



NEWSCAST A.I.S.

Region 4

No. 1

Jan. 85

Vol. 27



MEMBERSHIP REPORT - by Helen Rucker

NEW MEMBERS SINCE SEPTEMBER NEWSCAST:

FSK CHAPTER:(Iris Society);

Mrs. James M. Hitzrot 11,
8208 Robin Hood Ct., Baltimore, Md.21204

Mr/Mrs Thomas C. Hochheiser, 8506 Dogwood
Road, Baltimore, Md. 21207

Ms Jacqueline Bishop, 216 Paradise
Ave., Baltimore, Md. 21228

Ms Margaret B. Coppinger, 229 Meadow-
vale Rd.,Lutherville, Md. 21093

Dr. Karen M. Kumor, 8107 Kirkwell Ct.,
Towson, Md. 21204

MARYDEL CHAPTER:

Mr. Kenneth Murray, Rt 1, Box 231,
Easton, Md 21601

Mrs. Anne T. Whiting, Rt 1, Box 228,
Greensboro, Md. 21639 (reinstated)

Mrs. Karon Simmons, Dawn On The Miles
Claiborne, Md. 21624 (transfer from
C&P Chapter.

C & P CHAPTER (Iris Society)

Ms. Carolyn Beck, 2963 Fort Lee St.,
Herndon, Va 22071

Leslie S. Hall, 7220 C. Landover Rd.,
Landover, Md. 20785

Stephen Stalos, 9154 Canterbury
Riding, Laurel, Md. 20707

Burt Foster, 2245 N. Harrison St.,
Arlington, Va. 22205

(Continued inside back cover)

R V P MESSAGE FOR JANUARY 1985

I have been very much pleased with our membership progress during 1984. This is the life-blood of our organization so let us resolve to continue to stress memberships during the New Year. You may have a friend who has just been waiting for you to ask him to join AIS, so in 1985 start sharing AIS with those friends. When you have your show, you just might come in contact with exhibitors or some one who is interested in irises. Be alert to these chances to secure new members for AIS.

I would like to stress the importance of voting the Popularity Symposium of your favorite irises. The 1984 ballot was such a small percentage of our membership voting that I'm afraid that the results in this Region was really not representative of the favorite irises in the Region. Let us resolve to vote this ballot. Do not be afraid to vote for the ones you like - new or old they are still your favorites.

Some time in the near future our entire membership will be asked to vote on the matter of establishing a Tax Exempt status for AIS. This ballot will be explained in a letter from AIS President, Ron Mullin. A convenient return postage-paid ballot will be prepared for you to sign and return. Be sure to return this ballot promptly.

I would like to have all judges read again the article on the AIS requirements for Judges set forth in the article in April 1984 Newscast. We want to have well-informed judges in this Region. We want to have trained apprentices to take over for some of us who are older and will sooner or later have to curtail our activity.

We want our judges to be alert in filing the judges ballots. We want them to return their Activity Reports promptly when requested. We want them to attend regular training courses so that they will be eligible to have the appointments renewed. Training courses are offered each Spring and Fall at our Regional Meetings, as well as at the National Convention. If these are not convenient for you to attend, many of our local Chapters are offering courses. Should you need to have a training session set up in your locality, either let your Judges Training Chairmen or me know of your need and we will do our best to have a class somewhere in your vicinity.

Fred Stephenson and his Convention Committee have interesting plans for our Spring Regional in the Roanoke Area. Information on gardens to be on tour and other features will be found elsewhere in this Newscast.

During 1984 we were able through help from many sources to re-activate the Richmond Chapter into the Fredericksburg-Richmond Chapter. This Chapter has doubled in membership through efforts of Ruth Walker and other members of this area. We hope to be able to bring to life the West Virginia Chapters, as well as the Norfolk, Va. area. If you would like to volunteer to help in this re-vitalization, please contact me. I would love to put you to work in these areas. Your thoughts and ideas will be appreciated. We can do it by working together.

The Best of Wishes for a good Year during 1985.

Sincerely

B.J. Brown

REGIONAL MEETING TOUR GARDENS
By F. G. Stephenson

According to the law of averages the garden tour planned for the 1985 Regional Meeting here in Roanoke should provide an unusually fine opportunity to see the irises at their best. After a less-than-perfect season in 1982 and an almost disastrous 1983 the irises have had an opportunity to rest and should be ready to put on a spectacular display. Increase has been unsurpassed and the mild Fall weather has created a plant that should be ready to "do its stuff". We hope so! We are looking forward to welcoming you to share this beauty with us.

THE CRUMPLER GARDEN is one many of you have visited. It is the most sheltered of all the tour gardens assuring us of a nice display. In this garden are many of the latest introductions by some of the better known hybridizers. Since this is a terraced garden it will provide many different views of the various plants.

Along with the many bearded cultivars are a number of the newer Siberians. These generally bloom along with the TBs. Other plant materials form an interesting mini-garden adjacent to the house. Adding interest will be breakfast refreshments served here.

FAIR ACRES, the headquarters of the Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs, is the site of the display garden of the Blue Ridge Chapter, which is hosting the Spring meeting. Here one will see for the very first time the very newest seedlings from the various Region 4 hybridizers. All are being grown under code so the hybridizer will be unknown. It is here that ballots will be marked.

THE STEPHENSONS' garden provides the most exposed location of any of the local gardens. Here an iris must prove its stamina. Here one will find many late introductions from lesser known hybridizers. The feature of this garden is the large number of HPS (horned, flounced, and spooned) irises by several hybridizers specializing in this type of iris.

Also in this garden, one will find close to 200 seedlings by the owner. Most of these seedlings will be HFS irises and the majority will be first year bloom. A few are selected seedlings from past years. This will allow many to evaluate these irises with "Something Added". You may be surprised to find that you like them! They are distinctive!

THE TRENT GARDEN, located on the shores of Smith Mountain Lake, the most beautiful lake in Eastern USA will provide a double treat. Here one will be able to view the beautifully grown irises and at the same time, be able to view a lovely lake vista. All this will take place as guests enjoy a delightful lunch. This garden will be a first for many attending the Regional Meeting

As time and conditions allow, other smaller gardens will be included on tour.

SPECIAL NOTE: We have tried to arrange our schedule so that each of our guests will be able to visit with us and still have ample time to attend the National.

LEGEND OF THE IRIS

The Iris was named for Iris, the Goddess of the Rainbow, because of their many colors. God placed the rainbow in the heavens, as a covenant that never again would the earth be destroyed by flood. The Iris is a covenant that heralds the awakening of all nature from its winter's rest, that once the earth will bear fruit for the benefit of mankind.

The Iris is symbolic for there are three petals reaching ever upward towards Heaven representing the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. They also represent our hearts, minds and souls reaching upward in supplication for guidance.

Three petals turn earthward, representing our daily lives, Father, Mother and Child: Home, Church and Country; Faith, Hope and Charity; Understanding, Peace and Love. Each set of three forms a triangle, the ancient symbol of prayer. In the downward petals is a sprinkling of gold, typical of the gold in our daily lives - the gold of worship, friendship, loyalty, patriotism, love and all the fine virtues which we should actuate daily.

Within the three upward petals is another group of three tiny petals pushing upward. These make four sets of three, or twelve, symbolic of the twelve Disciples who assisted Jesus in His Ministry.

The Iris is a flower that renders service to mankind, for it not only beautifies our homes and gardens, but is used for perfume, dyes and medicine.

A constant thought to keep with us: May we, throughout our year, emulate the Iris rendering beauty, reverence, prayer and service to each other.

CHESAPEAKE AND POTOMAC IRIS SOCIETY REPORT
By Clarence Mahan

C & P has adopted a goal: 2 x 6! This means we are trying to double everything by 1986: membership, money in our treasury, judges, etc. On September 30, C&P met at the National Arboretum. President Dick Sparling appointed a Nominating Committee: Blaney Marlow, Steve Harsy and Margaret Thomas. Treasurer Lois Grimes reported C & P had a balance of \$2,000.80 in the treasury. Members voted to donate \$300.00 to Region 4. A motion passed to establish a Budget Committee to prepare a financial plan in preparation for hosting the 1991 National Convention. Another motion passed to let members who want to grow guest iris, purchased by C&P, sign up for them early in the year so they can be ordered in May and June in the future. The final sections of the by-laws were worked out under the leadership of Steve Harsy. Two door prizes, donated by the Mahans, were won by Dick Sparling (iris siberica nana) and Mr. and Mrs. Michael K.G. Nicholls (I. sanguinea 'Rodionenko'). It was announced that Dick Sparling had donated \$319.00 from the sale of iris from his garden. The highlight of the September meeting was a slide program on Siberian iris given by Dr. Nearpass.

C & P met on October 21st at the Falls Church Community Center. Dr. Nearpass, Vice-President, chaired the meeting in the absence of Dick Sparling. Dr. Nearpass showed the AIS slide program on the Seattle Convention; he also showed a set of slides taken by Dick Sparling at Seattle. Blaney Marlow gave the report of the Nominating Committee. Blaney also showed members some lovely stained glass iris and birds which are available at much reduced prices for C & P. Members voted to buy \$100.00 worth of these items,

which will sell at future iris shows, meetings, etc. A motion passed to have a fall iris show next year. Suky Mahan provided coffee and cake as refreshments.

The November meeting was held on the 11th, at the Locust Grove Nature Center outside Bethesda, Md. Officers were elected for the coming year: President, Dick Sparling; Vice-President, Dr. D. C. Nearpass; Secretary, Clarence Mahan; and Treasurer, Linda Harsy. Dick Sparling announced the appointment of Steve Harsy as Newsletter Editor and as Chairman of the Membership Committee. Joy Peters gave a presentation on the benefits of belonging to the National Capitol Area Federation of Garden Clubs, which costs \$25.00. Dr. Nearpass moved and Delia Bankhead seconded, that C & P join this organization. The motion passed. Ray Rogers, who will be General Show Chairman this coming year, led a discussion on planning for our first iris show. Volunteers to serve as show officials were solicited, and the following Chairpersons were appointed: Co-Chairman, Clarence Mahan; Staging and Properties Committee, Delia Bankhead; Entry-Placement/Classification Committee, Dr. D.C.Nearpass; Publicity Committee, Dick Sparling; Hospitality Committee, Blaney Marlow; and Artistic Arrangements Committee, Joy Peters. Blaney Marlow showed the members the stained glass iris and birds, and also an iris quilt she is making. A project to make an iris quilt to sell to raise revenue was proposed and discussed. The by-laws were adopted.

The outstanding feature of the November meeting was a talk and slide show on hybridizing by Sterling Innerst. Many interesting subjects were covered, and the slides were excellent. Some of Sterling's soon-to-be-introduced beauties to watch out for are: Sterling's Lady Love, Ballerina Blue, Codicil

and Pippa Longstocking. A potted plant of Butter and Sugar, a door prize donated by the Mahan's, was won by Mr. and Mrs. Michael Nicholls (they are making "winning" a habit!). Refreshments were served by Suky Mahan.

C & P is moving into 1985 with one thought: 2 x 6! We hope many of our friends and neighbors in Region 4 will plan to bring entries to our show in May!

F. S. K. IRIS SOCIETY

By J. Owings Rebert

Twenty-two FSK members and 1 guest met for dinner at Dean's Restaurant in Hampstead on October 27 for our annual fall meeting.

A delightful program, entitled "The Lure of The Iris - to Japan" was presented by Rosalie Figge and Alice Miller. There were countless slides on the Japanese Iris as well as various points of interest. Also, many articles were brought for a "show and tell experience". These included some almost priceless originals that almost stole the show. These two F.S.K. traveling girls received a generous applause for their fine presentation.

Our business meeting followed, with routine reports and discussions. Foremost was the good report on the speedy recovery of Bill Barr who is now convelescening at home after major heart surgery of just a week ago. Of course Bill and Claire could not be with us for this event, but our thoughts were with them. Also Warner Brown is confined at home after being hospitalized with a respiratory problem of a short while ago. These folks just about never miss a meeting.

A report on the happenings of the Fall Regional meeting at Easton, Md. was given by Carol Warner.

Several of our new members were present for the first time. A special recognition was given in honor of Maynard and Retta on the observance of their 60th wedding anniversary. The FSK Board decided to make an Honorarium donation to one of the iris-related organizations in the amount of \$200.00. This announcement was received by a Standing Ovation to which Maynard responded with very kind remarks.

Several stalks of reblooming irises enhanced our meeting.

* * * * *

EDITOR'S COMMENTS: We promised you a shorter Newscast this time. Several chapters have not sent a formal report, as well as some of our committee chairmen, which has caused some curtailing. The Treasurer's report is being delayed until the April issue to get an updating on that. We need to get back to our Region 4 Hybridizers series, and we do have some ideas and suggestions on that, and hope to continue that in future issues.

We appreciate the comments we received on the article for beginners. This was well received, and we have copies of this article that can be mailed to new members at least through 1985, or until the supply is exhausted.

We would welcome suggestions as to articles that would be of interest to you, and we will do our best to get one of our many experts to write according to your suggestions. Its hard to anticipate the interests of such a wide-spread membership. Suggestions please!

EXCERPTS FROM "The Ramblin' Robin" -
J.D.Stadler, Reidsville, N.C.

Here's my replanting formula:

1. Rototill the bed thoroughly, then remove 1/3 of the topsoil (used to start a new compost pile).
2. Cover bed with lime and 10-20-20(fertilize lightly) and add compost to replace soil removed.)
3. Rototill again. This puts lime, compost and fertilizer deep and well distributed.
4. Plant and water well to settle the roots.

Alma Childers, W. Va. - Siberian seedlings often turn out better than the parents. I had seedlings bloom from Eric The Red much deeper color than Eric. Seedlings from White Swirl gave deep blue compact flowers. That's one reason I don't spend much money on named Siberian varieties.

Louise Smith -Williamsburg, Va. - It is easy to sniff and record lots of iris. I have always been a fast writer, and I am breathing deeply while writing so my sense of smell is refreshed. I write any description or any other thing I might want to remember - the strength of the scent is recorded by code numbers:

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 0 = no scent | 4 = slightly spicy |
| 1 = slightly bad | 5 = medium spicy |
| 2 = medium bad | 6 = very spicy |
| 3 = very bad | 7 = slightly sweet |
| 33 = even worse | 8 = medium sweet |
| 333 = worstest | 9 = very sweet |
| | 99 = even sweeter |
| | 999 = really flips me |
| | 10 = reserved for iris that finally will be acknowledged to be sweet by everyone who smells it. |

Freely add your identification of the scent for information.

Claire Barr, Stevenson Md. 11/16/84

When last I wrote for this Robin, Bill was at home recuperating from his "anginal episode". After that there was a stress test and a 24-hr. monitoring test with a tape. Doctors were not pleased with results but said we could go to Italy as planned (this was 3 days before we were to leave), IF we would take it easy on the trip. We did just that and had a beautiful trip. Bill went into the hospital upon our return for an angiogram, and 10 days later (4 weeks ago to-day - 10/19/84) HE HAD A QUADRUPLE bypass operation at the Washington Hospital Center in D.C. The surgery was very successful, and the patient is doing well. I stayed in Washington while he was there, and we went back last week for his check-up. No driving or work for another 10 days at least, but he walks twice a day (we spend a lot of time at shopping malls in this blustery November weather.....)

C. Mahan -McLean, Va. 10/20/84 - Suky and I have been having a very good rebloom season. For the first time I tried making fall crosses. Have several pods coming on, including BABY BLESSED X IMMORTALITY, both ways; AUTUMN ENCORE X IMMORTALITY, and BABY BLESSED X WILLOW MIST. Hope I can get these to maturity. IMMORTALITY is usually not so willing to produce pollen, but seems remarkably pollen producing this fall. After the marvelous spring performance by JEWEL BABY (Hall '84) and super increase, I gave away to auctions and others all except 2 increases - both have bloomstalks coming. This baby is truly a jewel of a performer. And again it has increased like crazy.

L. Dufresne, Chaptico, Md. 10/29/84 - I bought my first Siberian this summer at the C&P auction. It is BELISE. I haven't been able to find anything out about it. If any of you can tell me something about it, I would appreciate it.....I also have never seen one in bloom, so can hardly wait. I hope that next year I will be able to visit some of the gardens near by; and see what other iris look like and how they grow. I didn't know that a Siberian could also be a rebloomer. Are there many that rebloom?

Dick Sparling - Olney, Md. 10/18/84

A couple of you asked the magic formula for our large rhizome auction and sale. There are several ingredients that just happened to "mesh" in C&P the last couple of years. The auction phase has been conducted for many years. The successful bidders were normally the C&P chapter members with very few outsiders included. The rhizomes were generally obtained in the year of introduction from hybridizers throughout the country, paid for by C&P and grown two years. The grower keeps one rhizome and the rest are sold. Spirited bidding financed the Chapter. Two years ago we decided to expand and have a rhizome sale as well. The Coxes donated the use of their yard and supplied liquid refreshments. Chapter members supplied the rhizomes of all kinds and in great numbers, and publicity attracted the public. At first the publicity was minimal. This last year it was expanded due to the efforts of the Coxes, Lois Grimes and Clarence Mahan. Brian Lazarus ran the sale. He recruited the workers who were kept busy. We must have had over 50 avid buyers, as most of the TBs at \$1.00 each, were gone fairly rapidly. The Medians didn't go as fast at .50 each, but then there were many more of them. To top it off, we had a commercial grower (also a member) who bought all the IBs, BBs, MTBs and most of the SDBs that were left.....

We had very good weather which was a blessing.....Next year we plan to have our sale at Green Spring Farm Park, which will have an area where we can move into in case of rain.....

Alma Childers, W.Va. 11-27-84 - It's time now to cut back the foliage on Siberians, but due to the warm weather the foliage has not died back yet, and I don't like to cut the foliage back while it is still green.

From "The Wild Ones" Robin - Species and Beardless Irises.

Ruby Buchanan, Winston-Salem, N.C. - I think you will find *I. tridentata* not very happy in pots, since the increase is apt to be several inches away from the original plant..The *Iris Tectorum* is tempermental, really likes a bit of shade, but resents being overshadowed. It seems perfectly hardy but frost spots the foliage for me. Elaine Hulbert potted hers and said it was beautiful inside - no tatty foliage!

Wyatt LeFever, Kernersville,- I did get seed from the *Versicolor X Laevigata* cross. I planted these in a flat and one came up immediately, but no more so far. I hope it really turns out to be an interspecies cross as I was very careful to protect the stigma from the bees.

John Wood, Mooresboro, N.C. - My JIs were lovely this year, but I had very few seed pods to set. However, I really didn't need many as I have probably 2,000 or more seedlings to go out next Spring as there is no way I can get to them this fall..... This was a banner year with species bloom.

Many *I. versicolor* seedlings bloomed.... A pink *I. versicolor* seedling which bloomed this year for the first time has a good

From "Royal Four Reblooming Iris Robin"

Lloyd Zurbrigg, Radford, Va. - My favorite seedling of the year was Q 40 "Queen Bess". It obviously made a great impression, since I gave it such a regal name. (nick-name). From SUMMER HOLIDAYS X SISTER HELEN, it was clearly the best Summer Holidays seedling I have had. It is rich blue, deep but not violet, ruffled and perfectly smooth right into the haft.....J.D.Stadler had the most beautiful cross of the year that I saw. It was BRIDE'S HALO X LEMON DUET. Some were bordered in yellow while one was just lightly haloed like the pod parent.

John Moffitt, Unionville, Va. - One interesting development is that I have succeeded in making quite a lot of crosses with arilbreds and especially with GRAND VIZIER. I've also crossed I DO with RARE SPICE and GRAND VIZIER and IMMORTALITY with RARE FORM. One that might produce interesting progeny is a lovely pale violet from (ENGLISH COTTAGE X RARE FORM) X GRAND VIZIER.

Claire Barr, Stevenson, Md. - CORN HARVEST was "Best Iris In Show" at our garden club flower show this spring. It was a beautifully branched stalk, entered by Anne Donnell Smith, who is a member of FSK also.... The FSK Show was really a Median show for the most part, but Clarence Mahan won Queen Of The Show with a beautiful stalk of GENTLE RAIN.

Clarence Mahan, McLean, Va. - C & P Chapter had the most successful auction and sale ever this year; but in one area our supply did not meet the demand; rebloomers. Although Dick Sparling and I both took all we could afford to donate, people wanted more.

J.D.Stadler, Reidsville, N.C. - I have had a seedling to bloom which made the old heart pump a little faster (last week of August, first week of September). Color was not great, a yellow with olive blush over the falls, but form was fantastic. Wide petaled, flared, with fantastic ruffling. But why not? It is out of SPIRIT OF MEMPHIS X EARL OF ESSEX. Then on a cross of SPIRIT OF MEMPHIS X I DO, there are several with stalks (early September).

COMBATING SOFT ROT

By Alan & Barbara McWhirter

(From Region 1 Newsletter, Spring - 1984)

Bacterial soft rot, the consequence of invasions of the bacterium *Erwinia caratorvora*, is ever present in garden soils in the Northeast. The bacteria begins its ravaging of a rhizome at a site on that rhizome where an injury has occurred. Any break in surface cork cells allows the bacteria to penetrate and eat the pectin, the intercellular cement of the rhizome, resulting in a gooey mush.

In winter, frost heaves may cause the necessary injury. A late blanket of snow, trapping warm ground beneath it, will encourage bacterial growth. In the spring, the hole left by the iris borer is ripe for bacterial invasion. Nicks in rhizome from summer weeding activities may be sufficient injury, as are the breaks at the base of leaf fans from misplaced footsteps and the breaks at the base of heavy stalks blown over in June storms.

Careful attention given to your plants to minimize these injuries is the best prevention against bacterial soft rot. Salt hay mulching can prevent frost heaves. Daily inspections for borers will allow you to cut them out of the fans before they reach the rhizomes. Stalks susceptible to wind damage can be staked and weeding tools abandoned in favor of fingers when weeds are in close proximity to the plants.

Should soft rot set in, all is not lost, especially when it is detected early. In our garden, we make a practice of running our fingers over rhizome surfaces, searching for tell-tale soft spots. When we find them, we reach quickly for a spoon and a home-mixed tetracycline and glycerine solution which has proven 100% effective in irradiating the rot and healing the rhizome.

We begin by clearing away the soil if necessary but leaving the rhizome and roots undisturbed in the ground. We scrape at the soft spot with the spoon and scoop out the mushy tissue inside.

It is imperative that the spot be scraped away until solid rhizome tissue is reached and all traces of the softness vanish. Where the rot had plenty of lead time before being discovered, we may find ourselves scraping and scraping out as much as a third or a half of the rhizome's total volume. The crater that results can look shockingly enormous, but is no cause for panic or for giving up on the rhizome.

Next, we break open a 250 mg. capsule of tetracycline into a small cup. We add 2 fluid ounces of glycerine and mix until the tetracycline powder is well distributed in the sticky glycerine.

With the back side of our spoon or with a tongue depressor, we paint the entire soft rot cavity liberally with the treated glycerine. No spots, including the edges of the cavity, should remain bare.

So long as the weather for the next 24-48 hours is going to be dry, we leave the cavity exposed to the sunlight so that the sun and the air can reach it. Where wet weather is expected, we cover the rhizome with a glass bowl or plastic bucket to keep it dry, and expose it to air and sun as soon as possible.

After a day or two of drying, soil can be replaced around the rhizome. If rot damage is

significant, no bloom from that rhizome can be expected, but increases should be healthy and unaffected by the rot.

Tetracycline is a broad spectrum bacterial drug which cannot be purchased without a prescription. This necessitates befriending a pharmacist or convincing your family physician to order you some. The shelf life of the capsules is two years. Glycerine may be purchased over the counter in a small bottle at any drug store.

We suspect that the glycerine works as much magic as the tetracycline. While the drug kills the bacteria present at the site and inhibits new invasions, it is the glycerine which draws out of the affected tissue the water necessary to activate the tetracycline. In addition, this drying encourages formation of new cork cells which ultimately cause the healing of the rhizome. Exposure to sun and air also cause drying and inhibition of bacterial growth.

We discovered this life-saving procedure in an article entitled "Experience With Bacterial Soft Rot", written by Bobby Browne in the October 1981 AIS Bulletin. It has proven so successful that we were even able to save a rhizome of CHRISTMASTIME when scraping of the soft rot had reduced it to no more than roots and its outermost shell. We never honestly believed we'd see a bloom from it again. Today we eagerly await the arrival of that plant's second year of bountiful white and red; a true testimonial in our garden to the success of careful attention, the tetracycline/glycerine treatment, and a lot of faith in the will of an iris to survive.

MANY THANKS

By Frances D. Brown

I've tried and tried to coin a word
That mortals ne'er have seen or heard
with meaning fraught,
To say what I would like to say
In some new and different way
But I cannot!

I've listened to the singing birds
And tried to put their songs to words
But 'twould not do.
So after thinking all the day
I'm saying in this simple way
That I Thank You -

Once, I thank you twice
I thank you much for being nice.
I thank you three times -
I thank you four -
I thank you, thank you o'er and o'er;
A hundred thanks, a thousand too-
And still that's not enough for you.
Only a world of thanks will do.

Note: The above was found among Frances' notes dating back to 1969. I thought she had written it - but she says "no". Does Anyone know from whence it may have come?

REMONTANT IRIS IN REGION FOUR
Lloyd Zurbrigg

1984 has been a kind of summer for the remontant iris, with lower-than-normal temperatures in August, and in most areas a reasonable amount of rainfall. In Radford, the variety IMMORATALITY has proven to be a most generous and reliable rebloomer all during the months of August and September, and reports of rebloom have come from Georgia and Texas. California reports some difficulty in getting it acclimatized. Since this variety gave good summer bloom in '81, '82, '84, and some summer bloom in the difficult year of '83, it seems fair to say that it has set a new criterion of what a remontant iris can do.

BROTHER CARL has been more reluctant than usual, but much of it was reset in mid-summer. CORAL CHARMER has been the most persistent with summer and fall bloom, but did not perform in the spring; judgment on this variety must be postponed. BABY BLESSED has bloomed most of the month of September, and this is typical of this variety. It has received excellent comments from Clarence and Suky Mahan in northern Virginia.

FEEDBACK is a new California rebloomer that will apparently do very well in our region. It is worth noting that both parents were raised east of the Great Divide. It is a violet with good form and an adequate stalk, with long-lasting qualities and an excellent perfume. Its rebloom began in mid-September.

Communication from J. D. Stadler revealed that he has had summer first bloom on several seedlings out of Spirit Of Memphis. He is particularly impressed with one from Spirit Of Memphis X Earl of Essex.

This Chairman wishes to thank Region 4 for holding a Fall Show. This is valuable publicity for the remontant iris, and adds a touch of excitement to our fall meetings.

STARTING OUT WITH REBLOOMING IRIS

By Clarence Mahan

Have you wanted to grow reblooming iris, but heard that they are too difficult for your area? Or have you ever tried to grow rebloomers without success? Or have you wanted to try growing rebloomers, but did not know where to start? If so, this article is written for you. It is not written for the hundreds of remontant iris growers who are already enjoying the thrill of having iris in bloom in the summer and fall. Indeed, if you are already a successful grower of wonderful reblooming iris, you probably know as much or more than I know about the subject. Unless one lives in the most severe of climates, they can succeed with reblooming iris. It is not even very difficult, but you have to do two things.

The first thing you must do to insure success with rebloomers is to select iris that have already proved successful in your area or in areas with similar climates. Trying to get warm climate rebloomers to perform will just be an exercise in frustration in cold weather areas. Not all rebloomers will succeed in your area. But there are many fine reblooming cultivars available today that will in all probability do quite well.

The second "trick" of succeeding with rebloomers is to recognize that they require full sun and extra food and drink. If you do not give this little "extra" to them, you cannot expect them to flourish. A rebloomer has to grow twice as fast as a once-

blooming iris. Trying to grow a rebloomer in partial shade or in unimproved soil is probably not going to work. One method of insuring they get a good start is to work a bit of well rotted manure into the soil in the bottom of the planting hole. Water in the summer is a "must". Planting your reblooming iris together in their own bed makes it easier to give them this care. The extra requirements of rebloomers are so easy to meet, much easier than meeting the demands of hybrid tea roses or other remontant flowers, and the rewards are so great!

My first attempt at growing reblooming iris in the mid-1970's was a dismal failure. Seeing reblooming iris in the Melrose catalogue, I was intrigued. With no knowledge and much brass, I ordered several, planted them along with my other tall bearded iris, and waited for the fall bloom to come. It didn't come, and neither did the Spring bloom. Well, I concluded, reblooming iris are a fraud. They won't grow in northern Virginia. Since I had been growing iris for years, it couldn't be my own lack of knowledge that was the problem. How wrong I was!

Fortunately, after that first failure, I was introduced to Dr. Lloyd Zurbrigg, pioneer hybridizer of reblooming iris, and began to learn a few things about reblooming iris. I met Rosalie Figge, past editor of the Reblooming Iris Recorder and who grows an official reblooming iris test garden. I learned some more. Through robin correspondence, I was exposed to the expertise of reblooming iris hybridizer, Bernice Miller, and to the experience and knowledge of Virginia Matthews, who is now President of the Reblooming Iris Society. I joined the Reblooming Iris Society, and the Region 4 Reblooming Iris Robin. Now, when September comes to my garden, the reblooming iris bed comes alive with color. There is

nothing like it!

If I were starting out with reblooming iris, the first thing I would do is join the Reblooming Iris Society. A check for \$3.00 sent to Secretary-Treasurer, Bernice Miller (Route 4, Box 439-B, Killen, Alabama 35645) will cover dues for a year (\$7.50 will get you a three year membership). As a member, you will receive the Reblooming Iris Recorder twice a year. It is a good source of information and advice. I would also consider a reblooming robin; the information and hints from other experienced growers are invaluable. A simple request to Bernice Miller will get you into a reblooming robin, and you will make a lot of new friends in the process. If I wanted more guidance, I would write one of the reblooming iris commercial growers and ask for suggestions on the cultivars that could be expected to do well in my area. They are quite willing to offer sound advice, and they will send you their catalogues or price lists. Some of the growers I have had good results from are"

Hall's Flower Garden, 1495 Enterprise Road,
West Alexandria, Ohio 45381

Avonbank Gardens, Box 5691 Radford University
Radford, Virginia 24142 (send stamp)

Garden of the Enchanted Rainbow,
Rt 4, Box 439-B. Killen, AL 35645 (send
stamp)

Rialto Gardens, 1146 W. Rialto, Fresno,
CA 93705 (Send SASE)

If I lived in New England, Michigan, Colorado or any other area where people have said rebloomers are "difficult", there are

two standard dwarf bearded iris that I certainly would try first. BABY BLESSED (Zurbrigg 79) is a charming soft yellow iris of nice form and proportion. It increases at a phenomenal rate, shows exceptional health and vigor, and is proving to be a dependable rebloomer in many regions of the country. JEWEL BABY (E.Hall 84) is a dramatic little iris - my daughter calls it "plum-black". It has done very well for me, and since it comes from Ohio, should do well in most cold winter areas. It blooms like crazy, and has an intense "lily of the valley" type fragrance. Monte Byers of Clearlake Oaks, California grows hundreds of iris, and he judged JEWEL BABY to be one of his top ten iris in 1983-84.

One caution that will pay dividends when you grow rebloomers: Keep your plants and beds cleared of dead foliage and debris. As a group, reblooming iris tend to be fairly rot resistant, but unclean conditions can induce rot in any iris. When winter sets in, cut out all the bloomstalks down into the rhizome, including any bloomstalks that have not bloomed or are just emerging from the fan. These immature stalks will be killed by the cold anyway, and they are likely to rot if not removed.

The form and quality of dependable reblooming iris have been steadily improving. If you have seen VIOLET CLASSIC, IMMORTALITY, CORN HARVEST, GRACE THOMAS, or EARL OF ESSEX in bloom, you already know how excellent rebloomers are these days. There are many other very nice ones. If you have not grown rebloomers before, you are in for the thrill of a lifetime. Having a rainbow in your garden in late summer and fall is like having Christmas early. And most of your friends and neighbors will be astonished. Just be sure to choose the right ones for your locale, treat them a little special, and see what happens. -24-

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
REGION 4, AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

October 13, 1984

The meeting was held in the Quaker Meeting House in Easton, Maryland. It was called to order at 9:04 by B. J. Brown, RVP.

Attendance: Carol Warner, Brian Lazarus, Clarence Mahan, Dick Sparling, Audrey Walsh, David Walsh, Doris Simpson, Lloyd Zurbrigg, & Willa Owens.

Present after Rebloomer Show judging: Fathelee Arrida, Roger L. Glasshoff, Freda Martin, Lillian Bradley, Ruth Walker, Frances Brown, Norman Clouser, Maynard E. Harp and Retta Harp, and Alverne S. Perry.

The RVP reported the Symposium results:

Beverly Sills	40 votes	Stepping Out	32
Vanity	38	Bride's Halo	29
Victoria Falls	33	Mystique	28
Mary Frances			24

He further reported an increase in membership from 317 to 443, making Region 4 seventh in rank. New judge appointments: Apprentices - Clarence E. Mahan, Mrs. O. L. Persinger, Mrs. Tamara McBride & Mrs. Keith E. Cooper. Mr. Ray Rogers (G) transfer from Region 03; the deletion of Norman R. Clouser, transfer to Region 03; and Mr. and Mrs. Maynard E. Harp change to Master Judge; Mrs. Robert L. Munn change of address to 4213 Bounty Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23451. He further reported openings in the Region for more new judges.

Assistant RVP Walsh reported 31 registered for Fall Meeting. He thanked the following people whose assistance made this meeting a success: Willa Owens, Henry Purdy, Robert Hartge and his mother, Grace Hartge, Martha Cope, Hattie Curry, Karon Simons, Ruth Tinker, Claire Barr and B.J. Brown

The Immediate Past RVP, Claire Barr, was not present, but sent written report that she had no business to report. She was particularly pleased with the number of new members and all the activity in the Fredericksburg-Richmond area.

The secretary's minutes of Spring Meeting were approved as published in Newscast.

Treasurer's report to be published separately in Newscast. Treasurer and Walsh are investigating getting a tax exempt account number, also the feasibility of placing funds in a high interest account. For tax reasons, Lazarus does not wish to carry Region 4 account under his own name.

Historian, Polly Price - no report.

Membership, Helen Rucker - report in Newscast

Auctions & Awards, J.D.Stadler, written report: Proceeds from the 84 Spring Auction were \$329.25. We are hoping for a good Fall Auction. If you can donate for the Spring Auction of '85, please let me know as early as possible.

The Bobby Lee Evans award for the best Region 4 seedling will be given at the Roanoke meeting. We still need some Chapter to sponsor an award for the best Region 4 introduction seen at regionals. Anyone interested in this award should contact me or the RVP.

Medians, Richard Sparling reporting: This was a good season for miniature dwarfs. Medians were donated from the Sparling gardens to the following AIS sales: Marydel, F.S.K., and C.&P., and Fredericksburg. Also plants were donated to the Arboretum, Southern Pines Historical Garden in N.C., and River Farms, Washington, D.C.

Youth Chairman, Mrs. Nancy H. Schuhmann, was not present and did not send written report.

Reblooming Iris Chairman, Lloyd Zurbrigg, has his report, "Remontant Iris, Region Four", elsewhere in this Newscast.

Exhibitions: Six exhibitions were held in Region 4 in '84: Eastern N.C.; Charlotte, N.C., Concord and Asheville, N.C.; F.S.K. Show in Luthersville, Md.; and Marydel Show in Easton, Md.

Robins: Doris Simpson, Chairman, reported that "The Wild Ones" is the best Robin. It travels very fast, carries more information, and has two new members. I suggest a new Rpbm on Beardless Iris.

Photography: Dr. Nearpass was not present, and since he is resigning his post as National Photography Chairman, he may also resign as Regional Chairman. However, he has not resigned this post. Suggestions were made as to his successor, if and when he should resign.

Publicity - Chairman was not present. Helps to individual Chapters is needed. Mahan suggested listing in Southern Living. They will accept listing if information is sent four months in advance of sale or show date. Information should be sent on form they supply.

C. & P. Chapter - Sparlin reporting - By-laws have been finished; donation made to Region; meetins about every month; Show is planned for May 25 or 26, 1985.

Fredericksburg-Richmond Chapter - Mrs. Walker not present - Brown states there has been more activity in this Chapter and greater increase in membership than in any other Chapter. They may hire a bus for '85 National Convention.

Mrs. Walker arrives and gives following report: On August 18, 1984 we had a rhizome sale in the Spotsylvania Mall, in Fredericksburg which netted us \$305.00. If we had had more rhizomes, we could have sold them, but being a newly revitalized Chapter, some of the members were not sure if they should or should not donate. They now know and will share in this annual effort another time.

We are very excited about planning for our first iris show to be held on May 15, 1985 in the Spotsylvania Mall, Fredericksburg, Va. Make plans to be with us. You are all welcome!

This is really planning ahead, but the Regional Meeting will be hosted by the Fredericksburg-Richmond Chapter in 1987 Spring Meeting.

N.C. IRIS SOCIETY: J.D. Stadler - written report - The Spring Meeting for 1985 will be held at Alice Bouldin's garden. Tentative date, May 11, 1985.

Marydel chapter - 1984 show and rhizome sale were successful. 1985 dates are: Show, May 19 at Firehouse in Easton, Md.; Sale, July 13th at Plaza Nursery, Rt 322 & Glebe Road, Easton, Md. (new location).

Francis Scott Key: Meeting of Oct. 27th at Hampstead Dean's Restaurant will hear a report with slides of the Iris trip to Japan. Rosalie Figge and Alice Mill will share their enjoyment of this AIS-sponsored trip. The 1985 Iris Show will be June 2nd.

Report of Fall Rebloomer Show - Frances Brown

Exhibited in show were 11 named TBs and 15 seedlings. Awards given: Sweepstakes, Lloyd

Zurbrigg; Best Seedling - Zurbrigg, Sdg. R54-3; Best in Show - Perfume Counter, exhibited by David Walsh. (*)

Nominating Committee appointed:
Dick Sparling, Chairman, Frances Brown,
Lloyd Zurbrigg and Roger Glasshoff.

Willa Owens, Secretary.

(*) In addition to the Exhibition Certificate for Best Seedling of Show, the following were voted Exhibition Certificates by judges present at show: Zurbrigg R-42-RE & Q-181; and Frank Jones - J-68-A.

AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY - REGION 4 BOARD

Regional Vice President - B.J.Brown, 11026
Steele Creek Road, Charlotte, N.C. 28210]
Tel: 704-588-1788

Assistant RVP - David G. Walsh, Rt. 3
Box 100 K, Broadway, Va. 22815
Tel: 703-896-5771

Immediate Past RVP - Claire Barr (Mrs.W.E.)
1910 Greenspring Valley Rd, Stevenson,
Md. 21153 - Tel: 301-486-5214

Secretary - Willa White Owens, Box 214,
Bozman, Md. 21612 - Tel:301-745-9645

Treasurer - Brian Lazarus, 1786 Generals
Highway, Annapolis, Md. 21401

Historian - Polly Price (Mrs.A.H.), Rt 1
Box 51, Summerfield, N.C.27358

Parliamentarian - Rosalie Figge (Mrs.Frank
H.J.), 4 Maryland Ave., Towson, Md.21204

Editor Newscast - Frances D. Brown (Mrs.B.J.)
11026 Steele Creek Rd., Charlotte,N.C.28210

Conventions - Clarence E. Mahan, 7311 Churchill
Rd., McLean, Va. 22101

Judges Training - Mr & Mrs Wm E Barr,
1910 Greenspring Valley Rd., Stevenson,
Md. 21153 - Tel: 301-486-5214

Finance Committee - Dr. A.W.Rice, 2817 Aven-
ham SW, Roanoke, Va 24014

Membership Committee - Helen Rucker (Mrs.J.E)
3205 Pineland Road SW, Roanoke, Va 24018

Auctions & Awards - J.D.Stadler, 1613
Country Club Rd, Reidsville, N.C. 27320

Median Irises - Mr. Richard Sparling, 18016
Lafayette Drive, Olney, Md. 20832
Tel: 301-774-4151

Youth - Mrs. Nancy H. Schuhmann, 6520
Walter Woods Drive, Falls Church Va.22044

Reblooming Irises - Dr. Lloyd Zurbrigg,
708 Noblin St, Radford, Va 24142

Exhibitions - Miss Victoria R. Dorf,
841 Glen Allen Dr., Baltimore, Md.21229

Robins - Mrs. Doris Simpson (Mrs.T.W.)
200 Ridgemed Rd, Baltimore, Md 21210

Photography - Dr. D.C.Nearpass, 9526
50th Place, College Park, Md. 20740
Tel: 301-345-3324

Publicity & Public Relations - Mrs. Rena
Crumpler, 2521 Wycliffe Ave SW, Roanoke
Va. 24014

C&P Chapter Chairman - Mr.Richard Sparling,

Marydell Chapter Chm. - R.W.Hartge, Jr.,
P.O.Box 155, Grasonville, Md. 21638

Fredricksburg-Richmond Chapter, Mrs. Ruth
Walker, 113 Sutter Rd, Partlow, Va 22534

Western N.C. - Mrs. Elizabeth Farrar,
P.O.Box 263, Mt.Holly, N.C. 28120

Eastern N.C. - Polly Price (Mrs. A.H.)

Blue Ridge Chapter - Helen Rucker (Mrs J.E.)

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

Inactive Chapters: Southern WV, Central WV
Greenbrier, WV and Norfolk, Va.

Region 4 comprises the states of Maryland,
District of Columbia, Virginia, West Virginia,
and North Carolina.

NEWSCAST is published Tri-annually: in January,
April and September. It is free to all members
of Region 4, AIS; subscription rate to non-
members of Region 4 is \$3.00 per year.

Permission is granted to reprint any article
appearing in Newscast unless otherwise speci-
fied, provided proper credit is given.

* * * * *

ADVERTISING RATES:

Full Page - - - - -	\$25.00
One-Half Page - - - - -	15.00
One-Fourth Page - - - - -	8.00
Commercial Directory - - - - -	2.75

* * * * *

Deadlines for receipt of articles and materials
for Newscast by Editor are as follows:

- For January issue - last full week of December
- For April issue - last full week of March
- For September issue - last full week of August

* * * * *

Cover: Mary Elizabeth (Bebe) Brown

* * * * *

Elizabeth H. Mesec, 5212 Redwing Drive.
Alexandria. Va 22312

Fredericksburg - Richmond Chapter:

Mrs. Marjorie A. Bosen, 12 Berkshire Lane,
Spotsylvania, Va 22553

Dennia A. Bennendorf, Bettenforf Nursery, Inc
Rt 1 Box 522, Fredericksburg, Va. 22401

Barbara Geslock, 807 Brompton Street,
Fredericksburg, Va. 22401

Freda S. Martin, 907 Charlotte Street,
Fredericksburg, Va 22401

Mrs. Charles D. Stevens, 201 Rosegill Rd.,
Richmond, Va. 22403

NORFOLK:

David R. Schryer, 106 Santa Barbara Dr.,
Hampton, Va. 23666

Richard R. Randall, 524 Windsor Gate Road,
Virginia Beach, Va 23452

WEST VIRGINIA:

Garner L. Jividen, Rt 1, Box 11r,
Stonewall Road, Beckley, W.V. 25801

REINSTATEMENTS:

Roger L Glasshoff, Charles C. Jack, and
Mr/Mrs David G. Walsh

DRose

LOIS D ROSE
ROUTE 1 BOX 2050
PARTLOW VA 22534



* BULK RATE *
* U.S. POSTAGE *
* P A I D *
* CHARLOTTE, N.C *
* PERMIT #3034 *

INDEX

RVP MESSAGE - - - - - Page 1
REGIONAL MEETING, SPRING '85 -- 3
LEGEND OF THE IRIS - - - - - 5
C&P IRIS SOCIETY REPORT (Mahan) -- 6
FSK IRIS SOCIETY REPORT (REBERT) 8
Editor's Comments - - - - - 9
RAMBLIN' ROBIN QUOTES - - - - - 10
WILD ONES ROBIN QUOTES - - - - - 13
ROYAL FOUR (REBLOOMING) QUOTES - - 15
COMBATING SOFT ROT (McWhirters) -- 16
MANY THANKS - - - - - 19
REMONTANT IRIS IN REGION 4(Zurbrigg) 20
STARTING OUT WITH REBLOOMING IRIS - 21
MINUTES OF FALL BOARD MEETING - - - 25
REGION 4 BOARD - - - - - 30
NEWSCAST INFO - ADV. RATES, ETC. 32