



NEWSCAST

REGION FOUR OF THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

VOL. 49. NO. 3

DECEMBER 2007



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ON THE COVER:
Dr. E. Roy Epperson
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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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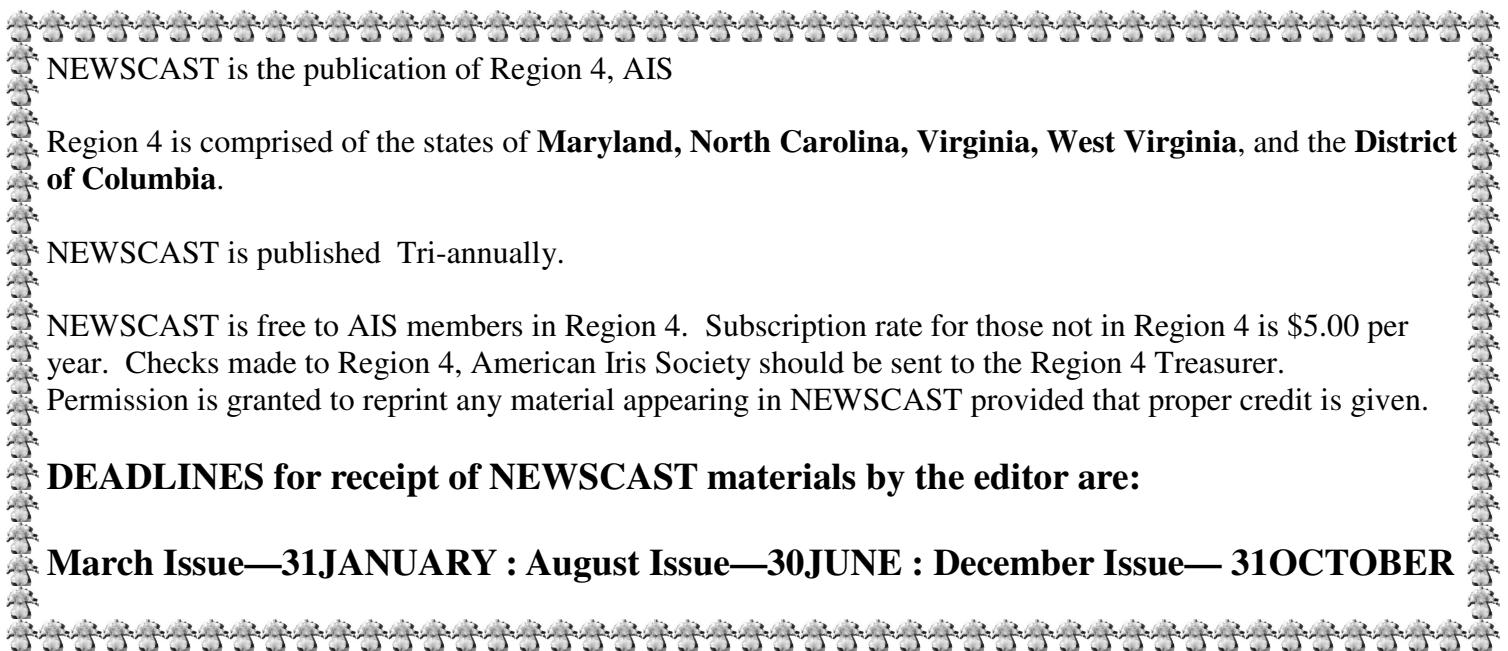
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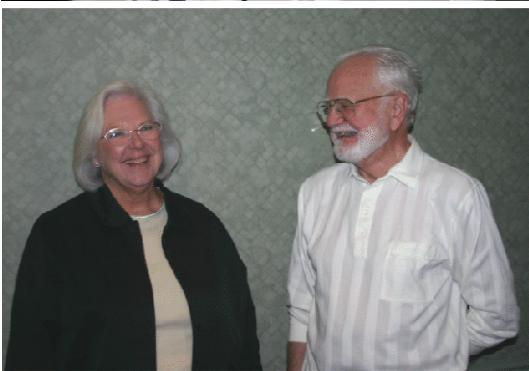
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 - NEWSCAST is published Tri-annually.
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 - DEADLINES for receipt of NEWSCAST materials by the editor are:**
 - March Issue—31JANUARY : August Issue—30JUNE : December Issue— 31OCTOBER**

DR. E. ROY EPPERSON, MEMBER OF ENCIS

by Susan Griggs



I first met Roy when my husband Glenn and I joined ENCIS in the early 1970s, and in that time he has served ENCIS as President for two terms and is currently our Treasurer. Presenting programs to our group he has been the voice of experience at every iris show. With his vast knowledge of irises he has given new members, and many longtime members, the answers to culture problems and we continually looked to him for guidance in planning for events, and have enjoyed his hospitality on numerous occasions at his home in High Point. When our meetings were at his home, we quickly learned that he's a good cook. He even decorates wedding cakes as gifts to special brides. We were grieved when Roy's wife Virginia was taken from him much too early by illness, and we rejoiced with him when news and pictures of his grandchildren were shared.

Roy usually has many of the newest and best irises in his garden, and gives the same careful attention to detail in evaluating an iris that he gives to any position or responsibility. I recall that years ago I heard Roy declare that he'd never grow a daylily, since then he had a change of heart and daylilies are now grown along with the irises, hostas and many other plants grow happily in his garden.

When Roy was RVP of Region 4, I served as Secretary during the same time period. He was always prepared for the Regional Board meetings and conducted the business in an efficient manner, thus making my job much easier. The AIS will benefit greatly from his knowledge and ability to solve problems.

On Saturday, November 3rd we were present when Roy took the mantle from Joan Plank as President of the American Iris Society. We even saw him become speechless when Ruth Barker , who has taken over the job of Awards chair, presented a special cake decorated with irises and made for the occasion by Ruth's daughter, Maggie Vogel. We're certain that the AIS has been fortunate to have Roy on the Board for several years and that he will serve as President just as capably as he has served ENCIS. We're proud of him!

Photos: Courtesy of Glenn Griggs, 1—Dr. Epperson and Jean Plank, Dr. Epperson with Ruth Barker, Dr. Epperson with Judy Keesling who takes his place as 1st VP, and THE CAKE.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION: A color copy 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. :)

PROPOSED 2008 BUDGET FOR REGION 4

Expenditures	Dollars
Printing and Mailing Three(3) Issues of Newscast	\$4300.00
RVP Travel Expenses	600.00
Membership Committee – M. Shaw	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

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

May 25, 2007 to October 12, 2007

Checking Account Balance on May 25, 2007:	\$4,419.06
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Receipts:

Spring Auction:	\$519.00
Donations:	
FSK:	\$500.00
Garden Club Tour	\$25.00
Interest:	\$0.96
Fall 2007 Regional Registrations:	<u>\$3,175.00</u>
Total Receipts:	\$4,219.96

Expenditures:

August 2007 Newscast Printing:	\$930.78
August 2007 Newscast Mailing:	\$135.08
Postage - Mail Auction Irises:	\$55.80
Total Expenditures:	\$1,121.66

Checking Account Balance on May 25, 2007:	\$7,517.36
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Certificate of Deposit (M&T Bank)	\$10,487.65
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Total Assets:	\$18,005.01
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From The Editor: REGION 4 Celebrates

Dr. E. Roy Epperson as President of The American Iris Society



When trying to choose the cover of the NEWS-CAST, I wanted something that would truly depict how I felt about Dr. Epperson. As best as can be described, he has held his hand out to help, in friendship, and to impart his vast knowledge to those of us who want to know the plant we have a chance to love. I really can not give you all the particulars, and I am sure that the AIS will cover all that in their publication. Here we celebrate Dr. Epperson getting a post that is well deserved as I am sure that will be better for him filling those shoes. Here in Region 4, he has been an Regional Vice President, he has served as President of the Eastern North Carolina Iris Society, he has singly handled the Awards for the Iris society, but for me the most important job he has taken on and mastered is judges training. Not just for us newbie's, but continuing education for those judges that continue to learn.

When I first met Dr. Epperson, he scared me to death. He so reminded me of the principle I had in grade school. I learned very quickly, as I did in that grade school so long ago, that this was a person worth knowing. I doubt there is one person in Region 4 that Dr. Epperson has not touched. For that reason I hope the society as a whole appreciate him as much as we do.

I got to know Dr Epperson better in the past two years and saw that although he was not listed as some one in charge of the many jobs that are required for Regional conventions and National conventions, Dr. Epperson seemed to be everywhere and involved in nearly every aspect and was still able to go out to the gardens and continue to teach those who were wise enough to be near and listen. Thanks Doc.

This year Region 4 has the distinct honor of having one of their own again as American Iris Society President. More and more are taking the plunge into hybridizing, and every year we gather members and of those members, some are sticking and getting involved. This fall we saw a fledgling affiliate which has still not launched take on the responsibility of a Fall Regional and Don Rude did a great job. The help from around the region was truly appreciated including Carol Warner, Ginny Spoon, and so many others. Perhaps others will take this inspiration and run with it.

Well another year is gone and there is so much to look forward to for 2008. The national convention this coming year which is in Texas is followed by an Aril Trek in New Mexico. Do you know where I will be? There will be lots of fodder for articles (Hint, Hint), and lots of chances to play with those cameras. Included in this Newscast are pictures of seedlings under consideration. Let the hybridizers know how you feel about their offerings either directly or by dropping me a line or e-mail and I will include it in the Newscast. Believe me there is nothing better than to receive feedback, good and bad, on a seedling. Sometimes we are just not hard enough on those that truly need a compost treatment.

Due to time constraints the Drop Deadlines for the Newscast has changed as follows:

March Issue – 31 January

August Issue – 31 July

December Issue – 31 October

I am sorry about this but I no longer have the luxury of next day printing and the proof reading that will now be done by Griff Crump who so generously volunteered. Any ideas for future Newscast themes, articles, please feel free to let me know and I will do my best.

Thanks for a very wonderful year

Anita

Fall Board Meeting 2007
Region 4 American Iris Society
Holiday Inn
900 Prices Fork Road
Blacksburg, Virginia
Friday, October 12

Due to Sudden illness, Regional Vice-President Jerry Coates was unable to attend. Assistant RVP Carrie Winter called the meeting to order at 1:30pm. The minutes were read and approved.

Carol Warner presented the Treasurer's Report showing a checking account balance of \$7,517.36, a certificate of deposit for \$10,487.65 with a total of \$18,005.01.

Jack Loving presented the proposed budget for 2008. The proposed expenditures totaled \$6150.00. The budget was approved and is filed.

Carrie Winter presented the Assistant RVP report. Locations have been secured for both spring and fall regional meetings through 2009.

Spring 2008- Chesapeake and Potomac Iris Society (Winchester)
Fall 2008- Carolina Mountains Iris Society (Asheville-Hendersonville Area)
Spring 2009- Fredericksburg Area Iris Society (Fredericksburg)
Fall 2009- Eastern N.C. Iris Society (Raleigh Area)

Appreciation was expressed to these affiliates. A special thank you went to Don Rude, who without the support of a local affiliate, but with the help Don then volunteered to host the spring 2010 meeting hopefully with an organized affiliate. There was much applause!

Ginny Spoon announced that plans are already in place for the spring 2008 meeting in Winchester. Registration forms and information are at the registration desk.

The Newscast Report from Anita Moran set these "drop dead" dates to submit pieces for the Newscast: The report is filed
31 Jan. for Mar. issue
30 Jun. for Aug. issue
31 Oct. for Dec. issue

Roy Epperson presented the Judges and Judges Training Report. For 2008 Region 4 will have these Accredited Judges:
The entire report is filed.

18 Garden / Exhibition
4 Senior
6 Retired
6 Apprentice

Mac Shawe presented the Membership Report. Region 4 has the largest membership with 508 members. (Region 16 is the second largest with 416.)

Anita Moran plans to redo the website during the winter. She would like "author's permission" to post any publication that would be a valuable reference.

Affiliate Reports were given by: The reports are filed.

Linda Laing- Central Virginia (earned \$2200.00 at sale)
June Hood- Charlotte (8 new members, \$1000.00 to scholarship)
Ginny Spoon- Chesapeake & Potomac (excellent sale, 17members)
June Hood for Susan Grigg- Eastern N.C. (7 new members, 500 plants sold)
Mac Shawe- Eastern Shore (increased membership)
Carol Warner for Doris Rebert- Francis Scott Key (18 new members, good sale)
Lois Rose- Fredericksburg Area (new members, wonderful meetings)

Dan Spoon reported on the Region 4 auction. Don Rude contacted the Crow's Nest, a local nursery and the donated many unusual plants. Members also brought many wonderful plants including irises for the auction. He instructed everyone to bring either plenty of cash or a checkbook to the event!

Dave Bolinger reported that the nominating committee had persuaded the present officers to serve one more year. This recommendation was approved.

There were some questions and discussion about how to organize an affiliate and where to get a list of the membership.

There was the sad announcement that Dick Farley has died.

After several remarks about Anita Moran's hard work and expertise in preparing the website and newsletter, Don Spoon verbalized a kind of proclamation "that the Region wants to express gratitude to Anita for her dedication and innovative preparation of the Newscast and website." Everyone cheered and applauded!

The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by
June Hood, Secretary

Taking Digital Iris Photographs

Part II: Taking the Picture

By Anita Moran

Now that you have that camera that you have been dying to get and you have taken a couple of shots and you know the basics, let's go through some tricks.

What Should I Take A Picture Of?

Before you take a picture of the flower, take a close-up picture of its label if it has one, so that when you go to work with your digital photographs you know exactly what flower you are working with. This also eliminates the need for an extra notebook to record the picture number and what it contains. In the example below I took a picture of the plant tag, and then took the picture of the iris (Figure 1). This enables me to keep track of the names of the irises, and if I am at a Convention I can later mark my book as to which pictures I still want or need.



Figure 1: Coney Island (Keppel 2005) When taking photographs in the field photograph the label of the iris you are going to take a picture of in order to keep identifications correct.

What do you want from your photographs? This is a question that may have several answers to it. I take photographs for comparisons, records, information, projects, my website, and the publications I am editor of. You may also want to use them for record keeping, invitations to group activities, sales and auctions, or just for your own enjoyment. Remember one thing: IT DOES NOT MATTER WHAT OTHERS think of your photographs. If they contain what you want and you are pleased with them then they are good shots.

If you look at the picture below (Figure 2) you will see three pictures of the same seedling. Most people want to see and get a good mug shot first (A) and that is fine if you want an overall good picture for sharing or to put in a sale catalog or in a publication. This is the shot most of us see for medians and tall bearded as well as other iris such as Siberian, and species iris.

Taking Digital Iris Photographs:Part II (cont.)

Japanese iris may be the exception to this, as the shot of choice is a combination of the mug and top shot. The iris below is a dwarf, so the most common picture you see is looking down (2B). There is a reason for this: unless the SDB or MDB is in a raised bed, your first look will be a bird's eye view looking down on the plant from above. Another shot you might consider, especially for seedlings no matter the size, is a stalk shot (Figure 2C). Many pictures I see are side shots and while not as esthetically pleasing as the mug shot it is a picture that can tell you a lot. If you look closely at Figure 2A which is really more of a combination between a side shot and mug shot, you can see that the hafts do not overlap, and the yellow edge is more defined than in the top or stalk shots. All of which is important information and none of that information is in the mug shot. Another picture you may want to take is a clump shot. How healthy is this cultivar? How many of us have bought irises based on a pretty face only to be disappointed by its performance in our gardens? A clump shot may help with these problems. For judges who are supposed to judge the entire plant this will help focus on the entire plant.



Figure 2: Three of the many type of shots to get on an Iris include the mug shot (A), top shot (B), and (C) stalk shot.

Although I use the majority of photographs I take for internet sharing and my websites, the next most often use I have for my photographs are comparison shots. I like to compare siblings and so I make a collage of the siblings to compare what I have kept (Figure 3). Repeat crosses can also gain you information (Figure 4). This cross produced much better flowers in my opinion for the second cross. You also might want to compare shots you have taken to see which is best (Figure 5) or see the different information each shot can give you (Figure 6). Time has a big effect on your shots especially with seedlings. In Figure 7 you can see three shots of three different flowers from the same stalk. All are different, a major reason for not judging a seedling immediately. Time across years may be more difficult to maintain as pictures can sometimes get lost. This is a very important comparison (Figure 8). From first flower open to 5 years later the difference in form is tremendous.

Taking Digital Iris Photographs:Part II (cont.)



Figure 3. Sibling comparison of a cross between CHANTED and *I. lutescens*. These are only the ones that were retained for further evaluation.



Figure 4. A comparison shot of a repeat cross between CIMARRON ROSE and TOUCH OF MINK. The first cross produced a seedling with a flaw and inconsistent blooming habits while the second produced a flower with better form, increases and blooming habits.

Taking Digital Iris Photographs:Part II (cont.)



Figure 5. Comparing seedling photographs taken at the same time but different angles to see which displays the flower best.



Figure 6. A comparison of the different features of the same seedling in different lighting conditions to observe faults and strengths.

Taking Digital Iris Photographs:Part II (cont.)

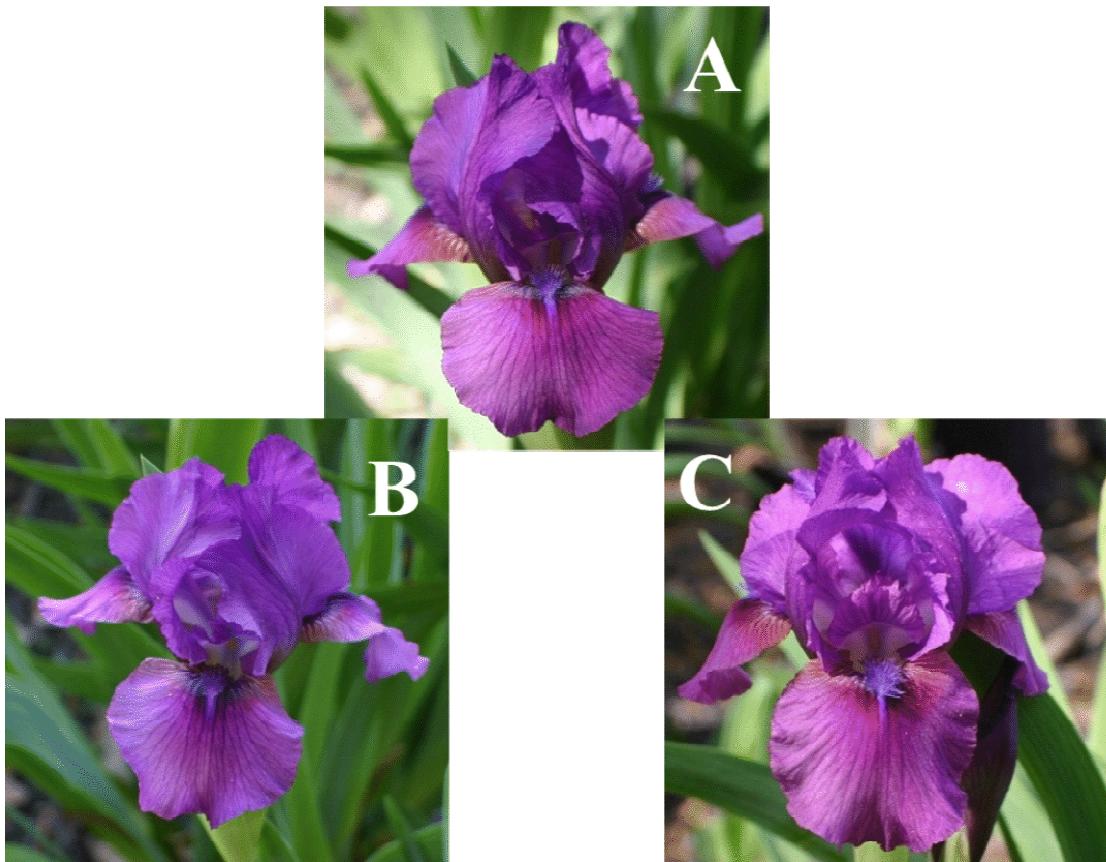


Figure 7. Comparing different flowers from the same bloom stalk of a seedling showing improvement in a single season gives an indication of the possible improvements that this seedling may make over the years.



Figure 8. A comparison of a seedling from the first flower to open to six years after the seed was planted shows the significant improvement in the flower over time.

Taking Digital Iris Photographs:Part II (cont.)

For those of you who like to include wildlife in your photographs, it is a good thing to know what the beast is (Figure 9). I had no clue what this little beasty was so I took the shot and put it on line and got my answer. Assassin Bugs are one of the beneficial insects gardeners want in their gardens as they eliminate many pest species. Just another use for those photos you are taking of those really strange critters that may actually be good for the garden. Also take pictures of those insects which cause damage for identification and the type of damage they cause.



Figure 9: An immature Assassin Bug keeps other destructive species in the garden in check. I just know this guy is waiting for that ant to come by.

Preparing Iris to Take a Picture

RULE #1: If you are at someone else's garden DO NOT touch a plant for any reason without express permission and NEVER touch an iris at a convention unless you are the hybridizer.

How many times is that drummed into us as we go through judges training? It is a good rule; however, at conventions hanging out with hybridizers has its advantages. In your own garden, there are a few little tricks you can do. Before taking photographs in your own garden, with the exception of seedlings, go out and deadhead the stalks and trim dead leaves so that when you are able to get that great shot, it is not ruined by the background or foreground (Figure 10). Queen In Calico does not draw your attention as much as the faded flower and the bud that is twisting the falls (A). You will notice that the Grape Harvest picture is cleaner and the flower holds your attention (B). Once you are ready to take your photographs remember that you might have to move around the stalk in order to get the picture you want, but as long as there is not a chance of disturbing other plants go for it. To get the shot of GRAPE HARVEST (Figure 4) I stood on the garden wall. This is when knowing your camera REALLY comes in handy.

Taking Digital Iris Photographs:Part II (cont.)

Taking shots of Dwarfs (Figure 1), if you know your camera you can get a mug shot of dwarfs by reaching down with the camera in what you think is the correct angel and shooting the picture. If it doesn't come out, delete and fire again. Don't you just love digital?



Figure 10: Queen in Calico before stalk cleaned of spent blooms which detract from the overall quality of the picture, compared with Grape Harvest after deadheading and removal of all damaged leaves.

How Should I Take A Picture?

Be prepared to get down and dirty. Unless you are willing to get on your knees or even lower to get that perfect shot you may never be satisfied with the pictures you are taking. I have to remind you of the statement, “KNOW YOUR CAMERA”. Practice taking pictures of everything, see what your camera is really capable of--you might be pleasantly surprised. Many of the point-n-shoot digitals have zoom capabilities. Use it in your testing so that you are as comfortable with it as you are without using it. Use your preview screen if you have one but do not depend on it--what looks clear may in fact be fuzzy and vice versa. Use your view finder as often as possible. As you are learning about your camera do not delete any but the most obvious poor and fuzzy shots. See how effective your program is on cropping and maintaining the clarity, sharpening the photograph, and correcting lighting. Look at pictures on websites, in catalogs and decide what pose you want for your iris. Remember the more views you take the more information you have.

Always be prepared, especially at a convention for you never know where the shot may come from. It could be a deer in a woodland walk or a frog hidden in a fence (Figure 11). It can also get you a shot of that iris you wanted to see up close and personal. By knowing your camera well and how it works the pictures which require speed at times are available to you. If you know your camera extremely well you may even get several shots.

SEEDLINGS from Region 4 Hybridizers

J. GRIFF CRUMP SEEDLINGS



TB - 032V3



TB - 052M1



SDB - 04X1

ANITA MORAN SEEDLINGS



AB - OGB - 02AB05
From SIGNA Seeds



SDB - 04Clt06
Chanted X *I. lutescens*



SDB - 04NRlse01 (OGB-)
Nut Ruffles X Lakeside Elf

SEEDLINGS from Region 4 Hybridizers

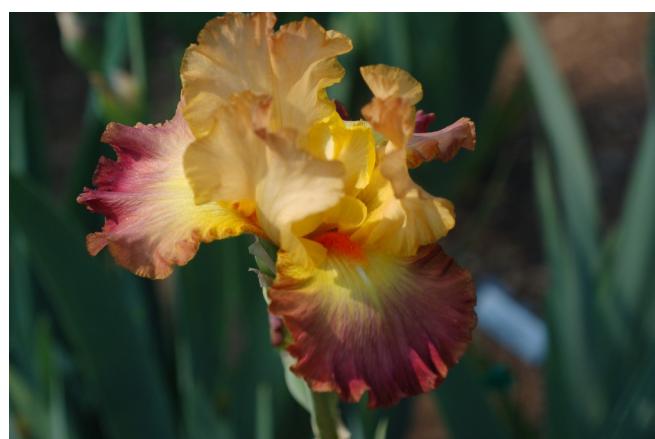
DON SPOON SEEDLINGS



2005-146 TB RE
DOS X (Hot Streak x Tenn. Woman)

2005-167 TB RE
DOS X Double Dribble

GINNY SPOON SEEDLINGS



37-2002

Selah X Orchid Dove

Taking Digital Iris Photographs:Part II (cont.)

Continued from page 13.



Figure 11. Being prepared gets you shots not only of iris but of other interesting critters and sites at conventions.

After you have developed a technique using your camera so that you get consistently good pictures you are ready for something a little harder. The WEATHER! I will guarantee that Mother Nature will try, and often succeed, in ruining that perfect shot. You look out your window as the sun is coming up and see that the seedling you have been waiting for has finally opened. You eat breakfast waiting for the sun to be up just a little more and run out to the garden and into a thunder storm which destroys that perfect first bloom. Ahhh, but it is not a miniature dwarf or an aril so chances are high for another bloom in a day or two. What do you do? Well you take the picture anyway. Why? For two reasons: to see how has the seedling weathered the storm and second, if there has been hail and wind, the stalk may be damaged to the extent that there might not be subsequent bloom.

In Rain – If you're caught in a sudden downpour, **protect your equipment first** and wait until it slows or stops. After the rain has passed or is reduced to a sprinkle hold the stalk just below the flower, **gently** shake the excess water off the flower, which will usually return the standards to their normal form unless the rain was particularly heavy. (Remember what I told you about hanging with hybridizers, well this little trick I learned watching Rick Tasco taking pictures of his iris in horrible conditions and it worked very well). If possible turn off your flash. Flash photography, especially with digital cameras, can distort the color tremendously. If it is too dark to take the picture without the flash, it is too dark with the flash and you will get little useful information. The only time flash photography is good with plants is if it is windy (Figure 12). Using a flash option then will help to reduce the blur from a moving object. In many digital cameras even this capability is not needed because they have stability modes built in. This is not an always rule. If the only picture you can get of an iris is with a flash, take it. Take several photos without the flash first then several with the flash. You will be surprised how good photo programs can compensate for the lack of light. Again, with digital you can always delete. In foul weather try not to take fancy pictures, just take the best possible pictures you can, either a mug shot, side shot or top shot.

Taking Digital Iris Photographs:Part II (cont.)



Figure 12. Effects of wind can be seen in the blurring of the photo (A) but with flash, the shot is clearer but form is still off due to the strength of the wind.

I do not want to recount how many times I end the season with no picture of a particular cultivar just because I did not take a shot. Even a poor clear photograph is better than none. You can tell which of your irises withstood the trials of Mother Nature. Below are two photographs of the same cultivar. The first was taken the first day of the Portland convention, in the morning before the rain started (Figure 13 A). The second was taken the third day of the tours after three days of torrential downpours attacked the iris fields (B). The information obtained from these two shots is that the color fades with more than 4" of rain per day, but over all this is one tough iris that I want in my collection. I did not shake this iris to get the standards to rise there was no need. Although it was leaning a bit I believe that was due more to the saturated soil than the lack of the stalk.



Figure 13: Blazing Beacon (Tasco 2004) before and after torrential rainfall during the 2006 AIS Convention tours.

Taking Digital Iris Photographs:Part II (cont.)

Another big reason to take multiple shots of the same cultivar, especially at Conventions, is that you cannot remember everything about a plant in the short span of time we are limited to during National and Regional garden tours. During tours you determine the winners of the “President Cup” and the “Cook Cup”. If the selection is difficult, and it will be, multiple shots like those in Figure 6 allows you to see the strengths and weaknesses of various cultivars.

Another problem is sunlight. In my garden I take pictures before the sun reaches my flowers but allows enough light that a flash is not needed. I get better color saturation and I have fewer shadows that interfere with seeing ruffles, imperfections, veining, texture and a whole list of other features. The second favorite time of the day, and one I am seldom home for, is HIGH NOON. With the sun directly over head the shadows are fewer and diamond dusting is very obvious. Having a lens hood can eliminate any glare that might occur (you can now purchase hoods for some point and shoot cameras). A body or umbrella can also be used to reduce glare, but try to keep shadow lines out of your shot. Taking a shot in the evening is almost as good as the morning with one minor exception and that is that color in the evening can be influenced by the sunset. If you have a beautiful sunset you probably are not getting good color in your shot. Always true?, No. If there are trees which block most of the light from a sunset, this time of day can be as good as the morning.

This next problem concerns mostly Arils and Arilbreds and that is time. If you take a shot early you can see all the splendor of a typical aril plant [SAHRA TASH] (Figure 14A) showing recurved falls, perfectly domed standards that are typically larger than the falls, and the vibrant colors. Failing to get this shot you might end up with the next shot (Figure 14B). This is the same iris later in the evening after a strange hot early spring day. Is it a bad shot? No it is a great shot and you can still see the recurved falls although not as exaggerated, the wonderfully domed standards and all the wonderful colors they are just slightly less vibrant than the early morning shot. Timing your shots can make a huge difference in the picture you end up with. I like both these shots.



Figure 14: SAHRA TASH (Shockey 1985) in the morning and 10 hours later on the same day shows two different forms in this Arilbred.

Taking Digital Iris Photographs:Part II (cont.)

Another effect of time is the fading flower. This is not a big problem with tall bearded as there are more than a couple of blooms to a stalk; however, not getting a shot that first day with the smaller varieties may get you a less than desirable result (Figure 15). In Figure 15A the flower has not opened completely and if this is a seedling there would be no way to judge the form. In Figure 15B the flower is completely open and the form, color and faults of a flower can be seen.

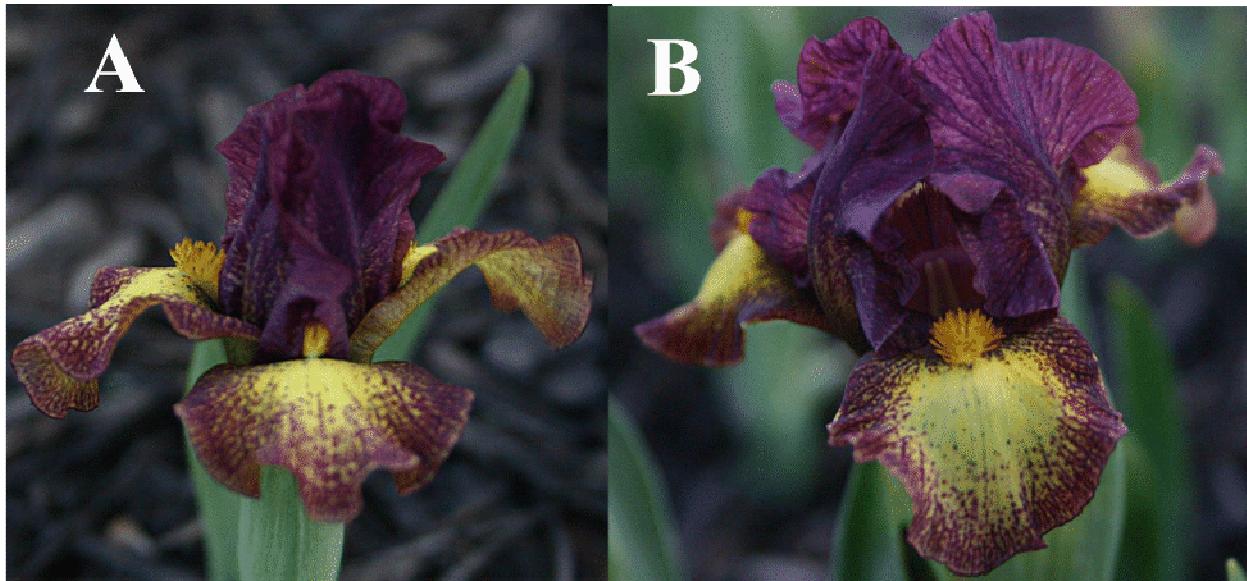


Figure 15: Taking a picture of a flower too early may give you a less desirable effect as taking one too late.

The best way to get those pictures you want is to practice, practice, and practice. I cannot stress that enough. The more comfortable you are with the ins and outs of your camera the better the results will be. There is so much information available for photographers that is FREE, there should be little problem in knowing the workings and functions of your particular camera.

Now! This winter, practice on taking pictures of anything and everything. Take the time to go through your manuals and search on line for functions available to you that you may not be aware of but can help you know how to use these additional features to their best advantage.

The final in this series will address what to do with all those photographs you now have. If there are any questions in the first two please drop me a line and I will try to answer them for you.

New Members Area

Williamson-White Medal By Clarence Mahan



This medal is restricted to miniature tall bearded (MTB) irises. It is named in honor of E. B. Williamson (1877-1933) and Alice White (1886-1969).

Edward Bruce Williamson was born in Marion, Indiana in 1877, and grew up in Bluffton, Indiana, where his father was a bank president. His friends called him Bruce, but he is known to the iris and zoological worlds as "E. B. Williamson." After graduating from Ohio State University, Williamson worked as Assistant Curator of Insects in the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh. Succeeding his father as bank president in 1905, he continued to study and conduct research on insects, particularly dragonflies. He was later appointed Research Associate in the Museum, of Zoology at the University of Michigan. He wrote many monographs and articles, and was recognized as a world-class authority on dragonflies.

Williamson began growing irises in the early 1900s, and collected many different species, which he then grew from seed. He grew thousands of seedlings, frequently used mix pollen, and kept few records. He established Longfield Iris Farm in Bluffton, and it became a mecca for iris lovers. His 'Lent A. Williamson' and 'Dolly Madison' were considered masterpieces, and are to be found in the pedigrees of nearly all modern tall bearded irises. He introduced many outstanding cultivars including 'Cinnabar,' 'Dorothy Dietz,' and 'Amigo.' 'Wabash,' which won the Dykes Medal in 1940, was introduced by his daughter Mary after his death. His beautiful Louisiana iris hybrid 'Dorothea K. Williamson,' introduced in 1918, tends to breed true to form, and it has the distinction of now being naturalized in some areas of the eastern U.S. where Hexagonae species are not indigenous.

Although others had introduced irises that fit into the miniature tall bearded iris class before Williamson, Williamson was the first to breed them as cultivars in a distinctive class of irises. They were apparently byproducts of his breeding for tall bearded irises. Thura Hires and Ethel Peckham were the first to sort them out of Williamson's seedling beds. They recognized that these smaller irises had great potential as garden plants and for use in floral designs. Mrs. Peckham gave them the name 'table irises.' The first of these table irises to be introduced were 'Siskin,' 'Pewee,' and 'Kinglet.' 'Chewink' and 'Daystar' followed. Mary Williamson produced 'Widget' (1943) and 'Nambe' (1946).

Although table irises had a number of proponents such as Mrs. Hires, Mrs. Peckham, and Charles Gersdorff, they languished in the shadow of tall bearded irises for many years. In the early 1950's, Alice White of Hemet, California began a crusade to gain recognition of the assets of these wonderful smaller irises. She organized table iris robins and wrote many articles for the AIS *Bulletin* and gardening magazines promoting their virtues. She encouraged iris hybridizers to breed these irises to obtain new and finer cultivars. She led the campaign to have a separate class established for table irises. When the class was finally approved, Alice White graciously accepted the name "miniature tall bearded" irises, although she always preferred to call them table irises.

Photo: Courtesy of Anita Moran "PREFERENCE" Fisher 2001

Region 4 Affiliates

CAROLINA MOUNTAINS IRIS SOCIETY

President: DANEE A. HOOVER

CHESAPEAKE & POTOMAC IRIS SOCIETY

President: Dave Stoll

Report to Region 4 Vice President for the activities of the Chesapeake and Potomac Iris Society, for the calendar year 2007.

All of our activities were consistently attended by a higher number of people than in the last several years—which is great. Our first meeting of the year was actually in December 2006, where we had a little holiday get-together. We enjoyed each other's company, looked at slides of past activities, new seedlings and other events. But most surprising was the number of blooming iris brought by Griff Crump. (I think they were all his seedlings). What a surprise-iris in December—and after a couple of freezes too!

Spring was very busy with event following event or so it seemed. First we opened the spring season with a luncheon and a "This is Your Iris Life" Honoring Mac Shaw—a long time member of the club and membership chairman.

We had one of our largest shows in several years, and even had several members from other Region four affiliates showing off their flowers for us (or with us). It was great!—despite the road closures.

We continued our spring ritual by touring several members' gardens just to get ideas for our gardens and see what else we can grow. It was a lot of fun and capped by a barbecue at the Naylor's. I really appreciated everyone who opened their yards to us for this event. Least I forgot we even had one young hybridizer get his start at the Jones garden (it was Ray). He's been bitten—I think he got 14 pods.

We tried something new for our sale. A week before those of us who could went to the Spoon's house (who contributes a very large portion of our rhizomes) to help them prepare rhizomes' for our club sale. It turned out that Ginny dug the rhizome clumps, while the rest of us split, trimmed, and labeled them for the sale. It was a very pleasant way to spend the afternoon—our hands were busy and our minds enriched as we visited and learned about one another. Our sale was fantastic both from our ability to generate funds as well as our ability to recruit members. (We tend to recruit members at any sale or show that we have—great club members can do this.) I think part of our success here is that our sale is concurrent with a local Day Lilly show.

Our fall picnic and plant exchange turned out to be picture perfect. We also were able to choose from any number of new 2006 iris introductions from our guest iris program. Our final event of our clubs calendar year is on Oct 13—our reblooming show. Should be lots of fun as it highlights the changing of the leaves.

While we struggled in the leadership area, I think we had a very successful year. We had fun, gained new members and got to know each other better. All in all I think that I'd have to summarize the year by quoting Snoopy, "It was a great year, but I would have rather gone to Africa and been eaten by an elephant." --david

Region 4 Affiliates

CHARLOTTE IRIS SOCIETY CHAPTER REPORT

June Hood , President

In Mid July the Charlotte Iris Society held two rhizome sales, one at the Metrolina Farmers Market and another at the Mint Hill Farmers Market. From those two sales plus some individual marketing the treasury increased enough to add \$1000.00 (one thousand dollars) to the CIS endowment fund at Central Piedmont Community College. Each year a student in horticulture is presented a scholarship based on merit and need.

A plant auction was features at the September 15th meeting. In spite of the hot, dry summer, members were able to supply enough plants to make it a successful event.

We look forward to welcoming eight new members to our Harvest luncheon in early November.

June Hood, President

CENTRAL VIRGINIA IRIS SOCIETY

Vicki Scheffler , Acting President

OCTOBER 2007

EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA IRIS SOCIETY CHAPTER REPORT

President: Susan Grigg

The Eastern NC Iris Society had a most successful 2nd Annual Iris Sale on Saturday, July 21st at the garden of Randy Ray in Raleigh. We were able to purchase beautiful irises from the Diamond State Iris Society, who could not have a sale this summer, but had many fine plants to be dug. Ruth Barker, ENCIS member, made the trip to Maryland to help dig, divide, wash, and label the freshly dug plants. In addition we had plants from the gardens of two of our members. There was a good supply of reblooming cultivars for sale, and these were favorites of our customers. We had over 500 plants for sale and sold every one of them! We also gained seven new members. Our 2008 Iris Sale is planned for Saturday, July 19th.

We are ready to host the AIS Fall Board Meeting November 2 – 4 at the Wyndham Hotel in the Research Triangle Park between Durham and Raleigh. Most of the AIS Board will be present. Registrations have been received and meals for Saturday lunch and dinner will be provided for the group. Some members of the Board will be enjoying a day at the nearby location of an outdoor model train track before the business meetings begin.

At our meeting on Saturday, September 22nd, we discussed having our Iris Show at the Crabtree Valley Mall in Raleigh on Saturday, May 3rd, 2008. Plans will be finalized for that show before the end of January 2008.

Our Harvest Lunch to end our year's activities will be Saturday, November 17th at the High Point home of E. Roy Epperson. A digital slide show will feature the AIS Spring Meeting held in Oklahoma City in May 2007. This will be our first meeting after Roy becomes President of AIS.

FREDERICKSBURG AREA IRIS SOCIETY CHAPTER REPORT

President: Lois Rose

October 13, 2007

Since I wrote in the spring, we have had a busy summer. Our July meeting was a demonstration on digging and preparing irises for the sale. We had many new members (and some not-so-new) who wanted to learn how to identify an over-crowded clump and how to determine what to keep and what to throw away. We also had a successful sale of our 2-year-old guest plants, and distributed new guests for growing by host gardens.

Our August sale was not as successful as some in the past, despite an almost record number of irises for sale. We picked up several new members and are on good financial footing for the coming year. September we held a well-attended picnic and plant exchange at the beautiful country estate of Sue and Ray Shackelford in Stafford County. You can all look forward to seeing this lovely home and garden at the Region 4 Spring Meeting in 2009. Our final meeting for the year will be our Harvest Dinner on November 10th. New officers for the 2008-2009 term will be elected at that time.

We continue to sponsor a \$500 scholarship for a horticulture student at Virginia Tech. Because of the favorable financial condition of the club, we investigated the possibility of sponsoring another scholarship for a horticulture student at J. Sergeant Reynolds community college in Ashland, where we feel we have a better chance of the recipient being from our local area. At the picnic in September, the group voted to fund a \$500 scholarship for the next session at J. Sergeant Reynolds.

We have also been busy laying the groundwork for the 2009 Spring Regional Meeting. The hotel and gardens have been selected and so far we have 65 different guest irises, mostly from Region 4 hybridizers, planted in four tour gardens. FAIS has not hosted a Spring Regional since 1995, so we are excited about having you come visit us in 2009.

Region 4 Affiliates

FRANCIS SCOTT KEY IRIS SOCIETY CHAPTER REPORT

President: DORIS REBERT

Fall 2007

According to the calendar, fall is here, but it surely feels like summer — hot and dry. Anyway, it is time to get the iris ready for winter.

FSK has been quite busy this summer, to which many of you can attest:

- ♦ On the Memorial Day weekend, FSK hosted the Region 4 Spring 2007 Meeting with approximately 100 registered participants. In conjunction with the meeting, a very successful bearded iris show was held along with the usual activities of touring gardens, judges' training, silent auction, rhizome auction, banquet and meeting. These various aspects of the weekend event provided an enjoyable time for the attendees. Thanks to all within the society and region who made it successful.
- ♦ Again this year, our Beardless show was help in conjunction with the District III Federated Garden Clubs at Kenilworth Shops in Lutherville, MD. In spite of the drought, there were a lot of entries to dazzle the many visitors.
- ♦ The Rhizome Sales, which were held on July 14th at Watson's Garden Center in Lutherville, MD and July 21st at Dutch Plant Farm in Fredrick, MD, again were both very profitable to our treasury and also our membership as we added 18 new members.
- ♦ Bruse Hornstein and Lee Dorman hosted our Annual Board Meeting and Picnic at their home on August 4th. As always, everyone enjoyed the plentiful food, the socializing, and the business at hand.
- ♦ Our final event for the year is the Membership Luncheon, which will be held at the Charred Rib in Timonium MD on Sunday October 21st, with Anita Moran's Program entitled "Arils and Arilbred in Maryland".

HAMPTON ROADS IRIS SOCIETY CHAPTER REPORT

President: JOANNE HAMM

WEB NEWS

It is time to put the “LINKS” page in for our website. There are a lot of links throughout the internet that many people would gain knowledge from. I need your input!

Get me those site you just love and can learn a lot about iris, horticulture, garden care, pest, or anything else you can think of. E-mail me or snail mail me any link you want to be considered.

**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.



The C&P Iris Society will be hosting the Spring Region 4 Meeting in Winchester, Virginia on Friday, May 23rd and Saturday, May 24th, 2008. Perry Dyer, who joined AIS as a youth member, will be our guest speaker as well as giving garden Judge's Training on seedlings. We have many guest seedlings from our Region 4 hybridizers planted in new raised beds at Winterberry Gardens and they are growing and increasing well. Even though some of them are one-year seedlings we expect most of them to be in bloom for the tour. There will be introductions as well as seedlings from Region 4 hybridizers: Griffin Crump, Libby Cross, Don and Ginny Spoon, Clarence Mahan, Dick Sparling, Pat Otterness, Lloyd Zurbrigg. Seedlings were sent by Kristen Laing, David, Kim, Devon and Lisa Stoll, Anita Moran, Bryan Spoon, Bruce Hornstein, Owings Rebert, Jim Schroetter and Mike Lockatell.

There are also many of the best 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007 introductions from other hybridizers on display including Schreiners, Cooleys, Tom Burseen, Vincent Christoffersen, Perry Dyer, Paul Black, Tom Johnson, Keith Keppel, Joe Spears, Terry Aitken, Joe Ghio, Fred Kerr, Brad Kasperek, the Suttons, Barry Blyth, Roger Duncan, Rick Tasco, Ron Mullin, Bruce Filardi, Ben Johnson, Dave Niswonger, the Godfreys, Marvin Davis, Nicodemus, Larry Lauer, Van Liere and Schaefer/Saks.



GYPSY LORD by Keppel



SOLOMON'S TREASURE by VanLiere



SANTA WAS HERE by Niswonger



Come join us next spring!

HOTEL INFORMATION

**Courtyard by Marriott
Winchester Medical Center
300 Marriott Drive, Winchester, Virginia 22603
Phone: 540-678-8822 Fax: 540-678-1666
Marriott.com/WGOCY**

Room rate: \$99.00 plus tax per night.

You must mention AIS Region 4 when registering to get these rates and you must make your own reservations with the hotel at least by May 10th.

Some additional rooms have been set aside at our special rate for Thursday, May 22nd for those who desire to arrive early.

Facilities & Services

- Marriott Rewards Program
- Courtyard Café
- Lobby Bar
- The Market – a 24-hour self-service pantry
- 24-hour Coffee and Tea in Lobby
- Indoor Pool and Whirlpool
- Fitness Center
- Same-day Valet Dry Cleaning
- Guest Laundry
- Meeting Rooms
- Board Room
- Business Center with Copy and Fax Services

Guest Room Amenities

- Complimentary High-Speed Internet
- Two Telephones with Voice Mail and Data Port
- Remote-Controlled Cable TV
- AM/FM Alarm Clock Radio
- Large Well-Lit Work Desk with Executive Chair
- In-Room Coffee, Hair Dryer, Iron and Ironing Board

Directions to the Hotel: From points east take Dulles Toll Road, Rt. 267 west, to Route 7 west to I-81 north (one exit) to exit 317, follow Route 37 (Winchester bypass) south to US route 50 west exit. Turn right on Route 50 and Hotel is immediately on the right just across from the Winchester Hospital.

May 23 - 24th, 2008 Region 4 Meeting Schedule of Events

Friday, May 23rd

9:00 - 8:00 p.m.	Registration
10:00 -12:00 noon	Show entries
12:00 -1:00 p.m.	Show Judging
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch on your own
1:30 - 3:00 p.m.	Board Meeting
3:30	Car pool to Winterberry Gardens
4:00 – 5:30 p.m.	tour Winterberry and JT on TBs
6:00	back at hotel
7:00 p.m.	Welcome Dinner
8:00 p.m.	Regional Auction

Saturday, May 24th

9:00 a.m.-2 p.m.	Registration
10:00 – noon	Optional tour of Shenandoah Valley Museum (they also serve lunch at the museum tea room).
noon – 1 p.m.	Lunch on your own
2:00	Carpool to Winterberry Gardens
2:30 - 5:30 p.m.	Tour Winterberry Gardens and Garden Judges Training on seedlings with Perry Dyer
5:30 p.m.	Return to Hotel
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.	Awards Banquet
7:45 - 9:30 p.m.	Awards presentation and guest speaker – Perry Dyer

Committee:

General Chairman & Guest Iris Chairman:	Don and Ginny Spoon
Registrar:	Ray Jones
Show Chairman:	Ginny Spoon and Shelly McAllister
Silent Auction:	
Registration & Welcome Packets	Ray and Karen Jones
Table Decorations:	
Garden Helpers	Bryan Spoon, The Fernandez family
Transportation for guest speaker	Marilyn Naylor

**AIS Region 4 Spring 2008 Meeting
Friday May 23rd and Saturday, May 24th
Winchester, Virginia**

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: _____

Digitized by srujanika@gmail.com

Full Registration: \$25.00 x _____ person(s) = \$_____

Youth Fun Registration: \$35.00 x _____ person(s) = \$_____

After May 10, the Full Registration will be \$100.00 x _____ person(s) = \$_____

(Full registration includes Dinner on Friday evening and Awards Banquet on Saturday)

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Send completed Registration Form with a Check made payable to C&P Iris Society and mail by May 8th to:

Ray Jones,
3004 Rosemoor Lane
Fairfax, VA 22031

For additional information contact:

Ginny Spoon
540-888-4447
Email: vspoon@aol.com

Minutes of the Board Meeting
Region 4, American Iris Society
Embassy Suites Baltimore North
Hunt Valley, Maryland
May 25, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by Regional Vice-President Jerry Coates. The minutes from the October 7, 2006 meeting were approved.

A treasurer's report with an end of year total of \$5,429.78 was filed. The May 25, 2007 bank balance was \$4,419.06.

Because Allegany Highlands Iris Society and Virginia Peninsula Iris Society are no longer active, Region 4 now has only nine affiliates.

As of the Oklahoma Convention, Jerry Coates is the RVP Representative on the AIS board of Directors.

Carrie Winter Presented the Assistant REV report: Meetings will be held:
October 12&13 2007 Blacksburg, VA (Don Rude, Chm.)
Spring 2008 Chesapeake and Potomac Iris Society
Fall 2008 Carolina Mountain Iris Society
Spring 2009 Fredericksburg Area Iris Society.

Carrie reported excellent cooperation from these affiliates.

Carol Warner presented and overview of the tour.

Region 4 will sponsor the National Board Meeting in November. The Eastern North Carolina iris Society will be the Host. Jack Loving moved and Anita Moran seconded that Region 4 allocate up to \$2000.00 for this occasion. The motion passed.

Jack Loving presented the budget for the coming year. Carol Warner moved and Ray Epperson seconded that the budget be accepted. The motion passed.

Newscast Editor Anita Moran has presented three possible formats for the Newscast. 1. The original with holes, 2. Large booklet, 3. Small booklet. A vote was taken and the original version with holes was the clear choice.

Roy Epperson moved that Sarah Marley receive complimentary Newscast. Carol Warner seconded. The motion passed.

Affiliate reports were given by:

Linda Lang – Central Virginia
Ginny Spoon – Chesapeake & Potomac
Susan Grigg – Eastern North Carolina
Carol Warner – Francis Scott Key
Lois Rose – Fredericksburg Area
Bea Rogers – Hampton Roads

RVP Jerry Coates appointed a nominating committee to present a slate of officers. Dave Bollinger – Maryland, Jack Loving – Virginia, and Susan Grigg – North Carolina.

The Meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by
June Hood
Secretary

Anita Moran
Newscast Editor
5351 Rocks Rd
Pylesville, MD 21132

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