

# *Newscast*

## **Region 4 of The American Iris Society**

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Vol. 44, No. 1

MARCH 2002

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(336) 883-9677

**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY  
Membership Secretary **Anner M. Whitehead, P.O. Box 14750, Richmond, VA**  
**23221-4750.**

Communications regarding **American Iris Society membership, dues and change of address** should be addressed to **Anner M. Whitehead.**

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

NEWSCAST is free to AIS members in Region 4. Subscription rate for those not in Region 4 is \$5.00 per year. Checks made to Region 4, American Iris Society should be sent to the Region 4 Treasurer.

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

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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## Errata (Vol. 43, No. 3, December 2001)

Page 4: Lois Reed should be Lois ROSE

Page 4: Sonja and Mark Cooper should be SONIA and KURT KUPPERT

Page 19: Clarence Mahan should be listed as an EMERITUS Judge, not as a Master/Active. [Clarence was voted this honor at the fall meeting of the AIS Board of Directors]

## RVP's MESSAGE

Greetings Region 4:

I'm not certain if I should be wishing you a great winter, a wonderful spring or what. The irises are (or should I say were) happily coming out to enjoy a great spring. We had temperatures in the 80's and spring flowers were opening up and smiling at the world. Then our temperature dropped to the upper 20's and the flowers said "What is going on here?" Well, back to the 70's and 80's and now back down to the 20's. But the iris are still hanging in not blooming but not dying back either. So who knows what kind of bloom we will be having this year. We hope that Northwestern Virginia is having better weather than we are.



On May 17 and 18, we will be having our Spring Regional in Winchester, VA, hosted by C&P and hope that you are looking forward to attending. In 2003, Region 4 will host the National AIS Convention, so our spring regional this year will be a walk through of the northwest tour gardens. Not only will we be seeing some great gardens that are being prepared for National, but we will also be putting final touches on that meeting. This will be an opportunity for you to help Region 4 have the best National ever. The national convention this year is in Memphis, TN. You need to check the dates for the convention, as they are a little different than usual, Wednesday, April 24 through Monday, April 29. (Ed. see p. 4 for the final schedule). Opening banquet is on Friday night; Saturday, Sunday, and Monday are scheduled garden tours, including the Memphis Botanic Garden. The awards banquet is on Monday night. There is an optional tour to Graceland available for Saturday evening. Memphis is not that far away, which is good for Region 4 members. The AIS website will give driving directions.

Bill Mull is receiving many slides for the national slide programs he is putting together. He is working on a program for the spring meeting of Region 4. The response from the various societies has been great. In fact, it is turning into a full-time job as he is sending out 15 to 20 slide sets a month. If you have a need for a slide presentation for your society, a talk for the garden club or whatever, you might want to think about this. Also, if you know anyone who has slides they would like to share with AIS, please let Bill know. The slide programs are good for the growers as it gives people an idea of what and where they can buy iris. It gives the hybridizers an opportunity to get their newer iris before the public and it is great advertising for your local Chapter as well as National.

Have a great growing season and may all your iris be thrilled with the weather. Looking forward to seeing you at Regional in May!

**AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY CONVENTION - 2002  
THE BLUES AND OTHER COLORS**

**Hosted by Memphis Area Iris Society, Memphis, Tennessee**

**April 24 - 29, 2002**

**Meeting Schedule**

**Wednesday, April 24, 2002**

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Registration	South Foyer
1:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.	AIS Board of Directors	Salon B/C
(Break 5:00 - 7:30 p.m. for Dinner)		

**Thursday, April 25, 2002**

8:00 a.m. - Noon	AIS Board of Directors	Salon B/C
11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Registration	South Foyer
12:00 Noon - 1:45 p.m.	Society for Siberian Irises Board	Sevier & Conway
12:00 Noon - 1:45 p.m.	AIS Section Representatives	McNair & Henry
1:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.	Boutique Setup	Pyramid Ballroom
1:00 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.	AIS Board of Counselors	Salon F/G
2:00 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.	Median Iris Society Board	Salon B/C
2:00 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.	Aril Society International Board	Sevier & Conway
2:00 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.	Reblooming Iris Society Board	McNair & Henry
3:00 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.	Regional Judges' Training Chairmen	Salon F/G
4:00 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.	SIGNA Board	Salon B/C
4:00 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.	Dwarf Iris Society Board	Sevier & Conway
4:00 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.	Society for Japanese Irises Board	McNair & Henry
5:00 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.	AIS Affiliated Societies	Salon F/G
6:00 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.	HIPS Board	Salon b/C
6:00 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.	Spuria Iris Society	Sevier & Conway
6:00 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.	Region 7 Board	McNair & Henry
8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.	AIS Foundation	Sevier & Conway
8:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.	AIS Board of Directors	Salon F/G

**Friday, April 26, 2002**

7:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Boutique Setup	Pyramid Ballroom
7:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Registration	South Foyer
8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	Median Iris Society	Salon D
8:30 a.m. - 9:50 a.m.	Region 7 AIS	Sevier & Conway
9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	Spuria Iris Society	Salon E

9:45 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.	Society for Siberian Irises	Salon D
10:00 a.m. - 11:20 p.m.	SIGNA	Sevier & Conway
10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.	HIPS	Salon E
11:30 a.m. - 12:50 p.m.	Aril Society International	Sevier & Conway
11:30 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Reblooming Iris Society	Salon D
1:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Boutique Open	Pyramid Ballroom
1:00 p.m. - 2:20 p.m.	Dwarf Iris Society	Sevier & Conway
1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Society for Japanese Irises	Salon E
2:15 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.	Society for Louisiana Irises	Salon D
2:30 p.m. - 3:50 p.m.	Society for Pacific Coast Native Irises	Sevier & Conway
4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Tall Bearded Iris (AIS)	Salon D
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	No Host Reception - Cash Bar	Ballroom Foyer
7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.	Welcome Banquet	Continental Ballroom
9:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.	Boutique Open	Pyramid Ballroom

### **Saturday, April 27, 2002**

6:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	Iris Show Entries	Memphis Botanic Garden
7:00 a.m. - Noon	Boutique Open	Pyramid Ballroom
7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.	Registration	South Foyer
8:00 a.m. - Noon	Garden Tours (Buses load at 7:45 a.m.)	
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Judging of Iris Show	Memphis Botanic Garden
Noon - 1:30 p.m.	Box Lunch	Memphis Botanic Garden
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Iris Show Open	Memphis Botanic Garden
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Judges' Training #1 Garden Judging	Memphis Botanic Garden
	Instructors: Hooker Nichols, Jerry Wilhoit, Melody Wilhoit	
4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Youth Reception	McNair & Henry
5:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	OPTIONAL TOUR : Czars of Russia Exhibit	The Pyramid
5:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.	Boutique Open	Pyramid Ballroom
6:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.	OPTIONAL TOUR : Graceland (Bus loads at 6:30 p.m.)	
8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.	Past, Present & Future Convention Chairman	Sevier & Conway

### **Sunday, April 28, 2002**

7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.	Registration	South Foyer
7:00 a.m. - Noon	Boutique Open	Pyramid Ballroom
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Garden Tours (Busses load at 7:45 a.m.)	
5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.	Robin Reception	McNair & Henry
5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.	Geek Dinner	Sevier & Conway
6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.	Silent Auction Bids Close	Pyramid Ballroom
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Judges Training #2 - Medians Instructor: Marky Smith	Salon A/B/C/D



8:15 p.m. - 9:45 p.m.	Judges Training #3 - "What Every Judge Should Know" by Clarence Mahan	Salon A/B/C/D
10:00 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.	Irises & Computers	Salon A/B/C/D

**Monday, April 29, 2002**

7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.	Registration	South Foyer
7:00 a.m. - Noon	Boutique Open	Pyramid Ballroom
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Garden Tours (Busses load at 7:45 a.m.)	
6:00 p.m.	Deadline for Ballots	
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	No Host Reception & Cash Bar	Ballroom Foyer
7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.	Awards Banquet	Continental Ballroom

**OPTIONAL EVENING TOURS**

**GRACELAND TOUR** (April 27, 2002) \$ 75.00 per person prepaid

Deadline: April 1, 2002: Includes: Transportation, Dinner, and full tour of facilities.

**CZARS: 400 Years of Imperial Grandeur** (April 27, 2002)

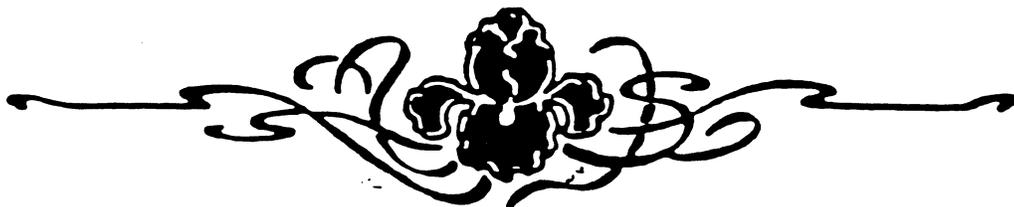
\$ 50.00 per person (Includes: Gourmet Dinner and a tour of this world premiere showing that chronicles the majesty and mystery of the Romanov dynasty.) Participants provide own transportation; parking is included in the fee.

Deadline: April 1, 2002. Minimum of 20 participants required.

<b>Headquarters:</b>	Marriott EAST	<b>Room Rates:</b> \$89.00 for 1-4 persons + tax
	2625 Thousand Oaks Blvd.	
	Memphis, TN 38118	
	Telephone: (901) 362-6200	

Please reserve your room directly with the hotel. Mention the American Iris Society Convention.

Registration Form and Registration Fee(s) are in the January 2002 issue of *The Bulletin of The American Iris Society*, page 17.



# **CULTURE OF IRISES A COMMON-SENSE APPROACH FOR THE AVERAGE HOME GARDENER**

Rena Crumpler

[Editor's Note: Rena Frantz Crumpler served Region 4 and AIS for many years as RVP, Editor of *NEWSCAST*, and a Director of AIS. She thoroughly understood the how of growing irises and presented a beautiful garden for visitors. She wrote a series of articles for *NEWSCAST* in 1978-79 when she was Editor and I was RVP. I intend to reprint each of these with some editing.]

## **PART V : ORGANIC MATTER - COMPOST**

**COMPOSTING:** Compost is the easiest, most economical source of organic material. It is high-level conservation which the individual can practice. Its benefits not only will be evident far into the future, but, the results are for you to enjoy in your lifetime. I know of nothing that will give your irises and your entire garden the "miracle touch" to the extent of compost added to your soil. You have heard comments that irises do not grow well in the same location year after year. I guarantee that with adequate fertilization and annual addition of organic material, you can grow irises in the same location as long as you care to do so. Many things that otherwise would be wasted can be used for composting, depending somewhat on your situation. Different materials will be available in various sections, some affected by whether you garden on a farm, in the suburbs, in town on a large lot or in town on a small spot with close neighbors, although objectionable odors can usually be controlled with little difficulty.

The materials most commonly used and easiest to come by fall into two categories - those that deteriorate or get rid of objectionable qualities slowly and those which can be broken down quickly. The ones which need time will be used mostly by gardeners with plenty of space.

### **SLOW TO DECOMPOSE (1 to 3 years)**

Cotton Wastes: Slow to decompose (a year or more), found in abundance in the South. It is fine composting material if you can give it time to decay.

Sewerage Sludge: Often available in cities and towns for small cost. Should be weathered to have time to rid itself of harmful bacteria (about a year before it should be used in a compost pile.)

Wool Scraps: Chip as fine as possible, combine with other materials and allow about two years to disintegrate.

Shells and Nuts: Pecan, peanut and other relatively soft types are best. Do not use walnut hulls or any debris around walnut trees. Walnuts contain a chemical which kills bacteria and inhibits plant growth. (For the same reason, do not plant irises near a walnut tree.)

Bark, Wood Chips, Wood Shavings, and Sawdust: All make good compost but is not easy to break them down. All are better to use after they are in a pile for a year or two. Of course, common sense tells you that a small amount of the finer materials mixed well with your other compost can be used at any time. It works more quickly if high nitrogen fertilizer is added. I advise going slowly and experimenting before using large quantities of sawdust on irises and be sure it has lost its identity and been converted to humus before applying.

Hay and Straw: Needs nitrogen and other materials in various stages of decomposition to quicken decaying action.

Corn Cobs, Wood Ashes: Listed together because they are available sources of organic potash. Corn cobs should be ground if used in the home compost pile and I would hesitate to use any great quantity of them. Fresh wood ashes should not be used in compost because they form lye which is harmful to soil bacteria. They are good if allowed to age but, here again, I would use them sparingly.

### **FAST TO DECOMPOSE (In warm weather, 3 or 4 months)**

Products of the Sea: Fish wastes, seaweed, kelp. If you live near the coast, these are valuable products. They will deteriorate rapidly if provided with nitrogen.

Lawn Clippings, Weeds and other Discarded Plants: These make good compost after you get by the initial problem of caking and matting, especially lawn clippings. Lime may be added rather heavily to keep down odor and hasten decay. Lawn clippings work better if mixed with dryer materials, or if allowed to dry on their own before composting.

Weeds and garden plants make excellent compost if you are careful to keep out anything infected by disease. They put back many elements that they have removed from the soil. Iris growers seem fearful of using old rhizomes, discarded debris, spent bloomstalks, withered foliage or fresh tops. This is valid only if your plants are diseased. For 20 years or more I have returned to the soil as compost every scrap of iris refuse except in rare instances where a particular plant has had rot. I have no leaf spot, few borers and seldom any rot. Occasionally, freeze damaged stalks will rot. Of course, these are carefully destroyed. I do maintain a clean garden and spray regularly throughout the growing season.

Table Scraps: Good for compost, particularly meat scraps.

Tobacco Wastes: Good for compost where available.

Manure, Animal Wastes: Excellent by themselves or mixed with other materials to make compost.

Leaves: Dried or from clippings. When fresh they have the same value as any other green material. Dried, they have low food value. However, with nitrogen added and layered in with old compost and soil they are excellent for compost.

Remember, almost anything organic will compost if: (1) It is of animal or vegetable origin; and (2) If it can be broken down (decomposed) within a reasonable length of time, reasonable to be decided by you in the light of your particular location, space and needs.

### **AIDS IN COMPOSTING**

- (1) A compost grinder or shredder: They come in all sizes and types to fit almost any need. The decaying process can be cut in half or more if the material is ground or shredded. It also makes it easier to turn while the process is taking place and the material easier to dig into the soil at whatever stage you wish to incorporate it. This is much more important to the small grower who uses irises with other plants and where it is impractical to use a tiller.
- (2) Your lawnmower: For leaves, many weeds and clippings, your power mower does an excellent job of shredding. Before mowing scatter material on the ground catching it and the grass in bags.
- (3) Lime: Cuts down odor, hastens action, keeps materials from becoming too acid and encourages growth of bacterial organisms as well as providing calcium. It is also a good soil conditioner on its own.
- (4) Chemical fertilizer between layers: Nitrogen, especially, is valuable in breaking down many substances. It feeds microorganisms and prevents them from removing too much nitrogen from the soil. The other elements of phosphorus and potash in addition to other functions, contribute to a nutritionally well-balanced compost. Organic fertilizer is not adequate for this purpose because the action is too slow.
- (5) Old decomposed compost.
- (6) Enough top soil for layering.
- (7) Well rotted manures, used to layer between fresh materials.

In cases where the last three items are not readily available, it may be advantageous to buy a commercial "compost activator" which contains bacterial cultures. The so-called "herbal mixtures" are sometimes used but I am inclined to question their value.

## **THE COMPOST HEAP**

Any partly shaded location will do if it is:

1. Inconspicuous.
2. Well drained.
3. Small enough in area so you can get to it easily. Two or three small heaps are better than one large one.

Construction: Construct in alternate layers of organic material and soil. The material to be composted should regulate to some extent the thickness of the layers. Light material, which decays rapidly and creates less bulk can be thicker and soil layers thinner. Heavy material which decays slowly should be thinner and soil thicker. Layers of four to six inches in depth is a rule of thumb. Keep wet but not soggy. Turn every few weeks to give aeration.

Compost Pit: This method is not recommended but sometimes cannot be avoided. In such cases, it must be constructed in thin layers and turned often. Material which takes a long time to decay is not practical to use nor is material which has not been ground or shredded. Some partial protection should be provided so that it doesn't get too much moisture. The problem here is one of getting rid of carbon dioxide and giving the bacteria oxygen.

Method of Adding Organic Material other than Compost to the Soil: Organic matter can be applied directly to the soil and dug or tilled into it. This can be done easily during the dormant months. It can be applied as a mulch. (Avoid such things as fresh grass clippings and leaves for irises. They may pack down in wet weather and become a solid glob of material thus allowing too little air to get to the plant and encouraging leaf spot and rot.) Any light material which does not pack might be used.

Sheet Composting: This is a term generally applied to growing a cover crop such as cereal grains, vetch, winter rye, buckwheat and lespedeza. The crop is allowed to mature and then is turned under. It can be used to great advantage where you have room to alternate growing areas. However, for the small home gardener, this method is not practical. It might be put to use to enrich and condition soil in a vacant lot before building or in any vacant space where you intend to grow plants later.

[This is the last article in this series.]

## THERE COMES A TIME

F. G. Stephenson

There comes a time when the best friends must part. The time has finally arrived when physical disabilities dictate our inability to do the many things that have been an integral part of our lives. In this case, it turns out to be the care of the irises. It brings sadness and tears that are inevitable and indescribable after more than forty years of being a very close and intimate part of ones life.

I guess I had been warned many years ago when my mother warned me to be careful not to get involved with unknown women. This relationship began in 1955 when a good "friend"(?) decided to get rid of some irises he was "sick of" because of a heavy infestation of borers. We had just purchased a lot on which we later built and I thought this was a good opportunity to start a flower garden. I was ignorant of the iris and borers meant nothing to me. Of the six irises, one was a "lady" called HELEN COLLINGWOOD and another was called LADY BOSCAWEN. These were the two "unknown" ladies that took over my life. After building my new home in 1958, these irises were moved to a new location and given no thought.

In 1961, Mr. Claude O'Brien, American Iris Society Region 4 RVP, launched a campaign to organize Region 4 into Chapters defining individual regions. In the Spring of 1962, Mr. O'Brien had all local members and others interested in irises to attend a meeting in the old Roanoke Library where he would explain the new organization. While there had been local iris societies, this was the beginning of a completely new organization. It was here that I met Frances Brown, a well known hybridizer, Rena Frantz (later becoming Rena Crumpler) and others. Visiting them I was amazed at the great variety of irises. They kindly shared some of the newer irises with me since I had joined what was then called the Roanoke Chapter. This was the real beginning of my involvement in irises.

My memory is a bit fuzzy on the sequence of events, but we had the first Regional meeting, since reorganization, here in Roanoke in 1962, and I met a lot of iris people. Prior to the Regional meeting, a number of us made the trip to John Wilson's home in Greensboro for an iris auction. Here I remember meeting many new people. Among them were "the other" Frances Brown, the Dughes, Nannie Paquet, Alice Bouldin, Mary Nifong, Fannie Stadler, Ralph and Helen Lewis and many more whom I can't recall.

At our Roanoke meeting, I recall visiting several iris gardens. We visited the Rena Frantz garden, Dick Meagher garden, Frances Brown garden, and I was very much pleased that they visited Mr. and Mrs. Fred Stephenson's garden. Several other gardens were included. It was most fascinating to see new irises and it just whetted my appetite to have more of the newer creations.

Somewhere in this period I was elected as Membership Chairman (of Region 4) and had the task of trying to keep members from dropping out. This is a task that continues even to this day. This was the beginning of my being officially in the Society organization.

I believe the next Regional meeting I attended was the Charleston-Lewisburg meeting. Highlight of this meeting was the irises planted in the Centennial Garden. These irises were planted on an old Indian mound enclosed by a rail fence. Headquarters here was the home of Earl Browder, the RVP. From Charleston, we moved to Lewisburg where the headquarters was the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Kelley. The Kelleys had a beautiful old home with a beautiful view of their iris garden. I had never seen as many new and well grown irises. Here too, I met some wonderful iris people such as Jim Aultz, Roberta McMullen, the Van Horns, Mr. and Mrs. McLaughlin and "Preacher" Jack.

One Chapter that I visited during this time was the C & P Chapter where I met more good iris people such as George Crossman, Gene Burger, Dr. Charlie Nearpass, Ivan Richmond and the Allens. It was around then that Rena Frantz was elected Region 4 RVP. Sometime after than (1964, I believe) I was appointed as an Iris judge.

One thing that amazed me was that there were no requirements for becoming an Iris Judge. The RVP appointed whomever he/she desired. A training program of sorts existed and was open to anyone. AIS had tried several times to institute a comprehensive judges' training program, but none were ever accepted so a call went out to all RVPs to develop a judges' training program and submit it to National. Rena was not very optimistic about any program being accepted. Rena asked me to try to come up with a program for Region 4; again stating that no program would get the approval of the AIS Board. Rena was not aware that I had been writing training programs for my employer, The Telephone Company, for over fourteen years. I went to work making a study of what everyone considered the essentials of the "perfect iris".

From there I decided to develop a program incorporating the basic parts of the iris: The Flower, The Plant, Color Classification and Iris Exhibition. Then I developed a lesson on each. Being idealistic, I wrote out Instructor's Work Sheets so anyone could effectively teach that subject. I then set up a timetable for an individual to complete the entire course and meet the requirements for a judgeship which were a part of the Program.

Since the 1965 Regional was to be held in Roanoke, this gave us a chance to make a test run using people who had never conducted a training session. We did set aside a whole day before the Regional. We met in the Windsor Hills Baptist Church. It turned out to be what I had anticipated and the group was in favor of presenting it at the next Regional meeting which was to be held in Greensboro. Fortunately I was able to get Bill Bledsoe, AIS Judges' Training Chairman, to teach the first part The Flower. This turned out to be a success and it was decided to proceed. The next meeting was scheduled for Norfolk.

I felt very fortunate to have Dr. Hugo Wall, AIS President, to agree to teach the second class on The Plant. This class was held in Norfolk at the 1967 Region 4 meeting. Dr. Wall made a real hit with those attending the meeting. So much had been said about the program being used by Region 4 that Dr. Hubert Fischer, former AIS President, decided to come and observe. The training was a huge success with 47 registered for the class.

This was a chance to become acquainted and renew acquaintance with so many including Delia Munn, who chaired the meeting, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Ward, Weldon Ballard, Mrs. Guy Kirby, Rena Kizziar, Dr. Anne Lee and many others.

The third lesson on Color Classification and Exhibition was scheduled for the Regional meeting that met in Lewisburg in 1968. The instructor was Mrs. Carol Ramsey of Wichita, KS. Carol was well received by the 36 enrolled in the School. This completed the first complete presentation of the course. A total of 79 people took at least one class and eight people completed the entire course.

Following that school, I was invited to present the Course in Huntsville, AL, using the Region 4 Training material. Schools were conducted in Dallas and at two different times in Atlanta.

The next round of the training Class was held in Baltimore. Here I was assisted by Betty Ward and Tom Ford. The turnout was excellent! This was a new Chapter that was a splinter of the large C & P Chapter. Here I recall meeting many fellow Irisarians. To name a few, I would include Alice Miller, Rosalie Figge, Mr. and Mrs. Maynard Harp, Sr., Bill and Claire Barr, Ann Dasch and the Reberts.

Great excitement was created by an invitation to attend and take part in Judges' Training Sessions at the Milwaukee Convention. This was held in a large tent which was filled to capacity. Assisting in the Judges' Training Session were Oren Campbell speaking on Exhibition Judging; Carol Ramsey on Medians; and I was speaking on Garden Judging. Included earlier were talks on other classes of irises. The highlight of this meeting was the acceptance and the orderliness of the attendees. This being my first National convention, I was overwhelmed and surprised at the ease of meeting and talking to some of the "iris greats."

In 1970 the Regional was held in Roanoke. Dr. William McGarvey was the speaker. It was most interesting to be exposed to Siberian irises. This was a most successful and interesting for at this meeting it was announced that the North Carolina Chapter was chartering a bus for the New York Golden Jubilee Convention. The bus from Carolina picked up a group from Roanoke. On the way we visited Longwood Gardens near Philadelphia and were fortunate to see the famous water display that evening.

When we arrived at the New York Convention headquarters we were ready to see irises. Next day we visited many gardens. I was most impressed with the Smith garden. Included in the tour was a visit to the Botanical Gardens of which I had heard much. They were very impressive. I do remember visiting the Viette Nursery on Long Island. At that time never did I envision its moving to Virginia.

I do not want to neglect to mention the Plant Auctions held during the various meetings. This was the source of funding for *NEWSCAST*, the Region 4 bulletin, and other Regional expenses. Auctions provide much excitement and provide the opportunity to get newer irises at a bargain (sometimes!). The auctions held separately usually were well attended. I recall one auction held here in Roanoke at Clytie McCoy's home. We had members coming from West Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina and from Norfolk. There were a total of 70 in attendance and Joe Lynn from Buena Vista was the auctioneer. At that time we had a very active group from that general area. I remember Bert Cupp, Marge Murray, Mr. and Mrs. Davidson and Mr. and Mrs. Grow. We thought we were doing great as we made \$150! We thought that was great!

By this time the AIS Board had accepted the Region 4 Training Program as the basis of the National Judges' Training Program. Realizing that the expense of a one day for training was too expensive, it was decided to all the various Chapters to include the training in their regular Regional meetings using the various components of the requirements being taught.

Out of the blue came a letter from Dr. Hugo Wall, AIS President, containing the following:

"I just received a note from Harry Kuesel suggesting Roanoke as a good spot for the 1974 Convention. I thought of you and Region 4 and his suggestion made sense to me. I don't know if the Region is prepared for this, but the impression I have is that you people are on the ball and moving ahead....."

I immediately got in touch with Dr. Wall and told him I was the wrong person to make such a decision. He insisted that I go ahead and see if the Hotel Roanoke could handle a national convention on that date. A call to the hotel brought the information that they had another small convention booked for that week. All thoughts about a Roanoke Convention went "out the window." A subsequent call from the hotel brought the news that could make the hotel available for AIS. A call to Dr. Wall was made and he asked me to reserve the dates. I advised him that I had no authority and that he should contact the RVP, but he insisted that I go ahead and reserve it for AIS.

Bill Kelley, the RVP, was quite upset that he had not been contacted. He felt that the members should decide. Phone calls to Blue Ridge members indicated that we felt we could handle this with the help of the whole Region. Nothing more was heard from

National until the middle of January when Mr. Jake Scharff, National Convention Chairman, called and informed that he could find no other region willing to undertake the 1974 Convention on such short notice and asked us as Region 4 to go ahead with plans. Akron, OH, was scheduled several years in advance for this Convention but the host hotel had burned down and they were unable to host the 1974 Convention and AIS was about to cancel the Convention when this alternative became available.

Mrs. A. W. Rice, Blue Ridge Chapter Chairman, called a meeting at which RVP Bill Kelley was present. After much discussion the members present voted to accept the invitation. Mrs. Rice, at the request of Dr. Wall and with the approval of members present appointed F. G. Stephenson as General Chairman. This is where the difficulty began. Bill Kelly wanted to have Rena Crumpler as Co-chairman and was told that no one could "co-chair" with Rena and that Dr. Wall had specifically requested that I be General Chairman. Earl Browder said he would oppose approving any advance funds but that he would personally provide advance funds if I would let Rena be General Co-chairman. I refused and asked President Wall what to do. He said "don't worry." Immediately advance registrations began to come in and provided all the funds needed. I was greatly heartened that all members asked to fill various positions accepted readily. We were on our way.

Unexpectedly I received an invitation from Frances O'Kelley, RVP of Region 23, to conduct a Judges' Training class in Albuquerque, NM. I accepted as the honorarium from this would make it possible for me to attend the National Convention in Portland where I could observe and take notes on a National Convention. Albuquerque was quite different from any place I had ever been. It was a place requiring irrigation. I was amazed at the size of the drainage ditches running through town. When it rains there is nothing to halt the flow from the nearby mountains. After a very successful meeting and some good publicity, Ms. O'Kelley and I headed for Portland where I was surprised by the beautiful flowering shrubs, but my eyes could not take in the thousands of irises in the many gardens visited. The soil there was such as I had never seen. It was composed mostly of volcanic ash which was most friable and after things were planted, the soil had to be compacted to hold the plants. Schreiners Garden was unbelievable with acres of irises in bloom. The best ones and the good seedlings were in beds close to the house. Cooley's better irises were planted in beds in the display garden. Other gardens were also outstanding.

Here I again met many well known iris growers. I was especially interested in Bennett Jones who invited me to his home. It was there that I saw an original copy of *The Genus Iris* which is a rarity. Mr. Jones took it upon herself to introduce me to many people and I was overwhelmed by the number who expected to come to Roanoke in '74. There was little to fault with the Portland convention, but I made hundreds of notes on things to do and to avoid, most of which we had already taken care of in our convention plans. While in Portland, in our free time, I visited the famous Rose Garden and the Oriental Garden which were almost beyond belief. Then I headed home.

My next visit was made to the Region 4 Annual Meeting hosted by the C & P Chapter in Tyson's Corner, VA. I again met some of the nice people like the Coxes and George Crossman. There were not too many exciting irises but all were well grown. From there I drove on to the National Convention. I can't recall this being a very exciting convention. I don't recall any outstanding gardens. I imagine that I was more concerned about our upcoming Region 4 Convention.

Next on my schedule was a visit to the Philadelphia Convention in 1973. In the meanwhile, I and the Convention Chairmen were busy with plans for our own Convention. Things were progressing nicely and many nice guest irises were received and were growing beautifully. I still felt a bit apprehensive because I knew several of the "big wigs" were not happy at not being "top dogs."

Registrations for the Region 4 Convention kept coming in and we had a capacity crowd. All the staff was excited and did their best to see that everything was in order. Everything went smoothly except the bus tours which a VPI computer professor worked out and Bill Kelley insisted on changing. In the end there were too many busses at some gardens making it too crowded. All in all it was an exceedingly good convention and we were surprised that so many people showed up, thus stretching the hotel to its limit. Many congratulations were received and even several conventions later many expressed the thought that this was the "best Convention ever." Although I was forced to give up the job before it was completed, we had the largest monetary surplus ever realized by any convention.

Prior to the convention, the telephone company, my employer, was most generous in allowing me to be excused from overtime assignments and allowing me free use of their duplicating equipment. I felt I had an obligation to repay their kindness. I was expected to work on a Saturday when Bill Kelley called a meeting. I prepared a detailed statement about every phase of the Convention and sent it by the Co-chairman. Bill was so angry at my not attending that he ordered all funds turned over to the Region 4 Treasurer, along with any unpaid bills and that my position as General Chairman be terminated. Generally, the General Chairman is allowed one year to finalize. All this was retaliation for my not allowing Rena Crumpler to be Co-chairman.

This put a damper on my enthusiasm to participate actively. Instead, following my retirement in 1975, I concentrated on working toward the establishment of an Adult Care Center in the Roanoke area. This became a reality in 1982. In the meantime, I became less active in Iris doings. I concentrated on growing, at least, eight new irises each year which I continued until the year 2000. All the while interest was decreasing dramatically until the Blue Ridge Iris Society ceased to exist after 1999. I did attend all local meetings and two national conventions during this time, York, PA and Omaha, NE.

You might ask about my wife's involvement. She was not interested in these Regional and National meetings. Additionally, we were not financially able for both of us

to participate. She was more interested in staying home and looking after the children and later, the irises. No one would have been more supportive and encouraging throughout the years of my involvement. Her interest was in helping me care for our "babies" the irises.

Having been given a computer by my son as a Christmas gift, I soon learned that there were many others interested in irises and soon a bond was established between several of us. Two of these were ladies living in Springfield, IL. About four years ago they decided to pay us a visit, driving the 700 miles to Roanoke. We were a bit apprehensive to have these "strangers" visit our garden but it turned out that they are very lovely caring people. We gave them some surplus irises. The very next year one of these friends and her husband were so intrigued with this area of the country that they returned for a visit and were given a car load of surplus irises. This gift inspired her to start an "Iris farm."

It became increasingly difficult for my wife and me to take care of our irises. We determined to get out of growing irises. This friend in Springfield, IL, was contacted and offered as many as she desired. She offered to dig all the bearded irises, seed the old beds, and take the irises home and plant them on what turned out to be her "iris farm." In early August she and some of her family came down, dug all the irises, reworked my perennial beds, packed the irises in paper bags and took them home. It was heartbreaking to part with nearly 900 clumps of our "iris babies" that had received our loving care over the years, but "THERE COMES A TIME" when those closest to us must part.

Note: These "unknown women" have lead to many new friends, new adventures and countless memories.

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### **ADOPT A LIBRARY!**

Anner M. Whitehead, AIS Membership Secretary

Affiliates and Regions interested in new ways to encourage wider interest in the Iris and The American Iris Society may wish to consider providing a local library with an AIS membership so that the *Bulletin* will be available to patrons.

Public libraries, academic libraries, rural libraries, and libraries at botanical institutions are often underfunded and may welcome your group's ongoing commitment to providing the *Bulletin*. The expense is small in comparison to the potential benefit to the public, especially when paid at the Triennial level.

Why not ask the serials acquisition librarian at a library or horticultural institution near you if they will accept such a gift? Contributing a copy of the authoritative classic AIS publication *The World of Irises* to the library's reference collection would also be an especially worthwhile gesture on the part of the sponsor.

By adopting a library your group can bring the latest and best information about irises to gardeners and students, and enhance public awareness of AIS and the many benefits of membership.

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**THE WORLD OF IRISES**

The AIS Board of Directors is interested in encouraging wider distribution of the AIS hardback publication *The World of Irises*. To facilitate purchase by Affiliates or Regions or others who may be interested in larger quantities, a discount scale has just been established by the Board. The rates are effective immediately. Any further questions about *The World of Irises*, the discount schedule, or AIS Storefront terms of trade generally should be directed to the Storefront (P.O. Box 956, Sandy, OR, 97055). Correct telephone number is (503) 826-8808.

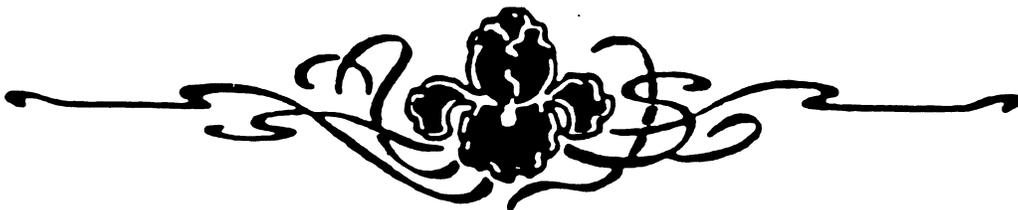
Single copy: \$27.00; 10 copies @ 20% discount; 50 copies @ 30% discount; 100 copies @ 40% discount.

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**AIS "INVITATION TO JOIN"**

A new four-color Invitation to Join brochure has just been sent to the printer. It is critically important that no uncorrected older ITJs be used for recruitment purposes. When a check written at the old dues rate is received by the AIS Membership Office, it must be returned to the sender. To avoid frustrating and alienating new recruits great care should be taken that they receive only viable information about AIS. This includes both dues rates and the address of the Membership Office.

Requests for ITJs should be sent to: Dr. E. Roy Epperson, 1115 Delk Drive, High Point, NC. Phone: (336) 883-9677. There is no charge for ITJs.



## **SOME AFFILIATE ACTIVITIES**

### **CAROLINA MOUNTAINS IRIS SOCIETY - Walter Hoover**

- May 11      Spring Show, Hendersonville, NC
- June 13-14    Japanese Iris Show, Hendersonville, NC
- August 10    Iris Auction and Sale

### **CENTRAL VIRGINIA IRIS SOCIETY - Linda Laing**

Newly elected officers are:

Linda Laing, President  
Jean Hutchison, Vice President  
June Rosini, Secretary  
Van Ferguson, Treasurer

Our only youth member, Krissy Laing (age 9 years) placed First for her age category in the AIS coloring contest. She won out of 39 entries from 10 different regions.

### **CHARLOTTE IRIS SOCIETY - Carrie Winter**

- May 4      Annual Spring Iris Show : Location TBD

### **CHESAPEAKE & POTOMAC IRIS SOCIETY - Don Spoon**

- May 4:10 -4    Hybridizing Clinic for Youth and Young at Heart  
Judges' Training on Medians : Ginny Spoon, Instructor  
Winterberry Gardens
- June 22      Beardless Show at Brookside Gardens
- July 13      Bearded Sale and Auction: Location TBD

### **EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA IRIS SOCIETY - Roslyn Mitchell**

- May 4              Garden Mini-tour
- July 13             Annual Plant Auction
- September 14    Program Speaker: Carol Warner
- November 9      Holiday Meeting/Slide Presentation

**FRANCIS SCOTT KEY IRIS SOCIETY - Sylvia Smith**

June 22 Beardless Show (with C&P) at Brookside Gardens

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**REGION 4 2002 SPRING MEETING**

**May 17 and 18, 2002**

**Hosts:** Chesapeake and Potomac Iris Society



**Headquarters:** Holiday Inn, 1017 Millwood Pike, Winchester, VA  
Telephone: 540-667-3300 FAX: 540-722-2730

**Complete Schedule** is on pages 5 and 6 of the December 2001 issue of *NEWSCAST*.

**Registration Form** is the last page in this issue.

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**REGION 4 JUDGES' TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**

Winchester, VA, May 17: Grooming ( 1 hour credit)  
Carol Warner, Instructor  
Exhibition Judging ( 1 hour credit)  
Instructors: Carol Warner  
E. Roy Epperson

Fall Regional Meeting, October 4  
Beardless Basics ( 2 hours credit)  
Instructors: Carol Warner  
E. Roy Epperson

Louisiana Irises ( 1 hour ) ??  
Instructor: To be determined

\* \* \* \* \*

## KOMMENTS FROM KIRKLEE and THE EDITOR

I received the following from Bruce Filardi and I could not resist including it here.

Mahatma Gandhi, as you know, walked barefoot most of the time, which produced an impressive set of calluses on his feet. He also ate very little, which made him rather frail and with his odd diet, he suffered from bad breath. This made him.....

A super callused fragile mystic hexed by halitosis.

As my two year old granddaughter, Annie, says..."too fun"...

My older granddaughter, Virginia Alice (Ginny) age 10 (who is also our newest Youth Member) has received two awards (in the Norfolk public school system) for this poem.

### DIFFERENT

I hold in my hand  
someone elses hand

Different color  
different shape  
different God

But different  
doesn't matter.  
Love matters

Different creates  
the world

Some people think  
it matters, that is  
why disasters happen

NO, NOT ME

[Like Clarence, I am exceptionally proud of my grand children!!]

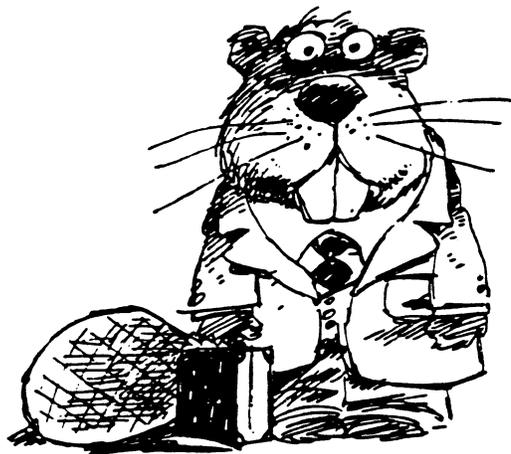


Roger Nelson (6219 Topaz Street NE, Brooks, OR 97305) is trying to locate the following older introductions by Region 4 hybridizers. If you grow any of these and have at least one rhizome to share, would you please let him know and send him some stock?

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| J. D. Stadler | CELESTIAL DREAM ('84)<br>CELESTIAL STORM ('86)  |
| Nannie Paquet | PINK PALACE ('79)<br>TELAKA ('76)   |
| Frances Brown | DRESDEN DREAM ('69)<br>GAY MESSENGER ('76)<br>LANDSEND CLASSIC ('74)<br>LOST IN WONDER ('75)<br>LOVING MEMORIES ('74)<br>MAJESTIC HORIZON ('75)<br>SILVER YEN ('71) |

Roy

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# AIS REGION 4 SPRING 2002 MEETING FRIDAY, MAY 17 AND SATURDAY, MAY 18 REGISTRATION FORM



*(Please print or type)*

Name (1): \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter (1): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name Preference for Name Tag (1): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name (2): \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter (2): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name Preference for Name Tag (2): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone Number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Home  Work   
 E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

	<i>Number of persons</i>		<i>Total</i>
<b>Full Registration:</b>	_____	X \$85 per person = \$	_____
C & P Youth Member only:	_____	X \$50 per person = \$	_____
<b>Partial Registration:</b>			
Friday Evening Dinner only:	_____	X \$25 per person = \$	_____
Saturday Evening Dinner only:	_____	X \$25 per person = \$	_____
Bus Tour and Lunch:	_____	X \$45 per person = \$	_____
<i>After May 1, Registration will be \$100 per person.</i>			Total: = \$ _____

**Flower Show: Friday, May 17, 2002** Setup from 9 am to 12 noon

*Try to bring as many as you can!*

**Auction Contribution:**

*Please bring irises (or daylilies, hostas, etc.) or other materials of interest for the Region!*

Please make all checks payable to:  
 Chesapeake and Potomac Iris Society (C&P IS)

Mail registration to:  
 Joseph F. Metzger, Jr.  
 11927 Beaver Dam Road  
 Union Bridge, MD 21791

Information:  
 (410) 775-7737

## Hotel Information

Holiday Inn	Phone: (540) 667-3300
1017 Millwood Pike	FAX: (540) 722-2730
Winchester, VA 22602	

Millwood Pike is U.S. Route 50. The Holiday Inn is on U.S. Route 50 just off Interstate 81. The rate is \$74 per night (Single or Double) plus VA tax of 6.5%. Please call the hotel directly and mention the Iris Society. The block of rooms will be held until May 1, 2002. Friday and Saturday dinners will feature Jimmy's famous buffets with entrees to please everyone.



## REGION 4 AFFILIATES

**ALLEGHANY HIGHLANDS IRIS SOCIETY - MARGARET STONE**  
229 Crowfield Circle, Lewisburg, WV 24901 (304) 647-4395

**CAROLINA MOUNTAINS IRIS SOCIETY - WALTER HOOVER**  
337 Charles Street, Saluda, NC 28773

**CENTRAL VIRGINIA IRIS SOCIETY - LINDA LAING**  
P. O. Box 1804, Midlothian, VA 23113-1804

**CHARLOTTE IRIS SOCIETY - CARRIE WINTER**  
5801 Masters Court, Charlotte, NC 28226-8046 (704) 542-3812

**CHESAPEAKE & POTOMAC IRIS SOCIETY - DR. DON SPOON**  
1225 Reynolds Road, Cross Junction, VA 22625 (540) 888-4447

**EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA IRIS SOCIETY - ROSLYN MITCHELL**  
2100 Hillock Road, Raleigh, NC 27612-3907 (919) 787-2088

**EASTERN SHORE IRIS SOCIETY - JOHN VINCENT**  
Box 166, Oak Hall, VA 23416 (804) 824-5139

**FRANCIS SCOTT KEY IRIS SOCIETY - SYLVIA SMITH**  
1077 Brightleaf Drive, Arnold, MD 21012

**FREDERICKSBURG AREA IRIS SOCIETY - DOUG CHYZ**  
6 Biscoe Court, Stafford, VA 22554-6437 (540) 659-6202

**HAMPTON ROADS IRIS SOCIETY - MARIAN "BEA" ROGERS**  
3728 Concord Drive, Suffolk, VA 23435-1913 (757) 484-6001

**VIRGINIA PENINSULA IRIS SOCIETY - ELAINE MINNICK**  
P.O. Box 66, Bena, VA 23018

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March issue - 1 February  
August issue - 1 July  
December issue - 1 November**

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*NEWSCAST*, Region 4  
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High Point, NC 27262

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