

# Newscast A.I.S.

## R E G I O N F O U R

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FRONT COVER: Iris Drawing by C&P Member  
Sandi Wells. Cover Design by  
Sean Mahan.

## REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Many thanks to the Tidewater Chapter for hosting our Fall Meeting. You were most genial hosts and we thank you very much. We look forward to visiting the Francis Scott Key Iris Society next spring, and wish them well in all their planning.

The coldest October on record brought our 1987 iris season to a premature close. This forces us to look ahead to next year, and we will hope that the weatherman will be kind to us next May, as indeed he was this year.

I wish good health and a warm and joyous Holiday Season to you all.

Lloyd Zurbrigg, RVP

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### MOST POPULAR SPURIA IRISES

Are you interested in trying some spuria irises in your garden? Or adding to the spurias you are already growing? The popularity poll conducted by the Spuria Iris Society revealed that following spurias were the most popular this past year:

1. ILA CRAWFORD
2. ARCHIE OWEN
3. PROVERB
4. CUSTOM DESIGN
5. CLARK COSGROVE  
SON OF SUN
7. DESTINATION
8. EVENING DRESS  
VINTAGE YEAR
10. JANICE CHESNIK

Spuria irises are excellent for using in flower arrangements, and florists will be happy to buy any extra stalks you have.

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING  
REGION 4, AIS

October 10, 1987  
Williamsburg, Virginia

RVP Lloyd Zurbrigg called the meeting to order at 10:00 am at the Shoney's Motor Inn. Dr. Zurbrigg welcomed members of the Executive Board and visitors.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

Assistant RVP---J. Owings Rebert

The Assistant RVP was absent but sent his report to be read by Carol Warner. The report is printed in NEWSCAST.

Immediate Past RVP---B. J. Brown

No report.

Secretary---Susan Grigg

The minutes of the last annual meeting were accepted as printed in the August 1987 NEWSCAST.

Treasurer---Brian Lazarus

Report is printed in NEWSCAST.

Historian---Polly Price

No report.

Parliamentarian---Rosalie Figge

No report.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Editor of NEWSCAST---Clarence Mahan

No report.

Conventions---J. Owings Rebert

Carol Warner reported for Mr. Rebert that invitations are needed from chapters for the Fall '88 and Fall '89 Conventions. The Spring Convention will be May 19, 20, and 21, 1988 hosted by FSK. Dr. John Weiler from California will speak. In 1989 Blue Ridge Chapter will host the Spring Meeting; in 1991 C&P will host the National Convention.

Judges Training---Carol Warner

Report is printed in NEWSCAST.

Finance---Dr. A. W. Rice

No report

Membership---Tamara McBride

Report printed in August 1987 NEWSCAST.

Clarence Mahan reported that by unofficial count, Region 4 climbed from 8th place in membership to 4th place among AIS regions this past year.

RVP Zurbrigg reminded the group that all new members for the national membership contest should be sent to him with name and address on a 3X5 card.

Youth---Nancy Schuhmann

No report.

Auctions and Awards---J. D. Stadler

Report printed in NEWSCAST.

The Editor of NEWSCAST needs pictures of Region 4 award winning irises.

Robins---Anne Lowé

Report printed in NEWSCAST.

Beardless and Species Iris---Carol Warner

Report printed in NEWSCAST.

Diana Nicholls has received almost 50 guest seedlings for the National Japanese Iris Convention; and 109 irises from Japan and Russia have been received.

Dwarf and Median Iris---Richard Sparling

Report printed in NEWSCAST.

Reblooming Iris---Lloyd Zurbrigg

Report printed in NEWSCAST.

Photography---Frances Brown

Pictures of award winners are needed for publication. Mike Lowe needs slides, negatives or black and white prints for publication in the Reblooming Iris Recorder. NEWSCAST can use color prints as well as black and white.

Publicity & Public Relations---Dr. Roy Epperson

An article will appear in a future issue of NEWSCAST giving help to chapters in publicizing events.

## REPORTS OF CHAPTERS & SOCIETIES

Blue Ridge---Kay Cooper

Last year the chapter had a successful flower show at the Garden Center; this past spring Tanglewood Mall was the site of the show. Most of the new members are young, enthusiastic, and located in the Roanoke area, so travel is not a problem to attend

meetings.

This year chapter funds will be used in rebuilding iris beds at the Garden Center; so money will not be sent to the region this year.

In 1988 the show is scheduled for May 14. Tamara McBride is the chairman for that show.

In 1989 the chapter will host the Regional Spring Meeting, now scheduled for May 12 and 13. All hybridizers should send Vic Layman your seedlings to guest for that meeting.

Vic Layman reported that due to the illness of Rena Crumpler her garden will no longer be a display garden.

Chesapeake and Potomac---Clarence Mahan

On May 15, 1988 the spring show will be at the Botanical Garden on the Mall in front of the Capitol. No donation will be made to the region this year; monies are needed to host the National Convention. Officers for the coming year are Richard Sparling, Pres.; Steve Harsy, VP; Nancy Schuhmann, Treas.; and Diane Dulin, Sect.

Eastern North Carolina---J. D. Stadler

Report in NEWSCAST. ENC cordially invited the region to High Point, NC for the Fall 1988 Meeting.

Frances Scott Key---Doris Rebert

Report printed in NEWSCAST.

Fredericksburg-Richmond---Ruth Walker

The slate of officers for the chapter has not yet been elected. The chapter was pleased to host the Spring '87 Meeting.

Marydel---Paul Hoffmeister

Report printed in NEWSCAST.

Tidewater---Rich Randall

Report printed in NEWSCAST.

Western North Carolina---B. J. Brown

The Charlotte Iris Society will celebrate its 40th anniversary in 1988. At the November meeting slides from the Swan Lake Gardens will be shown. Two hundred and twenty-five irises have been supplied to Queens College for display beds. A proposal to divide WNC Chapter into three groups will be discussed under "New Business".

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

RVP Zurbrigg reported briefly on the results of the Symposium. It was explained that another ballot was needed because a reprint of the 1986 ballot was mistakenly distributed. Complete Symposium results are printed in the NEWSCAST.

Three hundred dollars has been donated to the region for the National Convention by the Fredericksburg-Richmond Chapter.

Rich Randall asked about the Finance Committee study to provide funds for the 1991 National Convention. Advance costs may be as much as \$10,000. Each chapter needs to donate as much as possible to the Region in the next few years to offset the expense in 1991.

Clarence Mahan will ask John Neal or Dr. Nearpass to write an article for NEWSCAST on the research being conducted on borers.

#### NEW BUSINESS

B. J. Brown moved that the WNC Chapter be

divided into 3 groups: the Charlotte Iris Society, the Cabarrus County Iris Society (Concord area), and the Carolina Mountain Iris Society (Asheville area) with the president of each group becoming a member of the Board. The motion was seconded. After much discussion the motion passed.

Mr. Rebert's request to consider changing the duties of Assistant RVP so that the local chapter would handle program responsibilities for a meeting hosted by that chapter was discussed. No action was taken.

The 1988 Iris Calendar was on display. The price is \$5.00 each or \$25.00 for ten.

Brian Lazarus asked for a clarification on the region's memorial gift policy. Dr. Epperson explained that gifts are given only to honor former RVPs or present RVP. He moved to give \$25.00 in memory of Bill Kelley and \$25.00 in honor of Rena Crumpler to the National Scientific Research group. The motion was seconded and passed.

Fredericksburg-Richmond Chapter invited the region to have the Fall 1989 Meeting in their area.

Brian Lazarus asked for a discussion on ways and means to build up the region treasury. Clarence Mahan offered on behalf of the C&P Chapter to send irises to other chapters having sales. J. D. Stadler suggested that the auction tonight would be a good start toward increasing income. It was suggested that anyone donating an iris to the auction to provide at a future date could provide a self-addressed postcard with the name of the iris on it. The buyer could then send the card to the donor, & the donor would be sure who bought the iris.

The Board was reminded that FSK had excluded the auction from its planning for the Spring Meeting. A motion was made to ask FSK to allocate time for the region's auction at the Spring Meeting. The motion was seconded and passed. The RVP will notify the Chairman of FSK Chapter of the region's decision.

Brian Lazarus moved that the region look at ways to increase income to \$4000.00 over the next two years. The motion was seconded and passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 pm.

Susan M. Grigg  
Secretary

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#### ASSISTANT RVP'S REPORT

*J. Owings Rebert*

Greetings from Westminster. First let me bring you up to date on conditions of our Region 4 hybridizers bed at Westminster City Hall Gardens. In spite of the dry summer, growth has been outstanding. In the section containing Lloyd's rebloomers, the fall bloom has been magnificent. Most notable have been BABY BLESSED, GRACE THOMAS and LIGHTLY SEASONED, with the latter being just super. We are very pleased with the project thus far, even though a few hybridizers have not responded.

This being my first experience as Assistant RVP, I would have no way of knowing whether or not this year's activities would be considered normal or otherwise. My biggest concerns are these.

One of the duties of this office is being Program Chairman for the Fall Regionals.

In view of the fact that most of the chapters and societies are so far removed by distance in miles that I can hardly believe that this office can negotiate these duties with any amount of valid significance, the only exception being when the home society would be hosting the the event. This summer's sequence of events in this regard has been very uncertain and frustrating. With this in mind, I would like to suggest that the region in body, take a hard look at this structure and take necessary steps to correct this most awkward and "no win" situation. I am sure that most of us are aware that in some previous years similar situations and conditions have prevailed.

The program for Spring Regionals are handled with the hosting societies. Can this policy not apply to the fall conventions as well? The chapter vice president or vice chairman, along with the convention chairman, will be in charge of the programs with the approval of the Assistant RVP. Is this not actually the way it is now being handled?

I would like these thoughts to be presented for discussion, under "New Business" of this 1987 meeting. I have every confidence that a more workable solution can be obtained.

Thank you for your attentiveness in this matter. This is the first Fall Regional we have missed in many years. Will surely miss being with you all. If there are additional duties and concerns that I might be able to assist with, please advise.

Best wishes for a most successful meeting.

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"Resistance to tyrants is obedience to God."  
--JEFFERSON

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Mr. Mahan:

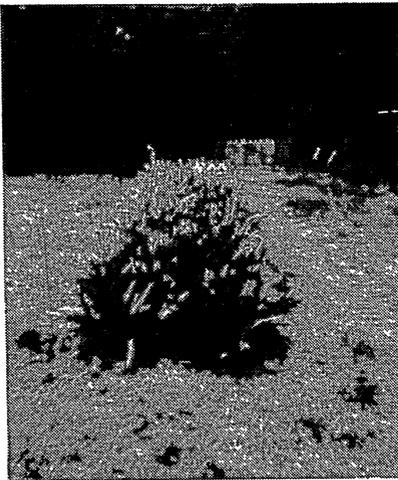
As a frequent show exhibitor, you will appreciate these two pictures as much as I do. Please note that this is the same lot of irises. The left was taken on May 16, 1987; the right, on May 18. You will be interested to know that our show was on May 17, at which time I was unable to take a single iris from that bed.

Sincerely,

Mary Etta Brightman  
Marydel Chapter, AIS

Sworn to and subscribed before me, a Notary Public of Queen Anne's County, Maryland, this 7th day of November, 1987.

Grace R. Hartge  
Notary Public



THESE ARE THE TWO PHOTOS ENCLOSED WITH THE ABOVE LETTER. ON LEFT, THE IRIS BED ON MAY 16, 1987; RT, THE SAME IRIS BED ON MAY 18TH.

## THE EDITOR REPLIES

Dear Mary Etta,

Thank you for sharing your iris bloom season experience this year with us. You're right. As an exhibitor of irises, I do indeed appreciate the point of your letter. But I know a secret you didn't tell, Mary Etta. The iris bed in the photos is not the only iris bed in your garden. Right? I know this fact because I know that you won the Bronze Medal for second most blue ribbons in the Marydel Show this year---and so I know your blue ribbon winning irises had to come from somewhere else.

Irisarians who enjoy exhibiting, as you and I do, learn a number of tricks to cope with the vagaries of iris bloom seasons. One of this tricks is to have irises growing with several exposures: north, south, east and west if possible. It is amazing how many microclimates we have in our own gardens. I know my iris bed on the north side of the house comes into peak bloom about eight days after all the others, for example.

Your photos show just how quickly irises can go from no bloom to almost full bloom, given a real hot, dry day or two. And it doesn't surprise me that this happened with perfect timing to prevent you from having any irises from this bed for the show. This was no accident. You know, I am sure, that Nature really does conspire to make life difficult for the iris exhibitor. When we see those gorgeous flowers on the bench, though, and hear all those "ah's" and "wow's", it does make it all worthwhile, doesn't it?

Clarence Mahan

## THE CECIL AND LOIS ROSE GARDEN

*Frances and B. J. Brown*

The garden of Lois and Cecil Rose is in an unusual setting, with an old ante-bellum house, with a large iris garden, all surrounded by pasture for their 17 horses. Lois was growing guest seedlings and irises from Region 4 hybridizers, as well as some guests from out-of-region hybridizers.

Both of us were teaching a garden judging class, and after pooling our notes we will still not do this garden justice---how could one describe the majesty of that huge tree trunk covered with blooming clematis? We did check a few of the seedlings which were in bloom and looking good the day of the tour. If yours is not included, we apologize, but we just didn't get to see everything. Of course, B. J. did check for his own things and found Ø285, a royal blue, and DESIGNER'S CHOICE. Loleta Powell's CAROLINA GOLD, as always, was looking nice. Lloyd Zurbrigg's BROTHER CARL and MABEL ANDREWS were in good bloom, as was Lloyd's R53-2, a very large blue self with a silver glitter, and R65-BE, a space ager. The Thimsen's really fine blue rebloomer, AUTUMN SQUIRE, was excellent, as was Alice Bouldin's different and lovely INSTRATING, a beige/lavender and maroon bicolor. A border bearded that Brian Lazarus raved over was Burch's jaunty MISS NELLIE.

The Rose's sixty acre horse farm provided a lovely country setting for our visit. It was Cecil who started the iris collection with a multitude of cultivars from his sister's garden from out in Colorado. After the first bloom season, Lois got more than interested---she got hooked. Many irises in the original collection are from the 50's and 60's, and earlier---what a delight to be

able to see BLUE SHIMMER, OLA KALA, LADY MOHR, MULBERRY ROSE, TIFFANJA, THREE OAKS, MARY RANDALL, and other beauties from the past. And they were grown so well!

Some of the many irises that were doing exceptionally well here were VICTORIA FALLS, BRIDE'S HALO and KILT LILT. Lois says KILT LILT subsequently sort of "folded" and she hopes it has survived---and this is no surprise to those of us who have grown it.

We really need to go back again, Lois, so we can really enjoy your garden at our leisure. Even though we didn't have time to see it all, it was truly an experience. And there are a lot of older irisarians who really got a kick at being able to see some of the oldies.

*[ED. Your editor heard that Cecil had a mare that was having problems---and Dr. Rice, our irisarian veterinarian went to the barn and looked her over---"shipping fever" was the diagnosis. Hey, Lois and Cecil, did you go to all the trouble of putting your garden on tour just to get free vet services? When the Regional Spring Meeting is at C&P in 1990, the Mahan cat, Alex, is going to be waiting for Dr. Rice on the front porch! Just kidding, Lois and Cecil! You deserve a lot more than free advice for the great time you gave us.]*

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#### CORRECTION

Your editor is red faced! The caption under the photo of the Rose's Garden on page 34 of the August NEWSCAST should read: "From Lt, GUY OLDAKER, LIZ OLDAKER, CECIL ROSE, DICK SPARLING and OWINGS REBERT." Apologies to all! Your editor even misidentified himself! No more blackberry wine for me, Suky.

## TIDEWATER CHAPTER REPORT

*Rich Randall*

Tidewater Chapter has been quite busy since our first show on May 9, 1987. To promote membership, we held 2 "expo's" in our local mall. Along with the flowers that were on display, we had informative literature for interested "ooh's and aah's" passing by. We included a sign-up sheet for those who were interested in learning more about Tidewater Chapter and AIS.

The chapter held 4 sales which increased our treasury by over \$800. Our thanks go out to B. J. Brown for his generous donation of rhizomes.

We donated irises to a local old age home, and two of our active members, namely Jack and Rich, spent a Saturday morn "rototilling" and planting, while the old folks sat dreaming of the beauty they were to see come spring.

In progress is finalization of plans for our donation to the Norfolk Botanical Gardens; surplus rhizomes from the sale and also those kindly donated by Clarence Mahan (which arrived too late for our sale) will be used.

Chapter members, with help from some great people from other chapters, have now hosted a Regional Meeting and a reblooming iris show.

At this time the Tidewater Chapter would like to express a sincere thank you to all those other chapters' members who helped us get a new chapter "blooming." We have grown from 8 members on January 31, 1987 to 57 members in September---and we will now divide into two chapters.

## JOY PETERS

If you have attended any function of the C&P Iris Society you have seen and probably met a tall, lovely lady with white hair and a big smile. That's our Joy! Joy Peters, that is. Whenever we need a hand, a lifted spirit, or horticultural information, we all know we can count on Joy. If you know Joy you have a friend. And on March 12, 1988 the C&P Iris Society will hold a banquet in her honor at the American University.

Joy was born in Topeka, Kansas, and grew up on sheep ranches in Utah and Washington. She graduated from Yakima Valley Junior College in 1934. She worked there for 8 years until she married Duncan Dunn Peters. They have lived at their home in Arlington, Va, for many years. They have two children: Terel and Tammy. Joy's beautiful garden is an exquisite gem---an enchanted bower where elves and fairies dwell.

Joy has been a member of the American Iris Society for 32 years, and irises have always been her "first love."---all types of irises. Joy was growing Japanese, Louisiana, Siberian and species irises when many C&P people didn't recognize them as irises. She has been giving programs on irises to garden clubs for many years.

Joy belongs to many plant & garden societies. She was given lifetime membership in the National Capital Area Federation of Garden Clubs for her many services. She is a National Council of State Garden Clubs Master Judge, a Landscape Design Critic, and an accredited judge in both the lily and daylily societies. She wins lots of top prizes for her floral designs. And we all love her. For information re Joy's banquet, call Diana Nicholls (703) 754-9623.

JOHN MOFFITT, 1908-1987

Truth that the mind sees  
Is not the truth that is:

It is the random leaves  
Patterned on the grass  
From which our wits surmise  
The spread and substances  
Of the whole tree, whose  
Wholeness still exceeds  
Possessing, since our eyes  
Fix on nearnesses:

It is the rare fishes  
Our tentative nets seize  
Out of the total mass  
Of the ocean's sway and toss,  
Which shape an estimate less  
Sure with each fresh prize,  
Because each newer guess  
Casts wider dark in space.

No, not as much as these  
Is truth that the mind sees.

JOHN MOFFITT, *Gleanings*

Born in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania in 1908, John Moffitt was educated at Princeton University and Curtis Institute of Music. For twenty-five years he was a monastic member of a Hindu religious order before returning to his Western roots in 1963. Several volumes of his poetry have been published, and many of his poems appeared in such publications as *The Atlantic Monthly*, *America*, *The New Yorker*, and *Kenyon Review*.

John loved irises all his life, and enjoyed hybridizing. BLUE NILE and COTILLION DREAM are two of his originations. He leaves many friends in Region 4. May he find many "random leaves" and "rare fishes" on the Great Journey he has embarked on.

WELCOME WILLIAMSBURG

Anne Lowe

The Williamsburg Iris Society held its first organizational meeting on November 14, 1987. This new chapter of Region 4, formed as a result of the recent geographical division of the Tidewater Chapter, already has 40 members, 15 of whom were present for the initial organizing meeting. Freda Hazzard, Chairman of the Transition Committee, presided.

The following officers were elected:

President.....Betty Worrell  
Vice President.....Judy Ogburn  
Treasurer.....Isabelle Campbell  
Secretary.....Anne Lowe

These officers will serve a six month organizational term: regular elections will be held in June 1988. Proposed Chapter Bylaws will be printed in the newsletter which will reach all members prior to the next meeting January 9, 1988. The bylaws will be discussed and adopted at this meeting.

The secretary of the new chapter will be responsible for compiling and distributing the chapter newsletter for the next 6 months. Plans for a spring show and rhizome sale were discussed. Dates will be set at the January meeting. A display of reblooming irises was furnished by Mike and Anne Lowe.

Please welcome the Williamsburg Iris Society to Region 4!

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"The best place to seek God is in a garden. You can dig for Him there." --BERNARD SHAW

The next meeting of our chapter will be at the home of Gerri and Harold Davis, February 17, 1988. At that meeting we will finalize plans for our spring iris show. We were happy to have the following visitors attend our meeting: Anne and Mike Lowe, Cleo Riley, and Jerry Winstead.

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### OLD BULLETINS & CHECKLISTS FOR SALE

Your editor receives frequent enquiries as to where old Bulletins and checklists can be located. Mary Herd, a dear robin friend, will sell, for best offer, a set of AIS Bulletins, from 1963 forward. Also for best offer, the 1949, 1959 and 1969 Checklists. The offer for the 1949 Checklist should not be under \$40.00. This is an opportunity to get some fascinating iris reading and research material. Write Mary Herd, 233 W. College, Jacksboro, Texas 76056.

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### JUDGES TRAINING REPORT

*Carol Warner*

Region 4 now has 45 judges: 23 quota and 22 non-quota judges. For the current membership we are allowed 85 quota judges.

We are pleased to advance Kay Cooper, Walter Hoover, Tamara McBride and Ruth Walker to Garden Judges. Deletions are: Helen Rucker, Mrs. O. L. Persinger and the late William Kelley.

Recommended new Apprentice Judges are: Libby Dufresne, Ruth Filsinger, Freda Martin, Anne Lowe, Mike Lowe, Doris Rebert and Owings Rebert.

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"To understand is to pardon."---MME DE STAEL

Region 4, American Iris Society

TREASURER'S REPORT

October 5, 1987

Balance as of 5/15/87 3,732.75

Income

Spring Auction 1987	797.25
Donation: Fred/Rich	300.00
Donation: FSK	300.00
Interest Thru 9/30	73.41
Total Income	<u>1,470.66</u>

Expenditures

Judges Training Expenses	15.58
Iris Purchase: Fall Auction	75.00
August NEWSCAST printing	683.27
Postage August NEWSCAST	65.00
NEWSCAST halftones	30.00
AIS Labels for NEWSCAST	16.25
Memorial Gift	37.98
Bank Fees	<u>5.00</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>928.08</u>

Balance as of 10/5/87 \$4,275.33

Dr. Brian Lazarus, Treasurer  
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"If all originators were as fanciful as the Japanese in naming flowers, much pleasure would be added to gardening. The names given to iris by the Japanese are poems beautifully and exactly describing the flowers, as Far-flying Swallow, Snow on the Purple Robe, Blossom in the Wine Cup, Morning Mists, or Floral Display of Heavenly Appointment. Mr. Busbee says he has one that is called Grey Stork Magnificently Standing, but a fruitless search through the catalogues and the Iris Checklist leads me to believe that he made it up."

--ELIZABETH LAWRENCE, *A Southern Garden*

## PIONEER REGION 4 HYBRIDIZER

The following advertisement appeared in AIS Bulletin Nr. 31, April, 1929:

"The Iris Garden at 207 Raymond St.,  
Chevy Chase, Md.,

distributes only varieties produced  
by J. Marion Shull. Chief among  
these are:

Coppersmith, Elaine, Julia Marlowe  
L'Aigion, Morning Splendor, Se-  
quoiah, Sir Galahad, Tropic Seas.

Description and prices on request."

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### BEARDLESS AND SPECIES IRIS REPORT

*Carol Warner*

A very successful beardless show was held in Washington D.C. on June 13, 1987. Japanese, Louisiana, Siberian, Spuria, English, and species irises were exhibited. The 1988 Beardless Iris Show will be held in the Baltimore area.

The gardens of Clarence and Suky Mahan and Carol Warner have been designated as Japanese Iris Display Gardens. Rena Crumpler's garden in Roanoke, River Farm, and the U.S. National Arboretum are still designated Siberian Iris Display Gardens.

C&P and FSK Iris Societies look forward to hosting the national convention for the Society for Japanese Irises on May 16-17, 1989. Guest plant are in these gardens: Diana Nicholls, Don Spoon, and Carol Warner. Each garden has received more than 70 guest irises. The Mahan garden will also be on tour. Region 4 continues to lead the way in growing and popularizing beardless and species irises.

## IRIS FLORENTINA

Clarence Mahan

Each year, usually the first week in May, the bluish white, sweetly scented flowers of *Iris florentina* come into bloom in my garden. In the horticultural classification system used by the American Iris Society, *I. florentina* is an Intermediate Bearded iris. The leaves are ensiform and glaucous, about 1' to 1 1/2' tall and 1" to 1 1/2" in width. The flower stalks rise above the leaves, usually have two or three branches, and the spathes, which unlike *I. albicans* are almost totally brown-scarious at flowering time, have two or three flowers.

The rhizome of *I. florentina* is stout, and it produces increases quite readily. And it is the rhizome for which *I. florentina* is best known, for it has, for many centuries, been the source of orris root, an effective fixative used in perfumery. As Rosemary Verey points out in her book The Scented Garden, "The Greeks sprinkled powdered orris root over clean linen to perfume it, and it [*I. florentina*] may be the white iris described by William Turner in the third part of his herbal of 1568." Orris root prepared from the rhizome of *I. florentina* has a pronounced fragrance of violets.

John Gerard's Catalogus Arborum, Fruticum AC, published in London in 1596, listed "*Iris Florentina* Orrice, or the Florentine Flowerdeluce" as one of the plants growing in Gerard's physic garden. And the iris has been listed in herbals as a source of orris root ever since.

Making orris root is very easy, but it takes patience---two or three years worth. The rhizomes can be dug at any time, but I recommend digging them in July or August.

Cut the lower two thirds of the rhizome off, and peel. (Replant the upper third of the rhizome with the fan, and thus you do not lose the iris.) After you have peeled the rhizomes, slice them as thinly as you can. Lay the slices out in the sun to dry for several days, turning them over several times. Put the slices in large, air tight jars and store for two or three years.

When you take the lid off the jar after storing a couple of years you will instantly smell "violets." If you wish to have powdered orris root instead of chips, you will have to grind the dried chips, but do not use a blender or small grinder. The orris root chips are like granite---use a heavy grade grinder. My wife prefers the chips for potpourri and sachets because they are not so "messy."

The culture of *I. florentina* is easy. It is tough---tougher than today's modern bearded irises---and thrives in any ordinary garden soil with a minimum of attention.

Botanists agree today that *I. florentina* is an interspecies hybrid and does not deserve species designation. Many botanists consider it a form of *I. germanica*, (notwithstanding the questionable award of rank to *I. germanica*). *I. florentina* is sterile; it does not set pods. Whereas at times it produces pollen, it has never proved viable.

If one wishes to grow the true *I. florentina*, one must take care. A number of irises have been confused with it over the centuries. Pierre-Joseph Redouté's famous illustration of this iris in Les Liliacées is actually a representation of *I. albicans* Lange. The photograph of *I. florentina* facing page 150 in R. Irwin Lynch's The Book

of the Iris (London, 1904) is *I. pallida*. In 1937 Ferdinand Cayeux registered and introduced an iris named FLORENTINE, a Tall Bearded iris which is in no way related to *I. florentina*.

In the Tuscany region of Italy, where irises are still grown commercially for making orris root, *I. florentina* is not the iris that is grown. Rather, it is *I. pallida* that is grown. Until my wife and I made our own orris root, we bought the type that is sold in this country, which is imported from Europe. This commercial orris, whether in chip or powdered form, never smelled like violets to us. One of these years I plan to make orris root using *I. pallida* to see how potent its scent really is when made at home.

About seven years ago, one of the stalks of *I. florentina* in my garden bloomed with bitone purple flowers; the standards were pastel lavender and the falls were a darker purple. I dug the plant up, and the increase of this vegetative mutation has continued to hold. Several iris authorities, including W. R. Dykes, mentioned having seen a "blue" or "purple" version of *I. florentina*. However, there is no such plant currently in commerce or otherwise known, so I registered and introduced this "purple florentina" this year under the name ELSIE CROUCH DILTZ. This iris is identical in every way except color to *I. florentina*. It is equally good for making orris root. For the past two years, however, about one in thirty of the increases of ELSIE CROUCH DILTZ has reverted back to the bluish white form. The stability of the mutation is thus less than complete.

There is more to an iris than its

botanical or taxanomical status. There is charm. There is history. There is romance. And from these viewpoints, there is hardly an iris around as appealing as *I. florentina*. As far as anyone knows, this is the iris medieval monks grew in their cloistered gardens for orris root and other purposes. And it is oh, so sweet.



FLOWERS OF "ELSIE CROUCH DILTZ", THE PURPLE  
*I. FLORENTINA*.

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OVERHEARD OVER THE GARDEN FENCE

Our RVP Lloyd Zurbrigg has hybridized some mighty "upright" irises over the past 40 years. And all of us who know Lloyd know that he is very active in church activities. On a visit to Frank Jones's garden in New Jersey, Lloyd came in for quite a surprise and Frank did too. Frank had inadvertently labeled the famous Zurbrigg IMMORTALITY as IMMORALITY. Frank says Lloyd didn't care for the "new name". The label is correct now.

FRANCIS SCOTT KEY IRIS SOCIETY CELEBRATES  
20TH ANNIVERSARY

*Maynard E. Harp*

Once upon a time Retta, my wife, suggested to me that it would be good to have a Baltimore area chapter of Region 4, AIS. I enthusiastically agreed. In the spring of 1967 we attended our first Region 4 Convention at Norfolk. There we talked with Frank Sherrill, Regional Vice President, regarding a new chapter. Subsequently, on May 13, 1967, at the Convention, he told us that the Board had approved the idea providing that at least twelve AIS members would agree to be members of the new chapter.

En route home from the Convention we talked of a name for a new chapter and Francis Scott Key seemed appropriate.

We prepared forms requesting signatures of the AIS members in the Baltimore area who might be interested in a local chapter, and these forms were mailed out. A quick response was received, along with letters and notes favoring the formation of a local chapter. One respondent said she had discontinued her AIS membership, but had sent in her renewal dues after receiving our invitation to be a member of the local chapter.

We quickly exceeded the Region 4 Board's numerical requirement for membership, and the forms with the applicants' signatures were mailed to Mr. Sherrill. He responded with a letter authorizing the formation of the new chapter.

Notice was mailed to prospective members for an organizational meeting to be held on July 9, 1967, at Maywood, our summer home.

The meeting was held, officers elected, the name of the chapter approved, and the Francis Scott Key Chapter was born.

Some years later we met the AIS requirements to become an affiliated society, so we are now officially recognized as the Francis Scott Key Iris Society. However, we are proud to retain our dual status as a chapter of Region 4.

Our current President, Doris Rebert, and her husband Owings, who is our Immediate Past President, thought it would be a good idea to celebrate the 20th anniversary of our founding. The FSK Board agreed, and our 20th anniversary was celebrated at our fall meeting on October 24, 1987.

The meeting convened at the Carroll County Agricultural Center at Westminster, Maryland. One charter member, Libby Cross, came all the way from her present home in Ruby, South Carolina, to attend the meeting. She gladly informed us that she and her husband will be moving back into Region 4 to a new home near Covington, Virginia. Among the friends and supporters of the early years of FSK were Albert and Louise Thimsen of Richmond, Virginia, and we were happy to have them in attendance at our 20th anniversary too. Other friends of our chapter, David and Audrey Walsh of Broadway, Virginia also took a long drive to join with us.

We had an enjoyable catered dinner. The invocation was given by our son Mark. He and his wife Christine are new members of our chapter.

It is our custom to have time at each meeting for an iris culture discussion. This was led by our Horticulture Chairman, Carol Warner.

There was a short business agenda which included reelection of all our current officers. Doris called on each of the charter members present for a few remarks. My remarks included comments on highlights of our early years, and expressed thanks to the current leadership and to all those who have helped out over our twenty year history. Appreciation was expressed for the cooperation and support of some others from outside our chapter. These included Dick Connelly, now a Florida resident, and the late Tom Ford, both of whom were members of the C&P Chapter.

We then had a screen show of important events of the 20 years, beginning with photographs of our organizational meeting back on July 9, 1967, and ending with pictures of FSK's annual spring garden tour of 1987. Among the historic screen pictures were those obtained at a fall luncheon meeting at which we had an attendance of fifty-five persons. It was a meeting with emphasis on rebloomers with an address by Dr. Lloyd Zurbrigg. Screen slides were provided by Rosalie Figge, Bill and Claire Barr and me, all of us having been charter members.

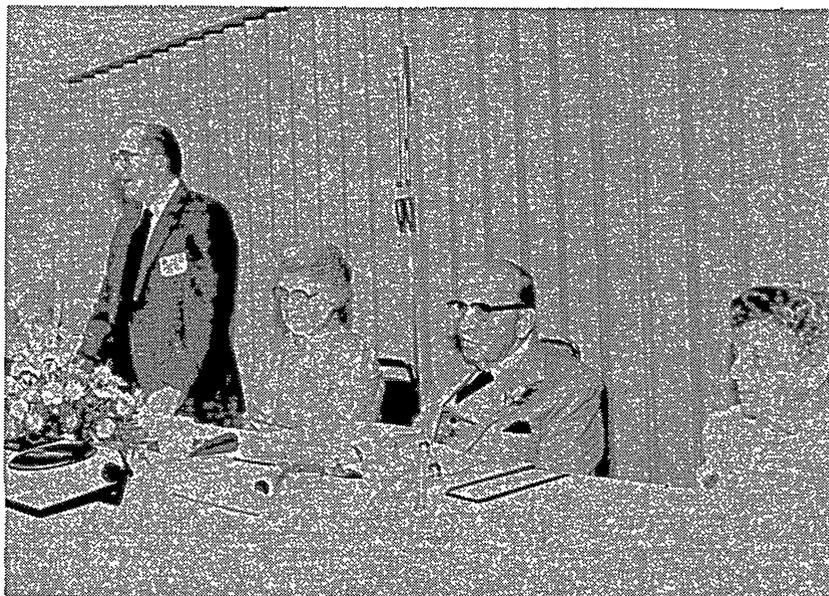
Alma Goldberg, one of our charter members, was too ill to attend, so Mark Harp made a tape recording of the meeting for her benefit.

Black and white photographs of the meeting were obtained by one of our members, Dr. Frederick J. Ladd. Color slide photographs of the meeting were taken by Harold L. Henry, Sr., one of my grandsons-in-law. He and our granddaughter, Nancy Ellen, are also new members of FSK.

In our 20th anniversary year, largely

through the efforts of Owings and Doris Rebert, we have an official logo for our chapter. It is red, white and blue and consists of an iris with our American flag in the background, and includes the year 1967. The basic idea for this was obtained from the American flag drawn by Paul Hoffmeister of the Marydel Chapter for the 1976 Region 4 Spring Convention hosted by FSK.

Our thanks to all those, including many not mentioned in this article, who have made this a wonderful twenty years---and also to all those who made our 20th Anniversary Meeting a great success.



OWINGS REBERT, REGION 4 ASST RVP, ADDRESSES 20TH ANNIVERSARY MEETING OF FSK. NEXT TO HIM, DORIS REBERT, PRES OF FSK, MAYNARD & RETTA HARP, FOUNDERS & CHARTER MEMBERS OF FSK. ON TABLE IN FRONT OF MAYNARD IS AN ALBUM OF FSK HISTORY. (PHOTO BY FRED LADD)



AMONG THOSE AT 20TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER OF FSK, LT TO RT, ALICE MILLER, LIBBY CROSS, BOTH CHARTER MEMBERS, OWINGS REBERT, DORIS REBERT, MAYNARD HARP, RETTA HARP, FOUNDERS OF FSK, AND CHARTER MEMBERS DOTTIE CONRAD AND ROSALIE FIGGE (PHOTO BY FRED LADD)

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THE NEW FSK IRIS SOCIETY LOGO

GREAT REGION 4 IRISARIANS OF THE PAST:  
CHARLES E. F. GERSDORFF (1885-1968)

Charles E. F. Gersdorff, who was Charlie to his friends, lived at 1825 North Capitol Street, Washington, D.C. His address was well known to all iris hybridizers between 1927 and 1950, for it was to that address that they wrote to register their new irises. Mr. Gersdorff was the AIS's first Registrar, and he performed the Registrar's duties on a volunteer basis for 23 years.

In the January 1970 AIS Bulletin, his biography reads: "The first Registrar of AIS, holding that office almost from the beginning of the Society until 1950. He set an example of firmness and thoroughness in the early days when it was hard to get all growers to comply with the rules. Was of invaluable assistance in preparing 1929 and 1939 Check Lists. His was a truly dedicated service, and AIS owes to him a deep debt of gratitude." He was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal in 1944.

Charles Gersdorff worked for the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture and held a number of offices in the Rose & Gladiolus Societies. He wrote many articles on protein chemistry and horticulture. His ground in Washington was small. He grew many of his irises in his "roof garden"---big boxes on the roof of his home. He hybridized irises and registered a number of cultivars. His TB introduction BERTHA GERSDORFF (R. 1935) can be seen in the Region 4 Hybridizers' Garden in Westminster, Md. His Siberian iris MOUNTAIN LAKE (Gersdorff, '38) can still be purchased from Busse Gardens in Minnesota.

Charles Gersdorff, a great irisarian from Region 4's past, set high standards of service to AIS for all of us to aspire to.

## A ROBIN MEMO

Memo to: All Region 4 members  
From: Anne Lowe, Regional Robin Chairman

Are you in a robin? Would you like to be in a robin? What exactly is a robin?

A lot is said about robins but woefully little appears in print to explain what the fun, interest and fellowship is all about. At its simplest, a Round Robin is a small group of people (10-12) who write to each other on a regular basis as follows: a package of letters will arrive in your mailbox; you read the letters (one each from everyone in the robin), remove your old letter, write a new letter, add it to the package and send it on its way. A list of who sends to whom is in the package. Time frame? The packet should be in your hands no more than a week. If you have nothing to say or the timing is wrong, jot a note and send the robin on. When you mail the package you send a card to your robin director to let him know where the robin is. A complete circuit of all members should be completed in 3 months or less.

A robin is usually organized around a special area of interest, such as rebloomers, beardless, species or general. The information interchange is super and a nicer way to keep in touch with iris friends can't be found.

We now have three robins flying in Region 4. As Regional Chairman, part of my job is to launch new robins. Please fill out and return the questionnaire to let me know your present level of robin involvement, if you are interested in joining a robin, and what fields of interest new robins should address. I look forward to hearing from you.

# Region 4 Robin Survey

# Join

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you belong to a Robin outside of Region 4?

Yes  No

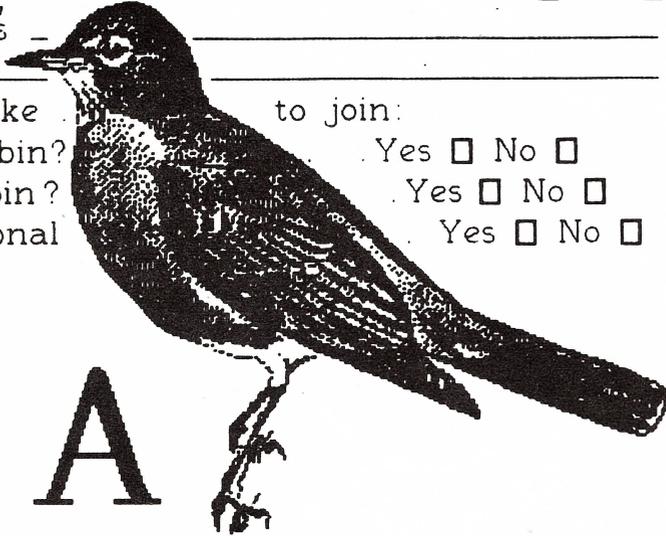
Name of Robin(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like \_\_\_\_\_ to join:

A Regional Robin? Yes  No

A National Robin? Yes  No

An International Robin? Yes  No



Topic of Robin(s) that would be of interest to you: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you be willing to serve as a Robin Director?

Yes  No  Maybe

# Robin!

←cut on  
dotted line

Please fill out and mail to:

Anne S. Lowe, Robin Chairman  
Rt-3, Box-135  
Blackstone, VA 23824

# The Vine and the branch perennial gardens

## IRISES:

### BEARDED:

TALL

INTERMEDIATE

MINIATURE TALL

STANDARD DWARF

MINIATURE DWARF

### BEARDLESS:

JAPANESE

LOUISIANA

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## MISCELLANEOUS PERENNIALS

**CATALOG:** \$ 2.00 TO COVER PRINTING AND  
MAILING. DEDUCT FROM YOUR  
ORDER OF \$ 10.00 OR MORE.

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Charlotte, N.C. 28217  
704 - 588 - 1788

## IRISARIAN LAWS (CONTINUED)

Law Number Twenty-Two: A truly vibrant scarlet iris has been developed a number of times....in color catalogs.

Law Number Twenty-Three: The Tenth Commandment does not make specific mention of irises; however, make sure the ones you decide to covet don't belong to a neighbor---just to be on the safe side.

Law Number Twenty-Four: If God did not want you to have lots of weeds, He wouldn't have made so many of them. Therefore, next time you are goofing off instead of weeding you need not feel guilty.

Law Number Twenty-Five: Everyone who shows irises will make mistakes in grooming when starting out. Don't worry about this as poor grooming is not a hanging offense except in Maryland and Nevada.

Law Number Twenty-Six: Old irisarians never die, they just spade away!

Law Number Twenty-Seven: AIS judges would never award the Dykes to a poor grower so if you are having trouble with KILT LILT you'd better examine your cultivation practices. Likewise, if VICTORIA FALLS falls in your garden, you should feel it is your fault.

Law Number Twenty-Eight: All the work you put into keeping your irises growing and increasing well is much appreciated---by the borers, cucumber beetles, and slugs!

Law Number Twenty-Nine: In 1935 in Crose, Kansas, an AIS judge said "The grooming in this show is uniformly excellent," and shortly thereafter was institutionalized and has not been heard of since.

ON TOUR  
*Anne Lowe*

Mike and I decided to extend our iris season by traveling north to join the garden tours offered by C&P and FSK chapters during the Memorial Day weekend. After a leisurely drive along the back roads of Southside Virginia, we arrived in the area late Saturday afternoon. In ditches and banks on the way up we saw quantities of an apparently generic purple Siberian iris which we affectionately dubbed I. 522. We based ourselves in Mt Airy, Maryland.

Early Sunday, after a quick stop at the local fast food joint to pick up coffee and a bag lunch, we were off to Olney, MD to join the car tour of C&P gardens.

We were the first to arrive at Dick and Meredith Sparling's garden, and it was a funny feeling---8 am Sunday in a strange town and not a familiar face to be seen, but there were lots of irises in the yard so it must be the right place. However, our host quickly appeared and so did other eager irisarians---the C&P tour was off and running. Diana Nicholls, who organized and led the group, gave us the itinerary and schedule for the day. We were then turned loose in the Sparling garden.

The initial impact of the Sparling garden is mind-boggling. It was difficult to be systematic in the viewing. We immediately teamed up with Lois Rose in taking notes and photographing some of what we were seeing. This helped stave off the feeling that we might miss something. (The only thing I ended up missing was the coffee and donuts thoughtfully provided by our hosts---I was too busy looking at irises!) I expected to see median irises and wasn't disappointed,

but what I hadn't counted on was the large number of TB's that Dick grows. And so the WANTED list was begun. Dick was so helpful and informative that the hour was quickly gone and it was time to go.

Lois Rose elected to ride with us, and so we were off to Kristine Forsburg's garden in Rockville. This garden showed us how an artful mix of shrubs and flowering plants can create a truly lovely yard. The irises, while not numerous, were beautifully integrated into the overall landscape. The miniature roses were especially interesting to many in our group. There were rows of vegetables tucked into every available nook and cranny. And Kristine had utilized a steep bank for a showy display of Siberians, including I. 522 which she dug up and presented to Mike as we were leaving. It's always nice when an iris evokes the pleasant memory of a friend, and we will always think of Kris when this iris blooms. With the 15 cars that were parked around the cul-de-sac, I'll bet Kris's neighbors will remember us too!

The next stop for our caravan was Nicholls Gardens in Gainesville, VA, and here we had time to browse through the many paths and iris plantings at leisure. This was the lunch break and Mike and Diana Nicholls provided us with wonderful cold drinks and dessert to accompany the sandwiches we had brought. There was ample time for sharing food and ideas as we ate our lunch under the shady arbor or sat on benches under the trees. Again the wish list grew. Especially notable was the iris ON LINE (Schreiner, 80), which appealed to the computer oriented Lowes. A huge clump of *I. pseudacorus bastardii* caught my eye, and yet another name was added to my list. It was interesting to see "Diana's Nursery"

where she was raising hundreds of tiny perennials which would be sold at a later date.

Afternoon found us "on the road again", headed for Glen Cairn Farm in Tuscarora, MD. What a show it was with row upon row of large clumps of irises in full bloom! (Camera and list time again!) Joanne Murphy has collected many Dykes Medal irises as well as recent AM winners, and these are grouped to provide a visible reminder of how far we have come since the early days when the majority of irises were blue. Breeding trends in color and form can be traced just by scanning these rows of blooms. The display also provided insight into what judges look for in selecting the top irises for awards. What a painless way to learn! The sun was hot and again there were welcome cold drinks in the shade. An especially thoughtful note was the straw hats provided for those who wanted to protect their heads from the sun.

The last scheduled stop was Indigo Knoll Perennials, the home and commercial enterprise of Steve and Linda Harsy. There we saw illustrations of Steve's iris drift plantings, as well as many fascinating border and rock garden plants. Once again I succumbed, and several pots of perennials joined I. 522 in the back of the car. It was interesting to see their commercial plantings of SDBs which, of course, were not in bloom.

We arrived back at Sparling's in the late afternoon and spent another hour (or two). He and Meredith are wonderful hosts, and he is so knowledgeable! Finally we had to tear ourselves away---tomorrow was another day, and our aching feet need some rest before the FSK tour began. But what fun!

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# FREDERICKSBURG-RICHMOND IRIS SOCIETY REPORT

*Roger Glasshoff*

Chapter members assembled November 8, 1987 to celebrate in thanksgiving at the annual Harvest Dinner. Those attending enjoyed a celestial meal of irresistible dishes in such an array as to satisfy every taste bud. To satisfy an unceasing lust for iris beauty, Phil Yowell exhibited ten rebloomers, igniting a desire for spring bloom in us all. SECOND LOOK, a peachy beauty with a red beard, was superb. EMMA LOUISA, a violet bitone, also illustrated appealing qualities. Mike Lowe took photographs which will likely appear in a future issue of the Reblooming Iris Society Recorder.

A brief business meeting was conducted to elect new officers and review a preliminary schedule for 1988. The following members were elected to continue the chapter's spirit:

Chairman.....Roger Glasshoff  
Vice Chairman...Phil Yowell  
Secretary.....Anne Lowe  
Treasurer.....Walter Gaylord  
Membership.....Frances Gaylord  
Editor.....Lois Rose

Special recognition was extended to Ruth Walker for her unselfish committal to the promotion of the chapter. We expect continued guidance and assistance from this wonderful lady. Gratitude was also acknowledged for membership participation in all the activities that resulted in our achieving a memorial year and the very successful Region 4 Spring Meeting and tour. We invite everyone to attend our Spring Show on May 14, 1988 in Fredericksburg, and the Region 4 Fall Meeting to be announced in a later issue of NEWSCAST.

## THE "CALIFORNIA RHIZOME PROBLEM"

O. M. Otte

[ED. The July and October 1982 AIS Bulletins contained the article "Proper Fertilization is More Than a Pile of Manure" by O. M. Otte. Several parts of the original article were omitted from the published version. Walter Smith has provided us with the complete original article, and we believe the following excerpt will be of interest.]

My pH project has also helped me to resolve, at least to a great extent in my mind, a plausible answer to a well established paradox prevalent among Eastern iris growers. We've all heard, "So and So's California-grown rhizomes and introductions just won't grow for me, so I wait a couple of years and then I purchase those same California introductions from a Midwest grower, and then they do just fine." I now attribute this phenomena to the soil-mineral content differences that directly affect the pH-controlled organic mineral salt compounds that are contained within the rhizomes. In other words, the greater the soil mineral content differences, the greater and riskier will be the problems associated with successful relocation of iris rhizomes. I suspect that both nutrient and mineral "lock-up" occurs within certain cells of the rhizome itself unless a rhizome conditioning procedure is instigated prior to permanently planting any far western or California grown rhizome in dissimilar eastern U.S. soil. A simple rhizome conditioning procedure in conjunction with my established soil pH and fertility control has seemingly eliminated this "California Rhizome Problem" for me. I'll share this procedure that has worked very well for me (2 losses after permanent planting, one in each of two years out of 77 rhizomes).

In 1977-1978, I experienced the "California Rhizome Problem" and lost about 30% of all rhizomes originating in California. I was planting directly into my iris bed soil with a pH of 7.1 - 7.2. The new rhizomes never got started properly and as a result were weak and suffered winter kill. Examination of the dead rhizomes showed that only very weak root development had occurred after the August planting in my Pennsylvania soil.

In my 1980 and 1981 plantings, I changed two things. First, all rhizomes were planted into 9" pots containing practically all humus and growing medium. I reasoned that rains and watering would flush away the rhizome-contained minerals, and the new rhizome would be totally dependent on balanced liquid fertilizer feedings. Results: outstanding root growth extending down 7-8 inches through the bottom drainage holes of the pots, strong new plant growth with good foliage and healthy increase, all occurring before the new TB iris plants were transplanted in summer/early fall. The second change consisted solely in having a pH of 6.8 for all main-bed plantings after division time starting in 1980.

Since instituting my "conditioning program", I have had four weak growers (3 attributed to turnip-shaped rhizomes, since replaced free) and five losses (4 in 1980 prior to my potting procedure) out of a total of 77 California grown rhizomes. Rhizome "conditioning" has cut my loss rate from 30% in 1977-1978 to the loss of only one rhizome from 31 purchased (in the period August 1981-March 1982) for a current "California" loss rate of 3% even after a severe winter. With introductions at \$25 or higher, pH control and rhizome conditioning have really paid off for me.

## EXCERPTS FROM REGIONAL ROBINS

From the "Ramblin' Robin", Region 4 General Interest:

Alma Childers (June 18, 1987): ...the iris season turned out to be real good. IB's bloomed good. Have pods on PAINTED HILLS X STRANGE CHILD. Mostly to see if PAINTED HILLS would pod, and then maybe get far out colors....Siberian ON AND ON has put up several stalks after the first burst of bloom. (Hamlin, WV)

B. J. Brown (June 25, 1987): We also had a nice showing of Louisiana irises with three outstanding whites: C'EST MAGNIFIQUE, CLARA GOULA, and QUEEN OF QUEENS; the yellows caught my eye and G. W. HOLLEYMAN seemed the brightest, with DIXIE DEB a close second; HER HIGHNESS was another graceful white which I failed to mention; RED ECHO, RED GAMECOCK and ANN CHOWNING led the way in the red-terra cotta class; GRACELAND and LITTLE ROCK SKIES were my favorites in blue; HARLAN K. RILEY was good with yellow background flushed plum; and PROFESSOR IKE was probably the biggest bloom in red-violet with bright yellow signals. This is fast becoming one of my favorite irises. (Charlotte, NC)

Diana Nicholls (July 21, 1987): New to my garden was HONEY GLAZED (IB), a nice cream and gold. I do hope it will rebloom for me. Schreiner's ON LINE in its shades of blue caught everyone's attention. What an impressive one year clump it made. *J. pseudacorus bastardii*, with its light yellow blooms towered over everything near by and just stood out like a shining beacon and said: "Look at me." SUPER EGO (Siberian) made a lovely clump for me this year. IPSUS (Japanese) had great branching and bud count and seemed to go on and on. It and DRIVEN

SNOW were the last to finish blooming.  
(Gainesville, VA)

J. D. Stadler (July 14, 1987): Here is a list of things that did well this year:

CAPTION (Ghio, 86): A modern version of QUEEN OF HEARTS. Bloomed tall and large with branching. I was impressed.

GIGOLO (Keppel, 84): Keppel has the brightest of all plics in this one. The orange ground with red purple border and dot. Branching and buds could be better, but the color will knock your eyes out.

TIDE'S IN (Schreiner, 83): Beautiful light blue self that I like more each year. This iris is destined for greatness if there is any justice. It has it all.

HOLY NIGHT (Mohr, 83): I wrote last year that it was the most outstanding in the garden and it did not let me down this year. Stopped taking orders on it last year and she rebounded marvelously. It will never be widely recognized for its true worth because it did not come from the West Coast. Everyone should grow it.

NAVY CHANT (Luihn, 82): Very dark (not black) indigo blue. So very smooth in color. Good overall performance..

CRANBERRY CRUSH (Aitken, 86). Out of MYSTIQUE and GOING MY WAY. This was another favorite of mine this year. More beautiful than MYSTIQUE. The falls are dark violet with a red purple glow. Very ruffled beautiful form. Very nice.

TITAN'S GLORY (Schreiner, 81): Lived up to its reputation. Large dark purple with great branching. Another Schreiners in the running for a Dykes.

PACESETTER (Mohr, 83): Was a nice tall, well branched pink.

HINDENBURG (Maryott, 83). Best vibrant orange I have seen anywhere. If it has a major flaw, it is close branched and the standards are open; but it has good substance. The large, bushy beards of tangerine just add to it's beauty. (Reidsville, NC)

Karon Simmons (July, 31, 1987): Our iris show [Easton, MD] was a pretty good one with about 180 entries and 31 exhibitors. Dick Kleen's VANITY won Queen, and Dick once again took the Silver Medal. Mary Etta Brightman won the Bronze Medal. Meade Windsor won Juniors....My husband and I had the pleasure of attending the National Hosta Convention held in Wilmington, DE, at the end of June. We toured some very interesting gardens and enjoyed a wonderful evening at Longwood Gardens, which was closed to the public that evening....I would have to say my favorite iris this blooming season was IGLOO. Loaded with stalks and buds. (Claiborne, MD)

Julie Allen (August 10, 1987): This summer I have been working part time once again for Bill Maryott. He grows most of his iris in Gilroy, which is about 25 miles south of us. He hires about 7 or 8 people for each dig. Then we bring the rhizomes back to San Jose for packing and shipping. He is such an enthusiastic and energetic person! He does all his iris growing and hybridizing in addition to his job as an engineer at IBM. I don't know how he does it. Once I'm back teaching, I do well to keep my own little yard cared for. (San Jose, CA)

Louise Smith (September 10, 1987): Think of being a robin member this way---each robin

only comes to your house about once every six months---surely you can spare a couple of hours to visit with all these fascinating friends at those long intervals. It is like going to a meeting, or having one in your own home, without having to get dressed up, without having to clean the house, and getting to have the meeting at your own convenience...even in the middle of the night if that is the best time for you! And all who are in the robin are your very best friends, interested exactly in what you are interested in---irises! (Williamsburg, VA)

Clarence Mahan (September, 26, 1987) I always recommend RANCHO ROSE to people starting out with irises because it grows so well and is so beautiful....some other great older irises (all selling commercially for under \$5) that I recommend to beginners are: light blue, FLAIR; near black, SUPERSTITION; pink, VANITY; medium blue, SHIPSHAPE; purple, NAVY STRUT; maroon, GARNET SPORT; yellow, NEW MOON (which always has grown well for me, even tho' others in Region 4 have said it is prone to rot); yellow, LEMON MIST; orchid, MARY FRANCES; neglecta, MYSTIQUE; white, LACED COTTON and CUP RACE; white and yellow, BRIDE'S HALO; additional bicolors, LORD BALTIMORE, LOUDOUN CHARMER, DOVER BEACH, BLAZING SADDLES; blue and purple plics, SPINNING WHEEL and GENTLE RAIN. (McLean, VA)

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ALL THE "OLD TIMERS" IN THE RAMBLIN' ROBIN  
EXTEND A HEARTY WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS  
DON SPOON AND JO ANN MYERS!!

---

"*I. pallida dalmatica*...has long been in cultivation in the South. To possess the true *pallida* is something like belonging to the Colonial Dames." ---ELIZABETH LAWRENCE

## MAINTAINING JUDGING STANDARDS

*F. G. Stephenson*

Robert S. Carney, a past President of the AIS, in presenting the 1965 "Handbook for Judges and Exhibitions", dedicated it "to those conscientious judges without whose service there would be no system of AIS Awards. During their years of service they have set a very high standard for future judges to follow." Periodically, each judge should take stock and see how well he or she is measuring up to this standard!

The honor of being an AIS-accredited judge carries considerable prestige and personal responsibility. To deserve and maintain the high respect in which they should be held by the membership, they much ever be conscious of and adhere to those standards that have been set by those who have gone before. Any deviation from these high standards is not only a reflection on that individual, but also on the Society which he or she represents. It has been said that were AIS a commercial enterprise, the AIS judge would be an inspector in the quality assurance branch of the research and development division. Looking at it from this perspective, what kind of product are you, as a judge, passing?

Within the past year stories have been coming to me through the robins and through personal communication, telling of judges who, as a part of "judges training", devote time to and demonstrate methods of altering an exhibition specimen by devious means "to fool the judges." Surely, an award ribbon won in this manner is very cheap in value and the person using these tactics and the judge advocating such a practice shows a complete lack of integrity and is a reflection upon the Society. This practice

also shows a complete lack of regard for the judge responsible for evaluating the show specimens in that it is an attempt to discredit those judging the show. It would be physically impossible, in the time allotted, for the judge to inspect each specimen closely enough to detect such trickery. He or she has a right to assume that the exhibitor is basically honest. To me, as a judge with more than 25 years of service, such practices seem to be an admission by the exhibitor that he is not capable of growing exhibition quality irises.

As a Master Judge, my question is whether a person advocating such deception is worthy of continuing as an AIS-accredited judge. Why would a dedicated member sit idly by and not make a challenge of such tactics? Certainly such behavior cannot, by any stretch of the imagination, be conceived as promoting the high standards perceived by those who have worked so tirelessly to build a Society that has the highest respect of the horticultural community. Let's hope the Society will resist the all too prevalent concept that anything is moral so long as one doesn't get caught or "if you can get by with it it's alright to do it."

Note: Underlining in Mr. Carney's statement is by Mr. Stephenson.

*[ED. We have attended a number of judges training courses in which unacceptable exhibition practices have been explained, but we would think that that is not what Mr. Stephenson is addressing.]*

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"Until the Donkey tried to clear  
the fence, he thought himself a Deer."

ARTHUR GUITERMAN

## MARYDEL CHAPTER REPORT

*Grace Hartge*

At the meeting of the Marydel Chapter, on November 7, 1987, the following officers were elected for the coming year:

President	Mary Etta Brightman
Vice Pres.	Richard Kleen
Secretary	Grace Hartge
Treasurer	Karon Simmons

We had a very successful July sale and are looking forward to our May 15th show at the Firehouse in Easton.

We are sending a contribution to the American Iris Society in memory of James Cope, our dedicated member who recently died and will be sorely missed. We will also miss his prize winning irises and his flair for getting publicity for AIS.

Karon Simmons and Mary Etta Brightman are co-chairmen for the May show, which is always a highlight of our year.



WHEN WE VISITED THE GARDEN OF LOIS & CECIL ROSE AT THE REGIONAL MEETING, LOIS'S BEAUTIFUL IRIS QUILT WAS A BIG ATTRACTION.

## FRANCIS SCOTT KEY IRIS SOCIETY REPORT

*Doris Rebert*

Spring activities started out with our dwarf and median display held at Watson's Garden Center on May 9th. We were pleased with the response.

Our iris show, held at Towson Marketplace on May 23, was deemed "best ever" by many of our members. As written by Victoria Dorf for NEWSCAST, the Garden Bus Tour was a huge success. Lots of iris fellowship. Again this year, our rhizome sale at Watson's Garden Center was very profitable. Our sale netted \$1,756.

In spite of the hot, humid weather, FSK members and guests enjoyed a picnic at Maywood, summer home of Retta and Maynard Harp, on July 19. Again nothing can compare with our iris fellowship and good food. A report on our 20th Anniversary Dinner appears elsewhere in NEWSCAST.

The '88 Spring Regional Convention plans are being finalized. Dates are May 19, 20, and 21. The motel headquarters will be the new Days Inn in Westminster. In addition, several evening activities will be held at the Agriculture Center nearby. We will be privileged to have noted hybridizer Dr. John Weiler of Fresno, CA, as a guest speaker. Currently President of the Reblooming Iris Society, he is proprietor of Rialto Gardens. Some of his introductions: FRESNO CALYPSO, FRESNO FLASH, FRESNO FROLIC, BABY TEARS, THRICE BLESSED, THIRD CHARM and THIRD WORLD.

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"The light which puts out our eyes is darkness to us. Only that day dawns to which we are awake. There is more day to dawn. The sun is but a morning star." --THOREAU

## C&P THIRD ANNUAL GREAT FALL SHOW

*Diana Nicholls*

I am pleased to report that we had some new exhibitors and new award winners for well grown and well groomed irises at our 3d annual Great Fall Show. Gladys Lee of Silver Spring, Md, was awarded the AIS Silver Medal for most blue ribbons; and Happy Tupling of Washington, D.C., received the Bronze Medal for second most blue ribbons. FEED BACK (Hager, 83) went on many "want lists" after viewers saw the stalk of this gorgeous medium violet self that won Queen of the Show for Clarence Mahan. First runner-up was a spectacular stalk of I DO exhibited by Gladys Lee. Second runner-up was a lovely stalk of BABY BLESSED shown by Blaney Marlow. Clem Reeves drove down from New Jersey and took home the Best Seedling Award for his MDB F-65-1. This cute miniature dwarf won a Special Award at the Great Fall Show last year.

Jack Frost became a regular October visitor. He visited for our Region 4 Show earlier in October, and came back to visit us for our October show date on the 17th, nipping several potential winners just before show time. We did have 27 entries by six exhibitors---and they brought some great comments from visitors to the show. Mrs. McGregor's Garden Shop in the Arlington Forest Shopping Center, site of our show, gave us exposure to new people. They were very enthusiastic to learn about reblooming irises and we picked up some new members.

A special "Thank you" to Joy Peters, Show Chairman, and to her entries crew who did a super job. In addition to Mr. and Mrs. Clem Reeves, our wonderful friend Frank Jones came down from New Jersey to once again make our show a success. Much talk of rebloomers,

irises in general and renewed friendships. If you missed it this year, do put the next C&P Great Fall Show on your calendar!

Our sincere appreciation also goes to Alice Miller, Dennis Wilkie, and Dick Sparling for lending us their judging expertise.

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### C&P IRIS SOCIETY REPORT

Since the last issue of NEWSCAST, C&P has continued on the move. At last count, we had grown to 152 members (and that's counting family memberships as "one" member). We had a delightful August picnic at the home of Diane Dulin in Fairfax, Va. At the business meeting, it was proposed to set \$2,500 aside in a special account as a start for financing the 1991 National Convention. The motion passed. A new feature was started in our C&P Newsletter as a result of a suggestion at the meeting. We now have an "Irisess Wanted" section. At present our members are looking for:

FROST KISS (Gibson, 73) - Dick Sparling  
CHINESE LANTERN - Steve Harsy  
VATICAN PURPLE - Sue Larson

If any Region 4 member has one of these irises or knows where they can be located please contact the NEWSCAST editor.

In September we all headed out to the Mt Airy home of Steve and Linda Harsy for our 2d Annual Fall Iris Sale. Did we ever sell lots of Siberian, Japanese, Louisiana, & species irises! And peonies! And hosta! After making over \$3,000 at our July sale, we added over \$1,400 at this event. And the hospitality of the Harsy's was great as usual. The only problem: it was raining and

the sale was outside. Toward the end our auctioneer Clarence Mahan just threw the irises on the table and said: "Everything left is \$2.00." Lots of people got \$25 irises cheap that day. The auctioneer unfortunately came down with bronchitis.

Don Spoon has agreed to be Chairman of our May 15, 1988 show, which will once again be at the Capitol Botanical Garden on the Mall in Washington, D.C.

Our Great Fall Show was held at Mrs. McGregor's Garden Shop in Arlington, Va. in October. A fine day, and a fine show!

In November we met at the National Arboretum and had a program on species irises. Justice prevailed when the door prize drawings were announced. Three prizes were awarded. One of our newest members, Marlu Vance of Alexandria was a winner. Jeannette Nelson, who is a tireless worker and who contributed some of our refreshments was a winner. And the third prize went to Steve Harsy who has been doing our great newsletter for the past two years.

Our next meeting will be January 17, 1988 at the Locust Grove Nature Center in Bethesda. Two hours of judges training will be given. On February 14, we will meet for Blaney's Buffet at her Silver Spring home. (Blaney Marlow is our C&P VALENTINE!!!).

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AUTUMN RAINBOWS: REGION 4'S FALL SHOW

*Diana Nicholls*

Mother Nature was a little less than cooperative in allowing us to have only a limited number of blooms for our Region 4 "Autumn Rainbows" Show in Williamsburg, Va., on October 10, 1987.

In addition to many days near 100°F and little rain over the summer, Mother Nature let Jack Frost visit my own garden very early this year on October 8. We did have some irises that were able to overcome these conditions and bloom for our show date, as evidenced by the 18 entries by 7 exhibitors.

Iris exhibited included TBs, IBs, and SDBs. Our judges, Brian Lazarus, Rosalie Figge, & J. D. Stadler found a lovely stalk of BABY BLESSED, exhibited by Clarence Mahan, among the entries, and bestowed the Queen of the Show honors on it. Clarence also received a Best in Section Certificate for his entry of CORN HARVEST. Best Seedling was awarded to 74-04-CA, a yellow & maroon bicolor TB, originated by Norman Nœe.

The show included Section F, Unnamed Beauties, and this section demanded a second look. There were some irises in full bloom, blemish free, with lovely green foliage that was totally free of disease. These potted irises bloom year round, and are totally maintenance free. They were auctioned off later and brought some lively bidding. Do these irises sound like an answer to an irisarian's every prayer? No borers! No rot! No disease! And always in bloom for the show date! Rich Randall cut these perfect beauties from wood (he is willing to share the pattern if you ask), and they were beautifully hand painted by Judy Ogburn.

Although the show was nice, we did not have enough entries to award any medals. Not for lack of trying---some exhibitors were up into the wee hours the night before trying to get blooms open. Some succeeded, some didn't. We'll be trying again next year.

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"Good Americans, when they die, go to Paris."  
--T. G. APPLETON

## DWARF AND MEDIAN REPORT

*Richard Sparling*

It was an exceptional year---early, but it seems all are getting earlier. Our first MDBs came out on March 25, once again led by ATROVIOLACEA. The ones that stood out, in addition to Nr.1, were COPPER CHIEF, BLAZON, TINY TYKE (an Aril), KIWI DOLL, FLAKES, MITTERNACHT, FRENCH WINE, BUZZ BEE, LOOK AGAIN, BLUE WIND, FLEA CIRCUS, SCRIBE, and BETTY EMMONS. PLIC SAND bloomed in late April---early May, and then bloomed again in July---the last of the bearded irises to bloom.

Our first SDBs came out on April 19. AZURE GEM was one of the first. I consider it the best all-around SDB, and excluding the MTB class, probably the grandest median iris at this time.

It was an outstanding season from beginning to the end of the tall, but the SDBs and IBs were early and the rest on time. It was kind of hard to evaluate because I was swept off my feet by the tremendous showing. Along with AZURE GEM, two other SDB's stood out. PIPPI LONGSTOCKING and CARROT CURLS. The color combination, yellow and maroon markings grew better each day I saw them, and the orange color and form of the latter was great. These stood out just a notch above the other---just a little notch, however.

Aril-meds started showing on April 20. SALETTA and STOL-BEE were outstanding early ones, and SYRIAN MOON, CALIFA KABANG and SHIEK great late bloomers.

The IBs fill in between the SDBs and tall irises, and they stretched the gap between the early season and normal bloom of the

BBs, MTBs and TBs. RARE EDITION finally looked like a winner, but because of inconsistency in my garden, it doesn't rate as high as some others. LILAC POINT made a beautiful clump. FRENCH SILK, mid blue; HELEN PROCTOR, black; ANNIKINS, dark blue; and LITTLE SNOW LEMON, white with yellow markings, caught my eye as the best.

Some of the old timers in the Border Bearded class performed better than a lot of the new ones, mainly because they stay in class. MEXICALI, a very dependable plic; CORAL EYES, pink; FRILLS, late blooming yellow; PINK SWIRL, pink; and STEPPING SMALL all "done good." DRUM SOLO stayed in class for once. MARMALADE SKIES is a great orange but it pushes class. PECADILLO, PREDICTION, DEANNA DARCY, CHICKASAW SUE, BUTTER GIRL, LUCKY LOCKET and CELESTIAL DREAM were all excellent.

The MTBs were all fabulous. Two year clumps had at least ten stalks, three year clumps had over 20. Even the new ones showed well. Never met one I didn't like.

We're still looking for Median Display Gardens. We need them in all chapters except C&P and some of the Carolina ones.

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#### AUCTIONS AND AWARDS REPORT

*J. D. Stadler*

The 1987 Bobby Lee Evans Award was won by Alice Bouldin's Border Bearded seedling B-10, which has now been named ALISA. The D. C. Nearpass Award was won by CECILIA D. (George Crossman, 84).

Last spring and fall auctions netted the most ever. This is a credit to the donators and their generosity.

## REGION 4 ROBIN REPORT

*Anne Lowe*

Your Robin Chairman assumed these duties, vice Doris Simpson, on August 22, 1987. The National Robin Chairman, Janice Badger, was contacted by phone and letter, and some material has been promised but not received yet. Sam Reece, National Flight Lines Editor, was also contacted.

Region 4 has three robins flying at this time:

1. Ramblin' Robin---general interest, 9 members, Director: B. J. Brown (temporary)
2. The Royal Four---reblooming irises, 9 members, Director: Lloyd Zurbrigg
3. The Wild Ones---beardless & species, 12 members, Director: Alma Childers

Some interest has been expressed for additional robins along the following lines:

- o Historical & older irises, tentatively named the "Dodo Birds".
- o General interest for smaller gardeners, tentatively named "Pinfeathers".

Duties of Regional Robin Chairman appear to be: extract for NEWSCAST & Flight Lines; refer people to appropriate robin director; monitor robin flights; foster interest in robins within the region; establish new robins as indicated; and act as resource person to robin members and directors.

Within the next year I hope to: contact all members in Region 4 and assess their level of interest and present involvement in robins; increase interest among those chapters whose members are not presently involved in robins; and get at least one new robin in flight.

*[ED. Ruby Buchanan must be in ecstasy, Anne.]*

## REBLOOMING IRIS REPORT

*Lloyd Zurbrigg*

This has been a rather grim year for rebloom in Region 4. Record cold for the first week of October---at least in the western parts of the region---and record setting heat and drought through most of the summer are the causes.

In spite of this, I have heard of rebloom in the C&P Chapter---four stalks of IMMORTALITY the last week of August in one garden, and several stalks of JENNIFER REBECCA in July and August in another garden.

A visit to Frank Jones's garden in New Jersey, the last week of August, revealed two dozen stalks in bloom. By now [October] it would be hundreds. Frank certainly has the monopoly on early rebloom. He is hosting a meeting of Region 19 members in his garden.

Word has come my way of some great new irises to be introduced by Melrose Gardens that are derived from EARL OF ESSEX and I DO. Also word that Melrose is enjoying the heaviest and best rebloom season ever. They have planted their rebloomers next to beardless beds that require frequent watering, and the luxury of rebloom is the result. Perhaps some of us can learn the techniques and get earlier and more lavish rebloom in 1988.

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"...whoever could make two ears of corn, or two blades of grass, to grow upon a spot of ground where only one grew before, would deserve better of mankind, and do more... service to his country, than the whole race of politicians put together." --SWIFT

## 1988 REGION 4 SPRING MEETING

*Maynard Harp, Pres. Emeritus, FSK Iris Soc.*

The 1988 Spring Regional Meeting will be hosted by the Francis Scott Key Iris Society, and is scheduled for May 19, 20 and 21, 1988.

Headquarters for the gathering will be at a completely new setting in Westminster, Maryland at a new hotel which opened for business in 1987. Westminster is west of Baltimore with excellent roads leading to it from all directions.

A "first" for any Region 4 meeting is a new and specially prepared iris bed at the Westminster City Hall. This contains exclusively introductions by irisarians of Region 4. The showing of blooms in this bed in 1987 indicates it will be a splendid part of the 1988 garden tour.

All gardens on the tour are in Maryland. The vast and beautiful garden of Doris and Owings Rebert, a short distance from Westminster City Hall, will be on the tour. It has more irises and is even better than before.

The tour will include a garden not previously on a regional tour, that of Debbie and Buddy Carswell at Manchester. The constantly changing garden of Carol and Andy Warner will again be an important part of the tour. Other tour gardens will include the attractive one of Alice Miller, and the one of many iris varieties, the Rosalie Figge garden.

Maywood, the garden of Retta and Maynard Harp, will also be a part of the tour. Maywood is the birthplace of the Francis Scott Key Chapter. It was here that its

first organization meeting was held.

A nationally known irisarian, Dr. John Weiler of Fresno, California will be our speaker on Saturday evening. He has been a grower and hybridizer of fine irises for many years. Dr. Weiler is currently President of the Reblooming Iris Society.

In the March 1988 NEWSCAST there will be more detailed information regarding this Regional Meeting and complete descriptions of the individual tour gardens. Meanwhile, if specific information is desired regarding some aspect of the 1988 Spring Regional, contact its Chairman, J. Owings Rebert or his wife Doris, currently President of the FSK Iris Society, 152 Leisters Church Rd, Westminster, MD 21157. Phone 1-301-848-3781. Information in the March NEWSCAST will include road directions, registration fees, and hotel accomodations and rates.

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### IRISES IN ANCIENT EGYPT

Our good friend and hard working C&P member Jeannette Nelson sent us this quote out of a book called The Enchanted Garden by Bryan Holmes: "The flower [iris], one of the oldest known in art, was named after Iris, the Greek Goddess of the Rainbow. In Egypt, the iris meant 'eloquence', and on special occasions bunches of them were used to decorate the brow of the Sphinx."

Jeannette pointed out in her note of transmittal that whereas most of us know about the iris being named after the goddess, the information about the place of the iris in ancient Egyptian culture is probably news to most people. Thank you, Jeannette, for this interesting information.

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## CHARLOTTE IRIS SOCIETY REPORT

*Pat Rodgers*

On Saturday, June 6, 1987, the CIS held its annual picnic at the Swan Lakes Iris Garden in Sumter, SC. The members brought their own lunches and strolled the paths through the lush lakeside Japanese iris beds. The plantings of Japanese irises, late blooming azaleas, daylilies, lush ferns, and towering bald cypress were in perfect harmony with the graceful swans swimming on the dark lakes. This inspired the three photographers in the group to shoot many rolls of film. The best slides were combined and shown at the CIS's November 10 covered-dish luncheon meeting.

The CIS also met on Saturday, September 12, for the annual iris auction. Members and guests bid not only on iris, but also on other perennials, shrubs, garden books and floral art objects.

Since CIS will be 40 years old on March 1, 1988, the group will celebrate with a "Birthday Bash" at the next regular meeting on April 12. The celebration will begin at 12:30 pm at East Seventh St in Charlotte, NC. We will honor our past presidents and long term members. We are proud to be 40, and we have never raised our dues!

On May 7, 1988, we will have an iris show at the Cotswold Mall (Sharon-Amity & Randolph Roads in Charlotte, NC) and on May 14 we will have an iris garden tour and picnic in Concord, NC.

The members of CIS extend an invitation to all Region 4 members to join us on April 12 for our "Birthday Bash" (bring a covered dish) and to our Iris Show on May 7 (bring your love of irises).

REGION 4 1987 TB SYMPOSIUM RESULTS

<u>Votes</u>	<u>Cultivar</u>
52	BEVERLY SILLS
50	VANITY
38	STEPPING OUT
31	IMMORTALITY
29	VICTORIA FALLS
28	MARY FRANCES
	SONG OF NORWAY
25	BRIDE'S HALO
	COPPER CLASSIC
23	LADY FRIEND
	MYSTIQUE
	TITAN'S GLORY
21	EARL OF ESSEX
	CUP RACE
	SUPERSTITION
20	CAMELOT ROSE
	GAY PARASOL
	LACED COTTON
	SHIPSHAPE
19	BAYBERRY CANDLE
	DOVER BEACH
18	BABBLING BROOK
	GOING MY WAY
	MASTER TOUCH
	STUDY IN BLACK
17	BLUE SAPPHIRE
	SPINNING WHEEL
16	SAPPHIRE HILLS
15	CHRISTMAS TIME
	DUSKY DANCER
	LEMON MIST
	PINK TAFFETA
	SON OF STAR
	WINE & ROSES
14	LORILEE
	NAVY STRUT

The top four vote getters among the write in votes were: CECILIA D. (8), JENNIFER REBECCA (5) and BETHANY CLAIRE (3).

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March Issue - February 26  
August Issue - July 26  
December Issue - November 26

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Serving as Region 4 editor has a number of benefits which might not be readily apparent. One of these benefits is that it enables us to get to know some Region 4 members more intimately than would otherwise be possible. One of our favorite correspondents since we became editor has been JAMES COPE whose recent death was sad news indeed.

Those of us who attended the Region 4 Fall Meeting in Falls Church a couple of years ago will not soon forget the beautiful stalk of SPIRIT OF MEMPHIS which won Queen of Show for James Cope. His enthusiasm for irises, especially rebloomers, and for the AIS was infectious. He believed that remontant irises were the wave of the future and never missed a chance to promote them. And he was such a delightful, charming man that he won many friends for AIS and the Marydel Chapter.

James worried that there were not enough new, younger members in the Marydel Chapter. He feared the chapter would fall into inactivity. He regularly sent in all available news about Marydel activities in an effort to keep members' interest levels high. We shall miss his wonderful sense of humor, and we shall miss the man even more. A devoted irisarian, a tireless worker, James Cope was a man we could all try to emulate to good benefit.

A very special "thank you" goes out to the wonderfully talented SANDI WELLS, who drew the irises on our cover this time. Another benefit of being editor: we have the original of the cover drawing which is soon going to be framed and put on our wall.

Clarence Mahan

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