

Newscast A.I.S.

REGION FOUR

Volume 38, Number 2

Fall 1996



SHOOTING SPARKS - Black '89

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Newscast

Region 4 of the American Iris Society

VOL. 38, NO. 2

Fall 1996

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Communications regarding **American Iris Society membership, dues and change of address** should be addressed to **Marilyn Harlow**.

Region 4 is comprised of the states of **Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina**, and the **District of Columbia**.

NEWSCAST is free to AIS members in Region 4. Subscription rate for those not in Region 4 is \$3.00 per year. Checks made out to Region 4, American Iris Society should be sent to the treasurer.

Permission is granted to reprint any material appearing in NEWSCAST provided that proper credit is given.

All copy due in Editor's office by **Feb. 1** for the Spring issue and **July 1** for the Fall issue.



Our Purpose

The Purposes of the American Iris Society, and Region 4, shall be to develop the science of horticulture and any activities related to the study, propagation and culture of the genus *Iris*; to stimulate and foster interest in horticultural pursuits, conservation and protection of these plants; to cooperate with other organizations, public and private, in the scientific and horticultural education of all those interested in learning any phase of the genus *Iris*, by any and all means which may be determined from time to time by the Board of Directors. These shall include but are not limited to:

- (a) encouragement and support of scientific research, including those pertaining to the solution of diseases related to but not necessarily exclusive to the genus *Iris*, and investigation and conservation of the genus in the wild;
- (b) collection, compilation and publication of data concerning the history, classification, breeding and culture of Irises; and
- (c) education of the public through exhibitions, public display gardens, published standards for judging and local, area, regional and national meetings open to the public.

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Photo Credits:

Roger Glassoff - Pg 50-51

Dan Schlanger - Pg 33 bottom, & 55

Dennis Stoneburner - All others including front cover.



RVP'S MESSAGE

August finds most of us settling into the summer routine of iris care - fertilizing, dividing/resetting, ordering from our iris want lists and, in our spare time, attacking the ever-present weeds.

Region 4 has done an excellent job of showing the iris to the gardening public this year. I am both proud and pleased with the number, quality and diversity of the iris shows staged across the region. The artistic divisions have been excellent and there have been some outstanding seedlings from our hybridizers.

During the business meeting in Leesburg, the question of Region 4 finances was discussed at length. Budget committee Chairman, Jack Loving, presented a carefully considered report (see Page 9 & 44). Please read it with an open mind. In order to remain solvent and to have sufficient monies to fund worthy iris projects, we must have the financial support of all 13 of our affiliates in addition to the income generated by the regional auctions. We must not forget that we are the second largest region in AIS -- maintaining this position requires continuous infusions of money, time and effort.

I am greatly concerned about a large potential decrease in membership within the region. I recently received the July membership printout from Marilyn Harlow. 106 members had not renewed! Most of these are single annual memberships -- looks as if they tried us once and didn't like us. Among the 106 non-renewals are 3 youth members and 2 Society presidents. These societies will lose their affiliation for the rest of 1996 unless the involved officials renew promptly. Remember that **you get an extra 6 months of membership** when you renew in July as your renewal date will be advanced to December 1997 or beyond. However, be aware that you will not receive the July Bulletin unless you request it when you renew. The names of those who do not renew will be purged from the AIS membership list on **1 September**, at which time we could very well find ourselves in 5th place or below in the

membership ranking. I hope all of you will reconsider and again take up your AIS membership -- we don't want to lose a single one of you .

It's Symposium time again! Your July Bulletin contains the Symposium ballot which gives you an opportunity to vote for those irises that grow well in your garden or which you think are worthy of recognition. Last year only 12% of the AIS members in Region 4 voted this ballot -- a poor showing for a region with nearly 700 members! Do vote and urge your friends to cast their votes, but please be careful to vote for no more than 25 irises -- less is OK but more makes your ballot invalid and I cannot count any of it. All ballots must be returned to me before **September 1**.

The PCSIS members have many plans for the Fall Regional. This meeting will give us an opportunity to meet and hear Terry Aitken, hybridizer, AIS Bulletin Editor, and all-round nice guy -- and don't forget the Fall Show. I look forward to seeing you (and your iris stalks) in Portsmouth in October.



Regional Vice President Report

This report will be somewhat long as I have attended two AIS Board Meetings since we met in October. I am reporting briefly on those issues of concern and interest to you.

The Fall Meeting in Oklahoma City brought forth some interesting business—more about that later.

The Sacramento Convention was good but not exceptional. 7 of our 13 chapters were represented. The weather was great and the iris were beautiful. It was interesting to see the many “California irises” that we either cannot grow or that do poorly for us, growing in their native habitat. Now I can understand why they were introduced. There were too many gardens on tour and too little time allotted to see the iris considering the long bus rides it took to get to them. The meeting facilities were excellent and the scheduling had no major conflicts. It is impossible to schedule without overlap and the overlaps were chosen with care and thought. The boutique was well done. From the Board Meeting:

1. Financial: Our cash balance is slowly increasing; most of the designated funds are still empty. Of special concern is the large Life Membership Fund which will be the first to be replaced when

financial status allows. An upcoming audit at a cost of \$5000 was considered money well spent.

2. Membership: no significant drop following dues increase last fall. New members will receive all 4 Bulletins for the year in which they join. The issue of 'membership back dating' was not addressed. Region 4 continues in second place with 678 members, hard pushed by Region 18 (629) and Region 6 (607). We could slip to third in a heartbeat!

3. Bulletin: Editor Terry Aitken (assisted by his son, Scott, for graphics and layout) has brought AIS into the age of computers. Terry promises something for everyone in the Bulletins to come. Previews indicate that members will be pleased. Terry is looking for articles and information on basis iris culture—support him!

4. Judges Training: No reportable progress on revision of the Judges Handbook. Clarification was requested on new testing policy: ANYONE who wishes credit for a JT session MUST take the test. It was suggested that 20 question tests were unrealistic for one hour sessions, and a sliding scale number of questions was recommended. Glenn will poll RVP/JT and report at the Fall Board Mtg. in Colorado. The three separate 1 1/2 hour sessions at National were well attended, response was positive overall and the practice will continue. The only criticism was the overlap (unavoidable) with some section meetings.

5. Iris in Cyberspace: The Board voted to put up an AIS Web Page on the Internet, despite Internet Chairman Harlow's recommendation that this not be done as she did not consider it a cost effective recruitment tool. Although much good iris information is already up independent of AIS, the Board felt AIS needed to make its presence known and allotted \$500 for the project. Scott Aitken has been designated as the AIS Webmaster. Closer to home, Bill Smoot will be putting up the Region 4 Web Page when he returns from New Orleans in June.

6. World Iris Society: Several foreign visitors spoke to this and the concept was advanced, although still only in the talking stages. Use of computer communication will be explored to facilitate exchange of information. This project is dear to the heart of President Niswonger.

7. RVP Term Limit Proposal: This was the biggie. This proposal was spearheaded by the RVPs in York (spring 1995); the initial proposal was presented to the Board in Fall 1995 and appeared in the January Bulletin. A committee headed by Marky Smith

consisting of 2 RVPs (Marky and me) and 3 Board Members (Stahly, Aitken, J. Plank) was appointed to present a formal proposal to the Board in Sacramento. This was done. The Board was attentive and overall receptive. There were some sticking points as expected; an informal straw poll indicated areas where further study is needed. Essentially, we are requesting: a restructuring of the AIS Director Election process with more clout given to the Nominating (Personnel) Committee; a one position one vote policy intended to eliminate the present practice of allowing one Board Member to hold two positions, each of which carries a vote, even though the person only exercises one of the votes; this spreads the voting positions among more people; a limit to the length of a Director's term and a time lapse between serving in voting positions. Extensive bylaw revisions will be needed before any of this can be implemented. The same committee with the addition of lawyer Bob Plank will handle this and the necessary changes will be presented to the Board in the Fall for consideration and discussion. Points approved and the corresponding bylaws changes will then be published in the Bulletin for general membership vote hopefully in April 1997 but these are big changes and care must be taken that the cure isn't worse than the disease. Stay tuned.

8. Board of Counselors (RVP) Meeting: well attended. Discussion focused on Youth Membership: how to recruit and attract and retain. Region 4 has 10 youth members with a youth member as Regional Committee Chairman. A letter from Brian and Matthew Pearson, young members from Suffolk, was read at the Board Meeting as part of the Youth Chairman Morris's report. The boys suggested an Email Youth Robin which will be implemented via Sharon McAllister, the AIS E-mail Robin Coordinator. (This may have helped in the AIS Web Page decision). George Sutton, RVP Region 14, is putting together a handbook of suggestions for attracting and retaining youth members. Please send any material you might have to me and I will forward it to him. George is the new RVP representative to the Board and will replace Marky Smith at the conclusion of the Fall Board Meeting. All Regions are asked to send a copy of their Regional bulletin to both the AIS Historian (Larry Harder) and to the AIS Library in care of Evelyn Jones in Portland, OR. Several questions about the new JT policies have already been addressed under JT. Concern was expressed on part of several regions about the increasing cost of Regional meetings; the feeling was that they were more like mini-conventions both in price

and activity level. Many regions have only a one day affair in spring and fall with JT and speakers rather than garden tours. Also of concern was lateness of breaking up, making it necessary for many to spend an extra night in the hotel.

9. Affiliates: There are 166 affiliates; all 13 Region 4 chapters are now affiliated, not without a lot of nudging to meet the deadline. I couldn't have done it without the help of Rich Randall and his individual club membership lists. *A nice plaudit for the Region came from Shirley Pope: the *Handbook So You Want To Start A Chapter*..... which was compiled and distributed within Region 4 in 1994, has been picked up by AIS and is now available to RVPs and affiliates for the asking. While there was a great regional response to the questionnaire for information used in the compiling of this handbook, there was little feedback on the finished product which was given/sent to all regional officers, committee chairmen and society presidents. You are all asked to pass this handbook along to your successor when you vacate a regional position. If you are a new Society President and didn't inherit a copy, prod your predecessor for it. It may well give you some insight and ideas. Copies can be obtained by writing Shirley Pope, AIS Affiliates Chairman, address given in the Bulletin.

10. Incorporation: nothing mentioned at National or in any section meetings I attended. I have purchased the recommended book and will report on this at the fall meeting in Portsmouth.

11. Region 4 is well represented within AIS: Clarence Mahan is First V-P and Conventions Liaison Chairman Mike Lowe is Policy chairman, Insurance Chairman, and a nominee for the AIS Board of Directors Rosalie Figge is the new president of the Reblooming Iris Society I am Chairman of the Board of Counselors, and a member of the Time Limits and Library Committees I will be attending the AIS Fall Board Meeting in Colorado Springs on November 1-3, 1996.



Region 4 National Winners!!!!

Carol Warner - Morgan-Wood Medal - SHAKERS PRAYER
Katherine Steele - Williamson-White Medal - PETITE MONET
Clarence Mahan - HM - ROBIN GOODFELLOW (MTB)
Jane McKnew - HM - ROSALIE FIGGE (TB)

Treasurer's Report - Region IV - AIS

For Period October 1, 1995 to July 15, 1996

October 1, 1995 Balance \$7,304.07

Receipts

Interest on account (9 months) \$148.10

Donations:

FSK Iris Society \$400.00

Fredericksburg Iris Society \$500.00

Alleghany Highlands Iris Society \$150.00

In Memorium

Fredericksburg Iris Society

Sadie Edwards \$50.00

Virginia Epperson \$50.00

Fall Auction \$1,143.00

Spring Auction \$2,312.00

Non-Region 4 Subscriptions \$21.00

Total Receipts \$4,774.10

Complete Totals \$12,078.17

Expenditures

Membership Committee - R. Randall \$180.54

Postage and Printing - JT - Dr. Epperson \$32.00

Automated Mailing Service - Newscast Mailing \$187.18

Dennis Stoneburner - Newscast to New Members \$78.19

J. Owings Rebert - Treasurer Expense \$36.92

AIS Memorial Funds

Scholarship: Retta Harp \$100.00

Scholarship: Charles Hare \$100.00

Scholarship: Maynard Harp \$100.00

Library: Virginia Epperson \$100.00

Anne Lowe - Fall Board Meeting \$300.00

Spring Board Meeting \$500.00

Renney Martin - 94 Membership Contest \$100.00

Betty Molchany - 95 Membership Contest \$50.00

Eleanor Fischer - 95 Membership Contest \$50.00

Dunn-Rite Printing, Spring Newscast \$1,307.73

Total Expenses \$3,222.56

July 15, 1996 Balance \$8,855.61

Respectfully submitted,



J. Owings Rebert, Treasurer
Region IV, AIS

1996 Budget Proposal

By Jack Loving - Budget Chairman

Expenditures	Dollars
Printing 2 issues of Newscast	\$3,000
Mailing Newscast	\$500
Additional mailing - New members	\$60
RVP Travel Expenses	\$600
Membership Committee - Rich Randall	\$500
Treasurer Expense	\$40
Show Awards Engraving	\$50
Memorials	\$300
Misc. Expense	\$50
Totals	<u>\$5,100</u>

Receipts

Chapter Donations - Needed	\$3,000
Region 4 Auctions	\$2,000
Checking Account Interest	\$200
Subscriptions - Newscast	<u>\$25</u>
Totals	<u>\$5,225</u>

Chapter donations are very unpredictable, in 1994 they were \$1,200 and 1995 \$2,100. There is a need for at least \$3,000 to be donated by the various Chapters in order for Region 4 to maintain reasonable funds in the bank. If the Chapter donations are under \$2,000 in approximately three years, Region 4's treasury will be broke.

Here are a few numbers to look over:

1994 - Receipts	\$3,419	1995 - Receipts	\$4,529
Expenditures	\$7,946	Expenditures	\$4,383



National Award Winners

Dykes Medal - BEFORE THE STORM - Innerst
Wister Medal - THORNBIRD - Byers
Cook-Douglas Medal - PUMPIN' IRON (SDB) - Black
Sass Medal - LEMON POP (IB) - Lauer
Knowlton Medal - LENORA PEARL (BB) - Nichols
Caparne-Welch - CINNAMON APPLES (MDB) - Black
Debaillon Medal - PROFESSOR JIM (LA) - Mertzweiller

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Best Western Motor Inn, Leesburg, Virginia
May 18, 1996

The Spring Board Meeting was called to order by RVP Anne Lowe at 10:00 A.M. Roy Epperson moved, Phil Ogilvie seconded, to adopt the agenda as printed. Motion passed. Ogilvie moved, Epperson seconded, to accept the minutes of the October 7, 1995 Board Meeting as published in **Newscast**, Vol. 38, Number 1, Spring 1996. Motion passed.

RVP - Anne Lowe

RVP Lowe reported on the Fall AIS Meeting in Oklahoma City and the Sacramento Convention and Board Meeting. (See page 4)

Asst. RVP - Phil Ogilvie

Ogilvie moved, Ken Roberts seconded, to accept the invitation from Alleghany Highlands for the 1997 Fall Regional Meeting. Motion carried.

There are no new Convention sites to report. During the Leesburg meeting, the Charlotte invitation for fall of 1998 was renewed. Dr. Epperson and I are working on a joint meeting with Region 5 for the Spring of 2000.

1997	Spring	ENC
	Fall	AH, Lewisburg
1998	Spring	FSK, Towson
	Fall	CIS
1999	Spring	Open
	Fall	Open
2000	Spring	Open

In the interest of setting dates for spring regionals, the following dates for National are tentatively offered:

1997	Detroit	June 3-9
1998	Denver	June 2-6
1999	Oklahoma City	May 4-8
2000	Dallas	April 16-20

If any chapter wishes to issue an invitation for any of the open dates or to supply any of the missing information, please contact me.

Immediate Past RVP - Roy Epperson

A letter from President Donald Altieri of Anson Community College was read thanking Dr. Lloyd Zurbrigg and Mrs. Sandra Bryan for the gift of iris and daylillies valued at \$1000.

Secretary - Susan Grigg

Thanks were offered to Sara Marley for recording minutes in Susan's absence.

Treasurer - J. Owings Rebert

\$150. has been received from Alleghany Highlands. The last bill for **Newscast** for about \$1300. has not yet been received. The proceeds from the Friday night auction totaled about \$1,100. The Treasurer has received two \$50 checks as memorials from the Fredericksburg Society. Discussion on the possible creation of a Regional Memorials Fund was deferred until after the report of the Budget Committee. See page 9

Historian - Margaret Stone

I am sorry to report we are not getting the response from our Chapters that we have received in the past. Therefore, we cannot report anything near the tremendous participation that we previously enjoyed.

I want to give a special thank you to the Central Virginia Iris Society for their outstanding report that was received last week to go into the Iris file.

Other active societies that we will want to recognize and to thank are: Francis Scott Key Iris Society; Virginia Peninsula Iris Society, Fredericksburg area Iris Society; Chesapeake & Potomac Iris Society; and the Alleghany Highland Iris Society. Please remember that newspaper clippings, as well as any other items of interest, will be greatly appreciated for our historical files. Please note the change in my address to 229 Crowfield Circle, Lewisburg, West Virginia 24901.

Parliamentarian - Rosalie Figge

The Parliamentarian has attended the scheduled Region 4 meetings. She has recently been elected Corresponding Secretary for the Maryland Association of Parliamentarians.

Newscast Editor - Dennis Stoneburner

The last issue was a joy to edit, with the deadline met, and good articles received. More assignments are on the way so get ready, your turn is coming! Any ideas are also appreciated. You can call, write or e-mail me anytime. (e-mail address is: drstone@roanoke.infi.net.)

I would like to edit a special issue of Newscast devoted to Iris Culture - Region 4. It will be a regional project, not just extra work for me. Give it some thought.

I will be continuing to use Dunn-Rite Printers for the printing of Newscast. Other plans did not work out. They have been notified, and Charlie Dunn informs me that paper cost have topped out and should hold for a while. We printed 710 copies of the Spring issue, with 682 mailed. Thanks again for everyones cooperation.

Auctions - Clarence Mahan - No report

Beardless and Species - Carol Warner

It is an honor for me to serve as beardless and species chairman again; I'm really hooked on these plants because of their ease of cultivation and great landscape qualities.

The Sacramento convention provided an excellent opportunity to see some beardless and species irises in bloom. Many gardens had PCN's (Pacific Coast Natives). These flowers are magnificent but plant habits seem to leave a little to be desired. From the bus, we saw some of the wild natives growing on many slopes beside the road. What a treat to see irises just growing wild.

The Louisiana irises were in full bloom, especially in the Dunn and Ghio gardens. The colors and newer ruffled full forms were fantastic. Mary Dunn has some gorgeous new introductions. Blooming Spuria irises also could be found in several gardens. A beautiful display in front of a weathered wood fence in the Maryott garden attracted a lot of attention. I planted ten new Spuria irises in my garden last year in an attempt to see how they will perform in our climate.

There was little or no opportunity to see Siberians in California but hopefully they will be in good form in the regional gardens.

Two section conventions in June will offer a chance to see Siberian and species in Massachusetts and Japanese in St. Louis. Unfortunately the dates for these section conventions overlapped making it impossible to attend both. Terry Aitken is the section

coordinator and will make sure that conventions don't conflict in the future. Both the Society for Siberian Irises and the Society for Japanese Irises are looking for hosts for conventions beginning in the year 2001. Is your society interested?

A new updated and corrected Japanese iris checklist is now available from John Coble. The new book on Siberians by Dr. Currier McEwen is completed and will be available from that Society or from Timber Press. The new *Spuria* checklist is also complete and available. It is a good idea for our local societies to have a copy of the checklists available for reference at shows.

C&P and FSK will hold their beardless show at Behnke's Nursery in Beltsville on Saturday, June 22nd. Hopefully there are some other beardless shows planned within the region.

It is my hope that each of you will try growing at least one new type of iris this year. It may surprise you how well some of the beardless will perform. Good luck!

Judges Training - Roy Epperson

No change in the Judges List as reported in Newscast. Active judges training going on in Tidewater, PCSIS, Charlotte area, and at the Leesburg meeting. A letter will be sent to all judges with the address sticker for Melody Wilhoit, who will count the AIS ballots this year, since Evelyn Jones is seriously ill.

Median Irises - Dick Sparling

Boy, did you miss a great display of Median iris in Portland, Oregon. The Standards were just about at peak and the Intermediates were just starting to come in. Even a few Dwarf were still blooming and the MTBs and BBs had started to arrive. Even down in Sacramento, one of the gardens, Annand's Forest Ranch Garden, was outstanding with many beautiful SDBs and Arils. These are hardly ever seen at a National Convention.

Aitken's Salmon Creek Garden was a sight to behold. I shot almost a whole roll of film there and my must have list grew quite extensively. To name a few CHANTED, BLACK CHERRY DELIGHT, BEING BUSY, DAWNING MOON, HOTTENTOT, SKIDDLE, WITH CASTANETS, JAMES BOND, WACKO, POCO TACO, JADE MAID. Here were exceptional IBs TAX TIME, LADY IN RED, FIRST ROMANCE AND TIE DYED TYKE.

Bennett and Evelyn Jones' garden was an astonishment. They have been putting out outstanding SDBs and IBs for many years. I expected to see an acre of iris. However, lo and behold, they turn out all their iris in four gardens about 4 feet wide and maybe 75 feet long. They rotate their beds which lie fallow for a period of time. Outside of their introductions which are exquisite -CLEAR CREEK, GINGERBREAD MAN, MORNING'S BLUSH, SNOW SEASON, IRISH MOSS AND ADVANCE DESIGN- we spotted some outstanding seedlings which you should keep an eye out for. B.Jones 476-7. Marky Smith 93-11k and 93-06b. The Jones are growing some of Marky's iris. What a set up they have - cooperation-share pollen-helpful hints and hybridizers visit one another's gardens. Unlike the rest of the Median world. Kinda of hard to get people to visit no less get judges to come around.

Keppel's, Ludi's Plotner's and Schreiner's Gardens were equally as nice. Exceptional IBs were PROTOCOL, FORTHINGSLOSH and POOKANILLY. Dwarfs that were exciting were FAIRY FUN, SPOT IT, PENNIES and JOLLY JOEY. In these gardens these SDBs looked good. FRESH START, PEACH PETAL PIE, PLUM RIPPLES, GARDEN WHISPERS, MAPLE FROST, TUFF 'E NUFF, SEEING ORCHID, CASPER'S SHADOW AND SEE SAW as well as others named above. See catalogs for descriptions.

We are still looking for Median Display gardens in North Carolina. We could use more Dwarf Display gardens in Maryland and West Virginia. Drop me a line if your interested.

Membership - Rich Randall

Both the AIS and Regional Membership Contest are under way. Send new AIS enrollments and up-grading memberships to your chapter membership chairman - not to Marilyn Harlow.

Be aware - Marilyn Harlow, the AIS Membership Chairman, only sends out ONE renewal notice. Don't put it aside to pay tomorrow. Tomorrow it may be lost.

To those that are up for renewal in June 1996, your renewal premium is actually paying for 1 ½ years. You will be getting 6 months free membership!!

Photography - Dennis Stoneburner

An active Spring for borrowing slides. There were 9 request, with 8 sets sent. (I misplaced one request.)

I still need Siberian, Louisiana, Spuria and any species you can get

your hands on. Several boxes of slides were sent from Dr. Nearpass. I will be sorting them, and sending some of the older ones to the HIPS chairman. My thanks to Dr. Nearpass. If anyone else has slides just sitting around, please send them to me.

Publicity, Public Relations - Ken Roberts

ITEM 1. At our 1995 Fall Board meeting I reported that there had been no responses to our logo contest. I am pleased to have four suggestions for our consideration at this meeting. Unfortunately only two members provided these four logos. They both took a great deal of time and effort to produce the art work, one by hand and the other by computer. I thank them both. There is a common denominator in all four logos in the graphic use of the outline of the states in Region 4.

ITEM 2. Those attending the National meetings in York last year and Sacramento this year saw the display board promoting the American Iris Society. It is here this weekend. Previously there was only one for the entire country. I am pleased to announce that this one will be permanently allocated to the East Coast and that it will be at home here in Region 4. Joan and I have agreed to be keepers of the "Screen" as it has been called. If you need it for any local event please reserve it as soon as you have your date chosen. You will need to be prepared to pay UPS shipping to you COD and return it to us prepaid. The cost will be less than shipping it back to it's former home in Colorado. We can even save shipping when it is for a regional meeting most of the time, we'll just bring it along when we come.

ITEM 3. Most people do not know the difference between advertising which is paid for and public relations which may have a cost to prepare and distribute, but is not paid for as such. I have an example of free publicity in the form of public relations to share today. You are all familiar with the ads in the back of the AIS Bulletin. When an article is published as newsworthy or informative it may be written by an unknown third party as these articles were or it may be generated from a press release produced by your publicity chair person. Public relations is a very large business of which the public does not have the same awareness as they do of the advertising industry.

When you have meetings, shows, garden tours, sales or auctions which are open to the public get someone to write it up and send it to the gardening editor of your local newspapers. That

is another way for more people to be aware of irises and the Iris Society. This, in turn, may bring in new members to help with your activities and share the enjoyment of the world's most colorful flower, the iris.

Reblooming Irises - Joan Roberts - See page 62

Robins - Libby Cross - See page 21

Webmaster - Bill Smoot - See page 43
The Region 4 webpage will be going up in June.

Youth - Tammy Lee

Hello AIS members, I am Tammy Lee, the Region Four Youth Chairman. I am currently a sophomore at Greenbrier East High School and was unable to attend this meeting. Since last fall I have been awaiting the bloom of several irises for the Schreiner's Test Panel. This has been an overwhelming experience. I have also written several letters reminding our new and old members of their dues and the increase of their payment, I have received no responses from these people.

On a brighter note, the other irises I have received from places such as Reno Nevada, Walters Oklahoma, and New Mexico are blooming into beautiful rays of sunshine! Thank You again for giving me the opportunity to be the Region Four Youth Chairman. I have really enjoyed myself and I love meeting all the other iris lovers. I hope to see you next time.

Reports from Region 4 Affiliates

Alleghany Highlands Iris Society - Margaret Stone - Page 61

Blue Ridge Iris Society - Kay Cooper - Page 59

Carolina Mountains Iris Society - Betsy Higgins - No Report

Central Virginia Iris Society - Anner Whitehead - Page 52

Charlotte Iris Society - Carrie Winter - Page 53

Chesapeake & Potomac Iris Society - Renny Martin - No Report
Eastern North Carolina Iris Society - Bert Pearson III - No Report
Eastern Shore Iris Society - Robert Withey - No Report
Francis Scott Key Iris Society - Mary Brown - Page 54
Fredericksburg Area Iris Society - Leslie Nelson - Page 60
Portsmouth, Chesapeake, Suffolk Iris Society - Bill Smoot, Page 58
Tidewater Iris Society - JaNiece Mull - Page 57
Virginia Peninsula Iris Society - Grace Hall - Page 59

Old Business

Roy Epperson moved that the judges training proposal be removed from the table; Ogilvie seconded. Motion carried. The proposal was adopted as presented. See page 23

Insurance Report - Mike Lowe

Insurance coverage minimums requested during the 1996 show season indicated that the aggregate liability limit should be increased from the present one million to three million dollars. The increased limit has been requested by a number of show venues in the Northeastern United States. A request for a price quote for the increase was placed with the Rodman Insurance Agency on 14 March 1996. A reply has not been received to date; hopefully I will have this information for the Spring Board meeting.

The Insurance Committee has a new member:

Michelle C. Snyder
7855 Ellenbogen St.
Sunland CA 91040

Tel: home 818-352-7018 Home fax-call first 818-352-7018

Tel: work-213-525-3794 Work fax-213-937-0301

Michelle works in the insurance industry and is a very welcome addition to the committee. Having a committee member available who knows what to do is immensely comforting.

Publication of insurance information in the January 1996 Bulletin has reduced the volume of information requests to the

Insurance Committee by better than 90%. The account executive who deals with our policy was changed after the deadline for the April Bulletin. The information was emailed to the new Bulletin Layout and Graphics editor, Scott Aitken, and will appear in the July Bulletin. You may request Certificates of Insurance or the addition of other entities as an additional insured from:

*Ruth Anne Pattangall
Rodman Insurance Agency
75 Wells Avenue
Newton Centre, MA 02159*

Tel: 617-527-3000 ext. 824

Fax: 617-965-2947

The following information should be furnished: type of event, date of the event, location, name and address of the entity requiring the Certificate and whether this entity needs to be shown as an additional insured.

Logo Contest - Ken Roberts

After much discussion concerning the four logos that were submitted two designs were favored. Motion was passed to have a committee composed of Ken Roberts, Carol Warner, and Charlotte Kabler take the ideas and concerns expressed by the Board and present a logo at the banquet meeting.

Revision of Contest Rules - Rich Randall

Since this proposal affects the budget, discussion will be postponed until after the budget committee report.

Report of the Nominating Committee - Carol Warner

Present officers were asked and agreed to be nominated to serve a second term: RVP, Anne Lowe; Assistant RVP, Phil Ogilvie; Secretary, Susan Grigg; Treasurer, J. Owings Rebert.

Roy Epperson moved that RVP Lowe be reimbursed \$500. For expenses for attending the AIS Board Meeting in Sacramento. Motion carried.

Budget Committee - Jack Loving

Jack reported that our receipts have decreased since 1994 while costs of Newscast have risen, as well as other expenditures. The Committee (Jack, Carol Warner, and Susan Grigg) suggests that each Society be encouraged to donate to the Region \$5.00 per member and that the editor be asked to prepare only two issues of

Newscast this year. Carol Warner will send letters to each Society to explain the budget situation and to request suggestions to alleviate the shortfall. She will also write a brief article for Newscast outlining the budget problems. Ogilvie moved, Epperson seconded, a motion to accept the recommendation of the Budget Committee. Motion passed. The request for assistance from PCSIS in funding the Fall Regional speaker was withdrawn by Dennis Pearson in light of the previous budget information.

Memorials

Motion was made and seconded to give \$100. in memory of former RVP Maynard Harp to the Scholarship Fund and \$100. in memory of Virginia Epperson to the AIS Library Fund. Motion carried.

Revision of Membership Contest rules will be carried over until the Fall Meeting.

RVP Lowe expressed thanks to C & P for their gracious hospitality. Dennis Pearson offered the invitation from PCSIS for the 1996 Fall Regional Meeting, October 11 and 12 in Portsmouth. Guest speaker will be Terry Aitken. The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 PM.



Clarence Mahan presents Dr. D.C. Nearpass the American Iris Society's Hybridizers Medal

Minutes - Region 4 Spring General Meeting

Best Western Motor Inn May 18, 1996
Leesburg, Virginia

The Spring Meeting of Region 4 was called to order by RVP Anne Lowe at 8:20 P. M. Carol Warner, Nominating Committee chairman, reported the following nominees:

RVP - Anne Lowe
Assistant RVP - Phil Ogilvie
Secretary - Susan Grigg
Treasurer - J. Owings Rebert

The officers were elected by acclamation.

The RVP recognized several former RVP's present and thanked them for their years of service to AIS and to Region 4: Roy Epperson, who has been awarded the honor of being High Point, NC Senior Citizen of the Year; Lloyd Zurbrigg; Carol Warner; and Larry Westfall from Pennsylvania, judge of the Flower Show.

Roy Epperson presented the Alice Bouldin Award to Dr. Charlie Nearpass for his seedling #91-102.

The Nearpass Award was presented by Bill Poesch to Dr. Lloyd Zurbrigg for I Do.

The B. Y. Morrison Award was presented to Cleo Palmer's Pride and Glory by Clarence Mahan.

The AIS Hybridizer's Medal accepted in Sacramento by Clarence Mahan was presented the AIS to Dr. D. C. Nearpass by Clarence. Dick Sparling presented a National Membership award to the C&P Society. Mack Shawe accepted the award for C&P.

Rich Randall presented Region 4 membership awards to JaNiece Mull, Dennis Pearson, Tricia Stag, Helen Walsh, Anne Lowe, Dick Sparling, Ruth Denit, Sara Marley, Mack Shawe, Elizabeth Mochany, Eleanor Fischer, and Dennis Stoneburner.

The invitation to the Fall Meeting of Region 4 was extended by Dennis Pearson of PCSIS. The meeting will be held in Portsmouth, Virginia on October 11 and 12.

Ken Roberts of the Logo Committee presented the final design, an iris superimposed on the geographic outline of Region 4.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 P. M.

Regional Robins

By Libby Cross



Our Species and Beardless Robin,

“THE WILD ONES” and the Median Robin, “THE SHORT ONES” are the only two robins left in the region. WILD ONES is traveling well, but SHORT ONES is down to four members, which makes for an erratic flight pattern.

The West Virginia Robin (designed to help the widely-scattered members of the Alleghany Highlands chapter keep abreast of chapter news) was an abysmal failure. Only one pair of the chapter members, who are distant from the chapter base in the Alleghany Highlands asked to join. The robin disappeared during its first flight, and I deemed it best to transfer the few interested members to a National General Interest Robin.

I’m sorry I am unable to attend the convention this year, but am sending some of the Robin Request Cards to RVP Anne Lowe for anyone interested in joining any robins. If your interest is in a Regional Robin, rather than national, just write “Regional” on the card. Otherwise your name will go into a national robin for whatever division you choose.

It was decided to forego any Regional e-mail robins. With so many Iris Robins on the Internet now, regional ones would be redundant. For those who want e-mail robins, write Sharon McAllister, at 2979 Sundance Circle; Las Cruces, NM, 88001. Or she can be reached at her e-mail address: 73372.1745@compuserve.com.

Please address all other inquiries about Robins to me, Libby Cross, at 8907 Potts Creek Rd., Covington, Va.24426, or call (540) 747-2123.



Good food, wonderful people, plenty of memories..... Regional Meetings

Symposium Stars

Below are the top 25 stars of the last 35 TB Symposia. The listed rank is the sum of 100 divided by the position for each year an iris has been in the symposium since 1961. This scheme probably overrates being #1, but the list may be of some interest. (Thanks to Gerry Snyder for the information from the Iris e-mail.)

Cultivar	Points	Cultivar	Points
Stepping Out	3044	Pink Taffeta	400
Beverly Sills	1145	Dusky Challenger	397
Shipshape	643	Vanity	393
Rippling Waters	630	Blue Sapphire	390
Kilt Lilt	614	Mary Frances	365
Winter Olympics	590	Victoria Falls	334
Debby Rairdon	533	Whole Cloth	289
Mystique	525	Dusky Dancer	289
Amethyst Flame	508	Cup Race	277
Babbling Brook	483	Camelot Rose	270
New Moon	464	Going My Way	267
Bride's Halo	440	Titan's Glory	259
		Allegiance	242

The 1996 Symposium ballot was sent in July tucked neatly in the AIS Bulletin. Please take a moment to fill it out and mail it to our RVP, Anne Lowe. (Address on front inside cover). Let your voice be heard!!!



Dick Sparling presents the National AIS Membership Award to Mac Shawe, Chesapeake & Potomac Iris Society.

REGION 4, AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

JUDGES' TRAINING PROGRAM

The minimum ten (10) hours of training will consist of:

Six (6) hours of structured classroom training: Section B

Three (3) hours on The Bearded Irises

Three (3) hours on The Beardless Irises

Two (2) hours of structured garden training: Section B

One (1) hour on The Bearded Irises

One (1) hour on The Beardless Irises

Two (2) hours on Judging at an Iris Show: Section C

2. Structured classroom training will be accomplished in the Chapters, not at the Spring or Fall meetings of the membership. A minimum of eight (8) hours should be scheduled within easy driving distance of each member of the Region at least once each three (3) year period.

3. Garden training will be held at each Spring meeting of the membership.

4. Special Topic judges' training will be held at the Fall meetings of the membership.

5. A two (2) hour training session on Awards and Balloting will be held each third year at the Spring meeting of the membership (1994, 1997, 2000, 2003, etc.) to fulfill the requirement for Apprentices.

6. A specially appointed Judges' Training Committee will prepare the Teacher's Guide for the ten (10) hours of required training. This will provide a uniform outline and guide for training of student judges.

7. The Region 4 JT Chairman will coordinate the training sessions.

8. The RVP must approve each training session and the instructor in advance.

The Rally in the Valley - Spring Meeting

By Gloria Fairhead, C&P

The idea for The Rally in the Valley was born at the “Iris College” held at the High Point University in 1991. Five iris seasons have passed into history since then. Untold sprayings, weedings, guest iris countings and irisarian greetings have contributed to the special event. If Sara Marley is the “heart” of the Valley, surely Clarence Mahan is the “mind”. Between them, they were able to mobilize a committee, complete plans, implement arrangements, and, not the least surprising, both were still in robust health as the May 17 and 18, 1996 event took place.

The featured gardens, profiled elsewhere, were the Marley’s Rainbow Iris Garden, The Oatlands plantation, Bob Raver’s farm/garden, and Dick and Joanne Murphy’s hideaway in the Frederick County hills. Historian Phil Ogilvie again provided running commentary on the agricultural, horticultural and biological history and traditions of the region.

The long 1995-96 winter, which apparently ended some places in May, 1996, presented problems for iris growers in general, and in particular for those who strongly prefer tall bearded iris. The absence of a true spring season caused a significant overlap in the bloom times, resulting in SDB’s, MDB’s (a few), MTB’s, BB’s and IB’s stealing much of the thunder from the tall bearded. Never mind. Irisarians are flexible, buses usually don’t collide head on, and a chance to eat and socialize and look at beautiful gardens is always welcomed. A full iris show, sale, meetings for business and learning, raffles, endless door prizes, and many other treats rounded out the weekend.



THE RAVER GARDEN

By Lloyd Zurbrigg, ENC

Over the river and through the woods, and more rivers and more woods, before we arrived at the Raver Garden. Here we all suffered in the manner of Tantalus, for there were thousands of stalks of iris, and almost none of them in flower! What a display there must be this coming weekend!

Fortunately there were a couple of beds of Medians, mostly

IB's, that were full of bloom. FROSTY ELEGANCE (Palmer) and AVANELLE (Sparling) were attractive white selfs. ASK ALMA was a great pink putting on a super show. It may have lacked a bit in substance. HIGGELDY-PIGGELDY, is a white with a broken blue halo, that emanates personality. TRIPLET was excellent here, as it was in other gardens.

AZ AP was a model for an excellent clump of iris! CALIFORNIA STYLE from Bennett Jones was my favorite, a combination of pink and yellow that is striking. SUNNY DAWN from Evelyn Jones was nearby and just as good; much more yellow in the color. OBLIGATO by Stahly garnered a lot of approval and MASTER SLEUTH was a subtler contender with a "shady look". Still another that caught my eye was MORNING SHOW.

If the tall bearded HAD been open, the task of writing up this garden would have been daunting. A bed of tall by the house was open, and gave promise of the riches to come. But for most of us, the beds of IB's, (growing well beyond the allotted height), were the focus of attention, and they were stunning!



Bob Raver explains his gardening "techniques" to Lois Rose.

RAINBOW IRIS GARDEN

By E. Roy Epperson, ENC

Just over five years ago, Sara and Walter Marley relocated from western New York to Stoneleigh Knoll Farm near Purcellville, Virginia. There they have established Rainbow Iris Garden with over 900 iris cultivars. This garden is a Display Garden for The Reblooming Iris Society, The Historic Iris Preservation Society and the Median Iris Society.

It is this last designation that made our visit to this garden on May 17 such a delight. The tall bearded iris were in full bud and just waiting to explode into a rainbow. The delight came in the opportunity to observe median iris in full bloom. It was noted that in spite of the excessive rainfall (1/2 inch that afternoon) that this garden had received, there was no evidence of leaf spot nor of rot. A well cultured and well-groomed garden, indeed.

My favorite SDB was HOTTENTOT (Marky Smith '95), a deep blue-black. Other SDB's of note were: Niswonger's apricot and ivory blend CREAM AND PEACHES ('94); Aitken's LUMALITE ('95), a yellow-green amoena with an intense orange beard; MORNING'S BLUSH (E. Jones '94) a lemon yellow with a rosy blush; and Niswonger's BALLETT LESSON ('93), a peachy pink. Dick Sparling's MDB seedling, RCS-MDB-2, has yellow falls, lighter standards, and a blue beard. Quite nice.

Over the past few seasons, an intermediate bearded (IB) cultivar has opened and closed my bloom season here in High Point, NC. For several years it has been Gaddie's GOLDEN GUSTO, but this year it was Gatty's TACT. There were many IB's in bloom in the tour gardens and especially here. There were SUNSHINE BOY (F. Foster '86) that is aptly named and has been voted the AM as has HAGAR'S HELMET (H. Nichols '77) and RED ZINGER (P. Black '85) which is, indeed, red. Aitken's DARK WATERS ('92) is a well-branched, ruffled dark violet; Sterling Innerst's BUNNICULA ('91), a yellow amoena with very good form. BUTTER PECAN, HUBBUB (a color-break of Ensminger), MAUI MOONLIGHT, and AZ AP were some of the older cultivars that were performing well. Palmer's '94 ETERNAL FIRE is a deep red with good form.

APRICOT DROPS (Aitken '95) is a very attractive MTB. It is a smooth apricot-orange with a darker spot on the fall. The only TB that I noted was JOAN'S PLEASURE (Zurbrigg '93). This is one

of those exotic, very-pleasing blends that is difficult to describe. *I. tectorum alba* was in full bud with promise of beauty to come. Waiting in the wings were many Siberian and Louisiana cultivars. This is a very impressive garden with its curving well-kept beds against the background of the 1805 log structure and the North Country Cheviot sheep in the fields beyond.

If you do not now grow any of the medians, especially the intermediate bearded cultivars, then you should take the opportunity to visit a Median Display Garden such as Rainbow Iris Garden to see them in their glory and be prepared to add to your own plantings!



MURPHY GARDEN

By Frances Thrash, TIS

As we drove across the countryside of fields and rolling hills thoughts of the last visit to the Murphy Garden at the AIS National Convention held in Washington, D.C. came to mind. The long winding drive across a deepset creek lined with Bradford pears, peonies, iris, poppies, and other perennials had been a favorite of the visit there.

Approaching the house we were greeted by Mr. Murphy in his overalls and farmer's hat. He welcomed each one as they exited the bus. Looking over the garden, I was happy to find that the garden configuration was basically the same but with additions. The beautiful peonies and poppies were still there but with lots of new iris inter planted. I was immediately drawn to a peony named Sanctum, white back petals with a gold center. Oh my, truly gorgeous - a must have! After getting over the peony show, I moved on to the iris.

Favorites that I noted seem to be predominated by Palmer and Keppel; Pride and Glory (IB - Palmer 92), Westem Sage (IB - Palmer), Fuchsia Delight (IB -Palmer 94), Shenanigan (Keppel 85), Peccadillo (Keppel 83), Faux Pas (Keppel 90), but one by Byers also grabbed my attention - Birdbath, a horned pale blue introduced in '89. As with most of the gardens, the intermediates and other medians seem to predominate but some tall bearded irises were to be seen. The garden was immaculately clean, the weather was beautiful, and the hospitality overflowing.

LEESBURG SPRING CONVENTION 1996

By Barbara Lozaw, VPIS

First let me say that Leesburg is an area which was much involved in the French and Indian Wars. The Battle of Balls Bluff, the War of 1812, the Revolutionary War and the Civil War. Homes there fed, nursed and quartered troops from both the North and South. Plus it was a safe haven for important documents such as the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution. Originally named Georgetown. This locality is deserving of a visit by any history buff.

On Friday our big new touring bus took us on the "Greenway" which is the toll express between Washington D.C. and Dulles Airport. It is traveled daily by approximately 10,000 cars, taking anywhere from one to three hours depending on; congestion and pileups. It passes by Arthur Godfrey's 2000 acre farm and a smaller municipal airport named in his honor.

We exited to the Marley's Rainbow Iris Garden in Purcellville, Va. Walter was our host in his bib overalls. "We're just plain folks." He and Sara live in a lovely 1805 log cabin. They manage the Stoneleigh Knoll Farm which raises North Country Cheviot sheep, Tennessee Walking Horses and a hay cash crop. They currently have over 900 varieties of iris and 150 guest iris on display. We enjoyed refreshments there including cute little red mice made from radishes. It was a very overcast day and we were hoping the bottom would not fall out. Just the same, the driver got stuck in the driveway and we had to unload while he inadvertently dug a new dislocated flower bed trying to get out.

It was 3:00 p.m. when we departed for Oatlands Plantation. Passing near the Blue Ridge Mountains there were big hills, stone houses galore and everything was beautiful and green. Orville Wrights mother was born in nearby Hillsville. We were told about so many interesting events from the past by our host.

The mansion at the 5000 acre Oatlands Plantation had 20 rooms. It and the outbuildings were built by George Carter, a bachelor, with the help of 120 skilled slaves he owned and managed. President Roosevelt and Mrs. Roosevelt were frequent visitors and the iris "Eleanor Roosevelt" a rebloomer is extensively grown there. The grounds include a reflecting pool, a boxwood bowling alley, tea house, rose garden. cutting garden. antique statuary, a herb garden

and a memorial garden dedicated to Anne Eustis, a former owner. There were 75 guest iris from 14 hybridizers being grown especially for this 1996 Spring Regional Garden Tour. We were also given a tour of the 1803 Greek Revival Mansion, where much of the furniture was made by the slaves who lived there. After the war they remained there as paid workers. Many items in the home showed their life style including some clothes used for the fox hunt.

Upon returning to the motel we freshened up for a social hour and welcome dinner. Our keynote speaker was Tony Huber from Quebec, Canada. His topic was "Iris Versicolor", related species and natural hybrids with slides. Following all this was a pre-auction. Too many items to try to auction them all on the second night. These sales are always lively and entertaining. The money raised isn't bad either!!!!

Saturday morning I entered three iris in the show, and attended the business meeting. Anne Lowe our new Regional Vice President did a grand job conducting the meeting. She is a smart lady, in control and she punctuated business with much wit and humor. There was a lot for two hours including written reports from eight officers, 12 standing committee chairmen, 13 Region 4 Affiliates, 7 items of old business, 4 new business items and an invitation from Portsmouth, Chesapeake and Suffolk Iris Society for the 1996 Fall Regional Meeting. The meeting was then adjourned, to a quick lunch before boarding the buses for our second tour. But before I could go I had to check to see if my iris had won any ribbons. My Dusky Challenger won a second and my I pseudacorus Ivory won as honorable mention. Tobacco Land was too far gone the third day after cutting. Not too bad considering the show had 273 entries from 25 exhibitors. There were six design classes with the full limit of 24 entries. The Best in Show was a tall beard "Her Royal Highness."

First stop on Saturdays garden tour was Dick and Joann Murphy's Glen Cairn Farm in Tuscarora, MD. Talk about a field full of iris blooms. One bed beside the driveway was 500 feet long. I'd hate to weed that baby. Their garden included 150 guests and refreshments were served on the lawn.

Last but not least was Bob Raver's garden which lies below Sugarloaf Mountain in Dickerson, MD. I think their iris love it there because they grow so well for him. There was a steady wind blowing but no iris down. They all looked so healthy and big clumps. Close to 1000 different varieties plus 135 guests. I hated to

leave but all good things must come to as end.

Back at the motel I gathered my iris and retreated to my room, to shower and ready for the closing banquet. Social hour at 6:30 then dinner. Raffle drawings were held for a beautiful counted cross stitch framed iris, done by Sara Marley, two porcelain bisque table iris and a limited edition iris plate. Tony Huber gave another talk on iris and awards were given out. Clarence Mahan continued the second half of the auction and this brought to close our “Rally in the Valley.”

For those of you who have never attended a regional meeting; if you would go once, you would not want to miss another one. (Reprinted from Rhizome Review, June 96.)



A SYMPHONY OF IRISES

The Chesapeake & Potomac Iris Society Show Region IV Spring Meeting
at Leesburg, Va.

By Carolyn T. Schlanger, FSK

Picture 25 exhibitors scurrying about making sure their irises were properly groomed, optimally displayed, correctly named and labeled, then placed on the long white tables of a show hall. I'd liken it to the sounds and preparations of a symphony orchestra tuning up in a concert hall. Could all the noise and confusion produce anything resembling music? Oh, but it could, and what beautiful visual music it was!

The show that our resident rascal billed as “The Mother or All Iris Shows” was not only a large show, 273 exhibits but an eye-catching presentation of the endless variety of iris form and color. The show featured Horticultural and Artistic Designs on musical themes. Everyone who attended regretted not having more time to study the beauty and creativity on display.

The Queen's Table included the following irises:

Queen in Show	Her Royal Highness(TB)	Roberts
Best Seedling	573-1	Roberts
Section Winners:		
SDB	Little Bluets	Spoon
Aril/Arilbred	Charming Image	Spoon
BB	Whoop Em Up	Spoon
Historic	Mme. Henri Cayeux	Mahan

Species	I. Graminea	Figge
IB	AzAp	Spoon
MTB	Abridged Version	Mahan
MDB	Hey There	Sparling
Siberian	Sprinkles	Lowe
Louisiana	Sunny Episode	Zurbrigg

Silver Medal Don & Ginny Spoon
Bronze Medal Clarence Mahan

The Design Division winners were as follows:

The Artistic Sweepstakes winner was Iris Iorio for her entry in the Gershwin: "I Got Rhythm 'Variations'" class.

Clara Herbert, with an arrangement in the Bach: "Concerto for Two Violins" class, was the Best Design winner. Other blue ribbon winners were:

- Dale DeFeo.....Handel: "Royal Fireworks"
- Glenda Mumford.....Debussy: "La Mer"
- Iris Iorio.....Ravel: "Bolero"
- Clara Herbert.....Mozart: "Jupiter Symphony"

Congratulations to all and a round of applause to the members of C & P who conceived and executed this lovely show.



Carol Warner, Anne & Mike Lowe prepare for the "Mother of all Iris Shows."



Roy Epperson notes bloom placement as he conducts Judges Training.



Clarence hopes his name is picked for the door prize but it wasn't to be...



Sara Marley presents Susan Grigg the framed Iris Cross-stitch door prize.



Dick Huge, Anne Lowe, Sara Marley, & Mike Lowe closely inspect a stalk at the FSK Spring Flower Show.

Oatlands Plantation

By Dennis Stoneburner

A short drive from our motel, Oatlands Plantation is a step back into the extraordinary history of this part of Virginia. The beginning of Oatlands can be traced back to George “King” Carter, who worked for Lord Fairfax disposing large land parcels all throughout Virginia. This benefited King George, who was on the throne of England at that time. When King Carter died in 1732, he owned more than one third of the Virginia of the time.

In 1795, King Carter’s grandson, Robert Carter III brought his family together to dispose of his earthly possessions. Inheritances were settled by lots, and George, his fifteenth child and fourth son, drew five thousand acres of land in Fairfax and Loudoun counties. Shortly thereafter George began building Oatlands. The original building was a red-brick Georgian design that James Monroe said was neither fine nor new for that time. Since the Greek Revival had come and his house was “old-fashioned” looking, he remodeled the mansion with Greek Revival, inside and out. The Plantation endured the War of 1812 and the Civil War, and was sold in 1897 for \$10,000 to Stilson Hutchins, one of the founders of the *Washington Post*.

In 1903 Oatlands was again sold to William Corcoran Eustis without even seeing the interior of the mansion. His wife Edith, renovated some of the 4.5 acre gardens, and added many others, some of which are intact today.

Seventeen years ago renovations to the gardens began under the direction of Alberto Siani, noted horticulturist. As we departed off the bus it was evident the original flavor was preserved. Many of the people followed the main path to be greeted by the tour guide. I on the other hand, took the road less traveled to discover on my own what treasures were to be found. Standing quietly on the pathway, you could hear the many birds overhead singing and flying to and fro, finding food for the many hungry mouths in their nest. A huge Blue Atlas Cedar stood majestically with limbs pointing towards the sky. Many noisy bees could be heard in a damaged limb of an Osage Orange. At its base, rows of Virginia Blue Bells in full bloom. The smell of Honeysuckle filled the air, and the sight of irises filled the eyes. Oh my, where to begin. About that time I

REGION 4, AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

Fall Meeting Registration Form

Name: (1) _____ Chapter _____
(As preferred on name tag)

Name: (2) _____ Chapter _____
(As preferred on name tag)

Address: _____ Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone: () _____ - _____

REGISTRATION:

Registration is \$55.00 per person. This includes two dinners and breakfast. We are sorry, but due to the special package rate we got on meals, we are unable to offer partial registration.

Registration: _____ @ \$55.00 per Person.....Total: _____
number of persons

Send your registration form and check payable to PCSIS and mail to: Dennis Pearson (757) 238-3145

HOTEL:

Holiday Inn, Suffolk, 2864 Pruden Blvd, Suffolk, VA (757) 934-2311 Fax: (757) 539-5846
Rate: \$48.00 per person + tax The hotel is holding a block of rooms for us until September 25th.

JUDGES TRAINING SESSIONS:

Please indicate how many in your group will attend the following Judges Training Sessions.

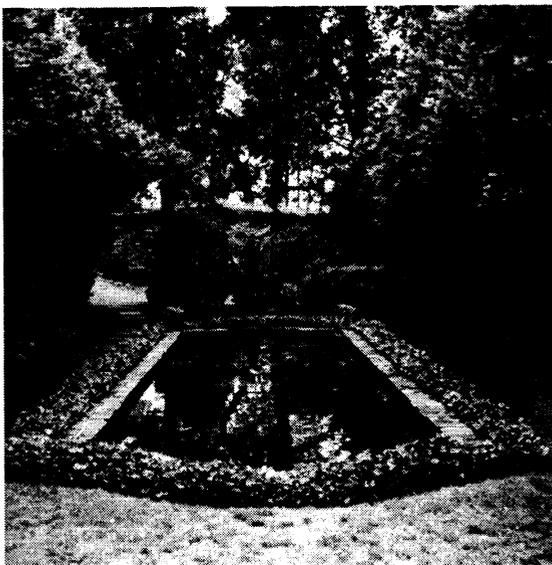
- | | | |
|--|------------------------|----------------------|
| _____ Awards & Balloting | (Fri. 3:00pm - 5:00pm) | - Dr E. Roy Epperson |
| _____ Judging Seedlings | (Sat. 1:30pm - 3:30pm) | - Terry Aitken |
| _____ Judging English Boxes
& Collections | (Sat. 4:00pm - 5:00pm) | - Anne Lowe |

AUCTION INFORMATION:

This year we will be having a silent auction in addition to our regular auction. Auctions will be held on both nights. If you plan to bring irises or other plants, offer irises or other plants to be shipped later, or donate any artwork, crafts or books for the auction please list those items on the back. Please include pictures or slides of the item(s) you are donating with this form. They will be returned to you.

noticed a small chipmunk sitting on the edge of a line of boxwoods. I was intrigued and decided to follow. It seemed that I had my own personal guide.

The first place my little friend went was to a long row of boxwoods that made an archway down a path and to the lower garden. A small pond could be found with a line of ivy surrounding it. Further on my guide took me to a large open area with mini gardens of small boxwoods as the border, and different irises in bloom within. He scurried back and



forth between the small gardens giving me time to stop and make notes. Many of the irises in bloom were Lloyd's introductions including; BABY BLESSED (79), perky yellow self; MONASTARY GARDEN (77), light violet-yellow blend; CHERRY SUPREME (77), stunning red-violet self; I DO (74), Nearpass winner; and BETHANY CLAIRE (85), beautiful blue named after one of his daughters. Other irises in bloom were PETITE MONET, Katherine Steele's superb miniature tall bearded that has creamy white flowers with blue-violet markings; Clarence Mahan's SUKY, his '91 introduction with its white standards and violet falls and a white zone in the falls. One other clump caught my eye as the chipmunk moved on, it was SPINNING WHEEL, Nearpass '76. This plicata stands out with its white ground standards covered with blue-violet markings, and white falls, bordered with medium blue-violet plicata markings, what a beauty!

My guide had a better concept of time than I, as he led me back towards the bus. On the way back I noticed many other clumps of historic, and other bearded iris ready to pop open any day. There were also plenty of hostas, peonies ready to show themselves, and bright blue pansies, their cute faces smiling at any visitor willing to look. I stood at the Blue Cedar watching my guide run through the Bishop's Weed and not to be seen again.



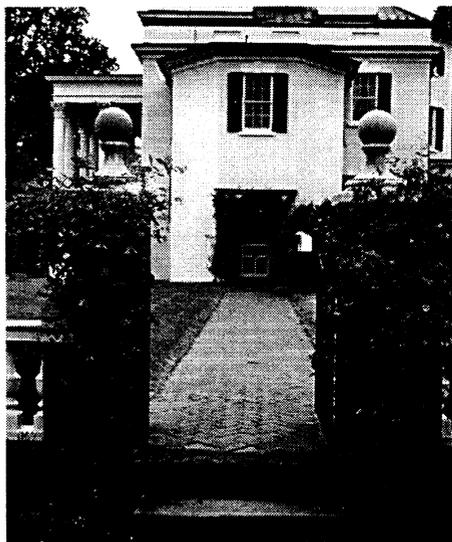
I stood, looking at history. Wondering how many family members and important visitors with names of the likes of James Monroe, Franklin & Eleanor Roosevelt, and General George Marshall have walked these same garden paths. Slowly walking, and being refreshed by the peaceful surroundings of Oatlands.



Warm weather brings out the bloom!



Boxwood borders, hostas and historic irises grace this lovely garden.



Honeysuckle covered gateways welcome you to Oatlands.

AIS, Region 4, Fall Meeting

October 11 & 12, 1996

The Portsmouth, Chesapeake, & Suffolk Iris Society is honored to host this 1996 Fall Regional Meeting. It's a *first* for us and we've been listening to what you've been saying at other meetings. Some ideas have been borrowed - others are *firsts*! Every attempt has been made to keep costs down and for you to get the most bang for your bucks! We've got an excellent speaker, great hotel rates/accommodations, and good food. Now to tempt you with some of our *firsts* . . .

1. **JUDGES TRAINING.**- We've greatly expanded the educational segment of the fall regional meeting. Other than at a national convention, there is no other place where you can get five hours of Judges Training credit at one time. Here is an excellent opportunity for you to "jump ahead" or "catch up" on your Judges Training.

The following classes will be offered:

Awards & Balloting (2hrs),

Judging English Boxes & Collections (1 hr)

Evaluating & Judging Seedlings (2hrs).

2. **CYBER IRIS - "Iris on the Internet"**.- . If you want to know what all this cyber computer stuff is all about then here's your opportunity to experience it first hand! This is a look into the future! Several computers will be available for you to go on-line. Individuals will be available to answer your questions about computers and getting on-line. You'll go on-line and see the AIS Home Page, Region 4 Home Page, and other World Wide Web Pages. You'll be exchanging electronic mail, subscribing to list servers, and going on-line in no time! CYBER IRIS will be available throughout the weekend and is a *first* for Region 4 and the AIS. This training alone is worth the registration cost!

3. **GUEST SPEAKER - Terry Aitken.**- No, Terry is not new to most of us, but he is a *first* as a Region 4 Guest Speaker! Terry is known to many people by different names. To median iris enthusiasts he's known as "Mr. Median", due to the numerous awards he's won for his median introductions. To some of us he was known as "Mr. Ringmaster" due to the excellent job he did in putting together the largest AIS Convention ever held. Currently, he's known as "Mr. Editor", since becoming the new editor of the AIS *Bulletin*. Terry is also well known as a knowledgeable irisarian, excellent speaker, hybridizer, writer, and general-all-around great guy. He's a speaker you won't want to miss! The Friday night program will be "**BEARDED IRISES - From Small to Tall**". Terry will do a comparative analysis of the six types of bearded irises. Here's your opportunity to learn about bearded irises from an expert who has won numerous awards hybridizing all six types of bearded irises. Terry will also be giving a two hour Judges' Training class on "**Evaluating &**

Judging Seedlings". Be on the lookout for pictures of future award winners from the Northwest.

4. **AUCTIONS.**- No typo here, auctions will be held both nights! In addition there will also be a *Silent Auction* both nights. One item for our Silent Auction will be a wooden garden love seat with a wrought iron iris pattern inlay. And did I mention the Tiffany style stained glass iris lamp? Don't let Rosalie outbid you on these!

5. **MEALS.**- Another *first* will be country Breakfast on Saturday morning. Dinner both nights will also served buffet style. Please let us know your special diet restrictions.

6. **CLOTHING.**- Clothing is optional! Just throw that in to see if you were still with me. Since all meals are buffet style and the weekend is filled with lots of things for you to do, we decided to keep an informal atmosphere for the entire weekend. What better way to do this than to relax dress code. Dress for all meeting is casual. Fashion Police will arrest you non-conformists! Bring your bathing suit as the hotel has a pool. Use that extra room in your suitcase to take back auction items rather than packing suits and dresses!

7. **FALL REBLOOMING SHOW.**- Again, we're optimistic and are going to attempt something new - a design division in the fall show. Now here's something for all flower arrangers. The four classes are: 1) *Trick or Treat* - a creative design with a Halloween theme, 2) *Harvest of Memories* - a traditional design reflecting autumn colors and the fall harvest, 3) *China Nights* - a traditional design in the Oriental Manner, and, 4) *September Replay* - a creative design incorporating a fall sport. Have you noticed that the names of all the classes are also of reblooming irises! The number of entries per class is not restricted, but an exhibitor may only make one entry per class. We hope that you will support the show and design division.

Well, there you have it! Quite a package by any standards, AND there are still a couple of other surprises. We've made every attempt to put together a meeting that is both educational and enjoyable. Below is some additional information about the meeting. Looking forward to seeing you in *Surprising Suffolk*.

HOTEL: Holiday Inn - Suffolk, 2864 Pruden Blvd., Suffolk, VA (757) 934-2311 FAX 539-5846. Room Rates are \$48.00 per day + tax. Make your reservations directly with the hotel. Mention you are attending the Convention.

REGISTRATION:

Registration cost is \$55.00 per person. We are sorry, but in order to get this package rate on the food there can be no partial registrations.

DIRECTIONS:

From the West (Roanoke) Take Route 460 all the way to Suffolk. Follow signs to I-64 (Suffolk by-pass) Exit on Pruden Blvd. Make a left and the hotel is immediately to your Right after the overpass

From the South (Raleigh) Come up to Virginia on I-85, Exit on Route 58 and follow Route 58 signs. It will merge with Route 460. Follow the signs Route 58/460 by-pass. Exit on Pruden Blvd. Make a left and the hotel is immediately to your Right after the overpass.

From the North (Washington) Take I-95 to Richmond then I-64 to Newport News. Take the I-664 Exit thru the Monitor Merrimac Tunnel. Follow the Routes 460/58/13 signs toward Suffolk. Bear left after you pass the airport and follow the Route 58/460 signs to Petersburg. Do NOT take the Suffolk exit! This will take you thru the city. (It is approximately 8 miles to Purden Blvd.) Take the Pruden Blvd. exit and the hotel is immediately on your right.

757-934-2311
FAX 757-539-5846
2864 Pruden Blvd.
Suffolk, VA 23434



DEADLINES: Hotel - September 25, 1996
Registration - October 1, 1996

Schedule of Activities

AIS, Region 4 Fall Meeting

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11

- 1:00PM - Registration
Silent Auction Opens
- 1:00PM - 3:00PM **“CYBER IRIS - Irises on the Internet”**
A small on-your-own informal introduction to computers showing you how to get online and use the internet. You can preview various web pages, including webpages from AIS, the Region 4 homepage, and several other web pages. You’ll learn about Iris-L - the listserv dedicated to iris topics; Electronic Robins and how to send and receive electronic messages. *CYBER IRIS* will also be available throughout the weekend!
- 3:00PM - 5:00PM Judges Training: Dr. E. Roy Epperson
Program: “Awards & Balloting”
- 6:00PM - 6:30PM Social Gathering - Dress Casual
- 6:30PM - 9:00PM Dinner Buffet
Guest Speaker: Terry Aitken
Program: “Bearded Irises - From Small to Tall”
- 9:00PM - Silent Auction Closes - Regular Auction Begins

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12

- 7:30AM - 9:00AM Entries accepted for Fall Reblooming Show
- 9:00AM - 12:00AM Country Breakfast Buffet
Region 4 Meeting
- 11:00AM - 4:30PM Show Open for Public Viewing
- 12:00AM - 1:30PM Lunch (On Your Own)
- 1:30PM - 3:30PM Judges Training: Terry Aitkin
Program: “Evaluating & Judging Seedlings”
- 4:00PM - 5:00PM Judges Training: Anne Lowe
Program: “Judging English Boxes & Collections”
- 6:00PM - 6:30PM Social Hour
Silent Auction Opens
- 6:30PM - Closing Banquet - Dress Casual
Region 4 General Meeting
- 9:00PM - Silent Auction Closes - Regular Auction Begins

Introducing our Guest Speaker Mr. Terry Aitken, Vancouver Washington

Terry Aitken grew up in Canada and attended the University of Minnesota where he earned a BA in Architecture. He is a Registered Architect in Oregon and Washington, working on residential and small commercial projects from his home studio.

Terry's interests include; photography - huge slide file (400-500 per year); gardening - instinctive Green Thumb; plant breeding as artistic expression (Irises, Orchids, Daylilies, Hostas); Iris hybridizing since the late 70's with first introduction in the early 80's. Some of his introductions include: (SDB) **Cherry Flirt, Jungle Warrior, Pele, Be Happy**; (IB) **Pacer, Hot Spice, Raintance Kid**; (TB) **Gyro, Mystic Lace**; (JI) **Electric Rays, Butterflies in Flight**; (SIB) **High Di, Wall Street Blues**; (PCI) **Lunar Eclipse, Gamay**. His introduction to irises came in the early 70's while landscaping a new home, and attending Iris Shows in Minnesota. He also enjoyed viewing the Schreiner's catalog.

He has been influenced by several important people including Frank Lloyd Wright, Gus Schreiner, Bennett Jones, George Shoop, Ben Hager, and Currier McEwen.

He is currently Editor of the American Iris Society Bulletin, board member of AIS, and with his wife Barbara, owner of Aitken's Salmon Creek Garden. He is a Past RVP of Region 13, and has written many articles for regional and national publications.



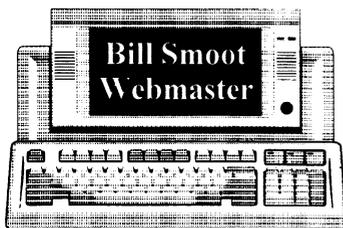
Your Most LN-Favorite Iris

Okay, we've all talked about and voted for our favorite iris. This is your chance to tell about those iris that won't grow in your yard. You know....that new \$40.00 introduction you planted a few years back but curls up regardless of where you plant it. You know the one...it sits there with great foliage but refuses to bloom!

SO, get it off your chest or out of the garden as the case may be and let me know about the ones you've tried to grow, but for some reason refuse to perform for you. Jot down the names of these "Bad Boys" and send a copy to the editor by February 1, 1997. Please include your area and reason for failure.

(Partial reprint from Region 20 Newsletter, Spring 96)

Cyber-Iris



will be available at the Fall Regional on computer for individuals to learn about getting online and viewing the various iris web pages, the Iris-L List, and anything else having to do with gardening, irises, and computers. Hands on experience and individual training on five computers. We'll even be posting to Iris-L directly from the meeting! This is mainly for computer and Internet "newbies!" We'll be actively recruiting new "Geeks" and participants on Iris-L.

The following are some excerpts from the Iris-L List:

...To succeed with dividing or transplanting Siberians in late spring and summer, you must WATER every day AND SHADE the plants for the 1st couple of weeks.....Redividing only part of the clump, this is an ideal way to divide a Siberian. (Clarence Mahan)

...One thing I've learned is that for Siberians and JI's shipped in late summer/fall - I NEVER plant directly in the garden. I pot and overwinter under a heavy layer of mulch....seems to work OK.

Carol Warner pots and then sits the pots in a child's wading pool until new roots form..... (Kathy Guest, RVP, Region 2 New York)

...Here's Tom's rule of thumb: If your winters kill more plants than your summers do, plant in the spring. If the reverse is true, plant in the fall! If you're one of the lucky few with neither summer nor winter fatalities, you can plant whenever you please.... The dividing line seems to be somewhere around zone 6 or 7.... (Tom Tadfor Little, Webmaster - Iris-L NM).

Problems with Voles - ...have you tried pea gravel in your plantings? (Debbie Green, Williamsburg, VA)

...Our present owner, the huge grey longhair cat Yo, is a bit slower but just a deadly...he is so monstrous that I think he just looks at them and scares them to death... (Clarence Mahan)

...Moth balls work well to keep the moles, etc. out of irises, but one should be careful not to place them where the chemical matter can seep into wells (Ted White, Minot, ME)

...The last of the Siberians is Willott's MYSTIC LAGOON, a wonderful rosebud shaped flower of deep royal blue, blending to almost black with no signal. Very mysterious and wonderful. (Kathy Guest, Region 2)

Stay tuned!!!!

REGION 4 - CAN WE AFFORD IT ?

By Carol Warner, Budget Committee

AIS has raised our dues; Region 4's share of those dues has stayed the same - none. No portion of your AIS dues is returned to the region or the local groups. AIS supplies a wonderful BULLETIN and a wide range of services which we all enjoy. However, Region 4's only source of income remains auctions at the spring and fall meetings and the donations from chapters.

Auction sales have been excellent. The same few people donate the plants and iris artifacts and the same few spiritedly bid to take home something new. This spring hosta, liriopse and other perennials, supplied mainly from the Mahan garden accounted for a good percentage of sales. Our guest speaker also supplied some very interesting plants of his new versicolor/ensata crosses. Be sure to see these growing in the gardens of the lucky bidders.

Chapter donations are the backbone of the Region 4 finances. An unofficial guideline in the past has been that each chapter would send the region approximately \$3.00 per member. Many chapters (or societies) have done this consistently. There are some that have given more than this and some that have donated less.

A finance committee was appointed last fall to study the situation in Region 4. We certainly aren't broke yet but our balance in the last three years or so has been heading downward at an alarming rate. This year we will only have two issues of NEWSCAST. One important request for funds was withdrawn at our last board meeting.

Where shall we trim our expenses or how can we increase income? One suggestion is to increase chapter donations from \$3.00 to \$5.00 per member. These are voluntary donations. The new fall season of meetings will soon begin and hopefully this will be an item which will be addressed at each local society meeting.

The chairman of the finance committee, Jack Loving, is on an extended vacation, but if YOU as a member have some ideas or suggestions, please send a note to Carol Warner, 16815 Falls Road, Upperco, MD 21155.

The region is the vital link between AIS and the local group. The reason that we are #2 in membership nationally is because we have a strong regional organization, a quality publication, and take a very active role in the transition between national and local activities. The next president of AIS will be from Region 4! Two AIS medal award winners in 1996 were from Region 4. We continually win the membership award. Can we continue? You Bet!

ANNUAL PRESIDENTIAL LETTER

The American Iris Society

July 1, 1996

Each year the terms of office expire for one third of the twelve directors of The American Iris Society, and four are elected to fill those positions. As provided in the AIS bylaws, a five-member Personnel Committee recommends to the AIS Board of Directors candidates for nomination as directors. The Personnel Committee consists of two directors chosen by the Board of Directors, two RVPs elected by the Board of Counselors, and one Section member selected by the Section Advisory Board.

Approved during the 1996 Spring Meeting held in Sacramento, California in accordance with the AIS bylaws, the four nominees for regular three year terms expiring in 1999 are:

Shirley Pope
Michael Moller
Mike Lowe
Riley Probst

The bylaws provide that nominations may be made by any forty members, of whom not more than fifteen may be located in any one region. Such additional nominations must be received by the AIS Secretary on or before September 1, 1996. Should additional nominations be made, a ballot on which all nominees are listed will be mailed on or before October 1, 1996, to all AIS members and must be received by the AIS Secretary or Election Committee (if one is appointed) on or before November 1, 1996. If there are no nominations in addition to those listed above, issuance of a ballot may be omitted.

O. Dave Niswonger, President

(Ed. note - This was omitted from the July AIS Bulletin)

New Members to Region 4

Blue Ridge Iris Society

Nell Lancaster	Rt. 4 Box 375	Lexington, VA 24450
Nancy Philpott	1125 Corn Tassel Trl.	Martinsville, VA 24112

Carolina Mountains Iris Society

Jeanette Maddox	131 Main St.	Burnsville, NC 28714
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Central Virginia Iris Society

Arlene Bradley	11830 Aberdeen Land	Midlothian, VA 23113
Stephanie Disharoon	12 Roslyn Hills Dr.	Richmond, VA 23229
Connie Houchens	Rt. 1 Box 151	North Garden, VA 22959
Erin McKlveen	204 Norwood Dr.	Colonial Heights, VA,23834
Judy Olsen	1980 Pheasant Ln.	Charlottesville, VA 22901
Kelly Thomas	312 Harwick Dr.	Richmond, VA 23236

Charlotte Iris Society

Frieda M. Allen	3936 Fellsway Rd	Charlotte, NC 28209
Ken & Kay Gregory	5586 Quail Creek Dr.	Granite Falls, NC 28630
Harold Hamit	1309 Providence Rd.	Charlotte, NC 28207
Carol Innes	2126 Princeton Ave.	Charlotte, NC 28207
Casey Justice	522 Forrest Ridge Dr.	Shelby, NC 28152

Chesapeake & Potomac Iris Society

Mr. & Mrs. John Cook	PO Box 4518	Leesburg, VA 22075
Grace Gooden	36944 Teahouse Ln.	Purcellville, VA 22132
Ann Hoffman	125 Morven Park Rd.	Leesburg, VA 22075
Thomas A. Mockabee	805 S. Cypress Cir.	Sterling, VA 20164
William R. Schilling	15012 Layhill Rd.	Silver Spring, MD 20906
Thomas Silvers	5727 Butterfly Ln.	Frederick, MD 21702
Donna S. Travostino	21367 Clearwater Ct.	Ashburn, VA 22011

Eastern North Carolina Iris Society

Patty Forster	11747 Man-O-War Tr.	Raleigh, NC 27613
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Eastern Shore Iris Society

Patricia Albright	20488 Nanticoke Rd.	Nanticoke, MD 21840
Barbara Q. Badran	6049 Corners Wharf	Cambridge, MD 21613
Millie B. Garber	30628 Pine Knoll Dr.	Princess Anne, MD 21853
B.F. Somers	7280 Todds Wharf Rd.	Preston, MD 21655

Francis Scott Key Iris Society

Charles Anway	512 Williamsburg Ln.	Odenton, MD 21113
Mr. & Mrs. Jodi Carr	2297 E. Lowell Ridge	Baltimore, MD 21234
Barry A. Friedman	17 Latimore Way	Owings Mills, MD 21117
Laura Gibson	4071 Water Tank Rd.	Manchester, MD 21102
Leslie Imes	3733 Nortonia Rd.	Baltimore, MD 21216
Mr. & Mrs. John Kwedar	2502 Mt. Ventus Rd.	Manchester, MD 21102
Judy Miller	3550 Water Tank Rd.	Manchester, MD 21102
Peggy A. Otto	3619 Green Valley Rd.	Ijamsville, MD 21754
Victoria Perez	12408 Sarah Ln.	Bowie, MD 20715
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Powers	2901 Grier Nursery Rd.	Forest Hill, MD 21050
Kristen T. Stenberg	501 Edgevale Rd.	Baltimore, MD 21210
Craig A. Wacker	1933 Blue Mount Rd.	Monkton, MD 21111
Mrs. Elizabeth Wyble	201 Riggs Ave.	Severna Park, MD 21146

Portsmouth, Chesapeake, Suffolk Iris Society

Betty J. Collins	312 Red Oak Dr.	Elberton, VA 23846
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Tidewater Iris Society

James Check	4456 Delmar Dr.	Virginia Beach, VA 23455
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Many medians were in bloom at the Marley Garden, with sheep grazing in the background.

Iris----- We have come a long way baby

By Ruth Walker, FAIS

My very first introduction to iris was in the mid 1930s. My mother was given some very special plants that she called Blue Flags and Yellow Flags. They were very well cared for and I was to be careful when cutting the grass to not get too close to them, I wouldn't get very close any way because I literally hated the smell of them. They smelled like cat urine. I think I would have cut them down had I dared to.

As years passed with formal education and being away from home I began to see more and more iris that were much more highly developed. I would buy some for my mother and finally the beauty really set in on me.

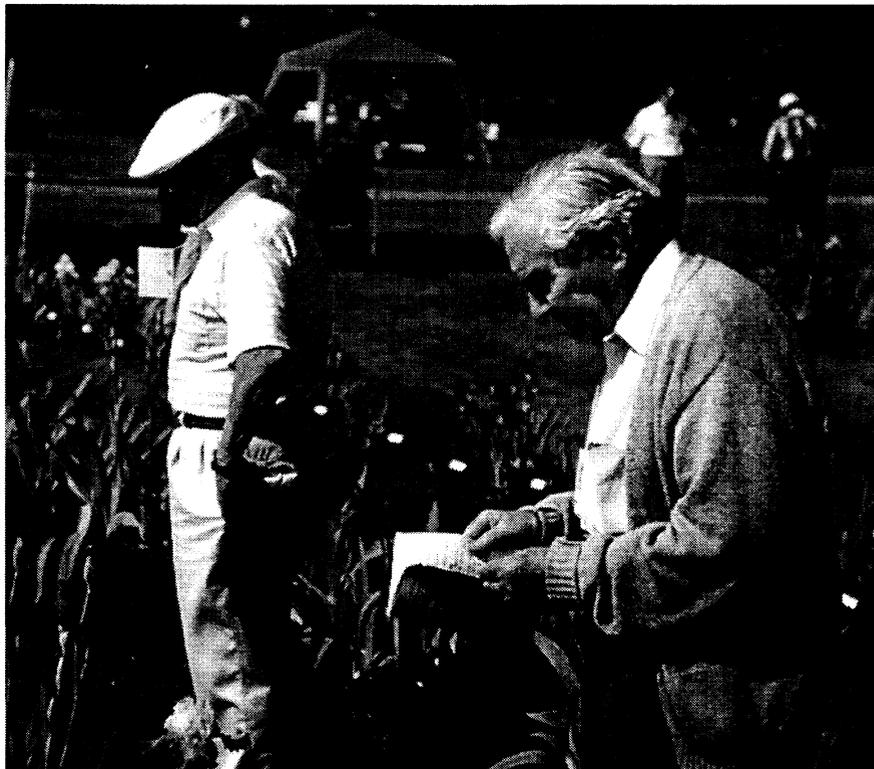
I married in 1940 as the war with Japan was gearing up and my husband was a Navy Aircraft Inspector. We were sent to Connecticut so he could inspect aircraft at the Voit Secorsky Aircraft Factory. I planted some iris there but in a short time another transfer came, this time to California. I had hoped to see iris gardens on the West coast but gas was rationed so my wishes were for not. I read all I could find about irises and was determined to grow many of them when ever we were settled again. We came back to Virginia and I began to put those catalogues to some use. I planted many irises and in a few years we decided that we needed more land to grow irises and daylilies. We bought 5+ Acres in Spotsylvania County Virginia. We had iris and daylilies coming out everywhere. My husband preferred daylilies and my love became irises.

I thought I was the only one within miles that grew iris until one day I found in a garden magazine about a society for irises lovers. I sent for information immediately. I joined the American Iris Society only to find that I had joined the society with a group that was an inactive chapter from Richmond Virginia. One day the Regional news letter arrived and there was good new to me. The iris group, C&P in Northern Virginia were young to have a meeting, I called a friend of mine, Alvern Perry, told her about the meeting and we agreed to go as guests. The meeting was held at Clarence and Suky Mahan's home in McLean No one knew where that little country place was. (its on the map now) Alvern and I found the right house and we were made very welcome. Dick

Sparling was the President. After the meeting I asked how we could start an iris society in our area. We were given good advise and in a very short time The Fredericksburg Area Iris society was formed, (The name then was Fredericksburg Iris Society)

I have been instrumental in getting three other iris societies started namely, The Williamsburg Society, The Tidewater Iris Society and a new Richmond Iris Society. Richard Randall was a great help for me being able to accomplish these new chapters.

I like nothing better than to go to iris shows and help to introduce iris to the guests that come to look. The majority of my friends, I have made through growing iris, showing iris, and helping people who want to know about our favorite plant. I am thankful for all my friends--they are those precious people you can't buy from a catalogue.



Jack Loving and Dr. Nearpass in the Murphy Garden.

Feed the Spirit

By Roger Glasshoff

Recent articles have explained the source of an individual's desire to grow iris. My thoughts regress to childhood experiences walking through the wild flowers and orchard with Grandmother. An inherent love evolved from the numerous hours in the garden which was the principal source of our food. During the various stages of spring and summer, fresh cut flowers shared our dining table.

Although irises possessed a portion of the spring garden and used in bouquets on Memorial Day, a true interest was not developed until 1979. Upon returning to Nebraska, Jim and Vera Hummel introduced me to hybrid iris displayed in their commercial garden. Jim's friendship also inspired my interest in hybridizing to create new varieties of irises. Now irises including numerous bearded and beardless varieties, are the predominant flower in our yard. But the love of these delicate flowers extends beyond one experience. The many friends of the Fredericksburg Area Iris Society and Region 4 continue to fuel this interest.



Clump of Japanese Iris in Japan

As an employee of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, I've been fortunate to travel to many countries. During the three trips to Japan, I was fortunate to visit a commercial Japanese iris garden as well as several private gardens. The hospitality of my hosts was extremely gracious and has evolved into a lasting relationship. Photographs from these trips remind me of a less hectic life style and a sincere appreciation for nature.

It's amazing how horticultural procedures adapted by the Japanese provide such beautiful iris, azaleas, and luscious tree

peonies not to mention the peace and tranquility of the designed gardens. I recommend taking a moment from our busy lives to recognize the internal peace that a stroll through a lovely garden will provide to supplement the soul.



Beautiful Japanese Gardens



Central Virginia Iris Society

The Central Virginia Iris Society is proud to report that we have accomplished many things in recent months. First, we drafted and adopted our by-laws. We then formally affiliated with The American Iris Society, committing ourselves to a fuller participation in its mission. Next, we designed and adopted our logo, thereby making ourselves more recognizable in our community, and we instituted our newsletter. As an investment in our own education, we founded our library of reference materials. We then initiated communication with our neighboring chapters, and made friends. Our affairs in order, we invited our first outside speaker, Clarence Mahan to visit us.

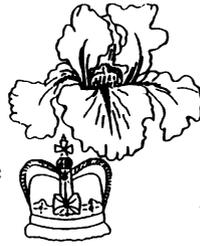
We undertook a Spring program of public information and education events which took us to Garden Fairs at a local garden center, and at the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. These provided us with the opportunity to increase our visibility in the horticultural community and attract several very welcome new members. We are now planning our annual sale, and our Fall programs and events.

We have been very gratified by the results of our efforts, which have been made easier and more productive by the kind advice and support of fellow irisarians throughout the Region. We are grateful for their generosity, and we offer them our most sincere thanks.



Roy Epperson explains Garden Judging of Siberians to Bill & JaNiece Mull.

Charlotte Iris Society



Activities of the Charlotte Iris Society for the first half of 1996 include the following events:

Winter Seminar - Topics included Hybridization by J.D. Stadler, Species Iris by Barbara Alexander and Pests and Disease by Jim Dontz. The sections were repeated so that members could attend two presentations.

April Meeting - Plant exchange and "Points on Grooming for the Show."

Garden Tours - Garden of Frieda Allen featuring a wonderful collection of iris, azaleas, ferns plus many other interesting plants and a Poi Pool. Frieda has invited us back to view her garden during other seasons. In addition we will visit the garden of Paul Pawloski during the Japanese Iris season in June.

May Iris Show - Divisions featuring horticulture, seedlings, education (continuously operating video on iris culture) and design (5 classes). The theme of the show was "Our World of Iris."

Best in Show - *I. tectorum* 'alba' - Barbara Alexander
Silver Medal - Pat & Randall Brown
Bronze Medal - David Hull
Best Design - Nancy Moore

Kathryn Winter (7 years old), our youngest member entered 4 iris, with 3 blue ribbons.

Judges Training - Roy Epperson will present two hours on Awards & Balloting, June 1 at the home of Pat & Randell Bowen.

Rhizome Sale - July 13, 1996 at Colswold Mall. Sale will feature bearded iris including recent introductions and old favorites. A collection of medians will be available.

As part of our 50th Anniversary Celebration, we expect to host the 1998 Fall Regional Meeting.

Four of our members attended the AIS National Convention in Sacramento, and six members will attend the M.A.S.S. Medley in Westford, MA in June.

Francis Scott Key Iris Society Show Report

The Society staged one of its most ambitious educational exhibits at the Maryland Home and Garden Show held on the first two weekends of March. The display is created under the direction of Ken and Joan Roberts, with photography by Dan Schlanger. Many members manned the exhibit to answer questions and comments by the public. Our thanks is due to all participants.

The Spring Luncheon was held at the Towson Sheraton a favorite rendezvous of the members, on Saturday, April 13th. The Guest speaker, Dr. Lloyd Zurbrigg gave a very informative slide presentation on hybridizing "Space Age and Reblooming Iris". Dr. Zurbrigg's talk was very well received, followed by an interesting question and answer session.

The Spring Show was held at Chatham Mall, Ellicott City, MD, on Saturday, May 25th. The weather was bright and sunny for the occasion. Carolyn and Dan Schlanger with a band of helpers, including personnel of the mall, organized the setting for one of the most beautiful shows in recent years, deserving our congratulations. The quality of the blooms was outstanding this year making an unenviable task of judging then by Anne and Mike Love, Blackstone, VA; and Sara Harley of Purcellville, VA. They merit our special thanks for these difficult decisions.

The following awards for the Queen's Table were made:

Queen of the Show - Loudoun Charmer (TB), Doris & Owings Rebert.

Runner Up - Suji Iri (Siberian), Carol Warner.

Chatterbox Belle (Siberian), Carol Warner.

Best Intermediate - Megglethorp, Joan & Ken Roberts.

Best Miniature Tall - Little Bay Democ, Dan Schlanger.

Best And Other Irises: Versicolor - Candy Stripes, Wm. Ackerman.

Best Historic - San Diego, 1929 - Doris & Owings Rebert.

Best Seedling - LL 100, Lloyd Zurbrigg.

AIS Silver Medal - Carol Warner.

AIS Bronze Medal - Joan & Ken Roberts.



Queen's Table - FSK Show



FSK Show - Chatham Mall

Francis Scott Key Iris Society



FSK has been deeply saddened this year by the loss of two of our founding members, Retta and Maynard Harp. This has been a great loss for FSK and the Region and a personal loss for those of us who knew them. Their friendship and guidance will always be missed.

The annual Fall Luncheon was held October 14 with Dr. Fred Ladd as our guest speaker. Dr. Ladd spoke on the gardens of Great Dixter and Sissinghurst. His talk was informative and the slides beautiful. It was interesting to be given an historical perspective on the development of these gardens.

The Maryland Home and Garden show was a big success as always. We acquired six new members as a direct result of the show, with several signing up on the spot. This year we had a very successful, hands-on display provided by Joan Roberts which showed how to divide a clump of irises. There was an undivided, crowded clump, plus a pile of throw-away parts and one of plantable parts. The display attracted large numbers of people who just had to handle the pieces exclaiming 'this is just what I need to know' and 'so that's why my irises look so bad.' By the end of the show we had a lot of dirt and a well divided clump. This was a display that really put across the point on what had to be done and how to do it.

Our Spring Luncheon was held April 13th with Dr. Zurbrigg as the guest speaker. His talk on rebloomers and space agers, then and now, was very interesting. The use of two side by side projectors made it possible for the viewer to see the changes and to make comparisons with ease. It was highly educational as well as an interesting talk.

The schedule of events for the rest of the year is as follows:
Spring Show - May 25, Chatham Mall, Ellicott City, MD
Sale - July 20 at Watson's Garden Center, Lutherville, MD
Picnic - July 28th at Hornstein/Huge Estate, Monkton, MD
Fall Luncheon - TBA

Tidewater Iris Society



The Tidewater Iris Society fiscal year runs from the 3rd Sunday in August to the 3rd Sat in August. Our new officers take over at that time.

This has been a busy year. We have had a strong emphasis on judges training this year. The greater number of our meeting were judges training. It is my feeling that judges training classes benefit all members as it gives us guidelines on growing the best possible iris. We have a small number of members who are interested in becoming judges but the membership is interested in good iris growing & displaying. The past year most of our emphasis was on Historical, Siberian, Japanese, Space agers, and some on TB's. We emphasized both garden and show bench judging. This coming year we are going to look at Louisiana's, medians, as well as continuing Tall Bearded. Of course, some time will be spent with Siberian & Japanese.

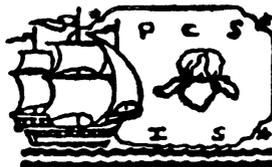
Probably our greatest challenge was our education display. We have always tried to have good education displays for various things. For the past four years the Tidewater area has hosted a Virginia Plant & Garden Show held in January. They have been interested in having plants to display. Since we don't have plants in January we started to put together a very impressive educational picture display. We use all sizes, however, mainly 8 x 10 pictures along with written and graphic material about the various types of iris, their growing conditions, bloom season, etc. Then we have also used it for our shows as well as using some of the 8 x 10 pictures for garden and flower club meetings. In the past we have used slides as a way of presenting a program for various groups.

Most of our emphasis this year has been on our members. We are looking forward to get some new members. The flower show and sales along with our shows tend to be the best way of getting new members. We have three major sales coming up, two are in conjunction with other plant societies and/or nurseries. We have a mall sale in August which will also include our educational displays.



DON'T FORGET TO VOTE THE SYMPOSIUM

Portsmouth, Cheaspeake, Suffolk Iris Society



The year in review shows a society where education is the first issue. Our goal this year was to provide training to our members in many different areas of iris. In this mission we have had training for AIS credit in several different areas: Grooming, Show Rules, Seedlings in the Garden, Garden Judging and tips on Hybridizing. Our groups received these lessons with eager questions and hungry minds. We had three iris swaps amongst our members which were very popular, a fall picnic, and a great Christmas Party

We had a wonderful AIS Spring Show which had over 148 cultivars on display in almost all categories. The judges were gracious and answered many questions brought up by our group. We expanded our talents and hosted our first Artistic Division. It was a learning process for all of us.

Our youth membership has undertaken a Community Service for the Fall. They evaluated several different sites in the area and finally contacted the East Suffolk Community Center. This center provides after school tutoring for adults and children and are going to host a Gardening Forum and Gardens funded by the federal government in the fall. We have offered to intermingle some of our quest irises in their beds. We have also offered assistance in their gardening forum project. All in all it has been a very good year.



Bill Poesch presents the Nearpass Award to Lloyd Zurbrigg for his introduction **I DO**.

Blue Ridge Iris Society



In July, my new home in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina will be completed and ready for my move to Region five. I have mixed emotions about leaving Virginia and Region Four. I will miss our outstanding "Regional Meeting". This will be my last. The welcome mat will be out to each of you, should you visit Myrtle Beach.

The members of Blue Ridge had an iris exhibition scheduled for May 11 but had to cancel due to a late bloom. We are still planning to have our iris sale at Fairacres on June 22nd.

Vice President, Fred Stephenson has been updating our group on growing, grooming and exhibiting our many varieties of iris. There is always much to learn.

I do not know who will fill my shoes when I leave but feel certain that it will be someone who will do the best for Blue Ridge. I wish them well. I have enjoyed my years as a member of this region and it will be missed.



Virginia Peninsula Iris Society



Activities during the year include:

A slide presentation by Bill Weaver on species - February meeting guest speaker from Colonial Williamsburg speaking on herbs - March meeting April meeting - Anne and Mike Lowe will give a program on the proper grooming of iris for a show May - Iris show at Williamsburg Outlet Mall - May 4th

Two annual events enjoyed by everyone: a picnic in July or August and a luncheon at Ft. Magruder Inn in November.

A sale of iris rhizomes takes place at Patrick Henry Mall September 7th and is supported by many of our members. This is our big money-raiser for the year.

Fredericksburg Area Iris Society



Despite the bad winter weather, all of the meetings of the Fredericksburg Area Iris Society went off as scheduled. The weather still hadn't had its last say however, with a very cool, wet spring making bloom season later than usual and golf-ball size hail in several gardens about a week before the show. Because of this, the number of stalks and participants were reduced from years past, but we managed to have a nice show anyway. We are grateful the weather was more cooperative last year when we hosted the spring convention.

We're hoping to have several programs this year. The first scheduled speaker is Jennifer Musselman, a local Master Gardener who is an organic gardener and will give tips on composting as well as alternative methods of pest control.

We have established a scholarship program for a horticultural student from our area at Virginia Polytechnic Institute. The first recipient is Kelly Weppner, a horticultural therapy student from Fredericksburg.

Our sale is planned for August 3, 1996.

Fredericksburg Show Report

The show on May 11th featured 110 entries which included 89 different varieties. There was also 16 artistic designs. The winners were:

Queen of Show - Pink Bubbles(BB) - Lois Rose

Best in Section TB - Sky Search - Lois Rose

Special Horticulture Awards:

Gay Parasol (TB)

Maria Tormena (TB) - Jack & Rosalie Loving

Best in Section IB - Bedtime Story - Lois Rose

Best in Section Beardless - Shaker's Prayer - Lois Rose

Best in Section - Species - I. Laevigata Albopurpurea

Colchesterensis - Joanne Krzeminski

Best Artistic Design & Artistic Sweepstakes - Martha Carter

Silver Medal - Jack & Rosalie Loving

Bronze Medal - Lois Rose

A special congratulations to our first time exhibitors Barbara Shipman and Jim and Gina Schroetter.

Gardening Tips:

Roger Glasshoff suggested that to help prevent rot and to force the daughter (increases) to grow, you should cut the mother (rhizome) right down the middle after the bloom stalk had dried.

At the June meeting at Fredericksburg, guest speaker Jennifer Musselman spoke about composting. She said to keep it from smelling, mix brown leaves with the grass clippings. Fats should also be avoided. It takes about two years for a compost pile to become ready.



Alleghany Highlands Iris Society



The Alleghany Highland Chapter would like to thank the many members of Region 4 who came to Lewisburg last and made the Fall Regional Convention a success.

I am pleased to announce that our Chapter has inducted seven (7) new members. Also, we are pleased to now have three (3) new life Alleghany Iris Society members.

In April, a covered dish dinner was held at the home of Margaret C. Stone and Paul Jones. It was well attended. Following the dinner, members held a brief business meeting. Members voted to give a donation to Region 4. Cards were read from members who attended the Fall Iris Convention. Iris catalogues were distributed and members picked out Irises to grow for future Iris sales. Plans were made to hold the summer Iris Rhizome sale in Covington, Virginia on July 7, 1996, and in Lewisburg, West Virginia on August 3, 1996. Rather than holding a Chapter Iris show, the members decided to tour local members.

On October 26, 1996, at 5:00pm, the Chapter's Fall covered dish dinner will be held at the home of Georgia C. Hayes. On December 14, 1996, at 5:00pm, the Chapter's Christmas dinner will be held at the home of Margaret C. Stone and Paul Jones.

Five members of the Alleghany Highland Iris Society attended the National Iris Convention in Sacramento, California. They took in the sights, as well as visited the numerous gardens. They had a wonderful time. Eight members are attending the Region 4 Convention in Leesburg, Virginia.

Rebloom Report - Region 4

*A*lthough this was not a banner year for reblooming irises, it was a banner year for reblooming iris reports. I think we have a great Region filled with reblooming iris enthusiasts. No organization can run by itself. It takes all of you working together! I think this report reflects your cooperation. Thank you very much.

After the Fall Regional Meeting held in Lewisburg, West Virginia (which by the way was wonderful) we had more stalks on BLESSED ASSURANCE (Zurbrigg '95), NORTHWARD HO (Zurbrigg '91), IMMORTALITY (Zurbrigg '82), HARVEST OF MEMORIES (Zurbrigg '85), LADY EMMA (Jones '86), PURPLE DUET (Smith '65) and MY FRIEND JONATHAN (Miller '94) which opened the day of the show thus not previously reported). For the rest of the story read on.

MARYLAND: (Zones 6-7)

Kitty & Bill Ackerman - Zone 6b

AUTUMN BUGLER (Jones '86), BABY BLESSED (Zurbrigg '79), BABY PRINCE (Zurbrigg '95), COLORWATCH (Innerst '87), DARK CRYSTAL (Byers '88), ELEANOR ROOSEVELT (Sass '33), ETERNAL BLISS (Byers '88), I BLESS (Zurbrigg '85), JENNIFER REBECCA (Zurbrigg '85), LADY EMMA (F. Jones '86), LO HO SILVER (Byers '89), NORTHWARD HO (Zurbrigg '91), PEACH JAM (Ensminger '89), PLUM WINE (Weiler '86), PROGRESSIVE ATTITUDE (Innerst '92), QUEEN DOROTHY (Hall '84), ROSALIE FIGGE (McKnew '93), ROYAL SUMMER (Applegate '71), SEPTEMBER REPLAY (F. Jones '92), VIOLET CLASSIC (Zurbrigg '76), VIOLET RETURNS (Hall '88).

Stopped by frost: BROTHER CARL (Zurbrigg '83), COLORWATCH (Innerst '87), NORTHWARD HO (Zurbrigg '91), SUNNY DISPOSITION (Zurbrigg '91).

Rosalie Figge:

BABY BLESSED (Zurbrigg '79), BABY BOOM (Byers '90), BARN DANCE (Byers '91), BUCKWHEAT (Byers '89), CLARENCE (Zurbrigg '91), DARK CRYSTAL (Byers '88), EVELYN WARLICK (Wright '92), FACE POWDER (Moores '79), FEEDBACK (Hager '83), GOLDEN ECSTASY (Schreiner '89), I DO (Zurbrigg '74), JEAN GUYMER (Zurbrigg '77), MISTY TWILIGHT (Byers '88), PEACH REPRISE (Moores '83), PEARLS OF AUTUMN (Hager '93), PERFUME COUNTER (Zurbrigg '72), PLUM WINE (Weiler '86), WHITE AUTUMN KING (Sass '35).

Doris & Owings Rebert:

AUTUMN TWILIGHT (Brown '58), BABY TEARS (Weiler '80), BABY BLESSED (Zurbrigg '79), CORN HARVEST (Wyatt '77), CRY BABY (Ritchie '84), ELFIN ANTIQUE (E. Roberts '64), FEED BACK (Hager '83), IMMORTALITY (Zurbrigg '82), JEAN GUYMER (Zurbrigg '77), JULY SUNSHINE (G. Brown '65), LIGHTLY SEASONED (Zurbrigg '79), NOW AND LATER (Zurbrigg '72), PEPPER LANE (Jensen '76), PURPLE DUET (Smith '66), QUEEN DOROTHY (Hall '84), ROSALIE FIGGE (McKnew '93), SEPTEMBER SAILOR (Brown '60), SEPTEMBER BUTTERCUP (Brown '62), SUMMER CHARM (Jensen '75),
Froze before opening: BEST BET (Schreiner '88), CORAL CHARMER (Wright '83), RASPBERRY RIBBON (Schreiner '51), TANYA (DeForest '70).

Joan & Ken Roberts - (Zone 6b)

Reblooming for the first time in our garden:

BLUE MOONLIGHT (Byers '89), CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS (Hager '92), GENTEEL (Byers '91), GLITTER BIT (Weiler R. 95), HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS (Byers '89), ICELAND (Byers '91), JAUNTY TEXAN (Denman '73), MY FRIEND JONATHAN (B. Miller '94), PEARLS OF AUTUMN (Hager '93), SUGAR BLUES (Zurbrigg '85).

Reblooming again this year:

ANXIOUS (Hager '92), AUTUMN TRYST (Weiler '93), CORAL CHARMER (Wright '83), FLOWER CHILD (Byers '89), FLOWER SHOWER (Weiler '90), FRANKENSENCE (Byers '89), GOLDEN CHILD (Byers '89), GRAPE ADVENTURE (Jones '86), I DO (Zurbrigg '74), LADY ESSEX (Zurbrigg '91), LIGHT REBUFF (Smith '92), LIGHTLY SEASONED (Zurbrigg '79), LUMINOSITY (Byers '91), QUEEN DOROTHY (Hall '84), RENOWN (Zurbrigg '91), SEPTEMBER REPLAY (Jones '92), SIGN OF VIRGO (Zurbrigg '91), SOLSTICE (Weiler '92), ZURICH (Byers '90).

Carolyn & Dan Schlanger- (Zone 7)

BUCKWHEAT (Byers '89), HAPPY NEW YEAR (Byers '90), HARVEST OF MEMORIES (Zurbrigg '85), PINK ATTRACTION (Hall '88), ROSALIE FIGGE (McKnew '93).

Dick Sparling - (Zone 7)

AUTUMN BUGLER (Jones '86), BABY BLESSED (Zurbrigg '79), BLESSED AGAIN (Jones '76), BROM BONES (Burton '88), BUCKWHEAT (Byers '89), CORAL CHARMER (Wright '83), CORN HARVEST (Wyatt '77), EMMA LOUISA (Buckles '69), FEEDBACK (Hager '83), GRACE THOMAS (Zurbrigg '82), I DO (Zurbrigg '74), I

BLESS (Zurbrigg '85), JEAN GUYMER (Zurbrigg '77), JULY SUNSHINE (Brown '64), LADY EMMA (F. Jones '86), LEMON REFLECTION (Smith '78), LUCIE ANDRY (Spoon '92), PLUM WINE (Weiler '86), QUEEN DOROTHY (Hall '84), TAWNY (Pray '74), TWICE BLESSED (Dennis '66).

Paul Stewart - (Zone 7)

SEPTEMBER SAILOR (Brown '59)

Helen Walsh - (Zone 7)

LADY EMMA (F. Jones '86), ORANGE HARVEST (B. Jones '88),

SEPTEMBER REPLAY (F. Jones '92).

NORTH CAROLINA:

Raymond E. Oakley, Jr.:

AMANDA ERIN (Zurbrigg '85), BETHANY CLAIRE (Zurbrigg '85), HARVEST OF MEMORIES (Zurbrigg '85), IMMORTALITY (Zurbrigg '82), JENNIFER REBECCA (Zurbrigg '85), MARITA (Zurbrigg '89), NORTHWARD HO (Zurbrigg '91), SIGN OF VIRGO (Zurbrigg '91).

VIRGINIA: (Zone 6-7)

Margaret Bowles - (Zone 7)

I DO (Zurbrigg '74), IMMORTALITY (Zurbrigg '82), LADY EMMA (F. Jones '86).

Rosalie & Jack Loving - (Zone 7)

AUTUMN ENCORE (Mohr '77), BABY BLESSED (Zurbrigg '79), BETHANY CLAIRE (Zurbrigg '85), BLESSED AGAIN (Jones '76), BROWN DUET (Smith '74), BUCKWHEAT (Byers '89), CORAL CHARMER (Wright '83), DARK CRYSTAL (Byers '88), I BLESS (Zurbrigg '85), JULY SUNSHINE (Brown '64), LITTLE BLUE-EYES (Weiler '93), LOW HO SILVER (Byers '89), MATRIX (Hall '91), PERFUME COUNTER (Zurbrigg '72), QUEEN DOROTHY (Hall 84), SEPTEMBER REPLAY (F. Jones '92), SUMMER HOLIDAYS (Zurbrigg '79), TAWNY (Pray '74).

Sara & Walter Marley -

AUTUMN BUGLER (Jones '86), BORN AGAIN (Miller '78), BROTHER CARL (Zurbrigg '83), CROSS STITCH (Zurbrigg '73), GIBSON GIRL (Gibson 46), GOLDEN ENCORE (F. Jones '73), GRAPE ADVENTURE (Jones '86), GRAY POUPON (Byers '89), I BLESS (Zurbrigg '85), I DO (Zurbrigg '74), ICE BALLERINA (Wyatt '73), IMMORTALITY (Zurbrigg '82), LADY EMMA (F. Jones '86), MATRIX (Hall '91), REFINED (Weiler '87), RENOWN (Zurbrigg '91), SIGN OF VIRGO (Zurbrigg 91).

Donald Mull -

AUTUMN BUGLER (Jones '86), BABY BLESSED (Zurbrigg '79), CHAMPAGNE ELEGANCE (Niswonger '86), EARL OF ESSEX (Zurbrigg '80), GOLDEN ENCORE (F. Jones '73), GRACE THOMAS (Zurbrigg '82), HARVEST OF MEMORIES (Zurbrigg '85), I DO (Zurbrigg '74), IMMORTALITY (Zurbrigg '82), JEAN GUYMER (Zurbrigg '77), LITTLE SHOWOFF (Hall '89), QUEEN DOROTHY (Hall '84), REINCARNATION (Byers '89), SPIRIT OF FIJI (Zurbrigg '85), SUMMER OLYMPICS (Smith '80), SUNNY DISPOSITION (Zurbrigg '91), THEN AGAIN (Byers '89), VIOLET MUSIC (Mahan '90), VIOLET CLASSIC (Zurbrigg '76).

Ginny & Don Spoon - (Zone 6b)

AUTUMN APRICOT (Thimsen '89), AUTUMN MISTS (Jones '70), AUTUMN ORANGELITE (Brown '62), BABY BLESSED (Zurbrigg '79), BABY BOOM (Byers '90), BABY TEARS (Weiler '80), BARN DANCE (Byers '91), BELVI QUEEN (Jensen '76), BORN AGAIN (Miller '78), BOUNTIFUL HARVEST (Hager '91), BREAKERS (Schreiner '86), BUCKWHEAT (Byers '89), CANTINA (Byers '90), CLARENCE (Zurbrigg '91), CORN HARVEST (Wyatt '77), DARKLING (Byers '89), DAWN OF FALL (Jensen '76), DUKE OF EARL (Byers '87), FAITHFUL AND TRUE (Spoon R. '95), FOXY LADY (Nelson '87), GILDED (Byers '88), GOLDEN ENCORE (F. Jones '73), GRAPE ADVENTURE (Jones '86), GRAY POUPON (Byers '89), HAND PAINTED (Byers '90), HAPPY NEW YEAR (Byers '90), HARVEST OF MEMORIES (Zurbrigg '85), HER ROYAL HIGHNESS (Byers '89), HOT (Byers '91), I BLESS (Zurbrigg '85), ICELAND (Byers '91), IMMORTALITY (Zurbrigg '82), JEPHTHA'S DAUGHTER (Miller R. '74), JULY SUNSHINE (Brown '64), LADY EMMA (F. Jones '86), LADY ESSEX (Zurbrigg '91), LAKE REPRISE (Moores '90), LICHEN (Byers '89), LILTING (Byers '91), LITTLE SHOWOFF (Hall '89), LO HO SILVER (Byers '89), LUMINOSITY (Byers '91), MATRIX (Hall '91), MISTY TWILIGHT (Byers '88), NORTHWARD HO (Zurbrigg '91), OCTOBER (Byers '89), ORCHID CLOUD (Applegate '74), PEACH PARASOL (Spoon R. '95), PINK ATTRACTION (Hall '88), PLATINUM (Byers by Dickey '94), PLUM WINE (Weiler '86), PUPPY LOVE (Hager '80), RAVENWOOD (Lowry '71), RED REVIVAL (Preston '77), ROSALIE FIGGE (McKnew '93), SECOND ACT (Byers '91), SECRETARIAT (Zurbrigg '76), SEPTEMBER REPLAY (F. Jones '92), SIGN OF VIRGO (Zurbrigg '91), SILVER DIVIDENDS (Zurbrigg '91), SOAP OPERA (Ghio '82),

SPEED LIMIT (Lauer '92), ST. PETERSBURG (Byers '90), STRAWBERRY APRICOT (Spoon R. '95), SUMMER WHITE WINGS (Brown '61), SUMMER GREEN SHADOWS (Brown '65), SUNNY DISPOSITION (Zurbrigg '91), SWEET SUMMER (Applegate '72), TAWNY (Pray '74), TOP STITCH (Moores '81), URIAH THE HITTITE (Miller '79), VIOLET RETURNS (Hall '88), VIOLET MUSIC (Mahan '90), WAVES OF GRAIN (Byers by Dickey '94), WINESAP (Byers '89), WUKEE (Spoon R. '95), YOUTH DEW (Zurbrigg '80).

Dennis Stoneburner - (Zone 6)

BABY BLESSED (Zurbrigg '79), FEEDBACK (Hager '83), I BLESS (Zurbrigg '85), IMMORTALITY (Zurbrigg '82), QUEEN DOROTHY (Hall '84).

John L. Vincent - (Zone 7)

DUKE OF EARL (Byers '87), ETERNAL BLISS (Byers '88), ISTANBUL (Byers '89), WINTERLAND (Byers '90).

Attempted to bloom in November:

AUTUMN BUGLER (Jones '86), AVALON BAY (Hamner '74), BUCKWHEAT (Byers '89), CORN HARVEST (Wyatt '77), JENNIFER REBECCA (Zurbrigg '85), PINK ATTRACTION (Hall '88), TIME AND AGAIN (Hager '91).

WEST VIRGINIA:

Thomas Catlett:

AUTUMN BUGLER (Jones '86), BABY BLESSED (Zurbrigg '79), BELVI QUEEN (Jensen '76), BROTHER CARL (Zurbrigg '83), BUCKWHEAT (Byers '89), CHAMPAGNE ELEGANCE (Niswonger '86), CORAL CHARMER (Wright '83), CORN HARVEST (Wyatt '77), DUKE OF EARL (Byers '87), FEEDBACK (Hager '83), FLOWER SHOWER (Weiler '90), GRAPE ADVENTURE (Jones '86), HARVEST OF MEMORIES (Zurbrigg '85), HOLY NIGHT (Mohr '83), ISTANBUL (Byers '89), JEWEL BABY (Hall '84), LITTLE BLUE EYES (Weiler '93), LITTLE BLUETS (Weiler '92), LITTLE SHOWOFF (Hall '89), LO HO SILVER (Byers '89), MATRIX (Hall '91), MISTY TWILIGHT (Byers '88), PERFUME COUNTER (Zurbrigg '72), PINK ATTRACTION (Hall '88), PINKNESS (Byers '89), PLUM WINE (Weiler '86), QUEEN DOROTHY (Hall '84), ROSALIE FIGGE (McKnew '93), SEPTEMBER REPLAY (F. Jones '92), ST. PETERSBURG (Byers '90), SUNNY DISPOSITION (Zurbrigg '91), THEN AGAIN (Byers '89), WINTERLAND (Byers '90).

Moles/Voles: 2 solutions

1. Caster oil repellent: make an emulsion of two parts castor oil and one part liquid detergent in the blender; add an equal amount of water; put two tablespoons of this solution in a sprinkling can of water and pour it over the area where moles are at work.
2. "Mole-Med" is a castor oil repellent also, that can be purchased from garden outlets and catalogs that carry "organic" remedies.



(L) A Siberian flower illustrating vertically arched form. The tall standards reflect its *Iris sibirica* heritage.

(R) This flower shows its semi-flaring form with wide standards and falls.



Siberian Culture

1. If not done already, remove spent bloom stalks and seed pods before they open. Stray seedlings will appear and cause problems in keeping your clump pure.
2. Clean beds with removal of weeds and plenty of water is needed for healthy plants. Good organic mulch will help accomplish this.
3. Fall clean-up is a good time to remove debris around the foliage, in order to get rid of eggs, insects, fungi and spores that will cause problems. Burn or bag debris, never compost.
4. November is a good time to cut foliage off close to the ground, and put fresh mulch around the clumps. Again burn or bag the debris.

The Last Word.....



The Age of Computers, the "Paperless Society"!!!, don't you believe it. If you could see my desk, the floor, the file cabinet, even the recycling bin you would know what I mean. Preparing Newscast, writing for other publications and Iris programs for the future, you generate a lot of paper. Help!!! Everyone who sends information to me on disk is a saint. Please continue.

I really enjoy the Internet, and IRIS-L. Lots of iris data flows daily between people all over the world. You don't have to be an expert to enter in, just a computer with a modem and phone line. If you really want to enter in, you can obtain a "Geek" pin to identify yourself to others at conventions. Hey, even Schreiner's and Cooley's have entered the 21st century!

I feel the newest challenge facing societies and regions is that of member participation. We have so many members in Region 4, but only a fraction join in meetings, shows, sales, or Regional Conventions. There is such talent out there to be tapped, let's put our heads together to bring it to the surface. Bill Smoot recently wrote about this subject on the IRIS-L. He will probably be putting something together in the future for the Bulletin (or maybe Newscast).

Several Societies had no report in this issue. We have a very active Region with many shows and activities. If I have no report from you, no one will know what you're doing. Pictures are always welcome, and also articles about culture, personal experiences, and anything else about Iris. My folder for the next issue is empty, please help fill it.

Your Un-Favorite Iris... here's your chance folks. I asked several people in Leesburg for their input, and received some interesting replies. These, and others received by February 1st will be printed.

There is another Fall Convention coming up. Plenty of activities, and of course a trip to the beach is not out of the question, Think about it....

VOTE THE SYMPOSIUM BALLOT!!!!

REGION 4 AFFILIATES

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229 Crowfield Circle Lewisburg, WV 24901 (304) 647-4395

BLUE RIDGE IRIS SOCIETY - Dennis Stoneburner
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CAROLINA MOUNTAINS IRIS SOCIETY - Betsy Higgins
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