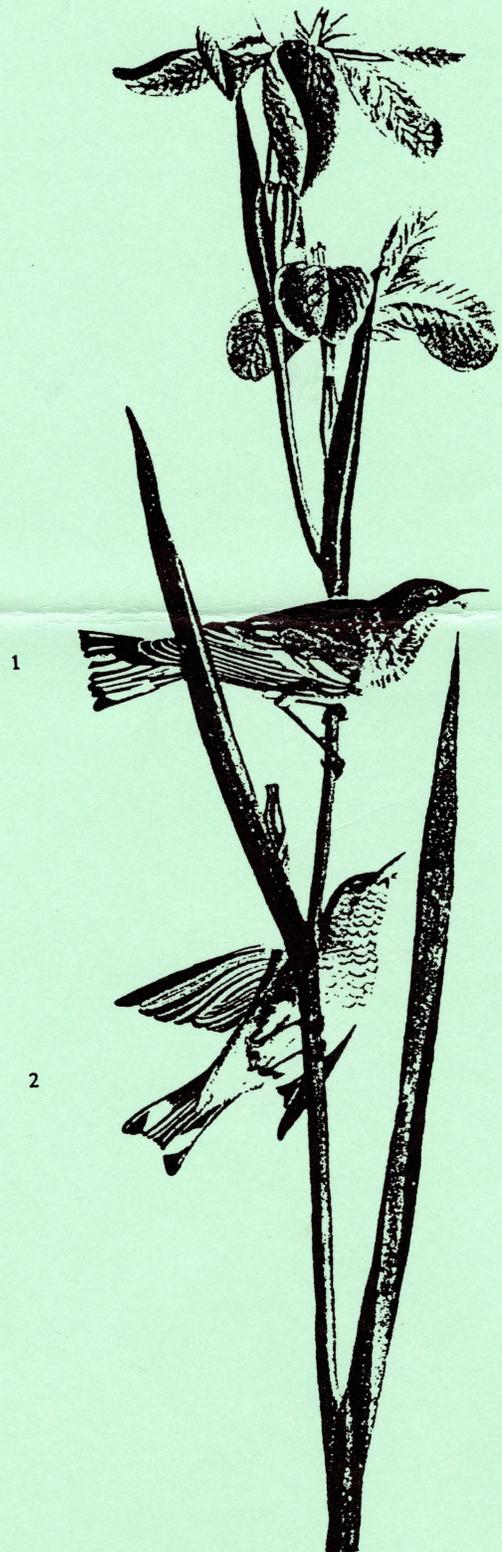


Newscast A.I.S.

R E G I O N F O U R

Volume 36, Number 2

August/September 1994



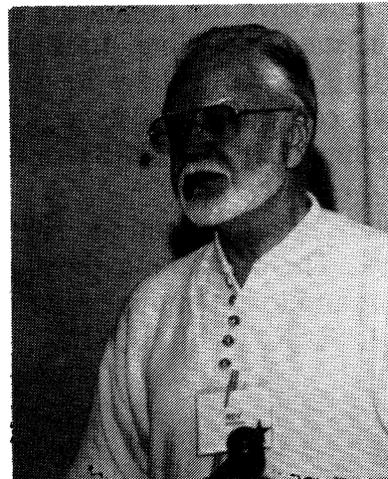
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All Photographs in this issue by Dennis Stoneburner, BIS

RVP's MESSAGE



The membership of Region 4 continues to have many reasons to be positive about the activities of the Region. At the Spring Regional meeting in Roanoke, the Board voted to make a donation to the Scholarship Fund of the American Iris Society in the amount of \$200.00 to honor the memory of Bill Barr, long-time member of Region 4, and Rena Crumpler, former AIS Director and RVP of Region 4. I presented this check to Jean Witt, Chairman of the Scholarship Standing Committee. Upon her report to the Executive Board, action was taken to add \$1,800 to this gift from Region 4 and award *two* \$2,000 scholarships, rather than only one. There were three top candidates for the Scholarships. The membership of Region 4 was extended a vote of thanks from the Executive Board.

A large part of the success of any RVP rests with the efforts of the Regional Membership Chair. Rich Randall does an exceptionally fine job of this rather troublesome task of keeping track of almost 700 members, keeping the Chapter/Society Presidents notified of membership changes, and notifying members that their memberships are up for renewal or are delinquent. At the Portland meeting, both Marilyn Harlow, Membership Secretary, and Melody Wilhoit, Membership Contest Chairman, remarked on the excellent job that Rich does. As RVP, I can only underscore their comments and say to Rich: Well Done!

Well done! also to Phil Ogilvie, Editor of *The Newscast* for the past three years. Phil submitted his resignation at the Spring Board Meeting and it was accepted with reluctance. Phil will edit his last issue in December. Beginning January 1, 1995, Dennis Stoneburner will become the Editor of *Newscast*. Anyone who has ever served as Editor of *any* publication knows that it is a time consuming task. Upon retirement from the editorship, Phil will join that group of former editors who have well-served the Regional membership.

The Handbook for Judges and Show Officials, Fifth Edition, was printed in 1985 and modified in 1991. There have been many changes since then, with an extensive revision of the Awards and Ballot rules going into effect in 1993. AIS President Claire Barr has appointed a committee to revise the *Handbook*. That committee is: Hilda Crick, Chair; Ron Mullin; Jim McWhirter; Phil Williams; Glenn Corlew; and your RVP, Roy Epperson.

The Portland Convention was the largest in attendance, over 1,100, that the AIS has ever held. The hospitality was excellent; the banquets were fun; and, of course, the garden tours were fantastic! All nine tour gardens were commercial, including Cooley's and Schreiner's, and the Chehalem Garden of beardless iris was simply breathtaking! So was the scenery! There were fifty-four (54) members from Region 4 in attendance.

When you receive the Popularity Poll in the July *AIS Bulletin*, **PLEASE** complete it and send it to me by the stated deadline. In the best of times, only about 15% of AIS members participate in the Popularity Poll. Let's show the iris world that Region 4 members are really active members. Let's see if we can have a 20% to 25% response from Region 4. We are the second Region in membership. Let's be **FIRST** in number of members responding to the Poll!

Make plans now to attend the 1994 Fall Regional Meeting in Towson, Maryland, on October 14th and 15th. There will be a show, garden tours, and the special treat of Judges' Training by AIS President and long-time member of Region 4, Claire Barr. This promises to be a most enjoyable meeting! **SEE YOU THERE!**



IN MEMORIAM

Bill Barr, (California)
Rena Crumpler, (Virginia)
Marie DeLoach, (Virginia)



The American Horticultural Society is interested in expanding its iris collection to demonstrate that irises are not only spring flowering. It is particularly interested in obtaining re-blooming cultivars. Plant material donations will be acknowledged. Please identify your material.



SAVE TIME. SAVE MONEY.

by Rich Randall, TIS

Bulk purchases save time and money. So why not save by upgrading your AIS membership. When Marilyn Harlow sends your renewal notice, turn it over and consider up grading. When up grading, **DO NOT SEND IT TO MARILYN.** Instead, send it to either your membership chairman or to me. Not only will you save time and money, but you will also be entered into the Region 4 \$100 membership contest.



**REGION 4 FALL MEETING
BALTIMORE SHERATON NORTH
TOWSON, MARYLAND**

Dates: Friday and Saturday - October 14 & 15, 1994

Location: Baltimore Sheraton North Hotel

Guest Speaker: Claire Barr, President of AIS

Registration: \$70.00 by October 5

Includes: Two Banquets (\$50)
Bus Tour and Lunch (\$20)
Saturday night Banquet, Bus Tour, and Lunch (\$45)

Events: Meet the President
Judges Training
Rebloomer Show
Board Meeting
Bus Tour of *Two* Gardens

Contact: Marge Bosen
3819 Springhill Drive
Havre De Grace, Maryland 21078

Hotel: *Baltimore Sheraton North Hotel
903 Dulaney Valley Road
Towson, Maryland 21204*

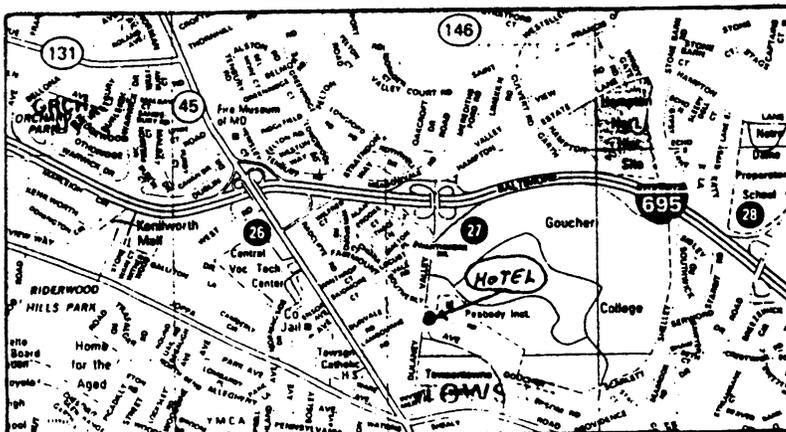
Cost: *\$60.00 per night (plus tax) for one to four persons.
Register before October 1 for this rate and
guaranteed room. For phone reservations call:
1 (800) 433-7619 or (410) 321-7400 please call
between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. For this rate, be
sure to tell them you are attending the Region 4,
American Iris Society Meeting.*



SCHEDULE FOR AIS REGION 4 ANNUAL FALL MEETING

October 14 and 15, 1994

October 14 Friday	2 p.m. to 6 p.m.	Registration	Baltimore Sheraton North Hotel
	6:30 p.m.	Banquet - Welcome - Talk by AIS President, Claire Barr	
	8:30 p.m.	Judges Training - Claire Barr	
	9:30 p.m.	Socializing	
October 15 Saturday	8:00 to 10:00 a.m.	Reblooming Iris Show Entries Received	
	10:30 a.m. to Noon	Judging of Exhibition	
	10:00 a.m. to Noon	Region 4 Board business meeting	
	Noon to 1 p.m.	Show Open to Public	
	1:00 p.m.	Busses depart for Robert's Garden	
	1:30 p.m.	Lunch served in the Robert's Garden	
	3:00 p.m.	Busses Depart Robert's Garden	
	3:30 p.m.	Arrive Rosalie Figge's Garden	
	4:00 p.m.	Busses Depart Figge's Garden	
	4:30 p.m.	Arrive at Baltimore Sheraton North Hotel	
	6:30 p.m.	Final Banquet - Speaker - AIS President, Claire Barr Annual Auction	



REGIONAL REGISTRATION FORM

Name (1): _____

Name (2): _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Full Registration _____ @ \$70 per person Total: _____
no. of persons

Two Evening Dinners only _____ @ \$50 per person Total: _____

Bus Tour and Lunch only _____ @ \$20 per person Total: _____

Tour - Lunch & Dinner _____ @ \$45 per person Total: _____

Name Preference for Name Tags: (1) _____

(2) _____

Auction Contribution:

Please check if you plan to bring plants: _____

If you have other material of interest to bring, please indicate: _____

List cultivar names offering: _____

F.S.K. Committees Thank You.

Mail registration to:
Marge Bosen
3819 Springhill Drive
Havre De Grace, MD 21078

Who Is This Claire Barr?

Introducing Our Speaker

by E. Roy Epperson

Recently, while talking about the upcoming Fall meeting of Region 4 to be hosted by the FSK Iris Society, I heard someone say, "Who is Claire Barr?" The question arose because we are quite pleased to have Claire as the guest speaker and judges' training instructor at the fall meeting. Well, who is Claire Barr? In response, you can say that she is current President of the American Iris Society; that she is the first woman to be President; that her picture appears in each issue of the AIS Bulletin along with her letter to the membership; that she has been RVP of Region 4; and that she has been President of the FSK Iris Society several times.

Those of us who have been active in Region 4 for several years have had the pleasure of visiting the garden of Claire and her late husband Bill, when they lived here in Maryland, before they relocated to California. We remember the beautiful gardens and the feeling of graciousness that pervaded their home. And that is the operative word for Claire - gracious! She is a genuine gracious Southern lady in appearance and in demeanor. But she is also a steel magnolia with the administrative skills to effectively lead the AIS Board of Directors.

We in Region 4 are fortunate to have Claire, one of our own, to be with us at this fall meeting and to give judges' training on the philosophy of judging. Whether you are currently a judge or not, you will gain insight into what it means to be an effective judge and an open, friendly irisarian. Plan now to attend the meeting and have the opportunity to get to know Claire.



Awards News From the DYKES MEDAL Competition

by E. Roy Epperson

Here are the awards granted to Region 4 hybridized iris.

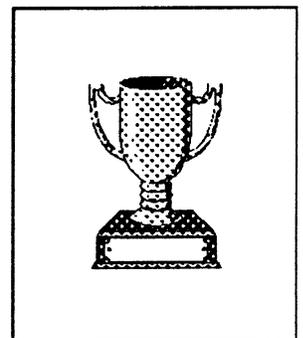
AWARDS OF MERIT

Miniture Tall Bearded

PETITE MONET (K. Steele)

Siberian

SHAKER'S PRAYER (C. Warner)



HONORABLE MENTION

Border Bearded

BALLERINA PRINCESS (J.D. Stadler)



Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting

Region 4, AIS, May 13, 1994
Roanoke, Virginia

RVP Roy Epperson called the meeting to order at 8.01 p.m.

Copies of the agenda were made available to those present. Ken Roberts moved that we accept the agenda. Motion carried.

Secretaries minutes of the Fall 1992 Board meeting were approved as printed in the Newscast.

Roy reminded all officers that three copies of written reports be submitted for Secretary, RVP, and Editor of Newscast.

Roy informed us that Rena Crumpler a Director of AIS and long time irisarian, died on Novemeber 1st 1993. Rena was Region 4 RVP from 1965 to 1967. It was also Roys sad task to inform us of the death of William Barr, husband of AIS President Claire Barr. Bill and Claire were long time members of Region 4. Approval from the board for contributions in their memory will be requested under new business.

Roy informed us that the Charlotte Iris Society is now an affiliate. One of Roy's goals as RVP was to have all Chapters affiliated, Eastern Shore Iris Society plans to be affiliated in 1995. That leaves only the Richmond Chapter not affiliated.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

RVP: No Written report

Assistant RVP: Written report

The Board voted and approved the invitation by PCSIS to join them for the 1996 Fall Region 4 meeting. FSK's invitation to host the Spring meeting in 1998 was also accepted.

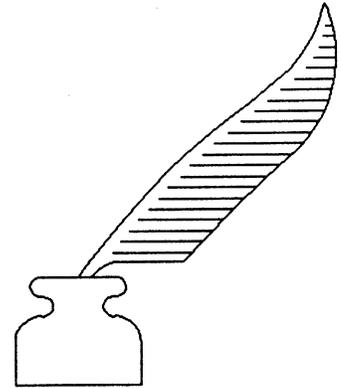
Immediate Past RVP: No Report

Secretary : No Report.

Treasurer's report: Written Report

Historian: Written Report

Parliamentarian: No Report



Since the fall meeting the Parliamentarian has chaired the ad Hoc committee on revising the by-laws. The by-laws were printed in the Newscast and were to be voted on this evening. However, due to a sufficient number of suggestions and concerns being expressed the committee will take a look at them. The projected revised by-laws. will be reprinted in the August Newscast so that we can take action on them at the Fall meeting. RVP Roy Epperson stated that revising of the by-laws is not critical, in terms of time, and so we want to be certain that all suggestions and concerns of the membership have been treated.

Editor: Written Report

The Chair with much regret accepts the resignation of Phil Ogilvie as Editor of Newscast. Positive action is underway for a probable Editor of Newscast. On Behalf of the Region, Roy expressed sincere appreciation to Phil Ogilvie for the time and effort that he has put into Newacast.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Auctions and Awards: Written Report.

Beardless & Species: No Report

Finance: Written Report

Judges Training: Written Report

Median Irises: Written Report

Membership: Written Report

Photography: Written report.

Publicity/Public Relations: Ken Roberts

Ken told us that no one has asked for any help with publicity. press kit will be available at the Fall meeting.

Reblooming Iris: Written Report

Robins: Vacant

Volunteers are needed to fill this position. Libby is continuing to follow the Robins until the positions is filled. We have three Robins flying at the present time.

Youth: Carol Warner asked to be relieved of this position.

CHAPTER REPORTS

Alleghany Highlands: Written Report.

Blue Ridge: No Written Report.

Carolina Mountains: No Written Report.

Charlotte: Written Report.

Central Virginia: No Written Report.

C & P: Written Report.

Eastern North Carolina: Written Report.

Eastern Shore Iris Society: Written Report.

Frances Scott Key: Written Report.

Fredericksburg Area: Written Report.

PC SIS: Written Report.

Tidewater: Written Report.

Williamsburg: Written Report.

UNFINISHED OLD BUSINESS

Treasurer, Dwings Rebert asked for clarification on the payment to membership contest winners. After discussion and checking of the original vote it was made clear that the \$100 is a reimbursement. Payment can be made after the winner has submitted bills showing the purchase of irises or iris related material.

NEW BUSINESS

Phil Ogilvie made a motion that Region 4 make a \$100 contribution to the AIS Scholarship fund in memory of Rena Crumpler and William Barr. A total of \$200. Motion Carried.

In keeping with policy procedure, RVP Roy Epperson requested approval for reimbursement of \$300 for the Spring AIS board meeting to be attended in May 1994. Ann Lowe moved that the board vote to approve the expenditure of \$300 toward the expenses of the RVP to attend the National AIS Spring convention 1994. Motion carried.

The next item of business was the Standing Rules.

The Standing Rules were put together by the ad-hoc committee chaired by Rosalie Figge. The other members of the committee were Dennis Stoneburner and Susan Grigg with RVP Roy Epperson serving as ex-officio.

Standing Rules are the policies of the group, they can be changed at any meeting of the membership with quorum. They are therefore more flexible than by-laws which must be published with prior notice etc.

Each of the 10 Standing rules were discussed, some changes were made and others were combined. The Standing Rules will be published in the August issue of Newscast, action will be taken at the Fall meeting.

Judges Training Proposal: Written Report to be Submitted by Roy

The following slate of officers will be voted on at the closing banquet.

RVP Roy Epperson
Assist.RVP Anne Lowe
Treas. Owings Rebert
Secretary Susan Grigg
Historian: Margaret Stone

Nominations are as printed in March Newacast except for the position of Secretary.

Rich Randall made a proposal that any Newscasts leftover after mailing to AIS members, be mailed to non AIS chapter members. Rich expressed the thought that it might stimulate AIS membership.

After discussion it was decided that Chapter Chairman notify Mike Lowe if they want back issues for their members. If you let Mike know how many you want he will have them for you at the Fall meeting.

Owings Rebert Issued an invitation to the Fall Regional to be hosted by FSK on October 14 and 15. Two gardens will be on tour plus there will be a show. Information was given to Chapter Presidents.

Caryll Randall
Secretary

Minutes of the Region 4, AIS, Business Meeting

May 13, 1993

Holiday Inn, Roanoke, Virginia

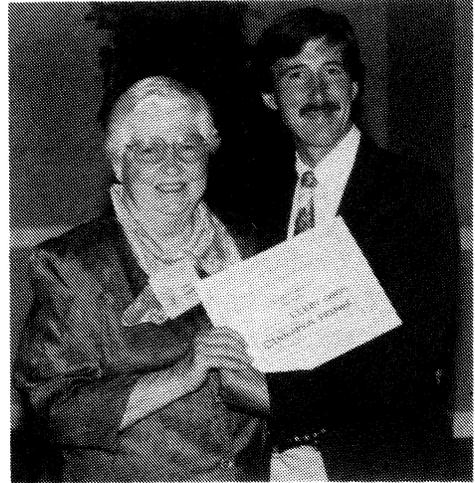
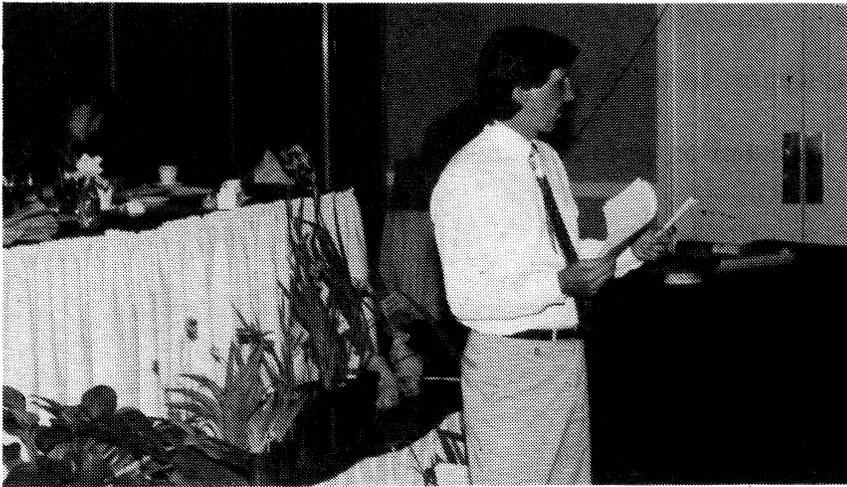
DR. ROY EPPERSON, Region 4 President, called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

The Nominating Committee slate was presented by MARGARET STONE as follows:

Regional Vice President: DR. ROY EPPERSON
Assistant Regional Vice President: ANNE LOWE
Secretary: SUSAN GRIGG
Treasurer: J. OWINGS REBERT
Historian: MARGARET STONE

It was moved that nominations be closed and that the Secretary be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot for the Nominating Committee slate. There was no objection.

Awards Committee Chairperson, VIC LAYMAN, II, announced that CINNAMON FRINGE (Libby Cross, 1994) won the "Nearpass Award."



The "Alice Bouldin Award" was granted to Lloyd Zurbrigg for KK 5-1-1. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m. and was followed by another successful auction. **Editor's Note:** All the photographs in this issue are thanks to our Photography Chairman, Dennis Stoneburner. Both of the award-winning iris were growing in the garden of Vic & Dayna Layman.



ASSISTANT RVP'S REPORT

As a certain TV character was wont to say, "I love it when a plan comes together." In the past few months invitation have been received to fill not one but two open slots in the Regional Meeting schedule: PCSIS has offered a site for the 1996 Fall meeting and FSK has elected to observe a 10th anniversary of their "last Spring Regional" with an invitation to join them in 1998. I thank Bill Smoot and Owings Rebert for their efforts and I heartily recommend that the Board accept both of these invitations without delay.

The following invitations for Region 4 meetings have been received/accepted:

MEETING	YEAR	DATE	PLACE	NOTE
Fall	1994	October 14 & 15	Towson, Maryland	FSK
Spring	1995		Fredericksburg, Virginia	FAIS
Fall	1995		Lewisberg, West Virginia	AHIS
Spring	1996	May 17 & 18	Leesburg, Virginia	C&P
Fall	1996		Portsmouth, Virginia	PC SIS
Spring	1997			ENCIS
Fall	1997			Open
Spring	1998			FSK
Fall	1998			Open

In 1995, the 75th Anniversary of the establishment of AIS will be celebrated during the National Convention in York, Pennsylvania. I urge you all to start now to make plans to attend this Diamond Jubilee. After all, barring another Region 4 National (Heaven forbid!) there will probably not be another national as conveniently located to us as this one.

We do not as yet have sites for the Fall Meetings in 1997 and 1998. I would very much like to fill these as soon as possible and, of course, I am always delighted to take an offer for a spring meeting - 1999 anyone? How about 2000?

The Manual for Establishing and Operating an Iris Society is in the computer and needs only final editing and formatting to be completed. Copies will be available to all Board Members at the Fall Meeting in Maryland.

Anne Lowe
Assistant RVP

HISTORIAN'S REPORT

I am pleased to advise the Regional Convention that there has been a significant increase in the number of Chapters that have submitted reports for our Region's Archives. The reports that have been submitted demonstrate a significant increase in the number of activities in our Region. The various Chapters have conducted numerous Iris Shows, Garden Tours, and other activities to attract new members.

We are looking forward to the continued enthusiastic support and participation of our Chapters, with the goal of 100 per cent of the Region's Chapters submitting reports. Again, a big "THANK YOU" to our participating Chapters.

Margaret C. Stone
Historian

TREASURER'S REPORT
For Period February 15, 1994 to July 1, 1994

February 15 Balance.....\$10,631.81

Receipts:

Interest on Account(3mo.)	63.99
Donation - FSK	300.00
Donation - Tidewater	200.00
Total Deposits	\$563.99

Complete Totals.....\$11,195.80

Expenditures:

Newscastr for March	
Dunn-Rite Printing	1,399.80
Lowes' Circulation Managers	135.15
Membership Labels - AIS	27.20

Total Expenses \$1,562.15

May 10 Balance.....\$9,633.65

Receipts:

Spring Regional Auction	\$577.00
Interest on Account(2 mos.)	45.13

Total Deposits \$622.13

Complete Totals.....\$10,255.78

Expenditures:

RVP Travel - (National)	\$300.00
AIS Scholarship Fund (Memorial Barr-Crumpler)	200.00
Stoneburner (Slides Comm)	11.60
Rebert (Treas - Duplicating)	8.00

Total Expenses \$519.60

July 1 Balance.....\$9,736.18

J. Owings Rebert
Treasurer

MEDIAN REPORT

Half way through the median season and for me it's been only so so. The MDB (I include these by default) bloom was poor. Really established clumps of SDBs were great while the smaller clumps were iffy. We're right at the IB bloom and it's spotty so far. The ArilMeds performed extremely well and are still coming on. The MTBs have started like gang busters and barring extreme weather conditions will once again out perform all other classes. The BBs are just starting but they also look pretty good.

I gave a talk on medians this year and was plugging the AIS and one woman stated that when she joined she was disappointed in the *Bulletin* as it had nothing for newcomers and dropped her membership. I stated that this has been recognized and steps were being taken to rectify that situation. I thought it might be a good idea to start here with some basics and continue with each report.

Iris grow in all sizes. The American Iris Society has decided that in order to bring structure to the group, it would classify the bearded iris by size categories. The iris in each class compete within that class for awards, so a 4" iris doesn't have to challenge a 40" iris. We know which would win every time. The competition between sizes only takes place for the Dykes Medal.

The size categories are below 8" called Miniature Dwarf Bearded (MDB), all iris between 8" and 28" are called Median Iris, which in turn are divided into Standard Dwarf Bearded (SDB), from 8" to 15" group; those 15" to 28" are in turn divided into three groups: the Intermediate Bearded (IB), which are early bloomers; the Border Bearded (BB), which are late bloomers; and the Miniature Tall Bearded (MTB), which are size restricted for flower and stalk. Aril iris (referring to the form of the seed) are split into two groups Aril and Aril-bred depending on the percentage mix of Aril in the iris. Anything under 28" in the two groups we consider Aril Medians (ArilMeds).

Most iris have a tendency to bloom according to height. Starting with the smaller iris and culminating with the Tall bearded ones. Obviously there is a great deal of overlapping in bloom time but you can readily predict the peaks in each class. The designation of early (E), middle (M), late (L) refers to the bloom period of each class and not the total iris bloom.

If you are a new iris grower and can't wait for your tall iris to bloom, I suggest that you get hold of some of the smaller iris. My bloom for bearded iris extends from the end of March to the middle of June. When I only had TBs, my season was limited to, from the middle of May to the first part of June. I have found that the MTBs as a group have the longest bloom span, from late April to the middle of June.

Get some and enjoy!

Dick Sparling
Chairperson, Median Iris

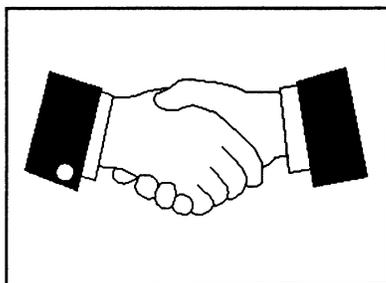


MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Thanks to chapter Membership Chairpersons personal intervention. Renewals are at an all time high. Marilyn's June renewal notices to 240 members are in the mail. Please **DO NOT** return it to Marilyn. Instead, **PLEASE** send it to your chapter membership chairperson or to me. We will then enter you or your chapter into both contests.

Since last October's report, we have had an overall gain of nine new members. The best time to recruit new members is during shows and sales. Formal and informal garden tours is another good time. Inviting friends, garden clubs, and the general public to the garden will promote the iris and increase membership.

\$100 MEMBERSHIP CONTEST



We have 11 members participating in our 1994 contest. To enter the contest, inform your chapter membership chairperson about new enrollments and about your up graded renewals. There will be a winner and it could be you.

A large P.S.: The Francis Scott Key Iris Society has done it again. They have won the 1993 AIS affiliated membership contest!!! Rich Randall
Chairperson, Membership



REBLOOM REPORT

Spring is here at last! Most of us (and our irises) in Region 4 suffered through the worst winter on record. Looking back to those ice filled days most of us were very that our irises would not survive. Some of us had our share of losses but fortunately most are still with us ready to bloom again. In our garden in Maryland the iris are a week to ten days earlier this year. We now have SDB's, IB's, and several remontant TB's blooming! A side effect of the winter weather seems to be a lack of branching. It will be interesting to see whether the branching improves this fall.

October is a very exciting month of reblooming irises. Many of our favorites make their second (and sometimes third) appearance. At the Fall Regional, held in Williamsburg, Virginia, LADY EMMA (Jones '86), a lovely yellow MTB was Queen of Show, with AUTUMN CIRCUS (Hager '92) a pretty violet on white plicata coming in a very close second. We also started to receive reblooming reports from some of our members.

Roy Epperson (NC) reported that CORN HARVEST (Wyatt '74) opened on October 21st and CHATTER (Ghio '93) was showing color. PURE AS GOLD (Maryott '89) and ROSALIE FIGGE (McKnew '93) bloomed in early December.

Kitty Ackerman (MD) had rebloom on PERFUME COUNTER (Zurbrigg '72), HARVEST OF MEMORIES (Zurbrigg '85), EARL OF ESSEX (Zurbrigg '80), CORAL CHARMER (Wright '83), and BUCKWHEAT (Byers '89).

Rosalie Figge (MD) had two more stalks on ANXIOUS (Hager '92), and three more on stalks on ROSALIE FIGGE (McKnew '93), CORN HARVEST (Wyatt '74), IMMORTALITY (Zurbrigg '82), RECURRING DREAM (Hager '93), HARVEST OF MEMORIES (Zurbrigg '85), PLUM WINE (Weiler '86), LO HO SILVER (Byers '89) also rebloomed.

Carolyn & Dan Schlanger (MD) had rebloom on GRAPE ADVENTURE (Jones '86)

Lloyd Zurbrigg (NC) reports rebloom on MESMERIZER (Byers '91), ZURICH (Byers '90), LUMINOSITY (Byers '91), NORTHWARD HO (Zurbrigg '91), GENTEEL (Byers '91), NORTHERN FLAME (Byers '90), SUGAR BLUES (Zurbrigg '85), PINK ATTRACTION (Hall '88), JENNIFER REBECCA (Zurbrigg '85), HAPPY NEW YEAR (Byers '90), SIGN OF VIRGO (Zurbrigg '91), LIGHT REBUFF (Smith '92), SUMMER HOLIDAYS (Zurbrigg '79), BOUNTIFUL HARVEST (Hager '91), I BLESS (Zurbrigg '85), LADY EMMA (Jones '88), ROSALIE FIGGE (McKnew '93), PUPPET BABY (Boswell '89), HOT (Byers '89), EVER READY (Byers '91), SUN DOLL (Jones '86), and BE HAPPY (Aitken '90).

Sterling Innerst (PA) reported rebloom on WINTERLAND (Byers '90), ISTANBUL (Byers '90), and JENNIFER REBECCA (Zurbrigg '85).

Blooming after October 1st in our garden in Maryland: VIOLET MUSIC (Mahan '90), BILLIONAIRE (Byers '87), BABY BLESSED (Zurbrigg '79), ETERNAL BLISS (Byers '88), AUTUMN CIRCUS (Hager '92), SUNNY DISPOSITION (Zurbrigg '91), LITTLE BISHOP (Hall '84), JOHNNY G (Zurbrigg '83), RENOWN (Zurbrigg '91), PERFUME COUNTER (Zurbrigg '72), MATRIX (Hall '91), AUTUMN CIRCUS (Hager '90), TAJ RANI (Blyth '78), ORANGE HARVEST (Jones '88), DUKE OP EARL (Byers '87), EARL OF ESSEX (Zurbrigg '80), HARVEST OF MEMORIES (Zurbrigg '85), JENNIFER REBECCA (Zurbrigg '85), FRANKINCENSE (Byers '89), CLARENCE (Zurbrigg '91), SOLSTICE (Weiler '92), LO HO SILVER (Byers '89), BUCKWHEAT Byers '89), MISTY TWILIGHT (Byers '88), GARDEN GRACE (Zurbrigg '81), GRACE THOMAS (Zurbrigg '80), CONCOCTION (Byers '91), PLUM WINE (Weiler '86), and NORTHWARD HO (Zurbrigg '91).

Stalks on irises stopped by frost this year were: RECURRING RUFFLES (Hager '90), ORCHID LANE (Jeffries '88), GILDED (Byers '89), SUNNY SHOULDERS (Hager '90), PROGRESSIVE ATTITUDE (Innerst '92), JOAN'S PLEASURE (Zurbrigg '93), SILVER DIVIDENDS (Zurbrigg '91), HEMSTITCHED (Hager '90), ST. PETERSBURG (Byers '90), FIRE ON ICE (Weiler '90), MARITA (Zurbrigg '89), SUMMER OLYMPICS (Smith '80), DESIDERATA (Moores '80), and HEART OF ICE (Byers '89)).

Joan Roberts
Chairperson, Reblooming Iris



CHAPTER REPORTS

Alleghany Highlands Iris Society

Recruiting new members continues to be a major concern for AHIS. Since we are the only chapter of AIS serving West Virginia, anybody from that state joining AIS is assigned to AHIS. Unfortunately, many of them are located too far from the geographic center of our membership to attend our meetings. We do send newsletters to each of them and have occasional correspondence with a few, but many of them remain "stealth" members. We met one time last year in Beckley, West Virginia, and once in Monterey, Virginia. This allowed us meet with members, otherwise only names on the roll.

We have two exhibitions scheduled this month and will be handing out AIS membership applications at each of these events. One is Wednesday, May 18th, at First Virginia Bank, Highlands, in Covington starting at 10:00 a.m. The other is at the Greenbrier Valley Mall in Fairlea, West Virginia, just outside of Lewisburg, on Sunday, May 29th, 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

We are looking forward to hosting the Fall Regional in 1995. We plan to hold the meeting in the Brier Inn and Convention Center in Lewisburg. In addition to its full convention facilities, the inn has 168 guest rooms. The dining facilities in the convention hotel are supplemented by the other nearby restaurants. Within easy walking distance are Shoney's, Western Sizzlin' Steak House, Hardee's, and Subway.

Lewisburg is one of the oldest towns in West Virginia. It was chartered by the Virginia Assembly in 1782, 61 years before there was a State of West Virginia. It was from here that General Lewis made his raid against the Shawnee Indians to protect the pioneer settlers. Lewisburg was also the site of at least one battle during the Civil War.

The old part of the town is on the National Register of Historic Townships. Over sixty structures are still standing that were built prior to 1900 and many of these were built before 1800. A brochure is available to guide your walking tour of this area. Also listed are many antique and craft shops where you can find unusual gifts.

There are two commercial caverns near Lewisburg, Organ Cave and Lost World. The foliage will be beautiful in October and will provide many photo-opportunities for our shutter-bugs. There are also seven covered bridges in the area and some of you may wish to search out one of them for even more scenic pictures. In adjoining Pocahontas County, there is the Cass Mountain Scenic Railroad, which provides a rare view-point from which to observe or breathtakingly beautiful scenery. For the more scientifically inclined, just a few miles away is the National Radio-Astronomy Observatory at Greenbank.

The Allegheny Mountains are magnificent and we think your visit to Lewisburg in October of 1995, when the Maples, Oaks, Hickories, Dogwoods, *et al.* flaunt their gorgeous costumes of bright scarlets, golden yellows, and fiery oranges, will be a trip to remember. We hope to see each of you then.

John Dameron
President, Alleghany Highlands Iris Society

Charlotte Iris Society

I present to you a triangle -- upside down ▽. Members at the bottom point totter on two main equations: Program and Publicity, to make the programs known.

Our program that draws the most new members is our iris and **other** plant auction, held in September. This gives people time to plant that which they purchase. It also helps that we have several members who have very unusual plants in their gardens, to share (donate). They have ordered them from places like Wayside Gardens or Woodlanders in South Carolina or other good catalogue nurseries. One studied ferns and for the next few years, she propagated the spores she collected from each garden in which she walked! If you are not so fortunate as to have members such as theses, order some unusual plants to have at your auction. Then advertise to best of your ability. The result will be a triangle right-side-up ▲.

One last point: Enthusiasm is Contagious!!!

Barbara Moeller
President, Charlotte Iris Society



Chesapeake & Potomac Iris Society

Since my election as president last fall, we have had two Board meetings. One was held in November, where the Budget, the Program for 1994, and other items of business were discussed and decisions made. At that time Committee chairpersons were appointed and approved. On March 6, the second meeting consisted of committee reports. All are functioning and progressing as the need arises.

Due to inclement weather, the "Awards and Ballots" Judges Training, to be given by Dr. E. Roy Epperson in January, had to be canceled. Again, in February, due to weather, the luncheon meeting was canceled. Finally on March 20th, Anthony (Tony) and Dorothy Willott were able to give their presentation on Medians, with 23 in attendance.

On April 10th, with 40 persons (representing eight Societies) in attendance, four Region 4 Hybridizers presented different aspects, methods, trials, and errors of their hybridizing experiences. Charlie Nearpass was his dear, lovable self; Lloyd Zurbrigg, quiet and humble; Clarence Mahan giving a wealth of information on literary sources and beardless irises; and last, but not least, Don Spoon expounding on YOU can Be a BEE if you want to Be. There was general agreement on the tremendous contribution these four people have made to the irisarian community: altogether a fantastic program.

Last Saturday, club members and guests visited three gardens. The first one being that of Gloria Fairhead in Annapolis, Maryland, where brunch started off the day. Then traveling on to the Sparling's Green Box Garden in Olney, Maryland, where desserts were served following a BYOB (bring-your-own-bag) sack-lunch. Last stop followed an hour and a half drive to Hillsboro, Virginia, to tour the garden of Walter and Sara Marley. The finale was a "potluck" supper.

Our philosophy of so much food along with iris blooms was that: "While some folks couldn't spend all day, would be able to participate in one or more segments." Each garden had many features quite unlike the others and ,thus, were enjoyed by everyone.

On May 15th C&P is holding its annual Spring Show. The Beardless Show will be held on June 18th, it is a joint-show with FSK. Then on July 16th, the annual rhizome sale will be held followed by a picnic in August.

In anticipation the Spring 1996 Region 4 Meeting, "guest irises" will be received by Dick Sparling this fall for immediate planting. Oatlands Garden will be on tour during the meeting, so, for maximum exposure, Region 4 hybridizers should plan to include their new introductions to be planted in this nationally famous garden. Remember that there are 1000-3000 people visiting Oatlands in ANY given month. What a wonderful advertisement. In closing, I must thank everyone for their help, advice and support in making C & P the organization it is. Sara Marley
President, Chesapeake & Potomac Iris Society



Eastern North Carolina Iris Society

I will be unable to attend the Spring Regional Meeting this year, I will miss it.

The Eastern North Carolina Chapter met in late October at the home of Lloyd and Nina Zurbrigg in Durham. After a wonderful luncheon, Lloyd presented a slide show on remontant and space-age irises. We also toured Lloyd's garden.

On February 26, we met at the home of Harold and Jerri Davis in Burlington. Dr. E. Roy Epperson gave a slide show on species irises. He also gave several packages of species iris seeds to interested members. These seeds had been collected in China by Dr. James Waddick. An enjoyable lunch was relished by the members.

We will meet in High Point at the home of Roy and Virginia Epperson on July 9. The agenda will include an iris auction of rhizomes ordered from D&J Iris Gardens and Cottage Gardens.
J. Gardner
President



Francis Scott Key Iris Society

"FSKers" are deeply caught up in the activities of a busy calendar year. With a portion already behind us, peak bloom at our door, and a show almost ready to happen, there is little time for either work or play.

Our current reporter to *Newscast*, Dr. Fred Ladd keeps the doings of our meetings in constant flow to our able Regional Editor. Two recent decisions not yet reported should be mentioned. First, a substantial contribution to Dundalk Community College Scholarship Fund for horticulture has, again, been made. Secondly, FSK has offered a bid to host the 1998 Spring Regional Meeting.

Exciting Beardless Iris activities are scheduled following bearded spotlight events. There is the joint FSK/C&P show one week followed then the next by a bus tour, as a bonus. All are looking forward to our July sale and our membership picnic.

The big item for this autumn is our hosting of the Fall Regional Meeting. Detailed information is being distributed today to all Regional office holders and Chapter Presidents. We are especially proud of the fact that we are able to have AIS President Claire Barr join us for this event.

Hope to see you then.

J. Owings Rebert
President, Francis Scott Key Iris Society



Fredericksburg Area Iris Society

The first meeting for FAIS was scheduled for February 22, 1994, which was frozen out by the icy weather. Therefore, our first meeting was March 12, 1994, featuring Ian Robertson, a Garden Designer and Consulting Horticulturalist, from Charlottesville, Virginia. FAIS have plans for the following events in 1994:

- May 14, FAIS Spring Iris Show
- July 23, FAIS Iris Sale
- Sept 10, Picnic
- Nov 12, Harvest Dinner

Plans are well under way for the Spring 1995, Region 4 AIS Meeting, in Fredericksburg, on May 12th & 13th. At present there are six gardens scheduled to be on tour, of these, three are new gardens.

FAIS has a major problem, that I am sure is not unique to FAIS, members don't participate. It does not seem to make any difference what is scheduled or planned, the same 12 to 15 people show up for each event. We have tried calling members individually, to extend a very personal invitation, and they still do not attend. I am at a loss as to what to do next, any suggestions? Jack Loving
Chairman, Fredericksburg Area Iris Society



Portsmouth, Chesapeake, & Suffolk Iris Society

PCISIS is getting ready to celebrate its second year of organization. We recently held our Second Annual Bearded Iris Show. Other upcoming events include our Annual Rhizome Sale the 22nd & 23rd of July. Since we are "taking the summer off," our next meeting will be held on Friday, August 19th. Guest Speakers for that meeting will be Mike & Anne Lowe. Their program will be on "Historic Irises: Remembering Our Roots."

We successfully continue toward our goals as listed in fall's report. This summer additional plantings will be added to our Japanese, Louisiana, and Lloyd Zurbrigg Honorary Reblooming Iris Beds at Friendship Gardens in Portsmouth City Park. In addition we will add an Historic Iris

Display Bed in the Olde Town sections of Portsmouth and Suffolk. This planting will be a combined effort of PCSIS, HIPS, and local garden clubs.

PC SIS looks forward to hosting the fall Regional Meeting in October 1996. Plans are already underway and we hope to have a couple of unique surprises for you. We will also have a fall reblooming show.

Bill Smoot

President, Portsmouth, Chesapeake & Suffolk Iris Society



Tidewater Iris Society

This has been a very uneventful year after hosting two conventions last spring. TIS held eleven meetings and events, our Christmas Party was held in January as December tends to be a very busy month for everyone. We participated in three sales, had our annual fall picnic and had a spring luncheon in February. Our seventh Bearded Iris Show was held in Virginia Beach in May and we are looking forward to our eighth Beardless Iris Show in June.

In addition to putting in new beds at the Norfolk Botanical Gardens we also established a new large bed at a private Golf Club in Virginia Beach. We are looking forward to the start of a new year with new officers, in August.

JaNiece Mull

President, Tidewater Iris Society



Williamsburg Iris Society

The Williamsburg Iris Society has continued to working with the James City County/Williamsburg Master Gardeners to develop garden sites at the James City County Recreation Center on Longhill Road. Our iris bed is doing well. Most of the reblooming iris flowered after Regional last Fall, the last ones dying with a freeze in December. They have all bloomed in profusion this Spring. Our goals are still:

1. To establish a flowering bed with reblooming iris as the main flower.
2. To develop a list of reliable reblooming iris for this area of Virginia.
3. To demonstrate the effect of other plants with iris, particularly toward extending the blooming season of the bed.

This year we have worked on the educational quality of our programs. Barbara Lozaw presented a program on "Good Bugs and Bad Bugs in the Garden." She illustrated her text with her drawings. They are now on display at a Newport News school. Anne and Mike Lowe gave a program on bearded iris culture.

Our Spring Show had 91 exhibits from the gardens of 10 exhibitors. Joan Caravette took Queen of Show with her MTB HONORIBLE (1840). Anne and Mike took first runner up with their TB JESSIE'S SONG and second runner up with their historic

TB PERFECTION (1880). The Lowes also took the other sections with IB OBLIGATO and Sib CATHY CHILDERSON. Betty Worrell received special mention for her education table. With two "older" iris on the Queen's Table, it was an excellent opportunity to educate the public to iris other than the fancy tall bearded.

Several of our members have hosted and/or presented programs to garden clubs and other groups this year.

As many of you know, Walter Smith died last November. He was a very active member of WIS. The *Virginia Gazette* on May 11th ran an article and pictures featuring Louise Smith and her hobby of hybridizing irises. Louise has announced her retirement from hybridizing irises and is in the process of selling her stock.

Nelda Pressley
President, Williamsburg Iris Society



REGION 4 SPRING SHOW REPORTS

DATE	CHAPTER <u>Bearded Exhibitions</u>	LOCATION	BEST SPECIMEN <u>Exhibitor(s)</u>
May 1	Charlotte Iris Society	Charlotte, NC	IDOL'S DREAM Ruth Holbrook
May 15	Blue Ridge Iris Society	Valley View Mall Roanoke, VA	PIRATE'S QUEST Dr. A.W. Rice
May 15	Williamsburg Iris Society	Williamsburg Outlet Mall Lightfoot, VA	CUP OF COCOA Anne & Mike Lowe
May 16	C&P Iris Society	Behnke Nursery Beltsville, MD	ALIZES Ginny Waddell
May 22	Carolina Mountains Society	1st Congregational Church Hendersonville, NC	DUSKY CHALLENGER Cecil Nix, Jr.
May 22	Eastern Shore Iris Society	The Centre Mall Salisbury, MD	EASTERTIME Faye Phillips
May 22	Fredericksburg Area Society	Fredericksburg, VA	NIGHT OWL Gloria Mills
May 22	FSK Iris Society	Towson Market Place Towson, MD	CIRCLE FIVE Owings & Doris Rebert

DATE	CHAPTER <u>Beardless Exhibitions</u>	LOCATION	BEST SPECIMEN <u>Exhibitor(s)</u>
June 3	Tidewater Iris Society	Virginia Beach, VA	Not Reported
June 17&18	Carolina Mountains Society	Hendersonville, NC	JAPANESE PINWHEEL Isabell Nix
June 19	FSK and C&P Iris Societies	Chatham Mall	CAPRICIAN BUTTERFLY Dan Schlanger



STANDING RULES FOR REGION 4

Standing Rules are the general operating policies for an organization. Unlike By-laws, Standing Rules can be modified as needed at any meeting of the Executive Board. The following eight (8) Rules resulted from a full discussion of proposed Standing Rules presented to the Executive Board in its meeting at Roanoke on May 13, 1994. These Standing Rules will be on the Agenda for the Fall Meeting of the Executive Board in Towson, Maryland, for final consideration and approval and will become effective at that time.

1. Region 4 shall reimburse the current president (RVP) for expenses to attend the Spring and Fall AIS Board Meetings up to the amount set by the Board.
2. The Treasurer shall be custodian of the pins for the Past RVPs.
3. The Editor of NEWSCAST shall be responsible for no more than three (3) [but no fewer than two (2) issues] per year.
4. The Editor of NEWSCAST shall provide the Region 4 Historian with two (2) copies of each issue of NEWSCAST for permanent maintenance in Region 4's archives.
6. A copy of each issue of NEWSCAST shall be sent to: the President of AIS, the RVP Counselor, Secretary of AIS, Historian of AIS, RVPs, the Section Presidents, all reciprocating Regional editors, and all Honorary life members of Region 4.
8. The minutes of Region 4 board meetings shall be reviewed by the President who, in consultation with the Secretary, shall make any corrections needed in fact. These minutes will then be published in the NEWSCAST.
7. Region 4 chapters shall be encouraged to establish the position of Historian. Each chapter shall provide the Region 4 Historian with copies of all newsletters, show schedules, special announcements, newspaper articles, etc., related to their activities and any other materials appropriate to ensure a full and complete record of regional activities.

8. There shall be an auction/sale at each Spring and Fall Meeting to raise funds to support Region 4 activities. The Regional Auction Chairman will organize and conduct the auction/sale.



AVENEL GARDEN

The Garden of Dennis and Karen Stoneburner

by Joan & Ken Roberts, FSK

AVENEL GARDENS at the home of Dennis and Karen Stoneburner displays irises, daylillies, hostas and perennials. We had the pleasure of visiting their lovely garden during the 1994 Spring Regional meeting held in Roanoke, Virginia. Our bus must have caused a bit of excitement to this otherwise quiet peaceful neighborhood of well maintained lawns and beautiful trees. A few people displayed flags but nothing to match the beautiful iris flag that greeted us as we arrived in the Stoneburner garden.

The lovely flower beds surrounding the house contained shrubs, perennials, hostas, daylillies (not yet in bloom) and annuals in full bloom. For our floral enjoyment we saw lirioppe, mixed pansies, coleus, celosia, and dogwood. Our favorite flower, the iris, was visible everywhere. There was a clump of BRIGHT MOMENT (Hager '82), an SDB reblooming for the occasion.



The "Evaluator" in Avenel Garden

There were many irises to be seen and enjoyed including Dennis' new seedling 91-5, an SDB with yellow standards, white falls with double yellow rim around the edge. We saw the last bloom on this seedling, but it certainly bears watching. J.D. Stadler's J25-07, with smoky mauve standards, violet falls with a blue blaze around the orange beards was looking very nice, but lacked branching. We are sure this is weather related and would like to see this lovely seedling again. Unfortunately, Clarence Mahan's 1994 introduction REMINISCENCE had just closed its last bud the night before.

JEWELLED CROWN (Hollingsworth '87), a gorgeous ruffled purple Siberian with its bright "jewelled crown" was exceptional. PINK BUBBLES (Hager '80), BUBBLING OVER (Ghio '82), SECRET MELODY (Schreiner '88), LACE JABOT (Gaulter '82), FIRST LADY (Meek '81), and Innerest's '91 introduction RUMBLESEAT were all stand-outs in the garden.

There was quite a stir over two beautifully grown clumps of Lloyd Zurbrigg's seedlings. KK 5-1-1 and HH 18-2-2 were outstanding. KK 5-1-1 is a lovely yellow amonea with white ruffled standards brilliant yellow ruffled, flaring falls with a white rim around the edge and a bright yellow beard which is orange in the throat. HH 18-2-2 is a violet blue with the most intense coloring we have seen to date. The ruffled flaring falls and perfect branching make this iris exceptional.

Our thanks go to Karen for providing us with delicious treats. They were especially appreciated by those of us who overslept and had no time for breakfast! Humor was not lost for the occasion either, for we were able to see Dennis' "House of Boris" a Lego Block creation for the occasion.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank The Blue Ridge Iris Society and Dennis, Chairman of the Convention for a well planned, very enjoyable meeting. From the Program to the wonderful garden tours the convention was a huge SUCCESS!

HYLTON GARDEN:
The Garden of Daisy Hylton
by Lloyd Zurbrigg, ENCIS



The "Evaluator" and the Gardener in the Garden

One could hardly credit that Miss Daisy had been trying to get her garden off tour. There had been hail damage which had upset her dreadfully. However, we visitors were treated to a wonderful display of color, and the bearded iris were at peak of bloom. Now that the Historic Iris Preservation Society has made us all aware of the value of classic iris varieties, much more interest is paid to a garden like this, that continues to grow the tried and true, and to place them in color harmony.

But the iris flowers barely occupied center stage, if they did that. I had been looking forward to seeing the tree peonies, but they were gone. However, there was a splendid array of the herbaceous peonies in a wide range of colors and forms. A form of buddleia made a handsome background for the iris beds, and lupins and azaleas, coral bells and poppies added to the color extravaganza. A curve of a

low-growing coral pink rose, Chipper, rewarded the eyes in one direction, while bright red pillar roses caught one's attention in another direction.

The garden is a treat at all seasons. Candytuft, which had provided a white border for tulips, was now trimmed and made an attractive green edging for other perennials. The formal rosebed is surrounded by boxwoods, and it was going to form a center-point of attention in another ten days. The rhododendrons were placed close to a neighboring house. Double muscari were in bloom,(yes, they were!), between the boxwoods. The largest pink dogwood tree in the Roanoke valley, 20" through the trunk, had been a mass of bloom ten days before our arrival.

The Hylton garden is atop one of the higher "mountains" in Salem, so that when their eyes were sated with floral color, there was yet an eye-catching view of the surrounding mountains to please one's awareness. Instead of a whistle, we were warned that it was time to go by a stroke or two on a bell from a steam locomotive that Oscar had driven in time past. The bell was on a frame that was covered with orchid clematis, another lovely touch in this garden of lovely details. Thank you, Miss Daisy. We were delighted that the committee refused to take your garden off the tour.



LAYMAN GARDEN:
The Garden of Vic and Dayna Layman
Carol Warner, FSK

My first stop on the superb Roanoke Convention Tour was Vic and Dayna Layman's hillside garden. Vic's bubbling personality and great hospitality were obvious as he greeted the bus in the neighboring church parking lot. The present garden has been under construction for only two or three years but Vic had previously lived at this site and had begun some of the plantings when he first owned the property.

We were immediately struck with the realization that we had arrived at peak bloom - irises were everywhere. Brick paths led us under a tulip poplar tree, past lovely clumps of *Iris tectorum* to large clumps of Siberian irises, peonies and hardy geraniums. The Siberians which were particularly lovely included LADY VANESSA, ANN DASCH, FRIENDLY WELCOME, SPRINGS BROOK, and TEALWOOD. A long row of CAESAR'S BROTHER was creatively used as a foundation planting in front of the house where its erect foliage would be attractive even after bloom.

Vic had bought a huge quantity of Pro Mix from a nursery which was going out of business and had practically replaced the clay soil and combined this with his fertilization program -the result - the plants were grown to perfection. A hosta bed boasted some beautiful clumps including COLOR CODED and INFINITE GRACE.

Libby Cross's '94 introduction, CINNAMON FRINGE, planted on a corner near the path was a magnificent sight. Other superb specimens of MIDNIGHT FIRE, LURID, IMMORTALITY, VANITY, CECELIA D, and SUPERSTITION graced the garden. The lower hillside garden with its sharp drainage seeming the perfect setting to grow and display bearded irises.

All of Roanoke had severe ice damage this past winter and Vic and Dayna's garden showed lots of tree damage. I'm sure it was devastating but the open areas served to let in the sunshine so much loved by the irises.

We will all have to visit the Blue Ridge area again soon as Vic and Dayna have bought 95 acres with a helicopter hanger which will be converted into their new home. Divisions of all the irises will again be transplanted to their new garden.

This magnificent garden was a great preview to the gardens we would see during the rest of the two days of tours. To me, friendship and happiness that radiated from this fine young couple set the tone for one of Region 4's finest meetings!

MORGAN GARDEN:

The Garden of Michelle and Larry Morgan

by John Dameron, AHIS

Saturday morning in Roanoke was a little cool but just about perfect for touring flower gardens. After visiting two gardens that morning and seeing lots of irises and an abundance of other beautiful flowers, it was on to the "Old Country Buffet" for a delicious, bountiful lunch. When it seemed impossible to eat another bite of anything, we loaded back on the buses and proceeded to the home of Michelle and Larry Morgan.

Michelle met us at the gate and explained how they bought the property five years ago and found not a single tree on it; only foundation plants, mostly hollies and junipers. They began to remove some of the shrubs and plant the irises that Larry had always liked.

Passing through the gate we saw several beds of irises plus roses, peonies, lupines, and even some yellow columbines. The first iris to catch my eye was AGNES HALE. This is the apricot beauty that seemed to be in every garden in Atlanta in 1992 and won the President's Cup for Harry Turner of Snellville, Georgia that year.

In the left, rear corner of the yard there was a mixture of white and yellow irises with ORBITER (Aitken '85) scattered throughout and blooming profusely. Moving across the lawn, we found SGANDIA DELIGHT (Schreiner's '89) a ruffled sapphire blue; DOUBLEMINT, a Monty Byers 1987 space-age and rebloomer; and CORAL CHALICE, a rebloomer from Dave Niswonger, '83. Also in bloom were VICTORIA FALLS (Schreiner's '77); MELISSA SUE, a lacy pink (Hamner '83); SEA OF JOY (Schreiner's '85); RARE TREAT, (Schreiner's '87); and lots of Ben Hager's Dykes winner EDITH WOLFORD with lots and lots of bloom.

There was also a bed of beardless varieties with some siberians that included STEVE and there was some tall, yellow *I. pseudacorus*. Not bad starting from scratch only five years ago. Wonder what another five years will bring forth.

By now, I was ready to put the video away and snap a few slides but Vic was blowing the whistle and telling us it was time to move along. Many horticultural specimens were waiting to be seen at the home of Kay Cooper but that would be someone else's story. I could relax, admire the flowers, and enjoy the fellowship. Thanks, Blue Ridge for a job well done.

CHILDRESS GARDEN:

The Garden of Ama Childress

by Dan Schlanger, FSK

Our tour bus wound through the lovely countryside of Roanoke County, Virginia, eventually ascending Mason's Knob to arrive at the Childress garden on top of the mountain. We proceeded down a driveway between rows of individual, neatly trimmed yews, passed through an iron gate and stopped in front of a large house with a dominant red roof. There were gardens everywhere. Eager Irisarians tumbled out of the bus and took off in all directions in their endless pursuit of beauty.

I walked to the rear of the house and was enveloped by a kaleidoscope of impressions--spectacular vistas of mountains and valleys, peonies, roses, irises, hostas, hydrangeas, statues, day lilies, Siberians everywhere, etc., etc.. It was almost too much to absorb. I retreated to the patio where refreshments were waiting. Fortification by calories. I would be re-energized so that I could focus on this beautiful place.



The Breath-taking Bloom in the Childress Garden

Irises always come first with me. I searched for and found large beds of tall bearded, masses of brilliant colors. Ama Childress used to combine the irises by color so that they complemented each other. But, after digging and dividing they were somehow mixed up in the replanting. They are as lovely as ever, but they are no longer exclusively arrayed by color.

A short distance away, I wandered into a serene, secluded rose garden surrounded by walls of yews. No one was there. Tucked into the hedge was a white iron garden bench beckoning you to sit and rest, or perhaps meditate, away from all hustle and bustle. I sat down for a moment or two. Here and there delicate columbine were swaying in the breeze. It was so soothing. Later, when I spoke with Ama Childress and mentioned the rose garden, she was lamenting the loss of the old rose "Talisman." She is very fond of the older roses. Now, whenever she has to replace losses, she only plants David Austin old English roses.

It was apparent the severe winter we all experienced had done considerable damage to the Childress garden, especially causing the loss of trees. In some instances the loss of a tree or two opened up beautiful views of the surrounding countryside. In others, much needed protection was gone. Thus far, however, all the hostas seemed happy and thriving.

Ama Childress likes to landscape using a tree as a focal point. The beds radiate out from the trees. Nothing is neglected. If only a tree stump is left, it becomes a centerpiece for flowering or decorative vines. Statuary are used. Ama recently acquired French 18th century garden statues

representing the four seasons. They have been placed around the grounds as accents. The beds have borders. In the beginning there were ten "Stella de Oro" day lilies. Now, through dividing, there are hundreds making lovely, graceful borders.

Ama loves hydrangeas, European varieties. She uses them in border plantings as well. Siberians are everywhere. Brilliant peonies are everywhere. Rare and unusual specimen trees, shrubs, plants are everywhere and Ama knows where they all are!

I noticed plantings had been made outside the fenced perimeter of the garden. Was she expanding the garden? I could visualize a totally landscaped mountain in the Childress future. I asked her about it and she only smiled. "Time to feed the fish," she said.

A flock of Irisarians trailed Ama Childress to a large fish pond (20' x 20'). Water lilies basked in the sunshine. In the beginning there had been twenty fish. Now there are two hundred. They live there all year even when the pond freezes over. In this area the predominant planting is roses.

When we arrived several cats were lolling at the pond's edge. Ama had eight cats to control the mole and vole population. She assured us the cats don't bother the fish. But how does she know?

During the feeding and afterward, Ama answered questions on all aspects of her garden and her gardening philosophy. "Gardening is so personal," she said. She is up at 5:30 a.m. daily to work outside. Don't call her after 8:00 p.m. because she'll be asleep in bed. She laughs when she mentions 5:30 a.m. because she has always kept these hours. Imagine how her college roommates appreciated that!

She uses Round-up to subdue growing weeds. She applies Treflan granules before rain as pre-emergent weed prevention (does not harm irises). Rhizomes afflicted with rot are cleaned up and dusted with Comet cleansing powder which serves as a disinfectant. Ama even recommended a treatment for arthritis pain. Try Pro-epa. You guess how arthritis remedies crept into a conversation on gardening.

Ama Childress is a fund of gardening information. She is devoted to the artistry and beauty of gardening. The Childress garden is a joy because of that devotion.

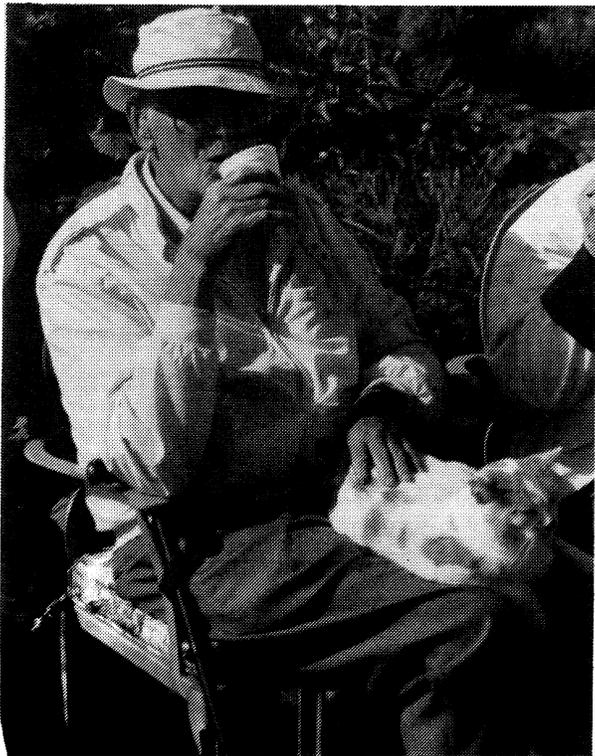
INGLESIDE GARDEN:

The Garden of Adelaide and Fred Stephenson

by E. Roy Epperson, ENCIS

A visit to Ingleside Gardens of Adelaide and Fred Stephenson is always to be looked forward to with the expectation of seeing iris, companion plants, and at least one new and "amazing" plant specimen. The visit of those attending the spring Regional meeting was no exception to these expectations!

As for iris, one of the more outstanding tall-bearded was 82-14A, a space ager of Fred's. The flower is a muted grey with amber hafts. The beard is deep amber shading to light violet and ending in distinct antlers. I suppose the correct term is horns, but these are forked like antlers. Also of note, the flowers are triply uniform with the antlers. A really interesting and unusual flower. TITAN'S GLORY (Schreiner's '81) and SKATING PARTY (Gaulter '83) were outstanding among



Fred and his cat took the visit in stride

the many bearded iris in bloom here at Ingleside. PLEASING ACCOMPLISHMENT (Stephenson '88) is a pale rosy lilac plicata with white tipped horn. This iris also has a pleasing spicy fragrance. J.D. Stadler's CELESTIAL DAWN was performing well, as it seemed to in most gardens this season. In the median bed, BATIK '86 and ZINC PINK '87, both from Ensminger, were doing well. I was especially interested in a small spuria (?) species labeled "GOLDEN QUEEN Krel. 06." This is a lovely pale yellow. *I. tectorum* was performing well as were several siberians in the terraced beds. Of note, also, was a planting of historical iris on the lower level near the vegetable garden.

The companion plants were breathtaking! There was a lovely yellow lady's slipper peeking out from under one of the shrubs. Around the small pool were a beautiful clump of arum, variegated Solomon's Seal (*Polygonatum*), false Solomon's Seal, golden trillium, and wonder of wonders, a *double trillium*. The flower is a pale cream-green and is truly double. This is a collected specimen and Fred believes that it is the *only* surviving plant from its native habitat. He is working with horticulturists to propagate this gorgeous plant.

As usual, my expectations were met for this garden is a plant collector's delight.



NOTES FROM FRANCIS SCOTT KEY IRIS SOCIETY

compiled by Dr. Fred Ladd, FSK

Following an excellent luncheon on Saturday, April 9th, served at our Spring meeting held at the Eagle's Nest, premises of the Towson Golf and Country Club, John Slater one of our members who is a registered landscape architect, gave a knowledgeable presentation. Its subject was devoted to garden design for corporate and municipal projects. John emphasized the importance of good drainage, serpentine designs and use of low maintenance ground cover. Several of our members were responsible for an attractive educational exhibit on display at the Towson Gardens Day held on Saturday, Anri] 28th.

The first of our shows this season was held as advertised on Saturday, May 28th, at the Towson Market Place Mall. The Show Chairperson, Joan Evans, and hrr helpers did an excellent job in its staging. Despite the severe winter and a heavy rainstorm that swept through the area two days before the show, somewhat depleting the numbers of entries, the judges had some difficult decisions to make. We owe them a specirl vote of thanks in generously giving their time and expertise on this occasion.

The following awards were made:-

- | | |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Best in the Show | - SNOW PRINCE (Siberian), Carol Warner. |
| Tall-Bearded | - SONG OF NORWAY, Carol Warner |
| Boarder Bearded | - JOHN'S JOY, Doris & Owings Rebert |
| Historic | - SHAH JEHAN, Doris & Owings Rebert. |
| Species | - <i>I. prismatica</i> , Doris & Owings Rebert, that
also received a Special Horticultural Award. |
| Species | - <i>I. setosa canadensis</i> , Doris & Owings Rebert |
| Best Seedling | - No 547-14 (Tall bearded, ruffled & fluted
Ivory) Joan Roberts. |
| AIS | - Silver Medal (Most blue ribbons), Carol Warner. |
| AIS | - Bronze Medal (Runners-up), Doris & Owings Rebert. |

Fall Regional Meeting - A timely reminder that it will be held on Friday & Saturday, October 14th & 15th, with headquarters at the Towson Sheraton Inn, when the guest speaker will be Claire Barr, President of the AIS.

The Society learned with deep regret of the passing of Bill Barr in San Diego, California, in late March. Bill was an active and respected member of our Society for many years. We shall always remember the happy occasions when Bill & Claire hosted members at their lovely home in the Greenspring Valley. We extend to Claire and her Family our sincerest condolence.

NOTES FROM CHESAPEAKE & POTOMAC IRIS SOCIETY

compiled by Phil Ogilvie, C&P

C&P came up with a winning idea to attract more participation in their annual rhizome sales. The "Iris Buck." The script below was mailed out in the *Chesapeake & Potomac Iris News* with the instructions that:

- 1) Every member who attends is entitled to spend ONE IRIS BUCK (cut off below), good for ONE FREE RHIZOME of their choice from the Sale stock. and;
- 2) For every FIVE RHIZOMES DONATED, you EARN ONE FREE IRIS BUCK.



KOMMENTS FROM KIRKLEE

by E.Roy Epperson

As I look back over this bloom season and my notes from the Roanoke and Portland Conventions, I find that most of my notes have to do with companion plants and garden landscape design, rather than specific irises.

The Schreiner guest display beds were simply breathtaking! Each bed was edged with alternating plants of pansies and iceland poppies. The pansies were in color combinations were bright and unusual and the iceland poppies varied in color from pale cream to intense rose and orange. Steve Schreiner said that we should be able to grow these poppies here. I am going to try. These plants really set off the irises. Planted within the iris beds were lupines. These grow magnificently in Oregon. Clumps were five-feet high and in every color of the rainbow (and others beside). This was a real treat as lupines do not prosper in Piedmont North Carolina. Daisy Hylton in Salem, Virginia, also grows lupines, but hers do not approach the size of those in Oregon. Schreiner side beds had plantings of penstemon. The iris were spectacular!

The bus captains for the Portland convention were Master Gardeners, not irisarians. Our bus captain, Dave Garrett, was especially knowledgeable and kept us fully informed of the horticultural fields that we passed: the grass seed fields, the mint fields, the hazelnut groves, the hops fields, and on and on. It made for a most interesting time in transit from garden to garden.

Hosta plantings were a prominent feature of the Ama Childress garden in Roanoke and the Plotner Wildwood Gardens in Molalla, Oregon. There were many well grown mature clumps of hosta in these two distinctly different gardens. Ama's are planted on a wind-swept mountain side with precious little shade and the Plotner garden is fully shaded and on a meandering creek bank. Most hosta do grow better in at least a dappled shade environment with adequate water. I seriously question a recent article that I read saying that hosta could take full sun! Not in Piedmont North Carolina!

In several of the Portland gardens and many houses along our bus routes had large outdoor plantings of white calla lilies. It surprised me to see them outdoors, not in pots, but they are said to be hardy south of Zone 8. The Abrego gardens (Chehalem) had an arresting clump of *Euphorbia wulfenii*. This plant has evergreen foliage and bright, chartreuse flower heads. And, of course there were columbines everywhere. These make excellent companion plants.

Did I find any of the iris outstanding? Yes, I did. Here are the ones that I placed orders for after returning from the conventions. FEATURE ATTRACTION (Schreiner '94). This TB is a heavily laced, heavily textured pale lilac self. The *Bulletin* photograph is too blue. REMINISCENCE (Mahan '94), an MTB bicolor of deep maroon. PARDNER (Fisher '93), a vigorous MTB with tan standards, maroon falls, edged tan. DOTTED LINE (Reid '92) is a sino-siberian. This one you have to see to believe. The clump in Terry Aitken's garden was probably sold-out just from one or two buses of visitors! I also ordered FADED LOVE (J. Meek '94). Its catalog description does not do it justice. It needs to be seen. And, of course, I ordered lots of siberians from different hybridizers. The plantings in Chehalem gardens would turn anyone into a siberian grower. It is deadly for anyone who loves siberians to see plantings such as these.

As you probably can tell from these notes. I loved every minute of the Roanoke and Portland conventions. I can hardly wait for 1995 for Fredericksburg and York, Pennsylvania!!

A MOST OBLIGING IRIS

by Clarence Mahan

Vita Sackville-West lauded its virtues. Richardson Wright recommended using cultivars with blue flowers in front of white garden heliotrope (*Valeriana officinalis*). Louise Beebe Wilder called its clumps "veritable fountains of grace." Gertrude Jekyll pronounced it "of the easiest culture," and recommended planting it near water features. The Siberian iris was a most admirable perennial when these gardeners were writing; today it has even more utility in the garden because breeders have given us a vastly expanded range of colors and flower forms.

The most widely grown Siberian iris cultivars are derived from two 28-chromosome species, *Iris sibirica* and *Iris sanguinea*. These are the least demanding, easiest to grow irises. Although they lack fragrance, this can easily be remedied by planting them near some wonderfully fragrant old rose like 'Sombreuil' or the species rose, eglantine. A second type of Siberian iris, derived from eight 40-chromosome species, is sometimes called the Sino-Siberian group. This 40-chromosome group, which includes fragrant *Iris chrysographes* and yellow *Iris wilsonii* and *Iris forrestii*, is much more demanding, preferring climates with cool and humid summers, such as in England and the American Pacific Northwest.

Siberian irises do best in a rich loam of Ph 5 to Ph 6.5, but tolerate much higher and lower pH levels. They are moisture-loving plants, yet when established will tolerate considerable drought. They thrive in areas with cold winters, but will perform well in southern and western areas where winters are mild. These wonderfully adaptable perennials do best in full sun, but will do quite nicely in high shade with as little as half a day of sun. Even Siberian irises have limitations, though; they are not for areas that are semi-tropical or very dry alkaline soil.

There are only three precautions to keep in mind to succeed with these irises. First, do not let the roots dry out. When the plants arrive, or when dividing clumps, put the roots in water until they can be planted. Keep the new plants well-watered. Second, avoid planting or transplanting in the heat of summer. You can succeed by shading the plants and keeping them watered, but it is not easy. Third, mulch the plants heavily the first winter and watch for frost-heaving. You will not have to do this after the clumps are established.

Books on irises describe several diseases and pests to which the Siberian iris *might* be vulnerable. None of these supposed threats has ever been a serious problem for anyone I know. Even the iris borer (ubiquitous east of the Great Plains) feeds on the Siberians only as an act of desperation. It much prefers other irises.

It is remarkable that this iris, whose cultural demands are so simple and whose resistance to diseases and pests is so great, would also have so many uses in the landscape and in flower arrangements, especially *ikebana*. Not the least of its assets are narrow, abundant leaves that remain green throughout the growing season. Some cultivars, such as lavender, ruffled 'Steve Varner', have foliage that stands boldly erect. Other cultivars have foliage that bends downward like the "veritable fountain of grace" presented by white 'Anniversary', winner of top awards in England.

Siberian irises come in a wide range of heights. Charming *Iris sanguinea nana alba* never tops a foot, while fairy-flowered 'Shaker's Prayer', when well grown, easily exceeds four feet. 'Shaker's Prayer', which the American Iris Society has honored with two of its top awards, the Walter Cup and the President's Cup, has flowers that uniquely combine lilac, plum, maroon, and yellow, with white veining.

When new Siberian cultivars are introduced, they are usually priced relatively high. One of the wonderful attributes of these beauties, however, is that they never become dated. Older cultivars, quite reasonably priced, are often just as nice as the new introductions. Some of my favorites have been around a long time. 'Perry's Pygmy' was introduced in England by Amos Perry in 1912. Its name is a bit misleading: it is the 2½" flowers that are pygmy, not the foliage and stalks which are 32" tall. The flowers are blue-violet with many white veins.

Another favorite is medium blue-violet 'My Love', introduced in 1949. It is usually the first Siberian iris to bloom in my garden, and produces so many four-budded stalks that it is a regular "flower machine." 'Tealwood', dating back to the early 1960's, is still the deepest violet Siberian cultivar. From a distance it seems black. There is always a clump of 'Tealwood' at the base of the waterfall that spills into my pond. 'Summer Sky' first appeared on the market in 1935, but no modern cultivar surpasses it in refined delicacy. Its grass-like foliage, pale blue and cream flowers with yellow hafts, and short stature at 30" give it an unmatched elfin quality.

Some of my other favorites are elegant 'Pink Haze', which really does approach rose-pink; 'Butter and Sugar', with white and yellow flowers; clear medium-blue 'Swank'; and dramatic red-purple 'Shirley Pope', which has large white signals in the upper part of the falls. (*Signals* are semi-circular markings at the base of the *falls*, which are the lower petals). Then too, there is 'Rikugi Sakura', which has six pink falls and no *standards* (upper petals); 'White Swirl', whose flaring form set a new standard for Siberian irises; and 'Super Ego', whose light-and-dark blue-violet flowers create the illusion of a white and violet iris.

In the late 1960's, Dr. Currier McEwen, author of *Siberian Irises* (Siberian Iris Society, 1981), artificially induced *tetraploidy* (four sets of chromosomes, double the normal number) in Siberian iris seedlings. Now there are many tetraploid cultivars on the market. The leaves and stalks of these irises are thicker, and the flowers bigger, than cultivars with two sets of chromosomes (*diploids*). Some people like these tetraploids very much; others feel their stiffer, large parts lack the grace of diploid cultivars. There are some I find very appealing. Two of my favorites are maroon 'Reddy Maid' and bib, bold, light blue and violet 'Harpswell Haze'.

The American Iris Society instituted the Morgan Award in 1951 to recognize one outstanding Siberian iris cultivar each year. This award was named in honor of F. Cleveland Morgan, a Canadian businessman who pioneered the development of Siberian irises in the first half of the 20th century. Morgan's 'Cezar's Brother', a tall, dark blue-violet cultivar introduced to commerce in 1932, is perhaps the most widely grown Siberian iris to this day. It was voted the Morgan Award in 1954. It is offered for sale under a variety of misspellings.

In 1985, the American Iris Society replaced the Morgan Award with the Morgan-Wood Medal. The first Morgan-Wood Medal went to 'Butter and Sugar' in 1986. The 1993 winner of this medal was 'Jewelled Crown', a ruffled wine-red cultivar with a large white blaze around the gold signal, bred by Dr. Robert Hollingsworth of Williamston, Michigan.

One precaution is in order when growing Siberian irises. These irises are extremely fertile and produce seed pods in abundance. These pods can be used very effectively in flower arrangements, but remove them from the plant before they ripen and split open. If you do not do this, the seeds will germinate around the clump of original iris. You will then be unable to distinguish which plants are the true cultivar and which are the seedlings, except when they are in bloom, which is not when you will be dividing and resetting the plants. It is possible that one or more of the seedlings will have good attributes, but none of them will be true to the characteristics of the named cultivar you are growing.

Regardless of which cultivars you choose, unlike "the best-laid schemes o' mice and men," you will not "gang aft agley" with Siberian irises. To learn more about them, you may join the Society for Siberian Irises. Membership is \$5.00 for one year or \$13.00 for three years. Send your check to Membership Chairman Howard Brookins, N75 W14257 North Point Drive, Menominee Falls, WI 53051-4325. Membership will bring the journal of that society *The Siberian Iris*, twice a year, along with contacts with others who appreciate this most obliging iris.

Although Siberians in the 40-chromosome group are more demanding in climate requirements than derivatives of *I. siberica* [sic] and *I. sanguinea*, there is an inexpensive way and rewarding way of growing them: from seed. Fortunately, most of these species are available from The Species Iris Group of North America (SIGNA), another section of the American Iris Society.

SIGNA conducts an annual seed sale for its membership. The seed is donated by various members, and is sold for fifty cents a packet. Most of the 40-chromosome Siberian species are offered on the SIGNA seed list, which is issued each winter. Of course, seeds of many other iris species are also offered. To join SIGNA for three years, send a check for \$10.00 (made out to SIGNA) to Colin Rigby, 18341 Paulson SW, Rochester, WA 98579. A one-year membership is \$4.00.

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Clarence Mahan is active in several branches of the American Iris Society. His nursery, **The Iris Pond** (address below), lists plenty of tempting Siberian and other irises.

SOURCES

The Iris Pond, 7311 Churchill Rd, McLean, VA 22101. *Price list \$1.00.*

Ensata Gardens, 9823 E. Michigan Ave, Galesburg, MI 49053. Phone 616-665-7500. *Catalogue \$2.00.*

Joe Pie Weed's Garden, 337 Acton St, Carlisle, MA 01741. Phone 508-371-0173. *Price list free.*

Miller's Manor Gardens, 3167 E US 224, Ossian, IN 46777. Phone 219-597-7403. *Catalog \$1.00.*

Windwood Gardens, 124 Sherwood Rd E, Williamston, MI 48895. Phone 517-349-8121. *Price List free.*

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EDITOR'S NOTE: Reprinted from the July 1994 issue of *The American Cottage Gardener*, with the kind permission of the author. *The American Cottage Gardener* is a new gardening magazine so it is good to see Clarence Mahan using it as a vehicle to promote our favorite flower. For anyone interested in subscribing (four issues a year for \$35), you may contact the magazine at:

The American Cottage Gardener
131 E. Michigan Street
Marquette, MI 49855

**WE WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS
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Ms. Debora Tucker
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Blue Ridge Iris Society

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Mr. & Mrs. Cornell (Linda) Welsh
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Out of Region

Ms. Isabel Mendez
736 N. Brighton Street
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NEWSCAST COVERS: THE IRISARIAN'S HERITAGE

by Phil Ogilvie, C&P

As you know, this year I am featuring the work of historically, artistically, and botanically important illustrators on the covers of *Newscast*. This issue's cover is by John James Audubon (1785-1851), it is an illustration of the Parula Warbler (*Compsothlypis americana*) but features an illustration of *Iris fulva*. It is from his great *Birds of North America* published between 1827 and 1830 in London, the "Elephant Folio" plates, so-called because the original sheets were 39½ inches by 26½ inches. This was plate number 15 of the 435 Audubon included in this great work and labeled by him, "Blue Yellow-back Warbler, *Sylvia Americana*, 1 Male, 2 Female. Plant, Vulgo Louisiana Flag." This seems to be the first use of the common name Louisiana Flag or Iris for this group. This iris was described scientifically by John Bellenden Ker-Gawler as "*Iris fulva*, the Tawny or Copper Coloured Iris," in *Curtis's Botanical Magazine*, Volume 36 (1812), the description featured a colored plate opposite page 1496. We normally think of Audubon as an illustrator of birds, but, as you can see from this print, he lavished the same kind of detail on the plants he used to complete his compositions.

Audubon's father, Jean Audubon was in command of a ship, *Queen Charlotte*, in De Grasse's fleet at the climactic battle of the American Revolution, Yorktown. After the war Jean Audubon engaged in the West Indian trade, based in Les Cayes, Santo Domingo (now Haiti). Here John James Audubon was born to his father's mistress, a Mlle. Rabin. After his mother's death he was taken to France where he was adopted by his father's wife and baptized Jean Jacques Fougère Audubon. After a good bourgeois education he left France, at the age of 18, for his father's estate, "Mill Grove," near Philadelphia. In 1808 Audubon, after a brief return to France, resettled in frontier Kentucky on the Ohio River. His life's work as a naturalist/artist did not begin until he moved to the new Western Museum in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1820. From this period on he explored the Ohio and Mississippi rivers painting animals and plants and supporting himself by portraiture as he worked his way south to New Orleans.

Because of a long time feud with Alexander Wilson (the father of American ornithology) and his students, it was necessary for Audubon to seek a publisher in Europe. He published the text to go with the great Elephant Folio as *Ornithological Biography* in Edinburgh (the first volume appeared in 1831, the fifth and last was published in 1839). On his return to America he was lionized and elected a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. In 1838 he published a catalogue of American birds, entitled *Synopsis of the Birds of North America*. In 1841 he began work on the *Viviparous Quadrupeds of North America* of which he completed about half the plates leaving the remainder to be completed by his two sons after his death.

SIGNS THAT LAST

by Dick Sparling

At one time or another we have all had the problem, you mark it today and it's gone in 6 months. Over the years, ultra-violet rays and the rain have taken their toll on cultivar markers. Unfortunately it is a way of life for most gardeners.

How do we minimize those effects to lengthen the markers life? I have seen one system that is absolutely foolproof. It is engraved plastic markers, but it is costly. Other very good methods are, baked on and acid etching the markers. Again these are costly. With technology comes yet another marker. After laser printing the information on a card, it is then laminated. That is, encapsulated between 2 sheets of plastic for stiffness and then fastened at an angle to the top of a vertical PVC pipe. This is informative and attractive but again, costly. Another method is to use an embossing machine. This inexpensive hand held device produces plastic strips. These strips are then applied to a marker. It is good, if it will adhere.

I have found 2 markers that will last for years and they are very simple, efficient, easy to apply and read and are inexpensive. One marker is new, or better yet, used discarded mini blinds. Using household scissors, a hundred strips can be cut to form long narrow markers. My other preferred marker is cut from vinyl siding, either discarded from a construction site or bought from a lumber yard. By cutting it into 2½" x 4" pieces, drilling or "hole punching" two holes, it is ready to be bent for the insertion of a coat hanger wire. Being inexpensive, when I no longer need the marker, I just throw away the vinyl and re-use the wire.

The determining factor for longevity in my garden is the marking ink. Most marking pens say that they are permanent, but. . . The pen that I have found to be permanent is "decocolor™." (No I do not have stock in the company.) Purchased in art & craft stores for about \$2.50, They have lasted for more than five years. Using their "broad line" model, it is easy to apply and easy to read. Whether or not they would be long lasting on store bought metal markers or other materials, I do not know. But it does last on vinyl/plastic.

Whatever marker is used, don't forget a plot plan is a good back-up. I know, dogs and kids have relocated many of my markers.

P.S. If you have other marker suggestions or any garden tips, please share it through the editor. He is always looking for material.



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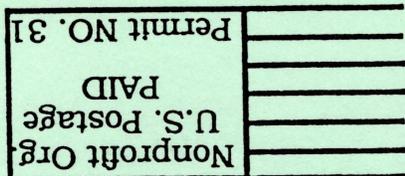
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