



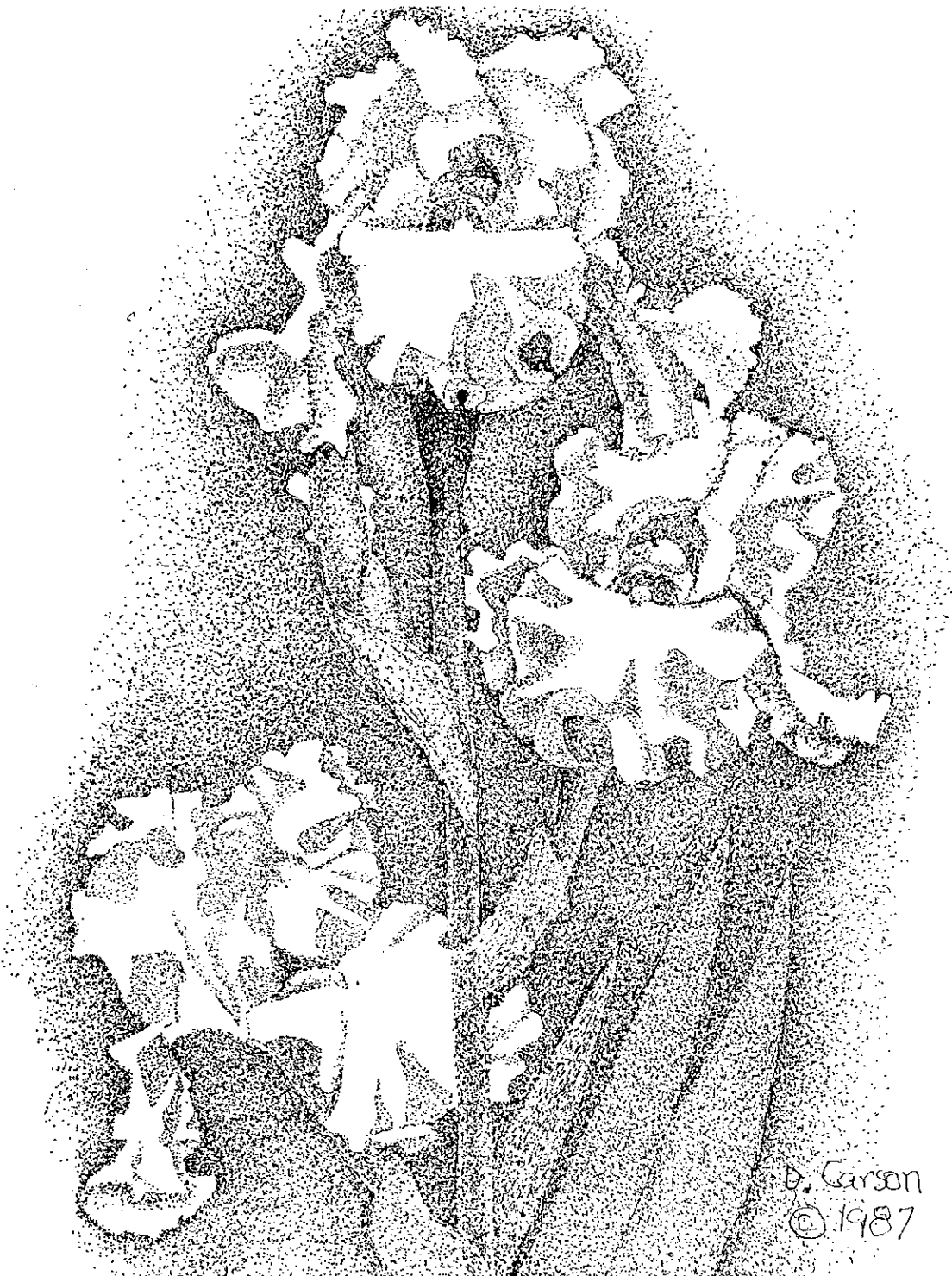
REBLOOMING IRIS RECORDER

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D. Carson
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REBLOOMING IRIS SOCIETY

A Section of the American Iris Society

OFFICERS

President: Dr. John H. Weiler, 1146 West Rialto, Fresno, CA 93705	TERMS EXPIRING: Spring '89
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Secretary: Howard L. Brookins, N75 W14257 N. Pt. Road, Menomonee Falls, WI 53051	Spring '89
Treasurer: Mrs Bernice M. Miller, Rt-4 Box-439B, Killen, AL 35645	Spring '88
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MEMBERSHIP AND ADVERTISING RATES

Memberships	Single	Family	Advertising Rates	
Annual.....	\$3.00	\$4.00	Full page... \$20.00	Qtr. page.. \$8.00
Triennial.....	\$7.50	\$10.00	Half page... \$12.50	1/8 page.. \$5.00
Life.....	\$50.00			

Back issues from fall 1978 are presently available from Virginia Mathews.
Updated checklist is in progress.

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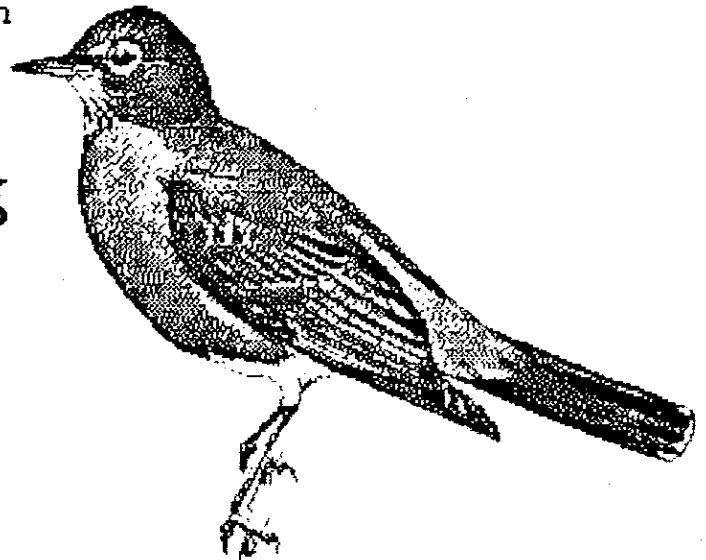
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Join a Reblooming
Robin!

Write: Mrs. Bernice M. Miller
Rt-4 Box-439B
Killen, AL 35645



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

There are exciting times ahead for all of us as we implement fresh ideas, adjust schedules for publishing and modify both content and format of *The Reblooming Iris Recorder* envisioned by the newly elected officers. Our Society is growing, a growth demanding changes, new ideas, and different approaches to care for and enhance interest of both present and future reblooming Iris enthusiasts. Already incorporated into this issue are some new ideas, "The Experts Answer," which will attempt to solve some of your cultural problems and questions about reblooming irises, a puzzle, and a contest to select both a slogan and a logo for RIS. We have established a policy of acknowledging both new memberships and renewals with a computer generated card and will store all information for quick retrieval so that it will be easier to keep an individual's identity and records straight. Next year at the AIS convention in Oklahoma City we have already scheduled a Board of Directors' meeting which may be attended by anyone interested. The Reblooming Iris Section meeting, also scheduled, will be available to all. For it we plan a display and a talk on Iris tissue and cell culture, embryo culture, developing disease resistance, cold tolerance and even the potential introduction of new traits into irises by genetic engineering. Handouts with chemical formulæ for the culture media will be available. There will also be a cut stalk display of reblooming iris by local Iris growers. For even farther into the future, the ground work has been completed and we are assured of a special in-ground display for reblooming iris cultivars when the AIS national convention is held in Omaha, Nebraska 1990 and in

Washington, D.C. 1991.

Although our membership is expanding we will be examining methods to encourage even more rapid increase. Everywhere interest in reblooming irises is growing, quality of rebloomers is improving, and more hybridizers are devoting some or all of their time toward developing better remontants. This, in turn, is stimulating more irisarians to become involved. Local societies are clamoring for programs on rebloomers, judges are asking for training in reblooming irises and even those expressing disdain in the past are peeking curiously around the corner to see what all the commotion may be. All these facts point to a rapidly expanding membership. If we are to serve you, the members, well we will need your input. Elsewhere in this issue is a listing of officers and committee chairs with addresses. Please contact us with your Iris problems, constructive criticisms, ideas and dreams for improving the Society. We will consider all ideas proposed, use as many as we can, and make every effort to produce a larger, improved, more interesting Society.


John Weiler

Kudos to Virginia Mathews, Past President. She has carried the load wherever and whenever needed - ranging from serving as interim editor of the RIR to conducting the semi-annual Rhizome sale.

REBLOOMING IRISES IN THE LANDSCAPE

Clarence Mahan

Reblooming bearded irises can be used in creating your garden landscape any place once blooming irises can be used to good effect. Rebloomers can be put to good use in small pockets in a rock garden, or planted in drifts among the rocks. They can be planted along the garden path or between the stepping stones. The small rebloomers are just as useful as once bloomers for edgings for mixed or herbaceous borders.

The reblooming intermediate irises can be used as specimen plants in perennial borders or, in selective sites, in the rock garden. The intermediates are not as showy as the border bearded or tall bearded, but in the spring they will bloom earlier. Thus, they can provide attractive contrast to yellow, white, pink and orange daffodils, or blue grape hyacinth or the later blooming crocus.

Just as the tall bearded and border bearded once blooming irises are outstanding massed in borders, used in clumps in mixed borders, put to good effect as specimen plants or used as companion plants with peonies, poppies, or old roses, so can rebloomers be used. And the range of companions for reblooming irises is much greater, for we can add perennials that bloom only in the fall, such as asters and chrysanthemums.

Now, having made the point that reblooming irises can be planted to good effect in the landscape anywhere once bloomers are used, let's tell the whole truth! Rebloomers are in fact more useful, and it is not just because rebloomers give two seasons of bloom in the same year either. The summer and fall bloom advantage of rebloomers is obvious. The additional

advantages are the tendency of cold weather rebloomers to be fairly rot resistant in comparison with many of the once blooming irises and the overall better foliage maintained by rebloomers. The period of dormancy that rebloomers go through is so brief that one does not have the same type of foliage deterioration commonly found among once blooming irises.

To get the best summer and fall performance out of reblooming irises, they are best located where they can be watered during dry spells. Also, one should not forget to give them a sprinkling of low nitrogen fertilizer after spring bloom is over. The vigorous growth and increase of reblooming irises usually calls for division more frequently than once blooming irises if one is to get the best out of them.

When my wife and I first put our pond in we envisioned it surrounded only by Japanese irises. We could not plant the Japanese irises right up to edge of the pond however, because of the leaching of lime from the cement. So my wife hit upon using clumps of **Baby Blessed** around the pond's edge, together with dwarf junipers, pines and azaleas. What an excellent idea it turned out to be. The lovely little dwarf, whose tendency is to bloom two or more times in the summer and fall, provides us with color before the JIs come and after they are gone.

In recent years, my wife has developed a penchant for the reblooming dwarfs. Having previously banned irises from the south side of the garden to make room for her beloved peonies, she has now confiscated **Willow Mist**, **Third Charm**, **Ditto**, **Plum Wine**, **Sunstrip**, **Thrice Blessed** (which has yet to rebloom here), **Baby Snowflake**, and **Third World**, to name a few, for the edge of the path which zigzags through the peonies and herbs. The old remountant climbing

noisette rose, 'Mme Alfred Carriere', sends out her creamy pink-blushed flowers above the path and, suddenly, Third Charm opens its lovely but oh so brightly colored blooms—such a lovely surprise in the fall!

It is easier to meet the cultural demands of rebloomers, the extra water and fertilizer, if they are not grown interspersed among the once blooming irises—at least this is "common wisdom". Actually, I have found that once blooming irises perform much better if they are treated like rebloomers and given the same additional care. But, if one grows lots of irises in beds segregated just for that purpose, it probably is preferable not to grow rebloomers scattered here and there. The reason is simple: when the rebloomers send forth summer and fall bloom, the effect is lost if they are dispersed among the less floriferous once bloomers. On the other hand, a nice fall bloom stalk is welcome wherever it appears.

Henry Mitchell has written that a wonderful effect is achieved in the landscape when lots and lots of yellows are used in iris borders. Henry also recommends limiting the use of flashy reds, variegatas, and plicatas to specimen plants. Fortunately, there are lots of good performing, lovely yellow reblooming tall bearded irises to choose from, such as Corn Harvest, Summer Olympics, Harvest of Memories, Lemon Reflection, Spirit of Memphis, Grace Thomas, and Delia's Child. And the charming Blessed Again, so very dependable, is choice among the yellow colored IBs.

If one follows Henry Mitchell's recommendation for a really effective color scheme in an iris bed, from a third to a half of the plants would have some yellow tint. A sixth of the plants may be dark, i.e. violet, blue, black; a sixth may be blends with emphasis

on orange; a sixth may be pink, orchid, white or clear magenta. Colors should be mixed up in the bed rather than segregated. And Henry's rule: "Whenever there is any doubt, plant light yellow."

As for the violets, blues, and blacks, Violet Miracle, Autumn Bugler, Grape Adventure, Bethany Clare, Feed Back, or Perfume Counter can all be used to good effect, and all rebloom fairly dependably in northern Virginia. There really are not a lot of excellent orange rebloomers, but Malaguena seems to be doing quite well in Virginia, and many of us are eagerly awaiting Bennett Jones's Orange Harvest—to be introduced in 1988. One might use Jean Guymer and Coral Charmer as "blended" irises.

For the sixth of the border that is "pink, orchid, white, or clear magenta", one might start with the most beautiful of all reblooming irises — the rose pink Jennifer Rebecca. Among the whites, both Immortality and Brother Carl are excellent, and English Cottage has so little plicata marking that it could be used as a white, as could Lightly Seasoned. Late Lilac is a lovely lilac-orchid, and, though the flowers are not large, they have excellent form. One might call Sign of Leo a magenta—and it is very popular among reblooming iris enthusiasts.

Leaving the spectacularly colored variegatas, plicatas, reds, and fancies out of the iris border is much easier for Henry Mitchell to say than for most of us to do. How can we resist such great beauties as Earl of Essex, Queen Dorothy, Belvi Queen, Cayenne Capers, and Witch of Endor? We can't and we need not. If one does not have room for specimen plants, one can always violate the "rules." When they bloom, all will be beautiful.

RIS Minutes 1987

The RIS Section meeting was held in Phoenix on April 16, 1987. The meeting was called to order by the president, Virginia Mathews. The Secretary and Treasurer Reports were given by Bernice Miller and were approved as read.

- The subject of electing only 2 officers each year was discussed. It was moved by Sue Keefe that we separate the Secretary-Treasurer office and elect 4 officers instead of 3, with the President and Secretary being elected this year for a 2-year-term, and the Vice-President and Treasurer being elected for a 1-year-term and elected again next year and that we amend the By-Laws, Article 4, Section 9, to allow this. The motion was seconded and passed with a large majority.

- The following officers for 1987-88 were elected:

President: John Weiler
Vice-President: Sue Keefe
Secretary: Howard Brookins
Treasurer: Bernice Miller

- The printing of a new check list, already nearly prepared by Bernice Miller, was discussed and approved. Howard Brookins volunteered to do a computerized print-out of the check list rather than have it published in booklet form. It was voted to accept his offer.

- Virginia Mathews announced that this was the year for our semi-annual rhizome sale. She volunteered to take charge of this project and asked that donors send her the names of rhizomes they had available for this sale. She will compile and send a price list to all members.

- The inclusion of a membership list in

the next issue of the Recorder was approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Bernice Miller

Bernice Miller, Secretary

RECOMMENDATIONS RIS BOARD MEETING APRIL 1987

1. The bi-annual rhizome sale was discussed and recommended. Virginia Mathews volunteered to be in charge. [see report elsewhere]

2. A By-Law change to Article 4, Section 9 was recommended to allow for rotating the election of officers so that all would not be elected at one time. It is suggested that President and Secretary be elected for a 2 year term this year and that Vice President and Treasurer be elected for a 1 year term, to be elected again in 1988. It is further recommended that an officer be allowed to succeed himself for one 2 year term.

3. It was recommended that our 1975 Check List be updated, and that 300 copies be published in booklet form. These can be purchased from the Treasurer and will be made available for purchase at National Convention.

4. It was recommended that the Secretary acknowledge new members with a written notice and a copy of the current Recorder.

Respectfully submitted,

Bernice Miller

Bernice Miller, Secretary

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE
REPORT**

The RIS Nominating Committee is pleased to submit the following slate of nominees for 1988:

- Vice-President: Gary Sides
- Treasurer: Sue Keefe
- Regional Dir - MidWest: Jim Ennenga
- Regional Dir - Western: Bill Maryott
- Regional Dir - Southern: Lottie Ogles

Clarence Mahan, Chairman

Clarence Mahan, Chairman
Virginia Mathews
Terry Aitken

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT,
RIS**

Balance on hand reported at convention\$2548.99

Credits

Dues paid in\$353.50
Ad in Recorder\$20.50
Rhizome Sale Profit\$578.25
Total Credits\$951.75

Debits

Print/Mailing
Recorders\$451.99
Secretarial Postage\$22.52
Total Debits\$474.51

Balance on Hand
August 15, 1987\$3,026.23

Respectfully Submitted;

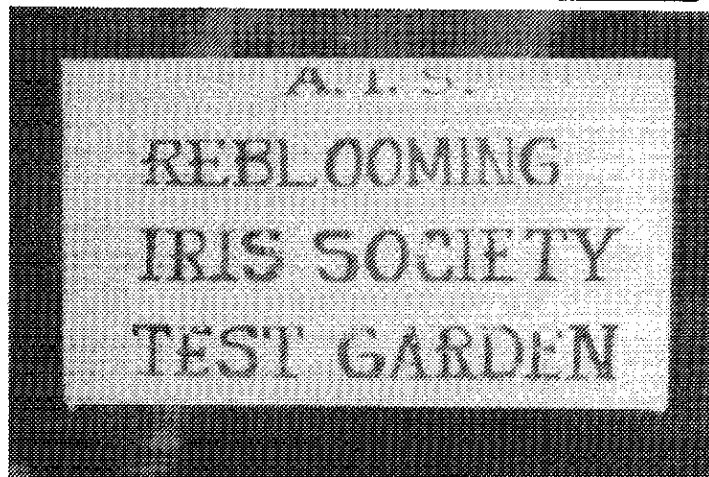
Bernice Miller, Treasurer
Bernice Miller, Treasurer

RIS RHIZOME SALE REPORT

Gross sales\$1423.00
Printing\$14.00
Postage\$72.38
UPS shipping\$78.37
Refunds for partial orders\$548.00
Total expenses\$712.75
Net Proceeds\$710.25

Virginia
Virginia Mathews

[ED. Virginia stated that receiving a rhizome that won't even start to grow irks her to the point that she has decided on an unprecedented move - any rhizome from the RIS sale that doesn't start into growth (Not rot or winter kill) will be replaced if possible next year. Where can you beat a deal like that!]



[Ed. This photo was taken during a visit to Rosalie Figgie's garden in Towson MD. At one time the Test Garden Program was alive and well. From Robin comments, articles and letters in iris literature, and conversations with other irisarians I hear a continuing lament: "If only we could be sure the iris we buy would grow and rebloom (bloom?!) here! Perhaps the test garden program requires a new look?"]

GETTING REBLOOM UNDER DIFFICULTIES

Bernice Miller

The reblooming iris is a sturdy and vigorous plant but adverse growing conditions can steal your fall bloom.

Wherever we have lived and gardened, we have had to modify the soil drastically. In very alkaline New Mexico, we had to use sulphur to acidify, or we would have had infestations of round leaf spot and soft rot when we received too much rainfall. To get the iris free of infestation, we used 12 cups of peat moss, 1 cup of sulfasoil, 1 cup of superphosphate, 1 cup of powdered milk (the kind you fed orphaned baby calves) and one cup of 5-10-5 fertilizer. The main elements lacking were phosphorus and some of the trace elements which the phosphate and the powdered milk supplied. With this treatment, our iris leaves and rhizomes became so healthy, we composted the discarded iris to replace the peatmoss in our formula and left off the purchased fertilizer and grew wonderfully healthy iris, rhizomes of fine size and lots of good sized increase at shipping time.

For quick results, at first we scattered the mixture between the irises. Later, we incorporated the mixture into the soil we dug out to reset our irises, three in a clump with toes together. We added 2½ c. of mixture to the dug out soil, blended well and reset the irises with the modified soil. To conserve water in that semi-desert climate (19 in. of annual rainfall), we excavated large levelled beds 3 inches deep to hold an inch of irrigation water. We didn't irrigate again till the beds were very dry to several inches below soil level. The water itself was very alkaline; so the acidification with sulphur had to be continued every

time we reset iris, which was every two years.

But our irrigation supply, the deep wells we used to water our livestock and garden, played out. We had property in Alabama and a house, and what we considered would be a blessing from heaven in an average rainfall of 45 inches of rainfall a year. We were both retired; so we and the iris moved to Alabama, with the mistaken notion that all our rainfall problems would be wonderfully solved.

Little did we realize what too much rainfall can do to an already acid soil; I did leave out the sulphur, but I did set out all my iris with the same peat moss formula I had used in New Mexico, thinking the powdered milk would neutralize the acidity because of the lime from the calcium in the milk. Ignorance is bliss and we were lucky, the first year was an unusually dry one for Alabama. The iris did beautifully, except for a few new ones ordered from very alkaline western sources and they perished from an entirely different kind of leaf spot and rot than anything I'd seen in New Mexico.

It starts with clear streaks in the leaves that spread fast and quickly turn brown, soon going into the rhizome at the crown of the plant. The whole rhizome turns soft and inside is a creamy, gooey mush that smells a little bad, but not the horrible odor of regular soft rot. When the rot dries up, the intact rhizome is bright red and empty inside. We call it Southern Crown Rot, not knowing what else to call it, but it isn't mustard seed Fungus. There are no Mustard spores and the specific remedy for mustard Seed Fungus, TERRACLOR, has no effect on it.

We always tried everything anyone recommended to stop it. So, we tried TERRACHLOR, but that did little good,

so we tried covering the rhizome with gypsum and that did little good either. Further, without realizing it, we were doing several things that added to the acidity of the soil. Winter freeze/thawing had been heaving our rhizomes several inches out of the ground and winter-killing the tender ones. Someone recommended tramping them back into the ground. In rain-soaked winter soil, ice has no where to go but up. Millions of tiny icicles are pushed out of the ground, mats of them, covering all the soil, pushing up the rhizomes, stretching the roots, till when the ice melted, the rhizomes were held by their roots several inches above the soil. Others recommended a thick Pine needle mulch. We have a good source; so we went the pine needle route. What we didn't know was that pine needles are very acidic in their effect on soil.

We also didn't know that composted sawdust in Alabama is also very acidic in effect. We had found a huge, free source of compost from the sawmill where we purchased our winter firewood and we were using that compost when we reset our irises. The following summer, Mother Nature had a tantrum and sent 3 hurricanes that increased our moisture to 80" for that year, near rain forest amounts.

Finally, we saw the light. It hit me like I'd been conked in the head. Those iris needed lime, needed it fast and needed it badly. The mixture was 12 c. of lime, 3 c. gypsum (to lighten the heavy clay soil), 2T. of Benlate™ for the leaf spot, and 2T. of Agristrep™ (Agricultural Streptomycin) for the rot. Praise the Lord, it worked! I broadcast the mixture, thickly over all the iris and the ground between. Until more of those insistent rains came, I had time to treat and reset those I thought I could save to the treated soil with which I covered the treated

rhizomes. I added 5 handfuls of the lime mixture and if more drenching rain came, I rebroadcast the lime mixture.

And then the rains stopped, the ground dried up, the air cooled off and the rotting stopped. I reset my rebloomers with the lime mixture, then the iris I'd hybridized in New Mexico and then my newer, most expensive, purchased iris. That was a long, dry fall. I got everything reset, except the seedlings I'd hybridized in Alabama. The next spring most everything I'd reset with the lime was growing beautifully.

But I did notice something. Some acid lovers were leaf-spotted. They'd had too much lime. I had treated every iris the same. That's all there was to do. But some that hadn't been affected by hyperacidity, were growing just as well in the heavily limed soil, those super-growers like Vanity and Bengal Tiger, always hardy, vigorous, good increasers, disease resistant. I'd kept careful records the year before of those that did well, as well as those that did poorly or died. And the next year, I kept careful records on the limed iris, too. I found those that preferred acid conditions to heavy liming.

That spring, as I was resetting my seedlings, those that had survived the heavy rains and super acidity, I began to think that, if I introduced these seedlings they would probably grow well only in heavily acidic soil. I'd had experience with acid lovers not liking New Mexico's alkaline soil till I modified it. I recalled that Californians once said they couldn't grow TB's hybridized in the East when Cook and Randall were getting most of the Dykes Medals. And now I hear lots of complaining from areas that have lots of rain and very acid soil, in the south-east, that they can't get many California-bred

iris to grow well for them. What if hybridizers' selected only those super growers that do well everywhere for making their crosses? What if they used both conditions, alkaline and acidic to test their introductions for testing the garden ability of their iris?

I know, from experience, that all the new, much desired characteristics, as lace, ruffle, width of petal can be incorporated into seedlings that are hardy, vigorous and disease resistant and grow in all kinds of soil. I have some very lovely things coming on that do. It just takes a while longer to get it all together.

But, with the great variability in the garden growability of some of our loveliest new iris, how can the non-commercial grower grow a much wider selection of satisfactory TB's without heart-breaking losses. Here are some things I've learned and also the chart reports on growing many of the newer iris, as well as some older, very worthwhile varieties. You could try these things to gain greater satisfaction.

a. choose only iris that suit your own local conditions, probably hybridized in your own area.

b. avoid purchasing iris that would probably give trouble under your soil and climate conditions.

c. choose those hardy, trouble free, excellent growers that do well anywhere.

d. If you are willing to go to the trouble to modify your soil, have your pH tested. You can call your county agent or you can get kits and test your own. If your soil is drastically acidic or alkaline, the kind of plants and the way they grow in your area can help you as it did me. If apple trees and hardwood trees develop chlorosis (yellowing) in your soil, it's too alkaline to grow most TB's well: or if hydrangeas are normally a vivid blue in your area

and azaleas grow like weeds, your soil is too acidic for most TB's to grow satisfactorily.

e. If you modify the pH for your area and you are still having trouble, you probably lack some of the trace elements needed. You can buy these, but you must be careful not to use too much. We use powdered milk but care must be taken with it. We had lots available when we ranched in New Mexico, and it didn't seem to hurt the iris, but was good for them in supplying all the minerals and vitamins a young growing thing needs. But, when we became so extremely acidic and so rain loaded, we decided we had used enough. In Alabama we will not use anymore till the iris show they need it. And, then we will add some sort of antibiotic to kill any rot germs or bad spores in the soil. The milk doesn't cause rot, but, if your soil is very wet for prolonged spells, the milk will feed the organisms as well as the spores. We use BENLATE for fungus and AGRI-STREP - agricultural streptomycin which can be bought at most feed stores. We have also purchased Teramycin from pharmacies. Many will let you have it at cost for agricultural use. Wilma Valetta, who developed the milk technique, used Aureomyecin. A capsule to 1 cup of powdered milk should be adequate. Blend milk with soil below iris. If on surface, dogs will dig up your rhizomes.

If winters are rough enough to cause much heaving, mulches may be used. Some put a heavy rock on an expensive rhizome the first year it is set out. We find that the use of Benlate and Agristrep controls the organisms well enough that the rhizome can be covered on the top with a full inch of soil and that stops most heaving. If we don't set out iris after the end of September here in Alabama, good

roots develop before heavy cold comes.

These formulas are for very heavily alkaline conditions or very acidic. Adapt if yours differ much. No pH conditioner such as lime or sulfur should be needed to adjust pH if you are close to neutral.

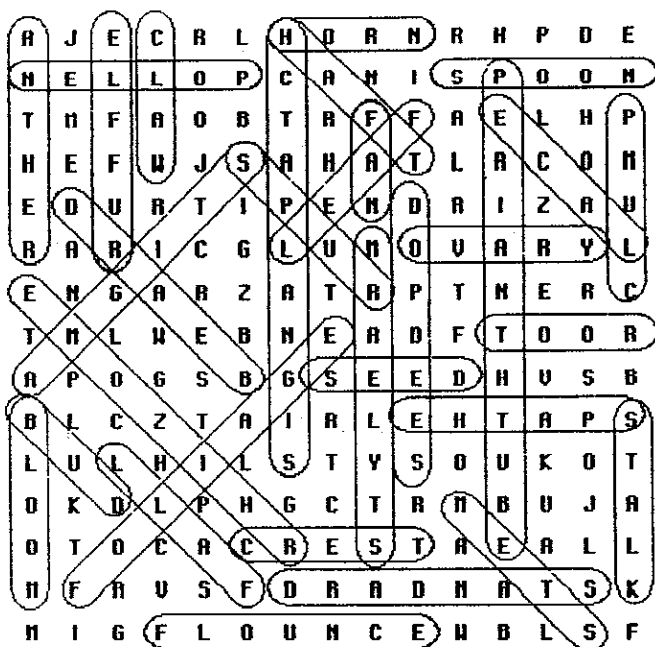
Rebloomers that seem to take any pH, are very disease resistant, and can take heat or cold, drouth or heavy rainfall and are still in excellent condition are: Summer Olympics, Magic Memories, Earl Roberts, Royal Encore, and Royal Summer.

Rebloomers that seem to do better under acidic conditions are: Late Lilac, Rime Frost, Now and Later, and Illini Repeater.

Rebloomers that do better under alkaline conditions are: Witch Of Endor, Born Again, Dorcas Lives Again, Samaritan Child, and Heaven's Bounty.

Remember, soil can be acidified with sulfur compound. It can be made more alkaline with the use of lime.

PUZZLE SOLUTION



OVERHEARD in the Garden

This spring, in Al Thimson's commercial garden, I heard him telling a customer the following story:

"When I was just starting in rebloomers - quite a while ago - we had an early frost predicted. I had far too many bloom stalks to cut and move in, and at any rate, I was too stubborn to do that. I was desperately casting about for some way to cover and protect the buds without breaking and crushing them. All my tarps, blankets, and so on were too heavy. I hit on the idea of using socks to cover the buds. At that time I was wearing white socks to work and had a drawer full. I proceeded to cover every bud stalk in the garden, went to bed and prayed. Next morning I went to the garden, and sure enough, we had a sharp freeze. I checked to see how my buds had fared and was surprised to see that all the cotton socks had soaked up moisture and frozen to the buds. All the wool sock-covered buds were OK. I figured that I would let them thaw slowly and maybe they would be all right. I left the whole batch covered and went to work. About ten o'clock a neighbor, who always was interested in other folks' doings, dropped in for coffee and said, "I sure am glad that Al has come to his senses, given up those stupid flowers and is growing something worthwhile! But tell me, where on earth did he get the sock seed?"

Kudos to Bernice Miller for her many contributions to the Reblooming Iris Society

Win!

a 1988 Iris
Introduction by
John Weiller

Can't Draw? Write and Win!

We need a new slogan. Something catchy, with snap and class! Give us the winning entry and you also walk off with a Weiller 1988 Iris!

Same rules and submission address as in Fine Print box at lower left



The Fine Print

All entries will be judged by a panel appointed by the president, RIS.

Judges selection will be final.

The winning logo may or may not be used at the discretion of the publication committee.

All rights to submitted material rest with the publication committee of RIR.

Mail all entries to:

Editor

Rebloomng Iris Recorder

Rt-3, Box-135

Blackstone, VA 23824

How?

Design a new Logo
for the front page
of
The Rebloomng
Iris Recorder

CONFESSIONS OF A NOVICE

Mike Lowe

We all tend to forget what its like to embark on firsts... first date, first job, first time away from home. Remember that first kiss? How about the 500th? Hah!, you know you don't. The thrill, tension and uncertainty of a new enterprise is ground away and replaced with ennui and day-to-day familiarity. Just so myself in the iris game. Anne and I have raised TBs since the early sixties. Never though, anything unconventional, perish the thought! We chonked along like the couple in the Volvo ad, not an adventure in a carload, buy, plant, bloom?, dig, dig, dig.

I can't pretend to newness in TBs *but*, due to colossal ignorance, indifference or a bum job of publicizing remontancy, I am a dewy-eyed newcomer to rebloomers. Thus this report from the pen of a brand new addict.

It all started with Cayenne Capers. . .

I love plics, and tend to go off the deep end when ordering time rolls around. A constant reminder from Anne is needed to bring me back to reality, ie; "*You have picked out 14 new iris and 12 of them are Plicatas!!*"

My enthusiasm for plics led to ordering **Cayenne Capers** based strictly on its attractiveness as a TB, with no knowledge of its tendency to rebloom. I received the order, gave it a spot in the row, normal summer attention and then out of sight and mind at the first whiff of fall frost.

In mid-winter, I was lured into the garden by a warm, sunny day. Something caught my attention, an unusual and totally unexpected thing,

a wonder and a puzzlement. A frozen, desiccated, bloom stalk!

When I saw that doomed attempt to bloom, I was blown away. All the catalogs, the reading, the verbal proselytizing, couldn't touch the impact of one lone, frozen stalk. Needless to say, I was hooked.

Of course, like any normal iris nut would, I immediately planned a small section devoted to my new interest, 15, 20, possibly 30 rebloomers. Next, a catalog foray, spirited bidding at the spring regional, and early procurement of a couple of give-aways from friends. All spring and summer I lavished extra water, weeding, spray and fertilizer on the new acquisitions. Continuous summer-long peering and fan squeezing was added to my garden ritual. I also increased care and attention to those with a tendency toward occasional rebloom that we had grown all along.

In September, I was rewarded with swelling in 3 of the 4 maturing fans of **Cayenne Capers**. It was the first in bloom, followed by some of the newer ones I had ordered, a couple of "extra attention" occasionals and, even little *KOCHII* contributed a bloom. One thing led to another; a check to the Reblooming Iris Society, correspondence with Virginia Mathews, attendance at the Fall Regional, a fall iris show, and so on. All this from a freeze-killed stalk noticed by chance in mid-winter.

As I reflect on my first full season of effort towards rebloom I'm struck by three circumstances that, to a novice, particularly stand out, and that I believe are worthy of comment.

• First, if we really have a 'good thing' why not push it for all its worth? •

Over the years I have met people

touting 'Feelthy French postcards,' mind expanding substances, lots in Florida and a host of other goodies. I can't remember anyone even mentioning rebloomers in my hearing prior to the past year or two.

I submit to you that we are all criminally negligent in promoting our hobby and obsession... if we do not slyly and with malice aforethought; slip good rebloomers in amongst the iris that we give away, present to friends, put in sales, trade, offer at auction, give as extras, plant in public displays, et cetera, et cetera, et cetera.

Having iris that will dependably bloom over an extended period will help kill the line I hear so often: "*Oh I love Iris, but they just don't bloom long enough to really mess with.*" It's so easy! Just employ a bit of duplicity, "*Here, take another, one more won't hurt, what a pretty flower, you still have plenty of room.*" Ah, so easily we slip down the remontancy path, and its not illegal, immoral... or even fattening!

• Second, we are missing 85% of possible rebloomer growers •

Many gardeners who do not specialize in iris have never heard of AIS or seen speciality Iris catalogs. To this group, Schreiner and Cooley may be the only source of Iris other than the **'TEN IRIS - MIXED COLORS'** that predominate in most general nursery catalogs. And, in examining the 'big two' catalogs, do we see rebloom featured, or even mentioned? No, no, & no! I think I remember a telephone interview in which Bob Schreiner was asked why he didn't feature rebloom and he replied; "*Its not dependable everywhere and we are a national - even international, supplier.*" "*Until rebloomers can be counted on to reliably perform everywhere for the*

average gardener we want no part of them." I have not seen or heard any specific discussion on the subject from Cooley but imagine their attitude is the same. To all this, I say "**Shame on you for the missed opportunity!**" Most gardeners delight in serving you a tomato in May, a glad for Christmas or in growing non-hardy plants that take endless pampering. We all should push major catalog suppliers into saying "*Here is an Iris that will bloom half a year*" - "*But, you may not be a good enough gardener to succeed with it.*" I think they would move a lot of rebloomers if they would only do something of that nature!

• Third, is it Nature or is it Nature? •

I now find that many of the iris we have grown during the past 25 years are occasional rebloomers. We have always employed good garden practices, but never have we seen one vestige of attempt to fall bloom. Granted, the varieties were not those touted as 'real' rebloomers. Is it the varieties' genetic proclivity to rebloom or is it the culture, weather and location that produces rebloom? If it is the latter, rather than genetic makeup, we cannot expect the average irisarian to mess with rebloomers.

Once aware of remontancy it is very difficult not to 'walk that extra mile' and cloud the issue with increased cultural attention. Several of my oldies but goodies gave me fall bloom last year. At least in their case it is clear that nature is the key. From what I read several varieties, particularly in the medians, will give fall bloom even with 'normal' care. I have yet to experience this in my garden.

At any rate, this is how it looks from the viewpoint of one just starting in the hobby. This may be wide of

the mark, not even close to where the problems really lie. If so, write, it needs to be said over and over for all of us new to the game, even at the risk of boring old hands. You forget how very little we know when starting out.

[ED. *This article was written for the Spring issue, RIR. Unfortunately the vicissitudes of the postal system intervened. It was used in the Aug Newscast of Region 4 and the editor, Clarence Mahan, talked me into running it in the RIR. Normally bad form but as it would have run if not delayed, I clamped down on my conscience, thought of the wasted work and ran it!*]

CHARLOTTE N.C. SHOW REPORT

Fran Cline

Iris enthusiasts from Regions 4 and 5 enjoyed a special fall treat in conjunction with the Region 4 Fall Meeting - - a Fall Reblooming Iris Show. The show, sponsored by the Region 4 Board, was held at Steele Creek Presbyterian Church, Saturday, October 11, 1986. Five exhibitors entered a total of 20 specimens in the tall bearded, border bearded, dwarf and seedling classes. Rosalie Figge was awarded "Best Specimen of Show" for Queen Dorothy. Dr. Lloyd Zurbrigg gained the "Best Seedling" with his V 38-C-1 and also won the "Horticultural Sweepstakes." Mrs. Keith Cooper and Mrs. James Trent were the AIS judges. The Show was viewed and enjoyed by many people. It was especially enjoyed by those not familiar with rebloomers. Some more people will be looking for rebloom qualities now!

[This report originally appeared in Region 4's Jan '87 *NEWSCAST*]



OVERHEARD


in the Garden

On a recent visit to Frank Jones' garden at Mercer College N.J., an excellent tip for easily identifying fans with bloomstalks to come was revealed. While watching Frank and Lloyd Zurbrigg evaluating seedlings, I was amazed to see Lloyd spotting fans with no apparently visible stalk or swelling from several feet away.



FRANK JONES (LEFT) AND LLOYD ZURBRIGG IN FRANK'S MERCERVILLE N.J. GARDEN.

Frank would bend over, feel the base of the fan and announce "You're right Lloyd, how on earth can you spot the fans with stalks?" Lloyd bent over a clump with no stalks showing and said, "I use a visual pointer - see the leaf just emerging from the center of the fan? It has a 'hook' or sharply curved tip, as compared to all the others which are straight."

I looked closely and sure enough, the fan had a small center leaf curved like this:  Lloyd explained that he believed that the leaf developed a curve or hook when it was forced to pass around the maturing bloomstalk. He emphasized that this is speculative opinion on his part but that it is a reliable guide for him.

**THE
EXPERTS
ANSWER**

is a means by which you can query the pros - find the answer to your growing problem - have a


resident answer-man at your elbow.

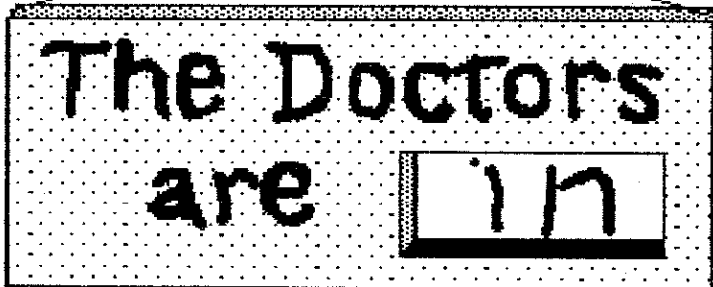
Send questions to

Editor, RIR

Rt-3 Box-135

Blackstone, VA 23824

Our expert closest to your growing area will answer your question. The answer will appear  in this column.



Question: I just bought a 1987 rebloomer. There was no evidence of increase when I planted the rhizome and no increase is showing now. It hasn't been in the ground long enough to become established. It is, however, already putting up a bloomstalk. I am afraid that I will lose it if I allow it to bloom. Should I cut the bloomstalk off or let it flower and risk bloomout? Will removing the bloomstalk stimulate increase?

Diana Nicholls, Gainesville VA

Answer: Removing the bloomstalk on a newly-planted rhizome does stimulate increase. It forces the rhizome to direct its energies toward root growth. However, if no increase at all is showing, to cut the stalk might end the life of the rhizome at once. If it can be ascertained that the variety is one that is pod-fertile, I would advocate trying to set a seed pod on it, and moving it into a big pot and grow it on indoors. (Pre-pruning of the roots is recommended.) It has been established for some time that forcing a rhizome to set seeds will greatly extend its life, and that this sometimes causes it to make increase.

Lloyd Zurbrigg, Radford VA

.....
Question: I have heard that Vitamin B is useful to reduce transplant shock for many plants. Is it helpful on Iris transplants?

Sue Keefe, Midland Texas

Answer: The experts differ in their opinions regarding how helpful vitamin B is in reducing transplant shock. Furthermore I know of no controlled experiments testing its effectiveness on Iris transplants. Some now think that vitamin solutions have impurities functioning as co-factors to stimulate root growth. We do know that virtually all formulations for growing tissue cultures of plants, including irises, require addition of pure thiamine and sometimes other compounds in the Vitamin B complex in order to succeed and grow roots. Realistically, irises are so easy to transplant and start so readily if they are kept out of the ground only 24 to 48 hours before replanting that any potential benefit from use of stimulants seems unnecessary.

John Weiler, Fresno CA

A visit to the Garden of Earl and Dorothy Hall

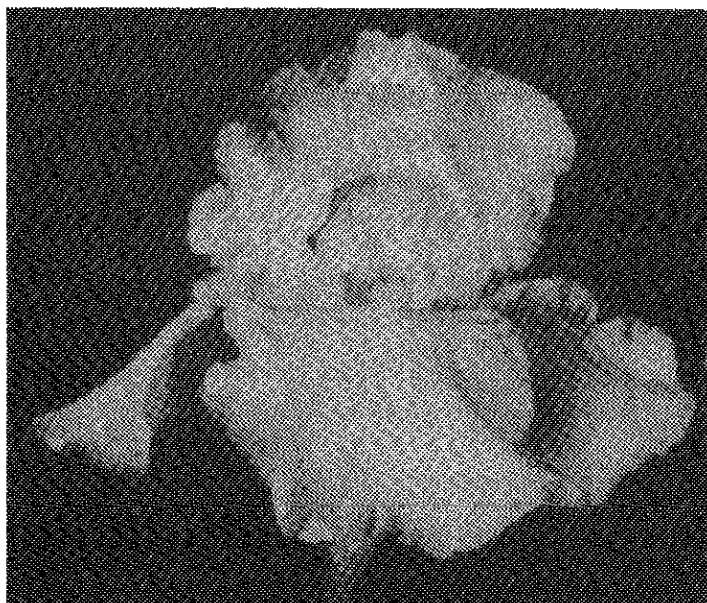
Lloyd Zurbrigg

Two years ago, in the spring of 1985, it was my joy to visit the garden of Earl and Dorothy Hall in West Alexandria Ohio, which is just west of Dayton. Earl appears to have many of the same goals in hybridizing as this writer, and seeing the field of seedlings was thus a breathtaking experience. The display beds were beautifully kept and delightful, but those rows of new seedlings were fascinating. Afterward Earl wrote to say that some bloom was evident from spring right through until fall. The year 1986 was not so kind, and Earl advised me not to come up. However, 1987 was again kind, and he urged me to come up immediately following our Region 4 Spring Meeting in Fredericksburg. (This was a first time for the Fredericksburg-Richmond folk to host the Meeting, and they did superbly, as did the weatherman.)

Again the volume of bloom on the new seedlings was amazing. One of the crosses that excited me was Lacy Snowflake x English Cottage which yielded some blue-bearded whites of charm. I had the privilege of making crosses wherever I wished, and one whose pollen I used very freely was a blue-bearded white from I Do x Violet Miracle. Earl had used Victoria Falls to good advantage, and there were some fine seedlings from it and Violet Miracle, Brother Carl, Queen Dorothy, some of them showing the zonal pattern. My favorite pink came in the cross of Summer Olympics on Spirit Of Memphis, but there was a deeper, almost raspberry pink of great charm. Unfortunately this was an "out of row" or stray seedling and Earl could not tell its derivation.

Earl is also working with the remontant dwarfs, and we will be expecting some exciting news from him in that field as well as in the tall remontants. Dorothy was a kind and gracious hostess, looking after the garden visitors so that we might concentrate on our hybridizing. The chrysanthemums are her special field, and I have many flowers now on plants she gave me this spring. For those of you who are excited about the possibilities of adding remontancy and good growth to the iris flower, a trip to West Alexandria is a journey into Eden.

• Photos,Photos,Photos •



LLOYD ZURBRIGG'S REBLOOMING SEEDLING (V-95-8-3) IS A WINNER IN ANY LEAGUE! OUT OF HARVEST OF MEMORIES x IMMORTALITY THIS YELLOW BEAUTY RIVALS ANY ONCE BLOOMER.

[Ed. - We need good, sharp, contrasty Black & White photos of Iris people, Iris shows, new varieties, seedlings of merit, etc etc. Color slides can be converted to B&W but I am unable to use color prints. Best results if you send the B&W negative. Please identify all flora and fauna! Material returned if submitted with a SASE.]

PUZZLE PAGE

These hidden words may be read up, down, forwards, backwards or diagonally, always in a straight line. Words often overlap, and letters may be used more than once.

solution page 11

PARTS MAKE THE IRIS

A	J	E	C	R	L	H	O	R	N	R	H	P	D	E
N	E	L	L	O	P	C	A	N	I	S	P	O	O	N
T	M	F	A	O	B	T	R	F	F	A	E	L	H	P
H	E	F	W	J	S	A	H	A	T	L	R	C	O	M
E	D	U	R	T	I	P	E	N	D	R	I	Z	A	U
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E	N	G	A	R	Z	A	T	R	P	T	N	E	R	C
T	M	L	W	E	B	N	E	A	D	F	T	O	O	R
A	P	O	G	S	B	G	S	E	E	D	H	V	S	B
B	L	C	Z	T	A	I	R	L	E	H	T	A	P	S
L	U	L	H	I	L	S	T	Y	S	O	U	K	O	T
O	K	D	L	P	H	G	C	T	R	M	B	U	J	A
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M	F	A	V	S	F	D	R	A	D	N	A	T	S	K
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ANTHOR
 BEARD
 BLOOM
 BUD
 CLAW
 CLUMP
 CREST
 FALL
 FAN
 FLOUNCE
 FOLIAGE
 HAFT
 HORN
 LACE
 LEAF
 OVARY
 PERIANTH TUBE
 POLLEN
 RHIZOME
 ROOT
 RUFFLE
 SEED POD
 SEED
 SIGNAL PATCH
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 SPOON
 SPUR
 STALK
 STANDARD
 STEM
 STIGMA
 STYLE ARM

PUZZLE COMPLIMENTS OF SUE KEEFE, TEXAS

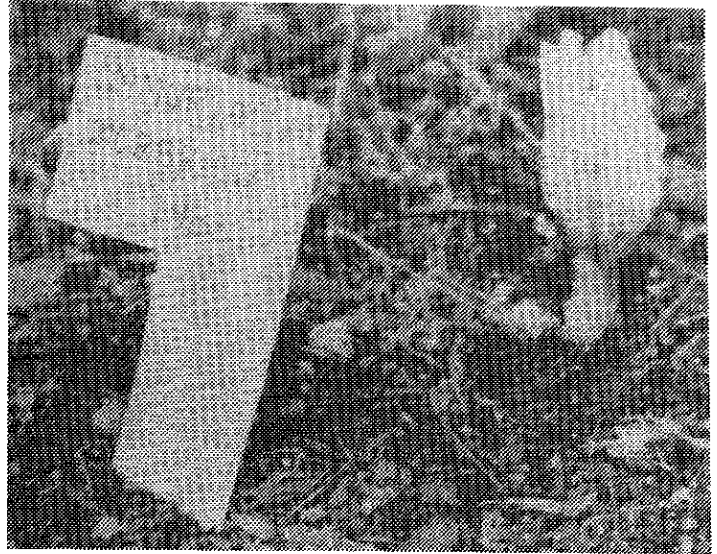
Robin Feathers

Ben Watson—New Jersey: I have Clem Reeves' Odd Plic which resembles Earl of Essex but is taller, larger, more branched, and reblooms in early August and again in late September. I also have his Great Pink which is his hot breeder #76-10 X Jean Guymer, is an everbloomer in N.J., and has the most fabulous increase - 1 rhizome planted 8/85 finished the season with 7 bloom stalks. Clem has hybridized for 30 yrs and has been reluctant to introduce... I'll try to needle him into introducing some of his super-duper remontants.

Les Fort—Washington: Went down to Opal Brown's last fall and she had a few in fall bloom—Soap Opera and Summer Sunset. Opal treats part of her garden with a sterilant a couple of times before she plants her seeds. She says she has better success this way with less weeding. She holds back seeds. She does lots of crosses, then selects those she feels have the greatest potential and plants them. She stores the other seeds—good insurance.

Lloyd Zurbrigg—Virginia: At the very end of the season, a truly lovely variegata-plicata appeared with pure light yellow S and white F bordered in cinnamon yellow. This is an answer to my prayer for an advancement in the Fiji Dancer line. I still like F.D. much better than Flamenco, even tho that iris has better form, but F.D. has brighter, more telling color and it remonts—also grows better here. After a few years of zero germination in flats, I now plant all of my iris seeds in the ground... Q 40 Queen Bess was the outstanding seedling of the '84 spring crop. It is a lovely deep blue from Summer Holidays x Victoria Falls. The siblings on each side were barking at everyone who came by, but

'Bess' was a charmer. It is fertile both ways and just might rebloom.



"LLOYD, I HAD HEARD THAT IMMORTALITY TENDED TO BE A BIT SHORT - BUT THIS IS RIDICULOUS!"

Sue & Jim Keefe—Texas: With the extremes in temperature in West Texas, we let the fallen leaves lie on the iris all winter to protect iris from the cold. However, if they are not removed soon after temperatures become milder they can promote rot.

Monty Byers—California: Bill Maryott is getting some reliable rebloomers from Victoria Falls and Lloyd Zurbrigg is getting some good things when it is crossed with reliable rebloomers. It looks as if one has to make many crosses to get seedlings from the IBs. Here at Clear Oaks, Hallowed Thought, Pepper Blend, and Mulberry Mist have been grand performers.

Joanne Mentz—Oregon: I didn't have any rebloom last fall, perhaps because of moving and then having the longest dry spell on record.

Frank Jones—New Jersey: When *I. missouriensis* bloomed last October, the stalks were only about 2" tall. One clump must have had over 50 of these unusually short stalks.

Don Saxton—Alabama: The article on scorch in AIS Bulletin #195 suggests

that the cause of scorch is bacterial, and recommends sodium/calcium hypochlorite (0.5%) or streptomycin (200ppm).

John Chambers—California: I added 110+ varieties of TB to my patch. I am trying to incorporate non-California stock into my crosses. I spray Benlate for leaf spot in very wet years and I use it with bleach to soak incoming iris to prevent rot. This was an unusual year for rot in spite of treatment. I lost Queen in Calico, Rustic Dance. Twist of Fate, Amber Beauty. Fancy Tales, Pharaoh's Gold, and Sterling Prince. I usually don't lose a single rhizome.

Gary Sides—Tennessee: Fall stalks appeared in 8 crosses. Showing the most promise are: (1) I Do x White Lightning—lovely light lemon S. fading to white, with white falls bordered narrowly with lemon, and a noticeable citrus smell. There were 6 buds; there might have been more if it hadn't been reset in June and we'd had more rain. (2) Lemon Reflection x Temple Gold—deep smooth golden yellow with a small white spray pattern at the tip of the orange beards; nicely ruffled, 6½ " flowers, light lace on standards and falls, 8 buds, fairly good branching.

Virginia Hodges—Texas: My handicapped children at Ballenger School had the most wonderful group of arrangements! The theme was "Hooray For Hollywood" and the classes were: Cowboys & Indians, Babes In Toyland, Star Wars, and Disney Characters. We gave them some of our best blooms to work with and one of the girls had best Junior arrangement.

Mabel Matthews—Texas: I got Going My Way and thought I would lose it before summer was out. I laid it out for a week before I planted it (to

dry it out) and had to dig it up and dry it out again. That did the trick; I left the rhizome high (about half way out of the ground) and it started responding. I find that I can uproot a rotting plant, wash it off and clean out the affected area, let it dry out in this hot Texas sun for about a week, replant it and it does fine.

Clara King—Colorado: As far as I know we don't have iris borers here. I have never had them and no one in our club has ever mentioned them, but we do suffer from rot. I appreciated the helpful hints about soaking in clorox and water, then drying them in the sun. (Note: Rinse well after the clorox.)

Diana Nicholls—Virginia: 1986 was a very dry year here. I felt the iris, including my rebloomers, did very well as everything else except the iris and daylilies suffered. We have our own well so watering is minimal. I have several SDBs that rebloom. Do try a few—they will definitely extend your bloom season.

Herbert Davin—Missouri: I have 11 crosses. Unfortunately only 2 survived to be transplanted and my baby boy uprooted those! A lovely lady member of our local society presented me with a surprise package containing Violet Miracle and Earl of Essex among others. I appreciated them.

Gladys Lee—Maryland: One year I had a great deal of rot because the rhizomes were planted too deeply in their new bed. I dug them, soaked them in ½ clorox - ½ water, left the tops exposed and they did well... About a month ago I didn't like the color of the foliage so I sprinkled them with lime, then bonemeal, then 10-10-10. I dug it into the surface. It rained a great deal and now they look fine... Allen Ensminger told me to control borers by power spraying Cygon 2E in early spring. It works for

me. I plan to add Benomyl this year as I had some leaf spot. It's worth the trouble to see the startled look on peoples' faces and hear "What are those iris doing blooming this time of year?"

Carl Jensen—Illinois: Doctors say the use of Cygon 2E may cause cancer. My extensive arthritis may have been triggered by spraying. We will not use toxic sprays any more. A friend in Chicago found soil under his fruit trees, which were sprayed every 8 days, to be borer free. Could it be the residue from that? I'll try it this year.

Dudley Carson—Oregon: In late March I have buds showing on the Weiler tri-bloomers and on my unregistered TB seedling that I call Glacier King. Its bloom is so unpredictable, late last fall and now trying before frosts have stopped. So far none of my seeds planted in late December have germinated, probably from lack of winter rains...It is too bad that IBs are cursed with sterility. I have Zurbrigg's Spring Thrill and every year I try crosses on it and none have taken. The same is true of Ebony Embers. However, it is not unusual to find bee pods on them. Spring Thrill is so very fragrant; I want to pass that on to an offspring. Blessed Again, an IB that has some pollen which I used on Spring Thrill, is also sweetly scented. Hope something comes of that cross.

Estelle Trammel—California: I've had an encouraging amount of spring bloom on rebloomers: Art of Raphael, Chief Hematite, Cosmic Lady, Decolletage, Double Praise, English Cottage, Evening Mist, Fiji Dancer, Grape Adventure, Heather Cloud, Image Maker, Melissa Sue, Mountain Violet, Scented Nutmeg, Sharlee, Whoop-em-up. Some of these may not rebloom in other areas. I had an

excessive amount of bloom down low in the foliage, even among new guest irises. It always seems to be on the originally planted cultivar, not on the increase. Does anyone know the cause or how to prevent it?

Bernice Miller—Alabama: My liming in this very acidic soil seems to be paying off. Never have my iris looked so healthy since we moved to Alabama. I am using a formula, including dolomite lime, to help lighten this heavy clay, some superphosphate to help increase bloom and give strong stalks and roots, some 13-13-13 fertilizer because I haven't fertilized for several years (used compost). I also add some Benlate to help fungus organisms and Agristrep to help control the rot organism. It seems to be just what I need to get my reluctant soil to grow TBs well.

Rose and Aileen Wood—Ontario, Canada: You asked about the moderating effect of the Great Lakes. It does tend to moderate the temperatures in our area. The cold west wind blowing over the warm water in the lake brings us snow in November and December which sometimes stays. It is not uncommon to have periodic complete thaws, but occasionally we may have as much as 4½ ft. of snow on the level. According to the books, we are in the southern part of Zone 6B, the same as New Jersey, Maryland, and parts of Oregon.

Happy Tupling—Washington, D.C.: I was traveling and unfortunately missed the spring bloom, but, from the many bloom stalks and word from daughter and friends, there was a tremendous flowering. Now I have to clean up the beds, add bone meal, lime, and 5-10-5. The mulch of pine bark chips and leaves seems to have been beneficial...perhaps it kept them cool during the very hot spring here in the East.

REBLOOMING IRIS GARDEN VISIT

Howard L. Brookins

On September 16, 1987, my wife, Anita, and I combined a business meeting in Cleveland, Ohio with a visit to the Iris Gardens of Earl and Dorothy Hall, in West Alexandria, Ohio. After traveling all the way to Indianapolis in steady rain, we arrived in the "drought" area east of Indianapolis, continuing to the Hall's garden, where the last rain was in July. Despite the lack of rain, we were greeted warmly by our gracious hosts who were waiting to show us through their four acres of iris and perennial gardens.

Earl had warned me of the drought conditions in my phone conversations prior to our departure, so I didn't look forward to seeing many iris in bloom. Well, much to my surprise, what he called a "bad" season meant that he only had a hundred or so bloomstalks open at the time! There were many stalks open with five blossoms on a single stalk, and several rhizomes with three bloomstalks. (I should have such "bad" growing conditions!) Most of the iris in bloom were Earl's own Tall Bearded seedlings, and included beautiful plicatas, bicolors, purple, coral, pink, yellow, and blue selfs, bitones of many shades, and even some SDBs. Also in bloom were seedlings from Jones, Zurbrigg, and B. Miller.

Most of us in Region 8 who are into raising rebloomers expect the usual - namely rebloomers without the modern forms - but, surprisingly, Earl's crossing of rebloomers from California with cold-hardy rebloomers has produced a generation of rebloomers with nice form and even some nice ruffled and laced iris. One in particular, a ruffled coral with a deep tangerine-coral beard had excellent form, well branched, with good bud count. Earl informed me he plans to

introduce this in 1988, and I'll be looking for it, as the clump had several bloom stalks on it when we visited. Some of the others showed the effects of the dry weather, having good bud count, good branching, but the branches were on the short side, giving a Christmas-tree effect. Others had exceptional branching but, due to the dry weather, what appeared to be three bloomstalks was actually one bloom stalk, with branching starting at the base of the stalk, ending up in as many as 15 buds on one stalk.

Of particular interest to me, a relative beginner in rebloomers, was Earl's method of planting out his seedlings. His beds, planted in rich Ohio clay, are enriched with the by-product generated from his son's beef cattle, iris are planted 4-wide in raised beds, and planted approximately 12" apart in the row. When he plants each iris, Earl adds the same type of "black organic" soil as I use here in Wisconsin, adding about 1 quart to the hole prepared for each iris. After planting, each seedling is watered in with a gallon of water to which a soluble fertilizer has been added. Much to my surprise, drought or no drought, this is all the water these plants receive. The plants he had set out in July had as many as SIX increase plants, and had already become very thick clumps.

Although Anita doesn't rate the iris as high as I do among our perennial flowers, she really enjoyed herself at the Hall's, and we ended up with a trunk full of Dorothy's specialty - fall blooming mums as well as many seeds from the assorted plants in the Hall gardens. On the way home she said we had to return next spring during iris bloom season so she could get more of Dorothy's mums and other perennial plants.

On the Road Again

An August visit to the garden of Frank Jones at the Community College in Mercerville, N.J. was not fraught with disappointment. Frank had some two dozen or more stalks of iris in bloom on August 25th! I know of no other gardener who can equal this amount of bloom at that time of year.

It must at once be admitted that the quality of the blossoms, in respect to form, substance, and color, cannot rival that of the once-blooming iris, but the very fact of their presence in bloom is overwhelming. I came away resolving that I must make some crosses with these early blooming types. One of the best seedlings for form was directly out of **Swift River**,

so it would seem that an occasional early re-blooming seedling of quality could be obtained in the first generation.

The other quality that these iris varieties have that is often lacking in the latest iris introductions is excellent and care-free growth habits. In the search for beauty and color, this quality is too often neglected. It is a quality, however, that the average gardener will insist upon and which many irisarians crave.

By October, Frank Jones' garden is a mass of bloom rivalling the spring season. He is a most genial host and welcomes visitors who are genuinely interested in the iris flower.

Lloyd Zurbrigg
RVP Region 4 AIS

RIS Membership Update

Add:

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Bitter, Ms. Juliana	30003 S. Corral Hollow Road	Tracy CA 95376
Bode, Beverly	3016 Frances Avenue	La Crescenta CA 91214
Brown, Ms. Mary E.	809 S. Sprague	Tacoma WA 98405
Brown, Mr. & Mrs. W.A. & Marie	1732 N. Jefferson	Hobbs NM 88240
Clauser, Mrs. Milton J.	P.O. Box 1006	Corrales NM 87048
Clauser, Ms. Patricia S.	P.O. Box 1006	Corrales, NM 87048
Cross, Ms. Libby A.	Rt 1 Box 280	Ruby SC 29741
Doonan, Sarah H.	7428 Stag Horn Drive	Alberquerque, NM 87120
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Goodwin, Mr. Raymond E.	6530 S. 34th St.	Kalamazoo MI 49001
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Harden, Mrs. Amos H.	Rt 1 Box 156A	Kenedy TX 78119
King County Iris Society		
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Fresno Iris Society		
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Hendrickson, Ms. Redonna G.	7333 Homestead Rd.	Fort Wayne IN 46804
Hollifield, Mrs. Doris	200 McCloud Rd	Elizabethton TN 37643
Hornstein, Dr. L. Bruce	1620 Sulgrave Ave	Baltimore MD 21209
Hoyman, Mr. John	1115 11th Ave	Greeley CO 80631

Johnson, LTC Margaret	555 Armenta St	Santa Fe NM 87501
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Kelley, Mr. & Mrs. Herbert & Kathryn	415 Flemengton	Huntsville AL 35802
Killough, Mr. Larry	5801 Chesebro Rd	Agoura CA 91301
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Taylor, Mr. John C.	105 Broadway Ave	Ottawa Ontario K1S 2V5
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Wheeler, Ms. Edith	4220 52nd St	Sacramento CA 95820
Wilson, Andrea Desiree	15 Bracebridge Rd	Newton Centre MA 02159
Zurek, LTC & Mrs. Charles	6117 Rio Hondo Drive NE	Albuquerque NM 87109

IN MEMORIAM

MRS. DUGALD E.S. BROWN

JOSEPH C. HALE

JOHN MOFFITT

**Fifty
Years
Ago...**

*and now
Indian Summer
in the
Iris garden*

**Cooley's
Gardens
1936**

Fall blooming irises have been rapidly coming into prominence, especially with the advent of new colors and better varieties.

Time was when any old iris, no matter how lacking in form, clarity of color, or other desirable features, was in popular demand if it exhibited fall blooming tendencies.

But here we have the crisp, icy loveliness of "Frost Queen," the rich velvety depth of "Eleanor Roosevelt," "October Opera" with its brilliant large flowers of wine red, and many others, including the Dwarf "Ultra." Oh, yes, and then there's "Southland," that wonderful deep yellow, and "Autumn Dawn," in blended pink and yellow, something like "Midgard."

These, and the several additional sorts listed, should make a fine addition to anyone's Autumn garden. They are the latest vogue in irisdom.

AUTUMN DAWN EACH \$2.50

A bright blend of old gold and pink—certainly an advance in fall bloomers. In California, where it originated, it blooms almost continuously from August through the winter, commencing again in April. Height two feet. Stock limited, and the rhizomes are small.

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT EACH 75c;
THREE FOR \$2.00

Deep fluorite purple self, with very rich falls. The opening flower is almost black, and the heavy blue beard tends to increase the depth of color. This is the leading fall-blooming iris in commerce today, be-

cause it increases very fast, is most reliable in Flowering habit, and is one of the most beautiful irises in the garden regardless of its added value as a re-bloomer. We have built up a wonderful stock and can offer it at a reasonable price this season.

FROST QUEEN EACH \$1.00; THREE FOR \$2.50

Frosty white, exceptionally free bloomer, and of perfect form. This has proven very dependable as a re-bloomer in Kansas, Nebraska, and Tennessee, as well as on the Pacific Coast. A succession of new bloom stalks follow each other throughout the fall.

GOLDEN HARVEST EACH 35c; THREE FOR \$1.00

Standards olive yellow, tinted blue at the base; falls citron yellow, tinted blue near the haft. This introduces a bright and cheerful note in the fall garden, and is the one yellow autumn flowering iris that is obtainable at a low price.

MARTIE EVEREST EACH \$3.00

Fall bloomer of a lovely tone of soft clear blue. Reliable in its autumn flowering habit, and an easy grower. We are one of the few dealers to list it.

OCTOBER BLAZE EACH \$10.00

A fine big glowing red, along the lines of Indian Chief. This is the first season this new autumn flowering iris has been offered.

OCTOBER OPERA EACH \$2.00; THREE FOR \$5.00

A new color in autumn flowering sorts, a rich wine-red. It is brighter than the old Opera, much larger, and is also taller. This is a fine grower, and in the fall of 1934, and again in 1935, in our garden it was covered with flowers. Of course it also blooms in the spring, with the intermediates.

SOUTHLAND EACH \$5.00

The Sass Brothers have given us most of our autumn flowering irises, and now we are indebted to them for this fine big yellow. The color is deep lemon chrome, with flowers of large size and thick heavy substance. Flaring falls and domed standards, the stems low branched. Vigorous in growth, two feet tall.

ULTRA EACH 25c; THREE FOR 50c

Ultramarine blue, with very velvety falls. This is a pumila hybrid, and blooms with the dwarfs early in the spring, then in the fall it flowers again over a very long period. It is one of the greatest bargains at the price in the entire catalog.

Fall-Blooming Iris

The so-called remountants constitute a newly-developed race of iris which bloom a second time in the fall after the severe heat of the summer is over. We especially recommend these iris for planting in the South, Mid-South, or wherever lateness of autumn frosts affords a long fall blooming-season.

AUTUMN FROST: large-flowered pure white with golden haft and beard; size of <i>Autumn King</i> ; heat resistant	.....\$12.50	OCTOBER OPERA: new color for this class; a wine-purple	2.00
AUTUMN KING: lavender-blue bicolor	.....25	OLIVE WHITE: cream, tinted green, with gold veins	.....35
AUTUMN QUEEN: pure white; dwarf type	.....25	SANGREAL: Absolutely one of the finest yellow fall-bloomers. Very free flowering. 28"	.....3.00
ELEANOR ROOSEVELT: reliable re-bloomer; very dark fluorite-purple; a very handsome color even if it were not valuable for its reblooming	.....1.00	SEPTEMBER SKIES: deep purple, reliable	......60
FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT: rich mulberry-violet; a very fine variety	.....2.00	SOUND MONEY: Brilliant empire yellow with glistening gold sheen. Well shaped flowers, long blooming periods. 10"	......50
FROST QUEEN: frosty white; very prolific	.....1.50	SOUTHLAND: Deep yellow-chrome in color. Large flowers, domed standards, flaring falls, low branched. 24"	.....2.50
JEAN SIRET: most reliable yellow dwarf	......25	SOUV. DE L. CHAVANAC: a vinaceous violet; this and <i>Jean Siret</i> we have found to be the best here	......35
LAURA HUTCHESON: blue purple with reddish cast. Medium flower75	ULTRA: a gem for color: rich ultramarine; one of the bluest iris in this class25

**Schreiner's
Iris Lover's
Catalog 1937**

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