



NEWSCAST

REGION FOUR OF THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

VOL. 50 No. 2

AUGUST 2008



**The Red Iris.
Is It Here?
Spoon Seedling May 2008**

-American Iris Society- Region 4 Board

Regional Vice President

R. Jerry Coates FSK
111 Council Street
 Frederick, MD 21701
 (301) 662-1664

Assistant RVP

Carrie Winter CIS
 5801 Masters Court
 Charlotte, NC 28226
 (704) 542-3812

Immediate Past RVP

Ginny Spoon C&P
 1225 Reynolds Road
 Cross Junction, VA 22625
 (540) 888-4447
 VSpoon@aol.com

Secretary

June S. Hood
 11700 Albemarle Rd
 Charlotte NC 28227

Treasurer

Carol Warner FSK
 16815 Falls Road
 Upperco, MD 21155
 (410) 374-4788
 draycott@qis.net

Historian

Margaret Stone AHIS
 229 Crowfield Circle,
 Lellwisburg, WV 24901
 (304)647-4395
 mstone@brier.net>

Parliamentarian

Editor NEWSCAST

Anita Moran FSK
 5351 Rocks Rd
 Pylesville, MD 21132
 (410) 452-8828
 avmoran1@earthlink.net

ON THE COVER:

Spoon Red Seedling seen during the
 2008 Spring Regional at Winterberry
 Gardens

Beardless and Species

Carol Warner FSK
 16815 Falls Road
 Upperco, MD 21155
 (410) 374-4788
 draycott@qis.net

Budget

Jack Loving FAIS
 10483 Edgehill Lane
 King George, VA 22485
 (540) 775-4043
 jrloving@juno.com

Judges' Training

Dr. E. Roy Epperson ENC
 1115 Delk Drive
 High Point, NC 27262
 (336) 883-9677

Median Irises

Ginny Spoon C&P
 1225 Reynolds Road
 Cross Junction, VA 22625
 (540) 888-4447

Membership

Mac Shawe C&P
 6405 Fairborn Terrace
 New Carrollton, MD 20784
 urysh_we@verizon.net

Photography

Bill Mull TIS
 7112 Fox's Lair Court
 Norfolk, VA 23518
 (757) 858-5521
 AISslides@aol.com

Reblooming Irises

Mike Lockett
 500 Pantela Drive
 Richmond, VA 23235
 804-330-2916
 CMarti8855@aol.com

Robins

Libby Cross
 8907 Potts Creek Road
 Covington, VA 24426
 (540) 747-2123
 LCross@aol.com

Conventions

Carrie Winter CIS

Youth

Legal Counsel

Bill Kuykendall
 Rte 2, Box 232
 Keyser, WV 26726

Webmaster

Anita Moran FSK
 www.irisesregion4.com

Auction

Dr. Don Spoon C&P
 1225 Reynolds Road
 Cross Junction, VA 22625
 (540) 888-4447

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Region 4 Of the American Iris Society Affiliates

CAROLINA MOUNTAINS IRIS SOCIETY - DANEE A. HOOVER
133 Horizon View Drive, Horse Shoe, NC 28742 (828) 891-2847

CENTRAL VIRGINIA IRIS SOCIETY - VICKI SCHEFFLER
9274 Mars Dr., Mechanicsville VA 23116, (804-730-8693)

CHARLOTTE IRIS SOCIETY - JUNE HOOD
1700 Albemarle Rd, Charlotte NC 28227

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

EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA IRIS SOCIETY - SUSAN GRIGG
105Trotters Ridge Rd, Raleigh, NC 27614-0620

EASTERN SHORE IRIS SOCIETY - ANN DUMLER
901 Camden Avenue, Salisbury, MD 21801-6301

FRANCIS SCOTT KEY IRIS SOCIETY - CAROL WARNER
16815 Falls Road, Upperco, MD 21155 (410) 374-4788

FREDERICKSBURG AREA IRIS SOCIETY - NICK KENNEDY
4 Kennedy Circle, Falmouth, VA 22405 Phone: (540) 373-0160

HAMPTON ROADS IRIS SOCIETY - JOANNE HAMM
304 Beacon Road, Portsmouth, VA 23702, (757) 393-4389

NEWSCAST is the publication of Region 4, AIS

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

NEWSCAST is published 3 times a year.

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.

DEADLINES for receipt of NEWSCAST materials by the Editor are:
March Issue—31 JANUARY : August Issue—30 JUNE : December Issue— 31 OCTOBER

Celebrating 50 Years

In 2009 Region 4 of the American Iris Society will be celebrating 50 years of shared experiences , friendships, and the spreading of the different types of irises throughout the country and the world.

In preparation for this event please go back into your records and find pictures, articles and mementos of the past years so that we may share them with the rest of the Region.

You can e-mail me pictures and articles at avmoran1@earthlink.net

or
you can send them by snail mail to

Anita Moran
5351 Rocks Rd
Pylesville, MD 21132

I hope you will join me in making the August 2009 Newscast a very special issue.

Anita

From The Editor

Well, I'm finally home and able to take a break from all the traveling. In total I visited 14 gardens this year: Dr. Bruce Hornstein's and Winterberry Gardens in early April, the seven from the National Convention in Austin (does The Wildflower Garden count? If so add one more.), the five on the Aril and Median Trek in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and back to Winterberry Gardens for the Spring Regional. I am as exhausted as Perry Dyer must be, since he seemed to be everywhere I was this spring. Despite the problems at the National Convention, the hard work of all the garden owners was evident and appreciated. As always there were a lot of ideas to be had, but my favorite moments were wildflower hunting and taking my first Arilbred training with Kathy Chilton—yes, the same name as the iris.



Winter Berry Gardens at peak bloom

The Aril and Median Trek was wonderful even though there were hard freezes in the outlying areas. Seeing iris that were pure aril was, for me, a treasure and made me even more determined to find a way to work with these wonderful plants to help them grow in a wider range. As with most people in the iris community, those in Albuquerque were wonderful and I thank them all for this special event, which allowed me some glances of what is possible.

It was then time to come back for the Regional that was dedicated to Winterberry Gardens. There are just a few irises planted along the road, but when

you travel up the driveway you come face to face with a sea of irises. What a spectacle! Garden Judging of tall bearded with Ginny Spoon was followed the next day by Garden Judging of seedlings with Perry Dyer. Where better place to have it than among Don Spoon's seedling beds?

I promise to put the Aril and Median Trek in the next Newscast. In the meantime I hope everyone had a great season and lots of rebloom.

Anita

FOR YOUR INFORMATION: Color copies of the March, August, and December Newscast are available for download only at www.irisregion4.com/Newscast.html

Follow the directions for downloading carefully. You will need Adobe Acrobat Reader to view the file as it is in PDF format, but there is a link near the download area for downloading the viewer. You can also print from Adobe Acrobat Reader. :)

**TREASURER'S REPORT
A.I.S. REGION 4**

October 12, 2007 to May 23, 2008

Checking Account Balance on October 12, 2007: **\$7,517.36**

Receipts:

Fall Auction:	\$859.00
Fall Silent Auction:	\$252.00
Additional Dinner Reservations:	\$50.00
Donations:	
Fall AIS Board Meeting:	\$300.00
Interest:	\$1.12
Transfer from Certificate of Deposit:	\$4,000.00

Total Receipts: **\$5,462.12**

Expenditures:

Fall Regional Expenses:	
Holiday Inn:	\$3,026.96
Don Rude Meeting Expenses:	\$59.50
Return 4 Registrations	\$360.00
Show Expenses:	\$44.86
Hahn Horticultural Garden:	\$50.00
December 2007 <i>Newscast</i> Printing:	\$1,316.35
December 2007 <i>Newscast</i> Mailing:	\$138.90
March 2008 <i>Newscast</i> Printing & Mailing:	\$944.69
RVP Convention Expenses:	\$600.00
WEB Site Fee:	\$239.25
Fall AIS Board Meeting Donation:	\$2,300.00
Flowers - Roy Epperson:	\$49.90
Bulk Mail Permit:	\$87.50

Total Expenditures: **\$9,217.91**

Checking Account Balance on May 23, 2008: **\$3,761.57**

Certificate of Deposit (M&T Bank) **\$6,948.07**

Total Assets: **\$10,709.64**

Carol S. Warner, Region 4 Treasurer

PROPOSED 2009 BUDGET FOR REGION 4

<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Dollars</u>
Printing and Mailing Three (3) Issues of Newscast	\$4300.00
RVP Travel Expenses	600.00
Membership Committee – M. Shawe	250.00
Memorials	300.00
AIS Youth Program	100.00
Web Page	300.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	300.00
Total	\$6150.00

Submitted by:

JACK W. LOVING

REPORT OF THE SPRING 2008 REGION 4 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Regional Vice President – Carrie Winter

Assistant Regional Vice President – Don Rude

Secretary – Tricia Taylor

Treasurer – Carol Warner

Submitted by Susan Grigg, Chairman
Anita Moran
Lois Rose

New Members Area

Iris laevigata



Figure 1: *Iris laevigata* in the wild in Kyoto Japan. Photo: By Jeffrey Friedl



Figure 2: *Iris laevigata* in the wild in Kyoto Japan. Photo: By Jeffrey Friedl



Figure 3: *Iris laevigata* in the wild in Kyoto Japan. Photo: By Jeffrey Friedl



Figure 4: *Iris laevigata* alba taken at U.C. Berkeley Botanical Garden. Photo: By Ken Walker

General Information^{1,2,3,4}

Family: Iridaceae

Genus: *Iris*

Classification: Laevigatae

Botanical Name: *Iris laevigata*

1st Pub: F. E. L. von Fischer & C. A. Meyer, Index sem. hort. petrop. 5:36. 1839

Description: 30"-36" (76-160cm) tall, with blue-purple or white flowers, with white signal. In wild forms the usual flower color range is from light to deep blue-violet, but occasionally is reddish or white with pale color tracings on the style arms.

Range: Eastern Asia, Japan

Preferred Habitat: It grows in swamps or alongside streams and flowers in April and May, but in the highlands and in the north it blooms in June or July.

Hardiness: Zone 4-9

As you can see from the pictures, this is a scene from the wild (Figure 1-3) <http://regex.info/blog/2007-05-26/471> and is the blog of Jeffrey Friedl who photographed these iris. A wonderful bog. This water iris also has a wide range of colors and is known to also show a variegated variation.

References:

1. Iris Species Database, <http://www.badbear.com/signa/signa.pl?Search>
2. Bulb Society, <http://bulbsociety.org>
3. USDA, <http://www.ars-grin.gov/cgi-bin/npgs/html/taxon.pl?20324>
4. Jeffrey Friedl, <http://regex.info/blog/2007-05-26/471>

New Members Area

General Information ^{1,2,3,4}

Family: Iridaceae

Genus: Iris

Classification: Regelia

Botanical Name: *Iris afghanica*

Common Name:

1st Pub: Notes Roy. Bot. Gard. Edinburgh
31:338. 1972

Description: *I. afghanica*, a bearded iris, produces 1 or 2 flowers in late spring unbranched with pointed petals and pale yellow standards with green beards, cream falls, veined purple-brown with purple patches and dark brown beards.

Range: Afghanistan

If you look closely at both pictures you can see the beards on the standards. Currently there are no registered cultivars with *I. afghanica* listed as a parent; however there are seedlings such as the Mathes Seedling: (OG X *Iris afghanica*), inside back cover of the 2002 ASI Yearbook.

References:

1. Iris Species Database, <http://www.badbear.com/signa/signa.pl?Search>
2. Bulb Society, <http://bulbsociety.org>
3. USDA, <http://www.ars-grin.gov/cgi-bin/npgs/html/taxon.pl?20244>
4. Backyard Gardener http://www.backyardgardener.com/plantname/pda_d0d2.html



Figure 1: *Iris afghanica*

photo by: Dr Ori Fragman-Sapir (March 26, 2006)
Head Scientist The Jerusalem Botanical Gardens



Figure 2: *Iris afghanica*

photo by J. Forrest of Blackpool, U.K., 2005.

The 2008 National Convention

By Anita Moran



Region 4 2008 National Convention Attendees

Back Row: Glenn Griggs, Dr. E. Roy Epperson, Ray Jones, Rosalie Loving, Karen Jones, Don Rude, Mike Lowe, Theresa Hardasy
Front Row: Jim Schroeder, Tricia Taylor, Pat Otterness, Anne Lowe, Susan Griggs, Lois Rose, Jack Loving, Shirley Hardasy,
Not Pictured: Jerry Coates, Ruth Barker, Anita Moran



Omni Southpark Hotel

Well it is finally over. The 2008 AIS National Convention in Austin, Texas hosted over 400 AIS members and guests. With so many things to see and do within a hundred miles, including all the convention activities, it was tough to fit it all in. Region 4 was very well represented (Picture 1) including Dr. Epperson, Ruth Barker, and Jerry



Jerry Coates and Cheryl Deston

Coates who was unable to stay for the entire convention but was present for the Welcome Dinner. Also the Hardasies both Shirley and Theresa, Jack and Rosalie Loving, the Ray and Karen Jones, Jim Schroeder, Don Rude, Lois Rose who brought a new member, Tricia Taylor, Susan and Glenn Griggs, Anne and Mike Lowe, and of course myself. Although I had taken just over 2,000 photographs I am just sorry I can not post them all here.

The arrival did not start out real well. I got a new GPS unit with which, geek that I am, I learned that you could use Google Earth for locating things, like hotels. So I loaded two things, the hotel and the Alamo. Going to the hotel was an adventure since we ended up on a dirt road and promptly decided that this was not right. Ahh, but it gave me a chance to see and photograph my first Texas wildflowers. The most common one we saw were of course was the 'Blue Bonnet'. In all I photographed over 45 species of wildflowers including one of my favorite finds, the Yellow Thistle. The Mexican Hat, primrose and gaillardia were also in abundance.

One of the side trips I made was to the Congress Avenue Bat Bridge. Home of the largest urban bat colony in the United States, we arrived just before dusk to await the exodus. You could smell them long before you saw them, and Denise Stewart, Lois Rose, Rod Mendenhall, Tricia Taylor and I toughed it out and waited. Bat jokes abounded from everyone waiting and of course there were screams of "they were coming" when a flock of the ever-present grackles flew passed. Finally the first adventurers left the colony but were just too fast to get a picture. Finally they poured out by the thousands. This picture was the only one I got that you could tell they were bats. [A short video will be uploaded to the website as soon as it is done]. For close to 20-minutes the bats streamed out until only a few stragglers were left.



Texas Blue Bonnet



Antelope Horn Milkweed



Nodding Thistle



Bats Leaving Bridge

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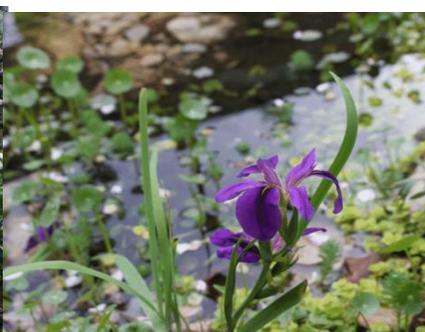


'Have a Goodun' (Burseen 2006)

And then it was time for the garden tours. Convention gardeners were plagued with horrible conditions that they fought through to keep as many guest irises alive and healthy possible. After a year of drought, they were faced with flooding in some gardens with as much as two feet of rain and water sitting in beautifully developed gardens after the area was drenched with 90-inches of rain. Despite these adversities, the gardens were well maintained and a pleasure to walk through. Although the lack of flowers in some gardens was a disappointment, there was an abundance of other plants to view.

The first garden bus, Red 1, went to was the Bannockburn Baptist Church. WOW, just WOW! Where, to look first! The iris beds were of course the first order of business. Nicely laid out so that it was easy for everyone to get a look at the blooms, the irises in bloom had cameras snapping pictures for keeping and sharing. It was here I first saw 'Have a Goodun' by Tom Burseen. Once the iris garden was thoroughly reviewed, I heard of a hidden garden and went looking. Behind a fence thick with clematis vines Jack Campbell, the Garden Ministry Chairman, developed this area with a quaint garden path filled with eye candy. Every-

thing from streams and ponds, a small bridge and roses, larkspur, which seemed to be everywhere, annuals and perennials were in bloom. It was a wonderful place to sit and enjoy. The home of Marney and Roger Able had plenty of sights, including Jim acting Lord of the Manor. Once we stopped gawking at the multimillion dollar homes we ambled into to the back yard where the guest iris were planted into existing garden beds, some of which were extended to hold the bounty. The photo opportunities abounded after you got through the first round. Denise Stewart found a bunny, which was quickly surrounded by photographers. The bunny however, just pointed to a hidden niche that many missed containing Barry Blyth's "Taste Of Magic" and Keith Keppel's "Secret Rites".



Some of the sights in the Bannockburn Baptist Church Garden

The 2008 National Convention (cont.)

By Anita Moran



Jim Schroeder In Able Garden



'TASTE OF MAGIC' Blyth 2006



'SECRET RITES' Keppel 2004



Coral Yucca



Bridge over Water Feature

The planting at Brushy Creek Community Center Garden was overseen by Rachel Hagan. The community center's garden was a planting of both native and non-native plants which included the iris plantings which were placed throughout the garden area. It was here that I learned what a new Yucca plant we saw while visiting the Congress Avenue Bat Bridge looked like. Coral Yucca, which is also called a false yucca, displayed rounded leaves and flowers that were small and more gladiola looking. With water features, including a foot bridge, desert area, and fully native plantings there was a lot to see in a very short span of time.



Natural Gardener Sign

The Natural Gardener was one of two major plantings, and was overseen by John Dromgoole and Roger Igo. There were flowers in abundance but more just at the verge. Set among a commercial Garden Center, it included a path guarded by a huge century plant and a wonderful cactus rock. The path twisted through a shade area filled with rain lilies which even in the shade were stark white. When emerging from the shade, you had two options, past the Teepee to the iris garden or to the grass labyrinth. Since it was still early the grass maze was not yet at its full potential but interesting to see. On the second trip to The Natural Gardener for judges training, I was thrilled that I had arrived early ahead of the buses and garden train-

ers. It was truly worth the wait. Those irises that earlier had been on the verge were in bloom. Don Spoon's 'Grape Harvest', and 'Liger', along with Griff Crump's 'Love At First Sight' had opened up since the visit two days previous, and Ginny Spoon's 'Secondhand Rose' continued to put up a profusion of blooms. 'Kathy Chilton' (Kerr 2006) and again 'Have a Goodun' (Burseen 2006) were spectacular as was a beautiful white Louisiana 'Yavana' (Faith 2004).



'Grape Harvest' (Spoon 2005)



'Liger' (Spoon 2004)



'Love at First Sight' Crump (2007)



'Secondhand Rose'
(G. Spoon 2004)



'Kathy Chilton' (Kerr 2006)



'Yavana' (Faith 2004)



The Murphy Garden

The Murphy Garden was the second major planting. Ed and Janet Murphy took their task very seriously, creating raised beds surrounded by large cut stones. The beds were laid out in a wonderful array with a large pond backdrop. In the center was a shaded gazebo to sit and enjoy the view. The work that the Murphy's put into their display garden was truly tremendous. However, this was one garden hit hard by Mother Nature. The Louisiana iris bloomed profusely and stood up well regardless of the hard rain the previous evening. 'Squidlee' (Faith 2004) and 'Imps Papa' (Faith 2005) were a great contrast and had me thinking of increasing my Louisiana collection. After taking photos, I was granted permission to walk their "Back 40" near the pond where I was treated to a perfusion of wild flowers including the spectacular "Yellow Thistle" (*Cirsium horridulum*). A wonderful display of wildflowers included Showy Primrose, Texas Blue Bonnet, Indian Paintbrush, red gaillardia, Indian Blanket, and a red grass that was identified as red millet.



'Squidlee' (Faith 2004)



'Imps Papa' (Faith 2005)



Indian Paintbrush



Yellow Thistle



Mexican Hat

The 2008 National Convention (cont.)

By Anita Moran



Dorothy Willot and The Mushroom House



Horses



Vintage House

The Schroeder garden, TOO MUCH!!!, there was just too much to see, historic buildings awaiting renovation, wildflowers, horses, the cutest little mushroom house, and of course the irises. After the iris beds were thoroughly gone over the horses were the biggest draw especially since there were two babies. The more accessible of the two was with mom, dad and auntie and showed the potential of being a real ham. The historic house, which they plan to renovate, seemed to fit, somehow, into the garden and surroundings. The mushroom house was a cute

addition to the iris garden that many enjoyed. Here also were fields of wildflowers to explore and take pictures of, including a large field of blue salvia.



San Marco's Visitor Center



'Hakuna Matata' (Cadd 2000)

The San Marcos garden was planted at the San Marcos Tourist Information Center off I-35 between Austin and San Antonio. Being so public it was the target of vandals and unknowing visitors, but thanks to the hybridizers who took the time to identify those irises which had name plates removed in very inventive methods, it worked extremely well. Concentric circled beds with intermittent breaks and a fountain at the center, allowed a large number of visitors and photographers to have access to the flowers without crowding. It was here I first saw 'Hakuna Matata' (Cadd 2000), in bloom for the first time.



Dr. E. Roy Epperson



Ruth Barker

The awards show was our chance to show our appreciation for the Dykes Medal winner and other section winners. Dr. Epperson's wearing of a Rosalie Figge robe brought smiles and Fred Kerr's acceptance speech brought tears. Finally it was time for the votes to be revealed. The Ben Hager Award for the best median went to 'Crow's Feet' by Paul Black, and was well deserved. The Cook Cup for the best out of region cultivar went to 'Gypsy Lord' by Keith Keppel and finally The President's Cup for the best in region cultivar went to 'Jean Queen' by Tom Burseen. It was a great awards

banquet and afterwards those from Region 4 gathered for a picture. Unfortunately, Ruth was still too busy at the awards table to join us but I found her later for a photo opportunity— thanks Ruth.



Crow's Feet' (Black 2006)



Gypsy lord' (Keppel 2006)



Jean Queen' (Burseen 2005)



Tricia Taylor w/ character at Alamo

The convention was over , but I still had some free time, so the first stop was the Alamo. On the way I passed the San Marco Visitor center and stopped to take pictures of blooms that had opened since the last visit. I also received information of where to take photos of more wild flowers. The Alamo was not what I expected as very little of the original fort remains. What remains reminds us of what was sacrificed. The River Walk, a below street level State park just blocks from the Alamo, allowed you to stroll next to a spur of the San Antonio River shaded by stately trees. Many of the multitude of fountains that filled the area were cut into the sidewalks and paths. Getting on one of the boats that toured the entire area, the



Duck pair adopt many orphans



River Tour boat named Iris

one named "Miss Iris" was unavailable, I toured three quarters of River Walk and even entered the San Antonio River proper at one point. Having been built with flood prevention gates has allowed businesses to thrive and every kind of food was available. Wildlife also was abundant here and seemed little concerned for the human activity."



One of many Fountain of River Walk



Ibex Search for a passing fish

All in all I think this was a very successful convention and I had a wonderful time, but it was not yet time to go home. There was even more irises to see ahead....

Minutes of the Board Meeting
Region4, American iris Society
Courtyard by Marriott, Winchester, Virginia
Friday May 23, 2008 1:30 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by Regional Vice-President, Jerry Coates. The minutes from the Fall 2007 board meeting were approved as printed in the December 2007 Newscast.

Carol Warner presented the Treasurer's Report showing a checking account balance of \$3,761.57 (three thousand seven hundred sixty one dollars and fifty seven cents) and a certificate of deposit for \$6,948.07 (six thousand nine hundred forty eight dollars and seven cents) making a total assets of \$10,709.64 (ten thousand seven hundred nine dollars and sixty four cents). The entire report was filed.

In his RVP report Jerry Coates said that Region 4 now consists of nine affiliates in good standing to include: Carolina Mountain Iris Society, Central Virginia iris Society, Charlotte iris Society, Chesapeake and Potomac Iris Society, Eastern Shore Iris Society, Francis Scott Key Iris Society, Fredericksburg Area iris Society, and Hampton Roads Iris Society. Efforts continue toward the formation of additional affiliates.

Assistant RVP, Carrie Winter, announced that the Region 4 Fall 2008 meeting will be hosted by the Carolina Mountain Iris Society at the Double Tree Hotel in Hendersonville, North Carolina, in early October. The Region 4 Spring 2009 meeting will be hosted by the Fredericksburg Area Iris Society.

Beardless and Species Chairman Carol Warner announced that the Japanese Iris Convention will be in Michigan for 2008.

Jack Loving presented the proposed 2009 budget. The proposal totaling \$6150.00 (six thousand one hundred and fifty dollars) is filed.

Editor Anita Moran asked for input on additions to the Newscast. She asked that information for the next Newscast be submitted by July 1. other information can be listed on the web page. She reminded each affiliate that they have an individual web page and to send information to be listed.

Membership Chairman, Mac Shaw, encouraged membership in the American iris Society. Region 4 needs more members to regain its distinction of being the region with the largest membership.

The reports from the affiliates detailed the active, vigorous agendas planned for the year and accounting of those events and goals already completed. The written reports are filed.

Susan Griggs, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented a slate of officers for 2009:

Regional Vice President –	Carrie Winters
Assistant RVP -	Don Rude
Secretary -	Tricia Taylor
Treasurer -	Carol Warner

The meeting was adjourned.

June Hood
Secretary

Region 4 Affiliates

CAROLINA MOUNTAIN IRIS SOCIETY CHAPTER REPORT

Danee Hoover , President



Our Japanese Exhibit of June 19 & June 20th at the Opportunity House in Hendersonville was well received. We are proud that we can offer this event in the mountains of Western North Carolina

CHESAPEAKE & POTOMAC IRIS SOCIETY

Anita Moran for—

President: Ginny Spoon, Acting

Region IV Spring Regional 2008

By Anita Moran



Winterberry Gardens Spring 2008

I could not tell you exactly how many times I have been to the Spoon's Winterberry Garden. Never in all those visits had it been so perfect and in full bloom all at the same time. This year Region 4 was treated to two days in the garden during peak Tall Bearded bloom with Lupin and many other contrasting flowers abounded. Seedlings of Don, Ginny and Bryan Spoon, were accompanied by those of J. Griff Crump, The Stolls, and others were accompanied by introductions, most recent from the major and not so major hybridizers from across the country. Medians, Arilbreds, some Standard Dwarfs, and of course the Tall Bearded filled the beds that Don and Ginny worked so hard on creating starting back to the 2003 Convention hosted by Region IV.

The Regional started with an iris show that, Ginny did not expect to be very big since the North Carolina and others had noted that their bloom was just about done. I had already decided that if any arilbreds were blooming they were being cut, so I cut some extras, as had many others



GOOD SHIP LOLLIPOP

including the Silver medal winner Carol Warner, who's '**HOLLYWOOD NIGHTS**' also took Best Specimen of Show that included 134 stalks. Bryan Spoon's seedling '**2002-B25A**' won best seedling and I took the Bronze Medal. The hotel accommodations allowed the show to remain until the end of the regional, and it received many visitors from guest, hotel employees, and continued interest from regional attendees. With lunch on our own we met back at the hotel for a carpool to Winterberry Garden which was just a few miles (okay 15 or so miles) down the road.



WRONG SONG

The front of the property was lined with iris and as you walked across the street, an explosion of iris filled your sight. It was a stunning spectacle that took your breath as you moved into the profusion of blooms. Ginny would be giving Training on Tall bearded in the garden, but thankfully she allowed us to get over our first shock, and allowed the shutters free reign. It was then I heard about a RED iris. Yep that was RED. A seedling now open a day, was RED. This first year seedling was among a bed of similarly colored iris. Although the form was not there being a first year bloom, it was still something to see. The tall bearded train required that we go out in the garden and judge several named varieties, okay; this was not a hard chore especially since we were able to take our cameras. I looked around for what iris drew me to it and off I went, and Bill Smoot soon joined me. It was so much easier to judge an iris when you can bounce your opinions, good and bad with someone. The first one that really set me on fire was '**GOOD SHIP LOLLIPOP**' (McWhirter 1999). Then I was struck with the '**INKY ICON**' (Burseen 2003) bug. Those white arms on the spoon were a standout even on the older flowers. Exclusivity had always been a favorite, but what really caught my eye was a twin bloom on '**WRONG SONG**' (Niswonger 1995). Ok it lost all its points for form but sure kept them all for distinctiveness. There were several that would never see my garden, but '**PURE ROMANCE**' (Blyth 2004) and '**SCENTED WONDER**' a 2007 introduction by Tom Johnson will definitely be moving there soon.



SCENTED WONDER



One of many Lupin Varieties



Krissy's Iris Vision

I gave my new Canon 40D camera to Krissy Lange and she did a wonderful job. Most of the cultivars I can not name but that was not the purpose, I wanted to see the garden through her eyes. No labels were ever taken because that was not what she saw. She saw color and composition, the beauty in just enjoying the flowers we so loved. It is something we sometimes forget about. I hope to have the slide show of how she saw Winterberry loaded to the website soon. Great Job Krissy!



Perry Dyer training in Winterberry Gardens

Finally it was time to go back to the hotel so much to do yet. There was the welcome dinner and of course the plant auction and silent auction. Since the show was still up, there was time see just what it was you wanted in your garden for next year. I was surprised by the number of hotel staff and bikers that visited the show and asked really good questions. Several were given Ginny Spoon's contact information for those in the area, but those outside the area were happy to get the AIS website.

The following day was to rest, work on the photos, catch up on some writing, and then head out to Winterberry for more pictures and of course a Judges training with Perry Dyer. I was pleasantly amazed at just how knowledgeable and informative the training turned out to be. I learned so much about seedling during these short hours. Don's input was invaluable and he had his marking flags for those seedling people really thought deserved a second look. That made us feel special, as if we had a small hand in what may eventually be an award winner. After evaluating several of Don's seedlings, we were turned loose on other seedlings in the garden to appraise. Then, it was the dreaded test. Once the test was complete it was back in the garden for a few more shots and back to the hotel. The awards dinner, then the presentation of the Awards was announced.



Don Spoon Seedling

I don't think any one was surprised that Bryan Spoon's Border Bearded seedling '2002-B25A' that had won best seedling in show also won the Alice Boulin award since it was growing so well in the garden. I heard many comments that they could no wait until it was introduced. There were so many iris that deserved the Nearpass Award for the best introduced variety of a Region 4 hybridizer, but 'LOVING PINK' by Don Spoon won this award against stiff competition. The final award from a hybridizer out-of-region went 'EXPLICIT' by Joe Ghio. My only regret was that I had to leave early so I could go to work the next day and missed Perry Dyer's talk which I am sure was wonderful.



Bryan Spoon's Seedling 2002-B25A



Joe Ghio's 'EXPLICIT'

Region 4 Affiliates

EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA IRIS SOCIETY CHAPTER REPORT

President: Susan Griggs

EASTERN NC IRIS SOCIETY REPORT – MAY 2008

The Eastern NC Iris Society began their activities for the year on Saturday, January 26th with a program by Mike Locatell of Richmond, Virginia on Reblooming Irises. Mike is continuing to develop several breeding lines begun by Dr. Lloyd Zurbrigg, a member of ENCIS until his death in 2005.

The program for the March 29th meeting was information on how to choose stalks for entering an iris show, how to groom those stalks, how to organize and present an accredited iris show. Ruth Barker, Margaret Pearson, and Susan Grigg shared their experiences with the group.

Our 2008 Iris Show on Saturday, May 3rd at the Crabtree Valley Mall in Raleigh was a success with 62 entries. This year all the entries came from members of our society and we had a diverse show with TBs, BBs, MTBs, ABs, SIBs, SPECs and LAs. The Best Specimen of the Show was *I. 'Safari Sunset'* by Barry Blyth in 2001 and exhibited by Ruth Barker of Greensboro, NC. Runners-up were *I. 'Bridal Icing'* by Tom Johnson, 2002, exhibited by Raymond Quinn; and *I. 'Poet's Rhyme'* by Keith Keppel, 2006, and exhibited by Ruth Barker. We also had a display table of irises that gave the public the opportunity to vote for their favorite stalk. That display served to draw in people so we could then talk to them about iris culture and answer their questions. We had available information on the culture of bearded and beardless irises and AIS membership brochures. Katherine Steele, one of our judges for the Show, brought her lovely Siberian Seedling S5600-01, 'Richard's Joyous Love' for display.

The ENCIS Iris Sale will be held on Saturday, July 19th at the Rocky Toad Garden on Falls of the Neuse Road in Raleigh.

Susan Grigg, ENCIS President

FRANCIS SCOTT KEY IRIS SOCIETY CHAPTER REPORT

President: CAROL WARNER

Francis Scott Key Iris Society Report - Spring 2008

Francis Scott Key Iris Society started off 2008 with a luncheon meeting at Carol Warner's home on April 5th. The board decided to try having some of our meetings at member's homes instead of at restaurants. Our catered luncheon was quite reasonable and we had about 34 members attending. Sylvia Deck gave an excellent demonstration and explanation of the artistic section for our beardless show.

Instead of attempting an early-season bearded show, Doris Rebert hosted a "Garden Party" on May 17th. Her garden was lovely and we had a much larger turnout of members than we usually have for a show. The sun, early bloom, good food and great company was enjoyed by all.

Our two regular sales on July 12th and 19th and summer picnic at Bruce Hornstein's on August 16th are planned. The FSK year will end on Saturday, October 11th with our regular fall luncheon.

We are pleased to have a new member, Marjorie Schiebel serve as vice president this year. We continue to get new members and then lose them after a year or two so we are working on finding ways to involve the new people in more of our activities.

Carol Warner, President

Youth Corner

Hybridizing Out of the Box

by Kristen Laing

"Founded in 1920 and incorporated in 1927, the American Iris Society was established for the purpose of promoting and sharing information about Iridaceae." Sound familiar? It should, because it is in almost every publication by the American Iris Society (AIS) and its affiliates in print. The AIS Judge's Handbook does a wonderful job of dividing irises into officially recognized categories and hybridizers are dedicated to developing new patterns and forms with an eye to creating that perfect rebloomer that will win the special awards with the Dykes medal as the grand prize. For someone just breaking into the scene, it can be daunting to contemplate how a single individual just starting to hybridize can even contribute anything to the knowledge or the world of irises. To make a contribution however, we don't always have to have medals in mind when we hybridize. I would like to provide a few thoughts on how to accomplish this and an observation or two.

Be observant. Granted that the AIS has strict rules concerning what is acceptable on the show bench and what is not. Even though a trait is not mentioned in the handbook does not mean that it is not worth working towards strengthening it through hybridizing. Bearded irises must generally have three falls and three standards, are judged on the bench by four major traits, and in the garden by a few more, but other than that, there are no limits to what they genetically can be persuaded to develop into. The trick is to be observant. A new form can result from simple observation. There are traits other than those that most hybridizers strive for lurking in many iris beds that if enhanced by hybridizing will provide a unique and desirable specimen. I have noted that two of the recent introductions I have received have a slight but pronounced tendency towards a natural split developing in the falls. I wonder what an iris would look like if this trait was enhanced?

Hybridize for utility. The old saying that "Pretty is as pretty does." can apply quite well to hybridizing efforts. Many of us have observed a very desirable trait or two in our own iris beds without pursuing these further. I recently realized that I had never pulled any weeds around one specimen - and some weeds near it had died! I have now moved it to its own bed, transplanted some of it to pots, and replaced the soil where it had grown in my layered bed (just in case!). I intend to liberally inoculate the soil around my potted iris with dandelion, alfalfa, and grass seed. If I observe retarded or sporadic weed growth then it will indicate that some bearded iris hybrids are naturally allelopathic (I looked it up!). This means that they suppress weeds. I have also noted by observation that this same specimen never has had any aphids on it, nor any cricket damage on the exposed rhizomes. Although I would like to credit this to my professional gardening techniques, I must admit that sometimes I have been anything but, often forgetting to soap my irises until the aphids appear. I suspect therefore that this specimen is naturally repellent as well. What other desirable traits might be lurking in other gardens? Perhaps a drought tolerant Louisiana or a rot resistant TB? Whatever it might be, I'm betting it has been observed but not recognized for its potential.

Break out of the box. New developments, though they may not fit the acceptable norm when they first appear, eventually may become the next Section in an AIS show through the process of debate and trial. It worked for Space Agers didn't it? Has anyone noticed that the feeder roots in MTBs are much shorter than those for TBs? Naturally you might think, but this observation opens up a possibility for hybridizers. The minimum height for a MTB is 16 inches. Anything less is undesirable for the class and this is the smallest class for the branching forms. Yet what happens if we strive to reduce MTBs even more? Has anyone else noted that in MTBs the feeder roots from the rhizomes are generally proportional in length to the height of the bloom stalk? Just curious. The reason that Irises don't normally tend to bloom in pots is, according to at least one expert, the fact that the feeder roots become crowded in the bottom of the pot.

Youth Corner cont.

.I have successfully had irises to bloom in pots but only if both the height and the width are equal to about half the height of the bloom stalks - oh, and never in a clay pot. I am not certain why, but these seem to inhibit blooming. My observation opens up some interesting possibilities. If we were to hybridize even smaller MTBs, could we get them to grow and thrive in standard size pots? If so, then these "table" Irises would indeed be table top specimens. They could be grown in pots on every apartment balcony in a city. Now wouldn't Patio Irises on balconies all over New York, L.A., Dallas, and other large cities promote Iridaceae to the public in the truest tradition of the AIS? According to census data for the year 2,000, there were over fifty-six million people living within the 100 largest cities in the USA. If only one in every 10,000 city dwellers grew irises and joined the AIS, that would be over 5,600 new members! An iris that could be grown and would bloom in pots of easily managed sizes might result in just that. The Judge's Handbook states that for MTBs, "The optimum height of 53 to 56 cm (21 to 22 inches) is to be preferred...". So, there is room for overlap from the traditional MTB class to a new one for Patio Irises of say, 10 to 20 inches with an optimum height of 15 to 16 inches.



A Potted TB, Sioux Uprising

Consider what the public would like. What hybridizer would not like to be well known by his or her peers? And oh, to win some of those awards! Yet ask the average individual what kinds of irises they grow and you will get the same responses I received when I hosted the AIS booth at the local greenhouse recently. "Well, I have some of those tall purple ones. My grandmother grew them." or, "I have some of those reblooming yellow ones. But I'm thinking of digging them up and planting day lilies. They don't take so much work to grow you know." or even, "I've tried growing irises but I don't like them. No matter how much I water them, they fall over and die." Each of these responses prompted a brief lecture by yours truly on iris forms, pest control and cultivation. After about three minutes, the recipient of my advice always developed a slack jaw, a glassy eyed stare, and a sudden reason, forgotten until that moment, for being elsewhere. How can you promote irises to and share information with a public that on the whole, is simply not interested? Most have not even heard of the Dykes medal. For a start, how about providing care-free irises that are reblooming, and weed and bug resistant? Or a Patio Iris that can be grown by apartment dwellers? Or perhaps one that is enough of a novelty or so strange that absolutely nobody else on the block has one? No medals in this maybe but a lot of satisfaction.

Select good genes. One last note about hybridizing a new form or hybridizing in general: When crossing one specimen with another, at least one should have outstanding genetic qualities. These should include the tendency to reliably produce bloom stalks without bloom out, good branching, hardiness, and all of the rest of the qualities that are found in the judge's handbook for a top quality garden and show specimen. Then, when crossing for a novel pronounced effect, you are much more likely to be successful. Remember that one of the genetic qualities that you should select for includes the ability to set seed. I have worked with a single specimen for five years trying to enhance a particular quality. Out of forty-seven self and back crosses that I made, I only obtained nine seeds that resulted in three plants! Unfortunately, none of these had the quality I was looking for and are just as resistant to hybridizing as the parent plant. As a friend of mine pointed out, "The juice is just not worth the squeeze.", so after several years of failure, I am regrettably abandoning that effort. I know that perseverance pays, but I would like to receive better wages than that! But then again, I have learned as much from my failures as from my successes so I am better off for having tried.

Happy hybridizing!

AIS Region 4 FALL REGIONAL MEETING 2008

AN INVITATION

REGION 4 FALL MEETING
FRIDAY OCTOBER 3RD & SATURDAY OCTOBER 4TH, 2008
HENDERSONVILLE QUALITY INN & SUITES
HENDERSONVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

The honor of your presence is requested for the very **First** Regional Meeting hosted by The Carolina Mountains Iris Society in Hendersonville, North Carolina, October 3rd and October 4th, 2008. Located on a scenic mountain plateau 2,200 feet above sea level, come join us in an area cradled between the Great Smoky and the Blue Ridge Mountains, at a time when the Sumac, Dogwood, and Sourwood mark the beginning of our fall season.



2008 Region IV Fall Meeting
Friday October 3rd & Saturday October 4th, 2008
Hendersonville, North Carolina

Schedule of Events

Friday October 3rd

9:00am to 1:00pm	Registration
10:00am to 12:00noon	Show Entries
12:00noon to 1:00pm	Show Judging & Lunch
1:00pm to 1:30pm	Show Opens
2:00pm to 4:00pm	Board/Business Meeting
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Social Hour
7:00pm to 9:00pm	Welcome Banquet and Speaker Roy Epperson “Menu of Iris”

Saturday October 4th

9:00am – 11:00am	Louisiana Judges Training with Bill Smoot
11:00noon to 2:00pm	Lunch (on your own) Shopping or Sightseeing
2:00pm – 4:00pm	Plant Auction
5:30pm – 6:30pm	Social Hour
6:30pm – 8:30pm	Dinner and Speaker Bill Smoot “British Gardens”
8:30pm	Close of Silent Auction

We will have both a plant auction and a Silent Auction. We ask that you bring any and all items you can donate for either auction. Our affiliate is small and cannot supply everything on our own.

General Chairperson: **Danee Hoover**
danee@bellsouth.net
828-699-2995 (cell)

HOTEL INFORMATION

Hendersonville Quality Inn & Suites
201 Sugarloaf Road
Hendersonville, North Carolina 28792

Phone: 828-692-7231 Fax: 828-693-9905

The Quality Inn & Suites hotel is nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Western North Carolina and is convenient to sightseeing on: the Blue Ridge Parkway, Biltmore Estate, Chimney Rock Park, and Cradle of Forestry in America, Pisgah National Park and Carl Sandburg's Historical home. Enjoy browsing a wide variety of specialty shops in historical downtown Hendersonville just 2 miles away.

Room Rate: 106.19 rooms inside the building
91.20 rooms outside the building

Rooms have been set-aside at our group rate for October 2nd for those who **desire to arrive early**.

Please make your **own reservations no later than September 2nd**. I urge you to reserve and pay as soon as possible, as this is the areas heavy tourist season. It is also the reason we could not reserve all rooms on the interior of the building. Please mention you are registering with the American Iris Society and The Carolina Mountains Iris Society Group. Call the hotel direct. We reserved all non-smoking rooms. When viewing pictures keep in mind new bedding was installed this year.

<http://www.qualityinn.com/ires/enUS/html/HotelInfoMap?hotel=NC843&maphotel=NC843&country=US&sid=yAXDg.3R7zmgfCJg.2>

Facilities & Services

Access to copy and fax services
Valet cleaning service
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Terrace Café (breakfast)
Bermuda Triangle Lounge (drinks from \$3:00 to \$6:00)
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Free Hot Breakfast (coupon will be in your room)
Free wireless high-speed Internet access
Remote-Controlled Cable TV
In Room Coffee, Hair Dryer
Iron and Ironing Board
Free Local Calls
AT&T Long Distance
Room Service
Pets are welcome with a nightly fee

Directions: 1-26 exit 49A, right at light onto Sugarloaf Road. Quality Inn is 1 mile at top of hill on right.

**AIS REGION 4 FALL 2008 MEETING
OCTOBER 3RD AND OCTOBER 4TH
HENDERSONVILLE, NC.**

REGISTRATION FORM

Name (1) _____ Chapter or Region _____

Name Preferred on Nametag (1) _____

Name (2) _____ Chapter or Region _____

Name Preferred on Nametag (2) _____

Street Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____

Full Registration: \$95.00 x _____ person(s) = \$ _____

Youth Full Registration: \$55.00 x _____ person (s) = \$ _____

After September 18th, the Full Registration will be \$100.00 x _____ person (s) \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed: _____

Full registration includes dinner on Friday and Saturday nights.

Send completed Registration Form with a Check made payable to CMIS and mail by September 16th to:

Danee Hoover
133 Horizon View Drive
Horse Shoe, North Carolina 28742

For additional information contact me at:

danee@bellsouth.net
828-699-2995

Congratulations to the Region 4 2008 AIS Winners

'MY GINNY' (Donald Spoon) Wister Medal Runner-Up (TB)

'MASLON' (Donald Spoon) **WINNER** Williamson-White Medal (MTB)

'SYLVANSHINE' (Mahan/Warner) Founders Of SIGNA Medal Runner-Up (SPEC)

'SECONDHAND ROSE' (Ginny Spoon) Award of Merit Runner-Up (TB)

'SPIDERWEB' (Donald Spoon) Award of Merit Runner-Up (MDB)

'GRAPE HARVEST' (Donald Spoon) **WINNER** Honorable Mention (TB)

'CAT'S HAT' (Donald Spoon) **WINNER** Honorable Mention (IB)

'PETIT LOUVOIS' (Clarence Mahan) **WINNER** Honorable Mention (MTB)

'TRIMMERD VELVET' (Donald Spoon) **WINNER** Honorable Mention (MDB)

'KINSHIKOU' (Shimizu/Warner) **WINNER** Honorable Mention (SPEC-X)

'HALLOWE'EN TREAT' (Pat Otterness) Honorable Mention Runner-Up (TB)

'TSUKIYONO' (Shimizu/Warner) Honorable Mention Runner-Up (SPEC-X)

WEB NEWS

I know it is late for this to go out since many of you have already had your rhizome sales for the year but for future reference you might want to display pictures at your sales of the irises being offered. If your society members do not have these pictures I would like to introduce you to some sites that display irises as they are grown in home gardens. Usually these pictures are not enhanced in any way and since often times there are many duplicates you can chose those that are not enhanced so those that buy your irises will not be surprised when that blue iris they bough blooms purple.

Dave's Garden: <http://davesgarden.com/> This is a garden community and if you go to the Guides and information are and look for plant files you can search for iris pictures. Although the pictures are extensive they are incomplete as is the iris listing. By joining you can add to both the listing and the pictures

Horti-Plex: <http://hortiplex.gardenweb.com/plants/> Is part of te Garden Web community and though it has a large collection of pictures. It is difficult to add to these numbers.

Hort-Net: <http://www.hort.net/lists/iris-photos/> Is the location of the archived files of the Iris Photos mail group. There are a lot of seedlings but also a good number of named iris and it is easily searched.

For official descriptions: There is on the American Iris Society Website a searchable data base that encompasses from 1959 to last year. This requires a nominal fee and it is worth it.

Your Region 4 Web Address www.irisregion4.com

What Burning Question would you like to know about Iris?

Send question electronically to: avmoran1@earthlink.net or by snail mail to Anita Moran 5351 Rocks Rd, Pylesville, MD 21132.

I will make certain your questions are addressed.

Anita Moran
Newscast Editor
5351 Rocks Rd
Pylesville, MD 21132

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