



NEWSCAST  
A.I.S.

Region 4

No. 3

Sept. 84

Vol. 26

## RVP MESSAGE FOR September 1984 Newscast

Since I missed the Spring Regional Meeting by going to the National, I think it is very fitting that I report a little of what took place there. One of the outstanding sights of the whole trip was the landing at the Seattle-Tacoma airport. It was just after dark and the lights of the cities; buildings, streets, and highways sparkled like jewels. It was a breath-taking scene.

Sunday afternoon and Monday morning were spent in the Board Meeting. The RVP meeting was held Sunday evening. I think most regions have similar problems, and it was good to share these with one another. Monday afternoon I attended the Siberian and Louisiana Sectional meetings. Monday night was the Welcome Dinner, and our nine members were fortunate to share a table for this event.

On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday were the garden tours. The private gardens which were much smaller and a little hard to accommodate the numbers of people involved, but patience paid off with a view of many beautiful irises and companion plants. The Rhododendron Species Foundation Garden and the Ste. Michelle Garden, were growing the best plants in special beds set aside for this convention. However, many of the guests were in bud and I'm sure this was a disappointment to the hybridizer and his friends.

The food was excellent! The fellowship with old friends and new, was outstanding. Very few irisarians are "strangers".

The outstanding garden to me was that of Roy Davidson. The description of this garden from the Convention booklet reads: "a matchless selection of Siberians, water irises, and Pacific Coast native irises, plus an assemblage of the unusual wide-cross beardless hybrids, many of them of great charm as well as curiosity. You'll find irises growing amid a superb collection of other perennials alongside a pond and flowing water in a true woodland

setting". This was exactly what we found here, and could have easily spent a whole day exploring, and yet I doubt if we could have seen it all.

I'm sure you will be seeing glowing reports of irises seen in the various tour gardens, so I will not attempt to list the things that were outstanding to me. I was impressed with the various plans of the tour gardens - each one showing the individuality of the owner-gardener. Our special thanks to the Committee which planned such a wonderful convention.

Back home, our membership keeps climbing. There have been additions in every chapter, but especial thanks to the members of Fredrickburg-Richmond Chapter for their marvelous increase. The C&P Chapter is also adding almost daily to their rolls. Let's keep it up!

You have received data regarding the Fall Meeting in Easton, Md. Be sure to bring your rebloom - and if your neighbor can't come, bring his blossoms with you! It will be nice to see a real display of remontants on the show tables in Easton.

We have a letter from the Weymouth Center in Southern Pines, N.C. acknowledging a gift from Richard Sparling of 40 Miniature Tall Bearded irises for their public gardens.

A call from Mr. John Wm. Neal, Jr. Research Entomologist, U.S.D.A., in Beltsville, Md. states that he is beginning an extensive study on the iris borer. He will be asking for help with this project from members in that area. In fact, a note from him says that Dr. D.C. Nearpass has promised a "bushel basket" of iris borer larvae, which is one of the things he needs. It is great to have him in our region, and I'm sure his study will help all iris growers.

B.J. Brown

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING  
REGION 4, AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY  
Friday, May 25, 1984

Held at River Farm 7931 East Blvd. Drive, Alexandria,  
Virginia

Meeting called or order at 7:45 by David Walsh,  
Assistant Regional Vice President.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

RVP, B.J. Brown: Excused from meeting because of attendance at National. Letter from B.J. was read by Walsh which included the following: "The Fredericksburg-Richmond Chapter, under the direction of Ruth Walker, 113 Sutter Road, Partlow, Va. 22534, is going 'great guns.' She and Mrs. Eby have sent in a number of new members, they are publishing a Chapter Newsletter and are having local meetings in the various homes. I thought it might be well to approach Mrs. Walker regarding the Fall Meeting in that area, if they would like to host it?"

Immediate Past RVP - Claire Barr: - No report as past RVP

Secretary - Willa Owens: Minutes of September 24, 1983 meeting at Harrisonburg, Va. were published in Newscast. W. Barr moved, Sparling seconded that minutes be accepted as published. Motion passed.

Treasurer - Norman R. Clouser: Clouser not present. Finance Chairman, Dr. A. W. Rice, gave a report that we spent slightly more in the past year than we took in (income, \$1,813; expenses, \$1,925) but still have a cash balance of approximately \$2,000.00.

Historian - Polly Price: - No report.

PARLIAMENTARIAN - Rosalie Figge - Not present; attending National Meeting.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Editor of Newscast - Frances Brown - Not present.

Conventions: Clarence E. Mahan: The 1985 Spring Meeting will be hosted by Blue Ridge Chapter with Fred Stephenson as Chairman. Eastern North Carolina, with J.D.Stadler as Chairman, will host the 1986 Spring Meeting.

Marydel was requested to consider hosting the 1987 Spring Meeting but the Chapter Chairman has advised that the Marydel membership does not feel they could handle it; instead Marydel advised they will ask to host the 1987 Fall Meeting.

Mrs. Ruth Walker, Chairman of the Fredricksburg-Richmond Chapter has been asked to consider hosting the 1987 Spring Meeting. With the remarkable strides Fredricksburg-Richmond has made in converting their inactive organization into a viable chapter, it was felt that historic Fredricksburg would be a great site for the 1987 Spring Meeting. That chapter has asked to wait until June to make a firm decision. It is hoped that they will decide "yes", but if they decide they are not up to it, it is recommended that FSK be asked to host the 1987 Spring Meeting.

Judges Training: Mr and Mrs. Wm. Barr: We have received the past reports from Dr. Epperson and are adding to them lists of recent classes. These lists are not complete as yet, but a file is being made for each individual who is taking training.

Our recommendations are as follows:

1. There should be a long-range plan of from 3 to 5 years for courses which will cover all irises and all material needed to become a judge of garden and exhibition irises.
2. Because many members can't always get to regional meetings, there should be more courses at the chapter level. These should be coordinated with the long-range plan and cleared in advance with the RVP and the J.T.Chairmen. Accurate reports should be

sent to the RVP and the J. T. Chairmen.

3. Members should be encouraged to fill out applications for becoming a judge and to become interested in training even if they think they might not want to complete the requirements. Training will increase the enjoyment of growing and showing irises.

We have forms available along with a sheet listing the requirements for becoming and maintaining the status of a judge.

Finance - Dr. A.W.Rice: Since Norman Clouser is moving out of the Region, he does not want to continue as Region 4 Treasurer. Dr. Rice moved, Carol Warner seconded, that the newly elected Treasurer take office in July. Motion passed.

Membership - Helen Rucker: Mrs. Rucker not present. Rena Crumpler presented the following written report from Mrs. Rucker:

The Membership List in April Newscast was sent to Mr. Brown in March. Since that time Mr. Brown has sent a list of changes from National as of April 19, 1984.

The names of new members, names of members deleted at National and corrections have been sent to the Chapter Chairman concerned. All new members have had a letter of welcome from Region 4 by this Chairman.

We have several outstanding increases in this period:

Chesapeake & Potomac - 7 new members.

Fredericksburg-Richmond - under the leadership of Mrs. Ruth Walker, Partlow, Va., and Mrs. Florence Pugh, Bumpass, Va. have organized a very active group with 8 new members.

We have a new member, Mr. James R. James, 103 First Patent Crt, Williamsburg, Va. 23185 - moved to this area from Region 5. Since Norfolk area has no Chapter

Chairman, please, everyone welcome him to Reg. 4.

We have added 4 new members for W.N.C. One new member each for F.S.K. and E.N.C. Complete report will be in the next Newscast.

Auctions and Awards - J.D.Stadler: Only one award at present - the Bobby Evans Award for the best Region 4 Seedling.

Auctions are part of our life blood. We have 40 irises to auction tomorrow night.

Medians - Richard Sparling: Good season this year for Medians. The smallest ones were best. C&P had a Median Judges Training session by Betty Wood from Region 19. We are still interested in finding places for display gardens.

Reblooming Iris - Lloyd Zurbrigg: - Not present.

Youth - Nancy H. Schuhmann: - Not Present.

Exhibitions - Victoria Dorf: Not present.

Robins - Doris Simpson: - Robins are all in the air. Rambler (General Interest) is flying well and the Wild Ones (Species) flies like a racing pigeon. Robins are for people who enjoy communicating successes or problems. By-products of the robins are making friends, exchanging plants and information. We would like to start a Median Robin if 8 people are interested.

Photography - Dr. D. C. Nearpass: -Not Present.

Publicity & Public Relations - Rena Crumpler: Only Owings Rebert of the Chapter Chairmen has sent in publicity clippings. Suggest this committee be dropped.

REPORTS OF CHAPTER CHAIRMEN:

C&P, RICHARD SPARLING: - C&P is an Affiliate with monthly meetings, and increasing membership.

Blue Ridge - Helen Rucker: Mrs. Rucker not present. Written report follows:

Blue Ridge Chapter members are enjoying the iris gardens of the area. The Exhibit Garden at the Garden Center under the care of Mrs. Rena Crumpler is a real beauty spot.

Rena's garden at her home is in full bloom and has been blooming for weeks. The irises have been outstanding.

Fred Stephenson and Frances Brown have bloom a little later so are at peak about this week.

Lloyd Zurbrigg should have his blooming show this week.

Our Iris Sale at the Garden Center on Garden Council Day is under the leadership of Kay Cooper, Millie Trent and Charlotte Kabler. It will be one of our Special Projects - June 15, 1984.

Our Iris Auction will be June 23, 1984 at the Garden Center, 2713 Avenham Ave., Roanoke. We will be happy to have you join us for good iris and fun.

May 17-18, 1985 Region 4 will be hosted by Blue Ridge Chapter in Roanoke; Chairman, Mr. Fred Stephenson and Co-Chairman, Mr. Terry Ayres.

Guest Seedlings and Introductions should be sent to Rena Crumpler or Fred Stephenson as soon as possible.

Complete invitation on Page 4, April '84 Newscast.

Marydel - Robert Hartge, Jr: - Mr. Hartge not present; Willa Owens reported.

The May 20th Iris Show was very successful with 165 horticultural entries and 23 artistic. Five Juniors entered exhibits in both sections, winning various ribbons. It has been decided to have a Junior Section next year.

The Iris Sale and Auction will be July 14.

E.N.C. - Polly Price: - Flower Show was held on May 12. Auction will be held June 30.

W.N.C. -Elizabeth Farrar: - Not present.

F.S.K. - Owings Rebert: - FSK has new mid-winter meeting devoted to questions and answers on iris. Spring meeting at Alice Miller's was covered dish dinner, followed by a talk by Sterling Innerst.

FSK Iris Show was May 19. Sale will be July 14 at Watson Garden Center, Lutherville, Md. from 10 AM until sold out.

Fredericksburg/Richmond - Ruth Walker: Not present

N.C.I.S. (Affiliate) - J.D. Stadler: - Will mail report to Newscast.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Fall Board meeting will be held in Easton, Maryland on October 13 (preferably) or October 6, if 13th conflicts with local special events.

Claire Barr moved, Rena Crumpler seconded, that Region plan program to include Board Meeting, Judges Training Class and Fall Show of Rebloomers; Marydel Chapter to be responsible for local arrangements only. Motion passed.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: - Clarence Mahan reported that the Nominating Committee, Alice Bouldin, Rosalie Figge, W.D.Kelley and Clarence Mahan, is pleased to nominate the following individuals for region 4 offices in the coming year:

<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>NOMINEE</u>
R V P	B. J. Brown
Assistant RVP	David Walsh
Secretary	Willa W. Owens
Treasurer	Brian Lazarus
Historian	Polly Price

These candidates are nominated by unanimous agreement of the members of the committee. Each nominee has agreed to serve if elected.

Sparling moved, W. Barr seconded, that nominations be closed and the secretary instructed to cast unanimous vote for the above panel. Motion passed.

GARDEN TOURS: Members were asked to board buses at 8:45 AM. Teachers of judges training groups will be J.D.Stadler, Richard Sparling and David Walsh. It was suggested that students group themselves with a different judge at each garden.

Sparling moved, Warner seconded, that meeting adjourn. Motion passed.

WILLA OWENS - SECRETARY

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1984 DYKES MEDAL WINNER - VICTORIA FALLS (TB) Schr.  
RUNNERS-UP - ENTOURAGE (TB) Ghio  
SUPERSTITION (TB) Schreiners.

REGION FOUR AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY  
TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance as of September 23, 1983	\$2,769.30
<b>RECEIPTS:</b>	
9/25/83 - Sale of booklets	2.40
9/23/83 - Registrations, fall mtg.	78.00
9/25/83 Contribution, Marydel Chapt.	250.00
9/25/83 Dinner registrations, fall mtg	355.00
9/25/83 Fall Auction	662.50
9/30/83 Interest	29.64
11/23/83 Auction-Clarence Mahan	11.00
12/30/83 Interest	36.25
1/24/84 Newscast Subs., Gary Sides	6.00
1/24/84 Contribution -C&P Chapter	250.00
3/30/84 Interest	32.67
4/4/84 - B.J.Brown, Newscast Ads	50.00
4/14/84 -Edgewood Gardens Ad	17.50
4/14/84 Contribution - E.N.C.Chapter	50.00
Total receipts	1,830.96
Total balance & receipts	4,600.26

<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>	
9/24/83 Belle Meade Inn	\$ 386.30
9/24/83 David Walsh, fall meet. exp	159.77
9/24/83 Sterling Innerst -auction iris	90.00
9/24/83 Belle Meade Inn -room speaker	74.20
9/30/83 Regr. refund - C. Warner	6.00
9/30/83 Regr. refund. -R.Figge	6.00
9/30/83 - Show ribbons -B.J.Brown	6.00
9/30/83 Postage - BJB	50.00
11/10/83 CLAIRE BARR, RVP Expense	19.27
10/13/83 Central Fidel. Bk. Serv.Chg.	3.00
1/6/84 - Postage and postal permit	100.00
1/19/84 - January Newscast	438.05
2/13/84 Bank service charge	5.00
4/2/84 -Membership Comm. expenses	28.15
4/4/84 -Newscast postage deposit	50.00
4/12/84 -April Newscast	524.22
Total expenditures	1,945.96
5/25/84 Balance	\$2,654.30
SAVINGS ACCOUNT 1,899.92	
Checking accoun <u>754.38</u>	\$2,654.30

5/25/84 - Balance \$2,654.30

RECEIPTS:

6/6/84 - Spring Auction	\$ 329.25	
6/25/84- Blue Ridge Chapt.	200.00	
6/29/84 Interest	27.84	
7/9/84 Interest	3.32	
Total Receipts		<u>560.41</u>

Balance as of 7/9/84 \$3,214.71

(\$45.53 is reserved for a Memorial Fund:

7/9/84: Cashier's Check #3138181 in the amt. \$3,214.71 of 3,214.71 was mailed to Brian Lazarus, Treasurer

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NOTE: Since we received more materials for this issue than usual, it is necessary that some features and articles be held until the January issue. Quote from Robins will be held, as well as some other reports, but we hope these will made good reading in the Winter months.

Don't forget to keep the articles coming! Its really great to have a backlog of materials that can be used for next issue.

The center pages of this issue is an article FOR BEGINNERS by Donna Hare. This section may be lifted and filed separately if you so desire. It might make a good reference, especially if you are new in the society.

We have had some extra prints of this section to be sent to our Membership Chairman for her use when new members are received into the Region.

## . TENTATIVE SCHEDULE 1985 REGION 4 SPRING MEETING

The 1985 Spring Meeting will be held in Roanoke on May 16 - 18. The Holiday Inn, Franklin Road will be headquarters. Other motels are near by for those desiring such. The Roanoke Mountain Campground on the Blue Ridge Parkway is conveniently located close by for anyone desiring to come via RV.

Thursday afternoon and evening will be devoted to Registration pickup, Welcome Dinner (Dutch Treat), Board Meeting and Auction. This can be followed by showing of slides for those bringing them, along with other slides, if time permits.

Friday will be devoted to garden tours. Along with some of the regularly visited gardens will be two brand new gardens, first-time tour gardens. Lunch will be provided picnic style at Mildred Trent's garden on Smith Mountain Lake. The tour will be culminated by a dinner, after which those attending the National Convention may depart.

Saturday AM will be devoted to a Judges Training Session. The subject will be Judging of Other Than Tall Bearded Irises. This will be conducted by local judges, and will conclude our regional meeting.

This change of our regular format is for the convenience of those wishing to attend the National Convention.

F. G. Stephenson , General Chairman

AUCTION REPORT, SPRING 1984  
by J. D. Stadler, Chairman

The spring auction was held at the meeting in McLean, Va. Net proceeds were \$329.25. Many thanks go to Carol Warner, Rena Crumpler, Bill & Claire Barr, Dick Sparling, and Clarence Mahan for their donations to the auction. Without this generosity to our auctions (our main source of income), our region could not operate.

Please check your garden for beardless irises and let me know if you can donate for the fall auction to be held in Easton, Md.

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AWARDS REPORT FOR 1984  
by J. D. Stadler, Chairman

The Bobbie Lee Evans Award for Region 4 best seedling was given to J.D.Stadler for his violet-blue seedling, TB self, #G-16-60.

Attention Hybridizers: Seedlings for 1985 should be sent to Rena Crumpler in Roanoke. For 1986, send to J.D.Stadler in Reidsville, N.C. Seedlings should be in a two year clump to expect good bloom at the meeting.

NANCY J. BURGESS PAQUET  
by Alice Bouldin

Born 89 years ago in Roanoke, Virginia, Nannie Paquet was truly a lover of iris and was recognized as an expert grower. She seemed to be able to know the best ones, and she was always willing to share her knowledge about them.

Visiting gardens was something she loved to do. Attending meetings and auctions was not only a duty, she felt, but also a pleasure. We had some good trips together. Nannie was one of these people who never keep you waiting - she was always ready to go when I went to pick her up. She had one talent that was a great help to the driver - she had a strong sense of direction. We never got lost if Nannie was in the car. Highways, streets, turns - all seemed familiar to her.

Nannie not only liked to keep up with the new introductions from other growers, but she also introduced several irises herself. First, there were Pink Ripples and Changing World in 1960. After several years she introduced Telaka in 1974, Pink Palace in 1978, and in 1979 she introduced Guiding Light, Pink Daydream, and Radiant Star.

Because she knew irises so well and had her own very fine garden, she was able to write interesting articles for the NCIS Bulletin and for Newscast. Not all members of Region 4 today know that Nannie was the first editor of Newscast, and she did a good job of it.

We planned a big trip for 1980 - to Tulsa for the National Convention. However, we did not make that trip.

Anyone who knew Nannie could fill pages with interesting things about her. Most important to me is that she was my friend - a very dear friend for many years. I miss her!

**ARE YOU IN HERE??**

Doris C. Simpson

Our wealthy friend, Mrs. McGoo  
Insists all her iris be **New**;  
She seeks the **Elusive**, **Expensive**, **Exclusive**,  
That only are bought by a **Few**.



Then there is the 'Scotch' Irisarian  
Whose choices are **Egalitarian**.  
He doesn't much care for the "What" or  
"From Where"  
His concern is the price they are carryin'!



Rebloomer buffs can never "see"  
An iris labeled "Doesn't 'Re'".  
They rig up lights to brighten nights  
And force out bloom repeatedly!



The Species "nut", (a mild Hysteric)  
Goes in for clones most **Esoteric**.  
The names that no one can pronounce  
Are those on which he'll quickly pounce.



Louisiana growers look  
For ponds, or puddles, or a brook,  
And, failing to find one of those,  
They have to "make do" with the hose!



If breeding **Medians** is your pleasure  
Better learn to use that measure:  
Being "under" is no crime,  
But "Oversize" ain't worth a dime!



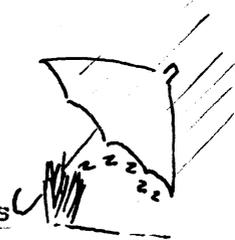
Aril lovers have to trust  
 To weather staying dry as dust.  
 And if it doesn't, decide which  
 They'll do with Arils - Fight, or Switch!



Siberian buffs go in for blues,  
 They're not too fond of other hues.  
 And this is just as well, you bet;  
 (An orange "Sibe" they ain't had yet!)

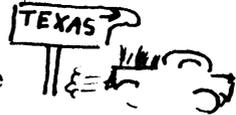


If you are a grower of beautiful Japs  
 You give them dry feet while they're  
 taking their naps,  
 And wet feet while blooming - in spite  
 of the fact  
 That the weather's vice-versa - (now that's  
 quite an act!).



The Spuria Man, to use the venacular,  
 Must "pour on the heat" to make them  
 spectacular.

(It's easier, far, to move down where  
 it's hot,  
 Than to get them to 'do' for you up where  
 it's not!).



The amateur of "Bearded, Tall",  
 Poor soul! He wants to grow them all!  
 And when the garden's full to burstin',  
 To plough the driveway he is thirstin'!



## REGIONAL SPRING MEETING BEGINS AT RIVER FARM

By Doris Simpson

The Regional meeting began on Friday evening, May 25, 1984, with a buffet barbecue dinner followed by a business meeting. The site chosen was River Farm, the Headquarters of the American Horticulture Society at Mt. Vernon, Virginia. This beautiful estate is situated on rolling land overlooking the Potomac River. The mansion commands a wonderful view and is set about with boxwood parterres. The size and luxuriance of these plants bespeak their age.

Formal gardens extend beyond the house where roses, lilacs and clematis add colorful accents to the walls of mellow brick and green English box. Iris were not much in evidence as they had been recently moved. Probably the most delightful and unexpected sight was the huge drift of field daisies below the house. Thousands upon thousands of the flowers gleamed like snow in the late afternoon light. The informal buffet of delicious barbecue was enjoyed at tables set on the lawn. The business meeting that followed was punctuated at frequent intervals by departing evening flights from National Airport. It is surprising how much was accomplished in spite of the roar overhead. The minutes of this meeting appears elsewhere in this issue.

## GARDEN TOUR - THE MARGARET THOMAS GARDEN

By Victoria Dorf

The Margaret Thomas garden was certainly a treat well worth the long but pleasant ride out to Herndon. One thing to be said for the C & P Chapter - their gardens are certainly not around the corner from one another.

The first impression of those of us on the large bus was, "Are we ever going to make it into the driveway"? The answer, as it turns out, was to be "No". After three passes the bus driver made the wise decision to pull the bus onto the grassy area beside

the foremost bed of Iris rather than risk Iris, mailbox, bus, or whatever.

Finally, we were allowed to join those fortunate others who, for this leg of the journey had ridden the smaller van and were already happily walking through row upon row of wildly colored blooms. Each bed had beautiful plantings of gaily blooming Peonies, Poppies and many other perennials too numerous to mention, along with many, many iris. In fact, Poppies were doing so well and in such good form and color that one spectator was heard to say "I feel like I've landed in Oz".

This garden was certainly impressive, not only for the extensive plantings of Iris, but for the beautiful way in which other plantings were mingled with the Iris, for the range of plant materials and the well cared for look of all the beds. And there were many, many beds!

In many ways the Thomas garden, well cared for by a knowledgeable gardener, was a good example of what can happen even under the best of grower's hands, when the weather is not fully cooperative. In particular, I am referring to the long, cool - some might say cold-Spring that we had in this part of the country. The result was many stunted Iris. In the Thomas garden, where much of the plantings are exposed to the weather at the edge of an open field there were many examples of bloom stalks that just did not make it above the fans, with many lovely blooms nestled low within the foliage. More interesting, perhaps, to this reporter, was the examples of stunted growth that I best observed in the TB Tea Apron. The first bed in which I spotted this Iris I thought, "That's a pretty little thing" and bent over to note the name. Thinking that I must have been mistaken in believing that Tea Apron was a TB - this Iris was well proportioned, but no larger than an NTB, I moved on along the row. Then, a few beds over was another planting of Tea Apron. Bigger this time, still well proportioned and blooming well, but still not TB size. Further along was still a third planting of Tea Apron. This time it was full size, blooming

as well as its sisters and definitely aTB. The only explanation for the wide variance in growth was placement relative to the weather and the effect of the weather as it hit each bed slightly differently. But pity the poor novice, trying to learn to recognize different Iris. It is hard to point out a particular favorite of the tour group, but I should report that many of the group were seen admiring Rainbow Gold. This TB showed strong color, with lots of buds and much ruffling and lacing. Memphis Lace also enjoyed a fair amount of attention and Winner's Circle certainly was in winning form tour day.

The visit to this garden ended all too soon with the group being urged to board the bus for the final leg of the tour, the Mahan garden.

### THE GARDEN OF CHARLES AND CELESTE COX

by Carol Warner

Iris es could not have better friends than Charles and Celeste Cox. For 15 years or more they have maintained a planting in the median strip that divides a busy dual lane highway from the local street in front of their house. Charles said that this is highway property but everyone enjoys the flowers so much that the Coxes are permitted to plant there. Passersby are treated to a row of daffodils in front and a magnificent wide row of clumps of tall bearded irises. Outstanding clumps of "Mt. Olympus", a beautifully branched white; "Loudoun Charmer", "Blue Etchings", "Laurie", and "Neon Rinbow" stood out. Even the difficult to grow "Kilt Lilt" had three tall stalks.

One of the first things I noticed here and throughout the garden was the tall easily read markers. No visitor need squint or root around in the foliage to see the varietal name.

Beautifully landscaped beds surround the Cox home. Azaleas, rhododendron, a fantastic collection of daffodils, roses and other perennials fill the beds. Tall trees including evergreens, a tulip poplar and red maples and dogwoods complete the landscape.

In this exceptionally clean garden everything is well grown. The Coxes like to have a mass of color and plant in groups of three or more of the same cultivar. Iris beds are well placed to receive plenty of sun and clumps of "Lord Baltimore", "Superstition", "Latin Lover", "Showcase", "Navy Strut", "Lemon List" commanded attention. A clump of "Lilac Haze" with fantastic foliage and beautiful stalks probably won my vote for "Queen of the Garden". Celeste said that they make an effort to keep the good performers. The latest is not always the best and an iris must prove itself here in our climate. Anything which falls over is discarded from the garden.

Mr. Cox stated that he is head task master of the garden and Celeste is the supervisor. He is also quite proud of many resident birds who can call this beautiful garden home.

A delicious lunch was served in this garden. Anyone who went away hungry can only blame themselves.

I was also fortunate to see an extensive collection of model trains belonging to Mr. and Mrs. Cox's son.

THE GARDEN OF CLARENCE AND SUKY MAHAN  
By Norman Clouser

The garden of Clarence and Suky Mahan in McLean, Virginia is a rather new garden, being about four years in the making. Already much promise is showing. I hope that I will be able to visit in the future and I know that there will be many changes as they build their dream garden.

Much work was in evidence when the Region 4 members visited. The iris beds are raised and being on a hillside, Clarence used ingenuity and built the beds level, using lumber to build up one side. While this was an iris tour I must write about the garden. I was

fascinated by the planning.

Who can forget the pond with the bridge over it, which we crossed to have refreshments. In the pond were koi fish, tadpoles and water lilies. Of course, the water lilies were not in bloom. I understand that there will be more and larger koi fish next year at iris time. Maybe those of us fortunate enough to visit next year will be able to feed them. On each side of the pool at the bridge there was I. Pseudacorus, Bastardi and Ilengold. They are two different shades of yellow.

As with most iris tours there was more promise of bloom to come than there was bloom on the tour. J.D. Stadler won the Bobbie Lee Evans Award with his seedling, and a few days later Dick Sparling's seedling which he has named Gentle Edith, was in bloom, and was a knockout. It reminds one of the old iris named Gaily Clad, a pale lilac lavender with gold trimmings. Many of the Siberians also opened two days later. While we were in the garden we could see all the promise that would erupt in a beautiful display from Dewful, Tealwood, and Sky Wings. How does the song go - something about "What a difference a Day Makes".

The irises that I especially noted were: FLAMENCO, HEATHER BLUSH, PEACH TAFFETA, NAVY STRUT, LILAC THRILL, CORAL BEAUTY, CECILIA D, AND LOVE CHILD. LOVE CHILD is a Knocke introduction from 1979 with reddish-pink standards and reddish-purple falls, and a yellow beard. The seedlings that caught my eye were Crossman's 79-31, a lavender purple; J.D.Stadler's 6-16-60, purple; C.E. Mahan's 0181A; and Dick Sparling's GENTLE EDITH.

There was a dogwood tree along with an unusual planting of iris. Iris Cristata and Iris Verna were well past peak but Iris Tectorum was in bloom. These iris bloom in shade and add variety to a garden. If memory serves me correctly there was also a planting of Hostas around the Dogwood Tree. Clarence is also a member of SIGNA and has seed and young plants in his

cold frame. So there will be a variety of iris material to be seen throughout the year.

I was amazed at the plant material in the garden - other than iris. The roses caught my attention and I learned that there are many of the older roses in the planting. Included in this list are the climbing American Beauty, White Rose of York, Madame Isaac Periere, Cornelia, Madame Alfred Carriere. Double Blanc de Coubert, a white rugosa, and Rose de Meaux, a miniature cabbage rose dating back to the 1600s.

Many asked the name of the iris that Suky used in the table arrangement. It was the old Elizabeth Noble introduced in 1953 by the late Kathryn Smith. There were a few clumps in bloom scattered around the yard and were unmarked.

Peonies were also vying to catch the eyes of the visitors and these are favorites of Suky. I would supposed that there will be additional peonies in the future. One that I noted was the old Martha Bulloch. I grew it a number of years ago and it was one of my favorites.

Beside the plant material, there was an abundance of garden accessories that attracted the visitors. There was a stone buddha in the back of the garden. It was carved from a single piece of rock and was once owned by a Japanese Provincial Governor in Korea. Many Japanese Gardens have a stone buddha to protect the garden. This particular buddha was carved in Japan.

And then I was attracted to another painted terracotta badger figure in the South Garden. I learned that this badger is named "Tanuki" and in Japanese folklore he is a mischief-maker, traveling around the country carrying his bottle of sake and a stick to help him up the mountain paths. He also carries a pass so that he can go anywhere without interference. He reportedly does many impish things and I guess that we could call him a fore-runner of the American Yehudi that the

old comedian Jerry Colonna blamed everything on. Or maybe we can liken him to the gremlin of World War II. Anyway he was lurking in that South garden ready to spring out and scare the unsuspecting. Clarence thinks that he was the one who placed that stalk of Elizabeth Noble in the middle of the clump of Cup Race. We can only surmise.

On the deck were two flower pots, one holding an Oleander and the other a pomegranate. There were iris on one and they were blue and white. These were old Japanese hibatchi's. Hibatchi's were put in the center of a room and hot charcoal was placed in the pots to head the rooms. Since modern inventions have improved the level of living so much, they are no longer made or even needed. So, fortunate is the person who has acquired one of these.

Clarence and Suky have planned their garden and it certainly is showing promise. It is different from many and shows initiative in that they are doing it their way. There will be changes along the way. All of us who garden like to change things from time to time. Gardens should be a haven for relaxation where we can forget the cares and problems of the work-a-day world. And the Mahan garden is just that! It is a haven for many birds that now visit the pond and the waterfall. Then there is also the squirrels and the chipmunks. I envy Clarence and Suky as they can sit on the deck and enjoy the flowers, birds and animals. And also the garden visitors! It was a treat for me just to be able to visit all too briefly.

Suky served an Orange Custard Fondue that everyone enjoyed. Many asked for the recipe -and here it is!

- One 3-oz package no-bake custard mix,
- 1-3/4 cups milk;
- 1 - 4½ oz carton (2 cups) frozen whipped dessert copping (thawed);
- 2 tbs Grand Marnier (Orange liquer)
- 1 tsp grated orange peel

Prepare custard mix according to package directions, using 1-3/4 cups milk and omitting the egg yolk. Cover surface with clear plastic wrap; cool. Chill till thickens (about 2 hours). Beat custard with rotary beater until smooth. Fold in dessert topping and orange liquer. Top with orange peel. Serve chilled with fresh fruits and pound cake cubes. Makes about 3½ cups sauce.

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### WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CHAPTER REPORT

Our first show was held in Charlotte, N.C. on May 5th. 23 exhibitors displayed 213 cultivars. COLUMBIA BLUE won Queen of Show, exhibited by Elizabeth Farrar. Katharine Steele won the Silver Certificate and B.J.Brown won the Bronze. J.D.Stadler won the Best Seedling Award with his seedling H21-12.

John Dunn won the Best Arrangement award with his interpretation of WINTER.

The Concord, N.C. show was held on May 11th. Mrs Paul Karriker won Queen of Show with BEVERLY SILLS. B.J.Brown won Best seedling award with his seedling 1384. The Silver Certificate was also awarded to B.J.Brown, while Mrs. Dianne Shue and Mrs. Paul tied for the Bronze. Fran Cline Served as Show Chairman.

The Carolina Mountains Iris Society held its show in Hendersonville on May 19th. This show got lots of local publicity. The Mayor issued a Proclamation declaring May 19th as IRIS DAY in Hendersonville.

I.V.Summey, with ARCTIC DAWN and Michelle Nelson with DOVER BEACH won Queens of Show in adult and youth division respectively. Everette Lineberger won the Best Seedling award with #115. Everette Lineberger and Michelle Nelson won the Silver Certificates in adult and youth sections respectively. I.V.Summey and Eric Nelson won the Bronze in adult and youth sections respectively. Mrs. William Lautner and Frances Orr won Best Arrangements in adult & youth sections. Mrs. R.L.Joiner won sweepstakes award in adult arrangements section. Ada Orr & Michelle Nelson won Bronze Certificate for their Educational Exhibits.

FOR BEGINNERS: HOW TO GROW AN IRIS  
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GETTING INTO!

By Mrs. Charles L. (Donna) Hare

To grow an iris you need three things - an iris rhizome, a plot of ground and dirt under your fingernails.

An iris rhizome is a fat, sweet-potatoish looking tuber, that with a little hard work and some good luck is going to put up an absolutely heavenly-looking bloom come spring.

If you don't have any iris rhizomes, here are some ways to get one or two. There are some lovely illustrated catalogs put out by several iris gardens that can be guaranteed to give you spring fever on a day when the thermometer is hugging zero, the snow is blowing and the cat won't move off the furnace vent. When you start looking through these catalogs, you'll have a marvelous time until you try to reconcile your total order of "I want-s" with your check-book! That's when you get the axe and cut the order back to the "I'll start with" and pray for patience and more money.

Then of course there are those lucky enough to know someone who grows iris! Usually about all it takes in these fortunate circumstances is a visit to the iris patch in spring and a few hints of "I'm thinking of starting an iris bed", or "What would you recommend for a beginning iris grower?", or "Could I grow iris like that?", or "Where could I get a start do you think???", and few are the iris nuts that won't promise you more iris than ever you'll know what to do with! Growing iris is like a communicable disease - it's catching. It's been rumored that an iris grower is someone who just hates to see someone else who doesn't have an ache or two from diggin' in the iris patch!

Some of the braver iris groups have rhizome sales come summer and digging time, and that's a good time to get started. They'll have about every iris you need for good variety and all you need at one of these sales is a little money (or quite a bit, depending on how much

space you plan to fill with iris). Do take along a little common sense and a dash of self-discipline or save some of your money to hire the kid down the block to help you dig the bed for the rhizomes!

We don't recommend your visiting a local iris garden in the dark of night (or broad daylight, or dusk, or dawn) with your trusty spade and helping yourself to a few. For one thing, you might not be able to keep the names of the iris straight and your name might wind up on the police register instead of the social register. Also, some iris people keep large, barky dogs and sleep light and it is embarrassing trying to explain how you sleep-walked that far!

Now as to where you're going to put your treasures once you've acquired them. Usually iris are dug and sold or given away sometime between early July and late August, although some hardy souls grab the spading fork right during bloom season and give you a hunk and it won't hurt a thing. Cut the bloom and enjoy it in a vase and plant the rhizome and be happy. Some folks get carried away by good intentions when buying and upon arriving home avoid the complications that accompany good intentions by filing their purchases on a garage shelf, or in the basement, preferably in a closed box or sack so they won't be reminded of the task ahead. Iris have been known to survive this filing system for a year or more, but don't count on bloom the first season! Sitting on the shelf for a while won't hurt a thing although they do prefer to stay dry. If they're shriveled and brown and look horrible after a while, don't worry too much, because iris don't give up as easily as people do! If you let them sit around in a damp place for a month or so though, they're apt to come down with a combination of athlete's foot, jungle rot and pneumonia, and you might as well give up because the iris have. File 13 (the trash can) is an excellent place for these.

Considerable space and time have been given to comment and controversy over what kind of ground and how much sun iris like. You can research all day, but there's still the fact that "Queen of the Show" has

been grown on a clay bank, a rocky hillside and under a shade tree. Iris do not like a nice winter mulch of leaves though, and especially they don't like old maple or oak leaves suffocating them all winter, so if you plant near any trees, trim the lower tree limbs and plan to rake and rake and rake.

Another thing, iris are sort of teetotalers. They like a dry bed, or at least one that drains dry fairly soon after a rain. If they are put where it gets soggy, they just quietly sit there and sog and rot and die off. Iris like moisture all right, but a good healthy fresh drink of water every now and then, whether from faucet or rain, is best. They'll stand dry weather a lot longer than wet weather.

We are assuming now that you've dug and scratched around in your prospective flower bed till your muscles ache and your enthusiasm has gone and hid under the bed. This is a good time to remind you that come spring it will be worth it all! You can sort of plan that if you plant or move your rhizomes fairly soon after bloom season you're more apt to get bloom next season. The rhizome you plant has to have a chance to put out "increase" for the future bloom, so give it a chance before you start muttering under your breath and threatening to consign it to the trash heap. Incidentally, iris have been seen blooming clear up on top of the compost heap!

Most of us aren't lucky enough to have a gardener to do their work, so most iris are lucky to get ordinary garden soil and growing conditions. Someone once commented that any ground that would grow weeds would grow iris, only iris are prettier.

Your enthusiasm and bank account will probably determine what all you do to the soil. If it's really lousy soil, and doesn't grow good weeds, you can add peat moss and/or sand, etc. If you take all the local advice you can get, shake it up in a sack and then take out a couple pieces of same advice and use it, you'll be likely to get along fine. Iris are a lot more tolerant than the people whose advice you didn't take.

As for fertilizer - this advice is to those of you who spend money on your flower beds, and not everyone does - you better read the label on a fertilizer sack if you don't have natural fertilizer available. The label will probably read 10-10-10 or 10-20-30 or some other combination of numbers, but YOU want a combination that starts with 0 unless you have had your soil tested and are very sure otherwise. You want 0-10-10 or 0-10-20 or such. That first number denotes the nitrogen in the bag and you don't want any, thanks, unless you plan on lots of lush green foliage and no bloom. Most flowers, including iris, like bone meal of course, and it helps a little, but no matter what you use, shove your enthusiasm back under the bed and don't use too much to start with. Fertilizer is tricky stuff and it's probably just as easy to use too much as not enough, except when carefully using 0-10-10's and such. One thing iris are not tolerant of is fertilizer actually touching the rhizome in chunks or globs. It could cause fertilizer burn on the rhizome and this gives rot a chance to sneak in and is hard on the leaf growth. If you put a lot of fertilizer on top of the ground after planting, the feeder roots will have a tendency to come up to the fertilizer instead of going down into the soil as they should. If you must put fertilizer on top the ground for some reason, loosen the surface, sprinkle on the fertilizer sparingly and then water thoroughly so the fertilizer will get down where it can be used by the roots.

Some of you will be Nature People and either refuse to use anything but natural fertilizer or you're lucky enough to have some handy. Thus, when you're fussing at having to clean the stables or rake out the chicken coup, remember that this is counting where it really counts - you're saving money. Raw manure needs to be thoroughly aged, a year or more is best, before applying it to an iris bed and even after aging it must be thoroughly worked into the soil. Preferably natural fertilizers should be worked into soil beneath the planting level of the iris, then plant the iris in ordinary soil above the fertilizer-soil layer.

Now back to soil preparation. We're going to assume again (taking a lot for granted?) you have the

soil nicely worked and fertilized. When you get rid of enough aches that you can move again, you and the pup can start digging holes. The pup would probably enjoy it, but come to think of it, pups don't dug the nice and neat holes you'd probably like, although the iris wouldn't mind. You'll notice that the nice fat rhizome has some stringy roots underneath, or, if you have an old dried up rhizome without many roots, let's hope it will have some roots soon after planting because these are the feeder roots that will supply nourishment from the soil to the rhizomes, then to the leaves and the bloom stalk that is miraculously contained in a rhizome. We hope there is a bloom stem in that rhizome anyway, because if it isn't there this year, you might have to wait til next year for bloom. Anyway, dig a roundish hole a few inches deep (you'll soon catch on, but try 6" deep and a foot or so across for a start). Then plop a couple handfuls of dirt back in the middle of the hole. (This is where you get that magic iris growing ingredient, dirt-under-your-nails.) Now set the rhizome on top of the little mound in the center of the hole, spread out the feeder roots down the sides of the mound and cover them up, bringing the dirt up around the sides of the rhizome, but don't cover the rhizome itself clear over as it likes to sun bathe. You'll usually have a few leaves still attached to the rhizome and these go up you know, and should be trimmed back neatly to about 3" to 6" tall, and all dead leaves removed before planting. If by some chance there's a soft or rotted spot in the rhizome, cut off the spot or throw the whole thing away. A rhizome should be firm and solid feeling, even an old dried up one. If there are little sprout-like growths hanging onto the rhizome, count your blessings and leave those on as this is the beginning of increase.

Water the iris bed thoroughly but gently after planting, keeping in mind that you want the soil nicely settled and snug up around the rhizomes, not all washed down the crick.

You might give a thought to planning your garden before you start digging those holes. Many

people like to put three rhizomes of the same variety in a triangle like grouping with the thought in mind that each of these rhizomes puts out increase you soon have a nice shaped clump that will really impress your neighbors. Plan your clumps of color for variety too, as blooms usually show off better against a contrasting color of bloom. It will depend on how much you got carried away and how many rhizomes you bought as to how much you will crowd them. Just remember that even the lone dried up little thing you plant isn't going to stay that lone, dried up little thing, but in a year or so will be a nice clump shouldering into the next clump of iris!

Now you will meet one of the chief foes of all iris gardeners, WEEDS. One fellow let the weeds grow in his patch because then during a rain season the weeds soaked up all the excess moisture and he didn't get rot from too much rain, but the iris did look funny blooming amongst the June grass and smart-weeds. Some folks use weed-killers and I'm not going to get into that controversy except to say that one fellow who wins and wins ribbons does his weed control the old-fashioned way, on hands and knees, using the forefinger and thumb to pluck out the little weeds before they become big weeds.

If you do use a weed killer, think twice, or even three times, before you use it around a new \$25 introduction, or your favorite iris, as these chemicals may build up in the soil and eventually cause genetic changes in future rhizomes and might even cause distortion in growth and bloom of the present plants. None of the weed-killer manufacturers guarantees a thing yet, although they are working on it. There are good prospects but no guarantee.

Some folk mulch in various ways to retard weed growth. This will have to depend on what's available locally, whether you'd rather look at the mulch or a few weeds, and, whether or not you're going to have the energy to remove the mulch occasionally if it's not something that can be plowed under when it needs a change. Be sure

it's not going to smother both weeds and iris. As a rule, iris don't take well to mulch in growin season, unless you're careful to keep the rhizome clear of whatever you're using. In a few real cold, windy areas, Christmas tree limbs laid on the beds AFTER the ground is frozen will help catch the snow and hold it and provide a nice natural insulation that doesn't look bad either.

Occasionally, iris that are planted late in the season will get the "heaves". This is due to the alternate freezing and thawing of the ground that cause the rhizome to "heave" right on up out of the ground because the feeder roots are not well enough established to hold it down. Get firm about it all and step on it. That's right - on a warmish day, relatively speaking, go out and firmly but gently step on the rhizome and encourage it to sit back down there where you put it, until the weather is nice enough to do more if necessary. Sometimes you'll have to pile a little more dirt around the rhizome. This is where mulching after freezing helps sometimes. If you mulch before the ground freezes, the iris try to keep right on growing and seem to expend all next spring's energy battling the winter elements. Well established plants are less apt to "heave" and it's especially nice if mother Nature cooperates and the weather stays cold after it once gets cold. It's during the "off and on", warm a day, cold a day weather in January and February that you need to watch out.

About mulching before the ground freezes - iris have to have a dormant season of rest during cold weather in order for the warmth of spring to help trigger the bloom season. Mulching too early in the fall keeps the ground warm through the winter and prevents the iris from getting cold enough to go dormant and rest. This is the reason some varieties won't grow or bloom well in the warmer areas of the country. They just simply don't get cold enough through the winter.

Don't know if iris borer should even be mentioned in this article, but since borers are a definite part

of iris growing, you should be introduced in passing. Let's hope that's what it is - passing - and let's hope that that moth that lays it's eggs at the tiptop of a leaf will pass right on by! But chances are your patch will be attractive to at least one borer moth and, flitting around inspecting sites, along comes a pretty little flittery bit of trouble. The egg is laid at the tip-top of the tallest leaf in the fan and there it sits till warm enough weather for that tiny little worm to hatch and start chewing his way down to his chosen home, your iris rhizome. So, when you are happily contemplating the fruits of your labors and happen to see an iris leaf that looks just a tiny bit chewed down the center edge, it's time to declare war! Some of the most successful iris growers are those who make a nearly daily trip through the patch, just checking, and finding a chewed leaf, promptly pinch and squish all the way down the fold of the leaf and you can be pretty sure they'll get the critter. Messy maybe, but effective! You'll soon learn how to feel till you've squished and "got him"! Of course, if you have average luck, a few borers are going to chew their way down to the rhizome when you're not looking or it's raining, but then the only remedy is to borrow the sharpest kitchen knife available and prepare for surgery. Insecticides are a bit ineffective because that tiny borer is far too smart for his size. He stays inside the leaf fold as soon as he can chew down to it, and the only thing that can reach him then is a good squishy pinch or a sharp knife. Some folks do use chemicals of one sort or another but the day or so it takes a borer to chew from hatching down to hiding in the leaf fold doesn't give a chemical much chance to catch him. You can try a pesticide with residual action and hope the borer gets enough for a fatal case of indigestion.

The borer grows as he goes down the leaf, and once he gets into the rhizome itself, he gets fat and you get mad. Cutting a borer out of the rhizome won't hurt the iris nearly as much as leaving the critter in there, as a borer can eat the entire inside of a rhizome and the next thing you know, the leaves and even the bloom stalk may go 'plop' and you go buy another iris.

The borer usually leaves the rhizome along in the fall and enters the soil and becomes dormant and ready to emerge as a moth ready to lay more eggs.

A borer could possibly chew his way through your rhizome and go dormant without completely destroying the rhizome, but along comes some rain and it settles inside the rhizome and pretty soon a sharp nose will come sniffing by the patch and tell you, "Youve got ROT"! Anything that causes prolonged dampness in the soil around a rhizome or in the iris patch in general creates an environment in which rot can flourish. Never mind all the technical names for rot, but rest assured it has been given plenty of names that we'll not mention here lest we be banned in Boston and AIS. The important thing is to recognize rot and avoid conditions that help it along instead of the iris. Diseased rhizomes with rot smell like close kin to rotten eggs and once again major surgery is the answer. Yank that clump out of the ground, RIGHT NOW, and cut it back without a qualm, clear back to good solid rhizome. Here again you will get lots of local advice as to what to use, and most of it is good advice, so if you use what's handiest to treat the trimmed-up rhizome it isn't apt to hurt anything and might help a lot. You'll hear of those who use household cleansers, bleaches, etc., and they do seem to help get rid of any traces of rot that might be clinging to the healthy rhizome or left in the soil. Sometimes you'll find rot in a clump as you're going through the patch just grooming it up, and as you pull off a deadish leaf, off comes the whole fan, or a good part of it anyway, and you'd better get at it! Just poking around in a clump, be suspicious if you find a soft rhizome anywhere.

Then will come the time maybe you'll be seeing spots before you eyes - little brown one on the leaves of the iris. This particular problem has been called lots of things, most of them unprintable too, and folk nod knowingly if you mention 'leaf spot'. Not all iris growers are going to meet this problem, so if you never see any, don't worry. It can be guaranteed you'll recognize it sooner or later if you have it!

If left untreated, this spotting can become severe enough to seriously weaken the whole plant, causing the leaves to die off prematurely and bloom stalks to be weak and lay down on their job of holding up the flowers. If you are living where this occurs, it's a little inconvenient to pack up the iris patch and move, so, you might try using what is recommended for fungus problems in your area. It will probably be much the same treatment and products as used for roses but read the manufacturers instructions and follow them.

If you do have a bit of a problem with leaf spot, be sure to remove and burn all the diseased foliage as the compost heap would be like 'whoopee' for the growth of the stuff that causes the whole problem.

Several wise folk have noticed too that wherever you do have a problem with leaf spot, you're more apt to have rot, so keep a watch. It's probably due to the fact that too much moisture is just what rot and leaf spot both like for growing conditions.

You might be wondering just how to go about grooming your patch now that you've got it planted' the weeds pulled, the borers squished and the leaf spot controlled. Most beginning iris growers don't have too big a patch to go over it periodically and keep it spruced up. If you clear out dead and broken foliage regularly you won't be sorry. It looks much nicer and keeps the tops of the rhizomes open to sun and air the way they like it. You'll notice that the outer leaf of each fan gradually gets shoved clear over almost to the ground and as the rhizome has grown and put out new leaves in the center of the fan, the outer leaf has split where it joins the rhizome. Now it's time to pull that leaf off the rhizome and don't leave a little tag of that leaf on the rhizome to catch moisture and thus encourage any rot that might be lurking about. Bloom stalks can be removed with a sharp knife, clear down to the ground when you're satisfied that stalk has done it's duty. During bloom season, if you're not wanting your iris to set seed, and few want this anyway, it looks nice if you remove the droopy blossoms as soon

as they have finished looking pretty. Gently snap them off next to the stalk, and push the little piece of green sheath back against the stalk and you'll hardly miss the bloom.

Somewhere along the line, some well-wisher is going to suggest you just mow the whole patch like "Grandma did her flags!", and then someone else is going to say, "I always mow mine!". However, if you want lots of nice blooms next year, this is not advisable. In order for iris to bloom in the future, they have to keep growing new rhizomes and leaves are needed to convert the sun's energy for use by the rhizome. The iris won't necessarily die off if you give them an annual hair cut, but they won't do much that's worthwhile either.

Then there's going to come another time when the various iris clumps begin to suffer from overcrowding and you need to get fierce and stern and start cutting out the old rhizomes that have done their duty and no longer have a leaf fan to crown them. After a rhizome has put up bloom, it will never bloom again and will gradually lose its leaves and feeder roots, all the while it is growing small (at first) new rhizomes from here and there around the edges. This is the 'increase' you keep hearing about and it's about the only increase you don't pay taxes on! These new rhizomes will start out with tiny leaf fans too, but don't worry, they'll soon be big ones and trying to shove ita out of the way so they can have more space to plump up in.

There are two ways to deal with this population explosion. If you're not wanting to disturb the whole clump, take your nice sharp gardening scalpel and firmly cut through the places where the parent rhizome joins the newer rhizomes. Surprisingly then, just a little pry will lift that old piece of iris right up out of the way and you can put that in the trash can and enjoy a nice clump of iris. Most people do this sort of thing after the new rhizomes are good sized and firmly established in the late summer or early fall, but there's so little disturbance to the plant that is

doing the actual growing that you could do it most any time you find the energy.

Of course if you have lots of energy and zeal and time and such, you dig up the whole clump of iris at once. Most folk only do this every 3 years or so, so it's not as bad as it seems really. A spading fork is nice for this as it isn't as apt to damage feeder roots, and let's hope you don't need to be told what to do with a spading fork at this stage of the game! Gently loosen the clump with the fork, trying to lose as few feeder roots as possible. Knock or wash the dirt off the clump, admire it a little while as you check it over. Then trim away and get rid of all the old rhizome pieces that don't have leaf fans. Cut the good rhizomes apart, leaving a good leaf fan or two to each piece. Now you're ready to start all over and plant your rhizomes just like you started out. You'll probably want to give a few away to some unsuspecting soul!

THE NATIONAL ARBORETUM  
by Tamara McBride

First stop on our jaunt on a bright, warm May morning was the National Arboretum. One and one-half busloads (one full-sized and one mini-bus) of irisarians departed Byson's Westpark Hotel to arrived at the federally funded site in northwest Washington five minutes prior to opening. We anticipated the delights while awaiting the guards to alert the birds and awaken the nodding flowers.

It was worth the wait. But, alas, not for the irises. Very few were blooming due to the rigors of the past winter and the relatively young plantings. The new-established, well-manicured beds are laid out in soft undulations with no crowding, and interspersed with plantings of magnificent boxwoods, and other shrubs. A number of the labels were missing, to be expected in a public garden. Beckoning all was a glorious clump of SON OF STAR, radiating cheer from its micro-environment of protective shrubs.

The highlight of the visit was the peony display, astounding to these provincial eyes. Planted in island beds, literally hundreds of cultivars were welcoming us with their well-groomed appearance, tantalizing scents, and myriad of hues. Just what one would expect of the National Arboretum!

The same potential exists for the iris beds of TB's, Siberians, and Japanese. Now if the weather and the label snatchers will cooperate, it will be a showplace for the 1991 National Convention.

The buses took the scenic route out of the Arboretum, providing glimpses of verdant treats that would take days to fully appreciate.

CHESAPEAKE AND POTOMAC IRIS SOCIETY REPORT  
by Clarence Mahan

On April 15, 1984, C & P Chapter met at the Falls Church Community Center in Falls Church, Va. The central feature of this meeting was a presentation, with slides, by Ray Rogers. The subject: "Landscaping with Iris". Many new members and prospective members came, together with the "old standbys". The business portion of this meeting was devoted to preparing for the Regional Spring Meeting.

It rained and rained on May 6th, but that didn't keep the dedicated C&P crowd from turning out at the home of Dick and Meredith Sparling to receive judges training on median iris. Wonderful Betty Wood came down from Red Bank, N.J., and gave an absolutely super training program. With raincoats and umbrellas, C&P irisarians followed Betty through the Sparlings' iris beds. And, as Betty remarked, seeing such well grown iris was worth a walk in the rain.

Many, many C&P members pitched in and shouldered the chores necessary to host the Regional Spring Meeting. It is impossible to name everyone who contributed, but special mention is well-deserved of the work done by Steve Harsy, Adrienne White, Nancy Schuhmann and Meredith Sparling.

On Saturday, June 23d, C&P sponsored a motor trek to Harrisburg, Pa., for the Fourth Beardless Iris Show and rhizome sale conducted by Region 3, Area 11 of the American Iris Society. A hearty band from Fredricksburg-Richmond Chapter joined the caravan North. Queen of the Show was a magnificent specimen of the Japanese Iris, FRINGED CLOUD, shown by Sterling Innerst. Sterling's JI seedling 1540-5 won Best Seedling - a real beauty! MARJORIE BRUMMETT, MARY'S CHARLIE, CHROME DOME, and FULL ECLIPSE were some of the lovely Louisians entered in the show. Some especially nice Japanese were: GALATEA, TAMATSUSURME, HUE AND CRY and LEAVE ME SIGHING (it did!). There was quite a large number of spurias on display. Even though the show was still in progress, Sterling accompanied the C&P

gang to his garden and iris fields. Even though the TB season was long past, it was a delight to see how artful and well maintained his iris beds are. And the viewing highlight was in the Japanese iris beds. Even though Sterling's JI stock was low, and he had not intended on selling any this year, he could not resist the wishful eyes of the C&P visitors. As a result, there are now many JI growing in the C&P area - but not many left in Pennsylvania!

Once again, Charles and Celeste Cox graciously hosted the C&P auction on July 29th. Brian Lazarus did yeoman work in planning and preparing for the event. Dr. Nearpass did his usual outstanding job of auctioning off the iris; and what donations the C&P membership brought. There was a very large turn-out, and with over \$2,400.00 in sales, it was the most successful auction and sale ever.

C&P was very proud when the garden of one of our members, Midge Wang of Falls Church, Va., received an extensive color photo spread and article in the Washington Post Magazine a short time ago. Midge has created a large, authentic colonial herb garden that is a marvel to behold. And its getting even better as she continues to add more and more iris!

FREDERICKSBURG-RICHMOND CHAPTER  
by Ruth Walker, Chairman

We want all of Region 4 to know that we are an ACTIVE CHAPTER and we are enjoying each other and the association with other iris-loving folks. We have more than doubled our membership and have other prospects.

By the time you read this we will have had a sale of rhizomes in the Fredericksburg Mall. We are all working hard on this. We are hoping it will promote more new members as well as give us that spending money we need.

We are already preparing and working on having an

Iris Show in the Fredericksburg Mall next May. The date has not been set but one thing it will not be May 18, as the national convention will be starting in Indiana on May 19th, and we are hoping to hire a bus to go to that.

We want to thank all the wonderful members of AIS that gave us so much help and encouragement to forge ahead and get our Chapter going. Most of the people that helped us we have never met in person. Our RVP, B.J. Brown; our National President (AIS), Ronald Mullin; both busy people, but they took time to write us and encourage us in what we were doing. Then there was Ruby Buchanan, whom I hope to meet some day before long. She writes me the most wonderful letters, and I just know she is a wonderful person and I am glad to have met her via A I S. I doubt if there is any one in AIS that is not just a genuine person! I had a letter from another dear lady from Baltimore, Doris Simpson. Her letter just seemed to give us another "shot in the arm" to forge ahead. I am not forgetting the C&P members - they are all really near to God's People. Clarence and Suky Mahan along with Dick Sparling have been most helpful. I see nowhere for us to go but ahead, with so many wonderful interested people supporting us, we cannot fail. A great big thanks to all of you.

EDITOR'S NOTE: One of the features this re-activated Chapter is doing is publishing its own News Letter "The Iris Rooter News". Mrs. Floris Eby is editing the News Letter, with the help of Ruth Walker and all the members. We want to quote from Issue 4, July 1984 - The Iris Rooter News.

#### "RUTH WALKER REPORTS"

This is my report on the Region 4 Spring Meeting hosted by C&P Chapter of AIS in McLean, Va., May 25 and 26, 1984:

Ruth Walker, Alverne Perry, Dale Pendleton and Priscilla Lockner attended the meeting and garden tours, and the banquet on Saturday the 26th. The tours included the National Arboretum in D.C.

and the gardens of Charles and Celeste Cox, Margaret Thomas, Clarence and Suky Mahan. Then Mr. and Mrs. Richard (Dick) Sparling welcomed everyone to their garden for breakfast on Sunday A.M. The iris in all of these gardens were beautiful. I could not in any way find words to tell you how beautiful they all were. Some of the gardens were acres and acres of color galore, some were small, as was the Mahan's, but the landscaping in their garden was so manicured it made you feel you were near to heaven. All of these people sell iris at planting time - so if you weren't there you missed placing your order.

We had lunch on the patio of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Cox. What a spread! No one went away from there hungry. C&P CHAPTER does things in a big way; as if the patio lunch was not enough, when we got to the Mahans', the guest table looked like a most beautifully displayed fruit market with a dip that was "MeeMee Good". We should get the recipe for that dip! The last garden was the Thomas garden with just acres of bloom, and would you believe more thirst-quenching drink and cakes - so many, and so many different kinds.

I hope you will plan to attend the next Regional affair. You will be glad you did! There were no strangers at the meeting, it was just like family!

\* \* \* \* \*

Western N.C. and North Carolina Iris Society held a joint Auction on July 7th, at the home of Alice Bouldin in Elon College, N.C. There was loads of food, plenty of irises to auction but the crowd was slim. However, some heated bidding and fun increased the coffers of each society by around \$90.00.

SPRING SEASON, 1984  
by Lloyd Zurbrigg

Apparently there is no longer such a thing as a "normal" Spring! One might add Summer and Winter to that, for after a drought in '83, we seem to have hit a monsoon this summer of '84. One good comment may be made on the Spring weather here in the mountains of south-west Virginia; we did not get a killing late freeze, though it was close on May 26th.

For the first time in three years, one could enjoy the dwarfs and medians. The new remontant SDE introduced by Earl Hall of West Alexandria, Ohio, is an excellent thing! JEWEL BABY is its name, if memory serves, and it is from Sapphire Jewel X Baby Blessed. Color is dark violet and the form is beautiful. Clarence Mahan has also had success with thi, and raves over it.

The iris show in Reidsville, N.C. marked the very beginning of the tall bearded season for this writer. Only three or four were open here, but down there a record number of entries were on display. SONG OF NORWAY continued its winning ways, yielding J.D.Stadler the Queen of Show award. J.D. also won the best seedling award with a big, tall dark violet. However, my eyes could hardly be pried loose from another of his seedlings, a very ruffled yellow and white combination from Bride's Halo and Lemon Duet. I freely admit to being partial to anything with remontant inheritance, but when I saw the rest of that cross, I would openly declare it the best cross seen in years. It is perhaps too much to expect a remontant among them, but they were singularly beautiful.

One of the stars in the Radford garden was MABEL ANDREWS. This iris can produce poor stalks with insignificant blooms, but both this year and last, it was near perfection in all but branching, and the rather deep rose pink color attracted all visitors.

It is Nita's favorite iris, and compared favorably with a nearby planting of BEVERLY SILLS. The latter is the favorite of many garden visitors, but it must be admitted that "her" appearance at the stage is rather too brief.

The seedling rows in the early season were dominated by seedlings of EARL OF ESSEX, and the quality in these was quite high. The first blue seedling to open was a rich, deep blue from Summer Holidays x Sister Helen. It had wonderful quality, but only three buds. It has been moved into the display garden, and hopes are high that it will do better in respect to buds and branching. The best blue seedling came from VICTORIA FALLS X (GRAND DAME X SUMMER HOLIDAYS), and all in this cross were pretty.

Among the novelties, P 47 W stood out. It is pure white, with large flounces pointing upward at a 45 degree angle. Even the later flowers bore these large appendages. The parentage on this one is MISS VENUS X GRAND DAME. A second excellent performer in this class was R 93 "Grows". It too has flounces but they lie parallel with the flaring falls, giving the effect of a second set of style arms. The color in this one is a creamy-yellow. Both had excellent fertility, as, indeed, had all the seedlings previously mentioned.

It was a year for the dark iris. SUPERSTITION did well here in two gardens. There were three remarkably good seedlings from ROYAL REGENCY X MAGIC VIOLET, and John Moffit in Unionville had an excellent one. If memory serves, it was also ROYAL REGENCY by pollen of SONG OF SALVATION. John also had some exciting reds that include remontancy in the pedigree, many with absolutely smooth hafts. John has also been sin-

gularly successful with the arilbreds, and has succeeded in crossing them with the rebloomers!

Among the novelties seen, Fred Stephenson's new orchid with flounces was a stand-out. It had good form and color, and the spoons were well-placed. It is to be hoped that it will be open when Region 4 comes to Roanoke next spring.

For some years I have been trying to get an improvement on an earlier introduction named FIJI DANCER, which has poor form and a rather weak stalk. For good form, I crossed it with EARL OF ESSEX, and got two that were used further. Of course, the color had largely disappeared. Another cross was made to SPIRIT OF MEMPHIS, and this has yielded a very good self in a chartreuse-tinted yellow, which has the added grace of some remontancy. This spring, some delayed bloom appeared on late germination of an old cross to COPPER CAPERS, and two of these were very attractive. One looked like RADIANT APOGEE, while the other was a copper-banded plicata, and both had very good form. I was able to make some crosses amongst these, and hope to meet with some success in this difficult project a few years hence.

The search for the blue-bearded pastel is also fraught with much disappointment. However, I did bloom a cross in which every plant had the blue beards. The best grower had the palest blue beard, alas. Seedling 0 160 bbbb, which has consistently given chartreuse flowers with violet beards, is not a finished flower, though it is quite smooth, and I continued to use it in crosses again this year: SONG OF NORWAY gave me the first bloom in Radford, after several years of trying. Its quality is so high, that it was incorporated into the plan, in spite of its poor attitude toward my form of cultivation.

As this is written, on August 15, there has been a stalk of IMMORTALITY, which I was able to take last week to an address given to a Roanoke garden club. There are also at least ten more well on the way, and one on CORAL CHARMER. That is all I can find to date.

With the abundance of moisture, and rather cooler-than average temperatures, hopes are high for some good iris bloom very shortly.

\* \* \* \* \*

Excerpt from "The Ramblin' Robin - Clarence Mahan, McLean, Virginia:

"The rebloomers will be starting soon! May I share some of the sights that most impressed me this year: The striking beauty of the blue-black Louisiana iris FULL ECLIPSE on the bench at the Harrisburg Show - Sterling Innerst's JI seedling 1540-5 at the same show - Shoop's unique and gorgeous BLAZING LIGHT, with bright orange hafts and beard looking like fire spreading out from yellow standards and falls - the awesome bloom on the stalk of BIG BLACK BUBBLEBEE entered in the FSK show by Carol Warner - the scent of narcissus emitted by the flowers on GAILY CLAD in Margaret Thomas' garden - the marvelous substance, form and color of Doris Simpson's daylily originations at the FSK iris sale - the extensive knowledge of iris, and welcomed humor, demonstrated in the address at the Region 4 banquet by Henry Mitchell - the delicate and stately beauty of the species *I. ensata* ROSE QUEEN, which must surely be the perfect iris for arrangers - daylilies grown to perfection in Joy Peters' charming garden in Arlington - J.D.Stadler's superbly formed purple seedling voted the Bobbie Lee Evans award this year - a simply outstanding stalk of Dick Sparling's GENTLE EDITH, that stood straight and tall with three flaring and unmarked flowers after the storm tore up almost everything else in my garden - two rosey-red flowers on the tropical waterlily EMILY HUTCHINS rising a foot out of our pond on a July evening - the bloom stalk on

I. tectorum (alba), which newcomers to the world of iris thought was a white orchid when they toured our garden - the sensuous aroma of lilac and lilies-of-the-valley filling Rosalie Figge's garden - and on and on! You get the idea. If TBs elect to perform poorly, I am determined that it will be their loss, not mine.

In my observations, to change the subject, the last two Dykes winners are less than ideal cultivars. Although VICTORIA FALLS has many virtues, it also has a marked tendency to lean in the least adversity - and sometimes without even experiencing adversity. I have yet to see a decent bud count on RUFFLED BALLET. Are my observations unique?"

\* \* \* \* \*

Excerpts from The Wild Ones - Species and Beardless Robin:

Ruby Buchanan -Winston Salem, N.C.

"Frank Chowning had two blue I. hexagona which he used in his LA hybridizing. He had grown CATHEDRAL BLUE (hexagona) since 1924 and traced it back to a Tennessee garden where it had been growing since 'Grandma'a time'(1829). Henry Rowlan is taking care of the Chowning irises and has CATHEDRAL BLUE in his own garden. Richard Morgan has CATAHOULA BLUE in his garden - another I. hexagona species. I will let them name their own price, but I must have those irises this fall.....I'd rather have those two I. hexagones than the latest and most expensive modern LA introductions."

John Wood, Mooresboro, N.C.

"Never consider a Japanese Iris permanent. Also it is best if one has sufficient stock of a cultivar to grow it in two or three places just in case it is lost in one area. There are many conditions that can happen in one given area, and since they are

(Continued on page 52 )

MEMBERSHIP - August 12, 1984

FRANCIS SCOTT KEY CHAPTER - Maryland

NEW MEMBERS:

Mr. Henry C. Buck, 4103 Westmeath Road,  
Baltimore, Md. 21236

Mr. Buddy Carswell, 2553 Burt Fowler Rd.,  
Hampstead, Md., 21074

Ms Helen L. Fiore, 1131 Shaffersville Rd., Mt.  
Airy, Md., 21771

Correction & addition:

Stephen A. Harsy should be changed to

Dr Stephen G. & Linda Harsy

William H. Phillips changed to

Mr and Mrs. William H. Phillips

MARY-DEL CHAPTER

NEW MEMBERS:

Mr & Mrs Cesar <sup>A</sup>Colla, 808 Market Street,  
Denton, Md., 21629

Ms. Mary Greishecky, P.O.Box 682, Rising Sun,  
Maryland 21911

Mrs. Theo Leonard, Route 2, 3-Mill Creek Rd,  
Denton, Md., 21629

Mr. Donald A. Nilson, Rt 5, Box 307,  
Easton, Md., 21601

Talbot County Garden Club, Mrs. W.H. Stevenson,  
Rt 5, Box 532, Easton, Md. 21601

Mrs. Finis O. Walker, Route 3, Box 159C,  
Easton, Md 21601

Address Changes: Mr & Mrs James Cope - to  
233 Brookwood Avenue, Easton, Md. 21601

Mr and Mrs. H. Elberte Harrison - to  
Route 1, Box 335

Miss Ruby C. Pannal - to  
Ridgeview Court, Apt 1, 400 Old Morgneq  
Road, Chestertown, Md. 21620

Mrs. Elton Bounds, change box number to  
Box 133

Mrs. Peggy Stewart, change Box # to B

Mr & Mrs. F.L.Tinker listed as Tiner

Add Mrs. Henry Purdy - Mr & Mrs membership

C & P CHAPTER : D.C., N.Va. Md.

NEW MEMBER - D.C.Area:

Dr. Donald W.Spoon, Dept. of Biology, George-Town  
Univ., Washington, D.C. 20057

New Members - Maryland area:

Ms. Alice Cassman, 5608 Beam Court, Bethesda,  
Md. 20034

C & P Iris Society, c/o Richard Sparling  
18016 Lafayette Rd., Olney, Md. 20832

Mrs. Joseph P. Dufresne, Box 85, Chaptico, Md 20621

Mr. Robert J. Hall (now family membership

Mr and Mrs. Robert J. Hall 5708 Blackhawk Drive,  
Oxon Hill, Md. 20821

Carol T. Shawver, 8205 Ole Line Drive  
Frederick, Md. 21701

Mrs. Karon Simmons, Dawn on the Miles,  
Claiborne, Md 21624

Mrs. Iris F. Trescott, 5407 Forge Rd,  
White Marsh, Md 21162

CORRECTIONS:

ZipCode for Ms Frances Evangelist is 20747

Dr. Grant L. Hagen, 16756 White Store Rd.,  
Boys, Md. 20841

Mr. David York, 3603-58th Place, Cheverly, Md 20784

YOUTH: Miss Devery A. Dolman, 12105 Amblerwood Dr.,  
Laurel, Md. 20708

Mrs. D.L.Jones' box number changed to #56

Grantsville, Md. 21536

NEW MEMBERS - N.Virginia Area -

James & Nancy Busse, 2239 Gunsmith Square,  
Reston, Va 22091

Margaret E. Caton, 820 E.Market Street,  
Leesburg, Va 22075

Diane Dulin, 10012 Terry Street, Fairfax, Va 22031

Mrs. James Giles, Rt 2, Box 492, Purcellville,  
Va. 22132 (reinstated)

Mrs. Molly E. Hewitt, 6808 Valley Brook Drive,  
Falls Church Va. 22042

Luray Garden Club, Mrs. Davis Mims, 19 Highland Ct.,  
Luray, Va. 22835

Mrs. Ollie L.May, 7500 Davian Drive, Annandale,  
Va. 22003

Ms Margaret Pinkerton, 2917 Irving Rd., Falls Church  
Va. 22042

Ms Suzanne Price, 7417 Churchill Road, McLean, Va 22101  
Elizabeth W. Orndorff, 13817 Lendendale Road,  
Woodbridge, Va 22193

Brian D. Ricks, 6336 Landess St., Alexandria, Va 22312

Ray Rogers (Transfer from Reg 3), Box 0105, Mount  
Vernon, Va 22121

Walter L. Sanderson & Beulah B. Sanderson, 1400 Car-  
rington Lane, Vienna, Va. 22180

**CORRECTIONS:**

HUNTER MILL GARDEN CLUB, Shirley Smith, 10233 Cedar  
Pond Drive, Vienna, Va 22180

Add Box 505 to Anna Walrad's address

Della Ann Benefial transferred to Reg. 18

**BLUE RIDGE CHAPTER**

**NEW MEMBERS:**

Mrs. Hazel Cash, 145 Oaklawn Ave NE  
Roanoke, Va 24013

Dr. Gene Grubitz, III, 911 Wildwood Road,  
Salem, Va 24153

George G. Harmon, P O Box 522, Roanoke, Va 24003

**CORRECTIONS:**

Change Capt. Stan Gray to MAJOR

Change Mrs. W.O.Hylton to MRS. DAISY W. HYLTON

Norman and Mrs. Clouser transferring to Reg. 3

Jimmy W. Martin transferring to Reg 24

**NORFOLK VIRGINIA CHAPTER:**

**NEW MEMBER:**

Mr. James R. James, 103 First Patent Court,  
Williamsburg, Va. 23185 (Trans. from Reg 5)

**CORRECTIONS:**

Johnnie Burch - NOW JOHNNIE BURCH POTOENICK

4008 Thalia Drive, Virginia Beach, Va 23452

Mrs. Robert L. Munn, 3100 Shore Dr., Apt 204,  
Virginia Beach 23451

New Member: Walter P. Smith - list family  
membership: Walter P. & Louise C. Smith -  
same address

FREDRICKSBURG-RICHMOND CHAPTER

NEW MEMBERS:

- Mr and Mrs. James Arruda, 1012 White Oak Rd.,  
Fredericksburg, Va., 22405
- Mrs. RoseMarie R. Ayres, Rt 11, Box 690,  
Fredericksburg, Va., 22405
- Mrs. Lillian Bradley, Rt 1, Box 840,  
Partlow, Va. 22534
- Mrs. Jared Elliot, 6400 Westchester Circle,  
Richmond, Va 23225 (Tras. from Reg 7)
- Mrs. W.J.Gaylord, Sr., 28 Ferry Road,  
Fredericksburg, Va. 22405
- Gail Mills Gillan, Route 1, Box 649,  
North Garden, Va 22959 (reinstatement)
- Mr and Mrs Robert Graham, Ninde, Va 22526
- Cameron D. Hall, 308 St.Andrew Street,  
Petersburg, Va 23803
- Nancy L. Ilse, Rt 1, Box 845, Partlow, Va 22534
- Mrs. J.M.Lingle, Rt 1, Box 216, Montpelier,  
Va. 23192
- Mrs. Priscilla Lochner, Rt 1 Bx 99Z, Beaverdam,  
Va. 23015
- Mrs. Yvonne M. Newman, 109 Twin Oaks Drive,  
Spotsylvania, Va. 22553
- Mrs. James R. Pendleton, Jr., P.O.Box 278,  
Spotsylvania, Va. 22553
- Lois D. Rose, Rt 1, Box 2050, Partlow, Va 22534
- Mrs. Dottie Sacra, Rt 1, Bx 1890, Partlow,  
Va. 22534
- Hilda L. Shepherd, Rt 1, Bx 2180, Partlow,  
Va. 22534
- Mrs. Doris D. Spencer, 200 Sussex Street,  
Fredericksburg, Va. 22401
- Mrs. Terry E. Thompson, Rt 2, Box 340,  
King George, Va 22485
- Mrs. Agnes L. Vergon, Box 352, Richlands, N.C. 28574  
(requested to be listed in this chapter)
- Mrs. Viola Wells, Rt 12, Box 234, Fredericksburg,  
Va. 22405
- Mrs. Stella Warfel, Rt 1, Box 296, Barbersville,  
Va. 22923

CORRECTION:

Change box # of Alverne Perry to  
Rt 1 Box 2180, Partlow, Va 22534

EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA CHAPTER

NEW MEMBERS:

Miss Jamie Hayes, Rt 8, Box 121-48,  
Burlington, N.C. 27215

Miss Nicole Price, 109 Southoak Drive,  
Winston-Salem, N.C. 27107 - YOUTH

CORRECTIONS:

Change listing to: Mrs. Ruby D. Buchanan &  
John Matt Davis, Jr. - same address

Change Mrs Steven Powers to Stephen J

WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CHAPTER:

NEW MEMBERS:

Mr and Mrs John B. Alexander, 2140 Brookwood  
Road, Charlotte, N.C. 28211

Mr and Mrs David A. Botzenmayer, 1415 Drexel  
Place, Charlotte, N.C. 28209

Miss Nancy Ann Brachey, 2714 Idlewood  
Circle, Charlotte, N.C. 28209

Miss Mary Elizabeth Brown, 11026 Steele  
Creek Road, Charlotte, N.C. 28210

Alyre M. Efird 1352 Downs Avenue, Charlotte  
N.C. 28205

Mrs. Helen Justice, 1530 O'Hare Circle,  
Hendersonville, N.C. 28739

Max M. Lund, Rt 3, Box 460 Hayesville, N.C., 28904

Mrs. Barbara Moeller, 6038 Woodbridge Road,  
Charlotte, N.C 28212

Melanie Ann Cline, 1021 Shelton Road,  
Concord, N.C. YOUTH

Shawn Llewellyn Harmon, 11026 Steele Creek Rd.,  
Charlotte, N.C. YOUTH

R. Henry Teeter, Rt 1, Box 156, Mt.Holly, N.C.  
28120

CORRECTIONS:

Audrey Cline to 947 Shelton Rd

Mrs David Cline to 1021 Shelton Rd

WEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER:

New Member: Debbie Wall, 879 Chester Road  
CCharleston, WV 25302

Transfer from Region 18 to Fredericksburg-Richmond  
Chapter:

Lidon S. Rogers, 669 Flank Road, Petersburg,  
Va. 23805

\* \* \* \* \*

Continued from Page 46 -Wood - Wild Ones Robin

gross feeders, same as the Louisianas, a well rounded  
fertilization program is a must.

Virginia Rowland, Goose Creek, S.C.:

"Wyatt, I, like you, am beginning to look askance  
at high bred JIs. I've had the least good luck with  
irises from Japan. The only one that is doing well  
from the Japanese grown cultivars is KONGAJO.

"One of my seedlings from I. pseudacorus PRIMROSE  
MONARCH has a cream colored flower.

"The TBs VANITY and VICTORIA FALLS bloomed for  
the first time this spring, pleasing us no end."

Wyatt LeFever, Kernersville, N.C.

"I don't have any SDB or 'DB's, but I have a lot of  
I. laevigata in bloom - also I. cristata, both blue  
and white - also I. pseudacorus. I also have a lovely  
clump of I. gracilipes in bloom now. The exquisite  
flowers remind me of tiny, tiny JI blooms."

Alma Childers, Hamlin WV

"Dick, if you like small iris, I. setosa nana would  
be good. It grows about 8 inches tall - typical  
setosa flowers. Mine has soft blue flowers. They  
were grown from Exchange seed.....

"Aphyllas die right down to the ground in  
winter. I. douglasiana should survive in Maryland  
outside - Japonica might not - I grow it in a pot  
inside. It has never bloomed for me but increased  
like mad.

EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA CHAPTER REPORT  
by James H. & Ruth Pitchie

The Eastern N.C. Chapter held its iris show on Saturday, May 12th at the Penrose Hall in Reidsville, N.C.

The 157 entries of irises were viewed by 320 interested viewers. The colorful array of beautiful irises was made up of 69 tall bearded, 16 border irises and 24 Siberians. For the first time our Chapter had an English Box display of 36 beautiful single iris blooms.

Twelve new seedlings decorated one of the tables. The following hybridizers entered the exciting new irises: J. D. Stadler, Michelle Stadler, Alice Bouldin and Dr. Lloyd Zurbrigg.

The center of attention, the Queen's Court, caused many persons to exclaim with "Oh's" and "ah's". The Queen of the show, SONG OF NORWAY, was exhibited by J.D.Stadler. The five Princesses were: PATINA, VANITY and JENNISEL, exhibited by J.D.Stadler; EASTER FINERY exhibited by Alice Bouldin; and FEMININE CHARM, exhibited by Michelle Stadler.

We were proud of Michelle Stadler, one of our Youth members, who was awarded a Rosette for her first place vote on her seedling, and a blue ribbon for her exhibit of CONCO MAGIC.

We enjoyed having Dr. Lloyd Zurbrigg from Radford, Va. and his entering a number of exhibits, most of which won blue ribbons.

We want to again thank our two judges, Mrs. Rena Crumpler of Roanoke, Va. and Mr. Norman Clouser of Gladstone, Va.

We also want to thank all those who took part and worked diligently to make our show a success. Especially do we thank our General Chairman, J.D.Stadler; Co-Chairman, Polly Price, Classification Chairman, Dr. E. Roy Emperson and Alice Bouldin for her helpful and guiding advice.

EASTERN N.C. Chapter Report continued:

The Chapter iris auction was held June 30th at the home of Virginia and Roy Epperson in High Point, N.C.

As members arrived they gathered in the side yard to look at the beautiful collection of hostas, daylilies, marigolds, and other flowers.

After enjoying a bountiful covered dish luncheon our auction began.

Fourteen irises (many of them '83 introductions), daylilies, ferns and several other flowers, caused a lively auction which added \$150.00 to our treasury.

The tentative date of October 20th was set for the E.N.C. Chapter's fall meeting at the home of Geraldine and Harold Davis at Elon College, N.C.

Irises for next year's auction will be bought and grown in the garden of Mr. Polly Price. Also Polly will ask hybridizers to send their seedlings to her to grow for the '86 Regional meeting. This will give good growth for the judges to view at that meeting.

Members were reminded of the fall meeting to be held October 13 at Easton, Md.

We enjoyed very much having Mrs. Tish Evans of Greenville, N.C. at our auction.

\*\*\*\*\*

S Y M P A T H Y

OF THE REGION IS FELT BY ONE AND ALL FOR  
THE LAZARUS FAMILY IN THE LOSS OF THEIR  
2 Year Old Son, DEVIN.

FRANCIS SCOTT KEY IRIS SOCIETY SHOW  
by Victoria Dorf

What is surely becoming an annual event for the Francis Scott Key Iris Society is our Iris Show. This year our show took place on May 19 at Matson's Garden Center, Lutherville, Maryland.

Although we were originally somewhat hesitant about scheduling a show for what in this area, is certainly extremely early for really good display of Tall Bearded Iris, the Region 4 meeting being sponsored by neighboring C&P Chapter the following week, and the National Convention right after that meant that it would have to be the 19th for the show this year or never. Obviously, never would not be acceptable to dedicated Irisarians!

As it turned out, at least in this reporter's eyes, the early date presented us an opportunity to provide the public with an eye-opening display of more types of Iris than they knew existed and, at the same time, afforded our exhibitors with an unprecedented opportunity - at least for our chapter - to display varieties that in past years were already past their best bloom season by the date of our show. Thus, while in past years FSK shows were dominated by TBs, this year I can truthfully say that we were able to present a strong show of Median Iris with the bulk of our exhibits falling into the Standard Dwarf and Intermediate categories.

The early date also presented many of us with a lesson - it is unwise to limit yourself to just one or two species. Not only do you limit your own garden's bloom season, but you rob yourself of the opportunity to participate in shows!

All in all, the FSK show provided 15 exhibitors with a chance to display some 168 entries, representing 109 cultivars up for awards in the Horticultural class. Although in past years FSK has also had an Artistic Division, this year the decision was made - albeit reluctantly - to limit the show to horticultural displays

in order to maximize the space the Watson Brothers so generously provided us out of their own garden center display area, and at the same time allow us to provide both judges and viewing public alike with a more open space for judging and appreciating the Iris being displayed. Comments from members and visitors indicated that while the artistic displays were missed, the increased viewing space was a bonus.

Despite our concerns about the early show date and the potential for poor bloom so early in our season, the show drew exhibitors from, not just FSK members and friends, but Region 4's C&P Chapter which takes in Washington, D.C., its Maryland suburbs and the northern Virginia area, and from nearby Pennsylvania in Region 3.

The variety of cultivars exhibited and the many fine examples shown presented the judges with a difficult choice but I think all there would agree that Queen of the Show, the TB GENTLE RAIN (Keppel 77) exhibited by Clarence Mahan of the C&P Chapter, was a beauty and a deserving winner. In second place overall and winner of the Section Certificate for "Other Bearded Iris", was ANNIKINS, an IB "oldy but goody" (Warburton '67) exhibited by our own Claire and Bill Barr. ANNIKINS was closely followed by another entry in the median group, Owing and Doris Rebert's MTB TINSEL (Dunderman '73). And, perhaps most interesting and fitting for a show which offered such a wonderful variety of species on display, in fourth place overall was BIG BLACK BUMBLE BEE, an Aril (Danielson '66) exhibited by Carol Warner our immediate Past President.

Reflecting the strong showing in Median Iris in this show, winner of the sweepstakes Silver Medal for most blue ribbons was Sterling Innerst, our Region 3 neighbor from Dover, Pennsylvania. Sterling took an impressive 23 blue ribbons for his medians and the vote for seedling judged most worthy for his seedling 1904-4. Claire and Bill Barr went home with the Bronze Medal for second most blue ribbons with some 20 ribbons to their credit, including ribbons in

both TB and median categories. -56-

Section certificates were also awarded to Mrs. Frank H.J. Figge (Rosalie to all of us) for her Tall Bearded, and Sterling Innerst for the "Other Bearded Iris" section - no surprise for someone with such a strong interest in medians and 23 blue ribbons to prove his success in this area.

Perhaps most exciting to us, in addition to the extended family of individuals in our "winners circle" this year was the chance for several new exhibitors to take home blue ribbons. Congratulations to Dan and Carolyn Schlanger for their blue ribbons for each of their two entries this year and for young Jeff Warner for his first blue ribbon for his TE OKLAHOMA BANDIT.

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E A S T O N , M A R Y L A N D

F A L L M E E T I N G A N D R E B L O O M E R S H O W

Show Schedule not available at this time,  
but will be sent later to any prospective  
exhibitor on request. The Schedule will be  
similar to one published in the September  
1983 NEWSCAST.

ATTENTION JUDGES: We are offering 5 hours of judges training at this meeting. There are some judges who need to catch up on the 5 hours in 3 years requirement by A I S. This is a good chance to get this credit.

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- Francis Scott Key Chapter, J.Owings Rebert, 152 Leister's Church Road, Westminster, Md. 21157

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