



The Newscast

Inside this issue:

Region 4 Board	2
Affiliates	3
RVP Message	4
From The Editor	5
Winterberry Rebloom	6
Stuffed Turkey	10
Web News	11
Spring Region	12



Rose Garden 2003 AIS Convention

one of the gardens on tour

for the 2009 Region 4

Spring Regional In Fredericksburg Virginia

Regional Vice President

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

Assistant RVP

Donald Rude
1051 Nik Ryan Dr.
Blacksburg, VA 24060
(540) 552-0373

Immediate Past RVP

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

Secretary

Tricia Taylor
11406 Stonewall Jackson Dr
Spotsylvania, VA 22551

Treasurer

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

Historian

Lois Rose
PO Box 30
Partlow, VA 22534-0030

Parliamentarian

OPEN

Beardless and Species

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

Budget

Jack Loving FAIS
10483 Edgemoor 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

Iris Program Resource

Bill Smoot
213 Derby Road
Portsmouth, VA 23702-2017

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

Don Rude

Youth

OPEN

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

Editor NEWSCAST

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

SPRING

**People mowing
Tadpoles growing
Hedgehogs waking
Ice is breaking
Squirrels playing
Foals neighing
Lambs bleating
Caterpillars eating
Pretty Flowers
Wind and showers
Blossom falling
Birds calling
Washing drying
Butterflies flying
Bees are humming
Spring is coming**

**by Alex, age 8, from
Hertfordshire in England**

<http://www.shavick.com/youngpoets2.htm>

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

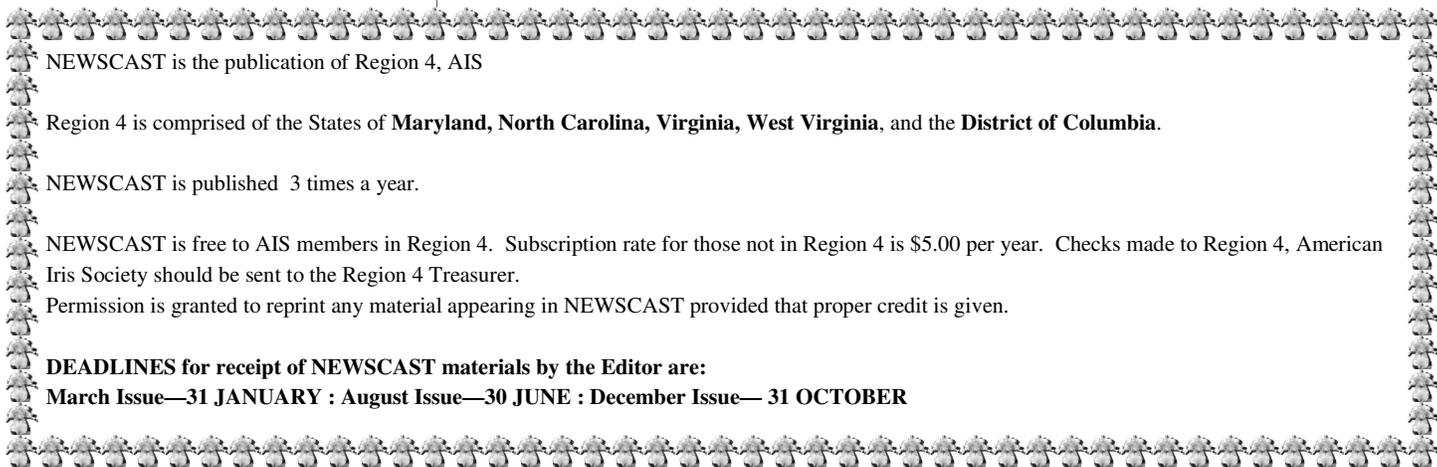
EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA IRIS SOCIETY - SUSAN GRIGG
105 Trotters Ridge Rd, Raleigh, NC 27614-0620

EASTERN SHORE IRIS SOCIETY - DEBBIE CAMPBELL
809 Camden Ave. 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

From The Region Vice President



First let me begin my term as RVP by thanking you for allowing me to serve. I am proud to have this special responsibility, but at the same time I am humbled by the prospect of following the outstanding leadership of the previous RVPs. It will be a privilege to serve a region so very rich in resources—membership, leadership in AIS, outstanding hybridizers with award winning results and excellent gardeners developing beautiful gardens. Join me in promoting the gifts of Region 4 to the rest of the iris world.

For us in the Carolina piedmont, we have experienced record breaking temperatures both cold and warm this winter. Despite these erratic weather changes, *Iris reticulata* and *Iris unguiculares* have managed to brighten gardens with their charming blooms. The resilience of iris, bearded and non-bearded, promises a colorful spring.

The 2009 Spring meeting scheduled for May 8th-9th in Fredericksburg promises to be a real treat. My first regional was there in the early 90's and the memory of the beauty of the gardens remains with me today. We will be visiting one of those gardens this year together with one visited at a more recent meeting plus two gardens new to a regional tour. We will also be celebrating a significant anniversary for FAIS and also for Region 4 with its present geographic configuration. Naturally we expect the "usual" attendees, but it is important that the group expand to include members new to regional activities. Let's all encourage some "First Timers" to the spring meeting. Hopefully a "First Timer" will turn into a "Regular"

We want to give a BIG Thank You to Margaret Stone for serving as historian for Region 4 for more than a decade. Receiving and storing our artifacts has been quite a task, Thank you Margaret for keeping our past collected.

Lois Rose has graciously accepted the position as historian for Region 4. Also Bill Smoot will be our "Iris Program Resource" person keeping both digital and slide material. Thank you both for volunteering.

See you all in Fredericksburg

Carrie



Iris unguiculares

The real meaning of plant catalog terminology:

"A favorite of birds" means to avoid planting near cars, sidewalks, or clotheslines.

"Grows more beautiful each year" means "Looks like road kill for the foreseeable future."

"Zone 5 with protection" is a variation on the phrase "Russian roulette."

"May require support" means your daughter's engineering degree will finally pay off.

"Moisture-loving" plants are ideal for landscaping all your bogs and swamps.

"Carefree" refers more to the plant's attitude than to your workload.

"Vigorous" is code for "has a Napoleonic compulsion to take over the world."

"Grandma's Favorite" -- until she discovered free-flowering, disease-resistant hybrids.

I have a rock garden. Last week three of them died.

- Richard Diran

FROM THE EDITOR

Well I really want to thank those of you who have responded about the new format for the Newscast.

It seems I just did this, Oh yea I did. My apologies for all the mix-ups and delays. I would like to blame it all on the printer but I cannot. A series of miscommunications that I hope have been ironed out. A new program should never be taken for granted. Now that I am more familiar with the new programs and their capabilities I think we will have less problems.

Now that spring is just around the corner, let's get those cameras dusted and tested and working. I can always use articles for the Newscast and tales from the membership are always the best. You will never know how you can affect someone unless you try. I know there are plenty of possibilities for excitement in my garden as things were moved and new seedlings grew to near bloom size over the summer months. Anticipation had me checking the beds nearly every day this week in the 60 degree weather. I tried to weed just to get a head start but the ground was just too frozen. Stupid weeds! Thought they would have died in the ice but no such luck. There are several Miniature Tall Bearded seedlings that I

am drooling to see as well as my 'Persian Padishah' (OGB+) X 'Daughter of Stars' seedling. I tried my hand to purposely produce an MDB I will have to wait on those I think. I also have seedlings that are being tested here from Denise Stewart of Oregon and John Baumfalk sent me an arilbred seedling that came from the same set of seeds as 'Lakeside Elf' and 'Anaheim Daughter'. His standard dwarf bearded seedling will also hopefully be happy here.

I know the economy is hitting everyone and I hope that anyone in the region who is traveling to the Kansas City AIS National Convention will take a few extra pictures for me and write about your experience so that we all can share in the joy. For those who will not be going, visit a new member to your club and introduce his garden to us.

Best wishes for a wonderful spring and I hope to see you in Fredericksburg.

Anita

Rebloom Report 2008

Winterberry Gardens zone 6

By Ginny Spoon



Bryan Spoon Reblooming Seedling

For the fall of 2008, we had 83 cultivars rebloom for us compared to almost 300 in the fall of 2007. We had an unusually dry summer in 2008; and also, we had dug a lot more rebloomers for sale which accounts for the decrease in rebloom. We dig and reset the reblooming irises in late September and early October, and the reset plants will usually not rebloom that fall. However, several of our own cultivars rebloomed this fall even after being reset. 'Mango Parfait' (2009) and 'Corn Dance' (2008) both put on quite a display although the blooms were smaller and stalks shorter than they would have been had they not been reset.

The list of rebloomers for 2008 includes several seedlings that rebloomed. One was from one of our youth members in Region 4, Kristen Laing, and another, a white SDB was from another Region 4 member, Dr. Bruce Hornstein. We cut and brought Kristen's TB purple seedling #ACIB to our fall show; and since all three of the Laings (Kristen, father Dan, and mother Linda) were our judges for the show, they were able to see it in bloom. We were worried that we would not have enough stalks for the show as we had an early freeze down to 28 degrees F in Northern Virginia, in mid October, but it had warmed up in the preceding week before the show and the irises continued to open new blooms. Our show was a great success, and we not only had our C&P Iris Society members bring lots of nice stalks but our Region 4 RVP from FSKIS, Jerry Coates and his lovely wife, Maryann brought beautifully grown stalks to our show. Jerry won best specimen with 'Twilight Fancies' by Dr.

Lloyd Zurbrigg. Also, Lois Rose from FAIS drove up from Fredericksburg to attend our fall show.

Our registered seedling 'Margaret Wilson Thomas' (MWT) (2009) won best seedling at our fall show and was our best reblooming planting for 2008 with 18 fall stalks having 7 to 15 buds. The real life Margaret Thomas has been an active member of C&P for over 45 years and has an enormous collection of bearded irises featuring many rebloomers. MWT is a 35-38" tall TB with wide, ruffled, and flared blossoms. It opens to a light blue and turns to an almost white, the shade that Margaret said her hair has turned. Margaret selected this iris we named for her several years ago when she was visiting our garden in October. We took along a stalk of MWT to New York, when we gave our reblooming judges training two weeks after our reblooming show, and it was still in bloom when we got home even though we had temperatures down below 26 degrees at night while we were gone. We know this because Don had set his maximum-minimum thermometer he keeps on the porch. It is very winter hardy and the orchid-like substance of the flowers kept them from freezing. Those who attended the New York regional meeting enjoyed the wonderful fragrance of MWT. Another iris that impressed us in 2008 was the last introduction of Dr. Lloyd Zurbrigg, 'Gate of Heaven'. It rebloomed early in September for us and was by far the most beautiful medium blue reblooming irises we have ever

Winterberry Rebloom Report 2008

**Hard work doesn't
harm anyone,
but I do not want to
take any chances.**

- Author Unknown



webclipart.about.com/.../agarden/blgardenp3.htm



Mango Parfait D. Spoon
2009

seen. 'Gate of Heaven' had perfect show stalks and the blooms were wide and fully ruffled.

This past October I was invited to give reblooming judges training in Salem, Oregon and also in Oswego, in the Southern Tier of New York. Thankfully, Don agreed to accompany me on the long drive to Oswego; and also, he gave me some help with my judges training talk. I gave these trainings using a digital projector and laptop computer, a gift from Bryan, and the color pictures were very close to their appearance in nature.

It turned out to be easier than I thought taking them on the plane to Oregon because they both fit into the carry on luggage. The members of both groups were really excited about some of our SDBs seedlings that are royal blue, grass green, and intense turquoise blue-green, such as 'Teagan' one of our 2009 introductions. I was thrilled to go to both of these meetings and had a great time. Eating grapes in Tom Johnson's orchard, looking at all the new plantings at Mid America and talking with Paul Black, seeing Keith Keppel's garden (no weeds at all!), seeing the fall colors in New York and eating the most delicious apples I have ever eaten (Empire apples, a gift from Dorothy Stiefel and the Oswego members), and just the friendship of everyone at both places was wonderful.

When I mentioned that 75 percent of the iris sales for Winterberry Gardens were of rebloomers, the hybridizers took notice. Hopefully, we will have more interest in hybridizing rebloomers. Perhaps it is because the rebloomers bloom earlier in the Spring and can be nipped by late frosts more often than the later spring only bloomers that deters some hybridizers from working on them; or, perhaps it

is because they don't realize that now rebloomers have just as modern form as the once bloomers. Some think that the rebloomers are putting up stalks just when they need to be dug and shipped. We find that only a small number of our cultivars, such as Love Goes On, Twiggy, and Midsummer's Eve, sometimes put up a stalk during our major shipping time (July and August). Nearly all of our 1400+ reblooming cultivars don't rebloom until October and November. We have received iris plants from other suppliers that were developing stalks that we planted and had no problems getting established with the stalk completing development and blooming, though with a somewhat shorter stalk with smaller flowers.

I did not list any of our seedlings in my rebloom report except 'Mango Parfait' (2009) and 'Margaret Wilson Thomas' (2009), but we had quite a few rebloom this fall. Several that we thought were quite beautiful were: Returning Rose X Twiggy, a lovely rose-pink plicata TB that rebloomed early in late August; 2006-135 (Mariposa Autumn X Zee), a plum plicata TB and white ground with 17 buds rebloomed in mid September; TB seedling out of Mariposa Autumn X Daughter of Stars, a dark Bishop's purple fanciata (luminata-plicata), 2005-575 (Hot Chic X Royal Maroon) a red SDB from a cross that Don has gotten some nice red rebloomers from; 2005-582 (Hot Chic X Lumalite), a nice orange SDB with maroon spot; and 2005-416 ORG RE, an intense orange SDB.

Winterberry Rebloom Report 2008



Spoon Seedling 2006-135
Mariposa Autumn X Zee



Spoon Seedling
Returning Rose X Twiggy



October Painted Daisies
at Winterberry

This summer we ordered and planted in a pot Rick Tasco's SDB 'Carmel Celeste' that put up a stalk in October with four buds and bright yellow blossoms with very nice ruffles. Our MDB 'Trimmed Velvet' was our best performing dwarf this fall with profuse bloom from early September until late November. 'Trimmed Velvet' can have stalks with 4 buds and has ruffled blossoms. Don is looking forward to crossing these dwarfs with multiple buds to produce new seedlings that extend the bloom season both in the spring and the fall. The earlier rebloomers were of special interest to the New York members as they are in a much colder zone than we are and have earlier freezes. Still, they are able to enjoy some rebloom in their zone 5.

In the past, it was necessary to cross rebloomers on modern formed spring only blooming rebloom carriers with modern form to obtain truly modern formed rebloomers. Now, with so many new rebloomers with modern form to choose as parents, we are making more crosses of our best performing summer and fall blooming rebloomers and obtaining seedlings that bloom even earlier in August, and September, and even in July. Our goal is to extend the bloom of our bearded iris throughout the whole bloom season. Three years ago our rebloom beds had almost as many stalks in October as they did in May!

Don and I had talked about this possibility ten years earlier and were overjoyed to witness this fall kaleidoscope wonderland. Now we are imagining the day, maybe in ten years, when the mid-summer bloom equals the spring and fall in number of blooming stalks, when new multiple, all-season bloomers dominate our bearded iris plantings.

While some of these varieties may be producing stalks at shipping time, it should still be possible to ship some of the lined out plants that have not become established enough to put up a rebloom stalk. This is a problem only for those who sell the plants but certainly not for the people who grow them to enjoy.

Several years ago we sold equal numbers of spring only bloomers and rebloomers to our wholesale buyers. These retailers found that their customers preferred rebloomers. Now, these retailers want just rebloomers and only order rebloomers at our wholesale rates. If the customer is always right, the future for rebloomers is bright. The last three years we have completely sold out of rebloomers with plants large enough for sale. Likewise, at our summer club sale the rebloomers continue to sell out first. Supply has not reached the demand for rebloomers. As rebloomers increase in beauty on the show bench and performance in the garden the demand for them will continue to grow.



Carmel Celeste
Rick Tasco SDB



Trimmed Velvet
Spoon MDB



Spoon Seedling Mariposa Autumn X
Daughter of Stars



Gates of Heaven
Zurbrigg 2004



Margaret Wilson Thomas
D. Spoon 2009



Spoon Seedling 2002-99A
Wish Wish X Cherry Glen



Liquid Amber
G. Spoon 2003



Spoon Seedling 575-2005
Hot Chic X Royal Maroon SDB RE



Spoon Seedling 2005-416
Orange SDB RE



Replicator SDB R. Tasco



Patty Ann BB RE
Tim Stanek



'Greenback Kid' SDB RE
Wise Willow X Senorita Frog

STUFFED TURKEY

By Ginny Spoon

**God made rainy
days, so gardeners
could get the
housework done.**



aa036962 www.fotosearch.com

There was a fellow gardener,
Who had a problem to ponder.
A flock of Canada geese
Were invading her peace,
And leaving poop here and yonder.

She uttered a stern resolution
To end the garden pollution.
Then a friend told of a kit
That would give the gaggle a fit,
A fake gobbler would be the
solution.

Soon there came a box in the mail
With fake feathers, body and tail.
And she stuffed it with plastic
So it would look realistic
Of a fine handsome large male.

Now there was quiet all around,
Until one day came a sound
Of a wild turkey flock
That spied the cock on her lot
And quickly covered the ground.

A hen went round the old boy,
Not knowing he was a decoy.
Then she strutted her stuff
Until she had quite enough
Of trying to act very coy.

Feeling vexed and dejected
A strange thing she detected,
And spurned of romance
She then stopped her dance
And spied an object projected.

She pulled out a distended snag
That was only a white plastic bag,
When a stray gust of wind,
To the air it did send,
And they all flew away from the
gag.



WEB NEWS



Well it is going to be an exciting year for me this year. The Region 4 web space is about to undergo some serious changes. The entire website will stay as it is while the new site is being developed and I hope with the newer technology it will be easier to make changes and have new features. I hope everyone will drop me a line and let me know what they would like to see on the new site.

Since there has been little information on some of the older hybridizers in the region, this section may change or morph into a section similar to the section display gardens. This is still to be decided. I think we need to be proud of those that gave us so much joy in past years.

I have purchased a new computer that will handle the needs of the website, the Newscast and other jobs the RVP or others may need, giving me a greater capacity to get more content and utilize the power of the programs I am now using. Once

the new site is up and running I hope some of you will volunteer to beta test it. Do not expect much at first it will be a work in progress as I learn the new program and get more comfortable with it and play with new things. I just love technology.

The two new programs I am using are Window Publisher 2007 and Expression Web Studio. There were two reasons to go with Expression Web, it came with web start up classes that I could download and use as I needed and it allows the blind and sight limited to use special software and be able to electronically hear what is on the sight. I bought the book "Web Expressions for Dummies" just in case. I have already started classes for Expression Web and hope over this next year I can get what is in my head onto the web and have everything work.

Okay you can all stop laughing.

Have a Great Spring

Anita

Please Join Us ...

...for the Region 4 Spring Meeting in Fredericksburg, Va., on May 8 and 9, 2009. At this writing, the gardens are covered with a dusting of snow, and the bitter cold temperatures make it hard to contemplate the glory of spring. But all of our plans are laid for a wonderful Spring Meeting with garden tours, iris show, plant and silent auctions, judge's training, fun, food, and fellowship.

You will visit two gardens new to Regional tours, and two you might have seen before but which have undergone fairly extensive renovations. Three of the four gardens have plantings of guest irises, mostly from Region 4 hybridizers. (See the December 2008 *Newscast* for more details on the gardens.) Dennis Hager from Delaware will be our entertaining guest speaker.

Look elsewhere in this issue for registration form, schedule of activities, and hotel information. If you would like to visit other gardens as you travel to or from Fredericksburg, two suggestions would be Jack and Rosalie's garden in King George (contact them at jrloving@juno.com; 540-775-4043 for directions and appointment) or Mike Lockett's commercial iris and peony garden in Powhatan, Va. (contact Mike at CMarti8855@aol.com; 804-330-2916).

We are ready, we are waiting for you, and we look forward to having you join us for the peak of our iris bloom season in May. See you then!

Lois Rose, Chairman
2009 Region 4 Spring Meeting

Schedule of Events

2009 Region 4 Spring Meeting

May 8-9, 2009

Friday, May 8, 2009

- 10 a.m. – noon Show entries accepted (Washington Room)
Lunch on your own
- 12:30-2:00 p.m. Judging of show
- 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Region 4 Board Meeting (Patrick Henry Room)
- 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. Show open to public (open to attendees until 9 or 10)
- 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. Judge's training/program (Washington Room)
- 5:00 – 10 p.m. Silent Auction open
- 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Social hour with cash bar
- 6:30 p.m. Welcome dinner
- 7:30 p.m. - Plant auction (Washington Room)

Saturday, May 9, 2009

- 7:30 a.m. Board bus
- 8:00 - 4:30 p.m. Garden tours
- 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Social hour with cash bar
- 7:00 p.m. Awards banquet
- 8:00 Silent auction closes
- 8:00 p.m. Awards presentation/Guest speaker

HOTEL INFORMATION

Fredericksburg Hospitality House & Conference Center

2801 Plank Road, Fredericksburg, VA 22401

Phone: (540) 786-8321; Fax: (540) 786-0397; Toll Free: (800) 682-1049

www.fredericksburghospitalityhouse.com

info@virginialandmarkhotels.com

Room rate: \$99.00 Single or Double

Please make your reservations directly with the hotel. To get the group rate, reserve by April 8, 2009, and mention that you are with the iris society.

Facilities & Services:

Shannon's Bar and Grille

Ledo Pizza and Pasta

State-of-the-art Business Center

Junior-Olympic outdoor pool

Exercise Room

Guest laundry

Same-day dry cleaning and laundry

Guest Room Amenities

Remote-control cable TV

Wireless internet access

Two-line telephones with data port and voice mail

AM/FM alarm clock radio

Coffee maker, hair dryer, iron, and ironing board

DIRECTIONS: From Interstate 95 North or South, exit in Fredericksburg at Exit 130B/Route 3 West. At the first traffic light, turn right onto Carl D. Silver Parkway. Make the very next right turn into Commerce Street. The hotel is on the left.

Anita Moran
Newscast Editor
5351 Rocks Rd
Pylesville, MD 21132

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 20
Edgewood, MD 21040