

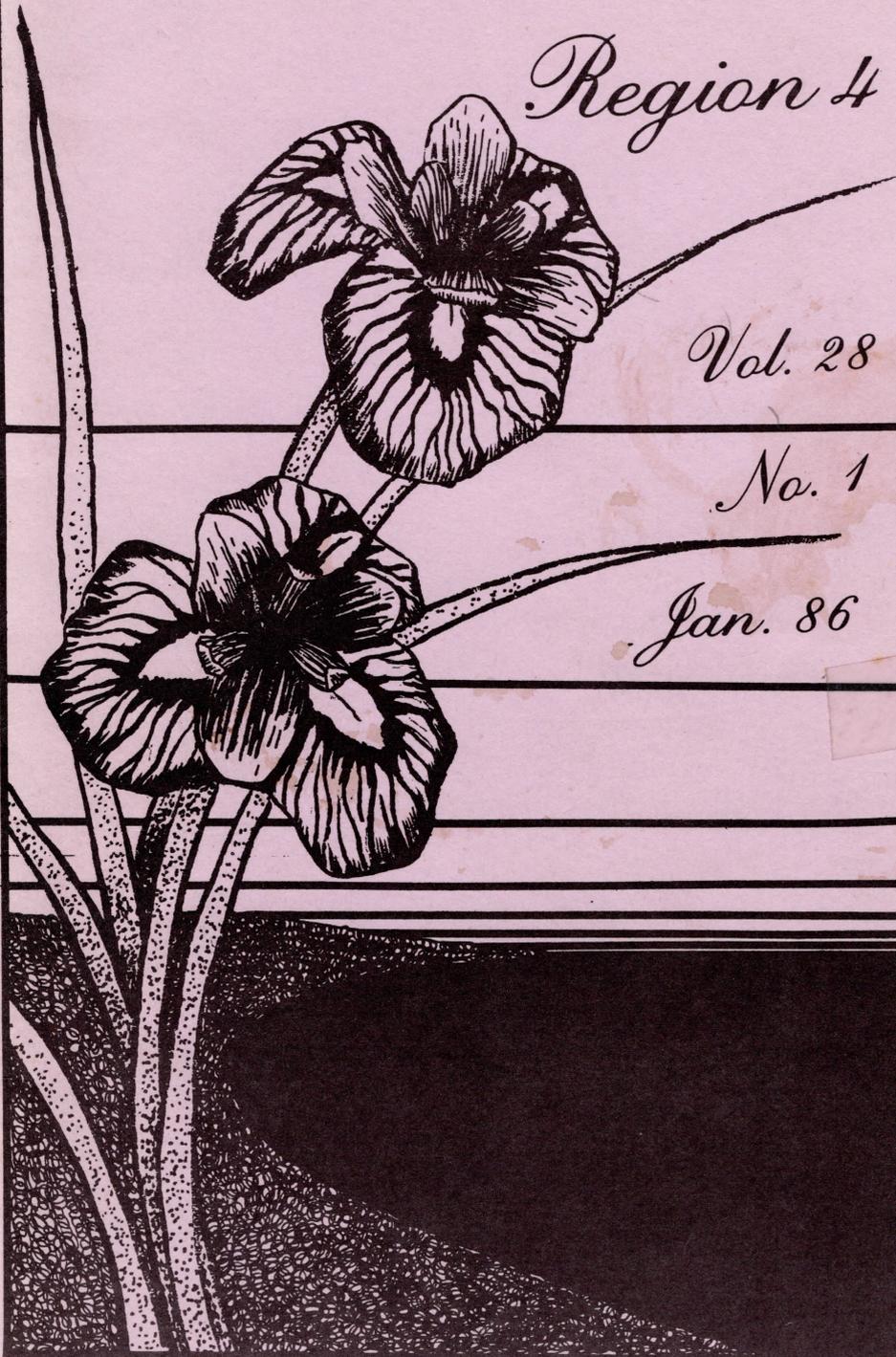
Newscast A. I. S.

Region 4

Vol. 28

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From the Editor's Desk....	Inside Back Cover

IN MEMORIAM

As NEWSCAST was going to press, the sorrowful news was received that NORMAN CLOUSER died on November 16, 1985, at his home in Reading, PA. Until last year, Norman was Region 4 Treasurer. Anyone wishing to memorialize our beloved friend Norm is encouraged by Mrs. Esther Clouser to make a gift to the American Cancer Society or the American Iris Society.

RVP MESSAGE FOR JANUARY, 1986

As we begin the third year of my term as your RVP, I have been reflecting on the last two years, taking stock of happenings in our region. During these years I think we have begun to be more versatile in the kinds of irises we grow. Heretofore, as a region, we have basically been growing tall bearded irises, and this is fine; but we are now finding joy in growing dwarfs, medians, Siberians, Louisianas, Japanese and many species. In fact, several of our members have written that they are having far fewer troubles with Siberians, Louisianas or Japanese and are growing more of these and fewer tall bearded. This also seems to be a trend all over the U.S. I have noted in regional publications that various types are winning Best of Show in a number of sections of the country. In our own region we find an IB or a BB, a LA or a SI winning top honors. We find in some sections where TB's are grown almost exclusively that this does not suit them at all for someone to bring exhibits other than TB and win Best of Show.

JI are beginning to be grown in the region, but not enough for a JI show. Region 5, just south of us, holds an annual JI Show in Summerville, S.C. and hopefully any of our growers who want to exhibit will do so there.

I have been pleased in the way our membership has grown in certain areas of the region, but not so pleased with sections where we have lost members. Our last report from the Membership Chairman shows that we "held our own" during 1985, with neither loss nor gain in the membership of the region overall. This hopefully can be improved, if each of us will be more membership-minded.

This region has been fortunate to have several members who have had good results in growing remontants. Dr. Lloyd Zurbrigg has done a marvelous job in upgrading remontants into irises with better form and substance and with an almost sure prospect of rebloom - some starting in summer and continuing until frost. The last three years we have held Fall Shows, and each year the show grows in number of entries and in the quality of blooms. In Harrisonburg, Va. in 1983, only 3 exhibitors exhibited 6 entries; while in Easton, Md. in 1984, there were 27 exhibits with 6 members entering; and in Falls Church, Va. in 1985, we had 10 exhibitors entering more than 40 cultivars, including TB, BB, IB, SDB and MDB. This will show the progress we have made with remontants. I think this is the only AIS Fall Show in any region.

We are looking forward to the Spring Regional in the Eastern N.C. Chapter. We will have more details elsewhere in this issue, as well as final plans in the Spring issue.

Very tentative planning is being done for a Fall Meeting and Show in conjunction with Region 5. We hope to be able to get an outside speaker to do our Judges Training sessions. Since Charlotte, N. C. is probably midway for those two regions, we are planning to meet here. Dates have not been set until more planning has been done and consultations with some of our more prolific growers of remontants - and theirs. We hope something definite can be worked out as we felt that our joint training sessions in Spartanburg, S. C., with AIS President, Ron Mullin as speaker, was one of the outstanding events of 1985. Sixteen of our judges were able to take in this training.

We trust 1986 will be a good year for iris growers in this region. Happy Irising.

B. J. Brown, RVP

MINUTES OF FALL BOARD MEETING

REGION 4, A. I. S.

October 19, 1985 - Falls Church, VA - 9:30 AM

The meeting was called to order by RVP, B.J. Brown. In the absence of Secretary, Willa Owens, Frances Brown was appointed to act as Secretary.

Results of the Regional Symposium ballot were read by RVP. (Partial list is published elsewhere in this issue of NEWSCAST.)

RVP announced changes in status of regional judges. To Master Judge: Celeste Cox, Charles Hare, Mrs. Fred Miller, and Dennis Wilkie. To Garden Judge: Clarence Mahan. New Apprentice Judge: Ruth Walker.

Changes in officers as announced at the meeting are recorded in the regular Directory of Regional Officers. Exhibitions was removed from the Board as a standing committee.

Assistant RVP, David Walsh, was not present and did not submit a written report. He was thanked for his part in planning the meeting and in sending special notices about the meeting to all regional members.

Minutes of Spring Meeting as published in NEWSCAST were approved with one correction: Dr. E. Roy Epperson was reported as being Chairman of the 1986 Spring Regional instead of J.D. Stadler.

Treasurer, Brian Lazarus, submitted a report, printed elsewhere in this NEWSCAST. He suggested ways of spending part of the balance. Mrs. Rosalie Figge had made recommendations that Judges Training Chairman, Carol Warner, be reimbursed for the registration fee for attending the Judges

Training Meeting in Spartanburg, SC in September, 1985; and that our RVP be reimbursed each year for the amount of Registration Fee for attending the National Convention. After discussion, Epperson moved that the RVP be paid the amount of the registration fee to the National Convention; motion seconded by Nearpass, and carried unanimously. Carol Warner asked that the recommendation for her reimbursement be withdrawn, and no further action was taken on this recommendation.

A committee consisting of Brian Lazarus, Dr. A.W. Rice and Dr. Roy Epperson were appointed to study financing of the National Meeting in C&P Chapter in 1991. Spring Regional Meetings were reported as follows:

- 1986 - Eastern North Carolina
- 1987 - Fredericksburg-Richmond Chapter
- 1988 - FSK Chapter
- 1989 - Western NC, with view toward meeting in Asheville, NC. (not confirmed).
- 1990 - Chesapeake & Potomac Chapter
- 1991 - Washington, D.C. along with National Convention.
- 1992 - Eastern North Carolina

Carol Warner, Judges Training Chairman. reported on the changes in status of judges previously mentioned. In addition, she reported that Region 4 now has 37 accredited judges and 4 apprentice judges. The region lost 5 judges:

Mr. & Mrs. Wm. E. Barr, to Region 15
Mrs. F. Allen Brown, Nonrenewal
Rev. Paul Folkers, Nonrenewal
Ray Rogers, Resigned.

Sixteen members of Region 4 attended the Judges Training School offered by Region 5.

It was reported that there is room for some more good judges in Region 4. If you have been a member of the AIS for three (3) years, and would like to consider being a judge, contact Carol Warner.

Membership Chairman reported no change from report in September NEWSCAST. Auctions and Awards Chairman - not present and no written report sent.

Medians Chairman Dick Sparling stressed the need for members, especially judges, to visit median gardens during bloom season. The Robins Chairman was absent and did not submit written report. Written reports, in addition to oral reports, were submitted by the following Chairpersons: Youth, Reblooming Irises, and Beardless and Species Iris.

Chapter reports were presented by: Dick Sparling (C&P); Martha Cope (Marydel); Ruth Walker (Fredericksburg-Richmond); Mildred Trent for Mrs. Keith Cooper (Blue Ridge); Doris Rebert (FSK). Dick Sparling called attention to the need for all chapters to notify other chapters of their activities. Newsletters, etc., should be sent to the heads of other chapters, the RVP, editor of NEWSCAST, and the Publicity Chairman.

James Cope asked for time to show a new type of damage to an iris stem and foliage. Alice Bouldin reported that an Agriculture Agent said damage is probably caused by a "silent" bee - known as a predator destroying beetles on wheat. It was recommended that Mr. Cope consult his local Agriculture Agent. (*Ed. Mr. Cope has advised that he subsequently did consult his Agriculture Agent. The villain was identified as the European corn borer. We think it can be controlled with Cygon 2E.*)

It was announced that the 1986 Regional Spring Meeting will be on May 9 and 10, with headquarters at the Holiday Inn in Reidsville, N.C. and J.D. Stadler serving as General Chairman.

A Nominating Committee was appointed and directed to submit a slate of officers for 1987 at the Spring Meeting. The members are Tamara McBride, Chairperson (Va.); Alice Miller (Md.); Glenn Grigg (N.C.); and Alma Childers (W.Va.).

Clarence Mahan then urged all judges in attendance to consider all seedlings in the C&P Iris Show as potential candidates for the EC, and to vote as appropriate. Motion was made by Epperson to adjourn; duly seconded and passed.

Frances Brown, Acting Secretary

YOUTH COMMITTEE REPORT

Nancy Schuhmann, Chairperson

Region 4's youth membership for 1985 totals 10. Most of our current youth members have parents, grandparents, or other relatives who belong to one of our chapters. Their interest in irises has developed as a result of their relatives' interest. Identifying other potential youth members is difficult and letting them know about our organization requires some creativity. I am putting together a list of high schools covered by Region 4 which have horticultural programs, and will forward the names of these schools to the respective chapters. The chapters can then notify these schools about upcoming iris meetings, shows, and sales.

"Common sense is very uncommon."

HORACE GREELEY

Region 4, American Iris Society

TREASURER'S REPORT

October 15, 1985

Balance as of 5/15/85 \$3011.46

Expenditures

Address labels	12.76	
Judges training expenses	34.79	
Fall meeting announcements	102.91	
Sept. Newscast postage	48.34	
Address labels	25.85	
Printing of Newscast	506.83	
G. Bush auction iris	52.06	
Bank Service Charge	<u>1.00</u>	
Total Expenditures		784.54

Income

Spring auction	334.35	
Donation: Marydel	100.00	
Donation: C&P Iris Society	350.00	
Donation: Blue Ridge	250.00	
Out of state registrations	12.00	
Interest to Sept. 30	<u>104.70</u>	
Total Income		1151.05

Balance as of 10/15/85 \$3377.97

BRIAN LAZARUS, Treasurer

"Do not be too moral. You may cheat yourself out of much life so. Aim above morality. Be not simply good; be good for something."
Thoreau

"Seest thou a man wise in his own conceit? There is more hope of a fool than of him."
Proverbs. XXVI. 12

MEMBERSHIP REPORT - January, 1986

NEW MEMBERS

Francis Scott Key Chapter:

Patricia McAbee, 2102 Lake Ave,
Baltimore, MD 21218

Marion E. Randig, 1718 Lynch Rd,
Baltimore, MD 21222

Marydel Chapter:

Ester M. Hillyer, Rt # 2, Box 124
Rock Hall, MD 21661

Chesapeake and Potomac Chapter:

Mariana Durbin, 1403 N. Hartford St,
Arlington, VA 22201

Kristine Forsberg, 11035 Earls Gate Ln,
Rockville MD 20852

Mrs. H.L. Walsh, 3908 Braddock Rd,
Alexandria, VA 22312

J. D. Lawson, 4021 Guinea Rd,
Annandale, VA 22003

Fredericksburg-Richmond Chapter:

Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Browne, 801 Barkley Dr,
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

Mr. Raymond A. Sirianne, 30 Vance Dr,
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

Millie A. Woodward, 3 Westcot Place,
Fredericksburg, VA 22405

Phil Yowell, Rt # 3, Box 181
Spotsylvania, VA 22553

Norfolk Chapter (INACTIVE):

Richard R. Randall, 524 Windsor Gate Rd,
Virginia Beach, VA 23452

Western North Carolina Chapter:

Cora Jones, 3844 Sudberry Rd,
Charlotte, NC 28205

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Summey, 209 Pine St,
Hendersonville, NC 28739

MEMBERSHIP REPORT (Continued)

NAME CHANGE

Fredericksburg-Richmond Chapter:

Nancy L. Isle to Nancy L. Walker, Rt # 1,
Box 845, Partlow, VA 22534

CORRECTION

Marydel Chapter:

Mary Greishecky, Box 682, Rising Sun, MD
21911 should be Mary Grushecky.

REGION 4 GAINS DISTINGUISHED MEMBER

Although we have not yet seen her name appear on the official Region 4 List of Members, our region has definitely gained a most distinguished member of the American Iris Society. We extend a most hearty welcome to Mrs. A.H. (Freda) Hazzard, whose new address is 111 Winston Drive, Williamsburg, VA 23185. Mrs. Hazzard, long time member and currently on the Nominating Committee of the Society for Japanese Irises, is the widow of Arthur H. Hazzard, and previously lived in Kalamazoo, MI.

Mrs. Hazzard fell and broke her hip and leg earlier this year. She is now back up and around, but not quite as spry as before. Her telephone number is (804) 220-0675. It was learned that Freda has had difficulty finding people in her area who grow Japanese irises. With such a distinguished resident, and such extraordinarily beautiful irises, this situation will surely soon be rectified.

Again, we are proud to have you in our region, Freda, and hope to see you soon!!!!

REPORT ON REMONTANT IRIS VARIETIES

Lloyd Zurbrigg, Chairman

Reports have reached me of rebloom in most parts of Region 4 in 1985. The cool weather in July was good for the remontants, although I cannot say that the rebloom in Radford was any earlier than usual. I have already reported in an article to Newscast about impressions of the gardens of Earl Hall in West Alexandria, Ohio, and Raymond Smith in Bloomington, Indiana, as well as the Convention Gardens.

Since that time I have heard from Mr. Hall, and he has had iris bloom all summer long, both on named varieties and seedlings. We should request an article by him on his growing methods. His goal has been early rebloom, suitable to the shortness of the growing season there. But he is also keenly aware of size, form and substance, and he is trying to make the remontants fully equal to the once-blooming varieties. I was greatly impressed with his work.

As more and more members of Region 4 are having success with rebloom, the Fall Show will become more and more exciting, and should, I believe, draw more members to our society. Some members already hybridizing for rebloom are J. D. Stadler, Clarence Mahan, John Moffitt, and David Walsh. J. D. has a new lemon yellow from SPIRIT OF MEMPHIS X BESS BERGIN that is setting up a fantastic record for rebloom. From eight rhizomes reset in June, he has had twelve stalks already, and lots of increase.

IMMORTALITY has given a marvelous summer and fall display of rebloom here in Radford, beginning in mid-August. The quantity and quality of the bloom is quite comparable with spring bloom, and the display lasts not

just for two weeks, but for ten weeks already, and will continue until a killing freeze. This gives a whole new dimension to the growing of iris, and certainly attracts a lot of interest.

DYKES ON GARDEN BEARDED IRISES

"There is always something ephemeral about a garden hybrid as opposed to a wild species. What is best to-day is often surpassed to-morrow and it is rare to find two people who will entirely agree as to what is really best. Further, there seems to be no doubt that French and American raisers and growers have a preference for what we called shot, smoky or clouded colours, while in England we most of us seem to prefer pure colours and uniform shades. American growers seem inclined to lay too much stress on height of stem and size of flower and to forget that some smaller varieties are wanted for the front of our borders.

"The best advice that can be given to any one who wants to start growing garden Irises is that he should go and see a large collection, pick out the varieties that please him most and then be prepared to defend his choice. An alternative is that he should raise seedlings for himself. All his geese will then be swans and the number that he keeps need only be limited by the space at his disposal."

William Rickatson Dykes,
A Handbook of Garden Irises (London, 1924)

(Ed. When we think that Dykes wrote the above sixty-two years ago, it sort of makes us wonder if anything ever really changes.)

BEARDLESS AND SPECIES REPORT

By Carol Warner, Chairperson

1985 has been a good year for beardless and species irises. The weather in Indianapolis forced an early season, and the Siberian irises were at peak. As many convention guests were attracted to the Siberian plantings as to the TB's. Training sessions were held on judging Siberians and Louisianas. Many new seedlings, especially by newcomers Hollingworth and Johnson, attracted considerable attention.

The July BULLETIN was devoted to Siberians in celebration of the 25th birthday of the Society for Siberian Irises. Several good articles acquainted readers with landscape uses, culture and new developments.

The Society for Japanese Irises held its convention in Kalamazoo with a record attendance. GRAPE FIZZ by Region 4's Dr. Ackerman won the vote for best all around Japanese iris at that convention. Many of Dr. Ackerman's introductions are now available from selected nurseries.

The Region 4 beardless and species robin, "The Wild Ones", has gained 2 more members this year.

I am encouraged to find that Region 4 members enjoy growing quite a variety of different types of irises. The "easy going" beardless are a treat, especially after fussing with the tempermental bearded varieties.

"Flowers may beckon towards us, but they speak toward heaven and God."

HENRY WARD BEECHER

MARYDEL CHAPTER REPORT

The officers for our chapter for this year are as follows:

President:.....Martha L. Cope
Secretary.....Ann Whiting
Treasurer.....Hattie Curry
Show Chairperson....Karen Simmons

The 1986 Marydel Iris Show will be on Sunday, May 18th, at the Easton Fire House. The iris rhizome sale will be on July 17, 1986, at Talbot Town Shopping Center. It is hoped that lots of other Region 4 members will attend, especially those in nearby chapters such as FSK, C&P and Fredericksburg-Richmond.

IRIS PUBLICATION AVAILABLE

"A Guide to Pacific Coast Irises" by Victor A. Cohen; forward by E.B. Anderson. London: The British Iris Society. This 40 page booklet contains both colored and black and white photographs of selected species, line drawings and thumbnail descriptions of all Pacific Coast species and major subspecies. There is general material on distribution and botanical affinities among the species, plus a map of western states showing distributions of the species in general. Copies are available from the Treasurer of the Society for Pacific Coast Iris for \$3.50 each, postpaid. Write: Dorothy Foster, 977 Meredith Court, Sonoma, CA 95476.

The British Dykes Medal for 1984 went to the BEWICK SWAN, a 40" red-bearded white TB bred by Bryan Dodsworth. From all reports, here's an iris made for the show bench!

FREDERICKSBURG-RICHMOND REPORT

By Roger L. Glasshoff

The chapter entered 1984 with a mere 13 members. However, thanks to promotion from our iris show and the work of a few sincere, dedicated members, the chapter membership has grown to over 50 members. We are also proud to have 2 youth members.

In May, the chapter held its first iris show. Although late in the bloom season, the show afforded members and exhibitors the opportunity to display iris and provided exposure of our chapter to the community. The show committee learned many pointers from the experience and eagerly awaits May 17, 1986, the date for next year's show.

The chapter also contributed 32 tall bearded iris to the National Arboretum. Again this year, our chapter will contribute iris and invites other chapters to contribute to establish an enjoyable garden exhibition for the future convention.

The guest committee received approximately 60 iris seedlings and recent introductions. In addition to Region 4 rhizomes, guests include rhizomes from hybridizers in Nebraska and Alabama. At the 1987 Regional Spring Meeting, the garden exhibits should provide an interesting show.

During 1985, our chapter contacted National Parks and Recreation Department officials requesting permission to establish an iris display at Chatom Manor. The Manor is a restoration project of the colonial grounds overlooking the Rappahannock River in Fredericksburg. Our future goals include increasing membership, expanding slides of irises photographed by our members, and applying for affiliation with A.I.S.

CHESAPEAKE AND POTOMAC REPORT

By Clarence Mahan

C&P members met at River Farm on Sunday, Sept. 15, 1985 for a lovely afternoon picnic and beardless iris auction. Members approved a donation of \$350.00 to the Region 4 treasury. Our newsletter editor, Steve Harsy, raised the question as to how often our newsletter should be issued. It was decided to send a questionnaire to all members on this and other issues. A tentative agenda for the coming year was reported by the Program Chairman. Based on a suggestion by Diana Nicholls, members agreed that it would be a good idea to have the newsletter list members' gardens that would be open during bloom season, suggest the best times for visiting, and provide directions to each garden.

It was agreed that C&P needs a Conventions Committee to get ready for the National Convention in 1991. Brian Lazarus and Delia Bankhead agreed to serve on this committee.

Brian Lazarus requested approval to donate a trophy for the Spring Show in the name of his son. Approval was voted, and it was agreed that others should be encouraged to sponsor special awards for C&P shows. Clarence Mahan then auctioned off a number of Japanese, Louisiana and Siberian irises - great bargains were to be had!!! Members expressed appreciation to Ray Rogers for opening River Farm for us and hosting the meeting.

A number of C&P members, led by Dick Sparling, set up an AIS table at the River Farm Autumn Festival the first week in October. Once again, the stalks of rebloomers on display attracted favorable

attention and gained a number of new members for AIS and our chapter. Additional plans were laid for the C&P Fall Iris Show and for the hosting of the Regional Fall Meeting on October 18 and 19.

We were very pleased that the C&P Fall Show was able to attract 55 entries by 10 exhibitors. It was held in the Falls Church Inn in Falls Church, Va. in conjunction with the Regional Fall Meeting. Entries came from as far away as New Jersey and North Carolina, and it was a very successful show. Best Specimen, the Queen of the Show, was a lovely stalk of SPIRIT OF MEMPHIS exhibited by James Cope of Easton, Md. Best Seedling Rosette was won by Lloyd Zurbrigg's T-4-2. The Silver Certificate and Medal for most blues was won by Clarence & Suky Mahan; and Frank Jones, distinguished hybridizer from New Jersey, won the Bronze Certificate and Medal. Special thanks to Master Judges Maynard and Retta Harp, and to Apprentice Judge Tamara McBride, for such a great job. And C&P wants to thank all who worked so hard to make this show a hit.

We were delighted to host the Regional Fall Meeting, and think things went fairly well - we'll not say too much about the quality of the food preparation at the banquet!! We sure were delighted at the turnout at the meeting. Many of us were overjoyed to see old friends again, and to be able to make new friends at this event.

Our November meeting was at the National Arboretum on November 19th. The first order of business was for members to identify all the gorgeous and different reblooming irises brought for display. There were some great lovelies - some of the nicest included BABY BLESSED, DESIDERATA, VIOLET MIRACLE, and SUMMER HOLIDAYS.

Elections were held, and the following officers were elected for 1986-1987:

President.....Clarence Mahan
Vice President.....Brian Lazarus
Secretary.....Diane Dulin
Treasurer.....Nancy Schuhmann

After some discussion, there was general agreement that C&P should try to have a Fall Show in 1987, in addition to the Spring Show to be held on May 17th, at the White Flint Mall in Maryland. Some members also expressed a desire to have a June Show for the beardless iris types blooming at that time, e.g. Japanese irises. There was some concern that not enough people were growing these types to have a good show. No decisions were reached on this.

Blaney Marlow announced that several members have indicated a willingness to work on the iris quilt project, and that it will begin after the first of the year. A motion carried to purchase another \$100.00 worth of stained glass irises for resale.

The highlight of the November meeting was a hauntingly beautiful slide program, with recorded music and narration on the art, design, and meaning of the Japanese Garden. This magnificent program was presented by our own Libby Dufresne - and what a show!

Our first meeting in 1986 will be at the Locust Grove Nature Center, and the program will consist of a talk on the work being done to develop an effective sex lure for the iris borer.

"When people agree with me I always feel that I must be wrong."

OSCAR WILDE

EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA CHAPTER REPORT

By Jim Ritchie

Excitement increases with each meeting as members of our chapter discuss and make plans for our hosting of the Region 4 Annual Spring Meeting.

Our fall meeting was on November 2, at the home of Polly Price of Summerfield. After a delightful luncheon, our chairperson Polly called the meeting to order. Geraldine Davis gave the treasury report and said a request for advance funds from Region 4 for expenses of preparing for the Spring convention would be made. Then J. D. Stadler, General Chairman for the Spring Meeting, outlined the schedule of events for May 9 and 10, 1986 Annual Spring Meeting:

Friday, May 9

- 2:00 to 7:00 p.m. - Registration
- 7:00 p.m. - Region 4 Board Meeting
- 8:00 p.m. - Auction

Saturday, May 10

- 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m - Bus Tour
(Lunch in High Point)
- 7:00 p.m. - Banquet at Reidsville
Country Club

The Holiday Inn at Reidsville will set aside a block of 20 rooms for the convention weekend. Price will be discounted if all 20 rooms are engaged.

The gardens to be visited on the bus tour will be those of J. D. Stadler, Polly Price, Roy Epperson, Linnie Vickery, Jim and Ruth Ritchie and Alice Bouldin. Judges' training on Garden Judging of Seedlings will be conducted in J. D. Stadler's garden. The Ethics of Judging will be presented at the Saturday Night Banquet.

Mr. Stadler reported that a 46 passenger but has been reserved from American Tours of Asheboro for the garden tours. If additional passenger space is needed, a van may be rented by the day.

A possible menu for the Saturday evening banquet at the Reidsville Country Club was discussed. It was decided that Mr. Stadler talk with the new club manager and make a report to the chapter at the spring meeting concerning the menu.

Dr. Epperson reviewed those who had been assigned responsibilities for the Spring Convention, and added other responsibilities as follows:

Registration:	Geraldine Davis Jim & Ruth Ritchie
Transportation:	Glenn Grigg
Hospitality:	Alice Bouldin Lennie Vickery All ENC members
Publicity:	Susan Grigg

Dr. Epperson reported that the irises for the Summer Auction were ordered from John Weiler. They include: WATCH IT, SWAN DANCE, FLAMING VICTORY, TWILIGHT WHISPER, and LITTLE BISHOP. All have three or more increases.

Connie Keller, a new member from Elon College, was welcomed into our chapter. The next meeting of the chapter will be Saturday, February 22, 1986, at the home of Glenn and Susan Grigg: 4908 Auburn Road, Raleigh.

FRANCIS SCOTT KEY REPORT

By J. Owings Rebert

The annual Fall Luncheon Meeting for FSK members was held Saturday, October 26, 1985, at the Engineers' Club in Baltimore. Prior to the luncheon, a conducted tour of the Garrett-Jacobs mansion was provided for interested persons. As in previous meets, the Society provided us with excellent food. Maynard Harp presented the invocation.

We were honored by the presence of several guests and prospective members. Both Blue Ridge and C&P chapters were represented by a total of eight guests. FSK expresses its gratitude for those who joined us for the event. Perhaps more can accept our invitation for future similar occasions. Many reblooming iris stalks graced the tables for the occasion. A lovely arrangement featuring JULY SUNSHINE, created and presented by Retta Harp, was the center of attraction for the head table.

An interesting and very informative presentation on growing Siberians was given by Carol Warner: "Easy Gardening with Siberians." Yes, we should all grow at least a few more Siberians!

A special certificate was presented to Mr. Maynard Harp, honoring his being made President Emeritus of the Francis Scott Key Iris Society. It has been such a privilege that FSK felt it appropriate to make this award.

Following the program, a brief business meeting was held. A "best wishes" message was conveyed to the gathering from the Barrs; also a "membership signiture card" was prepared and later mailed to Bill and Claire's new California address. It was

quite evident that the Barrs were very much with us in spirit.

There was some open discussion on coming plans for the 1988 Spring Regional Meeting. FSK had already accepted this challenge at a previous Region 4 Board Meeting. Plans and needs to be considered for the 1991 National to be centered in the Washington D.C. area were also brought to mind. Committees for both these events will be forthcoming in the near future.

The Nominating Committee presented its slate of officers for the annual election. Those elected for the 1986 term are:

President.....Doris Rebert
Vice President.....Frank Marr
Secretary.....Carolyn Schlanger
Corresponding Secretary...Lucille Houck
Treasurer.....Harold Herrmann

A gift certificate from FSK by way of Melrose Gardens was presented to the retiring President, J. Owings Rebert, for use in the 1986 growing season. Our Vice President, Vickie Dorf, made the presentation. An assortment of many door prizes were awarded at the conclusion of the meeting. As the meeting was about to adjourn, it was announced that two of the nonmember guests, Stan and Betty Briggs, had just become AIS and FSK members. Thanks to the Harps.

The committee in charge of the Fall Luncheon Meeting extends its thanks to all who made this event--the nineteenth of its kind--such a huge success.

At a somewhat later date, FSK committees for 1986 were announced and confirmed: Programs, Mr. Frank Marr; Parliamentarian,

Maynard Harp; Membership, Warner K. Brown; Publicity, Alice Miller; Remembering the Sick with Cards, Vickie Dorf; Remembering the Sick with Flowers, Retta Harp; Historians, Maynard and Retta Harp, Owings and Doris Rebert, Rosalie Figge, and Alice Miller; Horticulture, Carol Warner; Reporter, Owings Rebert; Show Committee, Carol Warner. The Spring Show will be on May 24, 1986, at Hunt Valley Mall. The date of the rhizome sale was not finalized, but it will probably be in June in 1986.

1985 SYMPOSIUM RESULTS IN REGION 4

<u>Votes</u>	<u>Cultivar</u>
43	VANITY
38	BEVERLY SILLS
31	BRIDE'S HALO
	STEPPING OUT
24	SONG OF NORWAY
23	SHIPSHAPE
	VICTORIA FALLS
20	SUPERSTITION
19	BABBLING BROOK
	MYSTIQUE
17	GOLD GALORE
15	LACED COTTON
14	BAYBERRY CANDLE
	DREAM LOVER
	LEMON MIST
	MARY FRANCES
	NAVY STRUT
13	BUBBLING OVER
	CHRISTMAS TIME
	COPPER CLASSIC
	DEBBY RAIRDON

(The highest number of write-in votes were received by two Region 4 originations: CECILIA D. (Crossman, 84) and DESIGNER'S CHOICE (B.J.Brown, 83).)

A PHOTOGRAPHING HINT

In his most interesting book, GROWING IRISES (Kangaroo Press, 1984), Graeme Grosvenor gives the following hint on photographing blue irises: "Most difficulty in obtaining true colour reproduction is experienced with the blue iris. Use of a variety of different colour films and filters did not help me but success came eventually by taking the photographs early in the morning with the use of electronic flash. Even the rich cornflower-blue of the Louisiana iris 'Clyde Redmond' was faithfully reproduced this way." Judging by the many superb color photographs in Mr. Grosvenor's book, one could easily conclude that he knows what he is writing about!!!!

FIVE IRISARIAN LAWS

Law Number One: A typical iris bloom season was experienced in 1923. There has been no typical year since that time.

Law Number Two: You can predict a rainstorm with 97% accuracy by checking when the next iris show is scheduled and predicting it will rain the preceeding day.

Law Number Three: Irises and weeds are companion plants and should be grown together. (Many people refuse to believe this law, but end up practicing it anyway).

Law Number Four: The more you pay for an iris the more likely it is to die.

Law Number Five: There are three types of iris growers: 1) the "normal" gardener, 2) the iris nut, and 3) you. (You kid yourself, my friend!)

IRISES IN THE PERENNIAL BORDER:

AN ALTERNATIVE

By Steve Harsy

[ED. This article first appeared in the November-December, 1985 issue of the Chesapeake and Potomac Iris Society Newsletter.]

Iris enthusiasts have devised many ways to display their favorite flower. Long borders along a fence, drive or foundation, island beds, raised beds - all these can result in effective displays in spring when the iris buds open and a riot of color ensues. However, we all know the aftermath - a summer and fall of glaucous, lance-shaped foliage that, although attractive enough (barring damage due to leaf spot or chewing insects), cannot be described as a stimulating visual experience. Since most of us have a limited amount of space and time, the desire to cultivate the maximum number of varieties often takes precedence over a more balanced landscaping approach. Indeed, without those gardener-collectors who have hundreds of different varieties in their displays, most of us would not have the opportunity to see the latest introductions in person, and to evaluate them next to the standards for that color and class. But another display alternative exists which I feel is too often overlooked by irisarians: including drifts of a few varieties of irises in a mixed perennial border.

Some gardeners have maintained that irises do not grow well in close association with other plants, but prefer the garden equivalent of apartheid. I would refer them to Boerner Botanical Gardens in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to see an excellent example (and I'm sure there are many others) of perennial

borders that feature tall bearded irises during late May, but do not neglect other herbaceous plants blooming at the same time and throughout the season. The only incompatibility between irises and most other perennials I can think of is the bearded irises' dislike of mulch (which is a virtual necessity in any garden to reduce weeding, and keep the soil moist and cool), and everyone is easily made happy by simply ending the mulch where the iris drift begins. However, even this may be unnecessary, as I recall the banquet at our 1984 Spring Regional Meeting, where we were regaled with tales of TB's growing lustily through 6 inches of bagasse mulch in Louisiana! I haven't tried that yet in my borders, except in the case of Siberians, Louisianas, and Japanese, which appreciate a mulch like any other perennial.

How do you include a drift of irises in a perennial border? By using the same design considerations you would for any other drift. It's here that that bold foliage can be used to advantage. Keep it healthy, and use the grey-green spears to provide architectural contrast to more billowy or horizontal forms such as *Gypsophila paniculata* (Baby's Breath) or *Achillea* ssp., and color contrasts to the deep green foliage of e.g., *Coreopsis tinctoria* or *Chrysanthemum maximum* (Shasta Daisy). Be wary of overdoing the similarly-shaped foliage of other monocots such as *Hemerocallis* and *Kniphophia*, since too concentrated a placement of such accents will be overwhelming rather than appealing.

Perhaps the toughest decision of all is what varieties to plant. Even those of us with large areas dedicated to irises find it difficult to limit ourselves, but to be effective a restraint in number of varieties

is vital to the successful design. Just as a kalideiscope of petunias bedded in mixed colors is seldom as effective as a blended, larger grouping of one or a few harmonious colors, so too can the eye be overwhelmed by too many colors of irises in one small area and fail to come away with the vivid impression a carefully selected drift one or two varieties might create. By selecting a plicata, bicolor, or bitone, a drift of a single variety could include two or more colors. If you want to liven things up, try repeating the stippling of a plicata in a self of the same color. For example, imagine how the white background of an already stunning STEPPING OUT would glow when seen against the deep purple of DUSKY DANCER. With selfs, more latitude is available for color combinations. Every gardener has his or her own prejudices on how to combine colors in the garden, and I'm no different. Rule #1: Any pastel goes with any other. Rule #2: Yellow is always striking against blue or violet. Rule #3: Warm oranges, bronzes, browns, and reds don't mix with cool pinks, lavenders, blues, etc. Rule # 4: Any of the above can be broken when something strikes one's fancy. For example, had someone suggested to me before this spring that cool, pink, delicate VANITY would look good against firey red CALIENTE, I would have politely begged to differ. However, a chance encounter in my garden this spring has me so taken with the thought that a key drift in the Front Garden has been planted exactly so. Check with me in a couple of years for final judgement.

Irises can make stunning displays in virtually any situation, but can be especially garden-worthy in a mixed perennial border. Don't neglect this option when planning to plunder that next section of lawn for something more interesting.

THE VIEWS AT DANVILLE

By Jerry Neuman

[This article is an excerpt of a longer article that first appeared in the Fall 1985 issue of THE ILLINOIS IRISARIAN, the official publication of Region 9, AIS. Mr. Neuman is currently President of the Prairie Iris Society.]

The following are only the top cream of the crop. There were others well worth mentioning but [I] have to limit my comments to just a few of the best.

AZTEC TREASURE (Roger and Lynda Miller 84). A new creamy tan-brown with darker speckles in the falls. Good strong stalk with ample buds but may lack branching.

CROWD PLEASER (Hamner 83). Very long lasting bloom period on this new color of red-orange with purple markings on the falls. This had to have been in our top 10 of the year.

ELECTRIC HORSEMAN (Gartman 82). Super electric blue self with slight orange beard.

EVERYTHING PLUS (Niswonger 84). I liked this the first time I saw it two years ago. Deep violet plicata-amoenae with odd beards.

FIERY CHARIOT (Schreiners 84). We received this from the NIIS sale last year. The picture in Schreiners catalogue does not do it justice. Lovely branched, fiery apricot orange.

GIGALO (Keppel 84). Wow, an orangy, rosy red plicata. Can't say enough about this one. Even got a cross from it.

HANDIWORK (Ghio 83). Quite different from any plicata on the market. A two year clump

was fantastic.

HOMBRE (R. Nelson 80). This is an older one that still has to be mentioned. A copper blend with violet in center of falls. Blooms over a long period of time, plus wonderful branching. What else would you want?

JESSE'S SONG (Williamson 83). You think first, just another plicata. No, no. Ideal branching, show stalk and blooms last even in our heat and strong winds. One of our top ten.

KAREN (Hamblen 84). Just as lovely in our garden as it was in Indianapolis. No wonder it was runner up to the Franklin Cook Cup.

LADY LILA (B. Simon 82). Bright apricot-orange standards and falls; falls rimmed with yellow orange. But what sets it off is the big wide apricot beards.

MARAUDER (Ghio 84). Ideal branching on this maroon-red with black-velvet sheen over falls, than add a gold band.

MUSICLAND (Spahn 83). We think it is one of the best. Diamond dusted, peachy apricot with orange beards.

NIGHT CLUB (McWhirter 82). Well ruffled: show stalk branching on this dark purple. It has a glow to it that sets it apart.

NIGHT RANGER (Simon 82). Not widely distributed but this is an addition to any garden. A combination of red-blue-black, with good branching.

OCCULT (Maryotts 84). We like this hybridizer's things. This one being a nice big, velvety maroon with a lavender cast.

RON (Hamblen 81). This has to be a future Dykes contender. Ideal branching; increases well and blooms with an electric glow to this ruffled violet blue, with the typical Hamblen "pizazz".

ROYAL VIKING (Roderick 83). This hybridizer only comes out with a few, but all are award winner bound. Don't miss this one: majestic deep indigo-blue-purple with ruffling and a blue beard.

SOCIAL HOUR (M Hagberg 82). A two year clump of this was simply superb. Fred Spahn said it was the best he had ever seen it bloom. A ruffled, laced deep rosy-pink; paler in the falls.

STREET WALKER (Meek 84). The first bloom was misleading. Must have been caused by the odd year's weather. This was very different than anything we have seen.

TIME FOR LOVE (Williamson 85). MY GIRL FRIEND has been on our top 20 list for the past five years. Now comes TIME FOR LOVE. How long will this stay on our top 20 list? A smooth peachy apricot-pink.....

IN PRAISE OF MINIATURE DWARF BEARDED IRIS

[Excerpted from an article in the Dwarf Iris Society Newsletter, Fall 1985.]

....Closing out the miniature season in 87 degree heat was LIBATION (Hager '75). Also 40 chromosome out of Hager's PRODIGY (could this account for the lateness of bloom?). LIBATION is a wine red with a darker wine red spot pattern in the falls. It has an old gold beard, 2-3 buds per stalk and is a healthy increaser. LIBATION and RED AT LAST were the last MDB flowers to close

AN IRIS STORY
By Addie Thain

[ED. This article appeared in the April 1984 issue of the REGION 22 NEWS. I think it will touch your heart as much as it did mine. There are a lot of wonderful people waiting for you to invite them to your garden and to join AIS.]

When we moved to Tulsa, we bought the house we are still living in. I had never grown an iris, but there was a large clump of iris in our back yard. I do not know what it is. I think it might be a neglecta, but sometimes it has a purple hue. It is one of the most productive iris I have ever seen. It also has more increases than most.

It wasn't long before I had clumps of that iris in many places in both front and back yards. There was always a seed pod from bee crosses. I was curious. I made the remark to my husband, Nick, that I wondered how you grew iris from seeds. To my amazement (and vexation because he hadn't mentioned it before) he told me that he knew an iris nut and that he would ask this person about it. So, Alva Hickerson gave him written instructions on how to grow iris from seed.

My first experience was so exciting - one had freckles and one was a wine plicata that Nick named "Nemo". It has something to do with sweet dreams in Greek mythology.

My interest in iris was dropped for several years. We had a new baby girl and with two other children, I became deeply involved in mother's clubs. As soon as that activity ended, we went to see the Hickerson's garden. Like the Greek meaning of iris, they looked like a rainbow. Alva

showed me how to cross pollinate and I bought two each of quite a few. One rhizome was for myself and one was for my daughter-in-law, Barbara who is very gifted and a hard worker. I bought other iris, and they, like Topsy, just grow.

Barbara didn't let her interest die there. She became actively interested in getting more and more varieties. She joined the Oklahoma Iris Society and the AIS. She won prizes--blue ribbons in both horticulture and arrangement. She got her two boys interested. The youngest won a blue ribbon in arranging. "Grandma," he said, "I got two iris just alike, two vases just alike and called it Copy Cat." He was four at the time.

With Alva and Rilla's help, I found time to do a little more hybridizing. In 1980 Barbara came over to the Tulsa show and she insisted that I join the Tulsa Area Iris Society and the American Iris Society. That was Dean Brand's big year in signing up new members, and I was one of them.

That was the beginning of some of the happiest years of my life. I met a group of the jolliest people I've ever known. I can't name all of those who have been helpful. The list is too long, but you can bet your bottom dollar that Marie Crownover didn't let a chance slip by. She asked me if I would help with the calling. I accepted, and I'm glad I did.

It amazes me at the many branches of the growth, development, and species of iris growing. It's so much fun learning so many new things. Each year I venture a little more into the growth of a new species.

This new issue of the Region 22 News brought me so much pleasure. Dorothy Howard's much deserved award was one thing I'm happy about. I love bragging about her trip to Italy as a judge. Then, Ron Mullin's travelogue "Take a Trip to the Northwest" was so inspirational to an arm chair traveler. It's great fun being old, but we used to travel a lot. Ron's article made me wish I could turn back the clock 10 or 15 years. Oh! to see all those gardens!

In closing I'll tell you about a funny experience I had last summer. You may use my experience. I planted some SDB's in my yard and each morning one had been dug up but not damaged. I replanted until our neighborhood pet squirrel got tired of the game. He found my seedling bed more interesting. I didn't want to use a poison, so I sprinkled the ground with red pepper. I saw him come over the fence but very shortly he scrambled into the next yard. If any of you have this trouble, try black pepper. It works wonderfully.

[Region 22 Editor's Comment: "TAIS members recall the 1981 show when Addie Thain stood for hours greeting visitors. In the late afternoon she had to take a break because she was exhausted from all that standing. When told that she shouldn't have worked so long, her comment was 'I've never had so much fun and I just didn't want to quit.'"]

"I realize that there are certain limitations placed on the right of free speech. I may not be able to say all I think, but I am not going to say anything I do not think."

EUGENE V. DEBS

AN OPEN LETTER ON HISTORICAL IRISES

(ED: Sandra S. Mueller of Manassas, Virginia, recently wrote requesting information on historical irises. Mrs. Mueller has been creating a "colonial garden", and is striving for 18th century authenticity in her plantings. This is our response to Mrs. Mueller's letter.)

Dear Sandra,

Based on the material published by the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, which was enclosed with your letter, the following irises were grown in 18th century America: *I. cristata*, *I. pallida*, *I. pseudacorus*, *I. germanica* var. *florentina alba*, *I. praecox* (Annotated: "Bulbous Iris"), *Iris* sp. (Also identified as "Iris, 'flower-de-luce,' flags, blue and varied"), *I. susiana*, *I. variegata*, and *I. xiphiodes*.

All of the irises on the Foundation List are successfully growing in my garden except *I. susiana* and the species referred to as *I. praecox*. A couple of years ago I tried growing "the Mourning Iris", i.e. *I. susiana*, but did not give it the very special care it demands. Thus, it was no surprise that I lost it the first winter. To the extent this iris was grown in colonial America, I suspect it was grown either in bulb frames or in pots; the Eastern part of North America has much too much moisture in the summer, fall and winter to suit *I. susiana*.

I. susiana is an *Oncocyclus* species. It is a heavy "eater", requiring fairly heavy feeding with low nitrogen fertilizer. It demands full sun, alkaline soil, and very good drainage. Most of all, though, it

demands protection from moisture in its long period of dormancy.

Historically, *I. susiana* is indeed quite famous. It was the first iris to be described by Linnaeus. It's introduction to Europe is historically recorded. The Austrian Ambassador brought it back to Vienna from Turkey in 1573. It's name comes from the Arabic word *susan*, which means "iris". One source for this iris which guarantees the quality and health of its plants is Pleasure Iris Gardens, 425 E. Luna, Chaparral, New Mexico 88021. The guarantee can be quite important in the case of *I. susiana* because many strains in commerce are reputed to be virus infected. Growing *I. susiana* requires careful aphid control; this is because aphids carry virus diseases to which this iris is so susceptible.

I. praecox is a synonym for two quite dissimilar iris species: *I. tigridia* and *I. persica*. Since the iris mentioned on the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation list is a bulbous iris, it probably refers to *I. persica*, one of the 55 species we now call "juno irises". According to Brian Mathew, *I. persica*, the first plant to be illustrated in *Botanical Magazine* in 1787, was considered a very easy plant to grow in the 18th century. Large beds of this iris were planted, and bulbs of this iris were forced in jars of water set on windowsills. *I. persica* is a dwarf plant, about 10cm in height. It no longer enjoys the popularity it once had, perhaps because it tends to be short-lived. The only American source of which I am aware is International Growers Exchange, Box 397, Farmington, MI 48024.

The "*I. rhipiodes*" referred to on the list of colonial irises is undoubtedly meant

to be *I. rhipioides*, a synonym for *I. latifolia*, commonly known as "the English iris". This bulbous species is very easy to grow and is very, very beautiful. It makes an excellent cut flower as well as a good garden subject. One source for the English iris that I have used is McClure & Zimmerman, 1422 West Thorndale, Chicago, Illinois 60660.

I. cristata is a species native to our region, and is not uncommonly found in Virginia gardens. This species, sometimes called "the crested iris", comes in several shades of blue, violet and purple, and also in white. I have read of a pink form, but do not know where one might find it. I think this exquisite little dwarf iris makes a lovely ground cover, ideally suited to partially shaded areas; it also does well in full sun. It increases rapidly, which is all for the good, since it shows off best when in mass plantings.

The old bearded species, *I. pallida*, comes in a number of attractive variants, all of which are attractive garden plants. A form of this iris, once known as *I. plicata*, played a major role in the development of the color pattern we call "plicata" in modern hybrid irises. Ordinarily, however, *I. pallida* has flowers of pale mauve on the blue side. It is highly fragrant, especially the form known as "odoratissima". Perhaps the form most commonly grown in gardens these days is the iris we know as ZEBRA, which gets its name from its lovely variegated foliage.

I. pseudacorus, the Great Yellow Flag, was introduced to North America from Europe in colonial times; it quickly established itself along rivers, ponds, lakes--any place there was water. There are several variant

forms of this iris, including a dwarf form. I grow several different forms in pots in our pond, but you do not need to grow this species in water to succeed with it. The form known as *I. pseudacorus bastardii* is very lovely; it is paler yellow than the usual type, and lacks the dark blotch on the falls. Another form, *I. pseudacorus floreplena*, has double yellow flowers and is often magnificently branched. A stalk of this form won Best in Section at the Easton Iris Show this year.

I. germanica var florentina alba is "the Florentine iris", famed as the source of orris root. If you decide to make your own orris root, cut only a half to two-thirds of the rhizome off, and replant the remainder with the leaf fan attached. The Florentine is a tough iris, and by spring you will even have new increase on the little piece of rhizome you put back in the ground. In other words, "you can have your orris root, and your iris too." After the rhizomes have dried for two years, you must chop or grind them. DO NOT USE YOUR BLENDER to attempt this, or your blender will come away from the encounter a loser. The dried rhizomes are like rock. The Florentine iris is very fragrant; it is an intermediate bearded iris, and a very nice garden subject.

One of the ancestors of modern bicolor bearded irises, *I. variegata* is a graceful species with dramatic coloring. The standards are ususally yellow, and the falls are heavily veined in reddish brown or purple. Sometimes the veining is so heavy that the falls appear to be solid brown or purple. There is a form of this iris that has white standards, and it was at one time called *I. amoena*; it is from this iris that many modern bicolor iris with white standards derive, or so many people believe.

Thus, we call them "amoenas". Likewise, it is common to hear iris devotees refer to any bicolored iris with yellow or tan standards as a "varigata".

The term "Iris sp." on the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation list could refer to any number of irises. It probably includes various forms of *I. germanica*. I would like to think that it encompasses two beautiful native species, *I. versicolor* and *I. virginica*. The latter species is commonly called the Southern Blue Flag. One might also hope that some colonial gardeners collected the uniquely delicate and graceful *I. prismatica*, and found a spot for it in their gardens. Also, it is not hard to imagine that some western trailblazer brought back specimen of *I. verna* for some colonial lady's bower. Farther north, *I. setosa* might be expected to have found its way into a garden border; and perhaps, farther south in the Carolinas the elusive *I. hexagona* and *I. tridentata* were brought in from the wild. All of this is, of course, pure speculation on my part.

If you are much fascinated with antique irises, you may wish to contact Carolee Clay (write her in care of Wayland Academy, Beaver Dam, WI 53916). Mrs. Clay is leading a project to form the Historical Iris Preservation Society as an AIS section. If you are interested in studying iris species, the Species Iris Group of North America is an organization you should consider joining. It has an outstanding publication.

Sincerely,

Clarence Mahan

"A good conscience is a continual Christmas." - BENJ. FRANKLIN

EXCERPS FROM REGIONAL ROBINS

From the General Interest "Ramblin' Robin":

Libby Dufresne (Aug. 2, 1985): Like everyone else, all of my plants bloomed a month early. I gave a talk to the Garden Club on iris on May 20, and had a very poor selection to take to show (also due to a rainstorm). The following week I did the same for Charles Co. Horticulture Group and only had a handful. At least I am trying to generate interest in iris. I am trying to thin out my beds and dug everything but one plant of each. I gave them to the Garden Club for a fund-raiser, 2 boxes for the C&P sale and friends, family and neighbors. I also used them for a class on dividing iris and saved about 40 varieties for Sotterley Plantation. We are involved in redesigning their gardens and are putting in an iris walk this year. I hope we will be able to replace them eventually with newer iris and I can give some next year. The plantation is open to the public from April to October and there is a charge for the house tour, but many weddings and parties are held in the gardens. C&P gave me some plants left over from the sale so we will have enough iris to fill the beds, even tho' they are not more recent ones. (Chapico, MD)

Alma Childers (Aug. 15, 1985): We have had enough rain for everything to grow. Right now ENGLSIH COTTAGE is in bloom. It was set out in 1983. Bloomed spring of '84. Didn't bloom fall of '84 or this spring. Now it is in bloom. Parts of July and so far this August, we have had very humid weather....We had our 50th wedding anniversary celebration June 23....The real date was June 18. Had a nice time. [*Ed. We know that everyone sends their congratulations to the Childers!!*] (Hamlin, WV)

Ruby Buchanan (Aug. 26, 1985): I, too, had rebloom from ON AND ON in June, and MARLYA made a number of new scapes - bloomed for nearly six weeks. The two-tone Siberian seedling brought a bloom out (squatting on the rhizome) in mid-July. Azaleas next door have been blooming for two weeks now and a niece in Atlanta writes that her azaleas are in bloom. (Winston-Salem, NC)

J.D. Stadler (Oct. 15, 1985): Spring bloom for TB's was not as good as past years. Hope this means great things in '86. However, some really did their thing. VILLIAN was a favorite with amber S. and dark blue-violet falls. It won a princess award at the show. SPECULATOR (Ghio, 84) - brilliant golden yellow with broad rounded form and ruffling. Will draw you to it. DUTCH GIRL is a light blue amoena that gets better each year. MARAUDER (Ghio, 84) - large ruffled dark red/black. Really impressive. AFTER HOURS - a blue with really great branching. ALL THAT JAZZ (Denny, 82) - Gold S. and red-brown falls. Another that gets better. Very clean habits with excellent growing habits. If you like something showy, try it. From Loletta Powell, DUSKY FLARE - near black with ruffles and near horizontal falls. I really liked it, but my favorite from Loletta was RIPPLED BRASS. Brassy color with distinctive ruffling. These 2 and 15 more of her iris will be on display in my garden for spring convention. (Reidsville, NC)

Louise Smith (Oct. 23, 1985): VIOLACEA GRANDIFLORA is listed in the 1939 AIS Check List as follows: "TB-M-B1M [I take this to mean that it blooms in midseason, and is medium blue all over] (Coll.-DeBarry - 1856)...." The fragrance is '9' according to Dolly Laine in 1979.....The SDB I would

suggest for all around fragrance and vigor and beauty is BARBI....(Williamsburg, VA)

Dick Sparling (Nov. 4, 1985): Meredith fell in love with Siberians at the Boston Convention. So I expanded her collection from 1 up to a representative bunch around the 60 mark. I try to get her to plant them and take care of them but she says, "You grow my Siberians. I'll enjoy them." If I had more room available this fall, I would have bid more strongly at the Regional auction. What bargains! (Olney, MD)

From "The Wild Ones" - Beardless & Species Irises:

Carol Warner (July 25, 1985): Siberians almost stole the convention in Indianapolis since their weather had been similar and the TB's were at or a little past peak. Bob Hollingworth has some marvelous seedlings and a couple of good introductions that are worth considering. He does all his work with tetraploids so some of the flowers have gotten so large as to almost lose their gracefulness. They are all branched, some again with branching which is too wide in my opinion. WIZARDRY and WINDWOOD SPRING impressed me. He also has a wine red seedling with flaring falls (ruffled) to beat any Siberian I've seen so far. Introduction on that is still a couple of years away, at least. Other Siberians at the convention which I thought were very nice were: GLENDA NORRICK (Briscoe) and POLLY CHISM (Briscoe), DANCING NANOU (Miller) and BORBELETA (WADEKAMPER). Steve Varner's DIANA BLUE is nice but DANCE BALLERINA DANCE was a disappointment in every garden. (Upperco, MD)

Virginia Rowland (Aug. 2, 1985): In the Japanese Iris Popularity Poll, I wonder if very many people will agree on what's delightful....My first choice is PRAIRIE DELIGHT, with PRAIRIE TWILIGHT in the number two spot....Ah! Louisianas, I love them. They sprawl all around, but when they bloom they are really beautiful. MRS. IRA NELSON, MARIE CAILLET, ACADIAN, WINTER'S VEIL, THIS I LOVE and BRYCE LEIGH were great here this spring. (Goose Creek, SC)

Wyatt LeFever (Aug. 11, 1985): For those of you that feed the birds, let me tell you about my thistle feeder. I received one for Christmas. You use only thistle seeds in it (has very tiny feeding holes) and attracts mostly goldfinches. I never saw goldfinches here before but I have had a backyard full of them all summer. Just like little canaries. It has really added a lot of color & pleasure to my garden. (Kernersville, NC)

Doris Simpson (Aug. 15, 1985): What really pleased me were the Japanese - starting with BLUE LAGOON which bloomed with early yellow daylilies and then progressing thru the new ones. Wyatt's seedling was beautiful, and DRIVEN SNOW and FROST BOUND especially lovely. Not as much bloom on the LA's in Baltimore as before, but the ones planted in Accomac went berserk with MARIE CAILLET 50 inches high - 5 bud placements on stalk after stalk. Now I know how they grow "in the Low Country!!" (Baltimore, MD)

Dick Sparling (Aug. 25, 1985): The most spectacular species in my garden was *I. varbossania* - Randolph K 29A. Put on quite a show. (Olney, MD)

Steve Harsy (Sep. 8, 1985): I finished building and planting a rock garden on the

south side of the house in May. One side faces east, and I decided that "part shade" would be snuggled up under a rock on that side. Unfortunately, *I. gracilipes* didn't agree, and no matter what I think, the plant has the final say. It died out quickly this summer, and I've already replaced it with *I. cristata*, which I hope will do better. (Mt. Airy, MD)

Adrienne Whyte (Sep. 21, 1985): Doris Simpson and I went to York, Pa. a few weeks ago to visit George Bush and pick up our Japanese iris orders. Mr. Bush is a delightful person, and he grows Japanese irises very well. While we were there, he showed us photographs of many JI's, including the new ones of Dr. Ackerman's that we had purchased. I left with a hefty wish list. Mr. Bush is a great source for JI's; the plants we brought home were large and healthy. (Falls Church, VA)

Alma Childers (Oct. 21, 1985): I think *I. setosa nana* will come true from seed. I have *I. setosa alba* but it has only bloomed once. By the way, my *I. setosa nana* was from species Seed Exchange seed. (Hamlin, WV)

Ruby Buchanan (Nov. 1, 1985): They tell me that there is such a slight difference in the *I. hexagona* and the *I. giganteaerulea* that even the botanists have difficulty distinguishing between the two....And R.C. Foster wrote: "I am unable to separate this plant [*giganticaerulea*] from *I. hexagona*, from which it seems to differ in general size, and slightly in the shape of the perianth-segments....*I. savannarum* (Florida) seems to be no more...distinct from *I. hexagona* than is *I. giganteaerulea* (Small) and therefore I am regarding it only as a variety. Of the five specimens seen,

incidentally, not one has the narrowly linear-elliptic petals shown in the figure of the type-plate in *Addisonia*." (Winston-Salem, NC)

B.J. Brown (Nov. 7, 1985): Frances and I are trying to get a special bed for species, in which we have planted a few newly acquired ones: *I. aucheri*, *bucharica*, *cristata alba*, *ensata* var. *spontanea*, *gracilipes*, *hoogiana*, Paltec, *prismatica*, *prismatica alba*, *sanguinea*, *tenax* and *verna*. We already have plantings of *I. monneri*, *versicolor* (red-purple and violet), *I. virginica* (Alba, blue, and pink) and *I. tectorum* (white & blue). I think my favorite of any of these is *I. tectorum alba*, which has the most pleasing form of any iris that I know. (Charlotte, NC)

John Wood (Nov. 9, 1985): Just had a letter from a man in Osaka, Japan, inquiring about *I. versicolor* plants. I sent him some seed today. He also inquired about variegated foliage in the beardless irises. There is one *I. pseudacorus* that has variegated foliage, but it turns green soon into the season. (Mooresboro, NC)

Clarence Mahan (Nov. 26, 1985): Have brought a few irises in for the winter: *I. japonica*, *I. wattii*, and *I. unguicularis*. All these are new acquisitions this year. I also brought the pot in which should contain *I. lacustris*; however, I fear there is nothing alive in the pot. The literature does indicate that this iris is difficult but I never expected it to be this difficult. As soon as I planted it it dried up and disappeared. Another iris that I have brought in to the Florida room is RUTH HOLLEYMAN, the triploid *I. giganticaerulea*. (McLean, VA)

IRIS TRIDENTATA

By John W. Wood

[ED. This is an excerpt of an article that was originally published in SIGMA No. 29, Oct. 1982. One paragraph which describes *I. tridentata* in great detail has been omitted in this excerpt. It is often said that membership in the Species Iris Group of North America is one of the best bargains in or out of the American Iris Society. Dues are \$3.00 a year and should be sent to Florence Stout, Secretary, 150 W. Main St., Lombard, IL 60148.]

The elusive *I. tridentata* of which so little has been written was first mentioned to me by Jean Witt. Jean told me it probably grew along streams in the coastal plain of North and South Carolina and that it bloomed in July. I tucked away a mental note and have searched areas of the coastal plain to no avail.

In the latter part of May, 1980, while attending a Japanese iris show in the low country of S. C., a lady brought a tub which contained what she said were native iris. The blooms were quite wilted, but being a species buff I took two plants, brought them home to the foothills of N. C. and planted them in one gallon nursery cans. The plants were given copious amounts of water during the summer. They wintered over outside going dormant in the fall. I had ordered a plant of *I. tridentata* from Lorena Reid of Laurie's Garden in Springfield, Oregon and when this plant put out foliage in the spring of 1981 I noticed that the foliage of the plants in the cans appeared to be the same as the Reid plant. None of the plants bloomed in the spring of 1981.

I obtained a half dozen additional plants in May of 1981 from the low country of S.C. and planted them at the edge of a pond. I also planted the plants which were in the gallon cans in the yard with the siberian iris. Most of these plants bloomed in the spring of 1982. Most were a dark purple but two of the group were much lighter in colour. Each of these plants put out two additional plants which emerged in a lateral fashion 8-10" from the parent plant in much the same fashion as the Evansia "Nada" does.

The micro climate where these plants were growing in the wild was very wet and although frost occurs, the ground is seldom if ever frozen. The water table is very near the surface and the plants usually have wet feet. The summers are very hot and humid and the plants thrive in semi to deep shade for part of the day. None were growing in fully exposed sun areas. They apparently seed readily in the wild. However none of those I bloomed set seed unless I pollinated them. They apparently love the same conditions as the Japanese iris or siberian iris, for they are doing well for me with Japanese and siberian irises....

I am wondering if it would be possible to cross *I. tridentata* with *I. setosa*? I have not been able to mature *I. setosa* from seed here, but I intend to order mature plants and hopefully attempt this cross next spring. I also suspect there may be an alba form in view of the colour variation and will search for it. May also have some seed for the exchange this fall.

[ED. Now that John has retired we hope he will find more time to pursue his investigation of this lovely native iris.]

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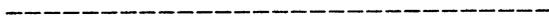


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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK:

When I first joined AIS, my local chapter was close to being INACTIVE (Oh, forgive me, Ruth Walker, for using this nasty word). As a result, my windows to the world of irises and iris people were the AIS Bulletin and NEWSCAST. When NEWSCAST came in the mail, I would at once read it, cover to cover, and then read and reread it. I still do. It is dear to my heart.

Frances and B.J. Brown have set high standards of editorial excellence. Through their hard work and intelligent editing, we have had a first rate regional publication. And fortunately, our NEWSCAST has had a personality all its own. It has definitely been Southern. It has also been well-mannered, sometimes a bit folksy and at other times a bit spirited, frequently humorous and always in good taste. Let us keep it that way, as best we can.

NEWSCAST truly belongs to Region 4 - it's yours. So if there's something you want changed, material you want published, ideas you'd like to see tried, etc., you'd best let us know. One thing I'm asking is that each chapter elect or appoint a reporter right away. This person should be someone who can be depended on to get lots of good material in by the deadline. And deadlines must always be honored.

All material for publication, or news you want to pass along, should be sent to me at 7311 Churchill Road, McLean, Va. 22101. My telephone number is (703) 893-8526. I'm proud to be your editor.

Sincerely,

Clarence Mahan

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