

# Newscast A.I.S.

## REGION FOUR

Volume 34, Number 2

August 1992



*Karen  
Stoneburner '92*

# RVP's MESSAGE



"Time flies when you are having fun!" So the saying goes and that certainly applies to my term as RVP of Region 4. It hardly seems possible but my three year term will end this fall. There are many things I will miss and a few that I will be glad to have end. It has certainly been an honor to have been your RVP, especially during the time when we were hosting the national convention. There are no other regions that are better than this one and no other iris people that I would rather represent. I have done very little, that is for sure, because so many others have done so much. Just this year two new chapters have been formed: **Portsmouth, Chesapeake, Suffolk Iris Society**, through the outstanding work of RICH RANDALL; and **Central Virginia Iris Society**, thanks to the tireless efforts of RUTH WALKER. Welcome to the chapters and a huge **Thank You** to the organizers! I would especially like to thank all those who have worked on the executive board with me. A president's job is to delegate and the other officers have made the region grow and run very efficiently. I have no doubt that Region 4 will now be in excellent hands, as DR. ROY EPPERSON becomes our RVP. He has done this job before and has the experience and qualifications to do an outstanding job of leading us forward.

Dr. EPPERSON and the North Carolina people organized a fantastic Spring meeting. A conflict with the Garden Club of America convention in Baltimore forced me to miss the meeting but I have heard rave reviews of the gardens and the hospitality.

This has been the year of the beardless iris and the daylily for me. The prolonged cool, damp spring weather gave my bearded irises lots of problems. Leaf spot flourished and the stalks were tall with very limited bud count. The Siberians, Louisianas and Japanese, however, seemed to love it and I have never been so impressed with all of them. I had thought of getting rid of the Louisianas because they just won't stay in the clump where I put them, but not after this year's bloom! The Siberian blooms stayed out for days on end and the bloom season spread over at least a month and a half. The Japanese started to bloom just in time for our show. Some bloom is still present past the middle of July. Now the daylilies are taking over the show and again I've never seen such bloom. They even seem to love the recent hot weather. Maybe there will be hope for the rebloomers too.

The symposium ballots were enclosed with your July *Bulletin*. **Please, please, please** try to vote and send your ballots to me by **September First!** Even if you are a new grower and know only a few irises on the list, vote for the couple that are your favorites.

This is the only area where Region 4 is overshadowed in comparison to the percentage of members voting in other regions. Please, lets not be last or next to last again this time! It's a time consuming job for me to count the votes, but why not make me work a little harder this last year as RVP? The symposium is a measure of what does well here in our area. Our results will be printed in the next issue of *Newscast*.

The fall meeting sounds great! Here's a chance to learn a lot more about beardless and species irises from an expert. DR. JAMES WADDICK's research on the irises of China has been most impressive. He will share some of his experiences and discoveries with us, including some exciting plans for the future. PHIL OGILVIE and C&P Iris Society have planned a great time for us. Come and be a part of it.

Again I thank you all for your support and for having me as your RVP. I shall look forward to seeing you at many Region 4 functions.



### TO WHOM DOES THIS BELONG?



Hints (1) It is a cut-out at the top of the note paper of one of our most prominent, hard working, and knowledgeable members. (2) In spite of her innate modesty, she has cornered the market on the iris 'Vanity.' (3) Except for Dykes winners, her iris are arranged alphabetically. (4) Her garden boasts a Chinese tree, closely related to our Bald Cypress, but a living fossil. (5) She may be the first host gardener at a National Convention to have a garbage can score enough ballots for the Presidents Cup. (Answer on page 20 of this issue)



### A CHALLENGE FROM THE BLUE RIDGE CHAPTER

The 1992 AIS Symposium Ballot was mailed to the membership with the July *AIS Bulletin*. Region 4 has had a very poor showing the past several years. Blue Ridge issues a **Challenge** to every chapter to:

- 1) **Increase** the number of ballots from your chapter by a **factor of three!**
- 2) Try to have more ballots than Blue Ridge!!!

ARE YOU UP TO IT?

Denis Stoneburner



## BOTANICAL EXPLORATION TODAY: REGION 4's FALL CONFERENCE

by Phil Ogilvie, C&P

Imagine the excitement of being a wealthy gardener in England during the second half of the 18th and the first half of the 19th centuries. Every month, it seemed, another explorer returned from some remote part of the Empire with plants never before seen in England, or the rest of Europe. None were any more exciting than those from the King's colonies in North America. For a host of reasons the detailed exploration was not pursued into our own 20th century with the same enthusiasm and dedication. In late 1980's, Dr. James W. Waddick had the strange idea that contemporary Irisarians, and fortunately today you need not be wealthy to participate, might sponsor plant exploration of remote regions.

The first week in October you will have an opportunity make your own botanical exploration without leaving Region 4. This has been the covert strategy in designing this meeting, giving you an occasion to explore the less well know areas of knowledge about our favorite flower.

Dr. Waddick is coming from Kansas City to share with us his experiences collecting in China in 1989, reviewing herbarium materials, and, this year, producing an exciting new book, *Iris of China*, with Professor Zhao Yu-tang. Jim was born in Chicago and received his collegiate education from the Universities of Illinois and Kansas. He has done field work in the United States, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Mexico, and China. He is the author of many scientific and popular articles on iris. Unlike many modern botanists, Jim is also a gardener and specializes in iris, bamboo, and peonies. Jim and I knew each other in a former life when he was the Director of Education at New York Zoological Society's Bronx Zoo and I was a zoo director. He brings an extraordinary ability to communicate to his unique knowledge and experience, thus being a successful educator by making learning fun. Participants will not only be able to get autographed copies of his book, but at the pre-publication price of \$25 (see the registration form).



Zhao Yu-tang and Jim Waddick  
break bread at the Region 4's 1991  
AIS Convention - photo by M.  
Lowe.



The first event will be held on the 14th floor of the Nation Agricultural Library (NAL), right across United States Highway 1 (Baltimore Boulevard) from our motel. There you will be able to explore the world of rare and beautiful plant publication and be able to compare 16th century herbals with late 20th century laser disc storage and retrieval. Your host and guide will be Dr. Alan Fusonie, the Director of Special Collections at NAL. At this welcoming buffet, Dr. Waddick will give an show slides illustrating his travels through China.

On Saturday we will mount a show of remount iris entitled, appropriately, "DÉJÀ - VU." Once again this will give the viewer a glimpse of this little-known characteristic of several kinds of iris. Judges training will also depart from the ordinary, both in subject matter and in method. I promise you three of the most enjoyable hours of judges training (NOT limited to judges, or those who aspire to be judges) you have ever experienced. Two of our most congenial, as well as erudite, AIS judges in Region 4, Carol Warner and Clarence Mahan, will team-teach two sessions, "Judging Beardless Iris" and "Recognizing and Judging Species Iris."

After the final banquet Jim Waddick will return to give a talk on the "Iris of China." This talk will also be illustrated with slides.

Such a conference, like any expedition, is not possible without a support team. They are:

|             |   |                       |
|-------------|---|-----------------------|
| Team Leader | : | Phil Ogilvie          |
| Co-leader   | : | Diana Nicholls        |
| Registrar   | : | Nancy Schuhmann       |
| Hospitality | : | Bobbie Lively-Diebold |



## CONGRATULATIONS!!!

The "1992 AIS AWARDS" list has been distributed and Region 4 did very well indeed. Our RVP, CAROL WARNER (FSK), won the **Walther Cup**, for the most Honorable Mention votes in all categories, for her 'Shaker's Prayer.' This is a great achievement, for a Siberian to win when competing with all other types of iris. Dr. D.C. (CHARLIE) NEARPASS'S (C&P) ever popular Tall Bearded, 'Purple pepper,' won an **Award of Merit**. Region 4 was also well represented in the **Honorable Mention Awards**: KATHARINE STEELE'S (CC) Miniature Tall Bearded, 'Petite Monet;' CAROL WARNER'S (FSK) Siberian, 'Shaker's Prayer;' and JOHN WOOD'S (CMIS) Siberian, 'Arabee.' Congratulations to all the winners.



## NEW CHAPTERS IN REGION 4

The more observant among you will notice, that in the "RVP's Message," "We Welcome the Following New Members . . .," and in the "AIS Region 4 Board," new chapter names appear. **Portsmouth, Chesapeake, Suffolk Iris Society** has been founded to meet the needs of the growing number of iris-lovers south of the James River and west of the Tidewater Chapter. **Rich Randall**, our hard working membership chairman, is serving as president of this fledgling affiliate. The **Central Virginia Iris Society** will meet the needs of Irisarians between the Fredricsburg/Richmond Iris Society and the Williamsburg Iris Society. This chapter has been established through the efforts of that tireless worker, **Ruth Walker**. Congratulations!!

## SCHEDULE FOR AIS REGION 4 ANNUAL FALL MEETING

October 2 and 3, 1992

|                       |                           |   |                   |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|---|-------------------|
| October 2<br>Friday   | 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.          | Registration  | Holiday Inn Lobby |
|                       | 7 p.m.                    | Welcome Buffet at the National Agricultural Library (across the street from the motel) Tour the Special Collections with and hear a shot talk by Dr. Alan Fusonie, Director, "Visualizing Our Horticultural Past." Dr. James Waddick, Illustrated Lecture "Collecting Plants in China." - this is a story of people, mechanics, import, export and trials and tribulations. Dr. Waddick will tell this in the context of a travelogue, including scenery and wild flowers. The emphasis in this presentation will not be on iris. | NAL 14th Floor    |
| October 3<br>Saturday | 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.       | Registration  | Pre-Function Area |
|                       | 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.         | Entries Received  | Pre-Function Area |
|                       | 10 a.m. to Noon           | Judging of Exhibition   | Pre-Function Area |
|                       | 10 a.m. to Noon           | Region 4 business meeting   | Ballrooms C & D   |
|                       | Noon to 2 p.m.            | Lunch (on your own)   |                   |
|                       | Noon to 6 p.m.            | Show Open to Public   | Pre-Function Area |
|                       |                           | All Judges Training will be a team teaching exercise by Clarence Mahan and Carol Warner,  |                   |
|                       | 2 p.m. to 3:20 p.m.       | "Judging Beardless Iris"  | Ballrooms C & D   |
|                       | 3:20 p.m.<br>to 3:40 p.m. | Break   | Pre-function Area |
|                       | 3:40 p.m. to 5 p.m.       | "Recognizing and Judging Species Iris"  | Ballrooms C & D   |
|                       | 6:00 p.m.                 | Cash Bar  | Ballrooms A & B   |
|                       | 6:30 p.m.                 | Final Banquet   |                   |
|                       |                           | Dr. James Waddick, Illustrated Lecture "Iris of China" - this is a more technical presentation, including a review of the Chinese representatives of the Genus <i>Iris</i> . Dr. Waddick will emphasis those species grown in the United States, with information on culture.   |                   |
|                       |                           | Annual Auction  |                   |

**DÉJÀ - VU**  
**THE**  
**NINTH ANNUAL REBLOOMING IRIS SHOW**  
**AN ACCREDITED IRIS SHOW**

presented by  
**REGION 4, AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY**  
Saturday, October 3, 1992 - 12:Noon to 6:00 P.M.  
Holiday Inn - College Park  
10,000 Baltimore Boulevard  
College Park, Maryland 20740  
(301)345-6700

*All iris growers are invited to exhibit. No entry fee. No admission charge.*

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**GENERAL EXHIBITION RULES**

1. Anyone may enter this show.
2. Entries must be made between 8:00 and 10:00 A.M. on Saturday, October 3, 1992.
3. Exhibits and ribbons must remain in place until 6:00 P.M. when exhibitors should remove their entries promptly. Those remaining after 6:30 P.M. will be disposed of.
4. Sections will be divided into groups by cultivars. Exhibitors are allowed only one entry in each class of each variety. Only full stalks will be judged.
5. Both halves of the entry tag must be filled out with the correct name of the cultivar before it can be entered. Incorrectly named entries will not be judged. All cultivars must be registered with AIS and introduced (except seedlings, species, and natural hybrids).
6. Entry tags and containers for specimens will be furnished by the Committee except where noted.
7. Each specimen must be approved by the Classification Committee before being placed on the show table.
8. All entries must have been grown by the exhibitor whose name appears on the entry tag.
9. All seedlings must be named or numbered and entered in the name of the originator of the clone.
10. The Show Committee reserves the right to remove or refuse any exhibit which, in their opinion, has been misnamed. They may combine or subdivide groups as the number of entries warrants.
11. The Show Committee will exercise caution in safeguarding exhibits, but will not assume responsibility for loss or damage.
12. Only authorized personnel will be permitted in the Show area during judging (10:00 A.M. to Noon).
13. The specimens will be judged by Accredited Judges of the American Iris Society according to AIS scale of points. Decisions of the Judges will be final. Any award may be withheld if, in their opinion, an exhibit is not worthy.
14. The Show Committee will assist exhibitors in classifying iris.
15. Judges may not enter specimens except in the Seedling Section, in which case they may not judge this Section.

## **SPECIMEN CLASSIFICATION**

- SECTION A - TALL BEARDED IRIS
- SECTION B - ANY OTHER BEARDED IRIS
- SECTION C - ANY OTHER TYPE OF IRIS
- SECTION D - ANY SEEDLING
- SECTION E - COLLECTIONS - Each cultivar must be properly labeled and displayed in separate containers which are to be supplied by the exhibitor.
- Class 1 - Three stalks, one cultivar.
- Class 2 - Three stalks, each a different cultivar.
- SECTION F - ENGLISH BOX - Five blooms all of the same cultivar or five different cultivars, of the same type. Boxes to be supplied by the exhibitor.
- SECTION G - UNNAMED BEAUTIES - These are not eligible for AIS awards but are for DISPLAY ONLY.

## **REBLOOMING IRIS**

A reblooming iris is one that produces more than one crop of bloomstalks in a single growing season. It should at least double the total number of days of bloom produced annually. Reblooming should be considered an outstanding characteristic and can occur in many flower varieties. The ability to rebloom is a genetic factor which can be affected by plant nutrition, climate, cultural practices, rhizome maturity, etc.

There are four basic behavior patterns in modern reblooming irises: 1) Continuous bloomers send up bloomstalks throughout the year if the rhizome has properly matured. 2) Cycle rebloomers have two predictably distinct periods of growth and bloom. These are the most common. 3) Repeaters produce additional blooms, usually shortly after spring blooming, but are unpredictable. 4) Sporadic rebloomers may rebloom any time during the growing year. They are usually found in milder climates.

### **JOIN THE REBLOOMING IRIS SOCIETY**

*Share the Excitement*

- Keep abreast of the latest developments.
- Gain a better understanding of the phenomenon of remontancy.
- Find out which varieties should rebloom for you.
- Learn how to coax the best performance from them.
- For further information, enquire at the registration desk.

## AWARDS

1. The Best Specimen of the Show will receive the AIS Purple Rosette.
2. The two runners-up to the Best Specimen will receive Special Award Rosettes.
3. The best specimen of each Section may receive an AIS Section Rosette.
4. Only one first, one second, and one third place ribbon may be awarded for each variety. As many Honorable Mention ribbons as quality merits may be awarded.
5. An AIS Silver Medal and Certificate will be given to the exhibitor receiving the most blue ribbons. An AIS Bronze Medal and Certificate will be given to the exhibitor receiving the second largest number of blue ribbons. In case of a tie, the second, then the third place awards will be counted.
6. The Best Seedling of the Show will receive an AIS Purple Rosette.
7. An Exhibition Certificate may be awarded for the Best Seedling. Additional Certificates may be awarded to any seedling receiving five or more votes from AIS Judges attending the Show.

## SHOW COMMITTEE

|                                     |                 |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Chairperson                         | Moira Rankin    |
| Co-Chairperson                      | Diana Nicholls  |
| Schedule                            | Libby Dufresne  |
| Secretary and Awards                | Sara Marley     |
| Staging                             | Mac Shawe       |
| Properties                          | Bob Hall        |
| Publicity                           | Gloria Fairhead |
| Judges                              | Phil Ogilvie    |
| Clerks                              | Bryan Lazarus   |
| Entry Placement &<br>Classification | Dick Sparling   |

## REGION 4 OFFICERS

|                         |                  |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Regional Vice President | Carol Warner     |
| Assistant RVP           | Dr. Roy Epperson |
| Immediate Past RVP      | Lloyd Zurbrigg   |
| Secretary               | Caryll Randall   |
| Treasurer               | J. Owings Rebert |



**Join the American  
Iris Society!**

- Single annual memberships - \$12.50  
triennial - \$30.00
  - Quarterly illustrated bulletins
  - Send dues to A.I.S. Membership:  
Marilyn Harlow  
P.O. Box 8455  
San Jose, CA 95155
-

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Last, First Middle  
 Preferred Name(s)(for Name Tag) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone(day) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (night) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street, City, State, Zip

Will you attend Judges Training? YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_

Full Registration                      Number      Amount  
 \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$45 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Partial Registration

Welcome Buffet 10/02/92      \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$27 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

All day Saturday 10/03/92      \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$33 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Banquet included)

Final Banquet 10/03/92      \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$27 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Late fee                                      \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$10 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 (postmarked after 09/18/92)

Iris of China                              \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$25 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 (\$27.50 at the conference)

Isolite, 44# bag                              \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$40 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 (\$44 at the conference)

TOTAL ENCLOSED                      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make your checks payable to: C&P Iris Society, AIS Mail check and this form to :  
 Mrs. Nancy Schuhmann, Registrar  
 % Mrs. McGregor's Garden Shop  
 4801 1st Street North  
 Arlington, VA 22203

Conference room rates of \$59 will be held until 09/18/92 - Specify non-smoking if you have a preference! Mail Room registration directly to:

*\* Holiday Inn*  
 10000 BALTIMORE AVENUE  
 COLLEGE PARK, MARYLAND 20740  
 301/345-6700

Group Name     AIS    

| Type of Room             | No. of Rooms | Rates |
|--------------------------|--------------|-------|
|                          |              |       |
| 2 Double Beds (1 person) |              |       |
| 2 Double Beds (2 people) |              |       |
| King (1 person)          |              |       |
| King (2 people)          |              |       |
| Parlor                   |              |       |

The above rates are subject to state and local taxes.

If all rooms in the requested category are not available, the next available rate will be substituted.

Date of Arrival \_\_\_\_\_  
 Time of Arrival \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date of Departure \_\_\_\_\_  
  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sharing room with \_\_\_\_\_  
 Special Requests \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

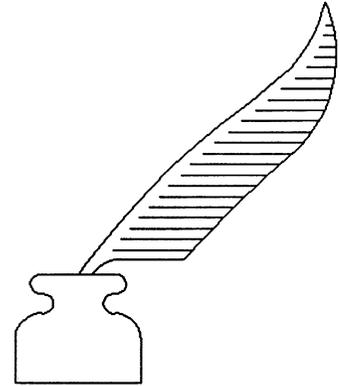
Reservations must be received by \_\_\_\_\_  
 one night's deposit is required or guaranteed by credit card below. Failure to cancel 24 hours prior to arrival will result in 1 night's charges billed to your credit card.  
 Guaranteed by one of the following:  
 Deposit of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Check or M.O. only)  
 American Express # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Diner's Club # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Carte Blanche # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Master Charge # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Visa # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_

# Minutes of Board Meeting

by Caryll Randall

Region 4, AIS May 8, 1992

High Point University, High Point, North Carolina



Assistant RVP Dr. Roy Epperson called the meeting to order at 8:40 p.m. It was moved and seconded that the minutes of fall 1991 minutes be approved as printed in the December 1991 *Newscast*. The motion passed without dissent. Dr. Epperson then called for the officer's reports. [All written reports of the officers, chairpersons, and chapters follow the minutes - editor.] There were no reports from the RVP, Assistant RVP, Immediate Past RVP, the Parliamentarian, the Judges Training Chairman, the Median Iris Committee, and from the following chapters: Cabarrus County Chapter, Chesapeake & Potomac Iris Society, and Fredericksburg-Richmond Iris Society.

J. Owings Rebert presented the Treasurers report for the period February 20, 1992 to May 5, 1992. Following the Treasurer's report there was a discussion on the cost of Postage for the slides. Phil Ogilvie moved that the Region should pay all out-going postage on slides used by in-Region Chapters, with the Chapters paying only the return postage. That Chapters outside Region 4 should reimburse the Region for all postage. The motion was seconded and passed. During the discussion, Clarence Mahan asked that the motion include a commendation to Dennis Stoneburner for his outstanding contribution as Chairman of Photography (80% of the slides used are from Dennis), there being no objection this commendation was included in the motion.

Clarence Mahan gave an oral report from the Historian. The receipt of articles has been infrequent. He has made all the arrangements for the transference of this office to Margaret Stone. Clarence observed that Margaret will have a much better filing system than his.

Dr. A.W Rice, Finance Chairman reported that having heard the fine Treasurer's report, part of the position due to a successful National Meeting, everything looks A-OK.

Following Rich Randall's report on Membership, there ensued a discussion of Chapter boundaries and membership lists. Clarence Mahan observed that this is the first time that we have had a current database of Region 4 membership and that their should be understanding of the associated problems in keeping the list current. There are no firm Chapter boundaries and it is difficult to determine where one chapter ends and another begins. There are also people who belong to a chapter, even when they do not live in that chapter's area. Rich sends an updated membership list twice a year to each chapter, either to the membership chairman or to the president. The majority do not notify him of problems. Clarence M. strongly recommends that chapter membership chairmen and presidents keep the Regional Membership Chairman notified of problems with the list. Dave Niswonger indicated that the AIS dose not have any restrictions on chapter membership, individuals are not limited to a single chapter. Chapters, however, must have

at least ten AIS members in order to affiliate, these members need not belong exclusively to that affiliate. Roy Epperson stated that one of his goals as RVP will be to look at the geographical relationships of chapters in the Region.

There was no discussion of Phil Ogilvie's report as *Newscast* editor.

Vic Layman, the Auctions and Awards Chairman, reminded everyone to vote their ballots during the tour on Saturday. He proposed that for Saturday night's auction, we "share our favorites." He will provide everyone with a card on which to write down 1) the name of the iris, 2) the description, and 3) the number of rhizomes.

There was no discussion of Libby Cross's Robin report; of Dennis Stoneburner's Photography report; or of Diana Nicholl's Beardless and Species report.

As Convention Chairman, Dr. Roy Epperson reported that we only have conventions scheduled for 1992 and 1993. It was pointed out that we must schedule later years to enable people to know where to send their guest irises. After much discussion, and not too much coercion, the list of conventions is as follows:

- 1992 Fall Regional - C&P - October 2 & 3
- 1993 Spring Regional - Tidewater - May 7, 8, & 9
- 1993 Fall Regional - Williamsburg
- 1994 Spring Regional - Blueridge
- 1994 Fall Regional - FSK
- 1995 Spring Regional - **NO HOST**
- 1995 Fall Regional - Alleghany Highlands
- 1996 Spring Regional - **NO HOST**
- 1996 Fall Regional - **NO HOST**

Roy will be communicating with other chapters in order to fill the open positions.

There was no discussion of Joan Roberts's Reblooming Iris report, and no discussion of any chapter report.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Roy Epperson reported that he is working with Ann Lowe and Caryll Randall on a document "Guidelines for Hosting a Regional Convention." He reported that they have made some changes and there are more to be made, after these changes are complete, a copy will be sent to each member of the board, which includes all Chapter chairs, for further input so that we can come up with a document which will have participation by all those involved with putting on a Regional meeting, both Spring and Fall. The committee hopes to have this out to the chairs and back before the Fall Meeting.

## NEW BUSINESS

Rosalie Figge moved that Region 4 present a pin to the RVP, at the end of their three year term of office, and that this be made retroactive to the past RVPs: Claire Barr, B.J. Brown, Roy Epperson, Carol Warner, and Lloyd Zurbrigg, who have served their three years. The

motion was seconded and adopted in principal, further investigation on cost and design will be done, with a report to be given at the Fall Meeting.

A proposal was made by Rosalie that the Region 4 Treasury reimburse the current RVP for travel expenses to the fall Nation AIS board meeting, up to a maximum of \$200, and reimburse the RVP for the full registration fee for the spring 1992 AIS Convention, in order that she might attend the board meeting. This will also apply to future RVPs, attending spring and fall AIS board meetings. The motion was seconded and, after full discussion and with the permission of the maker and seconder, amended to read: Current and future RVPs will receive \$200 in order to attend the spring AIS meeting and an additional \$200 in order to attend the fall AIS board meeting. A signed statement from the attending RVP must be submitted to the Treasurer, stating that they did attend and that their expenses exceeded \$200. This reimbursement will include the past attendance at the 1991 fall AIS board meeting, the 1992 spring AIS board meeting and all future RVPs attending AIS board meetings, representing Region 4. The motion carried.

Margaret Stone presented the report of the Nominating Committee as follows:

Regional Vice President:

Dr. Roy Epperson

Assistant RVP:

Anne Lowe

Secretary: Caryll Randall

Treasurer:

J. Owings Rebert

Historian: Margaret Stone

Parliamentarian:

Rosalie Figge

It was moved that the nominations be closed and that the Secretary be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot for the entire slate of officers. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.



*Officers-elect: front row, l to r, Caryll Randall, Rosalie Figge, Dr. Roy Epperson; back row, l to r, Margaret Stone, Anne Lowe, and J. Owings Rebert, Treasurer. Photograph by Mike Lowe.*

Clarence Mahan reported on the AIS Library Project, and the establishment of a Library Fund. He indicated that the project had been initiated by HIPS and endorsed by the AIS board. Next year proposals will be solicited for a permanent location for the AIS Library. AIS will continue to hold title to the collection and will provide the funds for one full-time position associated with the collection. In the mean time HIPS is responsible for raising moneys for the AIS Special Library Fund. Any individual, chapter, or region is encouraged to send a tax-deductible contribution to: AIS Library Fund, %Jean Strayer, 7414 East 60th

St., Tulsa, Oklahoma, 74145. Clarence Mahan moved that Region 4 contribute \$1,000 to the AIS Library Fund. The motion was seconded and carried.

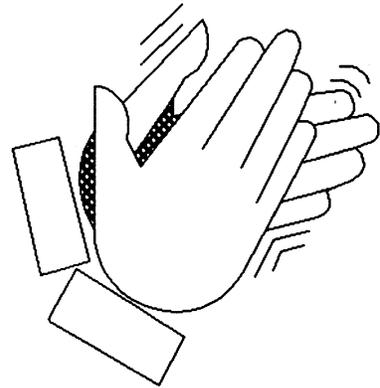
Mike Lowe reported on a project to raise money for the AIS Library Fund. Mike will produce decals of the AIS Logo for car windows. The production costs for 5,000 decals are approximately \$1,150. these decals will be sold to clubs and affiliates as a fund raiser for the AIS Library Fund. Mike requested that he receive a no-cost loan from Region 4, in order to produce the decals. After Region 4 is reimbursed, all funds will go to the AIS Library Fund. Phil Ogilvie moved that the advance, up to \$1,200 be made for the production of the decals. The motion was seconded and carried.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.



## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership in the past seven months has dropped off by 120, while new membership has increased by 35 - giving a net loss of 85. On the positive side, 16 members have converted to triennial membership and three have converted to life membership. We are still #2 in the nation with 666 members. The \$100 Regional membership contest will continue until December 9th. Continue to submit new membership and report your conversions through your chapter membership chairman.



For participation in the National contest (greater than 30 points), certificates of appreciation have been received from AIS and are here by awarded to: Clarence Mahan who took 1st place in the Region and 3rd place in the National contests. Francis Scott Key Iris Society - 1st place in the Region and 3rd place in the National. Frances Thrash from the Tidewater Iris Society. The following Chapters also received AIS certificates for their participation: Carolina Mountain Iris Society, Chesapeake & Potomac Iris Society, Blue Ridge Iris Society, Eastern Shore Iris Society, Tidewater Iris Society, and Williamsburg Iris Society.

For participation in the Regional contest, Certificates of Appreciation were awarded to Karen Weir, "Mac" Shawe, Frances Thrash, Caryll Randall, Rich Randall, Ruth Walker, Mrs. Aylesworth, Bill Smoot, D.J. Kelly, Clarence Mahan, Francis Scott Key Iris Society, Eastern Shore Iris Society, Chesapeake & Potomac Iris Society, Blueridge Iris Society, Williamsburg Iris Society, Fredericksburg-Richmond Iris Society, Tidewater Iris Society, Carolina Mountains Iris Society, and Alleghany Highlands.

Rich Randall

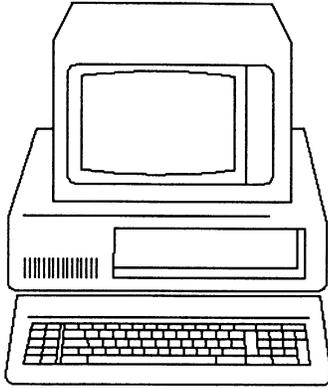


## TREASURER'S REPORT

For Period February 20, 1992 to July 10, 1992

|                                     |                 |                     |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| February 20 Balance                 |                 | \$ 15,264.00        |
| <u>Receipts</u>                     |                 |                     |
| Interest on account (3 mo.)         | \$ 152.22       |                     |
| Newscast - Non Reg. 4 Membership    | <u>3.00</u>     |                     |
| Total Deposits                      | \$ 155.22       |                     |
| Complete Totals                     |                 | \$ 15,419.22        |
| <u>Expenditures</u>                 |                 |                     |
| Membership Committee                | 156.29          |                     |
| Dunn-Rite Printing (April Newscast) | 519.00          |                     |
| Lowes' Mailing Newscast             | 83.06           |                     |
| Address Labels A.I.S.               | <u>21.27</u>    |                     |
| Total Expenses                      | \$ 779.62       |                     |
| May 5 Balance                       |                 | \$ <u>14,639.60</u> |
| <u>Receipts</u>                     |                 |                     |
| Interest on account (2 mo.)         | \$ 91.78        |                     |
| Donation - Blue Ridge               | 250.00          |                     |
| R. Figge Name Tags - FSK/C&P        | 40.00           |                     |
| Newscast - Non Reg. 4 Membership    | 6.00            |                     |
| Spring Iris Auction                 | <u>1,198.00</u> |                     |
| Total Deposits                      | \$ 1,585.78     |                     |
| Complete Totals                     |                 | \$ 16,225.38        |
| <u>Expenditures</u>                 |                 |                     |
| Photo postage - Stoneburner         | 15.13           |                     |
| A.I.S. Secretary - Library Fund     | 1,000.00        |                     |
| R.V.P. - A.I.S. Meetings            | 400.00          |                     |
| Postage - Auction - Mahan           | <u>25.00</u>    |                     |
| Total Expenses                      | \$ 1,440.13     |                     |
| July 10 Balance                     |                 | \$ <u>14,785.25</u> |

Respectfully submitted,  
J. Owings Rebert, Treasurer



## Newscast Editor's Report

Only one issue of *Newscast* has been published, since I have been editor. The March 1992 issue was mailed on April 14th. About 725 copies were printed and about 670 copies mailed. Due to a number of factors, the issue was late and in an 8½ by 11 inch format, rather than its traditional 5½ by 8½ inch size. Submissions for the newsletter are an ongoing problem and I would like to research some articles previously published in the *American Iris Society Bulletin* on technical, but general, topics and, with permission, reprint them. For example:

C.W. Army. "Test Gardens," *American Iris Society Bulletin*, #146 (July 1957) pp. 56-7.

L.F. and Fannie R. Richardson. "Collecting Iris Abroad," *American Iris Society Bulletin*, #155 (October 1959) pp. 5-11.

Peter Werkmeister. "Iris Colors and Pigments," *American Iris Society Bulletin*, #158 (July 1960) pp. 25-33.

Carl J.C. Jorgensen. "Inhibitory Effects of Iris Seed Extracts On Germination of Indicator Plants," *American Iris Society Bulletin*, #179 (October 1965) pp. 27-33.

Kenneth K. Kidd. "A Review of Factors in Iris Seed Germination," *American Iris Society Bulletin*, #181 (April 1966) pp. 14-22.

Kenneth K. Kidd. "Genetics for Iris Breeders: I. Introduction to the Basics," *American Iris Society Bulletin*, #190 (July 1968) pp. 84-97.

Kenneth K. Kidd. "Genetics for Iris Breeders: II. Introductory Cytogenetics and the Genetics of Tetraploids," *American Iris Society Bulletin*, #193 (April 1969) pp. 65-85.

John Weiler. "Studies to Improve Iris Seed Germination," *American Iris Society Bulletin*, #194 (July 1969) pp. 58-62.

Kenneth K. Kidd. "Tetrasomic Segregation at the Plicata Locus," *American Iris Society Bulletin*, #221 (April 1976) pp. 29-33.

I am open to suggestions for new features or for topics for future articles.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Phil Ogilvie.

## ROBIN REPORT

All five Region 4 Robins are flying well at this time. The new Median Robin, now in flight (known as "The Short Ones"), still has room for a couple more members. The members of the first "Pinfeathers" Robin, who graduated to fledgling status last year, and now are fully feathered, should be choosing a new name for their robin. This leaves us without a "Pinfeathers" robin, so I would like to encourage all new members, who would like to be in a robin, to let me know and we will get another "Pinfeathers" in the air. If anyone is interested in having a Regional Robin in any category, that is not being addressed in one of the current robins, I will be glad to try and get one started.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Libby Cross.



## PHOTOGRAPHY REPORT

I would like to report that thus far in 1992, there have been five requests for slides from chapters in Region 4. I am very pleased with the response and cooperation from the chapters. I do hope more chapters will use this resource in the future. I am still in need of slides of Siberians, Louisianas, and older Dykes winners. I am making a special appeal for Siberian slides. **Please help me out.** It is very easy to take an extra exposure when you are photographing your favorites. I need older Siberians and of course newer ones. Thank you in advance for your efforts.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dennis Stoneburner.



## BEARDLESS AND SPECIES REPORT

More and more Region 4 members are realizing the delight of growing beardless iris and species. They are wonderful additions to the garden. Unlike bearded iris, their foliage, for the most part, remains very attractive during the gardening season. They also generally increase the iris season almost 100%, disregarding the reblooming bearded iris. Those of us who already grow many of this group of iris, continue to branch out even farther. Phil Ogilvie is fast becoming our resident expert on beardless, water-loving iris. Such iris as the Pacific Coast Natives are increasingly within our reach, as they continue to do well here in our area.

Last year a record number of beardless shows were held. This year the record will hold or even possibly be exceeded.

If you are not growing beardless iris, I urge you to try a few. They are much less demanding than the bearded iris and a real joy in the garden.

Diana Nicholls

## REBLOOMING IRIS

Our reblooming season began in July, with Dave Niswonger's 'Champagne Elegance.' Just as the last blooms faded in early August, 'Immortality (Zurbrigg'82)' picked up the pace and continued until frost finally stopped its profusion of bloom.

In September, 'Jennifer Rebecca (Zurbrigg '85),' and 'Champagne Elegance' helped 'Immortality' brighten our reblooming bed until the rest started in October. The month of October began with seedling #R-32E (Zurbrigg), 'Eternal Bliss (Byers '87),' 'Harvest of Memories (Zurbrigg '84)' blooming on the 1st, followed by many of our favorites, too numerous to list in this report.

Other reblooming irises of note were:

'Perfume Counter (Zurbrigg '72),' that won **Queen of Show** at the Fall Regional in Roanoke;

Jane McKnew's reblooming, violet seedling, registered in 1991 under the name 'Rosalie Figge;'

'Violet Music (Mahan '90),' a beautiful, large ruffled violet that bloomed in November in our Maryland garden;

'Colorwatch (Innerst '86),' which also rebloomed in November, a burgundy and white plicata with a lot of ruffles;

'Winterland (Byers'90),' a heavily ruffled white with a light violet beard;

'Peach Reprise (Moore's '83),' a lightly laced, peach-pink BB with amber hafts;

'Pink Attraction (Hall '88),' a light pink with a light violet streak below the orange beard;

'Pinkness (Byers '89),' a lovely, heavily ruffled pink with good substance, and reblooming in November;

and 'Misty Twilight (Byers '88),' which rebloomed in the garden in November, and then was moved into the greenhouse where it continued to bloom until mid-January. It rebloomed again in early April. It is a heavily ruffled, pale violet blue.

It may be of interest to mention that 'Sunbridge (Evelyn Kegerise'87), a fluted bright yellow self, did attempt to rebloom, only to be stopped by frost.

Joan Roberts



## CHAPTER REPORTS

### Alleghany Highlands

The Alleghany Highlands Iris Society is proud to announce that we have received notice of affiliation for 1992. With such a small membership, (twelve AIS members and two non-AIS members) it is never certain. That is why, as we enter our third year of operations, recruiting new members is my main concern.

With that in mind, we have scheduled an exhibition May 21, at Rupert Real Estate in Covington; a tour of members' gardens on May 23; and a rhizome sale July 10, which will also be at Rupert Real Estate. Also, my wife and I will follow our practice of past years in inviting the public to visit our garden and Libby Cross will be doing the same at her garden.

We will be making a special recruiting effort at each of these activities. We are also placing *AIS Bulletins* in the local public library. We are considering at least two other projects. One is to provide rhizomes for planting at local nursing homes and the other is to make a drive in the local schools to recruit youth members.

I have had an article published in the *Register-Herald*, which is distributed throughout southern West Virginia and will be submitting articles to other newspapers. If any of the older chapters would like to share with us things they have found to be successful recruiting strategies, we would appreciate the help.

John A. Dameron



### **Blue Ridge Iris Society**

With the Spring approaching, the Blue Ridge Iris Society has hit the ground running for another busy year. On May 16th we will have our annual show at Valley View Mall in Roanoke. We will have for the first time an Artistic Division, along with plenty of educational displays and lots of stalks for the public to view. We have tried to encourage as many local members as possible to enter, so it will not be a three or four person show. Another first for the show will be the discovery of a resolution passed in 1929 by the Roanoke City Council that makes the Iris the official flower for the city. We have used this in promotion of the show, and will use it in all events in the future.

This spring we have also toured many gardens, with plans to tour many more. We have members who grow many of the Medians along with the Tall Bearded, Siberian, and Japanese. Touring of the gardens is an excellent way to bring members together. Our annual Rhizome Sale will be on June 20th, and the Auction on July 18th.

Dennis Stoneburner



### **Charlotte Chapter**

This "laid-back" group just doesn't know what they miss by not attending either this meeting, a Regional, or a National! It shall be promoted!

We have 12 new members - three joined at our Charlotte Garden Tour, April 25th! On that day we visited five diversely different gardens then viewed a garden club flower show.

Our show was canceled to try to encourage members to attend the National. It didn't work - but, at least, those who wanted to go did not feel guilty.

We have a new category of membership, "Patron," for \$25. The funds go to buy a "Patron's Cup" to be a silver traveling award for Queen of the Show.

Barbara Moeller.



## **Carolina Mountains Iris Society**

The Carolina Mountains Iris Society has begun the new year with a number of significant steps. Our second news letter was published and circulated to our membership. It has been generally agreed that this biannual, fall and winter format for the newsletter will continue. Those involved in this process have had a renewed appreciation for the efforts of those responsible for publishing the many chapter newsletters and especially for the editors of *Newscast*.

Two decisions made at earlier meetings were implemented in early April. The Society's decision to grant a \$300 scholarship to a student of horticulture at Blue Ridge Community College was carried out. Vickie Wentworth, a second-year student, was the recipient. A second project involving Larry Holler, of the College's Department of Horticulture, is also underway. A group of ten Japanese Irises was planted along the shore of the school's lake with the help of one of the horticulture classes. Flossie Nelson and Walter Hoover provided the class and grounds keepers a hands-on demonstration in the planting of Japanese Iris as well as a short discussion of the history and care of those irises. Written material was also distributed and arrangements made to add Currier McEwen's book on Japanese Iris to the College Library. An additional ten irises will be added to the planting in early May.

Elections were held in at the April meeting, with all officers re-elected: Walter Hoover, President; John Lyon, Vice President; Jeanne Grundies, Secretary; and Melinda Neighbors, Treasurer. Plans for the annual May show were also finalized at this meeting. Jeanne Grundies and Flossie Nelson are co-chairing this show, to be held on May 16th at the Congregational Church educational building in Hendersonville.

Plans for North Carolina's first Japanese Iris Show have been completed. CMIS is particularly pleased that Frances and B.J. Brown have agreed to join Genny Burton from Summerville, South Carolina, in judging this show, to be held June 11 and 12 at the Opportunity House in Hendersonville.

In conclusion, the bloom season began early and has been a bit erratic due to this strange weather. In any case, the season holds great promise.

Walter Hoover.

## **Eastern North Carolina Chapter**

We are trying to recruit members by having an expo on May 16th. A rhizome sale will be held on July 11th and again on July 18th.

J.D. Stadler.



## **Eastern Shore Iris Society**

The Eastern Shore Iris Society is trying to get off the ground. We are having an exhibition on May 16. A rhizome sale will be held on July 11 in Salisbury, Maryland, and July 18 in T's Corner, Virginia. We had a speaker at the Town & Country Garden Club of Salisbury and Dorchester Garden Club of Cambridge.

Helen F. Walsh.



## **Francis Scott Key Iris Society**

At our January board meeting we voted to award two horticultural scholarships. For the past three years our chapter has had a display in the Maryland Home and Garden Show. This show runs from Wednesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., it really makes for a long day, but we have always increased our membership by being there. Two, out of the last three years, we have won the blue ribbon for having the best educational display. FSK Spring show will be May 23rd.

Mary A. Brown.



## **Williamsburg Iris Society**

To date, WIS has done well with membership stable and meetings well attended. Our programs have been on Miniature, Dwarf, Tall Bearded, Median iris and preparing dried flower material. The April meeting was a trip to the Lowe's garden in Blackstone with 23 members participating.

Our project this year has been an effort to increase our Society's reading library on irises. We have purchased all current check-lists as well as available back issues. These are helpful to members and, of course invaluable at show time. Our Secretary serves as custodian of our library.

Upcoming activities include an iris exhibit at a local mall, a rhizome-plant sale in August, our annual members' picnic, and the year end WIS luncheon. In June we will have our bi-annual election. Plans are also being formulated for the 1993 Fall Regional Meeting which the WIS is hosting.

Bill Weaver.

## Tidewater Chapter

The Tidewater Chapter of the American Iris Society has had a busy spring with interesting programs and many activities. Our programs have included talks on daylilies, water gardens, and Siberians. We have more interesting programs planned to include a video on Ikebana (Japanese flower arranging) just prior to our 2nd annual beardless show.

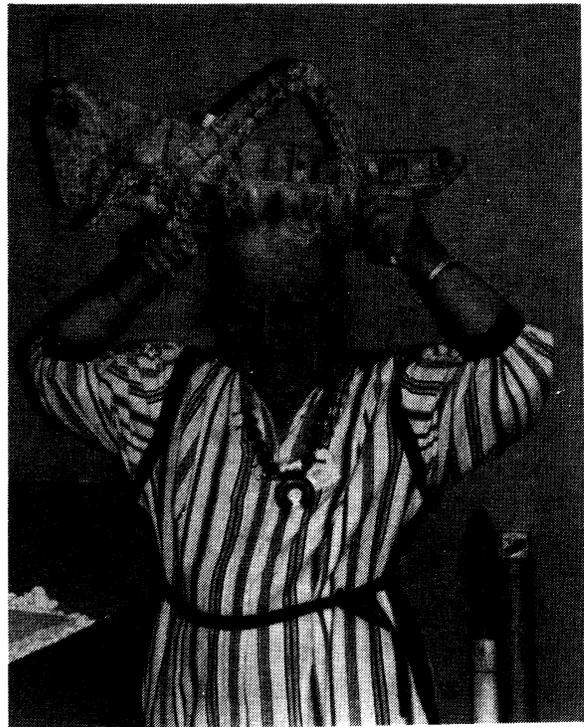
The chapter held their bearded iris show on May 2 at Pembroke Mall. It was a beautiful show, well executed by one of our newer members, Janiece Mull and husband Bill. The group purchased blue table skirts which really set the show off well.

Our group has participated in the annual "Dome Sale" held at the Virginia Beach Dome in early April and successfully sold potted and un-potted iris - the un-potted ones sold first. Another project that was attempted, but was not especially successful, was the taking of orders for iris from the Schreiner's catalogue at a discount of 25 per cent, giving our chapter a 25 per cent profit. Most customers preferred to wait for our annual sale in July to purchase their iris at a much lower rate. Another money-making project that has been extremely popular, with both members and non-members, is the sale of metal garden markers. A tour of members' gardens was conducted the day after the bearded show. Because of warm weather conditions all the gardens were almost at their peaks and truly beautiful to share with their proud owners. We have increased our membership at each of these activities and look forward to more increase at the future beardless show, tour, July sale, September auction, and at each of the scheduled programs for October and November. To cap the year off, we will hold our annual Christmas party and conclude the year with a gift swap of "iris-oriented" gifts, sharing of a potluck dinner, and singing Christmas carols.

Frances Thrash.

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*Answer to "To Whom Does This Belong?" on page Region 4's Parliamentarian - Rosalie Yerkes Figge here exhibiting the lighter, fun-loving side, of a very serious Irisarian, in a photograph by Dan Schlanger (FSK)*



## Region 4 Spring Show Reports

Queen = Best Specimen of Show; Seedling = Seedling Judged Most Worthy; Silver = Most Blue Ribbons, Horticultural Classes; Bronze = Second Most Blue Ribbons, Horticultural Class; Design = Best Design of Show [I apologize for the brevity of these reports, but space would not allow the fuller reports some submitted - Editor]

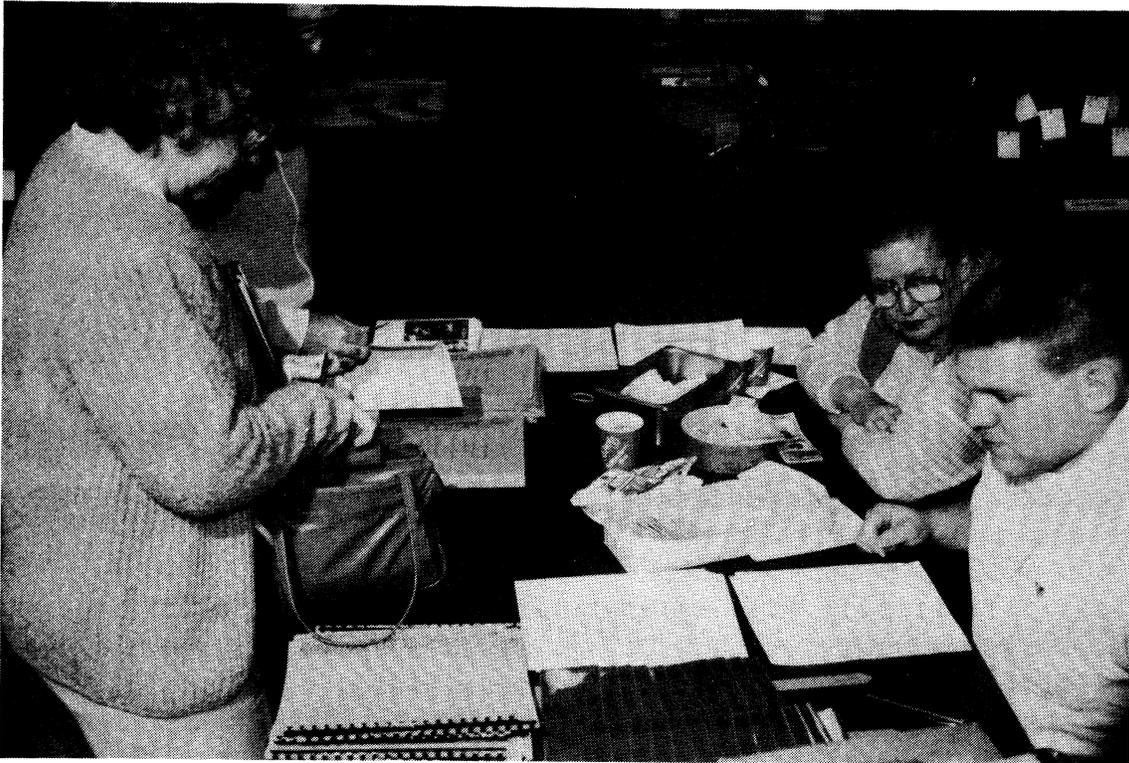
| <b>Date</b> | <b>Chapter</b> | <b>Location</b>    | <b>Comments</b>  |
|-------------|----------------|--------------------|--|
| May 2       | Tidewater      | Virginia Beach, VA | Queen - 'Adventure Bay' - TB - Rich Randall<br>Silver - Rich Randall<br>Bronze - Frances Thrash<br>Design - Caryll Randall & Herman Dennis<br>19 exhibitors / 124 entries  |
| May 8       | ENCC           | High Point, NC     | Queen - 'Betty Frances' - TB - J.D. Stadler<br>Seedling - J26-06 - TB - J.D. Stadler<br>Silver - J.D. Stadler<br>Bronze - Clarence Mahan<br>15 exhibitors / 175 entries  |
| May 16      | Blue Ridge     | Roanoke, VA        | Queen - 'Silverado' - TB - Dr. & Mrs. A.W. Rice<br>Seedling - 82-14A - TB - F.G. Stephenson<br>Silver - Dennis Stoneburner<br>Bronze - Margaret Bowles<br>Design - Mrs. Robert Spencer & Mrs. Fred Helffenstein<br>14 exhibitors / 269 entries |
| May 16      | CMIS           | Hendersonville, NC | Queen - 'Smoke Ring' - TB - Isabelle Nix<br>Seedling - QHT 132 - TB - Everette Lineberger<br>Silver - Joe Summey<br>Bronze - Steve Smart<br>16 exhibitors / 176 entries  |

|             |           |                    |   |
|-------------|-----------|--------------------|---|
| May 16      | F/RIS     | Fredericksburg, VA | Queen - 'Merideth Hues' -<br>TB - Freda Martin<br>Seedling - 85S52 - TB -<br>Roger Glasshoff<br>Silver - Mrs. Jack Loving<br>Bronze - Beverly Ruedi<br>Design - Martha Carter<br>13 exhibitors / 97 entries                     |
| May 17      | C&P       | Washington, DC     | Queen - 'Marriage Vows' -<br>TB - Cynthia Peters<br>Seedling - 92-15 - TB - Don<br>Spoon<br>Silver - Clarence Mahan<br>Bronze - Cynthia Peters<br>Design - Bonnie Mirmak<br>25 exhibitors / 275 entries                         |
| May 23      | FSK       | Westminster, MD    | Queen - 'St. Helen's Wake'<br>-TB - Dan & Carolyn<br>Schlanger<br>Seedling - 89.7 - TB - Jane<br>McKnew<br>Silver - Carol Warner<br>Bronze - J. Owings & Doris<br>Rebert<br>Design - Joyce Smith<br>11 exhibitors / 178 entries |
| June 18, 19 | CMIS      | Hendersonville, NC | Queen - 'Damsel Knight' -<br>JI - John Wood<br>Silver - John Wood<br>Bronze - Everette Line<br>Berger<br>8 exhibitors / 71 entries  |
| June 20     | C&P - FSK | Washington, DC     | Queen - 'Edge of Frost' - JI<br>- Diana Nicholls<br>Seedling - J82.A25 - JI -<br>Ensata Gardens<br>Silver - Carol Warner<br>Bronze - Clarence Mahan<br>14 exhibitors / 108 entries  |

## IMPRESSIONS OF AN IRIS WEEKEND

*by Donna F. Hare, CC  
photographs by Mike Lowe*

Rain, rain, rain . . . the only thing Roy Epperson didn't have under his thumb was the weatherman! But, seeing as how the average Irisarian is practiced in dodging raindrops in iris season, the students of the Week-end Iris College started gathering at High Point University in the McPherson Campus Center on Friday, May 8th. Registration was great . . . quick and gracious service thanks to Virginia Epperson . . . lovely colorful brochures with all the info we needed for everything! So . . . come along with me and let's go back to school!



*Registration at the "Weekend Iris College" left to right registrees Diana and Mike Nicholls, registrar Virginia Epperson ably assisted by Todd Shoemaker.*

The AIS Accredited Exhibition (Iris Show to most of us!) was held Friday in the foyer of McPherson Center and was a busy place for several hours and you will hear more about that elsewhere in the *Newscast*. All we got for a while was a hostess, gently but firmly saying, "Ya'all can't come in here, they're still judgin!" So, it was on to lunch and then to the classroom with one of our favorite Irisarians, Dave Niswonger. This was a training session for those of us who aspire to the realms of judging Iris shows. With this session tucked into our memory banks, we all know a LOT more about putting on an Iris Show . . . it was wonderful, practical information for everyone from the Show Chairman down to the little old lady that brings in one battered bloom to enter, "My granny used to grow flags just like this." Who would have thought going back to school could be such fun!

But really, when you mix Clarence Mahan, Dave Niswonger, Fred Stephenson, Rosalie Figge, and some eager questioning Irisarians, you're bound to have fun! Then we settled down to business again with Roy Epperson giving us the latest on the new voting for Awards regulations to become effective in 1993. He did not give us an exam, said he didn't have the answers, but he did scold us a bit (nicely now) for not voting our responsibilities as judges should. The printed page just doesn't reflect the fun we had while learning . . . the laughter, the friendship, the arguments (!), the laughter, the nonsense. . .

A short time-out and it was downstairs to the Iris Show, now open to the public. After the wind and rain in the area, any Iris Show would have been a miracle, and this show was lovely. Absolutely gorgeous! Remember the Show bench and how lovely the iris are when you're sweating and digging and planting and moving those iris in the heat and humidity of July! Much more excellent instruction by Dave left us looking at the Iris on the Show bench with a much more knowing eye and a much greater appreciation for what we were seeing.

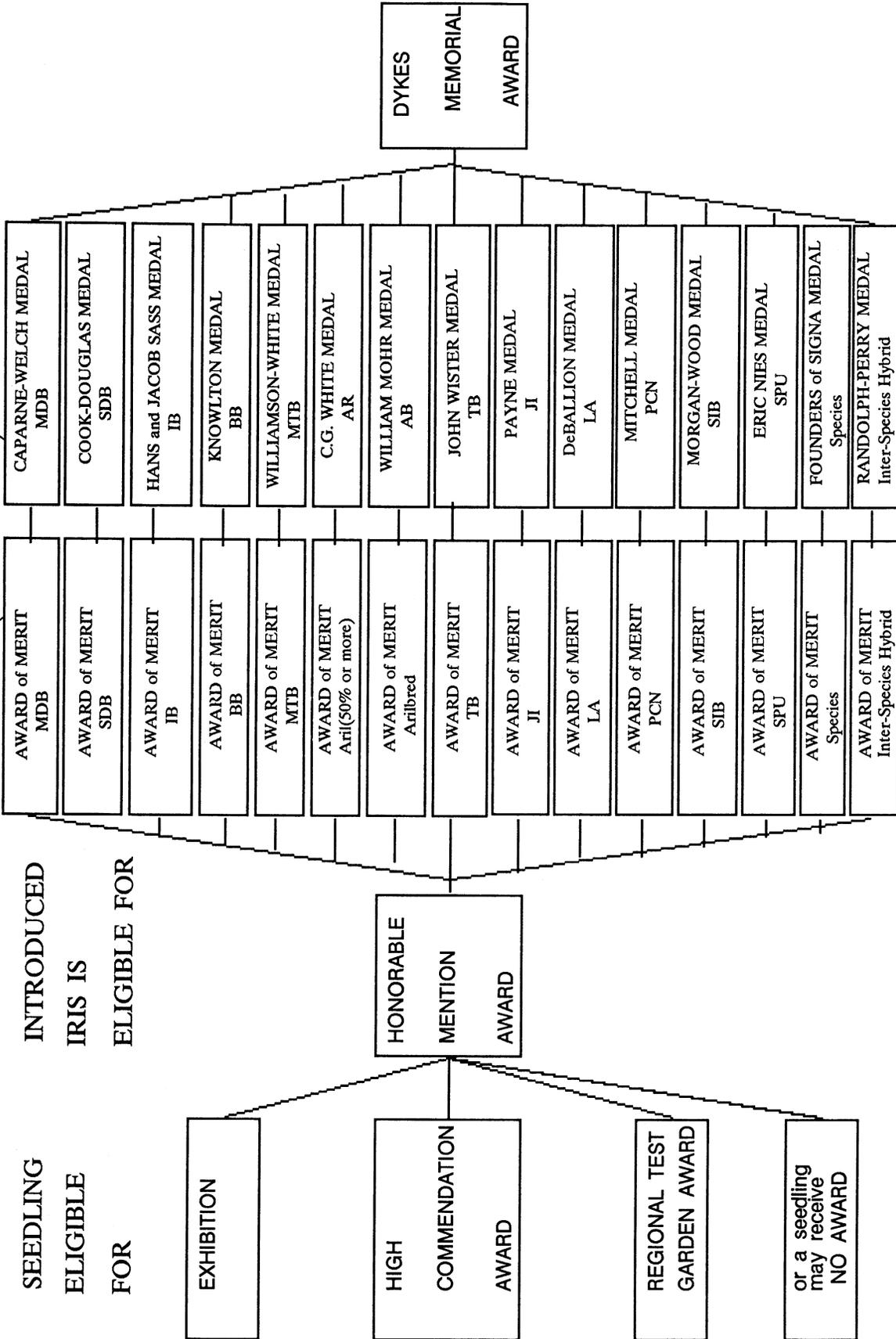


*Dave Niswonger continues instruction at the show bench; left to right Dave Niswonger, Dan Schlanger, and Polly Price.*

Things to remember . . . friends greeting friends, laughter, Alice Bouldin in her pink and white polka-dotted dress with matching bonnet, promises that there will be a red iris, Fred Stephenson looking a bit weary but still able to smile at an iris, more happy laughter, and a quick look outside to check on the weather. Evening and the buffet dinner shortened naps. Roy welcomed us and we were all glad we'd come . . . delicious food and Roy said we could have two desserts. Then J.D. Stadler welcomed us again and promised fried chicken for lunch Saturday at Reidsville. And what fun it was with the drawings for all kinds of lovely prizes and the table centerpieces . . . we were so glad we were there and don't you wish you'd come too? [If you missed this meeting, you'll be doubly sorry if you miss the fall meeting as well - the editor.]

Region 4 Executive Board Meeting, open to the public, was held following dinner. Roy Epperson presided, in the absence of RVP Carol Warner. The Buffet dinner had been held on the lower floor and the elevators were kept busy with people who didn't fancy two flights of stairs after that dinner! Lots of interesting things go on at your Regional Board meetings, all the way from rather ordinary (but very good) financial report to a little snappier discussion as to the exact dividing lines between chapters??? There's lots of business that has to be seen to if your Iris Society is to be properly managed. Some of the business was dull, some interesting and some was downright noisy!

# AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY AWARDS SYSTEM (Effective 1993)



Reports were in order with all kinds of interesting and pertinent information given. Much of the information will be covered elsewhere in *Newscast*, but it was good to hear Libby Cross tell us that the "Pinfeathers" had all gained their feathers and are now full fledged Robins! She is looking for another hatch of pinfeathers. It took a while, but I think they got dates pretty well settled for coming conventions [We still need three hosts ASAP - **Spring 1995, Spring 1996, and Fall 1996**] . . . brave souls cheerfully agreed to host meetings and most of them didn't object when there was a little arm twisting! The reports of Chapters were very interesting. It is also always good to hear how others are coping with their responsibilities. Finances came up again . . . Well, someone has to figure out who is to pay for what and with what funds, you've got a good bunch of folks taking care of your Region 4 funds. Things like this are what make up Executive Board Meetings, rather dull maybe (till they get noisy) but necessary. If you're going to grow iris you'll want to share the fun, and bugs and heat and rhizomes with others and that means an Iris Society and then you have two Societies, maybe more, and then you have meetings and then someone has to run the meeting and that means an Executive Council of some sort . . . all because you got hold of an iris rhizome and got dirt under your fingernails when you planted it and then the silly thing bloomed and you got proud and shared with some other innocent soul . . . well, 'nuff said! Old adage . . . "one thing usually leads to another, sometimes lots of 'anothers'."

And from the brochure . . . "And so to sleep, perchance to dream."

Saturday A.M. . . . Shadows! How long since we've seen shadows? You just don't get shadows without sunshine! Two buses full of enthusiasm, ready to pay homage to the Goddess of the Rainbow, IRIS, and we're on our way! (The shadows didn't last long.) Down the road through some beautiful countryside and now a lost bus! Someone got sick and the bus turned off but was found and all was well. We were warmly welcomed by the Davises, Mr. and Mrs. and Cat and Dog, and oh yes, they had some beautiful blooms! Twin Wheels Farm next, and we were, as always, warmly greeted by Alice Bouldin. We could have spent the entire day at Alice's, eating pumpkin and sweet potato breads and fried apple pies. Alice's garden is a wonderland adventure and you don't have to go down a rabbit to get there!

Things I'll remember about J.D. Stadler's garden . . . the lovely bird song . . . hostas, incredibly lovely . . . a sea of people midst a rainbow of iris . . . a Celestial Garden indeed! . . . J.D.'s smile, how he loves to talk about iris . . . and J.D. kept his promise and there was fried chicken for lunch. On to Polly Price's garden where Poly met us, all two buses full of us, with a smile and a hand shake that made us feel right at home in her lovely garden. We all liked Polly's frogs and by then we really liked her garden seats! Then on to Kirklee Gardens of Roy and Virginia Epperson where all the plantings, so fresh and lovely, made it difficult to decide what to do first, look at the flowers or buy a hosta! Beautiful iris and an education in itself just admiring the many varieties of flowers. There was considerable conversation about just where to put the hosta purchased at Roy's garden and J.D.'s garden . . . "Well I think I could get one more under my feet if we could just move that suitcase a few inches . . ." was the most frequently heard. Naps were in order before dinner at 7:00 . . . lumpy beds never felt so good! And we woke up to lovely sunshine . . . a lovely evening for a lovely dinner with good friends.



*"a sea of people midst a rainbow of flowers."*

The Presentation Banquet was great and the food delicious . . . the Chocolate Raspberry Rumble didn't last long! There were awards and presentations and raffles and prizes and door prizes and all kinds of nice things! From all this it was up to the Conference Room and Dave Niswonger's talk and slides on the "Elusive Pink Amoena." Fun and laughter with Dave . . . it was interesting and challenging to realize what a hybridizer faces in crossing iris with a goal in mind . . . most of us figure a bee-cross is as likely to be as good as one we decide on! We could have listened to Dave talk a lot longer, but it was on to other things . . . the Regional Spring Auction with Vic Layman, II, very adeptly selling us things we had promised ourselves we would not buy, well, maybe we'd get one rhizome if (IF) the price was right . . . well, the prices were right and several people went home with iris enough to guarantee aching backs and a high probability of a beautiful bloom time next spring! An added bonus was that the auction realized \$1,198 for the Region 4 treasury!

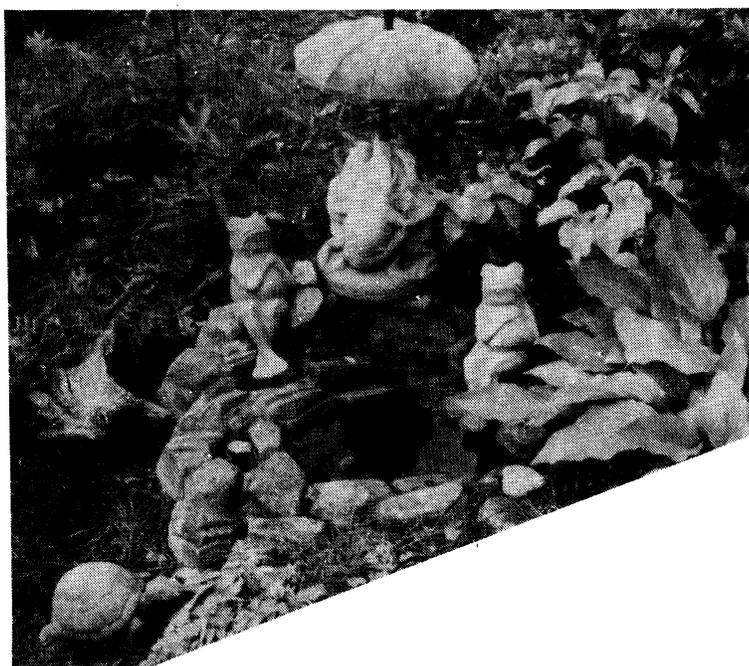
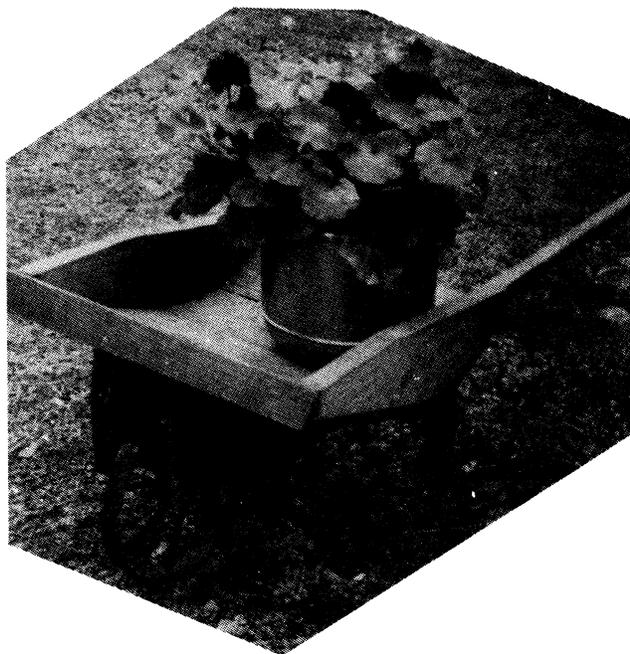
Sunday morning brought sunshine and shadows and the thought of iris on such a beautiful day. Breakfast was great, but a goodly number seemed to eat with one eye on the clock and second cups of coffee were only for the addicts. Luggage was stowed and all the hostas seemed to have found a ride home . . . it's all over till fall and I just can't wait, can you? If you weren't here this spring, you should have been, and won't you join us come fall???

***WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE YOU AT THE FALL CONFERENCE  
SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS***

### THREE SISTERS: The Garden of Polly Price

*Text and Photographs by  
Rosalie Yerkes Figge, FSK*

POLLY PRICES'S GARDEN revealed how one can cope with Mother Nature's idiosyncrasies. Polly demonstrated her hospitality and originality in various ways. We were greeted by Polly standing by her great-grandmother's large iron wash-pot filled with geraniums - which set the mood of what was to come, such as an unique wheelbarrow with a large pot of cheerful geraniums (what else could bloom under Mother Nature's chilly eyes?) This was followed by the picturesque driftwood hosting geraniums guarded by a little gnome. Another portrait took our attention: a family of cast-stone frogs displaying squatters' rights on a stump beside some iris plants. The delightful refreshments drew some of us and just below this, sheltered by shrubbery, was a tiny pool and rock garden decorated by another froggy family and a turtle, as they supervised the hosta, Japanese fern, and other plants.



Of course, this was an iris tour, but don't overlook my opening sentence which explains the lack of bloom. Polly tried! There was a healthy planting of irises - Polly's sense of humor was also displayed - - some silk irises stuck here and there to trap the unwary!

The last four iris conventions I've attended (June '91 through June '92), beginning with the JI's in Oregon and ending with the JI's in Kalamazoo, with national in Atlanta, and our Regional in High Point, had restrained bloom. Naturally, one hopes to see lots of bloom - but don't forget that people are also a drawing card.

I've attended many meetings, and it is a happy occasion to meet old friends and make new ones. I remember Polly from 'way back when!' She has such a warm, friendly personality -



and this time I noticed an extra spark of joy as she welcomed us all. The story emanating from the introduction to her two sisters explained the inner glow that day. Polly said that she and her four siblings had lost their parents as pre-schoolers, the baby only a few months old, and they were adopted into five different families. Polly was the only one who went to relatives and therefore the only one who learned about the others. She spent 40 years searching for her siblings, all with changed first and last names, plus having married. By a twist of fate, the oldest had always lived only 17 miles away! She located the last sibling only 12 years ago! An older brother had been killed in an auto accident and the baby brother is married and lives in North Carolina. Polly had her two sisters with her that day, which made it very special for her, and a delight for those who met them and heard their story. Maybe they will be the first set of three sisters to join the Iris Society. They have already been initiated into the enjoyment of what irises can do - give pleasure with

their bloom - and draw beautiful people together.



◀▶

### THE EPPERSON GARDEN

*by Gloria Fairhead, C&P*

ROY AND VIRGINIA EPPERSON were the creative force behind the notion of "Iris College," the name of the AIS Region 4 Spring Meeting, 1992. The High Point University Campus is a traditional, small, ivy-bedecked Southern institution, complete with both the hospitality and charm the South is known to provide.

The weather was dismal, but the spirits were generally high. Roy and other Eastern Carolina Chapter members chaired a very successful show on Friday. On Saturday Roy and Virginia's garden was one of five gardens on tour.

Roy and Virginia's garden, KIRKLEE, is in the city of High Point, and surrounds their suburban home. Iris aplenty were sharing the spotlight with Roy's collections of hosta, caladiums, and columbines. Iris were off with blue-tone foliage perennials. The layout of the garden allows beds of varying sizes to encircle the main iris bed which is essentially square, using rows separated by pathways. Region 4 hybridizers were well represented, especially J.D. Stadler, whose garden was also on the tour. Nearpass, Zurbrigg, and Crossman introductions were also competing for the Nearpass award, finally won by Roy's stalk of 'Trumpet Concerto,' a delightful space-ager; tall and blue, with horns, ruffles, and flounces. (Another prominent and popular space-ager was Monty Byers' 'Thornbird,' which seems to be maintaining the popularity among Region 4 gardeners that began during the National last year.) I loved J.D. Stadler's 'Crystal Flair,' a true blue self with a yellow beard which retains the beautiful ruffles of one of its parents, 'Ruffled Ballet' but has much more substance. Region 4's guest lecturer, garden expert and guest, Dave Niswonger, also supplied numerous beautiful varieties, my favorite being 'Nefertiti's Daughter,' which is featured on the cover of Dave's current catalog. I found the colors in the garden to be far prettier, more subtle, and lovelier than the photo; soft, fleshy peach standards atop bluish lavender falls banded with rose; an unusual color combination, and a beautiful one. Probably hundreds of iris competed for attention in this lovely garden. Although the cold wet weather, (including some hail, if I heard correctly) dampened some bloom, no one's mood seemed to suffer, and this final garden of the day was totally a joy to behold.

### **JERRI DAVIS'S GARDEN**

*by Bob Smithson, TIS*

The clouds prevailing in the morning May sky did not dampen the group's enthusiasm for the first convention garden of the day. Nestled in the gently rolling hills of Union Ridge, The DAVIS GARDEN unfolded before us as the bus rounded the bend. Jerri appears to have a green thumb for a great variety of plants and fruit trees, not to mention the irises we were seeking that day. The beds were well cared for with plants spaced graciously four feet apart. Among the blooms of 'Pandora Purple,' 'Lady Friend,' and 'Towering Inferno,' loomed 'Fair Dinkum,' stealing the show with tall, well-branched stalks and begging to appear on the Queen's Table. Our attention was so drawn, that others like 'Envy' and 'Blue Columbia' did not receive the attention they well deserved.

While many were taking in the iris beds, other guests were stolen away by Jerri's assortment of hostas and ferns beside the house. 'Great Expectations,' a recent introduction, was unquestionably the central theme. 'Kaptan,' *Hosta sieboldia elegans* and Japanese-painted-fern complemented the show. At the corner of that bed was a beautiful dwarf maple from Alice Bouldin's garden.

Unnoticed by some were the Japanese and Louisiana irises growing happily in a drainage swale to the right of the drive, just below a bed of beautiful tall bearded blooms. They appeared to be well placed, drinking up the water and nutrients, waiting too for their day in the sun.

## Once More With Feeling

*Text and Photographs by  
Anne & Mike Lowe, WIS*

During the past seven years, Mike and I have made at least one trip each year to Reidsville, North Carolina, to visit the CELESTIAL GARDENS OF ANN AND J.D. STADLER. We have come to attend meetings, for judges training and just to look and admire—we feel very much at home here. This year the Eastern North Carolina Iris Society, of which J.D. is president, hosted the Spring Regional Meeting, so we shared our annual visit with a bus-load of regional irisarians, many of whom had never toured this lovely garden.

To the uninitiated, the house and yard on this shady city street may look somewhat like its neighbors. The front yard contains the same mature shade trees; the gently weathered brick house sits comfortably amid its shrubs; there is the usual neatly trimmed front lawn—but there the resemblance ends! This is not your average city residential lot, and it was with a great deal of anticipation that we got off the bus, eager to see what had changed since our visit here last May.



*Hosta bed at J.D. Stadler's garden.*

The first thing that caught my eye was a Japanese maple surrounded by clumps of 'Celestial Dream'—the rich red color of the tree contrasted pleasantly with the crisp white and blue of this classy border bearded iris. En route to the main iris planting in the back one must pass a planting of BIG clumps of iris (most of them Stadler creations) in full and glorious flower. Dark blue 'Celestial Storm' was putting on a show, as was nearby 'Pink Celebrity,' and the brilliant gold heavily veined with reddish brown seedling J29/9 stopped us in our tracks. Great marketing, J.D.! Alice Bouldin's 'Instrating' and 'Renatta' with their more subdued shades of black, reddish purple and smoky tan provided a striking color contrast to the more conventional pastel iris shades.

Lining both sides of the property beneath those big trees, in slightly raised beds surrounded by pine tags (pardon the colloquialism) and all neatly labeled, are hostas. Here are planted the large and small, edgers in front of tall specimen and background varieties, blue-leafed, gold shades, straight leaf and puckered, solid colored, subtle two-tone green, the wildly variegated and on and on. These plantings extend into the back where wonderful clumps of *Hosta* 'Zounds' and *H.* 'Wogan Gold' provided a striking yellow note interspersed with the biggest *H. sieboldia elegans* I have ever seen. The potted hostas, available for sale, were quickly snapped up by irisarians on their way to the iris beds, which, after all, is what we came to see. Shame on J.D. for distracting us!

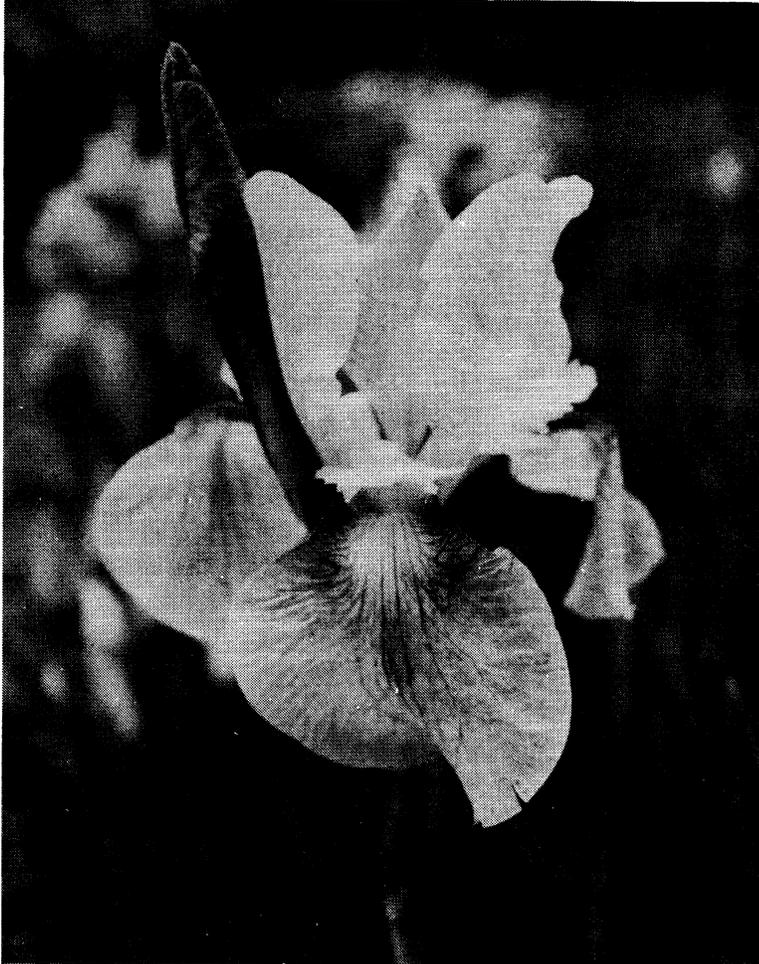
And so the iris fans (pun intended) finally reached the iris — and what a sight! A mild winter and the cool rainy spring provided an intensity of color not often seen at this time of year. This, coupled with multiple bloom stalks on even the tenderest and most freeze-prone varieties, afforded us a look at irises many of us have never seen or hadn't seen in years. Who but J.D. can grow 'Kilt Lilt' and with multiple stalks at that!

We note the following as outstanding to our way of thinking: orange 'Octoberfest,' 'Persian Berry,' not new but, when not sun-faded, so gorgeous—such a pity that it rots so badly; Keppel's peach and magenta 'Sorceress;' black purple 'David Keith' was striking everywhere we saw it both here and in Atlanta; 'Elizabeth Morrison' lush and ruffled; I kept coming back to 'Perils of Pauline,' a lacy off-white with a lavender cast, orchid beard and an orange throat. Don't know if the name or the iris got to me but this one went to the top of my Want List; 'Symphonette' a toasted peachy blend appealed to me and I liked 'Inaugural Ball.' 'Jennifer Rebecca' was spectacular in several locations in the garden. There was something for everyone — MTBs: 'Black Lady' and 'Inner Fire' were especially eye-catching. Among J.D.'s seedlings were H49/9, a gold blend with conical form that was different; smoky J25/07 and K23/1, a rose with brown shoulders—all very nice indeed.



*J.D. Stadler in his garden, shows off 'Kilt Lilt.'*

Many of us were drawn by a planting of the dainty and lovely *Iris graminea* surrounded by white *I. tectorum* — another tour de force as neither is easy to grow. Those who saw the show in High Point would recall both the horticultural entry and the collection of *I. graminea* entered by J.D. of course.



"Mug shot" of L42/3 in J.D.'s Siberian seedling patch.

I headed for the lower end of the back garden where I knew the Siberian seedlings would be found. Here I would enviously gaze upon 'Pink Haze' as it should be grown. It is easy to see why J.D. likes it when it grows so well for him. I wonder if it is his clay soil vs. our sand that makes the difference? — but that's another article. Seedling L42/3 was spectacular — a large orchid flower with heavy texture and good form — there is nothing else like it. I have had this as a guest for two years and it has drawn much favorable comment from our garden visitors. A sister seedling, L42/1, favored by the hybridizer, is much the same color with excellent branching but lacks, I think, the rigid form, heavy substance and height of 42/3. For distinctiveness and sheer garden impact L42/3 just can't be beat, and I hope J.D. will introduce it soon.

We all hated to hear the whistle which summoned us to the bus for the trek to lunch — after all we could eat lunch anytime — but as we boarded the bus, carrying our pots of hostas, our many rolls of exposed film and long and extensive want lists, we all agreed that the Stadler garden had truly given us a feast of irises.

It saddens us to think that this lovely iris garden might be dismantled if/when the Stadler family moves to the Charlotte area. However, two things are certain: J.D. will continue to grow irises wherever he lives and the Lowes will continue to make an annual trip to see them. Please J.D.—don't move too far away!

## TWIN WHEELS: THE GARDEN OF ALICE BOULDIN

by Mary A. Brown, FSK

As the bus stopped in front of this large country garden, I decided to head for the food table first and then look at the plants. (On these tours I have noticed that Irisarians seem to have difficulty choosing which is their first priority, Food or Flowers. Fortunately it is usually a 50:50 split.) I was immediately struck with regret that I had not brought a camera, of all the gardens that we saw this one may have most needed pictures to truly capture its essence. If I were to try to capture it in one word, that word would have to be picturesque. I was headed for the food table, when I was side tracked by a bed of beautiful columbine. I wanted to try and see everything at once. There were Louisianas growing on the roadside ditch bank, *Iris graminea* growing like weed in a clump the size of a large platter, multicolored columbine everywhere, and bed after bed of interesting surprises.

Unfortunately the cool weather had delayed much of the tall bearded bloom. But , fortunately, the driving spirit of TWIN WHEELS GARDEN, ALICE BOULDIN, in her polk-bonnet, was physically, as well as metaphysically, the center of this oasis. Two of Alice's own hybrids; 'Bobby Lee Evans,' a siberian, and 'Katie Beth,' a Louisiana, were present in the garden. Those bearded that were blooming (including from Region 4 hybridizers: Dick Sparling's 'Allendale' and 'Slate N Gold;' J.D. Stadler's 'Pink Celebrity;' and Katherine Steele's 'Petite Monet) were beautiful and, of course, there were so many other plants to see.

After finally sampling the delicious food, including scrumptious fried apple pies, that Alice had prepared for us, I moved around to the other side of the house - more beds both of irises and of other plants. The number and variety of plants was mind boggling. Alice said that there has not been a day, in the last eight years, when she couldn't find something in bloom, even if she had to brush away the snow to find them. I would like to be able to visit this garden throughout the year, to see the changes each season brings.

Continuing my wanderings through the beds, I found myself in a long corridor of hosta beds that had been planted between two rows of tall pine trees. They had created a perfect growing area for hosta, complete with high shade and pine-straw mulch. I wish I could have spent more time in this garden talking to Alice. As it was I only caught snatches of her conversation as she imparted the wisdom gained from years of experience about hybridizing irises, growing roses, and all manner of other garden residents. This was an unusual and interesting garden planted and maintained by a most unusual and interesting lady.



### CALL FOR GUEST IRIS

This is to inform you that the 1994 Spring Regional Meeting will be held in Roanoke, Virginia (Date to be determined later). For any Hybridizers who would like to send seedlings, both bearded and beardless, please send them to :

Dennis Stoneburner  
2114 Avenel Avenue  
Roanoke, Virginia  
24015-3506  
(703)982-2176

Please send the bearded iris as soon as possible (but telephone first) and the beardless between September 1 and October 1, 1992. This is short notice, and I am truly sorry, but there was no host for the 1994 date so Blue Ridge accepted this challenge during this years Spring Meeting.

Dennis Stoneburner

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## FIRST TIME CONVENTION VIEWS

*by John A. Dameron, AHIS*

To begin, let me tell you how I came to attend not just my first, but my first two iris conventions, within a two week period. In 1978 my wife Linda and I decided we would like to plant some irises. I remember how attractive the irises were that my mother grew and Linda was just beginning to learn that there were more colors of irises than the ubiquitous blue. Combining a trip to Madison, Virginia, where I knew of a lady that grew many irises, with a trip to Salem, Oregon, (Schreiners) via the United States Postal Service, resulted in the acquisition of about 80 varieties of tall bearded irises. This first attempt to satisfy my yen for irises proved to be completely futile and, instead, it only ignited a flame that refuses to be extinguished. I soon realized that there would be (and there have been) many more.

I soon learned of the American Iris Society and contemplated joining it, but never got "around tuit." By the way, who makes and sells those things? I have many more things I need to get done as soon as I can get one of those gadgets.

In 1989, Libby Cross came to see my irises and to convince me we should start a local AIS chapter. Combining her knowledge of AIS with my knowledge of who grew irises locally, we got a few people together and started Alleghany Highlands in 1990. In 1991, Region 4 hosted the AIS National Convention. Torn between the desire to attend the convention and the desire to see my own new irises bloom (I had planted over 100 the year before), I chose to stay home and see my own. This year the situation was different. Being in Atlanta it would precede my bloom by at least two weeks and I could do both. Also it would provide a perfect opportunity to visit many relatives in Georgia, especially a special nephew who was graduating from high school. I am now the president of our chapter so I felt I should also attend our Region 4 convention in High Point to acquaint myself with the operations and the members of Region 4.

Deciding to attend both was costly but enjoyable. For those readers who may have never attended one of these conventions, I will attempt to relate to you why I enjoyed them so much. I checked into the hotel early Wednesday afternoon. After a shower and a change of clothes, I went to the Iris Show. I was pleased to see many entries in the youth division. It is good to know that many young people are finding happiness pursuing good, clean, and wholesome activities. Raising flowers is much more admirable than raising cain on the streets.

Part of the fun of attending anything is making new friends. Dinner that night was at Underground Atlanta. On the way down to the bus that evening Margaret Stone of Lewisburg, West Virginia, introduced me to her son, A.J. Stone, II. Throughout this convention and the Region 4 convention, A.J., Margaret, her husband Paul Jones, and I would spend a lot of time together. Incidentally, the meal at Underground was great. So great, in fact, that A.J. and I filled our plates a second time. After the meal we toured the shops of Underground Atlanta. Being an antique automobile fan, I greatly enjoyed looking at the trucks in the underground.

The next three days were spent touring iris gardens, four each day. Our first stop Thursday morning was at the home of the Joe Watson family, where we were met at the road and made welcome by Joe, who convinced everyone that the Watson's were genuinely glad to have us there. This proved to be only the first example of Southern Hospitality that we would see. Each garden owner seemed determined to do all he could do to make us enjoy our visit.

We saw many, many beautiful irises in Georgia. I will only mention a few that I especially liked. Two that I have been admiring in the catalogs are 'Alpine Castle' and 'Rosette Wine.' Both were beautiful in reality. Others I admired were 'Bengal Tiger,' 'Dirty Dancer,' 'Grand Ole Opry,' 'Acrobat,' 'Power Surge,' 'Triple Whammy,' and 'Violet Music,' which is a child of Clarence Mahan (Region 4). Other names and accompanying comments I jotted down with them were: 'Wozer' (Wow), 'Sultry Mood' (get it), 'Oba Oba' (nicest here - that garden), and two Ben Hager irises, (I don't think I ever saw a Ben Hager iris that I didn't like) a seedling T4840-3BI (get it) and 'Horatio' (wonderful). Over the years I have become a bit bored with red irises but I saw one in Georgia that excited me. I don't know how old it is or who hybridized it but the name is 'Wagon Trail Night.' It is one good looking iris.

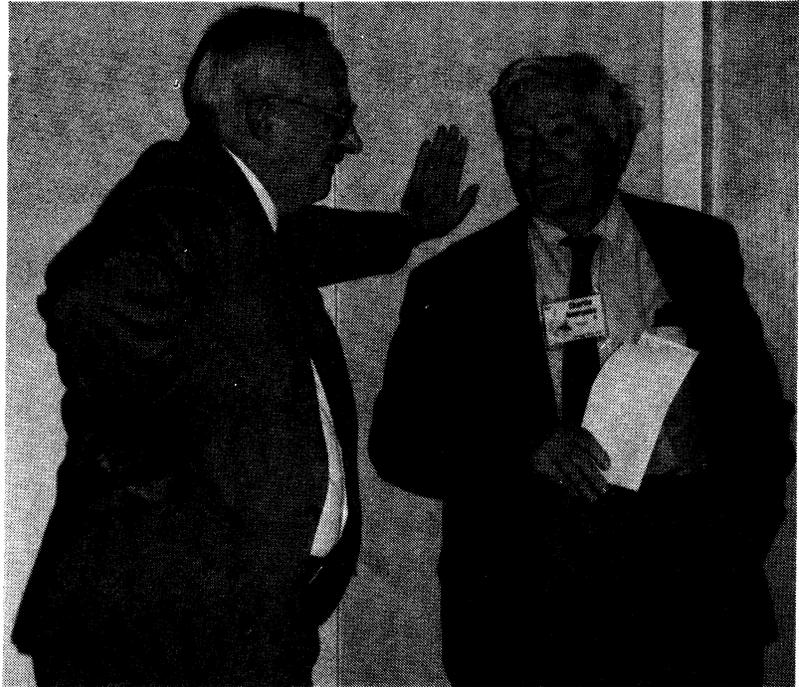
Then Friday, May 8th, I found myself enrolled in Dean Roy Epperson's Weekend Iris College in High Point, North Carolina. The bed was about like I remembered dormitory beds being, but the subject matter was much more exciting. The classes being Iris, Iris, and Iris and the food being good, good, and good. Some irises that impressed me in North Carolina were 'Harlem Hussy' (Meek), 'Silkwood' (M. Hamblen), 'Chest-nut Beauty' (Gibson), 'Loyalist' (Schreiner), and 'Inaugural Ball' (Ghio). Some of the best of the irises in North Carolina were by Region 4 hybridizers. I liked J.D. Stadler's 'Celestial Ball,' seedling J25/07, and 'Starblaze,' which he will probably introduce next year. All of us are aware of Lloyd Zubrigg's work and I found 'Trumpet Con-certo,' 'Jennifer Rebecca,' and seedling HH 17/4/1 very impressive. I like Crossman's irises and 'Louden Star' was nice here. Also Burger's 'Planned Treasure.' What a colorful creation it is. The Nearpass irises 'Purple Pepper' and 'Spinning Wheel' were already among my favorites and Clarence Mahan's 'Betty Frances' seems to do as well in North Carolina as it does in my garden in West Virginia.



*Dean Roy Epperson at work. - Mike Lowe photograph.*

I mentioned earlier that one of the nicest things about attending any gathering is making new friends. I felt a little like I imagine a child feels after watching cartoons on television and then going to Disney World and seeing Mickey Mouse come walking down the street. For two years I have been reading the *Bulletin* and the *Newscast* and now I met face to face some of the people that I had read about. A few of the people I met for the first time included our Vice President Carol Warner, Rich and Caryll Randall, Roy Epperson, Vic Layman, Anne and Mike Lowe, Owings Rebert, Phil Ogilvie, our new editor, and lots of nice people that I had not heard of.

It was a special treat to meet some of the people who hybridized iris that I grow at home including Clarence Mahan ('Betty Frances'), that I mentioned earlier; J.D. Stadler ('Pink Celebrity'); and Dave Niswonger ('Everything Plus'), 1991 Dykes Memorial Medal winner. Thanks to each one for making me feel welcome and sharing their iris knowledge with me. The one thing that I hoped to see in High Point, and was disappointed not to see, was some youth participation. Our iris society is like our churches, in order to stay alive, we need to constantly bring in new people. The best way to do so is to interest them while they are young. I was hoping to pick up some pointers on recruiting young people into my own chapter, but I am left with the question: Does Region 4 have a working Youth Program?



*Two of Region 4's hybridizers debating the finer points of what comprises the "idea iris"; left to right, Clarence Mahan and Dr. "Charlie" Nearpass.  
- Dan Schlanger photograph.*

In closing, let me say that I thoroughly enjoyed both the national and the regional conventions and if anyone reading this has never attended either, I would urge you to take advantage of the first opportunity to do so. You will certainly eat well, meet some of our finest people and enjoy the prettiest, most colorful flowers in the world. [Make the 1992 Fall Region 4 Convention your first! - the editor.]



## COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Ogilvie,

Perhaps this news item may be worth publishing in the August "Newscast" if you have room for it. My "poetry" isn't for everyone don't mind if it doesn't appeal to you.

Betty Worrell  
W.I.S.

### Members of W.I.S. in the News

- Sunday July 5th edition of the local [Williamsburg] "Daily Press," carried a picture of Isabelle Campbell, planting a Japanese Iris in her garden in Poquoson.
- Louise Smith has written a book *Growing Iris in Williamsburg, Virginia*. This is an interesting and informative book, a help to Iris lovers in our area.
- Williamsburg Iris Society is proud to have these two women in our membership.

### Feeding Our Ego's

growing Iris isn't enough  
for Irisarians  
We need to talk and reminisce  
of Iris we have grown  
and of those we've missed

We "ooh and ah" over colors  
of falls and standards Too.  
How many pinks we have  
and also - how many blues

We try to stretch the season  
By growing different sizes  
From the little dwarfs  
to The biggest giants

We gather in our meetings  
and in our conventions  
So we can keep on talking  
As tho Iris, were our inventions

Let's not forget to give the praise  
To where it's really due  
All the hybridizers  
And our good Lord Too

S.E.W. 7/5/92.

A little more whimsy for another edition!!! ?

## FIRST JAPANESE SHOW HELD IN NORTH CAROLINA

*by Walter Hoover, CMIS*

The Carolina Mountains Iris Society held North Carolina's first Japanese Iris Show at the Opportunity House in Hendersonville on June 18 and 19, 1992.

After a warm winter, a cold spring, and a heavy snowfall in May -- another historical first for the area -- we knew this was a charmed event. The show date approached and local Japanese iris growers became apprehensive -- one week before the June 11 and 12 show dates and no color was showing in even the earliest varieties. The decision was made to postpone the show by one week (as of the original show dates there were only two Japanese iris -- 'Wine Ruffles' and 'Wilderness Snowball' -- in bloom in one member's garden.

To make the necessary change of show dates, all of the arrangements had to be renegotiated, members notified, publicity corrected, and out-of-region exhibitors contacted. Judges had to be notified and this resulted in Shirley Paquet stepping in for Ginny Burton who could not juggle a prior commitment.

The new show dates approached and still most of the local growers were far from peak, which was still at least a week away. But the combined efforts of our members and additions from growers in Region 5, whose gardens are approximately 1,000 feet lower in elevation, resulted in a splendid first show. The show had a total of 71 entries. John Wood won both Horticulture Sweepstakes and Queen of Show, taking this second honor with his own 1991 introduction 'Damsel Knight.' Everetts Lineberger took the bronze medal.



*The CMIS show was staged against rice paper screens to provide unity and authenticity.*



*From left to right, Shirley Paquet (Region 5) together with Frances and B.J. Brown (Region 4) judged North Carolina's first Japanese Iris Show.*

After the reception given our 'display' last year and this successful first official show, there is even greater enthusiasm among members to grow more Japanese iris and to have an even bigger -- and later -- show next year.



### WHERE WAS SHE?

Every spring & fall the Region meets to enjoy seeing irises either in the garden or on the show bench. In addition, it is a time to make new friends and to renew old friendships. This year's Spring Regional Meeting in High Point, North Carolina, was a good example, with an exception -- an old friend was missing. For six years - my longevity - she had always been there, so, where was she? What could be so important as to keep an old staunch iris lover away? It was the love of the iris and the intent/desire to fulfill the purpose of AIS - Promote the Iris! She, along with some members from the Richmond area, set up an "Iris-Expo" at the Gunther Botanical Gardens. For six hours they "manned" the table, handing out AIS literature, showing catalogs, and talking to the public. At the end of the day, lists had been compiled of those wanting to form a new chapter and those wanting to buy irises. These efforts led directly to the formation of a new chapter Central Virginia Iris Society. [Watch in the December issue of *Newscast* for more information of the formation of this chapter.] Ruth Walker, for the commendable work you organized and performed, our hats go off to you.

Rich Randall

## A MIRACULOUS PICNIC

by Phil Ogilvie, C&P

I felt privileged to be invited to the FSK picnic at ANDREW & CAROL WARNER'S HOME, 'DRAYCOTT' on July 19th. The gardens were beautiful, the company was grand, the conversation was stimulating, the ice cream and cookies were super, and there were even rhizome gifts (courtesy of Dan & Carolyn Schlanger and J. Owings & Doris Rebert), but that is what is to be expected of FSK hospitality. The really startling event to me was the demonstration of a new garden commodity, Isolite. One of the AIS's most young-thinking members, Rosalie Figge, had discovered a new product that she thought had application to iris culture. She, of course, wishing to share it with her colleagues, arranged for the local distributor, Tim Davisson, to demonstrate this soil amendment at the FSK picnic. This started me on a trek to learn more about Isolite.

Isolite looks like tan rice grains, but is a porous ceramic, consisting of 74 per cent open-ended pore space. Diatomaceous earth (the microscopic, glass-like skeletons of a one celled algae) is combined with binders and extruded in the form of tiny uniform-sized pellets. These pellets are kiln fired at a temperature of 1800°F. The result is a stable, chemically inert one-time soil amendment that acts physically like organic material, but has the tremendous advantage of not needing to be renewed. I have on my desk (courtesy of Judd Sundine Horticulturist and R&D Manager of Innova, Isolite's US distributor), as I write, the laboratory results that demonstrate that it has a beneficial effect on microbial activity, soil moisture content, soil moisture/oxygen balance, soil permeability, nutrient retention, and healthy root growth. It also improves the soils ability to resist compression and to buffer temperature change.

One of the most appealing aspects of Isolite to me, is that I think I understand how it works (unlike the various gels). The water is held by capillary attraction in the micro-tubes until a root hair in close proximity draws out the water - neat and simple. Savings have been reported of as much as 50 per cent on water use. An article entitled "New soil additive conserves water, encourages bioactivity," appeared in the May 1992 issue of *Environment Today*. It reported that "In heavy clay areas, Isolite reportedly will increase drainage and oxygen penetration into the soil profile. In sandy soil, the substance restores water holding capabilities. Because Isolite is ceramic, it will not break down or interact with chemicals in the soil. Isolite works to change the soil Physically, not chemically . . ." The other physical changes are the result of its granular nature and the fact that it is chemically inert, no bonding with nutrients, no Ph shift. The United States Department of Labor has tested this material for worker safety and concluded "No Hazardous Components." We are all aware of the danger to ourselves and others of adding perlite or vermiculite as a soil amendment.

This was the miracle, something so seemingly designed for the problems of iris culture. As you all know my particular interest is species iris, here was a product that might benefit both those with high water requirements and those killed by excess, water at the wrong season. One cannot yet speak with any certainty on all the application, but I, for one, am going to start experimenting immediately.

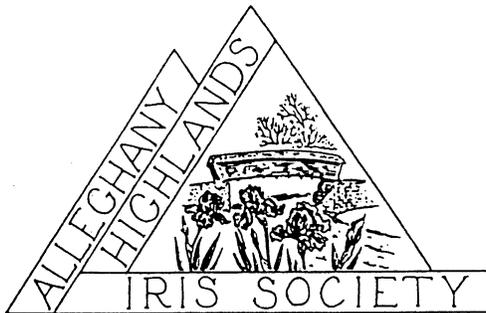
This weekend I'm driving to the Roberts' to pick-up two bags of Isolite to incorporate into a new bed for Louisianas. The low end of the bed will be in my pond, and I expect the isolite to act as a wick to draw water from the pond and keep the top of the bed equally wet. At the other end of the scale, I intend to try pockets of Isolite near Juno iris to draw the water off during our summer rains. I am more confident of success with some experiments than with others. Who knows maybe it will remove one of the factors producing rot?

If this sounds like a sales pitch, that's because it is! Carol Warner, Rosalie Figge, Ken Roberts, and the FSK treasury are making it possible for you to take Isolite home for a trial in your garden. So far the firm is serving primarily the wholesale commercial market of Bioremediation, golf courses, university athletic fields, and the like. It is available in some retail garden centers but at a price that makes it impracticable for serious gardeners, about \$3 per pound. Commercial it sells to industry for about \$1,800 per ton (\$0.90/#). Through bulk purchase, FSK will make it available to you for \$40 for a 44 pound bag (\$0.909/#), if purchased with your registration, or \$44, if purchased at the convention. I would like to see more chapters use their purchasing power to give their members such practical benefits of membership.



## NEWS OF THE ALLEGHANY HIGHLANDS IRIS SOCIETY

*by John Dameron*



The Alleghany Highlands Iris Society staged an Iris exhibition May 27th at the First Virginia Bank of the Highlands, Covington, Virginia. About 75 specimens were displayed provided by the Cross, Cottrell, and Humphrey gardens of Virginia and the Dameron and

Stone-Jones gardens of West Virginia.

One concern of ours has been to recruit new members. We prepared a paper on AIS membership and signed up one new member. This may not sound like much but for us it is a six per cent increase in membership and, if Suirrel turns out to be an active member, that will be welcome too. Join with us in welcoming M.W. Burnette to AIS.

We have a rhizome sale scheduled July 10th and will continue to recruit new members there. Wish us luck.

We now look forward to hosting Region 4 in October of 1994 and would like to hear from other chapters as to how they went about hosting regional conventions in the past.

**WE WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS  
TO THE REGION 4 AFFILIATES:**

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Covington, VA 24426-9620

Ms. Arliene Elswick  
HC - 62, Box 74-A  
Wayside, WV 24985

Mrs. Wilma Jarrell  
Star Rt. 2, Box 10  
Wileyville, WV 26186

**Blue Ridge Iris Society**

Ms. Barbara C. Bowler  
Rt. 3, Box 271 A  
Ferrum, VA 24088

Mr. & Mrs. Steve (Vicki) Morgan  
7924 Spotswood Dr.  
Boones Mill, VA 24065

Ms. Kereen Mullenbach  
2321 Crystal Spring Ave.  
Roanoke, VA 24014

Mr. & Mrs. Barry (Barbara) Payne  
109 Rolling Hills Circle  
Rocky Mount, VA 24151

O.P. Stancer  
1509 Oakwood St.  
Bedford, VA 24523

**Cabarrus County Chapter**

**Carolina Mountains Iris Society**

Dr. & Mrs. William Abruzzi  
Newfound Rd.  
Leicester, NC 28748

Mrs. Lelan W. Levi  
Rt. 1, Box 273  
Zirconia, NC 28790

Mr. Cecil C. Nix, Jr.  
P.O. Box 136  
Edneyville, NC 28727

**Charlotte Chapter**

## Chesapeake & Potomac Iris Society

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1203 Ruatan St.  
Silver Spring, MD 20903

Mr. Daniel Birdsall  
7105 Latour Ct.  
Alexandria, VA 22310

Mr. Donald Herzburg  
6954 Conservation Dr.  
Springfield, VA 22153

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph (Colleen) Lentini  
12632 Maryland Rt. 216  
Highland, MD 20777

P.A. Phillips  
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P.O. Box 501  
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Ms. Darlene Joyce  
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Ms. Suzanne Sherwood  
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Mrs. Luvenia Kelly  
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Newport, NC 28570

Ms. Theresa Chickering  
215 East Lakeridge Landing  
Jacksonville, NC 28546

Mr. Raymond Oakley, Jr.  
Rt. 6, Box 671  
Roxboro, NC 27573

### **Eastern Shore Iris Society**

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1 Gold Hawk Mews  
Salisbury, MD 21801

Ms. Rose Marie Spangler  
5132 Paw Paw Point  
Cambridge, MD 21613

### **Francis Scott Key Iris Society**

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Ellicott City, MD 21042

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### **Portsmouth, Chesapeake, Suffolk Iris Society**

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## Tidewater Chapter

Mr. Rodney Dickerson  
1320 Braddock Ave  
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## Williamsburg Iris Society

[Rich Randall is Membership Chairman for Region 4 and supervises an on-going membership contest. The first prize is \$100.00 worth of irises, so you may find it worth your while to stimulate recruitment in your area. We also have some obligation, if we find benefit in our own membership, to share the experience with our gardening friends. - The Editor]



### FROM THE EDITOR

The only comments That I received on the 8½" X 11" format were favorable, so I will try it again with the incorporation of one suggestion drilled stock so that you can easily keep back issues in a three-holed-notebook binder. Since this issue contains the reports from the Spring meeting and the announcements about the Fall meeting, there was no shortage of material. In fact, I had to hold some for the December issue. What a blessing to have a backlog. Please when you do submit material, and I hope at some point you all will, in addition to your name put your Chapter's name on the manuscript. I don't have a roster for Region 4, so sometimes I have to guess by geography, not always a safe indicator. Either some Chapters are not publishing newsletter, or communicating with their members in any other way, or they have not put me on their mailing lists. Chapter written communications can sometimes be excerpted directly for news or articles and sometime signal me of an event that needs to be written-up. Do, please, put my name on your mailing lists! Thank you! I hope that I will have the opportunity at the Fall Meeting, October 2nd and 3rd, to discuss iris and *Newscast* with you. The beautiful original art work on the cover was done by Karen Stoneburner of the Blueridge Iris Society. I am hoping that with this cover we can start a new tradition, when I tried to buy the art work for the fall auction, Karen insisted on donating it, in turn I will have it matted and framed, and at the final banquet you will have an opportunity to buy it for your home or office. The rest is up to you, if this item goes well, we will try to prevail on future artists to make their work available for future auctions. We will know by the enthusiasm of your bidding. Your attention to deadlines was much better with this issue, but the absence of a few critical pieces held up publication by more than a week. If I am to get the December issue into the mail before the worst of the Christmas mail rush, I must have your contribution **in hand**, not in the mail, no later than November 15th. Of course that deadline should not be an excuse for not turning in your article, chapter news, etc. much sooner.

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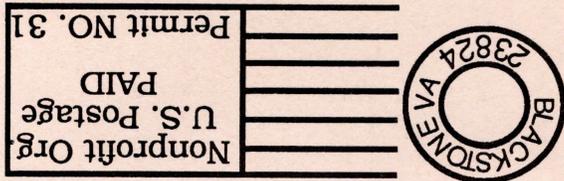
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Conference  
October 2 & 3  
Beltsville, MD**

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