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BULLETIN OF THE

American Iris Society

NUMBER 234 • SUMMER 1979

THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

A nonprofit institution incorporated Feb. 2, 1927, in the County of Philadelphia, State of Pennsylvania. By the terms of the Charter, the Corporation has no stockholders and exists for the sole purpose of promoting the culture and improvement of the IRIS.

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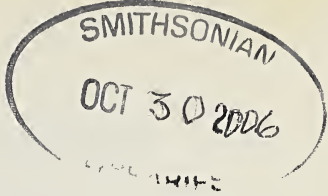
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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

After one of the severest winters on record in many areas, spring belatedly appeared. Many of us who reside in the southern tier of states agree that excellent iris bloom results when winters are colder than normal. This theory has again proven to be true.

Excellent quality bloom, aided and abetted by generous amounts of true southern hospitality, was enjoyed by 440 Convention visitors in Huntsville, Alabama. Huntsville area irisarians were everywhere to make visitors welcome, answer questions, and most willing to share their gardens and refreshments. It was evident that much work and planning had been expended in preparation for this event. I know I speak for all who attended the Convention when I say thanks to the Committee and all others who had a part in making this event a part of our continuing success story.

Dick Pettijohn has asked to be replaced as AIS Treasurer. Thank you, Dick, for managing AIS financial affairs for several years. Happy traveling!

Coming aboard soon as our Treasurer will be Mr. Stephen Kegerise of Reading, Pennsylvania. Steve has excellent qualifications to assume the responsibility of our fiscal affairs and is well grounded in all phases of iris activities. Welcome to the team, Steve! You were able to recognize at a comparatively early age the pleasures that are enjoyed by members of our Society. Many of us were considerably older when we discovered the joys of irising. We all look forward to many years of pleasant association with you.

Already we are anticipating what we know will be another fine Convention in Tulsa in 1980. Region 22 is loaded with talented people who know how to grow irises of all types and are noted for their western hospitality. Start to plan now and we will see you there!

ADDITIONAL AIS AFFILIATES APPROVED AS OF APRIL 3, 1979

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Cover Photograph

ODYSSEY (Sanford Babson, R. 1970, introduced 1971 by Melrose Gardens), and Award of Merit winner, is a popular blue and white TB plicata garden iris. Thanks to Larry Harder for the cover photograph.

ANNUAL PRESIDENTIAL LETTER

The American Iris Society

July 1, 1979

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 candidates for nomination as directors. The Personnel Committee consists of two directors chosen by the Board of Directors, two RVPs elected by the Board of Counsellors, and one Section member selected by the Board of Section Presidents.

As approved during the spring 1979 meeting in Huntsville, Alabama, the four incumbent directors, each eligible for additional terms, were renominated. Additionally approved was the nomination to fill an unexpired term. Therefore, approved in accordance with the AIS bylaws, the nominees are:

For the regular three year terms expiring in 1982

John Harvey
Ronald Mullin
Carol Ramsey
Harold Stahly

For the unexpired term ending in 1981

Julius Wadekamper

The bylaws provide that additional nominations may be made by any forty members, of whom not more than fifteen may be located in any one region. Such additional nominations must be received by the AIS Secretary on or before September 1, 1979. Should additional nominations be made, a ballot on which will be listed all the nominees will be mailed on or before October 1, 1979 to all AIS members, and must be received by the AIS Secretary or Election Committee (if one is appointed) on or before November, 1, 1979. If there are no nominations in addition to those listed above, issuance of a ballot may be omitted.

Leon Wolford, President

Bloomin' Remembrances

from the irising memoirs of Larry Gaulter . . .

"Fisher Harris was a gentleman with a great sense of humor. In his garden, he pointed out to me a vigorous clump of iris foliage. He said that an unnamed hybridizer had sent it, along with 20 or 30 other seedlings. This particular seedling had never bloomed, but because of its great vigor, the hybridizer felt it might bloom later. Fisher wrote me much later that it never did bloom, but that the hybridizer wrote him demanding that everything be sent back to her."



HUNTSVILLE

1979

Two such arrangements of magnolia leaves and cotton balls greeted guests at the entrance to the Burch Garden.

The American Iris Society Convention May 1-5

Sponsored by Huntsville Chapter of AIS
and North Alabama Iris Society

AIS conventions are a great source of pleasure in many ways. Educational and business meetings, plus the joys of socializing with fellow iris-enthusiasts, are important; but the garden tours must rank as the prime motivation for many to attend.

On the tours, we see the latest iris varieties, discover the cultural treatments that may be advantageous and gain ideas for companion plantings and landscaping. The philosophies and personalities of our fellow gardeners are often an added attraction. Considerations of these and other factors were suggested to the garden reviewers, whose writings follow, so that all readers may share the convention.

Many gardens on tour this year could not be investigated as thoroughly as we had hoped, due to rain. Discrepancies in length and depth of the reviews often reflect not the *quality* of the garden, but the *quantity* of rain during that portion of the tour!

The 1979 convention hosts are to be congratulated for their unflagging congeniality despite the weather. Added attractions during the Huntsville visit included a lively iris artifacts auction, airport pickup of guests and other special touches that enhanced the Space City visit. On to the gardens . . .

Jimmy Burch (on the right) leads Virginia Messick and Don Denny into his garden.



Ethel Ricker, Marie McGahee and Vera Ludden pause in Marie's garden.

Rosa Belle Van Valkenburgh stands with her nine granddaughters while Harry Keusel admires other flowers in Rosa Belle's garden.



AMONG GARDEN HOSTS . . . (below) a Kennedy garden ceramic shows what's afoot . . . (right) Don Saxton poses before his creation STRATEGY . . . (below) Phil Williams with Keith Keppel (left) and Rodney Adams (right).



THE BRANUMN GARDEN

Hooker Nichols

On the final day of the Huntsville convention, we awakened to a cool and eventually sunny day, a relief from the previous days' deluge. Anxious irisarians left the buses quickly on reaching the garden of Evelyn and B. W. Branumn, who greeted guests with open arms and lovely smiles. The entire yard was an inspiration to conventioners. The beds were laid out to facilitate access to irises.

The Branumns have maintained their rather large garden since 1952; they are amateurs and do not sell irises. Mr. Branumn, who is retired, specializes in crystal repair, and Mrs. Branumn's interests are sewing and interior decorating.

In addition to the irises, guests were delighted by several interesting features of the garden. Many beds were bordered with pansies, and there were three varieties of monkey grass, columbines, geraniums, hostas, cacti, yuccas, clematis and more around the lovely stone house. A magnificent pecan tree dominated the corner of the large suburban garden. Plantings were fertilized with 4-12-12 and 8-8-8 chemical mixtures.

Some of the most enjoyable irises found in this beautiful garden included whites such as the red bearded FLAMING ARROW (V. Wood '75), in a stunning clump with many well branched stalks showing three open flowers. The flowers were fluted and ruffled, and the haft area was yellow. Another white, GLACIER SHADOWS (Shaver '77), outdid itself with a fine display of cool bluish flowers on stalks with fantastic branching—a showcase in itself. IGLOO (Hager '78) was a nice icy lavender blue that caught many people's attention with rather good form and well displayed flowers.

MYSTIQUE (Ghio '75) was superb, a blue bicolor that was very well grown. PYQUAG (Gadd '78) was unique with deep red-purple flowers sporting self beards; it was one of the finest irises in this color class. A classy iris with well branched stalks, Steinhauer's ENTREPRENEUR was a standout in medium yellow. CATHEDRAL WINDOWS (Babson '77) shone with well branched stalks and many open flowers.

DOODLE STRUDEL (Ensminger '77) was an interesting medium blue with flecking throughout, but form was somewhat lacking. SHAHROHK MAHROHKI (Ensminger) was a welcome sight for those who enjoy brown-toned irises, reminding one of a much improved DUTCH CHOCOLATE. Saxton's '79 introduction LIFTOFF captured many people with its lovely flowers well displayed; standards were yellow and falls, violet with red hafts and yellow beards. GENTLE RAIN (Keppel '77) continued its fine performance in this garden. A light lavender plicata with fine form and stalk, this one is not, however, as tall as I like to see most irises.

Four pinks attracted attention. MOOD GLORIOUS (Peggy Williams '77) had a fine showing of rose pink flowers with gold hafts and beards on stalks that displayed them well. BIRTHDAY SONG (Corlew '77) stunned

us with lilac rose accented with red beards and good branching. Innerst seedling 327-1 had exceptional form in cool pink flowers with red beards and good stalks, as did the outstanding guest Gatty D78-1, displaying nicely formed salmon pink blooms and deeper beards.

This garden was one of the finest on the tour. The one and only fault I could find with it was that the irises were too well grown! Never have I seen irises bloom with such tall foliage.

THE BURCH GARDEN

Elsiemae Nicholson

Abundant bloom and hospitality greeted us in the Burch garden Friday afternoon as we met Jim's hearty handshake and Betty's "Cotton Wives" arrangements of cotton balls and magnolia leaves at the entrance gates. This couple, having had "iris fever" for 16 years, accumulated four acres of "indulging space" amid white field pines, with a forest backdrop of hickory, oak, Liriodendron (tulip tree), dogwood, sassafras and sumac.

Their interest includes many iris types. A bed of species, which included the irid "blackberry lily," lay behind the magnificent pyramid of a magnolia tree. Nearby was a specially prepared bed of beautifully foliaged Louisiana plants promising wonderful stalks (one already 4½ feet high) and flowers. Jim said he worked in cotton hulls, hardwood leaves and azalea food according to Frank Chowning's request.

Medians were tucked in at the ends of several tall bearded iris beds and bordered the azalea foundation planting of the house front. A row of MTBs fronted the daffodil beds, and a new patch of spurias was discovered adjacent to Jim's "sentimental row" of keepsake irises along the back fence of the house yard.

There were double rows of arilbreds along the outer fencing on the highest ground, of course, showing credibly clean foliage with very little leaf spot. Some of the best of those remaining in bloom: DOME OF OMAR, deep brown; RADIANT BEAM, white and light yellow; and striking PYZON (Gadd '77). Jim says he loses no arils from rot—he just digs away the old dirt from around the rhizomes, leaves them thus exposed while they go dormant in place. Puts the dirt back around them in the fall and "they take off". He's some kind of wizard!

Beyond the fence were apple and pear trees, Concord grape vines on a wire frame, and a frustrated friendly dog, Duke, telling us he wanted to join the party—a party that included "cheer" to last with the empty iris glass to take home as a souvenir, and gift bags of cotton seeds, balls, fabrics and a story folder. The party coincided with the twentieth birthday of Carol, their daughter. She seemed to be deferring good-naturedly to her parent's iris celebration.

A front border of daylilies, a tall dividing curtain of bridal wreath shrub between the two front yards, edgings of liriope, and shrub specimens of holly, myrtle, mock orange and nandina illustrated the other horticulture interests of this teacher (now acting principal) and her husband, a civilian specialist with the Pershing missile system.

Of course, it was the long parallel beds of blooming tall bearded that the delighted conventioners, oblivious to the on-and-off rain spout, crowded beside. Those beds were an interest in depth, eight rows placed crosswise the gently sloping yard. Amid all the moisture, the clean, tall, strong foliage of the guested plants seemed a spotless miracle. Jim credits the achievement to a combined spray of benlate and diaconita. The underground story of that superb growth was written with a wheelbarrow of manure and some 8-24-24 beneath each planting and a postscript of triple phosphate applied on the surface in early March.

Several pink ladies were staging a show. PLAYGIRL posed beautifully, standing tall with well branched stalks and as perfect flowers as I've ever seen on her (and I've watched her in Joe Gatty's garden since she was a baby). FROSTY JEWELS (Burch) was shining in a floriferous clump of medium pink held high above tall foliage. VANITY (Hager) was a bright bouquet of a dozen stalks. The deep luscious coloring of Mt. COOK A' DAWNING (Foote) too easily diverted attention from faulty form.

Singing lighter notes: Innerst's double budded 332-2 with very wide, ruffled pale peach pink blooms on good, branched stalks; D. Mohr's 4-74-1 flesh pink with a light apricot beard and four bud placements on a high branched stalk; Ensminger's PEACHY CREAM, with tangerine beards giving zip to the golden-beige-bordered peach falls; Burch's 74-7A, peachy pink well proportioned flower with a harmonizing self-colored beard; and adorable PEACHY FACE (Jones) showing her class.

Evelyn Kegerise, a hybridizer associated with pink, surprised me with the wide petaled, ruffled pale blue ANGELIC LIGHT. Its center was flushed with deeper blue.

Schreiners' mid-blue I 1354-1 had a welcome pattern of darker blue flush on the falls—bringing back memories of long-ago SEALARK. Another flushed blue bloom—H. Stahly's RIVER PATROL, had blue-violet also extending into the base of the standards.

A clump of DEEP PACIFIC (Burger), with wide branched show stalks containing ten buds, was holding together well after enduring two days and two inches of rain, its blue beard always an electric shock.

Many yellows were sunny under the rainy sky, and one, GOLD GALORE (Schreiners), with pure chrome intensity, was a magnet pulling everyone to it. Bledsoe's CANARY MUSIC, mid-yellow, provided more sunshine with well proportioned, wide, ruffled flowers on strong stalks in a two year clump showing much increase. GOLDEN TRINE, beside it, was a lighter note of pleasing form on thinner stalks. The best proportioned and substantiated Bledsoe yellow was 74-48, of mid

intensity with a matching beard. Another well substantiated medium yellow was Spahn's 72 A2, bearded in orange yellow.

The intermediate MAIDEN LANE (Pettijohn) showed proper smallness and clear yellow on white. The substance of many whites was diluted by rainwater, but Burger's CRYSTAL CITY was demonstrating superb survival with a four-way branched stalk sharing three thick, fresh red-bearded white blooms of near perfect form. WINTER DREAMS (Newhard '70) was also not thinned by the deluge.

An orange spotlight was provided by John Weiler's FRESNO CALYPSO with four open flowers on a nine-budded, well branched stalk. A softer note came from EMPIRE GEM (Redenbo), with a light violet flush beneath the soft bronze beard against a chamois background.

Further memories include the floriferousness of MULBERRY MIST (Burch), and the smoky overcast of MAYAN MORN (L. Peterson '75) with red beards giving it life.

Satisfying discovery: down the slope to the backfield with Jim Burch's first selects, I found his plicata seedling 39-3, buttonhole stitching of blue-violet bordering pure white standards, deep blue-violet style arms, clean white falls with violet markings at the hafts.

Maryann Anning and I had the pleasure of staying and further exploring the garden at the end of the afternoon. After the busloads left, thrushes and meadowlarks began to sing, a cardinal flushed briefly on a fence, and we spotted a whippoorwill running at the edge of the meadow, trying to attract our attention, so we were alerted to find a nest with five babies, appropriately in an abandoned seedling bed.

It is evident that Jim gives loving care as well as careful attention to the Bledsoe irises, but so do all Huntsville irisarians who were "born" through Bill's enthusiasm. Was it a subconscious premonition that caused him to ask Jim, on a Friday evening just two days before his heart attack, to introduce the Bledsoe irises? Jim has certainly honored his legacy. How fitting that a Bledsoe iris and a Burch iris were the cup winners at this convention.

THE CHRISTOPHER GARDEN

Despite rain, sunshine tones lit the Christopher garden in Murfreesboro, Tennessee with the brilliance of GOLDEN PROFILE and MISS ILLINI. The former, a '72 Olson introduction, greeted guests with a lusty clump of well branched and budded stalks; the latter, a classic from Varner '66, performed elegantly with fine form.

MT. COOK A' DAWNING (Foote '72) presented superb, although soggy, coloration. Also affected by the severe test of weather was a promising Steinhauer seedling, 7701, a well branched medium blue self.

Bennett Jones' '77 introduction SUNRISE POINT, a salmon and orange example of purity, didn't seem to know that it was raining and gave a

fine account of itself. ZIPPY CHERUB, a Guild median, ignored weather with yellow standards and matching rims on violet falls.

COUNTRY DEEJAY, a Lankow '79 IB, displayed two blooms in what had been a floriferous clump. The perky red toned variety has obvious class.

Blooms and branching were excellent on CHAMPAGNE MUSIC (Williamson '73), with blue standards and violet falls accented by a brown beard brushed with gold.

Friday's downpour demanded the ultimate substance of blooms on display, but evaluation becomes an enigma when the viewer cannot ascertain whether an open flower has been subjected to hours of bombardment or popped into display just before the buses arrived.

And, it was impossible to do justice to Martha and Joe Christopher's lovely garden, which hosted recent introductions and numbered seedlings from about 50 hybridizers, with such weather conditions.

THE EASLEY GARDEN

James Rasmussen

Muriel Easley has lived at 3016 Holmes Ave., N.W. in Huntsville for 27 years. In the beginning, she raised hardly more than a vegetable garden, but in 1957 she discovered her interest in irises through a garden club. Mrs. Easley then became a charter member of the Huntsville Chapter of AIS.

Today, her large city lot sports one hundred cultivars of her own, set off beautifully against the backdrop of a multiflora japonica rose hedge, which borders the property on two sides. The former vegetable garden was converted into a bed for the 120 guest irises which were on display. About 75% of the irises were in bloom and gave evidence of the loving care they received. Mrs. Easley is an organic gardener who strongly believes that "poisoning plants is not the thing to do." She avoids chemical sprays and uses only super-phosphate to fertilize.

Among the eye-catchers in the Easley garden were MARASCHINO (Keppel '79), a pink made interesting by greenish veins near the center of the falls and blush pink standards, and LIFTOFF (Saxton '79), which exhibited vigorous growth. The purple falls with pale, olive-tan standards held a gold-tipped, purple beard under extra large style arms—a beautiful iris which impressed me in other gardens as well.

RUFFLED BALLET (Roderick '75) showed well with a seven-bud count, good branching, straight stems, healthy growth, and an impressive flower with light blue, candle-shaped standards, whose white falls were infused with blue. ENTOURAGE (Ghio '77) was one of the best anywhere. Here, it was slightly shorter than in other gardens, but had an unusually strong stalk. Beautiful, very finely ruffled pinkish-purple with excellent branching!

SUMMIT LADY (Jorgensen) caught my eye across the yard with its gold falls and gold with slightly peach-colored mix in the standards. Intense orange beards completed the look of a standout as an ideal landscape clump.

SOUTHLAND GRAPE (Burch '78) was a treat of a different sort: very fragrant and scented exactly like grapes, the color was a deep purple self with gold beards. Seedling #552 by Ken Mohr was very impressive due to its stately, 40" height. A nice, white self!

A bed of Siberian irises complemented the other plantings of daylilies and climbing roses. All of the Siberians were in full bloom, and a clump of SEVEN SEAS (Louis Marx '56) was the outstanding feature that proved that oldies can still be goodies. I appreciated the opportunity to visit Muriel Easley's garden—a perfect example of what one woman is able to create with her own two hands.

THE HALL GARDEN

Janet K. Merrill

Dr. Marvin Hall's garden was unique among the Huntsville convention gardens. There were neither guest irises nor seedlings growing here. It was purely a display garden which gave us a chance to see irises blooming as we all dream of seeing them in our own gardens.

The combed and brushed lawn sloped down from the rear of the house to the level area where the iris beds were a mass of glowing colors. Here we could see some of the newer varieties grown into generous clumps full of flowers that are an iris lover's dream. BETTY SIMON, SUN CITY, ENTOURAGE, SONG OF NORWAY and FRENCH VANILLA each claimed admiring attention in turn.

Surrounding the iris beds and providing smooth walkways were patio blocks in a soft shade of medium green. The blocks immediately around the planting areas were tilted upward to keep the soil where it belonged.

Dr. Hall graciously took time for a brief conversation and obligingly posed for a picture. When I asked him about using mulch, he told me that he prefers "pine straw," a strange term to me until I noted pine needles covering the soil around his rose bushes. Then I realized that "pine straw" is the term for the long needles of the southern pine, much coarser than the needles of northern pines. They must be a nearly ideal mulch material, for they would stay in place and still not mat.

Surrounding the lawn area were beds of roses, with still more climbing on trellises attached to the house and showing lovely promises of rich beauty soon to come. Even the most single-minded iris visitor was attracted to the roses, too. It was a great pleasure to see Dr. Hall's lovely garden—one I shall long remember.

CONVENTION

CANDIDS



(Left) Barbara Whitehouse plans garden review; (Upper right) Bob Negus naps between gardens; (Right) Bob Mallory checks his guested MIO CARO. (Below) Stanley Foote, daughter and granddaughter admire his MT. COOK A' DAWNING.



THE KEARNEY GARDEN

On Thursday, there was a long ride to the Kearney Garden in Guntersville, Alabama and a chance to view the countryside. Hotcaps over plants seen in a garden enroute reminded one of ducks in a row—or was that the influence of the weather?

After several missed turns and passing a tempting sign, "Pick your own strawberries," we reached the small, artistically arranged garden of Mary and Jack Kearney.

Keppel introductions were starring here in the rain—a test of iris merit. PICAYUNE '77 bloomed with yellow standards, white falls rimmed yellow and peppered brown hafts. The clump of this border bearded was excellent in every respect.

FLAMENCO (Keppel '77) may have been the most outstanding variety in the garden. Large vibrant flowers—gold standards infused red, falls of white and yellow trimmed in deep red with a yellow beard accent—were dancing on well branched stalks.

OSAGE BUFF (Gibson '73) showed well with fascinating novelty colors and serious lasting quality.

Two Bledsoe irises, MOLLY MATTHEWS, a canary self with orange beard, and GOLDEN TRINE, another yellow in cadmium with an orange beard and lightened area around it, were unusually good here and added their own sunshine. Bledsoe irises were featured in all tour gardens, not only because of the Huntsville irisarians' affection for the late AIS President, but also because they perform extremely well here.

After a too-brief and too-wet visit, conventioners boarded the buses to head for lunch. It would be a great treat to return to the lovely Kearney garden on a sunnier day to truly absorb its beauty.

THE KENNEDY GARDEN

Jessie Wade

The contours of four acres of gradually sloping land, dotted with pines and oaks, provided an ideal setting for the masses of irises grown by Lois and Grady Kennedy. Another hobby, ceramics, appeared in the whimsical frogs and rabbits that enhanced their eight-year-old garden.

Region 24 RVP, Grady was also transportation chairman for the convention. Both Kennedys work full time at Redstone Arsenal, but they manage to grow and care for an extensive collection of tall bearded, Louisiana, Siberian, medians, *I. versicolor*, and a few spuria and Japanese. They are an iris hybridizing team: Lois keeps records and weeds, and Grady does the crossing and photography.

The first irises we noticed in the Kennedy garden were *I. tectorum*. A beautiful bed of them attracted much attention. Next, MT. COOK A' DAWNING (Foote '72) was an eyecatcher in rosy pink with a deeper pink beard; the sizable clump had three or four blooms open per stalk.

SUNRISE POINT (Bennett Jones '77) also drew viewers with its rich yellow standards and deeper yellow-orange falls. Tall sturdy stalks held three or four open blooms with velvety texture.

SUGAR TREE (Bledsoe '76) was beautiful with medium yellow standards topped with white-blazed falls ruffled in yellow. Strong, straight stalks displayed a nice bud count. During the tour, there were enough blooms open for good color, but real peak would probably follow in several days.

MYSTIQUE (Ghio '75) was a purple bitone opening two or three flowers per stalk, an intense beauty that stood out as usual.

DUTCH TREAT (Steinhauer '76) had strong stalks with at least three blooms open, displaying commendable light yellow, ruffled and well-substanced quality.

845-76-1 (Kennedy) was a seedling that is Lois Kennedy's pride. An MTB, it has yellow standards and bluish-lavender falls.

PANSY PURPLE (McEwen '71), a Siberian, was a showy clump in its entirety, with approximately 30 scapes equal in height and foliage. Its growing habits were excellent. Deep, velvety pansy purple falls were pointed and graceful, enhanced by a few white radiating marks and a lighter tone on the extreme edges. The standards were held gracefully erect. About half of the stems showed branching; new scapes were forming at the base of the clump.

THE LUCAS GARDEN

The garden of Evelyn and Jack Lucas was a beautifully landscaped testimony to Evelyn's artistic abilities: gracefully contoured mixed beds flowed silkily over the rolling hillside. Many irises not noticed elsewhere flourished here and demonstrated their worth.

An appealing Schreiner seedling, I 1354-1, was well proportioned, heavily veined light blue and violet. Another blue-violet was Stahly's seedling 72-49-1; this had a ruffled lushness that must distinguish it from others in the class.

JOE ASKINS, a Bledsoe 1978 introduction, showed off its russet and violet warmth, lit by a brown border, tangerine beards and golden hafts. Bledsoe's STRAWBERRY WINE '76 still appeals.

MANNEQUIN, this year's introduction by Gatty, was a ruffled peachy creation, tangerine bearded with charming ruffled form. SAN JOSE, Ghio '78, is exciting, reminding one of a mild-mannered big brother to BROWN LASSO.



BEARDLESS HYBRIDS IN HUNTSVILLE — Upper left: McGarvey Siberian PINK HAZE attracted votes and attention long before reaching peak bloom; see McGahee Garden review. Upper right: SNOW BOUNTY (McEwen) displayed crisp Siberian form and the green throat that has been the hybridizer's goal. Below: COUNTY PULASKI (Chowning) bloomed well in the Saxton and other tour gardens; see description of this Louisiana, Wilder garden review.



SUMMIT FLAME (Jorgensen) was a clear orange self with deeper beard on a well branched stalk. The clump was not at peak, but the poised, starchy and ruffled impact of this variety was dynamite.

Congenial Evelyn Lucas is the gardener's gardener with a creative plus. Well grown irises were only part of the garden that tempted conventioners to linger in its mellowness.

THE MCGAHEE GARDEN

Barbara Whitehouse

The McGahee garden in Huntsville was fascinating for those of us who can admit that there *ARE* botanical subjects other than the Genus Iris. There were irises, of course, many of them still in bud.

SOUTHLAND GRAPE (Burch '78) was impressive in deep Concord grape, lightly ruffled, tall and stately, and showed no ill effects from the morning's heavy rains.

LEMON GLITTER (D. Palmer '78), in pale lemon yellow with a precise narrow border in deeper lemon on all petals was dressed up with lace on the falls. Lovely—and seemingly also impervious to rain.

K. Mohr's seedling 72 9, a large ruffled, medium violet, looked particularly good despite the rain.

Schreiner's SHORELINE ('78), with pure white standards and with falls mottled in medium blue a la some Japanese irises, had suffered some rain damage, but it was still of interest because of the unusual application of color on the falls.

Dr. McGarvey must have been pleased to see his delightful Siberian iris PINK HAZE so well grown. A big double clump had five stalks with terminal flowers open or opening and at least 45 more multi-budded stalks just waiting for conventioners to leave before bursting into bloom!

Lush, healthy clumps of Louisiana irises also gave promise of great beauty to come—but not to be seen by those of us at the '79 convention. What we did see, however, were spectacular clumps of *Iris pseudacorus* in full bloom. *Iris tectorum* and *I. tectorum alba* were also delightful in shades of purple and in white. It was evident that we had missed the bloom on Pacificas, Cal-Sibes and on *I. versicolor*, all growing well here. In addition, Dutch irises in white, blue, yellow—even a clump of red-violet—added excitement to the garden.

Most of the McGahee gardens are behind their long ranchhouse, which has a spacious fenced "patio" atop the garage roof. From that vantage point, there is a stunning view of the surrounding mountains in one direction and a bird's eye view of their beautiful backyard in the

other. A few feet behind the house, the land begins to slope upward. The gardens are in free-form beds which accommodate to the slope and to rocky outcroppings in a natural arrangement.

Besides irises, the beds contain many other spring-flowering perennials—primroses, coral bells, pansies, violas, sozonaria, ground phlox, foxgolves, roses, daisies, candytufts and columbines—as well as hostas. Double pink columbines, grown from seed from Australia, have been bee-crossed with long-spurred hybrids, resulting in hybrids containing, apparently, both double and single flowers on the same plant. Incidentally, the double columbines look like pink clover with columbine foliage.

Freshly planted marigolds, geraniums and other annuals promised colorful bloom in these beds throughout the summer. But it was at the top of the slope, in the woods behind the beds, that this lovely garden showed how loving care can transform what might have been a wasteland into a botanical treasure. Here is a naturalized wildflower garden where trilliums, wild ginger, wild orchids, shooting stars (including a rare pink form) and other things grow with the native irises, *I. verna* and *I. cristata*, plus the closely related blue-eyed grass. Flowers are interspersed with ferns for a total effect that is so natural that only the labels show it was created by human hands.

I regret that Marie and Nelson McGahee were too busy to take me on a guided tour of their beautiful gardens. There was surely much that I missed in the short time I spent there.

THE GARDEN OF SUE AND A. J. McNEAL

Robert Mallory

We arrived in this garden after a night of rain, so many blooms were not in prime condition. In addition, a number of varieties were not yet blooming. Among the best varieties and seedlings seen in this Huntsville garden were the following:

CHANGING MOOD (Roderick). Golden brown standards and deeper brown falls were lit by golden hafts on lightly ruffled and laced flowers. The stalk contained three branches plus terminal and at least seven buds.

660-6 (Innerst). A full clump of this floriferous deep blue-violet self contained 14 stalks in bloom.

I was happy to see my own pink amoena seedling FJJD 74/10 growing taller than at home and holding up well under the adverse weather conditions.

CRUSHED VELVET (Ghio '77). This big, tall ruffled red-violet with contrasting pale blue-white beard was very showy.

INTUITION (Ghio '77). It was rather closely bunched, but had room for the lovely, lightly ruffled, deep violet flowers to show off well.

V2162 (Varner). One exceptionally well branched stalk was in bloom with a color pattern somewhat similar to that of BRIDE'S HALO.

ORANGE EMPIRE (Hamner '74). There were 14 very tall stalks displaying this variety's brilliant orange coloration, but blooms were very badly beaten down by the rain.

KW 71-110 (Wagstaff). This seedling had only one blossom open, but it was a lovely pastel amoena with an intriguing pinkish-orange beard.

70-54 (Kegerise). Nicely branched stalks held ruffled deep periwinkle blue flowers in a vigorous clump.

J-29 (Burger). Another well-branched seedling, this light pink was accented with a deeper beard tone.

MULBERRY MIST (Burch '78). A beautiful shade of amethyst was captured in a moderate-size.

DECEMBER MORN (Connally '78). This big, pale, wide-hafted blue, wearing a yellow beard tipped with blue, had nice branching but appeared short on buds.

BLUE TEMPEST (Burch '79). Four branches and a terminal displayed a neglecta flower with bright light blue standards and deep purple falls that boasted white around golden beards.

THE SAXTON GARDEN

Virginia Mathews

The garden of Don and Margaret Saxton was possibly the cleanest one on tour: not a weed could be seen, and everything was in perfect condition. Marg says she is the official weed-puller, and she surely deserves a gold medal! Don was in charge of the convention's artifacts auction and the Saxtons helped edit the convention booklet.

They have lived in their attractive brick home in Huntsville for 18 years, enjoying about a half acre of garden. An especially lovely weigela appeared on the front lawn, and concrete blocks bordered iris beds on the sides and backs. They use a great deal of pine needle mulch along with commercial fertilizers in the raised beds, and many irises are moved annually. Tall bearded predominate, but some Siberians are also grown.

Jim Burch's introduction FROSTY JEWELS, a clear pink; MULBERRY MIST, a lovely light mulberry rebloomer and SOUTHLAND GRAPE, a deep violet with a gold tipped violet beard, all performed very well.

CRUSHED VELVET (Ghio '77) was a lush mulberry color. INTUITION, another Ghio introduction from the same year, was looking good as usual. The latter is a medium blue accented by a striking brown beard.

VIVIEN, a '79 Keppel variety, is the nearest yet to a blue with a red beard. Excellent! GLEAMING LIGHT (D. Palmer '75) is a large impressive white.



Labeled "Carolina Native"

Speaking of species . . . the Huntsville Convention afforded visitors opportunity to view iris species well grown in several gardens. Prominent were brilliant yellow *I. pseudacorus*, and *I. tectorum* in both violet and white forms.



I. pseudacorus



I. pseudacorus bastardii



I. virginica



I. tectorum

I didn't make it to all of the guest beds before the whistle blew, so any hybridizer whose origination wasn't included in this list of XX varieties (code in my notebook for "I'd buy it!") may assume it was in the beds I missed.

THE VAN VALKENBURGH GARDEN

Allan Ensminger

Everyone who attends AIS Conventions knows Rosa Belle Van Valkenburgh, the charming, gracious lady who lives with husband Dick in Huntsville. Rosa Belle is the iris enthusiast in this family; her love of irises has taken her to every AIS Convention but one since 1962.

Her knowledge of what a convention garden should be, plus her ingenuity and hard work, created the beautiful garden that we visited on Saturday, the last day of convention.

The family tennis court, which lies perhaps 18 feet lower than the house and yard, became the convention garden. It is difficult to imagine Rosa Belle hauling 120 railroad ties to form large rectangular beds of various sizes. And she hauled ten truckloads of top soil, hundreds of wheelbarrow loads, to fill the beds so that the irises would have good drainage in Alabama's hot, rainy season.

Now, two years later, we enjoyed the fruits of her labor. Garden visitors looked down upon a spacious garden edged with cherry laurel trees, centered with a large antique urn planted with green and white caladiums.

The beds of guest irises are colorful spots, so beautifully grown that there is no evidence of foliage diseases, and many of the bloom stalks stand over 40 inches tall.

It is difficult to resist rushing to the lower garden to view the well grown guest irises, but to cover this large garden systematically we must make a careful and accurate report of the extensive plantings. Here are more guest irises than in any other convention garden.

Irises planted in the long bed along the drive are intermingled with other spring blooming plants such as pansies, peonies, shasta daisies, bachelor buttons and sweet williams. In a partially shaded spot are double columbines grown from seeds brought from Australia.

Next, we pass through the arched arbor and down the steps made of railroad ties to the lower level. Hybridizers must have loved the way their irises grow; it is difficult to select a few for comments, when so many looked so good.

Among many beauties sent by Rudolph, the one most commanding our attention was CHARTREUSE RUFFLES with only one blossom open, but with 12 stalks on a two year clump. We especially liked Schreiner seedling I 1354-1, a light blue and dark violet bitone.

Sexton's WORLD NEWS, a bright ruffled variegata attracted our attention from afar. Rogers' JEANETTE has yellow standards and white falls with a border of gold and is outstanding enough to get three stars on our variety list.

Keppel's SANTANA is a yellow and brown plicata of unusual color. Bob Brown's MUTED MELODY is a ruffled, beautifully formed, but difficult to describe, bitone. Gibson's RANCHO ROSE, a rose on pink plicata, was as beautiful as ever and almost perfect in blossom form. Hager's SPACE ODYSSEY, a well branched, wide petalled white and violet plicata, was excellent.

This garden accomodates two bus loads of irisarians quite easily because the spacious walkways allow traffic in all directions without crowding. Among the most attractive garden features were Rosa Belle's nine beautiful granddaughters, all attired in long dresses.

There is much we haven't mentioned: the beds of hemerocallis that promise garden color later, the four beds of Rosa Belle's seedlings, the well grown clumps of TWICKENHAM (Rosa Belle's big yellow bitone that ranked high in votes for the President's Cup) and the collection of antique dolls that attracted some irisarians.

One last glimpse through the tinted glass of our bus window and we saw muted colors in the now vacated garden, a quiet serene beauty that will remain in our memories.

THE WILDER GARDEN

Claire Barr

Ruth and Archie Wilder's informal and relaxing small city garden had a small sign "Wilder's Wilderness." Beds were mulched throughout with pine bark and surrounded by edgings and walkways of concrete block. Ruth, who found time to serve as Convention Registration Chairman as well as to prepare a display garden, was assisted in greeting her guests by a mockingbird singing brightly in a front yard tree—a happy symbol of the southern hospitality evident throughout the convention.

A number of seedlings caught the eye, including Carr's 71-27, a heavily ruffled white. Innerst's 371-1 showed palest violet standards, flushed deeper at the base and almost white horizontal falls; his 613-1 was a lace-edged old rose self with a beard of shrimp red. Steinhauer had two beauties—5925, a lovely light true-blue self and 5926, a richly textured light to medium lilac self with large flaring falls.

A magestic clump of the late Bill Bledsoe's Franklin Cook Cup winner SUGAR TREE, '76, was there with starchy yellow-gold standards, falls of the same color with a white apron and a soft orange beard. Bledsoe's newly introduced TORCH PARADE was interesting, too: smaller, but strutting proudly and colored to match its name, an orange blend.

Others noted were Hamner's WILD BERRY '78, a stunning mulberry plicata; Niswonger's '78 introduction GRANDMA'S TRIMDRESS, with light,

almost transparent pink-violet standards and gold markings at the haft; and Ghio's popluar deep violet-purple self INTUITION, '77, with its interesting brownish-gold beard.

Hamblen's perky border bearded GYPSY WINGS, '78, displayed yellow standards and absolutely horizontal falls of rose. Saxton's LIFTOFF, a '79 introduction, was dramatic with standards like cream-tan thunder clouds poised on the large violet falls, just ready for the countdown. Convention Chairman Jimmy Burch won the President's Cup for FROSTED JEWELS, '79, a pale cotton-candy pink with a white flush on flared falls and a peachy red beard.

COUNT PULASKI, an outstanding Louisiana introduction from Chowning, showed rich tan open standards and graceful falls of a deeper tone, almost burnt orange. Among the Siberians were McGarvey's lovely PINK HAZE, with a white lining inside its standards, and Varner's REJOICE ALWAYS, '75, with falls of mulberry rose, marked like arrows with a white blaze, and gold on the narrow hafts.

THE WILLIAMS AND THEIR GARDEN

Julius Wadekamper

I would like to give equal consideration to both the people and their garden, rather than treat the grower as an adjective modifying the garden. There would be no garden without the Williams; on the other hand, the tour would not have included the Williams place without the garden. Perhaps this was a prime example of the meaning that people in the American Iris Society have for each other: when the flowers were not in full bloom, and the rain was coming down, everyone got out smiling to visit the hosts and each other. Everyone was not so busy taking notes, and time permitted conversation.

Phil and Joan Williams both have a good background for gardening, coming from families of dairy farmers. Phil has a degree in Plant Science from Mid-Tennessee, owns a florist shop and plays the piano. Joan, of Cherokee descendency, creates crafts which she exhibits and sells at shows. She and Phil have three adorable children: Craig is four and a half, Bridget is two and a half, and baby Shannon was only three weeks old when we visited. Joan, who met Phil in church, said she would never marry a dairy farmer, but now she wonders if the florist trade is not equally demanding of time. Phil started his florist business from scratch, designing and building his own shop in Eagleville, a western Tennessee town of about 1000. His shop serves an adjacent area of about 25,000 people. He also grows vegetables and devotes considerable time serving as Managing Editor of this *Bulletin*.

Beauty is evident in every aspect of their lives, from small landscape ideas such as a petunia growing from a hole in an old gnarled apple tree, to a bubbling fountain tucked in a corner by the house, to a plain of verdant fields down the road. This plain is backed by a forest in the distance and further, by colorful peaks once belonging to the

aunt of Jim Gibson, California iris hybridizer.

The iris beds are nestled among the maple trees and the children's swings and slides. The raised beds were established only a few years ago, and irises are grown strictly as a hobby. Treflan helps keep down the weeds in beds that grow many types of irises, especially medians, remontants and arilbreds as well as tall bearded.

I was particularly impressed by the large numbers of arilbred irises and especially those of Henry Danielson. STARS OVER CHICAGO stood tall and beautiful through the rain; the arilbred is an artist's blend of tan and violet similar to GENETIC MOMENT, which is more blue in the standards and tan in the falls. GENETIC DANCER, of similar form and tones as STARS OVER CHICAGO, stood up heroically in the weather. Keppel's 73 21A, a blue with a red beard, was floriferous and very nice. The tan-yellow SWIZZLE (Hager) also looked great.

The 195 guest irises from 53 hybridizers had not reached peak bloom, and the heavy rains prevented one from seeing the flowers in their most glorious moments. One must realize the work and organization that went into all of this to imagine what a disappointment it must be to the owners of the garden. Yet, there was not a trace of gloom on the smiling faces of Phil and Joan. One gets the impression that they are optimistic and happy even on inauspicious days, and their enthusiasm was transmitted to all. A glimpse of three-week-old Shannon sleeping in her crib would have been enough to have made the trip well worth the time and effort, regardless of what was blooming outside.

LATEST NEWS

15 FAVORITE GUEST IRIS WINNERS

Annelle Craig, chairman of the committee to count votes that conventioners mailed in following the Huntsville Convention, phoned in the following results. "Almost everyone voted" who attended the convention, she noted, and about 300 varieties received votes. Following, in order, are the irises voted Favorite Guest Irises.

Variety	Number of Votes
1. ENTOURAGE (Ghio '77)	73
2. SAN JOSE (Ghio '78)	59
3. MT. COOK A' DAWNING (Foote '72)	55
4. MULBERRY MIST (Burch '78) Re	52
5. PINK HAZE (McGarvey R. '69) Sib	50
6. FROSTY JEWELS (Burch '79)	48
7. LIFTOFF (Saxton '79)	47
8. SUGAR TREE (Bledsoe '76)	46
9. SOUTHLAND GRAPE (Burch '78)	44
10. STRATEGY (Saxton '79)	42
11. GENTLE RAIN (Keppel '77)	41
12. RANCHO ROSE (Gibson '75)	39
13. INTUITION (Ghio '77)	37
14. PLAYGIRL (Gatty '75)	36
15. BROWN LASSO (Buckles '75) BB	32



SPECIAL AWARDS presented at the Awards Banquet included (upper left) the Foster Memorial Plaque from the British Iris Society to Dr. Currier McEwen, presented by Awards Chairman Ken Waite; (lower left) the Membership Cup presented to Margaret Connally by James Burch; (below) Ken Waite presents the Distinguished Service Medal to former Bulletin Editor-in-Chief Philip Edinger.



AMONG VARIETIES attracting garden visitors were (below) **GENTLE RAIN** (Keppel) and (right) **MULBERRY MIST**, a Burch rebloomer.



HOW CAN THEY DO IT?

Are excellence of bloom and a bit of good luck the only reasons that a variety wins the President's or Cook Cups voted by those attending a national AIS convention? What circumstances lead to winning, and what factors may be causative? For some years the "Saturday Theory" has been circulated: the last good iris seen in the last tour gardens, when conventioners remember that votes must be submitted soon, will win.

In reality, the results of one year's voting can neither prove nor disprove any theory. Nor can we state firmly which guests were in spectacular bloom in which garden. Certain factors, however, might be considered; the nebulous and puzzling possibilities might be clarified with investigation of past or coming years. We do not cast aspersions on this year's winners: they were impressive. Results are charted here.

THE 1979 FRANKLIN COOK MEMORIAL CUP

Eligible: All introduced convention guest irises produced by hybridizers from outside the host region, 24.

Place	Variety	Hybridizer	# Votes	# Gardens Guested per Tour Day		
				Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1.	SUGAR TREE	Bledsoe	42	4	4	5
2.	MT. COOK A' DAWNING	Foote	33	3	3	4
3.	GENTLE RAIN	Keppel	31	3		2
4.	ENTOURAGE	Ghio	28	2	2	2
5.	INTUITION	Ghio	18	3	3	3
6.	BROWN LASSO	Buckles	14	1		2
7.	SAN JOSE	Ghio	12	1	2	3
8.	RANCHO ROSE	Gibson	9			1
9.	PINK HAZE	McGarvey	8	2		1
10.	AUGURY	McGarvey	7			1

Reading these results, remember that the winners triumphed over hundreds of varieties sent to the gardens and grown. They are tall bearded, except BROWN LASSO, a border bearded, and two Siberians, PINK HAZE and AUGURY. Of the 14 tour gardens, 13 accepted guest irises.

SUGAR TREE was guested in all tour gardens that accepted guests, the most extensive coverage among winners. On the other hand, other irises not appearing on the winners' list had equally wide distribution and did not succeed. A look at the chart seems to demonstrate that IF a hybridizer has a potential winner, generosity sending stock and in cooperating with the guest iris committee is wise.

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SUGAR TREE (above) was voted the Franklin Cook Memorial Cup by those attending the convention as best guest iris by an out of region hybridizer. Marylou Bledsoe accepts the trophy, for her late husband, from Leon Wolford. FROSTY JEWELS (below) garnered the President's Cup for the best iris by a hybridizer in the hosting region. The iris was created by James Burch.



Conversely, the non-TB irises on the winners' list were not widely distributed among convention gardens, but managed to overwhelm hundreds of TB hopefuls. Border bearded BROWN LASSO had won the Walther Cup in 1977 and an Award of Merit in 1978, receiving more votes than any iris in any classification in any category on the entire Awards Ballot. This year it made the list above when it was guested in only three gardens.

McGarvey's two pink Siberian entries, PINK HAZE and AUGURY, achieved the honor with three and one chances, respectively. Gibson's RANCHO ROSE appeared in one garden on Saturday and finished eighth. One must wonder, if either AUGURY or RANCHO ROSE had had full coverage, would either have moved to the top with 13 times the number of votes?

Do irises from like climates adjust more readily for a big showing in the host region? SUGAR TREE is from neighboring Tennessee, Region 7. GENTLE RAIN hails from California (pardon the pun), as do MT. COOK A' DAWNING, ENTOURAGE, INTUITION, SAN JOSE and RANCHO ROSE, six of the ten winners. The Siberians come from New York and BROWN LASSO, from Missouri.

And, one might ask, how far in advance were these particular plants submitted for guesting? Were they fully adjusted to the microclimate over several years, or just planted last year with, according to theory, buds programmed for this year's blooms?

Considering colors and patterns, one finds pink prominent in this year's winners. MT. COOK A' DAWNING, a pink self with tangerine-red beard; ENTOURAGE, a rose self with tangerine beard; RANCHO ROSE, a plicata with magenta rose standards and falls of salmon rose marked red; plus the Siberians, AUGURY that opens pink to turn light purple and PINK HAZE, a medley of pink and violet tones, aptly named, comprise half of the winners.

The ultimate winner of the Cook Cup, SUGAR TREE, is another from a superior yellow and white family line; RAINBOW GOLD X DENVER MINT, its parents, are the same wedding that produced last year's Dykes champ, BRIDE'S HALO.

GENTLE RAIN is white, delicately plicated and edged in violet with a blue beard. INTUITION is the only very dark winner: a dark blue with a green-brown beard. BROWN LASSO is known for butterscotch standards, and violet falls with a distinct brown edge and yellow beard. SAN JOSE offers more light brown tones, with tan standards, similar falls washed violet and tan beard.

Weather for the Huntsville tours meant some rain on all days, with ultimate clearing Saturday: a stern test of substance and color-fastness in general. Are some color classes, in their present genetic development, more weather resistant than others? Also, floriferousness and vigor must be an influencing factor, a prominent influence on viewers and reason to endorse a garden subject.

Was the "Saturday Theory" applicable? Would conventioners vote on the basis of one good clump at the finale? The ten top irises from out of region were listed in 23 Saturday gardens, 19 Thursday gardens

and only 13 Friday gardens. The two that appeared once were both Saturday list guests. The evidence here is hardly conclusive.

Do judges vote the same way that the rest of conventioners do? Does a popular color gain weight? Are opportunities to see the varieties the day of voting conducive to a more meaningful vote than those on Awards Ballots, where memories may fail and the romance of names evoke mental images?

Many of the same questions may be asked for the President's Cup. Ten irises from four hybridizers were eligible and the results follow:

THE 1979 PRESIDENT'S CUP

Eligible: Introduced convention guest irises produced by hybridizers from within the host region, 24.

Place	Variety	Hybridizer	# Votes	# Gardens Guested per Tour Day		
				Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1.	FROSTY JEWELS	Burch	90	4	4	4
2.	STRATEGY	Saxton	73	2	2	2
3.	MULBERRY MIST	Burch	60	4	4	4
4.	TWICKENHAM	Van Valkenburgh	47	4	3	5
5.	BARTEE BLUE	Connally	34	3	4	3
6.	LIFTOFF	Saxton	29	3	4	5
7.	SOUTHLAND GRAPE	Burch	18	3	4	5
8.	HEART OF DIXIE	Saxton	3	3	4	5
9.	BLUE TEMPEST	Burch	2	1	4	3
10.	DECEMBER MORN	Connally	2		2	1

There is certainly no blatant propensity seen here for the "Saturday Theory," since most were widely distributed and three in the second half appeared in the full five Saturday tour gardens. Indeed, the second place winner had unusually low Saturday advantages, guested in only two tour gardens.

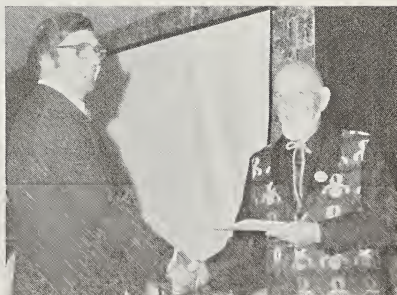
Conclusions seem few. Generosity by a hybridizer in distributing guest irises increases the value of guesting at all, if the hybridizer wishes honor as well as commercial considerations. Sending valuable recent introductions without charge is an expensive operation in the first place. A variety must grow well and floriferously to attract notice in heavy competition, be stalwart in adverse weather, be willing to bloom on tour days—and it must have the quality to impress viewers. Genetic expertise by the hybridizer? Luck in several directions?

The editor notes that the answers to the miasmatic enigmas posed in this article remain to be found. Theories and facts from readers are solicited now and in future years. Eventual answers that emerge might be of value to both the hybridizers who send guests and the members who purchase varieties. Let us hear from you.



ACCEPTING
MAJOR
AWARDS
AT THE
CEREMONY
WERE---

Above: H. C. Mohr (left) receives the 1978 Dykes Medal from Kenneth Waite for BRIDE'S HALO. Below: (upper left) Hooker Nichols accepts the Cook-Douglas Medal won by AMAZON PRINCESS from Melba Hamblen; (upper right) Frank Chowning receives, from President Wolford, the Walter Cup for his Louisiana iris introduction ANN CHOWNING; (lower left) Sid DuBose, representing Jonnye Rich, accepts the Payne Award for the Japanese iris TUPTIM, presented by President Wolford; (lower right) Ben Hager receives the Eric Nies Award for his outstanding spuria variety CLARKE COSGROVE.



Memories Wanted

A letter from David Cook, son of Franklin Cook, was received by Phil Edinger requesting the help of BULLETIN readers who remember his father. Information received will be part of a memorial service, and excerpts from the letter appear below. Hopefully, readers may be of particular help with the last two items requested, not available from files.

1233 Olive Drive
Davis, California 95616

Dear Mr. Edinger:

I am writing to ask whether any of your staff or members might be willing to assist me in reconstructing some of the pieces of my Dad's career with the AIS. He was Dr. Franklin Cook of Evanston, Illinois, a Director from 1938 to 1952, and President from 1947 until early 1949, being succeeded by Judge Guy Rogers of Wichita Falls, Kansas. Although he is not listed among your past presidents inside the cover of your current BULLETIN editions, I am sure that there are still AIS members around who would remember him. He was an iris hybridizer from his teenage years, as was his own father, AIS member Roy J. Cook. He maintained a huge garden at 2747 Hurd Avenue where he reveled in the lusty competitions and friendly conspiracies of that era in developing pure colors which the eye of man had never seen in an iris bloom. He worked mainly in blues, purples, and plicatas, while across the corner in Wilmette, Orville Fay was working in pure whites and a mile or so to the north, Dave Hall was considered somewhat eccentric in his obsession with flamingo pinks. This was an exuberant, Golden Age for the AIS, as it was for America generally.

I believe that during his tenure as the fifth AIS president, he was concerned to reform judging standards so that they would be more fair and scientific, oversaw the AIS's smashing publication success, "The Iris: An Ideal Hardy Perennial," and instituted the somewhat populist President's Cup for the most outstanding display of a variety seen during the Annual Convention. What your readers won't know, and what I can now reveal, is that the President's Cup was inspired by Dad's elegant collection of outboard racing trophies—another great love of his, but which he had to renounce when he settled into his pediatric practice. In fact, it was at the throttle of his outboard that he met death, somewhat mysteriously, during a gathering rain squall on Lake Charlevoix, Michigan, during the night of August 7-8, 1952. What is known of this event is accurately reported in that October's BULLETIN (#127, p. 3). I am the "David, 12" mentioned in that article, now a clinical psychologist affiliated with the University of California at Davis; "Kathy, 14" is now the manager of a rather extensive flower enterprise at Green Gulch Farm in Sausalito, California, affiliated with the San Francisco Zen Center.

Here is what would be most valuable to me in this 'Roots' — or, rather, "rhizomes" — investigation: 1.) minutes of the Directors' meeting in New York, 1-15-49 and preceding meetings during his tenure as AIS President . . . , 2.) the names of any of Dad's hybrids which won AIS awards . . . , 3.) correspondence with any members or dealers who might be willing, at my expense, to share a rhizome or copy a color slide of any of the above and, finally, 4.) sharing of anecdotes — sad, funny or otherwise — with any members who may have shared fellowship, escapades, and satisfactions with Franklin Cook.

A Personal Approach To Recruiting AIS Members

Margaret Connally, Alabama

When I was asked to serve as Membership Chairman of the Huntsville Iris Society, I had misgivings about accepting. I am a gardner (not the garden club variety) and am happiest putting around in my own garden or out in the surrounding mountains collecting wildflowers. Frankly, I seemed a poor choice but decided this was something that I could do at home, and I could probably get eight or ten members, so I accepted. At this point, the prospects of a housewife from Gurley, Alabama (population about 1000), winning the AIS membership campaign seemed as remote as a peanut farmer from the South becoming President.

Looking back, I realize that the reason for my working so hard to win is so much a part of *how* I did it, that I cannot write a truthful account of how I recruited the members without including *why* I did it.

I have always sincerely liked people and welcomed them to my garden. A few phone calls to regular visitors I had shared irises with got the predicted eight or ten members, and then—my first seedlings bloomed. The fifteen miles that I live from Huntsville might as well have been five hundred. The only judges who came were close friends who would have, regardless. I learned that no more judges could be appointed until we brought our membership up. At this point, I became Membership Chairman with a purpose.

I found spring the best time to recruit members. I worked all day at our show, talking to as many visitors as possible. Trusting nothing to memory, I jotted down names, addresses, and when possible, comments (why they could not join at this time, how many irises they grew, etc.). I borrowed the guest register and about a week later started telephoning people to ask if they enjoyed the show, if they had any questions, or simply did little Johnny get his cast off. I found people do respond if we show a sincere interest in them.

My telephone campaign was fairly successful, and I was feeling rather pleased with the results when I half-jokingly mentioned to a member of our local club that I might try to win the AIS membership cup. She told me, "I doubt that you could get it; someone from the west coast always wins."

If needing more judges inspired me to try to get members, being told that I probably could not win challenged me to try harder. Out came my little black book, and I started calling people to remind them of our upcoming sale. I worked as much as possible at the sale, and not only did I get several more members, but we had our biggest sale.

No, I did not get all my recruits by telephone. As I always have, I promoted irises anytime and any place possible. I took arrangements to my doctor's office, beauty shop, etc. I welcomed visitors to my garden, including children. I plant picking flowers (older varieties) near the street. No child is denied a flower for the asking. A child who has a seed pod maturing in your garden understands why you cannot pick some of your flowers.

Last year, I tried a new experiment. I invited the Biology Department of our local high school to visit. I must admit I was a little nervous thinking of nearly a hundred teenagers in my garden. I am happy to report that they were polite, attentive and interested. They called and asked permission to come again this year.

My little black book is over two years old now and rather worn, but I will not discard it. A wealth of information is collected there. The girl who had night classes last year may have graduated—and so it goes. It was not always easy, but it was rewarding. I have made new friends, met many interesting people, and last week twelve-year-old Teresa called to say, "The first pretty seedling I get is going to be named Margaret Connally." Who could ask for more?

When we asked Margaret to write an article explaining her success in recruiting new AIS members, she thought our motivation was her winning last year's membership contest. Until she saw the last BULLETIN, she didn't realize that she had won the contest for the second year in a row. Surprised and delighted, Margaret added that the most recent win was due to simply collecting the remainder of folks left from the previous year's campaigning. And she's still at work.

During our initial discussions, Margaret explained that she could not do the things that Bob Bledsoe had found successful and reported in the last issue. She couldn't go on television! She is "just a housewife!" This modest lady has proven that there are many ways to recruit new members for our organization and, whichever path is followed, enthusiastic caring leads to success. Congratulations and thanks, Margaret!—Ed.

POP IRISES

Among the 1978 iris names by Oklahoma hybridizer Hooker Nichols were CLOSE ENCOUNTERS, DISCO JAMBOREE, FOOLISH NOTION, LUNAR CHILD and SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER. Those are timely varieties!

Erma and Bill Schortman of Schortman's Iris Garden, Porterville, California replied to our queries about some of their recent iris names — SIXTY FIFTH ANNIVERSARY was named for their sixty-fifth wedding anniversary in June 1978. GOLDEN MEMORIAL '67 was named in honor of their fiftieth anniversary. 1979, incidentally, will be the fifty-fifth anniversary of Bill's first iris hybriding.

Many Schortman introductions were named for space-age events — ECHO ONE, APOLLO RED and FANTASTIC VOYAGE. Mr. Schortman has never used a personal name for an iris, wondering if the person honored wouldn't feel less honored "when the price or iris doesn't go over and it gets to 50¢ or less," but CALICON was named for Emma, whom he described as "a California girl and born in Connecticut in 1890."

Behind the Veil

The Bride's Halo Ancestry

Philip Edinger

Each year, for the past four years, the *Bulletin* has published a charted ancestry of the most recent Dykes Medal winner. The purposes have been to record the information for the sake of iris history and, for the interest of hybridizers, to highlight the ancestral makeup of these most highly honored irises. An additional motive has been the use of these charts to present parentage information that is not given in the Check Lists and which would not be available to most members who might try to chart the ancestry from published registrations. In the case of BRIDE'S HALO, the new information is so far back in the chart (CHANTILLY, REBELLION, for example) that it is only of academic interest rather than of immediate practical value. But, for the record, it is there.

More interesting would be a conclusive explanation for the origin of the distinctive "halo" pattern. By that I don't mean the band of yellow around white falls, as in JOYCE TERRY or BICENTENNIAL, but the precise golden rim—or halo—at the edges of falls *and* standards. Ron Mullin in *Bulletin 231*, pages 40-42, lumped the two types together and traced all but one to DENVER MINT; the common ancestor of all he considered was GLITTERING AMBER. But what of just the halo?

Three modern tall bearded (are there more?) share this pattern: BRIDE'S HALO, OLD FLAME (Ghio '75), and GALEN (Fairbanks-Jasper '74). The first two are in white and yellow (OLD FLAME with red beards), while GALEN adds the halo to a lavender flower. Both BRIDE'S HALO and GALEN are DENVER MINT seedlings, GALEN being from DENVER MINT X ((ALICE LEMEN X (JOSEPH'S MANTLE X HI-TIME)) X MOON RIVER). OLD FLAME is WEST COAST X RADIANT LIGHT, but WEST COAST is DENVER MINT X CELESTIAL GLORY.

Part of the halo story, then, must be DENVER MINT. But, in order for the pattern to appear, there also must be "something" on the other side of each parentage that, when combined with DENVER MINT, brings the halo out. The question is "what?"—and the answer, unfortunately, is "don't know." All three irises feature tangerine-bearded pinkish antecedents opposite DENVER MINT (which itself is half tangerine), but with one exception all are from the highly inbred Hall line; if that were the key, DENVER MINT X any tangerine bearded pink-to-orange from Hall, Fay, or Rudolph should give halo patterns and apparently that has not occurred.

The "ringer" in any analysis of these three irises is OLD FLAME: its antecedents, other than DENVER MINT, are solely Hall-Fay inbred pinks plus a Lapham seedling that combines Hall and Loomis pinks (just as behind DENVER MINT) with Lapham early red breeding that relates to nothing else in these ancestries.

Considering only BRIDE'S HALO and GALEN, it is tempting to point a finger at MATULA and its sib MIDWEST GEM; MATULA in particular was known to produce "edged" seedlings. But nowhere behind OLD FLAME does MATULA appear.

Long-time iris growers may recall the 1956 introduction MY DARLING (Daling) which featured MATULA on both sides of its pedigree. It perhaps was the first of the halo pattern to be introduced—and of course it was accomplished years before DENVER MINT was around.

It would be interesting to learn of other appearances of the halo pattern from crosses that don't involve any irises of that pattern. Whatever its origin or origins, the halo is an attractive decorative feature that most surely will adorn more and more new irises.

AIS MEMBERSHIP RATES

Send dues, making checks payable to the American Iris Society, to the Membership Secretary, **Ronald Mullin, 1600 Fourth St., Route 3, Pawnee, Oklahoma 74058.**

Annual	\$ 7.50
Triennial	18.75
Family Annual (any two members of a family at same address)	9.00
Family Triennial	22.50
Family Youth (age 18 and under; when an adult in the family is an AIS member; one <i>BULLETIN</i> per family)	1.50
Youth (age 18 and under; full membership privileges)	2.50
Sustaining	15.00
Research	37.50
Life	150.00
Family Life	187.50

SECTION DUES

To join or renew membership in special Sections of the AIS, indicate and return remittance as below to the Membership Secretary when paying AIS dues!

	single annual	single triennial	family annual	family triennial
Median	2.50	6.25	2.75	7.50
Siberian	2.00	5.00	2.50	6.00
Spuria	2.00	5.00	2.50	6.00
Japanese	2.00	5.00	2.50	6.00
Reblooming	3.00	7.50	4.00	10.00
Pacific Coast	4.00	10.00	5.00	12.00
Species	3.00	9.00	6.00	18.00
Louisiana	2.00	6.00	4.00	12.00

IMPORTANT: Section dues, if paid through AIS, **MUST** be for the same duration as your AIS dues. AIS FAMILY member desiring SINGLE Section membership, **PLEASE** indicate which person is applying for Section membership.

NEW MEMBERS ENROLLED

January-March 1979

New Members Recruited By:

- BEN AZER (MI)**
Bill Watson (MI)
Cherie Watson (MI)
Laura Watson (MI)
- OREN E. CAMPBELL (AR)**
Mrs. Maxine Cook (AR)
Mrs. Bernadine Elrod (AR)
Mr. & Mrs. Willard A. King (AR)
Renee & Jack Robertson (AR)
Mrs. Adele C. Rush (AR)
- MARGARET CONNALLY (AL)**
Mrs. H. F. Brooks (AL)
- MRS. GLEN DEMPSEY (AR)**
Mrs. E. E. Pickle (AR)
- MRS. RUTH T. FLETCHER (AL)**
Mrs. William G. Campbell (AL)
Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Fletcher (GA)
Mrs. H. L. Gwin (AL)
Mrs. R. M. McMillan (AL)
Mrs. C. C. NeSmith (AL)
Mr. & Mrs. L. L. Powell (AL)
Mr. & Mrs. C. F. Sullivan (AL)
- STUART LOVELESS (MI)**
Beth Brown (MI)
Sandy Olson (MI)
- MRS. C. DANIEL OVERHOLSER (IN)**
Mr. Elmo A. Inzer (IN)
- GEORGE SLADE (KY)**
Mrs. Eddie Florence (KY)
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Lebus (KY)
- MRS. HARRY E. SPENCE (KS)**
Mrs. D. P. Cooper (KS)
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Nancy R. Axelrod (CA)
Mrs. Al Babel (ME)
Mrs. Robert Bailey (CA)
Mrs. Alice Bassett (WA)
Mrs. Thomas Bath (CO)
Mr. & Mrs. Walter Becker (TX)
Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Belnap (ID)
Mrs. R. L. Blackwell (MT)
Gerry Bohac (NB)
Mrs. Joe Bolin (KY)
Mrs. E. A. Borden (MO)
Mrs. F. Boudreaux (LA)
- Dr. Jean Bryan (MO)
Mr. George Busch (KY)
Charlotte A. Bushey (WA)
Mrs. Georgiana Burch (NC)
Linda Burg (CA)
Mr. Michael Cagley (MN)
Joan Clark (ID)
Mrs. Jean Clingman (TX)
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Conrad (TX)
Mrs. Virginia Cyr (MA)
Mr. Roy Davis (IN)
Mrs. D. J. Domstead (TX)
Mr. J. D. Door (OR)
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Durrance (CO)
P. Edminston (FL)
Mrs. Winston Ervin (OH)
Mr & Mrs. Eldor Etzold (MO)
Mrs. Charles J. Ewart (NM)
Edna Favors (AL)
Mrs. Anthony Figueiredo (CA)
Mr. Ron Fines (Canada)
Mr. E. E. Flesher, Sr. (TX)
Mrs. Betty Gardner (OH)
Ms. Gail Gilbert (FL)
Mr. Thomas Goff (KY)
Lucille E. Greer (NB)
Mrs. R. J. Gully (Australia)
Ira. D. Guthrie (CA)
Mr. Ron Gutowsky (TX)
Fred Ham (GA)
Michael Hammel (MO)
Mr. & Mrs. Darrell Heier (NB)
Mr. Michael C. Hemmer (SD)
Mr. Patrick R. Hemmer (SD)
Donna Holland (NM)
Adrianus Hollander (Germany)
Mr. John Hosack (KS)
Mr. & Mrs. M. J. Hosack (KS)
Mr. John H. Jacobus (NY)
Mr. Ray M. John (TX)
Mrs. Elsie Johnson (MN)
Mrs. Nina M. Johnson (PA)
Dorothy Jones (MN)
Mr. Frank Karhan (OH)
Mr. Darrell C. Kiser (NC)
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Krahn (MN)

Miss Catherine Kuhl (NJ)
Mr. Sterling Leisz (CA)
Dr. Robert J. Loughry (PA)
Marie Lovejoy (ID)
Mrs. Florence Lovett (OH)
Barbara Luce-Richey (CA)
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Mr. James D. Paulson (MN)
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Mr. Edward Podufaly (MD)
Mr. Harold W. Porter (MO)
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Mr. & Mrs. Jack Williams (TX)
Sam O. Wilson (ID)
Sue Worsham (PA)

THE NAME GAME

Stanley S. Foote of California, attending the Huntsville Convention with his daughter and granddaughter, paused to explain the story behind MT. COOK A' DAWNING, the variety later to be voted second placed in the Cook Cup competition. When he visited New Zealand some years ago, he awoke early one morning and, from his hotel window, watched the rising sun light the snow-crowned peak of majestic Mt. Cook. Seen momentarily at a sharp angle, the light created "a rose pink diamond in the sky—perfectly divine!" He returned home with this image and continued his iris hybridizing efforts. Finally a seedling bloomed that inspired him to remember and exclaim, "Kid, you've got it!" MT. COOK A' DAWNING

Many readers have expressed enthusiasm for "The Name Game" in the last issue. Curious about any particular variety name? Know an interesting story about an introduction? Contact the Editor-in-Chief.

Tender Love and Care

Mike Young, Texas

It was only a few years ago when Judy and I started growing irises, thanks to an overly generous and friendly iris nut named Gene Lawler. We dug our first flower bed and put out the modest 50 plants the Lawlers gave us. He told us he wanted to give us a few to get us started, then left them on our front porch one Sunday morning all labeled and trimmed. Judy and I felt that we couldn't hurt his feelings since we were new in the neighborhood, so the digging began.

Our first season was exciting; we began to meet the great iris people around the Dallas and Fort Worth areas. It was interesting because the people came from all walks of life with a common interest that brought everyone together. Our first bloom season was exciting mainly because a few of the darn plants bloomed. We even were encouraged to enter our first show in Dallas, which added to the excitement with award ribbons.

Well, now we could settle back and relax—we thought—but all those iris people kept talking about the best location sites for our new beds. Besides, we did have our eye on a few plants we didn't have growing in our garden. I didn't realize then, but we were hooked.

Our second bloom season was really going to be something. We had purchased several new plants, added a large raised bed, and were scheduled to be on the Region 17 Garden Tour in Dallas. By this time, we were keeping everything labeled, plus a card index file on all plants, and even making some crosses. Then, in February, our company contacted me about a transfer to Paris, Texas. We started packing. The house was sold with written stipulations that all iris plants would remain until June when we could come back and view the bloom season and then move the plants. The bloom was great, and all the neighbors even better. We spent two days digging, labeling, and loading the garden plants on a lumber truck for the Paris move.

Now for the tender love and care again, we fumigated, tilled, mixed in all kind of soil products and fertilizers. The greater part of the bloom was excellent, on all but the 25% of the plants that set in our living room from June to November. The iris has to be a mercy plant to live through some of the experiences we gave it!

It has to be worth it to see those beautiful iris blooms each spring, because I heard a few rumors that the Youngs will be relocated in the future. Here we go again.

With all the pleasure we have in irising, remember to do yourself and others a favor. Give your friends, relatives, and especially young people, a chance to enjoy and learn about the plant we love. Encourage them to grow irises, cross varieties, and benefit from the hobby that lets us all get away from the stress and pressures of today's jobs and society. Give them a chance to meet all the fine people who enjoy the iris. I'm sure they will appreciate it as much as we have.

SOME THOUGHTS ON BREEDING TALL BEARDED IRIS

Carl J. C. Jorgensen

Both amateur and professional iris breeders are faced with similar problems. The ever increasing numbers of new irises, many similar or almost identical with their ancestors, point out the growing number of individuals actively engaged in crossing irises. There is an almost feverish attempt to introduce more new irises. It is probably unfair to judge motives, since the author is certain that each breeder feels his or her new introduction is an improvement in color, flower size, form, branching, etc., etc. After all, we all possess an ego, and it is axiomatic that "beauty is in the eyes of the beholder."

What are the possibilities of developing a superior iris today? By what standards should we judge one of our seedlings? How can we avoid the pitfalls mentioned above? Perhaps the following criteria might help:

1) Closely compare our seedling selection with not only immediate parents but also grandparents. This may mean retaining older varieties long enough to make intelligent comparisons.

2) Be familiar with newer irises of other breeders, especially those breeding for goals similar to ours.

3) See newer introductions by attending national conventions, visit local iris gardens and commercial gardens.

4) Study the new registrations for identical or similar parentage and ancestry. Names of the same parents appear over and over in lists of medal winners.

5) Don't rely on memory. Utilize color standards and photos, record height, flower size, bud count and increase, and other pertinent data.

6) Never make indiscriminate crosses. Have a goal for every cross attempted. Evaluate results against that goal.

7) Make fewer crosses. Decide on a few desired crosses with your goals in mind. Then, make the same cross over and over during the bloom season. This should insure having hundreds of seeds of that particular cross.

8) Take your time in introducing what apparently is a superior selection. Let your iris stand the test of time. Perhaps, no iris should be registered before it has gone through four or five diverse growing seasons. If the iris is really superior, there is no danger that another breeder will beat one to the coveted medal.

Basics of Breeding

A word about the genetics of tall bearded iris breeding. The parentage of modern iris is so complicated, and the genetic combinations so great, that literally thousands of seedlings of one cross may need to be grown in order to come up with the combination of desired traits we seek.

The basic chromosome number of tall bearded irises is 12. Each chromosome contains many genes which determine such traits as color, form, size, branching and the multitude of other physical characteristics of the species. The old diploid varieties had 24 chromosomes, 12 from each parent. The modern tall bearded are nearly all tetraploids having 48 chromosomes.

No two ovules or pollen grains carry exactly the same genes. The seeds in a single pod are all different even though they have the same parents. The wider the cross (parents with different traits) the greater will be the diversity of offspring. The closer two parents are in one or more traits, the more uniform the offspring, but each seedling sibling will still be different from any other. The greater the number of ancestors with a desired characteristic, the greater the chance of having that characteristic show up in the offspring.

Such techniques as inbreeding, backcrossing and line breeding are all used to intensify a desired trait. Such techniques also result in intensifying undesirable characteristics. Thus, careful selection is imperative.

Speeding up the Selection Process

Most amateurs and semi-professionals have neither the funds nor the space required to explore the potential of a single cross. We have already suggested making the same cross many times in order to have hundreds of seeds of that cross.

Fortunately, iris seeds retain their viability 15 or 20 years when stored in a dry, cool place. Even at room temperature, seeds will remain viable for several years. Allow the seeds to dry for several days after removal from the pod, place in labeled paper packets in a lightly sealed container and store slightly above 32°F. (A refrigerator works well. Don't place in a freezer.)

This gives one an opportunity to plant 100 or so seeds to see if that particular cross has potential. If it appears to have little potential, discard the balance of the stored seed. What a savings in time and space compared to germinating and growing hundreds of an inferior cross! Conversely, a cross with good potential can be explored more fully with the stored seeds planted at a later date.

Another savings in energy and space can be made by hastening the time between seed collection and seedling evaluation. Normally, seeds transplanted outdoors in the fall will germinate in spring and be transplanted to the field later that year in hopes of seeing the bloom-

ing plant two years hence (in some parts of the United States this time is reduced to one year). For those sections of the United States with long winters, the following procedure has proven successful at Colorado State University:

1) Harvest mature pod as soon as possible and remove seed. Allow to dry.

2) Plant seed in pots in prepared mix ($\frac{1}{3}$ soil, $\frac{1}{3}$ sand, $\frac{1}{3}$ peat), water well and place in warm temperature ($80^{\circ}\text{F} +$ or $28^{\circ}\text{--}30^{\circ}\text{C}$) for 30 days. Keep moistened.

3) Place moist pots in plastic bags. Seal and place in cold dark storage (41°F or 5°C) for 110 to 120 days. The lowest shelf in a refrigerator will approximate this temperature. Check bagged pots frequently. If no moisture droplets are present on the inside of the bag, remoisten.

4) Remove from cold and remove pots from plastic bags. Seedlings should begin germinating promptly. (Some will even germinate while still in cold storage.) Place in cool sunny location and water frequently. If a greenhouse is available, place pots in cool house (60°F). Excellent germination has been the result of this procedure.

5) Transplant seedlings to individual trays, peat pots, etc. as soon as the second leaf appears.

6) Transplant to field site when fourth leaf appears or field transplanting is feasible.

7) Hasten growth by the use of adequate water, fertilizer, and weed control.

With the above procedure the author has experienced germination from 46 to 100% (average of 20 crosses in 1978 was 77.1%). Crosses made in 1977 and treated as above will have seedlings with a 65% bloom potential this spring.

Many suggestions for improving the percentage of germination of iris seeds can be found in past *AIS Bulletins*. Most of these have proven unreliable, giving good results one time and mediocre results another. Iris seeds have seed coat, embryo and endosperm inhibitors. Until these have been overcome, germination will not occur. Good results have been obtained by embryo culture, seed chipping and other physical manipulation of iris seeds, but these all require special equipment and skills on the part of the breeder. Once the barriers have been overcome, all seeds have three requirements for successful germination: moisture, oxygen and proper temperature. Light, of course, is necessary once the seed has germinated. (For additional information see Chapter 22, *The World of Irises*.)

It should be obvious that the sooner selection can be made, the sooner undesired plants can be rogued out, and the selected seedlings transplanted to another location, thus releasing valuable garden space for other uses.

Other Worlds to Conquer

Lest our readers assume that most advances in iris breeding have already been accomplished, may the author be bold enough to suggest room for advancement in the following less spectacular areas:

- 1) Disease and insect resistance.
- 2) Winter hardiness and frost hardiness.
- 3) Floriferousness (prolific bloom for landscape effect).
- 4) Bud count and branching.
- 5) Attractive foliage, healthy vigorous increase.
- 6) Flower substance, rain and hail resistance.
- 7) Duration of bloom period.
- 8) Ease of transplanting and first year survival.

One final point: modern irises have in their makeup the blood of hardy as well as tender varieties. For those irisarians living in more northern regions of the United States, some varieties will not overwinter well or even survive transplanting and the rigors of the following winter. For other regions of the United States it may be necessary for iris varieties to survive under intense sunlight, high winds or drought conditions. In still other regions, disease or insects are the dominant deterrents to successful iris growing. As amateur breeders, we can render a real service to iris growers in our particular AIS region. Although the iris we introduce may not have wide acceptance elsewhere, it may have those characteristics that make it an outstanding variety for our region. If it survives and thrives in other regions, so much the better.

As amateur breeders we enjoy the luxury of not having to make a living from the products of our breeding efforts. Regional test gardens should be encouraged and supported to the fullest. After all, we must keep in mind that for millions of gardeners, the iris is just one of the many beautiful perennials gracing the home landscape. Such homeowners will not lavish the special care which we give our irises. They have a right to expect a plant which will give them a maximum of enjoyment year after year with a minimum of attention. Older varieties had these qualities. Let us make sure our new introductions can boast these same qualities.

The author is Professor of Horticulture at Colorado State University, Director of the Trial Gardens there, a contributor to THE WORLD OF IRISES and former Regional Vice President in Region 20.

THE NAME GAME

Asked how he had selected some of his unusual variety names, hybridizer Floyd Dyer noted that TUFFY was just that: a standard dwarf bearded with extra substance that reminded him of a little bully. SPRIZZLE was named by irisarian Jimmy Poe who discovered it when admiring Floyd's seedlings in bloom. Jimmy, who has taught school for 20 years, felt that a creative word coined by one of his students—SPRIZZLE—fit the "so wild, it's beautiful" flower.

PROFILE OF NEW I.S.A. PRESIDENT

Robert Raabe, Wentworthville, New South Wales, Australia

My initial exposure to irises was in the upstate New York garden of my Mother, who grew bearded irises among the other perennials in her colourful garden. Many years later on the opposite side of the globe, those memories came back when I commenced creating my own first garden twelve years ago. My first attempts with bearded irises were successful, but with a series of wet summers and the increasing shade of trees and shrubs, I became somewhat disheartened by summer rhizome rot and lack of bloom.

About that time, a gardening friend gave me an unknown iris which he claimed had a purple flower, appeared to like lots of water and might prosper in my heavy soil. It turned out to be an unknown Louisiana seedling and did it prosper!! The spark had been kindled!

Mr. Ian Batiste, then secretary of the Victorian Region of the Australian Iris Society (Ed.—since renamed Iris Society of Australia to avoid the confusion of two AISes) was an excellent correspondent, and to him I owe the commencement of my enthusiasm for the Genus Iris. He opened the door, so to speak, and this led to seeing what types and species of irises I would be able to grow successfully.

Soon I learned what generous people irisarians all over the world really are. Maurice Boussard in France provided me with much information and seed of many species which were eventually to grace my garden, some albeit rather fleetingly! My main interests were soon devoted to Louisiana and Japanese irises, as these were providing me with the greatest number of consistent successes.

Mrs. Eleanor Welch of Indiana provided me with much information and seed of the latter, and the late Mrs. Fred Taylor of New Orleans sent me a large amount of Louisiana iris seeds which started my devoted interest in these irises. In recent years, Joe Mertzweiller of Baton Rouge has been the continued inspiration in my hybridizing programme. His irises lurk ever so near in the lineage of almost all my successful releases!

Having mentioned the names of those who have provided guidance, I'd better mention some pertinent dates along the way: joined the Australian Iris Society (NSW and Victorian Regions) in 1967; President of the NSW Region in 1971; member of AIS and BIS since 1972; attended AIS San Diego Convention in 1975; judged at Florence in 1975 (great honour to be second Australian to do so — Esmond Jones was the first!); judged at Frankfurt, 1975; accredited judge of Iris Society of Australia 1976; AIS judge in 1978.

I have contributed to the publications of Society for Louisiana Irises, The Society for Japanese Irises, BIS Yearbook, Region 14 (AIS) Bulletin, South African Iris Society, New Zealand Iris Society, SIGNA and the West Australian Iris Society. I also have contributed regularly to the regional newsletters and yearbooks of the ISA.

Without getting too involved with my hybridizing programme, I might mention that Mertzweiller's CRESCENT CITY has been most instrumental in my successes and many of his numbered and unreleased seedlings are involved in many others. I have been growing his two tetraploids PROFESSOR IKE and PROFESSOR CLAUDE for several years and have recently achieved germination of seed from a cross of these two irises, a feat Joe Mertzweiller accomplished several years ago.

Robert Raabe, recently elected President of the Iris Society of Australia, offers an excellent example of the internationality of irises in his autobiographical sketch.—Ed.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions in memory of the deceased or honoring outstanding irisarians, as well as bequests, are gratefully accepted by both The American Iris Society and The American Iris Society Foundation and acknowledged in this publication. The two organizations, however, are distinct, and contributions should be mailed to the appropriate secretary.

* * * * *

Contributions to the general operating funds or for specific purposes, with checks written payable to The American Iris Society, should be mailed to—Mrs. R.V. Ramsey, 6518 Beachy Ave., Wichita, KS 67206.

The response of many individuals, clubs, committees and regions to recent AIS budgetary problems postponed the necessity of considering an increase in membership dues during the last two meetings of the Directors. Generous contributions from these many sources and the continuation of such excellent response offer hope to our non-profit organization as it struggles with inflation.

* * * * *

Contributions made payable to The American Iris Society Foundation should be mailed to Dr. John Harvey, Jr., 203 West Pembrey Dr., Wilmington, DE 19803.

Funds received by the AIS Foundation are used for research and scientific projects dealing with iris diseases and more, as well as promotional and educational activities. Special projects of many natures have been underwritten by this non-profit organization. Donations are tax deductible.

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Defense for Rebloomers

Bernice M. Miller, New Mexico

The defense calls a witness for the unjustly maligned rebloomer. I swear to tell nothing but the truth!

I am heartily tired of the phrase *rebloomers don't do well for me*. If you walk into your garden in bloom time, all of you will find gorgeous rebloomers, even Dykes medallists—BABBLING BROOK, SHIPSHAPE, PINK TAFFETA. Many highly rated award winners belong here, too: LILAC TREAT, TUPELO HONEY, ACTRESS, AVALON BAY. I am not naming them all—just making a point.

What is a rebloomer? The reblooming section of the American Iris Society accepts this definition: a rebloomer is an iris that blooms in the spring and has another bloom season at some other time during the year. Don't say rebloomers are inferior, just because they are rebloomers! But you still say, irises don't rebloom for me, don't you?

There are reasons for this. In the very far north, though the increases are there, the snow blanket puts irises to bed before increases can rebloom. Very wisely, irises wait and rebloom in the spring. In the arid southwest, irises (which are very intelligent plants) go into dormancy during the extreme summer heat and don't revive again till the weather cools off in late summer. Then increases start to mature. In those years, when freezing weather holds off for new increases to mature to bloom size, rebloom occurs. After that, the season is long enough for the next spring's increase to develop usually. In my climate, I know how nasty and unpredictable weather can get.

All irises bloom only when there are mature increases. They bloom on the rhizomes that were last bloom season's increases—whether this takes six weeks, or a whole year. These increases, in turn, become the hearts of the new rhizomes, where the new bloom stalks appear.

Any rebloomer differs from a once bloomer because of the extreme vigor of the plant. Increases develop early and prolifically. Don't treat a rebloomer like a once bloomer, or it will bloom only once. If you have twin babies, you feed them twice as much as one, and twice as much room and water are needed. It's that simple!

Do rebloomers need special petting? Absolutely not—only more food, water and room. If this treatment causes your once bloomers to curl up their rhizomes in disdain and succumb to soft rot, grow your rebloomers by themselves. Treat them with the respect and T.L.C. a rebloomer deserves. And, please, divide them often enough so that they have room to strut their stuff! If you have the inclination, the time and money for coddling—fine: these are foliar feeding, night lights, frost protection and growing them in a protected southern exposure. They all help make extra bloom, but rebloomers are tough babies and don't have to have this pampering; still, they do love it.

I am a recent convert to the reblooming sect. I started out with an impossible dream, or is it? I was going to develop a true, scarlet-red iris with health and vigor to bloom well in all parts of the country, with all the attributes of top once bloomers: substance, width of petal, ruffles, lace, frills. What did I come up with when I put the vigor I wanted into my red lines—red rebloomers! Till then, stubbornly, I went on in my old, sinful ways, saying loudly and often that rebloomers weren't meant for the arid southwest. But I can't and don't want to deny it—my most vigorous reds are rebloomers, with varying seasons of rebloom: RESURRECTION STORY (Oct.); JASPER WALLS (Oct.); BORN AGAIN (Sept.); WITCH OF ENDOR (Sept.); SAMARITAN WOMAN (Nov.); ADAM'S FALL (winter); FIRES OF GEHENNA (winter).

There is no greater thrill than finding an iris bloom in the quiet, cool stillness of the fall garden. Seldom then will the sun scorch, high winds devastate, or violent thunderstorms ravish your heart's love in a few fatal hours. Irises revel in that calm coolness and have a breathtaking, ethereal beauty.

Yes, there are rebloomers that are inferior in loveliness to some of the new, lacy, ruffled, fluted, wide-skirted beauty queens. Why didn't the breeders put the poor things out of their misery on the compost heap? Give the breeders a chance! Breeders are struggling to get it for you. You should thank them. When breeders strive to develop irises that will rebloom, they are incorporating some of the vigor that many modern irises need.

Rebloomers are classified into four area sections, according to the length of freeze-free time the season gives irises to bloom.

Climate A—0-169 freeze-free days—northern and mountain areas.

Climate B—170-229 freeze-free days—Central States.

Climate C—230-299 freeze-free days—Texas and some southern states.

Climate D—300-365 freeze-free days—California and Pacific Coast.

This scale has to be used with common sense. You usually have mini-weather variations even in your own yard.

If you become interested in rebloomers, be sure to purchase those that will rebloom in your area. Your weather bureau can tell you the average number of freeze-free days. Then, if Mother Nature has an unexpected tantrum, wait another year and take proper care of your darlings. For those in the arid southwest, it's safer to subtract the time the irises are dormant due to extreme heat, in determining the length of freeze-free days.

What do rebloomers have that make their vigor superior? (1) They have a more extensive root system, with many extra feeder roots. (2) They have the ability and the inclination to put on maturing increases early in the season. (3) There is enough vigor in the rhizome to allow the plant to rebloom and yet put on increases for next spring's bloom. The reason more irises rebloom in California coastal areas is simply that they have a longer season than the rest of us.

If you live in such a rugged climate that no iris will rebloom for you, console yourself. You still have the added vigor, which, incidentally, leads to greater disease resistance. Be thankful for the blessing and wait patiently. It's going to take more time to put extreme rapidity of increase, with the beauty of California rebloomers, onto rhizomes tough enough to withstand a rugged climate. It's coming, though. There are wondrous surprises in the making for you!

Not that California rebloomers will rebloom necessarily for you, but it is genetically possible to put the same frills onto irises hardy enough to withstand very harsh conditions and rebloom. A step in that direction is Canadian bred RED REVIVAL, which is half California bred CAYANNE CAPERS and half northern bred FALL PRIMROSE.

Take Ben Hager's advice, "If you aren't interested in rebloomers, you have your head in the sand which could be better occupied by a rebloomer." I get a chuckle out of that quip!

LATE ADDITION - WITH A WARNING OUR READERS WRITE

"Dear Ann,

". . . I thought perhaps you could edit my story and possibly get it printed in the *BULLETIN*. I am also sending you a few pictures which are not very good but will at least give you some idea of what happened. (*Sorry, photos would not reproduce well in black & white—Ed.*)

"Warning! Do not use Orthene insect spray for control of borers or other insects on irises. It was not intended for use on irises, and the label does not suggest its use on irises. I used it for the first time this year and the results were a disaster.

"On my iris blooms, colors were mottled, muddy and the size of some were smaller. (*The writer noted earlier that plicata patterns were especially noticeably affected—Ed.*) Lace and ruffling were reduced or entirely absent. Some falls were long and narrow instead of round and full.

"I contacted the Chevron Chemical Company about the problems and found that their scientists were aware of this problem, since it had happened before. They assured me that my irises would be normal next year.

"Having been through the heartbreak of a disaster year, I wanted to pass this along to other irisarians, so they may be spared the agony."

Lois Grimes, VA

Consulted by Mrs. Grimes, Dr. Currier McEwen noted that two Bulletin articles in 1975 discussed Orthene—#216, pp. 44-47 and #218 pp. 67-68—Ed.

THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

Financial Statement

For Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 1978

	General Funds	Special Reserve Funds	Collected For Others
RECEIPTS			
Membership dues	\$32,749.75	\$ 1,425.00	\$
Miscellaneous publications & merchandise	1,039.51	703.25	
The World of Irises		7,004.37	
Registration reprints		1,054.05	
Bulletin advertising	8,041.10		
Registration fees	2,088.00		
Exhibition supplies	4,500.43		
Slides rentals	417.20		
Address labels	433.91		
Historical files income		529.72	
Gifts	1,202.87	1,944.00	
Postage receipts	597.30	129.66	
Interest on deposits	707.57	1,544.20	
Miscellaneous	326.45		
Collected for Sections			2,746.50
Collected for British Iris Society			358.00
Total Receipts	\$69,542.84	\$52,104.09	\$14,334.25
			\$3,104.50
DISBURSEMENTS			
Bulletin: Salaries	\$ 4,650.00	\$	\$
Other	20,995.98		
Secretary: Supplies	269.87		
Postage	303.38		
Membership Secretary: Salary	1,800.00		
Postage	1,545.13		
Supplies	469.22	351.75	
Librarian: Books & merchandise	248.59		
The World of Irises		21,434.35	
Postage	1,178.86	1,466.32	
Supplies	173.09		
1977 Registrations Reprint		465.30	
Registrar: Salaries	2,550.00		
Other	77.02		
Payroll taxes	841.50		
Computer services	819.78		
Furniture & equipment purchases	127.20	600.00	
Furniture & equipment repairs	132.00		
Historical files expenses		91.52	
Awards committee	866.97		
Exhibitions committee	3,823.93		
Robins	249.15		
Slides	276.65		
Judges & judges training	260.83		
Youth committee	17.49		
Regional Vice Presidents account	254.89		
Officers: President	636.95		
Treasurer	47.58		
Insurance and audit	688.00		
Moving Membership Secretary's office	360.30		
Miscellaneous	358.14	45.80	
Remitted to Sections			2,746.50
Remitted to British Iris Society			779.50
Total Disbursements	\$72,003.54	\$44,022.50	\$24,455.04
			\$3,526.00
Net Increase (Decrease) in funds	(\$ 2,460.70)	\$ 8,081.59	(\$ 10,120.79)
			(\$ 421.50)

RECONCILEMENT OF BANK BALANCES

Balance of all funds, September 30, 1977	\$	\$52,543.92
Plus: Total receipts	69,542.84	
Less: Total disbursements	72,003.54	
Net decrease in funds		2,460.70
Balance of all funds, September 30, 1978		\$50,083.22
Operating funds:		
Administrative account—Omaha	\$ 4,002.71	
Transfer account—Wichita	1,335.60	
Petty cash account—Wichita	1,000.00	
Transfer account—Pawnee	1,309.25	7,647.56
Reserve account #1:		
Cash reserve	1,348.77	
Life membership fund	12,075.00	
EDP program fund	1,000.00	14,423.77
Reserve account #2:		
Scientific & research account	5,275.73	
Publication fund	7,980.63	
Building fund	603.44	
Marie Fischer Awards Memorial	1,200.67	
Historical Files fund	559.14	
Dr. Lee Memorial	27.38	
Dr. Cosgrove Youth Award fund	300.00	
Cash reserve	2,064.90	18,011.89
Certificate of deposit:		
Life membership fund		10,000.00
Total due from banks, September 30, 1978		\$50,083.22

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, SEPTEMBER 1978

Cash & due from banks:		
General funds	\$11,061.23	\$
Special Reserve funds	39,021.99	50,083.22
Due from British Iris Society		421.50
Total assets		\$50,504.72
Note payable to American iris Society Foundation		\$10,000.00
Net worth		40,504.72
Total liabilities and net worth		\$50,504.72
Salaries paid during the fiscal year:		
Kay Nelson	\$ 4,800.00	
Philip W. Edinger	2,400.00	
Elizabeth S. Jones	1,800.00	
Total	\$ 9,000.00	

Richard T. Pettijohn
Treasurer
1 November 1978

In Memoriam

Ethel Soultz — Region 14
Ralph Coleman — Region 14

GLEANINGS

Philip Edinger

JAPANESE

The Iris Society of Minnesota "News and Views", August 1976 A. H. Hazzard (MI): It seems impossible to outline any *best* method of culture for Japanese irises as local conditions frequently require some modification. Since the same is true of many other desirable perennials, one should not conclude that they are difficult to grow. Actually they often perform very well under adverse circumstances. Accordingly, I believe it will be advantageous to first list some of their preferences and compare them with whatever conditions may be present in the particular spot where you wish to place them The JI (Japanese irises) will probably fit right in with your fertilizing and housekeeping routine.

Let us remember:

They are *not* bog plants.

They do need plenty of water through bloom season.

They need good drainage for low temperatures.

They should never be allowed to dry out completely.

They appreciate liberal feeding when established.

They like medium acid soil (*pH* 5.5-6.5) with some tolerance.

They like full sun but will tolerate up to 80% shade.

People who visit Japan often get the impression that they grow in water for the reason that, where possible, gardens are frequently flooded during the bloom period for the aesthetic effect and for weed control.

Well rotted organic fertilizer is excellent but often not available. Commercial fertilizer is satisfactory if kept away from direct contact with plant tissues except in diluted form. Apply in solution for quick results, a small handful to a gallon of water, between the rows. If applied dry, rake in and water down. A formula such as 6-12-12, or whatever you use on the border, will do, but no lime. Several light applications are better than a few heavy ones. If you apply at three week intervals, skip the one three weeks before bloom to avoid soft buds. Some growers suggest heavy feeding after bloom until frost and little feeding in spring until after bloom, but I favor both spring and fall feeding, the latter without nitrogen to avoid lush growth at frost time—0-20-20 if available. Climate, of course, is a factor.

Mulching is beneficial. Almost any material will do if it does not pack down too solidly. Snow blanket is ideal.

If you are preparing a special bed for the JI planting and using commercial fertilizer, till or fork it over well, and if the *pH* is a little high put in a little aluminum sulphate or agricultural sulphur, water well, and let it stand two to three weeks before planting to avoid root injury.

Plants arriving in bad order, dried out, etc., should be soaked in clear cold water for a day or two, sometimes longer, before planting. Some shippers put the entire plant in a polyethylene bag which often causes heating in shipping. Rhizomes and roots *only* should be covered, and the cartons ventilated. Wash off any decomposed material with clean cold water, then plant and keep shaded until new growth appears. In heavy soil plant 1-1½ inches deep, and in light soil plant 2 inches deep with a slight well at the top for water. These irises do not usually increase as rapidly as other types and may quite safely remain undisturbed for four or five years if weed free

Some years ago I began selling Japanese irises in bud and full bloom, but the idea was new to Mr. Payne (pioneer JI hybridizer, now deceased, in whose honor the Payne Award was established—Ed.) when we discussed it during one of my visits to his excellent planting. However, upon his return from his trip to Japan he reported that it was common practice there. This is a distinct advantage over TBs, the root system being dense enough to retain sufficient soil to permit potting or wrapping and holding over for several days if necessary. They may be taken from the nursery row for exhibition, patio decoration, or any similar purpose, and after the bloom is completed returned to the field without material retardation.

LOUISIANAS

Region 17 Newsletter, Fall 1976

Charles Arny: The principal problem in managing garden soils is the development and maintenance of proper relationship between those plants one is growing and the soil surrounding them. At least two things are important to achieve this desired relationship: 1) the requirements of the plants to be grown and 2) the nature or properties of the soils upon which plants are to be grown.

If one observes the natural geographic distribution of the iris species (*giganticaerulea*, *fulva*, *nelsonii*, and *brevicaulis*) making up the group of irises referred to as Louisiana irises, he may conclude something of their growth requirements. The big tall blue or white iris—*I. giganticaerulea*—is found growing out in the open along the Gulf of Mexico coast line from Texas to Mississippi. Here the soils are very high in organic material, in fertility, and have a slight acid to almost neutral soil reaction. This iris is found growing in shallow water throughout the year except for the summer months. During the summer period of usual dormancy, one finds the rhizomes protected from the sun by vegetation of some sort. *I. fulva* is found in the Lower Mississippi Valley along shaded stream banks or in areas that have poor drainage. Soils are high in fertility and organic matter, slightly acid, with heavy soil texture. *I. nelsonii* are located in a relatively small area of cypress-sweetgum swamp south of Abbeville, Louisiana. These irises are found growing in more dense shade and deeper water than *I. fulva*.

Soil conditions are similar to those surrounding *I. fulva*. The dwarf or baby of the Louisiana irises, *I. brevicaulis*, is found on the terrace or bluff soils which have a *pH* reading of 6-6.4. These soils are low in fertility, compact and poorly drained. The soils do not have the high organic content that is found in the Gulf coast marsh area or in the Lower Mississippi alluvial areas.

From these few facts, it may be concluded that: 1) these plants like moisture during the fall, winter and spring months; 2) these irises are heavy feeders and need high levels of fertility and organic matter; 3) that soils that are slightly acid appear to be most adaptable; 4) at least a half day of sunshine is needed. Within the adaptable climate areas for Louisiana irises, then, the culture must include provisions for meeting at least these requirements if success is to be attained. These requirements are not as difficult to meet as they may appear. It should be kept in mind that the new cultivars now being produced by breeders are hybrids and are much less exacting as to their water requirements. It might be said that there may be two distinct types of culture followed with Louisiana irises, namely upland or border culture and bog culture.

To translate the required conditions for success in the upland garden it is necessary to work into the soil an abundance of organic matter (2-3-inch covering of the area to be planted). Such materials as manure, composted leaves or grass, peat moss, and pulverized pine bark are good sources for providing organic matter. A complete well balanced fertilizer with a fairly high proportion of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium is usually needed. For the Gulf area the use of eight to ten pounds of fertilizer with an analysis of 12-12-12 or 8-8-8 per 100 square feet will give good results. In those areas where the soils and water are neutral or alkaline, the addition of some material to make the soil acid is necessary. Agricultural sulphur applied at the rate of one pound per 100 square feet will prove very rewarding. Spread this material as evenly as possible over the flower bed, spade or preferably with a power tiller work the material thoroughly and deeply into the soil. If there is little or no top soil or if it is very poor, its removal and replacement with good garden soil, organic matter, and fertilizers may be necessary.

In most circumstances in the Gulf area, the best time for planting or reworking iris beds is in the late summer and early fall (August-October). Plant rhizomes deeply enough to be covered with no more than one and one-half inches of soil. Space rhizomes ten to eighteen inches apart depending upon whether they are to be undivided for more than a year or not. It is advisable to heavily mulch beds as soon after planting as possible. Mulches are desirable means of conserving moisture and controlling weeds and grass, particularly important after these irises become dormant in the summer. If Louisiana iris rhizomes are exposed continuously to the sun during the summer, they will be killed and rot away. Many consider a two to four-inch mulch an essential part of good culture. Some of the materials suitable for mulching

are: sugarcane bagasse, rice hulls, cottonseed hulls, oak leaves, rotten sawdust, pine needles, and pine bark. If nothing better is available, cover rhizomes at least one half inch deep with fine sandy loam soil. Watering may be necessary during the growing season depending on rainfall and its distribution. It is a good rule not to let flower beds dry out once new growth of irises has started.

In bog culture, plantings may be made in the typical bog or man made around the edges of ponds or pools, or in tubs placed on the bottom of shallow pools or ponds. Except when natural bogs have accumulations of decayed vegetation and soil is acid, the use of materials described with the upland culture should be used in excavated areas around the bog or pool areas where irises are to be planted. Provide at least one-half day sunshine, slightly acid soil high in organic matter, an adequate supply of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium, moisture during the growing and flowering seasons, and mulch to protect rhizomes from the summer sun, and you will be rewarded with one of nature's most beautiful flowers.

VERSICOLORS

Region 1 Bulletin, 1978

Bee Warburton: The time has come to select and register some of the versicolors. They earn their right to individual names by their surprisingly good garden behavior, making do without complaint with the ordinary amount of water furnished to all good perennials, and standing up much better than the garden phlox, for instance. They are variable; some have a long bloom period with many buds, and they are excellent arrangement material. Their good qualities are in need of emphasis and development . . .

There are a few of these in circulation; I hesitate to say "in commerce" because they seem to be sold only rarely, and more often grown and exchanged in the backyard manner. Most of the cultivars listed in the 1939 Check List were the work of Perry or of Barr, and were produced before the days of registration. Barr's VERSICOLOR ROYAL PURPLE seems to be still extant; varieties with the names of KERMESINA and ROSEA are still with us but seem to have been endowed with these names as being of a like color, rather than as being the originally named clone. A white one in circulation, STELLA MAIN, from a Rhode Island collector named Minnie Main, has the feeble look of a delicate recessive, as do all white variants I have seen. OLIVER PEASE is a taller red with some velvet, but to me it seems a larger plant than the size of the individual flowers warrants. I have just named a nice red one ROUGETTE, but I strongly feel that the only way we will have fully developed strains of these plants is by controlled hybridization. It hardly seems that anybody would follow through on the drastic procedure of Cassebeer in growing a whole bushel of seed to find one tremendously superior parent plant (his reward was the Siberian WHITE SWIRL—Ed.) for the future of the breed. Nor, is there any guarantee that such a plant would be forthcoming.

This year I bloomed the last of the catch-as-can seeds, with rows of pink ones from Sarah Tiffney's pink via Betty Wood. All are nice, and much alike, and I think that their clear lavender-pink is actually better garden color than the tangerine pink of the beardededs. None of them is any better than Sarah's seedling from which they originated, but they do have some diversity as to foliage and stem, qualities for which the hybridizer needs to breed. I saved and lined out about forty of them.

With the collected clones, newly collected that is, the hybridizer will have more problems. Some have stems multibranching, and many-budded, and one of these stems makes a delightful arrangement in a bud-vase container, with buds that continue to open for several days; actually, some of these stalks continue to show a few flowers well into July. However, the Waites and I have noted one annoying trait in these: they tend to put all their stalks in a bunch to one side of the foliage clump, and to produce them so profusely that after the seeds have ripened there is little plant left. This seems to be so prevalent a habit in some locations that it could almost be considered a biennial tendency, nature's all-out effort to keep the plants growing in a swampy situation with tremendous competition; and in fact, in many locations of natural occurrence, the cattails (Typhaceae) seem to be completely crowding out the irises.

There are other problems with these irises. One is that they seem to be most particularly attractive to borers; it has seemed to me possible that the borers, who seem to have about the same range, developed in our native versicolors. They make their presence known in the yellowing of fans, and may be easily treated with cygon; they can't burrow inside of the small rhizomes of the versicolors. Another problem is rust, to which they seem to be variably susceptible, some having heavily crusted leaves, and others in the same situation having no sign of rust, and those with visible rust should be ruthlessly dug and burnt.

It is unknown whether some irises are more attractive to the weevils than others, except that they almost never infect white flowers, and this might be taken into account if a really good breeding white were developed. In the meantime, seedpods should be removed from all apogon irises as soon as they form, if they are not wanted; collected seed should be shelled out immediately and treated with seed protectant.

Since the range of colors in these does not include any yellow or any of the blended tones that yellow gives in combination with purples, efforts have been made to cross them with *I. pseudacorus*. I have some that should bloom in 1979, but I have a feeling my precautions have failed because all look like *pseudacorus* foliage, which has a sharp ridge down the center of the leaves that is absent in the versicolors.

So, it remains to be seen whether we end up with a gradenable series, or with a few obscure names left behind in the Check Lists to make one more attack on the versicolor challenge.

International News

Bee Warburton

A NEW COUNTRY IS HEARD FROM! Welcome to Belgium, the newest member of the worldwide iris family. It is more than a year since M. Ponsaerts made a plea in the Spring 1978 issue, for irises to grow in a new public planting, so that Belgians can see and covet the gorgeous new varieties of all types developed in the last 50 years. M. Ponsaert, who is President of the new Belgian Iris Society, which is the iris fan's section of the largest Belgian Garden Club, is the first Belgian to grow new irises and to hybridize them. He says that the bearded irises grow very well in his climate, but they have previously been overshadowed by the big business of the bulbous irises in neighboring Holland.

Response to his original plea has been sparse. This year let's send him dwarfs, intermediates, border and table irises, loads and loads of TBs, Siberians, spurias, Louisianas, Japanese, Pacific Coast Natives (seeds for these!), and rebloomers. M. Ponsaerts sent me a chart of his climate, with 170 frost-free days, ranging from minus 17 to 39 degrees centigrade, and showing bloom dates with TBs in June and rebloomers from August to November.

Plan to ship, preferably in July, to:

M. E. Ponsaerts
8, Ave. de l'Exposition Universelle
Box 13
1080 Brussels, Belgium

M. Ponsaerts speaks English, and would appreciate descriptions of your irises to be translated into French for their Society Bulletin.

REVIEW: Perrier, Odette. 1979. *Les Iris: Partout en Toutes Saisons*. In the series "L'Essential" of La Maison Rustique, Paris. Quality paperback, 32 pages, 13 in color photographs, and a few neat small line drawings; this is a slim book, pocket size (134 x 179 mm).

Mme. Perrier is currently President of the Societe Francaise des Iris et Plantes Bulbeux. Her text sparkles with contagious enthusiasm and is surprisingly complete. The table of contents lists, in free translation, Iris magic, garden irises (bearded, mostly TB), other iris hybrids, collected species, a paean to the ideal garden flower, and a chronological table of flowering dates.

It is even more in the extent and quality of the color that the volume excels. The list of photographers includes three Americans, Corlew, Hager and Thoolen, and some of the most familiar of French authorities, Anfosso, Boussard; Bourdillon and Cayeux, owners of large commercial establishments; M. Perrier, and Mme. Clarke who founded the original French Iris Society. There are six double spreads of magnificent gardens and planting of irises, three of them with cuts at one side illustrating various iris types. The cover photo is of Hager's lovely pink VANITY.

Considering the scope and purpose of this charming little book, it is truly a happy accomplishment. Congratulations to Mme. Perrier and to her Society.

ADDENDUM TO EARLIER ARTICLE: Madame la Comtesse von Stein-Zeppelin in Germany noted that the Fall 1978 *BULLETIN* article, pp. 11 to 16, by Francesca Thoolen did not list details about the cultivar PATHETIQUE. In a letter to the author she explained that the variety was hybridized by Dr. Herman Hald of Leonberg, Germany; Dr. Hald is president of the West-German Iris Association. PATHETIQUE (1972) is described as a bright yellow with a tangerine beard, from OPERETTE X (PALMINO x BLUE SHIMMER.)

THE 1978 DYKES MEDAL IN ENGLAND was awarded to COTSGOLD, an intermediate bearded iris hybridized by John D. Taylor. We regret that the photograph of COTSGOLD that Mr. Taylor mailed from England was apparently lost in the mail. The iris' heritage is GOLDEN FAIR X G 132/1 (ANNETTE x D. 36/4), and the latter involves an English pink crossed with a Muhlestein bred seedling.

Betty Wood writes that, ". . . this is an event of some significance for American irisarians. While the tall bearded irises are still the favorites of most AIS members, many have become interested in the great variety of other irises . . . Perhaps one of the reasons why the Dykes Medal here has always gone to a TB iris is that judges feel a vote for any other kind of iris would be 'wasted.' As long as the judges continue to feel this way, only TB irises will win the Dykes Medal here. Maybe the time has come, thanks to the example of our friends across the Atlantic, to give the other irises a chance."

Domestic News

Fred Stephenson

PROGRAMS, ANYONE?

Sometimes in our correspondence comes a thought that strikes a responsive chord. The following from Dr. H. C. Mohr, RVP, Region 7 is an example.

"Something I have wondered about for several years is the lack of information concerning PROGRAMS of local clubs in the *Bulletin*. A department or section which carried *details* of highly successful local programs could be of much assistance to others who are hard-pressed for ideas for something new.

"Fundamentally, we lose quite a few members because the programs presented during the 'off season' fail to keep the interest of members at a high enough level to last until the 'big doings' of spring showtime."

How about it, AISers? Let's hear about those programs that have produced results in your club. This is an excellent opportunity to help other clubs with programs that maintain a high level of interest, not only during the off season, but throughout the year, thus reducing the dropouts caused by a lack of interest.

Perhaps, the individual clubs could conduct a survey of the members to determine the type of programs that have created the greatest interest, or it may be that you will make a survey to determine the type of program that the members feel a need for. Aside from our club leaders, we would like to hear from the individual members.

Your responses will be studied and the results will be presented in this section of the *Bulletin* in the future. Send your replies to F. G. Stephenson, 5608 Merriman Road, S.W., Roanoke, VA 24018.

The Australian Iris Society Convention 1978

John Taylor, England

In one way it is a good thing that the Australian Iris Convention comes along only once every four years, for it lasts the best part of three weeks and is not an event for the faint-hearted. On the other hand, it is a pity that they do not have it every year, for it is a chance to see something of a wonderful country, some first class gardens and to meet many charming and hospitable people.

It is also a way to dispel some illusions about Australians. They do not all work in sweat-stained bush shirts in blazing temperatures, spend all their time drinking beer, and few of them chase kangaroos in land-rovers! In all my travels there, I never saw a wild kangaroo (though Keith Keppel, who went by coach across Australia, did). Everyone was kindness itself, and the temperatures were mixed to say the least (we had a ground frost the day after I arrived).

I stayed with the Donnells, Les being the just-retired overall President of the Iris Society of Australia, not now the Australian Iris Society owing to confusion with the AIS. I arrived in Melbourne to take in the early Show a few days before the convention, as this encompasses early tall, medians and some species. I was whisked away the next day, south around Port Philip bay, to see one or two private gardens and also the nurseries of Barry Blyth and Ted Armstrong.

One garden, whose owner Dan Hargreaves was away, had some particularly fine P.C.I. seedlings with the widest falls I have seen in some bronzy orange shades. One could call them blends. Barry Blyth had a fine show of medians and I liked well the SDB REAL COQUETTE. Ted Armstrong has about eight acres and grows Dutch irises. In spite of appalling wet weather in the previous three weeks, he had at least twenty seedlings as good as anything I have seen out of Holland. I do not think he has a catalogue; if not, he should have. Quite apart from irises, he has some excellent *sparaxis* seedlings in red and maroon.

Saturday and the early show and some good irises. SONG OF ERIN was good and in fair quantity, and I was pleased to see my own SDB SALTWOOD grown well in Australia, but I liked best a magnificent bowl of Ted Armstrong's Dutch irises. I should mention that the previous day we saw John Baldwin's garden in Melbourne and I was impressed with his SUNSET SNOWS seedlings. He is getting some good pink amoenas, in which line the Australians seem generally well ahead. Barry Blyth has some good ones also. Rita Caldwell's garden contained some good things in her blue lines, but we were early for peak bloom. Her KIEWA, a pale blue self, was good.

On Sunday we set off via the Snowy Mountains and the coast for Sydney, where I was to open the show and judge. Quite apart from the mountains, the weather was chilly and we were more concerned with keeping warm than with irises in Sydney. But by the time we arrived there, after a magnificent scenic journey of three days, the weather had relented and we had a superb day for our first trip, around the Sydney harbor. The show was held in a church hall on the outskirts of Sydney. The room was a fine one with plenty of light, and the show was a good one, as they are a week or more ahead of Melbourne.

Talls do not seem to grow as well as in Melbourne — they get a lot of rot in the more humid climate — and I gather that medians and dwarfs are almost impossible. There were some pretty good exhibits, even so. Talls I made note of were GOING MY WAY, IN TEMPO, a red bearded amoena from Barry Blyth, the ubiquitous WEDDING VOW which likes Australia as well as it likes Orleans, again SONG OF ERIN, PARTY CLOTH, SNOW CLOUD, PAGAN and TAR BARRELL. The best part of the Sydney show for me was the Louisianas.

Here they grow to perfection. Graeme Grosvenor and Bob Raabe have good stands in their gardens and produced some fine exhibits at the show, as did Lucy Payens; several of those were new seedlings which would stand comparison with any. One of my tasks was to judge the single flowers of these in conjunction with Allan Ensminger, a task which I thought somewhat inappropriate, as I had never seen modern Louisianas in flower before, but we used our wide experience with other members of the genus and our conclusions seemed generally acceptable. Of the named varieties, I noted with pleasure MADCAP, AUDREY O'NEIL, ILA NUNN, MRS. IRA NELSON and particularly CHARJOY'S DAVID and CHARLIE'S MICHELLE, both of which were first class.

Spurias were also well in evidence and I liked especially GOLDEN EGRET, DAWN CANDLE and, best of all, KYAH GOLD, a brilliant yellow and good show iris with many flowers out at once. A spike of the latter was in competition with WEDDING VOW, slightly the better balanced spike, but as both spikes were exhibited by Graeme Grosvenor, nobody was disappointed. Except for Barry Blyth, Graeme must be nearly the largest raiser of irises in Australia, and he had some good seedlings of the tall and Louisianas despite battling with rot in Sydney's humid summer climate. He certainly won a majority of trophies, though he has some tough competitors in the area where there is a lot of enthusiasm.

The New South Wales Region is to be congratulated on a good show in an excellent room with an enthusiastic band of helpers. During this show I stayed with Margaret Lee, president of the region, a charming lady of sixty plus who tackles single-handed a garden of ten acres which includes a ravine. She has some good seedlings of tall, which are wired in as a protection against rabbits, but the kangaroos come in at night and chew her rose bushes; fortunately, they seem to ignore the *iridicae*. Each time we drove into her garden my admiration for Australians rose further; they seem prepared to tackle anything. Also

Margaret gives her husband a hand at their farm up country.

The last morning at Sydney we said our goodbyes and drove for the Blue Mountains, some seventy miles west for a look at some gardens open to the general public. The settings were superb — in my whole trip to Australia I only saw one neglected garden. We left the party at Leura and headed south along some dicey roads to Canberra, arriving in Melbourne in time for the opening dinner of the Melbourne part of the convention. Next day we had a barbeque at Alan Johnson's at Tongala about 150 miles north, where we saw some good tall seedlings from CUP RACE. I was delighted to see a good clump of my own TRACEY growing well so far from home. On our way, we took in the gardens of Lucy Cattanach and Elma Tilley. At the former, I was allowed to pick my first lemon to take home. It lasted 'til Christmas before being accommodated in many gin & tonics!

The following day the Donnells' garden was open and Les had a fine display prior to cutting for the show. Les had taken over this garden only some six months before and I was impressed by the way the irises settled down and produced show spikes. This could never have happened in our English climate. Les had several good seedlings from MARSHLANDER, which does much better there than in England, and some particularly good borders which were flowering with the tall when I left.

The Melbourne Show is a two day show held on Saturday and Sunday in the Herbarium in the park. The room is not so light as at Sydney, but the irises can still be seen without artificial light unless the day is dull. Where Melbourne scores is that the show is held within a half mile from the centre of the city and in a park where there is a good gathering of the public. Attendances were therefore well up on Sydney, and the plant sale held in conjunction with the show was well patronized. In fact, at one time, three attendants were selling irises as fast as they could while others of us stood by answering questions from would-be growers. This strikes me as a wonderful idea. People see irises in bloom, enthuse, and there are the rhizomes available for immediate purchase with advice thrown in. The result — an appreciable fillip for the Society's funds together with possible new members.

The show was a good one with a fine selection of tall bearded well displayed. There were not so many Louisianas as at Sydney but those shown were just as good. Lucy Cattanach and Elma Tilley, among others, had some lovely seedlings. Spurias were also in good strength. I was involved again in helping to judge the best spike in the show, and the award went to John Baldwin with a splendid spike of — guess what — WEDDING VOW. This well-shaped white iris was in evidence several times and there is no doubt of its affinity with Australia. LEMON MIST is another iris which likes Australia. At the end of the hall was a long table with a non-competitive show of tall irises brought up by Barry Blyth, including several of his own, with some newer American varieties. Of the latter, I particularly liked END PLAY, a lovely pale bi-

color; GOING MY WAY; SILVER SHOWER; SUN FIRE and again, LEMON MIST. Of Barry's own, I liked PIPERS FLUTE and a lovely variegata CAPRICORN DANCER. Another good feature, though not part of the show, was a circular bed in the park behind the hall, where irises were displayed to the public.

Yes, it was altogether a successful show with the usual band of enthusiasts to put it up and take it down. We were tired that night! There is no chance of the ISA failing through lack of enthusiasm. Monday brought a trip to Gippsland and several gardens, with lunch out. What gorgeous lunches of smorgasbord they put on down under, every meal a treat with fine Australian wines, so much underestimated in Europe. When farewells were said, on my part it was with the greatest reluctance. What really great hospitality from some grand people who know and love irises and, moreover, can grow them, too. Unforgettable!

I must admit I sometimes get a bit of "iris indigestion" at long conventions but there was none this trip and any would have been speedily dissipated in my last week's "rest" with relatives. I arrived home pretty tired but with no sense of anticlimax. The four years till the next Australian Convention should go quickly; there is already a tinkle in my money box!

Mr. Taylor is Past President of the British Iris Society and a noted hybridizer who won last year's BIS Dykes Medal.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Whew! After mailing delays that left the last *Bulletin* gathering dust, it finally reached many of the members just before the Huntsville convention. We were delighted that so many readers stopped to offer kind words, compliments and encouragement. Thanks!

We were also alerted to several typos and general all-purpose errors. Corrections appear in this issue. One matter that received both pro and con attention was the type style used in the last issue. It allowed us to publish more information, but its compactness made it hard for some to read. You'll notice that this issue is in another print and the next will offer another alternative. After the October issue, we'll be interested to hear which type style is preferred.

Throughout the year, we will attempt to balance our content among the subjects wanted by readers, although some issues will have a definite focus. This issue, for instance, was delayed slightly in order to include garden reviews, varietal comments and news from our organization's national meetings in Alabama May 1-5. This makes for a bit of a scramble, since the time requirements for the printing process are necessarily extensive for a magazine of this caliber.

Last fall a survey of RVPs, many of whom polled local clubs, resulted in a profile of things that readers wanted most. Some of these appear below. We will do our best to comply, within the framework of spacial limitations and organizational news, special research and other items that must be printed. We also hope to keep up with irising around the world.

Some specifics, however, cannot be printed since they are not of general interest to the membership. The publishing of birth and wedding announcements seems more appropriate in a regional magazine. We cannot devote an issue to *I. tectorum*, as a reader requested, although we like 'em, too. On the other hand, "Species Gallery" will appear twice yearly with its valuable information. By limiting the length of all features and reviewing the list below, we hope to provide the best possible *Bulletin* for irisarians. We're trying!

ARTICLE TOPIC INTEREST INVENTORY

Percentage Wanting More on Topic	Topic
100	Basic Iris Culture
100	Bearded Irises Other Than Tall Bearded
100	Regional News
100	Photographs
93	News from Hybridizers on Latest & Future Seedling Lines
92	Research Findings on Diseases, Pests & Problems
82	Tall Bearded Irises
79	Personality Sketches of Prominent Irisarians
78	National Convention News
77	Unusual Species and Types
77	How Judges Evaluate Irises
75	Varietal Comments
75	Beardless Irises
75	Light and Humorous Features
67	International News
62	Fundamentals of Hybridizing
62	Showmanship

Other topics that readers wanted emphasized included Iris Family Trees and How Colors and Patterns Develop, Reblooming Irises, Historical Irises and Historical Irisarians.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

IRIS SLIDES FOR RENTAL — AIS maintains sets of iris slides, suitable for programs, that are available through Slide Committee Chairman D.C. Nearpass. For a complete listing, see Spring 1979 *BULLETIN*, page 38.

AIS BYLAWS AVAILABLE — If you would like a copy, send a stamped, self-addressed, #10 long envelope to AIS Secretary Mrs. R. V. Ramsey, 6518 Beachy Ave., Wichita, KS 67206.

BULLETIN COPY DEADLINES — **Deadline for the October issue is July 15; for the January issue, October 15; for the April issue, January 15 and for the July issue, April 15.** Preparation of *BULLETIN* for publication requires this advance scheduling; with advance notice, space may be saved for special timely material. Articles, letters and good black and white photographs will be gratefully received by the Editor-in-Chief or department editors at the addresses listed. Space may limit the use of some material, however, and we reserve the right to edit contributions.

BULLETIN ADVERTISING COPY DEADLINES — As in the above copy deadlines, ten weeks are required for preparation, with scheduling especially important for ads that include photographs. Cover ads and centerfolds that use color require additional time, since it is economical to print these for two issues at the same time. In addition, unless the advertiser provides his own color separations, more time is required for this process. Send advertising copy to the Advertising Editor, Kay Nelson, at the address on page 1.

FUTURE AIS CONVENTIONS SET — Next year's convention in Tulsa, Oklahoma, is scheduled for April 29 through May 3, 1980; watch future *BULLETIN*s for details. Region 18 will host the 1981 convention in St. Louis, Missouri. Hybridizers wishing to send guest irises for either convention should refer to the Spring 1979 *BULLETIN*, page 51, for procedural information.

BULLETIN POLICY ON OBITUARIES ESTABLISHED — During the Huntsville meetings, the AIS Board of Directors voted to establish policies for obituaries to be printed in this publication. See the minutes in this issue for details.

Although we regret being unable to print tributes to denote the passing of many fine irisarians, we acknowledge that spacial limitations make the policy necessary. Special cases may be handled as explained. In addition, it is the feeling of the staff that the RVP of the region within which a person was living who qualifies for an obituary, should select the person to write the appropriate tribute and see that it is submitted to the *BULLETIN*. The space allowed for an obituary is left to the discretion of the Editor, but should seldom exceed one printed page.

WE REGRET THAT Mrs. William (Pat) McCallum found that other responsibilities necessitated her resignation from her position as one of *BULLETIN's* Associate Editors. Sorry to lose you, Pat, and hope that you will work us into your schedule again, someday. Her replacement will be appointed at the November meeting of the Board of Directors.

ANY MEMBER who desires early announcement of results of the 1979 awards balloting, before these appear in the October *BULLETIN*, may send a stamped, self-addressed #10 long envelope to Awards Committee Chairman Kenneth Waite, 6 Tow Path Lane, Westfield, MA 01085. Previously, results were sent to Judges in the same mailing with the Judges' Choice ballot; the latter has been discontinued by order of the Board of Directors.

MISCELLANY

BEGINNING WITH THE OCTOBER ISSUE, *BULLETIN* will return to the original policy of date-lining issues January, April, July and October, instead of seasonal designations. The Board of Directors felt that this would be clearer for several reasons. With the cooperation of computers, the U.S. Mail, advertisers, writers and assorted gremlins, we strive to make this a reality.

CONGRATULATIONS TO REGIONS 10, 12 and 16, who had 100% membership renewals.

ALASKA AND HAWAII were approved by the Board of Directors to be recognized as part of the American Iris Society. Alaska joins Region 13; Hawaii, Region 14. Welcome, irisarians in both states.

CORRECTION — The list of Approved Affiliates in the Spring 1979 issue included the "Texorama Iris Society." This should have been the Texoma Iris Society. Pardon our typo-ra!

IN THE SPRING 1979 *BULLETIN*, line 40 of the Cottage Gardens advertisement on page 58, a parent of REGENTS' ROW was listed as McWhirter 3J71-27 and should have been McWhirter J71-27, without the 3. Mr. McWhirter wrote, "Please have correction of this published in Summer *BULLETIN* so as not to further confuse people." Voila—with apologies for the typo.

Also, Mr. McWhirter has requested that the Advertising Editor print a correction in this issue that the Cottage Garden centerfold advertisement in the last winter issue which printed REGENTS' ROW as a 1978 introduction was incorrect and should have read 1979.

WHEN THE JUDGES' ROSTER was published in the Winter 1979 *BULLETIN*, Mrs. Marion D. Pais was left off the Region 9 list. Mrs. Pais is a recommended and approved judge and the Judges Training Chairman wishes to correct the omission.

A CHANGE IN THE REGISTRATION of the variety CANYON SNOW (CA, 1974) has been filed. Its origination is now credited to Dara E. Emery.

THERE IS AN INCONGRUITY to clarify. In the Spring 1979 article about BRIDE'S HALO, page 6, paragraph 4, describing Dykes Medal eligibility, we stated, ". . . each candidate must have won the AM, Knowlton, Sass or Cook-Douglas Medals, or an award equivalent to the Award of Merit." Whoops! We should have simply printed, ". . . each candidate must have won the AM or equivalent," to be accurate on current policy.

The Knowlton, Sass and Cook-Douglas Medals are NOT qualifying awards for the Dykes. In fact, by winning an AM, SDBs, IBs and BBs become eligible for both the special medals and the Dykes simultaneously. It is conceivable that an outstanding introduction in one of these categories could be a double winner in the same year!

COMMENDABLE, SINGLE-MINDED dedication of AIS officials was evident at a meeting in Huntsville. When a Director began, "Some of us have problems with soft rot . . ." listeners thought only of iris gardening.

DAVE SILVERBERG and several other irisarians attending the Huntsville convention reported that a policeman on duty outside the motel wore a name badge identifying him as Always Wright. One must never argue a ticket with that officer!

POLLEN EXCHANGE: "Often an exciting hybridizing plan is nipped in the bud when the hybridizer cannot obtain pollen from the prospective parent. Sometimes it will be an iris difficult to locate, or one that does not grow well in the hybridizer's garden. In an attempt to minimize these difficulties, and give us something else to worry about, I have volunteered (against my better judgment) to direct a pollen exchange program.

"Here's how it works: Send 1) your name and address, 2) a list of the irises or types of irises you would like pollen from (try to keep this down to a dozen or so), and 3) two postage stamps. Early next spring you will receive a printed list of all the pollen requests. The list will show who wants what kind of pollen. If you have extra pollen of one of the types or varieties requested, you would then send it directly to the person who needs it, as indicated on the list. If this all sounds like a confused mess, write to me and we'll see if it can be made clear as mud."

Tom Little, RR 2 Box 196-B, Las Cruces, NM 88001

HOW! THE NAME GAME

Iris hybridizer Fred W. Gadd of Weathersfield Iris Garden says "it is Indian all the way" in naming varieties. He adds, "I have found that by going back some 300 years, I have little difficulty getting names approved. The only drawback is the pronunciation . . ." Indians, he explains, when naming something important to them, often "took the first thing that came into sight and used it some place in the name."

One of the tribes that had roamed the Connecticut River valley was the PYQUAGS, pronounced pie-kwog, hence the iris of that name. A chief from that tribe, SAWASHEE, was namesake for Fred's dark purple 1976 introduction; the chief, according to history, was named for the first thing seen after he was born: "somebody washing or a washout," the irisarian comments. BUZZ BUZZ and JESSABOO were names of ponies belonging to the chief's sons. Fred reports more Indian names are planned for future iris introductions.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Sheraton Motor Inn, Huntsville, Alabama

May 1 & 2, 1979

The regular spring meeting of the Board of Directors of The American Iris Society was called to order at 1:09 p.m. Tuesday, May 1, 1979 by President Wolford with the following in attendance: Vice Presidents Stahly and Harvey; Secretary Ramsey; Treasurer Pettijohn; Editor Dasch; Membership Secretary Mullin; Registrar Nelson; Directors Corlew, Hamblen, Keppel, Owen, Rockwell and Waite; Committee Chairmen Burch, Harder, Nearpass and Rice; Special Committee Chairman Koza; Managing Editor Williams; RVPs Carmer (2), E. Kegerise (3), Johnson (5), J. Overholser (6), Mohr (7), Wadekamper (8), Nicholson (14), J. McMillen (16), Wade (17), Rasmussen (18) and Houseward (19); Section Representatives Wadekamper (SSI), Vogt (SJI) and Corlew (SPCNI). [Guests present at the various sessions included members S. Kegerise (3), D. Overholser (6), Ross and Story (7), Waters (14), L. Conrad and R. Conrad (15), G. McMillen (16), Nichols (17), Ennenga (21) and Hensel (22).]

RVP Wade was recognized for the presentation of a gavel to The American Iris Society from Region 17. President Wolford accepted the gift on behalf of the Society and expressed the appreciation of the Board.

The reading of the minutes of the previous meeting in Grand Rapids, Michigan, November 3-5, 1978, as printed in *AIS BULLETIN* No. 232, was dispensed with. There being no objection, the minutes stood approved as published.

The President directed the Secretary to have the minutes reflect that, by mail ballot, Phillip Williams had been duly nominated and approved by the Board as Managing Editor of the *BULLETIN*.

President Wolford announced that Bennett Jones had submitted his resignation as AIS Director. Ramsey moved, Owen seconded, to accept the resignation with sincere regret and heartfelt expression of appreciation for his long and devoted service in the interest of the AIS. Motion passed.

Wolford also announced the resignations of two RVPs, Boushay, Region 13, and McSparrin, Region 10; and asked approval of interim appointments as Acting RVPs:

Richard Goula, Region 10. Stahly moved, Corlew seconded, to approve the appointment. Motion passed.

Ron Kessel, Region 13. Owen moved, Waite seconded, to approve the appointment. Motion passed.

Secretary Ramsey submitted cost proposals for new AIS logo seals of a self adhesive type. The Board deferred action in order to study the proposals.

Ramsey reported that Medallion Art Company, because of prohibitive insurance rates, can no longer store our stocks of Honorary Awards Medals, that the Medals would be shipped to the Wichita office, and that a larger safe deposit box would be needed for their storage.

Responding to Membership Secretary Mullin's recommendation that the States of Alaska and Hawaii be assigned to existing Regions, Ramsey moved, Rockwell seconded, that Alaska become a part of Region 13 and Hawaii a part of Region 14. Motion passed.

Ramsey presented Librarian Howard's recommendation that because of the confusion it creates, the Winter-Spring-Summer-Fall designations for the *BULLETIN* be dropped and that we resume using the January-April-July-October datelines. Corlew so moved, Rockwell seconded; motion passed.

Affiliates and Sections Chairman Owen reported that AIS now has 78 local affiliated societies, and that some revision is needed in affiliate reporting dates because of computer and *Bulletin* deadlines.

Editor Dasch reviewed plans for using different printers, experimenting with different type styles, emphasized the need for balanced *Bulletin* content, and asked for a policy directive on *Bulletin* obituaries. For the Editorial Committee, Wadekamper presented a policy proposal on *Bulletin* obituaries and the Board agreed to study the proposal, with action deferred until later in the meeting.

Dasch reported that Patricia McCallum had resigned as Associate Editor. Ramsey moved, Rockwell seconded, to accept the resignation. Motion passed.

Responding to Dasch's request for a more specific directive, Rockwell moved, Owen seconded, that a picture of the Sevres vase be used on the cover of the *BULLETIN* at some future date. Motion passed.

Awards Chairman Waite reported that official ballots had been mailed to 967 Accredited, Senior and Honorary Judges on April 2, and study ballots sent to the Judges Training Committee for the Apprentices; that there is a shortage of varieties in some categories on the ballot because of the implementation of the ruling effective this year for HM eligibility; that the Awards Committee needs to establish better permanent files in the areas of past eligibility lists, procedural guidelines and convention award presentations; and reminded the Board that disposition of the Walther Cup had not yet been decided. The President asked Stahly to appoint a committee to draft a recommendation on the Walther Cup and report back at a later session.

The possibility was explored of distributing HC and HM certificates through the RVPs as a cost cutting measure, but the Board declined to make any change and agreed to retain the present policy of individual notification and distribution of certificates by the Awards Chairman.

Convention Liaison Chairman Stahly read a letter from Region 1 RVP, Bob Sobek, inviting the AIS to hold its 1983 annual meeting in Region 1, with the exact site to be designated later. Stahly moved, Ramsey seconded, to accept the invitation of Region 1 for 1983. Motion passed. The Secretary was directed to notify RVP Sobek.

Exhibitions Chairman Corlew advised that due to unusual circumstances, a few shows had not been reported in the *BULLETIN*, recommended they be included in a supplemental report, and the Board agreed. Concerning the AIS silver show medals, Corlew explained that our supplier can no longer deliver a solid silver alloy medal because of scarce metal supplies and sharply rising costs; that he had accepted the supplier's proposal for a suitable replacement, a silver plated bronze medal; and that the plated medals were on order. Harvey moved, Owen seconded, to confirm the Exhibition Chairman's action regarding the silver show medals. Motion passed.

In response to Corlew's request for a restatement of existing policy, the Board reaffirmed that approval of a show schedule is a mandatory first step in securing show supplies, and that no show supplies can be shipped unless the schedule has been approved by the Exhibitions Chairman. The Board further agreed that anything unusual be left to Chairman Corlew's discretion.

Judges Chairman Rockwell distributed the interim statistical report on AIS Judges; and reported that there is often a communications break down in Regions where there is a new RVP; that retiring RVPs must be more diligent in passing along records, correspondence and knowledge for the sake of continuity; that a number of regions need to improve the training of judges and to keep the national committee informed; and that the Judges Committee will continue to assist all judges and promote and improve judges training.

Membership Chairman Burch recommended that the Region Membership Renewal Trophy be retired to the custody of the AIS Historical Committee. Corlew so moved, Waite seconded, motion passed.

Registrations Chairman Keppel reported that the AIS had only recently been advised of a correction in the name of the originator of one of this year's award winners, and that a new Award Certificate will be issued in the right name.

Ramsey reported that there were no new requests for grants from Scientific Chairman Allen, and that all monies for existing grants had been disbursed.

Slides Chairman Nearpass reported that the full, revised, slides listing appears in the Spring *BULLETIN*; that slide sets are being reviewed and updated; that the slides program remains a very popular one and the demand high; and that receipts continue in excess of expenditures.

Index Committee Chairman Koza reported on the progress of the project, discussed some of the problems involved, and advised that the first Index should be ready in the near future.

Nelson advised that she has begun working on the Membership List and that it should be ready by the end of the summer.

The meeting recessed at 3:03 p.m. Tuesday, and the Board reconvened in joint session with the Regional Vice Presidents and Section Representatives at 8:01 a.m. Wednesday, May 2, 1979, with the following in attendance plus those previously listed: RVPS Rodosky (9), Chesnik (15), Durrance (20), Ensminger (21) and Campbell (22); Acting RVPs Goula (10) and Kessel (13); RVP representatives Merrill (1), Barr (4) and Miller (23); Section representatives Eberhardt (MIS), Mathews (SIS), Zurbrigg (RIS), Goula (LiSA) and Sindt (DIS).

Wolford welcomed the group, especially those new to their jobs, and expressed the appreciation of the Board and all AIS members for their willingness to serve.

Ramsey suggested that the recently revised pamphlet *Invitation to Join* should be utilized as show handouts, for regional and local promotion, and that pamphlets are available on request from the AIS Business Office in Wichita. Ramsey briefly discussed the computer changeover and praised the Plant Sciences Data Center staff for their efforts in converting the file, with most major problems having been resolved and work continuing on the refinements we desire.

Mullin reported that as of March 31, 1979, the Society had 5,499 members, with the largest membership in Region 18, followed by Regions 6, 15, 14, 17, 7, 22 and 21; and that Regions 10, 12 and 16 had achieved 100% renewal records. Mullin detailed the procedures for transmitting information to the computer center, deadlines involved, and asked the cooperation of everyone concerned in notifying him of address and other changes.

Treasurer Pettijohn distributed the interim financial report for the six months ending March 31, 1979, and stressed the importance of the gifts the AIS has received, for without those gifts, the present favorable financial position could not be maintained and dues would have to be increased.

Dasch reviewed plans for the *BULLETIN*, asked for more articles and especially photographs, and invited comments.

Advertising Editor Nelson reported on *Bulletin* advertising and the necessity for having copy in on time. Both Dasch and Nelson pointed out that deadlines for copy were being moved up 15 days and would be strictly adhered to, and that copy must be in on time to assure on-time publication.

For Howard, Ramsey announced that supplies of the booklet *What Every Iris Grower Should Know* had been reduced and were now sufficient only to meet needs of new members and sales, and the special offer for free promotional copies has been withdrawn.

Owen asked the cooperation of the RVPs in verifying affiliate memberships and reviewed the procedures for filing those reports.

Corlew reported on some of the problems encountered with exhibitions and steps taken to help local societies, including guidelines and new clerk's reports for cultivar shows. The importance of early submission of show schedules was stressed, and it was pointed out that show medals can not be sent until completed show reports are received.

Historical Chairman Harder thanked the RVPs and members for their cooperation in sending materials to his committee, asked for their continuing help, and distributed a list of new historical file acquisitions.

Membership Chairman Burch explained the new membership campaign rules; recommended that the Board study the feasibility of instituting regional membership awards; and discussed with the RVPs the need for better communication with their Regional Membership Chairmen.

Public Relations Chairman Rice reviewed the Iris Photo Contest rules which appear in the Spring *BULLETIN*: how the contest rules were developed and goals established; contest prizes; and urged participation.

Ramsey read the report of Robin Chairman Hembree which summarized activities in the different robin divisions, and announced changes in the chairmanships of three robin divisions which will be announced in the *BULLETIN*.

Youth Chairman Ritchie's report, read by Ramsey, announced that the 1979 winner of the Youth Achievement Award is Tom Little, New Mexico, and the runners-up are Cathy Simon, Illinois, and William Ziehl, Michigan. Ritchie thanked Rosalie Beasley, who has resigned as Youth Views Editor, for her excellent work.

AIS Foundation Secretary-Treasurer Harvey discussed the role of the Foundation in supporting research projects and publications, the Foundation's financial picture, and advised that a full report on Foundation activities will appear in the *AIS BULLETIN*.

RVP Rasmussen, Chairman, AIS Board of Counsellors, reported on the Counsellors' meeting of the previous night, that it was up to the Regions to assist the Foundation by bringing projects to the attention of the Trustees; that a project for an exchange of ideas among the RVPs was being initiated to help the RVPs function better; that Board of Counsellors' officers elected for 1980 are RVP Mohr, Chairman, and RVP Chesnik, Secretary; and that RVPs Goula and Wade had been elected as the RVPs' representatives on the 1980 Personnel Committee.

Owen reported on the meeting of the Board of Section Representatives that dues collection and reporting were discussed; that Elizabeth Wood had been elected Chairman of the Section Representatives; and that David Sindt had been elected Sections' representative on the 1980 Personnel Committee.

The joint meeting recessed at 10:45 a.m. Wednesday, and the Board reconvened in session at 1:03 p.m. the same day.

Corlew moved, Rockwell seconded, to authorize the Secretary to order 50,000 AIS logo seals to be packaged in units of 50 seals, with the sales price to be determined by the Executive Committee. Motion passed.

Dasch presented the *Bulletin* obituary proposal of the Editorial Committee, that obituaries be published in the *AIS BULLETIN* for those who at their death are AIS members and fit the following qualifications: all current and former AIS officers, directors, chairmen of standing committees and RVPs; all recipients of AIS service, hybridizer and special medals; all hybridizers who have originated AM or AM-equivalent winning irises; persons who have been signally honored by overseas iris societies; and hybridizers who have received top medals in international iris competitions; and that exceptional cases may be handled through specific requests to the Board of Directors by the *Bulletin* Editorial Committee or directly by the Board of Directors. Owen moved, Corlew seconded, to adopt the policy as stated. Motion carried.

Dasch discussed alternative methods of packaging the *BULLETIN* for mailing. Keppel moved, Rockwell seconded, to authorize the Editor to investigate and experiment with the shrink wrap plastic process for the *BULLETIN*. Motion defeated.

Stahly presented the recommendation of the Walther Cup ad hoc committee consisting of RVP Houseward, Keppel, Waite and Stahly, Chairman: that the Walther Cup be awarded in 1979 and subsequent years to the iris receiving the highest number of votes in the Honorable Mention Award sections of the official ballot; all classes of irises are eligible. Stahly moved, Ramsey seconded, adoption of the recommendation. Motion passed.

President Wolford addressed himself to the problem of members who, having accepted appointment to a position, prematurely leave the position without notifying the Board or person responsible for the appointment, often resulting in very awkward situations. The President reminded those holding such appointments that they have an obligation, under such circumstances, to submit resignations in writing to the Board or person responsible for their appointments.

Corlew read a letter from James A. Copeland with suggestions for encouraging youth participation in iris shows by awarding specially designed silver and bronze medals, special medal certificates, "Princess of the Show" rosettes for the best specimen in the youth division or youth show, and by upgrading the reporting of youth winners with appropriate listings in the *AIS BULLETIN*. Mr. Copeland's letter included a report drafted by youth member, Jimmy Copeland, with specific proposals for establishing youth awards and for financing new medals. Rockwell moved, Pettijohn seconded, to accept the report and take it under advisement, to refer it to a committee appointed by the President, with action to be taken at the fall meeting of the Board. Motion carried.

Wolford appointed Ritchie, Mr. Copeland and Corlew, Chairman, to a special committee on youth show awards. Mullin moved, Stahly seconded, to approve the appointments. Motion passed.

Ramsey moved, Owen seconded, that the proposal of the Membership Chairman for regional membership contest awards be referred to a committee appointed by the President, to report to the Board in November. Motion passed.

Wolford appointed Dasch, RVP E. Kegerise and Burch, Chairman, as members of a special committee on contest awards. Ramsey moved, Rockwell seconded, to approve the appointments. Motion passed.

Mullin moved, Keppel seconded, that because new members usually join the Sections after they become AIS members, Section memberships not be included in the listing of new members in the *BULLETIN*. Motion passed.

Ramsey moved, Harvey seconded, to change the name of the Publicity Committee to Public Relations Committee. Motion carried.

Nelson advised that the Membership List format will be alphabetically by States, as have past lists, and that suggestions had been received for indicating Judges and Life members. Stahly moved, Rockwell seconded, that neither Judges nor Life members be designated in the Membership List. Motion passed.

The President called for the report of the 1979 Personnel Committee (Dasch and Owen, Board representatives; Johnson and Wadekamper, RVP representatives; and Wood, Section representative) and Chairman Wadekamper announced that the committee had met, completed its work and had the following recommendations: that the four incumbent directors, Harvey, Mullin, Ramsey and Stahly, each eligible for an additional term, be renominated for the regular terms expiring in 1982; and that James Rasmussen be nominated to fill the unexpired term ending in 1981. Dasch, representing an ad hoc Personnel Subcommittee, reported that she had enough proxy ballots to represent a majority of the Personnel Committee, and that the Subcommittee was recommending Julius Wadekamper as an additional candidate for the unexpired term. The Board deferred consideration of the recommendations until later in the meeting.

For the Executive Committee, Ramsey reported that the Committee was not prepared at this time to make recommendations on a Judges Handbook revision, but would report in November, at which time there would also be a recommendation for a revision of *What Every Iris Grower Should Know*; that the Committee is continuing to investigate promotional projects and expects to have something to report in November; and that the Treasurer would present a motion concerning the Honorary Awards Committee. Pettijohn moved that the President appoint an Honorary Awards Committee which will consist of the past presidents and three AIS members who have been awarded the Distinguished Service Medal; that the President will designate the Chairman; and that these appointments be subject to approval by the AIS Board of Directors. Mullin seconded; motion passed.

Wolford appointed the AIS Past Presidents, AIS members Hamblen, Robert Schreiner and Bee Warburton, and named Past President Marion Walker as Chairman of the Honorary Awards Committee. Corlew moved, Owen seconded, to approve the appointments. Motion carried.

Corlew reported that plans are well underway to replace the Cup now given for the Mitchell Award with a new Award Medal, fully funded, and that approval of the AIS Board is needed before final plans can be drawn and approved by the Society for Pacific Coast Native Irises. Corlew moved, Stahly seconded, to approve the plan for a Mitchell Award Medal pending final approval of SPCNI and full funding. Motion passed.

Owen advised that the special committee on Sections was postponing its report until November and informally discussed some of the preliminary work being done by the committee, particularly pertaining to dues collection, and that with the exception of the American Aril Society bylaws, all Sections' current bylaws were in the committee's file. It was pointed out that the Board had never received a copy of the American Aril Society's bylaws, had never acted on them, and that in reality AAS should not be listed as an AIS Section since only tentative approval had been given for AAS to become a Section and final approval had never been given. Ramsey moved, Harvey seconded, that because the bylaws of the American Aril Society have never been approved as required in the original motion for acceptance of the American Aril Society as a Section of the AIS (Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting, Wichita, Kansas, November 2-4, 1973, AIS *BULLETIN* No. 213, April 1974, page 113), that that action be rescinded. Motion passed. The Secretary was directed to write to the President of the AAS, explaining the situation, and invite the American Aril Society to renew its application for Section membership at an early date.

Regarding computer and *Bulletin* deadline dates for affiliates, Ramsey moved, Owen seconded, that the President appoint a special committee to consider the problem of affiliate expiration dates and determine a solution. Motion passed.

Wolford appointed Dasch, Owen, Ramsey and Mullin, Chairman, to a special committee on affiliate deadlines. Corlew moved, Stahly seconded, to approve the appointments. Motion passed.

Acting on the recommendations of the Personnel Committee and its ad hoc subcommittee, Owen moved, Waite seconded that Harvey, Mullin, Ramsey and Stahly be renominated as AIS Directors for regular terms expiring in 1982. Motion passed. A written ballot was requested for consideration of the two candidates, Rasmussen and Wadekamper, recommended for the unexpired term ending in 1981, and it was so ordered. RVPs Kessel, Johnson and Nicholson were appointed as a counting committee. Nicholson reported the ballot results to the Board, that Wadekamper had been nominated by an 8 to 3 vote.

The President asked for nominations for Treasurer. Ramsey moved, Stahly seconded, to nominate Stephen Kegerise for AIS Treasurer. Corlew moved, Owen seconded, that nominations cease. Motion passed, and Stephen Kegerise was elected. Wolford advised that retiring Treasurer Pettijohn and Treasurer-elect Kegerise would begin immediately working together for an orderly transition.

Ramsey moved the standard banking resolutions. There being no objection, the resolutions stood approved.

Wolford appointed Rockwell and Stahly to the 1980 Personnel Committee. Mullin moved, Waite seconded, to approve the appointments. Motion passed.

The Board expressed its appreciation to the Huntsville Convention Committee for its hospitality and the fine arrangements for the meeting.

There being no objection, the meeting adjourned at 3:14 p.m. Wednesday, May 2, 1979.

Carol Ramsey, Secretary

PR FOR IRISING

Sam Reece

I would like to share a short poem from The Japanese Floral Calendar by Ernest W. Clement, published by Open Court Publishing Company, Chicago, 1904. The poem, appearing on page 30, was translated by a young Japanese teacher of English.

*"The iris, grown between my house and the neighbor's,
Is just burnishing in its deepest color and glory;
I wish that someone would come to see it
Before it withers away and returns to the dust."*

When was the last time you toured your friend's or neighbor's iris garden? Doesn't he grow the latest introductions, or are you so consumed by your own plantings that you are interested in nothing else? Another point to question from the poem is, what have you done to promote your garden to the public? Are community members able to share the beauty of your irises?

The need to publicize irises is great. The public is aware of Dutch irises, since florists use them in arrangements and advertisements. To some, THE iris is "Grandmother's purple flag," not the lovely beauties that you grow. The medians, arils, natives, beardless and rebloomers are virtually unknown to the public. What have you done to change this? Beauty is in the eye of the beholder; let's make that beauty the IRIS!



YOUTH-VIEWS

Jayne Ritchie, Chairman, Youth Committee

We have a mean little kid in our neighborhood. A nasty, destructive, bullying kid. The neighborhood mothers shudder when they see him coming. He destroys toys deliberately, hits, spits and calls names. Today I was sitting by my window and I heard him yelling at someone, "Stay out of the flower beds, you dummy. You'll hurt the flowers!" Some strange youngsters were walking through the edge of my flower beds. The "nasty" kid kept yelling at them to get away from the plants. I leaned out and waved at him. He waved back. The strange kids looked up and saw me and got out of the flowers. I guess I've done a good job with my nasty neighbor. I'm the only adult in the area who speaks softly to him. When he comes in the yard, I converse with him. I tell him that plants are alive, just as he is. They have names just as he does. They don't like to be stomped on, just as he wouldn't. They need food and light and air, just as he does. Now he is my watchdog, safe guarding my flowers when I'm not around. Maybe there is hope for the nasty kid after all.

* * * * *

Through a strange and unusual series of circumstances, the notice of the annual Youth Achievement Award contest did not get published this spring. I wish to apologize to any and all concerned. I sincerely hope that no one who wished to nominate a candidate was waiting for the notice to appear before doing so. Thank you to the people who went ahead and nominated a youth anyway. We had the same number of entries this year as last, so I'm hoping that, due to the initiative of others, no one was omitted. The RVPs apparently did a good job of spreading the word. Thanks. Hopefully, our lines of communication have been straightened out and nothing of this kind will happen again.

* * * * *

Whatever happens to Youth Members when they become adults? Some become outstanding AIS members such as Robby Browne, now 21, who edits the Memphis Area Iris Society newsletter, is publicity chairman for their local rhizome sale and is involved with activities at Ketchum Memorial Gardens. The Memphis State senior is using irises for research in college and hopes to build a hybridizing program into basis for a masters degree project. Kudos, Robby.

1979 YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT CONTEST WINNERS



The young man who finished first in this year's competition is 17-year-old Tom Little of Las Cruces, New Mexico. Tom has been growing irises only a few years, but his enthusiasm has involved him deeply in his new hobby. He is active in the local adult club, currently serving as secretary. He has given educational programs at meetings and put on educational exhibits at shows. Tom has used his artistic talents to design covers for show schedules, and his literary abilities to write an educational booklet for new

growers. He contributes large amounts of time and labor to rhizome sales, and takes on other responsibilities as needed. In addition, he attends Regional meetings and has begun Judges training. Tom is active in the Robin program, and also corresponds with various hybridizers of rebloomers. Perhaps his next crop of seedlings will include that gorgeous rebloomer he is hoping for. An honor student, Tom aspires to be a science fiction writer. We have it on good authority that his achievements are no science fiction!

Our first runner-up is 12-year-old William Ziehl of Michigan. William has certainly accomplished a great deal for one as yet so young. He is active in the local youth club, which maintains a public planting and has quite an active program. William is a regular participant in the local iris show, having served as chairperson for the youth section and also having won the top awards in the youth section more than once. He has won special recognition and awards in his region for his iris activities. William aspires to be a judge, and studies the many types of irises that are grown in his area. He is in the Robin Program. He also shows iris slides at school and to Senior Citizen groups. William's other interests include the school band and collecting iris artifacts. He also seems to be collecting awards.

Cathy Simon of Hinsdale, Illinois, is the second runner-up. Cathy, age 14, maintains her own garden, doing all the fertilizing, weeding and digging. Garden visitors attest to the fact that her 80 or so varieties are very well grown. Her show awards would seem to verify this. She is very active in the local adult society, giving a helping hand with many activities. She helps set up at shows and has acted as a clerk. The show exposure helped her win a Queen of Show award last year. Cathy has conducted a rhizome sale, doing the packaging, pricing and selling. She also helps dig donated irises for sale by the club.

Cathy visits many gardens in her area with her father and has begun her Judges Training. She has begun hybridizing, concentrating on tall bearded and arilbreds. Cathy also enjoys sharing her interest with her school friends by giving educational talks at school. Perhaps she can get a youth movement started in the Chicago area.



Billy Ziehl, current Youth Achievement Award runner-up, was inspired in irising by his late brother and has become a leading young irisarian in Michigan. Cathy Courner, also of Michigan and last year's runner-up, is shown receiving her award from Dr. Harold Stahly.

OUR READERS WRITE

Letters to the Editor are welcome on any topic. We may not be able to print all letters and we reserve the right to edit those we publish. We urge readers to express themselves. The following is an excerpt from a letter received from Fred Beck of Hollywood, CA. Thanks, Fred.

"The *Bulletin* has such a variety of material in it, that there seems to be something for everybody. Especially, I am glad that you have a 'Letter to the Editor' section. Some members cannot write articles, but they have something to say which they are able to express in a letter. The greater involvement of members adds to the vitality of the movement. Additionally, a 'Letter to the Editor' section can act as a safety valve to keep the Society in a proper direction."

TAMS IRIS GARDENS

37 North 200 East

Wellsville, Utah 84339

1979 Introduction

NORDIC PRINCE (Tams). Sdlg. T-12-72. TB, 36", ML. Heavily ruffled and fluted, wide-petaled beauty in red-violet. Elegant form and finish, adding charm and personality to this rich, beautifully-proportioned flower. A blue-white beard gives it contrast. Well-spaced blossoms on sturdy stalks. Vigorous, healthy plants. (Polka Time X Sterling Silver) X Rippling Waters. HC '75.

.....\$25.00
Also listed in Hamblen's Mission Bell Gardens, 2778 W. 5600 S., Roy, Utah 84067

NEVA SEXTON'S IRIS GARDEN

1709 Third Street

Wasco, CA 93280

GOOD MORNING AMERICA (Sexton '79). TB, 36". Well-branched, blue-white self with a dark blue beard. The blooms unfold over a period of three days and color up nicely with ruffling and fluting. Then you have two more days of perfect bloom in all its size and purity of color. Only on the fifth day does the bloom begin to show signs of passing on. The Mohrs, of Kentucky, say, "This is one iris they must have."

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226 E. 20th St., Tulsa, Oklahoma 74119



Rebloomers

Dorothy Yoerg; Ulster Park, NY: I did notice a distinct increase in rebloom in 1978. I attribute it chiefly to 3 things - 1. improved soil, 2. dividing large clumps of remontants and 3. an electric light (100 watt) in a lawn lamp about five feet from my reblooming bed that is lit about five hours nightly, except when the bulb burns out. This is my first and only experience with evening light. I do believe it helped encourage rebloom, as Myra Pollock reported recently in the Fall issue of the *Reblooming Iris Recorder*. I never put anything from the iris and rose beds into my compost piles. The state inspector here warned me about that some years ago. I burn everything from those places, and try to haul away the remainder (debris). SWEET GRAPES has not re bloomed for me and I've had it since 1975. I get good rebloom on DA CAPO, CROSSTITCH, I DO and NOW AND LATER. My iris set a record in 1978. I had bloom until October 18 (hard frost), then again bloom in November until the twentieth. Iris that were cut bloomed indoors until December 5.

Mary Pat Engel; Kenmore, NY: *My big rebloomer bed is going to be dug up, rototilled and have coarse builders sand, a 10-16-10 fertilizer, compost, and perlite and vermiculite added to the peat moss to help the clay soil. When I plant I will add bone meal around and under the rhizome (well mixed) and put a generous amount of dehydrated cow manure well below the roots. I will be sure to add potting soil under and around the rhizomes.*

Orlando Ridout; Annapolis, MD: Although we had cows for years and have horses, I just won't use the manure in the garden, even composted. The coarse weed and grass seeds in the litter just foul up the beds beyond my ability to control them. I do like to till in cover crops for the organic matter with a dressing of sand to lighten the loam. I use meal (bone, blood, linseed) and any other soil builder, like grass clippings, chopped leaves in abundance after they have composted. I hate to use old garden stalks or trimmings, if its likely they are carrying insect or fungus infections back into the compost. I usually ship the dangerous ones away in plastic trash bags—along with the noxious weeds pulled out.

Marvyn Harbert; Los Angeles, CA: *Here in California we are most fortunate to have a year round growing season for rebloom. Most of these have been hybridized here in California and Texas, and simply will not bloom in areas with a short growing season. On the other hand, many of the eastern bred iris will just bloom themselves out here. My advice to you who are just starting with rebloomers is to go to your local meetings and ask what others are growing in your area.*

Here are several I can report: CORN HARVEST (Wyatt '77) New; I am hearing good reports from everywhere. Here it is as close as we can expect as an ever bloomer. Bright yellow with lots of ruffles. CASCADE PASS (Cooper '72) Blooms its head off here, but forget it elsewhere. I have yet to hear of one Robin member who has had any luck with it outside of California. JAUNTY TEXAN (Denman '73) is a very dependable yellow. Several reports of it blooming elsewhere, too. SKY QUEEN (Craig '62) is an old one but puts out large lavender-blue blooms; it also has good fragrance. Everyone should at least try it. SECOND LOOK (Muhlestein '70) a pink hybridized in Utah where the season is short—so should do well everywhere. EMMA LOUISA (Buckels '69) is a striking thing with blue standards and fuschia falls. It is in bloom in three different gardens I know right now (Oct. 27).

Perry Dyer; Blanchard, OK: I was surprised to find rebloom in one of our medians, Pray's IB TAWNY, this last fall while weeding in the garden. I know it is nearly an ever-bloomer in California, but not here.

Cleo Palmer; Geary, OK: *TWICE BLESSED has several buds coming along now, and likely will be blooming by the end of the month (October). TBs blooming so far have been GOLDEN ENCORE, AUTUMN MIST and DA CAPO has three stalks blooming now.*

Hybridizing

Henry Rowlan; Arkansas: Most of my success with Louisianas and Spurias is from trying out different ideas on them plus a little bit of general information I was able to get from other good hybridizers of these irises. Also the growing conditions of my area come into the picture. Spurias and Louisianas seem to do best when you gather the seed before they completely ripen. This occurs when the pod begins to break open and the seeds are still green or pinkish color. Plant the seed at this time also. They will germinate better. This, in my area, is about the first part of August. About 60 days after the seed pod is set.

The Louisianas planted this way will start coming up about the first of October—roughly 45-60 days after being planted. Spuria seeds will start coming up about the last of October or first part of November. I plant my seeds in open ground in beds, or in 5 gallon cans buried in the ground. I like this system better than pots, although the pots work okay, but are a lot more crowded than in the open beds or 5 gallon cans. The earlier you line out your seedlings in the next year, the better. I try to get mine out by the first part of March. This way you gain a whole growing season. If you wait until May or June to plant the Spuria and Louisiana seedlings they will die down and come back out in the fall. You need all the growing time you can, and the sooner you get

them out when the ground is workable, in the early part of the year, the better it will be. You can even mud them in if it comes down to that.

Cleo Palmer; Geary, OK: *You shouldn't have too much trouble with breeding fragrance in the SDBs as the majority of them will have some degree of fragrance, some being rather faint and some very strong and possibly 20% having little or no fragrance or an unpleasant odor. ZING is supposed to pass a vanilla fragrance to most of its children, and my LITTLE TITAN and CRESCENT MOON often give fragrant seedlings. I suspect many more are fragrant though I have not specifically noted it.*

Frank Williams; Kalamazoo, MI: About my first cross with *I. balkana*. I was trying to bring tall down to dwarf; no success. I then switched to *mellita*, and was about ready to give that up too, until I had a brainstorm. As both *millita* and *balkana* are self sterile, and I was in effect trying to self them by using only one clone, two clones might work. By golly it did! *Mellita* needs two clones to bring talls down! I have dwarfs to prove it. *Balkana* would need to be used with *I. reichenbachii* or *I. aphylla* to bring down tetraploid tall to dwarf. I know it will work but never tried it. MTB iris are the hardest to hybridize, for the restrictions are tight. A dwarf iris can be larger than a table iris and be well liked, while an MTB would be thrown out.

I have a copy of Simonet's counts, translated by Paul Cook. Randolph and Mitra don't give as much depth as Simonet did. Of the 12-8-8-8, one would expect 8 bivalents and 20 univalents. This would mean all are sterile. Simonet says it goes from 11 univalents to 13 bivalents, this would mean there is some fertility there. Then it goes to 13 univalents to 11 bivalents, this is sterile. Paul Cook said when the univalents equal or exceed the bivalents the plant is sterile. I agree; I can agree with Mitra that *pumila* is a set of *pseudopumila* and *pumila*; this would account for its breeding habits in the 12-8-8-8 class.

In using *mellita* I came to believe that there are at least 4 chromosomes compatible with talls. That is, I've had four sets of factors, and there may be five, but I am not sure of this. The most compatible one is the chromosome in *millita* with no branching factors, paired with the chromosome of tall diploid containing factors for branching. After crossing tall x *mellita*, the first sib cross, these two factors latch onto any set, 11 chromosomes to make 12, to give some seedlings with no branches, some with one branch and some with two branches. They must be really compatible to do this.

The next two are about equally compatible, the factors for tall versus small, or no stem and large against small foliage. The other large bloom versus small bloom, not quite as compatible. The *millita* color factors seem to be in this chromosome also, but not closely linked. It will separate in the third or fourth generation. Here I am a bit uncertain; *mellita* color factors sometimes are dominant, other times it seems as though the tall color factors dominate the *mellita* ones. This leads me to wonder if *millita* color is not in reality tall coloring, which being by itself so many, many generations has lost all but a couple of factors, and these have entrenched so deep as to give them dominance over the other tall colors.

Culture

Cleo Palmer; Geary, OK: *I've used Dalpon for a number of years, but it has one major defect as it can harm a number of things, iris included, if anything is treated with it within the reach of the roots from the surrounding area. This is due to the fact that Dalpon is translocated into the roots, but remains effective in the soil from 3 weeks to a month.*

Roundup on the other hand is almost immediately biodegraded by soil so it can not cause any damage via the soil. There are no vapors to hurt anything either, so if you don't get the spray on it it can't be harmed. So one can, and I have this year, use it right in the beds of iris without harm if you take care to protect the iris from the spray or wash them off right away.

Roundup also allows you to replant earlier as such things as Johnson grass can be worked up 5-7 days after spraying and replanted immediately, so would save 3-4 weeks time in cases where something had to be dug out then sprayed and later replanted. Five per cent Treflan granules will take care of the weeds for a year or more also at a very reasonable cost.

Clare Roberts; Ontario, CA: I keep telling the people in the Midwest and East to *DRY OUT* the big, lush rhizomes they get from California before they plant them. I truly think it would help keep them from rotting out, as so many do, if they were let dry in a cool place for some time before being put in the ground. If a dried out rhizome is soaked overnight in water before it is planted in the soil, it seems to take hold better, and is not so full of moisture that rot takes it over right away.

General

C. O. Torkelson; Ames, IA: *Our regional hybridizers will have a new incentive to work for, the silver traveling trophy made available for the regional introduction that gets the most HM votes for the year. (This might be an idea for other regions to consider—Ed.)*

Robins

Program Chairman: Mary Alice Hembree

By now the Huntsville convention is a pleasant memory to those of you who attended. Many of you made new friends and renewed old acquaintances, which Robins and other letters will refresh.

Quite a few AIS members have contacted me about joining robins, and I have written back to all of you. I am very pleased that so many people are interested in this program. If anyone who wrote has not been placed in a robin, please contact me and I am sure we can straighten things out. I have two problem requests—there was no name or return address on either—and that is probably why you were left out.

With mixed feelings, I am now saying goodbye to several faithful Robin Section Chairpersons and welcoming their successors. Those of us who have participated in the program will miss George, Cleo, and Lorena; but I am equally confident that we will enjoy the opportunity to work with Clare, Gus, and Joan.

After doing a splendid job of directing the Hybridizing robins, George Bryant asked for a replacement, so that he would have more time for other things. Clare Roberts agreed to take over, and I am sure that she will do an excellent job.

Cleo Palmer, who directed the Median robins, found that his heaviest farming season and his robin duties always conflicted, and he highly recommended Gus Seligmann as his replacement. I can understand his enthusiasm, as I am in one of Gus's robins.

Lorena Reid learned the hard way that her nursery, family, and AIS jobs took all of her time, so she persuaded Joan Cooper to replace her. While I have not been in a robin with Joan, from our contacts, I am sure that she will make an excellent Chairperson.

All three of our new Chairpersons grow a wide variety of iris types, and I am sure that they will share their knowledge with us.

Robin Sections and Chairmen

IRISES IN GENERAL: Mrs. Eunice Carter, Box 151, Jamul, CA 92035

TALL BEARDED: Otis R. Skinner, Jr., Box 902, Yorktown, TX 78164

HYBRIDIZING: Mrs. E. L. Roberts (Clare), 1309 N. Pleasant Ave., Ontario, CA 91764

ARILBRED: George Bryant, 1909 Calle de Suenos, Las Cruces, NM 88001

INTERNATIONAL: Mrs. Mary Herd, Box 57, Jacksboro, TX 76056

HISTORICAL: Mrs. Harriet Segesseemann, 380 Crescent Dr., Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417

SPECIAL INTERESTS: Space Age, Novelty, Artistic (includes Arts & Crafts), Arils, Fragrance, Teens and Twenties: Mrs. Dan Edelman (Faye), Box 591, Fort Morgan, CO 80701

REBLOOMING IRISES: Dr. Norman Noe, 1354 Mallard Dr., Martinsville, NJ 08836

MEDIANS: Col. G. L. Seligmann, Ret. (Gus), Casa Vincente, 515 Townsend Terr., Las Cruces, NM 88001

SIBERIANS: Mrs. Marjorie Barnes, 1806 N.E. 73rd St., Seattle, WA 98115

SPURIAS & LOUISIANAS: Mrs. Al Spencer, 2539 East 17th St., Tulsa, OK 74104

EVANSIAS, SPECIES & NATIVES: Joan N. Cooper, 212 W. County Road C, St. Paul, MN 55113

JAPANESE: Mary Alice Hembree, 951 Brown Rd., Bridgewater, NJ 08807

REGIONAL: Mrs. Délbert Long, P.O. Box 33, Virgil, KS 66870



HEAD TABLE AT THE HUNTSVILLE AWARDS BANQUET (Above, left to right) Jimmy Burch, Convention Chairman; Betty Burch; Hal Stanly, AIS 1st Vice President; John Harvey, AIS 2nd Vice President and Sec.-Treas. AIS Foundation; Mrs. Harvey; Annette Craig, President Huntsville Chapter AIS; Grady Kennedy, Co-Chairman and Region 24 RVP; Lois Kennedy. (Below, left to right) Kay Nelson, AIS Registrar and *Bulletin* Advertising Editor; Ben Hager, Awards Committee; Kenneth Waite, Awards Committee Chairman and AIS Director; Agnes Waite; Ann Dasch, *Bulletin* Editor-in-Chief and Emcee of Awards Ceremony; Ron Mullin, AIS Director, Membership Secretary and Chairman 1980 Convention; Leon Wolford; Edith Wolford, AIS President.



TRANSPLANTING BEARDED IRISES

Excerpts from *The World of Irises*; Edited by Bee Warburton; Assistant Editor, Melba Hamblen; Published by The American Iris Society, 1978.

From: Chapter 21, "Culture and Propagation," Ben R. Hager, pp. 315, 317.

TRANSPLANTING TIMES

The logical time for transplanting an iris is when the rhizome has reached full maturity just after summer dormancy has set in. At this point the rhizome has developed its full potential for the following season and there is still time for a fall growth period before winter dormancy. Rhizomes transplanted during this period should start new growth soon after planting if the soil is kept damp. Transplanting immediately after bloom can be successful but the danger of interrupting the active growth period must be considered.

The cutoff date for planting is determined by local conditions and weather patterns. In the coldest areas, transplanting is best finished before late August; in milder areas, planting will succeed as late as October or November.

TRANSPLANTING PROCEDURES

After three years the clumps have become overgrown . . . , plant health deteriorates, and the bloom is not as good. Crowded clumps should be transplanted. Dig the whole clump and separate it into single rhizomes (fans) . . . The old rhizomes should be discarded; they may be diseased and spread the infection to new rhizomes if left attached. Only in cases of very old clumps where the new rhizomes are too small to make it on their own, should the older rhizome be left connected to the new growth. Arilbreds should always be transplanted every year, and only the new growth transplanted.

If you are working with a scarce variety and want the plants that the old rhizomes will produce, isolate them in a sand bed or pot with sand, and keep them moist until their buds begin to grow before setting them out in the garden. If such old rhizomes are planted directly into the garden they will often rot and the increase will be lost.

Worry not at all about letting the rhizomes of tall bearded or arilbred irises dry out between digging and replanting. Drying out will probably be beneficial, especially if the rhizomes are overlarge. Well developed rhizomes of tall beardeds placed in shady, open and dry places, can remain out of the ground for one to four or more weeks without damage. The smaller rhizomes of the dwarf and median irises, and especially the tiny rhizomes of miniature dwarfs, should probably not be held for more than two weeks. During the time that the rhizomes are out of the ground, watch for aphid infestation and treat accordingly.

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- LORENZO'S MISS TOMOPINK** (Paolucci & Conningham). Selected Marx seedling. Height 70 cm., bloom diameter 19 cm., 6 wide petals. Diploid. Perhaps the finest pink produced to date. Introduced as a service to hybridizers. Very limited quantity. \$35.00

Prior Introductions

- QUEEN TITANIA** (Paolucci & Conningham). Alpha 11010/10. Great White Heron X Driven Snow. Height 72.5 cm., bloom diameter 12.5 cm., 3 petals. Heavily ruffled pure white self with a small yellow blaze. After a year, we are able to offer this tiny jewel once again. This iris represents significant progress in our development of the shorter growing Japanese iris. \$35.00
- GASHQ** (Paolucci & Conningham). Alpha 11101/10. Pillar of Fire X Glitter and Glamour. Height 122 cm., bloom diameter 15-17 cm., 3 petals. Blue (92A) self with light red-purple (63C) signals and stylearms. A charming and vigorous garden variety that maintains a neat and compact growth habit. These clumps stay attractive for several years longer than most of the *I. ensata* hybrids. \$ 8.00

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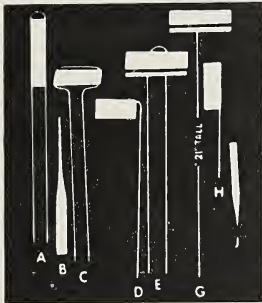


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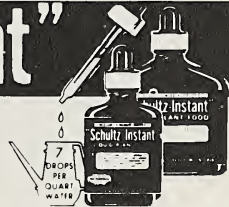
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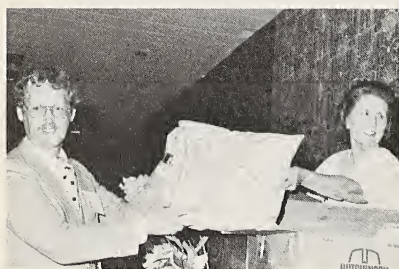
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