



# NEWSCAST

REGION FOUR OF THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

VOL. 47, No. 3

DECEMBER 2005

## **We Morn a Loss**



**J. OWINGS REBERT**  
**1917 -2005**

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111 West Kingswood Drive, Williamsburg, VA 23185-3248



NEWSCAST is the publication  
of Region 4, AIS

Region 4 is comprised of the  
states of **Maryland, North  
Carolina, Virginia, West Vir-  
ginia**, and the **District of Co-  
lumbia**.

NEWSCAST is published  
Tri-annually.

NEWSCAST is free to AIS  
members in Region 4. Subscrip-  
tion rate for those not in Region  
4 is \$5.00 per year. Checks  
made to Region 4, American Iris  
Society should be sent to the  
Region 4 Treasurer.

Permission is granted to reprint  
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NEWSCAST provided that  
proper credit is given.

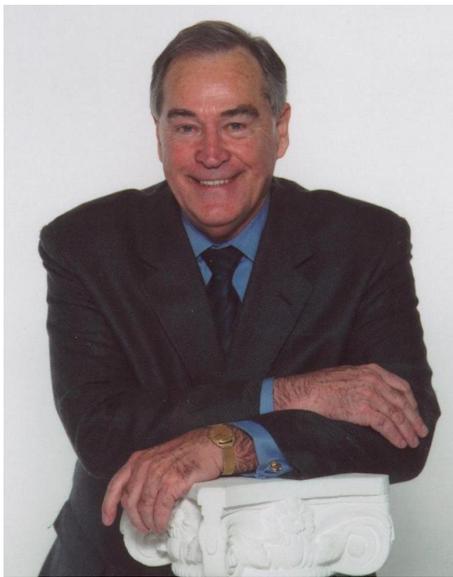
DEADLINES for receipt of  
NEWSCAST materials by the  
editor are:

March Issue—01 February

August Issue—01 July

December Issue— 01 November

## Words From Our Regional Vice President



Thanks to all in Region 4, for your help during the past few years. As your Assistant RVP, with lots of help from you, we will produce some great conventions and some productive meetings.

My first task as your new RVP is to coordinate the first joint Fall Conference with Region 3. Jason Leeder, Region 3 RVP, and I are dividing up the areas of responsibility, and plans are well under way. The First Region 3/4 Fall Conference will be in Gettysburg, Pa., the first week-end in October. We plan a Flower Show, Judges Training (both garden & classroom), Guest Speakers, Gardens Tour, Board Meetings, and Auction - everything you look forward to at our Conferences. Final details are being worked out with a new convention facility in

Gettysburg, the opening of which is planned for late summer, 2006. We are negotiating some great prices, as we will be the first Convention planned for the facility. Mark your calendars now for October 6<sup>th</sup> and October 7<sup>th</sup>.

I am excited about becoming your new Region 4 RVP, and about working closer with those of you I know, and getting to know others better. We have lost some really great Region 4 Patrons during the last few years; and while following in their foot-steps to intimidating, I look forward to linking their memories with your fellowship, as a foundation for our future.

R. Jerry Coates

## From The Editor

WELCOME to all the new members of Region 4 of the American Iris Society. I hope you enjoy the friendship and information freely available from the members of your local society and throughout the region. I also hope you enjoy The Newscast and the information that it contains. Please feel free to ask any questions if there is information you desire and I will try to get that information to you by adding it to the Newscast as there may be others who want the same.

I would like all the members in Region 4 to take pictures of their gardens. It does not matter if they are large or small, or even if there is only a single Iris in it. I can not promise to publish them all but I think many would benefit from this as ideas within the gardens are shared.

I can imagine how hard it is to put on a Fall meeting and show. Especially with weather so questionable. The auctions was wonderful with many unusual plants available. With a minimum of stalks and exhibitors required and rebloom delayed in many areas because of lack of rain, too much rain, and other environmental factors but a show was indeed a valid show. Silk and Velvet shown by Ray Jones took top prize. Ginny Spoon spontaneous use of auction wins and an unopened stalk of Daughter of Stars was put



in a wonderful design piece that had us all laughing as she collected things to put it together but the laughter stopped when she brought out her creation. Way to go Ginny.

We had two judges training sessions the first was "Awards and Ballots" given by Dr. Roy Epperson and the second was "Rebloomers and Space-Age Iris" given by George Sutton.

Photos : "Silk and Velvet", Spoon Design entry, courtesy of Anita Moran

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION:** A color copy of the March , August, and December Newscast are available for download only at [www.irisregion4.com/Newscast.html](http://www.irisregion4.com/Newscast.html) Follow the directions for downloading carefully. You will need Adobe Acrobat Reader to view the file as it is in PDF format, but there is a link near the download area for downloading the viewer. You can also print from Adobe Acrobat Reader. :)

**HYBRIDIZERS REMEMBER!!! Have picture of NEW INTRODUCTION to me no later than 15FEB04 for placement in the March NEWSCAST!**

# Remembering My Father - A Man to Look Up To

Carl J. Rebert

In my earliest memories of my father, we are hand-in-hand. Remember the days when your hand stretched way above your head and just reached your father's hand? My Dad was ten feet tall. In those days I was not easily impressed with all the other Dads who were as tall as or taller than my Dad. My Dad was ten feet tall.

Until school age my sister and I were always with our hard-working parents. From sun rise to sunset we watched and played. Together they worked on their parents' farms. Later to supplement the family income, my father decided that my parents would mow the church cemetery. The mower had a zero turning radius. Not exactly like the ones used today. This mower had several sharp blades oriented in a helical pattern on a front reel. It was extremely safe because the blades only turned when my Dad pushed. Trimming the grass around every headstone was done with hand trimmers forged in a blacksmith shop. Blisters on calloused hands were unavoidable. Doing a job well was important to my father. That is just another measure of the man. My Dad was ten feet tall.

Other heroes in my childhood wore cowboy hats and rode horses. My Dad with the help of my grandfather, Elwood Brehm handmade a wooden rocking horse named Silver. As they worked at their labor of love, they kept it a secret from me until I saw it under the Christmas tree on Christmas morning. Necessity may have provided some motivation to my Dad. I was wearing out the arm of the family sofa pretending it was my trusty steed. Silver not only spared the sofa it carried me to the land of make believe on the hands of my father's love. My Dad was ten feet tall.

I also have early memories of the iris garden. In 1952 my parents moved to their new home, starting with a blank canvas of bare dirt. Over the years I saw my father employ his keen power of observation and his attention to detail to achieve a spectacular multivariate blanket of color in the iris garden at peak bloom. Their garden is a perfect harmony of trees, shrubs and other flowers, but the centerpiece is iris. When I was old enough to lend a helping hand, I was carefully instructed on the how and the what. I learned I could do it Dad's way the first time and be done. When I didn't do that, I could do it a second or third time until I got it right. My father left the choice to me.

Tending iris is plain ole hard work to a youth. Grumbling to Dad about my preference for play compared to tending iris was a lost cause. It was many years later, after that phase of knowing more than my Dad, that I understood his wise and patient method of teaching. Dad had made it quietly clear that those jobs that we do not enjoy deserve to be done well and with a smile. Do not misunderstand - this lesson applied to me in my father's garden, not to him in his garden. It undoubtedly applied to him elsewhere in his life, but he loved working in his garden. It brought a natural smile to his face and a twinkle to his eye. A plaque in his garden says it all, "One is nearer God's heart in a garden, than anywhere else on earth." My Dad was ten feet tall.

Planning and preparation began years ahead of the 1991 spring iris convention for Iris Haven, my parents' beloved garden. Their garden was to be one of the host gardens on tour during that national convention. Along with this decision comes the responsibility to display the guest iris sent from hybridizers. Imagine my father's mind selecting just the right location for the new iris beds he



would need. Imagine his attention to detail and meticulous grooming as spring and THE tour drew near. For example every flower in his garden has a permanent hand labeled tag with name of flower, hybridizer and year of introduction. It seemed appropriate to select a garden gift for my parents that Christmas prior to the tour. I was inspired to make a wooden garden bench. Starting from a pile of lumber, I kept it secret from my Dad until I drove into his driveway with it tied to the car roof that Christmas. He proudly displayed my handiwork in his garden during the tour. Later he told me he received a number of compliments on the bench. In response my father told those individuals with a twinkle and a smile, "My son made that for Doris and me." Even when I gave him a gift, my Dad wanted to make me feel special. My Dad was ten feet tall.

Another fond memory was made when I asked my father to help to duplicate Silver, my Christmas rocking horse, who had been well preserved in my basement over the many years. I had the idea to make the next generation of Silvers for my adult nephew, niece and three daughters who are my father's five grandchildren. This legacy project appealed to my Dad. It could bring years or perhaps generations of enjoyment when or if they had children. We planned and coordinated from Maryland and Colorado months in advance. We sawed, routed, assembled and painted together until all of the horses were finished in the shop in my garage. When my daughters who were also gathered for Thanksgiving in Colorado wondered what we could be doing in my shop which was suddenly off limits, we explained that Santa had secrets. We celebrated Christmas early that year and delivered all of the next generation Silvers under the family Christmas tree. We continued to work on the glider assembly one by one over the years to deliver a completed next generation Silver to the next family member on our list -Michael, Michelle and then Jessica. He signed and dated those three in his inconspicuous but loving way on the inside of the horse's body. I will have the pleasure of remembering how we worked together on this project as I assemble the last two glider assemblies for Amy and Emily. I am sure Dad will supportively look over my shoulder and gently prod until they are complete and well done. I suspect Grandpa to his grandchildren was ten feet tall.

# Remembering My Father - A Man to Look Up To

Carl J. Rebert

Some years ago my Dad suffered a brief but serious illness requiring hospitalization. Unrelated to the admitting diagnosis an orthopedic surgeon was called to consult on his swollen fluid-filled knees worn out from all that garden kneeling. After careful consideration my Dad had both knees replaced in sequential years in late fall so as to not interfere with garden tasks. Before he had to admit that he needed to slow down or downsize his garden, those knee replacements turned back the clock with regard to mobility and absence of pain. The next year his springtime garden was in peak form. True to form, when offers of help were made, he sincerely thanked those who offered and said, "That is okay, Doris and I can manage." They did indeed. Once again my Dad inspired me to work hard, smile and be thankful. My Dad was ten feet tall.

Coincidentally during my father's illness mentioned above, God began preparing my heart to return to live near my parents. Tracey and I realized independently but in the same timeframe, that we would be making a move to Maryland. We knew this before I had a local job or sold our Colorado home. In God's time a job was offered, the Colorado house was sold, a Maryland home was purchased and the move was made. Tracey's and my interpretation of God's plan was to be local and more supportive of my parents. We only got the being local correct. In reality, shortly after returning, Tracey was diagnosed with early-stage breast cancer. The prognosis was optimistic, the treatment plan was aggressive, and both my parents lovingly prayed and provided constant support. Almost two years later all tests remain clear. Tracey feels we came back to be figuratively touched again and again by my parents. Thankfully, these last couple of years provided many opportunities to enjoy the company and fellowship of my parents.

My father and mother were happily married for 62 years. They were the epitome of a team. It is just a fact that each completed the other. All who know them as friend or family cherish their love. To join this family by birth or marriage is a blessing of the richest kind. My father was just a few weeks shy of his 89th birthday, in excellent health. He worked daily in the beloved iris garden that he and my mother created. The beauty and serenity of their garden was a gift they enjoyed sharing far and wide. It was not only on tours it has been pictorially published in national iris society calendars, making the cover shot several times. My father was a beacon of strength, wisdom, gentleness, and love to his family and friends - a man of few words letting his actions speak volumes. He looked you in the eye with a twinkle from his. My father was quietly but deeply religious. Although his passing was unexpected, his bags were packed when the Lord called.

I will close with a reading from 1 Corinthians chapter 13:

***“Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous, love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth, bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails; ... Now abide in faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”***

I believe my father lived those inspirational words as well as anyone humanly can.  
My loving Dad was ten feet tall.

**RVP REPORT OCTOBER 7, 2005 RICHMOND, VA**  
GINNYSPOON

The Symposium results were tallied and sent to Gerry Snyder in early October. There were 52. Region 4 votes, down from a high of 61 votes in 2003. The Bulletin was sent in a timely manner so the low vote number was unexpected. Please try to vote the Symposium next summer and send your votes to our new RVP, Jerry Coates.

MYGINNY made number one on the Symposium this year for Region 4 with 29 votes, LITTLE JOHN was second and DAUGHTER OF STARS took third place. DUSKY CHALLENGER, normally first place was fourth. UNCLE CHARLIE, CLARENCE, LADY FRIEND, CONJURATION, IMMORTALITY and THORNBIRD were also among the top 10 favorites for Region 4.

My term as RVP is ending with this meeting in Richmond, and I want to thank my chairmen and officers for their splendid help these past three years. The hard working and exceptional presidents of our local societies have made a large contribution both to Region 4 and to AIS. It has been quite an adventure serving as RVP, and I have been to some interesting places and met many new and wonderful irisarians. I have been invited to speak in various places for garden clubs as well as iris societies and made lots of new friends. Recently I gave a Judge's training to the Northern Illinois Iris Society and their president, Tish Challos took me on a tour of her native Chicago. I never would have thought that Chicago was so lovely. We had dinner at the beautiful Navy Docks along Lake Michigan where there was a stained glass museum. Before dinner Tish took me around the city where I saw the Sears Tower, a botanical conservatory, the Millennium Park, and many seasonal flower plantings making the imposing city look like a series of bright and cozy front yards.

I was pleased to hear that Region 4 is now tied for first place in the National Membership contest. Mac Shawe has done an exceptional job as the Region 4 Membership Chairman, both in recruiting new members and helping the societies with their membership lists. The societies who have put on flower shows and sales and made free plants, membership information, AIS "Invitation to Join" brochures and enthusiasm available to the people who attended these events have made this membership increase possible. Keep up the good work. Many of the societies have asked me how we have managed to increase membership when many of theirs have fallen. I told them what we have been doing in Region 4 and especially our youth programs admirably chaired by David Stoll. FSK and C&P have youth fellowship stipends for worthy youths. We are all so proud of youth member Kristen Laing who was the winner of the 2005 Clark-Cosgrove Award.

Being a judge and an RVP does have its advantages so I invite those of you who have not taken Judge's Training or held an office in your society to step up and go for the adventure of your life.

**MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING  
REGION 4, AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY  
HAMPTON INN, MIDLOTHIAN VA Friday, October 7, 2005**

The meeting was called to order at 12:35 p.m. by RVP Ginny Spoon with Anne Lowe serving as Secretary Pro tem pending the arrival of Carrie Winter, Secretary.

The RVP reported that she received 52 votes for the symposium which were sent to Gerry Snyder in early October.

The top 10 iris were-

- |                      |                  |
|----------------------|------------------|
| 1. My Ginny          | 6. Clarence      |
| 2. Little John       | 7. Uncle Charlie |
| 3. Daughter of Stars | 8. Lady Friend   |
| 4. Dusky Challenger  | 9. Conjuraton    |
| 5. Immortality       | 10. Thornbird    |

RVP continued with a reprise of her 3 years as RVP, she reported many interesting trips while meeting many wonderful people. Region 4 tied for 1<sup>st</sup> place with Region 14 for membership. Appreciation was expressed to Mac Shawe for an excellent job as Membership Chairman. The youth program was also complimented.

Jerry Coates, Assistant RVP, presented a proposal that for Fall 2006, Region 3 and Region 4 have a joint meeting. Jason Leader, RVP for Region 3, had indicated an interest in a joint meeting and that Region 3 would provide an advance of \$1000 for the meeting. Anne Lowe moved that the Region 4 Fall 2006 meeting be held in conjunction with Region 3; Jason Leader and Jerry Coates serving as co-Chairs. Anita Moran seconded the motion which passed. Roy Epperson moved that the treasurer be authorized to release up to \$1000 for pre-meeting expenses. The motion seconded by Carol Warner, passed.

Carol Warner suggested that Region 3 be invited to join us for the Spring 2007 region. Many irises (206) have been provided for 2007 Spring meeting.

A motion made by Carol Warner and seconded by Roy Epperson, to approve the minutes of the board meeting as printed in NEWSCAST passed.

Carrie Winter arrived at this point and reported that there was an omission in the minutes of the general membership meeting held May 7, 2005. The roll call had inadvertently left out Charlotte Iris Society with 7 persons attending. The group accepted the correction and asked that it be incorporated into the minutes.

## MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING (cont)

Carol Warner presented the Treasurers Report which is presented elsewhere in NEWSCAST. Anita Moran moved that the Treasurer invest funds up to \$10,000 in a Certificate of Deposit on behalf of region 4, seeking the most attractive interest available with the treasurer and the RVP having signature privileges. Seconded by Roy Epperson, the motion passed.

Don Spoon, Auction Chairman, reported that the materials for the auction had been provided to the Laings for this meeting.

Ginny Spoon expressed hope that enough stalks and exhibitors would be available for the show to be held Saturday. 20 stalks from a minimum of 4 exhibitors are needed for a Fall Show.

Carol Warner, Beardless Chairman, reported a successful Japanese Convention had been held in Summer 2005 in Delaware. Beardless guests have arrived for 2007 Spring meeting.

The budget proposed by Jack Loving at the Spring Meeting was accepted. Loving pointed out that at the Spring 2005 meeting a motion had been made and passed to provide \$1000 for the Fall 2007 AIS Board Meeting to be held in the Triad Area of NC.

Anita Moran, NEWSCAST editor, reported great support for the articles included. She indicated that Owings Rebert would be remembered in the next issue.

Executive Board Meeting, Region 4, AIS, October 7, 2005

Anita Moran, recently appointed webmaster for Region 4, reported that the web page is being redesigned and is currently under construction.

The complete report by Roy Epperson, Judges Training Chair is included.

Legal Counsel, Bill Kuykendall, was not present and there was no report.

Ginny Spoon, Chair Median Irises, reported that there would be a median convention May 2007 in Lincoln, Nebraska following the AIS convention to be held in Oklahoma. Region 4 has sent guest irises.

Bill Mull was not present and no report was available for Photography.

No report was available for Reblooming Irises. Mike Lockett, Chair, continues to request information concerning your experiences with rebloomers.

## **MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING (cont)**

No report was available from the Chair of the Robins, Libby Cross.

There was no report from Margaret Stone, Historian for Region 4.

Reports from the following affiliates were presented;

Central Virginia Iris Society-Linda Laing, President  
Charlotte iris Society-Carrie Winter, President  
Eastern North Carolina-submitted by Susan Grigg, Vice President  
Francis Scott Key, Sent by Doris Rebert, President  
Fredericksburg Area Iris Society-Jim Schroetter, President

Don Rude, Blacksburg, VA has expressed interest in starting a group for the Roanoke Area. It was suggested that some affiliates might be willing to assist in starting a Shenandoah Iris Society.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

RVP Spoon reported the Nearpass Award for 2005 was won by Clarence Mahan for Obi-Wan-Kenobi.

4.

Executive Board Meeting, Region 4, AIS, October 7, 2005

Jerry Coates was introduced as the new RVP, Ginny Spoon presented him with the RVP pin she had worn for the past 3 years.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Jim Schroetter expressed concern that people who bought Japanese Iris at the 2004 Spring Regional Meeting at Virginia Beach had never received the rhizomes. The president of the Hampton Roads Iris Society was to be made aware of the problem.

Roy Epperson presented some information concerning the AIS 2006 Convention indicating that full information would be in the October Issue of the BULLETIN. He pointed out that a mini-convention for Siberians would be a single day following the AIS convention.

Don Spoon moved that Region 4 send \$300 allocated in the budget for memorials be sent in the memory of Owings Rebert, the particular component of AIS to be determined after discussing it with Doris Rebert.

Mike Lowe seconded the motion which passed.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 2:15.

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
REGION 4, AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY  
St. Johns Clubhouse, Midlothian, VA  
Saturday, October 8, 2005**

Following dinner, RVP Ginny Spoon thanked every one for attending the meeting. Roll call indicated the following affiliates had been represented at the meeting- Central Virginia Iris Society, Charlotte Iris Society, Chesapeake and Potomac Iris Society, Eastern North Carolina Iris Society, Francis Scott Key Iris Society and Fredericksburg Iris Society.

Krissy Laing and her violin teacher presented several numbers prior to the closing of the Silent Auction.

The RVP introduced the new officers for 2006 and thanked CVIS for hosting the fall 2005 meeting. Carrie Winter, president of CIS, then extended an invitation to come to Charlotte, May 5-6, for the Region 4 Spring meeting 2006. On behalf of the Region, Carrie thanked RVP Ginny Spoon for the outstanding leadership she provided Region 4 as RVP.

George Sutton of Sutton iris gardens, California, presented a slide program showing many examples from his hybridizing. His work is known for his contributions in the development of Space Age and Reblooming irises.

**REGION 4, AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY  
JUDGES AND JUDGES' TRAINING REPORT**

E. Roy Epperson, Chairman

October 7, 2005

\* \* \* \* \*

For 2006, the following changes occurred in the Roster of Region 4 Accredited Judges:

Moved from Master/Active to Master/Retired: Ruth Walker  
Advanced (2) Apprentice to Accredited Garden [Michael Lockett, David Traylor]  
One Emeritus removed due to death [Dr. Lloyd Zurbrigg]

For 2006, Region 4 will have the following Roster summary of Accredited judges:

23 Accredited Garden  
3 Master: Active  
7 Master: Retired  
4 Emeritus  
0 Apprentice

Of these 37 judges, 30 are fully accredited (Garden, Master/Active, Emeritus); 7 are Master/Retired.

2006 Roster of Judges. Reaion 4

**Accredited Garden**

Ms. Barbara Alexander  
Mr. David Bowen  
Mrs. Pat Bowen  
Mr. Randell Bowen  
Ms. Sandra Bryan  
Ms. Libby Cross  
Ms. Glenna de Quoy  
Ms. Ruth Holbrook  
Dr. L. Bruce Hornstein  
Mr. Daniel Laing  
Ms. Kristen Laing  
Mrs. Linda Laing  
Mr. Michael Locatell  
Mr. Bill Mull  
Ms. Marian "Bea" Rogers  
Mr. Merrick "Mac" Shaw  
Mr. William C. Smoot  
Dr. Donald M. Spoon  
Ms. Ginny W. Spoon  
Mrs. Frances Thrash  
Mr. David L. Traylor  
Mrs. Carrie Winter  
Mrs. Joan R. Wood

**Master/Active**

Ms. Anne Lowe  
Mr. Mike Lowe  
Mrs. Katharine Steele

**Master|Retired**

Mrs. Glenn Grigg, Jr. (Susan)  
Mrs. Paul D. Kabler  
Mrs. Nancy Karriker  
Dr. Joseph B. Parker, Jr.  
Mrs. Millie Trent  
Mrs. Ruth Walker  
Mr. Dennis A. Wilkie

**Emeritus**

Dr. E. Roy Epperson  
Mrs. Frank H. J. Figge  
Mr. Clarence E. Mahan  
Ms. Carol Warner

**Apprentice**

None

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

**May 6, 2005 to October 7, 2005**

**Balance on May 6, 2005:** **\$17,857.26**

**Receipts:**

Spring Auction:	\$398.00
Donations:	\$0.00
Memorials for Lloyd Zurbrigg:	
Individual: E. Zurbrigg	\$50.00
Interest:	\$6.51

**Total Receipts:** **\$454.51**

**Expenditures:**

Deposit Slip Printing	\$5.08
August 2005 <i>Newscast</i> Printing	\$949.55
August 2005 <i>Newscast</i> Mailing	\$138.33
Membership Chairman Expenses	\$59.42
Youth Award (Krissy Laing)	\$200.00
RVP Convention Reimbursement	\$600.00
Flowers - Owings Rebert	\$105.00

**Total Expenditures:** **\$2,057.38**

**Balance on October 7, 2005:** **\$16,254.39**

9/18/2005

## Vote Summary, descending by count total

Code	Variety	Total Votes
		52
283	MY GINNY	29
248	LITTLE JOHN	26
121	DAUGHTER OF STARS	25
139	DUSKY CHALLENGER	23
205	IMMORTALITY	22
94	CLARENCE	22
413	UNCLE CHARLIE	18
233	LADY FRIEND	16
104	CONJURATION	16
400	THORNBIRD	16
213	JESSE'S SONG	16
362	SILVERADO	15
365	SKY AND SUN	14
116	CROWNED HEADS	13
354	SEA POWER	13
381	SPLASHACATA	13
325	QUEEN'S CIRCLE	13
416	VANITY	13
36	BEVERLY SILLS	12
78	CELEBRATION SONG	12
385	STARRING	12
81	CHAMPAGNE ELEGANCE	12
420	VICTORIA FALLS	11
189	HELLO DARKNESS	10
403	TITAN'S GLORY	10

The Full list is available on the regional website

[www.irisregion4.com/NewsCast.html](http://www.irisregion4.com/NewsCast.html)

## **MEDIAN REPORT-OCTOBER 2005**

Ginny Spoon

The next National Median Convention (2007 PRAIRIE GOLD) will be held in Lincoln, Nebraska

in conjunction with the Region 21 Spring Tour, immediately following the AIS National Convention in

Oklahoma City in May 2007. Median guest irises were sent by Winterberry Gardens from the following

Region 4 hybridizers: Clarence Mahan, Griffin Crump, Don and Ginny Spoon, D. C. Nearpass, and Paul Hill (formerly from Region 4). The guest plants were shipped in August of 2005 and a list is attached of the cultivars that were sent. As you can see, Region 4 will be well represented.

If you are a member of the Median Iris Society you may vote the Median Symposium even if you

are not an AIS Judge. Some of the favorite medians for 2004 were SDBS: CAT'S EYE (P. Black 02) in first place, CHANTED (Blyth 90), CHUBBY CHEEKS (P. Black 85), and MINIDRAGON (M. Smith 98). Some favorite IBs were: STARWOMAN (M. Smith 98), DELIRIUM (M. Smith 01).

### **Membership Report (Mac Shaw)**

As of October 1, 2005 Region 4 has 450 memberships, (64 are dual memberships).

The individual chapters added new members since May 1, 2005 the following:

AHIS	1
C&PIS	10
CIS	0
CMIS	3
CVIS	2
ENCIS	3
ESIS	0
FAIS	13
FSKIS	19
HRIS	4
VPIS	0

These new memberships brought Region 4 to a tie for the number one position for the largest number of members in the AIS.

## **J. OWINGS REBERT**

**1917 -2005**

With the death of J. Owings Rebert on September 1, 2005, his wife Doris lost a beloved partner of more than 50 years, I lost a valued friend of 15 years, and the world of antique irises has lost one of its most dedicated supporters.

Owings had a love and appreciation for the older varieties of irises and he collected them for many years. In so doing, he was a man ahead of his time. In his garden there are many irises that cannot be found anywhere else. Preservation is the key word here and, in this respect, Owings has done much to keep many older varieties from becoming lost. This is what HIPS is all about and we owe him a major expression of gratitude.

Owings was generous. I write this seated in my back yard, and as I look around at the various beds, I see irises almost everywhere that came from his garden. He was so pleased when visitors showed interest in his cherished historic, and was happy to share not only his plants but also his knowledge. Almost every major grower of older irises in this country has plants that came from the Rebert collection. Owings, in his late eighties, still maintained a garden of perhaps two thousand irises, many other flowers and shrubs and a first class vegetable patch, none of which he could have accomplished without Doris. Her constant support, care and help were major factors in his remarkable vitality. The two of them were important contributors when their local iris society held annual iris shows and sales. Additionally Owings served for many years as Region 4 Treasurer. He also was a dedicated worker for his church.

For years, a visit to the Rebert garden has been a highlight of the iris bloom season for me. I hope to continue this but it won't be the same without Owings there. I will miss him very much.

Cameron Hall, Virginia

\*\*\*\*\*

Those who attended the 1991 National Convention had the privilege of touring the Rebert garden which was at peak bloom for the occasion. There irises from the 1940s through the 1960s presented in mass plantings, probably did more to espouse the cause of preserving/growing older iris cultivars than any written word could ever have accomplished. The photo ops were infinite and, in the years since that convention, photographs taken in this amazing iris garden have graced the cover of the AIS Bulletin, been in the AIS Calendars on several occasions, and appeared in various section publications as well as in independent magazine articles.

It is impossible to talk about Owings as an individual. For me it has always been Owings and Doris, almost as one word. Long before iris preservation was popular, these two irisarians carried out what later became the main goals of HIPS in ways that no one else I know has done. Since HIPS was founded in 1988 Owings never failed to lend a hand when asked and, as Editor of ROOTS, I often needed help.

It is ironic that the HIPS Distinguished Service Plaque was awarded to Owings and Doris (in absentia) at the HIPS Board Meeting in St. Louis, and was mailed to them on August 31<sup>st</sup>-just hours before Owings died in his sleep. However, somehow I feel that he knows all about it, and it is my hope that having this tangible form of recognition may, in some small way, bring comfort to Doris!

The Reberts have been our friends for many years. Like Cameron, Mike and I will miss Owings very much.

Anne Lowe, Virginia

**CENTRAL VIRGINIA IRIS SOCIETY CHAPTER REPORT**  
DAVID L. TRAYLOR , President

REGIONAL REPORT October, 2005

CVIS had another exciting year with an Iris Show, garden tours, and great get togethers. On May 21 we had our third annual iris show. It was a little bit later this year but we still had a lot of entries. Janie Lewis and Freida Jerrell graciously opened their gardens. We had a plant swap in September and now in October we have our first Regional. We welcome all with open arms. This Regional will be different but all of us as CVIS members know that it will be enjoyable.

**CHARLOTTE IRIS SOCIETY**  
President Carrie Winter

**CHARLOTTE IRIS SOCIETY REGION 4, FALL MEETING OCTOBER 7, 2005**

**One additional meeting for 2005 remains for the Charlotte Iris Society (CIS) – The Holiday Dinner which will be Friday evening, November 18. This 4 year tradition has provided an opportunity for CIS to honor members that have made special contributions to CIS. Each of the members honored up to now- Katharine Steele, Dave Hull and Ruth Holbrook was a ‘victim’ of surprise.**

**Since the Region 4 Spring meeting, we have had our Summer Sale of Bearded iris and other perennials at The Greenery of the Farmers Market in July. More recently we have had our Fall Auction and Fixed Price sale at Black Lion. The auction featured beardless iris – Siberians, Japanese and Pseudodatas. Both sales netted a total of approximately \$1500. The net proceeds from our sales have decreased substantially from the proceeds several years ago. Our endowed scholarship fund for the Horticulture Department at Central Piedmont Community College which is supported partially by our sales is now valued at \$18,825.**

**January 2006 begins a new organizational year for us with the first event being our February Seminar. The big challenge for 2006 will be our hosting the Region 4 Spring meeting. The date is set for May 6-7 and gardens have been selected for the garden tour. Since we accepted the request to hold the meeting after the Region 4 Fall Meeting, there was not time for the 2 year guest iris to be planted. However we were able to plant guest iris from Winterberry during the summer of 2005. Bearded iris have not fared well in Charlotte during the last several years, so we have an elevated anxiety level for the bloom season. We do promise warm Carolina Hospitality and lovely gardens with or without a bountiful iris bloom season.**

**Carrie Winter  
President, CIS**

**CHESAPEAKE & POTOMAC IRIS SOCIETY**

President: Dave Stoll

**2006 Schedule C&P Iris Society**

- 18 March, Saturday                      Spring Meeting (Luncheon) @ Fairview Marriott, Falls Church, VA  
General Meeting and slide show 12-4p.m.
- 5-6 May, Friday-Saturday              Spring Regional –Charlotte, NC
- 13 May, Saturday                      Spring Show & Pot Luck Lunch – Meadowlark Park Botanical Gardens, Vienna, VA 10 -12. Setup, 12-1p,m, Judging 1-4 p.m. open to the public
- 14 May, Sunday                      Garden Tours (details to be announced)
- 20 May, Saturday                      Young at Heart/Youth Hybridizing Clinic, Winterberry Gardens Cross Junction, VA RSVP 540-888-4447, potluck lunch, optional garden training sessions 12-5 p.m.
- 22-27 May                              AIS National Convention—Oregon
- 22 July, Saturday                      Club Iris Sale @ Meadowlark Park Botanical Gardens, VA Setup: 9-10 a.m. sale 10-4 p.m.
- 16 September, Saturday              Picnic/Plant Exchange/Club meeting – The Jones', Fairfax, VA 12-5 p.m. Bring a dish to share and something to grill  
RSVP 703-573-7675
- 6-7 October, Friday-Saturday      Fall Regional Meeting –Gettysburg, MD

# Region 4 Affiliates

## EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA IRIS SOCIETY CHAPTER REPORT

President: Margaret Pearson

### October 7, 2005

ENCIS has had a busy time in July digging guest iris beds after the Spring Region 4 Convention. The hybridizers were most generous with their plants and there were many boxes of quality rhizomes to be auctioned at our meeting on Saturday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Our next meeting is our Holiday Gathering on Saturday, November 19 at the home of Dr. Roy Epperson in High Point.

In January 2006 ENCIS will meet for our annual business and planning meeting on Saturday the 21<sup>st</sup> in Raleigh. With most of our officers returning next year we hope to have an accredited show and perhaps a public sale of irises.

Submitted by Susan Grigg, Vice-President

## FRANCIS SCOTT KEY IRIS SOCIETY CHAPTER REPORT

President: DORIS REBERT

First of all, let me say that FSK has lost a very devoted member. Owings certainly had the Iris Society as well as its' members foremost in his concern. The entire Rebert family is grateful for the out pouring of concern, sympathy, and comfort afforded us surrounding Owings' passing.

The following summary is submitted for the FSK Society:

- Our Iris Shows were a great success. The show at F S K Mall in Frederick, MD was well represented and well attended. On June 25th, we held our Beardless Show in conjunction with the District III Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland. This event included design classifications which proved to be very pleasing.
- The Rhizome Sales, which were held in both Baltimore and Frederick, not only were profitable for our treasury but also to our membership, as 21 new members joined our Society as a result of attending the sales.
- Jerry and Mary Ann Coates hosted our annual picnic and Board meeting at their cottage. As always, everyone enjoyed the plentiful food, the socializing, and the good time. The Board was able to finalize most of the calendar of events for the upcoming year.
- Guest Irises are in place in the display beds for the Spring Regional 2007 Meeting. Plans are being finalized for this event. The final event planned for this year is our Membership Luncheon to be held on October 22<sup>o</sup> at Boulevard & Beyond in Westminster with Sylvia Smith Deck presenting the program, "Water Gardens and Iris".

Doris B. Rebert -- President

# Region 4 Affiliates

## FREDERICKSBURG AREA IRIS SOCIETY CHAPTER REPORT

President: Jim Schroetter

### Fredericksburg Area Iris Society Chapter Report

FAIS has had an interesting and productive year so far.

Although our area has had little rain in recent weeks - even setting a new record low for September rainfall - it was much better during the spring. The cooperative weather led to another wonderful bloom season in our gardens, and we took advantage of it by having a garden tour during May.

This was the first year we opted not to have a spring show during our peak bloom in mid-May; this would have conflicted with our spring regional meeting. Rather, we had a delightful "beardless" show during June that brought in a wide range of cultivars for public viewing. Besides the expected JIs, SIBs, and LAs, we also had Spurias, TBs, some seedlings, and more. Our Queen of the Show went to Lois Rose for SPEC-X FOR JAY. Kudos to our expert judges, Carol Warner and Bruce Hornstein! We're especially grateful to Bruce, who showed up despite being on the mend from a recent illness.

We've had two of our meetings where the program featured one or more of the CDs we purchased from AIS this year. We've learned a lot and thoroughly enjoyed them.

Our sale went very well this year. Although we could have used just a little less rain - which slightly hampered attendance we still managed to take in a large amount for the treasury, and we brought in 15 new members!

This year's FAIS Scholarship went to Kathryn P. Schlesinger, who is a horticultural student at Virginia Tech hailing from Fredericksburg.

Our annual picnic was held at the spectacular antebellum home of Mary and Claude Prozinski in Caroline County. We made our way through a buffet of tasty foods in the dining room, to the tables and good fellowship on the massive colonial porch. A plant exchange followed the dining, and everyone had a great time there!

Still on the horizon is our yearly fall Harvest Dinner. At this finale event, we will hold elections of our new officers, and together celebrate this year of great times with our fellow irisarians. We will end this year with well over 80 members, so FAIS is on a solid foundation for the future. It was a pleasure serving as president of this fine organization for the past 3 years!

Submitted by: Jim Schroetter  
President, Fredericksburg Area Iris Society  
October, 2005

# SHAKER'S PRAYER Wins AGM

*Clarence Mahan*

This past summer I received an email from a friend in England telling me that a Joint Iris Committee of the Royal Horticulture Society and the British Iris Society had selected the Siberian iris SHAKER'S PRAYER (Warner 90) for the Award of Garden Merit (AGM).

The AGM is the highest award an iris can receive in Great Britain other than the Dykes Memorial Medal. The British awards system is not like the American system. Irises must be introduced in North America to be eligible for American awards. But in Great Britain any iris can win awards with one exception. The exception is the British Dykes Memorial Medal. North American irises are not eligible for the British Dykes Medal because the American Dykes Memorial Medal, awarded by the British Iris Society, is reserved for irises originating in North America.

The Award of Merit in the British system is not the same as the Award of Merit in the American system. It is a garden iris award in the American system, but an exhibition award in the British system. The British equivalent of the American Award of Merit is called the Award of Garden Merit. It is awarded by the Royal Horticultural Society and all types of plants are eligible to receive it. Outstanding irises are selected to receive this award by the Joint Iris Committee of the Royal Horticultural Society and the British Iris Society.

To be eligible for the Award of Garden Merit a plant must first be selected for Trial at Wisley. Plants selected for trial are then evaluated for a number of years. Only the most outstanding are selected for the AGM. Plants that receive the AGM are listed in a publication of the Royal Horticultural Society, and the AGM designation is added to the name of the iris when it is listed in a catalogue for sale. The AGM announces: "This is an outstanding plant."

Carol Warner can be justly proud of SHAKER'S PRAYER. I feel privileged to have played a role in the history of this iris. I recall, as though it were yesterday, the first time I saw a clump of this elegant iris with fairy-like violet flowers blooming on four foot stalks in Carol's garden. A slight breeze caused the flowers to sway and dance. When I asked Carol what it was—it had no garden label—she said it was just a chance seedling that appeared in the garden. She liked it but thought it was probably too species-like to appeal to most iris connoisseurs. I disagreed and told her it was the most beautiful iris in her garden.



Photo Courtesy of Laurie Frasier

## SHAKER'S PRAYER Wins AGM (Cont.)

Other people also admired Carol's seedling in her garden. This admiration prompted her to enter it in the Francis Scott Key Iris Society show. It came as no surprise to me when I learned it had been selected by the show judges as Best Seedling.



A couple of years later Carol and Rosalie Figge rode with Suky and me to a Japanese iris convention in Michigan. On the way home, Carol asked me if I could suggest a name for her iris. I told her that I liked the name "Shaker's

Prayer" because the Shakers used to pray by dancing and her iris was at its best when it danced in the wind. She liked the name. At that time Carol did not sell irises by mail. I was operating The Iris Pond, a mail order nursery. Carol asked me to introduce her iris and in 1990, the Iris Pond introduced SHAKER'S PRAYER

I made an advertising mistake when I introduced SHAKER'S PRAYER. I had a splendid close up picture of a stalk of SHAKER'S PRAYER that I put in the AIS *Bulletin*. It was not the picture I should have used. The glory of 'Shaker's Prayer' is when it is a clump in the garden, not on the exhibition table. I heard negative comments about the picture of the iris from a number of Siberian iris authorities and hybridizers at the AIS convention in 1990. I defended SHAKER'S PRAYER against all assaults. Sales the first year were slight. But the day was saved!

The following year the AIS convention was in Region 4 and those who attended saw SHAKER'S PRAYER in all its magnificence in Carol's garden. It won the President's Cup for best in-region iris. All but one of the people who had uttered unkind remarks about SHAKER'S PRAYER the year before apologized. Sales of SHAKER'S PRAYER soared.

The President's Cup was only the first high honor given to SHAKER'S PRAYER. When it won an Honorable Mention from AIS it received more judges' votes than any other iris and thereby won the Walther Cup. Then it won the Award of Merit. Finally it won the Morgan-Wood Medal for best Siberian iris. Now the world knows the extraordinary beauty of Carol Warner's "chance seedling." All of us in Region 4 can take pride in this tall, stately iris from Maryland: SHAKER'S PRAYER, winner of the Award of Garden Merit.

## Youth Corner:

### Where Do I Belong

Iris	Type	Award
a. Star Prince b. Black Game Cock c. Cherry Supreme d. Little Rhyme e. Syrian Princess f. Petite Shadow g. Moon and Stars h. Persian Padishaw i. Daughter of Stars j. Reminiscence k. Shaker's Prayer l. Chief Sequoia m. White Heron n. Celia Wella o. Kimie	A. Miniature Dwarf Bearded B. Standard Dwarf Bearded C. Louisiana D. Aril Bred E. Californicae (PCN) F. Spuria G. Japanese H. Miniature Tall Bearded I. Intermediate Bearded J. Siberian K. SPEC-X L. Aril M. Tall Bearded N. Border Bearded O. Species	1. William Mohr Medal 2. Caparne-Welch Medal 3. Randolph-Perry Medal 4. Eric Nies Medal 5. Hans and Jacob Sass Medal 6. Knowlton Medal 7. C.G. White Medal 8. Sydney B. Mitchell Medal 9. Cook-Douglas Medal 10. Founders of SIGNA medal 11. Williamson-White Medal 12. J.A. Payne Medal 13. John C. Wister Medal 14. Morgan-Wood Medal 15. Mary Swards Deballion Medal

Connect the above Iris with their correct Type and Award see how well you can do.

Answers below.

Where Do I Belong answers: (a,B,9); (b,C,15); (c,I,5); (d,O,10); (e,D,1); (f,A,2); (g,N,6); (h,L,7); (i,M,13); (j,H,11); (k,J,14); (l,E,8); (m,F,4); (n,K,3); (o,G,12)

# WEB NEWS

MargieV



**AGAIN AND AGAIN** (Sterling Innerst, R. 1999). Sdlg. Re4619-1. TB 36" (91 cm) M & RE. "Medium yellow; beards white; slight fragrance. Renown X Anxious.

First I want to apologize for the current state of the web pages as they are a work in progress. I have been working the last months on the reblooming pages and they will now look like those here. Unfortunately I do not have the pictures necessary to fill post for all the Iris that rebloom in region 4. If while you are browsing and see a rebloom page like the second one here and you have a mug shot you wish to share please send it to me either snail mail or electronically by e-mail at avmo-ran1@earthlink.net.

All local society presidents need also to know that they will now have their own web space in which I can place just about anything you would like to post from schedules to results. Please submit what ever you would like to see on your portion of the web page.

I am also updating all the links that I feel need to be on the sight. If there are web sites that you feel are important that I have not put up please let me know. As with the Newscast, the Region 4 web pages are for you. Please let me know what I can do to improve them.

If there are sites for members in region 4 that they would like linked that have to do with Iris, also let me know.

I hope to have the next round of changes up by the end of December, now that the Newscast is completed. Thanks for any help you can give me

Anita Moran

Web Aficionado (yea, that's better)

**AUTUMN IVORY** Ginny Spoon, R. 2000. Sdlg. 94-23A. BB 26" (66 cm) EM & RE. "Ruffled ivory white; beards white at end and base, yellow to golden yellow in throat; flared; slight sweet fragrance. Zurich X Chaste White.

## Your Region 4 Web Address

[www.irisregion4.com](http://www.irisregion4.com)

# SPRING REGIONAL 2006

Coming the 5th and 6th of May 2006 the Spring Regional for Region 4 will be hosted by CHARLOTTE IRIS SOCIETY. Though there are still much to be worked out, and that information will be published in the March Newscast, we estimate the cost of registration to be \$100.00. There will also be a show so bring plenty of stalks.

The garden tours will include the garden of Barbara Alexander, which many may remember her wonderful talk on species iris. Barbara will be showing off her fabulous species collection as well as bearded guest. Ruth Holbrook's garden will not only have a large personal collect of bearded iris but also a variety of Rhododendron and Azaleas. Dave Hull's garden is host to many plants imported from China, bearded iris, some species and Siberians. Also garden judges training will be held in Dave's garden.

All the gardens on the tour are very diverse and a special treat to visit. We hope that you all have a chance to come down and see us. We look forward to seeing many of you.

Rebloom Report 2005  
Ginny Spoon, Region 4

We had the best rebloom display we have ever had in our Winterberry Gardens even though it was a later rebloom than usual due to the drought we had over the summer. We watered some of the rebloomers in late August so that we would have some to take to the Region 4 show the second weekend of October, but we only had a few stalks to bring. Even then, they had just enough entries to make an official show. The next weekend of October we held our C&P show and the club members had over 20 stalks to make a lovely official show. The show was held at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens in Vienna, Virginia and the public enjoyed the display of fall blooms. The rebloom stalks reached their peak the first week of November and just before Thanksgiving we had a hard freeze (17 degrees) that put an end to a lovely fall garden iris display. The following is a list of the irises we had rebloom for us:

July: MIDSUMMER'S EVE (BB)

August: MIDSUMMER'S EVE, CONSTANT COMPANION (IB), DOUBLE YOUR FUN (IB)

September: MIDSUMMER'S EVE, BOLDER BOULDER

October: DOUBLEDAY, PRECIOUS LITTLE PINK, CONSTANT COMPANION, FEED-BACK, REDELTA, AUTUMN ORANGELITE, AUTUMN TRYST, AGAIN AND AGAIN, OVER AND OVER, BONUS MAMA, EARL OF ESSEX, I DO, IMMORTALITY, ANGELIC WINGS

BBs: COLOR BRITE, PINK REPRISE, ROTUNDA, AUTUMN ORANGELITE, RIELLE, FALL FESTIVAL, and PEACH PARASOL

SDBs: GIGGLER, QUIETLY, HOT, JEWEL BABY, ROSALIE LOVING, SWEETHEARTS AGAIN, WINTER EMBRACE, MENTOR MARSH (Willott 2003), PRETTY GIRL, SWEETHEARTS AGAIN and SKY WILLOW (2005), our most prolific SDB rebloomer this year

MDBs: ROYAL MAROON





**November:** ANGELIC WINGS, AUTUMN CIRCUS, AUTUMN TRYST, BANANA CREAM, BILLIONAIRE, BLUE MOONLIGHT, BLUE REVIEW, BONUS MAMA, BORN AGAIN, CEE CEE, CELESTIAL HAPPINESS, CHRISTIANE ELIZABETH, CITY LIGHTS, COLOR WATCH, DAUGHTER OF STARS, DAYS OF SUMMER, DOUBLE TIME, DUNE SEA, EARL OF ESSEX, FEED BACK, GRACE THOMAS, LADY ESSEX, LUMINOSITY, MY FRIEND JONATHAN, OVER AND OVER, PURPLE MAGIC, PERFUME COUNTER, QUEEN DOROTHY, REDELTA, RENOWN, SUNNY DISPOSITION, WINTERLAND, JENNIFER REBECCA,

FAITHFUL AND TRUE, HAPPY NEW YEAR, HARVEST OF MEMORIES, I REPEAT, LICHEN, THEN AGAIN, RONEY'S ENCORE, SEA WORLD, RETURNING ROSE, TOTAL RECALL, SEPTEMBER REPLAY, RASPBERRY FROST (Sutton 2001), RENOWN, GLOWING SERAPHIM, STARGATE (Wilkerson 2005), SWEET SOLITUDE, WHITE REPRISE, WINTERLAND (our vote for most beautiful stalks), and ZEE (most cold hardy).

IBs: BLESSED ASSURANCE, REA PEEREZ, CHAMPAGNE ENCORE, CONSTANT COMPANION PRECIOUS LITTLE PINK,



Anita Moran  
Newscast Editor  
C/o  
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