pack

\$10.00, 3 packs

\$25.00, 10 packs

AIS can now accept VISA & Mastercard (sorry, no other charge cards) for Storefront orders (minimum order: \$10.00). When charging your order, please include card type and number, expiration date and phone number.

Prices include postage and handling. The Storefront ships via media mail. Priority, overnight and UPS shipment charges paid by customer. Make checks payable to The American Iris Society, or include charge card information. Send order to:

*** PLEASE NOTE: NEW ADDRESS ***

John and Kay Ludi

P.O. Box 956, Sandy, OR 97055; (503) 826-8808; <aisstorefront@juno.com>

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By Willam Shear

176 pages, 163 color photos.

In this book William Shear, a 40-year veteran of iris growing, shares his expertise in choosing, planting, growing and propagating exquisite irises of many types. Cultural advice for the most desirable and adaptable iris types allows the gardener to choose the irises best suited to his region of the country.

Single copy: \$17.00 domestic/\$25.00 overseas, postpaid

Affiliates & Sections, 10 or more copies: \$14.00 domestic/\$20.00 overseas each, postpaid.

SECTION SLIDES AVAILABLE:

The various Sections of AIS also have slide sets available for rent. These feature irises of each respective group. Rental fee is \$5.00 per set, unless noted otherwise. Requests for these slide sets should be submitted as follows:

Arils and Arilbreds: Order from Scott Jordan, 3500 Avenida Charada NW, Albuquerque, NM 87107. Rental fee \$7.50. Check to Aril Society International.

Dwarf: Dorothy Willott, 26231 Shaker Blvd., Beachwood, OH 44122-7111. Check to Dwarf Iris Society. Rental fee \$7.50.

Historic Iris Preservation Society (HIPS): Contact Joan Cooper, 212 West Country Rd. C, St. Paul, MN 55113. Rental fee \$7.50. Check to HIPS.

Japanese: Order from John Coble, 9823 E. Michigan Ave., Galesburg, MI 49053. Check to Japanese Iris Society.

Louisiana: Lynn Finkel, 21015 NE 220th Circle, Battle Ground, WA 98604. \$10 check to SLI.

Medians: Contact Terry Aitken, 608 NW 119th St, Vancouver WA 98685. \$10 check to MIS.

Pacific Coast Native: Contact Damon Hill, 4613 Maddock Rd, Sebastopol, CA 95472-9768. Rental fee \$7.50 to SPCNI. 3 sets available: Species, Hybrids or combo.

Rebloomers: Contact Olive Rice-Waters, P.O. Box 1944, Oregon City, OR 97045. Check to Reblooming Iris Society. Rental fee is \$7.50.

Siberians: Order from Robert Hollingworth, 124 Sherwood Rd E, Williamston, MI 48895. Check to Society for Siberian Irises.

Species: Several sets available. Order from Helga Andrews, 11 Maple Ave, Sudbury MA 01776. Check to SIGNA.

Spurias: To order, contact Patricia Brooks, 102 Jefferson Lane, Ladson, SC 29456. Check to Spuria Iris Society.

AIS Bulletin Back Issues ***two years or older; not all issues available***

\$7.00 25 Bulletins \$10.00 50 Bulletins

Ideal to hand out at shows, sales and other activities. Our choice of issues, depending on availability; shipped in packs of 5 or 10. Price includes postage and handling. Make check payable to American Iris Society. Order this special offer separately from regular Storefront orders, directly from:

Ann Violette
228 Mud Lake Trail; Polson, MT 59860-9751
(406)883-5535; <aviolet@polson.net>

AIS Bulletin Ad Rates

"Without advertising, a terrible thing happens... nothing!"

Ad Submission Requirements

To place an ad, please contact the advertising editor. All ads must have a hard copy submitted to the advertising editor. List of specifications regarding digital submissions is available. Payment is due with ad copy. The deadlines for ad submissions are as follows: September 1 (October issue); December 1 (January issue), March 1 (April issue), June 1 (July issue). Send ad and payment (payable to AIS) to: George Sutton.

Shopping Section

Found in the back of each Bulletin. Placement is roughly alphabetical. Rate is for 4 issues. All ads are 2½ inch wide.

\$42.00	1 15/16 inch
\$58.00	1 1 15/16 inch
\$73.00	2 15/16 inch

Display Advertising

Black & White:

\$35.00	1 inch	1 x 4¼
\$46.00	¼ page	1⅞ x 4¾ (wide), or 3¾ x 2½ (tall)
\$58.00	⅓ page	2½ x 4¾ (wide), or 7½ x 1½ (tall)
\$81.00	½ page	3¾ x 4¾ (wide), or 7½ x 2½ (tall)
\$104.00	⅔ page	5 x 4¾
\$115.00	¾ page	5⅝ x 4¾
\$138.00	Full page	7½ x 4¾

Color:

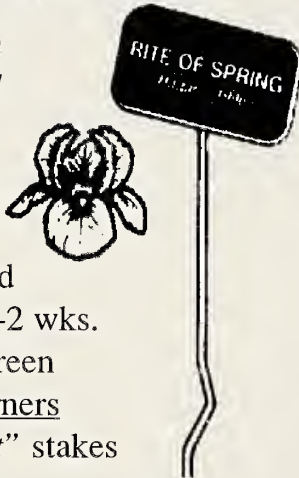
\$115.00	½ page, interior page.
\$193.00	Full page, interior page.
\$175.00	Full page, interior page, 4 consecutive issue discount.
\$280.00	Full page, inside back cover.
\$297.00	Full page, inside front cover.
\$350.00	Full page, outside back cover.

Bulletin of the AIS Shopping Section

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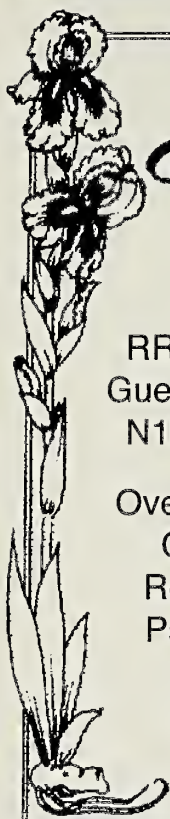
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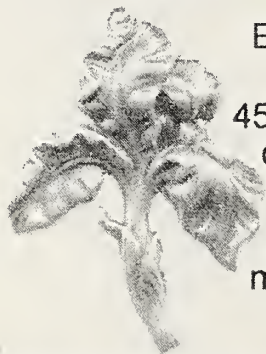
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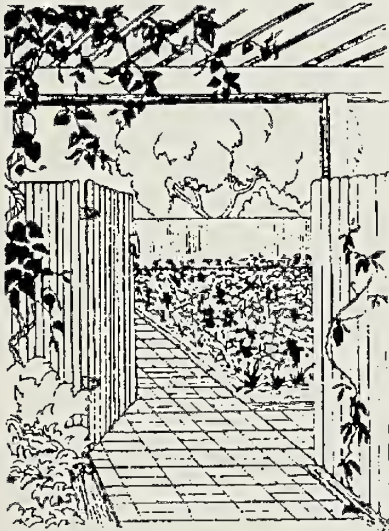
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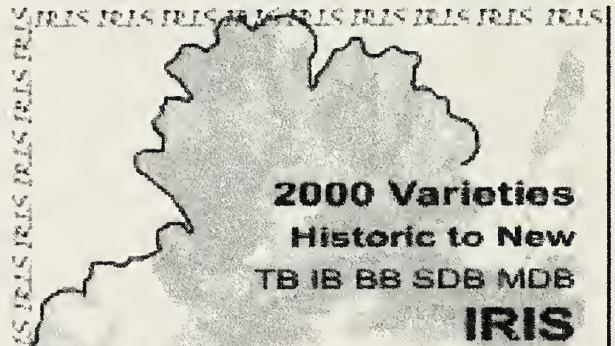
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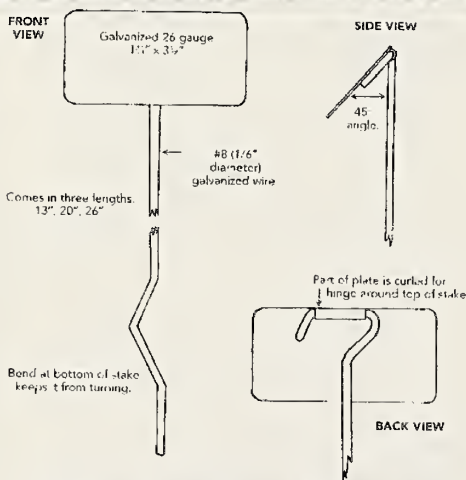
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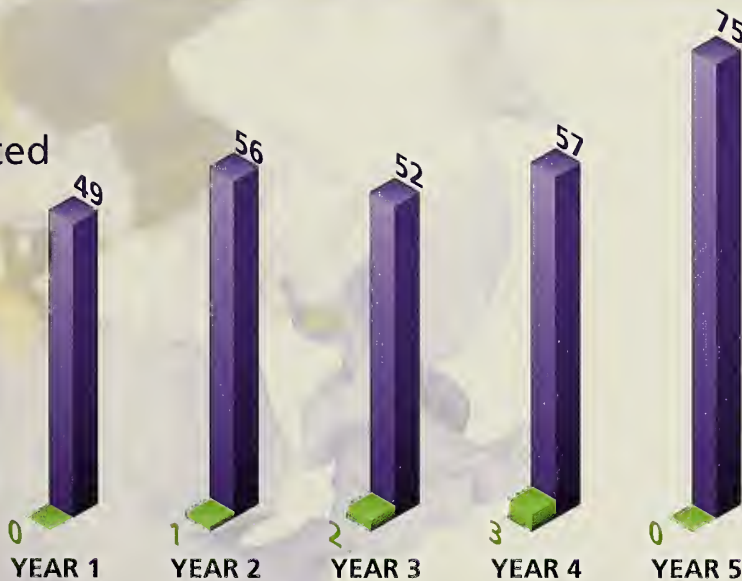
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Left: Dusky Challenger
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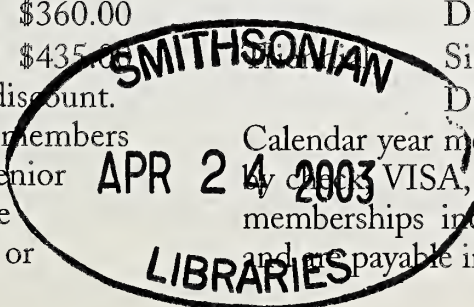
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by Terry Aitken, Washington State

WHEN THIS *Bulletin* ARRIVES, IRIS activities will be in full swing, albeit different stages in different climates.

To enhance our recruiting capability, the board has dramatically changed and simplified the new membership policy. New members will receive the next *Bulletin* "off the presses" after they join. (There will be no more confusion about --"did we join last winter or next winter?") Membership renewal date will be the month that the member joined. It is our hope that "life just got easier" for new members, for recruiters and for administrators. Let's all get out there and make it work! Spring iris shows and summer iris sales provide great opportunities for new membership recruiting.

The Symposium Ballot for 2003 will be posted to the AIS website <www.irises.org>, from which individuals can download a copy. This will especially benefit international participation, as international *Bulletins* often take quite a while to reach their destinations; international members will be able to respond by e-mail directly to Gerry Snyder, the Symposium Chairman. All other members should send their ballots to their RVP. The numbers that correspond to the names on the list are intended to facilitate communication. Your participation is what makes the system work. Please vote.

The vote on the Bylaws revision to accommodate electronic voting by the Board of Directors is moving along nicely. Passage of this revision is only phase one. The next step is a set of operating procedures which will include such topics as:

- (a) Requiring that all voting board members receive notice of a pending vote,
- (b) Discussion and voting procedures,



Terry Aitken, AIS President

(c) What percentage vote from respondents would be required for passage of a motion, - a supermajority?,

(d) What time frame would be required before voting is closed?

Roy Epperson and his committee will be presenting recommendations at the spring board meeting for discussion. Member suggestions are welcome. The board has been conducting "votes by consensus" which are then reaffirmed at the next board meeting. Through experience we have learned that, when using the electronic voting method, it takes virtually unanimous e-mail votes to assure passage at the following board meetings, and it has been happening. Contested issues need to be discussed live at a board meeting before a vote is taken.

Our AIS website, <www.irises.org>, is a veritable wealth of information, thanks to the hard work of Chris Hollinshead of Ontario, Canada, in keeping things updated. Check out topics like the Iris-talk; Master Bulletin Index; Commercial source lists; latest National Conventions; links to related iris societies and activities; AIS insurance coverage and much more.

I look forward to seeing many of you out on the convention trail. First, the Region 13 Median tour in Portland in April, then the National Convention in Falls Church, Virginia, in May, and finally at the BEARDLESS/BORDERLESS Siberian/Species Convention in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, in mid June. Enjoy the upcoming iris season! 🌸



Early days of the Franciris 2005 Competition Garden in France

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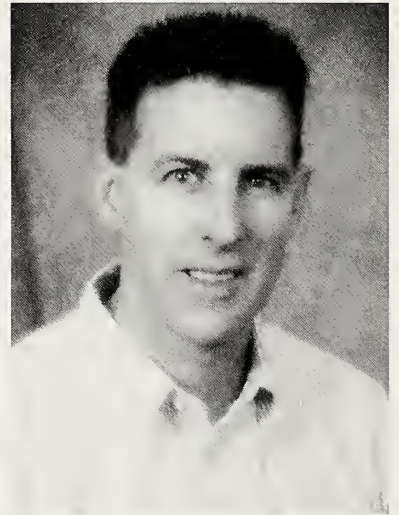
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Editor's Message

by Bruce Filardi, Oregon

AS I WRITE THIS ARTICLE IN EARLY MARCH, WE ARE ENJOYING an early start of spring in the Portland area, and all the iris people are happy to have a head start on the year's weeding and other garden work. By the time you read these words, you may already be enjoying your first iris blooms of the season!

I would like to call the attention of all readers to the excellent "test garden" program that is being sponsored by the Santa Rosa Iris Society. The first write-up appeared in last April's issue of the *Bulletin*, and the current issue includes the findings at the end of their initial two-year study. I am happy that Dean Linscott is pursuing this project with a detail-oriented, scientific approach, and I know that *every* iris-grower can benefit from his hard work. Three cheers for Dean and all the members of SRIS!



Bruce Filardi, Editor

Clarence Mahan has asked me to make some corrections to his write-up on the Caparne-Welch Medal, which appeared in January. It reads "Most of the dwarf iris cultivars grown in gardens in the first quarter of the 19th century were products of Caparne's hybridizing efforts." It should, of course, refer to the 20th century rather than the 19th. There were one or two other typos in the article, but none of them detract from the fine job Clarence has done with his series of articles on the names behind the AIS medals, all of which will be reprinted in the *Bulletin* as time and space allow over the next few years.

Once again this year, I urge all AIS judges to complete their official ballot in a timely manner, after giving serious consideration to the merits of the cultivars which are receiving their votes. Please review the official guidelines for garden awards in each class, as printed in the *Handbook for Judges*. And vote only for cultivars that meet the criteria, and which you have observed several times in a garden setting.

Have a great iris season! 

Youth Views

by Jean S. Morris, Missouri

Kristen Laing Wins Coloring Contest

The 2002 Coloring Contest was a bit more challenging than those of the past. The contest picture, published in *The Iris Fan* (youth newsletter), was of *Iris virginica*, a water-loving species. Extra points were given to youths who colored the picture “true to life” in one of the several colors displayed by this lovely iris.

The multi-talented Kristen Laing, aged 10, of Midlothian, VA, Region 4, was deemed Best Overall Winner for her superior coloring. Congratulations Krissy!

Second Best Overall was won by 14-year-old Nicole Pederson of Region 21, followed closely by Third Best winner, Werner Stiegler, aged 15 of Region 2. Placing Fourth Best was 12-year-old Emily Simon and Fifth Best went to 6-year-old Christopher Raymond. Both of these youths are from Region 18.

Other prizewinners in the five different age categories were:

Age 6 & under: Leah Winzer of Reg. 18, 2nd place.

Age 7-9: Faith Gowin of Reg. 15, 2nd place.

Age 10-12: Nina Lanasa of Reg. 18, 2nd place;
Kyle Pederson of Reg. 21, 3rd place.

Age 16-18: Pierra Hathaway of Reg. 18, 1st place.
Nic Yowell of Reg. 18, 2nd place.
Matt Knipshild of Reg. 18, 3rd place.

Creativity Awards went to Chelsey Denee, Rachel Smith & Heidi Jessup of Reg. 15; Amy Bubenko of Reg. 3; Miriam Winzer, Katlyn Heuvelman, Elizabeth Renner, Jacqueline Fechter, Brad Davies, Tim Cornelius, Sarah Bolton, Rachel Hindle, Alexa Cahalan, Joshua Winzer & Sarah Murabito of Reg. 18; and Heidi Muller of Reg. 11.

Honorable Mention was awarded to Harmony Muller of Reg. 11; Clayton Corn, Kory Kuntz, Joe DeLarber, Hanna Nickolotsky, Ryan Zimpfer, Robbie Gregg, Josh Warden, Kevin Radomski, Gregg Jennewein & Matt Brooks of Reg. 18; and Natasha Bezaholni, Zoe

Bradley, Claudia Pena, Katelyn Smith & Sabrina Anderson of Reg. 15.

A total of \$208 in prize money was awarded. Thanks to everyone who entered the Coloring Contest and congratulations to all.

Youth Poetry Contest Results in Tie

Also offered in *The Iris Fan* was our first-ever Iris Poetry Contest. Poems could be any style, rhymed or unrhymed, and were required to be at least three lines long. A Japanese poetry form called “haiku,” with three unrhymed lines of 5, 7 & 5 syllables, was mentioned as an example, and several youths chose this type of poetry.

The judges were impressed with all of the poems and wrote many positive comments. Point scoring was used to determine the winners, and incredibly this resulted in a tie for First Place between Rachel Hindle, of Hutchinson, KS, and Helen Wurthmann of St. Louis, MO. Congratulations! Both wrote excellent poems.

Placing Second was Kory Kuntz with a haiku using metaphor. In Third was Matt Brooks with a double haiku with very good imagery. Tim Cornelius came in Fourth with his haiku which had nice personification. These youths are from Reg. 18.

Creativity Awards went to Nicole Pederson of Reg. 21 for her acrostic poem, and to Jacqueline Fechter of Reg. 18 for her haiku. Both of these poems had nice alliteration.

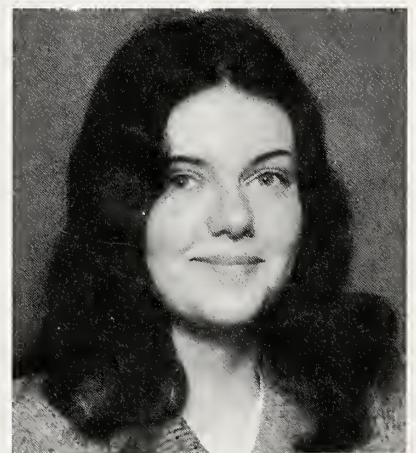
Honorable Mention went to Elizabeth Renner, Matt Knipshild, Nic Yowell, Blake Birkenmeier, Stephanie Cray, and Katlyn Heuvelman of Reg. 18.

Cash prizes totaling \$90 were awarded to our winning poets. Thanks to all who entered. Your talented writing impresses and inspires us.

The Mighty Iris

by Rachel Hindle

Three petals up, three petals down
 On stately stalks bright colors abound;
 With many green and pointed leaves
 Like mighty swords drawn from their sheaths.
 Under sun or rainy cloud,
 The iris stands tall and proud.



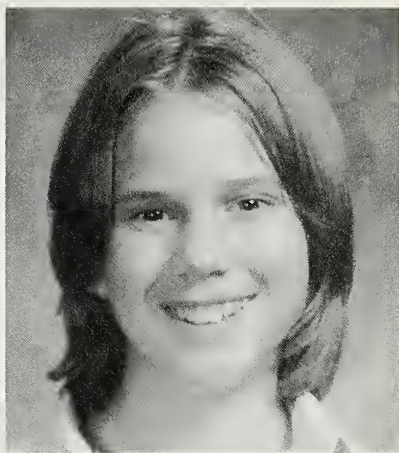
Where Irises Lie

by Helen Wurthmann

In late winter when other flowers die,
You may find a place
Where irises lie.

In this bed you will see
Many colors beginning to appear.
Do not pick them. Let them be.

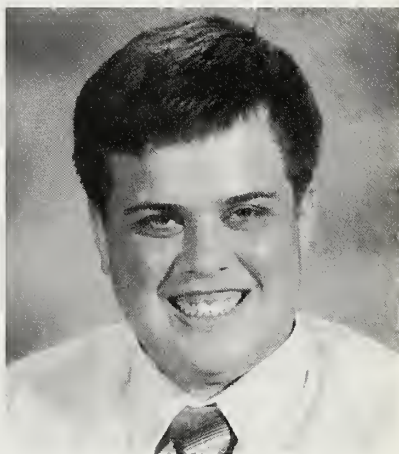
Matters not how the blossoms make you feel
The world stops.
The feeling of beauty is real.



Iris Poem

by Kory Kuntz

I'VE GOT RHYTHM blooms
Blowing in the fierce Spring wind
Stems with raspberries



Spotlight on Region 18

We are very happy to have an abundance of AIS youth members in Region 18, totaling 105 at present. They are an asset to their local clubs, the region and to the AIS as a whole. They participate in the youth contests, contribute items for *The Iris Fan*, attend Region 18 tours and auctions, and serve their local affiliates in a host of ways - helping at shows & sales, maintaining public gardens, donating rhizomes, even serving as club officers. Presently, Stephanie Rust is President of the Washington (MO) Iris Club and Joshua Winzer serves as Treasurer of the Augusta (KS) Iris Society.

Many names of the region's 41 regular youths and 64 Classroom Iris Project (CIP) youth members show up in yearly show reports and some youths have even won Best in Show. For some clubs, it is not unusual to have 30 or 40 stalks in the Youth Horticulture Division of shows, a dozen or so youth designs and several Educational Exhibits. When show visitors notice these beautiful youth displays they are excited and amazed. Perhaps they go home thinking all's right with the world.

Also of note in Region 18: six Classroom Iris Projects! It all started on a hot August day in 1996 when Kirkwood Iris Society members built a 40' X 8' raised planting site at Southview School. Southview is a public, special-education building with a diverse student population aged 3 to 21. The focus at Southview is on "ability" rather than "disability" with some students mentally and physically challenged, while others work to improve speech, socialization and behavior skills.

A few weeks later, eight students of teacher Laura Sturm signed up as AIS youth members and started the first CIP in Region 18. They planted about 175 donated bearded and beardless iris varieties, careful to place the garden markers by the correct rhizomes. A "practice" iris show was planned for the following May and a show schedule was printed up with a "Solar System" theme, as it fit in with the curriculum. Since the iris growth was deemed quite good, the show schedule was sent off for AIS approval and Southview's first annual show became sanctioned and judged. Both adults and youths entered, and students, staff, bus drivers and people from the community came to see it. One of the youth design classes was titled "Space Junk," requiring the use of something recyclable in the design. The students were very creative with this. Best of Show, fittingly, was won by a youth with SILVERADO.

Future shows, always held on a Wednesday during the school day, had such titles as The Inventors, Holidays with Irises, The Iris Arena (sports), It's an Iris Zoo, and Irises Around the World.

Beginning with the 1999 show, another CIP group from across town, sponsored by the Greater St. Louis Iris Society, began attending and entering the Southview iris shows. These students, led by teacher Val Mertz, were from Marquette High School, and they brought their entries over on their school bus (imagine that!). They take turns clerking the shows, but their favorite activity is helping Southview students with the annual sensory iris art activity. They have lunch with Southview CIP students and are given a tour of the garden plus a hybridizing lesson by a Southview student. It has been a great experience for both groups each year.

In 1998, Southview students and their irises were featured on the school district calendar. In 1999, CIP student Joyce Fields won the AIS Essay Contest. Footage from the 2001 iris show was aired on the evening news by a local TV station, and in 2002 Southview students were excited by a visit from Bernard Pryor, Louisiana iris hybridizer from Australia.

Two Eagle Scout candidates added beds for iris seedlings and a

Spurias From Around the World
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Charlie Jenkins, noted Spuria hybridizer

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Mention: Pony Express Iris Society / Spuria Society

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Rates: \$66 per night - single or double / \$76 per night - triple
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Full breakfast buffet included in room rate

Registration:

\$85 postmarked by 4/01/03

\$95 postmarked after 4/01/03

Make Checks payable to Pony Express Iris Society
Include printed name(s), address, phone, and, if available,
email address

Note: If registering after May 25, contact registrar
 before mailing registration for bus & banquet count

Registrar:

Judy Keisling

12119 County Road A

Liberty, MO 64068-8114

816-792-1848


Email: keisling@swbell.net

perennial garden area to the “outdoor classroom.” Dozens of iris seedlings are being evaluated, germination experiments have taken place, and quite a bit of weed pulling goes on as well. A new Girl Scout CIP, also sponsored by KIS, was signed up last fall to help with garden maintenance. Home Depot built a patio area and wheelchair path to the garden, and a grant is being written to make additional improvements.

When the irises generated enough increases, the Southview students sold the extra rhizomes, which helps make money for garden supplies while also giving the students a chance to work on their math and social skills.

Other Region 18 CIPs are in Hutchinson, KS, Hermann, MO, and a new group signed up recently in Halstead, KS. Region 18 has a very active Regional Youth Chair (RYC) in Cindy Rust. Cindy is a wonderful encouragement to the youth members and she, along with the Youth Advisors in the local clubs, make the Region 18 youth program fun and exciting.

CIPs work well in 4-H Groups. Rex Clark of Region 14 heads an ongoing 4-H CIP sponsored by the Leo T. Clark Iris Society. Scout Troops make ideal CIP members as well, and they can earn a badge while learning about irises. Region 15 has a Girl Scout CIP sponsored by the Tucson Area Iris Society. The Blue Grass Iris Society of Region 7 sponsors two CIP school groups. If you are helping your club’s youth members with their iris endeavors, you are contributing to the future of the AIS. Sponsoring a CIP is an additional way to bring the joys of growing and showing irises to young people.

If you would like CIP information, contact the AIS Youth Chairman by mail or e-mail. Also, visit the AIS youth website at <http://www.iris-youth.com> and download the outdoor classroom information. 

Rainbow's End Garden

2003 Introduction by Gerald Richardson

1109 Pine St, Richland, WA 99352, Phone 509-943-9547, <glrich@charter.net>

TEA SERVICE TB 34" EM. A set of this fine china consists of six flared pale blue cups atop broad blue-white saucers. Ruffled overlapping falls; base of standards flushed deeper blue. Sdlg 94-22-6 \$25.00

Shipping included. Price list for previous introductions available.

MISTY HILL FARMS 2003 INTRODUCTIONS

AMERICAN SPARKLER (Dickey 03) TB SA 35" M. S. white, washed pale blue; F. medium blue violet. The riotous horns & flounces at the end of the red orange beards will remind you of 4h of July fireworks\$35.00

FEATHER DANCER (Dickey 03) TB SA 29" L. Snowy white self. At the end of the yellow b. are very large feathery white fans (flounces). The flounces are so large this almost looks like a double flower! Very vigorous\$35.00

ROOTIN' TOOTIN' RASPBERRY (Dickey 03) TB SA RE M 32" Deep red blue raspberry self with flash of blue in center of fall. At the end of the red orange beard are raspberry horns-and an incredible sweet fragrance.....\$35.00

STAR POINT (Dickey 03) TB SA 40" L. Snow white ruffled self with silver veining. The beard is white with slight yellow tip and a very crisp pointed white horn at the end. Very vigorous.....\$35.00

YOUR HEART'S DESIRE (Dickey 03) TB RE 30" E. A beautiful peach self with a 1/ 16th inch gold band around all petals; orange beards; slight sweet fragrance. Very strong rebloomer (3-4 times a year here)\$35.00

PAST INTRODUCTIONS

DEE M. BEEVERS (Dickey 0 1) TB 3 0" L. Light creamy yellow self, center of falls washed white; b. bright yellow\$12.50

DELICATE MISS (Dickey 01). TB 32" M. S. white with med. Blue violet stitching; F. white with med. Blue violet plicata edge with blue violet dotting up the middle of the fall; b. orange with light blue tip. Very vigorous\$20.00

UPON A STAR (Dickey 01) TB SA 35" M. Baby pink washed peach, falls have a white wash. The b. is orange, shading to light orange ending in a 1" white horn. Perry Dyer gave this his MOST ELEGANT award. Sib to When You Wish.....\$35.00

WHEN YOU WISH (Dickey 98) TB RE 31" M. Medium baby pink self, falls are white washed; red orange B. end in large baby pink flounces. Beautiful flower (a pink Mesmerizer), excellent fragrance\$15.00

**Misty Hill Farms, 5080 W. Soda Rock Ln.,
Healdsburg, Ca. 95448 (707) 433-8408**

International News

From Japan:

Notification has been received that Mr. Hiroshi Shimizu of Japan has set up a beautiful website for the Japan Iris Society, in English, at the following location: http://www.kamoltd.co.jp/kyokai/English/wild_iris.html. It is well worth a visit!

An Update on Franciris 2005

from Michele Bersillon, France

Even after having been planted late in the season in 2002 and coming out of a hard winter, the competition garden created for Franciris 2005 looks to be springing to life on schedule. The actual dates when the competition will be judged in 2005 have not yet been determined. We will do our best as time goes on to provide regular updates and hopefully photographs later on this year. We wanted to let American readers know that there is a new e-mail contact address for information on the competition: <auxiris@aol.com> or by regular mail:

Franciris 2005

c/o Michele Bersillon, Competition Secretary

17 rue du Reveillon

F-54330 Vitrey, France

2002 Convention of the Middle European Iris Society

from Milan Blazek, Czech Republic

The fourth official MEIS Convention took place in Brno, Moravia (the southeastern part of the Czech Republic), on May 24-26, 2002. The host was the Botanical Garden and Arboretum of Mendel University of Agriculture and Forestry. Originally founded as an arboretum in 1926, it has developed into a modern botanical garden with valuable collections of perennials, rock garden plants, and greenhouse plants, especially orchids.

Among perennials, bearded irises soon won an important role in

the developing garden; the growing conditions here are ideal for them. Among wild species that grow naturally in the area around Brno are *Iris pumila*, *Iris variegata*, *Iris graminea*, *Adonis vernalis*, *Pulsatilla grandis* and many other rare species which have gained appreciation as garden plants. The collection of modern and historic tall bearded irises has become one of the leading attractions of the botanical garden.

More than 50 new TB cultivars from five countries were evaluated at the Convention. Of the 22 seedlings sent by members of MEIS, the highest point score was earned by Z. Seidl's seedling 96/ThSH/8. The winning plant, later registered as MODR? TRN, was awarded the Czech Cup, and it also took first place among the top ten favorite cultivars. The Polish Cup was awarded to J. Wo?niak's seedling HTB-SH-96-11, and the Slovak Cup went to A. Mego's seedling AM-96/0124.

Among 23 registered cultivars hybridized by members of MEIS, first position was taken by NATASHA (P. Nejedlo). This variety also won the Carpathian Cup.

Among cultivars sent by five foreign hybridizers, first place went to BLUE NOTE BLUES (Ernst), second to AMBROISIE (Cayeux), and third to CLEARWATER RIVER (Ernst).

The 2002 MEIS Convention was host to the largest number of participants in its history. While the Convention in its early years often drew only 30 visitors, this year's count reached more than 100 participants who came to Brno from six countries.

During and after the convention, participants also visited botanic gardens at Pr?honice (near Prague) and Masaryk University in Brno, and several private gardens which featured irises as well as rock garden plants. Unfortunately, the weather was not very cooperative for the excursions, but friends all enjoyed the opportunity to see one another again and to visit the various gardens. We appreciated the hospitality of Mendel University as well as the organizational efforts of all local groups of MEIS.

The 6th MEIS Convention will take place in Nitra, Slovakia, in the Botanical Garden of the Slovak Agricultural University, on May 23-25, 2003. Once again there will be judging of cultivars sent to the convention, as well as a series of papers concerning both wild irises and garden irises. For more information, contact:

Ing. Milan Knoll
 Botanická záhrada
 Tr. A. Hlinku ?.2,
 949 76 Nitra
 Slovakia
 e-mail: <Milan.Knoll@uniag.sk>

From New Zealand:

We have received the sad news that well-known irisarian Frances Love passed away in early January. She is fondly remembered as a colorful member of the society and hybridizer of EMMA RIPEKA, the Siberian iris which won the Australasian Dykes Medal in 1994. 🌸

Tom Parkhill

2822 Island Home Avenue, Knoxville, Tn. 37920

Iris Introductions for 2003

CHIEF JOHN JOLLY (Parkhill '03) T.B. 36" E. Sdlg.# 95-601 (Instructor X Momentum) Heavy textured, very well branched, violet and white plicata with light yellow tan standards and great bud count. Very Vigorous grower in our garden.....\$30.00

SATIN CHARM (Parkhill '03) T.B. 36" M. Sdlg. #90-401. (Easter Time X Precious Moments). A satiny smooth beautifully ruffled white with a soft yellow beard and wonderful flowery form\$30.00

Previous Introductions

NOAH'S CHOICE (Parkhill '02) T.B.	\$20.00
PURE SAPPHIRE (Parkhill '02) T.B.	\$20.00
MIAH JANE (Parkhill '01) T.B.	\$15.00
PARKRIDGE CHALLENGER (Parkhill '99) T.B.	\$7.50
SONG OF GRACE (Parkhill '99) T.B.	\$7.50

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Ph/Fax:602-841-1231 Shepdiris@aol.com

2003 INTRODUCTIONS

DEBUTANTE'S DRESS – TB-38"-M/E Gorgeous bicolor! The heavy ruffled stands are champagne-yellow with a blush of violet. Falls are rich dark violet. Bushy beards are old gold. 98014:(Swing N'Sway x Stairway to Heaven) X Grape Champagne).....\$45.00

KARAMEL PIZAZZ – AB-38"-E/M Standards cinnamon gold with veins of purple-brown around fluted edges. Falls are cinnamon gold brushed heavily with purple-brown. Style arms are bright yellow extending into a bright gold beard over a burgundy signal. (98018-9601: ((Persian Berry x Battle Royal) X Prince Thou Art).....\$30.00

KORENA – TB-39"-M Very ruffled bright purple-grape self. The beard is a very dark purple reaching to mustard gold in the throat. Around the wide standards and falls is a transparent edge appearing to be a silver gilt edge. (Epicenter X 98012-9602:(Swing N'Sway x Stairway to Heaven).....\$40.00

LATIN JAZZ – TB-40"-E/M Standards are cinnamon lightly flushed with burgundy. Style arms blend nicely of the same colors. Falls have light yellow ground with ½" wide dark burgundy rim and burgundy freckles. Old gold beards swing with jazz. (Epicenter X Grape Champagne)..... \$45.00

MONA LORRAINE – TB-40"-M A grand-daughter asked us to name this beautiful cultivar in honor of her much loved grandmother. This bi-color has golden-yellow standards that are brushed lightly with bronze. The midribs are shaded a light purple-red. Style arms are the same color as the standards. Falls are deep burgundy with a violet stripe down the center of the fall. Rich gold beards put the final touch on "Mona". (Flamenco Whirl X (Bronze Lace x Hamner 87-3).....\$30.00

RASPBERRY WHISPERS – TB-44"-M Very ruffled mid raspberry blending to dark raspberry. Style arms are raspberry with a golden glow. Midribs of falls are light raspberry pushing out to much darker edges. Bushy root beer beard accents the center of this beauty. (Battle Royal X 97050-9501: (Dances With Wolves x Lake Park).....\$35.00

SPACED OUT – TB-38"-M Dark lavender stands and falls. Stands are very ruffled around the edge and the center has a lighter midrib. The bright gold-orange beard extends into a white horn. (Alabaster Unicorn X Devil's Fork).....\$30.00

SWEET SUNSHINE – TB-38"-ML Domed standards of pastel creamy-white are ruffled with a slight yellow splashing in the base. The style arms are soft yellow. The creamy-white falls have a bright yellow shoulder that bleeds to the bottom of the falls like spilled paint. A wide orange gold beard tops off the complete package. (Chosen One X Grape Champagne).....\$45.00

*******SPECIAL:** Collection price for Karamel Pizazz, Mona Lorraine, Raspberry Whispers, and Spaced Out \$100.00

Postage \$7.00 Catalog available for \$1.00

Leaf Spot

by Rick Ernst, Oregon


F

UNGAL LEAF SPOT (*DIDYMPELLINA* spp.) HAS BEEN REPORTED IN most areas of the Willamette Valley. It is enhanced by cool, wet weather. Being a fungus, it spreads by spores. On dense foliage (clumps of three or more years of growth) just the wind rustling the leaves against one another will transfer spores, not to mention the family cat as he prowls through his "jungle."

Leaf spot begins as small, wet-looking spots the size of a pencil eraser. As the spots age, they turn yellow, then brown. They generally start at the leaf tips and spread downward. Unsightly, they also weaken the plant and can lead to bacterial soft rot and the possible loss of the plant.

Control is accomplished by two methods. First and foremost is to maintain a clean and healthy environment. Periodic removal of browning leaves and dead foliage is paramount. Take them completely out of the garden and destroy by burning or "hot" composting. Cut bloom stalks after flowering and trim foliage back to six inches, and then trim again in the fall.

Method two is used in conjunction with method one. Spraying the iris in early spring with fungicide will begin eradication. Subsequent spraying every ten days until the weather turns hot and dry will contain the disease. Adding a spreader sticker will make your spray more effective.

The fungus lives for two years, so if it was present this year, it will be present next year. Spraying before it appears and changing the type of fungicide also helps. 

AITKEN'S SALMON CREEK GARDEN

608 NW 119th Street, Vancouver, WA 98685

Phone 360-573-4472

E-mail <Aitken@flowerfantasy.net>

2003 TALL BEARDED INTRODUCTIONS.

BRONZE PEACOCK (Aitken '03) TB, 40" (102cm), ML. This is a robust flower on a tall, robust stem in a robust clump! Medium bronze stds., round rosy violet falls with a 1/4" bronze band and ochre yellow beards. 7 Buds. #91T75. (Involving Irene Nelson, Cranberry Crush, Vivien) \$40.00

CODE RED (Aitken '03) TB, 33" (84 cm), ML. This is the closest thing to a red iris that we have seen! Intense cranberry red with white halo surrounding a bright orange/red beard. Smoothly applied color on nicely proportioned flowers with heavy substance. 8 buds. Fertile. #95T28: (Involves Ever After, Cranberry Delight, Color Fusion, Persian Gown, Lady Friend) \$45.00

CRACKLING CALDERA (Aitken '03) TB, 33" (84 cm), ML. A red hot beard is surrounded by a halo of white heat cooling into fiery yellow, finally cooling to a 1/4" band of bright orange on beautifully ruffled rim. Standards rise like a fiery plume of orange lava. 8 buds on a 3 branched stem. Vigorous! #96T16: (Involves Sunshine Express, Brown Lasso, Peach Float, Irene Nelson, Winterbourne, Blazing Light, Color Fusion) \$45.00

FRERE ANDRE (Elaine Bessette '03) TB, ML,RE, 33" (84 cm) 8- 9 buds Standards and style arms are sea lavender violet with darker midrib flush. Falls are medium blue violet. Beards match the standards. Reblooms from early August until freeze-up! Pod fertile. #EWMBS-92-11: (Edith Wolford X Byers "space age" sdlg.) \$40.00

LAST SONG (L. Fort '03) (R. '97) TB,36" (91 cm) M. Bud count is 4, sometimes 5 and rarely 6. However, this is an exceptionally magnificent flower with very heavy substance, wonderful proportions, very wide overlapping falls and lots of ruffles. Milky smooth silver lavender self with white beards. #83-139-B: (Involves Misty Miss, Laced Cotton, Wide Hips) \$40.00

OCEAN QUEST (Aitken '03) TB, 36" (91 cm), ML. 8 buds. Beautifully proportioned medium sea foam blue flowers. Flared falls are slightly laced. The falls age gracefully to white leaving a rim of blue. Red beards.

#92T8: (Horatio X red bearded blue line that produced Stately Art \$40.00
SLOVAK PRINCE (Anton Mego '03) TB, 33" (84cm), M. Standards are white with very distinctive 1/8" gold rim. Falls are dark velvety blue purple with lighter rim. White area around the gold beard. See AIS Bulletin, January 2002, p.34. #AM-93/0038 (Edith Wolford X Queen in Calico) \$40.00

Include \$8.00 S. & H. when ordering from this ad. Send \$3.00 for color catalog; wide variety of different iris types. See January Bulletin for TB color pictures.

Miller's Manor Gardens

12788 E 191st St Ph: 317-770-7678
 Noblesville, IN 46060 Fax: 317-776-0323
 email: lyndamiller@iquest.net

2003 INTRODUCTIONS

CLASSIC ACCENT (L. Miller) SDB, M-L, 13-14" Standards are pink with some plum at the base. Falls are salmon pink with deeper salmon lines, pale area around base of the beards helps to accent the intense blue-violet beard. Edges of the petals have a slight cut edge. 295B: Princess Bluebeard X Chanted.....\$15.00

INNER VOICES (L. Miller) SDB, M-L, 11" Round and lightly ruffled blossoms of full blue-violet are accented by plum brown haft and nice blue beards tipped white. 30396: Chubby Cheeks X Momentum.....\$15.00

SWEET CHEEKS (L. Miller) SDB, M-L, 9-15" This dazzling light neon orange grows with the season. Its tangerine beards are accented by a halo of plum brush marks. 2-3 buds. 898: Chanted X Pele.....\$15.00

DRESS UP (L. Miller) IB, M-L, 17" Orchid pink with deeper orchid veining. Blue-violet beards. 30696: (Sky Hooks X ((Bright Vision X (Inscription X Pixie Pink))) X Chanted\$17-50

OODLES (L. Miller) IB, M-L, 24" You will have oodles of this iris if you plant one. This strong grower has Standards of purple to red-violet and Falls of full purple with pale violet markings at the hafts. The violet beards end with a small violet horn. 2397B: Howdy Do X Chanted\$17.50

BUMBLE BOOGIE (R. Probst) MTB, M, 22" Crisp clean blossoms have Standards of gold with Falls of lavender rimmed in gold. The orange beards have a slight projection at the ends. 90RJX39D1: Real Jazzy X Bumblebee Deelite\$20.00

MISSUS BEE (C. Bunnell) MTB, This beauty will sure to please. Standards are lilac-blue. Falls are bright red-violet and have a large spray area of white around the yellow beards. 8-12 buds. C39-7: Welches, Reward X Unknown, HC 2001 & 2002\$20.00

POKER CHIPS (L. Miller) MTB, M-L, 20" Standards and styles are light old gold sit on top of Falls that are rosy plum edged light old gold. The bright gold beards with just a few gold lines at the hafts. 6-7 buds. 60295: Lady of Charm X Black Lady\$20.00

FLAMING IDOL (L. Miller) TB, M, 29" Standards are clean, bright golden yellow. Falls are dark red paling at the edges. Styles are gold burnished darker. 7 buds 60695B: (Mulled Wine X (Spartan X ?)) X (Graduation X ((Lady Friend X (Spartan X?)))\$40.00

TEEN STAR (L. Miller) TB, E-M, 36" Standards are smooth pink, Falls are orchid pink deepening at the hafts. Beards are white tipped soft coral. 7 buds. 31096: Sides 32-17A X (Christa X Resplendent Rose)\$40.00

TIME GOES BY (L. Miller) TS, M, 34" It has taken us 30 years to come up with the color of an old Paul Cook seedling 12759. Standards are light lemonade, Falls are rich full purple that pale at the edges and are accented with gold beards and a few lemon lines at hafts. 8-11 buds. 4097C-- Wanch X Mnmenu\$40.00

SURFING SAFARI (R & L Miller) Siberian, M-L, 29" TET You will want to catch a wave when you see this beauty. Large ruffled blossoms of royal blue deepening to navy blue with gold to lemon signals. Falls have a striking stitched edge of cream around them. EC 1999. 2 branches with 4 buds. 2GE99: Golden Edge X Unknown\$40.00

Add \$5.00 for postage if ordering from this ad.
 Send \$3 for a descriptive catalog (some color).

Meet the New RUD

For 2003

Jim Giles: Region 15

My grandmother introduced me to irises in the 1950's. She had purple and white irises in her garden and it was my job to weed the garden. As a teenager, I was not very interested in the job but the flowers did make an impression on me that lasts to this day.

In 1965 I received my notice to report for a physical for the Draft Board. I passed the physical and took the train back to Wichita, Kansas, where I was living at the time. I immediately left the train station and went to the Air Force Recruiter's office and asked to join the Air Force; I was selected and went to Basic Training in May of 1965. I expected to serve my four years and go back to my job at Beech Aircraft in Wichita, but fate had another plan for me. I spent twenty years in the Air Force and received a Bachelor of Science and Masters Degree with the help of the Air Force.

I was able to travel all over the world during my career in the Air Force and saw many beautiful gardens and flowers throughout my travels, but the iris was still a favorite.


I retired from the Air Force in 1982, was then employed by the Air Force Audit Agency and I settled in Moreno Valley, CA. I became active in the local garden clubs and eventually president of the Moreno Valley Garden Club. While in that capacity I saw an ad in the newspaper for an Iris sale by the Inland Iris Society. I went to the sale expecting to buy a couple of irises to add to my garden. At the sale I met a lady by the name of Ollie Rust, who was probably the best iris salesperson in history. By the time I was ready to check out, she not only sold me more than 100 irises but also convinced me to join the local iris society.

My involvement with the Inland Iris Society was consuming. I have served in many positions with the local society, including president, and that lead to my involvement with Region 15. I became an AIS judge in 1987 and greatly enjoy judging in the garden and at

shows.

My wife Janet is not as consumed with the world of irises as I am, but I am working on her. We have only been married a little over a year, so I need a little more time to convert her. She does enjoy attending the treks and meetings.

We currently live in Grand Terrace, California, and are in the process of dividing and moving the irises from our home in Moreno Valley to our new home. We have approximately 250 varieties of iris that we grow, including BBs, TBs; Spurias, and Louisianas. Of course since Janet is new to the world of irises, she thinks everything but TBs are weeds. She is just a little partial to the TBs, but like I said, we have only been married a little over a year so give me a chance!

I am looking forward to serving as the Region 15 RVP and I have a great group of people in Southern California and Arizona to support me in that endeavor. 

**Roberts
Backyard**

COULEE BREEZE (M. Roberts) TB, 29", M. Sdlg# 98-189BB. (Columbia Springs X Delta Plane) Unique and gorgeous light blue ground zonal amoena banded 1/4" mid-blue. Smaller, daintier flowers on proportionately scaled stalks. Great branching and multiple stocks make a long bloom season that you can't ignore! This has been a consistent favorite with garden visitors. HC '01 \$30.00

Merle Roberts
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Grand Coulee, WA 99133

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<http://users.bentonrea.com/~irisbuff/>

Meet the New Directors

For 2003

Louise Carson, Oklahoma

Oklahoma has been my home for all my years. I was born and raised in the northeast corner, but after my marriage moved to the southwest, northeast, central, western, and then back to Oklahoma City for retirement living. My husband, Joe, was a Methodist minister, thus all the moves. In a move to Oklahoma City in 1981 we acquired our own land and built a house; a friend gave me 14 iris rhizomes. The love of irises has grown to near one thousand varieties and includes nearly every type. My beds show my love for irises and my husband's indulgence. A visit to my garden will show the visitor TB, IB, BB, MTB, SDB, MDB, AB, SIB, LA, PCN, and a few species and rebloomers. I have not had good luck with the Japanese; I have tried, but I don't give up easily. My favorite iris is the one that is in bloom. There are other flowers in my garden and in baskets and pots. Even in the house plants grow in every room.

My personal biography includes schoolteacher parents. My father was a Vocational Ag teacher and may account for my love of growing things. My husband and I were married for 45 years before his death in 2002. We have four children and five grandchildren. In the local iris societies, three in all, I have served in all of the officer positions and as show chairman for two societies. I was RVP for Region 22, enjoying the connection with many new people I now call friends. I have been an iris judge for ten years and enjoy both garden and show judging. I feel honored to be on the AIS Board of Directors and will serve with the best of my abilities.



Louise Carson

John Jones, California

John has spent almost 30 years in the computer industry in training, product management, marketing, and marketing communications. He has worked for firms such as National Semiconductor, Atari, Charles Schwab and Company, and Apple Computer. He is also a recognized expert in technical evaluation for patent litigation cases in computer technology.

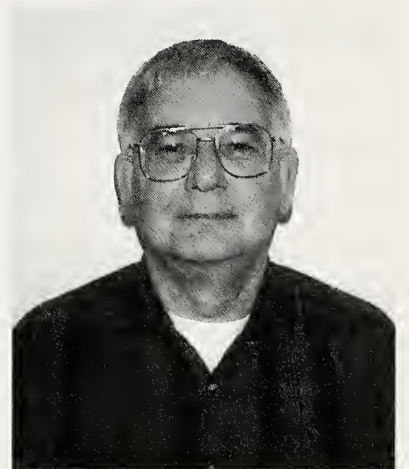


John Jones

John and his lovely wife Joanne have been married four years. They live in Fremont, CA, and grow approximately 400 varieties of iris comprising some 25 species. John is past President of the Westbay Iris Society, a member of the Board of Directors of the AIS, and is the Chairman of the Electronic Services Committee of AIS. He also manages the project to provide the Checklists and R&I on line in an electronic database, manages the on-line iris mail list and the iris-photos list. Both John and Joanne are AIS judges.

John W. Ludi, Oregon

I was born and raised on a dairy farm in Portland, Oregon. When I was in the seventh grade, my parents moved the dairy east of Portland to the Sandy area. Being farmers, my parents always had a large garden area for vegetables, flowers and berries. I can still remember riding the back of a draft horse while Dad cultivated the garden. Another memorable event was when Dad brought home the first tractor. Today that tractor is part of the antique farm equipment in the Mountain View Iris Garden.



John Ludi

After graduation from high school, I went off to college in eastern Washington State. There I met my wife Kay. Upon graduation from college, I was commissioned a Lieutenant in the US Army. My military service took me to Korea, Vietnam (twice) and Germany, and several locations within the US. Throughout more than twenty years of military service, Kay and I always found space for a vegetable and flower garden. Upon my retirement from the service in 1984, Kay, our 4 sons

and daughter and I returned back home to the Pacific Northwest.

It is only natural that the iris bug caught Kay and me. Both Kay's parents and mine have raised irises for many years. We joined AIS and the Greater Portland Iris Society in 1984. I have served as Treasurer, Secretary, Vice President, and past and current President, and on the Show and Plant Sales committees for GPIS. I am an accredited Garden Judge. For Region 13, I have served as Treasurer, Assistant RVP, Judges' Training Chairman and RVP. Since November of 2001, Kay and I have been managers of the AIS Storefront. For the future, I have been designated as Chairman for the AIS National Convention in 2006.

The Ludi garden, Mountain View Iris Garden, has been a host garden for several Region 13 Conventions, the AIS National Convention in 1994, and the SJI Convention in 1999. We grow over 1200 cultivars of bearded and beardless irises. At local shows over the years, we have won many Best Specimen of Show awards as well as several Silver and Bronze Medals.

Since 1985, I have been employed by the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office. For several years, I worked behind the booking counter at the jail, and I am currently working in support of the jail operations. Besides working full time, I help my brother with the 65-acre cattle ranch. I am looking forward to RETIREMENT this year, then I can spend all my time doing the things I enjoy – our family, woodworking, the outdoors, travel, and irises!

George H. Sutton, California


George was born in New Jersey, moving to California at the age of 7. He attended California schools, graduating in 1963 from the University of Redlands with a degree in Speech and Hearing Pathology. He spent his professional life primarily in the public schools in Ukiah in northern California. During this time he also was a coach for both age group and high school swimming. He is married to Margaret and has three children and five grandchildren.



George H. Sutton

George has always been interested in plants, flowers and other growing things. Around 1979 he became specifically interested in irises, catching a good case of the iris virus once he started hybridizing. He introduced his first iris, Orange Popsicle, in 1987. He is co-owner of Sutton's Iris Gardens, which has been selling irises since 1984,

originally as Sutton's Green Thumber. The garden has grown from a back yard interest to the present size of over 100 acres of irises. For the past few years his direction in hybridizing has been predominantly space agers and rebloomers in all categories of bearded irises, with some recent work in beardless iris. He is in demand as a speaker on space agers and rebloomers, giving frequent programs and judges' training sessions both in the United States and abroad.

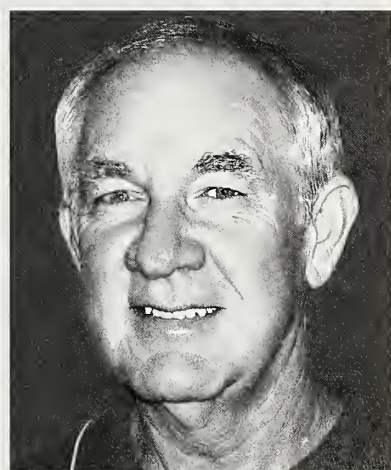
George has served in various offices, first in the Redwood Iris Society in Ukiah, then after his move to Porterville in 1987 in the Sequoia Iris Society and Fresno Iris Society. He and Margaret recently started the James M. Gibson Iris Society in Porterville. He is currently president of both the Fresno and Porterville societies. He has served three times as Regional Convention Chair, first for the 1992 Spring Regional, then for the 1999 Joint Regions 14 and 15 Spring Regional, and now for the 2003 Spring Regional. He is currently On-Site Liaison Co-Chair for the 2004 National Convention, to be headquartered in Fresno. He served Region 14 first as Ways and Means Chair, then for 3 years as Assistant RVP which included Judges' Training Chair, and then for 3 years as RVP. While RVP he served as RVP representative to the AIS Board. He has an official Median Display Garden and has served as second vice president for the Median Iris Society. He is currently first vice president of the Median Iris Society and Southwestern Director for the Reblooming Iris Society, and Advertising Manager for the *AIS Bulletin*. 

Hybridizer Medal Winners

Paul Black

by Thomas Johnson

Paul Black was born in the panhandle of Oklahoma in a small town named Guymon. With an annual rainfall of less than 12 inches and horrible alkaline clay soil, this was hardly the place for someone who loved plants. After finishing high school, Paul moved to Oklahoma City to attend college. He graduated with a degree in psychology and sociology and part of a master's degree in business.



Paul Black

It was Paul's grandmother, Ruth Black, that Paul credits for his gardening talents. He would spend time with her in the summer helping her in her vegetable and flower garden. It was also in his grandmother's garden that Paul first became acquainted with iris. Ruth was a Spartan woman of modest means, and the iris she grew were given to her by a woman who to her amazement, sometimes paid \$20 and \$25 for a single rhizome!

When Paul purchased his first home he remembered the beautiful iris in his grandmother's garden and wanted to plant some. After going to a local nursery, he was told about a local iris society and of their annual rhizome sale. Paul went to that sale and purchased some plants. The clerk at the sale told him if he kept the names on them he could enter them in their show. Next spring, he did just that and won his first Queen of Show - he was hooked!

It was at a Sooner State Iris Society meeting that Paul met Cleo Palmer and Perry Dyer. Sensing Paul's enthusiasm they began to encourage him to try his hand at making a few crosses. It was 1979 when Paul made those first crosses and there was no turning back. It

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DIAMOND RING (*R. Ernst, '03*) M. 37" \$40.00

It's taken 25 years to create this iris, combining the vigor of St. Helen's Wake with the intense colors of Shoop lines and the magnificent rims of Afternoon Delight and Ringo. Our Diamond Ring has standards of champagne yellow with soft violet infused midribs. The falls are near white with a gentle violet blush. Encircling the fall is a champagne yellow rim. Bright yellow beards are centered on our Diamond Ring. SDLG QM106-1A-1. Eight buds on three branches.

FONDNESS (*Hager, '03*) ML. 36" \$40.00

Soft and gentle is the presentation of color in this new blue amoena. Crystalline white standards are nicely ruffled. Wide, blocky formed falls are white with a light blue wash over a wide margin. White centers are a stark background for the bright orange beards. Seven to nine buds. SDLG T4585 T Am.


SCHIZO (*R. Ernst, '03*) L. 35" \$40.00

Go a little crazy with this latest selection from Edna's Wish x Wild Jasmine. Blue violet standards are white on the midribs. Falls are white ground, splashed and striped into a dark violet purple with a lighter purple rim. Mild lace and good substance. Seven to eight buds. Yellow beards. SDLG QKF125-14A-15.

TAHITIAN PEARL (*L. Johnson, '03*) M. 37" \$40.00

Radiant pearlescence of the South Pacific is evident in this sultry black creation. A slight purplish wash in the standards is evident over the inky violet black color. Great form with ruffling. SDLG JO95-35.

Our 2003 edition of *The Iris Fancier's Standard Reference* is 80 pages of lifelike color with over 300 photos, special collections and new introductions from Richard Ernst, Larry Johnson and Ben Hager.



TAHITIAN PEARL

FONDNESS



DIAMOND RING

SCHIZO



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was also 1979 that Paul went into business with Perry, who was already producing a commercial catalog for his Contemporary Gardens. It was a partnership that lasted two years. Paul decided to quit his regular job and start his own iris business. The first Mid-America Garden catalog came out in 1981 and Paul's first introductions were featured in the 1982 edition. One of those first introductions was a bright yellow IB named HARLOW GOLD. It went on to become a runner-up for the Sass Medal and is still popular today. TIGER PRINT (SDB) was introduced this same year and won Paul's first AM.

Paul quickly learned that his favorite class of iris was the SDBs. Great success came early when seedling number 824E made its maiden bloom in 1982. Paul knew it was something special when it bloomed with its very round and fat form. It would later be named and introduced in 1985 as CHUBBY CHEEKS. It has become one of the most used parents of all time. It won Paul his first Cook-Douglas Medal. That was a good year for Paul as the popular IB RED ZINGER and the reblooming TB BLAZING SUNRISE were also introductions that year. The laced blue-white TB BUBBLING LACE and the blue-white reverse TB UNDERSEA ADVENTURE were released in 1986. In 1988 the wildly colored TB GLITZ 'N GLITTER was introduced and won Paul his first TB Award of Merit. He followed that up with AM winning OKLAHOMA CRUDE, the totally unique SDB TU TU TURQUOISE, and the MDB SPOT OF TEA, which went on to win Paul his first Caparne-Welch Medal.

Paul seemed to be on a roll and 1990 saw a wealth of great things. The TB SIGHS AND WHISPERS would win an AM and also first place in the Premio Firenze competition in Italy. This year also saw the release of Paul's first AB introduction, PRAIRIE THUNDER, which went on to win the William Mohr Medal in 1998. It was also in 1990 that two important SDB parents were introduced: the wonderful fancy plic PRIVILEGED CHARACTER and the well-formed plicata, TRANSCRIBE. But wait, that's not all! 1990 also saw the introduction of Cook-Douglas winner PUMPIN' IRON and Caparne-Welch Medal winner CINNAMON APPLES. I told you it was a great year!

The next two years saw such exciting things released as INKY DINKY (SDB '91) and SHE DEVIL (AB '92). It was also in 1992 that Paul's next exciting hybridizing break was cleverly named and released as TWEETY BIRD. Paul was so excited when it bloomed that he called Miss Kitty (Kitty Dyer), whom he fondly refers to as his iris mom, to come quickly and see it. Well, she was in such a hurry to get to Paul's to see what all the fuss was about that she got a speeding

ticket! Paul's excitement over TWEETY BIRD wasn't misplaced. With its wonderful ruffled form and tangerine beard, it would come to be as important a parent as CHUBBY CHEEKS. It would go on to be a runner up for the Cook-Douglas Medal two years running. The popular white TB GOLDKIST, with its gold hafts and wild purple haft veins, was the highlight of the 1993 introductions. It was voted an AM, and also won third place and the award for most uniquely colored TB in the Premio Firenze competition of 1995.

In 1993, tragedy, in the form of iris rot, hit Mid-America Garden and years of hybridizing work were lost in a matter of weeks. Many wonderful seedlings slated for introduction were gone and it would be three years before a bearded iris listing would return to the catalog.

In 1994, Thomas Johnson moved from Canada and became a partner in the business. With their combined efforts, bearded iris returned to the catalog in 1996. The TBs TOM JOHNSON and RUTH BLACK were released this year. In 1997, the laced violet LOIS PARRISH and BB APRICOT TOPPING were introduced.

The year 1998 once again brought changes, as the business was moved to Salem, Oregon. After years of struggling with many weather- and disease-related problems, Paul was finally in "iris heaven". Exciting introductions followed. Notable among them are TB DEEP DARK SECRET, MTB BLUE CHIP STOCK, IBs THIS AND THAT and SINISTER DESIRE, and SDBs HOT JAZZ and YIPPY SKIPPY. In 1999, standout TBs BIG SQUEEZE, HABIT, and VIBRANT were put on the market as well as the MDB WIGGLE.

The start of a new century saw the release of the dramatic red bearded black IB DEVIL MAY CARE and crisply patterned plicata INFINITY RING. Other highlights include SDBs ARTFUL and CACHET, and the daintily ruffled MDB TINGLE. 2000 also saw the introduction of TBs KEEPING UP APPEARANCES and DUDE RANCH; the latter went on to win Paul his second Premio Firenze award.

Through the years, Paul's introductions have been awarded a total of 93 HMs, 22 AMs, two Cook-Douglas Medals, two Caparne-Welch Medals, and one William Mohr Medal. They have also received 30 awards in the International Iris Competition in Florence Italy, including two first place gold medals. There looks to be no slowing him down. A stroll through his seedling patch in the spring shows it is clearly the SDBs that still have his heart. Paul has a fantastic eye for emerging patterns and colors to which his peers can attest. After seeing his seedling patch last spring, I have to say: The best is still to come!

PRESENTING FOR 2003

FIRST WAVE (Tasco 2003) TB, 33", ML. Seedling # 97-TB-03-22. This is the First Wave in a new race of super ruffled iris! Heavily bubble ruffled mid-blue, lightening with age. Pale violet beard with white hairs tipped yellow deep in the throat. Sweet fragrance and 7-8 buds add to the charm and beauty of this attention-stopping creation! The most ruffles that we've ever seen on an iris! Even with the incredible ruffling, the flower has no problems when opening. Sudden Impact X Rippling River.....\$50.00..or..3/\$100.00

SOLAR FIRE (Tasco 2003) TB/SA, 36", M. Seedling # 96-TB-15-21. Golden yellow standards with a golden bronze flush, strongest near the edge. Oxblood red falls with slight yellow netting near the beards. Gold beards with oxblood red flounce or hairy horn. Lightly ruffled, 6-7 buds and a slight fragrance. This cross has several other seedlings being looked at seriously. Thornbird X Golden Panther.....\$45.00

SIERRA MIST (Tasco 2003) TB/RE, 32", M-RE. Seedling #92-32-RE. Ruffled warm white, falls have very light chartreuse shoulders. White beards that are yellow deep in the throat; slight fragrance. Doesn't look like a white iris until it opens since the buds are a very chartreuse yellow. A California bred rebloomer with a lot of East Coast rebloomers in its' pedigree. EC 2000 from the Region 14 Fall rebloom show. 87-26-01: (Ron x Earl of Essex) X Harvest of Memories.....\$40.00

WINGED ANGEL (Tasco 2003) IB/SA, 24", ML. Seedling # 97-IB-09-26, Lightly ruffled salmon peach space-ager, with slight apricot orange shoulders; reddish orange beards tipped white with salmon peach flounces. Usually has 5-6 buds and is very consistent with the flounces! Good Fairy X Chanted.....\$20.00

SOFTLY (Tasco 2003) IB, 24", ML. Seedling # 96-IB-04-31, Light mauve pink standards; light orient pink falls, slightly darker edge. Reddish-orange beard tipped medium bluish-violet; lightly ruffled; slight fragrance. The underside of the stigmatic lip is lavender, which contrasts nicely with the flower & beard. Sib to 2000's Miss Mauve and Pretty Princess. Spring Tidings X Chanted.....\$20.00

FIRST SENSATION (Tasco 2003) SDB, 14", E. Seedling # 98-SDB-23-12. This will be your First Sensation of the Spring! Greyed violet standards, cream ground falls with wide cherry violet plicata rim; strong black cherry line from beard almost to the rim; light violet beard tipped gold. 96-SDB-22: (93-08: (French Toast x (Tender Tears x Auroralita)) x 94-18: (Nimble Toes x Toy Clown)) X 95-SDB-06: (Rusty Dusty x 93-08)\$15.00..or..3/\$30.00

And from Ed Roberts of Frankfort, KY.....

EDGE OF EDEN (Ed Roberts 2003) TB, 36", M. Seedling # 967. Very soft pink standards; pinkish white falls blending out to irregular lavender blue band. Tangerine beards, a slight fragrance, and 6-7 buds complete the resume. This is the second iris we've introduced for Ed Roberts and it has drawn much attention the past several years with garden visitors. Planned Treasure X Emma Cook.....\$40.00..or..3/\$80.00

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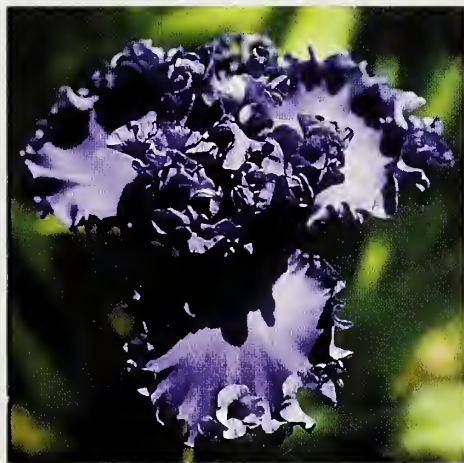
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FIRST SENSATION



SOFTLY



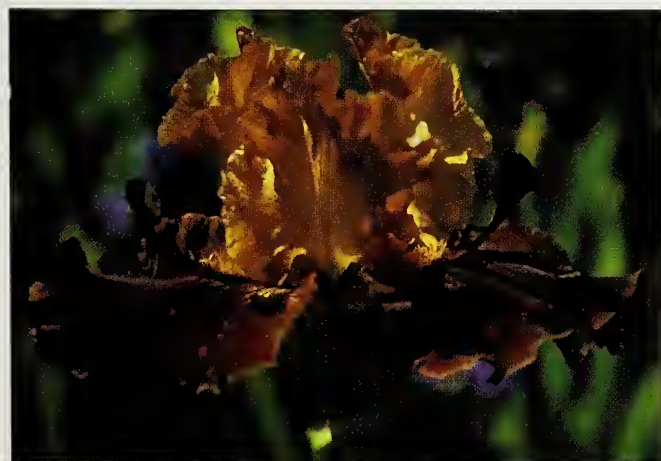
FIRST WAVE



WINGED ANGEL



SIERRA MIST



SOLAR FIRE



EDGE OF EDEN

Lynda Miller

My first real experience with iris was one of my first dates with my husband, Roger. We went to Steve Moldovan's house to pick up his iris order. The following spring, 1971, Roger showed me how to hybridize. Roger's biggest mistake was telling me that cross would not take. It *did* take and that launched me into hybridizing and making crosses that were different. Since we lived in an area that was heavily into Miniature Dwarf Iris, I concentrated on miniatures and dwarf iris at first. As time went on I started working with taller varieties. MTBs were also popular in our Region, so naturally I started working with them.

Since Roger and I run a plant nursery specializing in perennials and rare conifers, our time is consumed in the early spring with potting thousands of perennials. Thus between the nursery and some very odd early spring growing conditions, my time in the past several years has been spent on hybridizing Standard Dwarfs through Tall Bearded. Since Indiana is a tough area to grow iris, we have concentrated on hybridizing for tough winter-hardy plants with garden impact. Many of our sales are to the general public, so we have to have plants that can take non-ideal iris conditions. Most of the iris bare my name as the hybridizer; that is because I make the crosses and the final selections. My husband makes it all possible for me by planting my seeds, transplanting them into the field, and maintaining the fields. Many of the selections that have been made over the years have been based on what Roger was taught by Emma Cook when he worked for her as a teenager.

This year our nursery will introduce an iris the color of a Cook seedling we kept for years, trying to improve the form. When I saw our seedling bloom for the first time, all I said was 12759 and my husband knew I had finally gotten one of the iris I had been working on for years. Time has been on my side; starting hybridizing as a teenager has given me time to achieve some of what I visualized as I made my crosses.

Lorena Reid

I was raised in the Midwest (Indiana), went to school in Indiana and Iowa, taught in Michigan and Iowa, and then came out to Oregon to teach in 1955. Irises were not part of my life until 1964 when my husband and I made the decision for me to resign from teaching and start a mail order nursery, so I could work at home while raising my "hoped



Lorena Reid

for” family. Irises were selected for this nursery, not because I knew anything about them, but because I had been so impressed with their variety in visits to the Schreiner, Cooley, and Marx gardens, and the native Pacific Coast Iris species in our area and in southern Oregon.

Selections of bearded, Japanese, and Pacific Coast Irises graced my “start-up” nursery in Eugene. To begin with, I had some plants in the ground, but put the increase into #10 cans, and sold them in bloom in the spring. I read everything I could find on irises, sent for a variety of catalogs, and joined the AIS, all in 1964. Naturally I began pollen daubing immediately, knowing absolutely nothing about hybridizing, except what I had read in Wilma Vallette’s book *Iris Culture and Hybridizing for Everyone*. I had already filled our acre in Eugene with seedlings as well as several kinds of named iris when we found the 2+ acres on the McKenzie Highway, where we moved in 1966. My husband, brand new son Rick, and I moved in December after I had planted iris in hastily tilled pasture land from May until moving time. Then began a chore which lasted for many years: making an iris garden out of this old cut-over land — with grass, blackberry, and tree stumps still in abundance — but that is another story!

I began taking Judge’s Training to learn what I should be working for. None of the thousands of TB or median seedlings I had hybridized were worth keeping. I realize now that this was very likely because I had not purchased the very newest and best irises, but what I could afford, so naturally the seedlings would be several years behind the “new wave”. My culls began filling the large dropoff at the rear of our place.

My hybridizing began to revolve more around Japanese Irises, Siberians, and the various species irises. Here the seedlings seemed much more interesting to me. In 1972 I stopped growing and selling bearded irises. There is a limit to what you can grow on only 2 acres, so I selected the things I liked best and which would grow best for me.

Curiosity was and still is the major impetus for my iris hybridizing: wondering if something is possible, then trying it. Trying things which interest me; then selecting from the results what I like that does well, or what I feel might have possibilities for future work. I have been lucky enough to come up with some real breakthroughs and to select varieties pleasing to customers as well as myself for registration and introduction.

I have worked quite a lot with the Japanese Irises, but find my work in this area at a bit of a standstill at the moment; perhaps things will turn around. The sino-siberians (the 40 chromosome species and hybrids) are one of my major hybridizing interests at present. Because we have fungus problems here, I have not hybridized recently in the Pacific Coast Irises, but I do use their pollen extensively in making cal-

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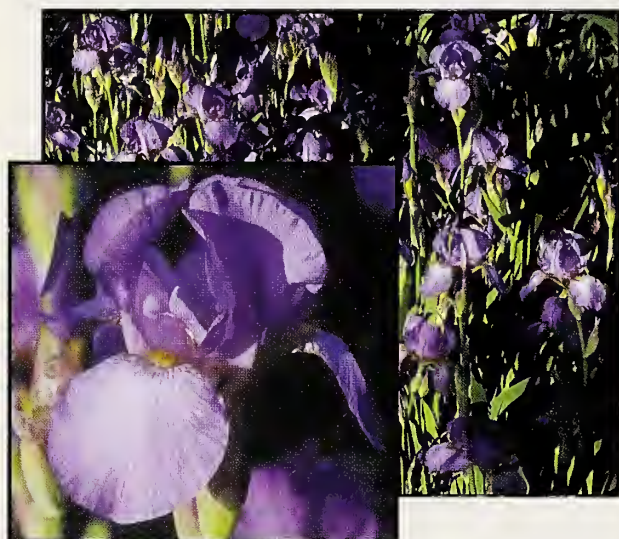


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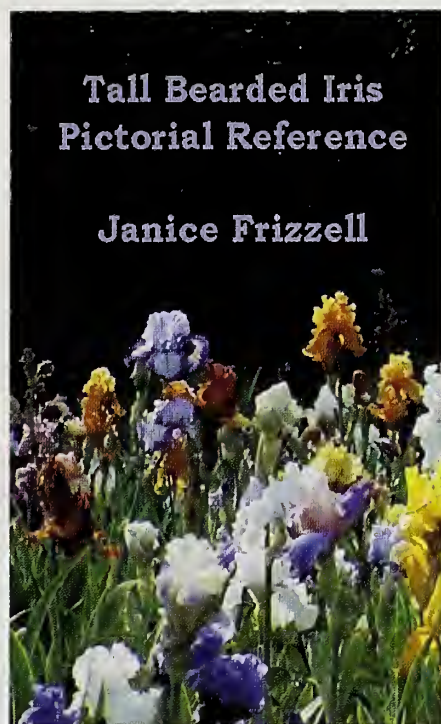
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Tall Bearded Iris Pictorial Reference Book \$17.95



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sibe crosses with the sino-siberians. Other interspecies crosses occupy considerable time in my spring hybridizing. Because the takes are so much fewer and with the scant number of seed, the interspecies seedlings (even among the cal-sibes) are much scarcer in the garden, though no less interesting.

Completely retired from the nursery, Laurie's Garden, for more than a year now, I still hope to hybridize with the irises which interest me most. That is the fun part! 🌸

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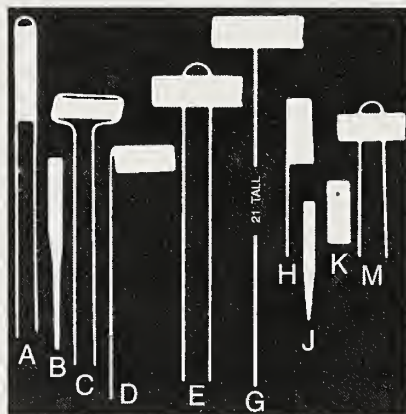
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Iris Reproduction

by Don Spoon, Virginia



RECENTLY, A QUESTION WAS PRESENTED TO ME, "CAN ONE POLLEN grain fertilize all the ovules in an iris flower?" I will attempt to answer this question and add what I hope will be some interesting facts about iris reproduction.

Highly successful land plants, such as irises, have two different plant forms (sporophyte and gametophyte) that alternate in each generation between a diploid sporophyte organism designed to resist drying out and haploid organisms (pollen or microgametophytes and ovules containing macrogametophytes) that require a moist environment inside the sporophyte where fertilization takes place. Each sporophyte microspore mother cell produces by meiosis (reduction and division, $2N$ to $1N$ sets of chromosomes, or in tetraploids $4N$ to $2N$) four microspores that develop into four binucleate pollen grains with tough coats. Irises are seed plants (Angiosperms) with one embryonic seed leaf (Monocotyledons) and leaves with parallel venation. Irises advance the basic lily plan and reduce the flower parts, which are basically modified leaves, from multiples of six to three.

The female part of the iris flower is the pistil composed of the stigma, the style, and the ovary. The male part is the stamen made of the attachment filament and the anther with four long, parallel pollen sacs. The pollen is not "ripe" until the pollen sacs open and the puffy masses of pollen are apparent. If the nourishing filament of the stamen is broken too early when the pollen sacs are immature, the pollen may be of no use. The stigma has a sticky secretion that not only holds the pollen grains, but also contains various nourishing chemicals, such as sugars, that causes the pollen grain organisms to germinate and build the pollen tubes that digest their way with enzymes as they descend down the style tissue to the ovary. The pollen grain is remarkably resistant to drying and has one tiny area where the germinating pollen



NORMA DESMOND TB



OLD SANTA FE TB



**BABY DOE
TABOR SDB**



GASLIGHT TB



**RUBIES IN
GOLD SDB**



FILL'S FANTASY TB



MAYME TB

2003 INTRODUCTION FROM LONG'S GARDENS

BABY DOE TABOR (Magee) SDB 11" E Pouty, fawn tan petals with matchless mine russet beards, topped baby blue, reflected in style arms. Seductive brown eyelashes at haft.

Billy Boy X ((Sea Change X Nazette) X (Marmalade Skies X Sun Sparkle))
\$15.00

EVENING EMBERS (David Miller) TB 33" As the fire slowly dies down, it leaves those dark violet blue coals- the colors of the stds, falls & styles. Watch out for the red glow of the embers- the beards. They're still hot! Expect good growth, nice branching, and 7-8 buds.

Ever Anew X Ignition \$35.00

FILL'S FANTASY (David Miller) TB 33" Wonderful ruffled white with slight greenish cast to the falls. Beards are white turning to yellow in the throat. A Phil William's favorite at the '98 Colorado Convention. 8 to 10 buds, nicely branched. Silverado X San Juan Silver \$40.00

GASLIGHT (Magee) IB 19" M Incandescence of the late 19th century. Carmel lemon petals with flame blue streaks. Lichen X Gimlet \$20.00

H.C. STETSON (Stetson) TB 36-40" ML Tall almost white palest pink self with color deepening at mid-rib & base of petals. Styles & crests self color. Beards very pale blue base, tipped white in center and tangerine in throat. Nicely ruffled, well branched, 7-9 buds, triple terminal. 2001 winner 'Premio Firenze' (sdlg #TB95K2) in Italy and 2nd runner-up for 'Karl Foerster Medal' in Germany. A change from the usual pinks and a proven performer in widely diverse climates & conditions. Named after my grandfather, in whose iris garden the "bug" first bit a 7 year old almost 50 years ago. Art School Angel X Elizabeth Poldark \$40.00

MAJESTIC SUMMIT (Jorgensen) TB 32" ML Ruffled & laced heliotrope. Heliotrope styles with poppy red base matching poppy red beards. Sweet fragrance. Parentage inv. Colo. Winter Morning, Summit Lady, Flaming Star, Summit Love, Flaming Pink, Cozy and Warm \$35.00

MAYME (David Miller) TB 32" Very nice soft peach pink self, falls are slightly lighter. It's all done up in ruffles, lace, and a smile- just like my grandmother, for whom it was named. Pinkish orange beards. Colorado Ambrosia X ((Dutch Chocolate X Sandberry) X Henna Accent)) \$40.00

NORMA DESMOND (Magee) TB 39" M "Just one look" reveals a faded star of the silent screen. Muted, ambered rose petals with fire red lipstick beards. (Colorado Sunshine X Acoma) X Stratagem EC '97 \$40.00

OLD SANTA FE (Magee) TB 42" M Historical form. Petals of the city's many shades of brown, trimmed in Spanish gold and Indian turquoise. Canyon Road down center of each fall. Syncopation X (Mountain Sunbeams sib X Astro Flash) EC '93 & '98 \$40.00

RUBIES IN GOLD (Magee) SDB 14" E Jewel of 24 carat gold petals & beards with two 24 carat rubies on each fall. Stintfang X ((Treasure Room X (Colorado Sunshine X White Lightning) X Baby Tiger)) \$15.00

SUMMIT SUNRISE (Jorgensen) TB 33" ML Ruffled lt. phlox falls are strongly banded with Egyptian buff. Stds sunrise yellow at base deepening to Egyptian buff. Yellow sunrise beards & styles. Colorado Winter Morning X (Summit Lady X Flaming Star) \$40.00

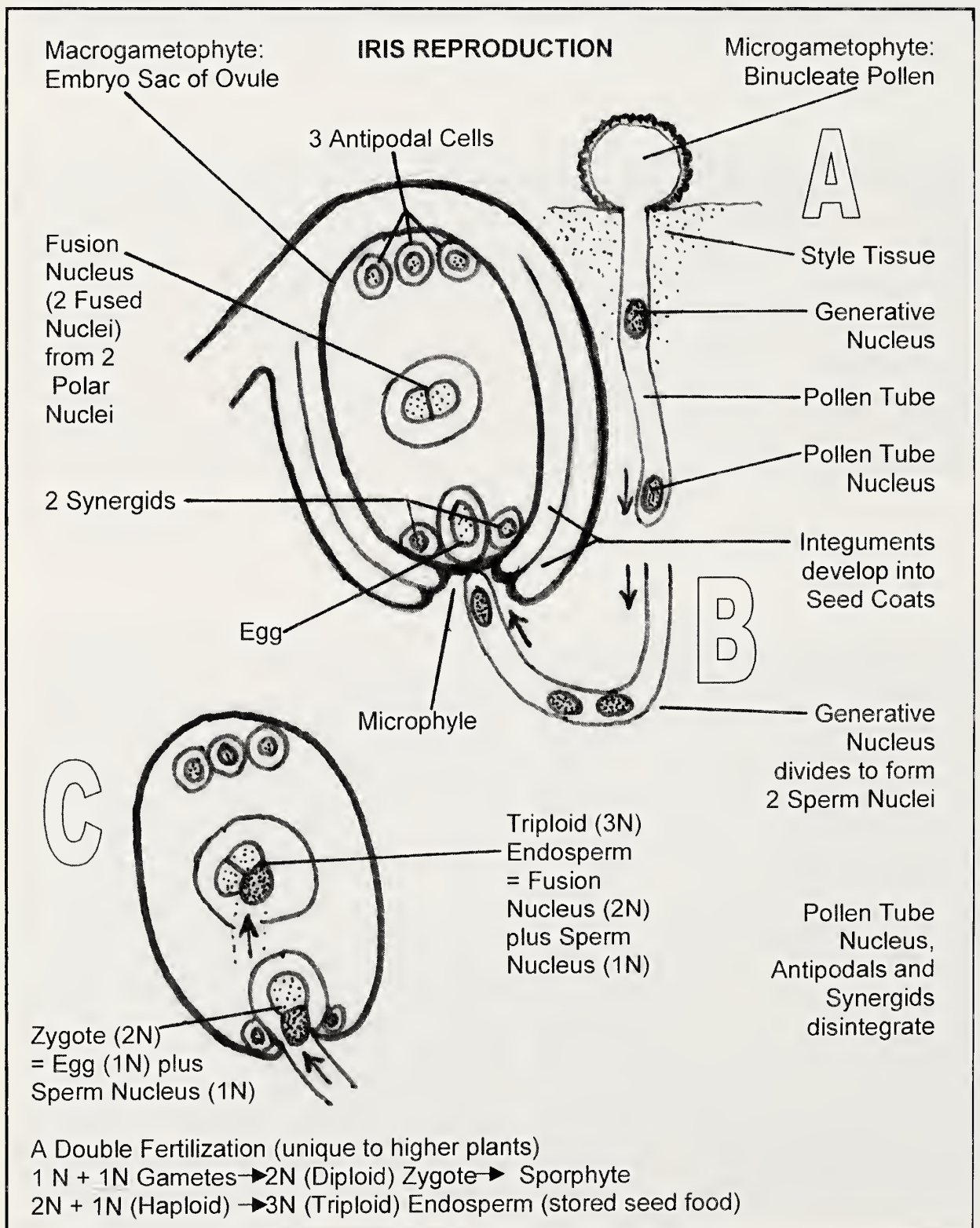
TCHA'DEETCH (Stetson) AB(OGB) 18" ML A strong and adaptable arilbred- please see full description with color ad. EC '02 Mohric Art X Proud Papa \$25.00

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grain organism will emerge. The ovary contains the ovules, each with two coverings (integuments) that surround the multicellular macrogametophytes in their little "moist pond." The surrounding integuments that later develop into the two seed coats leave a tiny opening, the micropyle, for the pollen tube to enter. A tall bearded iris can have at most, about one hundred ovules distributed in the three chambers of the ovary. This threefold redundancy may be useful, since a Verbena bud moth larva that may penetrate the developing pod usually does not go from one ovary chamber to the next and destroy all the seeds. The ovules are lined up in rows and held by stalks though



which they receive nourishment as they develop into seeds (analogous to multiple fetuses in a mammalian womb). The central region of the ovary that the ovules stalks attach to is called the placenta. If the iris pod is broken from the stalk too early, the small seeds may be underdeveloped and unable to germinate or grow.

When the pollen grains are applied onto the stigmatic lip of the iris flower by the insect or human pollinator, there can be thousands that will germinate and form pollen tubes. From that moment the race is on, and when all ovules are reached, all Johnny-come-lately pollen tubes are essentially lost. There will be just one winning pollen grain's pollen tube reaching each ovule, so there's your answer. One pollen grain pollinates one ovule, and only one. The pollen will germinate in minutes on the stigmatic lip. Each pollen grain will take about eight hours to grow a pollen tube down through the style arms to the ovary and finally growing to and into the ovule opening. If the pollen is applied on only one of the three stigmatic lips, the pollen tubes will still go into all three chambers of the ovary and may fertilize all the ovules. Most hybridizers apply pollen to all three stigmatic lips. The fertilized ovary will swell and grow into a pod as the stalk gains strength and resiliency. In about two months the pod will dry, turn tan, and begin to crack at the end. At this point, harvest the pod in a folded paper sandwich bag and place it in a cool place for a couple of weeks while the seeds harden, then they can be separated from the dried, brown pod walls.

If the hybridizer is too rough while daubing pollen, the style arms may be broken, and the pollen tubes in the broken style arms can't reach the ovary. If there is rain, hail, strong winds, frost, or overly hot conditions, the pollination can fail. You need to make the cross at least three hours before rain occurs, otherwise you can cover the flower with a plastic bag with the top corner cut out so it will not overheat inside the bag. Some hybridizers strip off all three falls and cover the cross with a section of nylon stocking so no interloping insect will enter with unwanted pollen.

The preeminent moment of iris reproduction occurs when the pollen tube enters the ovule. But before entering, led by the pollen tube nucleus, the generative nucleus following behind divides by mitosis to produce two haploid nuclei. The pollen tube, relative to its thickness, is an extremely long filament filled with cytoplasm, yet it contains no proplastids that will develop into chloroplasts, thus the chloroplasts and their DNA only come from the pod parent and the egg cell of the ovule microgametophyte. Since the chloroplasts power the plant's

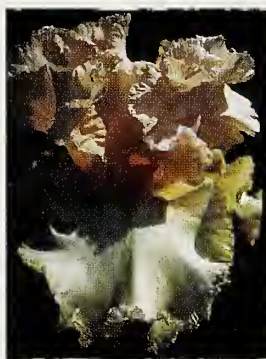


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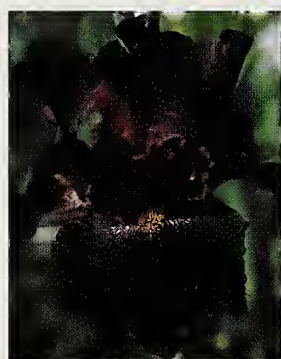
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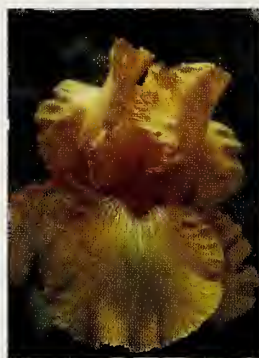
TROPICAL PARADISE

LIGHTUP THE NIGHT
SORENSEN 03 TB 35"
EM Sdlg. S-94-22-9



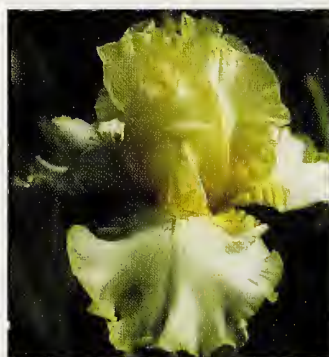
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THREE WISHES
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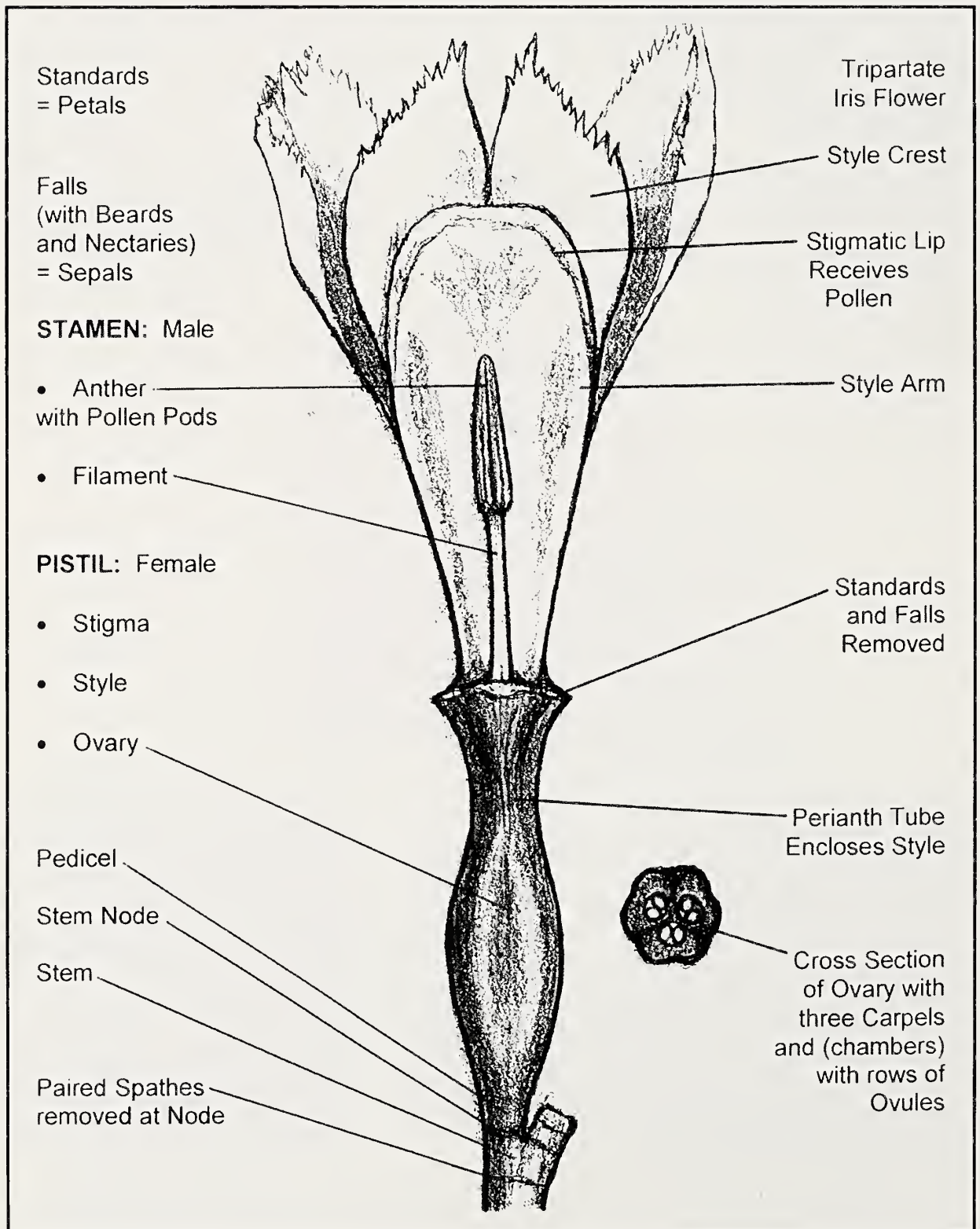
Raspberry Slurp
(R. Buttler'03) *I. versicolor*



Native Wine
E. Hulbert'03 *I. virginica*

photosynthesis, it is easy to understand why it is always best to use as the pod parent the most vigorous parent. If you want to obtain variegated foliage, you must have the trait in the pod parent as Allan Ensminger discovered. The gene that produces the variegated foliage trait is most likely in the chloroplast DNA.

Once the two sperm nuclei enter the iris ovule a most remarkable thing happens; there is not one, but two fertilizations. One haploid sperm nucleus unites with the macrogametophyte cell that contains the haploid egg nucleus to produce the diploid sporophyte zygote. The other sperm nucleus produces the triploid endosperm by uniting with



the diploid nucleus of the central cell formed from fusing two cells of the macrogametophyte. The other five cells, of the total of eight that made up the macrogametophyte produced from three divisions of one megaspore, are transient and play minor accessory roles. Then, both zygote cell and the endosperm cell increase by cell division (mitosis) which eventually ceases as the seed coat dries and hardens, and the enclosed embryo with its attached endosperm becomes dormant. By analogy, the endosperm is to the iris embryo what an egg yolk sac is to the embryo of a fish, amphibian, reptile, bird, or egg-laying monotreme mammal like a Duckbilled Platypus.

In the iris seed coat are special plant hormones like abscissic acid that prevent the embryo from breaking dormancy. These germination inhibitors have to slowly leach out in the wetting cycles of the soil so that only a percentage of the seeds germinate each year for several years. Iris seeds can remain dormant and viable in the soil up to 5 years and if stored cool and dry for thirty years or more. You can remove much of these germination inhibitors by soaking the seeds for about ten days with daily changes of water taking care to keep them cool as in a basement. Then, if the seeds are planted you will have a much higher percentage (90 to 100%) to germinate the first year.

You may elect to obtain the needed ninety days of stratification, cold temperature under 50 degrees F, in a refrigerator rather than in the garden. However, if your refrigerator shuts down and the seeds dry out or it gets too cold and freezes where you placed the seeds, you may lose them all. This is the hybridizer's worst nightmare, the loss of a year's hybridizing work, and it has occurred. If they germinate early in the refrigerator and the roots get too long, you may lose some when they are planted. I prefer to plant the seeds in soil in pots for later transplanting with the pots sitting on the ground in sand or mulch, or I plant them directly in the seedbed soil 4 inches apart and 2 inch deep by November 1. The seedlings that germinate in the second or third year should be transferred to new beds, as they cannot compete with the large, first year seedlings. We give each seed bed four years before digging it up, as we are looking for rebloom, winter hardiness, and disease resistance that take longer to evaluate. As soon as possible after you have evaluated a seedling as worthy of saving, move it to a select bed with the seedlings at least 9 inches apart. Otherwise, it may not bloom the next year and even get misplaced. Next the seedling is lined out in a reselect bed for final evaluation before consideration for introduction. Then you will need another couple of years to build up stock, send it to regional, national and international competitions and



Happy Buddha



Melted Sunshine

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PUG, an MTB introduced in 2001,
Picture pg. 45 of April 2001 AIS Bulletin, included w/order.

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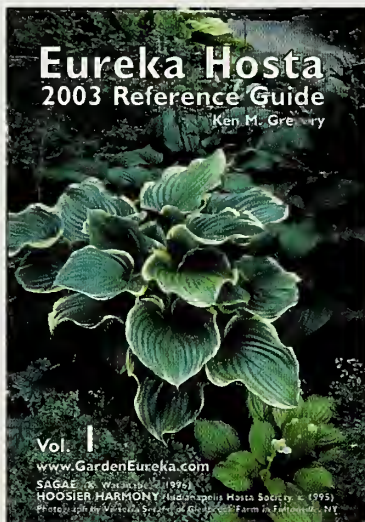
Ken M. Gregory



AURA LIGHT (Barry Blyth, r. 1993) TB - AIS Award of Merit
Photograph by Lynn Denton of Willow Bend Farm in Eckert, Colorado

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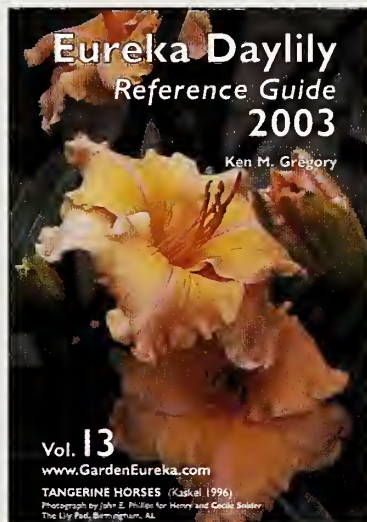


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SAGE (Vernice, r. 1996)
HOOSIER HARMONY (Susan Appius Marca Saari, r. c. 1995)
Photograph by Vicki S. Smith of Garden of Eatin' Farm in Farnham, NY

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TANGERINE HORSES (Kaskel, 1996)
Photograph by John E. Phillips for Henry and Gaila Sailer
The Lily Pad, Birmingham, AL

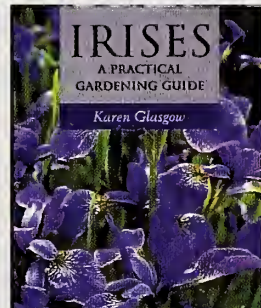
The Gardener's Guide to Growing IRISES



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W. George Schmid
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get feedback from garden judges. Thus, in a minimum of six years you may go from the cross to introduction and sale.

The most important rule for planting iris seeds or transplanting seedlings is to plant them in the very best prepared bed you can, so they can reach their fullest potential. If you can easily insert a rod at least one foot deep into your seed bed then you have prepared an adequate root run. Of course, never walk on a seed bed or you will compact the soil and press out the essential air content. Give them the best space, soil preparation, fertilizer, and care possible and they will reward your efforts. If they are planted in a poorly prepared bed, or overcrowded, they may never grow well, and you may never know how good they were. 

Additional Show Awards

from Jason Leader, Exhibition Chair

Loomis Iris Society 5/26/02 held at Rocky Ford, Colorado

Best Specimen of Show: TB Wing Commander exhibited by Pat Soland

Silver Medal: Rose McClain

Bronze Medal: Pat Soland

Best Design of Show: Linda Tonky

Sweepstakes Artistic Design: Rose McClain

Elmohr Iris Society 6/9/02 held at Colorado Springs, Colorado

Best Specimen of Show: TB Keeping Up Appearances

exhibited by Betty Roberts

EC for Best Seedling: 9902 TB Charles Baker

Silver Medal: Lynda Love

Bronze Medal: Don and Patricia Morgan

Best Design of Show: Jeremy Madrid

Sweepstakes Artistic Design: Betty Roberts

Bronze Medal Certificate for Educational Exhibit: Joe and Kay Gagnon

Sierra Foothills Iris Society 4/27/02 held at Auburn, California

Best Design of Show: Lynn White

Sweepstakes Artistic Design: Melanie North



Santa Rosa Iris Society Experimental Garden

by Dean Linscott, California

Final Two-Year Results

The preliminary (one-year) results from our Experimental Garden were reported in the April, 2002, issue of the *AIS Bulletin*, page 39. Now we have the final results of this two-year experiment, which answer some questions and raise others. Please refer to the previous article for basic data on soil preparation and initial analyses. The only additions to the soil since the previous report were: top-dress with gypsum in January, 2002; top-dress with 5-10-10 in February, 2002; and top-dress with 15-15-15 in May, 2002. For the first time, we analyzed the soil both in the plant root zone *and* in the area halfway between plants (24 inch spacing between plants).

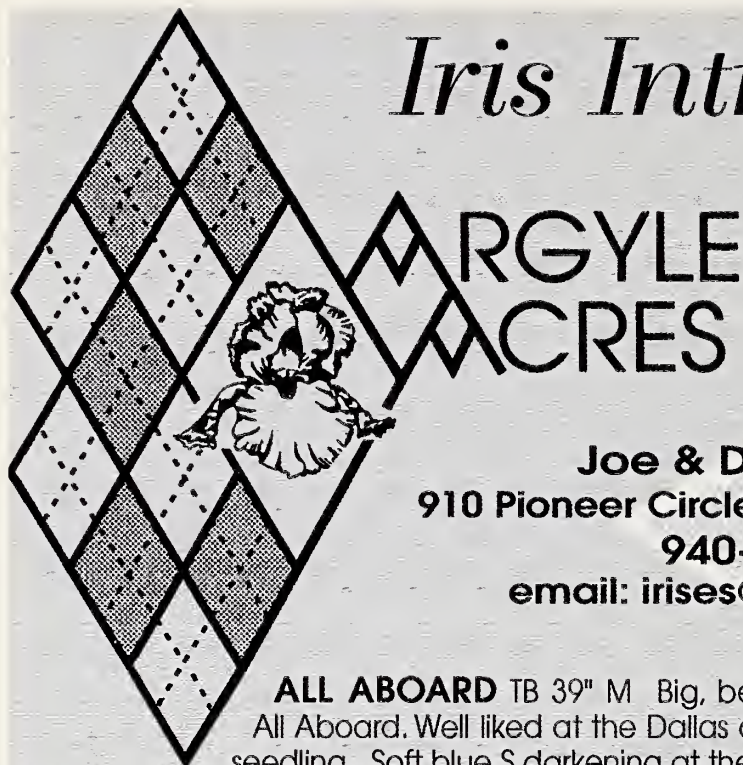
The most interesting results were as follows. 1) There was a very close correlation between the number of increases, the number of bloom stalks, and the number of blooms among the 9 indicator irises in each row. 2) In the 4 best-growing rows, there was a 10-12-fold rise in the number of increases, bloom stalks and blooms between year one and year two, with most two-year clumps showing from 10 to 15 stalks. 3) The number of blooms *per stalk* for a given cultivar was the same whether it was growing well or poorly, confirming that genes, not culture conditions, are the main factors controlling bud count. 4) In the Santa Rosa area, the rise in increases the second year began in July (for the best-growing rows) or August, and rose very steeply through December, then more gradually. Spring growth became so heavy by March that increases could no longer be accurately counted. 5) Row 8, which received Wheeler Mix initially and which showed about 30% more increases and blooms than any other row during year one, was only a little better than average during year two.

6) Top-dressing with about 1 oz. of 15-15-15 had lowered the pH of the soil a whole pH unit (from 6.9 to 5.9; 7.1 to 6.2, etc.) when the soil was tested 2 months after top dressing (overhead watering). 7) Irises seriously deplete the soil of sulfur. The average sulfur content 18

Iris Introductions for 2003

by

Vincent Christopherson



Joe & Donna Spears

910 Pioneer Circle East • Argyle, TX 76226

940-464-3680

email: irises@argyleacres.com

ALL ABOARD TB 39" M Big, beautiful, and ready to set sail...so All Aboard. Well liked at the Dallas and Memphis AIS conventions as a seedling. Soft blue S darkening at the midribs; white falls with only a hint of blue are flared and ruffled, yellow beards. Slight sweet fragrance.

Sdlg R3-64A Little Much X Jumbo Jack \$40

ANGEL'S DESIRE TB 38" M Angels above look down on men below. White S have a faint pink midrib blush; F soft pink with a light amber haft infusion, orange B. Nice form and ruffles. This breathtaking pink amoena is the tallest we have grown. Fertile both ways. Sdlg R4-101A Behold A Lady X Silver Fox \$40

AUTUMN WINE TB 25" M&RE BB Wine red bitone with darker plush falls rimed in standard color; mustard Beards end in short white upturned horns. This is the first border bearded and first rebloomer introduction for us. Rebloomed early June in Tennessee and autumn in Texas. Space Ager. Sdlg P4-197SH Rock Star X FP2 (Skyhooks x Momentum) \$30

CLOWN AROUND TB 29" M Burgundy S show just a hint of yellow ground color up close; F have a 1/2" plicata stitched burgundy rim around a bright yellow center, small white zone under mustard yellow beards ending in burgundy horns or spoons. Space Ager. Sdlg P4-197PF Rock Star X FP2 (Skyhooks x Momentum) \$40

DEAR LADY TB 30" M All lavender and laced - a Lady indeed. Lavender S, lighter at the midribs; lavender F, lighter toward the center then blend to a speckled white zone around the white tipped beards that turn orange toward the throat. A plicata carrier. Fertile. Sdlg I-87B Vanity X Dawn Sky \$40

KID GLOVES TB 16" IB For our first IB introduction, we're putting on the Kid Gloves. This one is a pretty little luminata plicata. S washed blue with lighter rims; F washed blue with darker stitched rims and a white zone darted with blue around the light blue beards tipped orange. Sdlg LP5-141A Handshake X Privileged Character \$20

SWEET EMOTIONS TB 38" M Caution - prolonged viewing causes emotional euphoria! Solid pink laced S; F peach pink blended richer toward the hafts, light lace and crimped ruffles; orange beards end in bearded orchid horns. Space Ager. Sdlg R4-169CH Dream A Little X Pagan Pink \$40

WORLD OF COLOR TB 40" M Magenta S, give a dark top effect; style arms are terracotta and yellow; F are washed overall with hues of magenta pink to lavender; then rimed in terracotta and highlighted with yellow shoulders; yellow beards on a white base. Sdlg R3-10A Living Right X Ruffled Surprise \$40

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AUTUMN WINE



KID GLOVES



DEAR LADY



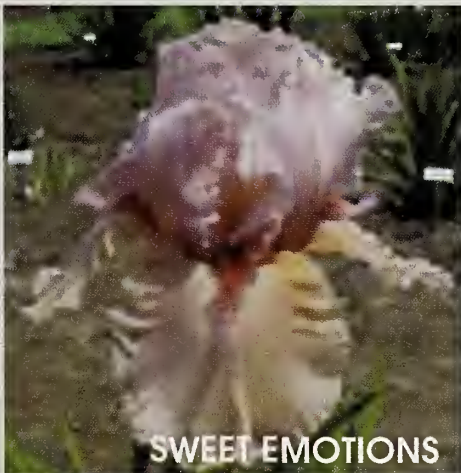
ANGEL'S DESIRE



ALL ABOARD



CLOWN AROUND



SWEET EMOTIONS



WORLD OF COLOR

Buy all 6 tall bearded irises and get the two median irises free (a \$50 savings).

months after planting was 21 ppm in the soil halfway between plants, and only 1-3 ppm in the root zone, despite the fact that top-dressing with 15-15-15 (and to a lesser extent with 5-10-10) adds sulfur to the soil due to the sulfate salts used to make up the fertilizer. Since sulfur is essential in plant enzyme systems, it seems that this could seriously affect iris growth. This has led us to top-dress with gypsum (calcium sulfate), and to plan to incorporate gypsum into our next test garden. (Gypsum has very little effect on soil pH.) We also found readily measurable root zone depletion of nitrogen and magnesium.

We carried out chemical analyses on iris tissue samples, to see if we might gain some more insight into factors that affect growth. Since there seems to be no more information available on this subject, we tested rhizome, bloom stalk, and leaf tissue from the same cultivar (PANAMA HATTIE) growing under the poorest and the best culture conditions (as measured by numbers of increases, bloom stalks, and blooms). There was no detectable difference in the leaves or in the bloom stalks, but a rhizome supporting a well-grown bloom stalk contained 3 times as much nitrogen, and twice as much phosphorus and sulfur, as one supporting a poorly-grown stalk. Other elements were similar in both stalks. A mother rhizome contained about 50% more nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and sulfur than a bloom stalk-supporting rhizome from the same plant. These are very preliminary results; we intend to do much more tissue testing in the future.


While we can't yet say what amounts of which nutrients are ideal for tall bearded iris culture, we can say that we had excellent growth, increase and bloom in compost-amended clay soil with a pH of 6.5 to 7.1 and the following amounts of nutrients (expressed as ppm of dry soil): nitrogen 15-40; phosphorus 100-180; potassium 600-900; sulfur 15-35 (away from the root zone); calcium 2500-3500; and magnesium 600-1000.

In August of 2002, we initiated Test Garden II, in which we will attempt to devise a top dressing that won't alter pH; further explore the role of sulfur; and compare the chemical content of rhizomes at different stages of development. To increase the sensitivity of our comparisons, we plan to use cultivars which are known to increase poorly.

Anyone who would like to receive tables and figures containing our raw data may obtain them by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Dean Linscott, 4877 Grange Road, Santa Rosa CA 95404.

Further Comments from the Author

My article on the Santa Rosa Iris Society and Experimental Garden was published in the *AIS Bulletin* of April, 2002. Unfortunately, someone's computer didn't like my use of the terms "1/2" and "1/4", and substituted "?" for these values (13 lines up from the bottom of page 39). Then in the Table for this article (p. 51), in the footnotes under QUANTITY PER ROW, "1/2" and "1/4" were changed into "_" in three places. Since these are important values in the article, following are the proper values (p. 39): 1/2 cubic yd of Sonoma Compost and 1/4 cubic yd of Wheeler Mix. In addition, in the Table, the quantity of sulfate of potash should be 1/2 lb.

On an entirely separate matter, I was intrigued by the comments on sulfur in iris culture (p. 69-70). A fact that is not generally appreciated is that 5-10-10, 15-15-15 and similar amendments can contain appreciable amounts of sulfur (from 5% to 15%, depending on the nutrient mix chosen by each manufacturer), both because phosphorus is normally prepared by treating phosphate rock with sulfuric acid and then neutralizing it, and because potassium is often supplied as potassium sulfate. Nitrogen can also be supplied as ammonium sulfate. Normally we only think of the amendments we use in terms of their N, P and K content, but we should also be aware of S. 

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 Claire Barr, California
 Mrs. Wells E. (Ginny) Burton,
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 Carmen Cartmell, Kentucky
 Thomas F. Cartwright, Texas
 Betty Conrad, Texas
 Bobby Eakes, Tennessee
 Robert B. Love, Tennessee

Virginia M. Lyons, Colorado
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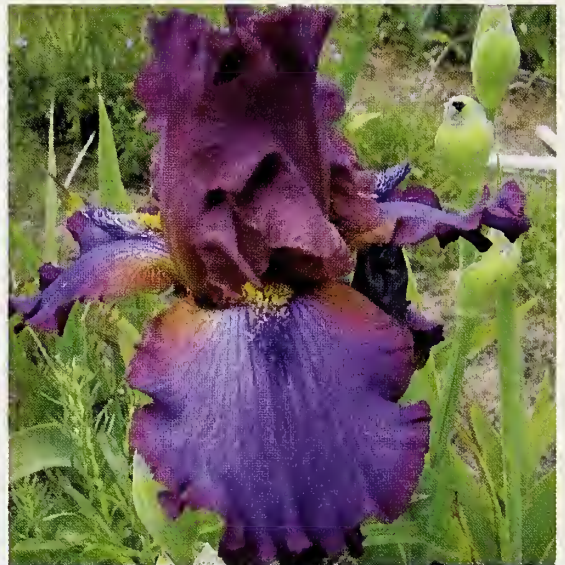
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Contemporary Views - 2002

by Perry Dyer, Oklahoma

[Editor's Note: For many years, Perry Dyer has written comprehensive reviews of the newest cultivars. Following is the first part of his latest writeup.]

With this edition of Contemporary Views, I'm returning to an annual review; the past three editions have been biennial. However, some I might have normally evaluated and included this year will have to wait until next year. On May 9th, with the Tall Bearded season right at peak, my lower back revolted, I wound up in the hospital for a couple of days, and then still couldn't even get out of bed (much less out to the garden) for another 2 weeks. So I missed the last half of my bloom season this year. I nonetheless managed to find plenty of things to review this year....

1. **The CONTEMPORARY AWARD** is given to the Best New Iris seen (i.e., one introduced within the past 3 years of the date of this review). For the first time ever, the Contemporary Award goes to a Miniature Dwarf: **TINGLE** (Black 2000) is a magnificent new addition to the class. It is a warm, smooth white, with just a few veins of yellow in the standards. The falls are also white, with a pert, charming clean yellow spot completely encircling light yellow beards. The form is amazing; the texture like silk. There is even a significant amount of ruffling, but not so much to ruin the petite look. Although it is wide, with the form and finish remindful of Tweety Bird (which is in its complex parentage), it still maintains its perkiness.

Runnersup: **DECKER** (Jameson 2001), from the great rebloomer, Tennison Ridge (Begley), is a bright white plicata, with stitching similar in color to its mother, but even bolder, with flowers with better shape, overall. The smart stitching manifests itself in the form of a band, very concise in deep mulberry leaning towards violet. The cleanness and precise contrast between the base color and the plicating is most impressive. **LAURA BUELOW** (Roberts 2002) is a first-class blue amoena, with the standards displaying just a hint of pale blue, then the falls a smooth, quiescent medium blue. It is not as dramatic as

Night Hawk's Dream in color presentation, but wonderful in its own subtlety. Magnificent form, coming from the great Dykes Medalist, Honky Tonk Blues, ruffled and flared and dancing in the wind. Impeccable plant habits and stalks and branching, as we have come to expect from this highly self-critical artist. **WAIT RIGHT HERE** (Vizvarie 2001) is a bold, sassy SDB, born about 5 miles from here – in the next town over (Newcastle). Just when you think you've seen it all, this rich plicata presents yet another new style from the famous Chubby Cheeks (Black) lineage. White ground, heavily stitched/banded in violet. But then, wait, there's an inner band in what I have to describe as mulberry. That additional band gives a luminescent glow to the flower. It has impeccable form, substance, and plant habits.

2. **The L'ELEGANTE AWARD** goes to the new iris with the most beautiful individual flower seen. This doesn't necessarily address the overall plant habits, but all aspects must be acceptable to merit the variety receiving the award: **QUEEN'S CIRCLE** (Kerr 2000) is truly the finest improvement I have seen to date in the difficult Emma Cook (Cook) type pattern. Crystalline white flowers, with only a wash or edging around the base of the falls (not plicata – edged). Oh lovely one! Purest, chaste white, with a narrow (but certainly noticeable!) sapphire blue edge around the falls. Instead of the traditional white or yellow beard, Fred has managed to come up with a red beard – not shockingly so, but it's there, and it really "makes" the flower. Such gorgeous form, with just enough ruffling to compliment the flare of the falls and the delicate color pattern.

Runnersup: **ANNUITY** (Kegerise 2001) was another seedling guested at our convention, for which I have been anxiously awaiting the introduction. It is quite simply one drop-dead gorgeous iris! If you like 'em pink, try this one. It is a blissful light pink, easy on the eyes, but tough and durable in the garden. Heavy chiffon ruffling has an added bonus of a generous amount of lace. It is a clear pink, with just a suggestion of a lightening at the top of the falls, allowing the eyes to adjust to a rich coral-red beard. The branching and bud count are significantly improved over your usual pink, and the plant habits are superb! I first viewed **HAUT LES VOILES** (Cayeux 2000) on a first-year bloom in a future competition area of the Premio Firenze garden in Florence, Italy, when I judged there in 2000. "I thought you said the competition entries were secret-coded?" Yes, but the hybridizer (Richard Cayeux from France) was one of the panel members judging the competition with me. And he certainly recognized his baby! With Haut Les Voiles, the sheer elegance of its mother, Edith Wolford (Hager), was inherited. But then from the pollen parent, Honky Tonk Blues (Schreiner), comes a toughness and resilience that sets this new

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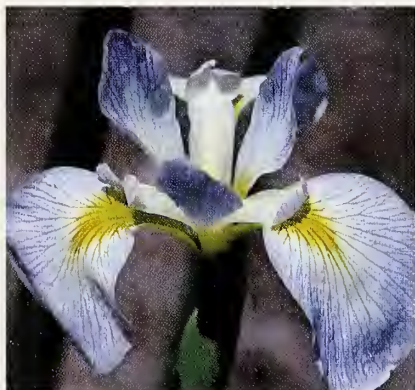
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Species Cross



FROST END
I. pseudacorus



MIRABEL GLOW
Species Cross



WHITE BLEACH
Species Cross



QUEBELLE
Species Cross



VEINED BANNER
Species Cross

2003 INTRODUCTIONS FROM STERLING INNERST

CLAUDIA BARTON BLAIR, sdlg 4863-6, TB, ML, 36"
(Established Powers X Flights of Fancy). S. red-violet-purple; F. 1/2" purple rim, center red-violet-purple washed white, dark dart under yellow beards; wide and ruffled. 9 buds with near perfect stalks. Fertile both ways. Named in memory of a Pediatric Doctor way ahead of her time. I'm told she also had one of the most beautiful iris gardens east of the Mississippi. \$35.



CLAUDIA BARTON BLAIR

FOREIGN STORM, sdlg 4340-1, TB, ML, 36" (Before the Storm X Foreign Statesman). Dark purple self, black sheen-wash over falls. 9 buds, great branching. Fertile both ways. \$35.



HYPNOTIC MELODY

HYPNOTIC MELODY, sdlg 4571-4, TB, ML, 36"
(Silverado X Satin Siren). Near perfectly formed pewter-tea-green-beige self. Huge yellow beards. This cross was made to get vigor into my pink lines, and I'm using it towards that goal. 9 buds with great stalks, it has received several EC's including one at the 2001 Convention show at Hunt Valley, Maryland. Fertile both ways. \$35.



LINDA'S CHILD

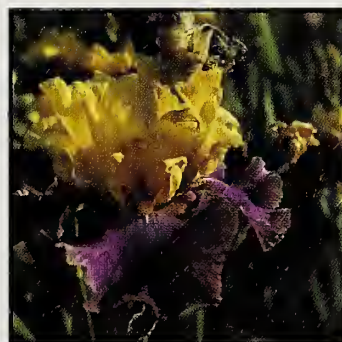
LINDA'S CHILD, sdlg 4532-5, TB, ML, 29 1/2"
(Winterbourne X (Dorothy Davis x Malaguena)). S. white, edges and midribs tinted yellow; F. open blue-white changing to pure white, edged gold; bushy orange beards. Vigorous, short, 7 buds, excellent stalks, fertile both ways. \$35.

LUNAR WHITEWASH, sdlg Re5049-8, TB, ML, 36",
reblooms annually Oct.-Nov. here in PA ((Re4623-6 (Bonus Mama x Twice Delightful) X Re4623-1 (Bonus Mama x Twice Delightful)). Excellently formed, wide ruffled self; beards yellow tipped white. Fertile both ways. \$35.



LUNAR WHITEWASH

LYNSY ALEXANDRA, sdlg 4805-2, TB, M, 36" (3960-5 (Different Approach x (33101-1 (Karen x Graduation))) X 3821-5 (3924-1 (K81-267 x 2377-1 (Dazzling Gold x Capricious))). S. full yellow, midribs tinted red-violet; F. red-violet-purple, narrow yellow trim; orange beards. 9 buds, excellent branching, fertile both ways. \$35.



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WINTERBERRY GARDENS 2003 INTRODUCTIONS



Ask and Receive TB, RE



Gladys Kelly TB



Plum Pretty Whiskers TB



Robin of Loxley TB



Nita Bonita TB



Liquid Amber TB, RE

WINTERBERRY GARDENS INTRODUCTIONS FOR 2003

By Dr. Don Spoon, Ginny Spoon, Ryan Carter, Clarence Mahan, and Dr. Charlie Nearpass

Apollo's Robe (R. Carter) TB, 35" (89 cm), EM & RE (Oct. in zone 6b). (Sdlg. # 97-11A). Ruffled and flared bicolor. Light lavender standards with golden yellow extending up the midribs. Falls and beards are golden yellow. (Somewhat similar in color pattern to *Affaire*.) Reliable rebloom and vigorous growth. Stalks with 7 buds. EC for best seedling in 1999 C&P Iris Society spring show as a youth member. (Uriah the Hittite X (Bethany Claire x Busy Being Blue)) \$40

Ask and Receive (D. Spoon) TB, SA, 35" (89 cm), EM & RE (Nov. in zone 6b). (Sdlg.# 96-403A). Ruffled, fully flared, and laced pure snow white with white beards and upturned fuzzy white horns. This space age, all white self is this hybridizer's wish come true. Wide falls with orchid-like substance. Show stalk with 7 buds. Fertile both ways. (Christmas X Mesmerizer) \$40

Gladys Kelly (D. Spoon R.1989) TB, 34" (86 cm), ML. (Sdlg. # 15A-11-88). Ruffled and laced red-purple bitone (RHS 71A standards and 79A falls darker red-purple) with tangerine beards and lighter sun spray streak markings extending around the beards. Style arms are peachy-rose in color. Well branched stalks with 7 buds. Possesses bubble lace on the edges of the falls that makes uniquely pronounced lighter spots forming a lacy pattern on the underside of the falls. Hybridizers take note. Sweet fragrance. Fertile both ways. (Gentle Edith X Queen in Calico) \$40

Liquid Amber (G. Spoon) TB, 34" (86 cm), EM & RE (Oct. in zone 6b). (Sdlg.# 97-4B). Ruffled, flared, and lightly laced. Standards and style arms amber tan. Falls amber tan with lighter, lavender infused mid areas. Beards bright golden yellow. Modern, wide form. Vigorous growth. Very dependable rebloomer. Fertile both ways. (Lady Juliet X Little John) \$40

Nita Bonita (C. Nearpass/ C&P Iris Society) TB, 36" (91 cm), EM. (Sdlg.# 91-115). Ruffled, laced plicata with bright yellow to peachy ground becoming white around the white, tangerine tipped beards. The domed, closed standards and style arms are vibrant peachy-orange. Rosy-plum plicata edging on the wide falls. Show stalks with 7 to 9 buds per stalk. Fertile both ways. Named for Charlie's wife. E.C. ((Pink Picotee Sibling x Rancho Rose) X Whirl Around) \$40

Obi-Wan Kenobi (C. Mahan) TB, 35" (89 cm), EM. (Sdlg.# CW-JP-10). Ruffled bicolor with light olive (yellow-lavender blend) standards (RHS 195B) and lavender blue (RHS 91A) falls with light olive veins and edges. Beards and base of hafts glowing golden yellow (RHS 23A) Show stalks with 7 buds. Favorite of garden visitors. ((Financier x Cloud Ballet) X Joan's Pleasure) \$40

Plum Pretty Whiskers (D. Spoon) TB, 35" (89 cm), ML. (Sdlg.# 97-465A). Ruffled and laced raspberry-pink bitone with tangerine beards. The arched falls display its unique feature, a zone of dark plum veins ("whiskers") in an area like a pumila spot of SDBs like *Snow Tree*. Good branching with 7 buds. Vigorous growth. Fertile both ways passing the whisker pattern to some offspring. (Yosemite Sam X Pagan Dance) \$40

Robin of Loxley (D. Spoon) TB, 35" (89 cm), M. (Sdlg.# 93-7A). Ruffled, flared, and laced raspberry-pink amoena. Domed standards white except light raspberry-pink at bases and midribs. Wide falls intense raspberry-pink with lighter border. White rays around the beards that are white tipped and tangerine in the center and throat. Nice stalks with 7 buds per stalk ((Femme Fatale x Sweet Musette) X Champagne Elegance) \$40

WINTERBERRY GARDENS 2003 INTRODUCTIONS



Apollo's Robe TB, RE



Wise Wish TB



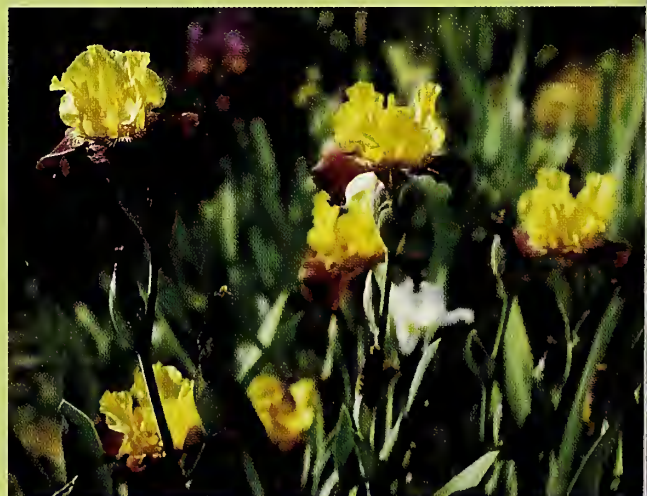
Autumn Orange SDB, RE



Spiderweb MDB



Rosalie Loving SDB, RE



Lucy Doodle MTB, RE

WINTERBERRY GARDENS INTRODUCTIONS FOR 2003 CONTINUED

Trillionaire (D. Spoon) TB, 35" (89 cm), EM. (Sdlg.# 93-29). Very intense yellow-orange self with self beards. Makes an impressive statement in the garden landscape that is a standout in its color range. Ruffled and lightly laced. Wide branching with 7 buds on sturdy stalks. Vigorous growth. Fertile both ways. (Fame X (Divine x Laced Jabot)) \$40

Wise Wish (D. Spoon) TB, 36" (91 cm), M. (Sdlg.# 89-9). Ruffled and flared red-maroon bitone with distinctive lighter red-maroon narrow rim on the dark, velvety wine-maroon falls. Beards tangerine surrounded by a sun spray of white streaks. Well branched stalks with 7 to 11 buds. Vigorous growth. Good pod parent. (Chief George X Lady Friend) \$40

Lucy Doodle (C. Nearpass/ C & P Iris Soc.) MTB, 19" (43 cm), E & RE (Oct. in zone 6b). (Sdlg.# 97-14A) Ruffled bicolor with golden yellow standards and wide, bright ruby-red falls with golden yellow beards. Well branched stalks with 7 to 9 buds. Vigorous growth. Fertile both ways. From Charlie's seeds saved and planted posthumously from his last crosses in 1997. (Abridged Version x (Hager 2542 x (Peach Paisley x April Melody))) X (Payoff x (BB sized sdlg 89-30: My Katie x Memphis Delight)) \$25.

Autumn Orange (D. Spoon) SDB, 14" (36 cm), EM & RE (Sept. in zone 6b). (Sdlg.# 98-62A). Intense orange with olive pumila spot in falls. Large, showy tangerine beards. Ruffled and flared. 2 to 3 buds per stalk. Fertile both ways. ((Orange Tiger x Pele) X Autumn Maple) \$20

Funny Bunny (D. Spoon) SDB, 10" (25 cm), EM & RE (Nov. in zone 6b). (Sdlg.# 96-48TT). Pale teal (blue-green) with darker teal pumila spot. Possibly a new color. Wide and ruffled. 2 to 3 buds per stalk. Fertile both ways producing teal offspring. (Tu Tu Turquoise X Toy Boat) \$20.

Rosalie Loving (D. Spoon) SDB, 10" (25 cm), EM & RE (Aug. in zone 6b). (Sdlg.# 98-9DS). White standards and falls with red-maroon pumila spot and white, yellow-orange tipped beards. Glowing, golden yellow around pumila spots and at the bases of the standards and falls. Wide and ruffled. 2 or 3 buds per stalk. Remarkably winter hardy blooming into December after several freezes down to 22 degrees F night temperatures. Fertile both ways. Profuse bloomer in spring and fall. Named for a wonderful friend and master irisarian gardener. (Ditto X Lumalite) \$20.

Spiderweb (D. Spoon) MDB, 6" (15 cm), ML. (Sdlg # 98-57MB). Surprisingly unique minimal plicata pattern with long, deep blue-purple veins extending from the light yellow beards tipped blue purple. Minimal blue-purple plicata edge markings at bases of white standards and falls. Slightly open, erect standards reveal inside the blue-purple crests and style arms midlines as well as the deep blue-purple veins at the base of the standards. The dark veins on the white ground resemble a spider web. Two buds per stalk. (Inkling X Carriwitched) \$15

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(Profits from the two introductions by Dr. Charlie Nearpass divided equally between his family and the C&P Iris Society Youth Fund. Clarence Mahan introduction profits to the C&P Youth Fund.)

Photo: Aitken



Contemporary Views (see page 62)

Photos clockwise from top left:
NORTHERN JEWEL (Schreiner) IB
QUEEN'S CIRCLE (Kerr) TB
LANCER (Shockey) AB
TINGLE (Black) MDB

Photo: P. Black

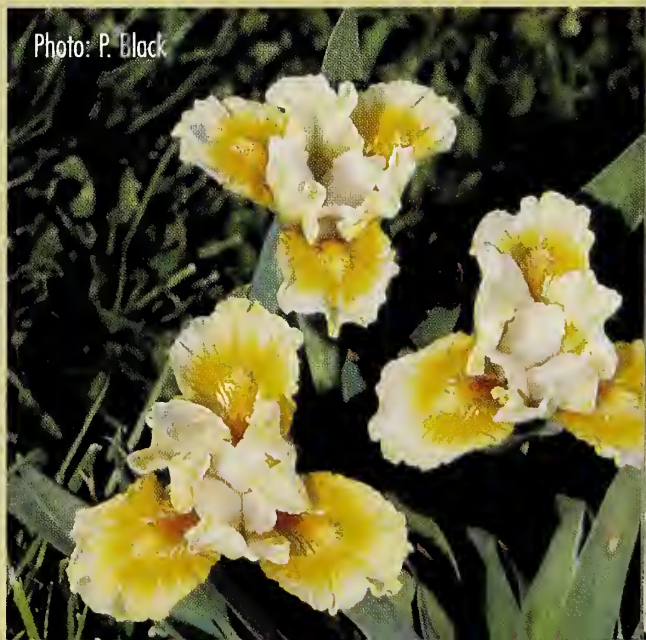


Photo: P. Black



Photo: Aitken



H. C. STETSON



AZIENDA DI PROMOZIONE
TURISTICA FIRENZE

CONCORSO
INTERNAZIONALE DELL'IRIS

Steve Blecher photo



Classroom Iris Project
Garden at Southview
School
(See Youth Views,
Page 11)



Tcha'Deetch (Rob Stetson) AB (OGB) 18" ML

Wisteria blue domed standards, lightly ruffled. Pendant slightly recurved buff falls, overlaid with conspicuous maroon veining. Styles, orangey buff with bluish maroon mid-rib, crests splashed blue-green. Blackish maroon beard tipped bronze. Three buds, double terminal and spur. A strong grower in diverse climates from southern France to Albuquerque, not to be coddled, plant it with the TB's. May go semi-dormant in very hot areas. Mohric Art X Proud Papa EC '02

\$25.00



French beauty apart from the others. The standards are a clear, light lemon yellow. The falls are blue-lavender, most definitely leaning to blue – the bluest I have seen yet. Texture veining throughout the flower adds elegance. YEARNING (Marky Smith 2000) is another fine child of Tweety Bird (Black), an SDB which is apparently on a mission, for it sure is producing some incredible offspring! With Yearling we have an intensely ruffled, waxy soft blend of apricot-pink with some yellow mixed in, to mellow out the flower. Tangerine beards gently blend in to the overall picture, rather than contrast the colors. Tweety Bird form, with open, well-held standards to allow the viewer to peer down into the heart of the flower. Excellent propagation with a generous amount of stalks produced each season. Especially in cold springs, the overall color may display a “smoked” look to it, and some may object to this. I’ve seen it with, I’ve seen it without – both ways are appealing.

3. **The 9-1-1 AWARD** is given to the new iris that is, in my opinion, the most significant hybridizing achievement or color break, of the varieties I have seen. It was hard to put one above another this year, as far as impact and importance are concerned. But finally, I gave the nod to MILLENNIUM FALCON (Kasperek 2000), a choice Color Breaker of the highest quality. I would say this is the culmination of the intense dedicated work Brad has done in this style of iris, but I won’t, because I expect great, festive things from him for years to come! Even if you have snubbed Color Breakers as “freaks”, and wouldn’t dare consider “lowering your standards” to support (translation: VOTE) for one of these things, well, you’re just gonna have to get over it! Millennium Falcon has all the poise and sophistication of the best of the “non-spashers”(!), and is a complete package, with strong plant habits, consistent growth, resistance to adverse weather conditions, flowers with broad, architecturally sound form, and that all-important quality – PERSONALITY. It is basically a neglecta, with light blue standards with a touch of lavender in their makeup and elegant white streaking, and rich royal blue falls with the white streaking with a bit more intensity.

Runnersup: MOMENTOUS OCCASION (Sutton 2000) is a new Space Age plicata which you could just about go “ditto, ditto” from the praise of Millennium Falcon above, and really for the same reasons. Instead of a Color Breaker, however, we have a clean white ground plicata with emphatic violet-blue stitching in a narrow band on both the standards and falls (no dribbling over into the center here). Then, golden beards metamorphose into a white filament that finally gets around to making a huge spoon in white, which is then (I’m serious) edged in plicata marks! Mercy! I’d say, the first of its kind. The impact of seeing those spoons, sticking up from the beard that way, and then



I'M REDDY (Joan Roberts '03)
[photo right] The name was suggested by my loving and gracious mentor, Rosalie Figge. I'M REDDY as you can see from the photo, is a good approach to a red iris. Actually the background is golden yellow which is almost completely covered by brilliant wine red plicata markings, lighter on the standards. Yellow beards are surrounded by bright yellow rays on the falls. \$40.00

BLUE ON BLUE (J. Roberts '03) A new blue iris of outstanding floriferousness was admired by many at the '01 National Convention. Medium blue standards and pale blue lightly ruffled, wide falls with pale yellow beards. Excellent branching sporting eight buds. \$35.00

GETTYSBURG ADDRESS (J. Roberts '03) This cross between ENCHANTING and HONKY TONK BLUES seems to have everything we could ask for except rebloom. Light greyed yellow stands, medium electric blue falls with an edge and reverse of the standard color. For an added touch the hafts are red violet. \$35.00

GLADIATRIX (Zurbrigg '03) 37" EM. & RE. Dark red-wine markings on a yellow background. Excellent form, good stalks and reblooms in Region 4 and PA. \$35.00

SILVER TRUMPETS (Zurbrigg '03) Here is a stately silver-white iris with huge, well-formed trumpets. Red-orange beards are largely hidden by large flounces. Everything about this iris is A-1. \$35.00

SWINGING LADY (J. Roberts '03) The name was suggested by our friend Gail Griffie. Tall beautiful red-violet with a violet blaze on the falls around the violet beards. Excellent branch with 7 buds. Lots of ruffles and some lace. \$35.00

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Design Corner (see story page 82)



Clockwise from top left:
Photo 2, Photo 3, Photo 4, Photo 5
All photos C. Hawkins



plicated just like the rest of the flower, is something you won't soon forget! Wonderful branching from its mother, the great plicata Momentum (Dunn), but on somewhat shorter stalks. When I saw the advertisement for MARTILE ROWLAND (Howard Bushnell 2000), my curiosity was piqued, for one of my early hybridizing goals was to produce a good golden yellow TB with a really red beard. I never got any further than Aztec Sun (Dyer 1982), with its bushy golden-orange beards. Martile Rowland has already proven itself as a major advancement in this color combination, and possesses all the fine qualities you would expect in any iris. I don't know the history behind Mr. Bushnell, other than he lives in New Jersey. But my hunch is that he is another one of those highly-selective "backyard hybridizers" who has been very cautious in what he places on the market. The clear lemon yellow has a distinctive white patch in the falls, with bold, daring orange-red beards. Sensible, decent form, with ruffling and even a fair amount of lace. Howard, if this is your first intro, congratulations on a fine debut!! ADDED COLOR (Kerr 2001) is another sensational new offering from our friend from just north of Sacramento. Where Queen's Circle takes your breath away with its sheer elegance, Added Color kicks you right in the butt with its dramatic strokes of color and pizzazz! Big, burly, braggadocio flowers are a golden yellow – beyond intense. The falls are the same, but then emblazoned with a thick edging in red with some deep brown blended in. Again, this is a take-off from the Emma Cook pattern – the band is a solid color, not plicata, and is precisely placed on the falls. With Added Color, the band is wide, stays put, and does not dribble over into the heart of the falls. Zowie!

4. **The SUN BELT AWARD** is awarded to the Best Proven Variety, i.e., one that has been on the market long enough to be thoroughly tested in the Midwest (at least 4 years). An Intermediate, originated 40 miles from here by the late Cleo Palmer, is this year's recipient: FROSTY ELEGANCE (C. Palmer 1994). I am just dumbfounded that this heavily ruffled, waxy pure white wasn't "discovered" in time to make an impact in the AIS awards system. Cleo had some real winners over the years, including the Sass Medal for his beautiful blue IB, Sea Patrol, early in his hybridizing career. Frosty Elegance indeed is the epitome of grace and elegance. It has resilience and stamina, with magnificent branching and bud count.

Runnersup: SNUGGLEBUG (Schreiner 1993) is a zany, brilliant Standard Dwarf, which I "missed" the first couple of years it was on the market. Making up for lost time! It is unique and dazzling, in a deep rose-red to maroon with an even deeper, stunning spot pattern in the falls, surrounding self beards with deep richness. Oh my! It has an unbelievable

Bearded from that little back yard garden just north of Sacramento. In my opinion, Silhouette, along with the great violet-on-white plicata Momentum (1986) were her finest contributions in TB's. Silhouette is a genteel light blue plicata, with standards almost completely covered in the plicata coloring; then the falls with more of the white base showing through. The plicata markings are quite unusual, almost like a stain rather than contrasting, precise stitching, as found in Momentum. Think of the name and you'll see that "it works"! Tall, strong stalks have wonderful branching. The plants are robust and durable, with thick, tough fans. DELICATE TOUCH (Hager 1991) is from another hybridizer that, like the Schreiner family, you just cannot fathom anything being overlooked. This is another plicata, but this time with such grace and delicate stitching, you can't help but be captivated by its sheer beauty. It is a cold, clear white, adorned with a very narrow, precise banding in orchid-pink. The beards are white, versus the contrasting tangerine you would probably expect in this color. The ruffling and delicate appearance belie its bloodline, where we have the Schreiners' recessive white, Laced Cotton, in its background. And finally, yep, another plicata: RASPBERRY SNOW (Sutton 1991) must surely be the "alter ego" of Delicate Touch. The base color is snow white. But the stitching is stunning, dominating, and in a rich raspberry-pink, quite different from any other plicata on the market. It is healthy, rampant like a weed, with totally acceptable branching and bud count. Bright, perky, a "happy" plic!


6. **The PICK OF THE LITTER AWARD** goes to the most outstanding and promising seedling personally viewed during the time period of this review: ALYSSIA'S AFTERGLOW (Vizvarie), I believe, is the first Space Age Intermediate plicata. Violet on white Space Age plicatas have been slow to advance, so to see an IB of this quality, you have to consider it a major breakthrough. This is a smaller-flowered cutie, at the lower end of the IB class, in both size and height of stalk. Yet the branching is excellent, with 2 or 3 well-placed branches carrying 5 to 6 buds. The tight, proper form comes from its father, the great SDB, Chubby Cheeks (Black). The color of the stitching is a deep mulberry-violet, right down to blue-purple beards which then extend upward into a horn. Hybridized only 5 miles from here (Chris lives in Newcastle, Oklahoma, just north of my garden), I have had the privilege of studying it for several years now, and I have been most impressed with its consistency and dependability.

Runnersup: STING ME (B. Nichols 2003) was guested here during the '99 National Convention, as Seedling #B-12. Bonnie, wife of Hooker, is new to the hybridizing scene, but if you've ever observed her "in action", when judging irises or daylilies, you know she's one of the best, and to be

“finger-in-the-socket” glow unlike anything I’ve seen to date in dwarfs. It is at the lower end of the SDB scale, with compact flowers and dainty foliage in proper proportion. I expect this to be a valuable parent for both SDB and MDB work. LITTLE JOHN (Spoon 1996) was “my pet” of the ’99 National here (I think I voted for it for the Out-of-Region Cup). The name has nothing to do with the flower size or height of the stalk. It is a beautiful combination of pink and lavender, in the tradition of the great bicolor, Touche (Hamblen 1969). Standards are a clear shade of medium pink with a bit of lavender infused. Then the falls are a smooth medium lavender. Beards are tangerine. It is ruffled, laced, and the whole texture is like silk, with a magnificent sheen. It is a vision of health, from the cleanness of the flowers to the plant habits. The finest I’ve seen to date in this combination of colors. LANCER (Shockey 1995) is one of the most dramatic of so many top-notch releases from this hybridizer. During his lifetime, Howard devoted a major chunk of his hybridizing career to the signal patterns in arilbreds, and with each successive generation, they became even more intense and predominant. Lancer is an orchid-lavender of moderate intensity, but then, emblazoned on the recurved falls, a huge black signal pattern in the shape of a lance! It is quite tall, with strong stalks to tolerate the weight of the large flowers. This half-bred (OGB) is an easy grower, the increase is excellent, and it makes a nice plant.

5. **The DARK HORSE AWARD** is bestowed to the variety introduced within the past 10 years or so that I feel has been overlooked by AIS judges and deserves/deserved higher awards. With the great marketing techniques and reputation from the most famous hybridizing family in the world, it is odd to see a Schreiner variety — ANY Schreiner variety — not get the attention it deserves. Yet here we have NORTHERN JEWEL (Schreiner 1991), a warm, joyful creamy-white Intermediate, with a glow of yellow in the beards and at the shoulders. It has everything we look for and expect in contemporary IB’s – good form, wide but not overstated; superb substance and resistance to weather conditions; absolute vigor and quantity of annual increase; well-placed branching with double-sockets at some of the positions. With 2 to 3 branches and 6 to 7 buds, it has a better bud count than some of the Tall Beardeds being released today! The texture is like chiffon, yet the durability is outstanding. In spite of the warmth in the white, it does have a sheen to it, as it suggested in the name.

Runnersup: SILHOUETTE (Dunn 1989) has long been a favorite of mine, and I have reviewed it in the past. But another mention is deserved. The late Mary Dunn was best known for her innovative work with Louisianas; however, she did contribute considerably in Tall

a good hybridizer with a critical eye for selection is no surprise whatsoever! Sting Me was guested as a Border Bearded, but fortunately she changed it to a Tall Bearded when she registered it in 2000 because, although it does possess rather small flowers, the height is right at 3'. Sting Me is a dazzling golden yellow plicata, with a gregarious pattern of stitching in rich maroon-brown to chocolate, somewhat more intense at the shoulders. The "stinger" is a bold, downright scary purple horn, sticking up from the midst of all that plicata activity! Well done, Bonnie! And a great name for it! Bianco 802 is a seedling from Augusto Bianco, Italy, being guested here. I have his permission to breed with and exhibit any of his guests, as we jointly go about evaluating them each spring, to determine which will make the final cut and go on to the level of introduction. I couldn't resist, so I cut a stalk and took it to the Oklahoma Iris Society Show this year. Yep, won Best Seedling! It is an eerie bicolor type, with a translucent glow in the falls, with changeable taffeta in lavenders, orchids, copper, amber, and perhaps even a hint of blue. This is all below a smoked lavender look in the standards. Difficult to describe, and will probably be even more difficult to accurately capture on film. I'm not sure of the parentage, at this point, but suspect it is from Electrique (Blyth), which is proving to be a gold mine for diversity in colors in its children. A Louisiana being guested here from Kevin Vaughn, Mississippi, rounds out this year's winners: LEMON ZEST is a luxurious rich lemon yellow self with deep ruffling and a satin finish. Deeper texture veins throughout the flower add to the effectiveness of the carrying power of the color in the garden. The *piece de resistance*, however, is its inner glow of shimmering green, deeper than lime green, clearer and prettier than fern green. The style arms are almost completely saturated in green. And then the signal area in the falls matches the color of the style arms. 

Revisions to The Handbook for Judges and Show Officials


S. Roy Spperson, Chair, Handbook Revision Committee

All references are to *The Handbook for Judges and Show Officials*, Sixth Edition, 1998.

Page 41 under **Award Ribbons**, modify the statement to read: “Only one first place award ribbon (blue), one second place ribbon (red), and one third place ribbon (white) may be awarded to each cultivar *in any given section*. As many honorable mention ribbons (pink) as quality merits may be awarded.” (Board of Directors, November 1-3, 2002)

Insert on page 24 under **The Honorable Mention Award** after paragraph 3: “Any iris that has been properly registered and introduced, regardless of classification or age, that has not won an HM may be placed on the HM Award ballot for an additional period of three (3) years. Eligibility is subject to certification by the AIS Registrar. A combined total of ten (10) accredited judges eligible to vote the official ballot from at least two regions of the AIS must request in writing to the AIS Chair of Awards that a variety be placed back on the HM ballot. The requests must all be received within the same calendar year to be considered valid. The iris will then be placed on the following year’s ballot for an additional eligibility period of three (3) years. An iris may be placed on the HM ballot no more than once by this method. (Board of Directors, April 15-16, 2000)

Page 27 under **The Dykes Memorial Medal**, delete the following: “...regardless of origin.” Note: This is correction of the published statement to be in conformance with the guidelines of the BIS. (Board of Directors, November 2-3, 2001)

The Board of Directors (November 1-3, 2002) voted to discontinue the policy of setting a quota on the number of judges permitted in a Region. Therefore, on page 23, delete the following statement: “AIS policy allows each region to have fifteen percent (15%) of its AIS membership as quota judges. This limit is intended as the maximum number and not a goal for each region to meet. Judges counted in this quota include only apprentice and accredited judges. Current and former RVPs, transfers from other regions, and Master and Emeritus judges are not included in the quota. No region should strive to fill its quota of judges completely. To do so might result in no vacancy for the appointment of a particularly well-qualified candidate who has fulfilled all requirements.” 

Design Corner:

The Wonderful World of Spring

by Carolyn Hawkins, Georgia

THE PIEDMONT CAROLINA IRIS SOCIETY HELD THEIR 20TH Annual Standard Iris Show on May 4, 2002. I judged in this show and was impressed with three things: the quality of the designs, the schedule and the most important thing — the participation by youth. Several entries were also made by youth in the horticulture division.

I also noticed in the last issue of the *AIS Bulletin* that at least 100 iris shows in 2002 had design divisions and many had youth design divisions. Your societies are to be commended for including these exhibits and especially for encouraging the youth to participate in any manner possible.

As you can see in Photo No.1, the design space for youth was small to encourage, and not to intimidate with a large niche or a frame. Megan Wray used fern, white iris and fasciated, dried line material. Meagan Wyatt combined hosta and maple leaves with iris in her entry. Misty Carroll's container has bamboo around it tied with a rattan ribbon. A vine, bamboo stalk, iris and helleborus foliage completes her entry. The ages ranged in this Youth Division from pre-school to 17 years old

Since this was a National Garden Club, Inc. Standard Flower Show, the Tricolor award was available for the class of "When Iris Eyes are Smiling" (A design in the Oriental manner). Etta Leonard chose iris foliage, Dutch iris and huckleberry for her entry. She stacked two triangular low containers that would imitate the feeling of water (Photo No. 2).

Melba Woodward used a black container with a traditional Oriental form. Hosta and



Photo 1

KEITH KEPPEL
P. O. BOX 18154 SALEM, OR 97305
INTRODUCTIONS FOR 2003

TALL BEARDED

- ALPENVIEW** EM 41" (Crowned Heads X Fogbound) Cleanly contrasted columbine blue standards, white falls; beards yellow. #98-110A.....**\$45.00**
- DRAMA QUEEN** EM 38" (Tangled Web X Epicenter) Dramatic blackish purple plicata, golden buff etched lines and blaze on falls. #96-10B.....**\$50.00**
- FRIENDLY FIRE** M 39" ((Spring Shower x (Florida Orange sdg. X Bygone Era)) X Fogbound) Light blue standards, clean white falls with bright red (not tangerine) beards. #97-60H..... **\$45.00**
- PARIS FASHION** M 36" (Vienna Waltz X Fogbound) Large heavily ruffled and lightly laced blend of pastel pinkish lilac, orchid, and warm white; beards pinkish orange. #98-115C.....**\$50.00**
- RIPPLE EFFECT** EM 32" (Suspicion X (Spring Shower x Twilight Blaze sdg.)) Lime chartreuse reverse bicolor of blue and blue white, with big, bold marigold orange beards. #96-19E.....**\$40.00**
- TELEPATHY** EM 38" (Fancy Dress X New Leaf) Luminata: lavender orchid standards, falls coating purple with silvery white patterning; beards white to yellow. #97-86B.....**\$45.00**
- TRADE SECRET** EML 36" (Suspicion X (Spring Shower x Twilight Blaze sdg.)) Lime chartreuse with smoky aster standard accents, golden yellow beards. #96-20J.....**\$40.00**
- VENETIAN GLASS** M 33" (Lotus Land X Fogbound) Milky pastel pink with faint blue shading giving a translucent art-glass quality. Ruffled, faintly laced. #96-45H.....**\$40.00**

INTERMEDIATE BEARDED

- DOMAINE** EM 26" (Fancy Woman X Brash) Greyed raspberry lumi-plic, falls shaded burgundy, light apricot ground, tile red beards. #98-70D.....**\$20.00**
- HOT TOPIC** EM 27" (Domaine sib) Luminata: rose-brown, with intense dandelion yellow heart, solid yellow orange beards. #98-70B.....**\$20.00**
- SANGRIA** EM 22" (Ruby Slippers sib) Dark burgundy standards, horizontally flared velvety wine black falls, orange brown beards. #97-47A.....**\$20.00**

STANDARD DWARF BEARDED

- CLOCKWORK** E 12" ((Candy Floss sib x Orange Tiger) X Marksman) Golden apricot orange, solid mandarin red beards. Wide, ruffled. #97-36A.....**\$15.00**
- MINOR LEAGUE** M 13" ((With Castanets x Easter) X Captive Sun) Warm white, small lemon yellow spot beside pale blue beard. #97-34B.....**\$15.00**
- TODDLER** ML 12" (reverse sib to Sweet Baby) Velvety deep purple bitone. Close-cropped pale blue beards look near-white. #94-6A.....**\$15.00**

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iris foliage, trimmed cyperus, and bearded iris completed her design (Photo No. 3).

Phil Burnett entered the "Mother's Day" class which allowed incorporation of a 24" hoop. Using this frame effect he chose scotch broom for his line, along with Kangaroo Paw, lilies, aspidistra foliage and iris (Photo No. 4). Phil won the Tricolor Award.

In Photo No. 5 Nell Kirby used dried mullin painted white. Helleborus foliage and Iris THORNBIRD in a black container completed this creative design. The theme of "Lo the Winter is Past and Gone" was interpreted by this design.

Marshall Goforth entered a hanging design "In the Easter Parade" in Photo No. 6. The staging of the driftwood with the iris and foliage hung inside of a black frame gave the feeling of movement and "of being in the parade." Marshal won the Designer's Choice Award.

The schedule gave general information of hours, location, etc., on the cover (and had a beautiful world globe with lovely shades of purple iris to one side). The Show Committee Chairmen as well as Officers of the PCIS were listed. General Rules and Regulations, Horticulture Rules and Regulations and Awards followed. A scale of points was provided for TB Iris (the AIS Handbook lists scales of points for other types of iris). There were sections for each type of iris in the Horticulture Division. The Youth Horticulture followed with Rules and Awards, separate from the adult entries.

Next came the Design Division with rules and regulations and a scale of points for judging designs. Awards were explained and the sections and classes completed the Design Division. Youth Designs were listed in the three classes arranged by age with the NGC Awards and the scale of points for judging youth designs. Special Exhibits was the last Division listing an Educational Exhibit and a Commercial Exhibit.

The Piedmont Carolina Iris Society also provided a membership application to join their local society and the American Iris Society. I hope everyone will include such a page when writing a schedule.


If you have any questions, please contact me: Carolyn Hawkins, AIS Judge and NGC Plant Society Liaison, 7329 Kendel Court, Jonesboro, GA 30236, email: crh9999@aol.com. 



Photo 6

HAROLD L. STAHLY 8343 Manchester Dr., Grand Blanc MI 48439

2003 INTRODUCTIONS OF EVELYN ROBERTS AND HAL STAHLY

FAST BREAK (Stahly '03) TB ML, 35". Bicolor plicata. Standards buff yellow (RHS 162A), falls very pale yellow ground (162D) heavily marked with deep red (187A) which becomes a solid half inch rim; beards yellow (17A), styles color of standards. Nice ruffled form, good stalk with 7-8 buds. Sdlg. 94-44: ((Gigolo x Haversham) X Baltic Star)

FIRST CRUSH (Robarts '03) TBSAM, 34". Flounced pink (RHS 56C) self, beards tangerine (338), consistently ending with good sized pink (56C) flounces. An elegant space age Iris with excellent ruffled form supported on well branched stalks. Sdlg. 97-38-A (Thornberry X Butterfly House).

LIGHTED LAMP (Robarts '03) TBSA, M, 37". Standards yellow (RHS 313), styles a little deeper yellow (3A), falls pale yellow (11D), beards orange-yellow (23A) ending in pale blue (97D) half inch horns. Good ruffled form, well branched stalks. Sdlg- YW-3. EC '02.

STARLIGHT SONATA (Stahly '03) TB, M, 36". Near black plicata on lemon yellow ground. Red-black standards (like RHS 187A but much deeper), lightly touched yellow at midrib; falls lemon yellow ground (8A) plicated color of standards with solid red-black edge; bronze beards, black style crests. Good ruffled form, healthy foliage seems leaf spot and borer resistant. Good branching with 7-9 buds. Sdlg. 94-30: sib to Fast Break.

THORN TREE (Robarts '03) TBSA, M, 35". Standards light pink (RHS 36C), falls lighter pink (36D), beards tangerine (338) with light pink horns. Flared and ruffled flowers displayed on well branched stalks. Sdlg. PM-6

The above Irises are \$40.00 each postpaid; buy any two and select another TB of your choice from the Introductions.

SIBERIAN INTRODUCTIONS

BACKSTAGE (Stahly '03) SIB, M, 30-33". Wide light violet standards (RHS 93B) are held at about 60 degrees above horizontal. Styles slightly lighter (92B) with deeper blue midrib; falls light violet (94B) with a distinct one-eighth inch rim of deeper violet (95A) all around; signal area freckled pale blue with green-brown throat. One or two side branches, usually five buds. Moderately ruffled. Sdlg. 95-14: (Four Winds X unknown). \$40.00.

CARINA (Stahly '03) SIB, M, 28-30". Blossoms open a very pale green (RHS 145D) and lighten to 149D; signal area deep green. Standards are short, wide, and very ruffled; falls are wide, flared, and waved; feathered styles; a captivating four inch flower on a vigorous plant. One side branch, four or five buds. Sdlg. 95-12: (Isabelle X Moon Silk). \$40.00

All prices postpaid. Indicate preferred shipment time.

2003 INTRODUCTIONS from David and Anna Cadd

BLACK MERCURY: (Cadds 2003). TB. 39"-40" (99-107 cm.). Mid. Deep violet black self, small white shoulder markings. Beards yellow, brown base. Ruffled. Musky fragrance. RE in CA. Titan's Glory x Tennison Ridge. Sdlg: 134-91-1. \$ 35.00

CROWN CONNECTION: (Cadds 2003). TB. 36"-38" (91-96 cm.). Late. S. Blended cold blue gray, smoky peach and lavender, diamond dusted; styles same. F. Deep violet, luminata pattern merging into white blaze. Beard lavender, hairs tipped brown. Pronounced sweet fragrance. Royalist x Wild Berry. Sdlg: 86-91-8 \$ 35.00

INNOCENT DEVIL: (Cadds 2003). TB. 40"-42" (102-105cm.). Mid to late. Light icy lavender blue self. Beards old gold, extending as large deep lavender purple horns, with lavender hairs. Unusual and nice. Lurid x Trick or Treat. Sdlg: 77-93-3 \$ 35.00

PURPLE PEOPLE EATER: (Cadds 2003). TB. 40"-42" (102-105cm.). Very late. Blended reddish purple bronze self. Beards purple bronze extending as hairy horns, spoons or flounces. Very strange. Thriller x Triple Whammy. Sdlg: 146-93-3 \$ 35.00

STARDUST DRAGON: (Cadds 2003). TB. 36"-38" (91-96 cm.). ML. Standards are cool yellowish beige; styles same. Falls are sienna yellow washed chocolate brown. Yellow beards extending as fuzzy lavender brown horns. Spicy fragrance. Garden attraction in a new color group. Color Tart x Deity. Sdlg: 30-93-9 \$ 35.00

VIOLET BALLERINA: (Cadds 2003). TB. 36"-38" (91-96 cm.). ML. Lilac lavender with almost silvery white center of falls. Deep orange beard. Unusual wavy stock with excellent branching and perfect placement of flowers. Parentage unknown. \$ 35.00

JUST MY LUCK: (Cadds 2003). BB. 26"-28" (66-71 cm.). ML. S. Old gold with midrib flushed burgundy; styles same. F. Yellowish ground with deep reddish burgundy wash and ?" deep burgundy plicata border. Yellow beards, tipped bronze. Elegant and ruffled with 7 buds. Shenanigan x Tennison Ridge. Sdlg: 62-92-1. \$ 15.00

LITTLE BLUE VIBS: (Cadds 2003). BB. 26"-28" (66-71 cm.). ML. Cool violet lavender self with falls lined white luminata-plicata pattern. Beard white. Good branching with 7 buds. Best Sdlg. 1994 SRIS Show. Royalist x Wild Berry. Sdlg: 86-91-4. \$ 15.00

WHISPERING FAIRY: (Cadds 2003). BB. 26"-28" (66-71 cm.). M. S. Tan with violet midrib edged old gold brown; styles same. F. Cool reddish violet luminata-plicata wash. Silvery beard. Elegant and unusual, but slower grower. Exhibition Certificate 2001 SRIS Show. Needlepoint x Shenanigan. Sdlg: 45-92-7. \$ 15.00

FOXY MAGIC: (Cadds 2003). IB. 23"-24" (58-61 cm.). E. S. Blended old gold, pink tan and lavender; styles same. F. Cream white ground washed raspberry-burgundy luminata-plicata and ?" darker burgundy border. Beards yellow. Purple stems and sheaths. Elegant and very ruffled. Needlepoint x Shenanigan. Sdlg: 45-92-6 \$ 15.00

BOLDLY ELEGANT: (Cadds 2003). SPU. 40"-43" (102-109 cm.). M. Cool light lavender blue self with small yellow blending blaze, and fine lavender lines on falls. Elegant grower with 5-7 buds. Media Luz x Unknown. Sdlg: SPU 23-91-1 \$ 15.00

STAR RIDER: (Cadds 2003). SPU. 38"-40" (97-101 cm). M. White with delicate creamy yellow velvety signal and 4 distinguishing yellowish lines on falls. Small SPU, with beautiful round flowers. Blue Lassie x Social Lady. Sdlg: SPU 8-91-4 \$ 15.00

SAINT PATRICK'S GOLD: (Cadds 2003). SPU. 38"-40" (97-101 cm). L. Deep gold self. Short SPU, 6 buds. Highline Halo x Marilyn Holloway. Sdlg: SPU 16-91-16 \$ 15.00

ANNA AND DAVID CADD
Cadd's Beehive Iris Garden
329 North St. Healdsburg, CA 95448 Tel. (707) 433-8633
By Appointment Only

Request For Bearded Guest Irises

St. Louis, MO, May, 2005

The Greater St. Louis Iris Society (GSLIS) in Region 18 will host the Convention of the American Iris Society in the year 2005. Hybridizers are invited to send guest rhizomes of recent **BEARDED** iris introductions (1997 and later) and seedlings under serious consideration for introduction.

Please observe the following guidelines when you send guest irises:

1. Up to four rhizomes of each cultivar will be accepted with a limit of 50 total rhizomes per hybridizer.
2. Guest irises will be accepted from July 5 through August 31, 2003.
3. All official guest bearded irises must be shipped to:

Jim Morris, Guest Iris Chairman
682 Huntley Heights Drive
Ballwin, MO 63021
(636) 256-3927
e-mail: morrisjer@aol.com
4. The name of the variety or seedling number should be clearly marked on each plant. In addition, the following information should accompany each plant on a separate packing list:
 - a) Hybridizer's name and address (phone # & email helpful)
 - b) Name or seedling number of variety
 - c) Type of iris (IB, AB, TB, etc.)
 - d) Height, color, and bloom season (E, M, L)
 - e) Year of introduction (if introduced).
5. If a guest seedling is named, it will be the responsibility of the hybridizer to notify the Guest Iris Chairman no later than December 1, 2004.
6. A receipt will be mailed to all contributors. Soon after the convention, contributors will be asked for instructions regarding disposition of the plants. Failure to reply by July 15, 2005, will be interpreted as permission to destroy all stock. All official guest plants which are to be returned will be shipped postpaid, except to foreign addresses.

The Convention Committee and owners of the tour gardens will follow the Code of Ethics as printed in the AIS Convention Handbook. The Guest Iris Committee will not be responsible for losses beyond its control, and only irises received through the Guest Iris Chairman will be listed in the convention booklet.

GSLIS and Region 18 welcome your participation in guesting your irises.

"Meet Me In St. Louis!" It promises to be fun.

2006 — Invitation to Beardless Hybridizers

The Greater Portland Iris Society will host the American Iris Society Convention in Portland, Oregon, in May of 2006. Hybridizers of **BEARDLESS** varieties of irises are invited to send recent introductions or seedlings under serious consideration.

Shipments will be accepted September 1, 2003, thru October 20, 2003.

Send guest plants to:

Chad Harris
P. O. Box 346
Washougal, WA 98671-0346
(360) 835-1016

Guidelines: Up to five divisions of each variety may be submitted. The name of the variety or seedling number must be clearly marked on each division. In addition, a packing list with the following information must be enclosed:

1. Hybridizer name and address
2. Name or seedling number of variety
3. What kind of iris: SPU, SIB, JI, etc.; if Species: list variety; or if a Spec-X: list parents
4. Description, distinguishing characteristics and bloom season E,M,L
5. Year of introduction, if applicable

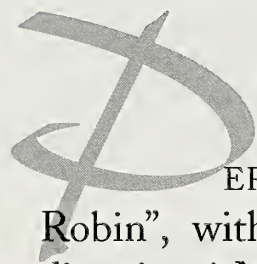
If a quest seedling is named subsequently to shipping to the convention, it is the responsibility of the hybridizer to notify the Guest Iris Chairman no later than January 1, 2006.

A receipt will be sent to all contributors. Shortly before the convention, contributors will be asked for instructions regarding disposition of quest plants. Failure to reply by June 15, 2006, will be interpreted as permission to destroy all seedlings and distribute named varieties; one to garden owners, and the rest to the Greater Portland Iris Society for distribution to Region 13 Clubs. Returns will be sent in the fall of 2006 post paid, except for foreign addresses.

Only officially submitted quest iris will appear in the convention booklet. The Convention Committee and the owners of the tour gardens will follow the code of ethics as printed in the AIS Convention Handbook.

Chirps from Mama Robin

by Libby Cross, Virginia



PERHAPS THE TITLE SHOULD BE “CHIRPS FROM GRANNY Robin”, with great-grandchildren appearing on the scene from all directions! Nevertheless they are not Robin offspring so I’ll keep the title as it is.

It is mid-January as I write this. 2003 marks a lot of years gone by for me as a participant in the American Iris Society Robin program. I first joined a robin in the late 1960s, when I was just learning that there were more kinds of irises than the somewhat droopy blue, white, and yellow flags my mother used to grow. The first pink iris I saw did the trick of turning me into a dedicated irisarian, and I quickly added “Reblooming” and “Fragrant” robins to the General Interest robin I started with. I know, my membership record says I joined AIS in 1985, but that was merely a two-year lapse, while moving around from state to state, and it was one of the robin friends I had made, (Billie Stone, from clear across the country in California,) whom I have yet to meet in person, who got me back on track by inviting me back to the old General Interest robin. Billie and I are still members of that robin, though over the years many other members have come and gone. This is just one example of the friendships that blossom through the Robin Program.

Each year, about this time, I ask all the Robin Directors to send me an update on how their robins are doing. I haven’t asked for that this year, as I spent much of 2001 and 2002 chasing down the extent of the Robin Program. Due to the numerous e-Robins (they don’t call themselves that) and the fact that some of these are outside the oversight of the AIS, it has been impossible to get an exact headcount of membership. I count even those “Iris Lists” as “official” robins, as they have generated many new AIS memberships. I hope they are producing some lasting friendships as the original “snail mail” robins have been doing since long before I joined them.


I have learned from my survey that there are only three Regional Robins flying, and I am about to ask that one of those to “go national.”

In this day and age it seems unrealistic to be concerned only with what goes on in our own back yards.

At present we have robins flying in fifteen of the nineteen categories available. I could find none specifically for Spurias, or Space Age Irises, nor for Arts and Crafts and Photography, although there are some e-robins with photo access.

So much for my "State of the Robins" message.

The 2003 AIS National Convention will be held in Region 4 from May 12th to May 17th. I have every intention of being there in person, the Good Lord willing, so I will take this opportunity to issue the following INVITATION:

There will be a ROBIN RECEPTION on Wednesday, May 14th, from 5:00-6:00 PM, just before the Welcome Banquet. I hope to meet and greet all Robin Members Past, Present, and Future. I hope you will all drop by so I can meet all the nice people I've been writing to all these years. 



Working at the Franciris 2005 Competition garden

2003 INTRODUCTIONS FROM DAVE NISWONGER

FLASHY PINK (Niswonger '03) SDB, sdlg SDB 11-99: Pink Twilight X Cocoa Pink. 12" (31 cm), M. This bright pink is really "flashy" and will get your attention right away, especially when you see the deep blue beard that goes with it. \$15.00

LITTLE MISS CAPE (Niswonger '03) SDB, sdlg SDB 15-99: (Plum Ripples x ??) X Hand Pollinated. 12" (31 cm), M. The "Cape", of course, stands for "Cape Girardeau". This daintily marked blue plicata is one of the lightest blue plicatas I've seen in the SDB's. It was the only one of this color in the cross. It has a light tangerine beard which adds another recessive trait to the mix. \$15.00

OUT OF BLUE (Niswonger '03) TB, sdlg 21-01, a sib to Unclouded Sky (below). 38" (97 cm), Midseason to late in blooming. Yes, this one ran out of blue so it ended up white with just a touch of blue in the heart of the flower. The inhibitor just couldn't wipe out all of the blue is another way to look at it. White beard. Won blue ribbon at the SEMO Iris Society Show in 2002. Wide hafted, wide branched, fluted with starchy substance. \$45.00

SPRINGTIME ANGEL (Niswonger '03) TB, sdlg 32-00: Helen Cochran X 70-97: (Just Magic x Marie My Love). 30" (76 cm), 7 buds, M. Ruffled white, hafts four inches across showing a hint of green. White based beard tipped yellow. I wish this were a tad taller but its beauty outweighs this trait. Perhaps someone can increase its height and retain the beauty with the green touch that it has. \$45.00

TOUCH OF FUCHSIA (Niswonger '03) TB, sdlg 32-99: 43-95 (Be A Dream x Wish) X Zepherina. 34" (86 cm), M. White with a pinkish fuchsia thumbprint at the haft. Tangerine beard. This elusive color varies from year to year, as does its form. It's a goal I have worked on for several years. I hope you will like it. \$45.00

UNCLOUDED SKY (Niswonger '03) TB, sdlg 33-00: 71-97: (38-92: (Tinted Crystal x 54-89: (Elvis Presley x Bridal Fashion)) x Just Magic) X 70-97: (Just Magic x Marie My Love). 36" (86 cm), Mid to Late, at least 7 buds. Ruffled white with a green tone. Will easily hold three blooms open at one time, well spaced. Will be nice for shows. The beard is near white with just a bit of yellow on its tips. Won Blue Ribbon at SEMO Iris Society show in 2002. Fertile both ways. \$45.00

YELLOWJACKET STING (Niswonger '03) SDB, sdlg SDB 14-00: (Pink Twilight x ??). 12" (31 cm), M. A deep gold with a blue beard tipped bronze. The falls are flared and ruffled. It's quite attractive in a clump – very bright! \$15.00

CAPE IRIS GARDENS

822 Rodney Vista Boulevard Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
 Enclose \$6.00 for postage No catalog this year
 Collections available Order from this ad

Potting Irises

For sale and enjoyment

by Harold Peters, California

I WAS EDITOR OF THE REGION 14 BULLETIN AND KIND OF insisted that garden related articles start with a description of the garden's climate and microclimates. Without that basic information at the beginning, readers could get misled. Accordingly my garden is in the low Sierra Nevada foothills about 25 east of Sacramento. This means cool wet winters, hot dry summers. From a microclimate perspective, the garden is on top of a hill so there is full sun most of the day and rarely is there freezing weather. My challenge with pots is retaining moisture during the hot summer days. Northern gardeners and many others primary concern would be freezing. For that, this article isn't going to be of much assistance.

Both of my parents were retail storeowners so I have had a fairly extensive exposure to retail operations. When I first got started commercially, I had limited stock but a beautiful site. I decided my advantage was for carriage trade (walk-in customers). In addition, I was not ready for catalog sales. My feeling was that American consumers were not into delayed gratification. Therefore my primary marketing was going to be one-gallon pots. I would have a display clump of what I had in pots and photos of the cultivars in pots. That combined with the pots blooming gave me three ways to sell the pots. All I had to do then was learn how to grow irises in one-gallon pots.

At the current time I will end up with about 2500 pots of TBs for next year's sales. I will also have 100 to 150 pots of Siberians and 50 to 75 LAs. I am growing all of my LAs in pots in kiddie pools because of gophers. My display clumps are in 7-gallon, squat pots. I have grown arilbreds in pots. I had thought I was going to have a surplus of good median rhizomes so I was planning on potting some medians on sale. However I may have sold so many that the median experiment may wait a year. The strategy with the medians was to keep them under an oak tree canopy to slow their bloom time down so that the TB customers would see the medians in bloom. The primary thing that sells a potted iris is a flower.

I will not repeat all of the learning experiences that have transpired since my first year commercial year. What I relearned is that irises are very tolerant of varying conditions. A one-gallon pot does not have enough resources for a TB to perform to its full potential. Comparison of a one-gallon potted TB iris and an in ground iris will generally show some aspect that is noticeably poorer. It can be flower size, stalk height, foliage height, number of increases or something else. A 5-gallon pot seems to be much better if a person wants to grow their TBs in pots; however, my experience with the larger pots is limited.

This year I am using a potting mix that is 50% forest humus and 50 topsoil. The challenge with this type of mix is that it varies each load because the two ingredients vary. Last year the topsoil was very sandy. The problem this caused was that the mix would run out of the drainage holes in the pot if the mix got a little too dry. I had to water the mix routinely and there is a fine line between too dry, workable, and too wet. This year the topsoil appears more clay like. The humus is courser so even a very dry mix doesn't run out of the drain holes. However, the mix seems to set rather hard when it dries. I will not allow composts made with manure to be used in my potting mix. I had an unpleasant experience of massive rot with aged stable cleanings. A friend had a similar experience. I know that "well-aged" manure composts can be used without a problem. I just don't know how to specify the difference between what works and what causes rot. A problem with some mixes is that as the potting mix dries, it breaks away from the side of the pot. This is undesirable as it allows the water to run out quickly and not get captured by the potting mix.

I pot from a wheelbarrow because I have an iris work station in the middle of the north side of my three-story house with an 8' deck extending out from the second level. This way I can work in the shade any time I want. Working at the pile would mean being in the hot, bright sun. A heaping wheelbarrow of potting mix yields about 50 pots. Using the pot as a scoop, I fill the pot about 2/3 full and give the pot a wiggle to level and settle the potting mix. I throw a small handful of alfalfa pellets in the pot. I hold the rhizome where I want it spatially in the pot and then fill the pot using a trowel. Two full scoops of the trowel fills the pot. I want the top of the rhizome about 1 inch below the rim of the pot and the back of the rhizome close to the side of the pot. (The front of the rhizome is the growing end). I wiggle the pot again to both level and settle the soil. Occasionally I will use my fingers to compress the soil around the rhizome. I am aiming to have 3/4 inch plus or minus 1/4 inch between the lip of the pot and the soil level. (Sorry but I am an engineer and that way of thinking is natural for me.) The pot has to

THE FORCE BE WITH YOU!

OBI-WAN KENOBE (Mahan 03). Seedling CWJP-20. TB, 35" (89 cm). Standards are a blend of medium yellow and lavender with an olive cast. Falls lavender blue with olive edges, olive veins and a yellow area around gold beards. You might like it, you might not. But you will not confuse it with any other iris. ((Financier x Ruffled Ballet) X Joan's Pleasure).

Available for \$40.00 from:

**Winterberry Gardens
1225 Reynolds Road
Cross Junction, VA 22625**

hold water to get water to penetrate to the bottom of the pot. Very important is the name tag placed along side the side of the pot. I make the name tags in advance and put the tag in while the pot is in the wheelbarrow. Name tags frequently have to be pulled to be read. If the tag is along side the pot, the tag is much easier to get back into the pot.

The pots are loaded onto a handy cart from Sam's or Costco and taken to the frames. I have decided that minimizing the sun on the sides of the pots is very important in my hot, dry climate. I made frames of 1" x 8" redwood assembled into 5' x 8' rectangles. The pots are loaded into the frames as tightly as they will fit. The first and the odd numbered rows hold 15 pots. The even numbered rows hold 16 pots so the frame holds 155 pots. The frames are loaded in rows from south to north starting each row on the west end. The frame shades the first row of pots and then the first pots shade the subsequent pots.

Until this year, all watering has been with a hand wand on a hose. A good quality head with even distribution and a medium velocity is important. The velocity is important because of aphids. Too low a velocity and the aphids don't get washed off. Too high a velocity and blooms and/or stalks are damaged. Watering took about an hour when all the frames were full. I am experimenting with a couple of watering devices like a bow sprinkler. I know they use more water but the slower application rate per pot should give better penetration of the water within the pot. It is also easier for me.

The name tags are vinyl miniblind slats from Wal Mart cut into about 3" long pieces. Too long and they are harder to get back into the pot and too short doesn't stay in place or gets buried too deep. The best depth from my perspective is with the top of the tag even with the top of the pot. The sharp corners are SHARP. If the name has been written to the right size, it is sometime possible to read the tag without removing it. I use #2 pencil to write the name after learning how fast ink can fade in the sun.

Shortly after putting the pot in the frames, the pots gets fertilized with Osmocote time release pellets. This can be done at the time of potting when the pots are in the cart. A second shot of fertilizer in the spring is recommended. Foliar fertilizers have also been used but without an attempt to determine if they make a difference.


Problems? Every time I go through the pots for a maintenance phase, I find pots that do not have any green. I use a wide variety of rhizomes from a wide variety of sources. Some just don't start new roots. Some die over the winter for a variety of reasons. Others are bloom outs, meaning only a bloom stalk with no increase showing. I will not sell bloom outs. I will give them away with an explanation of

what a bloom out is and why I will not sell it. Then after the sales season, more will die. There are a whole bunch of reasons for all this. The numbers have not been that high that I have had to do something different.

Aphids can be a real problem. Most years aphids have been controlled by washing them off or killing them with thumb and forefinger. When that didn't work, insecticidal soap was tried next. When it got into a major infestation, Diazanone was used with great success. With the loss of Diazanone, only experience will see if the new stuff works.

Weeds are a problem. I have been reluctant to use a pre-emergent in the pots so almost all weeding has been by hand. Early after potting, weeding wasn't a big deal. An entire frame could be done in 5 to 10 minutes. Using a rotation system and then starting over again worked. Then the rains started and the days got shorter and shorter and the weeds had a chance to get well established. A selective grass herbicide product called Grass Getter was used on the pots and worked pretty well. Getting the proper application was a little tricky. Grasses are one of my more difficult weeds.

The biggest project under my system is the late winter cleanup, sorting by cultivar and reloading the frames in strictly alphabetical order. There is no way for me to pot alphabetically so I have to put the cultivars into rows in rough alphabetical order, inventory what I have and then put them back into the frames in order. I use See-Fine metal label stakes in the field to identify the clumps. If there are five or more of a cultivar, I use one of the name stakes for that cultivar. The name stake goes into what I consider to be the weakest pot of that cultivar and that pot is placed last in the group. This helps keep the label in place. Many customers have no problems mastering my system of finding a cultivar. Others have problems. If I could start from scratch, I would make the frames 4' deep instead of 5'. The middle rows are challenging to reach.

In summary, irises can be successfully grown in pots. The right conditions for the local area can be accomplished with some ingenuity to meet any aesthetic requirements. For sales, a one-gallon pot works. For enjoyment bigger pots are better. I would recommend a 2-gallon for arilbreds and the smaller medians. For taller BBs and TBs, 5 gallons is the minimum. I would also recommend that no iris stay more than 1 year in a pot. Irises are heavy feeders and will exhaust the potting soil before a year is out. 

To Burn or Not to Burn

by Opal & Henry Wulf, Nebraska

NOW THAT'S A VERY GOOD QUESTION! WE LIVE IN AN AREA where those nasty critters called BORERS can and do ruin clump after clump of iris when their voracious appetites are left unchecked by pesticides. On the other hand we have been planting our acreage with wild life and song birds in mind. Needless to say pesticides and wild life, particularly song birds, do not go well together. Not wishing to give up either the iris or the spring nesting song birds we spent a great deal of time looking for an answer to keep the borers under control in our many display and seedling beds without the use of pesticides.

The answer came as a result of asking Allan Ensminger how he managed to escape the borer damage to his *acres* of iris when borers had been particularly bad in everyone else's gardens one year. Allan showed us the apparatus he had designed earlier.

Early the next spring we tried burning the foliage and debris in some of our seedling beds. We figured that if damage to the iris was too bad from burning at least it wouldn't spoil the looks of the iris in our display beds which are open each spring to visitors. In the rest of the seedling beds and the display beds we cleaned as usual, applied the fertilizer, watered and held our breath. It didn't take long before we found the first of the little buggers and had to spray with pesticide. *But they were found mainly in just the non-burned seedling and display beds.* The burned seedling beds had very few plants damaged and we managed them simply by digging, a Clorox soak and then replanting. The seedlings which had been burned off flourished, caught up in size and were blooming with the non-burned iris. That was the same year we read about nematodes for getting rid of the borer larva in the ground. So we ordered and applied them to get rid of what was below ground and would be next year's borer moth.

The following year as soon as it was warm enough to string the hose out for fire control we began to burn all beds. The apparatus used was not as handy as Allan's and had to be repositioned frequently, which slowed the burning process. It is essential that the foliage be dry enough



to burn rapidly, thereby minimizing heat damage to the rhizome. The burning needs to be done on a calm (not windy) day. Spring around here is very unpredictable and changeable from hour to hour and finding a time that is both dry and calm sometimes presents a challenge. However, not having as much to burn as Allan, we were able to complete the job with a couple hours of work each mid-morning in about four or five days.

The burning apparatus that we use is quite simple to assemble. We assembled a two-wheeled cart, which is used to haul the 15 or 20 pound propane gas tank. The tank is like the one you have on your outdoor grill, and is held snugly in place by a bungee cord or two. The burner can be acquired at any of the larger hardware stores. A short piece of 3/8 inch galvanized pipe that is threaded on both ends will extend the handle so that the operator does not have to bend over and stress the back muscles too much. A ten or twelve foot length of 3/8 inch hose will let you move around the tank and cover a reasonable area before you need to move the tank.

We find it best to hold the burner so that the flame moves along nearly parallel to the ground. This aids in the drying and burning of the debris and lets you control the burn at a more manageable rate. It will also keep the heat from concentrating directly on the rhizome which could scorch the edges of the newly emerging fans. At the same time, it makes it easy to move around plant markers. The residue or ash from the burn is harmless and can be mixed into the soil when you make your spring fertilizer application. In a couple of weeks you will hardly notice

any damage that may have been done to the new fans. This burning removes the dead foliage from last year, the few left over leaves that may have blown in after your initial clean-up, and even some newly sprouting weeds. Of course the main reason for burning is to get rid of the borer eggs which were laid last year on the iris foliage. The flame will destroy the eggs from borers and any other insects that might have been inclined to leave their eggs on your iris leaves.

The 2001 spring season was very wet and windy, burning was hard to schedule around the weather and the many activities each of us had. It is a two person job: one for the burning and the other for control of any flame which might go astray. As it happens we were not able to get all beds burned, but figured that with the severe winter we had maybe we would not see any borers in the non-burned beds. Ha! They can and do withstand severe winter and the few borer affected plants we found were, you guessed it, in those beds we were not able to get burned. We have pledged to get *all* beds done next spring (be the good Lord willing and the creek don't rise too much).

By the way for those smaller gardens one of the small hand-held weed burners would work just fine, *however it is still a two person job, to be on the safe side.* ❧

[This article originally appeared in *Tall Talk* of March, 2002; Volume V – Issue I.]



Rot!

by *M. D. Faith, Arkansas*

“MY FRIEND FREAKS OUT WHEN HE FINDS THE LEAST LITTLE BIT OF ROT on an iris. He digs up the whole plant and throws it away. Is this really necessary?”

Certainly not! Generally, or rather usually, pulling the soil back from the rhizomes, cutting away the rotted portion, drenching with a 10% household bleach solution of one part Clorox to nine parts water, and allowing them to stay exposed to the open air and sun, will stop most outbreaks of rot. If you are daring, and the infestation is not extensive, you might try pouring the household bleach full strength on the affected spot where you have pared away all rotted matter. A friend of mine uses a 50% to 50% solution, one half water to one half household bleach. Be warned though, that too much bleach will drastically change the pH of the soil, and it could, if strong enough and you pour a lot on the clone, kill the whole clone.

In severe instances digging the whole clump, cutting away and disposing of the rotted rhizomes, and then soaking the rhizomes in the above 10% solution of bleach for 30 minutes to an hour, may well save the clump from a total loss. Restart in containers to be sure all rot is gone, or choose another location to set the iris in the garden. I prefer the temporary pot method to relocating to a new place, since the latter might contaminate an area not previously prone to having soft rot problems.

Soft rot in bearded irises in particular is a perennial problem. Iris people must deal with it on a continuous basis. Soft rot is caused by bacteria which are probably present in most garden soils. During the growing season most plants will not be prone to getting soft rot, although some are genetically inclined to be more susceptible. The first indication of soft rot that a gardener may notice is a strong foul odor coming from the plant, or he or she will notice a perfectly good iris fan fall over flat upon the ground. Then is the time to act, because further delay will only allow the clone to become more widely affected. Just follow the procedure outlined above.

There are probably as many procedures and recipes for curing this

problem as there are iris growers. Here are a few others from iris folklore: Clorox 1:4 with water; Comet works too; scrape the rot and dust with sulfur. Hooker Nichols tells me that he uses Dial antibacterial liquid soap full strength on the affected portion after cutting away the bad part. He said it would foam up after a rain, but that it does the job. I personally have used a mixture of three to four tablespoons of Dial to one gallon of water, with which I thoroughly soaked the soil and rhizomes. It certainly seemed to control the problem. It was effective enough for me to continue to follow the procedure in the future, coupled with some of the other methods.

The truth is, the fear of soft rot has probably caused more damage in most gardens than the rot itself. I first became acquainted with the pesky stuff when I decided that I wanted to grow some bearded iris where I had grown tomatoes and peppers for several years. In the spring after they were planted, the iris took off growing rapidly with beautiful green lush foliage, and the bloom was fantastic. I thought not only that the bloom was wonderful, but also that the beauty of the foliage would enhance any garden. Beautiful lush dark green foliage, what a sight to behold! As the summer began to warm up, fan after fan began to fold over, and you could smell the garden before you were near it. Of course, we all know that the color of the foliage was due to its nitrogen content. If you have ever tried to compost vegetative growth, you quickly learned to add nitrogen to the heap to promote rapid breakdown of the organic matter. So I come to recognize the fact that there was too much nitrogen in the soil, built up in growing the vegetables in preceding years. The answer is, most people would say, to not use nitrogen-based fertilizers; this is only partially true, as I hope you will see as we go along.

The only way that nitrogen is going to rot a fan is for it to first receive a wound or damage from some source that allows the bacterium to enter the plant. Insect damage or accidental damage through cultivation is generally the cause, although I suspect that plants under strong attack from leaf spot are more prone to soft rot, also. It should go without being said, that a plant with high nitrogen content will rot faster than those struggling to get enough nitrogen to barely grow.

Well, the upshot of all this led to a period where I tried to grow iris without supplying any nitrogen at all. I joined the super phosphate and bone meal group of iris growers. Things were fine until the nitrogen was depleted from the soil, and the bloom and foliage were not nearly as good as they had been in the past. This is the reason that I say the fear of soft rot has probably caused more damage, overall, than the rot itself. When disappointment led me to resume using a full well-balanced plant food, the joy of growing iris returned, and now I get to enjoy both

bloom and foliage. You learn to judge the color of the foliage and feed the plants accordingly, and what a blessing modern liquid plant food is to the iris grower.

So soft rot is a thing we learn to live with, being always with us. It is better, in my estimation, to enjoy a good bloom season and beautiful foliage, while breaking out the Dial soap and bleach when called for, or any other remedy that is to your liking. ❧

[This article originally appeared in the *AIS Region 22 Newsletter*, October, 2002.]



Lorena Reid Sino-Siberian seedling

Effects of Mulches on Bearded Irises

E. Sinert¹ and C. O. Box

*B. Y. Morrison Iris Research Project ; Horticulture Department;
Mississippi Agricultural Experiment Station ; State College, Mississippi*

[Editor's Note: This article appeared in AIS Bulletin #192, January, 1969.]

BEARDED IRISES ARE POPULAR PERENNIALS IN MOST HOME GARDENS. They produce graceful spring flowers in a wide range of color with few basic cultural requirements. Most recommendations for iris culture in the home garden are the result of observation by hobbyists without benefit of data from controlled experiments. Recognizing this situation, members of Region 24 (Mississippi-Alabama) of the American Iris Society established the B. Y. Morrison Iris Research Fund in 1965 to support cultural studies of irises at the Mississippi Agricultural Experiment Station. Matching contributions were made by the national society. Contributions of rhizomes largely by Schreiner's Gardens, Salem, Oregon, were also made toward the research program. Experiments under the Morrison project were established to investigate areas of culture as requested by iris growers in this area. An effort was made to obtain specific recommendations for the mid-South. Studies initiated were mulching, time of planting and rhizome handling, fertility tests, herbicide and fungicide trials. This report covers the mulching study which has been underway for two years. Continuous tests in 1967 and 1968 were used to evaluate mulches on newly planted and established iris beds.

Materials and Methods

Rhizomes of the variety PINNACLE were planted in November 1966. Prior to planting they were sorted according to size to assure uniformity of planting material. Sound, healthy rhizomes were set with the top surface exposed in newly prepared and fumigated beds. Methyl

bromide (Dow- fume MC-2) was used as the fumigant at the rate of 2 pounds per 100 square feet.

The following mulching treatments were initiated immediately after planting: perlite, gin trash² (sterilized), fresh pine sawdust, black plastic (4 mil. polyethylene), ground corncobs (deleted second year), leaves, peat moss, black plastic covered with 2 inches of washed gravel, pine straw and a 1 unmulched control. All mulches except plastic were approximately 2 inches deep and were maintained on a year-round basis.

After growth began each spring, all plants were sprayed weekly with a fungicide (Manzate) and an insecticide (DDT) at the rate of 1 tablespoon each per gallon of water. In September of both years, the foliage was cut back to 8 inches from the top of the rhizomes. The cut leaves and dead flower stalks were removed and burned.

Data were recorded on several factors of growth and flowering. Degree of weed control was judged by observation throughout the year. All other data were collected during the flowering season.

Results

The effects of mulching and of various mulching materials are shown for first-year iris plantings in Table 1 and second-year plantings in Table 2.

Bloom Date—The first year, all mulches, except corncobs, hastened the date of the first bloom over the unmulched control. Several materials accelerated blooming by as much as 9-11 days. The degree of bloom date acceleration by mulching was reduced the second year, yet all mulches, with the exception of plastic, tended to cause earlier flowering.

Flower Stalks per Plant—After the first season mulches had no effect on flower stalk number.

Flowers per Stalk — During the second year, bloom number was increased by from 1 to 1.5 flowers per stalk by mulches of perlite and plastic with gravel as compared to unmulched plots. With the exception of gin trash, all mulches tended to increase flower number.

Plant Height—Mulching, with any of the materials tested, increased plant height over unmulched plants the first year. In the second year however, there were no height differences caused by mulches.

Weed Control—The best continuous weed control was by plastic with gravel and plastic mulches. Growth into the plots by creeping grasses was not inhibited by the organic mulches.

Survival—Plant survival was greatest under the pine straw mulch and the greatest losses occurred under a sawdust mulch and in the unmulched plots.

Table 1. The effects of several mulching materials on bearded irises (PINNACLE variety) growth and flowering the first year after planting.

Mulching Material	Ave. Ht. (in.) flowering stem	Flower stalks per plant	Ave. flowers per stem	Ave. # plants w/ no bloom	Ave. date First bloom (04/1967)
Pine Straw	26.00 a *	2.00 a	5.22 a	1.8 ab	19 a
Leaves	25.00 ab	1.90 ab	4.67 a	1.0 a	16 b
Peat Moss	24.38 bc	1.88 ab	4.80 a	2.5 bcd	20 a
Perlite	23.56 cd	1.83 ab	4.61 a	3.0 bcd	16 b
Gin Trash	24.13 bc	1.82 ab	4.62 a	4.0 d	21 a
Plastic and gravel	24.63 bc	1.81 ab	4.61 a	3.0 bcd	14 b
Sawdust	22.88 d	1.63 bc	4.81 a	3.5 cd	21 a
Ground corncobs	20.38 e	1.62 bc	4.64 a	7.5 f	24 c
Plastic	22.75 d	1.30 d	4.76 a	5.3 e	21 a
No Mulch	18.88 f	1.49 cd	4.64 a	7.3 f	25 c

* The means in any one column with the same letter are not significantly different. Different letters in any one column designates a significant difference at the 5% level of probability by Duncan's multiple range test.

Table 2. Effects of several mulching materials on several factors of growth and flowering of bearded iris (PINNACLE variety) the second year after planting.

Mulching Treatment	Ave. date First bloom (04/1968)	Flower stalks per plant	Ave. flowers per stalk	Ave. plants w/ no bloom	Ave. number dead plants
Pine Straw	24 ab *	6.5 a	5.25 ab	0	0
Leaves	24 abc	6.4 a	5.63 abc	0	2
Peat Moss	25 ab	6.0 a	5.38 ab	0	3
Perlite	25 ab	6.1 a	5.98 bc	2	3
Gin Trash	22 c	6.8 a	4.95 a	0	2
Plastic & gravel	25 ab	7.2 a	6.50 c	1	3
Sawdust	23 bc	5.2 a	5.60 abc	4	7
Plastic	26 a	6.6 a	5.55 abc	1	2
No Mulch	26 a	5.8 a	4.88 a	3	4

* The means in any one column with the same letter are not significantly different. Different letters in any one column designates a significant difference at the 5% level of probability by Duncan's multiple range test.


Summary

Mulching of new iris plantings proved beneficial to subsequent growth and flowering. During the first year, mulches induced earlier flowering, more flower stalks per plant and taller flower stalks as compared to no mulch. They also increased plant survival.

The beneficial effects of mulching were less pronounced the second year planting. The bloom date was only slightly accelerated and the number of flowers per stalk only slightly increased by mulches, depending upon the material. Mulches the second year had no effect on plant height or the number of flower stalks per plant.

Light mulches such as perlite and leaves were easily removed by wind and washed by heavy rains. These materials had to be replaced each year. Sawdust, peat moss and gin trash retained excessive moisture. This excessive moisture was apparently responsible for the increased weeds and incidence of soft rot and leaf spot observed in these plots.

For continuous mulching, pine straw and black plastic covered with gravel appeared to be the best materials. In addition to promoting good growth and flowering, they possessed good weatherability, were inexpensive and readily available. Survival was best in pine straw for the continuous 2-year period. Weed control was not as good though as with plastic with gravel. (considering all factors, the black plastic with gravel is probably the best mulch.)

It appears that with any mulch, a regular fungicidal spray program to control leaf spot is beneficial. 

¹ Graduate Assistant, Department of Horticulture

² Debris from cotton gins containing leaves, burr particles, line and other trash.

In Memoriam: Claire Barr

by Rosalie Figge and Clarence Mahan

*Her memory makes our common landscape seem
Fairer than any of which painters dream,
Lights the brown hills and sings in every steam...*
John Greenleaf Whittier

Claire Bryant Barr was born November 18, 1923, in Glasgow, Kentucky. She died on January 16, 2003, at Scripps Green Hospital in San Diego, California. Her friends and admirers were legion.

Claire Barr will forever be known as the first woman president of the American Iris Society (AIS). She performed the duties of that office with distinction from 1993 to the end of 1995. The AIS Board of Directors designated Claire an Emeritus Judge in 1996. In that same year, the society awarded her its Distinguished Service Medal. The greatest honors that she won, however, were those that no organization can bestow—she was beloved.

Claire grew up in Bowling Green, Kentucky. Her college education was interrupted by WW II when she married Lieutenant William Edward Barr and moved with him to California. When Bill was sent overseas, Claire returned to Kentucky and completed her A.B. degree in history at Western Kentucky University. After WW II, the Barrs lived in Kentucky and New York before settling in the Baltimore suburbs in 1954. Claire and Bill were a devoted couple who supported each other in all of life's activities. Bill always referred to Claire as "my bride."

Claire and Bill suffered a terrible loss when their first children, twin boys, died at birth. They later had three more children, Allen Barr, Bill Barr, Jr., and Berenice Phillips, all of whom now live in California. At the time of Claire's death, she had five grandchildren: William Edward Barr, Mathew Scott Barr, Noah Tipton Cody, Nora Claire Barr, and Sarah Lockwood Barr.

Claire was a member of the Colonial Dames and the Magna Charta Dames. She was an active volunteer in many activities of the Episcopal Church. Horticulture was her great avocation, and her first love was daffodils. She was for many years an active member of the

American Daffodil Society and the Maryland Daffodil Society as well as several garden clubs.


Claire always liked irises, and in 1967 her husband persuaded her to join the American Iris Society and its newly formed chapter in the Baltimore area, the Francis Scott Key Iris Society. Soon the Barr garden was an iris showplace in Region 4. Claire served as president of the Francis Scott Key Iris Society, 1975-1978. She was elected Region 4's Regional Vice President (RVP) in 1981 and served in that position for three years.

As RVP, Claire proposed that Region 4 conduct iris shows at its fall meetings. The first regional fall show was held in Harrisonburg, Virginia, in 1983. Regional fall iris shows have now become a time-honored tradition in Region 4, a wonderful legacy from Claire Barr to the world of reblooming irises. Claire also promoted beardless, species, dwarf and median irises in Region 4, which is all the richer today for the variety and beauty these irises give us.

Claire was elected a director of AIS in 1983. She was the society's recording secretary for ten years starting in 1983, and including the years when she also served as 2nd vice-president and 1st vice-president. Claire was an ardent supporter of the AIS library and the AIS Youth Program.

Claire and Bill Barr moved to San Diego, California, in 1985, to be nearer to their children and grandchildren. They became active in Region 15 activities, making hundreds of new friends. In 1988, Claire and Bill were judges at the International Iris Competition in Florence, Italy. Bill Barr died in 1994. Claire moved into a retirement home in San Diego in 1996.

Charming, genteel, compassionate, warm, caring, elegant, gracious, competent, talented, wise, consensus building, considerate—these are adjectives one can use to describe Claire Barr. But they somehow fail to capture her unique personality, her smile, her heart.

She was a deeply religious woman who was tolerant of others' beliefs and non-belief. She was a kind woman, generous to a fault and generous in her charity. Perhaps the serene essence that was Claire could best be described by observing that she tried her best to practice what her faith taught. And she did it well. 

In Memoriam: Marion R. Walker (1915-2002)

by Dave Niswonger (assisted by Jim Morris)

THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY LOST ONE OF ITS GREATEST and longest supporters upon the death of Marion Russell Walker on July 28, 2002. Marion was born Jan. 7, 1915, on his grandfather's 800-acre homestead in Ventura, CA, and 87 years later he was buried about one mile away in the Ivy Lawn Memorial Park of which he was a Board member for over fifty years.

Marion was the eighth and youngest President of AIS, 1956 -1959, and the first from the western U.S. He became a member of AIS, along with his wife Dorothy in 1938, making them the oldest members with continuous membership, along with Minnie Colquitt, for a period of 64 years. To list his many contributions to the society over his lifetime would take a book. Briefly, you could say he was an Irisarian, a Plantsman, an Orchardist, a Politician, a Conservationist, an Environmentalist, a Rancher, a Public Servant, a Hybridizer, a Church Layman and a Musician.

Marion first joined the Iris World when he ordered some irises from Cooley's Gardens in 1937. Then in the spring of 1938 he visited Milliken Gardens in Altadena, where he joined the American Iris Society at the age of 23. On April 22, 1939, the AIS held their first Convention in Southern California and it was a great thrill for Marion to meet all of the leaders of the iris world.

A Stanford University graduate in 1936 with a B.A. in Biological Science & Medical Science, he married Dorothy Burke on Nov. 27, 1937. They had met at the Wesley Foundation at Stanford where Marion also played oboe in the University Band which performed at the 1936 Olympics in Los Angeles. The Walkers built their home on the Ventura Ranch where Marion was born. The ranch had been homesteaded in 1874 by grandfather Marion Cannon. Walker operated 130 acres as an avocado and lemon orchard until it was sold in 1974 because of urbanization. Several hundred acres were also owned in

Patterson, CA, where almonds and walnuts were grown.

Upon the urging of his good friend Eric Nies, Walker became an AIS Director in 1950. And following the untimely death of Nies in 1952, he took over the Nies Spuria seedlings. Marion introduced eleven Nies hybrids with the most notable being DRIFTWOOD ('57), a chocolate brown with a gold flush. Marion then introduced twenty-five cultivars of his own, and Tom Abrego of Chelalem Gardens introduced three more. MORNINGTIDE ('56) is probably Marion's best-known spuria cultivar, winning the Nies Award in 1965. Other well-known cultivars were ANACAPA ('64), CHUMASCH CHIEF ('64), LYDIA JANE ('65), OROVILLE ('71) and SIERRA NEVADA ('74). His spuria registrations ranged from 1949 through 1973.

Marion also took over the Nies Pacific Coast Hybrid seedlings. Eric had introduced ORCHID SPRITE ('43), BLUE SAGE ('47) and AMIGUITA ('47) from *I. douglasiana* breeding. Following the discovery of *I. munzii* with its fantastic colors of teal and turquoise, Marion spent hours collecting material for his PCN breeding program and stimulated a great interest in their hybrid development. He won the Mitchell Award for his introduction of OJAI in 1959. This was a great breakthrough because of its fertility, vigor, size and improved form. Other PCN hybrids included FAIRY LANTERN ('45) and VIOLET ELF ('59) but most of his advanced hybrids were never marketed.

In 1956 he registered a tall bearded iris in honor of his parents' 50th Wedding Anniversary. It was introduced in 1958 as GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY. It was a deep canary yellow with a white blaze in the falls.

Marion and Dorothy Walker were among the first fifty people who organized the Southern California Iris Society in 1940. He was elected as the first Honorary Life Member of SPCNI for his contributions to promotion of PCNs and the support given the Society.


His progressive leadership as President of AIS was marked by an increase to over 6,000 members, an improved classification of irises, the designation of AIS as the International Registry for irises except bulbous irises, the establishment of a central office in St. Louis at the Missouri Botanical Garden with a full time executive secretary, and an increase in the services of AIS. He was awarded the AIS Distinguished Service Medal in 1959. He served as an AIS Director from 1950 until 1961. He was instrumental in organization of the Spuria Iris Society in 1952 and for naming the top award for Eric Nies.

Following in his grandfather's steps (U.S. Congressman 1892 -94), Marion was an active politician in California. He ran unsuccessfully for the same seat in 1950. Later he was appointed by Governor Edmund

G. Brown to the California Water Commission, serving from 1959 to 1970. He was one of the architects of the State Water Plan which made it possible for the San Joaquin Valley and Southern California to have an adequate water supply. He also served locally as president of the Ventura Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Lions Club. He was a member of the Ventura County Juvenile Justice Commission and the School Board.

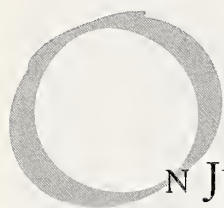
Marion and Dorothy were the parents of four sons: Russell (wife Carolyn) who worked with him as a partner of Walker Ranch, Dr. Donald B. (wife Ellen) University of California - Berkley, Phillip (wife Katia), University of Hawaii, and Steven (wife Joan), a graduate of Stanford. There are seven grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Marion was very active in the Methodist Church serving as: Lay Leader of the First United Church of Ventura for over fifty years; a member of the choir for over fifty years; and a Sunday School teacher. He was Chairman of the Conference Commission which handled multimillion dollar fiscal programs for more than 500 churches in Southern California, Arizona, Southern Nevada and Hawaii. He was twice a delegate to the World Methodist Conferences. The Conference honored him in 1971 as Layman of the Year (it was this award, purportedly, of which he was the most proud). Beginning in 1978, Marion had three coronary bypass surgeries which curtailed some of his various activities. However, he became a volunteer for Mended Hearts, Inc., and talked to Heart patients undergoing bypass surgery and put them at ease, giving them hope.

This amazing man was able to compartmentalize his many diverse interests and accomplished much. The Iris World could use a lot more like Marion Walker. He will be greatly missed. Our condolences to Dorothy and her family. 

In Memoriam: Joe Hoage

by Catherine Long Gates, Colorado




ON JULY 17, 2002, REGION 20 LOST A STALWART MEMBER, Joseph H. Hoage. Some of you may not have had the pleasure of knowing Joe. In recent years diabetes took its toll and limited Joe's participation in iris activities. You probably do know Joe through his many fine tall bearded iris introductions, including REFRESHING, MORE REFRESHING, CORAL PEAKS, ORANGE QUEST, ORANGE PARFAIT, PEAK EXPERIENCE, PINK BOA, RUTH ELAINE, VERY TRULY YOURS, and SUMMER OF FORTY-TWO. Three of his introductions that have received Honorable Mention Awards are LACY PRIMROSE, SPLASH OF RASPBERRY, and HI CALYPSO. TOASTED WATERMELON, an unusual rosy brown blend, won an Award of Merit in 1999.

Joe was generous about naming his iris after people he admired. KATHARINE ANNE honored a drama teacher at Denver's North High, while JOHN HOEHNER was named for a popular high school teacher (and a fellow iris enthusiast) from Joe's hometown of Topeka Kansas. OPAL'S LEGACY and BIG BUCK paid tribute to his dear friends and fellow hybridizers Tom & Opal Brown. THERESA LYNN is a lovely lasting memorial to a granddaughter who died at birth.

Joe moved to Denver from Topeka in 1938 and graduated from North High. He went on to obtain degrees in metallurgy from the Colorado School of Mines and the University of Idaho. His career took him to Washington, California, and back to Colorado. During his time in Washington State he became an American Iris Society judge and served as the Region 13 RVP. In the October 1956 *Bulletin of the American Iris Society* Joe wrote, "My first serious iris seedlings will bloom next year, so I am an amateur hybridizer in that field. I believe that I like growing iris better than hybridizing, but time may change that. I am vitally interested in the organization and operation of the regional and national affairs of the AIS, and for the present am devoting my energies in that line. If I can create or help to create a better

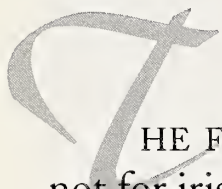
organization of my own region, and thus help the entire group, I feel that my efforts will have been well spent.”

The list of Joe’s iris creations attests to his enjoyment of hybridizing, but he never lost his love of just growing iris and many other plants, particularly peonies, poppies, and amaryllis. He also maintained his interest in the AIS (even faithfully reading the minutes of the meetings of the board of directors) and in regional activities. Every time you enjoy a Region 20 iris show, thank Joe. He was the person who pushed to hold a flower show and served as its chairman the first three years. He also gave many judges’ training sessions and was always generous with his time in helping other hybridizers to evaluate their seedlings.

Joe nurtured children as well as flowers. He and his wife Margaret demonstrated that love in the ultimate fashion by adopting four children. Many other kids benefited from Joe’s interest and support through his involvement in numerous activities including Boy Scouts, drama club, and the Iris Society. Take it from one “kid,” Joe was a wonderful friend and mentor. 

Symptoms of Micronutrient Shortages in Plants

by Cleo Dalmer



THE FOLLOWING SYMPTOMS ARE FOR PLANTS IN GENERAL AND not for irises specifically. It is likely, however, that they would be similar in irises in most cases.

Many of the micronutrients are carried over in the organic matter in the soil, and many soils are becoming deficient in organic matter, resulting in micronutrient deficiencies. Minor plant growth element shortages are the greatest in sand and sandy-loam soils, but outright deficiencies are showing up in some clay soils as well.

Nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium are the recognized primary plant growth nutrients. Calcium, magnesium and sulphur are the identified secondary nutrients. This does not mean that they play a secondary role in growth. They are as important to plant nutrition as are the recognized primary nutrients.

Many plants contain as much sulphur as phosphorous and sometimes more. Secondary nutrient deficiencies can depress plant growth as much as the major nutrient deficiencies.

Calcium in plants stimulates root and leaf development. It forms compounds which are part of cell walls. Poor root growth is one common symptom of calcium deficiency.

Magnesium is a mineral constituent of plant chlorophyll. It is actively involved in photosynthesis. An atom of magnesium, as one example, is at the heart of every chlorophyll molecule. Magnesium also aids in phosphate metabolism, plant respiration and the activation of several enzyme systems within the plant. Magnesium deficiency symptoms usually appear on lower older leaves. It shows as a yellowish-reddish color, while the leaf veins remain green.

Sulphur is essential in forming plant proteins because it is a part of certain amino acids, the building blocks of protein. Sulphur is fairly well distributed throughout the tissues of the plant. Sulphur deficiency shows up as a pale green color in plants, generally appearing first on younger leaves. Leaves tend to shrivel as the deficiency progresses.

Leaves die only in extreme cases, although plants can die in the seedling stage. Sulphur deficiency shows up most often in sandy soils low in organic matter in areas of moderate to heavy rainfall.

Organic matter decomposing in the soil influences how much sulphur is available to the living plant. The reduction of some pollutants in the atmosphere has reduced the amount of sulphur once available to plant growth.

Aside from the three secondary plant growth elements (calcium, magnesium, and sulphur) there are seven recognized micronutrients needed for plant growth. These are boron, copper, chlorine, iron, magnesium, zinc, and molybdenum. It is widely held that acid soil conditions will reduce the availability of iron, magnesium, boron, copper and zinc.

A key to plant deficiency is the color change in the lower leaves as follows:

Nitrogen: Plants light green - lower leaves yellow.

Phosphate: Plants dark green - leaves and plants small.

Potassium: Brown discoloration and scorching along outer margin of lower leaves.

Manganese: Lower leaves have a yellow discoloration between veins; finally, reddish-purple from edge inward.

Zinc: Pronounced interveinal chlorosis and bronzing of leaves.

Calcium: Emergence of primary leaves delayed. Terminal buds deteriorate. Color change in upper leaves. Terminal bud dies.

Boron: Leaves near growing point yellowed. Growth bud appears as white or light brown dead tissue. Terminal bud remains alive.


Sulphur: Leaves, including veins, turn pale green to yellow - young leaves first.

Iron: Leaves yellow to almost white; interveinal chlorosis to leaf tip.

Magnesium: Leaves yellowish-gray or reddish-gray with green veins.

Copper: Young leaves uniformly pale yellow-may wilt and wither without chlorosis.

Chlorine: Wilting of upper leaves - then chlorosis.

Molybdenum: Young leaves wilt and die along margins. 

[Reprinted from *AIS Region 22 News*, 1985.]

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by Jeanne Plank, California

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(1) Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, and Counter Sales (Not mailed)	-	0-
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Jillaine P. Bonino, Secretary Date 11-24-02

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including multiple damages and civil penalties).

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The American Iris Society Slide Set Menu

They say that a picture is worth a thousand words. If you want to create an interesting and educational meeting, an AIS slide set may provide the atmosphere you desire, and stimulate your chapter's interest. There are many different slide sets on the AIS Slide Men; sets that will fit almost any theme that you may wish to present for your program. They are constantly being upgraded, and new subjects added to the list. If you want a current list or need suggestions for your program please e-mail me. Remember, garden clubs are a great source for membership.

To Order: Requests for specific slide sets should be made well in advance, preferably four to six weeks. Please request alternate choices. Clearly print your name, address, phone number, and date of meeting if you mail your request by regular mail.

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Louisiana Iris

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Arils

Spuria Iris

Subgenus scorpiris – (juno)

Iris Trivia: This is a small set with questions that can be used for fun and informative meetings. It takes about an hour (per set average), using the slides, asking the questions and getting audience response. E-mail for further details.

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Hunt Valley, MD, Convention - 2001

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1998 - 1999 - 2000 - 2001

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AIS Storefront

Sale Items & Publications

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Single copy: \$17.00 domestic/\$25.00 overseas, postpaid

Affiliates & Sections, 10 or more copies: \$14.00 domestic/\$20.00 overseas each, postpaid.

SECTION SLIDES AVAILABLE:

The various Sections of AIS also have slide sets available for rent. These feature irises of each respective group. Rental fee is \$5.00 per set, unless noted otherwise. Requests for these slide sets should be submitted as follows:

Arils and Arilbreds: Order from Scott Jordan, 3500 Avenida Charada NW, Albuquerque, NM 87107. Rental fee \$7.50. Check to Aril Society International.

Dwarf: Dorothy Willott, 26231 Shaker Blvd., Beachwood, OH 44122-7111. Check to Dwarf Iris Society. Rental fee \$7.50.

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Japanese: Order from John Coble, 9823 E. Michigan Ave., Galesburg, MI 49053. Check to Japanese Iris Society.

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"Without advertising, a terrible thing happens... nothing!"

Ad Submission Requirements

To place an ad, please contact the advertising editor. All ads must have a hard copy submitted to the advertising editor. List of specifications regarding digital submissions is available. Payment is due with ad copy. The deadlines for ad submissions are as follows: September 1 (October issue); December 1 (January issue), March 1 (April issue), June 1 (July issue). Send ad and payment (payable to AIS) to: George Sutton.

Shopping Section

Found in the back of each Bulletin. Placement is roughly alphabetical. Rate is for 4 issues. All ads are 2½ inch wide.

\$42.00	1 15/16 inch
\$58.00	1 1 15/16 inch
\$73.00	2 15/16 inch

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\$81.00	½ page	3 3/4 x 4 3/8 (wide), or 7 1/2 x 2 1/8 (tall)
\$104.00	2/3 page	5 x 4 3/8
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Color:

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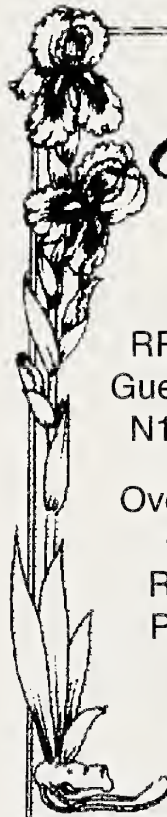
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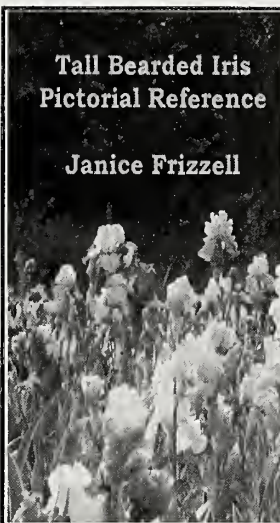
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Tall Bearded Iris Pictorial Reference

Janice Frizzell



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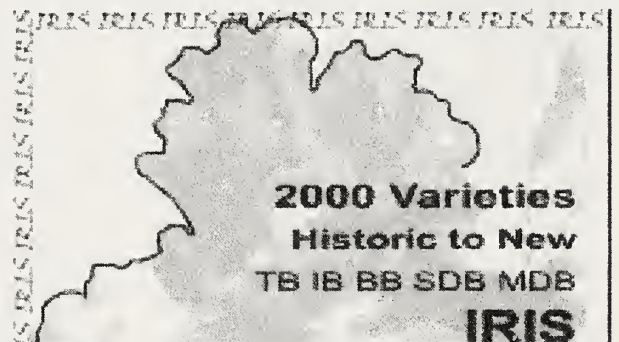
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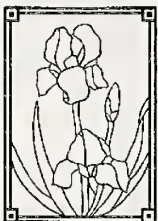
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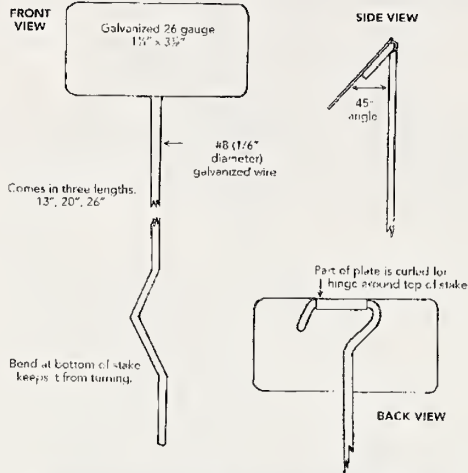
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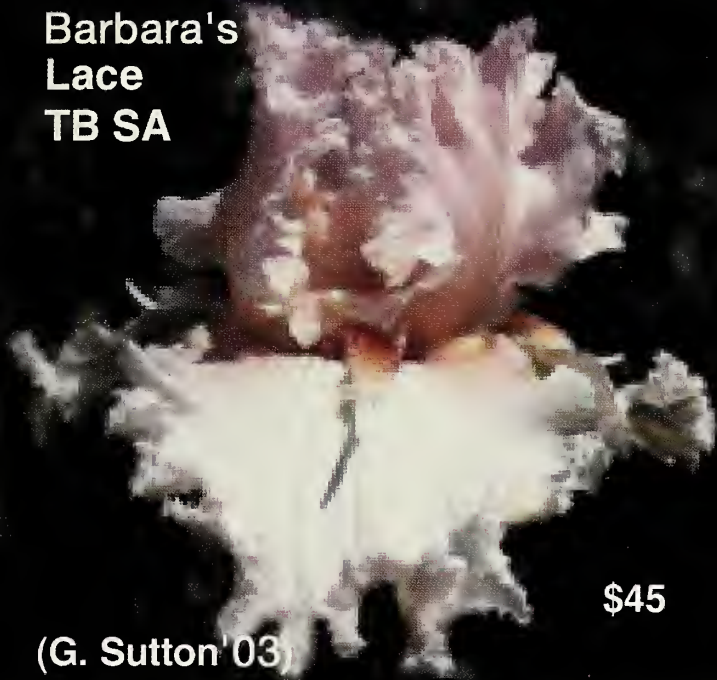
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Society for Siberian Iris	5.00	13.00	6.00	15.00
Spuria Iris Society	9.00	20.00	12.00	24.00
Society for Japanese Iris	5.00	12.50	6.00	15.00
Reblooming Iris Society	7.00	18.00	8.00	21.00
Society for PCNs	6.00	15.00	8.00	18.00
Species Iris Group	9.00	24.00	10.00	25.00
Dwarf Iris Society	6.00	15.00	8.00	18.00
Historic Iris Preservation Society	5.00	12.00	6.00	15.00
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President's Message

by Terry Aitken, Washington State

I HAD BEEN OUT IN MY JAPANESE IRIS FIELD trying to make crosses on Currier McEwen's tetraploid Japanese irises on the day that word arrived that Currier had passed away, at the age of 101. The iris world has lost another giant. Dr. McEwen had a keen mind and an adventuresome pioneering spirit in hybridizing. He was a promoter and author of several iris books, and a friend to all who shared his passion for plants. Of the many arriving messages, I think this one said it best: "Currier McEwen was a shining example of what a difference one person can have in our world today. I've often thought what a different world this would be if everyone dedicated their lives, as Currier did, for the betterment of all." - Ted White (Maine).




Terry Aitken, AIS President

Weather this spring was anything but normal across the northern tier of states and around the globe. Reports of a bitter cold winter from Russia through Europe to eastern North America set the tone. Suspiciously opposite was the dry non-winter on the Pacific coast. We look to warm ocean currents in the Pacific Ocean as the probable culprit of these great upheavals in our iris world bloom season. The folks at our National Convention in Falls Church, Virginia, weathered the storms and still put on a great show. Our thanks to Clarence Mahan and his very able convention committee for excellent strategic planning. Diverse garden microclimates and a smoothly run convention provided us with excellent tall bearded bloom in some gardens and excellent Medians in others. The convention weather was just as diverse, with wet and dry days. Our conventioners adapted readily to these circumstances! When the dust and/or rain settled, the big winners were MY GINNY (Spoon '00), best in-region iris, and SPLASHACATA (Tasco '98), best out-of-region iris. The various fund-raising activities -

the silent auction, the raffle, and the 'Geek dinner' (for computer nerds?) all set record numbers. Our thanks to all of the hard-working souls who made it happen, and to the participants for their generous contributions. Our other meetings, put on by the Sections and Cooperating Societies, contributed strongly to the "convention experience" and I congratulate the planners for presenting a broad range of topics for the education of our members. Good job, Falls Church!

And now, we turn our attention to the annual awards and the Symposium. Remember: "Vigor", "Durability", "Floriferousness", "Proportion, proportion, proportion!"

Have a great summer! 

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Annual President's Letter **to the American Iris Society**

May 29, 2003

Each year the terms of office expire for one third of the twelve directors of the American Iris Society, and four are elected to fill those positions. As provided in the AIS Bylaws, a five member Personnel Committee recommends to the AIS Board of Directors a selection of candidates for nomination as Directors. From this list the incumbent Board of Directors chooses by written ballot the slate of four candidates to be presented to the membership.

The Personnel Committee consists of five members selected to serve each year from their parent body: two directors selected by the Board of Directors, two RVPs selected by the Board of Counselors, and one section representative by the Section Advisory Board.

Approved during the 2003 spring meeting held in Falls Church, VA, in accordance with the AIS Bylaws, the following four individuals are the 2003 nominees for regular three year terms expiring in the fall of the year 2006:

- Candidate #1 Judy Keisling
- Candidate #2 Jason Leader
- Candidate #3 Joyce Poling
- Candidate #4 Betty Roberts

The Bylaws provide that additional nominations may be made by any forty members, of whom not more than fifteen may be located in any one region. Such additional nominations must be received by the AIS Secretary on or before September 3, 2003. Should additional nominations be made, a ballot on which all nominees are listed will be mailed on or before October 1, 2003, to all AIS members and must be received by the AIS Secretary or Election Committee (if one is appointed) on or before October 29, 2003. If there are no nominations in addition to those listed above, issuance of a ballot shall be omitted and the original nominees considered elected.

Terry Aitken, President

Editor's Message

by Bruce Filardi, Oregon

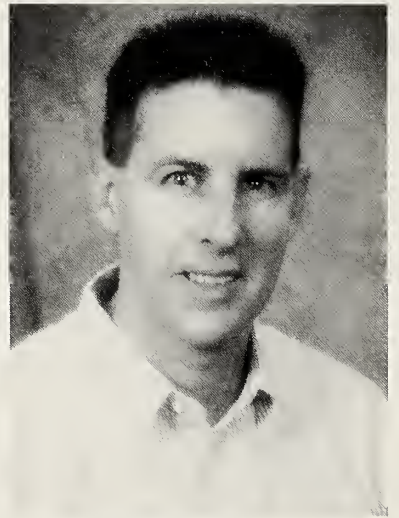
I'LL START MY MESSAGE WITH AN EXPRESSION OF MY SADNESS at the news that the iris world has lost our respected and beloved Dean of beardless hybridizers, Dr. Currier McEwen. We are lucky to have had the pleasure of his company for most of his 101 years. Mr. Edmundas Kondratas of Lithuania summed up the feelings of Dr. McEwen's many admirers throughout the world with the following words:

"It is not very often that a person can build his own living monument, but Currier has built a truly great one with his extraordinary work and creation. The unbelievable results of his work would be sufficient on their own to earn him fame and recognition. As I wrote to him in my greeting card on his 100-year celebration, he has realized two lives: one in his medical career before retirement, and the next in his iris work which placed him in the top rank of hybridizers. Many generations of irisarians will remember him with respect, wonder, gratitude and love. It is difficult for me to reconcile his death; he was so cordial in our personal relations, and he seemed immortal to me, as he will remain in my heart."

I have asked Dr. Chandler Fulton to prepare an obituary, which will appear in the next issue of the *Bulletin*.


* * * * *

This year's National Convention was a great pleasure. Granted, the weather could have been better, but a good time was had by all. This issue of the *Bulletin* contains two "overview" articles about the Convention, as well as results of the voting for favorite irises. Detailed garden write-ups will appear in the October issue. My sincere thanks for a job well done to all the host gardens, to Convention Chair Clarence Mahan, and to Don, Ginny (Guest Plant Chair), and Bryan Spoon, who seemed to be involved in almost every aspect of the Convention.



Bruce Filardi, Editor

* * * * *

Along with this issue of the *Bulletin*, you should receive your copy of the Symposium ballot. Please vote for your favorite irises and return the ballot to your RVP, whose address appears on page 6. Every member's vote is important; the more votes, the more representative the results. 

Late-Breaking News

Information on the AIS Award Winners for 2003 has just come in as this issue goes to press. Full details will appear in the October issue of the *Bulletin*, but the major winners are:

Dykes Medal: CELEBRATION SONG (Schreiner)

Wister Medal (TB): CROWNED HEADS (Keppel),
DIABOLIQUE (Schreiner), TOM JOHNSON (P. Black)

Knowlton Medal (BB): LEMON UP (Magee)

Sass Medal (IB): BOTTLED SUNSHINE (H. Nichols)

Williamson-White Medal (MTB): APRICOT DROPS (Aitken)

Cook-Douglas Medal (SDB): DOT COM (B. Jones)

Caparne-Welch Medal (MDB): SQUIGGLES (L. Miller)

White Medal (AR/AB): ENERGIZER (Shockey)

Mohr Medal (AB): SHE DEVIL (P. Black)

Founders of SIGNA Medal (SPEC): MARVELL GOLD (Waddick)

Randolph-Perry Medal (SPEC-X): CASCADE VELVET (Halinar)

Mitchell Medal (CA): SEA ADMIRAL (V. Wood)

DeBaillon Medal (LA): CAJUN SUNSET (Granger)

Morgan-Wood Medal (SIB): CARELESS SALLY (Schafer/Sacks)

Nies Medal (SPU): MISSOURI SUNSET (Niswonger)

Walther Cup (most HM votes in any category): DELIRIUM
(IB – M. Smith)

We have also received news of the results of the International Iris Competition in Florence, Italy. First place was awarded to PAY THE PRICE (Grosvenor – Australia), with SLOVAK SAPPHIRE (Mego – Slovakia) in second, and GHOST TRAIN (Schreiner – USA) in third. The award for best BB went to BERMUDA TRIANGLE (Anna & David Cadd – USA).

Top three in the Moscow International Competition were ELEGABALL (Muska – Slovakia), GRAPE JELLY (P. Black – USA), and BEAKY WIT (Muska – Slovakia).

Congratulations to the hybridizers of all these fine irises.

Youth Views

by Jean E. Morris, Missouri

Clarke Cosgrove Award Winners Announced

Congratulations to Stephanie Strauss of Midland, Texas, Region 17, winner of the 2003 Clarke Cosgrove Memorial Award for Youth Achievement. Congratulations also to First Runner-Up Joe Devous of Cedar Hill, Missouri, Region 18; and to Second Runner-Up Kristen Laing of Midlothian, Virginia, Region 4.

Stephanie Strauss is thirteen years old and has been an AIS youth since 1994. She is an active member of two iris clubs, the West Texas Iris Society and the Permian Basin Iris Society. She recruited six new AIS youth members in her area and serves as their Youth Advisor, holding youth meetings during the adult meeting times. This group is having fun while learning about irises. Stephanie even wrote a skit for the youths to perform at the banquet when her clubs hosted the Region 17 Fall Meeting last year. At this event, Stephanie was awarded the Region 17 Youth Achievement Award.

In last year's Ackerman Essay Contest, Stephanie placed second out of 46 entries. Her essay tells about the special relationship she shares with her Mom through their mutual interest in irises. She remembers sitting in her swing at an early age, singing songs she made up using iris names.

Stephanie grows over 100 iris varieties of several types and has won many design and horticulture ribbons and medals along with Best of Show with TARLETON, in competition with adults. She can also be counted on to help at club sales, clerk and tally at shows, make publicity posters and serve on club committees. She is very knowledgeable about irises and does an outstanding job of helping people select irises at sales. To quote one of her



Stephanie Strauss

nominators, “The customers soon warm up to her contagious enthusiasm and end up with more than they came for along with a confidence about growing them.”

Attending iris tours and updating her iris plantings is one of Stephanie’s favorite activities along with planning crosses and taking Judge’s Training classes. Stephanie is an excellent student, a gifted singer, dual state champion swimmer, an accomplished pianist and violinist, Cadette Girl Scout, state champion storyteller and an avid iris grower. Another nominator says, “She does everything in her life with zest and total dedication. Stephanie is a very valued member of our iris clubs.”

The First Runner-Up winner, Joe Devous, is sixteen years old and has been an AIS youth since 1999. Joe gardens on a steep hillside which he terraced with interlocking stones. This took a great deal of effort. It is a good thing Joe owns his own truck because everything, including the soil, had to be hauled in. Joe also runs a lawn cutting business and uses the profits to bid on irises at the many auctions he attends.

Joe belongs to two iris clubs, the Jeffco Iris Society and the Kirkwood Iris Society. At their shows, he has won many ribbons and medals. He is a willing worker at sales and shows and can be depended on to carry equipment and run errands. He also volunteers at two iris gardens, the Jefferson College public planting and a garden at a special education school.

Photography is one of Joe’s interests and he takes many photos as he attends the local and regional tours. In 2002 he was awarded the Stanley Goodman Youth Achievement Award of Region 18.

Joe is nearly finished with his Judge’s Training hours and shows a keen eye for evaluating irises in the garden. One of his nominators says, “Joe donates irises to all his friends and family and it is difficult to have a conversation of any kind with him in the spring without it involving irises.”

Everyone admires Joe’s enthusiasm and helpfulness to others. He is involved in school and church activities, tutors a third grade class in reading skills, raises funds for the local food pantry and makes frequent trips to his grandfather’s house to mow the lawn and to remove snow there, and for all the elderly neighbors at no charge.

Kristen Laing, our Second Runner-Up winner is ten years old and has been an AIS youth since 2001. She has accomplished a great deal in the iris world and is much admired by the members of her club, the Central Virginia Iris Society.

Krissy grows a large iris garden of many bearded types and also has a water garden featuring water-loving species irises. She is careful to

maintain her plantings and keeps detailed records of their growth. She has been successful at signing up new AIS members and members for her local club. Krissy is a big help at iris sales. Customers find out right away that she can answer their questions and they are inspired by her confidence and enthusiasm.

Krissy visits regional and local gardens, has begun Judge's Training classes, and sells her excess rhizomes to raise funds to attend iris events. She has begun a hybridizing program and loves to enter iris shows. At the Region 4 Fall Meeting, she even won the Bronze Medal in competition with adults. She is a good writer and won the Ackerman Essay Contest in 2002.

Krissy's nominators say, "Her enthusiasm is contagious and her manners expressive. The only thing Krissy enjoys more than growing and showing irises is talking about them. She is an AIS treasure."

Congratulations to all three of these outstanding AIS youth winners, Stephanie, Joe and Krissy. Regions 17, 18 and 4, along with all of the AIS, salute you. 🌸

Photo: Aitken



Smile, you're on candid camera!
Photographers at AIS National Convention

International News

From Australia:

The Australasian Dykes Medal for 2002 has been awarded to Graeme Grosvenor's beautiful white TB HELEN DAWN, with the ISA Medal going to John Taylor's Louisiana REAL TREASURE. (The ISA Medal is awarded to the best beardless iris when a bearded cultivar wins the Dykes, or to the best bearded when a beardless wins the Dykes.) This is the second year in a row that brothers-in-law Grosvenor and Taylor have swept the two main awards, with last year's Dykes going to Taylor's LA GOING SOUTH and the ISA Medal to Grosvenor's EIDOLIA. In addition, late news indicates that PAY THE PRICE, yet another standout cultivar from Graeme Grosvenor, has just won the prestigious International Iris Competition in Italy. (Complete results from Florence will appear in October.)

From Maria Carla Monaco, Florence, Italy:

In 2006, the 50th International Iris Competition will take place in Florence. Half a century has passed since its start, and thousands of irises from all over the world have been cultivated in the Iris Garden at Piazzale Michelangelo, Florence. Judges from many different countries will come to select and award prizes to the best of hybridizers' creations. The Italian Iris Society hopes that many hybridizers from throughout the world will help us celebrate the 50th Anniversary, by submitting rhizomes to the 2006 Competition. Your rhizomes should be sent by September 15th, 2003, and you can find the Rules of the Competition on the web: http://www.irisfirenze.it/Sito_Inglese/index_en.htm

From Sylvain Ruaud, France:

The iris competition baptized "Iriades 2003" took place on May 23–24. Its goal was to select the very best irises hybridized in France during the 1990s. More than fifty varieties were entered, but

unfortunately various circumstances, especially weather problems, did not allow all entries to be judged. The first four places were awarded as follows:

- 1st: MER DU SUD (Cayeux '97)
- 2nd: BELLE DE NUIT (Cayeux '99)
- 3rd: seedling 99-54A (Laporte)
- 4th: "Migneres" (seedling, Bigot)

In addition, awards for the "most artistic" varieties were as follows: 1.) BELLE DE NUIT; 2.) Laporte 99-54A; 3.) MER DU SUD.

It was terrific encouragement for new hybridizer Bernard Laporte to find himself in such distinguished company! His seedling, which he hopes to name "Nathalie Rihouet", is a superb reverse amoena with pale blue standards over milky white falls. Petals are wide and ruffled; the plant is strong and well-branched, and a very vigorous grower.

Bravo to Richard Cayeux and Bernard Laporte on their fine accomplishments!

From Helen Reid, Associate Registrar for Australia:

VALE JOHN BALDWIN

In September of 2002, those who loved him and knew him mourned the passing of John Baldwin, a long time member and Fellow of the Iris Society of Australia, Victorian Region, his membership spanning five decades from 1952; and Associate Registrar for Australia for a term of 28 years. John joined the American Iris Society and gained international accreditation as a judge. He lived to 91 years, many of those living alone, caring for himself up until the last two weeks of his life. He was diagnosed with multiple myeloma about four years before his passing. He is survived by his brother Bob and two nieces and their families.


In a series of feature articles in *The Age* newspaper, John was featured as an Extraordinary Man, being the originator of the display bed at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Melbourne, this after being approached by the curator of the time, Dr. Churchill. Every Wednesday for 20 years, John would travel into the garden, and almost single-handedly maintained a display of Australian Raised Irises to be enjoyed by the public. The photograph of him that accompanied this article was placed on his coffin during his funeral.

One of three men in the Victorian Iris Society who each aimed to

breed a pink amoena and shared their results and knowledge with each other, John realised it was an elusive goal but enjoyed the learning experience. His house garden at the seaside Melbourne suburb of Newport was smaller than the average quarter acre, but it housed 6-7 trees, a wonderful wisteria, and many well-set-out beds. He grew mostly tall bearded seedlings and spuria iris; believed the soil being such a poor quality that his irises were slow in increase, and that seedlings grew best. He was careful to maintain records of all his crosses, in his neat draughtsman type handwriting. He registered over twenty tall bearded seedlings, the most famous being JOLIMONT (R. 1984) winner of the Australasian Dykes Medal, a quality white; and purple VELVET VISTA, which he once had in flower at his home garden from July through to November.

John loved to write. The society here has his book *Iris Pioneers and Personalities of Australia* as its history book, for it contains office bearers, hybridizing and registration details, personal details of the people he knew from his love of irises and association with the Iris Society of Australia, from its earliest years up until 1986. In the latter years of his life he wrote, by hand, his unpublished memoirs and family history as he knew it.

He designed a badge for the society, and a medal that commemorates his life, the John O Baldwin medal, is awarded annually to the person who gains the most aggregate points at the early, main and late shows held by the society. Teaching, using his skills at drawing iris and people skills, he was the region's judge trainer for some years. He was Federal President for 3 years and was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal in 1984, the highest award given for outstanding service. He was also a founding member of the Hemerocallis Society of Australia.

John was a sensitive man who described himself as a slow thinker, but we knew him as a man who loved gardening, hybridizing, oil painting, astronomy, writing. He was an avid reader and storyteller, constantly stretching his mind, striving to understand the universe, calculus, nature, and his beloved iris. In his earlier days he designed and built a glider aeroplane. His engineering skills led him to work at the nearby Newport Railway Workshops towards the end of his career. John Oliver Baldwin leaves behind him a dedicated life, many notable achievements, and a large gap in the society he loved and was loved by. Appropriately, in 2003 an iris called MEMORIES OF JOHN has been registered. 

Virginia 2003: ***We Saw the Stars***

by Robert Strohman, Kentucky

BUTTONS PROMOTING THE 2003 AIS NATIONAL CONVENTION exhorted everyone to “come see the stars.”

Not the customary number of iris fans (pun intended) made their way to Virginia to see the stars of irisdom in the seven tour gardens (to be reviewed individually in the October issue of the *Bulletin*) – around 300, I heard – about half the usual number who attend. Those who made the trip enjoyed a treat – several of them, in fact – from the irises themselves to the venues where they were growing.

In a spring when the entire eastern half of our nation had more than enough rain, northern Virginia in May was no exception. Rain either fell on iris tourists (irists?) or was threatening to fall in every garden we visited. Even so, no one minded. Jackets were donned, umbrellas popped up, and everything went as scheduled.

We went south to the Fredericksburg area and northwest to Cross Junction, a span of one hundred miles. Among bearded irises, even though the weather was cool, there was no shortage of bloom in every class (yes, even in MDBs and arils). Bloom was so bountiful that it was hard to believe that the bearded guests were just two-year clumps.

MTB stars that dazzled came from all across the country. From New England came Stephanie Markham’s LARRY’S GIRL (‘02) with at least thirty stalks per clump wherever it grew, and Lucy Burton’s ELFIN SHADOWS (‘04), with just as many stalks, each bearing three open blooms. Similar numbers were found in the Nebraska MTB PUG (Kalkwarf ‘01). From Arkansas came Ken Fisher’s SIREN (‘00), from Virginia Clarence Mahan’s REMINISCENCE (‘94), and from Kentucky Hugh Thurman’s MADAM PRESIDENT (‘01), all demanding – and receiving – lots of deserved attention. Everywhere the MTBs outdid themselves. But they were not alone.

As for beardless irises, there were guest plants and permanent residents of virtually every sort. (Well, admittedly there weren’t any PCNs, but none were expected.) Some Schafer/Sacks Siberians that


impressed were TOM SCHAEFER ('00), WHITE AMBER ('01), and BANISH MISFORTUNE ('99). Banish misfortune indeed; just looking at them was enough to do that! The German inter-species SIBTOSA DUCHESS (Tamberg '02) was another kind of star.

Among tall bearded stars, the record-holder for most prolific bloom must surely have been Hooker Nichols' pale orange self DOROTHY DEVENPORT ('03) at Winterberry Gardens, where I stopped counting at fifty stalks! The on-again-off-again rain served as a test of a variety's ability to withstand the weather; old favorites and new ones did not disappoint. Standing tall through it all were POND LILY (E. Jones '95), SKY AND SUN (Spoon '99), SLOVAK PRINCE (Mego '03), AS YOU WERE (Stahly '01), AMIABLE (Ghio '02), and BADITUDE (Burseen '01). And others, as they say, too numerous to mention.

As well as discovering new favorite irises in the tour gardens, during the bus rides *en route* one had time to renew old friendships and to make new ones. In my own case, I got to know Angie Fierro, Delores Armenta, and Tina Macias, three lovely sisters from southern California. Their mission was to find the guest variety named SISTERS THREE (Hedgecock '99). Finally, in the last garden on the last day, it was found – a beautiful self of palest blue.

Conventioneers were asked, as always, to name their favorites from among all they'd seen. When the votes for favorite out-of-host-region variety were tallied, one of last year's runners-up in Memphis had moved to first place as SPLASHACATA (Tasco '98) won the Franklin Cook Memorial Cup.

There were eight hybridizers with fifty-eight varieties contending for the President's Cup as favorite Region 4-originated variety. As it turned out, Don Spoon swept all three top spots: DAUGHTER OF STARS ('01) was third; MTB Maslon ('02) was second; and MY GINNY ('00), named for his lovely wife, won the President's Cup.

Convention Chairman Clarence Mahan asked all those who would write about this Convention to make it clear to non-attendees how much they missed, something that I would have done in any case. It's too bad that more people didn't "come see the stars." Those who did found them – in spite of the rain – shining brightly. 

A Convention Overview

by *Debbie Babuscio, California*

THIS WAS MY SECOND NATIONAL, AND I WAS BETTER PREPARED for the event that would take place. I so looked forward to seeing the gardens and the blooms, and meeting the people who cared for them for the last few years.

The first garden for the bus I had boarded was the Loving Garden. And it was just that, a very lovely yard. Not only were there Iris, but also the hostas, columbines and peonies were just as lovely. Here in Southern California, we cannot grow hostas or peonies, and I love them both. The iris in Jack and Rosalie Loving's garden were what I would consider in full bloom. There were several seedlings I would like to own upon introduction, especially "EC2" by Nearpass. I also liked seedling "P3-211B" by Christopherson, and RANKS OF BLUE by Griffin Crump (reg. '01). Among introduced varieties, Ghio's STARRING caught my eye, and the last one I must have for my yard is Don Spoon's RAINBOW CANDY.

From there we went to the Lois Rose Garden, highlighted by a pond that was tucked into the woods but still visible. There were lots of irises to see here. PASSING CLOUDS (Ben Hager) was open for all to see and admire. MY GINNY, another one of Don Spoon's, was so beautiful that I took several pictures of it, just in case one of them didn't turn out. Rick Tasco's SOLAR FIRE ('03) will soon be in my yard; his intros always grow so well for me, and I'm sure this one will too.

After boarding the bus and traveling through beautiful country, we arrived at the garden of Jim and Gina Schroetter. Their log home was nestled among the trees, and it looked like it was made from the trees that once stood where the house now sits. The front drive had many irises in bloom, and the guest beds were located in the back. After wandering around to the back, the first iris that caught my eye was HEARTBEAT AWAY (Christopherson), and I don't even think it was a guest iris. There was a nice TB seedling that also deserved attention, "96-1-A" by Larry Hughes. It was at the Schroetter's that I fell in love with MASLON, an '02 MTB by Don Spoon. One could venture to say that Dr. Spoon has quite a few irises that are more than worth their purchase price!


Back into the bus we went and on to the next garden. At this point I was

halfway to heaven, after smelling almost every iris, and the effects of fragrance mixed with all the colors! I always meet new people at Iris functions, and the National was no different. After much good conversation on the bus with seatmate Claire, we arrived at the home of Kurt and Sonia Kuppert. Their corner lot was well planned, and the bloom was out where all could see, not just us trekkers. It was here that GOLDEN PANTHER was proudly blooming along with an outstanding seedling of Chun Fan's.

Friday morning was a gloomy one. The weather forecast was rain for the better part of the day. My bus partner decided not to trek, so off I went with the other brave ones; after all, I came to see gardens, and gardens was what I was going to see! At the Lord Fairfax Community College Garden the rain was not falling when we arrived so I ventured out to the iris beds. On the way I wandered into a child's garden where I enjoyed the statues. After viewing the iris I realized how many of their hybridizers were present. By chance there were now two buses at the College, and I thought how memorable it would be to get them all into a group photo, so, with some assistance, a very nice photo was taken. I was glad the rain held off until we were all done shooting our pictures.

More rain met us at Winterberry Gardens, and I found myself reluctant to leave the bus. I think the bus driver could tell I wanted to go out and see the flowers but didn't want to get wet, so he kindly loaned me his umbrella, and off I went thanking him all the way. The blooms were still lovely despite the rain and cold. Some of the flowers actually looked as if they enjoyed being out in the rain. We all appreciated the hot tea and coffee that Ginny Spoon so thoughtfully provided, along with lots of goodies!

I woke up Saturday morning and was sad to see it was still raining. Even so, my partner accompanied me onto the bus and off we all went. We arrived at the State Arboretum of Virginia, which is part of the Blandy Experimental Farm. Again I was offered and used an umbrella loaned to me by our bus driver. Off I strolled down the paths and around the grounds. I found a beautiful dogwood path and an herb garden in addition to the iris beds. After a nice hot lunch we boarded the bus and headed on to the Winterberry Gardens for a second visit. I noticed a lot more iris and yard art on this trip, and a few that I thought looked outstanding were MELTED BUTTER (Chun Fan), PAUL BLACK (Tom Johnson), MOMENTOUS OCCASION (George Sutton), and the little MTB WISTERIA MIST (Opal Wulf).

Well, the day was coming to an end and that meant the trek was ending too. On the bus ride back I thought about all the beautiful iris I saw and all the people I met. It was a trip I will remember for many years to come. 

2006 – Invitation to Beardless Hybridizers

The Greater Portland Iris Society will host the American Iris Society Convention in Portland, Oregon, in May of 2006. Hybridizers of **BEARDLESS** varieties of irises are invited to send recent introductions or seedlings under serious consideration.

Shipments will be accepted September 1, 2003, thru October 20, 2003. Send guest plants to:

Chad Harris


P. O. Box 346; Washougal, WA 98671-0346; (360) 835-1016

Guidelines: Up to five divisions of each variety may be submitted. The name of the variety or seedling number must be clearly marked on each division. In addition, a packing list with the following information must be enclosed:

1. Hybridizer name and address
2. Name or seedling number of variety
3. What kind of iris: SPU, SIB, JI, etc.; if Species: list variety; or if a Spec-X: list parents
4. Description, distinguishing characteristics and bloom season E,M,L
5. Year of introduction, if applicable

If a guest seedling is named subsequently to shipping to the convention, it is the responsibility of the hybridizer to notify the Guest Iris Chairman no later than January 1, 2006.

A receipt will be sent to all contributors. Shortly before the convention, contributors will be asked for instructions regarding disposition of guest plants. Failure to reply by June 15, 2006, will be interpreted as permission to destroy all seedlings and distribute named varieties: one to garden owners, and the rest to the Greater Portland Iris Society for distribution to Region 13 Clubs. Returns will be sent in the fall of 2006 postpaid, except for foreign addresses.

Only officially submitted guest iris will appear in the convention booklet. The Convention Committee and the owners of the tour gardens will follow the code of ethics as printed in the AIS Convention Handbook. 

HERMIT MEDLARS WALK 2003 introductions

3 Pierce St (Rte 140), Foxborough, MA 02035

email: hmwalk@mindspring.com webpage: www.hmwalk.com

- RADICAL DUDE (BILL AND ADA GODFREY) MDB 6" M-L \$15**
 Deep lavender violet standards; black purple falls edged lavender violet; lavender beards, slight perfume. Buggy X Black Stallion
- LEMON CHILL (LUCY BURTON) SDB 11" M \$15**
 Bright lemon standards, slightly paler lemon falls, small white area at end of white beards. Ballet Slippers X Orange Caper
- RIVALRY (BILL AND ADA GODFREY) SDB 14" M \$15**
 Deep lavender luminata with marbled standards and falls, white beards. Jeepers X Violet Lulu
- RIVERBUDS (BILL AND ADA GODFREY) SDB 14" M-L \$15**
 Blue standards and falls, deeper blue beards.
 (Rain Dance x Serenity Prayer) X Shy Violet
- SPANISH ARMADA (BILL AND ADA GODFREY) SDB 10-11" M \$15**
 White standards, deep sky blue veined falls with white flash down centre, white halo around white beards, lemon in throat, sweet perfume.
 Plymouth Hoe X (Inscription X Gypsy Passion)¹
- TANTALIZE (BILL AND ADA GODFREY) SDB 11" M-L \$15**
 Pale pink orange standards, deeper falls, orange beards, sweet perfume. Tickled Peach X (Inscription X Gypsy Passion)¹
- VALENCE HOUSE (BILL AND ADA GODFREY) SDB 12" M \$15**
 Lemon gold standards, creamy falls edged gold, with chartreuse spot around or orange beards, white slice down centre. Sweet perfume.
 (Hey There X Tooth Fairy)²
- WORCESTER SAUCE (BILL AND ADA GODFREY) 11" M \$15**
 Gold standards and falls, brown spot on waved falls, golden orange beards. Be Bedazzled X Cross Your Fingers
- BATTENKILL RIFFLE (JOHN BURTON) IB 19" L \$20**
 Dark cornflower blue, light blue beards, gold in throat.
 J Welch 18010: (Winterbrook X Keynote) X Glebe Brook
- CHEESE AND WINE (DUNDERMAN, ML/ W TERRY VARNER) MTB 20" \$20**
 Maroon standards, style arms yellow edged purple maroon; maroon falls, deep orange yellow beards; slight fragrance.
 LL43: ((HH569:(FF9:(CC607 x DD346) x CC601:(AA329 x AA128)) X JJ404:(EE333:(BB1176 x BB775) x FF19:(DD522 x unknown)))
- TRACKING (W TERRY VARNER) MTB 22" EM \$20**
 Yellow ground standards with purple midrib and burgundy plicata marking; style arms yellow, edged purple; yellow falls, burgundy plicata edge; beards yellowish brown, flared horizontally, slight fragrance.
 R-302: (O-334: (M-339: (((Royal Thrush x Brown Crown) x P-580 red) x Welch T201 dark amoena) x M-341: (Terrill "Purple Pepper" x Witt 78-09-NU, Shady Sands sib)) X N-329: (Dancing Gold x unknown))

ALL SEVEN OF BILL AND ADA GODFREY'S INTRODUCTIONS FOR \$80

SHIPPING \$7

CATALOGUE \$1 UPON REQUEST

Warburton Medal

Prof. Maria Antonietta Colasante

by Clarence Mahan


PROF. MARIA ANTONIETTA COLASANTE, AFFECTIONATELY CALLED Maretta by her many friends and associates, teaches and conducts research at "La Sapienza," the University of Rome. Her research and studies of the genus *Iris* have significantly advanced our knowledge and understanding. She has identified, described and named four previously unrecognized iris species: *I. revoluta*, *I. setina*, *I. bicapitata*, and, with I. Ricci, *I. marsica*. The discovery and Prof. Colasante's subsequent research involving these 40 chromosome bearded species has added substantially to our understanding of the evolution of the genus.

Prof. Colasante hosted and managed the 1998 international Iridaceae conference in Rome, co-sponsored by the University of Rome and the Linnean Society, which produced some of the most important scientific and historic studies of the genus *Iris* and plants in closely related genera in recent times. The papers presented at this conference were published in the *Annali di Botanica*, Vol. I, n.2, 2001. Prof. Colasante contributed two excellent articles, "The Pathway of Chemical Evolution in Bearded Iris Species Based on Flavonoid and Xanthone Patterns," in collaboration with C.A. Williams and J.B. Harborne, and "*Iris*: Allocyclic Segments as Chromosome Markers?", a joint effort with C.G. Vosa.



Maria Colasante

Her many papers and articles on issues involving the genus *Iris* are learned and highly regarded by the scientific community. One recent project, funded by the AIS Foundation, involves translating various foreign language scientific articles and papers on iris studies into English to make them accessible to Americans, Canadians, and other English-speaking people.

Prof. Colasante is presently a Vice President of the Italian Iris Society. Her work in identifying new iris species and her application of advanced scientific techniques to the study of the genus *Iris* fully merit recognition by the American Iris Society with the award of the Bee Warburton Medal. 

Distinguished Service Award:

Sara Marley

SARA IS A NATIVE OF BUFFALO, NY, AND MOVED TO ATTICA, NY, in 1945, graduated from high school and married Walter, her husband of 53 years. They bought a small farm and raised their three children there. The whole family became involved in their pure-bred Holstein cattle and laying hen operation. Daughter Kae is currently living in California, a son Gregory was killed in a motorcycle accident in 1981 at age 28, and son Carl has relocated to Portsmouth, Ohio, from Oregon.

Sara was active in her church and PTA Association, a 4-H leader for 15 years, a member of the County Agricultural Committee, and sat on the School Board, among other activities.

After selling their farm in 1983, the Marleys moved to Northern Virginia in 1986, where they worked as estate farm managers for: doctors, an accountant, an office building contractor, and lastly for a lawyer and his family. While at Stoneleigh Knoll Farm they maintained a flock of pure-bred North Country Cheviot sheep for nine years in addition to establishing a retail garden enterprise. Walter and Sara 'retired' from farming in 2000 and returned to Central NY. The snowy winter of 2000-1 dumped over 200" of the white stuff. The irises loved all that insulation and really thrived after the snow finally left in April.

Meanwhile, Sara's interest in flower gardening was rekindled and more importantly with the genus Iris. She became a member of AIS in 1989 and was active in the Chesapeake & Potomac Iris Society, working at flower shows and sales, and attending the Region 4




Sara & Walter Marley

meetings. She served as Show Secretary and Newsletter Editor for seven years, was President of C&P, Secy. of The Reblooming Iris Soc., Display Garden Chr. for the HIPS Section, and is actively participating in the Display Garden programs of the: Median, JI, HIPS and Reblooming Iris Societies. She is also an accredited Garden Judge. Sara attended her first National Convention in 1991 and has missed only two since then.

In April of 1999, Sara was called to step in as AIS Secretary after the untimely death of Ruth Simmons. She relinquished her position as RVP of Region 4 after serving for one year. The continuing health problems of Walter and son Carl necessitated her 'early retirement' as Secretary in December, 2002.

Sara and Walter recently moved to Southern Ohio, to get away from all that snow and to be near son Carl. They will continue to maintain Rainbow Iris Garden that was started in Virginia with over 1000 different cultivars of iris. Now that they are "towners" and reside on a half-acre lot, their garden is scaled down to about 400 cultivars of irises, 60 daylilies, hostas and other perennials. They have become active in the Wheelersburg Methodist Church and the local garden club. At present there is not an AIS Affiliate close by, but that is okay; the Marleys need a little breather.

Sara says that she is very honored to be chosen to receive the Distinguished Service Medal, but that her service to others would not have been possible without the support of family, co-workers and mentors. 

Liz's Honor: A 2003 New Introduction

TB, 40", M. Standards are light blue-violet edged with a darker violet wash. Falls are violet in the center fading to light blue-violet at the edges. Dark violet spoons. Great show stalks! \$35 shipping included. See picture at <http://www.angelfire.com/nj4/erinsiris>

Erin Griner
21 Chesterfield Rd.
Bordentown, NJ 08505

Distinguished Service Award:

Keith McNames

I WAS BORN AND RAISED IN DETROIT, MICHIGAN. MY FIRST interest in Iris was using the leaves (from the clumps alongside the house) as swords; they didn't hold up as strong weapons so many were used in a daily childhood battle. It advanced to a more useful interest when I saw an advertisement in a national magazine for a *BROWN* Iris. This intrigued me so much that I used my paper route money to send away for it. Not sure of the name, but back in the early 50's, I'm thinking it could have been *BRYCE CANYON* or *TOBACCO ROAD*.

My interest in Iris developed into a real passion in the mid 60's when I purchased my first house in Detroit's northwest side. It was a corner lot and I was quick to plant an unknown lavender Iris as a border along the backyard fence. A neighbor and fellow Iris lover gave me divisions of her beautiful Iris clumps that I admired daily in the spring as I walked to and from the bus stop. The one that really caught my fancy was *VELVET DUSK*, a deep purple beauty with a heavenly grape juice fragrance, and I still have it in my garden today. The same neighbor also introduced me to Schreiner's Iris catalog and the rest is history. I got bitten! For the next twenty-five years I would order and reorder Irises, losing some to winter rot but most to that awful destroyer "the Iris Borer."



Keith McNames

In 1980 I moved my garden to an historic home, built in 1908, and located in the center of Detroit, just five houses from Woodard Avenue, the main street that runs through the center of Detroit dividing East from West. I established my Irises in the backyard and just kept acquiring new ones, you know how that story goes.

That Iris Bug decided to bite me harder in 1988 when I was invited to my first Iris Show and OH what a thrill! I picked up information

about the American Iris Society and the local club and went home and joined both. Then I went to my first Spring Regional Meeting in Indiana and the guest speaker was Lloyd Zurbrigg; what a treat that was. This started to open a whole new world to me.

But it wasn't until 1990 when I attended my first AIS National Convention in Omaha that the realization hit me, now I could truly be called an Iris Lover. What a joy to meet all the wonderful people who shared my interest in Iris, with NO apologies needed if you oohed and aahed over flowers. Omaha was considered a "Bud Convention" but that didn't dampen my enthusiasm; I fell in love with the Iris people and I haven't missed a National Convention since.

Back in Detroit my backyard was so full (no grass to mow, yeah), I had to start eliminating the grass in the front yard. The Iris Bug had bitten SO hard that it got to the point where there was now very little grass left in the front yard with my Iris collection ballooning to 1750 different varieties of all classes. I took out a LIFE memberships in The American Iris Society and all the Section and Affiliates of AIS.

Then at the 1994 National Convention in Portland, Oregon, I found where I would retire to, and that was Salem, Oregon, otherwise known as "IRIS HEAVEN." By the winter of 1996 I had found my property, just one mile down the road from Schreiner's Gardens, and I officially moved into Iris Heaven. Shortly thereafter I was asked to join Evelyn Jones' AIS Library staff, and when she passed away I took over her duties as AIS Librarian. It took many hours of many days, but eventually all materials were out of boxes, filed away, and placed on a computer database.

FOR THE LOVE OF IRIS. 

www.theirisfarm.com

Favorite Guest Irises:

2003 AIS National Convention

President's Cup

(Awarded to the iris originating *within* host region with the largest number of votes)

MY GINNY (D. Spoon '00)	TB	60 votes
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Runner-up:

MASLON (D. Spoon '02)	MTB	53 votes
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DAUGHTER OF STARS (D. Spoon '01)	TB	42 votes
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Franklin Cook Memorial Cup

(Awarded to the iris originating *outside* the host region with the largest number of votes)

SPLASHACATA (R. Tasco '98)	TB	30 votes
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Runners-up:

STARRING (J. Ghio '00)	TB	11 votes
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DELIRIUM (Marky Smith '01)	IB	8 votes
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DOROTHY DEVENPORT (H. Nichols '03)	TB	8 votes
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DREAM EXPRESS (R. Tasco '99)	TB	8 votes
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SLOVAK PRINCE (A. Mego '03)	TB	8 votes
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WILD WEST WIND (Baumunk '00)	TB	8 votes
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Favorite Guest Irises

Following are the Favorite Guest Irises voted by conventioners at the 2003 AIS National Convention in Falls Church, Virginia

SPLASHACATA (R. Tasco '98)	TB	67 votes
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MY GINNY (D. Spoon '00)	TB	66 votes
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STARRING (J. Ghio '00)	TB	64 votes
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DAUGHTER OF STARS (D. Spoon '01)	TB	59 votes
MASLON (D. Spoon '02)	MTB	55 votes
SIBTOSA DUCHESS (Tamberg '02)	SIBTOSA	43 votes
DELIRIUM (Marky Smith '01)	IB	0 votes
GOLDEN PANTHER (R. Tasco '00)	TB	39 votes
SOLAR FIRE (R. Tasco '03)	TB	39 votes
AMIABLE (J. Ghio '02)	TB	37 votes
DREAM EXPRESS (R. Tasco '99)	TB	37 votes
AMONG FRIENDS (Terry Varner '02)	MTB	34 votes
MILLENNIUM FALCON (Kasperek '00)	TB	33 votes
WILD WEST WIND (Baumunk '00)	TB	33 votes
SLOVAK PRINCE (A. Mego '03)	TB	32 votes
BLACK SUITED (Innerst '00)	TB	31 votes
MADAM PRESIDENT (Thurman '01)	MTB	29 votes
SILVER TRUMPETS (Zurbrigg '03)	TB/SA	28 votes
TOM SCHAEFER (Schafer/Sacks '00)	SIB	28 votes
HOLLYWOOD NIGHTS (R. Duncan '01)	TB	27 votes
DELIGHTFUL KID (Innerst '01)	BB	26 votes
ROYAL STORM (R. Tasco '01)	TB	25 votes



Lost & Found at National

A camera lens marked "Canon Skylight 52mm" was found in our garden after the Convention. If it belongs to you, we will be happy to mail it. Our address and phone number are:

Jack & Rosalie Loving
 10483 Edgehill Lane
 King George, VA 22485

Tel: (540) 775-22485

Premio Firenze, 2002

by Terry Aitken, Washington State

IT HAS BEEN OVER A YEAR SINCE OUR TRIP TO FLORENCE FOR THEIR International Iris Competition. Our major challenge was how to work a trip to Italy into our regular spring activities. Being invited to judge at the Premio Firenze International Iris Competition was a great honor. While the Premio Firenze was the impetus for the trip, of course, we wanted to visit other areas while we were there – Rome, Venice, and Sienna, were on the list.

Our first trip to Europe was true culture shock. A city (Venice) without cars? Staying in lodging that could be close to a thousand years old? A mass transit system (trains) that work? No suburban sprawl? Landmarks built 2000 years ago? Noisy motor scooters with a death wish, and no margin for error! Friendly and helpful people and, of course, wonderful Italian food! My biggest regret was in not being able to read an Italian menu! However, many restaurants have English, German (and other) menu translations which they discreetly hand to you as you walk in the door. We tourists are so obvious! From Vatican City and the Coliseum in Rome to the museums and cathedrals of Florence, Sienna and Venice, it was a wonderful and overwhelming experience.

Upon our arrival, the international judges (Koen Engelen of Belgium, Ivar Schmidt of Australia and myself) were provided with very comfortable accommodations overlooking the Arno River and the city of Florence. The gardens were directly behind the hotel, up a very steep hill (about 10 stories!). After “hiking the hill” daily, we left Florence in much better physical condition than when we arrived!


The five judges (including Dr. Doralisa Ravenni and Fabio Bigazzi from Italy) all gathered on a Monday morning to get acquainted and receive instructions from Margaret Longo for the point scoring (not the same as U.S. system) and to elect a Chairman, in this case, me. The implication was that the Chairman was requested to give a speech as part of the closing ceremony. Fortunately for me, Professor Sergio Orsi,

President of the Italian Iris Society, graciously offered to provide a translation into Italian. This all came to pass.

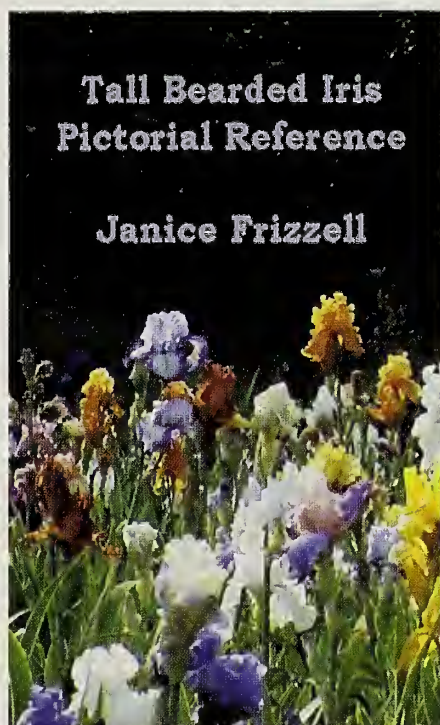
On the first day of judging, a short list of irises to be judged was established. To make this short list, all plants judged had to have at least 6 buds and be in open bloom during the week of judging. All plants are anonymous - under number. On three separate occasions during the week, all five judges would inspect and point score all of the plants on the short list. No communication between judges was permitted. As the week progressed, my point scoring got more consistent. On Friday the points from all judges were totaled. Most shocking was the realization that the point spread on the top ten plants was less than 4%!

The iris plantings were located on a hillside and between rows of olive trees. Other iris plantings from previous competitions dating back nearly to World War II were scattered throughout the olive grove. Plant growth was uniformly good, bloom was excellent and the weather was very comfortable. Members of the Italian Iris Society were gracious hosts and the fellowship alone was worth the visit. Judging began early in the day, when it was cooler. Two afternoons were spent on tours arranged and hosted by members of the Society to points of interest in the surrounding Tuscany area, in addition to a one-day bus tour to Sienna. We visited country estates, cathedrals, and museums. We were fortunate that some of the Italian members were tour guides in Florence and at the museums. They knew right where to take us and, mercifully, could speak English for us less-traveled folk.

The awards ceremony on the final day was a grand and glorious occasion! The setting was the historic city hall in Florence and the opening included a flourish of trumpets and speeches by the Mayor, Professor Orsi, and myself. The winners of the competition were announced and some special awards were presented. The winner of the Premio Firenze for 2002 was DUDE RANCH (Paul Black '00). Medals from the prior year's competition were awarded to those present to receive them. (Complete results of the competition were published in the July 2002 AIS bulletin under International News.) Following this ceremony was a formal luncheon at a wonderful restaurant located near the iris gardens.

The virtue of any international iris competition of this magnitude is the opportunity to become acquainted and form lasting friendships with irisarians from around the world. Here we said thank you and farewell to our hosts in the Italian Iris Society for an exceptional week spent in their company. 

Tall Bearded Iris Pictorial Reference Book \$17.95



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Hybridizing Tall Bearded Irises

by Dave Niswonger, Missouri

IN THE LATE FIFTIES, I WAS IN AN ADVANCED HYBRIDIZING ROBIN directed by Wilma Vallette. In April of 1960, I decided to attempt to summarize our discussions. Wilma did more. She wrote a book about it. Now, utilizing those notes and later experiences, I'm summarizing again:

Basically, a hybridizer has two choices: He can improve on various colors by adding ruffles, lace, better branching, better form, more buds or greater hardiness. Or he can create a new color or new color combinations (he has three things to work with: the standards, beard and falls). For a new hybridizer just starting, I would suggest that he do the first; otherwise, he may become disappointed and quit. He could do the second on a limited scale by selecting a specific goal but not spending his entire energy on this effort.

In reviewing the **methods** that can be used, we have the following:

1. **NATURAL SELECTION** which was first used by selecting the best clones of the species available and crossing them with like species to make the first generation hybrid. There will be variations in a specific species, so selections for various traits can be selected such as color, bud count, etc.

2. **LINE BREEDING** then **OUTCROSSING**, then line breeding again, etc. To bring out a recessive trait, line breeding must be done in order to bring the recessive trait together in each of the four groups of chromosomes — assuming we are working with tetraploids, where the odds are one in thirty six. If we were working with diploids (two groups of chromosomes), the odds would only be one in four.

3. **ACCIDENTS**. This is where the pollen or the egg doesn't split in half as it is supposed to do. This phenomenon seems to occur more often with the pollen than the egg. This is best exemplified when Clara Rees crossed Thais, a diploid, on Purissima, a tetraploid, and got **SNOW FLURRY**. Normally, if you would do this, you would expect a triploid, which would be sterile, and you couldn't use it any further; however, triploids are very vigorous and good growers, and if the colors and other good traits were evident, it would be okay to introduce it. The

common purple flag we see in abandoned homesteads, cemeteries and roadsides is a triploid. However, in the case of Clara's cross that yielded SNOW FLURRY, the pollen didn't split in half and it acted the same as one half of a tetraploid; Clara got a fertile tetraploid out of the cross which turned out to be one our best parents for TBs. There can also be chromosome crossovers where an extra chromosome or one less may occur, in which case you may have a mutation. These are often not fertile but may be something new.

4. HYBRID VIGOR. From the studies and experiments of G.H. Shull at the Carnegie Institute on Long Island, NY, where he was studying Experimental Evolution, he developed hybrid corn in 1905. Shull utilized corn for the experiment since it was easy to control the pollination of the corn. He could cover the silk, the stigma, on the ear of the corn until it was ready for pollination, then break off the tassel which was the pollen, raise the sack and dust the pollen on the silk of the corn, thus breeding it back to itself. After inbreeding several different strains of corn for five generations, he ended up with little puny ears of corn. He took these seeds the next year, followed the same procedure with the sack over the silk of the corn, but this time took pollen from the *other* inbred strains and dusted it on the silk of the various strains he had. When those seeds were planted, he had two ears of corn to the stalk and they were big. Thus he developed the first hybrid corn. However, corn is a diploid, and if we are working with tetraploid irises, it would take many more generations to get to the point Shull reached in five generations. But the point is that if you want to improve the vigor of a pink iris, cross it with another hybridizer's inbred strain of pink and you should regain some vigor. This is a wonderful provision that Mother Nature has provided us so that our plants and animals don't run out.

5. COLCHICINE, TREFLAN or SURFLAN TREATMENT. By using these compounds, when cell division is taking place, we can double the chromosomes. If we can zap a cell just as the nucleus is splitting but before two cells are formed with these compounds, we can cause the cell to regroup, and the chromosomes are doubled. This is the way to bring new genes into the gene pool and is used quite often by daylily breeders.

6. GENETIC ENGINEERING. Discussion to follow.

There are certain **traits** or **conditions** that hybridizers need to keep in mind:

1. Pinks are recessive. If you cross a pink with a yellow none of the seedlings will be pink. Pink was achieved by segregating a converting

Florence International Competition



Above: Florence skyline from the Piazzalle Michelangelo

Right: Competition garden at Piazzalle Michelangelo

All photos both pages T. Aitken



Top: Left to right, Dr. Doralisa Ravenni (Italy), Ivar Schmidt (Australia), and Valeria Roselli (Italy)
Middle: Discussion in the garden between Dr. Piero Bronzi (Italy), Augusto Bianco (Italy) (in hat)
Below: Artist Christine Böer sketching in the garden



factor into each of the four groups of chromosomes where carotene existed; the yellow pigment was converted to lycopene, which is the red pigment of tomatoes but appears pink in irises, perhaps because the dosage factor is not great enough (according the Mathes), or maybe flavones are masking it. This became possible when we were able to combine the genes for the yellow pigment from *I. variegata* (which came from the mountains of Europe) and the converting factor from *I. mesopotamica* (which came from Turkey or northern Iran).

2. There is another yellow pigment besides gamma carotene, which is XANTHOPHYLL, and it cannot be converted to pink. Carotene and Xanthophyll can occur together and part of it can be converted to give apricots or yellows with pink blushes.

3. Plicatas are recessive. The plicata stitching seen around white (or yellow) falls is anthocyanin pigment which is in the sap *around* the cells (unlike the yellow pigment which is *inside* the cells). There are several forms of anthocyanin but most of it is delphinidin. Some malvidin has been found in tall bearded but is more often seen in Louisiana irises. Flavones may again affect the color of the stitching. With lots of flavones it is blue, with none it is purple; and other shades, such as rose, may be in between. There is a multiple series for plicatas and the last one is termed "pl-a" which is recessive. If this is present in each of the four groups of chromosomes, the flower is pure white or ice white. Examples of this kind of white are JAKE, MATTERHORN, LATIGO and SNOW VELVET. I can't think of any recent introductions that may fit into this group. Crossing pinks into plicata lines may give pink plicatas or even glaciatas, as Keith Keppel calls them, such as his GODDESS. Citrons or lemon ices come only through plicata breeding. The "halo" type of iris is not from plicata breeding but another phenomenon in the iris world of genetics. Luminatas are an extension of plicata breeding (where the "heart" of a plicata is white or light yellow).

4. Whites, or I should say dominant whites, are, genetically speaking, not really white but blue. It just happens that an inhibitor is present which represses the anthocyanin pigment. So you can cross whites and blues with each other and get both. If the inhibitor is present in the four groups, you get white; otherwise, you may get various shades of blue. You may want to change the color of the beard. Orville Fay decided he wanted a red bearded white, so he first made two outcrosses by crossing Snow Flurry X Pink Cameo and New Snow X Cherie. You can see that he chose two dominant whites crossed with two recessive pinks, from whence he hoped to extract the red beard. This produced dirty whites and some light yellows with yellow beards.

He then selected the best seedlings from these (those with all the good traits of bud count, form, branching, etc.) and crossed with the best pinks available. From this, one out of sixteen were pink with red beards. Then, third generation crosses were made by using the best pink seedling from the Snow Flurry line and the best pink seedling from the New Snow line. This produced three white flowers with tangerine beards. Fourth generation crosses were then made using two of the best whites with red beards. This cross produced half whites with red beards and the other half were blue-orchids with red beards. Three of these whites were saved and one was introduced as LIPSTICK. Lipstick was then crossed with the other two resulting in two hundred seedlings. Ninety percent of these were whites with varying degrees of red beards and ten percent were blue-orchid with red beards. Fay introduced ARTIC FLAME from this group. When line breeding is done such as this, always select the most vigorous seedlings for further hybridizing. David Hall hybridized pink irises from 1942 until the late fifties and never noticed any decreased vigor. If you want to test to see if a white is dominant, mix equal parts of HCl with methyl alcohol and insert a portion of the white petal into the mixture. If it turns purplish, it is dominant. If it stays white, it is recessive.

5. Greens usually have no pollen but will set seed. If green is obtained from pumilas, it's usually lost in the first backcross to tall. I got my best green from crossing two pink plicata seedlings but never did anything with it.

6. Again, if you want to change the color of the beard on a certain color, you first have to outcross to those that have the beard color you want. Then inbreeding and maybe outcross again with a certain trait that isn't showing up, then inbreed again and keep doing this. We once had a blue bearded robin with the goal of getting a blue beard on a white. We started by crossing whites with blues that had blue beards. It seemed that as we got the white petals, the blue beard would fade away. Or, to put it another way, the whiter the seedlings became, the paler the blue beard until when we got a pure white flower, the beard was white too. Another factor to consider is that blue beards will vary in intensity from year to year depending on the season and will also vary in different types of soils. Dorothy Palmer once had a near white with a great blue beard but the next year the beard was a pale blue so she didn't introduce it. At one time the robin members thought we might use an arilbred to reach this goal and this seemed to hold some promise but we never got to pursue this idea. The blue-bearded white still remains a challenge for someone to pursue in TBs; it has been achieved in the SDBs.



Photo: T. Aitken

Hybridizing

see Niswonger article page 34





Photos clockwise from upper left corner:
BROWN LASSO (Buckles)
HALO IN YELLOW
Rudolph Seedling 58-83
MULBERRY CRUSH
FRENCH CANSAN (Cayeux)
TRANQUIL BEAUTY
Niswonger Seedling 69-97

all photos Niswonger

7. Pinks with blue beards are another challenge. Here we are dealing with two recessives. I approached this by crossing Rippling Waters X Sapphire Fuzz and another cross of Pink Flurry X Sapphire Fuzz. (I had intensified the blue beard on Sapphire Fuzz by crossing Lady Bluebeard with Marriott.) None of these seedlings came out pink nor were there any blue beards. So I selected the best seedlings of each cross and crossed them with each other. I bloomed forty-nine seedlings and only one was pink — and it had a blue beard too. Hooray! But I noticed it produced no increases. I tried to keep it growing by building a dam around it and keeping it watered and even set two seed pods on it to keep it in a growth pattern but it never did make any increases. I lost it. I had used pollen from PINK SLEIGH on the seedling, and from this cross I got LILAC THRILL, which was a lilac pink, but the beard was white tipped with tangerine (no blue beard). I also used the pollen from the lost seedling on 2-70, a seedling from Lilac Treat X Raspberry Ripples, both of which had RIPPLING WATERS in their background. From this cross I got CENTER FOLD and MULBERRY CRUSH, but neither of them had a blue beard. The two seedpods produced some very fine seedlings and these were used to continue the effort. PINK BLUE GENES came along and so did SKY BLUE PINK, which had blue on the end of the beard but not the entire beard. The interesting thing about pursuing a goal such as this is that you do come up with some very unusual, introducible cultivars along the way.

8. The “halo” pattern is not the same mechanism as with the plicatas. The iris petal has three layers of cells and if the outer layer has a layer of flavescens on it, the color underneath is blocked out. And if the flavescens layer doesn't quite cover the petal, then the other color shows up and you have a rim or “halo” on the falls. This layer of flavescens can vary in color from white as in HALO IN YELLOW to light violet as in BROWN LASSO. If you would look at the underside of the petal, you would see that it is the same color as the rim. Crossing these halos can result in many different combinations.

9. Pigments are of three main types: Chlorophylls, Flavonoids and Carotenoids. CHLOROPHYLLS are the green color in plants that make photosynthesis possible and thus the growth and development of the plant. FLAVONOIDS are made up of Flavones, which are essentially colorless and provide no color but affect color. Anthocyanins are water soluble and exist in the sap around the cell and provide, depending on the dosage, blue to violet to maroon (our so-called reds). In 1950 there were approximately seventy flavonoids identified. CAROTENOIDS are made up of Carotenes, a plastid body inside the cell (that *can* be converted to lycopene) providing various shades of

yellow and pink, and Xanthophylls (which cannot be converted) providing bright yellow. (There is also a red xanthophyll, rhodoxanthin, which has not been found in irises.) There are approximately eighty carotenoids that have been identified. The many combinations of these give us the wonderful range of colors we have in irises.

10. Mutations may give us new avenues to another set of explosion of colors such as we now enjoy. But mutations in irises are very rare. In my fifty years of growing irises, I have never seen one. Dr. Peter Werckmeister of Germany (see *AIS Bulletin* No. 194; July, 1969) determined that mutations take place only towards simpler molecules. Lycopene is a simpler molecule than carotene; knowing this tells us that a truly red iris is possible. There are many colors in the anthocyanins. The main anthocyanin in tall bearded irises is delphinidin, which is blue. In the molecular structure of delphinidin there are three hydroxyl radicals (oxygen and hydrogen) on the side of one of the three benzene rings (six carbon atoms hooked together in a hexagon). If a mutation would eliminate one of the "OH" radicals we would have cyanidin, which is the color of purple cabbage. If another mutation would take place, losing another "OH" radical, we would have pelargonidin, which is the color of red geraniums! Dr. Norlan Henderson of Kansas City, MO, feels that on the average a mutation may take place about once in 50,000 replications of the DNA molecule. He states that he doesn't know how many mutations have taken place in the hybridization of irises but doubts that there have been more than a half dozen. In dahlias, we have observed many mutations, but dahlias are octaploids and maybe the molecules are not as tightly held together as in irises. But we do know that mutations *are* possible and will happen in irises and give us another pattern to follow. As far as the truly red iris is concerned, it may be that our best chance is with lycopene, which is red. Dr. Mathes of Germany feels that if the dosage of lycopene could be increased we would have our red. But how could this be done? He suggests that we might take the deepest pink tetraploid cultivar and double the chromosomes to an octaploid. Orville Fay did this and found that the plants were not desirable; they were stubby, thick plants and not good growers. So Mathes suggests that this octaploid could be crossed back to a pink tetraploid giving us a hexaploid (six groups of chromosomes) which might be a desirable plant and have a greater dosage of lycopene, and thus red. Another question arises as to whether flavones are masking the lycopene in irises, and if their elimination would yield red. Yet another possibility, with our present technology of genetic engineering, would be to take genetic material from the red algae and shoot it into a mass of cells from a pink iris plant that we have run through a blender (after



All photos Grosvenor

HELEN DAWN (Grosvenor)
Australasian Dykes Medal 2002

Australian Champions

(See page 15)

REAL TREASURE
(J. Taylor-LA)
ISA Medal 2002





PAY THE PRICE (Grosvenor)
Florence Competition
Winner 2003




GOING SOUTH (J. Taylor-LA)
Australasian Dykes 2001



EIDOLIA (Grosvenor)
ISA Medal 2001

sterilizing this active growing plant with 10 % chlorine solution), plate the cells out on an agar plate (micropropagation, or tissue culture) and grow them like bacteria, then transfer to a sterile potting mix (treated with a fungicide to prevent damping off), grow the plants and hope that some of them may have been injected with an enzyme to produce red.

In considering genetic engineering to produce mutations, this might be used in other ways such as making a borer-proof plant — or increasing vigor or hardiness, making plants which are more resistant to bacterial or fungal infections, etc. In the discussion about creating a red iris above, another approach might be considered. Instead of trying to increase the amount of carotenoids and thus the dosage of lycopene giving us red, or eliminating the flavones which might be making the red appear as pink, a plant with a good dosage of anthocyanin might be used. Hopefully, by coating titanium pellets with the genetic material as mentioned above, the right gene could be shot (literally with a 22 shell) into the glob of plant cells and into the nucleus of a cell which would produce the necessary enzyme to change the pigment (knocking off the one or two OH radicals) to red. In other words, changing the delphinidin to cyanidin (losing one OH radical) or pelargonidin (losing two OH radicals). Several thousand of plantlets may need to be grown to achieve this, but it is possible.

In summary, we are in a far different situation now than they were in the 1890's when they felt that they had gone as far as they could go with developing new colors in irises. Just look at the unlimited numbers of bicolors we see from such hybridizers as Blyth, Ghio, Keppel, Black and others. More combinations are yet possible. We still don't have that pristine white with a dark blue beard; however, my good friend, Hal Stahly thinks he has one. As far as blue beards are concerned (my favorite obsession) what about blue beards on yellow or pink? We are close to this but usually the blue is just on the end of the beard. What about the pink amoena with completely clear white standards and baby pink falls? Even a pink plicata TB with a blue beard might be nice, a pattern we have seen in the SDBs. Look at the work of Richard Cayeux in France with the red, white, and blue combinations, and his innovative FRENCH CANCAN, which we saw in Memphis with its pink standards and blue falls. Barry Blyth has achieved the reverse: blue standards and pink falls. New colors and combinations are only limited by our imagination. So if you are presently hybridizing, keep up the good work. If you are not, why not join us? You may never win a Dykes Medal but I assure you that you will reap great pleasure in creating something of your own. 

Use of Alfalfa Meal

as a Soil Amendment in Iris Production Research Progress Report - 2002

by Dr. David G. Holm, Colorado

Introduction

This research study was initiated in 2000. The purpose of the study was to evaluate the potential use of alfalfa meal as a soil amendment in iris production.

The site of the project is the San Luis Valley Research Center, near Center, Colorado. The Agricultural Experiment Station at Colorado State University administers this Research Center. The soil type of this site is a gravelly sandy loam.

Treatments

Fifty rhizomes of each of five iris cultivars (varieties) were planted on July 5, 2000. Cultivars included were Forest Murmurs, Hail To Rome, John Hoehner, Kiss Of Gold, and Platform. The soil amendment treatments included were: 1) a control (no fertilizer or alfalfa meal applied); 2) fertilizer control (per soil test - 6 lbs per 100 row feet of 10-20-20); 3) alfalfa meal spring-applied; 4) alfalfa meal post-bloom applied; and 5) alfalfa meal fall-applied. Alfalfa meal was initially applied on July 6 for all plants to be treated with alfalfa in 2000. In subsequent years, alfalfa will be applied only as scheduled for Treatments 3-5. Alfalfa meal was applied at the rate of one pound per plant and was shallowly incorporated immediately. Plants were watered with a drip irrigation system as needed.

Results

Soil analyses were done at the time the study was initiated and again in 2001 at the end of the growing season to monitor any potential changes in the level of organic matter and the nutrient profile that may be associated with the various treatments. Plant growth data (% stand, fans/plants, stalks/plant, and buds/stalk) was collected both in 2001 and 2002.



Photo: N. Price

Blandy Experimental Farm at the State Arboretum of Virginia

Above: Blandy Garden entrance

Below: MASLON (MTB – D. Spoon)



Photo: T. Aitken

Right: Convention guest Abbie Lincoln takes a moment to smell the irises.

Below left: **AMONG FRIENDS**
(MTB — S. Varner)

Below right: **BLIND FAITH**
(TB — Lauer)



Photo: T. Aitken



Photo: N. Price



Photo: N. Price

The following results have been obtained thus far:

- Alfalfa meal resulted in increased levels of organic matter in the soil. The average soil organic matter level for controls (control and fertilizer control) was 1.7% compared to 2.3% for the alfalfa treatments.
- At the end of the 2001 growing season, soil nitrate-nitrogen levels for the controls and spring applied alfalfa plots decreased from initial soil test levels. However, smaller decreases were observed in the spring applied alfalfa plots. Soil nitrate-nitrogen levels for the postbloom- and fall-applied alfalfa meals plots (11.3 ppm) were similar to initial values observed in 2000 (13.6 ppm). Nitrate-nitrogen levels for the controls averaged 7.1 ppm in 2001.
- Soil phosphorus and potassium levels decreased in the control plots from initial levels. Phosphorus levels for the fertilizer control and the alfalfa treatments were similar or slightly lower than initial levels.
- Potassium levels for the fertilizer control were similar to initial levels. Potassium levels for the alfalfa treatments were greater than initially observed.
- In 2002, generally the number of fans/plant was greater for the post-bloom alfalfa meal application. These plants also appear healthier.
- Other differences in growth as measured by stalks/plant and buds/stalk associated with management treatments were inconsistent.

A final report will be compiled in 2003 following additional growth data collection in 2003 and additional soil analysis.

Acknowledgments: Financial assistance of Region 20 and the Elmohr Iris Society is gratefully acknowledged. Individual contributors to this study include Dave Miller, Cathy Gates, Rob Stetson, Lowell Baumunk, Carl Jorgensen, Fran Evers, Russ and Carol Eacker, and Patrick Naranjo.

The author is Professor of Horticulture, Colorado State University, San Luis Valley Research Center, 0249 East Road 9, North, Center, CO 81125. ❧

Plicatas, Luminatas, and Glaciatas

***Based on Postings Originally
Made on Iris-Talk***

by Keith Keppel, Oregon

WE NEED TO START WITH A BASIC UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT we're defining. Beginning with plicatas and luminatas, we have to understand that, in each, we're dealing with two separate types of pigments, and the distribution for each type of pigment is independent of the other.

Let's start with the ground color. This can be white, or it can be of various oil-soluble pigments (carotenes) which express themselves as cream, yellow, pink or orange. The ground color may be solidly applied (self), uniformly colored throughout standards and falls. With the carotene colors, most often there is at least a slight paling in the center of the fall, or a much paler (even white) fall blaze. We can even have the JOYCE TERRY pattern, of colored standards, white falls with a pronounced and very well-defined marginal band.

With a white ground, there is generally at least a touch of color (yellow, pink, orange) at the haft. This touch can also be more pronounced, covering the shoulders, or even the entire upper portion of the fall. It can cover the entire fall to produce an amoena done in tones of yellow, pink, or orange. We are starting to see a few examples of white ground with a carotene-colored spot in the center of the falls only.

We can have reverse carotene bicolors, with falls essentially white, usually with a little of the standard color flowing on down to the hafts. We can also have more than one carotene pigment present. In pink grounds, for instance, it is almost certain that the hafts will be a more salmon tone, indicating the presence of multiple pigments.

This, then, is the ground. It must be there in some form, yet it is not what makes a plicata. It is the "canvas" upon which the plicata is painted. It will, of course, make a major difference on the final look of the plicata.

To paint our plicata on the ground, we need water-soluble pigments (anthocyanins), and they do not mix with the oil-soluble pigments forming



Photo: T. Aitken

Winterberry Gardens

Left: Winterberry Gardens

Lower left: SARA MARLEY (BB — Spoon)

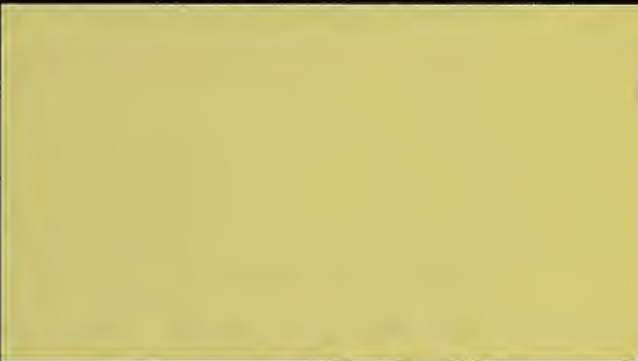
Lower right: Don Spoon with President's Cup for MY GINNY



Photo: N. Price



Photo: K. Steele



Top right: DELIGHTFUL KID (BB – Innerst)
Above: Spoon Seedling 98-134
Right: ROYAL OVATION (BB – J. & V. Craig)

all photos this page T. Aitken

the ground. These plicata-pigments are the cool colors: blue, lavender, violet, purple, orchid-pink. They can be found to a much-varying degree, from almost no markings to near-solid markings. If found nowhere else, the plicata pattern will be found on the fall haft. If more pattern is present, it will start to encircle the fall and the marginal band will widen. There are many variations of the pattern in tall bearded, and probably even more in medians.

The patterning may occur as darker pigment along the veins (think MADAME CHEREAU), with the area between the veins being unmarked, or at least paler. The patterning may be in random dots, seemingly independent of the veins, and becoming so solid there is no way to tell where the veins occur. These dots may also occur in rays, or strips, radiating from the marginal area in toward the center of the falls. There may be veining or striping throughout the center of the fall to the pigmented edge, or the center of the fall may be clear. Variation in distribution and color depth may vary immensely, but the patterns described above, expressed in anthocyanin pigments, is what makes a plicata. Now, superimpose the pattern on one of our canvas grounds and you have the total picture.

But plicatas may not look like plicatas. Look at LACED COTTON and you see a white self. Pull the flower apart and you will find a very few, very minute orchid dots deep on the haft. These are the markings. In doubt? Then cross LACED COTTON with a plicata you recognize.... the seedlings will be plicata. (Plicata is a recessive trait, so both parents must carry the factor.)

There may be definite plicata banding, but very faint due to the presence of a gene which suppresses formation of the anthocyanin pigments.... the "dominant white" or "inhibitor" gene found in most whites, yellows, pinks, and oranges. It cannot completely eliminate the anthocyanin plicata pattern, but it bleaches it to a mere hint of what it otherwise could be. GRECIAN GOWN is an example: an obvious lightly-marked plicata when in bud and upon first opening, but hard to impossible to see as the flower ages. These are sometimes referred to as "ghost plicatas". The paleness or darkness of pigmentation may change the looks of a flower drastically, but it does not alter the fact of whether or not the flower is a plicata.

But remember: the plicata markings always start at the haft area, and there is no large totally unmarked area alongside the beard, for there will always be some sign of dotting or striping there. (Warning: Not all haft marking is plicata, so marking in itself is not proof that an iris is a plicata; it is the absence of any markings whatsoever which may help prove the presence of luminata....more to follow....)

And now for luminata. In luminatas there is a wash of color (the same water-soluble pigments found in plicatas) over the blade of the

fall. There is a tendency for this wash to be paler, or missing, from the veins, unless the pigmentation is extremely heavy. There is a tendency for the petal edges, both standards and falls, to be devoid of the water-soluble pigments. This is very obvious in some varieties, such as SPIRIT WORLD, very subtle in others. There is a clearly defined area around the beard which has absolutely no water-soluble pigment present, not so much as a single dot, and the beards carry no blue or purple coloration. Style arms show little or no anthocyanin coloring.

Variations in luminata patterns are showing up in seedling patches. The unmarked ground area around the beard is expanding, forming larger and larger blazes, or extending downward as a spear pattern. The pale veining on an almost-completely covered fall is changing to broad veining or banding, with "islands" of color rather than an almost solid wash.

As with plicatas, the luminata pattern variations can occur on the same ground-color patterns (self, JOYCE TERRY-pattern, yellow amoena, etc.). Possible variations are almost limitless, and this is what makes breeding patterned irises so fascinating. Walking down a seedling row is like looking into a kaleidoscope.

But now we need to go one step further. Hopefully at this point you understand the basic mechanics and expressions of both plicatas and luminatas. It is possible for both patterns to occur simultaneously, to give us luminata-plicatas ("lumi-plics"). In effect what you have is one pattern superimposed on the other. The luminata's unmarked marginal area is pigmented by the plicata. The unmarked area alongside the luminata's beard now has plicata markings marching across the haft and obscuring it. Blue pigment in the plicata beard may color the luminata beard. The normally unmarked central area of the plicata fall is now washed with color by the luminata. In most cases you will end up with a flower which is totally, but unevenly, patterned/marked. (Think JOSEPH'S MANTLE, PANDORA'S PURPLE, TEST PATTERN.... there are many lumi-plics in commerce.)

And finally... glaciatas. These are segregates out of plicata breeding which carry no anthocyanin pigments whatsoever. When the first white ones appeared, they were referred to as ice-whites because of the purity of color. When lemon yellows showed up they were known as lemon-ices. They now occur in white, lemon and other shades of yellow, pink, salmon and orange. They are the "canvas" without the plicata or luminata paint, but more than that. Since not even the merest hint of anthocyanin pigment can be formed by glaciatas, their carotene colors are totally unsullied by the greying effect of the cool anthocyanin pigments. Not so much as a single dot or line at the haft, no grey suffusions, just pure carotene color and great breeding potential. ❧



Photo: T. Aitken

*McEwen
Siberians*



Photo: T. Aitken



Photo: N. Price

Top: REGENCY BUCK ('85)

Middle: REGENCY BELLE ('85)

Left: SHIRLEY POPE ('79)



Photo: D. Silverberg



Photo: T. Aitken

Top: TIFFANY LASS ('90)

Right: HARPSWELL CHANTEUSE ('92)

Below: BUTTER AND SUGAR ('77)



Photo: D. Silverberg

The Evolution of a Hybridizer

By M. D. Faith, Arkansas

WE PROBABLY SHOULD RESERVE THE TERM HYBRIDIZER, OR ITS plural form, (hybridizers) to those actually involved in species crossing of iris. Those of us who breed iris probably should be more properly referred to as iris breeders or iris plant breeders, rather than hybridizers. The term more properly can be applied to those early collectors and breeders whose work mostly involved the crossing of the different species they collected.

Technically speaking, a hybrid is a cross between two species, although I have read where the term can be applied and used in denoting the offspring of two distinct lines of breeding. The later sense or meaning could very well be applied to the crossing of two very distinct lines of seedlings, or hybrids, from two or more species that have been crossed that a hybridizer or plant breeder has been line breeding from the original crosses.

But not to belabor the point, the term hybridizer has been in common usage in the iris world for very many years, and thus is well accepted as the proper term to be applied to iris plant breeders.

Most of us who hybridize iris have evolved from being early collectors of bee pods, which we shelled out and planted to get our first seedlings. Personally, the joy of seeing your first seedling breaking ground, and its first bloom, will impregnate you with the virus or desire to become a hybridizer. Improvement of the flower or more vigorous growth of the plant will become a consuming desire for most of us who grow iris from seed. Somehow, we feel that we just must try to improve on the processes of nature to get a better garden plant. When we give into the desire, most of us are addicted for the rest of our lives. So be wary of planting that first seed — you may be addicted for life!


The first hard lesson that you learn is that breeding dogs to dogs, you get dogs, literally. The term here refers to the early irises whose falls tended to hang down and be narrow at the hafts. I started trying to breed some of these irises just after World War II in the late forties and early fifties. The results were pretty much as I have described, from those dog-tongued irises, I got dog-tongued irises, for several years. It finally dawned on me that to continue

breeding that type plant material was not going to be a very productive process. This is a lesson that was learned the hard way, by trial and error.

Most of us learn from our mistakes, which I also did. I started buying the later irises and using them as parents with much better results. Although I have not produced any major prizewinners, I have had some creditable results. Plants that are good growers and bloomers with pleasing flowers have been my reward. This was, after all, my goal in the beginning, since the older flower forms were not as pleasing as I thought they ought to be. Some of the older cultivars had other undesirable traits such as poor branching, low bud count, and poor growth habits that later day hybridizers have remedied with satisfying results. The lesson learned is that we all stand on the shoulders of our forefathers, and we need to take care to enjoy the fruits of their labor.

You do need to break the mold and try something different as you go along the way, though. Experiments with breeding older irises to later irises, for me, have not had very satisfactory results. In my experience, the offspring tend to throw back to the older flower forms. It seems that the early and older traits have a deeper imbedded influence on the offspring than the latter-bred traits, which do not have as many generations in their background. All this does not mean that you should not out-cross on occasion, or back-breed the irises, to try to regain a trait that has been lost along the way, or to create a totally new breakthrough trait. Breaking the mold simply means not to become set in our ways of thinking about what is beautiful and desirable.

This brings to mind another lesson that I have learned along the hybridizing road. Some years back in my breeding experience, probably in the early sixties, I found a bearded iris in the edge of a wood that was off the beaten path. I brought it home and grew it out to bloom the next spring. It was a yellow iris with a fairly nice bloom, so I put pollen from it onto Cliffs of Dover, an older white that I still grow and love. The seedlings were all similar in color and form, but one was much better. It was ruffled and well formed with good substance, a beautiful white with deep butter-yellow in the throat and at the hafts extending nearly a third of the way up the standards and along the falls. The beard was of the same yellow color, but it had some deep brown haft markings. At the time, haft markings and standards or falls that were not of uniform color were frowned upon. So after two or three years, I destroyed the stock to make room for other seedlings and newer irises. The last few years, visiting gardens and attending conventions, I find that many of the new irises have these same qualities as that seedling. The lesson learned is to be not so quick in destroying a seedling because it is not fashionable. A hard lesson indeed that I learned, and I have regretted it ever since. Fashion is such a fickle thing.

[This article originally appeared in the AIS Region 22 Newsletter.] 

Right: ANNUITY (E. Kegerise)

Below: LAURA BUELOW (M. Roberts)

Lower Right: LITTLE JOHN (D. Spoon)

Photo: E. Kegerise



Photo: Filardi



Photo: Filardi



*More
Contemporary
Views*

See Perry Dyer article, April 2003



Photo: Aitken



Photo: Aitken

Above: MOMENTOUS OCCASION
(Sutton)

Left: MILLENNIUM FALCON (Kasperek)

Lower Right: FROSTED VELVET
(MTB – Fisher)



Photo: N. Price

California Dreamin

...at the 2004 National Convention

by Yvette Meador, Sierra Foothills Iris Society

AS I SIT HERE TRYING TO COMPOSE THIS ANNOUNCEMENT FOR next year's National Convention, many of you are on your way to this year's 2003 AIS Convention in Falls Church, VA.

I was asked by the Convention Chair, Betty Coyle, to prepare a "press release" about the upcoming convention now for early publication, so when you receive this issue of the *Bulletin* you will start thinking about making your plans to attend the 2004 AIS Convention in Fresno, CA.

So far there have been over 5000 guest iris distributed among the 11 gardens that will be toured during next year's convention; add that to all of the iris already growing in each of the gardens and that's a whole lot of iris to be seen and admired! The 11 gardens will be in and around Fresno, Modesto and Porterville.

Emphasis is being placed on the importance of good food and plenty of time to spend in the gardens. Plan now to attend April 19 thru April 24, 2004.

About Fresno, California: The city and county of Fresno are located in the central San Joaquin Valley of California. To the west it is predominantly flat, with thousands of acres devoted to agriculture. To the east, the snow-capped Sierra Nevada Mountains rise out of the low foothills. Three national parks are located in close proximity: Kings Canyon, Sequoia, and Yosemite.

Side Trips: An all-day trip to Yosemite National Park is scheduled and will include lunch in the historic Ahwahnee dining room, with its 34-foot-tall trestle-beamed ceiling. Watch future issues of the *AIS Bulletin* for prices and further details.

AIS Convention 2004 April 19-24, Fresno, California


Convention Chairperson: Betty Coyle, PO Box 68, Carlotta, CA 95528
phone: (707) 834-0750 e-mail: <theirislady2@aol.com>

Convention web page: www.irises.org/2004convention.htm

2004 Convention Hotel:

Radisson Hotel, 2233 Ventura Street, Fresno, CA 93721
phone (559) 268-1000

Room Sharing:


Char Holte performed a valuable service for Convention 2003 by maintaining a list of convention attendees who wanted to share a room to cut costs. She has graciously volunteered to help in the same way for Convention 2004. If you plan to attend, and would like to split the cost of the room with someone, contact Char Holte. Her address is 17308 W Observatory Road, New Berlin WI 53146; tel: (262) 641-2895; e-mail: <cholte@wi.rr.com>. Char maintains the list of registrants looking for roommates, and if you contact her, she will put you in touch with others who might be compatible with your needs. You will make the contact and work out the details and make a new friend in the process. 

2003 Membership Contest Winners

from Lynda Miller, Indiana, and Nancy Docklington, Illinois

The group contest was won by The Bluegrass Iris Society, Frankfort, KY, with 375 points.

The individual contest was won by Ms. Laura Urness of Logan, UT, with 100 points.

These winners will be sent gift irises by Lynda Miller, and their trophies were awarded at this year's National Convention. 

Contemporary Views: SDBs

See April issue



Photo: M. Smith



Photo: Vizvarie

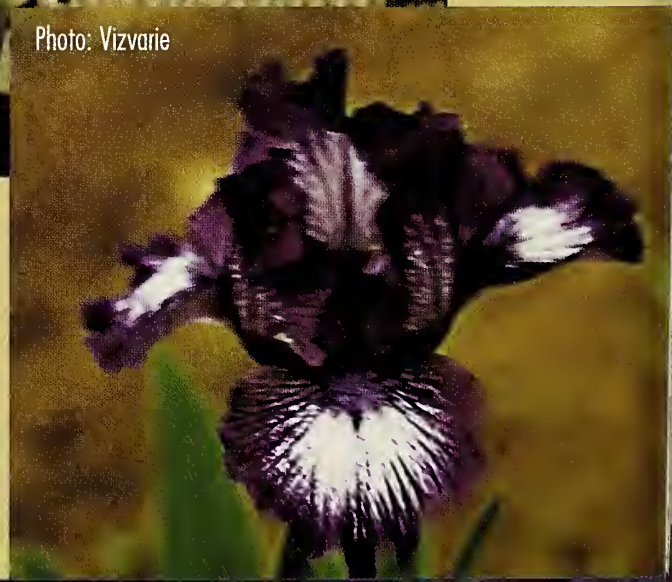


Photo: Vizvarie

Top: YEARLING (M. Smith)

Middle: ALYSSIA'S AFTERGLOW (Vizvarie)

Right: WAIT RIGHT HERE (Vizvarie)

Bloom Stalk Proliferations

by Steve Doole, Illinois


I HAVE BEEN GROWING AND HYBRIDIZING IRISES FOR THE LAST forty-five years. I am a Master judge, past President of the Southern Illinois Iris Society, and past RVP of Region #9, A.I.S. In the course of my iris career, for better or worse, I have seen just about everything the iris world could throw at me. Last year, however, I had a pleasant surprise which I would like to share.

One of my tall bearded iris crosses descending out of Georgia Hinkle's blue lines, BB-1, (T-9-1 (FIVE STAR ADMIRAL x H-9-7c) X AARON'S BLUEBELLS (FIVE STAR ADMIRAL x SHAWNEE ICEFALL (H-9-1 x H-1x-4)) germinated in the spring of '01. The seedlings were transplanted to the seedling patch in late April of '01. First year bloom occurred in May of '02. In May of '02, seedling BB-1-2 had five primary increase and began to send up a single primary stock rhizome (original seedling rhizome) bloom stalk. None of the increase on BB-1-2 produced a bloom stalk. Since I often inbreed some lines for several generations to eliminate unwanted genes, I am a habitual counter of first year increase on the seedlings in a cross. I calculate the mean and standard deviation for the number of increase per seedling as an evaluation tool to estimate the degree of inbreeding depression a line is undergoing. The weather was normal, if not above average, for a good bloom season. Although BB-1-2 began to produce a bloom stalk, it did not bloom. Instead the stalk stopped increasing in height and appeared to become "stunted" during the normal bloom season, at about 5" - 6" of growth. At the node which would normally produce the lower branch of the bloom stalk, the encasing leaf became stunted and a "whorl" of leaves appeared at the top of the stalk instead of the normal flower buds. The growth reminded me of the "pineappleing" I have occasionally seen on some cultivars. Because the growth was unusual and something which I had never before seen, I left the stalk alone just to see what might happen.

After bloom season, since the bloom stalk was still very green and growing, with its tuft of little leaves sitting like a topknot at the top of

the stalk, I did not break off the bloom stalk. During late August of '02, when I was weeding the seedling row, I noticed that three small rhizomes with little, small, normal fans and little pendant roots had begun to form at the top of the bloom stalk. The little rhizomes were attached to the top of the stunted bloom stalk at the node which should have produced the lowest branch on the original bloom stalk, along their sides at approximately the top of the little rhizome just below where the fan emerges. The roots were forming on the bottom side of the little rhizome opposite the point of attachment to the bloom stalk. With my scientific curiosity fully engaged, I began to give BB-1-2 more attention and care. In October of '02, with frost approaching, I removed the bloom stalk, primary rhizome and all, from the rest of the seedling clump. The growth proliferations were photographed by a friend and daylily enthusiast, Ann Cluck, after which the proliferations were separated from the bloom stalk, potted and placed in a cool greenhouse for the winter.

The proliferations survived the winter in great health, and as of spring '03 were growing vigorously. I am looking forward to seeing bloom from BB-1-2 in the spring of '03. It may be the worst thing in the garden when it does bloom. Oh, well. I am also interested in seeing whether there is any difference in the growth and performance of the proliferations compared to the parent plant. Also, I am curious to know if the production of proliferations by BB-1-2 is a one time anomaly or will such growth occur again in the future. Since I have never seen or heard of tall bearded irises producing bloom stalk proliferations, I am interested in hearing from anyone who may have seen or is growing proliferations.

*The author may be contacted at 775 Kaid Road, Eldorado, IL 62930;
tel:(618) 273-5992* 

Visit the AIS Web Site
www.irises.org


New Patterns, New Words

by Sylvain Ruaud, France

A FEW YEARS AGO, WHEN WE BEGAN TO FIND IRISES WITHOUT any traces of anthocyanic pigments amidst new seedlings, someone – but who? – gave this new pattern the almost Latin name of “glaciata”. Very well done.

When we selected in the rows of plicata irises those with a white area around the beards and white veins on the falls, a new name was found – again by whom? Those were called “luminatas”. OK.

Since then other patterns have appeared, even though, in the beginning, their designers, like Allan Ensminger, didn’t even dare to register them. I am talking about the “broken color” varieties. And they now have a good place in our collections. Likewise the spooned irises, that some still continue to call “space agers”, are now so well accepted that they have already obtained two Dykes Medals. But nobody thought of a generic name similar to those quoted above. Why not?

In France, on the “PARLONS-IRIS” chat, we discussed this topic, but without much success. For my part, I suggested “rostrata” as a substitute for the old-fashioned “space agers”, and “maculosa” for “broken colors”. “Rostrata” comes from the Latin adjective “rostratus” which means “ram”, and “maculosa” is from the adjective “maculosus”, which means covered with markings. I guess we could find more accurate terms, but I’ll submit these to irisarians around the world. Wait and see! 

A Cornucopia of Flowers: ***The 2003 Spuria Convention***

by J. Lee Miller, Arizona

I love excess of fruitfulness; let other fools pay more for less.”


Thank you to the Pony Express Iris Society & the Spuria Iris Society for a convention that was very enjoyable. The spuria bloom was a cornucopia of beautiful flowers and green, lush gardens. There were ponds, peonies, and all sorts of other plants that I can only dream about growing in Arizona. Oh, how I cherish good, rich soil and the smell of humidity in the air. The weather was perfect, despite the dire predictions of rain & thunderstorms. President Jim Hedgecock pointed to the 12 raindrops that splattered on his windshield early Saturday morning and he worried that it really might rain. He just didn't understand that rain was not in the cards because there were two visitors from Arizona. I explained this is how it goes. It would only sprinkle long enough to get his windshield dirty. Sure enough, that's all it did!

The spurias that were planted in the fall of 2000 stood tall in the seven gardens that we visited. The garden owners planted the guest iris in beds with other beautiful flowers and shrubs. Every garden was unique and varied in plantscape. Each garden had private collections of iris as well as guest plantings. My personal favorite, ZULU CHIEF, had competition from yet another Jenkins spuria, TOUCH OF LACE. The latter graced the production rows of a peony grower's nursery. It was planted in long rows at the end of peony beds. What a sight! This is one spuria that I will have to add to my collection. Every convention I promise to restrain myself from buying everything I see, but... Iris Virus strikes again and I must acquire a few more. REDWOOD SUPREME, ADRIATIC BLUE, MISSOURI IRON ORE, CHERUB IN BLUE and a few others must come live in my garden. I live near Tucson at the base of the Baboquivari Mountains, so I must have Floyd Wickenkamp's KITT PEAK.

At the auction, the auctioneer was the real McCoy. Speak he did — a real fast talker! The bidding for spuria rhizomes on Saturday night was fun. Some numbered cards waved boldly in the air, while others

were more clandestine with their bids. Many people went home with a great spuria for a very reasonable price. To all, thank you for your support! Earlier in the evening, a beautiful, wood plaque was awarded to Bobbie Shepard for her years of contribution to the Spuria Iris Society. I get to visit Bobbie & Don's garden every year because they are neighbors up in Phoenix. Another Sonoran Desert dweller, Charles Jenkins, was the speaker for the event.

The convention experience not only gives me a chance to see a bounty of beautiful gardens, but also allows me time to visit with people who love gardens. I look forward to keeping in touch. You see, I have accepted the position of Treasurer and Membership Chairperson for the Spuria Iris Society.

AND... Yes, Keith... it's for the love of iris! 

HAPPY MOOSE GARDEN VIDEOS PRESENTS ...

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WINTERBERRY GARDENS... Don & Ginny Spoon

Video 03-01 is 1 hour and 41 minutes of exciting iris convention action from Don & Ginny Spoon's Winterberry Gardens in Cross Junction, Virginia. This video was actually filmed during the official convention tour. Winterberry Gardens grows over 7,000 iris cultivars and had an additional 1,000 guest plants for the convention.

EDGEHILL GARDENS... Jack & Rosalie Loving

Video 03-02 is 1 hour and 50 minutes of the newest and most exciting irises on the planet from Jack and Rosalie Loving's Edgehill Gardens in King George, Virginia. A virtual color explosion, filmed at the peak of the 2003 bloom season, during the official 2003 American Iris Society's National Convention. It is remarkable how many irises you will see on this single video. Over 700 guest plants are in the garden from the top iris hybridizers around the world.

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AS Calendar

National Conventions:

2004: April 19-24
Fresno, CA

Chair: Betty Coyle
 P.O. Box 68
 Carlotta, CA 95528
 (707) 834-0750
 <theirislady2@aol.com>

Headquarters:
 Radisson Hotel
 2233 Ventura Street
 Fresno, CA 93721
 (559) 268-1000

2005: May 9-14
Saint Louis, MO

Chair: Riley Probst
 418 North Van Buren
 Saint Louis, MO 63122
 (314) 822-2485
 <rprobst02@earthlink.net>

Headquarters:
 Sheraton Westport
 191 Westport Plaza
 St. Louis, MO 63146
 (314) 878-1500

2006: May 22-27
Portland, OR

Chair: John Ludi
 35071 SE Highway 211
 Boring, OR 97009
 (503) 668-9230

Headquarters:
 DoubleTree Hotel
 Portland/Jantzen Beach
 909 N. Hayden Island Drive
 Portland, OR 97217
 (503) 283-4466

2007: Apr 30 – May 5
Oklahoma City, OK
 Chair: F. W. McVicker
 Route 3 – Box 10
 Kingfisher, OK 73750
 (405) 374-3115

Fall Board Meetings:

2003: November 7-9
Tucson, AZ
 Chair: Lucille Skerston
 2950 N. Placita Nueva
 Tucson, AZ 85715-3430
 (520) 751-1696
 <Lskerston@comcast.net>

Headquarters:
Best Western Inn at the Airport
7060 South Tucson Boulevard
Tucson, AZ 85706
(520) 746-0271

2004: November 5-7
Santa Rosa, CA

Chair: Carolyn Fuller
302 Mountain View Drive
Healdsburg, CA 95448
(707) 431-7350
<fullerbc@aol.com>

2005: November 4-6
Minneapolis, MN

Chair: Marsha VandeBrake
958 124th Lane NW
Coons Rapids, MN 55448
(763) 755-5869
<msvande@aol.com>

2006: November 3-5
Kansas City, MO

Chair: Judy Keisling
12119 A Highway
Liberty, MO 64068
(816) 792-1848
<keisling@swbell.net>

Exhibition Report Update


from Jason Leader, Exhibitions Chair

The following additions are due to an administrative correction to the 2002 Exhibitions Report:

Region 20

Date	Place	Type	Best Specimen	Exhibitor	Silver Medal	Bronze Medal
May 19, 02	Denver, CO	MTB	Payoff	L. Baumunk	L. Baumunk	T. Chandler
June 1 & 2, 02	Denver, CO	TB	Good Show	L. Baumunk	L. Love	T. Chandler

Exhibition Certificates awarded for Best Seedling:

May 19, 2002	Tcha'Deetch	AB	Rob Stetson
June 1-2, 2002	99VG-W137	TB	Bob Van Liere 

AIS Foundation Contributions

compiled by Roger Mazur

Contributions to the American Iris Society Foundation are used for the research of the genus iris, administration of scholarships and the support of the AIS Library through the Evelyn Jones Memorial Library Fund. This research includes the taxonomy as well as the cause of diseases and their cures. Over the years, grants have been issued to the top researchers and educational institutions throughout the United States as well as internationally.

October 1, 2002 - April 1, 2003

Contributions in memory of:

Lilah Aldrich (OH)

Columbus Iris Society (OH)

Lela L. Barnett (OK)

Lawton Area Friends of Iris Society

Howard Brookins (WI)

Wisconsin Iris Society

Genny Burton (SC)

Region 5, AIS

Sam Crosby (ME)

Maine Iris Society

Bobby Eakes (TN)

Twin State Iris Society (TN)

Barbara Figge (NM)

Helen & Jay Crotty (NM)

Ruby Froderman (TX)

Jim Landers (TX)

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Inland Region Iris Society (CA)

Agnes Goddard (TN)

Twin State Iris Society (TN)

Evelyn Hayes (CA)

Elsiemae Nicholson (CA)

Ted Jessop (CA)

Clara B. Rees Iris Society (CA)

Jane Johnson (SC)

Summerville Iris Society (SC)

Region 5, AIS

Barbara & Bob Terpening (GA)

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Frances B. Winfree (TN)

Twin State Iris Society (TN)

Contributions to the Evelyn Jones Memorial Library Fund

Vic Briody (CA)

Santa Rosa Iris Society (CA)

Bill Fether (NM)

New Mexico Iris Society

Bernard Lowenstein (NM)

New Mexico Iris Society

Mary Sullivan (CA)

Linda K. Bell (AR)

Special Appreciation Contributions:

Nelson & Sylvia Jones (CA)

Santa Rosa Iris Society (CA)

How can you make a contribution or memorial gift to the American Iris Society Foundation?

Checks should be made payable to the American Iris Society Foundation. When sending a memorial gift, please include the name and address of the next-of-kin, so an acknowledgement card may be sent. Your tax-deductible donations should be sent to:

The American Iris Society Foundation

Roger P. Mazur Sec./Treas.

815 South 67th Ave.

Omaha, NE 68106-1115



Rogues' Gallery: Hybridizers at AIS National Convention

In Memoriam: Dean Brand

by Paul Gossett, Oklahoma

On May 21, 2003 the Iris World and I lost a very, very dear friend. Roy Dean Brand, known to most as Dean Brand, was born on October 7, 1940 in Heavener, Oklahoma, and passed away with complications from cardiovascular surgery.

Dean was an employee for the United States Postal Service for 38 1/2 years and retired in December, 1999. He and his wife Georgia had 2 daughters and 7 grandchildren.

Dean joined the Tulsa Area Iris Society in 1977 and was an active member since joining. He participated in most of the activities of the society. He was a member of several iris societies in Oklahoma and several AIS sections. He attended Region 22 meetings as well as many AIS Conventions.

He grew almost 3000 varieties of irises in his garden, which was always open to the public during bloom season. If you ever visited his garden, you would have seen how much he enjoyed growing irises and talking about them whenever he got the chance to do so. His garden was like being in Iris Heaven and at the entrance to the garden was a large row of STEPPING OUT, greeting you with a big smile and inviting you to come on in and to enjoy your visit with Dean and his irises.

Dean enjoyed exhibiting irises in shows and had won a total of 20 Best of Show Awards with a different variety each time. In three different years, he won the Best of Show at both of the Tulsa Area Iris Shows. He won the Silver Medal at least 24 times and always strived to enter a maximum of 25 Iris at the TAIS shows. He always hoped to win 25 blue ribbons, and his goal was almost reached at one show with 24 blue ribbons. When purchasing irises he always looked at the descriptions for irises that had show exhibiting qualifications.

His favorite irises were STEPPING OUT (Schreiner '64), followed by RHONDA FLEMING (Ron Mullin '93), and LADY LAREE (Ann Barrows '02). All are plicata irises.

Dean was a mentor to many of us, and a very good friend. He was always generous in sharing irises with many of us, and he was always good at instructing us in how to groom and show irises. All of us in the Tulsa Area Iris Society, Region 22, and the American Iris Society will miss Dean. We love you.

This page sponsored by Paul Gossett, in memory of R. Dean Brand

In Memoriam: Albert Dierckes

Albert Dierckes (1916-2003)

At one time, Albert Charles Dierckes had 3,000 iris plants on his acre of land in Erlanger, Kentucky. But he didn't keep the beauty all to himself.

"Lots of people – from Northern Kentucky to Indian Hill – have iris in their yards that Dad gave them," said Dierckes' son, Albert Dierckes, Jr.

Mr. Dierckes, 87, who passed away on June 30, 2003, had a passion for growing and hybridizing the iris to create unique varieties, and he loved sharing his creations.

"He gave four bushels of iris to a friend of mine who lives in Indian Hill. He just gave them to people – neighbors, anyone," Dierckes, Jr. said.

Mr. Dierckes was a former RVP of Region 7 of the American Iris Society and loved the meticulous work of pollinating the flowers and the physical challenge of gardening.

"He had a garden and used that tiller until he was 80 years old," his son said.

It isn't surprising that his father worked the garden until he was 80, Dierckes, Jr., said. He was a third generation grocery owner and developed a strong work ethic at an early age in his father's store.

Survivors include his wife, Ella Jane Barton Dierckes; five grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

In Memoriam

R. Dean Brand, Oklahoma
Albert Dierckes, Kentucky
Bernard Hamner, California
James N. Hawley, Oklahoma
Doris M. Linville, Kansas

Dr. Currier McEwen,
Maine/New York
Irene Murphy,
Colorado/Mississippi
Mr. & Mrs. Felix A. West, Texas

Approved Affiliates for 2003

Region 1

Connecticut Iris Society
Michael Zuraw, President
1 Pondview Dr
Bethel CT 06801

Iris Society Of Massachusetts
Jan Sacks, President
337 Acton St
Carlisle MA 01741-1432

Maine Iris Society
Peter Young, President
53 Young Rd
Buckfield ME 04220

Western New England Iris Society
Connie Kindahl, President
364 Daniel Shays Hwy
Pelham MA 01002-9728

Region 2

Adirondack Foothills I & D Society
Bob Keup, President
Po Box 24
Kinderhook NY 12106-0024

Capitol-Hudson Iris Society
Linda Montanaro, President
107 Vley Rd
Scotia NY 12302-2031

Central NY Iris Society
Ronald James, President
887 County Route 3
Hannibal NY 13074-2356

Greater Rochester Iris Society
Donna Lowry, President
9660 Ridge Rd W
Brockport NY 14420-9470

Hudson Valley Iris & Daylily Society
Jerry Murphy, President
6 Forrest Way
Poughkeepsie NY 12603

Southern Tier Iris Society
Mildred Horak, President
3975 Carr Hill Rd
Cortland NY 13045-9726

Western New York Iris Society
Betty Schnellinger, President
405 Maple Rd
Corfu NY 14036-9591

Region 3

Delaware Valley Iris Society
Ronald J Thoman, President
1010 Wiggins Way
West Chester PA 19380-3312

Diamond State Iris Society
Dorothy Mallozzi, President
962 Blackbird Landing Rd
Townsend DE 19734-9141

Susquehanna Iris Society
Jane Bury, President
5411 Trump Rd
Glennville PA 17329

Region 4

Allegheny Highlands Iris Society
Margaret C Stone, President
229 Crowfield Cir
Lewisburg WV 24901-1263

Carolina Mountains Iris Society
Danee Hoover, President
133 Horizon View Dr
Horse Shoe NC 28742

Central Virginia Iris Society
Linda Laing, President
Po Box 1804
Midlothian VA 23113-1804

Charlotte Iris Society
Carrie Winter, President
5801 Masters Ct
Charlotte NC 28226-8046

Chesapeake & Potomac Iris Society
Donald W Spoon, President
1225 Reynolds Rd
Cross Junction VA 22625-1726

Eastern North Carolina Iris Society
Margaret Pearson, President
241 Camping Creek Rd
Franklinton NC 27525-7265

Eastern Shore Iris Society
Ann Dumler, President
901 Camden Ave
Salisbury MD 21801-6301

Francis Scott Key Iris Society
Sylvia Smith, President
8352 Wb & A Rd
Severn MD 21144-3216

Fredericksburg Area Iris Society
Jim Schroetter, President
9614 Flint Hill Ct
Fredericksburg VA 22407-1926

Hampton Roads Iris Society
Frances Thrash, President
2109 Cocoa Circle
Virginia Beach VA 23454-2213

Virginia Peninsula Iris Society
Nelda Pressly, President
111 West Kingswood Dr
Williamsburg VA 23185-3248

Region 5

Dixie Iris Study Club
Mrs A D Wilder, President
802 Camellia Dr
Anderson SC 29625-2738

Flaga Iris Club
Betty Tomlinson, President
7041 Old Nursery Rd
Macclenny FL 32063-9798

Flint River Iris Society
Mary Pond, President
117 Waterford Way
Griffin GA 30223

Foothills Iris Club
Willa Handlin, President
199 Handlin Dr
Townsville SC 29689

Georgia Iris Society
James B Mcrae, President
715 Catherine St
Forest Park GA 30297-3743

Oconee Valley Iris Club
Cindy White, President
2967 Smyrna Church Rd
Sandersville GA 31082-5526

Piedmont Carolina Iris Society
Rev E L Lineberger, President
2460 Compton Bridge Rd
Inman SC 29349-8489

South Carolina Iris Society
Esther Sheppard, President
107 Shadow Ln
Cayce SC 29033-2343

Summerville Iris Society
Maggie Johnson, President
Po Box 427
St Stephen SC 29479-0427

Region 6

Akron Area Iris Society
Mrs Anthony Willott, President
26231 Shaker Blvd
Beachwood OH 44122-7111

Central Ohio Iris Society
Kenny Wittel, President
3438 State Route 3
Loudonville OH 44842-9531

Columbus Iris Society
Jody Nolin, President
1185 Elderwood Ave
Columbus OH 43227-2024

Grand Valley Iris Society
Frank P Davis, President
3718 Crystal Sw
Grandville MI 49418-1329

Indiana Daylily Iris Society
Judy Leman, President
1519 Broad Ripple Ave
Indianapolis, IN 46220

Iris Club Of SE Michigan
Ann Cline, President
2311 Torquay Ave
Royal Oak MI 48073-1117

Iris Club Of West Michigan
Donald R Sorensen, President
5349 Chickadee Dr Ne
Belmont MI 49306-9630

Iris Growers Of Eastern Indiana
William Garner, President
1101 W Park Ave
Hartford City IN 47348-1227

Miami Valley Iris Society
Sandra L Bowman, President
1063 Revere's Run
Lebanon, OH 45036

Mio Irisarians
Carol Fisher, President
2395 Park Rd
Mio MI 48647-9513

North East Ohio Iris Society
Allan Davis, President
15001 Schreiber Rd
Maple Heights OH 44137-4753

Northeast Indiana Iris Society
Lana Higgins, President
9730 Auburn Rd
Fort Wayne IN 46825-2350

Southwestern Michigan Iris Society
James Copeland, President
78118 Highway M40
Lawton MI 49065-9467

Tri-County Iris Society
Jack Sharpe, President
5185 Beaumaris Cir
Holt MI 48842-2908

Region 7

Bluegrass Iris Society
Annette Milch, President
3163 Dewey Dr
Lexington KY 40515-5408

East Tennessee Iris Society
James Ennenga, President
6913 Chartwell Rd
Knoxville TN 37931-2542

Iris Society Of America's 1st Frontier
Stuart Hale, President
Rte 1 Box 855
Ft Blackmore VA 24250

Jackson Area Iris Society
Linda Browning, President
1352 Lawton Rd
Selmer TN 38375-6238

Ken-Ten Iris Society
Earnest L Royal, President
Po Box 41, 3877 Kirksey Rd
Kirksey KY42054-0041

Kentucky Rainbow Iris Society
Betty Cutlip, President
8265 Dixie Hwy
Williamstown KY 41097-4170

Louisville Area Iris Society
June F Richards, President
3219 Richard Ave
Louisville KY 40206-2757

Memphis Area Iris Society
Elke Longworth, President
1530 Mcnight Loop
Mason TN 38049-6347

Middle Tennessee Iris Society
Cynda Ferguson, President
7917 Highway 100
Nashville TNn 37221-4119

Mid-State Iris Association
Joy Mckee, President
1446 Arrowhead Pl
Murfreesboro TN 37129-1003

Ohio River Valley Iris Society
Leslie Jobe, President
2631 Holland Dr
Owensboro KY 42303-2724

Parisian Iris & Daylily Club
Helen Barker, President
350 Country Club Loop
Paris TN 38242-7654

Southern Kentucky Iris Society
Lillian C White, President
3555 Clay County Hwy
Moss TN 38575-9611

Twin States Iris Society
Katie R Shook, President
13644 Central Pike
Mt Juliet TN 37122

West Tennessee Iris Society
Chuck Winters, President
2349 Kimbrough Woods Pl
Germantown TN 38139

Region 8

Iris Society Of Minnesota
William Dougherty, President
7420 Concerto Curve Ne
Fridley MN 55432-3205

Madison Area Iris Society
Carolee Clay, President
W 7872 Stone Rd
Beaver Dam WI 53916

Wisconsin Iris Society
Karl P Becker, President
N 9012 Pickeral Jay Rd
East Troy WI 53120-1808

Region 9

Blackhawk Valley Iris Society
Neal S Tolodxi Sr, President
2702 Ellen Ave
Rockford IL 61101-3533

Mid Illinois Iris Society
Ernie Henson, President
6401 Cedar Rd
Iuka IL 62849-2815

Northern Illinois Iris Society
Caryl Schaer, President
7924 Brookbank Rd
Clarendon Hills IL 60527-2424

Northshore Iris And Daylily Society
Alice Simon, President
2516 S Scott St
Des Plaines IL 60018-3948

Prairie Iris Society
Margaret Kelly, President
1708 Holiday Dr
Pekin IL 61554-1925

Southern Illinois Iris Society
Ann Henson, President
6401 Cedar Rd
Iuka IL 62849-2815

Region 11

Gem State Iris Society
Sharon Touchstone, President
1222 Morehouse Rd
Emmett ID 83617-9745

Magic Valley Iris Society
Vicki Harney, President
995 Filer Av West
Twin Falls ID 83301

Pollen Daubers Iris Society
Louisa Cone, President
7120 El Paso Rd
Caldwell ID 83607

Region 12

Logan Iris Soc
C P Brennand, President
2270 N 1600 E
North Logan UT 84341-2123

Utah Iris Society
Val Wilson, President
106 E Wilson Rd
No Salt Lake City UT 84054-2220

Region 13

Columbia Basin Iris Society
Beverly Petrak, President
11209 Road Q NW
Quincy WA 98848-9689

Greater Portland Iris Society
John W Ludi, President
35071 SE Highway 211
Boring OR 97009-9584

Inland Empire Iris Society
Paul Harms, President
3004 E Providence Ave
Spokane WA 99207-5842

King County Iris Society
Bob Seaman, President
7051 S 126th St
Seattle WA 98178-4337

Oregon Trail Iris Society
Frank J Foster, President
7647 Stayton Rd Se
Turner OR 97392-9750

Pierce County Iris Society
Iris Martin, President
9925 18th St Ct E
Edgewood WA 98371-1220

Town & Country Iris Society
Sid Harty, President
13711 S Sands Rd
Valleyford WA 99036-9761

Walla Walla Iris Society
Hume Mcmartin, President
106 Willow Creek Rd
Dayton WA 99328-9625

Yakima Valley Iris Society
Steven S Hill, President
15 S 6th St
Yakima WA 98901-2924

Region 14

Clara B Rees Iris Society
John Pesek, President
4631 Mayfield Dr
Fremont CA 94536-6729

Fresno Iris Society
Jennifer Smith, President
11875 Old Friant Rd
Fresno CA 93720-9701

James M Gibson Iris Society
Gloria I Haggard, President
1912 S Burke Ct
Visalia CA 93292

Las Vegas Iris Society
Dorlene Waite, President
5271 Via De Palma Dr
Las Vegas NV 89146

Leo T Clark Foothill Iris Society
William T Owen, President
6288 Huggins Dr
Orland CA 95963-9351

Monterey Bay Iris Society
Vicki Dudley, President
17285 Tamara Ln
Watsonville CA 95076-9009

Mount Diablo Iris Society
Joseph W Balch, President
1221 Lexington Way
Livermore, CA 94550

Redwood Iris Society
Kitty Loberg, President
1900 Mountain View Lane
Redwood Valley CA 95470

Sacramento Iris Society
E Richard Calzascia, President
3825 Breuner Ave
Sacramento CA 95819-1505

San Joaquin Iris Society
Gordon Nicholson, President
Po Box 578668
Modesto CA 95357-8668

Santa Rosa Iris Society
David Cadd, President
29 North St
Healdsburg CA 95448-4209

Shasta Iris Society
Lee Padden, President
12085 Thelma Ln
Redding CA 96003

Sierra Foothills Iris Society
Art Bern, President
16268 Rattlesnake Rd
Grass Valley CA 95945-7609

Southern Nevada Iris Society
Peggy Mclean, President
4339 Sparta Way
North Las Vegas NV 89032-0150

Sydney B Mitchell Iris Society
Charles Dekker, President
928 Balra Dr
El Cerrito CA 94530-3027

Westbay Iris Society
Michael Abrams, President
751 Linden Ave
Los Altos CA 94022

Region 15

Desert Sunset Iris Society
Joyce Poling, President
17210 N Calico Dr
Sun City AZ 85351

Hi Desert Iris & Daylily Society
Cheryl Deaton, President
27218 Walnut Springs Ave
Canyon Country CA 91351-3314

Inland Region Iris Society
John H Reinschmidt, President
16606 Barbee St
Fontana CA 92336-2502

Orange Co. Iris & Daylily Club
Marilyn Pecoraro, President
1917 Tumin Rd
La Habra Heights CA 90631-8191

Prescott Area Iris Society
Judy Book, President
1111 Copper Basin Road
Prescott AZ 86303

San Diego-Imperial Co. Iris Society
Kenneth Pierson, President
Po Box 1078
Julian CA 92036-1078

San Fernando Valley Iris Society
Debbie Babuscio, President
20728 Dolorosa St
Woodland Hills CA 91367

Sonoran Desert Iris Society
Darlene Kaiser, President
7239 W Crittendon Ln
Phoenix AZ 85033-4312

Southern California Iris Society
Michael Monninger, President
4861 Brookhill Terr
Riverside CA 92509-4088

Sun Country Iris Society
Lynn A Martin, President
12855 W Orange Dr
Litchfield Park AZ 85350-4102

Tucson Area Iris Society
Jane C Parks, President
1007 W Prince Rd #67
Tucson AZ 85705-3168

Region 16

Ottawa River Iris Society
Maureen Mark, President
Ottawa Ontario K1h 8b3
Canada

Toronto Iris Society
Jim Mcmillen, President
36 Dallington Dr Toronto On
M2j 2g3 Canada

Region 17

Belton Iris Society
Susan Robison, President
Po Box 142
Nolandville TX 76559

Benson Iris Society
Annetta Reusch, President
42 Surrey Cir
Iowa Park TX 76367-1041

Fort Worth Iris Society
Mark Legler, President
2205 Harrison Ave
Fort Worth TX 76110

Iris Society Of Austin
Pat Byrne, President
1102 Aster Dr
Katy TX 77493-1825

Iris Society Of Dallas
Penny Maxham, President
404 Meadowcrest Dr
Richardson TX 75080-2615

Johnson Co. Iris-Daylily Society
Beth Griffith, President
501 Sunset
Cleburne TX 76033

New Braunfels Iris Society
John W Penn, President
729 Winfield Blvd
San Antonio TX 78239-2000

North Plains Iris Society
Billie Corbell, President
1605 N Fairfield St
Amarillo TX 79107-6923

Permian Basin Iris Society
Debra Strauss, President
5121 W Storey Ave
Midland TX 79703-5367

Piney Woods Iris Society
John Middleton, President
Rt 3 Box 218
Mt Pleasant TX 75455

South Plains Iris Society
Dr. Billy G. Skillman, President
5402 26th St
Lubbock TX 79407-2148

Texoma Iris Society
John E Lamb, President
1925 S Fannin Ave
Denison TX 75020-6829

Waco Iris Society
Sue Swaner Coffelt, President
Po Box 443
Clifton TX 76634-0443

West Texas Iris Society
Floy Maberry, President
1704 W Kentucky St
Midland TX 79701-6974

Region 18

Boot Hill Iris Club
Carol Loker, President
2300 5th Ave
Dodge City KS 67801-2545

Flint Hills Iris Society
De Mcglashon, President
2905 Dickens Ave
Manhattan KS 66502-2322

Greater Kansas City Iris Society
Debbie Hughes, President
3395 Utah Rd
Wellsville KS 66092

Greater St. Louis Iris Society
Jim Morris, President
682 Hutnley Heights Dr
Balwin MO 63021-5878

Hutchinson Iris Club
Len Suchy, President
2760 N Tyler Rd
Wichita KS 67205-8712

Iris Society Of The Ozarks
Calvin H Helsley, President
Po Box 306
Mansfield MO 65704-0306

Jeffco Iris Society
Robert E Skaggs Jr, President
5425 Peaceful Ridge
House Springs MO 63051

Kirkwood Iris Society
Jean E. Morris, President
682 Huntley Heights
Ballwin MO 63021-5878

Mineral Area Iris Society
Shirley Dugal, President
6369 Hillsboro Rd
Bonne Terre MO 63628-3736

Ofallon Iris Society
Vincent Italian, President
11728 Benedetta Dr
Bridgeton MO 63044-3405

Parsons Area Iris Society
John A Spare, President
3805 Gabriel Ave
Parsons KS 67357-2103

Pony Express Iris Society
Laveta R Pierce, President
3090 Sw State Rt 116
Dekalb MO 64440

Semo Iris Society
Clyde E Hahn, President
200 N School St
Desloge MO 63601-3548
Show Me Iris Society
Robert Tankesley-Clarke, President
31642 Wieneke Branch Rd
California MO 65018-4044

Tri State Iris Society
Susan Flowers, President
3604 Hawthorne Dr
Joplin MO 64804

Washington Iris Club
Stephanie Rust, President
2016 Meadow Lane
Union MO 63084

Wichita Area Iris Club
Jon Marc Cliburn, President
4801 N Kimberly Ln
Wichita KS 67204-2829

Region 19

Garden State Iris Society
Mary E Townsend, President
62 Elizabeth St
Pemberton NJ 08068-1218

Region 20

Elmohr Iris Society
Russell Eacker, President
2513 Lelaray St
Colorado Springs CO 80909-2404

Loomis Iris Society
Rose D Mclain, President
1210 Hopkins Ave
Rocky Ford CO 81067-2404

Northern CO Iris & Daylily Club
Mitzi Davis, President
507 Nokomis Ct
Fort Collins CO 80524

Region 21

Dawson County Iris Society
Raymond Jackson, President
76510 Road 421
Cozad NE 69130

Elkhorn Valley Iris Society
Gerald Jensen, President
319 N Mill Rd
Pierce NE 68767

Greater Omaha Iris Society
Linda Wilkie, President
15115 Grant Circle
Omaha NE 68116

Lincoln Iris Society
Gary E White, President
701 Old Cheney Rd
Lincoln NE 68512-1168

Sioux Empire Iris Society
Michael Hemmer, President
721 S Walts Ave
Sioux Falls SD 57104-4744

Siouxland Iris Society
Robert Flick, President
1830 Whitehouse Dr
Sioux City IA 51106

Trails West Iris Society
Le Roy Meininger, President
50029 Sunflower Rd
Mitchell NE 69357-3511

Region 22

Central Arkansas Iris Society
Robert Treadway, President
Rr 2 Box 178
Carlisle AR 72024-8605

Hot Springs Iris Society
Lyle Reiningger, President
398 Pritchard St
Hot Springs AR 71913-6022

Lawton Area Friends Of Iris Society
Elsie E Harrow, President
Rt 2 Box 488
Comanche OK 73529-9674

Norman Area Iris Society
Marthella Shoemake, President
11327 Draper Po Box 549
Nicoma Park OK 73066

North Central Iris Society
F W Mcvicker, President
Rr3 Box 10-K
Kingfisher OK 73750-9503

Northern Oklahoma Iris Society
Lee Whitebay, President
4669 N Prentice Rd
Ponca City OK 74604-7131

Oklahoma Iris Society
June P Hardy, President
5809 Comanche Ct
Oklahoma City OK 73132-6620

Rolling Hills Iris Society
Helen Jones, President
1612 W Park Pl
Oklahoma City OK 73106-4654

Sooner State Iris Society
Louise Carson, President
5037 Nw 24th Pl
Oklahoma City OK 73127-1715

Southwest Oklahoma Iris Society
Willie Cooper, President
202 East Washington St
Lawton OK 73572-2260

Tulsa Area Iris Society
Philip W Stonecipher, President
6965 E 20th Place
Tulsa OK 74112-7615

White County Iris Society
Lavera Johnson, President
138 Johnson Ave
Bradford AR 72020-9766

Region 23

Albuquerque Aril Society
Cindy H Rivera, President
20 Kennedy Dr
Los Lunas NM 87031

Mesilla Valley Iris Society
William H Pffifer, President
4150 Cholla Rd
Las Cruces NM 88011-7603

New Mexico Iris Society
Reita Jordan, President
3500 Avenida Charada Nw
Albuquerque NM 87107-2604

Pecos Valley Iris Society
Gary Biggs, President
3008 North Garden Ave
Roswell NM 88201-7759

Santa Fe Iris Society
Alverton Elliott, President
30 Kachina St
Los Alamos NM 87544-2519

Region 24

Blount Iris & Daylily Society
Clyde Walker, President
780 Culwell Rd
Hayden AL 35079-5847

Cullman Iris & Daylily Society
Sue Rodgers, President
1897 County Rd 438
Cullman AL 35057

Golden Wings Iris Society
Rissa Lawrence, President
201 Lawrence Rd
Caledonia MS 39740-9561

Huntsville Chapter Of AIS
Leroy Solomon, President
4702 Mastin Lake Rd Nw
Huntsville AL 35810-3020

NE Alabama Hosta-Iris-Daylily
Society
Dyanne Thigpen, President
2225 Hickory Hill Dr
Guntersville AL 35976

Old South Iris Society
Joetta Tillman, President
840 Cr 53
Houston MS 38851



Minutes

of the AIS Board of Directors Meeting

FALLS CHURCH, VIRGINIA
MAY 12 and 13, 2003

The Spring Meeting of the Board of Directors of The American Iris Society was called to order by President Terry Aitken at 1:00 PM on Monday, May 12, 2003.

Present during the various sessions were: **Officers:** President Aitken, 1st Vice President J. Plank, 2nd Vice President Epperson, Secretary Bonino; Immediate Past President C. Mahan, **Administrative Officers:** Editor Filardi, Reording Secretary Hawkins, Membership Secretary Brown, Publication Sales Directors John and Kay Ludi; **Directors:** Carson, Gossett, Jones, J. Ludi, Mark, Jean Morris, Mull, G. Snyder, G. Sutton, Weixlmann; RVP Representative: M. Sutton (14); **Committee Chairs:** Carson, Cross, Gossett, Jones, Leader, Mike and Anne Lowe, Mahan, Mark, Jean Morris, Mull, G. Snyder, M. Snyder, G. Sutton, Waters, Weixlmann; RVPs: Sawyer (1), Donna James (2), Holcomb (3), Thrift (5), Sandy Ives (16), R. Keisling (18), Roberts (20), Randall (23); Legal Advisor: R. Plank; Guests: R. James (2), Keup (2), Figge (4), Duke, (5), Honkanen (5), Jim & Jill Copeland (6), Holte (8) Boyce (12), B. Aitken (13), Craig (13), Reid (13), Silverberg (13), Coyle (14), J. Keisling (18), Jim Morris (18), Trio (18), McMartin (22).

President Aitken welcomed all attendees. All Board Members and guests introduced themselves. Rosalie Figge was appointed Parliamentarian.

President Aitken explained that logistics and expense prevents distributing copies of committee reports to members of the audience, including RVPs. It was emphasized however, that RVPs may request and make arrangements to receive copies of reports through the RVP Representative to the Board who receives a complete set of all reports.

The minutes of the last meeting at Fort Worth, Texas, November 1-3, 2002 have the following corrections:

1. On Pages 96-97 of the January 2003 Bulletin, under Proposed Bylaw Changes, note that the Article, Section and some Paragraph numbers were changed during the Ballot preparation to correct references and make such other technical and conforming changes as were necessary. Article, Section and Paragraph numbers used in the Ballot are the correct references.
2. Also under Bylaws changes, on page 97 of the January, 2003 Bulletin, the word "fiscal" was inadvertently left in Article VI, Section 2(b). It should have read: One director who is a Regional Vice President in the second year of that office shall be elected by the AIS Board of Counselors at its annual spring meeting and shall hold office for the succeeding year and until a successor is duly elected and qualified. The term shall be from the adjournment of the AIS Board of Directors meeting in the Spring to the adjournment at the next Spring AIS Board of Directors Meeting.
3. On page 98 of the January 2003 Bulletin, M. Sutton reported that Region 14 is a "mutual benefit" and not a "public benefit" organization.

Epperson moved to accept the minutes with the corrections, Jones seconded. Motion carried.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

President: Terry Aitken announced that Keith Keppel is resigning as Registrar. Mike Lowe will assume this position effective December 1, 2003. J. Plank moved, G. Snyder seconded to accept this change. Motion carried.

The following interim Board actions were approved via email between November 2002 and the Spring Board meeting.

1. George Sutton to be appointed as Advertising Manager
2. Reprinting of 25,000 "Invitation to Join" brochures
3. Carolyn Hawkins to be appointed as Recording Secretary to take office May 12, 2003
4. The Claire B. Barr Library Endowment Fund to be created. Further discussion will be under New Business.
5. Because of logistics, timing and costs the AIS Bulletin will no longer be included in the new member packets.
6. Purchase of office equipment at the cost of \$2,600 for the Membership Secretary for conversion of current system to meet FILEMAKERPRO software requirements. This includes a model HP4200DTN printer and an office copy machine.

Mahan moved, Gossett seconded that these actions be reaffirmed. Motion carried.

First Vice President: J. Plank advised she has moved and the new address is in the *AIS Bulletin*.

Second Vice President: No report

Secretary: Bonino advised that the location of doing AIS business has been changed with the U.S. Post Office. Also endorsement stamps have been made for those who send checks to her for deposit. These will provide additional security for mailing.

Treasurer: Treasurer Hudson was not present but Bonino distributed and discussed his report. It included the List of Assets and Restricted Funds as of March 31, 2003, a Profit and Loss Statement for the period October 1, 2002 to March 31, 2003, and a proposed Budget for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2003.

Revenue, membership and storefront sales are lower with expenses being lower also.

The Iris Society of Dallas donated \$10,000 to a Restricted Fund for the benefit of AIS youth members. Also, while interest rates are down, Certificates of Deposit have been purchased in staggered terms to obtain the best rates possible.

A request was made by Hudson to increase and cap the Life Membership Fund from \$112,842 to \$115,000. After discussion the Board decided not to make this change at this time.

The Mego Iris Fund is to be reimbursed to the Suttons. It was originally funded by them with the agreement of reimbursement.

Epperson moved, Jones seconded that the budget for October 1, 2002 to September 30, 2003 be approved. Motion carried.

Editor: Bruce Filardi

1. Mahan requested that a recent article in the SLI Newsletter written by Pat O'Connor on Florida iris, including some unique species iris, be republished in the AIS Bulletin.

2. Flight Lines was not printed in the April issue pending a ruling of using quotes from Iris Talk. Jones moved, G. Sutton seconded that after consulting with R. Plank and M. Lowe, that permission should be obtained before printing quotes. Motion carried.

3. Bruce thanked specifically Mahan, Epperson, Jim & Jean Morris, Rita Gormley, Barbara & Terry Aitken and the Suttons for assistance with recent issues.

Advertising Editor: George/Margaret Sutton reported. There are 34 advertisers at the present time. Color ads are desired and encouraged. Mahan moved, Jones seconded that the ad time frame be adjusted to the fiscal year of October 1st-September 30th with October 1st being the cutoff date. Ads that do not fit into this time frame will be prorated to adjust to the new procedure. This will allow the ads to begin with the January issue of the *AIS Bulletin*. Motion carried.

REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

Membership Secretary: The Board thanked M. Lowe for his help in converting to the new computer equipment. Mahan moved and Epperson seconded that the information on the old hard drives with membership information be destroyed with the remaining items donated to an appropriate charity at the discretion of M. Brown. Motion carried.

The total individual memberships number 6,072 as of May 2003.

The number of memberships was discussed and how to tally them. G. Sutton moved, Jones seconded that each individual membership be the rule, not the household addresses. Motion carried. G. Sutton amended his motion with a second from Jones, to use the membership numbers on April 1st and October 1st of each year to be presented at the Fall Board meeting for comparison and discussion. Motion carried.

A life member whose Bulletin is returned, and after investigation of their whereabouts, will move to the inactive file.

Brown reported that the Membership Secretary Manual must be completely redone.

Renewal grace periods were discussed. A committee of Brown, G. Snyder, Epperson, M. Sutton, and Carson met and agreed that the date for club affiliation of April 1st will be in effect immediately. The renewal grace period for all members will be 30 days. Epperson moved, Jones seconded. Motion carried.

Registrar: Keppel was absent and Bonino distributed and read his report. There have been 1,051 registrations with introductions of 788 varieties. Thirty two percent of the registrations were for irises originating outside of North America. Three hundred and eighty three names had been cleared by May 1, 2003. Nine hundred copies were printed of the Registrations and Introductions booklet at a cost of \$1,730.20.

Recording Secretary: Bonino distributed her report which included corrections to the November 2002 minutes presented previously.

Publications Sales Director: John/Kay Ludi.

1. Authorization to reduce of price of "*World of Iris*" for large orders and for new and youth members will be discussed at the Fall Board Meeting.

2. Total retail (postpaid) inventory on hand as of April 1 2003 was \$220,072.50.

3. Gossett reported that the LA Iris Society will publish a historical booklet of past hybridizers with biographical information and color pictures. Discussion followed and it was decided that this book and the current Louisiana, Siberian and Japanese Society books also should be listed and sold through the Storefront. A list of these books, plus other iris publications will be listed in the October 2003 Bulletin and how to purchase them.

RVP Representative: M. Sutton reported.

Judge's cards were discussed. G. Sutton moved, Mark seconded that passing out judge's cards be eliminated except when the judge's status changes. These would be distributed by the Chairman of Judges. Motion carried. A recommendation followed for an attractive card with the AIS logo be developed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. The final vote tally for the revision of the AIS Bylaws was: Yes-399 votes and No-4 votes. Secretary Bonino will store all original ballots for future reference.

Current Bylaws are available upon request from the AIS Secretary. Epperson will send copies to the Storefront and electronically to all Board members.

B. **Standing Rule Committee:** Chair Epperson, R. Plank, Bonino, Jones and M. Lowe.

In order to protect and ensure the deliberative process when Board decisions are made via electronic means, the amended Standing Rules follow:

1. Full delineation of the topic (item) under discussion shall be presented by the AIS President via electronic mail to each and every member of the Board of Directors.

2. Any member of the Board who wishes to do so shall present his/her comments by electronic mail to each and every member of the Board. Unless otherwise specified by the AIS President, these comments must be transmitted within seven (7) days of the initial electronic call for discussion and input.

3. The AIS Secretary, or designee, shall formulate the proposed motion and transmit it by electronic mail to each and every member of the Board. A second for the motion shall be requested by the AIS Secretary.

4. A member of the Board shall second the motion immediately, restating it and transmitting it electronically to each and every member of the Board.
5. Each Board member shall copy the full text of the seconded motion and vote YES or NO and submit that vote by electronic mail to each and every member of the Board. The vote shall be transmitted within 7 days unless otherwise specified by the AIS President.
6. The AIS Secretary shall tally the electronic votes and transmit this number to the AIS President.
7. Approval of a motion discussed and voted on by electronic mail shall receive a minimum of 12 positive votes (based on 18 voting members - the President votes in a tie only).

Mahan moved and G. Snyder seconded that 12 positive votes must be received for action. Motion carried.

Epperson moved and Gossett seconded with some changes in wording, clarification of the time frame, and who introduces the topic for the email message. The Standing Rule was restated in his motion as above. Motion carried. It was mutually agreed that this procedure would be on a trial basis for a year.

G. Sutton moved. M. Sutton seconded that all new RVPs get a RVP Handbook, AIS Bylaws and a welcome letter from the President. Motion carried.

The meeting was recessed at 4:45 p.m. The meeting was called back to order at 7:30 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. J. Plank explained The Claire B. Barr Library Endowment Fund. The purpose of this Fund will be to develop an endowment for improving the existing Library facilities providing financial aide for above and beyond monthly expenses such as telephone and electricity, etc. Nine Hundred dollars has been received from donations which began arriving shortly after Claire Barr's death in January 2003. A special committee of J. Plank as Chairman, Mahan, R. Plank, Epperson, Hudson, and McNames will meet to set up guidelines and formulate the fund. A report will be given at the Fall Board Meeting.
- B. A policy for authorizing AIS representatives to enter contracts (i.e., Hotel or other arrangements) in the name of the American Iris Society was discussed. The Future Conventions Liaison Chairman Gossett, will notify all future regional and local iris societies immediately, by letter, that the American Iris Society as a national organization will not assume monetary responsibility for the national conventions and the Fall Board Meetings. Gossett will also prepare an insert with this information for the Convention Handbook.
- C. Mahan moved, Epperson seconded that the AIS purchase Volume 26, one of the volumes comprising the multi-volume set Flora of North America North of Mexico by the Oxford University Press. Volume 26, which deals with information on the Iridaceae Family, will cost approximately \$150 plus postage and handling, and will be added to the AIS Library. Motion carried.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

Operations Manual: Epperson reported that this manual is only about 50% ready. It is to be presented at the Fall Board Meeting.

Ad-hoc Committee, RVP Handbook Revision: R. Probst, Moller, R. Plank, B. Rinehart. This handbook is completed and being distributed and will be in the Storefront.

Non-profit Incorporation Tax Exempt Status (501(c)(3)): Chairman, R. Plank reported that if an affiliate, region or section wishes to apply for exempt status this year the information is due by the August, 2003 deadline. As it is an annual ongoing process, those affiliates, regions and sections not yet having achieved tax-exempt status can continue to send in their applications through August of each succeeding year. Status applications are accepted once a year by the IRS and must be received for consideration by August 1.

Ad-hoc Committee, Racetrack Design for AIS Logo: No report

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Affiliates: Chair G. Snyder reported there are 170 affiliates in good standing. A list was provided with the current presidents. Affiliates requested that their meeting be scheduled on the day of the Welcome Banquet or a later day when feasible.

Affiliate Contest: Chair Keup stated that December 31, 2002 was the end of the two-year trial period for this contest. Affiliates were asked to report flower shows, newsletters, meetings, iris programs, exhibits, newspaper articles, etc. Each category had a point score. Each RVP has received information regarding this contest and are strongly encouraged to share this information within their regions, and support activities in any way possible. Bonino moved, Jones seconded that the contest continue as a permanent program. Motion carried.

Awards: Chair Epperson reported that 743 ballots and supplements were mailed. There have been 116 orders for supplies for Accredited Shows in 2003. New adult silver and bronze medals have been ordered.

Calendars: Chair Waters stated that by mid-July calendars will be available for 2004 with the price the same as last year (10 calendars for \$33). The 2005 calendar will be the Twentieth Anniversary Iris Calendar and 35mm or 60mm slides are welcome and encouraged from everyone for this special edition.

Convention Liaison: Chair Gossett provided a list of conventions that are scheduled through 2007. The Fall Board Meeting in 2004 is open, 2005-2006 are set. Discussion of an AIS emergency relief fund will be on the agenda for the Fall Board Meeting. The next AIS Convention will be in Fresno, CA on April 19-24, 2004.

Donations Secretary: Chair J. Plank explained that donations from October 1, 2002 to April 30, 2003 were about \$14,500. These are broken out as: Memorials 87%, Simple gifts 12% and Honorariums less than 2%. Youth funds have received the bulk of the donations. All donations are most welcome and encouraged. See your latest AIS Bulletin for a more complete choice of donation categories.

Electronic Services: Chair Jones said there are currently 714 subscribers for the On-line Registration Checklist Database. The 1969 Checklist has been uploaded and the 1999 Checklist is ready to be uploaded. A fee for lifetime access will be on the agenda for the Fall Board Meeting.

The On-Line AIS Gift Shop has been successful and soon the AIS Index Bulletin web site will be available.

It was requested that the Webmaster be listed in the Bulletin. Any changes other than clerical errors must be approved by John Jones. Jones moved and G. Snyder seconded that quoting of information from the electronically transmitted materials will require permission of the author. Motion carried.

Bulletin Indexing will have a separate web reference and will be ready in about a month under AIS Index.com. It will be cross-referenced on the AIS and the Iris Register web sites.

Exhibitions: Chair Leader reported 171 approved shows. Mahan moved, Gossett seconded to purchase a postage metering machine for no more than \$200 for the Exhibitions Chairman. Motion carried. Epperson and Leader will look into the various forms required for shows and the duplication and distribution possibilities. They will report at the Fall Board Meeting.

Foundation Liaison: C. Honkanen reported in Chair R. Mazur's absence. There are grants with some work completed from Russia, St. Petersburg, and from Mongolia. Honkanen had information from several of these for review.

The AIS Foundation has had predominantly memorials for the monetary funding. Ninety percent of this foundation's work is done electronically.

Honorary Awards: Chair Mahan announced all awards are in his possession. Names of candidates being suggested for honorary medals should be sent to Mahan with full documentation. The committee will confer and present candidates at the Fall Board Meeting.

Insurance: - Chair M. Snyder reported the new Hartford package policy is working well and many clubs are taking advantage of the coverage. A question was raised about who is covered under the

policy. Again, only the AIS, its regions, sections, affiliates and members thereof, whether or not AIS members, are covered. M. Snyder recommended that upon renewal the fire legal liability on the Hartford policy be increased to \$1,000,000. There would be an additional premium charge of \$100. Epperson moved, Bonino seconded to accept this recommendation. Motion carried.

M. Snyder reported that the Directors and Officers policy has been moved to a new carrier with the same coverage, 1/2 the deductible, and 1/2 the premium. She also advised that she will be the only person that can make changes to the insurance policies.

Judges: Chairs Bonnie/Hooker Nichols requested that the following corrections be listed. These judges will get credit for the year 2003:

Region 1 - James R. Welch should be listed as a RM

Region 7 - David Mohr should be listed as an AM, reinstated from RM to AM Janet L. Wilson should be listed as a G

Region 8 - M Lynne Fell should be listed as a G

Region 15 - Marge Larson is reinstated and listed as a G
Jim Puckett is reinstated and listed as a G

Region 19 - Raymond Blicharz was listed as an RM in error and the correction has been made. He is now listed as an AM

Judges Handbook Revision Committee: Chair Epperson, Crick, H. Nichols and J. Keisling. A change in the current training requirements for Active Master Judges on page 9 in the Handbook is as follows:

ACTIVE MASTER JUDGES who are required to earn credit totaling three (3) hours during each three-year period. This credit must be earned by attending or teaching an approved judging school. **When an Active Master Judge tutors an apprentice judge, the apprentice receives training credit, the Active Master Judge does not.** (Bold indicates the changes.) These changes will become effective August 1, 2003.

On the behalf of the Committee Epperson moved, Gossett seconded to accept these changes. Motion carried.

Any major Handbook changes will be suggested and presented at the Fall Board meeting. Major classification updates, sections, cooperating societies and any other special area of iris (such as space age, or variations on form of iris) are encouraged and may submit changes.

Librarian: Chair McNames was not present but his report was distributed. Epperson moved, Jones seconded to approve the list of items to go in the 2003 Silent Auction. Motion carried. McNames also reported that all items are being inventoried and filed away properly as they come in. Foreign Societies that are furnishing their bulletins to the AIS Library are: British, German and Russian.

New Historical Iris Chronicles: Chair Mahan proposed that a historical chronicle of hybridizers be published by the AIS. It would be approximately 100 pages with color pictures. He also requested help with this undertaking. The expense was discussed but no action taken.

Policy & Historical Resource: Chairs Mike/Anne Lowe: A CD had been prepared for policy and minutes from past meetings. M. Lowe has also researched historical information on notable persons formerly members of AIS, and it is recorded on a CD also.

Public Relations & Marketing: Chair Poling was absent but her report was distributed. Commercial gardeners were contacted concerning distributing "Invitation to Join" brochures.

Report of the Nominating Committee: R. Keisling, M. Vanderbrake, J. Plank, J. Morris, and C. Brown. Chair Ray Keisling read the list of proposed nominees for Director:

Brad Kasperek (12)	Hooker Nichols (17)
Judy Keisling (18)	Joyce Poling (15)
Jason Leader (3)	Betty Roberts (20)
Jim Morris (18)	Bill Shear (4)

There were no nominations from the floor.

The open meeting was recessed at 10:05 p.m. Monday, May 12, 2003.
The Executive Committee went into session to select the Directors nominees.

The meeting was called to order at 8:15 a.m. Tuesday, May 13, 2003.
President Aitken announced the results of the Executive Board meeting.
Director nominees selected for terms which expire in 2006 are:
Judy Keisling, Jason Leader, Joyce Poling, and Betty Roberts.

Robin: - Chair Cross reported that all robins were flying well. She mentioned a new Fragrance Robin. A list has been prepared with info from the 60s and 80s concerning Fragrance Robin letters and it seems interest is again renewed. Any questions and copies of the Fragrance List can be ordered from her at cost.

Flight Lines: Cross read Chair Weixlmann's report. Flight Lines is published as a service to the public with no requirement for permission of copyright from previously published articles. Explanation of the process of preparing Flight Lines was given. Robin rules of travel explains that if no one wants their comments repeated they must state so. R. Plank reported that we should seek approval in every case and identify the source in these electronic forms. John Jones spoke about the Iris Talk List. Subscribers will be advised in this list that anything they write will be public and available to all.

RVP Counselor: Chair Carson announced the results of elections held at the Board of Counselor's meeting. The 1 Year RVP Board Representative is Patricia Randall (23). The 2004 RVP Board of Counselor Chairman is Jim Giles (15), and the Secretary is Ginny Spoon.

Scientific: Dr. Chandler Fulton: No report

Scientific & Research Committee: (formerly Scholarship/Grants): Chair Shear was not present and his report was distributed. Two applications were received. Karst of Portland will continue to work on "Phylogeny of *Sisyrinchium*: Genetic and Morphological Evidence." She has submitted a poster via PDF that was presented to the Monocot Congress. This URL can be obtained from Dr. Shear if anyone wants to download it. G. Snyder moved, Gossett seconded to endorse Karst's services for 2003-2004. Motion carried. Issues of grant amounts and control of the reports will be considered at the Fall Board Meeting. Marc McPherson, the second applicant, has not made a report.

Section Liaison: Chair Mark announced that the Section Representative elected to the Nominating Committee was Hugh Thurman (Dwarf Iris Society). She then reported that the section presidents have requested that there be no overlapping meetings of sections at conventions, if feasible. Allow 1-1/2 hours, 1 hour for the meeting, 1/2 hour to change rooms. She requested that this be added to the Convention Handbook and Gossett, Convention Liaison Chair will make this addition. Discussion followed that most conventions do not have the availability of the large number of rooms it would require to eliminate overlapping, due to varying circumstances.

Mark's report listed every section and co-operating societies and their contacts. The available conventions and activities of these groups were also listed.

Silent Auction: Chair Gormley's report listed some of the ways she solicited auction items and the schedule of the auction at the Falls Church Convention. She reported that the final results from the 2002 Silent Auction were \$4,631 received from 325 items.

Falls Church has received 308 donations from 34 donors. Recommendation from the Board is that shipping will not be paid by the AIS but the winner will continue to add this fee to the amount bid.

Thanks were extended to all those who donated items for the auction.

Slides: Chair Mull passed out CDs of iris cultivars with pertinent information on each that he had prepared. He pointed out that the time would be coming when slides would be obsolete and to be aware that CDs and DVDs are on the horizon. The consensus was that at the present time slides

are the favorite and will continue. The price will also remain at \$10 to rent a slide set. Also proposed was assembling the slides of various hybridizers into a historical chronicle.

Mull provided a list of slide programs available and reported 167 requests in 2002. So far this year 54 requests have been received.

Surplus Bulletins: Chair Violette submitted a report that 380 AIS Bulletins have been shipped requiring mailing expenses of \$76.65 with total income of \$73.00.

Symposium: Chair G. Snyder reported that the Symposium ballot has been sent to the Webmaster and will be published in the AIS Bulletin.

Webmaster: Jones reported for Chair Hollinshead. He reported the statistics in several different formats. The web site is active with 270,253 hits for 10 months. Hollinshead reported his activities involve keeping the web site current. It was suggested that selected international news and the AIS Bulletin Index (listing only the article titles) be included on the web site.

Youth: Chair Jean Morris listed the Youth Achievement Award Contest winners:

1st Place - Stephanie Strauss of Midland Texas (Region 17),

2nd Place - Joe Devous, Cedar Hill, MO (Region 18) and

3rd Place - Kristen Laing, Midlothian, VA (Region 4).

Nominations were submitted from 19 different AIS members in Regions 2, 4, 5, 15, 17, 18, 21 and 22.

She reported that Claire Honkanen, AIS Foundation Essay Chairman, submitted the following winners of the Ackerman Essay Contest:

Christian Moore (Region 9) Younger-age category

Matt Brooks (Region 18) Older-age category.

These two will receive \$100 each. All those who entered the contest will receive free iris rhizomes this summer. Jean was again commended for her work with youth.

The meeting was recessed at 9:36 a.m. The meeting resumed at 7:30 p.m.

Nominating Committee Appointments: President Aitken announced the appointment of Directors Maureen Mark (16) and Gerry Snyder (15) to serve on the Nominating Committee. Members of the committee representing RVPs will be Bob Sawyer (1) and Donna James (2) and representing Section leaders will be Hugh Thurman (DIS).

Announcements: President Aitken reminded everyone that the Fall Meeting - Tucson, AZ., November 7-9, 2003 at the Best Western Inn-Airport, (520) 746-0271. The Chairman is Lucille Skerston (520) 751-1696, <Lrskerston@aol.com>

A request for any changes in addresses, phone numbers and emails must be made to the Editor, Bruce Filardi, and to the Webmaster, Chris Hollinshead.

Many thanks to Clarence Mahan and his Committee members as hosts for this National Convention held in Falls Church, Virginia.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m., Tuesday, May 13, 2003.

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Hawkins
Recording Secretary

RENT SLIDE SETS FROM THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

The American Iris Society Slide Set Menu

They say that a picture is worth a thousand words. If you want to create an interesting and educational meeting, an AIS slide set may provide the atmosphere you desire, and stimulate your chapter's interest. There are many different slide sets on the AIS Slide Men; sets that will fit almost any theme that you may wish to present for your program. They are constantly being upgraded, and new subjects added to the list. If you want a current list or need suggestions for your program please e-mail me. Remember, garden clubs are a great source for membership.

To Order: Requests for specific slide sets should be made well in advance, preferably four to six weeks. Please request alternate choices. Clearly print your name, address, phone number, and date of meeting if you mail your request by regular mail.

If you have an emergency situation and need slides immediately: CALL ME! I prefer that you order using e-mail. (AISslides@aol.com)

Only one set is allowed per request date. Slides are to be returned by Priority Mail the day after viewing.

Cost: The rental fee is \$10, payable to AIS, and mailed to the address below. Affiliate Chapters are entitled to one free set per year.

Bill Mull

7112 Fox's Lair Ct.

Norfolk, VA. 23518-4435

Phone (757) 858-8085

Fax (757) 858-5529

E-mail AISslides @aol.com

Reliable Iris of the 1980s

Reblooming Iris

Reliable Iris of the 1990s

Iris of the Fabulous Nineties

Iris of the Millennium

2001 Introductions

2002 Introductions

Beardless Irises

Beautiful, But Little Known Iris

Median Bearded Iris—

(MDB, MTB, SDB, BB, IB)

Unique and Novel Irises

Japanese Iris

Louisiana Iris

Siberian Iris

Arils

Spuria Iris

Subgenus scorpiris – (juno)

Iris Trivia: This is a small set with questions that can be used for fun and informative meetings. It takes about an hour (per set average), using the slides, asking the questions and getting audience response. E-mail for further details.

The Family Iris: This set is an introduction to the world of iris. It shows the different classes of bearded iris and the different species of iris. It can be used for all levels of viewers, new to experienced iris growers. Great for garden club programs

Hunt Valley, MD, Convention - 2001

Dykes Medal Winners

Dr. Loomis Memorial Iris Trial Gardens – Videos:

1998 - 1999 - 2000 - 2001

Requests for specific slide sets should be made well in advance

AIS Storefront

Sale Items & Publications

The World of Irises

Highly recommended! 32 pages of full color. Edited by Warburton and Hamblen, 34 contributors and authors including international authorities. Published in 1978 and most authoritative book on all phases of irises. Scientific and popular. 6" x 9" hard bound cloth cover, 494 pages. \$27.00
Quantity discounts: 20% off for 10 or more / 40% off for 100 or more

Handbook for Judges and Show Officials

New release! Sixth Edition ©1998. \$15.00

Basic Iris Culture. Booklets. Great information for new iris growers. Ideal for clubs or shows. \$1.50 ea., or 25 for \$15.00 domestic/\$20.00 overseas

Convention Handbook. Free

AIS Bulletins: Back Issues

AIS Bulletins (current year and last year): \$5.00 each domestic/\$6.50 each overseas
Older issues (not all available): \$2.00 each domestic/\$4.50 each overseas

Check Lists: 1939, 1949, 1959, 1969, & 1979.

Reprint. Soft cover. \$14.00 ea. domestic/\$20.00 ea. overseas

Check Lists: 1989 or 1999

Hard cover. Ten-year compilation of registrations.

\$17.00 ea. domestic/\$25.00 ea. overseas

Registrations and Introductions: 2000, 2001, 2002.

\$7.00 ea. domestic/\$10.00 ea. overseas

Registrations and Introductions:

Years 1984, 1985, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1997, 1998, 1999.

Clearance Sale: \$2.00 each!

View Before You Buy!

The official AIS Website now has photos of several of the Storefront sales items, so you can see what they look like.

Go to: www.irises.org

75th Anniversary Commemorative Medal

Solid Silver, 1½ inches across. Only 500 struck. \$25.00

75th Anniversary Bulletin. \$2.00 domestic/\$4.50 overseas

Bronze 50th Anniversary Medals

The AIS 50th Anniversary medal in antiqued bronze. Suitable for pendants, show prizes, and special awards. \$2.50

AIS Seals (50 per pack)

Self-adhesive ovals are larger than a half dollar. Official design in blue and green on silver background. \$2.50, 1 pack; \$10.00, 5 packs

2003 Iris Calendar

\$6.00 each, or \$33.00 domestic/\$40.00 overseas for packs of 10

2002 Iris Calendars – great for promotional use: clearance sale – 10/\$3.00

Iris Post Cards (16 per pack)

\$4.00, 1 pack

\$10.00, 3 packs

\$25.00, 10 packs

AIS can now accept VISA & Mastercard (sorry, no other charge cards) for Storefront orders (minimum order: \$10.00). When charging your order, please include card type and number, expiration date and phone number.

Prices include postage and handling. The Storefront ships via media mail.

Priority, overnight and UPS shipment charges paid by customer. Make checks payable to The American Iris Society, or include charge card information. Send order to:

... PLEASE NOTE: NEW ADDRESS ...

John and Kay Ludi

P.O. Box 956, Sandy, OR 97055; (503) 826-8808; <aisstorefront@juno.com>

The Gardener's Iris Book

By Willam Shear

176 pages, 163 color photos.

In this book William Shear, a 40-year veteran of iris growing, shares his expertise in choosing, planting, growing and propagating exquisite irises of many types. Cultural advice for the most desirable and adaptable iris types allows the gardener to choose the irises best suited to his region of the country.

Single copy: \$17.00 domestic/\$25.00 overseas, postpaid

Affiliates & Sections, 10 or more copies: \$14.00 domestic/\$20.00 overseas each, postpaid.

SECTION SLIDES AVAILABLE:

The various Sections of AIS also have slide sets available for rent. These feature irises of each respective group. Rental fee is \$5.00 per set, unless noted otherwise. Requests for these slide sets should be submitted as follows:

Arils and Arilbreds: Order from Scott Jordan, 3500 Avenida Charada NW, Albuquerque, NM 87107. Rental fee \$7.50. Check to Aril Society International.

Dwarf: Dorothy Willott, 26231 Shaker Blvd., Beachwood, OH 44122-7111. Check to Dwarf Iris Society. Rental fee \$7.50.

Historic Iris Preservation Society (HIPS): Contact Joan Cooper, 212 West Country Rd. C, St. Paul, MN 55113. Rental fee \$7.50. Check to HIPS.

Japanese: Order from John Coble, 9823 E. Michigan Ave., Galesburg, MI 49053. Check to Japanese Iris Society.

Louisiana: Lynn Finkel, 21015 NE 220th Circle, Battle Ground, WA 98604. \$10 check to SLI.

Medians: Contact Terry Aitken, 608 NW 119th St, Vancouver WA 98685. \$10 check to MIS.

Rebloomers: Contact Olive Rice-Waters, P.O. Box 1944, Oregon City, OR 97045. Check to Reblooming Iris Society. Rental fee is \$7.50.

Siberians: Order from Robert Hollingworth, 124 Sherwood Rd E, Williamston, MI 48895. Check to Society for Siberian Irises.

Species: Several sets available. Order from Helga Andrews, 11 Maple Ave, Sudbury MA 01776. Check to SIGNA.

Spurias: To order, contact Patricia Brooks, 102 Jefferson Lane, Ladson, SC 29456. Check to Spuria Iris Society.

AIS Bulletin Back Issues ***two years or older; not all issues available***

\$7.00 25 Bulletins \$10.00 50 Bulletins

Ideal to hand out at shows, sales and other activities. Our choice of issues, depending on availability; shipped in packs of 5 or 10. Price includes postage and handling. Make check payable to American Iris Society. Order this special offer separately from regular Storefront orders, directly from:

Ann Violette
228 Mud Lake Trail; Polson, MT 59860-9751
(406)883-5535; <aviolet@polson.net>

AIS Bulletin Ad Rates

"Without advertising, a terrible thing happens... nothing!"

Ad Submission Requirements

To place an ad, please contact the advertising editor. All ads must have a hard copy submitted to the advertising editor. List of specifications regarding digital submissions is available. Payment is due with ad copy. The deadlines for ad submissions are as follows: September 1 (October issue); December 1 (January issue), March 1 (April issue), June 1 (July issue). Send ad and payment (payable to AIS) to: George Sutton.

Shopping Section

Found in the back of each Bulletin. Placement is roughly alphabetical. Rate is for 4 issues. All ads are 2 $\frac{1}{8}$ inch wide.

\$42.00	1 $\frac{5}{16}$ inch
\$58.00	1 1 $\frac{5}{16}$ inch
\$73.00	2 1 $\frac{5}{16}$ inch

Display Advertising

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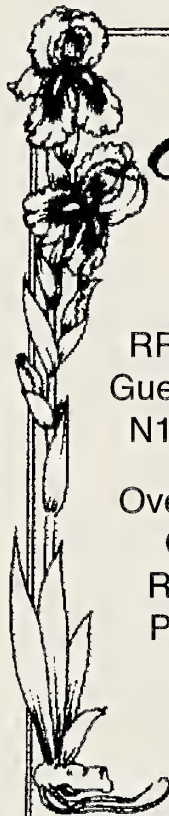


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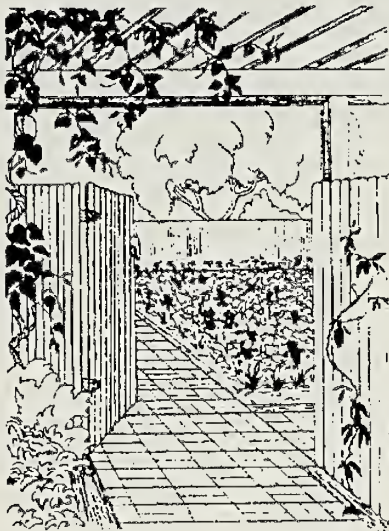
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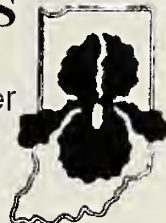
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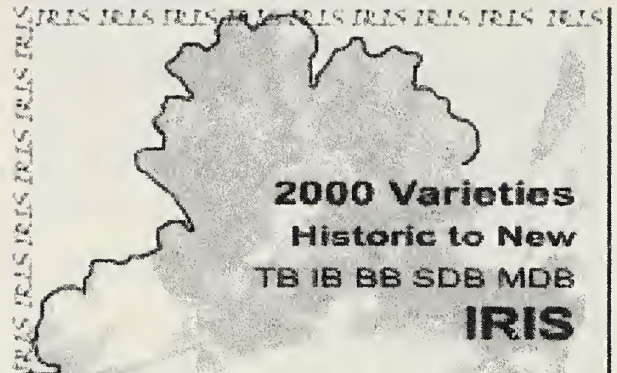
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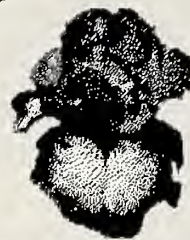
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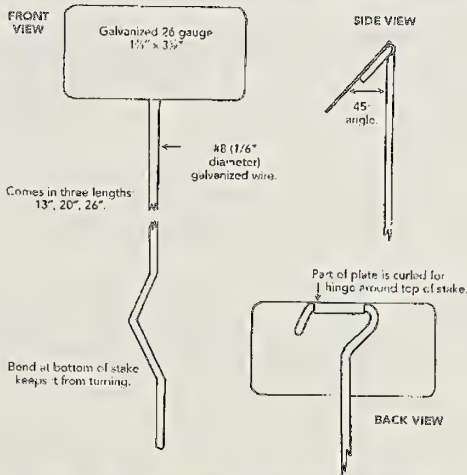
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Left: First Place Coloring Contest: *Iris Virginica* by Kristen Laing

Below: Kristen Laing (left) with Emily Ives at National Convention

Photo: J. Morris





*In Memoriam: Currier McEwen
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AIS Bulletin

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- 22: Arkansas and Oklahoma:** M.D. Faith, 210 W. Pleasure Ave., Searcy AR 72143-5316; (501) 268-9222; <mdfaith@steward-net.com>
- 23: New Mexico:** Patricia Randall, 758 Hood Road SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124; (505) 891-8705; <patannran@msn.com>
- 24: Alabama and Mississippi:** Janice Tate, 11510 River Road, Hamilton, AL 35570; (205) 921-3767; <jantate@peoplepc.com>

President's Message

by Terry Aitken, Washington State

Necessity is the mother of invention.” There seems to be a pattern emerging whereby Region conventions can avoid conflict with the National convention by scheduling for peak bloom for some other category of iris. This is a golden opportunity for the different iris sections to get their irises seen without the need to plan ‘yet another’ national section convention. Some Regions are already doing this and have scheduled spring meetings/tours for Median, Spuria or Japanese iris bloom time. In terms of logistics, this also makes good sense for judges to evaluate other iris types. Additionally, the planners (our precious volunteers!) also are able to attract out-of-region people with an interest in the “focus group” of irises. Promoting these Region/Section tours/conventions in the *Bulletin* could be highly productive for attendance. The onus would be on the RVP, or some other designated individual, to get this information to the Bulletin editor for publication in the January Bulletin.



Terry Aitken, AIS President

More personnel changes are in the works for AIS. Keith Keppel has evinced an interest in retiring from the Registration position, ostensibly so that he can extend his iris season by visiting iris gardens in Australia during the long grey days of winter in the Northwest. Keith will be on the job until December 1st. (This is year end for registrations.) Keith has been prominent in AIS administration for many years, having served on the Board, been *Bulletin* Editor for five years, and now Registrar. Keith's long career as a hybridizer has garnered him many Median medals and the Dykes Medal. His dedication to the iris world has resulted in his being awarded the FOSTER MEMORIAL PLAQUE from the British Iris Society; the DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL, the HYBRIDIZER'S MEDAL and the GOLD

MEDAL from AIS for service to the Society. (See write-up in *AIS Bulletin*, July, 1998.)

Taking over for Keith will be Mike Lowe. Mike is examining ways to utilize “e-registrations” so you may expect to see some new concepts emerge after this fall’s AIS board meeting. Mike has served on the AIS board for six years where he served as Policy Chair, has taken on the Membership Secretary’s computer program as a project this past year, and has been deeply involved in HIPS since its inception.

This year’s awards are out and the analysis is on! The lesson this year seems to be “names”. Confusion is generated when similar names are used for different cultivars. In most cases, it is a coincidence. This year, the problem terms were “Sunrise” and “Sunset”. Many years ago, I introduced a Japanese iris named Butterflies in Flight. Keith Keppel brought to my attention that there already was a Siberian Iris named Flight of Butterflies. Fortunately, there were enough years and a dramatic difference in plants and categories that it never became an issue in the awards system. I can’t say that there is an easy solution to this situation, although the Registrar may be able to ward off some of this confusion. Meanwhile, another winter and another batch of names are in the works!

Let’s all look forward to many new iris adventures in 2004! 

Index of Advertisers:

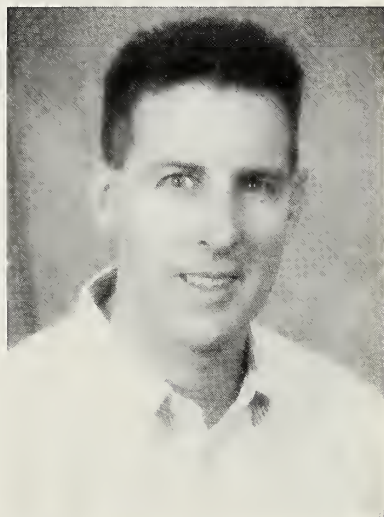
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Editor's Message

by Bruce Filardi, Oregon

THIS ISSUE OF THE *BULLETIN* INCLUDES THE OBITUARY OF Dr. Currier McEwen. I am told that, after receiving the April issue, a critic raised the question of whether the *AIS Bulletin* has now become the *Currier McEwen Bulletin*. Perhaps I have erred in providing too much coverage of a man whom I respect for his intelligence, his dignity, and his social contributions, both to the AIS and to Society in the greater sense. To the critic I reply: I hope that your accomplishments will also be recognized by the *Bulletin* Editor at the time of your passing.

On a related topic, I'd like to mention that the very fine photo of Dr. McEwen in the process of making a cross, which appeared on the back cover of the July issue, was mis-attributed to Chandler Fulton. In fact, Sharon Hayes Whitney is the photographer who should have received credit for this beautiful picture.



Bruce Filardi, Editor

Further on the subject of obituaries, I'll mention that Bill Smoot has promised one on JaNiece Burton, and Herb & Sara Holk are putting together some info in memory of Bernard Hamner. To date I have not found a member to prepare an obituary on Ginny Burton, but anyone who would be willing to do so is asked to contact me. Sad to see so many fine people lost to our Society.

* * * *

In past Messages, I have expressed appreciation of certain individuals without whom our *Bulletin* would flow less smoothly. Let me highlight just three of them at this time:

Jean Morris puts a tremendous amount of time and effort and love into her work as the Youth Chair. Although neither you nor I may be here to see the fruits of her labor, I think we all need to keep in mind the immeasurable long-term value of Jean's work on behalf of the youth of AIS, who are, of course, the *future* of AIS. Even if you do not personally read *Youth Views* in each issue, remember how much its subject matter means to the young members who are mentioned.

Roy Epperson performs some extremely painstaking, time-consuming tasks, and he does a fine job! As you read the list of AIS awards in this issue of the *Bulletin*, I ask you to give just a few moments of thought to the amount of time and patience and organization that it took for Roy to tabulate ballots from 589 AIS judges this year, to come up with the lists of award winners, and to do so in his usual perfectionist and uncomplaining way. And after you have thought those thoughts, then think how much time it took Roy to put together the ballot in the first place, checking eligibility of each and every iris on the ballot, almost 2000 different cultivars to research and alphabetize and double-check. Not a walk in the park!

Gerry Snyder applies similar skills and attention to detail to the list of approved affiliates (local clubs), and to both the ballot and the results of the Symposium each year. Think about how difficult it is for each of you to choose 25 favorites from among the names on the list... and then think about how much time it took Gerry to put that list together in the first place!

So a big **thank you** to Jean, Roy, and Gerry for all their work.

* * * *

And now to a lighter side of my Message for this issue. I would like to share a story of a somewhat embarrassing experience at National this year. [No, Clarence, this is *not* your elevator story... You know I promised I would never tell a soul in the world about that. And I won't.]


I'll also preface this by making it clear that this story is not in the best of taste. I want to make sure that you all realize that I was brought up better than to tell this story, and it's important that you know that since both my mom (in New Jersey) and my sister (in Pennsylvania) will be reading this. [Or at least they'll tell me that they've read it, but now I may really find out for sure.]

When our Convention bus arrived at one of the gardens on tour, the hostess very kindly told us that we were free to use the indoor rest room facilities. I opted to do so, and it was a thoroughly humbling

experience. Now, I won't mention the name of the garden, although, as a clue, I might refer to it as *le Jardin de la Baie d'Hiver*. If you'd like to find out the meaning of that phrase, you could ask Michele Bersillon. [I wouldn't think of giving you her e-mail address... but you might possibly find it on page 18 of the April issue of the *Bulletin*... maybe somewhere right around the very center of the page.]

So I visited the facilities which our hostess had kindly put at our disposal, and what to my wondering eyes should appear... but a few copies of the *AIS Bulletin* as reading material. [I have to say that I *hope* it was there as reading material; any other potential uses boggle the mind.] I had always thought that AIS members would enshrine their collection of *Bulletins* in a place of pride, to impress their friends and neighbors. Needless to say, this was not the place I had in mind.

But humility is good for the soul. So my soul is just a little bit better for the experience.

And if anyone has any complaints about the lack of good taste displayed in this article, I have appointed my ambassadress of public relations to deal with your complaints and comments in person at National in 2004. This appointee is Shirley Trio. I've chosen her because all who know her worry that she is too shy and retiring, so we hope this will encourage her to get out and meet people, talk to strangers, etc. 

Addition to AIS Foundation Contributions

A donation to the AIS Foundation was inadvertently omitted from the July issue of the *Bulletin*. This publication should have recognized the generous gift from Hazel Smith (Indiana) to the Foundation's General Fund. We thank all donors for their contributions in support of the Foundation's important work.

Youth Views

by Jean S. Morris, Missouri

Matt Brooks and Christian Moore Write Top Essays

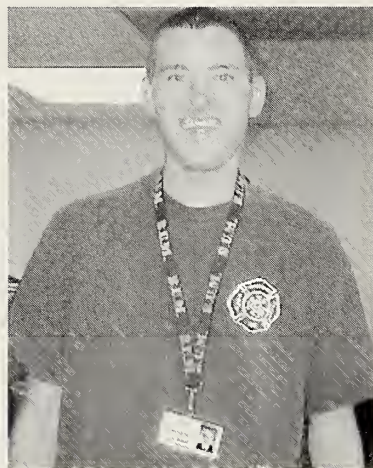
Congratulations to the winners of the 2003 Ackerman Essay Contest, seventeen-year-old Matt Brooks of St. Louis, MO, Region 18, and six-year-old Christian Moore of Sullivan, IL, Region 9. Each received \$100 from the AIS Foundation, sponsor of the contest. Essay contest Chairman, Claire Honkanen, worked hard encouraging youths to enter the contest and there were 28 essays written, all interesting and informative. The topic, which changes each year, was "What I would like to see in my garden, including companion plants." The winning essays follow.

My Iris Garden by Matt Brooks

My dream garden would be made for attracting butterflies and hummingbirds and also for sheer beauty during the seasons.

I will plant and maintain irises and their companion plants including OVERNIGHT SENSATION, a crisp blue double and triple-socketed bloom, GOLDEN ECSTASY, which has brilliant golden yellow tones, and PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE, which is a delicately fluted rich blue color.

My companion plants would be Sensation lilac hybrid and red, white and blue butterfly bushes. My personal favorite companions would be pink bleeding hearts and hostas. I would also have Koi ponds and fountains. I will excavate part of my hill and build a retaining wall made out of marble or limestone, and fill it with topsoil and coffee grounds as part of my garden. There I will plant more irises such as MAGICIAN'S APPRENTICE, a dark reddish-purple, SUPREME SULTAN, which is the largest iris known to me, and



Matt Brooks

TITAN'S GLORY, a dark violet iris with large blooms. I would place a gazing ball in the middle along with two bird feeders, a birdbath and a sundial. In that part of my garden, my companion plants would be orange butterfly plants and Scarlett bee balm.

On the side part of my yard, I would plant MULBERRY PUNCH, a beautiful purple iris, COLOR ME BLUE, which reminds me of a clear spring sky, and DYNAMITE, a gigantic bright red iris. My companion plants would be foxglove, more hostas and mother-in-law's tongue. Some patches will have Ozark Beauty strawberries occasionally appearing.

During spring and summer, people will take time to have a glance at my beautiful iris garden and the hummingbirds and butterflies that live there.

My Dream Garden by Christian Moore

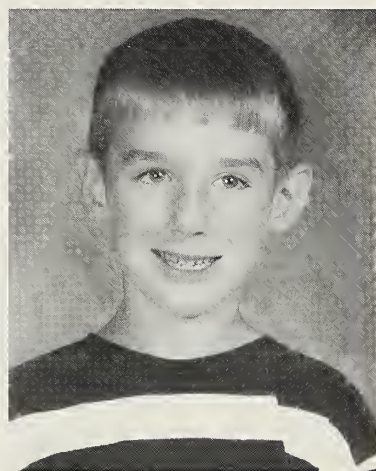
What I would like in my dream garden is a pond with goldfish in it. By the pond would be purple Siberian iris. In front of the iris I would put a rainbow of pansies.

In another part of the garden would be a fountain surrounded by orange and yellow daffodils with pink and red tulips. Mixed in with the tulips and daffodils would be dwarf bearded iris of all colors. My favorite colors of iris are blue, purple and yellow. I would plant lantana by the yellow iris. Along the fence would be the blue and purple iris.

Hollyhocks and sweet pea would be behind the iris. Blue salvia and multi-colored alyssum would be in front. That is what my beautiful dream garden would look like!

Others who entered the essay contest in the older age category were Werner Giesler and Tasmina Hyderey, Region 2; Heather Hamblin, Region 9; Todd Becker, Alexa Cahalan, Jessica Clark, Clayton Corn, Tim Cornelius, Matt Knipshild, Kory Kuntz, Corey Landwehr, Sarah Murabito, Amanda Wessels, Joshua Winzer and Nic Yowell, Region 18; and Kelly Norris and Nicole Pederson, Region 21.

In the younger age group, those who entered were Gabrielle Fernandez, Raphael Fernandez and Kristen Laing, Region 4; Mary Tomlinson, Region 5; Haleigh Hamblin and Hillary Hamblin, Region 9; Carmen Garrett, Region 14; and Kyle Pederson, Region 21.



Christian Moore

These essays will be published in the AIS youth newsletter, *The Iris Fan*, on a space-available basis. Regional newsletter editors are encouraged to reprint their youths' essays in their respective publications.

We appreciate the effort that went into each of these essays. While many took the high-tech route of using the computer, Christian Moore, a first grader, neatly hand lettered his winning essay on lined writing paper. Good job, Christian!


Look in the January *AIS Bulletin* for the 2004 essay topic and plan to enter next year's contest.

Clarke Cosgrove Nominations Needed

Regional and affiliate officers, youth leaders and AIS members everywhere should decide on an active youth worthy of a nomination for the Clarke Cosgrove Memorial Award for Youth Achievement — and then take a moment to sit down and write the nomination. Use the following list as a guide and try to limit your nomination to two pages.

- Grows a fine iris garden
- Actively hybridizes irises
- Writes for an iris publication
- Helps an iris organization through a committee or activity
- Visits local iris gardens at bloomtime
- Attends regional/national tours
- Is studying to be an AIS judge
- Promotes irises and/or the AIS to others
- Signs up new AIS members
- Competes enthusiastically at shows
- Experiments with irises
- Shows an interest in various iris classes and sizes
- Demonstrates leadership skills


Youths do not need to be active in ALL of the above activities to be nominated. Complete your nomination by mentioning the youth's personal attributes and mail to Jean E. Morris, 682 Huntley Heights Drive, Ballwin, MO 63021 by January 31, 2004. You may e-mail your nomination to <morrisje1@aol.com> but do not send as an attachment.

The Youth Committee will code the nominations to conceal identities and send them to a carefully selected panel of judges. The winner will receive a trophy and a cash prize at the AIS Convention in Fresno, CA. By showing your support to our AIS youth members, you are building the future of the AIS. This is EVERYBODY'S job, as not one of us is getting any younger. 

The 50th Anniversary of the Sydney B. Mitchell Iris Society

MOST OF US ASSOCIATE THE YEAR 1953 WITH THE REVELATION of the double helical structure of DNA by Watson and Crick; the conquest of Everest by Hillary and Tenzing; the coronation of Queen Elizabeth; the inauguration of President Eisenhower; the death of Stalin; or the publication of the 2nd volume of the Kinsey report, *Sexual Behavior in the Human Female*. But for iris gardeners in the San Francisco Bay Area, 1953 also marks the establishment of the Sydney B. Mitchell Iris Society, named after the founder and Dean Emeritus of the University of California School of Librarianship, Sydney B. Mitchell.

In April and May, students at Berkeley in the 1930s walked to the Berkeley Hills gardens of Mitchell and his neighbor, Carl Salbach, to see the remarkable iris display. Recognized as one of the premier early hybridizers of iris in the U.S., Professor Mitchell died before the founding of the Society. However, the detailed breeding records and well-documented seedlings that he and his predecessor, William Mohr, accumulated attracted many budding irisarians.

By 1953, with England and France (former centers of iris culture) concerned with rebuilding war damage, and with the U.S. population having moved westward due to World War II needs, conditions were ripe for a surge in iris hybridizing. Within a few decades, the new introductions recorded by the American Iris Society showed a preponderance of West Coast breeders. Many of them spent some time as members of the Sydney B. Mitchell Iris Society and its membership rolls are replete with the names of nationally acclaimed hybridizers: Gaulter, Rees, Meek, Denny, Ghio, Maryott, McWherter, Lawyer, Brown, Hutchings. In their continuing search for ideal growing conditions, many of these irisarians moved to outlying areas in California and Oregon. But even today the Sydney B. Mitchell Iris Society is proud of active hybridizers: Vernon Wood, Carl and LaRue Boswell, Virginia Messick, Glenn Corlew, Abe Feuerstein, Bob Canning, Jim Whitely and others. 

International News

From Italy:

A full report on the Florence International Iris Competition appears elsewhere in this issue, in an article by Marky Smith, who took part in this year's judging.

From Sergey Loktev, Russia: Results of Moscow International TB Competition, 2003:

- 1st place - ELEGABALL (L. Muska '99) Slovakia
- 2nd place - GRAPE JELLY (P. Black '00) USA
- 3rd place - BEAKY WIT (L. Muska '99) Slovakia

Most popular varieties on the convention tour:

- 1st: FATAL ATTRACTION (Kerr, USA)
- 2nd: LOUISA'S SONG (Blyth, Australia)
- 3rd: HIGH MASTER (Blyth, Australia)
- MAN ABOUT TOWN (Blyth, Australia)
- 5th: OCELOT (Ghio, USA)

From Gisela Dathe, Germany:

Followed are the results of our TB and SDB Competitions for 2003:

TB Competition in Munich:

During the early part of this past spring, we had many very cold days with freezing temperatures. Not all irises had recovered from this early damage in time to put on their best show for the competition, and most varieties were affected this year by low budcount, poor branching,

and short stems.

First Place and Silver Medal:

74,5 points - MANNEKIN PIS - Ladislav Muska, Slovakia

Runners up:

73,8 points - seedling 51/356 - Wolfgang Landgraf, Neustadt/Orla, Germany (medium blue, heavily waved)

73,8 points - seedling AM 96-0124 - Anton Mego, Slovakia (white self, heavily waved)

72,9 points - MER DU SUD - Richard Cayeux, France

71,0 points - ALIZES - Richard Cayeux, France

70,6 points - seedling 4/96/6 - Günter Diedrich, Halberstadt, Germany (S brown violet, F velvety dark violet, small edge of S color)

SDB Competition:

The SDB irises are judged as first-year clumps, and again the following year as two-year clumps, to determine the overall winner.

After the first year:

75,0 points - GALLOWS BIRD - Ladislav Muska, Slovakia

Runner up:

74,66 points - seedling 256/5 - Frank Kathe, Dresden, Germany (deep violet blue)


First and second year scores together – total scores:

First place, gold medal and certificate:

185,6 points - KLEINER SCHATZ - Wolfgang Landgraf, Neustadt/Orla, Germany

Runners up:

153,6 points - MAIBOWLE - Frank Kathe, Dresden, Germany

133,1 points - seedling 225/2 - Frank Kathe, Dresden 

How to Register and Introduce an Iris

These instructions apply to the registration of all classes of irises except bulbous irises.


Registration

1. Write to the AIS Registrar Mike Lowe, 12219 Zilles Road, Blackstone, VA 23824 for a registration blank, enclosing check for the registration fee payable to the American Iris Society. The fee is \$7.50 per registration, or \$10.00 if transferring a name from a previous registration.
2. At the same time, select a name which has not previously been used and submit it for approval. To determine availability of name, please refer to all ten-year Check Lists (beginning 1939) and annual Registrations and Introductions booklets (beginning 2001). Please also suggest alternate names. A name is not registered until the registration application has been completed and approved and a certificate of registration returned to you.
3. Names should follow the rules established by the International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants. Rules are subject to change, but at the present time the following names will not be permitted:
 - a. Names of living persons without their written consent, or names of recently (10 years) deceased persons without permission of next of kin or other authority.
 - b. Personal names containing the following forms of address or their equivalent in another language: Mr., Mrs., Miss, Ms.
 - c. Names including symbols, numerals, non-essential punctuation or abbreviations.
 - d. Names beginning with the articles "a" or "the" or their equivalent in other languages unless required by linguistic custom.
 - e. Names in Latin or in latinized form.
 - f. Slight variation of a previously registered name.

- g. Names in excess of three words, ten syllables, or thirty letters
 - h. Names containing the word “iris” or “flag” or the species name of any recognized species of Iris, or formed wholly by recombining parts of the parental species’ names.
 - i. Names containing the hybridizer’s name in possessive form.
 - j. Names which exaggerate or may become inaccurate (e.g. Heaviest Lace, Tallest Black) or which are composed solely of adjectives which could be construed as a simple description (e.g. Pale Blue, Ruffled).
 - k. Names translated from the original language; they should be transliterated as necessary.
4. Previously registered names may be re-used only if (a) the original registration has not been introduced or distributed by name, (b) does not appear by name in the parentage of later registrations, and (c) a statement of permission is obtained from the prior registrant.
5. Names will not be released as obsolete unless there is proof that no stock now exists and that the iris was not listed as a parent in registrations.

Introduction

Introduction is the offering for sale to the public. Catalogs, printed lists, and advertisements in the *American Iris Society Bulletin* are acceptable means of introduction. It is a requisite of awards of the Society above that of High Commendation. A variety is not eligible for listing on the awards ballot until after it has been recorded as introduced by the Registrar-Recorder. Send the Registrar a copy of your list, catalog or advertisement by first class mail so verification of introduction can be made.

The Registrar will supply a sample application form upon receipt of a stamped self-addressed envelope. 

[Please note the name and address of our new AIS Registrar, Mike Lowe.]

Blandy Garden

by Judy Keisling, Missouri

NESTLED IN THE ROLLING VIRGINIA HILLS ABOUT 60 MILES WEST of Washington, DC, 472 guest irises resided in nine perfectly manicured beds at the Blandy Experimental Farm at the State Arboretum of Virginia, also known locally as the Orland E. White Arboretum. The rain that had plagued us earlier in the day had subsided to a light mist as we got off the bus and made our way through what is known as “The Quarters,” an impressive brick structure that is believed to have originally served as slaves’ quarters for the Tuleyries, a private estate just to the west.

The iris beds, situated on a sunny slope behind the Quarters, were planted and maintained by Don and Ginny Spoon and Don’s son Bryan. In a brief conversation with Don over lunch I learned that the beds were mulched with wood chips and that no fertilizer or sprays were used; leaf spot on each plant was manually cleaned – a time consuming task, no doubt.


Immediately catching my eye was the colorful BODY AND SOUL (TB, Stahly, ‘99) with bright apricot yellow standards, slightly lighter hued falls and brilliant red beards. I counted 5 fans, each with 5 - 6 buds on this extremely well-branched specimen. Nearby, a clump of MADAM PRESIDENT (MTB, Thurman, ‘01) was holding court, her canary yellow standards and violet falls standing erect and sporting at least 7 buds on each of her stalks. Turning my head, the stark white self BUBBLES GALORE (TB, Ghio, ‘02) was screaming for attention – what a beauty this one was with excellent branching, clean foliage, and 6 buds on every stalk. Another Ghio introduction LIP SERVICE (TB, ‘01) was also showing off with violet standards touched gently with apricot around the edges, apricot falls with violet overlay, and light tangerine beards.

The intense deep purple black color of HOLLYWOOD NIGHTS (TB, Duncan, ‘01) appeared to be almost a true black in the subdued overcast lighting of the day. Its white spray-like pattern near the blue-violet beard provided a nice contrast. Again, this one had great

branching and bud count. One of my favorites, the lovely POND LILY (TB, E. Jones, '95), was in full glory, the pink influence on the violet falls showing up with an intensity not seen in my garden. LADY LAREE (TB, Barrows, '02) was also especially nice, wearing heavily washed violet standards and white falls with violet edges and violet beards reminiscent of the court gown of a lady of the realm.

DELIGHTFUL KID (BB, Innerst, '01) was truly a delight to see with its pink standards, white falls trimmed in grape-red, and pinkish red beards; this one reminded me of one of my granddaughters – dainty, sturdy, and character galore! The well-grown clump of ICE WINGS (BB, Craig, '01), with its pure white standards and falls that slightly shaded to blue, conjured up visions of skaters on a pond – great branching with lots of buds – I counted 12 buds on one of its stalks. Larry Lauer's BLIND FAITH (TB, '02), a lightly ruffled and laced light violet with darker edges on the falls and bright red beards, drew rave reviews from its admirers standing nearby.

Other outstanding iris seen in this garden included SILVER TRUMPETS (TB, Zurbigg, '03) a silverish-white space ager with trumpet-like appendages; CALEY MARIE (TB, Borglum, '01), white ground standards peppered blue, the white falls peppered blue on the edges and yellow beards; AUTUMN JOY (TB, D. Spoon, '01) a nicely ruffled reddish-violet plicata with light yellow edges on the standards and a deep reddish violet border on the white-grounded falls; DEB SUNSHINE (TB, Lineberger, '00, with golden yellow standards, creamy white falls and good bud count. RED THUMBPRINTS (BB, Cadd, '00) was a knockout with its light chocolate brown standards and falls highlighted with a reddish wash, making it easy to see where it got its name. HUNTER PINK (TB, Stanek, '00) was outstanding with its rose standards, baby pink falls, and red beards, as was RASPBERRY SILK (BB, D. Spoon, '00) another plicata — grounded white and splashed with deep raspberry in a broken color pattern, and pink tangerine beards. VERONA WIEKHORST (TB, Foster, '02) with creamy buff falls tinted lavender and reddish violet falls displayed 5 - 6 buds on each of her stalks.

As always seems to be the case, time in this garden was limited. There were so many wonderful irises in bloom in this garden; it was difficult to spend as much time as I would have liked looking at each and every one. All too soon it was time to move on. Thanks to Don, Ginny, Bryan and the staff at the Arboretum for making a visit to this garden a more than memorable occasion. 

The Kuppert Garden

by *George Hilton, Jr., New Jersey*

THE GARDENS OF KURT AND SONIA KUPPERT ARE LOCATED in the lovely, quiet suburban community of Fox Point in Fredricksburg, VA. Their beautiful two-story home sits diagonally on a corner lot surrounded in the front and side yards by a meticulously manicured lawn and beautifully landscaped gardens including those displaying the guest iris. The back yard was equally impressive with its park-like atmosphere that included a quaint garden shed neatly tucked amongst the various plantings of trees, shrubs, and flowers.

Although it was one of the smaller gardens on the tour, it more than compensated with the quantity of iris and the quality with which they were grown. The iris were at peak bloom and growing extremely well. It was certainly a sight to behold. Even after several days of strong wind and heavy rain, this garden remained a class act.

Upon our arrival, we were warmly greeted by our host and hostess, Kurt and Sonia Kuppert, who welcomed us to their gardens and directed us to the different areas of interest: the general garden beds, the guest iris beds and, of course, the refreshment area. After a brief conversation with Kurt and Sonia, it was off to tend to the business of the day.

The first garden in view ran along the right side of the driveway leading to the backyard. It was filled with numerous older iris varieties such as RARE TREAT, SUPERSTITION, GAY PARASOL, and SKATING PARTY, just to name a few. They were growing beautifully and the clumps were quite impressive.

Crossing the driveway and passing the garage, where our hosts had provided an array of delicious snacks and beverages, I headed for the guest beds that lay on the far side of the property. The number of exciting new iris was overwhelming and I found it difficult knowing where to start.

One of the first irises to attract my attention was Anna and David Cadd's FROSTED FANTASY, a pure white flower with beautifully flared and ruffled blooms on tall, very well branched stalks. It was a

great contrast to the brighter colored irises around it, one of which was the Cadds' MIDNIGHT MINK. The flower was a deep reddish-purple with flared falls, an abundance of wavy ruffling, and growing on beautiful stalks.

I was quite taken by Sterling Innerst's BLACK SUITED with its saturated black color. It had formed a beautiful clump and made as bold a statement here as it had in other gardens. It was a striking dark beauty that certainly demanded attention.

Although I was not familiar with the introductions of Ruth Rogers, I found her CHOIR ROBE to be an exciting and beautiful reddish purple flower. The central part of the falls had a flash of violet running from the gold beards to the end of the falls. It was a wonderful combination that really caught my eye.

Two introductions of Joe Ghio that impressed me very much were AMIABLE and MILD MANNER. Though both are very similar in color, they differed enough to stand on their own merits. AMIABLE had pink standards with pink-lavender falls and an orange beard tipped white. MILD MANNER also sported pink standards but the falls were more on the silvery blue-lavender tone that darkened at the edges. Both had terrific stalks and branching.


Rick Tasco's GOLDEN PANTHER was one of the iris I had looked forward to seeing, and I must say, I was not disappointed. The color was somewhat of a blend, but I think golden honey best describes the overall color. It is a color not often seen in iris and rarely with such a great impact. The color was radiant and the bright yellow-orange beards, beautiful ruffling and great stalks completed the package.

A favorite of mine from Don Spoon, SKY AND SUN, was looking remarkable as it had in other gardens. The purity of the clear sky-blue of the standards and falls combined with the bright yellow beards was truly wonderful and left a memorable impression. Another wonderful iris, DAUGHTER OF STARS, also by Spoon, had standards of a rich deep purple with a fine white edge as did the falls that lightened toward the center, with lighter rays extending from a white beard, displaying the luminata pattern. The flowers were very large and were held on strong, well-branched stalks. It was a flower with great garden appeal and, as an added bonus, it reblooms. What could be better than being able to view this beautiful flower twice in one season?

In addition to iris that had been previously introduced, there were many new and exciting seedlings growing in the guest beds. One in particular that attracted my attention was **Hooker Nichols seedling #9555L**. It was a gorgeous, smooth, pale rose with pleasing ruffles, flared falls, and stalks bearing three branches and good bud count. The

overall affect was warm and quite wonderful, and I found the pale rose to be somewhat nostalgic and most comforting. I was so absorbed in taking pictures and making notes, that I completely lost all track of time. It wasn't until the sound of reality rang in my ears that I panicked.

As the first call to return to the bus rang out, I made one last frantic dash around the guest beds, hoping to discover those special iris that I had overlooked. I found many, but our visit was coming to a close and time was rapidly dwindling. Heading back to the bus, I found myself wishing there had been more time to enjoy the extensive array of new iris. All in all, the time spent at the Kuppert Gardens was a wonderful experience. The gardens were beautiful, the weather looked favorably upon us, and our host and hostess were gracious and most hospitable.

So, to Kurt and Sonia, sincerest thanks for not only sharing your beautiful gardens with us, but for also making the visit to your gardens an exciting and memorable part of the 2003 convention. 

Siberian Popularity Poll for 2002:

2002 position/name (hybridizer,year)/number of votes

- 1st (tie): FOND KISS (Schafer/Sacks '99) 14
 ROARING JELLY (Schafer/Sacks '92) 14
- 3rd: JEWELLED CROWN (Hollingworth '87) 12
- 4th (tie): STRAWBERRY FAIR (Hollingworth '94) 11
 TRIM THE VELVET (Schafer/Sacks '95) 11
- 6th (tie): BLUEBERRY FAIR (Hollingworth '97) 10
 LAKE KEUKA (Borglum '94) 10
- 8th (tie): CORONATION ANTHEM (Hollingworth '90) 9
 MESA PEARL (Bauer/Coble '94) 9
 SHIPS ARE SAILING (Schafer/Sacks '98) 9
 SHALL WE DANCE (Hollingworth '92) 9

The Lord Fairfax Garden

by Jeanne Plank, California

THE LORD FAIRFAX COMMUNITY COLLEGE IRIS GARDEN WITH its collection of 249 guest irises was described as one of the smaller iris collections scheduled on the AIS 2003 National Spring Garden Tour. Demonstrating that numbers are not a critical factor, this garden provided an eye-filling example of a thriving iris collection at peak bloom. The unusual cold and wet spring that haunted the East Coast this year and challenged all convention gardens seemed to have provoked the Lord Fairfax planting into producing an enormous quantity of quality bloom on vigorously growing plants.

With guidance from irisarians and faculty, students prepared a long curving bed that flowed into a large rectangular area bordered by lawn on one side and a low-walled terrace off the campus dining hall on the other. A short stairway ran through the middle and another short stairway along a building wall closed off the far end of the bed. From the patio, garden visitors enjoyed an overview of the major portion of the planting while sampling snacks from the refreshment table.

The irises were closely planted. The beds were blanketed by a crazy-quilt of color from an amazing quantity of well-groomed, tall bloom stalks supporting large blossoms that appeared impervious to the weather. (See photo, page 14, July *AIS Bulletin* #330.)

Cultivar identification is always important to irisarians, most especially at convention treks. Nametags would have been hidden by the vigorous growth in this garden's "forest of irises" had it not been for Don Spoon's nametag extensions. Just before touring began, Don added about a foot to each stake. This brought the tag information above the lush foliage, enabling conventioners to identify cultivars that caught their eye.

There were many eye-catchers that day. Old, new, small, tall, foreign, national and local irises were blooming in abundance. Highlighting some of the iris that caught my eye on the day of our visit: SPLASHACATA (Tasco '98) was awarded this year's Convention's

Cook Cup for best out-of-region introduction. (See front cover of July 2003 *AIS Bulletin* #330.) SPLASHACATA was outstanding in all convention gardens this year, just as it had been last year in Memphis. It is a cultivar worthy of all the accolades it receives.

MY GINNY (D. Spoon '00) nosed out two other Spoon introductions to become this year's winner of the President's Cup for best in-region introduction. (See inside front cover of July 2003 *AIS Bulletin* #330.) This lovely iris was named for Don's wife Ginny, who happens to be Region 4's incumbent RVP, who along with Don owns and operates Winterberry Gardens, and who also happens to hybridize in her own right.

Among Don Spoon's introductions my personal favorite is MASLON, a 2002 MTB of near perfect growth habit, great form and sparkling garden interest. MASLON was first runner up for the President's Cup. Wherever I saw it, MASLON had formed an urn-like clump with a crown of bright flowers held pleasingly above smooth clean foliage. With light yellow standards and white-rimmed velvety purple falls, MASLON in peak bloom looked like an elegantly arranged bouquet.

Another standout in the smaller iris category was the Intermediate Bearded DELIRIUM (M. Smith '01), always an eye-catcher. Marky Smith has introduced many wonderful medians, and, along with DELIRIUM, several were guests in this garden: BLACKCURRANT ('99), MING ('98), SAILOR ('96), STARWOMAN ('98) were providing a handsome display. For me, however, DELIRIUM is perhaps the most spectacular. With a color pattern you can't forget or mistake, DELIRIUM lives up to its name with its mixture of smoky gold, cream, red-violet and salmon, coupled with perfect form and vigor.

In the new introduction category, TEA SERVICE (Gerald Richardson '03) is a lovely pale light lavender-blue and blue-white bitone that I saw for the first time last year at the Memphis convention. TEA SERVICE projects a relaxing cool serenity that I find appealing and it caught my eye again this year in the Lord Fairfax Garden.

SLOVAK PRINCE (Anton Mego '03) came to my attention at the 2001 AIS Convention when it was still under number and its hybridizer known only to a very few North American irisarians. Anton Mego is from Bratislava, Slovakia. Sending plant material to the U.S. is no small accomplishment — it is both complicated and expensive. SLOVAK PRINCE is worth the effort. Its beautiful white orchid-shaded standards rimmed in gold are coupled with light lavender gold-

rimmed styles. Both of those elements reign over falls of dark, velvety purple outlined by light rims and punctuated by gold beards surrounded in white. This iris has a distinctiveness that stays in memory.

ADOPT ME (Jim & Vicki Craig), an Intermediate Bearded, DELIGHTFUL KID (Sterling Innerst), a Border Bearded, and Tall Bearded BADITUDE (Tom Burseen), SUNDRENCHED (Larry Lauer), OAXACA (Bryce Williamson) and WALKING ON AIR (Paul Black) — 2001 introductions all — were showing off to good advantage. ADOPT ME, a rosy tan washed and veined rosy purple, was certainly an adorable adoptable. DELIGHTFUL KID (photo: p. 53, July 2003 *AIS Bulletin* #330) had the distinctive poise associated with Innerst iris introductions. BADITUDE, a yellow gold, lavender-infused charmer, seemed to challenge its name. SUNDRENCHED was able to produce a sense of “green” with barium yellow flowers and blue tipped beards. OAXACA, a lovely apricot, orange, and yellow blend, should rank with other outstanding Williamson introductions in this color range. WALKING ON AIR has artistic purple base foliage which sets off elegant bitone flowers of violet-blue that shade lighter to violet-white edges on the falls.

From the “Class of 2000” introductions, KIND WORD (Keith Keppel) and GOLDEN PANTHER (Rick Tasco) more than held their own with any newer comers. A gorgeous creamy pink (KIND WORD), and a striking golden bronze (GOLDEN PANTHER) - these irises possess the kind of quality that does not pass unnoticed in any company.


Amongst the more senior guests were several notable stand-outs: Jim Hedgecock’s DARK PAST (‘99), a ruffled red black with purple beards; Sterling Innerst’s AGAIN AND AGAIN (‘99), a huge, medium yellow rebloomer, and ANVIL OF DARKNESS (‘98) a deep, deep intense black; Calvin Helsley’s CAROUSEL WALTZ (‘96), a Border Bearded with a pleasing style in tans and violets and gold; and Clarence Mahan’s two beautiful MTBs, both of which have received numerous accolades: REMINISCENCE (‘94), a velvety violet and mauve bitone, and ROBIN GOODFELLOW (‘94), a crisp ice white self with yellow beards.

A problem that confronts all garden reviewers is that on any given day a cultivar that stands out for a reviewer during a visit may or may not be what someone else sees, saw, or will see on their visit to that same garden even on the same day. The above are a selection of some cultivars that caught my attention at the Lord Fairfax Garden. These are worthy candidates I wish to consider adding to my iris collection, and you

might consider adding them to yours.

A review of the Lord Fairfax Garden convention visit would not be complete without relating two memorable experiences that were part of our time at this garden. The walkway to the iris planting led us by an unusual Children's Garden. This charming attraction was filled with whimsical statuary, fanciful structures and creative landscaping as befits a garden for children. More than just a few of irisarians stopped to admire and explore this delightfully imaginative garden design.

Another experience unique to this garden, this day and this time, was provided when the second busload of conventioners arrived. My friend Debbie Babuscio (SFVIS, CA – Reg.15) observed that an unusually large number of hybridizers were gathered together in this garden where so many of them had guest irises in bloom. She called for a "hybridizer line-up" against the wall of the building for an "Irisarian Photo Shoot." With the exception of Barry Blyth, who skillfully hid somewhere away from the camera, we believe all the hybridizers who were there at that garden, at that moment, were captured in the photo to be found on page 73, *AIS Bulletin* #330 — 14 in all. It was a memorable event, and it was fun.

Planning and implementation of the Lord Fairfax Iris Garden fell under the jurisdiction of Prof. Cindy Marston and Assistant Lenda Dart of the Lord Fairfax Community College Horticulture Department. The guest irises were planted by Harry Reed and tended by the Spoons - Ginny, Don and Bryan. This collaboration proved to be successful, producing a delightful garden experience. Thank you all. 

SJI Popularity Poll for 2003

1.	ELECTRIC RAYS	Aitken '90
2.	CASCADE CREST	Aitken '88
3.	SING THE BLUES	Reid '97
4 (tie):	BLUE SPIRITZ	Delmez '96
	FRILLED ENCHANTMENT	Marx '59
	LION KING	Bauer/Coble '96
7.	JOCASTA	Innerst '88
8 (tie):	BUTTERFLIES IN FLIGHT	Aitken '91
	CAPRICIAN BUTTERFLY	Marx '85
	JAPANESE PINWHEEL	McEwen '88

Edgehill: Jack & Rosalie Lovings Garden

by Jim & Jean Morris, Missouri

THIS GARDEN WAS THE PERFECT ENDING TO OUR FIRST DAY OF tours in the Fredericksburg area. Jack and Rosalie Loving have made their home here for more than 30 years and the great oak tree in the front yard is older. We wanted to tie a yellow ribbon around it so we would remember to come back.

The irises here were as wonderful as the genuine welcome from the garden owners. The first to catch our eye was SARGENT PRESTON (Chapman 00), a TB which formed a beautiful clump in tan over amethyst. Sporting show stalks in this and other gardens was MELTED BUTTER (Fan 94) in shades of white and yellow. Many Sterling Innerst creations performed well including his black, ANVIL OF DARKNESS (98); APPARENT SECRET (01), yellow over rosy violet veined yellow; CONTINUITY (94) true blue with navy beards; DOROTHY DAVIS (95) a peachy orange creation; and EROTIC TOUCH (98), in bright butterscotch with a violet blaze. EROTIC TOUCH sported stalks with 7-10 buds, and DOROTHY DAVIS was so covered with bloom that it drew a crowd.

Joe Ghio's irises are always attractive and the Lovings grew them well. IMPULSIVE (01) is peach over orange with red beards, NEXT MILLENIUM (00) is white over black-red with orange beards, ORIGINAL ART (03) has standards the color of orange sherbet and falls in red-black with orange around big red beards, and RETURN TO SENDER (00) is lavender over red-violet with white veining around white beards. Cameras were clicking away! Not to be overlooked is Ghio's BB BORDER GUARD (03) in peachy pink over burnt orange.


MAUNA LOA FIRE (F. Rogers 01) is attractive in butterscotch over redwood, heavily veined butterscotch. CROCODILE ROCK (B. Nichols 03) is a nice BB in light gold over cream with mauve plicata marks; it has old gold beards and small horns. Two of Hooker Nichols' seedlings looked good: **2171A** in ruffled yellow over cream with yellow hafts, and **2146A** in flesh tones with coral beards. Two of Lowell

Baumunk's seedlings were really great: A border bearded, **748-H**, is cream with a neon lemon spot, while **873-CC** is an MTB in tan over cream marked lavender. Lowell's species cross, **PETIT LION** (01), is a good-looking flower of gold over red-violet heavily veined yellow.

SPLASHACATA (Tasco 98) is destined for greatness. It was voted the Franklin Cook Cup as the best out-of-region iris seen at convention. It is pale lavender over white, heavily dotted all over in red-violet and pencil edged lavender. Smashing!

Carl Boswell's IB, **DEVILISH NATURE** (98) in chocolate over amethyst, edged brown, is very attractive, as was Terry Varner's MTB seedling **R-303** in blue purple with cream beards. Two of Larry Lauer's 2001 TB introductions were growing next to each other and were quite a play on words: **NOW SEE THIS** and **IT'S GETTING BETTER**. The first is a ruffled red-purple while the second is old gold over lavender-blue with a blue beard. One of the most stunning irises was **WESTPOINTER** (Sutton 01), a TB-SA that George describes as satinwood over red-violet. Whatever. We like it and the half-inch spoons are something else.

Jack Loving hybridizes Siberians and certainly knows how to grow them well. Two by Calvin Helsley, **WHERE EAGLES DARE** (95), a vigorous black-purple, and **CARMEN JEANNE** (96) in royal purple with nice white signals, were both beautiful. Five Siberians by Schafer-Sacks were outstanding. **TURN A PHRASE** (00) is light blue over blue-violet and **TOM SCHAEFER** (00) is extremely yellow, lighter on top. The very ruffled **SARAH TIFFNEY** (99) is such a pretty pastel in lavender with yellow style tips and signals. The standout was **WHITE AMBER** (01) a petite lavender with a yellow influence; it also has yellow styles and signals, and it formed an attractive clump. Also tall and lovely was **BANISH MISFORTUNE** (99) in bright lavender with straw signals.

In the refreshment area under the deck, the Lovings displayed a poster showing their garden's growth progression. This was an interesting touch. Camping friends (and they were delightful) from Ontario, Canada, manned the refreshment tables so the Lovings could circulate and visit with garden guests. Dozens of perennials surrounded the house, including hosta, lupine, astilbe, fern, columbine, solomon's seal, viola, sedum, oxalis, azalea, *I. cristata* "Summer Storm" and *I. tectorum* — all blooming in profusion. When it comes to growing plants, the Lovings certainly do have the "loving touch." We will long remember this garden and its charming, thoughtful hosts. Thank you Jack and Rosalie. 

The Rose Garden

by Dorothy Stiefel, New York

LOIS ROSE'S GARDEN WAS VIEWED UNDER CONDITIONS CONSISTENT with weather previously experienced during the convention: cool and damp with rain threatening. Her 50 acres in Partlow, VA, are surrounded by pasture and hayfields, which provide a verdant and soothing environment. Large trees shade the brick house built by Lois and her husband. A beautiful bush of mountain laurel graces one front corner, and a rhododendron softens the outline of the other.

The guest irises were planted in island beds in a former vegetable garden. The tall bearded irises were at peak bloom, and there was much to view in a short time. The irises were well grown, although there was evidence of the soft rot that is a frequent consequence of cool, rainy spring weather.

In a grouping of Ghio irises, PUCCINI (1999) and STARRING (2000) first drew my attention. STARRING was attempting to repeat the "star" role it played at the 2002 AIS National convention. The white, barely-lavender tinted standards were a bit more open than I would prefer, but the style-arms, lightly edged with brown-yellow, as if lightly toasted, were enchanting to view. The plum purple falls were pure velvet. The beard "hairs" were white at the fall surface, shading to plum, then to tangerine. It is truly a flower that rewards close study, although with a maximum of six flowers per stalk to study.

IMPULSIVE (Ghio 2001) is a showy peach bitone with yellow hints and a stronger yellow infusion of color at the hafts. The beard is orange from the pink side. Great color, and a very pretty iris. This beauty was sporting seven buds.

Walter Moores' VIOLET SHIMMER (1998) was putting on the show I am accustomed to seeing from it. Healthy, vigorous, and up to 11 buds per stalk were presenting on this white ground plicata marked with blue violet.

SLOVAK PRINCE (Mego 2003) again stopped me in my tracks, as it did at the York Convention in 2001 under seedling no. 93-0038-

MA. It is an intriguing flower. The standards are a ruffled, barely violet white, edged in light yellow. The falls are plush, red-toned purple. Bud count was low, with only five in evidence.

Don Spoon's MY GINNY (2000), which would win the President's Cup for favorite In-Region iris, was showing why it is a favorite. It is a vigorous pink and rose confection, the epitome of "femininity."

Blyth's MASTERY (2001) could hardly be missed, as it was opening three flowers per stalk simultaneously. It has butterscotch yellow standards and cranberry/brick red falls. A wide yellow/tan rim around each fall gradually blends back into the cranberry/brick color. Very colorful and distinctive!


PASSING CLOUDS (Hager 2001) did indeed remind me of puffy clouds passing 'way up in the sky at sunrise. The colors are difficult to describe, with the standards a very pale violet-blue and the falls a pale buff pink. Really a very light "sky-blue-pink!"

There were quite a number of historic irises in the Rose garden, as well as a Dykes Medal collection. FAIR ELAINE (Mitchell 1938) was a bright and floriferous beacon of dandelion yellow with a white "wash" area on the falls. JUNGLE SHADOWS (BB - Sass/Graham 1960) was present; it's brown/gray/mahogany color unmistakable. BLUE SHIMMER (J. Sass 1941) and HELEN COLLINGWOOD (K. Smith 1949) were giving performances that proved their enduring popularity is deserved.

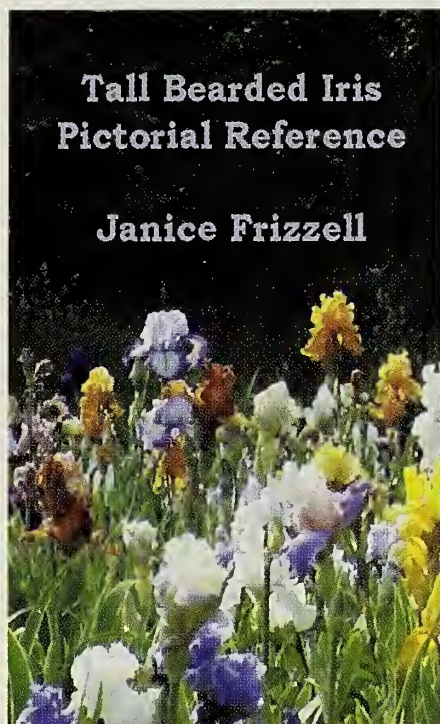
Among the MTBs, guests OH SO COOL (Wulf 2001) and PREFERENCE (Fisher 2001) were standouts, presenting large, floriferous clumps. OH SO COOL is violet, with the falls shading into white with violet veining at the hafts. PREFERENCE is a cream/yellow ground plicata with tan and violet markings.

The Siberian guests did not look at home, and probably could have used another year to grow to advantage. All were short, and the best beardless performances were being given by non-guest reliables SHAKER'S PRAYER (Warner 1990), SUMMER SKY (Cleveland 1935), and CAESAR'S BROTHER (Morgan 1932).

Near the end of our visit, the sun suddenly emerged from behind the clouds, and the humidity increased quickly. Cool drinks and the shade of the large oak trees were welcome.

Although at least one conventioneer initially wondered why we were visiting a "rose garden" on an iris tour, the visit itself answered all doubts. My question is: "How can a professional working woman with a 160-mile round trip daily commute keep up with all this?" Thank you, Lois Rose, however you manage, for sharing it with us! 

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The Garden of Gina and Jim Schroetter

by Paul Black, Oregon

AS WE MADE OUR WAY FROM THE SPLendor OF WINTERBERRY Garden to the serenely peaceful Schroetter garden, I was amazed at how little the bustling cities had encroached upon these rural areas. The trip along wooded areas and farms complete with cows was readying us for the wooded wonderland that Gina and Jim Schroetter have lovingly developed. The newly completed log house was a charming backdrop for the manicured iris beds, which I am told were created before the house was built. A small iris bed located just in front of the house gave it a warmth and old world charm that made us feel right at home. For more pictures of this beautiful garden, please refer to page 86 of the January 2003 *AIS Bulletin*.

Because of the high shade provided by beautiful, mature trees, bloom was slightly later than other gardens and we missed peak bloom by about a week. There was still plenty to see. We were disappointed that few of Jim's seedlings were in bloom. I can see it is going to be a challenge for this new and upcoming hybridizer to find enough sunny area to grow his seedlings.

As it was in most of the other tour gardens, Don Spoon's MASLON was a star. This cheery MTB has yellow standards and rich purple falls banded in white. Bright yellow beards were just the right accompaniment. VOODOO CHILD (TB – Schreiner '02) was growing vigorously. Strong, well-branched stalks carried eerily colored flowers with buff tan standards and violet falls blended to a tannish brown band. LET'S BE FRIENDS (TB – Christopherson '02) was showing off with super show stalks carrying 9 buds. Lilac standards are widely banded old gold. Buff falls were sanded overall with red violet.


SARGENT PRESTON (TB – Chapman '02) was one of the best-branched and budded varieties seen in this garden. It may be too subtle for some, but I thought it a very appealing combination. Palest violet-white standards are prominently veined and rimmed in old gold. Medium blue-violet falls are narrowly banded with tan. Blue beards, ruffles and a bit of lace are perfect finishing touches. VIBRANT (TB – Black '99) was making its own bit of sunshine in this semi-shaded bed.

Bright, eye-popping golden yellow blooms are carried on show stalks with plenty of buds. **H. Nichols seedling 2159A** was one I liked because of the smaller, daintier, precisely ruffled flowers and well-branched stalks. Flowers are white with yellow central area in standards along with narrow gold bands. Falls have large yellow hafts and yellow veins incised over the remainder. This got my vote for best clump – if there had been a vote.

Another MTB was giving MASLON some competition: **T. Varner's MTB seedling #R302** had cream standards with violet plicata marks, and white falls were etched with violet lines. MILLENNIUM SUNRISE (TB – Schreiner '00) was the most colorful clump on my list. An abundance of stalks provided an abundance of rich orange flowers with a yellow influence; beards, of course, are orange. HIGHLAND GAMES (TB – Aitken '00) was putting on a nice show of unusually colored flowers. Standards are a rose lavender blend as is the narrow band around buffy orange falls. Orange beards score well.

An amoena that I like very much in my own garden as well as here is CONNECTION (TB – Ghio '00). The contrast between the white standards and black purple falls isn't as startling as STARRING, but the growth is stronger and branching and buds are also better. The same dark red orange beards make it blaze. For our space age connoisseurs, **Larry Hughes' seedling #96-11A** was looking good. Standards are brassy gold and well-formed violet flounces accent violet falls. I have seen SWEET MEI (Fan '00) at two conventions and in my own garden and have liked it very much each time. Heavily ruffled, dark violet blooms are brushed dark garnet over the hafts and accented with gold beards. Superb show stalks and strong, vigorous growth make this a top-notch variety.

I'll end this review with a variety that wasn't in this garden but that I think was one of the best things I saw at National this year. It was giving a strong performance in every garden where I saw it: LADY LAREE (Barrows '02) is NOT just another violet and white plicata. The characteristic that sets it apart are the very blue beards that I haven't seen before on this type of plicata. White standards are sanded and widely banded with medium violet plicata marks. Expansive, ruffled, white falls are narrowly plicata banded in violet. Very blue beards are nestled in a V patch of violet. This violet V patch makes the beards appear even bluer. Growth is very strong and each stalk was worth taking to a show.

The gardens at this convention each had their own distinct character and each one was a reflection of the love its owner gives it. Thanks to all the people that made this convention such a resounding success. 

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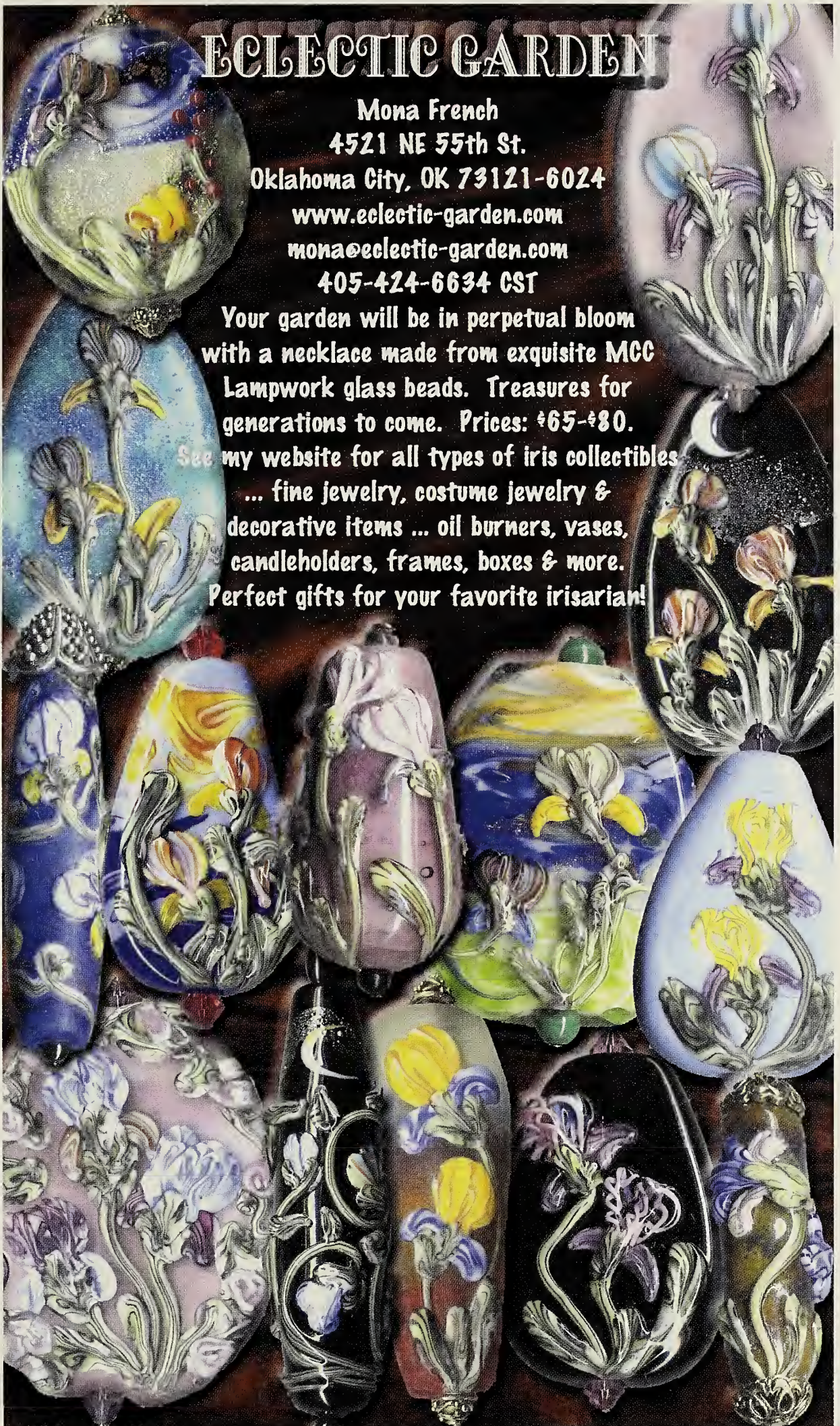
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Winterberry Gardens

by Shirley Trio and Riley Probst, Missouri

IT WAS OVERCAST AND COLD, AND MOTHER NATURE WAS threatening rain as we left the hotel on our way to the first garden on the tour. Somehow, nothing is more exciting than that first garden on the first tour day. We were especially excited because later in the day we were going to the Winterberry Garden of Ginny and Don Spoon. We were fortunate to be able to visit the garden twice. The garden is located in the Allegheny Highlands. Allegheny Mountains are west, and east are the Blue Ridge Mountains. Ginny stated it is like being in a cradle. Not far away is the Shenandoah Valley. Ginny gave a lively and interesting history lesson on Civil War happenings and Indian lore before that; she told us the translation of the meaning of Shenandoah, “Daughter of stars,” because the river reflected the stars at night. More on DAUGHTER OF STARS later. On the first visit to the guest iris, many were not yet in bloom. Elevation here is a little higher than some of the other gardens. Irises were everywhere.

Many medians were in bloom at Winterberry. Several MTBs were great. One that stood out was ELFIN SHADOWS (L. Burton 2004) with light pink standards over deeper pink falls veined darker. It had 5 bloom stalks leaving 17 increases for next year. A new star among the MTB class is T. Varner’s AMONG FRIENDS (2002). It has near white standards over deep wine falls rimmed the color of the standards, set off with a deep orange beard. Another great one that we saw as a seedling in Memphis is Chuck Bunnell’s C39-7, now named MISSUS BEE and introduced in 2003 as his first introduction. It has medium violet standards and dark violet falls with white hafts heavily veined dark violet and rimmed the color of the standards, topped off with a bright yellow beard. Based on his other guest seedlings blooming in this garden, we will be seeing more intros from Chuck. A nicely formed lavender self was THINK SPRING, a 2003 intro of Stephanie Markham. A great stalk was observed on THAT’S RED (Ken Fisher 2000); it’s red, in case you hadn’t guessed. Of course the garden owner Don Spoon has an outstanding new MTB in MASLON introduced in

2002. Winterberry Garden also had a 2003 MTB introduction for C. Nearpass called LUCY DOODLE. It has light yellow standards and reddish violet falls with heavy white haft veining. Other medians blooming included Rick Tasco's 2000 IB PRETTY PRINCESS which looked nice in pink. An IB that stands out in every garden is M. Smith's HARMONIUM 2002, about the brightest yellow self you will ever see. It was also great last year in Memphis. A BB of distinction was ROYAL OVATION (Craig 2000). It has golden tan standards over violet falls, with exceptionally wide foliage. We found the flowers a little small, with 5-6 bud count.

An interesting TB seedling was **Allan Ensminger 295-15**. It is a lightly ruffled plicata with reddish violet standards and white falls plicated and banded the same color as the standards. It also has a distinct violet line running down the center of the falls. But what really sets this seedling off is its beautiful green and white variegated foliage. The unopened buds even have a candy stripe effect. I hope it will be introduced, we would grow it. Another seedling of interest was **2151-A by Hooker Nichols**. It is out of a cross between RIVER JORDAN X FLIGHTS OF FANCY. It has lavender white standards and violet falls streaked white — or is it white ground streaked and splashed violet? It could be called a luminata neglecta. Speaking of luminatas, there were many nice luminatas and/or fancy plicatas in bloom in this garden. They included TALL DARK STRANGER, Christopherson 2002; SYLVAN SMILING, Burseen 1999; RETURN TO SENDER, Ghio 2000; PALM READER, Ghio 1999; and LET'S BE FRIENDS, Christopherson 2002, to name a few. The colors and patterns that hybridizers are coming up with in these types are amazing and very difficult to describe. A more normal type of plicata, but exceptional rather than normal, was SILK BROCADE (Keppel 1999), in a smoky mauve and white.

BOMBAY GOLD (Francis Rogers 1999) is a fluorescent yellow which is heavily ruffled with very tight lace. It had blue green foliage with wide green leaves. The bud count was six plus terminal. The ratio was 5 to 1, probably a rapid increaser. Pollen was present. We have noticed that there are not a lot of new yellows to be found on the market. Even more rare are those that do not sun fade. The orange DOROTHY DEVENPORT (H. Nichols 2003) also looked great here.

Of course, many TBs hybridized by Spoon were in bloom in this garden. One was DAUGHTER OF STARS (2001), a bitone violet luminata with white lines and veins radiating from the light yellow beard, accentuated by a white line extending further down the falls. Another interesting one from Don Spoon was PLUM PRETTY



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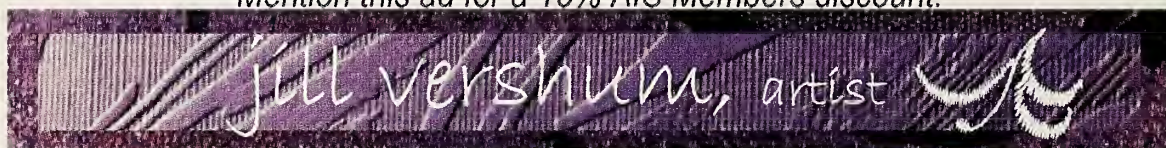
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Below: Carla Lankow in red, and Mrs. Stonecipher in disguise at the Lord Fairfax Garden, National Convention
Facing Page: BEVERLY SILLS (Hager) at the Blandy Arboretum

All photos: Filardi





WHISKERS, a 2003 intro. It has deep pink standards and claret wine falls with a wide border the color of the standards. It is set off with bright white haft veining; hence the name. Another pretty 2003 from Don was GLADYS KELLY. It has dark rose standards nicely ruffled, and deep wine falls with a white spray pattern on each side of the yellow orange beard. We also saw three of our favorite Spoon irises in bloom here: LITTLE JOHN (1996), MY GINNY (2000), and UNCLE CHARLIE (1999). It was nice to see them in their home garden after observing them in many other gardens across the country. ❧

Eric Nies Medal

by Clarence Mahan, Virginia

This medal is restricted to spuria (SPU) irises. It is named in honor of Eric Nies (1884-1952).

Eric Nies was born in Saugatuck, Michigan, the son of Dutch immigrants. He graduated with a BS degree from Michigan State College, where he was a star pitcher on the baseball team. In 1913, he and his wife Grace moved to Los Angeles, California, where he taught high school botany and agriculture for many years. He was a man who was praised for his beautiful singing voice, his wit and his charm.

Soon after Nies moved to California, he became interested in irises of all types. He obtained his first spuria irises from Jennett Dean, who operated one of the first iris specialist nurseries in the U.S. Spurias were his special interest. His first cross was *I. orientalis* with MONSPUR. He interbred seedlings from this cross, and in the second generation there was a virtual explosion of color: blue, lavender, brown, bronze and cream. Some of these early cultivars, the forerunners of great advances in spuria irises, are BRONZESPUR, SAUGATUCK, and AZURE DAWN.

Even during his lifetime, Nies was recognized as the foremost breeder of spuria irises in the world. Marion Walker took over his seedlings and breeding lines after he died in 1952. One of the Nies cultivars introduced by Walker is driftwood, which is chocolate-brown with a gold flush. It won the first Nies Award in 1959. ❧

Premio Firenze 2003

by Marky Smith, Washington State

AH, ITALY – LEMON TREES IN THE SOUTH, WHEAT AND GRAPES and cypresses in Tuscany, and the spring sun glittering on the Greenland ice sheet below the plane. Ice sheet? Yes, the fastest route to Rome from Region 13 is via the Arctic great circle to Copenhagen.

And so leaving the rain behind in Seattle, we deplaned to a beautiful early spring day in Denmark, with baskets of hyacinths and jonquils glowing in the street markets, along with strawberries from some place much further south. The next morning was more typical, with rain and bitter wind off the North Sea, which sped us on our connecting flight to Rome. My husband Jim had not been to Italy in 51 years, so we came two weeks before we were due in Florence, to visit the sheer cliffs of the Amalfi peninsula and the medieval hill towns of Tuscany, which still exist in a time warp.

Ultimately, we braved the autostradas for the final destination of Firenze (Florence). Our hotel was located on the Arno River in the middle of the city, just a short walk from the hilltop Piazzale Michelangelo with its spectacular view of the city. The panorama is dominated by the Cathedral with its huge dome, the Palazzo Vecchio with its tower, and Santa Croce and other treasures spread out across the skyline. The iris gardens are on the south side of the hill and bloom among the trees in an olive orchard. Planting and maintenance of the garden are done by the Italian Iris Society, under the aegis of Valeria Romoli, the director of the competition.

Each year, five judges are invited to the competition. This year Italy was represented by Prof. Paolo Gambassini. Gisela Dathe, registrar and judges' trainer for Germany, was a familiar face, and we enjoyed renewing our friendship. We also met Chuck Chapman, who came from Canada, and Zdenek Seidl from the Czech Republic, as well as everyone's wives and husbands.

Beginning early on Monday morning, Valeria Romoli and Valeria Roselli took us to the garden, where we found this year's competition included three-year clumps of 130 Tall Bearded cultivars and 15 Border



This Page

Above: Florence judges, left to right;
Z. Siedl, G. Dathe, M. Smith, P. Gambassini,
C. Chapman

Left: ENTANGLED (Ghio, U.S.A.)

Right Page

Top left: PAY THE PRICE (Grosvenor, Australia)

Top right: GHOST TRAIN (Schreiner, U.S.A.)

Lower left: SLOVAK SAPPHIRE (Mego, Slovakia)

Lower right: BERMUDA TRIANGLE
(BB, Cadd, U.S.A.)

All Photos: M.Smith



Florence Competition 2003



Bearded. As this was an overwhelming number, we spent the first morning marking plants which had at least 6 buds as the only ones to be included in the judging. This narrowed the field to about 40. The weather was unseasonably hot, well over ninety degrees and humid, which also encouraged us to expedite. Each cultivar was growing as a number only, and there were only a few that were so distinctive that one could recognize them without names attached.

Tuesday was another hot day. The jury completed the first round of point scoring for each iris selected Monday, and also began listing possible irises for the special prizes which include Most Original Color, Best Red Iris, Best Deep Blue Iris, Best Early Variety, Best Branching, Best Commercial Variety, Best Border Bearded, Best Italian Iris, and Most Fragrant. Since the Italian point scoring includes 5 points for fragrance, every variety had to be sniffed. The Best Fragrance was discovered almost immediately, a soft violet *plicata* later posted as LIBARNA, by Robert Marucchi. The early favorite for Best Original Color, #6, was easily identified without a name tag, as Joe Ghio's STARRING ('00), with its white standards, black velvet falls, and brilliant red beard, and nothing else bloomed later in the week that was as dramatic. Best Blue was a problem, as all the blues in bloom all week were "celestine," (celestial – meaning pale blue). The prize was to be given for a deep blue. Similarly, we looked at wine reds and brown reds, including a fine crimson cultivar later identified as Augusto Bianco's BIANCA MICHELETTA, selected as Best Italian Iris. But we saw no reds to match the bright red required for the Best Red award. After a long steamy morning, we had cut more varieties from our list of finalists, narrowing it to below 30.

Wednesday was "Judges' Day Out," a busman's holiday with visits to three famous Renaissance gardens that define the components of classic Italian gardens, which include boxwood parterres, potted citrus, cypress trees, ponds and fountains, and, often, a grotto. The first garden, the Castello, was designed for Cosimo di Medici the Elder, in the early Renaissance, and presently displays one thousand citrus trees in terra cotta pots. The assortment includes oranges, lemons, and grapefruit that are small, large, knobby, warped, and one, striped yellow and dark orange. All the pots are kept in the Limonia, the "lemon house," during the winter and brought out in spring and summer, a process that requires three months to move them all. Some of the Pomelos are 200 years old, and with their pots they weigh three tons each. Of course, in the fall everything must be put back indoors before severe frosts.

In the second garden, the Petraia, we found parterres filled with

irises, each bed a mass of different color. Blue diploid irises (*I. fiorentina*) have been a commercial crop in Tuscany for centuries; the rhizomes are ground to fragrant powder, called Orris Root, and included in talcums and other toiletries. Perhaps this is the impetus behind the present-day points and awards for fragrance.

It is said that half of all Renaissance art is in Italy, and half of that is in Florence. Jim was immersed in Michelangelo, Leonardo, and a dozen other famous painters and sculptors. He climbed the dome of the Duomo and the Campanile alongside and did not seem to mind our disappearance back to the garden early Thursday morning. We spent another four hours scoring the second set of points and winnowed the plants down to eighteen, plus the special prizes.

Every day of the week included a marvelous lunch, either a pot luck in the garden or trips to elegant villas in the hills east of the city. These heights are the most desirable addresses in Florence, as they are above much of the heat and humidity of the city, which lies wedged against the river in the Arno valley. Lunch often lasted three hours, the food was exquisite, and we had a chance to become friends with the marvelous people who were our hosts for the whole week.

Friday was the finale. We scored the last 18 clumps one more time, averaged our scores for each cultivar, and then added the averages of the five judges. The jury had daily admired a large, velvety, dark purple that became SLOVAK SAPPHIRE, which won both Best Branching and Best Commercial Variety. But the blistering heat burnt a tiny lavender patch below every deep violet beard by Friday, and that tiny flaw cleared the way for PAY THE PRICE, the perfect blue-on-white plicata which ultimately won the Premio. Mr. Grosvenor's iris displayed at least 30 stalks in an elegant clump, which was superbly healthy. Every flower was well-formed, with excellent substance in spite of the heat, the bud count and branching were impressive; and the blooms were sweetly fragrant. Third place went to Schreiner's inky black GHOST TRAIN, which was also very distinctive, and also runner up for Best Branching. Other U.S. irises that scored well were Keith Keppel's CROWNED HEADS, with dark blue standards and icy falls, and Joe Ghio's fine violet luminata ENTANGLED, which won both an Honorable Mention and Best Early Variety.

All the special prizes were selected, even the Best Blue, won by Keith Keppel's SEA POWER, a large, ruffled, deep blue, which finally opened on Friday morning. SEA POWER was later selected as the Best Late Variety as well. Best Border went to the Cadds' BERMUDA TRIANGLE, a perky little yellow with a purple triangle and small horn



Ruppert Garden

See article, page 22

Top: LINDA'S CHILD (Innerst)

Middle: CHEETAH CHEESE (Kasperek)

Bottom: Baumunk Seedling #671-B





Above: Children's Garden

Left: AMIABLE (Ghio)

Below: DREAM EXPRESS (Tasco)

All photos: Filardi



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on each fall, and the best growth in the garden. A bright red, by an Italian hybridizer, also bloomed obligingly at the last minute to give us the Best Red.

After lunch, Valeria Romoli brought out a mysterious locked box of sealed envelopes. Each envelope had a code which linked it to the number of an iris in the competition garden, and sealed within that envelope was the well-guarded identity of the iris and its hybridizer. The jury gave her the number of all the various winners, and she opened each corresponding envelope to disclose the name. It was more fun than attending the Academy Awards!

The Winners Are as Follows:

1. Premio Firenze (Gold Florin): PAY THE PRICE (Graeme Grosvenor, Australia)
2. Tuscany Region Cup: SLOVAK SAPPHIRE (Anton Mego, Slovakia)
3. Silver Plate of the Industrial Organisation: GHOST TRAIN (Schreiner, USA)
4. Italian Iris Society Silver Medal: REAP THE REWARDS (G. Grosvenor, Australia)
5. Honorable Mention: CROWNED HEADS (Keith Keppel, USA)
6. Honorable Mention: ALEXIA (C.E.C. Bartlett, Great Britain)
7. Honorable Mention: ZOBOR (Anton Mego, Slovakia)
8. Honorable Mention: BIANCA MICHELETTA (Augusto Bianco, Italy)
9. Honorable Mention: SAN GIOVANNI (S. Gigli, Italia)
10. Honorable Mention: ENTANGLED (J. Ghio, USA)

Special Prizes:

- Comune di Firenze Silver Plate, Best Red: SAMUELE (A. Affortunati, Italy)
- Chamber of Commerce Prize, Best Commercial Variety: SLOVAK SAPPHIRE (A. Mego, Slovakia)
- Louise Branch Cup, Best Branched Variety: SLOVAK SAPPHIRE (A. Mego, Slovakia)
- Amici dei Fiori Cup, Best Italian Variety: BIANCA MICHELETTA (A. Bianco, Italy)
- Florence Garden Club Cup, Most Original Color: STARRING (J. Ghio, USA)
- Perugia Garden Club Cup, Best Scented Variety: LIBARNA (R. Marucchi, Italia)

- Rora & Luciano Bausi Prize, Best Deep Blue: SEA POWER (K. Keppel, USA)
- Giorgio Saviane Prize, Best Early Variety: ENTANGLED (J. Ghio, USA)
- Arezzo Garden Club Prize, Best Late Variety: SEA POWER (K. Keppel, USA)
- Società Toscana di Orticoltura Prize for the Best Border Bearded: BERMUDA TRIANGLE (A. & D. Cadd, USA)
- Cassa di Risparmio di Firenze Prize for the European, not Italian, Hybridizer with the Best Variety in the First Five: A. Mego (Slovakia)

The formal Concorso awards were made Saturday morning in the Palazzo Vecchio, the town hall built in the 1300s, when Florence became a powerful city state. The ceremonies were opened by trumpeters, dressed in red and white medieval costumes with tights, and carrying the flag of the city of Florence, which is a blood red iris on a white field. (Best Red is to match as closely as possible to the red iris on the flag.) There were many speakers, including Professor Sergio Orsi, the President of the Italian Iris Society, and there were many elegant silver cups for the special prizes. Our last formal luncheon followed, and sadly, it was time to pack and say *arrivederci* to all our new friends. We hope the Italian Iris Society will allow us to return their splendid hospitality by visiting one of our AIS National conventions in the near future. ❧

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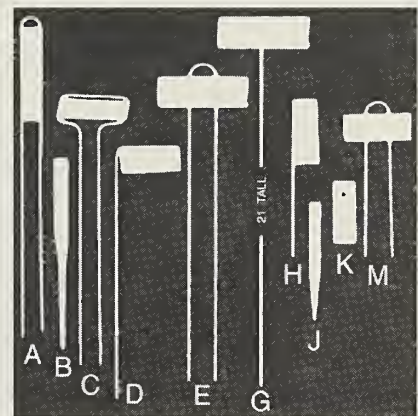
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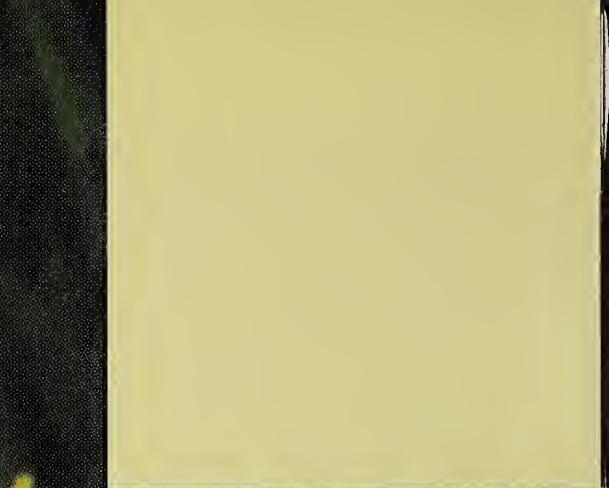
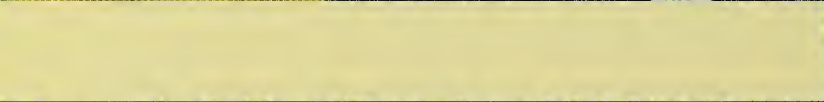
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Top: Hans & Jacob Sass Medal,
BOTTLED SUNSHINE (IB – H. Nichols)

Middle: Williamson-White Medal,
APRICOT DROPS (MTB – T. Aitken)

Bottom: Knowlton Medal,
LEMON UP (BB – T. Magee)

All photos this page: T. Aitken



*AIIS
Medals
2003*



Photo: P. Black



Photo: L. Miller



Photo: P. McGrath

Top: Cook-Douglas Medal,
DOT COM (SDB – B. Jones)

Middle Left: William Mohr Medal,
SHE DEVIL (AB – P. Black)

Middle Right: Caparne-Welch Medal,
SQUIGGLES (MDB – L. Miller)

Bottom: Clarence G. White Medal,
ENERGIZER (AB – H. Shockey)

AIS Convention 2004

Fresno, California

by Betty Coyle, California

GATEWAY TO YOSEMITE, MAJESTIC MOUNTAINS, VERDANT VALLEY, Raisin Capital of the World ... Just a few of the many possible titles one might use to describe Fresno, California, host city for the American Iris Society's National Convention, April 19–24, 2004. Fresno (derived from Spanish for ash trees which flourished along the numerous riverbanks) is located in the central San Joaquin Valley of California, an area often described as the “fruit basket of the world.” To the east, the snow-capped Sierra Nevada Mountains rise out of the low foothills and to the west is the predominantly flat farmland with many thousands of acres devoted to a multitude of agricultural and dairy products. Fresno is the only city in the country that can claim three national parks in its backyard (Yosemite, Sequoia, and Kings Canyon – www.nps.gov). During the convention, not only will the irises be in bloom, but the area's many varieties of fruit and nut trees will also be in bloom.

The convention's eleven guest iris gardens range from Modesto in the north to Porterville in the south. Ten of the gardens are located on the valley floor, while one of the gardens is nestled in the rolling Sierra Nevada foothills.

The Fresno area is served by the Fresno-Yosemite International Airport and also by AMTRAK train service. For those of you who have the time, either before or after the convention, you might want to consider a leisurely and breath-taking trip on the train. Travel and area information can be accessed through the Fresno Convention & Visitors Bureau website: <http://www.fresnocvb.org/>.

If you can come a few days early to tour other areas of the state, the Sacramento airport is 4 hours (187 miles) from Fresno by car and the Oakland airport is about 4 hours (174 miles) by car. The San Francisco International airport is a little over 4 hours (190 miles), Los Angeles International is 4+ hours (225 miles) and Burbank airport is around 4 hours (209 miles).


The beautiful Radisson Hotel and Conference Center (2233 Ventura St., Fresno, CA 93721) will serve as the Convention

Headquarters. Reservation numbers are 1-800-333-3333 or 559-268-1000. Convention attendees will receive an exceptionally low rate of \$88 per night for King/Queen or Double Double and \$149 for a King Suite. Arrive a day early or stay a day late for the same low rates. Mention Region 14 of the American Iris Society when making reservations.

There will be an optional tour of Yosemite National Park on Tuesday, April 20, for \$90 per person, including lunch at the fabulous Ahwahnee Hotel www.webportal.com/ahwahnee/. Yosemite tour reservations can be made by contacting: Joanne Jones, Convention Registrar, 35572 Linda Drive, Fremont, CA 94536. Joanne's E-mail address is Joanne@usjoneses.com. Reservations for the Yosemite tour must be received no later than March 1, 2004.

We have a travel agent who is handling airline reservations for the convention and who promises to work hard to find the lowest fares for us: House of Travel, toll free (888) 707-3247. Ask for Dana, Pam or Rachel.

Watch for the January 2004 *AIS Bulletin* for registration price and more details. If you're planning to attend, but would like to save on expenses by sharing a room, Char Holte has volunteered to maintain a list of folks who would like to make a new friend AND cut costs by sharing a room. Details in January. And check our website for updates: www.aisregion14.org

We look forward to seeing you in Fresno next April! 

SILENT AUCTION

We are holding the Silent Auction again at the AIS Convention in Fresno, California! That means we need your contributions to ensure the success that we have enjoyed in the past years.

The Silent Auction has become a popular part of our conventions and it is a fun way to raise funds for the support of AIS. Many people have iris treasures they could donate and it is a great way for hybridizers to get their new introductions seen in different parts of the country. We are looking for iris artifacts, iris books, iris artwork and new or recent iris introductions. However, if you would like to donate any other irises that are rare or unusual, that would work fine also. Potted plants of any kind, from those who are driving to the Convention, make a great addition to the fun and profit! Just drop us a note and let us know what you have.

This year's convention is scheduled for April 19-24, 2004 so please let us know what you can donate no later than March 15, 2004, so we can prepare the bid sheets. Send a short note to our address below, e-mail us or call. We look forward to hearing from you.


Rita and Tom Gormley; 6717 Martha Drive; Cedar Hill, MO 63016; (636) 274-7435; GormleyGreenery@aol.com 

Photo: T. Aitken



Photo: C. Lankow



Photo: T. Aitken



Top Left: Morgan-Wood Medal, CARELESS SALLY
(SIB — Schafer/Sacks)

Top Right: Randolph-Perry Medal,
CASCADE VELVET (Spec-X — J. Halinar)

Middle: Payne Medal,
RASPBERRY GLOW (JI — T. Aitken)

Bottom: Sydney B. Mitchell Medal,
SEA ADMIRAL (CA — V. Wood)

Photo: V. Wood



Top: Founders of SIGNA Medal,
MARVELL GOLD (Spec – J. Waddick)

Middle: Payne Medal,
LION KING (JI – Bauer/Coble)

Bottom: Eric Nies Medal,
MISSOURI SUNSET (SPU – D. Niswonger)



Photo: C. Lankow

: T. Aitken



*AIS
Medals
2003*

Photo: D. Niswonger



Evolutionary Trends Among *Oncocyclus* Irises

by Yuval Sapir; Rotem - Israel Plant Information Center;
Dept. of Evolution, Systematics and Ecology; The Hebrew University,
Givat Ram, Jerusalem 91904, Israel; sapir@vms.huji.ac.il

RECENT SCIENTIFIC STUDIES OF IRISES, AND MORE SPECIFICALLY OF *Oncocyclus*, have raised the debate on the exact taxonomy of the species and their evolutionary stage. In this article I will discuss the findings of the latest studies combined with our past knowledge of the *Oncocyclus* group, and will try to shed light on the evolutionary trends of these beautiful flowers. This article is a summary of the extensive research that has been conducted in the last seven years at Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel, with some collaboration with Palestinian and German researchers.

The section *Oncocyclus* in the genus *Iris* is defined mainly by the single flower on the stem and by the aril appendix on the seed (Figure 1). The section comprises 33 entities or “taxa,” 10 of which grow in Israel and Jordan, and the rest are distributed from Lebanon and Syria to Turkey and Iran. Seven aggregates are described in the *Oncocyclus* irises, determined by the floral morphology, colors and the hair micro-morphology. The number of species in Section *Oncocyclus* does not remain constant among authors, and varies from sixty to thirty-three. In Israel and adjacent areas (Jordan, The Palestinian Authority and Sinai), ten species of *Oncocyclus* Irises have been recorded. Three of the species have light-colored standards, namely *Iris lortetii* W. Barbey, *I. bismarckiana* Regel and *I. hermona* Dinsmore. In the other seven species the standards and the whole appearance of the flower is dark-colored, namely *I. haynei* Baker, *I. atrofusca* Baker, *I. bostrensis* Mouterde, *I. nigricans* Dinsmore, *I. petrana* Dinsmore, *I. mariae* W. Barbey and *I. atropurpurea* Baker. Many more species and “micro-species” have been described in the region, all considered recently as synonyms.

The breeding system in *Oncocyclus* irises is obligatory cross-fertilization, with self-incompatibility. Natural fruit-set obtained in the wild is 30% to 40%, whereas insect-proof covered flowers bore no fruits.

The number of chromosomes in all *Oncocyclus* taxa is $2n = 20$, all similar in shape and size, whereas in the nearest section *Regalia*, chromosome number is $2n = 22$. Biologically, all the *Oncocyclus* species can interbreed and produce vital progeny, with hybrids that also are fertile. According to the Biological criteria, all *Oncocyclus* irises may be considered as a single biological species.

When dealing with the taxonomy of the *Oncocyclus* irises, some of the diagnostic characteristics are quantitative, such as stem height, leaf width and the ratio between flower diameter and flower height. An example is the difference between *Iris haynei*, in which the ratio between flower height and flower diameter is greater than 1, compared with *Iris atrofusca*, in which the flower's diameter is equal to the flower height. Most of the diagnostic quantitative characteristics in the *Oncocyclus* irises, when measured in the wild, are continuous between species. For example, measurements of leaf width, stem height and flower shape, overlap across species (Figure 2). Qualitative characteristics include colors of the petals and hairs, and rhizome form. An example is the light-colored petals of *Iris lortetii* as compared to the dark-colored petals of *Iris atrofusca*. Qualitative characteristics of colors form detectable differences between groups within the *Oncocyclus* irises, but only four types are recognized in Israel and Jordan (Figure 3).

The distribution of morphological characteristics in the *Oncocyclus* irises in Israel were found to be correlated with latitude in populations of three taxa (*Iris haynei*, *I. atrofusca* and *I. petrana*), which are distributed along the geo-climatological North-South gradient in Israel (Figure 4). The continuous morphological/genetic and geographical gradients create no discrete pattern.

Spatial distribution of the *Oncocyclus* populations in Israel and Jordan is patchy: populations are usually clustered geographically, but between every two clusters of populations there are distances of up to thirty kilometers. The continuous distribution of characteristics in correlation with geographical scale, suggests that the *Oncocyclus* populations form local adaptations, where some degree of connection exists among populations within a cluster, but the local environmental conditions have a strong effect on the morphology of the plants.

Genetic study (RAPD markers) of populations of two relatively widely distributed species (*I. haynei* and *I. atrofusca*) in Israel and the West Bank revealed high levels of genetic diversity. Most population pairs were significantly different, based on marker frequencies, suggesting that each population may be considered a separate taxon. Analyzing the genetic markers revealed two conflicting conclusions. The difference is only in the assumptions of the genetic model used for



Figure 1A



Figure 1B



Figure 3A



Figure 3B



Figure 3C



Figure 3D



Figure 5A



Figure 5B

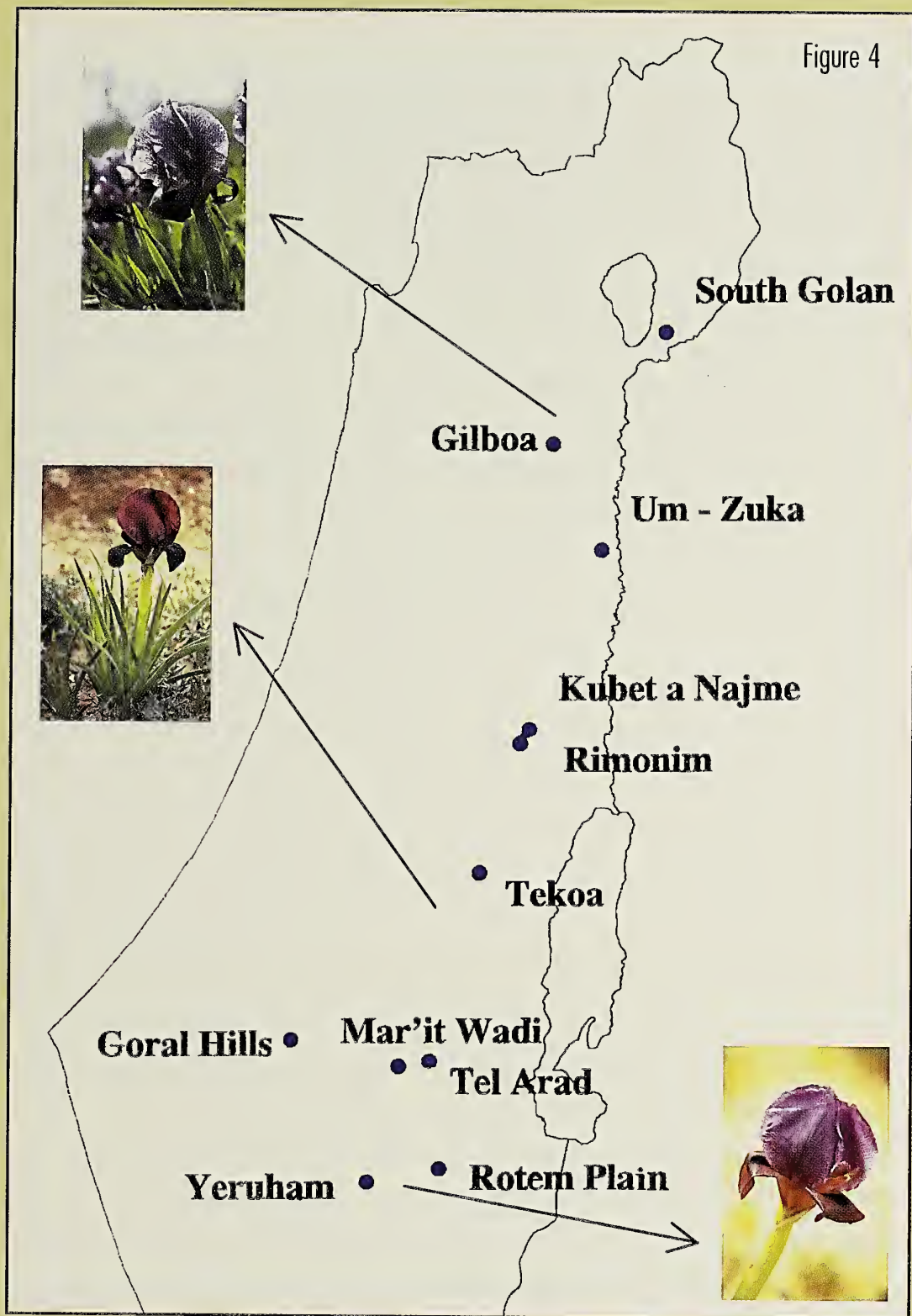


Figure 1 – *Iris atrofusca* (A) and *Iris atropurpurea* (B), a representative species of the *Oncocyclus* group, in their wild habitat. The flower is about 8 cm in diameter, standing alone on the stem. Note the dark-color petals and the black signal patch in the entrance of the pollination tunnel.

Figure 3 – The four morpho-types of *Oncocyclus* irises, differ in the floral colors: (A) *Iris haynei* with dark-colored petals and light-colored hairs within the pollination tunnel; (B) *Iris mariae*, dark-colored flower with black hairs. This taxon show the smallest variation, as all the flowers are similar each other; (C) *Iris bismarckiana*, light-colored upper petals with black hairs. This is the species that is the most relate to the high mountains irises of Syria and Lebanon; (D) *Iris lortetii*, the most light-colored flowers among the *Oncocyclus* irises.

Figure 4 – Populations of *Oncocyclus* irises of three taxa along the North-South climatological gradient in Israel. From North to South: *Iris haynei*, *I. atrofusca* and *I. petrana*.

Figure 5 – *Eucera* male bee flying out of *Oncocyclus* flower. (A) *Iris lortetii*; (B) *Iris atropurpurea*

the analysis. Under the first assumption (Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium), the populations are clustered in accordance to the species from which they developed. But without this assumption, there is a different pattern of relationships among the populations, where each two geographically nearby populations are related genetically. This ambiguity in the genetic information hints that the two species have some amount of gene flow, and perhaps are not completely separate.

Specification of pollinator-flower relationships is one of the isolating mechanisms between species. The pollinators of the *Oncocyclus* Irises are male solitary bees, mainly of the genus *Eucera*, which shelter at night within the pollination tunnels (Figure 5). Species-specific pollination does not exist in *Oncocyclus* Irises, as each *Iris* species is visited by more than one *Eucera* species. In addition, males of these bees are also found in other flowering species, like *Acanthus syriacus*, *Ranunculus asiaticus*, *Anemone coronaria* and *Echium*. In spite of this non-specificity, no hybrids were found in three rare cases of co-occurring species. In the Upper Galilee, *I. bismarckiana* and *I. lortetii* share the same site on Naftali Ridge; midway between Yeruham and Beer-Sheva, *I. petrana* and *I. mariae* populations grow at a distance of less than five kilometers apart; in Rajib, Jordan, *I. bismarckiana* is 800 meters away from *I. atrofusca*. In spite of pollinators' ability to fly over distances between populations, no intermediate forms were found in those three instances. It is possible that imprinting shaped the individual male's preference, thus sheltering in only one type of flower, and no cross-pollination occurs between the two types.

Natural selection may lead the populations in one of two directions: towards radiation and divergence into many entities, or towards stabilizing the present situation without producing clear separation. Few speciation processes might enhance the probability of divergence in the *Oncocyclus* irises. Correlation of morphological traits of the plants with environmental conditions may represent local adaptations of the populations. The patchy distribution of the *Oncocyclus* irises populations in Israel and Jordan can prevent gene flow and cause reproductive isolation *de-facto* between local strains, which may lead to genetic isolation in the long run. Although there is no species specificity in plant-pollinator relationships among *Oncocyclus* Irises, recognition patterns for a certain pattern of floral colors, which seem to be robust categorical characteristics, might create preferences of the individual bee pollinator. Individual preference of the pollinator may prevent hybridization in cases of co-occurrence of two floral color forms.

The high variation found in both morphological and genetic traits within the *Oncocyclus* populations may indicate lack of stabilizing

selection that could decrease variation. The variation observed might be the result of the (relatively) arid habitat of the *Oncocyclus* populations, which increases the microhabitat variability. The distances between populations (or clusters of populations) may be too large for most pollinators, but rare events of bee flight over large distances could supply the low-but-stable possibility for gene flow between populations. Gene flow of 1% per generation sounds very low, but theoretically is enough to ensure genetic assimilation between populations. On a large scale, there is a gradual flow along a sequence of populations, although no gene flow is possible between far distant populations.

To summarize the evidence, *Oncocyclus* populations in Israel and Jordan generally do not fit clearly into classical species boundaries. Species delimitation in this group was made following herbarium sheets of dried specimens, representing only the “typical” form of each group and did not consider the natural variation within the groups. In the characteristics examined, clear borders between groups may be found only in floral colors, and in that case only four taxa are noticeable with clear separation between them. Otherwise, all other morphological, ecological, ethological and genetic characteristics are insufficient for species delimitation.

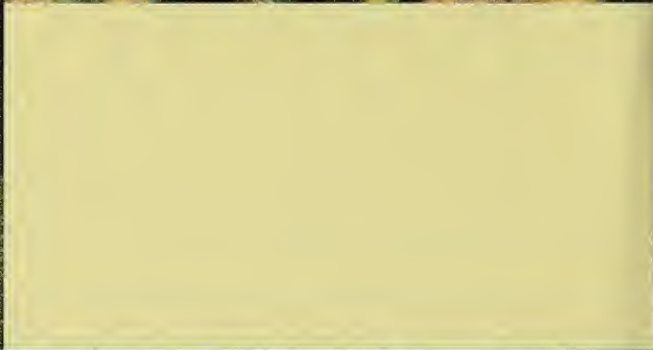
Although a systematic conclusion from the findings above may suggest merging most of the *Oncocyclus* species in the South Levant into one or a few taxa, a practical approach would demand the opposite. Conservation biology of plants is based mainly on the species level, but in the *Oncocyclus* irises preserving only few morpho-species would not satisfy the need to preserve the evolutionary diversity. As it is important to conserve the actual morphological and ecological diversity, every variant, strain or subspecies may be important. The complete picture that arises is that no clear species can be recognized within the *Oncocyclus* irises. Much data has been gathered that indicate the potential for divergence in the future, but there is also some data in support of stabilizing the present situation. The local adaptations and the eco-geographical cline pattern of the morphology and genetic of the *Oncocyclus* irises, alongside the fragmented distribution, may reflect divergence at an evolutionary direction that is still open to question.

About the author

Yuval Sapir is a Ph.D. student at Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel. In recent years he has intensively investigated the *Oncocyclus* irises of Israel and Jordan, as the Coordinator of the Royal Irises project of Rotem (Israel Plant Information Center). His master’s thesis dealt



*McEwen
Japanese
Iris*




Top left: CELESTIAL PINK
Middle right: Tetraploid seedling
Middle left: SOUTHERN SON
Bottom right: DRAMATIC PATTERN

All photos: T. Aitken

with the taxonomy of *Oncocyclus* irises, and in his doctorate dissertation he is studying the pollination system as an evolutionary process in *Oncocyclus* irises. Much of his work can be seen in the Royal Iris Homepage (www.iris.huji.ac.il). Yuval is a member of the Aril Society International, and was supported in the last year by a research grant from the American Iris Society Foundation.

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Clarence G. White Medal

by Clarence Mahan, Virginia

HIS MEDAL IS RESTRICTED TO IRISES OF ONE-HALF OR MORE ARIL content that clearly exhibit at least two readily recognizable aril flower characteristics as defined and approved by the Aril Society International. It is named in honor of Clarence G. White (1869-1957).

Clarence G. White was born in Cleveland, Ohio. After attending Harvard University, he worked for the White Sewing Machine Company, which had been founded by his father. Later he operated his family's plantation in Florida. His experiments with potato growing in Florida have been credited with being the basis for establishing the potato business in that state. He moved to Hawaii in 1905, and there he owned and operated a large pineapple plantation. He was involved in many philanthropies and civic activities. He moved his family to Redlands, California in 1919, and he began raising flowers and extending his works of civic philanthropy. It was at this time that White developed an interest in and irises.

When Clarence G. White began his work with aril irises, little was known about the complexity of iris genetics. White assembled the largest collection of aril irises in the world, and conducted thousands of breeding experiments to obtain viable, fertile seedlings. One of his goals was to develop strong, pure *Oncocylus* hybrids. Tom Craig wrote this of him in 1958: "He contributed so much to the interest in Aril Iris that his name above all others is associated with them. For twenty-five years, Clarence White and his work have rightly been the starting point for anyone wishing to explore the field of growing and hybridizing Arils."

White's hybrids, such as OYEZ, SOME LOVE, and NELSON OF HILLY were almost the only *Oncobreds* listed in catalogues for many years. He coined the vocabulary used by aril iris hybridizers, and is universally regarded as the pioneer in this field. 

AJS Awards 2003

**Number of votes listed first*

Dykes Memorial Medal

82 CELEBRATION SONG (Schreiner)

Runners-up:

58 FANCY WOMAN (Keith Keppel)

47 CLARENCE (Lloyd Zurbrigg)

John C. Wister Medal (TB)

68 CROWNED HEADS (Keith Keppel)

51 DIABOLIQUE (Schreiner)

49 TOM JOHNSON (Paul Black)

Runners-up:

45 POEM OF ECSTASY (Ben Hager)

44 MELTED BUTTER (Chun Fan)

41 ROMANTIC EVENING (Joseph Ghio)

Knowlton Medal (BB)

92 LEMON UP (Tom Magee)

Runners-up:

83 LITTLE MARY SUNSHINE
(Elvan Roderick)

58 APRICOT TOPPING (Paul Black)

Hans and Jacob Sass Medal (IB)

84 BOTTLED SUNSHINE (H. Nichols)

Runners-up:

68 LONDONDERRY (Keith Keppel)

66 MAGIC BUBBLES (A. & D. Willott)

Williamson-White Medal (MTB)

137 APRICOT DROPS (J.T. Aitken)

Runners-up:

86 STEFFIE (Kenneth Fisher)

72 MINI-WABASH (Riley Probst)

Cook-Douglas Medal (SDB)

41 DOT COM (Bennett Jones)

Runners-up:

29 PEACH PETAL PIE (O.D. Niswonger)

28 BALLET LESSON (O.D. Niswonger)

28 BLACKBERRY JAM (A. & D. Willott)

Caparne-Welch Medal (MDB)

SQUIGGLES (Lynda Miller)

Runners-up:

45 GNUZ SPREAD (Brad Kasperek)

43 LITTLE DRUMMER BOY
(A. & D. Willott)

Clarence G. White Medal (AR & AB)

51 ENERGIZER (Howard Shockey)

Runners-up:

27 ANACRUSIS (Harald Mathes)

21 OMAR'S VALOR (Carl Boswell)

William Mohr Medal (AB)

43 SHE DEVIL (Paul Black)

Runners-up:

19 OLD FASHIONED GIRL
(Sharon McAllister)

11 DESERT CELEBRATION
(Lin Flanagan)

Founders of Sigma Medal (SPEC)

31 MARVELL GOLD (James Waddick)

Runners-up:

26 FADED JEANS (Harry Bishop)

21 ILLINI FOUNTAIN (D. Steve Varner)

Randolph-Perry Medal (SPEC-X)

29 CASCADE VELVET (Joe Halinar)

Runners-up:

17 PACIFIC STARPRINT (Lorena Reid)

14 ROYAL DOLLY (Lorena Reid)

Sydney B. Mitchell Medal (CA)

16 SEA ADMIRAL (Vernon Wood)

Runners-up:

15 PACIFIC SNOWFLAKE
(George Shoop)

13 RASPBERRY DAZZLER
(Vernon Wood)

Debaillon Medal (LA)

50 CAJUN SUNSET (Marvin Granger)

Runners-up:

36 GEISHA EYES (Charles Army)

29 PROFESSOR MARTA MARIE
(Joseph Mertzweiller)

Morgan-Wood Medal (SIB)

82 CARELESS SALLY
(Marty Schafer and Jan Sacks)

Runners-up:

81 SPRINKLES
(Bob Bauer and John Coble)

64 MESA PEARL
(Bob Bauer and John Coble)

Eric Nies Medal (SPU)

93 MISSOURI SUNSET
(O.D. Niswonger)

Runners-up:

42 SONORAN SKIES
(Floyd Wickenkamp)

39 MIDNIGHT RIVAL
(Lawrence Johnsen)

Payne Medal (JI)

32 LION KING
(Bob Bauer and John Coble)

32 RASPBERRY GLOW (J.T. Aitken)

Runners-up:

27 EPIMETHEUS (Sterling Innerst)

Walther Cup

(Most HM votes in any category)

138 DELIRIUM IB (Marky Smith)

Runners-up:

91 HOLLYWOOD NIGHTS TB
(Roger Duncan)

86 BROAD SHOULDERS TB
(Keith Keppel)

84 TOM SCHAEFER SIB
(Marty Schafer & Jan Sacks)

Award of Merit

Tall Bearded

130 SEA POWER (Keith Keppel)

109 UNCLE CHARLIE (Don Spoon)

106 PENNY LANE (Larry Lauer)

104 STARSHIP ENTERPRISE (Schreiner)

83 WILD WINGS (Keith Keppel)

70 ART DECO (Schreiner)

66 PUCCINI (Joseph Ghio)

59 MERLOT (Schreiner)

57 BRAZENBERRY (Sterling Innerst)

54 TANGLED WEB (Keith Keppel)

52 CIRCUS CIRCUS (George Sutton)

52 SELECT CIRCLE (Joseph Ghio)

49 HALO IN PEACH (O.D. Niswonger)

48 FASHION STATEMENT (Joseph Gatty)

- 48 SKY AND SUN (Don Spoon)
 48 VIZIER (Joseph Ghio)
 46 ENNOBLE (Joseph Ghio)
 46 IDOL (Joseph Ghio)
 46 KIWI CHEESECAKE
 (O.D. Niswonger)
 46 LUXOR GOLD (Schreiner)
 46 MARIPOSA AUTUMN
 (Richard Tasco)

Runners-up:

- 45 HABIT (Paul Black)
 45 MONET'S BLUE (Schreiner)
 45 VIBRANT (Paul Black)
 43 CANDY APPLE CLASSIC
 (William Maryott)
 43 LARUE BOSWELL (Vernon Wood)

Border Bearded

- 96 CHRISTIANA BAKER
 (Frederick Kerr)
 80 ANACONDA LOVE
 (Brad Kasperek)

Runners-up:

- 48 TEAPOT TEMPEST (Lynn Markham)
 39 CLASSIC NAVY (Carol Lankow)

**Intermediate
Bearded**

- 173 STARWOMAN (Marky Smith)
 75 MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM
 (Lowell Baumunk)

Runners-up:

- 57 BLACKCURRANT (Marky Smith)
 54 MING (Marky Smith)

**Miniature Tall
Bearded**

- 125 ACE (Lynda Miller)
 86 PINK BUTTONS (Carol Lankow)

Runners-up:

- 81 YELLOW FLIRT (Kenneth Fisher)
 67 FESTIVE GLOW (A. & D. Willott)

**Standard Dwarf
Bearded**

- 58 MARKSMAN (Marky Smith)
 55 MUSIC (Keith Keppel)
 50 TRAJECTORY (Paul Black)
 38 FAIRY RING (Duane Meek)

Runners-up:

- 37 JUST A CROC (Brad Kasperek)
 35 SABRINA'S KISS (A. & D. Willott)

**Miniature Dwarf
Bearded**

- 70 AFRICAN WINE (Brad Kasperek)
 47 SPARKLETTTS (Paul Black)

Runners-up:

- 46 PIXIE PIRATE (A. & D. Willott)
 46 SELF-EVIDENT (Ben Hager)

Arilbred

- 56 DESERT SURPRISE (Lin Flanagan)

Aril and Arilbred

- 26 CONCERTO GROSSO
 (Harald Mathes)
 26 SYRIAN ROSE (G.F. Wilson)

Runners-up:

- 24 LUELLA DEE (G.F. Wilson)
 12 ALRIGHT ALREADY
 (Gustav Seligmann)

Species

- 57 OHN WOOD (John Wood)
 43 POWDER BLUE GIANT (Sam Norris)

Runners-up:

- 24 GORDONVILLE WHITE
 (O.D. Niswonger)

Interspecies

- 109 PIXIE WON (Jill Copeland)

Californicae

- 9 EASTER EGG HUNT (Joseph Ghio)
 7 BIG SMILE (Joseph Ghio)
 7 CHARTER MEMBER (Joseph Ghio)
 7 SIERRA AZUL (Joseph Ghio)
 7 VELVET LADY (Norma Barnard)

Louisiana

- 31 LONE STAR (Farron Campbell)
 28 ATCHAFALAYA (Farron Campbell)
 28 WHISTLING DIXIE (Mary Dunn)

Runners-up:

- 26 JAZZ HOT (Heather Pryor)
 23 BEALE STREET (Kevin Vaughn)
 23 CREOLE RHAPSODY
 (Joseph Mertzweiller)
 23 PLANTATION BELLE (Mary Dunn)

Siberian

- 65 WHERE EAGLES DARE
 (Calvin Helsley)
 63 SHIPS ARE SAILING (Marty
 Schafer and Jan Sacks)

Runners-up:

- 61 CARMEN JEANNE (Calvin Helsley)
 58 SOMEBODY LOVES ME
 (Robert Hollingworth)

Spuria

- 53 ADRIATIC BLUE (O.D. Niswonger)
 39 MISSOURI IRON ORE
 (O.D. Niswonger)

Runners-up:

- 37 MISSOURI MOONLIGHT
 (O.D. Niswonger)
 32 MISSOURI AUTUMN
 (O.D. Niswonger)

Japanese

- 30 BLUE SPRITZ (Donald Delmez)
 29 TIDELINE
 (Bob Bauer and John Coble)

Runners-up:

- 24 PLEASANT STARBURST
 (Chad Harris)
 23 SING THE BLUES (Lorena Reid)

Honorable Mention**Tall Bearded**

- 91 HOLLYWOOD NIGHTS
 (Roger Duncan)
 86 BROAD SHOULDERS (Keith Keppel)
 81 DAUGHTER OF STARS (Don Spoon)
 68 NAPLES (Tom Johnson)
 67 HOOK (Tom Johnson)
 66 STORM TRACK (Keith Keppel)
 65 FIERY TEMPER (Keith Keppel)
 65 RIO (Keith Keppel)
 61 FOREIGN LEGION (Keith Keppel)
 60 JERSEY BOUNCE (Keith Keppel)
 58 LADY JANE (Larry Lauer)
 55 CELTIC GLORY (Harold Stahly)
 54 CAST OF CHARACTERS
 (Joseph Ghio)
 53 HONK YOUR HORN (Paul Black)
 53 WALKING ON AIR (Paul Black)
 52 DOUBLE CLICK (Joseph Ghio)
 49 BADITUDE (Tom Burseen)
 46 MASTERY (Barry Blyth)
 45 ABOVE THE CLOUDS (Schreiner)
 45 DANDY CANDY (Richard Ernst)
 44 FANCY STUFF (Opal Brown)
 44 HEARTSTRING STRUMMER
 (Ben Johnson)
 44 MIDNIGHT MAJESTY (Schreiner)
 42 ROYAL STORM (Richard Tasco)
 41 HOT SPICED WINE (Schreiner)
 40 DUDE RANCH (Paul Black)
 40 PINK CHAMPAGNE (Larry Lauer)
 40 QUANDARY (Keith Keppel)
 39 BURSTING BUBBLES (Joseph Ghio)
 39 CLEARWATER RIVER
 (Richard Ernst)
 39 PROTOTYPE (Joseph Ghio)
 39 WILD WEST WIND

- (Lowell Baumunk)
- 38 CONTEMPORARY ART
(Paul Black)
- 36 DETROIT CITY (Ed Roberts)
- 36 PALM READER (Joseph Ghio)
- 36 WHISPERING SPIRITS
(Richard Ernst)
- 33 APRIL JEWEL (Larry Lauer)
- 33 BLACK SUITED (Sterling Innerst)
- 33 DOUBLE VISION (Joseph Ghio)
- 33 LETA BLACK (Paul Black)
- 33 MIAH JANE (Tom Parkhill)
- 33 RIP CITY (Schreiner)
- 33 UNSTABLE GENE (Brad Kasperek)
- 32 CAJUN COOKING (Francis Rogers)
- 32 MOMENTOUS OCCASION
(George Sutton)
- 32 RITUAL (Joseph Ghio)
- 32 TEAMWORK (Keith Keppel)
- 31 ACT OF KINDNESS (Joseph Ghio)
- 31 CHRISTIANE ELIZABETH
(Clarence Mahan)
- 31 FULL IMPACT (Schreiner)
- 31 JUMPING (Schreiner)
- 31 SMOKIN (Richard Ernst)
- 30 ITALIAN ICE (A. & D. Cadd)
- 30 WILLAMETTE MIST (Schreiner)
- 30 RANSOM NOTE (Joseph Ghio)
- 29 LOGANBERRY WINE (A. & D. Cadd)
- 29 POPPA JOHN (Tom Burseen)
- 28 AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL
(Don Spoon)
- 28 AUTUMN JOY (Don Spoon)
- 28 BODY AND SOUL (Harold Stahly)
- 28 IMPULSIVE (Joseph Ghio)
- 28 KIND WORD (Keith Keppel)
- 28 LADY OF LEONESS (Don Spoon)
- 28 LAVA MOONSCAPE
(LeRoy Meininger)
- 28 MILD MANNER (Joseph Ghio)
- 28 NUT AND HONEY (J.T. Aitken)
- 27 CORAL POINT (George Sutton)
- 27 GRAPE EXPECTATIONS
(William Maryott)
- 27 MAUNA LOA FIRE (Francis Rogers)
- 27 SOUTHERN THUNDER (Ron Mullin)
- 27 TOOT YOUR HORN
(Abram Feuerstein)
- 27 YOSEMITE SAM (Don Spoon)
- 26 BACKWATER BLUES
(Harold Stahly)
- 26 GRAPE JELLY (Paul Black)
- 26 HIGHLAND GAMES (J.T. Aitken)
- 26 LIGHTSHINE (Schreiner)
- 26 NIGHT HAWK'S DREAM
(Merle Roberts)
- 26 PIANO MAN (Lynda Miller)
- 26 PLUM FUN (Schreiner)
- Runners-up:*
- 25 CAPTAIN HOOK (Oscar Schick)
- 25 COLOR GLORY (Paul Black)
- 25 LACY DAY (Richard Ernst)
- 25 LIGHTS CAMERA ACTION
(Lowell Baumunk)
- 25 METOLIUS BLUES (Schreiner)
- 25 MISSOURI MIST
(O.D. Niswonger)
- 25 RASPBERRY WINE (Schreiner)
- 25 STAGE LIGHTS (Joseph Ghio)
- Border Bearded***
- 62 GO FOR BOLD (Paul Black)
- 46 HEART OF AFRICA
(Brad Kasperek)
- 35 PREPPY (Kevin Vaughn)
- 33 JESSE'S EDITION (George Sutton)
- 33 QUINALT (Jim & Vicki Craig)
- 33 SIMMER (Lynn Markham)
- Runners-up:*
- 32 PRINCESS BRIDE (George Sutton)
- 27 RASPBERRY SILK (Don Spoon)
- Intermediate Bearded***
- 138 DELIRIUM (Marky Smith)
- 52 BISTRO (Joseph Gatty)
- 50 MISS MAUVE (Richard Tasco)
- 44 WHISTLE (Keith Keppel)

- 42 PINK COTTON CANDY
(O.D. Niswonger)
37 STARTLED (Lynda Miller)
37 VIPER (George Sutton)

Runners-up:

- 36 BRAT (Keith Keppel)
36 GOOD DAY SUNSHINE
(Larry Lauer)
36 REDONDO (Keith Keppel)

Miniature Tall Bearded

- 74 MADAM PRESIDENT
(Hugh Thurman)
47 THAT'S RED (Kenneth Fisher)
44 SOMEWHAT QUIRKY (Riley Probst)

Runners-up:

- 43 CONNECT THE DOTS (Lynda Miller)
43 PUG (Eugene Kalkwarf)

Standard Dwarf Bearded

- 59 NEUTRON (Tom Johnson)
55 TRUE NAVY (Bennett Jones)
41 DINKY DOODLE (Paul Black)
38 CAMEO QUEEN (Bennett Jones)
33 GLEBE BROOK (John Burton)
32 SCHOLAR (Keith Keppel)
29 SEAFIRE (Marky Smith)
28 COUNTING SHEEP (J.T. Aitken)
28 GRAPE CORDIAL (J.T. Aitken)
27 CHOCOLATE SUNDAE
(Lynda Miller)
26 CAMEO KITTEN (A. & D. Willott)
25 LEMON CURD (W. & A. Godfrey)
25 TICKETY BOO (O.D. Niswonger)
24 GENTLE (Paul Black)
24 WILD HAIR (Paul Black)

Runners-up:

- 23 HONEY BUNNY (Paul Black)
23 PUMPKIN MUNCHKIN (Perry Dyer)
23 QUAIL HOLLOW (A. & D. Willott)
23 WINE SPRITZER (Virginia Messick)

Miniature Dwarf Bearded

- 63 WISE (Tom Johnson)
25 BLUE ASH (A. & D. Willott)
25 CROWN OF SNOW (A. & D. Willott)

Runners-up:

- 23 PIXIE'S SISTER (A. & D. Willott)
21 WATERMARK (A. & D. Willott)

Aril and Arilbred

- 23 BYZANTINE ART (Lowell Baumunk)
18 KALIFA'S FORTUNE (Robert Annand)

Runners-up:

- 15 PINK SERAPH (H. & I. Shockey)
10 IRIDESCENT ORANGE
(Harald Mathes)

Arilbred

- 24 FINE FEATHERED FRIEND
(Sharon McAllister)
9 FLAMBOYANT AFFAIR
(Sharon McAllister)

Runners-up:

- 7 COORDINATED LADY
(Caroline Ryan-Chacon)
7 SHABAZA (George Sutton)

Species

- 50 KRILL (Jill Copeland)
29 VERSICLE
(Marty Schafer & Jan Sacks)

Runners-up:

- 17 PETIT LION (Lowell Baumunk)
16 CASCADE MIST (Dana Borglum)

Inter-Species

- 33 LITTLE CAILLET (Ken Durio)
25 WILD PETTICOATS (Lynn Markham)
Runners-up:
21 UNDERSTATED (Lynn Markham)
15 BUTTERFLY FOUNTAIN
(Tomas Tamberg)

Californicae

- 11 MENDOCINO BLUE
(Robert & Janet Canning)
8 RANCHO CORRALITOS
(Joseph Ghio)
8 SILVER BOWL (Joseph Ghio)
7 MAGIC SEA (Lois Belardi)

Runners-up:

- 6 WITH THIS RING (Joseph Ghio)
5 ALTAR BOY (Joseph Ghio)
5 DEAD RINGER (Joseph Ghio)
5 WARM SUNSHINE (Joseph Ghio)

Louisiana

- 32 CAJUN LOVE STORY
(Dorman Haymon)
25 GREAT WHITE HOPE
(Dorman Haymon)
22 PUMPKIN CHIFFON (D.L. Shepard)
21 SCARLETT (Mary Dunn)
19 MY FRIEND DICK (Richard Butler)
16 ANN FAITH (M.D. Faith)

Runners-up:

- 15 HAIL MARY (Mary Dunn)
15 PALMETTO PURPLE PLUM
(Steve Smart)
15 SPICE WORLD (Mary Dunn)

Siberian

- 84 TOM SCHAEFER
(Marty Schafer & Jan Sacks)
60 BANISH MISFORTUNE
(Marty Schafer & Jan Sacks)
49 STRAWBERRY SOCIAL
(Marty Schafer & Jan Sacks)
38 SARAH TIFFNEY
(Marty Schafer & Jan Sacks)
34 HARPSWELL LOVE
(Currier McEwen)
34 LAKE SENECA (Dana Borglum)
31 SUMMER REVELS
(Marty Schafer & Jan Sacks)

Runners-up:

- 30 IN FULL SAIL
(Marty Schafer & Jan Sacks)
29 CHINA SPRING
(Bob Bauer & John Coble)

Spuria

- 36 HICKORY LEAVES (O.D. Niswonger)
26 BLUEBERRY SUNDAE
(O.D. Niswonger)
24 BUTTER RIPPLES
(B. Charles Jenkins)

Runners-up:

- 20 ARIZONIQUE
(B. Charles Jenkins)
18 SONORAN CUTIE
(Floyd Wickenkamp)

Japanese

- 29 DIRIGO PINK MILESTONE
(John White)
19 REISYUN (Hiroshi Shimizu)
18 LITTLE BOW PINK
(Donald Delmez)
17 BLUSHING SNOWMAIDEN
(Chad Harris)
17 DIRIGO STAR (John White)
15 BLUES REVISITED (Lorena Reid)
15 LITTLE SPRITZER
(Donald Delmez)
15 SLUMBERING DRAGON
(Bob Bauer and John Coble)

Runners-up:

- 14 GLITTERING RAYS
(Sterling Innerst)
13 ALL IN WHITE (Donald Delmez)
13 DIRIGO BLUE PLATE (John White)



High Commendation Awards for 2003

Type	Seedling	Hybridizer	Region	Votes
TB	P3-211B	Vincent Christopherson	17	6
TB	295-15	Allan Ensminger	21	7
TB	U 97-H	Joseph Ghio	14	5
TB	SECOND HAND ROSE	Virginia Spoon	4	6
TB	W 01-123	Anthony & Dorothy Willott	6	6
TB	W 2K-209	Anthony & Dorothy Willott	6	6
BB	748H	Lowell Baumunk	20	5
MTB	G 12B-3	Charles Bunnell	6	5
MTB	97-9RA	Stephanie Markham	1	8
MTB	M-98-4	Carol Morgan	6	7
SDB	W 2K-28	Anthony & Dorothy Willott	6	6
SDB	W 2K-137	Anthony & Dorothy Willott	6	6
SDB	BLUE PERSIAN	Anthony & Dorothy Willott	6	6
MDB	W 02-4	Anthony & Dorothy Willott	6	6
MDB	W 03-18	Anthony & Dorothy Willott	6	6
MDB	ELFIN CAPER	Anthony & Dorothy Willott	6	6
SIB	W 96-57	Anthony & Dorothy Willott	6	5
SIB	W 03-160	Anthony & Dorothy Willott	6	5
SIB	W 03-153	Anthony & Dorothy Willott	6	5

In Memoriam: Currier McEwen 1902-2003

by Chandler Fulton, Massachusetts

IN HONOR OF HIS CENTENNIAL YEAR, THE GOVERNOR OF MAINE proclaimed June 22, 2002 “Currier McEwen Day,” and on that day a Currier McEwen Centennial Garden was dedicated in Harpswell Historic Park. Surrounded by devoted family and friends, and thoroughly enjoying the event, Dr. McEwen cut two birthday cakes provided by the Maine Iris Society. He died a year and a day later, peacefully, with family present, while recovering from injury caused by a fall. The world lost a great man and a great friend when Dr. McEwen left us on June 23. His 101 years were full of achievements. Until the last few weeks of his life, he made important contributions for which he will long be admired and remembered.

Osceola Currier McEwen was born on April 1, 1902, a native of Newark, New Jersey. He always enjoyed recognition that his birthday occurred on “April Fool’s Day.” His father was a physician crippled by severe arthritis, and it was natural that his son chose to become a physician who devoted his life to such diseases, a rheumatologist. He received his bachelor’s degree *Magna cum laude* from Wesleyan University, and his M.D. degree from the New York University School of Medicine (NYU) in 1926. He completed his internship at Bellevue Hospital. After postdoctoral research at The Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research (now Rockefeller University), where he rapidly rose to Chief Resident and Associate Member, he was called back to the faculty of NYU in 1932, and also appointed an Assistant to the Dean. In 1937 the Dean, his mentor and close friend, suddenly died, and Dr. McEwen became the youngest Dean of Medicine in the United States up to that date. With an interruption during the Second World War, he



continued to serve as Dean until 1955, and retired as Professor Emeritus of Medicine in 1970.

At NYU, in addition to his work as Dean, Dr. McEwen built a world-renowned interdepartmental Rheumatic Diseases Study Group that was among the first to receive large federal grants, achieved many important discoveries about arthritis and rheumatism, and trained many students. He published over 200 papers, and remained the leader of this group until 1968. He made many contributions through his administration, teaching, and patient care. Although the quarters at the medical school were aging and cramped, Dr. McEwen managed to attract outstanding researchers until, by the 1950s, the medical school had a basic science faculty unmatched elsewhere in this country. To improve the facilities, he was instrumental in the creation of the NYU Medical Center, which opened in 1947. Overall, he played a significant leadership role in changing our knowledge and treatment of arthritis, and indeed in the modernization of the practice of medicine that occurred during the mid-twentieth century.

Dr. McEwen achieved much of his great impact through his extraordinary leadership capacity. He possessed uncanny people skills. When he talked or worked with someone, he made that person feel they were the center of his universe. He described the “important” project that urgently needed to be done, and soon the person was happily recruited to help him accomplish the goal. Few have possessed this skill to the extent Dr. McEwen did. This skill contributed to many of his remarkable achievements. As a young physician, he was invited to accompany the Rockefeller family on a trip west; years later this contact was crucial in the development of the Medical Center. As another example, in the late 1930s he was approached by Albert Einstein, and together they collaborated to rescue about twenty Jewish doctors and scientists from Nazi Germany, which was made possible by providing them appointments at NYU.

Family was an important component of Dr. McEwen’s life. In 1930 he married Katherine Cogswell; they raised four remarkable children. Until his retirement, they maintained a home in Riverdale, New York. He attributed some of his longevity to the daily mile-long walks each way from NYU to the commuter train. From the year he was born, he summered with his family in South Harpswell, Maine, and in 1952 he purchased a cottage there, atop a bluff overlooking Casco Bay. In early years this house—which he rebuilt—served as a place for relaxing with family and for sailing. In 1970, when he retired, he and his wife moved to Harpswell. There were few rheumatologists in Maine, so in addition to consulting all over the state he helped out with a rheumatology

practice at the Regional Memorial Hospital in nearby Brunswick. Revered as “the Doc”, he selflessly helped many neighbors before he finally retired from medical practice in 1988. He often received a bag of lobsters or produce for his services.

We remember him here, of course, because of his second career: as a hybridizer and student of beardless irises. This interest began when he was still fully engaged in medicine, and gradually expanded to become his major occupation for the last third of his life. Although Dr. McEwen achieved many of life’s milestones very early—for example, he was born prematurely, he became an M.D. at 24, and then the country’s youngest Dean at 35—he started his second career late. He was nearly 60 when he began hybridizing. Yet because of his long and vigorous life he left a 40-year legacy of major contributions. He started with daylilies. In 1960, while attending a meeting in Chicago, he visited Orville Fay, who was using colchicine to induce tetraploidy in daylilies. Then after 43 daylily introductions, Dr. McEwen decided there would be more scientific challenges with less studied beardless irises. He tried colchicine with Siberian irises, and succeeded. He introduced the first tetraploid Siberian iris, ORVILLE FAY, into commerce in 1970, and it quickly won the Morgan Award. Later he succeeded in obtaining tetraploid Japanese irises, and began to introduce these. As one product of the remarkable combination of intelligence, enthusiasm, talent, and good fortune he famously called “McEwen luck,” he produced the first yellow Siberian iris, the wonderful BUTTER AND SUGAR (1977), now sold in nurseries all over the world. Although he produced many great diploid cultivars, he focused much of his energy toward developing new tetraploid Siberian and Japanese irises, the truly new “species” he had invented. He was always pioneering, always pursuing elusive goals, introducing “my best blue to date” and several years later superceding it. He pursued new colors, new forms, new patterns, repeat bloomers, greater flower longevity, better cold tolerance, miniatures, and other new attributes. He was always looking forward to what might be achieved, as with DREAMING YELLOW (the parent of BUTTER AND SUGAR), DREAMING ORANGE, DREAMING GREEN, and DREAMING BROWN. His irises bring many of us pleasure every year. Some of them, notably RUFFLED VELVET and BUTTER AND SUGAR, are among the ancestors of a substantial fraction of today’s Siberians. Some of his Japanese iris are recognized, even by Japanese experts, as among the best ever introduced, including JAPANESE PINWHEEL. The legacy of his irises continues in gardens all over the world. Several of his disciples are continuing his breeding projects, especially with tetraploids. In addition, some of his irises

continue to be evaluated and increased for introduction in Sharon Hayes Whitney's garden. A favorite new Siberian iris, which he registered as MERRYSPRING in 2000, is from the 8th generation of his tetraploid breeding program. It is among those being propagated for future introduction. His legacy leaves over 160 new introductions of Siberian and Japanese irises that could not even have been imagined before his efforts.

In addition, Dr. McEwen wrote over 100 articles about irises, many of them with a scientific emphasis. He served as Chair of the AIS Scientific Committee from 1985 to 1992, and remained active on the Committee until his death. He was a founder of the Society for Siberian Irises, and also played a leadership role in the Society for Japanese Irises. He left us major books on *Japanese Irises* (1990) and *The Siberian Iris* (1996). Each of these books is a masterpiece, not likely to be superseded for a long time, in part because he managed to involve the entire community of experts in providing information to make the books authoritative, and in part because of his spare, elegant, lucid writing.

He received many honors for his contributions to irises. Four of his Siberian irises received the Morgan Award, including BUTTER AND SUGAR, which was honored a second time by receiving the first Morgan-Wood Medal. Five of his Japanese irises received the Payne Award. He was honored with the Hybridizer's Medal of the American Iris Society in 1976, the Foster Memorial Medal of the British Iris Society in 1977, the Luther Burbank Award of the American Horticultural Society in 1995, and the highest honor our society can bestow, the AIS Gold Medal, in 1999. There were many celebrations of his centennial last year. Days before his death, a Siberian Iris Convention was held in Hamilton, Ontario, June 12-15, 2003. The Convention, which of course he was unable to attend, was "dedicated with great respect and affection to Currier McEwen, the Father of the modern Siberian iris."

He started his hybridizing in Riverdale. In anticipation of his retirement, in 1966 he bulldozed and established a garden next to his Harpswell home, "Seaways Garden," where subsequently many of the great Siberian and Japanese irises were bred, and where he so graciously welcomed many of us, including the unforgettable gathering at the 1990 Japanese Iris Convention.

Dr. McEwen's wife Kay died in an automobile accident in 1980. Her death ended a rich and fulfilling half-century partnership. In 1982 the Doctor, an energetic and robust 80, married Elisabeth Fulkerson, who had been a family friend. They enjoyed more than 20 wonderful years of a joyous, close relationship. Elisabeth survives him, as do his four children, Ann Standridge, Matilda Mendez, Katherine Goodrich,

and Dr. Ewen McEwen, as well as six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Many of his finest irises are named after family members, from a Siberian iris named CHATTER BOX BELLE after his eldest daughter, who loves to stay in a one-room cottage, the Chatter Box, on the bluff at Seaways, to a Japanese iris named KATY MENDEZ, after his oldest grandchild.

He possessed an ability to lighten everything, from managing hospitals for casualties during World War II to any difficult discussion, with his great and warm sense of humor. On July 12, 2003 family, friends, and neighbors packed the Elijah Kellogg Church in Harpswell, Maine—across the road from the Centennial Garden dedicated to him a year earlier—for a memorial service for Dr. McEwen. The program for the warm and thoughtful service honoring him gave the dates of his life as April 1, 1902 to June 23, 1903. So much accomplished in so little time. Was this his final joke? In any case, he would have appreciated it. Dr. McEwen taught us a lot about irises and even more about how to live a marvelous life. His own life was remarkably long and very full. While he knew it was time for him to leave, and was ready, it does not prevent those left behind from missing him. Those who knew him will miss his example, his inspiration, his advice and mentoring, his enthusiasm and joy, and his friendship. His impact will live on through his achievements, the irises, the books, the knowledge and wisdom, the friendship and inspiring example he set for us all. His work has become an important part of our world.

[A more detailed celebration of Dr. McEwen's life, written in honor of his centennial, may be found in the October 2002 issue of the AIS Bulletin. That issue also contains some photographs of him.] ❧

In Memoriam

Joe Griner (NJ)
Mrs. Mela Kirk (WA)

Alfred J. Kaiser (MA)

In Memoriam: Marvin Granger

by Marie Caillet, Texas

THE IRIS WORLD HAS LOST ANOTHER DEDICATED AND PROLIFIC hybridizer with the death of Marvin Granger of Lake Charles, Louisiana. Marvin died May 11, 2003, after an operation and other health problems. He leaves many devoted nieces and nephews and many iris friends with whom he talked or corresponded for over 50 years. He named many of his introductions for family members, such as MAY ROY, DEIRDRE KAY, and REBECCA GARBER. Other irises were named for collectors and growers, such as BILL LEVINGSTON and SAM REDBURN, or for well-known iris people like KAY NELSON, ROCKI ROCKWELL, and recently one named for HELEN REID of Australia.

Marvin said he got into the iris business quite by accident after a niece married a man from Cameron Parish near Creole, LA. On trips to visit the niece, he and his sister Leona began collecting different shades and forms of *I. giganteaerulea* to bring home to plant in their yards. They lived in property that bordered the Calcasieu River and that was a natural swamp when it rained. They later attended a talk and slide show in Lake Charles where they met Bill Levingston and learned about the red irises (*I. nelsonii*) that grew east of them. This led to collecting trips to the Abbeville area, the meeting of other collectors like Ike Nelson and W.B. MacMillan, and to joining the Society for Louisiana Irises. Marvin described the members of the Society as the “finest, friendliest folks I have ever known.”

We can say the same about Marvin, who always welcomed everyone to his home and garden. He gave away more irises than sold and did whatever he could to promote Louisiana irises and the Society. He attended most of the SLI meetings and several AIS Conventions. He wrote articles for the Newsletters and for the *AIS Bulletin*. The members from Texas who drove through Lake Charles for meetings in Lafayette stopped by his garden to see what was blooming and what he had new. It was not out of my way to stop on my frequent trips between Lafayette and Texas, so I stopped often. If he knew ahead, he had a pot

of his strong coffee made and hot biscuits in the morning or cookies in the afternoon. I always left with plants – Louisiana irises, Gulf penstemon, and a seedling pear tree I still grow.

Marvin collected awards as well as irises. He won many blue ribbons at the Lafayette Shows and often won Best of Show or Best Seedling. He won the DeBaillon Medal for KAY NELSON in 1995, the SLI Service Award in 1994 and the AIS Hybridizer's Medal in 2001. His collected CREOLE CAN CAN, the only double Louisiana iris ever found, gave us doubles and cartwheels like DOUBLE TALK, DELTA STAR, ROSE CARTWHEET, and STARLITE-STARBRIGHT. In all, he had registered 42 cultivars, but many of the early ones are probably lost by now. I still grow about a dozen of his introductions including the very old ones DELTA STAR (1966), MAY ROY (1969), and DELTA PRINCE (1971). They are still excellent garden irises.

It is sad to lose old friends like Marvin Granger, who represented the 'old order' of true gardeners and lover of the native irises of South Louisiana. ❧



CAJUN SUNSET (LA – Marvin Granger)

In Memoriam: Wellington F. Scott, Jr. (1905 - 1997)

by Jim Morris, Missouri

THIS BELATED AND RETROSPECTIVE MEMORIAM RESULTED FROM the research we did in honoring Marion R. Walker in an earlier issue. Wellington F. Scott, or “Scotty” as he was known throughout irisdome, was actively linked with Marion in the American Iris Society of the 1950s and 1960s, serving with him on the AIS Board of Directors.

Scotty was born May 12, 1905, in Lexington, Kentucky, and died July 11, 1997, in Contra Costa County, CA. He spent his boyhood days in Lexington until his family moved to Little Rock, AR, in 1920. He was educated at the University of Kentucky and was the father of one son who graduated from Harvard. He moved to St. Louis, an aviation center, in 1930 and started his own business in 1932 as a wholesale distributor of aeronautical parts and supplies. His business thrived so well that he retired before he was 55. The rest of his life that we know of was spent with flowers, photography, and traveling the world with his wife Carter.

Scotty’s interest in irises started as a youngster in 1914 with his grandmother’s two-acre Lexington iris garden. He joined the American Iris Society in 1944 and later became a Life member. A very outgoing and organized businessman, he was appointed Region 18 RVP by then AIS President Dr. Franklin Cook, serving from 1949 -1952. Scotty was Publicity Chairman for the 1952 AIS Convention held at the Chase Hotel in St. Louis, and his garden in Ferguson on Sassafras Lane, named for a very old sassafras tree at the entrance, was on tour.

Scotty was a prolific writer and photographer and served the Photography Society of America as Convention Program Director. In Region 18 he was a dynamic man of action, continuing the region’s number one membership position in AIS; proposing the region’s Symposium of 100 Best Iris Under One Dollar; sponsoring new affiliate growth; putting the Regional Newsletter on a subscription basis; helping with the formation of Region 21 as Iowa and Nebraska were split out of Region 18 because of 18’s rapid growth; and championing a young man,

Cliff Benson, first as Region 18 Secretary-Treasurer and then as AIS Executive Secretary.

First serving as Chairman of the AIS Membership Committee (51-55), he also chaired the Board of Counselors (RVPs), was an AIS Director (53-55), AIS 2nd VP (53-55), and AIS 1st VP (56-58). Scotty was active at a time in AIS's history when it became the World Authority on all irises other than the bulbous section. Mr. Harold Knowlton and Dr. George H. M. Lawrence worked toward an agreement on Registration and nomenclature whereby the new 1959 Check List of AIS would meet all requirements of this new responsibility. Dr. Lawrence was the American representative on the International Horticultural Council and Mr. Knowlton was the Editor of the Check List.

Dr. Fitz Randolph and Dr. Lawrence prepared a new classification of bearded irises which the Board approved in November 1957. Since registration and classification were worked out, next were awards. The Median Iris Society and the Aril Society International had set up special committees to study the development of an Awards System within their own Societies for the promotion of their special interests. Such a separate system already existed in the Dwarf Iris Society. This posed the question to President Walker, "Is AIS to be the World Authority or are we going to break into several special interest groups and have no real authority?"


MIS, DIS, and ASI were agreeable to keeping the entire iris family under one roof and united. Jay Ackerman presented several amendments to be made to the rules of the Awards Committee. These changes were adopted by unanimous vote of the ten Board members present. Recognizing that the main interest of a large majority of the AIS membership of the time and probably for all time was in the tall bearded iris, there was also a good percentage of the membership with interest in other types of irises. The new award rules changed from 10 total High Commendation votes (all classes) to 10 HC votes for TBs and 5 HC votes in each of the other classes. Sounds simple enough today.

But when the Board passed this on November 13, 1957, Scott, the Awards Chairman, was not in attendance. Therein lies the rub. Having substantial means, he was in New Zealand serving as the Board's Official representative at the Annual Meeting of the New Zealand Iris Society. Upon Scott's return he took basic disagreement with the Board and resigned his offices in AIS.

As a Life member, retired at a young age, and with the aforementioned means, he continued to visit an incredible number of

gardens, write about and photograph irises and help his region, which at the time consisted of one-third of the total AIS membership. A review of *AIS Bulletins* and *Region 18 Bulletins* reveals numerous visits to the gardens of Mary Williamson, Paul Cook, Orville Fay, Dave Hall, Georgia Hinkle, Cliff Benson, Dorothy Palmer, Ada Buxton, Joe Becherer, Gene Wild, Don Waters, James Marsh, Brother Charles, Wilma Greenlee, Helen McCaughey, John Ohl, Helen Reynolds, Rev. David Kinish, Bonabeth Brickell, Carl Schirmer, Bob Minnick, Geddes Douglas, Chet Thompkins, Schreiners, Cooleys, and the Sasses. Overseas his visits included Australia, New Zealand, Germany, England, France, Italy, Hawaii, Tokyo, Manila, Hong Kong, Saigon, Bangkok, Singapore, Auckland and Fiji.

As an outgoing and decisive person Scotty could be very charming, as when he arranged for commissioning of visiting New Zealander Molly Emms as a Kentucky Colonel; you see, when he was at the U of KY the football coach was "Happy" Chandler who later became Kentucky Governor. Or when he negotiated for free office space at the Missouri Botanical Gardens for the AIS headquarters. But he had an edge about him too. His letters in 1970 (age 65) to AIS President William T. Bledsoe and *AIS Bulletin* Editor J. Arthur Nelson were often biting indictments. In one he stated that, "If I were not a Life Member, I would surely resign!" Instead, he faded away. I was unable to find any further information on Scotty for 27 years from 1970 until his death in 1997 at age 92.

What a colorful person! 

In Memoriam: *Ruth Wilder*

by Everette Lineberger, South Carolina

RUTH STEWART WILDER, FORMER RVP OF REGION 5 AND former President of the Spuria Iris Society, died in Anderson, SC, on July 11, 2003 as the result of a stroke. She was the third former RVP of Region 5 to die in less than 12 months, the others being Jane Johnson and Virginia Burton.


Ruth, a registered nurse, was very active in the Huntsville, AL, iris group before returning to her native state in the 1980's following the death of her husband, Archie.

Her garden was one of those on tour when the AIS Convention was held in Huntsville. She was RVP of Region 5 when the national convention was held in Atlanta in 1992.

A master judge who was always interested in gaining more knowledge in that area and sharing that knowledge with others, she traveled extensively to attend conventions and judges' training events.

She was especially interested in Louisiana and spuria irises. In addition to being a member of those AIS Sections and the Tall Bearded Iris Society, she was instrumental in establishing the Foothills Iris Club of Anderson and the Dixie Iris Study Club, and she gave of her means and talents to strengthen the work of many other local groups.

Ruth was an active member of the First Presbyterian Church in Anderson. Her funeral service was conducted by her minister, the Rev. Dr. Rick Baggett, and the Rev. Everette Lineberger, former RVP of Region 5, who gave an eulogy and funeral meditation. She was buried in the Old Silver Brook Cemetery in Anderson.

She certainly will be missed by the many irisarians whose lives she has touched. 

AIIS

Contributions and Gifts

	Code
EDNA ANDERSON (NM)	
Mesilla Valley Iris Society (NM)	G
CLAIRE B. BARR (CA)	
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Inland Region Iris Society (CA)	G
San Diego/Imperial Co. Iris Society (CA)	BLE
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Clara B. Reese Iris Society (CA)	R&S
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Mesilla Valley Iris Society (NM)	G
BERNARD HAMNER (CA)	
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San Fernando Valley Iris Society(CA)	G
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Tulsa Area Iris Society (OK)	G
TED JESSUP (CA)	
Diane & Darrell Eigenman (CA)	G
NETTIE B. KENNEY (OK)	
Tulsa Area Iris Society (OK)	G
ROBERT MALLORY (MI)	
Grand Valley Iris Society (MI)	G
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JOHN PEARCE (TN) *	
Memphis Area Iris Society (TN)	ALL
By request, donation was divided between all funds	Funds
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BETTY SMITH (NV)	
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Central Arkansas Iris Society (AR)	L
Robert Treadway (AR)	L
GEORGE TAFOYA (NM)	
Mesilla Valley Iris Society (NM)	G
MARION WALKER (CA)	
Inland Region Iris Society (CA)	G
Nancy Nies (CA)	G
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E. L. & Shirley Paquet (SC)	L
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Mail to: Jeanne Clay Plank, Secretary of Donations;
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Be sure to identify clearly on a separate paper:

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Section Publications

Just in time for all your Holiday gift-giving needs! Following are the publications offered by AIS Sections and Cooperating Societies. And don't forget "The World of Irises" on the AIS Storefront page. *All prices include postage.*

Median Iris Society:

Median Iris Checklist is scheduled for publication in March of 2004, \$16.00.

For more info:

Nyla Hughes; 139 Parsons Avenue; Webster Groves, MO 63119-2249
<nylah@brick.net>

Society for Siberian Irises:

The Siberian Iris (McEwen), usually \$39.95, now \$29.95 for a limited time.

Order from:

John Coble; 9823 E. Michigan Avenue; Galesburg, MI 49053
<ensata@aol.com>

Siberian Iris Checklist \$7.00

Order from:

Ellen Gallagher
1689 Riverside Drive; Berlin, NH
<ellengalla@yahoo.com>

Society website: www.socsib.org

Spuria Iris Society:

Spuria Iris Introductions & Registrations \$10 USA; \$11

Canada; \$12 overseas

Order from:

J. Lee Miller; 14221 S. Stagecoach Rd.; Tucson, AZ 85736
<JLeeTheForestal@aol.com>

Society website: www.spuria.org

Society for Japanese Irises:

The Japanese Iris (McEwen), \$24.95

1999 J.I. Checklist, \$4.00; \$5.00

Canada; \$8.00

Overseas Order from:

John Coble; 9823 E. Michigan Avenue; Galesburg, MI 49053
<ensata@aol.com>

Society website: www.socji.org

Reblooming Iris Society:

Reblooming Iris Cumulative Check List, \$12.85 domestic;

\$17.85 foreign

Order from:

Charlie Brown; 3114 South FM 131; Denison, TX 75020-0724
<broiris@cableone.net>

Society for Pacific Coast Native Irises:

Checklist of Named PCI Cultivars, hard copy or CD, \$9.00; \$9.50 Canada; \$16.00 overseas. Both CD *and* hard copy: \$13.50; \$14.00 Canada; \$20.50 overseas

A Revision of the Pacific Coast Irises, Lee W. Lenz, \$6.00
Hybridization and Speciation in the Pacific Coast Iris, Lee W. Lenz, \$6.00

If ordered together, both Lenz booklets may be obtained for \$10.00.

Order from:

Terri Hudson; 33450 Little Valley Road; Fort Bragg, CA 95437
 <irishud@earthlink.net>

Society website:

www.pacificcoastiris.org

Species Iris Group of North America (SIGNA):

SIGNA Checklist (2002), \$20.50; Canada \$23.50; others \$25.50

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Carla Lankow; 11118 169th Ave. SE; Renton, WA 98059-5964
 <speciesiris@yahoo.com>

Society website: www.signa.org

Historic Iris Preservation Society (HIPS):

Many reprints and copies of older publications available at

reasonable prices, including numerous **Historical Chronicles** (telling the stories of various key hybridizers throughout iris history), **AIS Bulletins** (nos. 1–37), **Cornell Bulletin 112**, **Dept./Ag. Iris Bulletin**, and copies of a few old catalogues of enduring interest.

For more info, contact:

Dorothy Stiefel; 260 Michigan Hollow Road; Spencer, NY 14883
 <IrisAcher@aol.com>

Society website: www.worldiris.com

Aril Society International:

Contact: Donald@eastland.net

Society for Louisiana Irises:

The Louisiana Iris, The Taming of a Native American Wildflower, \$30.00

SLI Cultivar Check List (through year 2000), \$20.00

2001 Cultivar Check List Supplement, \$11.50

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Richard J. Sloan; 118 E. Walnut Street; Alma, AR 72921
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To Order: Requests for specific slide sets should be made well in advance, preferably four to six weeks. Please request alternate choices. Clearly print your name, address, phone number, and date of meeting if you mail your request by regular mail.

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Dwarf: Ron James, 887 County Route 3, Hannibal, NY 13074; <ron2don@alltel.net>

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Japanese: Order from John Coble, 9823 E. Michigan Ave., Galesburg, MI 49053. Check to Japanese Iris Society.

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Medians: Contact Terry Aitken, 608 NW 119th St, Vancouver WA 98685. \$10 check to MIS.

Rebloomers: Contact George Sutton, 16592 Road 208, Porterville, CA 93257; <suttons@lightspeed.net>. Check to Reblooming Iris Society. Rental fee is \$7.50.

Siberians: Order from Robert Hollingworth, 124 Sherwood Rd E, Williamston, MI 48895. Check to Society for Siberian Irises.

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To place an ad, please contact the advertising editor. All ads must have a hard copy submitted to the advertising editor. List of specifications regarding digital submissions is available. Payment is due with ad copy. The deadlines for ad submissions are as follows: September 1 (October issue); December 1 (January issue), March 1 (April issue), June 1 (July issue). Send ad and payment (payable to AIS) to: George Sutton.

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Found in the back of each Bulletin. Placement is roughly alphabetical. Rate is for 4 issues. All ads are 2 $\frac{1}{8}$ inch wide.

\$42.00	1 $\frac{15}{16}$ inch
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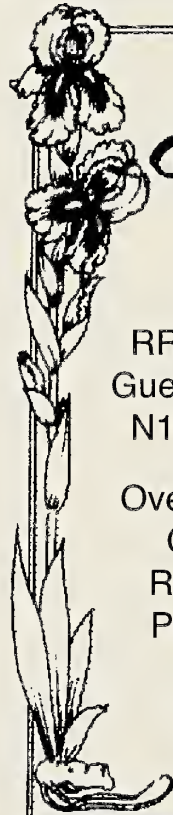
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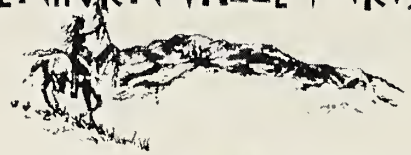
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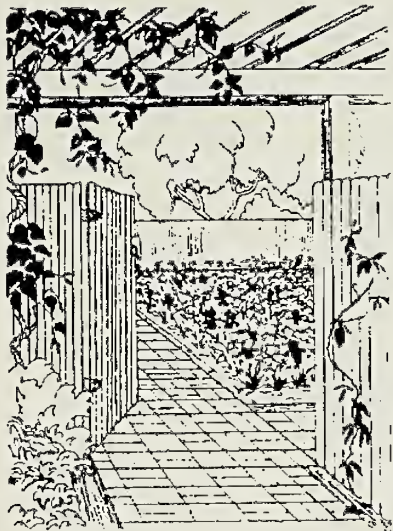
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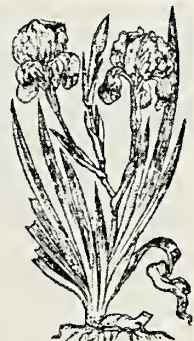


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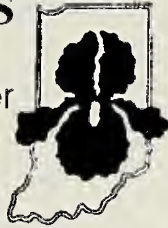
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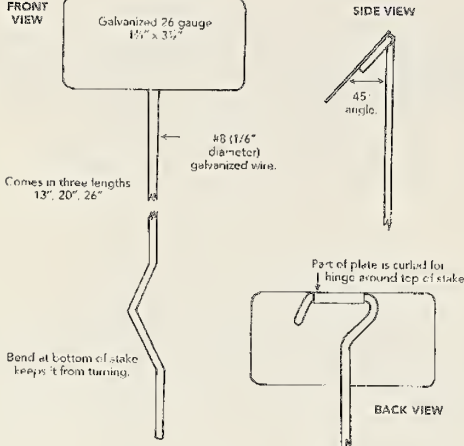
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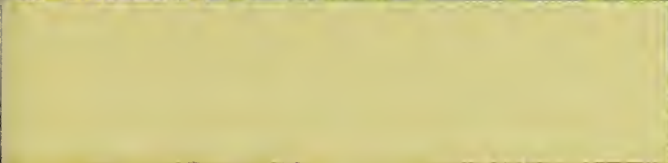
DELIRIUM (M. Smith)

Most HM votes in any category

IB

Award

Winners



Above: AM 2003,
STARWOMAN (M. Smith)

Left: AM 2003,
MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM (L. Baumunk)

Photo: P. Black



Photo: Schreiner



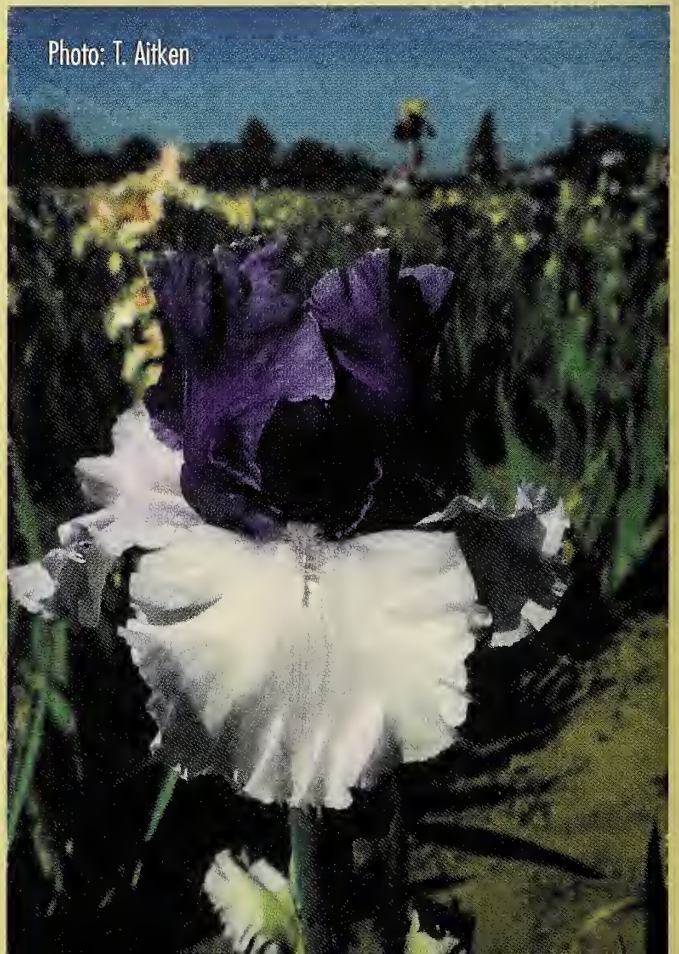
Wister Medal Winners 2003

Top Left: TOM JOHNSON (Black)

Top Right: DIABOLIQUE (Schreiner)

Right: CROWNED HEADS (Keppel)

Photo: T. Aitken



Bulletin of the American Iris Society

ISSN 0747-4172

Volume LXXXIV, No. 2

Series No. 330

July 2003

SUPPLEMENT TO AIS BULLETIN #330

The American Iris Society

2004 Symposium

of Tall Bearded Irises

Ballot

Please vote for your favorite 25 Tall Bearded Iris Varieties

All members of the American Iris Society are urged to participate in this ballot in order that we may obtain a wide consensus of the tall bearded iris varieties that grow and bloom best in gardens throughout America. AIS affiliates are invited to vote, in addition to individuals. Mail the completed ballot so that it is received by your RVP by September 1, 2003. Final results will be published as the popularity poll in a future issue of the Bulletin. Please vote!

Attention: Overseas Members are invited to vote the Symposium Ballot. Instructions on the following page. See deadline on following page, item #5.

PLEASE VOTE

Please Vote
Sixty-fourth Official Tall Bearded Iris Symposium
of the American Iris Society
2004

This is your ballot to help determine the One Hundred Favorite Tall Bearded Irises for 2004. The list of candidates was completed by combining the following lists of outstanding varieties:

- The 100 top varieties in last year's Symposium
- The tall bearded irises eligible for 2003 Dykes Medal
- The tall bearded irises eligible for 2003 Wister Medal
- The tall bearded irises eligible for 2003 Awards of Merit
- The tall bearded irises that won 2002 Awards of Merit
- The tall bearded irises that won 2002 Honorable Mentions

Every member of The American Iris Society may participate in this balloting of the irises listed on the following pages. Each member is allowed twenty-five votes. Please follow the instructions below.

1. Vote only for an iris that you have seen blooming in a garden.
2. Clearly place an "X" in front of each of your twenty-five favorites. The second member of a family membership should use an "O" symbol to designate votes. Additional, family or youth members should use a number (1, 2,3, etc.) in front of each vote to identify it. Each member is entitled to a maximum of twenty-five votes. Since the ballot is designed for easy tabulation by the Regional Vice Presidents, please follow directions carefully.
3. No member may vote for more than twenty-five varieties. You may vote for fewer than twenty-five if you wish. Write-in votes are no longer allowed and will not be tabulated.
4. **Your ballot must be mailed to and received by your Regional Vice President by September 1, 2003** in order to be counted. The name of your RVP is listed inside each AIS Bulletin. Sign your ballot and mail it first class. Each RVP now has the option of accepting ballots by email (by number or by name).
5. *Overseas Members* may vote by mailing their ballot to the Symposium Committee Chairman whose name, email, and address appear inside each AIS Bulletin. It is advisable to send by Air Mail to assure receipt of your Ballot by the deadline of September 15, 2003. Email is an acceptable alternative, and a representative in each foreign country can tally that country's votes and send the totals and voters to the Symposium Chair by email or mail.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

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___ 2	AFTERNOON DELIGHT	___ 28	BALLET ROYALE	___ 54	BRAGGADOCIO
___ 3	AGAIN AND AGAIN	___ 29	BARBARA MY LOVE	___ 55	BRAZENBERRY
___ 4	ALABASTER UNICORN	___ 30	BAYBERRY CANDLE	___ 56	BRAZILIAN HOLIDAY
___ 5	ALIEN MIST	___ 31	BEFORE THE STORM	___ 57	BREAKERS
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| ___ 244 LIMA | ___ 270 MERLOT | ___ 296 OCTOBER SKY |
| ___ 245 LITTLE JOHN | ___ 271 MESMERIZER | ___ 297 OKTOBERFEST |
| ___ 246 LOCAL COLOR | ___ 272 MIDNIGHT MOONLIGHT | ___ 298 OLD BLACK MAGIC |
| ___ 247 LOIS PARRISH | ___ 273 MIDNIGHT OIL | ___ 299 ORANGE BLOSSOM SPECIAL |
| ___ 248 LONELY HEARTS | ___ 274 MILLENNIUM FALCON | ___ 300 ORANGE SLICES |
| ___ 249 LORILEE | ___ 275 MILLENNIUM SUNRISE | ___ 301 OSTENTATIOUS |
| ___ 250 LOTUS LAND | ___ 276 MISS PIGGY | ___ 302 OWYHEE DESERT |
| ___ 251 LOVELY DAWN | ___ 277 MOBY GRAPE | ___ 303 OZONE ALERT |
| ___ 252 LULLABY OF SPRING | ___ 278 MODERN MAJOR GENERAL | ___ 304 PACIFIC CLOUD |
| ___ 253 LUXOR GOLD | ___ 279 MONET'S BLUE | ___ 305 PACIFIC DESTINY |
| ___ 254 LYME TYME | ___ 280 MOTHER MARSHMALLOW | ___ 306 PAINT IT BLACK |
| ___ 255 MACARENA | ___ 281 MULLED WINE | ___ 307 PANAMA HATTIE |
| ___ 256 MADISON COUNTY | ___ 282 MY GINNY | ___ 308 PEIGNOIR |
| ___ 257 MAGICAL ENCOUNTER | ___ 283 MY PRETTY VALENTINE | ___ 309 PENNY LANE |
| ___ 258 MAKING WAVES | ___ 284 MYSTIQUE | ___ 310 PERFECT GIFT |
| ___ 259 MALLORY KAY | ___ 285 NEON COWBOY | ___ 311 PERSIAN BERRY |
| ___ 260 MANDELA | ___ 286 NEXT MILLENNIUM | ___ 312 PHAETON |

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| ___ 313 PHEASANT FEATHERS | ___ 339 RED RIDER | ___ 365 SERENGETI SPAGHETTI |
| ___ 314 PICANTE | ___ 340 REGIMEN | ___ 366 SHARPSHOOTER |
| ___ 315 PINBALL WIZARD | ___ 341 RETURN ADDRESS | ___ 367 SHEER ECSTASY |
| ___ 316 PO NO MO | ___ 342 RHONDA FLEMING | ___ 368 SILK BROCADE |
| ___ 317 POEM OF ECSTASY | ___ 343 RICH MAN | ___ 369 SILVERADO |
| ___ 318 POLISH PRINCESS | ___ 344 RING AROUND ROSIE | ___ 370 SKATING PARTY |
| ___ 319 POLISHED MANNERS | ___ 345 RINGO | ___ 371 SKY AND SUN |
| ___ 320 POND LILY | ___ 346 ROGUE | ___ 372 SKY HOOKS |
| ___ 321 PRETTY IS | ___ 347 ROMANTIC EVENING | ___ 373 SKYWALKER |
| ___ 322 PRINCE GEORGE | ___ 348 ROSALIE FIGGE | ___ 374 SLY FOX |
| ___ 323 PROSPEROUS VOYAGE | ___ 349 RUFFLED BALLET | ___ 375 SMILING FACES |
| ___ 324 PROUD TRADITION | ___ 350 RUSH CREEK | ___ 376 SMOKE AND MIRRORS |
| ___ 325 PUCCINI | ___ 351 RUSTLER | ___ 377 SNEEZY |
| ___ 326 PUMPKIN CHEESECAKE | ___ 352 RUTH BLACK | ___ 378 SNOW SHOES |
| ___ 327 PURE AS GOLD | ___ 353 RUTH SIMMONS | ___ 379 SNOWED IN |
| ___ 328 PURPLE PLEASER | ___ 354 SAN JUAN SILVER | ___ 380 SOCIAL GRACES |
| ___ 329 QUEEN ANNE'S LACE | ___ 355 SANDY BEACH | ___ 381 SOCIETY PAGE |
| ___ 330 QUEEN IN CALICO | ___ 356 SANTA | ___ 382 SOLOMON'S SEAL |
| ___ 331 QUEEN OF ANGELS | ___ 357 SAVANNAH SUNSET | ___ 383 SONG OF NORWAY |
| ___ 332 QUEEN'S CIRCLE | ___ 358 SCENE STEALER | ___ 384 SOTTO VOCE |
| ___ 333 QUITE THE REVERSE | ___ 359 SCOONCHEE | ___ 385 SOUL SISTER |
| ___ 334 RAKU BLAZE | ___ 360 SCREEN PLAY | ___ 386 SPEEDING AGAIN |
| ___ 335 RARE QUALITY | ___ 361 SEA POWER | ___ 387 SPICED TIGER |
| ___ 336 RARE TREAT | ___ 362 SEA SWELLS | ___ 388 SPIN DOCTOR |
| ___ 337 RASPBERRY CHEESECAKE | ___ 363 SEAKIST | ___ 389 SPIRIT WORLD |
| ___ 338 RECURRING DELIGHT | ___ 364 SELECT CIRCLE | ___ 390 SPLASHACATA |

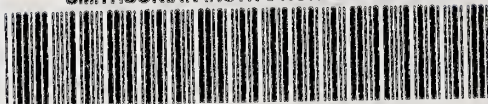
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| ___ 391 STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN | ___ 417 TOASTED WATERMELON | ___ 443 WILD WINGS |
| ___ 392 STAR QUALITY | ___ 418 TOKATEE FALLS | ___ 444 WINE TIME |
| ___ 393 STARRING | ___ 419 TOM JOHNSON | ___ 445 WING COMMANDER |
| ___ 394 STARSHIP ENTERPRISE | ___ 420 TOTAL RECALL | ___ 446 WINGS OF PEACE |
| ___ 395 STEPPING OUT | ___ 421 TOUCAN TANGO | ___ 447 WINNING EDGE |
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| ___ 397 SUDDEN IMPACT | ___ 423 TRANS-ORANGE | ___ 449 WISHFUL THINKING |
| ___ 398 SUGAR MAGNOLIA | ___ 424 TWO-SIDED COIN | ___ 450 WORLD PREMIER |
| ___ 399 SUNKIST DELIGHT | ___ 425 UNCLE CHARLIE | ___ 451 WORLD WITHOUT END |
| ___ 400 SUPERSTITION | ___ 426 VALENTINE'S DAY | ___ 452 YAQUINA BLUE |
| ___ 401 SUPREME SULTAN | ___ 427 VANILLA FUDGE | ___ 453 ZANDRIA |
| ___ 402 SUSPICION | ___ 428 VANITY | ___ 454 ZATON |
| ___ 403 SWEET MUSETTE | ___ 429 VEGAS WEEKEND | ___ 455 ZEBRA HALO |
| ___ 404 SWEETER THAN WINE | ___ 430 VELVET UNDERGROUND | ___ 456 ZEBRA NIGHT |
| ___ 405 SWING AND SWAY | ___ 431 VIBRANT | ___ 457 ZEPHERINA |
| ___ 406 SWINGTOWN | ___ 432 VICTORIA FALLS | ___ 458 ZIGGY |
| ___ 407 TAN MAN | ___ 433 VIENNA WALTZ | |
| ___ 408 TANGLED WEB | ___ 434 VIOLET SHIMMER | |
| ___ 409 TANZANIAN TANGERINE | ___ 435 VIOLET TURNER | |
| ___ 410 TERRYTON | ___ 436 VIRGINIA RUDKIN | |
| ___ 411 TEXTRONICS | ___ 437 VIZIER | |
| ___ 412 THOR'S LIGHTNING BOLT | ___ 438 WALKARA | |
| ___ 413 THORNBIRD | ___ 439 WARM MEMORIES | |
| ___ 414 THRILLER | ___ 440 WATERDRAGON | |
| ___ 415 TIGER HONEY | ___ 441 WHIPPED HONEY | |
| ___ 416 TITAN'S GLORY | ___ 442 WIDDERSHINS | |

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