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Bulletin of the American Iris Society

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	single annual	single triennial	dual annual	dual triennial
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Spuria Iris Society	6.00	15.00	8.00	18.00
Society for Japanese Iris	3.50	9.00	4.00	10.50
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	5.00	12.00	6.00	15.00
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Historic Iris Preservation Society	5.00	12.00	6.00	15.00
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Society for Louisiana Irises	7.50	18.00	9.00	22.50

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President's Message

by Clarence Mahan, Virginia

MEMBERS OF REGION 3, THE SUSQUEHANNA IRIS Society in particular, and the Francis Scott Key Iris Society did a masterful job hosting the 2001 AIS Convention. Please accept our sincere appreciation for a job well done. Special thanks go to Convention Chairman, Jason Leader, and to Pat Leader, his helpmate and soul mate. Although the convention was somewhat smaller than usual, everyone seemed to have a grand time. We saw some beautifully landscaped gardens and many extraordinary guest irises in bloom. And, of course, we met with many old friends and made quite a few 'future old friends.'

One of the primary reasons we have annual conventions is to provide a means for iris hybridizers to have their new seedlings and introductions seen by many AIS judges. The converse of this is that an AIS judge can see many new irises growing and blooming to add to his or her knowledge when voting the official ballot. Judges should therefore try to attend national conventions if it is at all possible. One of the most encouraging aspects of the convention this year was that many iris hybridizers, including many of the 'names,' had sent numbered seedlings and un-introduced irises.

Another encouraging feature of the convention was that a number of iris hybridizers whose work I do not recall seeing before sent guest irises. I was impressed with seedlings by Joyce Ragle, Ryan Carter, Patti Ingle, and Gerald Moorehead, to name just a few of the up-and-coming iris breeders. We should encourage more hybridizers, both the kids and the old folks, to send guest irises to future conventions. Detailed instructions for sending bearded irises to the 2003 convention are in the *April Bulletin*. But time is getting short. Do not miss the deadline.

A most happy experience for me at this year's convention was to have Emily Ives, a youth member from Canada, as my touring companion on the bus. Emily is very charming and exceptionally bright. She has a keen eye for quality and considerable knowledge of judging criteria. Emily helped me see wonders that I might have missed had she not traveled with me.

The AIS Nominating Committee for the coming year has the following members: Jeanne Clay Plank and Roy Epperson, representing the Board of Directors; Ray Keisling and Margaret Sutton, representing the RVPs; and Jill Copeland, elected to the committee by the Section presidents. The members of the committee will nominate eight people to fill four positions on the Board of Directors. If you are interested in being a Director, or if you want to submit the name of someone you think should be on the Board, contact one of the members of the Nominating Committee in the next couple of months.

Wise Francis Bacon wrote in the essay *Of Goodness & Goodness of Nature*: "The desire of power in excess, caused the angels to fall; the desire of knowledge in excess, caused man to fall; but in charity there is no excess; neither can angel, nor man, come in danger by it." The American Iris Society has given me many, many wonderful experiences. It has given me an education in irises, horticulture and botany. The AIS has given me friends, treasured memories and much beauty. I know that others have similar feelings, and if you are one who does, I invite you to remember the society in your will. Even a small bequest can provide significant benefit to AIS. 

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Annual President's Letter **to the American Iris Society**

May 22, 2001

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 2001 spring meeting held in Hunt Valley, MD, in accordance with the AIS Bylaws, the following four individuals are the 2001 nominees for regular three year terms expiring in the fall of the year 2004:

- Candidate #1 Nancy Pocklington
- Candidate #2 Gerry Snyder
- Candidate #3 Carryl Meyer
- Candidate #4 Maureen Mark

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 the AIS Secretary on or before September 1, 2001. Should additional nominations be made, a ballot on which all nominees are listed will be mailed on or before October 1, 2001, to all AIS members and must be received by the AIS Secretary or Election Committee (if one is appointed) on or before October 29, 2001. If there are no nominations in addition to those listed above, issuance of a ballot shall be omitted and the original nominees considered elected.

Clarence Mahan, President

Editor's Message

Murphy & the Post Office

by Terry Aitken, Washington State

A FAVORITE QUESTION AT THE NATIONAL CONVENTION was “What is Murphy up to these days?” Well, this chapter might be referred to as “Murphy and the Post Office”. The April *Bulletin* was beyond deadline but the presses were running and it looked like smooth sailing to the bindery, mail processing and the post office. Then I got a phone call from the post office. Someone (Murphy?) had decided to cancel our mailing permit (back in February) but the local post office (Murphy?) had neglected to inform me until mid April! I assured the postal representative that there must be some mistake. I immediately sent off an email to AIS Secretary, Sara Marley, for help. Sara was able to reconstruct a three-year paper trail back to a post office in Oklahoma where the original error had occurred. Since it was a post office error, the permit was reinstated in a matter of days. (My previous experience with the permit-issuing process led me to expect a month of paperwork.) Sara’s quick action and excellent records saved the *Bulletin* from being a month later than it actually was. In my mind, Sara Marley can leap tall buildings with a single bound, and “Murphy” can take a flying leap into oblivion!

On another front, I have asked Peter Weixlmann (RVP for Region 2) to try a variation on FLIGHTLINES using “iris-talk”, an email-based discussion group. Staying tuned to “iris-talk” can be time consuming; if Peter can give us a condensed version of useful information and record it for posterity, I believe we will all come out ahead of the “time game”.

After each *Bulletin* goes out to international mailing, I get a breakdown of destinations by country from the mailer. Some members have suggested that international distribution of the *Bulletin* would be an interesting piece of information in itself. It is a dynamic, constantly changing list, but interesting to those who have an eye on world iris activities. This list is arranged by postal groups. Approximately 70

Bulletins go to Canada, directly from the original mailer. *Bulletins* to other countries are processed by an international mailing service in New Jersey, as follows:

Belgium – 10, Denmark – 2, France/Monaco – 16, Germany – 19, Great Britain/ N. Ireland – 37, Greece – 1, Italy – 17, Netherlands – 3, Norway – 1, Sweden – 1, Australia – 24, Japan – 14, New Zealand – 16, Czech Republic – 4, Russia – 6, Argentina – 1, China – 1, South Korea – 1, Poland – 2, Estonia – 1, Latvia – 3, Lithuania – 1, Slovenia – 1, Ukraine – 1, Uzbekistan – 1, South Africa – 6, Switzerland – 5.

I'm sure many people remember the garden of Doris and Owings Rebert, with it's wonderful collection of historic irises, at the National Convention in 1991. Although not on tour this spring, due to health reasons, the front cover photo clearly shows the Reberts have not lost their touch for growing beautiful irises in mass plantings.

Correction to the April *Bulletin*, 2001 -

The Ad rates in the April Bulletin are wrong – they appeared at the old, 2000 prices. The rates in the January 2001 and current issues are correct. 

Youth Views

Clark Cosgrove Award Winners

by Jean Morris, Missouri

Monica Combrink

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER FOR EIGHTEEN-YEAR-OLD Monica Combrink of Glencoe, Oklahoma, winner of the 2001 Clarke Cosgrove Memorial Award for Youth Achievement. Monica has been an American Iris Society youth member since 1992 and belongs to the North Central Iris Society. Her grandparents, Joe and Ann Barrows, were the first to introduce her to the hobby of growing irises. Monica's willingness to share the beauty of her garden with those in her small town, and her generous donations of iris rhizomes to new gardeners are attributes to be admired.

Monica grows an outstanding garden of some 300 bearded iris types and is devoted to introducing median irises to Oklahoma growers. As an active member in her 4-H Club, she has given many iris demonstrations, served as State Ambassador, and was the 1998 State 4-H Horticulture winner. Monica served as a Delegate to the National 4-H Club Congress in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1999. She has donated over 1200 iris rhizomes, along with planting instructions, to 4-H camps, gardening programs, county fairs, sheltered workshops and her city park.

Monica has shown irises for over ten years and has won many awards. She has entered many fine educational exhibits and is an accomplished flower arranger. Her recent design entry at the county fair won the Grand Champion Award.

The North Central Iris Society can always depend on Monica to set up and clerk shows, and also to donate rhizomes and help at the annual sales. Hard working, cheerful and generous are words used by club members to describe her.

Monica has made some iris crosses of her own and also grows seedlings for a hybridizer who is confined to a nursing home. She

has attended several judging schools and presents iris programs at garden clubs in her community. She is an excellent writer and won the Ackerman Youth Essay Contest in 1995 with her essay entitled, "What is so Great About an Iris?"

In the words of one of her nominators, "Monica's outstanding leadership skills, her generosity, and her positive attitude make her a joy to all who know her."

Nicole Grzeskowiak

The First Runner-Up Award went to Nicole Grzeskowiak of Hermann, Missouri. Nicole has been an AIS youth since 1993 and belongs to the Greater St. Louis Iris Society and the Washington Iris Club. She grows an extensive garden of nearly 200 iris cultivars, mostly bearded types. She is active on club committees and helps at shows and sales. She is always ready to answer questions new gardeners may have.

Nicole has entered iris shows for a number of years and has many awards to her credit. She is a student judge and has completed nearly all of the required training hours.

Perhaps Nicole's most unique activity is her involvement in an elite farming program called the Missouri Agribusiness Academy. From the many young people nominated for this program, Nicole is one of only 30 students chosen to participate from all over the state of Missouri and the only one chosen from her FFA chapter. Part of her required activities include detailed garden record-keeping. She must list costs, equipment, supplies, rhizome losses and increases, sales, results of experiments, and show awards. A commercial iris garden would benefit from keeping similar records.

Nicole is described as self-motivated, energetic and helpful in all ways.

Marc Loberg

Our 2001 Second Runner-Up Award goes to Marc Loberg of Redwood Valley, California. Marc has been an AIS youth since 1997 and belongs to the Redwood Iris Society. He grows an extensive iris garden, has been hybridizing for several years, and has signed up as a student judge.

Marc helps his local club by entering shows, serving as cashier at iris sales, and helping at the State Fair exhibit. He was recently elected as his club's Recording Secretary. Marc enjoys visiting gardens at bloom time; he has attended many Region 14 tours as well as two

National Conventions.

Future plans include learning more about genetics so the knowledge can be applied to his iris hybridizing. Pedigrees are not new to Marc as he breeds Netherland Dwarf rabbits and owns two Angus cows for his 4-H projects.

Marc is described as enthusiastic, efficient and eager to learn.

Regions 22, 18 and 14 are proud of these youth winners and the AIS as a whole is enriched by their membership. Many youths and adults have been and continue to be inspired by the accomplishments and attributes of these young irisarians. All three of you, please take a bow! 🎀



First Place
HC STETSON
 (R. Stetson)



Second Place
WORLD PREMIER
 (Schreiner)

International News

by George & Margaret Sutton, California
and Bruce Filardi, Oregon

Results of the Florence Competition, 2001 from Italy:

The following results were announced for the Florence Competition held this year:

- 1st: H.C. STETSON (R. Stetson, US)
- 2nd: WORLD PREMIER (Schreiner, US)
- 3rd: SOLOMON'S SEAL (A. Ensminger, US)
- 4th: LENTEN PRAYER (Schreiner, US)
- 5th: CALM STREAM (C. Bartlett, England)
- 6th: LADY OF LEONESS (D. Spoon, US)
- 7th: BOLD FASHION (Schreiner, US)
- 8th: CORDOBA (J. Ghio, US)
- 9th: HILLVIEW INDIGO (G. Grosvenor, Australia)
- 10th: I'VE GOT RHYTHM (Schreiner, US)

In addition, the following special prizes were awarded:

- Best Border Bearded: LUNA ROSSA (V. Romoli, Italy)
- Best Early Variety: NAVY SEAL (G. Grosvenor, Australia)
- Best Late Variety: COASTAL MIST (Schreiner, US)
- Most Original Color: BOLD FASHION (Schreiner, US)
- Best Branched Variety: SOLOMON'S SEAL (A. Ensminger, US)
- Best Red Variety: LENTEN PRAYER (Schreiner, US)
- Best Blue Variety: MARCEL HAYAT (A. Bianco, Italy)
- Best Commercial Variety: BOLD FASHION (Schreiner, US)
- Best Scented Variety: AMETHYST DANCER (R. Ernst, US)
- Best Italian Variety: LUNA ROSSA (V. Romoli, Italy)

From Juri Pirogov, Moscow, Russia:

I have just returned from a trip to the Ukraine which was guided by Ukrainian botanist Oleg Amekhin. Our goal was to observe a population of *Iris aphylla* in the Lvov region. It is one of the few existing areas of natural steppes on northwest, west and south slopes of hills undisturbed by agriculture. This population shows a remarkable diversity of *Iris aphylla* plants. Colors range from medium violet

through “standard” to deep purple and black-violet that resembles a miniature DEEP BLACK. Reddish flowers are very rare and there are none that could be called significant. There are no white or light violet ones either. The beards range from all white (the white bearded *aphylla* sometimes called “polonica”) and light yellow to bicolors, whitish or yellowish in the center and more or less violet at the end. Examples of a horn-like beard and a reduced beard were also found. Some patterns were apparent: dark veins, blue stripes under the beard, and PLICATA! It was a great surprise to find some plicata plants in a separate part of the population. Flower forms are extremely variable: standard, compact, rounded, spuria-like and many other indefinite types. Stems vary between 3 and 12 inches, some branched, some not. Only about 10% of the plants were blooming. It takes many years from germination of seed to first bloom: one plant was 10 years old and carried its first bloom.

Upcoming International Conventions:

Australian Iris Convention 2001. From a letter from Delma Birthisel: “The Inland Regional Iris Society is hosting the Australian Iris Convention 2001, which is to be held in Yarrawonga/Mulwala, North East Victoria, Australia, from October 24-29, 2001, in the midst of our flowering season in Australia. We have an action packed five days planned for you, with coach trips to iris gardens, wineries, botanical gardens, Ned Kelly Museum, and many places that should interest you.”

Editor’s note: Information for this Convention was provided on page 30, April 2001 *Bulletin*. If you missed the June 30th registration deposit deadline, but still want to attend, contact Delma Birthisel by phone at 61 3 5744 1021, or email modelbir@albury.net.au.

British Iris Society Convention 2002. The British Iris Society will be celebrating its 80th anniversary with a convention to be held at the Holiday Inn in Bristol, one of England’s most historical cities. From here started many of the earliest settlers in the USA, including the Cabots and the Lodges. Bristol is regarded as the main cultural center for the west of England. Situated between the Cotswolds and the Mendip Hills, this area is dotted with many historic towns and villages, including the ancient cathedral city of Wells, Glastonbury Abbey and the Tor, Cheddar (the home of the original cheddar cheese) with its caves, and best known of all, the city of Bath. The Convention program will include lectures on the iris and visits to guest iris plantings

including many from international hybridizers.

Convention registration will be 80 pounds (about \$125.00-\$132.00) per head, before December 31, 2001. Send reservation information with remittance (made by sterling check drawn on a British bank, or International Money Order) to Suz Winspear, 63, Park Avenue, Barbourne, Worcester, WR3 7AJ, England. Hotel accommodation at the Holiday Inn will cost 130 pounds (about \$200.00) per night, to include dinner, bed and full English breakfast, based on two people sharing a room. Cost for a single room will be 80 pounds (about \$125.00). For further information please contact Suz Winspear at the above address or Cy Bartlett, Old Mill House, Shurton, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA5 1QG, England.

Russian Iris Society Convention 2002. From an email from Sergey Loktev, RIS President: The Russian Iris Society will be celebrating its 10th anniversary next year. We are happy to invite you and your family to take part in the 2002 RIS Annual Convention, which will take place in Moscow during the second ten-day period of June (we'll be able to let you know exact dates later).

We plan visits to 3-4 iris gardens in the Moscow region, a visit to the Moscow Iris Show, General Meeting, banquet and Moscow sightseeing. Registration fee will be fixed probably in January, 2002, and will partly depend on the number of the foreign participants; it won't be more than US\$100.00. We have little experience in organizing such events with the participation of foreign guests, but we'll do our best so that you will enjoy your visit here.

Foreigners must have a visa to visit Russia, so we will send our official invitations to those persons who would like to come. We need full name, full address, date and

place of birth, citizenship. Since it takes a long time to make invitations here we need to have this information not later than December 31. Please let us know if you would prefer to stay at the hotel during your visit (probably about US\$100.00 per night for single or double occupancy) or at our irisarians' homes if possible, without payment of course. For further contact we would like to have your email address, fax and phone number.

For further information, email s.smirnov@mtu-net.ru, fax Liudmila Rozanova at (7095) 235-0242 (1 p.m. – 6 p.m. Moscow time, except Sat.& Sun.) or write Sergey Loktev, P.O. Box 54, Moscow 129226 Russia.

Siberian Convention 2003, Ontario, Canada. Things are proceeding

in the planning of this convention. As of the end of September, 2000, we have received 221 guest iris for planting in the convention guest display gardens. To date the guest gardens are the Royal Botanical Garden (main display), McMillen's Iris Garden, and Chuck Chapman's Iris Garden. The convention will be held in Ontario, June 12-15, 2003.

From the British Iris Society Newsletter

No. 115, Spring 2001:

Congratulations to Cy Bartlett. The Royal Horticultural Society has awarded Cy the Reginald Cory Memorial Cup, which is given to a hybridizer whose work in a particular genus has resulted in the recent introduction and availability of new hybrids of merit.

Palmengarten Iris Collection Dismantled from Gisela Dathe, Germany:

[Editor's Note: News appeared in the Bulletin of the German Iris Society, announcing that the directors of the Palmengarten had announced that the iris collections would have to be removed. The Palmengarten had been the site of a Historic Collection of worldwide importance, and of the Test Garden, where new seedlings and introductions were judged as both second-year and third-year clumps. We contacted Gisela Dathe of the German Iris Society for more information. She writes:]

Thank you for your inquiry about the iris collections at the Palmengarten. Originally it looked as if we would lose some very important plants, but, as it turns out, the necessity of moving the iris may work out to their advantage in the long run.

The Palmengarten is a beautiful public park with many interesting greenhouses, perennial display beds, and important specialized collections such as the Alpine Plant Collection and the Rhododendron Garden. In addition, however, the Palmengarten is the site of numerous gardening shows and musical events, which naturally require much time and space.

The historic iris collection had originally been planted along trees and hedges, and with the passing of time the iris had become increasingly shaded. Because of the location of perennial beds, it had become extremely difficult to do a good job of weeding and to provide adequate care.

The Palmengarten informed us that they would like to put the iris planting areas to other uses. We had to move quickly, and a great many of the historic irises were moved to Pruhonice/Prague [Czech Republic]

and to the Botanic Garden at Nymphenburg in Munich. In Prague, they will be under the capable care of Dr. Milan Blazek. In Munich we have an active, committed, competent team who care about both the older iris and the newer varieties under observation. There is already a respectable collection of irises at Nymphenburg, and the cultivars from the Palmengarten will add to its breadth and completeness.

Nymphenburg will also be the site of the annual assessment of new seedlings and introductions. Excellent care will be provided for the plants, in a larger planting/display area than was available at the previous location. In bloom season, the Munich Botanic Garden will provide a spectacular display of iris, from the oldest to the newest. I have assembled a new team of judges who will perform the assessment of new irises in future years, and I look forward to working with this group.

From the New Zealand Iris Society Anniversary Issue, September, 2000:

[Editor's note: In the April 2000 *Bulletin*, in honor of the fiftieth anniversary of the New Zealand Iris Society, we noted cultural conditions, types of irises grown, and the formation of some of the Iris Groups of the North Island. We continue with notes concerning the remaining North Island groups. The South Island Groups will be covered in a later issue.]

North Island Groups

The Bay of Plenty Group's area is a long coastal strip in the Bay of Plenty situated along latitude 38 degrees. We have a light volcanic soil deposited at the time of the Tarawera eruption in 1886. Our rainfall is 1300mm spread throughout the year, with a dry period from February to April. Sunshine is between 2200-2400 hours per annum and we are one of the two sunniest places in New Zealand. Temperatures are generally between 12° and 30° celsius (54° and 86° F). There is no snow and most areas are free from heavy frosts. We grow all varieties of irises and with our humid climate we find that Louisianas do well. Tall bearded iris miss the cold winter, and although they grow fairly well we cannot meet the quality of the South Island. Siberians and spurias do well but need heavy mulching and fertilizers; in fact all irises need this treatment. Our Group is particularly interested in species irises.

North Taranaki: The group was formed in March of 1991. North Taranaki hosted a Dwarf Safari in 1994 and the National Convention in 1995. At the moment the group is administering the Median and Dwarf Section. Fertile soils and a high rainfall ensure that most irises

flourish here.

Rangitikei: The Rangitikei Group was formed on November 7, 1984. Iris culture and the magic of an iris border were reasonably well known in the district. In 1993 the group applied to hold the Iris Convention in 1997; iris were imported from Australia for the Convention. The group accepted the responsibility for running the species section for three years. In September of 1995 an Evansia Safari was held with a good number of NZ Iris Society members attending.

Wairarapa: The Wairarapa region is bounded by mountain ranges. In the early days of European settlement access to the area was mostly by sea with a day trip to the inner valley. Our valley has five major rivers. These rivers have a major influence on soil types which are mostly fertile with good drainage, but there are pockets of elevated land on a clay, paapa pan which are poorly drained. We also have a rim of limestone in the eastern hills. Because of the climate and fertile soils we have always had iris growers. Typically we have hot dry summers with cold winters and frost. Snow is rare in the valley. The prevailing wind is northwest but the valley is open to southerlies which may last three to five days; these southerlies come from Antarctica and are very cold and often wet. The Wairarapa group was formed in 1953 by Mrs. Miller, a keen grower who regularly imported irises from the US.

Wellington is a collection of microclimates. Rainfall in Karori is often double that in Kelburn just the other side of Tinakori Hill. The soil depth varies considerably and there are always small stones on the surface of our slopes. Wellington is famous for its blustery wind. Bearded iris require an open position and flower at the height of the spring equinox winds. TBs, especially weak-stemmed varieties, rarely get through a season intact. The real weakness of many Wellington gardens is the soil. Many of us garden on a mixture of broken rock (Greywacke) and clay. Early European settlers were quick to clear trees for farming and in many places there is little topsoil left. Because we are coastal the temperature seldom gets to 30 degrees C. in summer. Bulbous irises do very well. Some of the smaller spurias thrive and unguicularis seed freely. Bearded iris handle the summer dormancy well, but soon deplete the soil and need constant feeding. Pacific Coast iris also handle the summer drought. Evansias will grow in the shade and have proved surprisingly tolerant of summer drought. Water iris struggle. Our group was established March 31, 1968. We have hosted Conventions in 1973 and 1987, a Dwarf Safari and Species Trek. 🌸

Future Conventions

Updated Schedule, June 2001

Year	City	Headquarters	Dates	Chairman
2002	Memphis, TN	Memphis Marriott 2625 Thousand Oaks Blvd Memphis, TN 38118 (901) 362-6200	24-29 April	Elke Longworth 1530 McKnight Loop Mason, TN 38049 (901) 867-0200
2003	Fredericksburg, VA	Holiday Inn Select 2801 Plank Road Fredericksburg, VA 22401 (800) 682-1049	12-17 May	Clarence Mahan 7311 Churchill Road McLean, VA 22101 (703) 893-8526
2004	Fresno, CA	Radisson Hotel 2233 Ventura Street Fresno, CA 93721 (559) 268-1000	19-24 April	George Sutton 16592 Road 208 Porterville, CA 93257 (559) 784-9011
2005	St. Louis, MO		May	Riley Probst 418 N. Van Buren St. Louis, MO 63122 (314) 822-2485
2006	Portland, OR		22-27 May	John W. Ludi 35071 SE Hwy 211 Boring, OR 97009 (503) 668-9230
2007	Oklahoma City, OK		May	F. W. McVicker Route 3, Box 10 Kingfisher, OK 73750 (405) 374-3115

Scheduled Fall Board Meetings:

Year	City	Headquarters	Dates	Chairman
2001	Greensboro, NC	Ramada Inn-Airport 7067 Albert Pick Road Greensboro, NC 27409 (336) 668-3900	2-4 Nov	Dr. E. Roy Epperson 1115 Delk Drive High Point, NC 27262 (336) 883-9677
2002	Fort Worth, TX		1-3 Nov	Joe Spears 910 Pioneer Circle Argyle, TX 76226 (940) 464-3680
2003	Tucson, AZ		7-9 Nov	Kathy Chilton 14101 S. Stagecoach Rd Apt #600 Tucson, AZ 85736
2004	Santa Rosa, CA		5-7 Nov	Alice V. Kemper 134 Malet Street Sonoma, CA 95476
2005	Minneapolis, MN		4-6 Nov	Marsha VandeBrake 958-124th Ln. NW Coons Rapids, MN 55448 (763) 755-5869

More on Iris Culture

by Rick Ernst, Oregon

SOFT ROT IS PROMOTED BY OVER FERTILIZING (NITROGEN) AND trapped moisture combined with warm temperatures which cause the cell walls in the foliage to liquify; the cell structure collapses and thus, mush. Using sulfur in the fall and spring practically eliminates bacterial soft rot. At Cooley's here in Silverton, Oregon, we're using a 5% sulfur in our preplant fertilizer, and in the spring we side dress with *Urea Sul* which is composed of Urea (33 nitrogen) and 12 sulfur. The sulfur stops the rot before it starts.

The term Crown Rot is a common name for *Sclerotium Rolfsii*, or mustard seed fungus, now renamed *Pelicularia Rolfsii*. Or you can call it by its original name, Southern Blight. It is soil borne and the treatment is to soil drench with Terraclor prior to planting. It takes the equivalent of 6-8 pounds per acre to be effective, but it will eradicate the fungus. By the way, there are some 300 other host plants to this fungus. *Terraclor* is not effective on *Botrytis Convolvata* which is what bearded iris get. It is labeled for *Botrytis Cinerea* in roses, but iris don't get *Botrytis Cinerea*. *Bayleton 25* will control *Botrytis Convolvata*, and is so labeled.

Benlate is no longer labeled for ornamentals. It can be effective, (however illegal), on *Botrytis Convolvata*, *Penicillium spp*, *Rhizoctinia spp*, *Fusarium spp*, and *Didymellina Macrospora* (leaf spot); basically the same things that *Bayleton 25* is labeled for.

Early control of Leaf Spot is best accomplished with *Kocide 2000*, or *Champ*. Both are coppers and have good long residual effect. Apply them in cool weather before any leaf spot appears. They are preventative, not curative. Alternate applications of *Daconil Ultrex* and *Bayleton* weekly from mid-March to mid-April, (in the Northwest climate) and bi-weekly after that until weather is hot & sunny.

Adding an insecticide to the fungicide will control Aphids, Thrips and Whitefly. Alternate *Cygon*, *Maverick* and *Talstar* (new & it really

gets bugs). *Talstar* is effective for 3 to 4 weeks.

Adding calcium such as "Pit-stop" to foliar sprays in March-April-May helps strengthen cell walls and builds a natural resistance. This can't be accomplished with granular calcium, it must be sprayed on the foliage. No label requirements here because it's being used as a nutrient. Using a silicone-based spreader-sticker (although expensive) helps suffocate Aphids where they come into contact with it.

Our best control of weeds has been with *Pennant*, labeled for Iris and a pre-emergent, it does a good job with broad leaves. *Vantage* will take most grasses out of the iris, but in cool weather is very slow, in some cases killing the grass at a rate slower than the grass grows, resulting in dead grass as tall as the iris.

Last time I looked, *Stinger* was not restricted, but it is expensive.

Editor's Notes:

1. *Stinger* is not certified for use on irises, but is readily available for use in spraying broad leaf weeds in pastures, and does not require an applicator's license. One pint will treat 4 acres, using 1/2 oz. per gallon of water.

2. Cooley's Iris Garden grows primarily bearded irises. Be sure to do a test spray on a few irises first, particularly if using any of the above chemicals on beardless irises. 

High Commendation Awards for 2000

The High Commendation (HC) award is reserved for seedling irises viewed in gardens, under seedling number or registered name, which have not yet been introduced. The HC Award is granted to each seedling that receives five or more votes.

(Note: results are not considered final until verified by registrar)

<i>Type</i>	<i>Hybridizer</i>	<i>Region</i>	<i>Iris name of sdlg.#</i>	<i>Votes</i>
TB	Linda Fan	19	HM-102	7
TB	Joe Ghio	14	94-118Y2	9
TB	Wilford James	6	MJ-99-8	10
TB	Wilford James	6	MJ-97-7	6

Never Say Never

by Terry Aitken, Washington

THE ARTICLES IN THE APRIL BULLETIN ON SIBERIAN/JAPANESE iris crosses, and the chromosome counts to verify the results (Pages 37 and 42), seem to have stirred up some controversy. Many of us who do breeding in this arena are skeptics. Some people in the scientific community question the validity of printing theories such as these. As editor, confronted with this Siberian/Japanese idea, I considered it to be neither proven theory nor scientifically established information. I do feel that the gauntlet has been thrown, and it will remain for others to confirm or refute a concept that could be highly beneficial to the iris world.

Christy Hensler's idea was first presented to me several years ago. From my perspective, a great deal of mystery surrounds the parent plants that she used. Were they really Japanese or Siberians? I decided to replicate her experiment with known and familiar plants. I selected ASIAN WARRIOR, a red Japanese, and REDDY OR NOT, a reblooming Siberian that blooms regularly through the Japanese bloom season. (Peak Japanese and Siberian bloom are usually separated by several weeks.) I obtained a few seeds from the cross, and the resulting seedlings are presently in the field. We expect to see first bloom on them next year.

At this point, I need to digress about five years further back to explain the "Thrip Theory". At that time, I had been fascinated with the idea of crossing tetraploid Japanese irises with tetraploid *pseudacorus*. All petals were stripped from DONAU, the tetraploid *pseudacorus*, and the Japanese iris pollen applied on fresh flowers just unfurling. The stigmatic lip was visually checked and no foreign pollen was detected. Nylon stocking net was placed over the pollinated flowers. I had been told that wide crosses such as this would produce very few seeds. Later in the summer the *pseudacorus* seed pods, which normally produce in excess of 100 seeds, had only produced 1 to 5 seeds

apiece, with many other pods being total blanks. Two years later when the resultant 20 plants reached full bloom, Lorena Reid inspected the plants and noted that all were fully fertile, and probably pure tetraploid *pseudacorus*. (Normally, wide crosses such as *pseudacorus* x Japanese will produce sterile plants with no seeds.) Her theory was that flower thrips could easily penetrate the nylon net enclosures and carry grains of pollen with them. This would explain the low seed count. What I actually had was a population of (DONAU X self) tetraploid seedlings, and the only variation was in the signal pattern.

As a result of the April *Bulletin* reports, several other hybridizers are attempting to replicate the experiment of Siberian crossed Japanese. This year, we will personally repeat the experiment using ASIAN WARRIOR (JI) X REDDY OR NOT (Siberian), crossed both ways, and with the pollen as well as the petals stripped. The "Thrip Theory" may still persist, and chromosome counts will still be needed to verify any potential successes.

Sam Norris, quite reasonably, suggested that further chromosome counts should be made by independent sources. The question has been raised. The answers still lie ahead of us. 

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Starting this next February, we'll ship the first edition of *Eureka IRIS Reference Guide* to winter-bound iris collectors around the world and we need your ideas, your iris photography, your nominations for gardens you'd like to see included in this historic issue.

- What are the important and distinctive "iris" issues that should be addressed in the new *Eureka Iris Reference Guide*?
- How would you like to see color photography used in this first edition? Will you submit photos of irises in bloom?
- What iris nurseries and growers would you like to see listing their flowers in the *2002 Eureka Iris Reference Guide*?

- What ideas about Internet, wholesale and international iris sales should the new book examine?

- What iris registration information would you like to see with each flower?

- What features would you like to see in the new Eureka Iris that would be similar to components in the 11th edition of the *Eureka Daylily Reference Guide*?

We have a commitment to listen to you, the iris collector, the AIS and the iris nurseries and growers. Please share your thoughts so that this book will complement the work of us all and spread the beauty we know of as iris.

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Extended Bloom Season for Louisianas

by Marie Caillet, Texas

XTENDING THE BLOOM SEASON FOR LOUISIANA IRISES IS primarily a choice of which cultivars you grow. The bloom date is as varied as their flower form and color range, since they are not just one species, but many. In their native habitats of south Louisiana they may open as early as March and still be in bloom in May. This could mean that through careful selection of cultivars one can have bloom over a two to three month period. Most will be listed in catalogs as blooming early, mid-season, or late, thus giving one a choice.

The species that make the Louisiana group cover a wide blooming period start with *I. giganteaerulea* blooming first, followed by *I. fulva* and *I. nelsonii*. Late bloom is provided by *I. brevicaulis*, and *I. hexagona* blooms very late. Ancestry of a cultivar will usually indicate the possible bloom period. Several hybridizers have worked with these late blooming species to develop cultivars more suited to the cold climates. Late forming bloom stalks are less likely to be killed by cold weather.

Louisiana irises are also subject to certain conditions in a garden. Their earliest bloom occurs when growing in water in full sun, since the warm water hastens their growth and stalk development. Next to bloom are those in open, sunny garden beds. The latest bloom comes on plants that get partial shade during mid-day and early afternoon, which causes them to mature later. My latest bloom is on plants in mixed beds where other flowers and shrubs shade the rhizomes. To a small degree one can control or alter bloom period with Louisiana irises by adding or removing the mulch on the rhizomes. A heavy mulch keeps the rhizomes cool and thus delays bloom. To encourage early bloom one should pull the mulch away and off the rhizome so the sun can reach and warm the soil. Leaving a heavy winter mulch

will delay bloom.

The whites and yellows tend to open early. Examples would be Army's ACADIAN MISS, Mertzweiller's GOOD DOCTOR and PROFESSOR FRITCHIE, Heather Pryor's ACACIA RHUMBA and Taylor's many early blooming yellows. Most tetraploids, especially those developed by Joseph Mertzweiller, are early bloomers. Opening early in my pond are PROFESSOR NEIL and PROFESSOR MARTA MARIE. An exception is the pale lavender PROFESSOR PAUL, which blooms after all the other tetraploids. It could be a good parent for hybridizing late blooming tets. SNOWY CHANGE, a seedling from a PROFESSOR PAUL self, is listed as an early bloomer, but is always late in my garden.

The semi-doubles come from a collected *I. giganteaerulea* and are early bloomers in most cases. This is true of old ones like DELTA STAR and ROSE CARTWHEEL, but an exception is the lovely white STARLITE-STARBRITE, which is the latest Louisiana iris to open in the pond. It may still be blooming after all others are gone.

Most of the Louisianas hybridized by the late Frank Chowning came from *I. brevicaulis* and thus are the latest Louisianas to bloom. Examples of this late bloom are BRYCE LEIGH and LITTLE ROCK SKIES that open as much as two and three weeks after most Louisianas have bloomed out. However, he did produce some early blooming yellows: DIXIE DEB and COUNT PULASKI. If you happened to attend the 1980 Convention in Tulsa, scheduled for tall bearded bloom, you saw COUNT PULASKI win Queen of Show.

There are other late bloomers. Two very old cultivars that bloom late are Granger's MAY ROY and Conger's MARIE CAILLET. More recent introductions are Haymon's LAFAYETTE HONEY and Pryor's DEEP SEA QUEST. The majority of Louisiana irises introduced by Richard Morgan and the late Henry Rowlan are late bloomers. Most are from *I. brevicaulis* lines including many of Chowning's irises. Farron Campbell has begun hybridizing with the seldom-used species *I. hexagona*, which blooms very late. His LONE STAR shows this late blooming characteristic as well as some other characteristics of the species. Rhizomes are small and tend to produce multiple bloom stalks. The increase may appear much later than for most and it forms a close clump rather than the long rhizomes we find typical of many Louisiana irises.

Kenneth Durio is working with another line of hybridizing. He has crossed a tetraploid Louisiana iris with *I. virginica*, an early

blooming species. This wide cross produced the introduction LITTLE CAILLET. Not only does this iris bloom early, but it continues to put up stalks that bloom over a long period. It has interesting foliage with a red-purple base and that stays green during hot summers, making it a desirable landscape plant. It is an interesting development in the history of hybridizing irises.

To date there are no proven rebloomers in American bred Louisiana irises. A few show this tendency to bloom in the fall, but they usually are blooming out of season rather than reblooming. This is a challenge for hybridizers. 

My First Convention

by Michele Danek, New Jersey

It was March of 1999 when my brother and I first entertained the idea of going to the 2001 "Iris Odyssey" convention, hosted by the Susquehanna Iris Society and sponsored by AIS Region 3. At that time, the convention seemed to be in the very distant future, more like part of a five-year plan than an event just around the corner. Now, it's difficult to believe the convention has already come and gone. But the event was more than worth the two years' planning and anticipation.

I had a great time and met so many nice people from all over the country, including a few from my home state, New Jersey. My brother and I were, luckily, on the "blue #2" bus, so we had good weather for all the garden tours we attended. We saw many terrific gardens during the convention and the hospitality we encountered was beyond belief. Naturally, I saw quite a few irises that I will be adding to my own garden in the future. Among my favorites were BROKEN DREAMS (K. Keppel), CANARY DELIGHT (Joan Roberts), Fan seedlings F902011AA and F976017, COLOR MY WORLD (P. Black), BOUTIQUE FASHION (R. Ernst '99), LIGHTS CAMERA ACTION (L. Baumunk), CHARIOTS OF FIRE (T. Aitken), and one Siberian Iris, "Zarky One" (Michael Zarky).

All in all, I must say my first convention was a fantastic time, and I'm hoping to go again next year. It was both a great learning experience and an opportunity to meet some wonderful new people. 

Reblooming Louisianas

A Summary of the Results, Observations and Experiments

by Heather Dryor, Sydney, Australia



WHILE REBLOOMING LOUISIANA IRISES HAVE BEEN around for some years, I would like to share some of my experiences with modern Louisiana cultivars, in the hope that these details may assist others who are working in the same field of endeavor.

An earlier well-documented reblooming Louisiana which has found favor and popularity on both sides of the equator is the charming mid-blue self SINFONIETTA (Raabe '86). I have not singled this cultivar out because it is (by coincidence) an Australian one, but SINFONIETTA does feature in some of my research. I mean no disrespect by excluding reference to other well-known reblooming cultivars from this article.

Back in the Australian spring of 1990, while doing some of my first serious hybridizing, I made a chance cross of GLADIATOR'S GIFT (Taylor '90/91) and DESIGNER'S DREAM (Taylor '92/93). As this was some of the first hybridizing to be done with these two cultivars, the possibilities were naturally quite unknown for any resultant seedlings. However, I never expected the reblooming Louisiana iris cultivars which developed from these early efforts to have gone on to become such a personal area of interest.

I decided to effect exact reverse crosses with these two cultivars. I can't say why I did it, but I'm certainly glad that I did. I can say, however, that there must have been "something extra special" in the pollen that I used that day, as the resultant crosses (55/90 and its reverse, 56/90) have gone on to create several reliable reblooming cultivars. What is even more interesting is the fact that neither of the parents from these exact reverse crosses has ever been recorded as a regularly reblooming cultivar. I have repeated the cross myself in

following seasons, but I have never been able to obtain any reblooming cultivars from the endeavor. So, was this a fluke of nature? Or did genetics play a larger role?

The first of the resultant seedlings to be registered was the maize yellow self, MAD ABOUT YOU (Pryor '98). This cultivar has gone on to become a recognized and consistent autumn/winter reblooming Louisiana iris in most parts of Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.

By May of 1992, most of the resultant seedlings from the 1990 hybridizing efforts were growing in some garden beds that my husband Bernard and I had constructed in my father's back garden. I remember well the day when my father returned to work from his lunch-break at home to advise that a particular seedling that he had been observing over several weeks was finally in bloom. He walked back in to the office and in his usual jovial manner exclaimed, "That seedling of yours is in bloom, Heather. It's really a nice one. What do you think about naming it after me?" Much jocularities followed and the seedling's performance became part of the friendly family conversation all that afternoon.

Later that evening my father died suddenly and quite unexpectedly. For four years after that sad event this very same bright chrome yellow seedling bloomed with great enthusiasm in mid-May AND in the regular bloom time of October here in Australia. There was only one name that this cultivar could be given, so it was registered as FOR DAD (Pryor '97/98). It remains a personal favorite and a consistent rebloomer.

Another from the 56/90 cross, the cherry red bitone SIMPLY IRRESISTIBLE (Pryor '99/00) has been a consistent rebloomer. To this end I must recount that in our autumn, (April, 2001) and while preparing for a visit to the USA, Bernard and I enjoyed a fine flowering spike of SIMPLY IRRESISTIBLE blooming in our garden here in Sydney. A few days later we enjoyed seeing the same cultivar blooming in the spring garden of Harry and Donna Wolford in Florida, USA.

Several others from these two original and reverse crosses are irregular autumn and winter rebloomers, but the three mentioned above are consistent.

Following on from the success by Bob Raabe with his lovely mid-blue self, SINFONIETTA, I decided to cross SINFONIETTA into the line, to see what would happen.

In 1993 I crossed SINFONIETTA with a seedling [KOORAWATHA (Taylor '86/87) X ALLUVIAL GOLD (Taylor



Reblooming Louisiana Irises

By Heather Pryor

FOR DAD (H. Pryor)



MAD ABOUT YOU (H. Pryor)



REGAL RICOCHET (H. Pryor)

Photo credits this page, by Heather Pryor

'91/92)]. ALLUVIAL GOLD and DESIGNER'S DREAM both share DAZZLING STAR (Taylor '87/88) in their background, so I thought that this exercise might bright forth some interesting results, even though DAZZLING STAR is not known as a reblooming cultivar. While I appreciate that one cross does not make for any kind of finite result, a regular rebloomer, the ice blue self NUTCOTE ('01) resulted from the exercise.

In 1995 I crossed MAD ABOUT YOU (with its background of GLADIATOR'S GIFT and DESIGNER'S DREAM) with NUTCOTE. Two seedlings were registered. One, the violet bitoned REGAL RICOCHET (Pryor '00/01), has been a consistent and enthusiastic autumn/winter rebloomer. Its sibling, the ice blue and lemon bicolor SUN AND SURF (Pryor '00/01), has not ever rebloomed for us. REGAL RICOCHET and SUN AND SURF have been crossed together. The resultant seedlings should bloom for the first time in spring, 2001.

From a scant review of these facts alone, it is quite easy to see that the potential for the reblooming traits COULD be coming from several areas. Or has it been the introduction of SINFONIETTA into the equation which has opened up more possibilities? Well, read on.....

Has the trait for regular reblooming in Louisiana iris been something just sitting there that has been waiting to be exposed via hybridizing? Or has good garden culture been the final option needed to break into the reblooming possibilities? The fact that the parents of the MAD ABOUT YOU/FOR DAD rebloomers have never been regarded as rebloomers themselves could prove the first possibility. It could also be just "one of those things" that has coincidentally started to be more readily prevalent.

Over the last three years or so, I have also observed several other cultivars to exhibit consistent autumn and/or winter reblooming in our garden. One cultivar, CATWALK IDOL (Pryor '99/00) is a deep cerise red self. Its parentage of STYLISH SOCIALITE (Pryor '98) X FASHION WORLD (Taylor '96/97) makes it, at first blush, a bit of a dark horse. But consider this: Another seedling, now named RICH INCENTIVE (Pryor, reg. '01), which has the parentage of FOR DAD X FASHION WORLD, is a regular rebloomer for us. FASHION WORLD has never been recorded or documented as a reblooming cultivar, but FOR DAD has.

Lastly, another seedling, now named WOW FACTOR (Pryor, reg. '01), has the parentage of SPRING TAPESTRY (Pryor '97/98)

X ROKKI ROCKWELL (Haymon '92). SPRING TAPESTRY has KOORAWATHA in its parentage (as do NUTCOTE and REGAL RICOCHET) so perhaps the reblooming traits are coming from the deepest reaches of the Charles Arny cultivars? So, it could be a genetic link after all.

I don't know the answers, but I intend to have some fun trying to unravel this exciting project by looking back into the history of these interesting cultivars to try and predict what might occur in the future. I am also certain that parallels in development can be readily obtained from similar results with other types of irises. No doubt common events exist and landmark breakthroughs have shown the way forward for other hybridizers.

As I am writing this article (in mid-June of 2001) there is a lovely vase of seedlings and named cultivars here beside my computer. The vase contains blooming spikes of WOW FACTOR, RICH INCENTIVE and SIMPLY IRRESISTIBLE. If nothing else, the sheer joy of having bloom in mid-winter is reward enough!

So, as I continue to hybridize with these lovely cultivars, I will make sure that I stop from time to time to look back into the past to see where my future endeavors might take me. I don't know if the sudden appearance of these reblooming Louisiana irises in my hybridizing program is a fluke of nature, or if they are a natural progression of hybridizing, or if further research into the parentage of these cultivars will finally show that the path that has been taken over the generations has brought me to where I am today for another reason. What I DO KNOW is that I am enjoying the discoveries along the way. 

Extending Louisiana Bloom

(See related story pg 28-30)

Photo credits this page, by Marie Caillet



LITTLE CAILLET (Durio '98)
(Tetraploid LA x *I. virginica*)
Early Bloom



MARIE CAILLET (Conger '60)
Late Bloom



LONESTAR (Campbell '97)
Late Bloom



PROFESSOR NEIL (Mertzweiler '92)
Tetraploid
Early Bloom



IRISES FOR 2002

Calendar

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Extending Bloom Season in Japanese Irises

by Terry Aitken, Washington

SXTENDING THE BLOOM SEASON IN JAPANESE IRISES, as with all other types, is considered a virtue. We build on the mid season blooming varieties, which last about 3 weeks. We extend this with early and late blooming varieties that will add one or two weeks on both ends of that time frame. Some varieties will send up “spontaneous” bloom stems during the summer if they are happy with their growing environment. (This may entail extra water and fertilizer.) Still other varieties will tend to put up a flush of bloom immediately after spring bloom. Currier McEwen coined the term “repeater” for these plants. He defines them as three types: “occasional repeaters” in which bloom is scant and does not occur every year, “reliable repeaters” that repeat suitably every year under good growing conditions, and “preferential repeaters” in which the second flush of bloom is better than the first. Another phenomenon not generally identified, but one that I am watching with great interest, is a tendency by some plants, both bearded and beardless, to send up sequential stems in a mature clump. This can produce up to 6 weeks of bloom from one variety. The last category would be the fall rebloomers. This is a relatively rare occurrence with Japanese irises. The ultimate goal is the everblooming Japanese iris.

Early blooming varieties that welcome in Japanese iris bloom season are the deep purple GOOD OMEN (Marx '56) and the 3-fall pink HATSU KAGAMI (Hirao '92). Intentional breeding for “early” was done by Lorena Reid in her SPRINGTIME series including SPRINGTIME MELODY and SPRINGTIME PRAYER (both '94) and the white 3-fall SPRINGTIME SNOW ('84). More recent work was done by Chad Harris with the arrival of PLEASANT EARLYBIRD ('96) which now puts in a regular appearance at our Tall Bearded (midseason) shows in Portland with its ability to bloom for 6 weeks.

Late blooming varieties run the risk of higher temperatures and drier summer weather. They are best planted in areas of afternoon

shade. This group includes ANGEL MOUNTAIN (Bauer/Coble '00), a heavily substanted 6-fall white with a blush of orchid capped off with a magnificent fountain of upright white stylearms; FOREIGN INTRIGUE (Bauer/Coble '95), a 6-fall rich blue-violet blending to a silver edge; FLANDERS LION (Hublau '98), a huge 6-fall rosy/violet with white veins; PICOTEE PRINCESS (Reid '92), which displays six generously proportioned billowing white falls delicately peppered with orchid spots, and upright white styles brushed with orchid; ROSEWATER (Bauer/Coble '96), a large smooth rosy violet with a rich blue blaze around the signal; and SING THE BLUES (Reid '97) a bright blue 6-fall with a white halo at the petal edges. TESSA DARK EYES (Aitken '95), a tall 6-fall with a sanded ground overlaid with deep purple veins and highlighted by a tuft of deep purple styles; SILENT THUNDER (Bauer/Coble '96), a 9-fall rose/violet veined darker; and HOWARD BROOKS (McEwen '92), a 6-fall violet tetraploid, also bloom at the end of the Japanese iris season.

Sequential bloom in a clump is occurring in ALPINE MAJESTY (Aitken '97), a pristine 6-fall white with good substance. DIRIGO PINK MILESTONE (John White '00) is a bright 3-fall pink that blooms for John for up to 2 months. JOCASTA (Innerst '88), an exotic sanded rose 6-fall with violet petal edges, and MIDNIGHT STARS (Aitken '88) both send up sequential bloom. Seedlings from MIDNIGHT STARS have shown a stronger tendency to be reliable repeaters.

When I first embarked on my journey towards the everblooming Japanese iris, I selected those plants known to be occasional repeaters in the northwest. The strongest (in the early nineties) were Currier McEwen's SOUTHERN SON ('90), a smooth 6-fall mid blue, and EXHUBERANT CHANTEY ('91), a dark blue-violet. These were crossed in different combinations, with HEKITO, a dark blue 6-fall, and ROLLING SEAS, a mid blue similar to SOUTHERN SON. Many of these seedlings put up fall bloomstems from September until freeze-up in November. This seedling population has been recombined and continues to put up fall bloom in the second generation. This year, John White's DIRIGO OLD PEWTER will be injected into the mix since its parentage also includes SOUTHERN SON and CONTINUING PLEASURE.

On other fronts, Chad Harris has been working a line of dark purples that are continuing to bloom through the summer. Chad has arrived at our Portland club auction in August with huge bouquets of Japanese irises. Meanwhile, in Maine, John White has been working to extend the bloom season with pinks using his DIRIGO PINK

MILESTONE. My expectations are that all of these lines are going to arrive on the market in the near future as a new generation of extended blooming Japanese irises. Can everbloomers be far behind? 

Mathes Breeding - Aril x *I. aphylla*

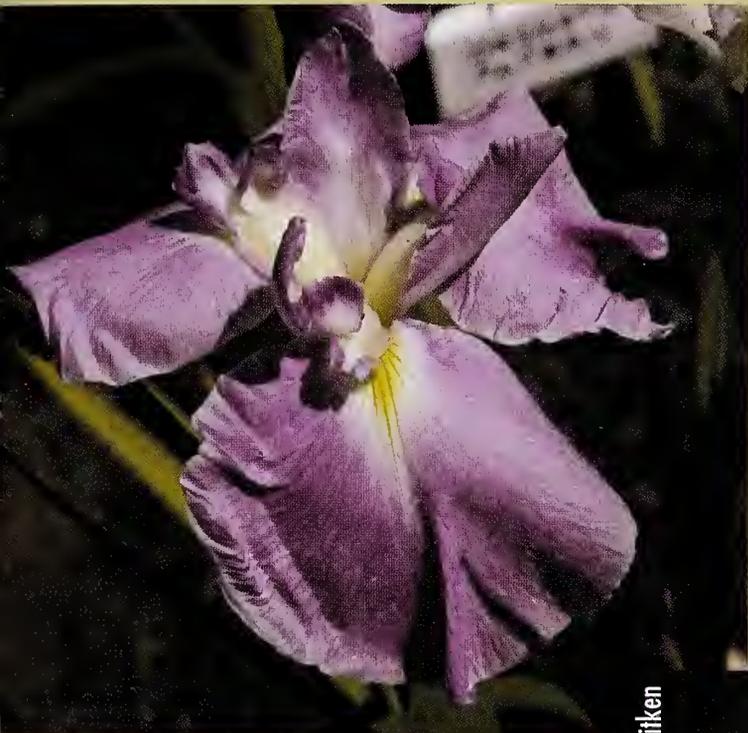
by Lynn Markham, Massachusetts

At *Median Odyssey 2001*, the Hager Cup for Best Out-of-Region Seedling went by a landslide to one from about as far “out-of-region” as you can get. Its creator is Harald Mathes, of Gladbeck, Germany. The seedling was SPEC-X RC-aph-B1. I met Harald a few years ago through correspondence sparked by mutual interest in *Iris aphylla*, but he is best known in this country as a breeder of arilbred cultivars, e.g. **Anacrusis** ('95 – AM '99). He grows the tender aril species and hybrids in a greenhouse, but outdoors his climate is similar to ours, so if a plant thrives in Gladbeck it's likely to perform well here as well.

One of Harald's long-term goals is to combine tall bearded branch habit with the exotic “aril look”. This is extremely difficult because of the amphidiploid breeding behavior of the halfbreds—most aril chromosomes have no homologs (compatible partners to pair with) among the bearded ones, so acquiring more TB characteristics generally means losing aril ones—but Harald is imaginative and stubborn. He works through major sterility barriers using both persistence and science, doing his own chromosome counts, embryo-culturing difficult seed, employing colchicine and other agents to double the chromosomes of plants otherwise unsuitable for the project—in short, whatever it takes.

For Harald, seedling **RC-aph-B1** was simply an intermediate step in the project, but he sent it to me because it's pedigree involves *I. aphylla*. It's some pedigree: (tetraploid regeliocyclus seedling x *I. aphylla*) X yellow arilbred seedling: (GELEE ROYALE x sib). GELEE ROYALE, Harald tells me, is actually a pentaploid (5 sets of chromosomes) and is from (*I. auranitica* x (*I. hoogiana* x BRASS ACCENTS) X DRESDEN GOLD, but the resulting seedling, by some miracle, was a normal aril halfbred with 44 chromosomes (10-10-12-12) and fertile with the regeliocyclus/*aphylla* seedling. In any event, it appears that **RC-aph-B1** is also a fertile 44-chromosome hybrid, and it combines aril form (albeit a bit narrower), coloration, and pattern with moisture tolerance, winter-hardiness, and at least four buds per stalk. The next steps down this road may be interesting indeed! 

Japanese Iris Rebloom



DIRIGO PINK MILESTONE (John White '00)

Photo: Terry Aitken



TAFFETA AND VELVET (Ackerman '84)



REBLOOMING JAPANESE IRIS IN SEPTEMBER
SHOWING BRANCHING TYPICAL OF REBLOOMERS

Design Corner

Is This a Man's World?

by Carolyn Hawkins, Georgia



AM INCLUDING PHOTOS FROM TWO FLOWERS SHOWS HELD IN 2000: one in St. Louis, sponsored by the Greater St. Louis Iris Society, and the other sponsored by the Oconee Iris Society of Milledgeville, GA. These are not the usual show designs that are all done by females. These are designs done by males—and what talent they do have! I have long felt that the men in the world were just as good, if not better flower arrangers than women, but maintained their skill as a well-kept secret. As you may recall, I have shown several designs in previous articles by some excellent designers in the Region 5 area who were men. I will continue to encourage them to keep up the good work, and I want to share a few of these creations with you.

In Picture No. 1, you'll see "London" as depicted by Vince Italian in the June, 2000, St. Louis show. He bulbous iris and foliage combined with leather leaf fern and seed heads of allium. This choice of plant materials and the placement reminds you of the stately attitudes and mannerly living of that wonderful city.

"Germany" was exhibited by Jim Morris, as shown in Picture No. 2. He used yellow iris, ornamental grass seed heads and coreopsis in a beer stein. His choice of sheet music to further express his theme is the "Beer Barrel Polka" and there is even a bottle of beer discreetly placed in the rear of the design.

Vince Italian was at it again with this creative design using the iris ENFANT PRODIGÉ, a species cross from Tony Huber. The class title was "Iceland" and the white container and the white background aid in conveying that theme. Fern and a vine complete the design in Picture No. 3.

I am going to sneak in one more design from the St. Louis show. This one is very special and it was done by the young lady pictured, Alexa Cahalan. In Picture No. 4 her theme was "St. Louis" and she

did a traditional design using bulbous iris and foliage with hosta leaves in a low blue container. She exhibited much restraint by using only a few plant materials and I can see great potential here. She prepared her design to fill the space allotted by the background so her proportion and scale is accurate. Alexa, keep up the good work and I hope to see more of your designs soon.

Now we move to the flower show held in Milledgeville, Georgia. Joe Scott Watson designed his exhibit in Picture No. 5 to represent "Actors and Actresses." It has traditional placement using the Heaven, Man and Earth guidelines. The peaceful oriental influence is felt with the minimal amount of iris used.

Ira Parnell chose to depict "Politicians" in Picture No. 6 in the Milledgeville show. His black container provides support for the vine that comprises his line and the rhythm flowing through his design. He has combined iris with foliage in a large and dramatic presentation.

If you have good pictures of designs from your flower shows, please send them to me and I will try to use them in articles for the AIS Bulletin. I look forward to hearing from you.

Carolyn Hawkins, AIS Judge and National Council of State Garden Clubs Plant Society Liaison, 7329 Kendel Court, Jonesboro, GA 30236. Email crh9999@aol.com 

Dues Increase – Final Notice

Dues received by September 30, 2001, at the office of the Membership Secretary, will be at the current rate. ANNUAL dues received October 1, 2001, or later will be at the new rate of \$20.00 single annual and \$25.00 dual annual. Single annual Overseas will be \$25.00, and Dual Annual Overseas \$28.00.

TRIENNIAL membership rates will remain unchanged. See April 2001 Bulletin, page 87, for more details.



Design Corner

Clockwise from top left: #1 London; #3 Iceland; #2 Morris; #4 Elexa; #6 Parnell; #5 Watson

All photos by Carolyn Hawkins





Photo: Rick Tosco

Dresby Gardens

See corresponding story, page 46



Photo: Rick Tosco

A Trip to Presby

by Rick Tasco & Roger Duncan, California

A

FTER ENJOYING THE AIS CONVENTION IN MARYLAND, WE had a few extra days before heading back to California so we decided to drive up to Presby Memorial Iris Gardens in Upper Montclair, New Jersey. We had been to Presby in the Fall, but never during iris bloom season. Were we ever shocked as we came up the road and saw the garden in full bloom and masses of people milling around in the gardens! It was the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend and the gardens were at peak bloom!

Presby Memorial Iris Gardens are located at 474 Upper Mountain Avenue in Mountainside Park. It was established in 1927 to honor Frank H. Presby of Montclair, one of the country's leading horticulturists and one of the founders of the American Iris Society. The gardens were designed by noted landscape architect John Wister. Adjacent to the gardens is the Victorian-style Walther House, headquarters of the Citizen's Committee, which now preserves the gardens with the help of many volunteers. Presby has been designated as a National Historic Landmark. Plans are underway for their 75th Anniversary Celebration next year. Wow, weren't there a lot of famous iris names/medals just mentioned!

The 29 large iris beds are laid out in a soft curve coming down the slight slope, then paralleling the roadway. The irises are very well grown in raised, mulched beds. Most are in nice several year old clumps to assure good bloom. The stalks were tall, strong, and healthy-and there was NO leaf spot visible! The iris were, for the most part, very clearly labeled with oval shaped metal markers on which the iris name, year of introduction, and hybridizer were marked. RE and SA were also noted on some for rebloomers and space-agers. The beds were widely spaced and arranged with wide grassy walkways. There is a very nice gift shop with many iris items and they even sell unnamed cultivars to locals for

pick-up later in the summer. If you want to buy named iris, they will provide a list of commercial suppliers.

A recent major upgrade has been the complete remodeling/rebuilding of the creek bed that runs beside the sweeping curve of the garden beds.

When talking to the volunteers present, we commented on how well we thought the plants were being grown. They agreed that they now felt that they had that aspect under control. Their next job was to make sure that everything was correctly identified, a monumental task in itself. We did do some name corrections for them in our tour through the gardens. With a garden of that size and age, there are bound to be some mis-identifications, but the caretakers are working very hard to get everything labeled correctly.

The majority of the beds are Historic irises, and the beds are themed by decade/breeding importance/significance, etc. However, there were several beds of the most modern cultivars, as well as a few beds of medians. We even saw an arilbred in bloom (KALIFA'S ROBE). One of our main reasons for going to the garden was to try and see the VERY rare W.R. DYKES (Dykes 1926) live and in person. After several trips up and down the street looking for a parking place, we luckily found one and backed the car in. Upon locking the car, what stared at us from the bed closest to the car was none-other-than a magnificent clump of W.R. DYKES! Sure saved us time in looking through the 29 beds to find it!

Other Historics that we thought were impressive were JACQUESIANA (Lémon 1840), LHASA (Plough 1964), MATTIE GATES (Sass Brothers 1945), MIDWEST (H.P. Sass 1923), MILDRED PRESBY (Farr 1923), and MME. LOUESSE (Verdier 1860). Needless to say, our Historic want-list was expanded greatly by this visit.

The volunteers mentioned that they had not had many AIS visitors in recent years and they weren't sure why. Any member of AIS, and HIPS especially, within driving distance should definitely take advantage of this very beautiful public garden when in bloom, peak usually being around the end of May. However, they have iris in bloom from early May (medians) through the early June-July (beardless). We can HIGHLY recommend a visit! 



MIDWEST

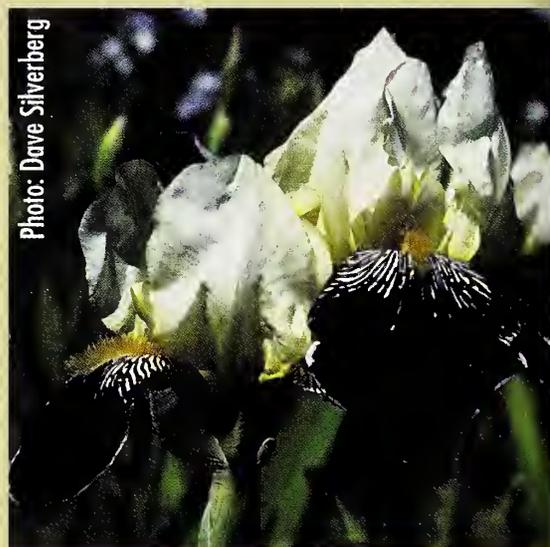


MATTIE GATES

Presby Gardens



W.R. DYKES



MILDRED PRESBY (Farr)



MME LOUESSE



JACQUESIANA (Lemon 1840)

My First Convention

by Bruce Filardi, Oregon

IN MANY WAYS, MY FIRST NATIONAL CONVENTION EXPERIENCE is something of a blur! The trip to the East Coast included the worst airplane ride of my life (major turbulence), followed by diversion to a different airport and lost luggage. However, everything finally fell into place (perhaps a poor choice of words when referring to air travel!) and I arrived at the Convention hotel in time to attend some section meetings. Once the Convention got under way, the days were long and full.

I met lots of people! Lots and lots of people!! It was great to finally put faces with names that I had known from mail or e-mail correspondence over the last few years. It was a pleasure to meet so many – I won't mention names for fear of leaving someone out. Ironically, a few of the people I had most looked forward to meeting were just momentary encounters: Bob Strohmman and Bill Ginter for the duration of an elevator ride; Larry Lauer for about ten seconds between photos at the Awards Ceremony. But there will be future Conventions and future conversations.

Aside from the people who attend, there are two obvious reasons to go to the Convention: to see irises and to see gardens. I'll start with the latter.

I would be proud to be the owner of any of the gardens that we visited. All were beautifully maintained and organized, and many were located on sizable pieces of property. The next issue of the *Bulletin* will contain detailed coverage of each of the host gardens, but I'll mention some particular memories. Carol Warner's property was beautifully designed, and even if there hadn't been a single iris in bloom, her cinnamon buns would have made the trip worthwhile! Peter and Jane Bury had guest beds laid out with beautiful trellises and benches at the ends, turning a simple planting into a picturesque garden scene. Joan and Ken Roberts had a circular garden of Historics and a carefully laid-out oval guest garden; we appreciated their thoughtfulness in providing

golf carts for the convenience of visitors to their expansive property, and it was a pleasure to meet Lloyd Zurbrigg and review his seedling patch at the Roberts' home. The Hornstein location was also spacious and beautifully manicured, including a large pond and plantings of beardless irises. All of the host gardens showed that much love and care had been lavished on them.

The last garden we visited – and we can definitely apply the saying “last but not least!” – was Sterling Innerst's property, with a beautiful historic stone home, and irises, irises, and more irises. At Sterling's place, there's no doubt about his main horticultural interest!

At all host gardens, the named irises looked great, including numerous Innerst varieties such as ANVIL OF DARKNESS, EXACTITUDE and EXCLUSIVITY. Fred Kerr's QUEEN'S CIRCLE and CHRISTIANA BAKER (BB) deserved their awards as favorite Out-of-Region irises. A few others which looked outstanding at more than one location were BOUTIQUE FASHION (Rick Ernst '99), CANARY DELIGHT (Joan Roberts '97), NOBLE LADY (Lynda Miller '99), TRANS-ORANGE (Dave Niswonger '99), WIDDERSHINS (Merle Roberts '99), COLOR MY WORLD (BB: Paul Black '00), SUE BEE (AB: Tim Stanek '00), LASTING ROMANCE (Terry Aitken '99), and ARCTIC AGE (Schreiner '99).

There were some great seedlings, too. A Siberian displayed as “Zarky One” (from hybridizer Michael Zarky) gave the garden effect of bright raspberry with a turquoise flush. [My understanding from a later conversation with Bob Hollingworth is that it indeed has a more detailed seedling number; “Zarky One” was its garden name in the Hollingworth beds.] Others that caught my eye included two TB's from Lowell Baumunk: his distinctive and colorful 671-B, with glowing yellow standards, purple rim on white falls, and a bright red-orange beard; and 94HBEE-10, a LIGHTS CAMERA ACTION sib with lavender standards and pleasing falls combining cream, white, lavender, and soft red. I particularly liked two very elegant seedlings from Lynn Markham: her smoky plum TB 95-7A2 and her gold-edged red-blue BB 95-7C2, both finished with bright tangerine beards; Lynn told me later that they are children of her fine BB SIMMER. I failed to write down an adequate description of Merle Roberts' border bearded 98-189BB, but my notes say “stunning color” and “a must have” even though it was growing a bit tall for its class. My favorite TB seedling was the very unusual 93-0038, with hybridizer listed as “Mego by Eacker”. Apparently, this one comes from Slovakian hybridizer Anton

Mego, and it was one of the most distinctive flowers on tour, with a fluorescent yellow rim on white standards, over blue-purple falls – a unique color combination and pattern. I look forward to the introduction of all these promising seedlings, as well as some good-looking Spoon and Nearpass seedlings seen at the Convention show.

If I were to name a personality that dominates my memories of Convention 2001, it would have to be that of Sterling Innerst. From the first words he spoke during his Judges Training presentation, he electrified the room! He is knowledgeable, emphatic, opinionated, and dedicated. It was a pleasure to hear him speak, and it was an honor to meet him a few days later amidst his reselect seedlings.

If you have never attended a National Convention, then you should start planning for next year! You can look forward to making new friends and seeing new irises. The people, the gardens, and the flowers all work together to create memories that you'll savor for years to come. 

Advertising Policy

“The American Iris Society bylaws require our publicizing irises and offering cultural and other information to the public. Our commercial gardens are a strong, important part of this service, so to further their advertising in the quarterly Bulletin is to our advantage. The need to be selective in accepting those with good business practices is obvious. The decision to deny space to advertisers in The American Iris Society Bulletin cannot be capricious nor can it be a formula decision. It must be a judgment based on experience and common sense. Denying it should not be done lightly and without thought. The final decision to accept or reject advertising will be left to the judgment of the Advertising Editor.”

Hybridizer & Service Medals

2000 Recipients

AN AWARDS COMMITTEE, COMPOSED OF PAST RECIPIENTS and headed by the president, reviews candidates for the Hybridizer's Medal, Distinguished Service Medal, Gold Medal and the "Most Overlooked" Iris award. Nominations and endorsement letters (five are required for consideration) are sent to the committee. A list of candidates is compiled and the committee votes for a short list which is then presented at the AIS fall board meeting. The Board may also add candidates if five board members will act as sponsors. The combined list is voted on by the full board in closed session.

At the fall board meeting in 2000 it was voted to award Hybridizers Medals to Jean Cayeux, Howard Shockey (posthumously) and John Taylor. They also voted to award Distinguished Service Medals to Glenn Corlew, Marilyn Harlow and Adele and Lewis Lawyer.

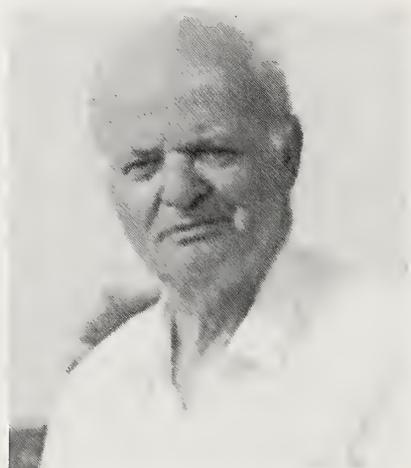
Hybridizer's Medal - Jean Cayeux

by Richard Cayeux, France

My father, Jean Cayeux, was deeply honored to be awarded the Hybridizer's Medal by the American Iris Society.

Jean Cayeux was born in 1926 near Paris, to a family that was well-known in the horticultural business in France and throughout Europe. His grandfather, Ferdinand Cayeux, was a leading tall bearded hybridizer until 1939. (He was awarded ten Dykes Medals between 1920 and 1930). Jean Cayeux began to learn about irises from his grandfather and began making crosses at about age nineteen. From 1946 to 1960 he worked in the firm of his father René Cayeux, a business which produced and distributed flower and vegetable seeds as well as growing and selling irises.

Around 1950, Jean Cayeux began to import



Jean Cayeux

numerous new iris varieties from the United States. In 1960, he decided to specialize solely in irises at his property in central France. The response of his iris customers enabled him to devote more and more acres to his favorite flower, and to broaden his hybridizing program. He regularly exchanged ideas with American hybridizers; chiefly with Robert Schreiner, but also George Shoop, Keith Keppel, and Chet Tompkins. He met Barry Blyth in Australia and was interested in his line of amoenas.

In 1965, Jean Cayeux began to export his varieties to Italy and Germany. He applied strict criteria when selecting his seedlings, insisting on the following qualities: many blooms, disease resistance, easy cultivation.

Starting in 1970, he decided to focus his hybridizing efforts on blue selfs and blue amoenas with tangerine-red beards. His first success, and an important one in later generations, was CONDOTTIERE (1978), a blue bitone with tangerine beard. Working in this line, he obtained many vigorous and well-branched blue or violet amoenas with red beards, including ALIZES (competing this year for the English Dykes Medal), REBECCA PERRET, MARBRE BLEU, VIVE LA FRANCE, BAL MASQUE, RUBAN BLEU, PARISIEN, and SIXTINE C.

He also achieved success in other areas:

- **Pinks:** PREMIER BAL, HELENE C., BUISSON DE ROSES, LA VIE EN ROSE.

- **Oranges:** a color that he particularly likes: PIROSKA, ROGER RENARD, MANDARIN and FEU DU CIEL, one of the deepest oranges today.

- **Blues:** HORIZON BLEU, FALBALA and recently PRINCESSE CAROLINE DE MONACO (1998; fourth place in Florence and Denver in 1998).

Jean Cayeux officially retired in 1990, but he returns to the fields every May to evaluate the new seedlings and search out new directions. For instance, he feels that CHEVALIER DE MALTE (1998) is an excellent starting point for creating irises with different colored borders and red beards. At age 75, he has worked many years with irises, but he is still fascinated by tall bearded and their new possibilities.

Hybridizer's Medal: Howard Shockey

by Peter McGrath, New Mexico

Howard Shockey. The name alone conjures up visions of beautiful iris that set new standards in the arilbred world. Introductions like PERSIAN PADISHAH, SYRIAN PRINCESS, SHEBA'S JEWEL, QUEEN SHEBA, DESERT FURY, to name but a few, have excelled not only in New Mexico, but all across the country. These and other choice arilbreds were the fruit of a long and determined hybridizing program by Howard. His high standards and his ruthless culling of seedlings resulted in plants that not only looked great, but have vigor and disease resistance.

Howard also applied his fine eye and dogged determination to Tall Beardeds. He had many very fine TB introductions including CRYSTAL DREAMS, ORANGE EMBERS, LOVE BLUSH, NORDIC ICE, and an overlooked yet outstanding EL MORADO.



Howard Shockey

Howard was born on April 15, 1924, and died October 21, 1995. He was a devoted husband, a loving father, and a dedicated iris hybridizer. After serving as a fighter pilot in the China-Burma Theater in World War II, Howard went to the University of New Mexico.

Howard first became interested in iris in 1957. His wife, Irene, learned of an iris flower show and took him to see it. He joined both the New Mexico Iris Society and the Albuquerque Arils as well as the AIS. The Shockey household and the world of iris would never be the same.

Walking seedling beds with Howard was one of my favorite memories of him. This man was like all good hybridizers, looking forward. It was a joy to accompany him in the seedlings and learn about his hopes, his dreams, his goals, and to see firsthand his successes. Howard did a little "jig" in the garden more than once while watching maiden bloom. He was always looking for ways to improve seedlings he had "in the pike", and had no qualms about sending a "line out" to the compost pile if a better seedling in the same line bloomed for him. Constant improvement was his aim. He realized many of those goals.

In the aril class, Howard did amazing things. He had advanced

generation oncocyclus seedlings that were drop dead gorgeous. The only problem was that the seedlings often dropped dead as well. That is a part of working with oncos. So Howard worked to bring the oncogelia class to a point where it was impossible to tell that they had regelia blood in them, but they had, in Howard's own words, "a will to survive". He also did natural selections on oncocyclus hybrids that showed a will to survive. Many of these have continued to live since the 1970's.

In this class there are now signals of rouge, orange, pink, and blue. All of these colors were unheard of in this class, and indeed, outside of Howard's seedlings, these colors are still unheard of. His flowers are nothing short of works of art. He had quite a portfolio.

Howard realized that the future of this class was in arilbreds. He knew that few judges grew the arilbreds, much less the arils, so he set out to make a big difference in the arilbred class, where the plants could be more widely grown and evaluated. He worked both hard and smart to improve this class, and has made some of the most significant advances this class has ever seen. He told me once: "Odd crosses make few pods, few seeds, fewer seedlings, and even fewer blooms, but that is where your breaks will come from." Boy, was he right! OGB+ seedlings are tough to produce, and, in my experience, most really seem to be unstable halfbreds. Hard as that route is, it sometimes pays off. The best example of this for Howard was his cross of HEART STEALER X 80-21-3J (an onco hybrid later introduced as SHAH KEBIR). This cross produced four introductions for Howard: SYRIAN PRINCESS, SYRIAN JEWEL, PERSIAN PADISHAH, and SHARINA. The first three of these went on to win the C.G. White Medal.

But the real breaks began to show up in the OGB class. SHEBA'S JEWEL has been pictured in the *AIS Bulletin* more than once, and grows well even in the Pacific Northwest. A pure white with a large, sharply defined signal of purple-maroon, it was light years ahead of the other seedlings in its class. LANCER, ALI KHAN, and finally ENERGIZER were introduced. These were the crowning jewels in the portfolio of Howard's work.

Every spring, when ENERGIZER blooms, it still causes me to drop whatever I am doing and rush over to gaze at it. In Howard's words, it stands out as a "real goodie".

FAN'S IRIS GARDEN

CHUN (FRANK) FAN

14 Chestnut Drive, East Windsor, NJ 08520 (609) 448-7964



Diana Shore (Fan 2001)



Fancy Fan (Fan 2001)



Sun American (Fan 2001)

Diana Shore (Fan 2001) TB, 34", M. Ruffled white self with fine green veins; beards yellow. Slight sweet fragrance. Beautiful crystalline finish, exquisite form, and makes for a knockout clump. A standout even in our floriferous gardens. (Knot's Landing X Cinnamon Girl) \$40.00

Fancy Fan (Fan 2001) TB, 34", M. Violet (RHS 88A) self. Beards orange-yellow. Heavy substance, lightly ruffled, slight sweet fragrance. Prolific grower, heavy bloomer. 3 - 4 branches, 9 buds. The picture tells it all! (Up Periscope X Tinted Crystal) \$40.00

Sun American (Fan 2001) TB, 36", M. Lightly ruffled sulphur yellow (RHS 6B) self. Beards orpiment orange (25A). Beautifully flared falls show faint white centerline. Slight sweet fragrance. Unique coloring. Beautiful stalks bloom several at once for a real show of these horizontal beauties. (Acalpulco Gold X West Coast) \$40.00



Sweet Mei (Fan 2000)

Sweet Mei (Fan 2000) TB, 30", ML. Dark violet-blue self, gold beards. Shoulders a rich red-purple. Unique coloring! Ruffled wide form, lightly laced, closed standards. Three branches, 6 - 7 buds. (Twilight Blaze X Honky Tonk Blues). \$30.00

Melted Butter, Kelly Lynne, Lover's Reunion, Mel's Honor, Magic Palette may be purchased at \$15.00 apiece.

Individual prices for the varieties listed below are as follows: **White China** @ \$20; **Eagle's Wing** @ \$10; **Knot's Landing** @ \$5.

Martile Rowland (Bushnell 2000) TB, 36-40", E. Sunfast lemon-yellow flaunting large red-orange beards. Beautifully ruffled, lightly laced blooms of heavy substance, perfect form, and large size. 3-4 branches on heavy stalks produce 7-9 buds. Exceptionally large root system makes for an unusually vigorous plant. A breath-taking beauty worthy to bear the great soprano's name, and a standout at the Texas convention. (Lighted Within x Christmas Time) X (Christmas Time x Flaming Victory). \$30.00

I am proud to offer Howard Bushnell's first introduction, an unusual red-bearded yellow of great beauty.



Martile Rowland (Bushnell 2000)

We give generous extras. Please enclose \$5.00 for shipping and handling.

Hybridizer's Medal: John Taylor

by *Graeme Grosvenor, Australia*

John Taylor was born in Sydney, Australia on 4 July 1950. After a distinguished academic career at school and university he joined the Reserve Bank of Australia in 1973. He currently holds the position of Senior Manager in charge of Currency Research in the Note Issue Department at the Bank.

In 1970, John, in partnership with his sister Helen and her husband Graeme Grosvenor, established Rainbow Ridge Nursery, one of the two big iris and daylily nurseries in Australia. He quickly became interested in Louisiana iris and after establishing a flow of correspondence with the late Charles Army Jr., he received some of Charles' best seedlings, including the then unreleased CLARA GOULA. John used Clara Goula and some other Army seedlings in his first hybridizing attempts and was quickly rewarded with quality results including HELEN NAISH, DURAL CHARM, and KOORAWATHA (the later bred from the previous two).



John Taylor

In the early 1980s the British Iris Society established a Dykes Medal for iris bred in Australia and New Zealand. In 1985 John was the first recipient of this award for HELEN NAISH. Success continued with Dykes Medals for DURAL CHARM (1987), KOORAWATHA (1988), JAZZ BALLET (1990) and DURAL WHITE BUTTERFLY (1993).

In the 1990s the Australian Dykes Medal has been dominated by the tall bearded iris bred by John's brother-in-law Graeme Grosvenor but his remarkable success with Louisiana iris continues. The Iris Society of Australia awards the Iris Society of Australia Medal each year to the best beardless iris from the Dykes Medal trial gardens if a bearded iris wins the Dykes Medal. John's Louisiana iris have won the ISA Medal with DURAL WHITE BUTTERFLY (1992), LUCY PAYENS (1994), MARGARET LEE (1995), STELLA PELISSOT (1996), HEATHER PRYOR (1997), PAMELA HART (1998), GOING SOUTH (1999) and ROMAN WARRIOR (2000).

When the Society for Louisiana Iris established the Charles Army, Jr. award for the iris voted most popular by the membership John was very honored to receive the award for KOORAWATHA

(1993) and DURAL WHITE BUTTERFLY (1995) as he has always acknowledged that his success stems from the help, advice and encouragement of Charles.

With over 100 introductions to his credit John has been a prolific and successful hybridizer who has never lost sight of the fact that maintaining a high standard is determined more by what you do not release than those that you do. He freely admits that it is becoming more difficult to develop quality iris that are distinctive and are improvements on what has come previously.

John has held many positions with the New South Wales Region of the Iris Society of Australia and in 2000 was elected Federal President of the Iris Society of Australia. He is also a member of the American Iris Society and the Society for Louisiana Iris. John is a judge of the Iris Society of Australia and a garden judge of the American Iris Society. He visited the United States of America in 1994 to attend the convention in Oregon in that year.

As well as iris, John has an interest in roses and camellias and he has won numerous exhibition awards for these flowers. He has taken a great deal of interest in planning, designing and now developing the garden at Hill View, the country garden of Rainbow Ridge Nursery situated in central western New South Wales. His other major interests are in photography, painting and computers and he is responsible for most of the work in preparing the Rainbow Ridge catalogue.

The following recipients of the AIS Distinguished Service Medals for the year 2000 are all from the State of California and members of Region 14. Sadly, Lewis Lawyer passed away in April of 2001, at the age of 93, but not before knowing that he had been awarded the AIS Distinguished Service Award.

The following biographical information is printed with permission from The Bulletin of Region 14, The American Iris Society, Volume XLV, Number 1, Spring, 2001.

Distinguished Service Medal: Glenn F. Corlew

by Olive Rice Waters, California

In a society where nearly all the work is done by volunteers, where do you turn for help when needed? In California, most of us turn to Glenn Corlew. Need an auctioneer for your iris activity? Need the background on a favorite iris and can't find it? Need help in setting up a show or meeting - either local, regional, national? Glenn has "BEEN THERE, DONE THAT!"

Glenn has been a perennial member of most of the Region 14 societies, a charter member of several, past president of many. He served as RVP (1968-1970) and as AIS Treasurer, and he was a member of the AIS Board of Directors for nineteen years. These posts attest to an appetite and talent for iris work.

In 1953, a Central Valley neighbor passed along some iris starts. Whee! By 1956 Glenn was hybridizing. Then his work took him from Fresno to the Bay Area, where, with his late wife Nell, he started Cherry Lane Gardens on Cherry Lane in Walnut Creek. Along with growing and hybridizing iris came an interest in judging and exhibitions, an interest which served the iris world very well indeed. He is past AIS Judges Chair, past AIS Exhibitions Chair, and was invited to judge the International Competition in Florence, Italy. In 1968 he was co-chair, with the late Bob Brown, of the National AIS Convention at the Claremont Hotel in Berkeley, California. Glenn was President of the Pacific Coast Native Iris Society in 1979 when the first Sydney B. Mitchell Award was presented; he coordinated the fund-raising effort for the award and the design of the medal.

In the mid-eighties, the AIS Board commissioned a booklet on iris cultivation to answer questions about planting, feeding, and rhizome division for beginning gardeners. Together with Mary Ann Anning, he helped write and produce the booklet, *Basic Iris Culture*, which is widely used by iris societies throughout the country. Glenn is now helping us all by being a superb photographer, capturing shots of our favorite flower for use in the AIS calendar and other publications and in the many talks he gives on behalf of irises and the AIS.



Glenn Corlew

Distinguished Service Medal: Marilyn Harlow

by William Maryott, California

Marilyn was born in Indiana and moved to Tucson, Arizona, at age 16 due to asthma. Iris became part of her life about 1970 when she joined the local iris club in Arizona. This led to over 30 years of active iris involvement that continues today. Initially she was secretary of the local club, then Secretary for Region 15 under Bob Brooks, and later Assistant RVP and Judges Training Chairman for Region 14 under RVP Jim



Marilyn Harlow

McWhirter. She became a judge under Clarke Cosgrove and is now a retired Master Judge. In 1975 she attended her first National Convention in San Diego and has attended nearly all of the AIS conventions since then. In the mid 80's, Marilyn was Editor and Co-Editor of the Aril Society Yearbook. She has written articles for the *AIS Bulletin*, TBIS publications, regional newsletters, and national gardening magazines. Late in the 1980's Marilyn was invited to judge the International Iris Competition in Florence, Italy. When Carol Ramsey gave up the AIS Membership Secretary position in the fall of 1989, Marilyn became the AIS Membership Secretary, a position she held for eleven years.

In 1985, Marilyn moved to San Jose, California, and has been actively involved in managing Maryott's Gardens with Bill Maryott. Together they have prepared the garden twice for National Conventions in San Jose as well as making numerous speaking engagements around the country. In 1997 the land in San Jose was sold, and Bill and Marilyn moved to Corralitos, California, where they continue with Maryott's Gardens as a mail-order business. Bill and Marilyn were married in December of 2000.

One final item that few know is that Marilyn has also hybridized and introduced two irises, both under the Maryott's Gardens name. TOUCHED BY ANGELS, a lovely new white, and SOFT AS SILK, a pastel bicolor, were both created under her talented breeder's touch.

Distinguished Service Medal: Adele and Lewis Lawyer

by Joyce Ragle, California

Adele and Lewis Lawyer were awarded the Distinguished Service Medal by the American Iris Society, an award they richly deserved. Adele and Lewis have done scientific research all of their adult lives since college. Adele still holds the post of Scientific Editor of the *AIS Bulletin*. Both Adele and Lewis have played a large part in the success of the Society for Pacific Coast Native Irises, editing the *Almanac* (for Pacific Coast Irises) for many years. In addition they have led seven expeditions into the wilds of California and Oregon to search for Pacific Coast Natives. Their garden has been on tour at National and Regional Conventions. They have led Judges' Garden Training Sessions on the Pacific Coast Natives.



Adele and Lewis Lawyer

On a local level in California, Lewis and Adele received the second Larry Gaulter Lifetime Achievement Award in 1991 for longtime distinguished service to Region 14. Lewis was on the publication staff (Plant Pathology consultant) for the Region 14 Bulletin, and over a period of years wrote articles on such subjects as Leaf Spot and Rust Research, Soil Treatment and Fumigation, Vapam in the Garden, Scientific Look at Vigor, Fertilizers, Keeping Track of Iris Performance in Your Garden, and others. Adele wrote articles about a new water mold (disease) on Pacific Native Iris, Aphids, and varietal comments. For several years Lewis and Adele edited the Region 14 Bulletin, and Adele was secretary of Region 14 for a time. In addition, Adele has been program director for Oakland's Sydney B. Mitchell Iris Society, among other positions.

Before they retired, both Adele and Lewis worked for the Del Monte Corporation Agricultural Research Department where they were responsible for the breeding and development of fruits and vegetables. Retirement was just a switch from vegetables to flowers. Their beautiful garden began around 1950. Lewis bought some of his early iris from Milliken's Gardens, picking tall bearded and many other types. Lewis was particularly interested in working for blues. He used different *I. munzii* derivatives such as SOQUEL COVE (Ghio '77) and SIERRA SAPPHIRE (L. Lenz '72) in his crosses. His SIERRA DELL ('88) won the Mitchell Medal in 1995 and FOOTHILL BANNER ('90) won an Award of Merit, also in 1995. 

Flight Lines

Condensed From "Iris Talk"

by Peter Weixlmann, New York

Foliage Troubles

We've had a number of iris, historic and modern, that apparently get growing leaves caught in the fold of the fan they're coming out of. On the ones that do this the worst, the emerging leaves become twisted around/broken up. Someone told me it was related to watering? We changed how we watered, and it persisted. Only some of the iris do it, but some do it a lot. I haven't been able to find this in my iris books. The plants don't seem diseased. Someone said it was weather related?

- We had a number of hard frosts in late winter and during the spring, with lots of warm-mild/harsh reversals. I was assuming the problem was weather related.

N. M., Zone 7a, NC

- The caught leaves are due to rapid growth following a period of slow growth. I think it most often happens when there is a dry or cold spell followed by wet or warmth. I've seen this only a few times with bearded irises, but "accordion" foliage is fairly common in Louisianas.

W.S., VA

Companion planting

I have lots of tulips, creeping phlox, arabis, alpine veronica, thyme, forget-me-nots, basket of gold (*aurinia saxatile*), Johnson's Blue geranium is starting to bloom as well. Dianthus is setting buds, and so is the creeping baby's breath. I have so many MDB's and SDB's blooming that they could go unaccompanied by anything else!

E. L., Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada Z3

First Convention

I'm still recovering from my first convention. I'm almost glad the garden's too wet to work today. What a great time! But what a schedule,

up and on the bus at 7:15, in judge's training in the evening, then talking half the night with new friends. Everyone we met was friendly, interested, and willing to share information. It was amazing.

A few quick impressions:

- Nobody outbids Rosalie Figge,
- Everybody wants more Siberians and MTBs,
- SIGNA seeds are the best deal in town,
- The judge's training questions on Ethics should come with every AIS membership,
- Nobody claims to have great soil, or weather,
- Nobody ever brings enough film,
- No matter how bad you've got the iris virus, somebody there has it worse.
- If you've never been to one, go! Everywhere we went we felt included, part of the group, and part of the fun.

Thanks to all the organizers for a wonderful time. Can't wait for Memphis!

Anonymous

- HIPS Section had a great discussion concerning 'what to call the older ones' – several people do not like the name 'antique' – but I am not sure what was decided – there will be a report in the next ROOTS – they are also having a rhizome sale again this year – contact a HIPS member for details—

- I also attended the Dwarf Society meeting – they auctioned off several of the MDB's brought by Ginny Spoon – so I came home with 7 new MDB's – none over 3 years old – and an SDB –

- I saw more MTB's than I knew existed! They really seem to grow well there – and there was quite a variety of them.

- The best garden? In my opinion – was Sterling Innerst's – his new house and garden were great – I saw the 1909 LORELEY – really looks more like an MTB than a TB – Overall it was a good convention--not too large--only 10 buses of attendees – Everyone expected Sterling to win the cup for 'the best intro by a region 3 or 4 hybridizer--and he swept all the top awards--but he deserves it – all of his Iris looked great – and all the rain did not seem to bother them – guess it is better to have rain during conventions – then you can see how well the flowers will hold up under adverse conditions.

C., western Montana zone3/4



*President's
Cup Winner*

ANVIL OF DARKNESS (Sterling Innerst '98)



*Franklin Cook
Memorial
Cup Winner*

QUEEN'S CIRCLE (Fred Kerr '00)

Black Iris

- "You mention a black Iris with a red beard that sounds delightful – where can you get one?. I live in zone 7. Never seen one that color combination."

- A bitone with dark purple standards, black falls and RED beard is Keppel's WILD WINGS, which includes ROMANTIC EVENING in its pedigree. Wild Wings has excellent branching, lovely form, with a bloom somewhat small for American taste, but the color alone attracts garden viewers like a magnet. The foliage is attractive, clean and

straight, a valued characteristic in the garden. This year here it had no pollen, but has set healthy pods. Keppel is breeding for red-bearded blacks, has introduced a few and will undoubtedly be introducing more in the next few years.

N. M., zone 7a, NC

-Keppel's NIGHT GAME is slow growing but reliable here.

L. M., Tennessee zone 7/8

-NIGHT GAME has the same growth characteristics here; not as vigorous as its sibling, LOCAL COLOR, but closer to black than L.C.. N.G. has petals that are closer to black. the beards on NIGHT GAME are a duller, more rusty red compared to L.C's bright red-orange beards. Keith has some things in his seedling patch that combine N.G's color with L.C's beards.

J. F., northern Utah (USDA Zone 4/5)

-For a good-growing black iris (but no red beard), I think it is hard to beat SUPERSTITION. Others may be blacker but for good growing give me this one.

A & C.K., NE

-BEFORE THE STORM grows very well here. NIGHT RULER is also a strong plant.

The blackest iris, and a good grower is the older (1978) IB HELEN PROCTOR. The form on it is tailored, but it is actually the blackest flower that I know.

C.C., Guelph, Ontario, Canada. Zone 4/5 

Convention 2001 and Counting

(or: My First Convention)

by George Hilton, Jr., New Jersey

IT WAS A LONG TIME COMING, BUT IN MAY OF THIS YEAR, I attended my first national iris convention. Having spoken to friends who had attended conventions in the past, I had some idea of what to expect. I left Hamilton, NJ, at 8:30 a.m. on May 23rd and arrived in Hunt Valley, MD, a little before 11:00, with wide-eyed enthusiasm and anticipation of what was to come. Since check in time was 4 p.m., I used the available time to acquaint myself with the location of the various convention venues and different facilities within the Marriott. I took the opportunity to attend the regional iris show being held in the convention center lobby and sponsored by our Region 3 hosts. It was a wonderful show with many exciting entries and I thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to be able to attend. I stopped at the snack bar for a quick bite to eat where I had the pleasure of meeting Jim and Vicki Craig. They were the first of many wonderful people whom I had the pleasure of meeting while at the convention.

At the welcome banquet I sat with eight people, none of whom I had known previously, and all from different parts of the country. Being somewhat of an introvert, I was apprehensive about fitting in, but everyone was very friendly. It was not long before we were engaged in conversation and my apprehension quickly disappeared. After the banquet, I returned to my room with great anticipation of the garden tours which would take place during the following three days.

Since this was my first convention, the garden tours were the main attraction for me. The tours were divided into three areas: north, south and west. We divided into three groups, each following a different tour route on a given day. Then each day thereafter, each of the three groups would rotate their schedule so that all the areas would be covered by each group. All of the gardens on the tour were beautiful. It was

immediately obvious to even the most casual observer that many, many hours of hard work had been put into preparation for the convention. The gardens were meticulously groomed and the iris were being shown at their very best, in spite of Mother Nature's persistent efforts to wreak havoc with everything from tornadoes early in the week, to the ongoing threat of rain looming over the entire area. The weather did not, however, dampen my spirits. I found it exciting to see so many iris, both familiar and unfamiliar, and many of which I had previously seen only in catalogues or had read about.

It was then that I realized how misleading photographs and descriptions can be and how important it is to view iris growing in the garden. Many times the photos and the descriptions are true to life, but too often there are subtle nuances of the flower which neither the camera nor the description can capture accurately. In addition to the previously introduced cultivars, there was an endless array of new introductions and new seedlings from hybridizers throughout the country. I am sure that many of these will receive high awards in the years to come. The endless rows of iris were so overwhelming, I didn't know where to look next.

There were the iris, but then there was something more. It was an aspect common to all of the gardens on tour and one which greatly enhanced their appeal: the incorporation of other plant varieties and species, which not only added interest to the gardens but complemented the iris beautifully. Many of these I hope to incorporate into my own garden. I presently grow only TB's; however, the convention also introduced me to several SIB's, a BB, and an IB which I plan to add to my garden, as well as several TB's which I absolutely must have.

I fell in love with countless iris, but to list every iris that made an impression on me would take forever; so here are a few that really stayed with me long after the convention was over. I'll begin with the SIB's. The first is EWEN, an older cultivar in magenta with an iridescent green running from a white and gold blaze on the falls, deep into the throat. Older, maybe, but still beautiful! The second is LADY VANESSA, with standards of blended light-pink and falls of deep-rose which lightened to a thin rim of near-white on the edge. An award winner and a very pretty lady indeed.

The BB PINK BUBBLES is a beautifully ruffled pink self which I have long admired in photos, but have never seen. So very pretty and very feminine! The IB CEE JAY is a blue and white plicata with

gorgeous form and clarity of color. It was an absolute must.

And last of all the TB's, which make up the largest group on my list. If I had to pick a favorite, it would be a gorgeous seedling 93-0038-MA, hybridized by Mego and introduced by Eacker. The standards were domed and a translucent pale lavender (almost white) with a wire thin edge of gold which resembled gold leaf. The falls were flared and a deep velvety purple with a wire thin edge of white. Haft marks filled the entire area surrounding the beard which was a rich tarnished gold that extended into the style crests. The stalks were strong and the branching and bud count were very good. I hope that the judges found this seedling to be worthy enough to have been awarded an HC; I certainly did.

Two other favorites, both by Fredrick Kerr, were QUEEN'S CIRCLE and CHRISTIANA BAKER. Both had white domed standards with white falls rimmed with blue, in the Emma Cook pattern, and both were beautifully flared. QUEEN'S CIRCLE had a red-orange beard blending to yellow at the tip, while CHRISTIANA BAKER, a border bearded, had a deep yellow beard. Both had very strong stalks with excellent branching and bud count. They were my top two choices for the Franklin Cup (Best Out of Region), and I was not alone; QUEEN'S CIRCLE won the cup, and CHRISTIANA BAKER was a runner-up.

Lynda Miller had three iris which I liked very much: The first was NOBLE LADY, a beautifully ruffled pale pink self with the palest blue tip on the end of the beard. It had formed a large clump that was truly breathtaking. IN YOUR DREAMS had standards of a dusty pale gold with deep purple in the midribs. The falls were the same deep purple and the beard was a pale blue at the tip blending to dull orange in the throat. The third, and perhaps my favorite, was WINNING TICKET, a plicata having creamy white standards, with the faintest hint of lavender in the midribs and on the plic markings on the edges. The falls were very flared with a white background that showed some faint plic markings coming from the 3/4" band of medium lavender on the edges. The plic pattern on the edge of the falls "bleeds" into the white ground, producing a very soft appearance in the falls. The beards were a very pale lavender changing to pale yellow in the throat. It is a beautiful iris with great garden appeal. Lynda's introductions were growing on strong stems with great branching and bud count, all of

which seem to be trademarks of her hybridizing. I will certainly be looking forward to her future introductions.

I've seen many of Cayeux's introductions but none have impressed me as much as VIVA LA FRANCE. The domed standards were pure white, while the falls were a very dark purple which lightened to a pale wire-like edge. The haft area was white with purple haft marks surrounding a bright red-orange beard. Although similar to many of his other introductions, I found the form to be much more rounded with better proportion between standards and falls. The stalks and the branching were both very good.

Richard Ernst's BOUTIQUE FASHION really caught my eye. I guess it would be considered a bi-color or possibly a blend. In any case, it was unique and quite beautiful. The tops of the standards were pale purple; the color lightened and then changed at the bottom to a pale yellow-gold which carried through into the style arms, beard and hafts. The falls were white at the beard blending to the palest lavender at the edges. The flowers were beautifully ruffled and on strong stalks with very nice branching. To see this flower was like having a cold iced tea on a hot sweltering day: Just downright refreshing!

LITTLE JOHN is a superb bicolor from Don and Ginny Spoon. With pale peachy-pink standards over beautiful raspberry pink falls and an orange beard, how can you lose? Throw in beautiful ruffling, and stalks with unbelievable branching and bud count, and you have a surefire winner. It is gorgeous!

Some others iris that I felt deserved recognition and must acknowledge are: AMERICAN EAGLE, an ice blue-white space age from Sutton; ARCTIC AGE, a gorgeous white from Schreiner's; BUGLES AND HORNS, another beautiful white space ager from Sutton; CANADIAN STREAKER, an extraordinary cool white with variegated foliage from Chapman; DIABOLIQUE, a fabulous deep magenta from Schreiner's; FRILLS AND FLOUNCES, a rose-pink space ager with beautiful flounces from Pinegar; MELTED BUTTER, a great white with rich gold streaked falls from Fan; PINK MILLENNIUM, a gorgeous pink from Schick; SPLASHACATA, a bitone with purple peppered falls from Tasco; TOKYO BLUES, a beautiful cream and blue bi-color from Terada; Christopherson seedling L5-1250, a striking luminata in white and purple; Niswonger seedling 72-97, a silvery white; Sorenson seedling S91-18-3, a white with yellow beard; and

three Schreiner seedlings, silky black EE-134, rich burgundy BB-326-1, and burgundy-on-white plic EE-975-B. I could go on for pages, and to be fair to all of the worthy candidates, I probably should. I hope, however, that I was able to present a relatively comprehensive picture of the high points of my convention experience. And what an experience it was!

The four days that I spent at the convention were unbelievable. Every aspect made for a truly wonderful experience: from the room accommodations, to the informative meetings, to the wonderful garden tours; but nothing made a greater difference than the people. It was such a great opportunity to meet so many wonderful people who share my enthusiasm and interest in iris. They made the significant difference between a good convention and a great convention; and it WAS a great convention.

If I have one regret, it is that I did not have enough time to talk to the hosts of the gardens we visited and to thank them for their hard work in preparing for the tours and for their warm hospitality and welcoming us into their gardens. So, to Peter and Jane Bury, Frank and Linda Golembieski, Harold and Gayle Griffe, Bruce Hornstein, Sterling Innerst, Tim and Nicole Jerrard, Jason and Pat Leader, Terry and Susan Marquart, Joan and Ken Roberts, and Carol and Andy Warner: Thank you for making my first national convention an occasion that I will remember for years to come.

In addition, I would like to thank the convention planning committee for an exceptional job in putting it all together and making everything work so effortlessly. To those of you whose company I enjoyed, whether at breakfast, or on tour, or in the lounge in the evenings, you were an important part of making this convention very special for me, and for that I thank you. And to Bruce Filardi and Michele Panek, who took the time and made the special effort to assure that I was made to feel very much a part of their activities and of their circle of friends, I extend my sincerest heartfelt thanks.

In closing, I would like to extend an invitation to all of those iris enthusiasts out there who, like myself, have put off attending a national convention: Do yourself a wonderful favor and go. I'm sure you will be as thrilled as I was. You will not regret it...I certainly didn't, and the countdown to 2002 has already begun! 

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Region 1

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Western New England Iris Society
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Northern Oklahoma Iris Society
Mrs. John H. Williams, President
8 Catfish Drive
Ponca City, OK 74604-9008
Oklahoma Iris Society
June P. Hardy, President
5809 Comanche Ct.
Oklahoma City, OK
73132-6620

Rolling Hills Iris Society
Helen Jones, President
1612 West Park Place
Oklahoma City, OK
73106-4654

Sooner State Iris Society
Perry Dyer, President
7204 N. Council Rd.
Blanchard, OK 73010

Southwest Oklahoma Iris Society
Willie C. Cooper, President
202 E. Washington St.
Walters, OK 73572-2260

Tulsa Area Iris Society
Peggy Meekins, President
11428 Cibola Drive
Broken Arrow, OK 74014-4113

White County Iris Society
Mrs. LaVera Johnson, President
138 Johnson Ave.
Bradford, AR 72020-9766

Region 23

Albuquerque Aril Society
Peter R. McGrath, President
11208 Eagle Rock Ave. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87122-4110

Albuquerque Iris Guild
Reita R. Jordan, President
3500 Avenida Charada NW
Albuquerque, NM 87107-2604

Mesilla Valley Iris Society
Maxine Perkins, President
PO Box 494
Mesilla, NM 88047

New Mexico Iris Society
Helen K. Crotty, President
1366 State Rd. 344
Sandia Park, NM 87047
Picos Valley Iris Society
Mary Herrington, President
1400 E. Bland St.
Roswell, NM 88201-7916

Santa Fe Iris Society
Gwen Anlian, President
39 Coyote Crossing
Sante Fe, NM 87505-9342

Region 24

Birmingham Area Iris Society
Joe M. Langdon, President
4832 Mill Springs Circle
Birmingham, AL 35223-1681

Blount Iris and Daylily Society
Margaret Millican, President
1560 County Hwy 26
Hayden, AL 35079-6390

Cullman Iris and Daylily Society
Evelyn Davenport, President
2132 County Road 222
Cullman, AL 35057-3538

Golden Wings Iris Society
Rachel Williams, President
1056 East Main St.
West Point, MS 39773-3246

Huntsville Chapter of the A.I.S.
Scott W. Grant, President
561 Charity Lane
Hazel Green, AL 35750-9799

N.E. AL. Iris and Daylily Society
Mary D. Terrell, President
2101 Scott St.
Guntersville, AL 35976-1117

North Mississippi Lakes Iris Society
Billie Lynn Jones, President
86 Greeslin Rd.
Grenada, MS 38901-8651

Changes in Affiliates since 2000

Region 2 has one new Affiliate:
Southern Tier Iris Society

One Affiliate has disbanded.

One Affiliate has decided not to Affiliate this year.

Seven Affiliates have not renewed yet.

This list has 176 Approved Affiliates.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley L. Pope
Affiliates Chairman

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE AIS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Hunt Valley, Maryland
May 21–22, 2001*

The Spring meeting of the Board of Directors of the American Iris Society was called to order by President Clarence Mahan at 1:10 P.M. on May 21, 2001. Mahan welcomed the group and thanked Region 3 for hosting this convention. Introductions followed.

Present during the various sessions were: **Officers:** President Mahan, Immediate Past President Niswonger, 1st Vice-President and Editor Aitken, 2nd Vice-President J. Plank, Secretary Marley, Treasurer Hudson; **Administrative Officers:** Membership Secretary A. Whitehead, Recording Secretary A. Lowe, Publication Sales Director N. Pocklington; **Directors:** Epperson, B. Figge, Gossett, M. Lowe, Jean Morris, Jones, N. Pocklington, Pope, Probst; **Committee Chairs:** Harder, B. Mull, Meyer, Rice-Waters, G. Snyder, M. Snyder; **RVPs:** Weixlmann (2), Lewonski (3), J. Mull (4), Rawlings (6), Boyson (7), J. Wilhoit (9), Ludi (13), M. Sutton (14), G. Snyder (15), Ives (16), R. Keisling (18), Lingenfelter (21), B. Figge (23); **Section Presidents:** Jill Copeland, Craig, Lineberger, Spears; **Foundation President** R. Hollingworth; **Legal Advisor** R. Plank; **Parliamentarian:** R. Figge; **Guests:** A. & E. Gallagher (1); G. & S. Grigg, Goethals, Gregory (4); Honkanen, Pat Bowen (5); A. & D. Willott, J. & J. Copeland, Miller, J. Hollingworth (6); A. & E. Henson, M. Wilhoit (9); Abrego, B. Aitken (13); Joanne Jones, Loberg, Messick, G. Sutton (14); Mark (16); J. Keisling, Jim Morris, Trio (18); Reuter, Stanek (21); Lack (22).

Mahan announced that there was a quorum present. He requested Board approval of the appointment of Rosalie Figge as AIS Parliamentarian. Plank moved approval; Marley seconded. Carried.

Minutes: There were no additions or corrections to the minutes of the 2000 Fall meeting as published in AIS *Bulletin* #320. Pope moved that the minutes be approved; Gossett seconded. Carried. Mahan thanked C. Meyer and V. Lewonski for recording the fall minutes in the absence of the Recording Secretary.

Mike Lowe stated that an advertising policy approved by the Board during the 1996 Fall meeting had never been entered into the minutes of that meeting. He moved that the following policy on advertising be added to the 1996 Fall minutes:

“The American Iris Society bylaws require our publicizing irises and offering cultural and other information to the public. Our commercial gardens are a strong, important part of this service, so to further their advertising in the quarterly *Bulletin* is to our advantage. The need to be selective in accepting those with good business practices is obvious.

The decision to deny space to advertisers in the American Iris Society *Bulletin* cannot be capricious nor can it be a formula decision. It must be a judgment based on experience and common sense. Denying it should not be done lightly and without thought. The final decision to accept or reject advertising will be left to the judgment of the Advertising Editor.” Plank seconded. Carried.

Reports of Officers

President:

- Mahan requested reaffirmation of the following interim Board actions:
 1. Pricing of the 1999 *Check List* at \$17
 2. Purchase of new computer system for Editor’s office
 3. Appointment of William Shear as Scholarship Chairman following resignation of Dr. John Taylor
 4. Change of printing firm from Imperial to Edwards Bros. for 1999 *Check List*
 5. Change of effective date for increase in annual membership dues from 01/01/02 to 10/01/01

6. Honorary Life Membership plus past *Bulletins* and any AIS publications he does not have to Milan Blazek of the Czech Republic

M. Lowe moved that all Board decisions made since the Fall meeting be reaffirmed; Pope seconded. Carried.

- Mahan noted the need for clarification of the term Executive Committee, currently understood to be comprised of the officers and immediate past president. Epperson stated that the bylaws make no provision for an Executive Committee and such committee can only be established by amending the Bylaws. Following discussion it was decided by consensus that the term Executive Committee was passé and will not be used in conducting business of the AIS.

- John Jones was appointed to chair an *ad hoc* committee to determine the correct AIS logo from among the several versions currently in use.

- An email letter from Scientific Chairman Fulton re certain articles in the April *Bulletin* and current AIS policy re publishing scientific articles was distributed. The matter will be placed on the Fall meeting agenda.

- Mahan stated that Keith Keppel had requested that the Board approve presentation of a copy of the 1999 *Check List* to Mike Lowe in recognition of all his efforts in preparation and production of the 1999 *Check List*. Epperson moved approval; Jones seconded. Carried. Lowe reminded the group of the debt owed to Kay Nelson Keppel for her preparation of the 1969, 1979 and 1989 *Check Lists* as well as the first several years of this *Check List*.

First Vice President: No report.

Second Vice President: J. Plank distributed the results of her investigation of a source for RVP pins, noting that the price has nearly doubled since AIS last ordered them. During discussion of the need for controls on the issuance of pins, Epperson moved that a region may request purchase of an RVP pin by a letter to the AIS Secretary who will then notify the Storefront that the purchase is legitimate; Pope seconded. Motion defeated.

The general feeling was that the regions should decide when and to whom they will award the pins and Probst moved that the RVP or Assistant RVP may submit a request to the Storefront as they need the pins; J. Morris seconded. Carried.

The matter was referred to the Board of Counselors who agreed that the mechanics of awarding RVP pins should be the decision of the individual regions and they recommended that 100 pins be ordered. Aitken moved approval of the recommendation; B. Figge seconded. Carried.

As a member of the Committee to revise the ITJ, Plank reported that Epperson had to print a simple interim brochure since the demand for ITJ was more than anticipated and currently there are less than 600 left of this printing. An interesting design for a new brochure is pending and Plank will work with Hudson and Epperson in finalizing the format. By consensus the Board approved Hudson's request to list the Gift Shop in the ITJ brochure.

Secretary: Marley reported that the Dykes medal had been received.

She reviewed the mechanics of the salvage of iris memorabilia from the estate of the late Cliff Benson by Region 18 irisarians Ray Keisling and Cindy Rust. Keisling reported on the visit to the home in Hermann, Missouri and the rescue of the personal iris records, photographic material and stud books, all of which were destined for the dump. He noted that there may still be some material forthcoming. The breeding records have been sent to Keppel; slides were forwarded to B. Mull and *Bulletins* are to be shipped to Mahan. Mahan thanked all concerned for their part in avoiding the loss of this irreplaceable material. It was suggested that hybridizers be encouraged to include disposition of their iris records in their estate planning.

Treasurer: Hudson distributed the semi-annual report, noting that, while profits had dropped, income was adequate and AIS is in good financial shape. Following requests from several RVPs for copies of the report, Epperson made the point that all RVPs should receive a copy of each Treasurer's Report whether present at the meeting or not.

Editor: Aitken reported that the new computer was used primarily for scanning. The *Bulletin* is on budget. He noted that Asst. Editor Filardi was assuming greater responsibility for production of the *Bulletin*.

The following problems with the *Bulletin* were presented:

- Whitehead reported a number of incidents in which either the January *Bulletin* envelope arrived minus the *Bulletin* or the *Bulletin* was sufficiently damaged to require replacement. The January issue appeared to be too heavy for the envelope and she suggested that heavier mailing envelopes be used. Aitken will implement this.

- Mahan noted the lack of *Flight Lines*: in the January and April issues. Aitken stated that he had not received them. B. Figge stated that she had many demands on her time and suggested that it might be easier if Flight Lines were not featured in every *Bulletin*.

- Although the new advertising rates were printed in the January *Bulletin*, the old advertising rates were printed in the April *Bulletin*. Editor aware of this error.

- Epperson noted that the list of 2000 HC winners had not been published in either the January 2001 or April issues. Aitken stated that he was unaware that they were in the Awards Report distributed at the Fall meeting. They will be in the July issue.

- The ad on the outside back cover of the April *Bulletin* featured a product advertised as an iris borer deterrent. This engendered much discussion. Hudson reported that he had researched the product and its advertiser, coming to the conclusion that the ad was not entirely accurate in its claims, and he stated that he felt it gave the impression that AIS endorsed this product. Aitken noted that there was presently no policy precluding ads of this type and the content of ads is left to the discretion of the Advertising Editor. M. Lowe pointed out that in the past 2 decades, the outside back cover of the *Bulletin* had been devoted to either irises or notable irisarians. It was suggested that if this type of ad is accepted, it be confined to inner pages of the *Bulletin*. Hudson moved that, effective immediately, AIS not accept any ads for pesticides or herbicides in the *Bulletin*; J. Plank seconded. In discussion it was noted that this might have legal implications (B. Plank to research) and that this might be too restrictive. Epperson moved that Hudson's motion be tabled until the Fall meeting; Pope seconded. Carried.

J. Plank moved that the outside back cover of the *Bulletin* be restricted to promotion of irises and prominent irisarians; Jones seconded. Carried.

It was felt that an appropriate disclaimer in the *Bulletin* would take care of future problems of this type. Aitken will provide this for the July issue.

Advertising Editor: No report received from Peters.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORTS

Membership: Chairman Whitehead reported that on March 31, 2001, the total membership of the society was 6870 which is 267 fewer than a year ago. The March 2001 drop of 1135 members reflects an overall decrease of 4% for the past year. Leading regions are 14, 4, and 18, followed by 7, 17, and 15.

To achieve steady growth, Whitehead believes that we must actively seek to make increased numbers of prospective members aware of the society and the benefits of membership. The AIS webpage has been helpful here. We must also, collectively and individually, work to ensure that the experience of every new member, and every continuing member, is positive and rewarding.

Whitehead cited AIS policy which states that the mailing address of record determines the region to which a membership is assigned. An Affiliate membership is the exception to the rule in that the address of record is the mailing address of the current president.

Since some affiliates have members from more than one region, the mailing address may change from one region to another with the change of president. Lowe moved that the regional assignment of an affiliate will not change if the mailing address of the affiliate president is in an adjacent region; Epperson seconded. Carried.

Following a brief outline of current practice, Whitehead recommended that all persons whose memberships expire 31 December, but who have renewed before the mailing list for the January *Bulletin* is finalized, will be included in that mailing list. Those who renew thereafter but before 31 March will not receive the January *Bulletin* unless they request it. Hudson moved approval of the recommendation; Jones seconded. Carried.

The review of Whitehead's policy brief governing the sale of membership information with recommendations for affirmation or change was deferred to the Fall meeting. On behalf of the Board, Mahan expressed gratitude to Whitehead for the time and effort she has expended on behalf of AIS.

Registrar: Written report. Keppel reported that 1000 copies of the *2000 Registrations and Introductions* booklet were printed, and he noted that getting the 1999 Check List printed in time for this convention had been a long and arduous process. He commended Mike Lowe for his help in completing this project. He also noted that the proximity of the Library and the cooperation of the Librarian were invaluable helping him to carry out the duties of the Registrar's office.

Recording Secretary: A. Lowe announced that she has asked the incoming President to replace her following the 2001 Fall Board Meeting.

Storefront Sales: N. Pocklington provided information concerning the high cost of shipping orders, especially books, to foreign countries. Following discussion, she moved that the *1999 Check List* be advertised at \$17.00 for the U. S. and Canada and \$25.00 for overseas orders; Epperson seconded. Carried.

Pocklington further suggested that a two-tier price list for other items might be in order and indicated her willingness to implement this. Epperson moved that the President appoint an *ad hoc* committee to review the pricing and shipping fee schedule of the AIS Storefront; Gossett seconded. During discussion Epperson moved that the motion be amended to read as follows: the President appoint an *ad hoc* committee to review the shipping fee schedule of the AIS Storefront; Gossett seconded. The amendment was approved and the amended motion carried.

Mahan appointed Pocklington, Hudson and Gossett; Pocklington will chair. The appointments were approved by consensus.

Pocklington stated that her new home in New Mexico has a second garage which is large enough to house all AIS materials on site. This eliminates hauling boxes to and from off-site storage units. The storage bill in Illinois was \$100/month. She asked the Board if they would consider paying that amount to the Publication Sales Directors in lieu of renting commercial storage. The question arose as to whether Pocklington would forfeit her vote as a Director if this payment were made. It was decided that this charge could be invoiced as a storage fee incurred in operation of the Storefront. Marley moved that AIS pay the Publication Sales Directors \$100 per month for storage of Storefront materials; Epperson seconded. Carried.

Surplus Bulletins: Meyer reported 1580 *Bulletins* mailed since the Fall 2000 meeting. A list detailing the number of *Bulletins* and to whom they were sent was distributed. No freight charge is incurred as Meyer will personally pick up year 2000 *Bulletins* from Aitken.

RVP Representative: No report. Fran Evers was unable to be present due to illness of her husband.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Operations Manual Draft: Epperson gave an update, noting that approximately one third of the job descriptions had reached his desk. He presented the format to be used and stated that the completed Operations Manual will be forthcoming at the Fall Board meeting.

Bulletin Indexing: Aitken reported that while he had no recent update, it was his understanding that the project is completed from present issues through *Bulletin #88* with only a few index entries remaining to be uploaded.

RVP Handbook Revision: Probst reported an essentially completed draft document of 65–70 pages and stated that he had e-mailed this draft to Board members the day before this meeting. It was noted that the Board and the RVPs must see the draft prior to printing the final version. All corrections must be submitted to Probst prior to 1 July, 2001. Epperson stated that he can have the document printed at a reasonable price. All remaining copies of the old *Handbook* should be destroyed.

501(c)(3) Status: R. Plank stated that the second group of letters requesting tax exempt status for those regions and sections who have completed the required paperwork have already been approved by the IRS. This includes Regions 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 11, 13, 15, 19, 24, and SJI, Signa, and SPCNI. In progress are Regions 8, 10, 18, 22 and RIS. Invitations to participate in the 501(c)(3) tax exemption program and requirements which must be met have been sent to all regions and affiliates.

AIS Logo: John Jones presented three versions of the AIS logo (seal) which are in current use, and moved that AIS adopt the oval form as used on the AIS seals; M. Lowe seconded. During discussion, Jones amended the motion to read that AIS adopt the original Racetrack form with the date corrected to 1920 as the official AIS seal, the rendering to be approved at the Fall Board meeting; Epperson seconded. Amendment and motion carried.

Discussion addressed the transition from the oval form now in use and it was agreed that existing art work and AIS seals may be used/sold until the supply is exhausted at which time the official version will be used in all instances. Jones and M. Lowe were charged with formulating a policy for usage of the seal for presentation at the Fall meeting.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Affiliates: Chairman Pope distributed a list of 182 affiliates and moved that the list be approved. Epperson seconded. Carried.

There was no report from Affiliate Project Chairman Bob Keup.

Awards: Chairman Campbell has been ill and sent no report. Epperson, who has been in touch with Campbell, reported that the plans for tabulation were in place and there were no anticipated problems in that area. Mahan noted that there are mistakes on the ballot which will need to be corrected. He also stated that a new Awards Chairman is needed to replace Campbell.

Epperson will stand in for Campbell at the Awards Banquet.

Calendars: Chairman Rice-Waters requested submission of slides for *Calendar Irises 2003*. Her report included a letter of thanks for assistance to Region 5 in making available slides and pictures for several iris displays during a convention in/around Jacksonville, Florida.

Rice-Waters led discussion regarding the need to replace the two AIS Display Screens and their cases which are now 16 years old. The greatest single expense involves

replacement of pictures used. Since these screens are a valuable recruiting tool and are heavily used, the estimated replacement cost was not considered unreasonable. Niswonger moved that AIS authorize Rice-Waters to proceed with the replacement of the 2 display screens and their cases; J. Plank seconded. Carried.

Mahan commended Rice-Waters for the beautiful cover photo on the 2002 calendar, and he reminded the Board that the Calendar and the Display Screens are important elements of the AIS Public Relations program.

Convention Liaison: Chairman Gossett distributed an updated list of the sites of upcoming Spring and Fall meetings. The Santa Rosa Iris Society elected not to swap the 2001 Fall meeting with Region 4 and will host the Fall Board Meeting in 2004. An invitation from Region 8 to host the 2005 Fall Board Meeting has been received. Epperson moved acceptance; Marley seconded. Carried. The Fall 2001 meeting will be in Greensboro, N. C.

A written proposal from Elke Longworth (7) suggesting changes in scheduling of Spring Conventions was distributed. RVP Lewonski (3) noted that he had received a similar request. Epperson stated that this matter was on the agenda for the meeting of the Board of Counselors. By consensus the Board agreed that action would be considered following discussion of the matter by the RVPs.

Electronic Services: Chairman Jones announced that the 1979 *Check List* has been successfully uploaded to the online database. He hopes to have the 1969 *Check List* online by July, soon to be followed by the 1999 *Check List* which is already in electronic form. When the 1999 *Check List* is added to the database, the charge of \$10 per annual subscription (previously approved by the Board) will be initiated. Currently there are 374 subscribers to the database.

Jones detailed the progress of the AIS Gift Shop since it came online in February and introduced Janna Middleton who owns the Gift Shop. Janna noted that in April, the website received the 5 star Excellent/Top Service rating from Yahoo based on customer feedback reports. She has instituted a number of marketing programs which have resulted in increased exposure and use of the Shop, thus increasing revenues for AIS. Jim Morris passed around a brass door knocker in the shape of an iris which he felt might be an appropriate item for the Gift Shop.

Jones reported that the Iris Auction website was a dead issue.

Jones announced the appointment of Chris Hollinshead from Region 16 as the new AIS webmaster. Hollinshead has executed a new design for the website and brought it online. A official letter thanking Scott Aitken for his years of work in designing and maintaining the AIS website will be sent.

Exhibitions: Chairman Epperson reviewed the activities of his department, reporting evaluation/approval of 176 Show Schedules to date. He noted that a number of affiliates are staging more than one approved show each season and he reported that the company casting our show medals can now provide them at a much decreased cost.

Epperson moved that effective January 1, 2002, each affiliated society will receive one free set of medals (silver and bronze) for each accredited show; Niswonger seconded. Carried.

Epperson then moved that effective January 1, 2002, the price of a medal (adult silver and bronze, youth silver and bronze, currently \$12.50), be reduced to \$10.00; Niswonger seconded. Carried.

Epperson stated that the Show Application forms would be reprinted to reflect these changes and noted that both of these actions should be considered as added benefits for affiliates.

Epperson distributed the updated ITJ that he has had printed to include with show materials.

Foundation Liaison: Foundation President R. Hollingworth distributed the Treasurer's report for the calendar year 2000 and noted that overall donations were down. He reported that the Foundation has changed its awards policy in the Ackerman Essay contest and will now give two \$100 prizes: one to the winner in age group 12 and under and one to the winner in age group 13–18. He listed the projects now being funded by the Foundation and commented that several proposals are presently being considered for future funding. Niswonger suggested that the Foundation might consider funding the printing of Dr. Rodienko's booklet on *Spurias*.

Historian: No report. Mahan announced that Harder has resigned effective Fall 2001 and suggested that, because of the over-lap in duties, the office of Historian might be eliminated and combined with the AIS Librarian position at that time. It was decided to place the matter on the Fall agenda.

Harder has indicated that the bulk of his duties deal with collecting regional information and he will be encouraged to continue his projects of compiling the history of regions, sections and AIS.

Honorary Awards: Chairman Niswonger reported that all medals have been received for presentation at the 2001 Awards Banquet.

Insurance: Chairman M. Snyder reported the recent discovery that the AIS insurance provider (Travelers) covers only on-site activities, thereby providing no liability coverage during garden tours. This made it necessary for Region 3 to purchase a rider at a cost of \$750 to cover garden tours for this convention.

A different broker has been contacted and a request for a quote to include all members of AIS, Sections, Regions and Affiliates has been made. This quote will also include coverage for the items at the library, storefront and all garden tours sanctioned by AIS. By including all members of affiliates/sections, whether AIS members or not, this should remove the need for some clubs to purchase additional insurance for their non-AIS members. A liability limit of \$5,000,000 is requested which should cover those venues which require that coverage in that amount.

Hudson voiced an objection to paying coverage for those who are not AIS members, however the group felt that this is another benefit of affiliation with AIS.

Responding to a question regarding coverage for non-member guests, Snyder replied that they are not covered by the AIS policy but would come under hotel, bus or home owners coverage. Canadian AIS members are covered but the Canadian Iris Society which is a non-AIS entity is not.

Snyder stated that she should have this new quote within 30 days. Mahan stated interim Board action can be taken regarding the new policy proposal when it is presented. Snyder will place an explanation in the *Bulletin* when/if a new policy is approved.

Region 3 RVP Vince Lewonski stated that the \$750 paid for garden tour insurance was an unplanned expense and could place a hardship on the sponsoring affiliate. Niswonger moved that the Board authorize reimbursement of \$750 to the Susquehanna Iris Society if it is requested; Gossett seconded. Carried.

Iris Chronicles Project: Chairman Whitehead distributed a detailed status report, noting that a working draft of the first template had been sent for comment to all those presently involved. This template will be one of several designed as guidelines for the primary compiler regarding material which should be included and a possible format for presentation of this material. Whitehead emphasized that one need not have known a particular hybridizer in order to chronicle his/her life and accomplishments.

Judges' Handbook Revision: Chairman Epperson reported that there were no recommendations for consideration at this time.

Judges and Judges' Training: Written report. Chairman Mullin's report reflected a decrease in the overall number of judges since November 2000, primarily due to deaths and non-renewals. Mullin stressed that regional officials should notify him and the Membership Secretary when judges die, move to another region or change address in any way.

Epperson initiated discussion concerning the current policy in which failure to submit an *annual* Activity Report results in a judge being dropped. This requirement is more stringent than the Ballot requirement where no action is taken until *two* consecutive years have been missed. The Board was asked to consider changing this policy to bring it in line with the submission policy for the Official ballot: i.e. that failure to submit an Activity Report for *two consecutive years* would result in a judge being dropped. It was decided to defer action pending input from the Board of Counselors. Subsequently, the RVPs overwhelmingly voted to continue the present policy of annual Activity Reports. No further action required.

The matter of the judge who presented a bill for travel expenses incurred in judging a show will be referred to Mullin.

In the absence of Mullin, Hilda Crick will conduct the meeting of the Judges' Training Chairmen. Crick reported the recent death of former JT Chairman, Ellene (Mrs. C. C.) Rockwell.

Library: Chairman McNames' written report requested approval of the donation of the listed excess library items for the Silent Auction. Epperson moved approval; Hudson seconded. Carried.

It was noted that the Historian still has in his possession material which should be sent to the AIS Library. No further material has been received since the Fall Board meeting.

A copy of the appraisal of the Sèvres vase was attached to the Library report. The vase is valued at \$500.

Membership Contest: No report.

Policy: Chairman M. Lowe stated that he was in the process of abstracting and collating those sections of AIS minutes that pertain to the Officer, Administrative Officer and Committee Chair jobs and policies. He noted that he has not finished extracting policy pertaining to all officer and committee positions. The remainder of these extracts will be completed over the course of the summer and e-mailed or mailed to recipients. Mahan called for official appreciation and commendation to Lowe for his on-going efforts in researching matters pertaining to policy.

Public Relations: No report. Mahan reported that Chairman Guest has asked to be replaced. It was noted that many of the duties of this office relate to marketing. Hudson moved that the name of this committee be changed to Public Relations and Marketing; Pope seconded. Carried.

Rare Iris Study Center: No report from Chairman Waddick. Mahan noted that the Garden Writers of America had given the Quill and Trowel Award to Waddick and Stokes for "Bananas You Can Grow".

Registrations: Registrations, introductions, and new name requests are running at about the normal rate and it is business as usual at the Registrar's office.

Robins: In the written report distributed by Secretary Marley, Chairman Cross noted that electronic robins seem to be siphoning off new robin members as there have been very few requests for places in the regular robins during the past year. Mahan informed the group that Cross was currently hospitalized following surgery.

RVP Counselor: B. Figge reported on the issues referred to the RVPs for discussion. (see appropriate headings.)

The RVPs are asking that the JT Chair allow Awards and Ballots taken as a student be credited to the Apprentice judge provided the Apprentice has completed the required 10 hours of training. Epperson moved that A and B be counted towards apprenticeship credit if taken within 3 years immediately prior to appointment as an Apprentice Judge and provided the 10 hours of requirements are completed; B. Figge seconded. Carried. The matter will be referred to Judges' Handbook Revision for report at the Fall meeting.

The following officers were elected:

Chairman of the Board of Counselors: Margaret Sutton (14)

Secretary: Gerry Snyder (15)

AIS Board Representative: JaNiece Mull (4)

AIS Nominating Committee: Margaret Sutton (14) and Ray Keisling (18)

Scientific: Written report. Chairman Fulton included an update on the AIS "Disease Project" under Dr. McEwen and on Andrew Wheeler's "Mutation Project" funded since 1988.

Fulton reported on his findings concerning requirements for making chromosome counts. He detailed the steps involved in chromosome counts, and enclosed a working protocol provided by Samuel Norris. In summary Fulton feels that we must hope to find an individual with interest, knowledge, time and equipment who could be talked into making a count of a particular hybrid. Following receipt of permission from the author, the Norris protocol will be published in the *Bulletin*.

Scholarship: Written report. Chairman Shear recommended that the Board approve the awarding of a scholarship for 2001–2002 to Marc McPherson, currently a graduate student in the Department of Biological Sciences, University of Alberta. Mr. McPherson proposes to study the genetic structure of populations of *I. missouriensis* near the northern extremity of its range in Alberta, where only four populations are known to exist. Hudson moved approval; Marley seconded. Carried.

The final report from the previous scholarship recipient is pending.

Secretary of Donations: Chairman J. Plank noted that donations to AIS were "flat" with no obvious cause. Several possible reasons were offered but Plank believes the primary factor is the lack of a stimulating, broadly appealing cause. Hudson noted that the annual scholarship grant of \$2000 has been unchanged for a number of years. J. Plank moved that AIS increase the annual Scholarship grant to \$3000 per year and further increase it to \$5000 if we get sufficient donations; Hudson seconded. Carried.

During discussion it was suggested that members be asked to remember AIS in their will. Living trusts were mentioned as a possible way to implement this. As proper wording of a trust agreement is important, a sample document will be provided by B. Plank for inclusion in an article which Rosalie Figge will write for the *Bulletin*. The article will stress the need for contributions to the Scholarship Fund.

Section Liaison: Chairman Probst presented a list of scheduled Section and Cooperating Society Mini-Conventions and provided additional dates and sites obtained during the Section meeting.

The distributed list of officials of sections and cooperating societies was updated from the floor with Probst noting that the list was difficult to keep current as changes were constantly being made. He agreed to e-mail the corrected list to Board members and to the *Bulletin*.

Probst reported that Jill Copeland, President of the SJI was elected to represent the sections on the AIS Nominating Committee.

Silent Auction: Chairman Meyer gave a progress report on the current auction, noting that the room was a problem. The majority of the information on donations was sent electronically, which saved much time and effort. She stated that there was a good selection of publications to be had and encouraged everyone to support this AIS fund raiser. Recommendations for next year: the Silent Auction should be opened earlier in the convention and be housed in more appropriate surroundings.

Slides: Chairman Mull presented a comprehensive report detailing actions, needs, techniques and projects undertaken during the past year. The most popular slide set is 'Newest Introductions'. He noted that he had been unable to fill requests for 'Dykes Medal Winners' and 'The 100 Most Popular Iris' due to lack of slides. Slides of all kinds are needed but especially DM and Award Winners.

Mull spoke briefly on the recently received Benson slides, which he has not had a chance to completely categorize. He complimented Ray Keisling for the way in which he had prepared the slides for shipment. Niswonger noted the historical importance of some of the people in the slides. Several suggestions as to who might be able to identify these irisarians were made.

It was recommended that hybridizers be encouraged to photograph their irises so that there can be a complete photo record of their introductions. J. Plank moved that the Secretary of Donations and the AIS Secretary collaborate on a letter to hybridizers requesting that they bequeath their slides and records to AIS if their families do not want them; J. Morris seconded. Carried.

Mull stated that he currently does not send out original slides and requested direction as to whether AIS wants to release the original Benson slides or duplicate those we send out. M. Lowe moved that, when dealing with historical slides, copies be made and sent out instead of the originals, leaving the decision as to which slides will be duplicated to the Slide Chairman; Pope seconded. Carried.

Symposium: G. Snyder distributed a listing of all irises that are on the 2001 Symposium ballot. By consensus the Board approved posting the Symposium results on the AIS website as soon as they are tallied.

Snyder stated that he will work with John Jones in making electronic voting available to all (perhaps as early as next year), noting that it is now permissible for members overseas to vote via email.

Youth: Chairman Jean Morris announced the winners of the Clarke Cosgrove Memorial Award for Youth Achievement: 1. Monica Combrink (22), 2. Nicole Grzeskowiak (18) and 3. Marc Loberg (14).

Winners of the Ackerman Essay Contest were: Age group 12 and under: Mary Claire Elliott (7); Age group 13 and above: Josh Winzer (18). The topic for the contest was "My Vision of Irises of the Future."

AIS youth members total 347. This number includes 132 Classroom Iris Project (CIP) students and 215 regular youth members. CIPs are now in Regions 7, 14, 15, 18, and 22 and Morris thanked specific members for leading and sponsoring these groups. Morris was a Co-presenter of the CIP Program during a recent meeting of the National Science Teachers of America.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Revision of the Convention Handbook: Gossett stated that while the *Convention Handbook* is available from the Storefront at no cost, this is not generally known. He asked that this information be placed in the *Bulletin*.

Search for Bulletin Editor: No report at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Mahan introduced Ken Gregory who is the compiler and editor of the popular *Eureka Daylily Reference Guide*. Mr. Gregory, who is interested in preparing this type of guide for irises, spoke briefly about the project and requested input and help from irisarians. This publication will provide an additional means of promoting irises. The first edition of the *Eureka Iris Reference Guide* will be available in February 2002 at a cost of \$20.95 + S&H.

- Disclaimer regarding commercial links from the AIS website: Following discussion, John Jones moved that the AIS adopt a policy that only commercial businesses that have a current advertisement in the *AIS Bulletin* be allowed to request that their Uniform Resource Links (URLs) be listed in the appropriate section of the AIS website; Probst seconded. Carried.

- The pros and cons of providing a youth rate for overseas members were discussed. Pope moved that no change be made and that overseas youth rate continue to be that of a full adult membership; Probst seconded. Carried.

- Provision of the AIS bylaws to new members: It was felt that not all members are interested in having a copy of the bylaws. Henceforth, the Membership Secretary will include in her welcome letter, a statement to the effect that AIS bylaws may be obtained by writing to the AIS Secretary. It was suggested that the bylaws be placed on the AIS website and in the forthcoming Operations Manual. The need for bylaws revisions was discussed and appointment of a Bylaws Revision Committee was deferred to the Fall meeting.

- Presentation of the revised E-commerce license agreement was deferred to Fall meeting.

- Secretary Marley requested direction for provision of personalized envelopes. Current policy of personalized stationary was addressed by J. Plank who explained that only the President and AIS Secretary have personalized letterhead stationary; all others, including RVPs, receive 100 personalized envelopes and 100 sheets of 'generic' AIS stationary. RVPs endorsed the provision of personalized envelopes. All decisions in this matter are up to the Secretary.

- Following discussion of the need to have copies of foreign publications in the AIS library, Pocklington moved that, to ensure that the AIS Library receives copies of foreign publications on a regular basis, AIS take out memberships in the appropriate foreign societies and direct the publications to the AIS Librarian; Probst seconded. Carried.

- The Board of Counselors recommended that AIS make no changes in the present policies pertaining to the length and frequency of Spring Conventions. Gossett moved that this recommendation be approved; Epperson seconded. Carried.

- Availability of an electronic copy of the AIS membership list: Jones moved that members of the AIS board of directors, Administrative officers of the AIS, Committee Chairpersons of the AIS, the AIS RVPs (or their designate), and Presidents of Sections of the AIS (or their designate), Cooperating Societies of the AIS (or their designate), on their request and upon their certifying that the information will be used only for AIS business, be given an electronic copy of the AIS membership at no charge. Lowe seconded. During discussion Mahan asked the group if the membership list would be of value to them in their various capacities and a majority indicated that this would indeed be useful. Carried.

Report of the Nominating Committee

In the absence of Chairman Fran Evers, Aitken presented the following slate of nominees to fill the four Directorships which will expire in 2004:

Kathy Guest, Nancy Pocklington, Peter Weixlmann. Gerry Snyder, Maureen Mark, Carryl Meyer, Tony Willott and Lorena Reid. J. Plank moved that nominations be closed; Gossett seconded. Carried. Mahan pointed out that all nominees had agreed to chair a committee as requested. The Board adjourned to Executive session.

Mahan reconvened the meeting and announced that Nancy Pocklington, Gerry Snyder, Maureen Mark and Carryl Meyer had been selected as candidates to fill the four director positions.

Mahan noted that there was no policy covering the customary practice of electing the incoming AIS President at the Spring Board meeting and Epperson pointed out that this practice was not covered in the bylaws. Following discussion, the Board by consensus, agreed that the incoming president be known as the President-Elect-Designee, subject to election at the Fall Board meeting. This does not conflict with the bylaws and enables the incoming President to have committee appointments in place prior to the Fall meeting when he/she assumes the office. As First Vice President, Terry Aitken is the President-Elect-Designee.

Mahan appointed Epperson and J. Plank as Board members to the 2001 AIS Nominating Committee. Pope moved approval; Niswonger seconded. Carried.

The 2001 Nominating Committee is composed of: RVPs Margaret Sutton and Ray Keisling; Section Representative Jill Copeland and Board members J. Plank and Roy Epperson.

Announcements:

Epperson announced that the Fall Board Meeting would be held in Greensboro, North Carolina the weekend of November 2-4, hosted by the Eastern North Carolina Iris Society.

Mahan announced the 80th Anniversary Meeting of the BIS in 2002 in Bristol, England.

Niswonger announced the 10th Anniversary Meeting of the Iris Society of Moscow in June 2002. Reservations must be in by January 2002.

Mahan extended thanks to Jason Leader and those members of the Susquehanna Iris Society who participated in making this meeting run smoothly.

George Sutton (14) thanked the Board for listening to and acting on member concerns.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 P.M. on May 22, 2001.

Anne S. Lowe
Recording Secretary

American Iris Society Foundation

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, 2000 - April 1, 2001

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Gerald Richter (MD)

Francis Scott Key Iris Society (MD)

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Region 9, AIS

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Iris Society of Minnesota

Beatrice Weitzel (MD)

Francis Scott Key Iris Society (MD)

John Wood (SC)

Ted M. Lee (SC)

In Memoriam

Foster Allen

by Bennett Jones, Oregon

Early in the month of March this year we in Region 13 lost a good friend when Foster passed away. In the late 1960s he was president of the Greater Portland Iris society and he served from 1971 through 1973 as our Region 13 Vice President. He was a chemist for the Crown-Zellerback Paper Company in Camas, Washington. He lived in nearby Washougal where his woodland garden reflected his interest in the several species irises native to the West Coast and found between the Columbia River and the San Francisco Bay.

Having an interest in the wild flowers of the State of Washington Foster often led us to Bird Creek Meadows on Mount Adams where in the month of July the meadows were carpets of color as far as the eye could see. Following his retirement from Crown Zellerback, Foster and his wife Ruth served their church for two years as missionaries in Iquique, Chile. He is survived by his wife Ruth, his daughter Mary and her family.

Clifford W. Benson **1923 - 2000**

by Larry Harder, Nebraska

Cliff, as he was known to his friends, passed away on September 23, 2000, at Hermann, Missouri, after a fifteen year battle with Parkinson's Disease. He was buried at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, Jefferson Barracks, Missouri.

Cliff Benson was born October 26, 1923, in St. Louis, Missouri. He attended Washington University in St. Louis, and entered the army in 1943. He served in the Adjutant General's Section, was transferred to the Commanding General's office where he did administrative work for General George Patton in World War II. He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for Meritorious Service overseas. He served in



the Korean war and then as Administrative Supervisor in the National Guard. In 1956 he went to work as an Administrative Engineer for McDonnell Aircraft Company. He worked for a time on their Flight Test Projects at Edwards Air Force Base in California.

Cliff was also a serious student of the violin and played for a number of years with the St. Louis Symphony. He drew on this background, and also from his acquaintance with movie personalities he met while working in California, when choosing names for his iris introductions.

Cliff Benson introduced many outstanding irises in over 40 years of hybridizing. His garden on Baxter Road was a mecca for iris lovers in the midwest for many years. His BELLERIVE ('47) won the President's Cup in 1952, and his following irises won Awards of Merit: HENRY SHAW in 1961, which was also the first winner of the Clara B. Rees Cup for white irises, JEAN SIBELIUS in 1962, HELEN TRAUBEL in 1965, SKYWATCH in 1967, which went on to win the Dykes Medal in 1970, and ARCTIC FURY in 1967, which also won the Clara B. Rees Cup in 1969. In 1971, the Board of Directors of the AIS awarded Cliff the Hybridizer's Medal.

Cliff also served the AIS for many years. He was the first full-time paid personnel of the Society, in the capacity of Executive Secretary. In 1956 the AIS Board voted to accept the offer of the Missouri Botanical Garden to house a Central Office for the Society. Cliff's office was in the Henry Shaw mansion on the grounds of these gardens. Due to financial difficulties, the AIS closed this office in March of 1977 and discharged Cliff from his duties as Executive Secretary.

Cliff retired to some acreage he had acquired near Hermann, Missouri, where he continued to raise irises until his prolonged illness. He was a life member of The American Iris Society. He is survived by his brother Wilbur Benson and his nephew Roger Benson.

In Memoriam:

Mrs. Paul Frank Boon (Alabama)

Janice M Broich (Minnesota)

Russell Bruno (Georgia)

Earl Hall (Ohio)

Bonny M. Hilditch (Maryland)

Lewis O. Lawyer (California)

Bettie Nutter (Pennsylvania)

Mrs. C.C. (Ellen) Rockwell (Texas)

Irene Stacey (Arizona)

AIS Storefront

Sale Items & Publications

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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:

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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: Order from Lynn Finkel, 21015 NE 220 Circle, Battleground, WA 98604-4904. Check to Society for Louisiana Irises. Rental fee is \$10.00.

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.

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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.

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

We are now using an all-electronic setup with our new printer. As a result, we can no longer simply paste ads on paper. All ads submitted on paper will be scanned. If you have graphic images or logos as part of your ad, it would be best if you send them on a disk, or email them directly to the Bulletin Editor at <editor@irises.org>. (Payment must still be made through the advertising editor.)

The outside back cover of the Bulletin is restricted to promotion of irises and prominent irisarians.

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found in the back of each *Bulletin*. Placement is roughly alphabetical.

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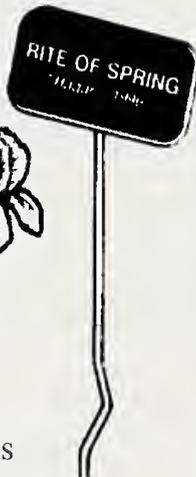
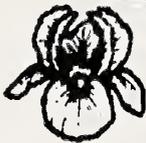
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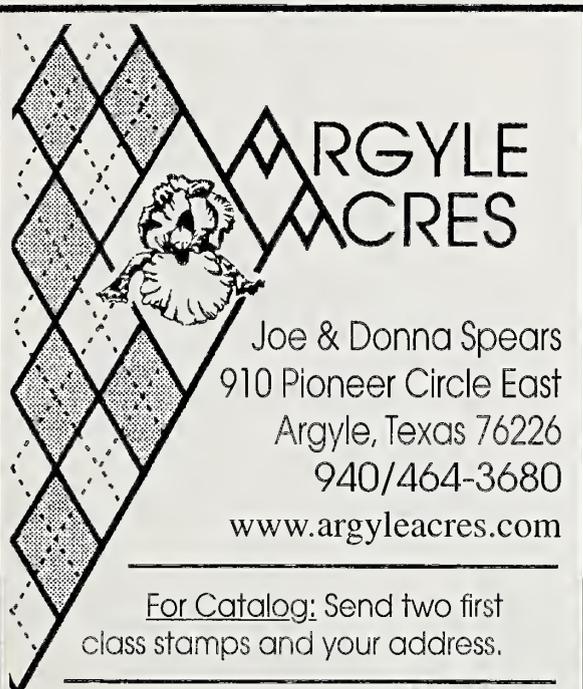
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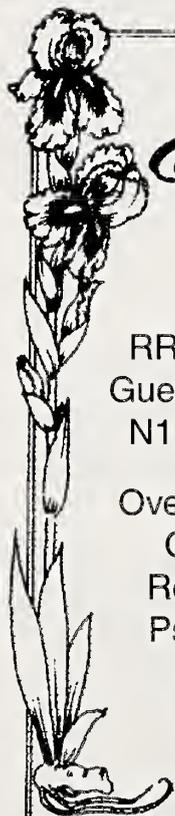
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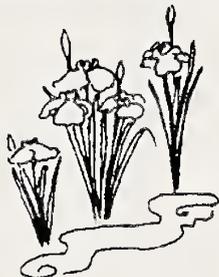
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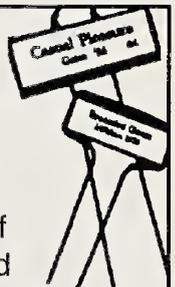
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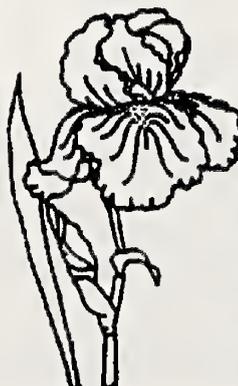
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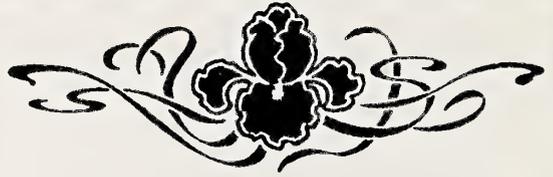
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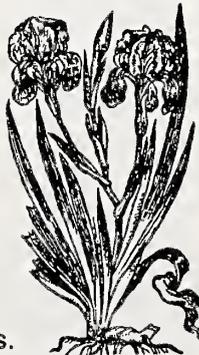
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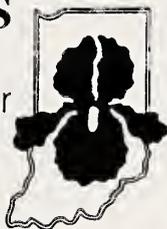
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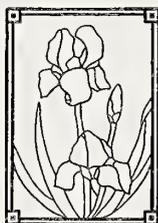
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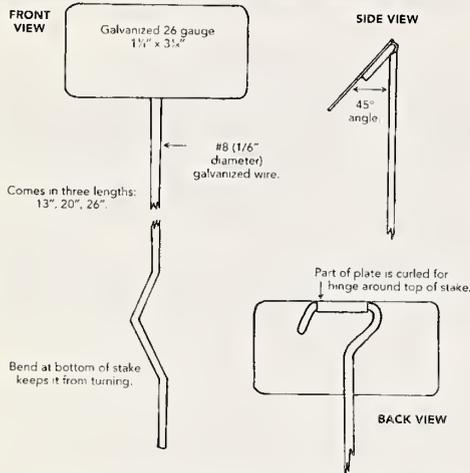
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