

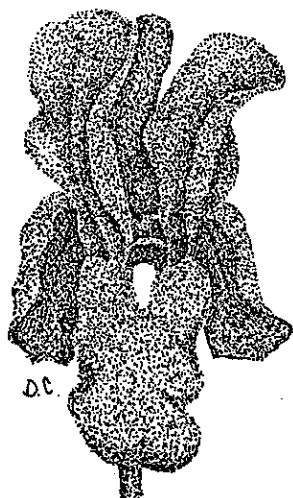
REBLOOMING IRIS RECORDER

F
A
L
L

1
9
8
8

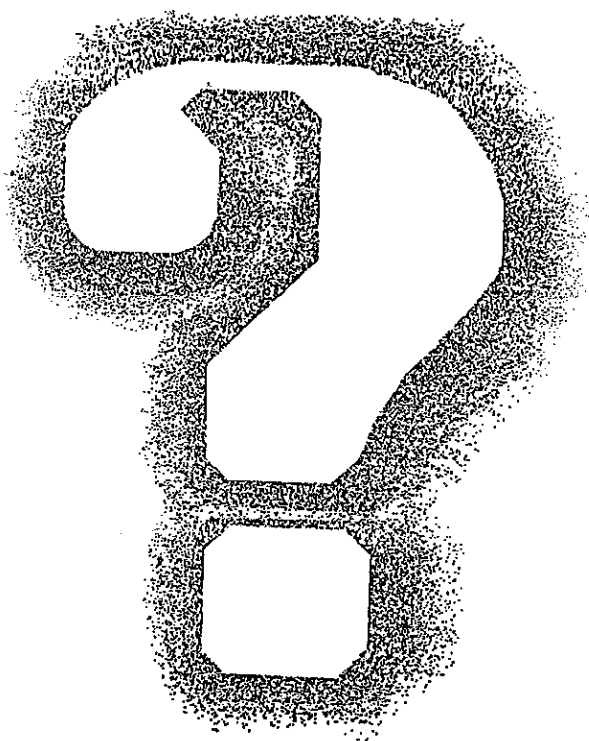
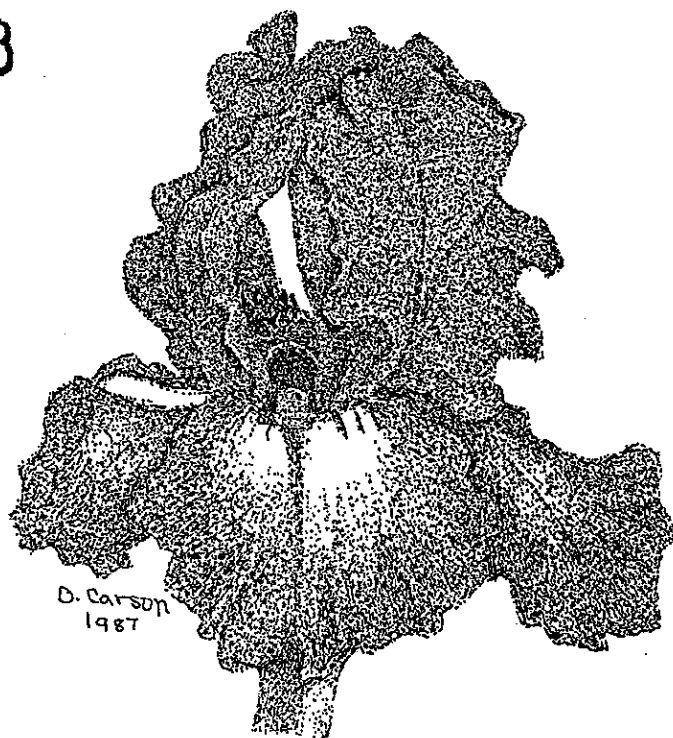
V
O
L

3
3



1938

1988



2038

REBLOOMING IRIS SOCIETY

A Section of the American Iris Society

OFFICERS

President: Dr. John H. Weiler, 1146 West Rialto, Fresno, CA 93705	TERMS EXPIRING:
Vice President: Gary Sides, 405 Pettus St., Lawrenceburg, TN 38464	Spring '89
Secretary: Howard L. Brookins, N75 W14257 N. Pt. Road, Menomonee Falls, WI 53051	Spring '90
Treasurer: Sue Keefe, 2100 Tarleton, Midland, TX 79707	Spring '89
Publicity Director: Monty Byers, P.O. Box-1019, Clear Lake Oaks, CA 95423	Spring '90
	Spring '91

DIRECTORS

Midwestern: Jim Ennenga, 1681 North 85th st., Omaha, NE 68114	TERMS EXPIRING:
Eastern: Clarence Mahan, 7311 Churchill Rd., McLean, VA 22101	Spring '90
Southern: Lottie Ogles, 1156 North Main, Joshua, TX 76058	Spring '89
Western: Bill Maryott, 1073 Bird Ave., San Jose, CA 95125	Spring '92
	Spring '91

CHAIRMEN

Robins: Mrs Bernice M. Miller, Rt-4 Box-439B, Killen, AL 35645
 Slides: Earl E. Hall, 1495 Enterprise Rd., West Alexandria, OH 45381
 Historian: Larry Harder, 208 First St., Ponca, NE 68870
 Membership: Howard L. Brookins, N75 W14257 N. Pt. Road,
 Menomonee Falls, WI 53051

Test Gardens:
 Symposium: Earl E. Hall
 Editor: Mike Lowe, Rt-3 Box-135, Blackstone, VA 23824
 Assistant Ed., Art & Design: Dudley Carson, P.O. Box 556, Willamina, OR 97396
 Past President: Mrs. Virginia Mathews, 315 S. Grandview Ct., Stillwater, OK 74074

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			

Updated checklist is now available! See Page 9 for details!
Back issues; volume 31 thru 33 only, are available from the Editor.
\$2.50 per volume includes 1st class postage.

The Reblooming Iris Recorder is published bi-annually in October and April.

Deadlines for receipt of material by the editor of RIR are:

Sooner is Better! October Issue Sept. 15
 April Issue March 15

Permission is granted to reprint any article appearing in RIR unless specifically prohibited. Proper credit must accompany the reprint. Please send a copy of the publication in which the reprint occurs, to the editor, RIR.

Table of Contents

Presidents' Message	<i>Rasmussen & Weiler</i>	3 - 4
Awards to Rebloomers	<i>J. Weiler</i>	4 - 5
Preservation of Historical Remontant Irises	<i>C. Mahan</i>	6 - 7
Through a Glass Darkly	<i>P. Black</i>	8 - 9
Do you Know Where You're Goin' to?®	<i>M. Byers</i>	9 - 10
Reblooming Iris?	<i>B. Hager</i>	10 - 12
Where are Rebloomers Going?	<i>E. Hall</i>	14
Bridging the Gap	<i>C. Jensen</i>	15
Remontancy in Siberian and JI	<i>C. McEwen</i>	16 - 17
Status of Reblooming Iris, 1988	<i>B. Miller</i>	18
State of the Art In The Sunbelt	<i>W. Moores</i>	19 - 20
Poetry	<i>ML & C. Mahan</i>	20 & 34
Reflections on Rebloom	<i>R.G. Smith</i>	21
Proposed By-Law Changes		21
Who cares where we've been-Where are we going? ...	<i>J. Weiler</i> ...	22 - 24
In What Direction Now?	<i>L. Zurbrigg</i>	25
The Lost Chord®		34

Regular Features

1988 Symposium	<i>Earl Hall</i>	Front Tearoff
Officials, Advertising and Membership rates		1
Nominating Committee		10
A Tip From the Pros		13
Overheard in the Garden		18 & 24
Cards & Letters		26
Puzzle Page		27
Robin Feathers.	extracts by <i>B. Miller</i>	28 - 30
The Experts Answer	staff	31
Membership Report	<i>H. Brookins</i>	32
Financial statement	<i>Miller & Keefe</i>	32
Minutes, Board Meeting	<i>H. Brookins</i>	33
Puzzle answers		34
In Memoriam		34

Credits: Front cover drawings by Dudley Carson

Photos: Howard Brookins: pp. 3, 14 left, 17

Lloyd Zurbrigg: pp. 10, 34; staff: all others

Advertisements

Reblooming Iris Recorder	5
Jensen Gardens	20
Committee Chairmen	9 & 29

**Give a Christmas Gift that lasts all year - A membership in the
Reblooming Iris Society.**

Presidents' Message



Our society grows to unprecedented size even as this is written. With membership zooming beyond 600 and growing daily, we are very pleased to note that this

number represents a doubling of membership since the Oklahoma national convention last spring. Some of the increased interest may be credited to officers of the society who have written letters of encouragement and welcome to prospective and new members, who have attended to mundane duties of office like keeping close watch on membership for due dates and address corrections, who have masterminded a complete reorientation of the Reblooming Iris Recorder, and who have traveled to other Iris clubs and societies to talk about reblooming irises. Another source of stimulating interest has been the growth of commercial gardens featuring or emphasizing reblooming irises, often with incentives for Iris gardeners to join our society. Without such commercial sources that are both consistent and reliable there can be little expansion of interest in remountant irises. Publication of the Reblooming Iris Checklist and the offer to send, for a SASE, a computer printout of reblooming cultivars for any given region has also helped. Although all such activities have produced greater interest and participation in the Reblooming

Iris Society, there seem to be other forces in operation which bode well for the remountant cause.

Gardeners across the land are discovering reblooming irises and seem very surprised that such things exist even though a number of cultivars have been in commerce for many years. Those who have grown irises for many years are taking a look at our newer remountants, experienced AIS judges are demanding training sessions on rebloomers, local clubs and societies are scheduling programs around such irises, and more and more hybridizers are devoting time and energy to further development of multi-season flowering in irises. All these activities are stimulating growth in the Reblooming Iris Societies.

With rapid growth we, as a society, face new challenges that must be anticipated and met if we are to gain and maintain pre-eminence as a section of AIS. A larger membership will demand a greater commitment of time from each officer. More of our members will be required to help in developing, receiving, and processing new ideas. We will need more contributors to the Reblooming Iris Recorder. Some work now handled by one person may have to be given to two or more if the job is to be done thoroughly. Less than two years ago the office of Secretary-Treasurer was split and is now done by two people instead of one. Further splits and creation of new positions may be desirable and may require a change in by-laws. All officers and you, the membership at large, are encouraged to think about these ideas and to

respond to any officer. Take an active part in a dynamic society. Contribute to the Reblooming Iris Recorder. Suggest ways to improve service to our membership. If you do, we cannot fail to continue to grow and to have a tremendous influence on development of remon-
tancy as a primary rather than the "unusual" feature of all garden irises.

John Weiler



Message from
James Rasmus-
sen for The
Reblooming Iris
Recorder:

When Mike Lowe
asked me to
write a message
for the Recorder

I asked myself, "Why me??!" Here in Wichita, Kansas I cannot get known rebloomers to flower in the fall. I believe that the hot winds of summer are the culprit, along with the very sandy soil of my garden. Even though they get plenty of water and fertilizer which should promote enough new growth, it is probably impossible to do enough for them in this particular location. How lucky are those of you who are able to grow reblooming irises successfully and so have the pleasure of enjoying our favorite flower twice a year!

My real reason for writing this is to tell you of the importance of a group in the American Iris Society who

bands together for the purpose of developing and growing an iris for which you have a special fondness. Rebloomers are such iris. They have been around for many years. You have a good strong leadership and direction that will carry your inter-
est to new heights. With hybridizing going on in a number of areas in our country, we have many new irises with remountant traits. This is not only true in tall bearded but other irises as well. With your good BUL-
LETIN you will certainly be able to increase interest in this wonderful iris direction.

James Rasmussen



1988 AIS Awards to Reblooming Cultivars

compiled by J. Weiler

votes

COOK-DOUGLAS MEDAL (SDB)

runners-up

- 62 Little Episode (D. Rawlins)
- 53 Baby Blessed (L. Zurbrigg)

CAPARNE-WELCH MEDAL(SDB)

- 45 Ditto (B. Hager)

Award of Merit

TALL BEARDED

- 101 Olympiad (J. Ghio)
- 55 Tomorrow's Child (Blythe)

runners-up

- 55 Pray for Peace (G. Plough)

BORDER BEARDED

- 67 Borderline (J. Ghio)
- 62 Music Box Dancer (Roderick)
- 54 Feathered Friend (Ensminger)

Award of Merit cont.

STANDARD DWARF BEARDED

56 Fingerprints (W. Maryott)

MINATURE DWARF BEARDED

runners-up

35 Puppet Baby (C. Boswell)

HONORABLE MENTION

TALL BEARDED

- 98 Breakers (Schreiners)
- 67 Varga Girl (H. Monroe)
- 64 Ever After (K. Keppel)
- 61 Change of Heart (K. Keppel)
- 55 Blackout (W. Luihn)
- 38 Blazing Sunrise (P. Black)
- 37 Charger (H. Stahly)
- 35 Divinity (J. Ghio)
- 32 Feminine Wiles (J. Nelson)
- 31 Stellar Lights (T. Aitken)
- 28 Back in Black (Schreiners)
- 28 Cinderella's Coach (B. Hager)
- 28 Flashpoint (K. Keppel)
- 26 Saffron Flame (M. Hamblen)
- 25 Cloudless Sunrise (Niswonger)

BORDER BEARDED

17 Little Pinkabloo (D. Carson)

STANDARD DWARF BEARDED

- 37 Sun Doll (B. Jones)
- 17 Plum Wine (J. Weiler)

MINATURE TALL BEARDED

16 Lady Emma (F. Jones)



Are You A Judge?

There are over 600 members in the Reblooming Iris Society. There should be over 300 of those who are also AIS judges. The direction of Iris development is moulded, pushed and channeled by the actions of AIS judges. Casting a vote, or

withholding a vote, tells the iris purchasers what's hot - or what's not.

How can we legitimately extol the virtues of our favorite plant - if we do not also put a vote where our mouth is.

Are you depending on that friend - a 'oncer' fanatic and an AIS judge - to notice your flower? Dream on Alice...! How much better if you would invest the time, effort and expense to become a judge. Then tell the world via your ballot what you think of that deserving rebloomer!

IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE!

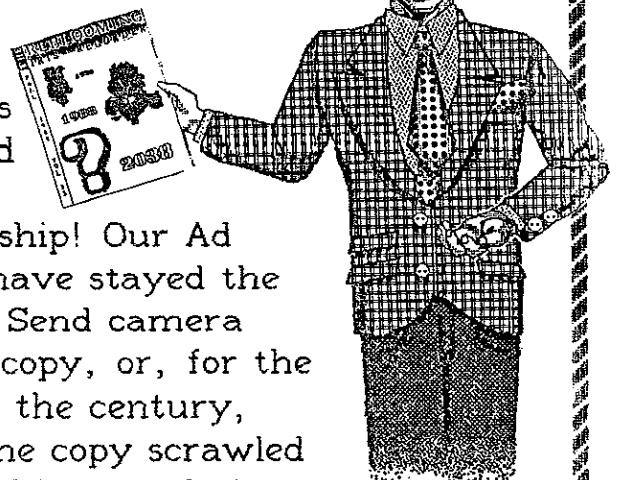
HYBRIDIZERS - SHOWCASE YOUR INTRODUCTIONS

**COMMERCIAL GROWERS - TELL
THE IRIS BUYING PUBLIC WHERE
TO GET THOSE
REBLOOMERS**

The
Recorder
has
doubled
its

readership! Our Ad
rates have stayed the
same! Send camera
ready copy, or, for the
deal of the century,
send the copy scrawled
out and let our design team create a
super ad for you! All at rock-bottom
prices!

**Where else
can you get so much
for so little?**



ON THE PRESERVATION OF HISTORICAL REMONTANT IRISES

Clarence Mahan

Shall we ever see Autumn Sunset again? This old 'red' blend out of Rosy Wings X Rameses, registered in 1939 by E. G. Lapham, appears in the genealogy of some of our best and most dependable modern reblooming irises, such as Immortality, Earl of Essex, and Queen Dorothy. Is someone still growing it? Will someone be growing it twenty years from now? What a shame if it is lost forever.

And how about Morning Splendor? Considered the most splendid dark red purple iris in existence when introduced by J. Marion Shull in 1923, it was one of the first American bred irises out of the species *Iris Trojana* (the renowned Lent A. Williamson was the pollen parent), won international fame and awards, and soared to the top of the popularity polls conducted by the newly formed American Iris Society. Morning Splendor did not rebloom in cold climate areas, but threw an occasional autumn stalk in warmer areas. Crossed with King Tut it produced Autumn Flame, which is in the background of such modern beauties as Corn Harvest, Harvest of Memories, Spirit of Memphis, Grace Thomas, Jennifer Rebecca, and Earl of Essex. Through another line, three generations back, it can be found in the ancestry of one of the best red rebloomers of the 1980's, Gideon Victorious.

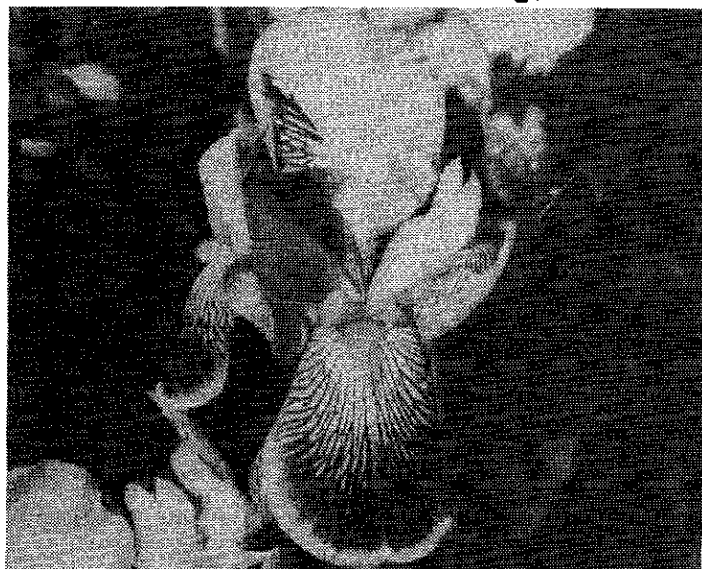
But where can Morning Splendor be found?

The long awaited Historical Iris Preservation Society (HIPS) is poised to become a reality with the publication of proposed bylaws, establishment of a regular publication to be edited by Anne Lowe, creation of a nominating committee, and formal election of permanent officers. With the Reblooming Iris Society (RIS) now leading all AIS sections in membership, perhaps it can also lead the way in collaborating with the new organization to ensure preservation of historical rebloomers---at least those rebloomers which have not already been lost.

What is an historical reblooming iris? I am not going to get into a moot argument about whether the cutoff date is 1950, or 1945, or 1939, etc...with the type of progress iris hybridizers have made over the past five decades, an iris introduced last year can quickly disappear from gardens as improvements rapidly come on the market. It does seem to me, however, that there are two reasons a remontant iris might be considered *important* historically. First, those irises which are mentioned in historical iris literature as having reblooming tendencies, or which we know were grown specifically because they were prone to rebloom, surely merit saving for posterity. Second, an iris which has been an important ancestor of modern rebloomers, whether it was a noted rebloomer in its day or not, should be viewed as an important historical rebloomer.

Examples of the first type of

historically important remontants would be the *Iris biflora* mentioned by Gerard (if we could ever determine what iris he described), Allies, Mrs. Alan Gray, Crimson King, Kochii, Gracchus, and *Nepalensis*, the most commonly mentioned "autumn blooming" irises in the years before AIS was founded; and Autumn King, Jean Siret, Lieutenant de Chavagnac, Autumn Queen, Ultra, Polar King, Better



GRACCHUS GROWING IN CAROL WARNER'S MARYLAND GARDEN

Autumn King, September Morn, Autumn Elf, Southland, Jane Krey, Martie Everest, and Sangreal, to name some of the remontants most widely grown in the twenties and thirties.

It is more than likely that some heated discussions could ensue if we tried to get consensus on which irises are important in an historical sense because of their famous reblooming progeny. There are, however, some irises that most, if not all, of us will agree upon. The first that comes to mind is Gibson Girl. This great "progenitor" of reblooming irises

appears all over the pedigree charts of modern, dependable reblooming cultivars, e.g. Violet Miracle, Immortality (through both I Do and English Cottage), Radford Red, Gideon Victorious, Earl of Essex, Spirit of Memphis, Harvest of Memories, Lemon Reflection - to name just a few.

Others that I would suggest have earned designation as meritorious "stud" irises for modern rebloomers would include Autumn Flame, Joseph's Mantle, Flora Zenor, Autumn Twilight, Autumn Sensation, October Shadows, Autumn Snowdrift, Green Dragon, Fall Fairy, Autumn Elf, Grande Baroque, Memphis Lass, Polar King, Replicata, Western Hills, Rainbow Gold, August Gold, Leora Kate, Fall Gold, Radiant, Welch H503, *I. pumila* Schect, Echo Valley, Savage, Lovely Again, Dore, Rameses, Fall Majesty, and Happy Birthday. . . for a start! Which cultivars would you like to add to this list?

For sake of discussion, if you could name only five irises, which would you say were the most important "stud" irises in the development of modern rebloomers? After learning what others have to say I might change my mind but I would like to suggest these: Autumn Elf, Gibson Girl, October Shadows, Autumn Sunset and Grande Baroque.

Shall we let the important historical reblooming irises disappear in the manner of so many of the wonderful roses of the last century? I am suggesting that we need to act now to keep this from happening.

THROUGH A GLASS DARKLY...

Paul Black

I should be so lucky as to gaze into my crystal ball and predict the direction remountants will take over the next decade. All I can really do is make some observations and do a little wishful thinking in print. Maybe it will make good reading for a few insomniacs along about one in the morning.

It seems that, for quite some time, good form, substance, and color variation and pattern have been sacrificed for the sake of rebloom. There is certainly nothing wrong with this up to a point, since one must establish a strong foundation for the particular trait being bred for. Remontancy, as a trait, has now been well established and it is time to begin a program of bringing other desirable characteristics into these lines.

For those familiar with line breeding, it is now time to go into the gene pool of once blooming iris and find the one or two iris with the strongest genetic dispositions to good form and substance and diverse colors and patterns and bring those into those established remountant lines.

For instance, a number of Melba Hamblen's varieties have superior form, branching and substance. The

gene pool of color and pattern behind some of these is vast. In some cases, there is strong pink and blue inbreeding, coupled with the amoena and bicolor pattern and thumbprint haft color.

It would be interesting to take something such as *Adventuress*, *Graduation*, or *Ragtime* and com-

bine it with the best of the remountants and line breed the resulting seedlings until there are pink and violet bicolors that rebloom, ruffled pinks that rebloom, yellow and maroon variegatas that rebloom, plicatas of all types that rebloom, *Joyce Terry* type that rebloom and on and on and on.

Ah - it is very easy to write all this, but the reality is getting out there and making the crosses and growing, blooming, and selecting the seedlings that accomplish this goal. Sometimes good fortune will prevail and the genes will come together in a generation or two of breeding. In other cases, it may take three, four, or even five generations to achieve one's goal. If one is doing a good job, however, there should be some consolation prizes along the way. There should be very nice, introduceable varieties to appear while working toward one's ultimate goal of the "perfect" rebloomer.



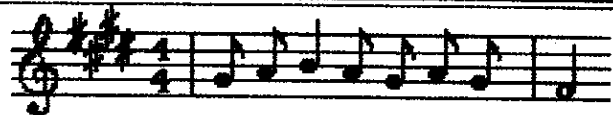
Some of the finest rebloomers have been Feedback, Corn Harvest, Jennifer Rebecca, Summer Luxury, and Immortality. Violet Classic is one of the best formed remontants, but it is usually caught by late freezes before it can open the flowers. It is certainly a good possibility for use in a sound breeding program.

Remontancy is probably the most important area of iris breeding and is the one being worked on the least. The more and better rebloomers that are available to the gardening public, the more they will be accepted and grown. Iris are for adding color to the garden, not foliage, so get your fingers busy and start making remontant pollinations.



1988 REBLOOMING IRIS CHECK LIST NOW AVAILABLE

The Reblooming Iris Check List, containing information on 1428 iris known to rebloom somewhere, with complete description and a list of where things rebloom is now available from our Secretary, Howard Brookins. This edition separates bearded and beardless iris, with a separate listing of 49 Siberian, Japanese, and LAs known to "Repeat" bloom or have an extended bloom season running up to 10-12 weeks. Price of the Check List is \$6.00 postpaid in the United States; \$6.50 in Canada and by surface mail overseas; or \$8.00 AIR MAIL overseas. Please make checks payable to RIS, not Howard Brookins.



Do you know where you're goin' to?®

Monty Byers

"Where are we now?" asked of someone on an overseas flight could conceivably be answered "Moving fast from where we've been to where we're going." Well - so are rebloomers now in transition, moving fast on a flight from which there's no turning back.

From oblivion - unheard of outside the iris world and ignored, even shunned by many inside the iris world - they are well on their way to becoming the irises of the future. There's no reason why irises in bloom again in the summer and fall won't become as common a sight in gardens around the country as other popular perennials such as day lilies and roses. The day is coming when irises registered as blooming in the spring will be curiosities. They had better have something pretty special going for them then - like real fire engine red coloring perhaps!

Before this day fully arrives, though, rebloomers in general are

**"The day is coming when
'oncers' will be a curiosity"**

going to have to catch/match their oncer contemporaries in quality - before they can surpass/replace them, that is.

We hybridizers of rebloomers have our work cut out for us on two major fronts: improving quality while at the same time ever streng-

thening and intensifying the remount-
ant tendencies.

Today there are lots of things very
high on quality/low on willingness to
rebloom and vice versa. There are
also lots of things that rate pretty
high on both counts and a few that
"have it all" - extremely high quality
and extremely strong reblooming
tendencies!

Tomorrow - when most iris intro-
ductions "HAVE IT ALL" is where
we're going.



Nominating Committee

The following members have con-
sented to serve on the nominating
committee:

Evelyn Hayes (CA)
51 South Bryon Dr.
Lemoore, CA 93245
Ph. 209-924-2984

Clarence Mahan (VA), **Chairman**
7311 Churchill Dr.
McLean, VA 22101
Ph. 703-893-8526

Virginia Mathews (OK)
315 S. Grandview Ct.
Stillwater, OK 740074
Ph. 405-377-0696

The slate of officers will be published
in the Spring issue of the *Recorder*.
Elections will take place at the
annual RIS meeting in Memphis. If
you wish to suggest a candidate,
contact a member of the committee
before 1 February, 1989.

REBLOOMING IRIS?

Ben Hager

Lately I have been freely expound-
ing my opinion (not an unusual
occurrence on any number of sub-
jects) that within 15 to 20 years iris
growers in general will be preferen-
tially growing repeat blooming iris,
especially in the Tall Bearded class.
Why do I have so much confidence in
such a revolution---one that many
iris growers would consider a fantasy
if not a down-right heresy?

In recent years there has been a
slowly rising tide of iris that are not
only fairly dependable rebloomers in
many areas of the country but are
perfectly at home in the spring gar-
den. To name a few: Earl of Essex
(this one is appearing in Tall Bearded
award lists!), Grace Thomas (bright
yellow with ruffles galore), Jennifer
Rebecca (a pink out of the popular
variety *Vanity*)---these three from
Lloyd Zurbrigg; White Reprise from



JENNIFER REBECCA - ZURBRIGG '85

Walter Moores; Summer Olympics and Lemon Reflection from Raymond Smith---and others which we have not yet grown or bloomed. Note that all but White Reprise were bred and introduced in cold areas with short seasons. Another new arrival in class is Orchid Lane (Jeffries) that has already proven itself here and in eastern gardens. Many seedlings from Monty Byers and our own have been blooming since August and are still going strong in October with abundant bloom all through September.

And that is why I get so excited about rebloomers and I am certain that, before long, your average gardener will join the forward march--and after that, even the "iris nuts" will fall in line. Because? Because three weeks of spring bloom cannot compare with three months of bloom in the fall (probably shorter in shorter season areas.) And if you grow several plants of a variety, this three months of bloom will occur on each variety in most cases! Corn Harvest, the best example, blooms constantly through the autumn season. The plants produce in succession through this period, with the last ones probably falling victims to frost. That's a pretty enthusiastic statement. More harm has been done to the rebloomer cause by over-enthusiasm than from any other problem. Cyclically, about every 10 to 15 years, the enthusiasm overflows and becomes exaggeration. When this happens a lot of gardeners are fatally disappointed by following ill-considered advice of which iris rebloom, and find their attempts at

growing rebloomers ending up only in spring bloom like all the others. The

Rebloomer fanatics must develop caution to go along with, and moderate, their enthusiasms.

possibilities of success are all there but we must bear with our disappointments, and breeders need to exercise the utmost in discernment in putting iris on the market as rebloomers. Years of testing, consideration of the locality or origination, the quality of the plant and flower, the dependability of the rebloom recorded on regular dates---all and more need to be considered both by the breeder AND the grower fanatic.

Another feature that has been argued about, but is without dispute as far as I am concerned, is the universality of rebloom - or as close as we can get to that goal. Regional performance is of no consequence if we wish to establish a "class" for reblooming iris. We must work for great iris that bloom in most areas regularly. Regional performers can very likely be used successfully in breeding toward that goal when crossed with iris that have already proved their abilities, but should not be touted as reblooming iris in a "class".

Our garden is in inland California - and let me stress that is greatly different than coastal California. We do have a long season, but our first killing frost often occurs in early November. We are both hotter and colder than the coastal areas. Many

varieties that have been reported as rebloomers have never shown any sign of rebloom here: **Vanity**, **Breakers**, **Victoria Falls**, **Pacific Tide**, etc. We are different, but not different enough to say, "If it reblooms for us it will rebloom for you." We must go by creditable reports and testing in colder areas, and that is the only logical procedure.

However, what is happening is that a new influx of "long season" breeders are discovering a surge of reblooming (for them) seedlings appearing in their seedling beds. They, and breeders in other areas, are finding that the crossing of these "long season" rebloomers with dependable universal rebloomers is producing iris that are dependable in other areas. Note that **Jennifer Rebecca** (Zurbrigg) is from **Grace Thomas** (dependable) X **Vanity** (scattered reports of rebloom only); **White Reprise** (Moore) is from **Earl Roberts** (a cold area iris with rebloom backgrounds) X **Soft Halo** (a mild area winter bloomer); **Feedback** (Hager) is from **Cloud Baron** (a mild area rebloomer) X **Perfume Counter** (dependable); **Rime Frost** (Zurbrigg) with **Winter Olympics** (a non-rebloomer) X **Grand Baroque** (never rebloomed for us); **Bethany Claire** (Zurbrigg) is from **Victoria Falls** (reported rebloom but never has for us) X a reblooming seedling; **Tea Leaves** (Byers) is **Sky Hooks** (non-rebloomer) X **Violet Classic** (late rebloomer) - **Tea Leaves** is early. We have bloomed seedlings of **Monty Byers** out of **Leda's Lover**, **Moon Mistress**,

Orange Wonder, etc. We have several seedlings that rebloom from early September on, from the cross (a sib to **White Elephant** x **Avalon Bay**, mild area rebloomer) X (T3030wh; **Ice Sculpture** x **Geometrics** X **Maestro Puccini**.) None of these will get introduced as rebloomers unless they are tested in colder areas and prove they can show their worth in such conditions.



FEEDBACK HAGER '83
EARLY, RELIABLE OVER THE ENTIRE
COUNTRY AND EXCELLENT FORM

And this is why the future looks bright: the use of top-notch spring blooming iris crossed to dependable rebloomers is bringing true quality into the class. When this happens in quantity and second and third generation seedlings are grown, all Heaven will break loose. Breeders take note: NOW is the time to get on board. The development period, with all the work that has already been done for

you, is the most exciting and rewarding time---and the most fun! I won't be around to see my prediction come true but I hope that in the time still remaining I can breed some iris that will be a part of the foundation on which this prediction is based.

Be warned. Lazy gardeners won't make it even in the coming heyday of reblooming iris. For a plant to bloom this much, extra attention must be your part in the creation of all this beauty in your garden. Extra irrigation (buy a hose - don't

depend on rain) and extra fertility are mandatory. You couldn't perform to your ultimate without the best food and drink - why should you expect your iris to do so?--- especially an iris that can bloom 2 to 4 months out of the year.

What we want are iris that will rebloom, with a little TLC, almost anywhere---and we can get them--- not easily but surely. That, I'm convinced, is the broadened future in our wonderful World of Irises, as the book says.



I was loudly whining and snivelling about losing bloom on Sunbelt rebloomers. Those from Purissima/Snow Flurry/Ricardi heritage - those that spring into growth at the slightest hint of warm weather - then freeze and lose the forming budstalk. In central Virginia's climate, about one quarter of my rebloomers and indeed, oncurs fall into this trap.

Dr D.C. "Charlie" Nearpass, overheard my lamentations and took pity on me. "Put a brick on the rhizome" he said. I thought, "Oh wow, Charlie is losing it. How in the dickens is a brick going to help with a freezing problem?"

Charlie saw my obvious skepticism, and was kind and patient enough to

explain: "In very cold or very warm climates an iris that tends to stay evergreen is not a problem. Very cold climates keep these 'ever-growers' dormant until the full transition to warm weather occurs. Conversely, there is no difficulty when iris stay evergreen in truly warm climates. The trouble occurs in a belt thru the U.S. that experiences warm periods during the winter - warm enough, long enough, to trigger certain susceptible iris into premature growth. These 'Sunbelt iris' are the ones that start growing and get caught in a cold snap, losing the forming budstalks in the process. If you will put a brick, or stone, on the rhizome after freezing weather, it will keep the soil frozen around and over the rhizome. The bricks tendency to 'store cold' keeps the rhizome in dormancy when the weather fluctuates near freezing. You can't keep it warm - you can keep it uniformly cold until the season has finally gone wholly to spring."

"And you thought I was prattling on about heaving! Sheeesh!"

WHERE ARE REBLOOMERS GOING?

Earl E. Hall

There is only one direction in which rebloomers are going and that is UP. There has been more interest shown in rebloomers each year and there are better quality rebloomers coming on the market



EARL HALL AND JUDY HOLLINGSWORTH AT 1988 CONVENTION - OKC

each year. This can only mean an increase in popularity for rebloomers. If you buy irises that give dependable rebloom in your area, rebloomers can eliminate one of the remarks that I often hear about irises - "the bloom season is too short." In 1985 we had 260 consecutive days of iris bloom, our best year ever. This past year, as dry and hot as it was, we had irises in bloom every day (except two days in September) from April

13 to September 29th when this article was written. We expect to have bloom until we have a killing freeze and beyond, for we will cut bloomstalks and take them in the house for later bloom. One can extend the bloom season in the fall by preserving stalks in this manner. In 1985 I cut 50-60 bloomstalks and put them in our spare bedroom. As they bloomed we put them on our kitchen table so



JEWEL BABY AND FRIEND
LOWE GARDEN, 1988

we could enjoy them. Our last bloom that year was December 21st - not bad for Ohio. Short season indeed!

How can we get increased popularity for rebloomers? If we hybridize better quality and more dependable rebloomers, the public will accept and demand them. Now is the time to turn your enjoyable hobby toward improving rebloomers.

Try it, have fun, and good luck!

ITEMS AVAILABLE FROM THE REBLOOMING IRIS SOCIETY:

- A list of cultivars that rebloom in your area {Send a stamped, self addressed
- A list of RIS members in your area {envelope to Howard Brookins
- *The Reblooming Iris Checklist* - Details on page 9, order from H. Brookins
- Back Issues (Vol 31 thru 33 only) of *The Reblooming Iris Recorder* : \$2.50 per issue, make check to RIS; order from the editor, RIS



BRIDGING THE GAP

Carol L. Jensen

RIS is soaring on a hot air current of rebloom iris interest. We must take the necessary steps to ride this current interest to a safe

landing, to rise and ride it again and again.

It would seem it is time to cast off Edwin Rundlett's oft said advice, "Hurry Slowly". The phenomenal rate of increase in those working on remontants, and especially the BIG HYBRIDIZERS, tells me we are at the threshold of bridging the quality gap. Back in 1961 six hybridizers registered only eleven varieties.

Measures must be taken to maintain this interest. Perhaps Regional Robins would help. Those of us in the northern clime must realize that just as spring comes last to us, so must we wait longer for success in the amount and quality of rebloom. But come north it must!

We need a way to make old soil as fertile and healthy as virgin soil

Most of us use the same garden space every year. Study is needed to find a way to easily make old soil as fertile and healthy as virgin soil, for this seems to be one very important key to rebloom.

Thanks to Howard Brookins and his computer, we have a newly compiled list to assist us in upgrading our gene pools by showing us those irises that might rebloom for us. Each list has been more

comprehensive and we hope this will continue.

Attention might be given to robins for specialty irises such as Japanese, Siberian, Louisianas, Space Age, and novelty - maybe robins devoted to individual colors - as sources of information. Pollen banks have not been too successful, but wants and supplies can be found through robins. I have lots of seedlings from pollen obtained through robins, saving me a year or so. Another good reason to join a robin.



A 'SUNBELT' REBLOOMER AFTER A WARM SPELL IN FEB AND A HARD FREEZE IN MAR. NAME TAG BLACKED OUT TO PROTECT THE GUILTY.

One last word of caution to those of us in the cold climates: think twice before you toss the faithful old rebloomers. The ruffles and lace and fantastic form ain't here as yet. It's coming but until you have one rebloom two years in a row for you----the old gene pot may have to be dipped into a few more times.

REMONTANCY IN SIBERIAN AND JAPANESE IRISES

Currier McEwen

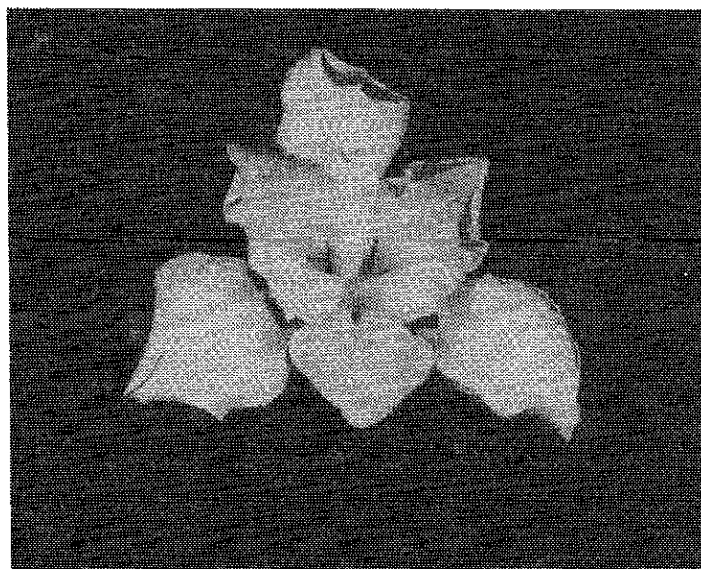
I am glad indeed that Mike Lowe has asked for this note regarding progress in remontancy in these beardless irises. I am sorry that I must limit these observations to the Siberians and Japanese because I have no experience with other beardless types, but I have no doubt that remontancy can be developed in them also since, as I have reported in previous issues of the Recorder and other journals, this trait is clearly under genetic control. I hope that hybridizers of other beardless irises will accept this challenge also.

Let me first remind you that time of the second period of bloom in the Siberians and Japanese is very different from that in the bearded irises, coming only one to three weeks after the end of first bloom instead of the several months expected in the bearded ones. Because of this we have proposed that the second period be called repeat bloom for Siberian and Japanese to differentiate it from the rebloom of the tall bearded. I have divided the Siberians and Japanese into six categories with regard to remontancy, namely:

- (1) the large group that bloom only once
- (2) the occasional repeaters
- (3) reliable or consistent repeaters that repeat every year if growing well
- (4) preferential repeaters in which second bloom is superior to the first

- (5) continuing bloomers that extend the period of bloom by sending up new bloom stalks without any period when they lack bloom and
- (6) the rare rebloomers which have their second bloom period in the fall like the bearded irises

As to the future, there can be no doubt that remontancy in these beardless irises can be developed further by selective breeding. In my diploid Siberian repeaters both first and second bloom has been good although repeat bloom is usually better than the first. In my tetraploid repeaters, however, repeat bloom has been distinctly of the preferential type with first bloom stalks too short. Only now are tetraploid repeaters beginning to appear that have good stalks at first bloom as well as second.



DREAMING YELLOW McEWEN '71

In the Siberians we can look forward also to appearance of the trait in flowers of new colors.

In my first repeaters all were blue or white but more recently reliable and preferential repeaters such as

the diploid **Lavender Bounty** and tetraploid **Fourfold Lavender** and **Lucky Lilac** have appeared in lavender and close to true pink. **Dreaming Yellow** and **Butter and Sugar** are fairly reliable repeaters in the yellow range. As yet I have no red repeaters but they will surely come.

In the Japanese irises the story is similar. Thus far I have introduced one diploid continuing bloomer, **Continuing Pleasure**, and another, 84/66(1), is on the way. Among the tetraploids **Japanese Pinwheel** and **Maine Encore** are reliable repeaters and **Maine Chance** and **Triple Threat** sometimes repeat when growing well. This year two new diploid seedlings and three new tetraploids repeated. They have, of course, been crossed and I am confident that the future will see more and more.

Among the Siberians I have not yet seen rebloom in the fall but one Japanese seedling bloomed at the regular time in July, repeated in August and rebloomed in October. It will not be introduced because about a third of its flowers had two standards and four falls, but a seedling from it to be introduced in 1990 has excellent flowers and bloomed abundantly for seven weeks instead of the usual two or three expected of the Japanese.

That last comment well illustrates the value of repeat bloom. The expected bloom period of most Siberian irises is two to three weeks. In our garden the diploid **Lavender Bounty** and **Soft Blue** go on for eight weeks and the tetraploid

Exuberant Encore and some new tetraploid seedlings for ten with only about a week without flowers between the first and second periods of bloom.

In conclusion, the value of remon-
tancy has been clearly shown for
Siberian and Japanese irises and I
believe can be no less worthwhile in
other beardless types. This deserves
the best efforts of hybridizers. In the
Siberians and Japanese I am confi-
dent that in the coming years we
shall see improvements in the range
of colors and length of bloom and
also, I hope, the appearance of
rebloom as well as repeat bloom.



THIS CLUMP OF JENNIFER REBECCA,
AT THE OSU MASTER PLANTING OKC,
RAISED MANY EYEBROWS (AND
EXPECTATIONS) WHEN THE ADMIRERS
WERE TOLD THAT IT IS A REBLOOMER

STATUS OF REBLOOMING IRIS

Bernice Miller

The status of Reblooming Iris is comparable to the California Gold Rush. The days of "Wine and Roses" is just over the horizon for cold climates, but it is in full swing in the northern valleys of California. As for those of us in harsher climates the wind whispers over our rebloomers in full bloom, "soon, very soon!"

I know personally, that reblooming hybridizers are right now growing crosses from the best of the cold-climate rebloomers from warm winter areas, using only the most vigorous, the most adaptable to varying



WITCH OF ENDOR B. MILLER '78

soil and weather conditions.

They, and I too, are hopeful, as all hybridizers are, that glamorous cold climate rebloom can come from such crosses. It is a proven fact that the ensuing seedlings from a rebloom cross can be earlier in rebloom than either parent, and that the seedling can well inherit the glamor of the most beautiful parent.

There is another plus in the making. I know from their letters that

these hybridizers are paying special attention to sterling qualities in their seedlings; vigor, increase, reliability of rebloom, adaptability to varying soil and weather conditions; as well as the old standards of good branching and floriferousness: AND the glamor credentials: petal width, ruffles, lace.

Won't it be wonderful when grass-roots gardeners can replace Grandma's ole flags with rebloomers as reliable, but ever so much more glamorous?



Overheard...

Father time, Father time.

On an airport bus departing National Convention, Lloyd Zurbrigg was seated close to the front. A sweet young thing glanced over at his name tag and inquired; "Are you any relation to the hybridizer Zurbrigg? You know, the one who is famous for rebloomers?" Lloyd graciously replied "That is I, or at the least I don't know of another Zurbrigg, but I'm not certain about the famous part." The young lady was nonplused and blurted out "But, but... I thought that he would be a wizened up, little old man!"

When the laughter died down, Lloyd replied, "I know it seems as if I've been in the game since the beginning, it has been nearly forty years - but I can assure you, I started very young!"

They were soon deep in a discussion of varieties and techniques that enhance rebloom and the remaining time to the airport passed quickly indeed.

REBLOOMERS

STATE OF THE ART IN THE SUNBELT

Walter A. Moores

In my twenty plus years of growing rebloomers, tremendous progress has occurred in their development. Flower form is the most obvious advancement, and we can thank those hybridizers among our lot who have worked assiduously toward that goal.

I started out with a number of G. Percy Brown and Tom Craig irises, crossing the cold climate rebloomers with the warm climate rebloomers extant at that time, expecting to create super formed flowers that would convert the iris world to remontants. As you know, things did not work out that way.

In my experience with Brown/Craig irises, I found that germination of seeds using cold climate (Brown) rebloomers was very poor in the Sunbelt climates. I also learned that the genes for narrow form and muddy colors were either dominant over the Craig irises or paired with the undesirable, recessive genes hidden in the ancestry of the Craig irises. Most of these crosses produced little advancement in form or color. That some did rebloom is no credit to my efforts. They bloomed in the heat of summer and were generally on gnarled stalks with deformed flowers.

I turned later to crossing the Craig irises with the earlier Zurbrigg irises. Again the cold climate x warm climate theory entered the picture. Germination of the seeds was poor, even with plicatas which generally are the easiest seeds to sprout.

R.G. Smith irises from Indiana were used with similar results as with the Zurbrigg irises with the exception of Earl Roberts. Why seeds derived from crossing cold climate rebloomers with warm climate rebloomers fail to germinate still is a big mystery.

The reblooming crosses I make most often now occur with West Coast varieties and the gene pool I have established with the Craig irises. Schreiners, Keppel, and Jim Gibson irises with reblooming tendencies exhibit quality in form, color, stalk, branching, etc. These are preferred over the typical cold climate rebloomers in developing rebloomers for the Sunbelt.

My advice to hybridizers aspiring to produce rebloomers is to use varieties that rebloom in their type of climate. They will avoid the pitfalls I experienced.

According to the *Handbook for Judges and Show Officials* (AIS, 1985), there are four types of rebloomers - continuous, cycle, repeaters, and sporadic. I don't think one can sit down and plan a cross for a repeater or a sporadic rebloomer. These two are dependent largely on weather conditions. One can plan crosses for the other two. But, a continuous rebloomer for the country as a whole doesn't seem wise to me. There are too many variables against continuous bloom. Most of the U.S. suffers from intense heat and drought during the summers, and to expect an iris plant to perform to its optimum under such conditions is ludicrous. The few "everbloomers" I've grown (Fall Primrose, Corn

Harvest, Immortality, Summer Holidays, Baby Blessed) eventually worked themselves to death in the heat of summer. Also, who is proud to display distorted flowers on runted stalks coming from plants that are doomed to die?

Cycle rebloomers, as far as I am concerned, should receive our undivided attention.

Generally, these will bypass the heat of summer (perhaps go into dormancy) and wait until cooler fall weather to express themselves. By far the greatest number of rebloomers fall into the cycle category. When they rebloom, they most often achieve their classified height, exhibit proper branching, and have no deformed flowers. Usually, there is

no peak bloom for cycle rebloomers. They may be in bloom from September to December, depending upon the climate and the fall weather.

There is a bright future for reblooming irises as more people discover them and hybridizers use them. Some super rebloomers are out there, and if you don't know Breakers, Many Happy Returns, Light Beam, Feedback, and Color Watch, you should get them, for truly, SEEING IS BELIEVING!

~~~~~  
*From the heat, weeds, drought  
 beauty. Fragile, fleeting, proud  
 it lifts us then fades.*  
 ~~~~~

ML



JENSEN GARDENS WOULD LIKE TO SELL OR TRADE



- STELLA MARIE** (K. Jensen) TB, 35" M. S. barium yellow (HCC 503/3), light purple midrib; F. lilac (176), light silver grey rim; gold beard tipped lavender. Laced and ruffled, pronounced sweet fragrance.
 (NOT A REBLOOMER) EC **Love Is X Surf Rider**..... \$30.00
- BELVI CLOUD** (K. Jensen) TB, 31" E-M & RE. S. White (HCC 503/3), light violet midrib; F. Lightly ruffled Amethyst violet (RHS 81C), White streaks at haft; orange beard. **Orchid Cloud X GR42-8**
(Emma Louisa x Lovely Again)..... \$30.00

• Above two Iris \$30.00 each or 2 for \$40.00 •

Other REBLOOMERS of ours

BELVI QUEEN.....	\$3.00	DAWN OF FALL.....	\$3.00
DUSKY SUNSET.....	\$2.00	NEON VIOLET.....	\$2.00
PEPPER LANE.....	\$2.00	SUMMER CHARM.....	\$2.00

DWARFS

CAPTAIN KATZ.....	\$1.00	MUSIC LADY.....	\$1.00
-------------------	--------	-----------------	--------

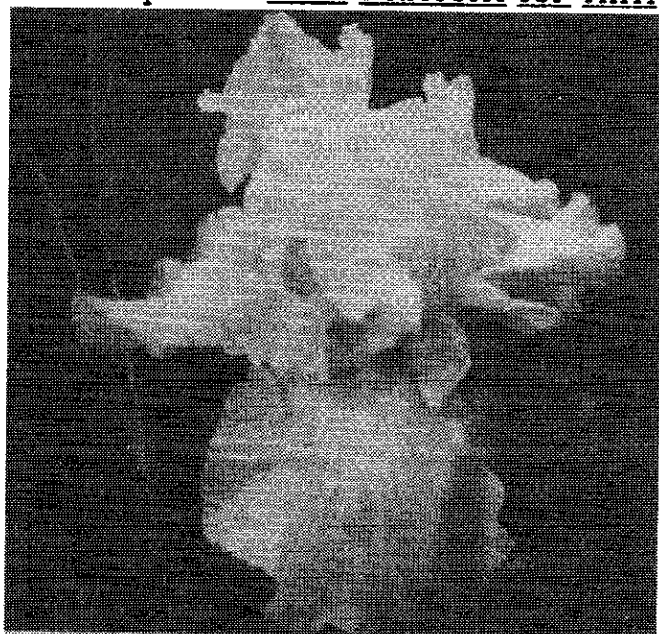
JENSEN GARDENS

609 Gardner Street Belvidere, Illinois 61008 Tel. 815-547-4789

REFLECTIONS ON REBLOOM

R. G. Smith

How can a hybridizer develop a reliable rebloomer with a modern flower on a trouble-free plant? The secret is a balance of many factors that are tailored to the growing conditions of a particular locale. If a hybridizer selects as parents two reliable plants that rebloom for him,



LEMON REFLECTION R.G. SMITH '78

and is prepared to expend time and energy, he can produce rebloomers. Perhaps one in a hundred seedlings will be superior to its parents.

But rebloom is easily suppressed by such factors as drought, excessive rainfall, unusually mild or severe winters, excessive or depleted soil nutrients, neglect, etc. etc. One of the most common suppressors is simply moving the plant to an area of the country with different growing conditions. Some will acclimate over a period of time — others simply die or fail to perform. This makes it difficult to market rebloomers nationally. The buyer must expect failures.

His best bet is to purchase from climates and growing conditions similar to his own. Reblooming irises are generally regional performers.



PROPOSED BY-LAW CHANGES

Be prepared to discuss and vote on these changes at the Annual Reblooming Iris Society Meeting at Memphis, '89

ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS

Section 2:

Delete first sentence which reads: "The President and the Secretary/ Treasurer may be elected from the same area."

Change second sentence which reads: "The Vice President shall be elected from a different area" to read "The Vice President shall be elected from an area different from that of the President."

Add Section 6: "The President, with written approval of the directors, may appoint a successor to fulfill an unexpired term of office arising from resignation or other inability to complete the term of office."

ARTICLE VII: COMMITTEES

Add Section 8: "The President, subject to approval of the Board of Directors, may establish any non-standing committees as deemed appropriate."

WHO CARES WHERE WE'VE BEEN - WHERE ARE WE GOING?

John Weiler

Reblooming irises have reached a threshold for rapid development and we who are interested have an opportunity to influence strongly the course of that development during the coming years. For the past century, a few iris clones known to rebloom more than once a year have been available to gardeners, the tendency to rebloom has been noted and a few enthusiastic individuals have deliberately sought them out even if most gardeners chose to ignore those early remontants. Some who grew them tried to improve flower form and substance by cross pollinations but often discovered that many were apparently sterile or would set very few seeds and those seeds that were produced often did not germinate well. With few progeny from which to select, the improvements came painfully slow. In contrast, the greater number of hybridizers working with more fertile plants offering only a single season of bloom annually found it relatively easy to select improved types from greater numbers of seedlings so that advancements came rapidly.

In spite of the different rates of improvement, a few devoted people continued efforts to obtain remontant plants with flowers of broader petals, heavier substance, and lack of reticulated hafts. Fortunately, those few hybridizers have been scattered across the United States, working in

a variety of climates, soil types and exposure to different kind of pests and diseases. From these works have come increasing numbers of selections, ever more varied, in genetic background so that there now is a complete selection for color in selfs, bitones, bicolors like amoenas and variegatas, plicatas of yellow, orange or white background stippled or bordered with blue, violet, lavender, orchid, rose, burgundy, mahogany, and tan or brown as well as combinations of the amoena or variegata with plicata patterns. There are clones with better form, improved branching, vigorous growth, high fertility, or disease resistance. Some are hardy in the coldest climates. Others show various adaptations to rebloom only in areas with long growing season. Still others perform better where growing season is short or may rebloom in any climate.

With more varied offerings there has been a marked increase of interest in reblooming irises and this has served notice to the hybridizers and larger commercial growers that change is coming.

As a result, those that once hybridized only irises blooming once each year in the spring are proudly announcing the reblooming tendency for new introductions, plants that only a few years ago may have been discarded because of the "fault" of blooming out of season or blooming too long. Likewise some of the larger commercial growers have begun to offer a few cultivars of irises that may rebloom. Such offerings, particularly of plants with modern form, is

making the public more aware and will stimulate even further interest.

We now stand at the threshold of development. We have genetic diversity, fertility, all the traits currently considered desirable such as broad petals, ruffling, well branched and budded stalks, smoothness of color application, ease of growth, disease resistance and a host of other traits. There are now commercial sources for the remontants and the public is demanding even more. It is inevitable that progress will continue. Since all the genetic traits people desire in once-blooming irises already have been "fixed" in remontants, it remains only to combine the most desirable of several traits into individual cultivars. This cannot help but succeed if only the paths defined by hybridizers of once-blooming irises are followed, but with discretion. We as growers of the reblooming irises may actively participate in guiding development.

If we insist that ease of growth be a criterion in selecting clones released by the hybridizer, a trait already common in existing rebloomers, we can inhibit the release of weak growers, those prone to disease or susceptible to pests that give some beautiful new spring blooming irises a bad reputation. We may avoid the comment that modern irises are more difficult to grow than their progenitors. It is not possible, for instance, to select for gardenability from seedlings grown in sterilized soil, a condition the backyard gardens will never be able to achieve. The trait of too-rapid increase, currently listed as a fault in AIS circles, will be shown to

be a valuable characteristic since clones that rebloom must have abundant increase if they are to rebloom once, twice or to everbloom throughout a growing season. The once-bloomers selected for modest increase during the past few years simply will not provide such a trait for us. Indeed, they may not even be desirable for further development of remontant clones.

By recording performance of any irises which rebloom or that should rebloom but fail to do so and then reporting that performance to the RIS, our database will become more comprehensive so that growers and hybridizers may select clones that rebloom more consistently over many climate types. Hybridizers will be able to select as parental material those clones performing well not only in their immediate gardens of origin but also in many other locales so that in a few years there will be many more selections that are widely adapted. Every reader is urged to cooperate and send any information to the Secretary, Howard Brookins, or any other officers whose addresses are given at the front of this publication. The editor, Mike Lowe, will also gladly receive and process written material that may be suitable for publishing in later issues of *The Reblooming Iris Recorder*.

When our irises rebloom and become everbloomers with ease of growth and the disease resistance already apparent in remontants; when desirable traits are combined into one clone and similar developments occur in a broad color range, we will have revolutionized both the

growing and the future development of irises.

Will it happen? Not only will it happen, it cannot be prevented. The only question concerns how soon all this takes place. You, as an individual member, can speed this along by keeping accurate records and sending us information. If you do, the AIS will pursue a very different course in the not-too-distant tomorrow.



Overheard in the garden

"Oh, my knees! they are just too sore and stiff to kneel..."

"I can't bend over anymore..."

"Since I broke my hip I can't get up and down to take care of my seedling bed..."

"My arthritis has gotten so bad I am afraid I'll have to give up my iris..."

"I bought a contraption called a 'Garden Scooter' but it just doesn't work. The wheels are so small and narrow, they sink in the soil - it's too high - great for picking beans - but doesn't work for weeding and planting..."

How many times have you heard something similar to the above? All too often! Irisarians, in the main, are not a young group. Most of us come to this hobby in middle to late life. Those of you who are young - your turn is coming!

What is the solution?

Is there a solution?

On the mechanical level we need:

a gardening appliance that will easily permit a person to move up and down a row within easy reach of the ground; one that is not tippy, easy and safe to get up and down from, maneuverable, affordable, capable of carrying tools, pots of seedlings, leaf and weed debris or dug plant clumps.

On the organizational level we need:

to recognize and develop strategies for coping with the cruel arrows of time among our members. Often, a small amount of well-placed assistance will enable an ageing irisarian to care for and enjoy the garden which has provided so much pleasure in the past.

Younger relatives and friends often find themselves unable/unwilling to become involved in 'unimportant' things like flowers.

Iris organizations on all levels, from National down to local Chapters should be shaken into awareness of the gardening problems related to Ageing, and should vigorously pursue programs of aid to older irisarians. But, there must be no hint of "Look what a great thing I'm doing for you."

Time is short and strength is fleeting. Some type of "GARDENER'S ASSISTANCE PROGRAM" - to which we donate help when able and receive help when needed - must be developed.

What say you; Leaders, Movers, Shakers?

What will you contribute to the solution of this problem?

In What Direction Now?

Lloyd Zurbrigg

About three years ago there was a feature article in the *AIS Bulletin* concerning what was in the future for the iris. Almost all of the answers dealt only with new color breaks. Important as these may be, a more urgent need is to make the iris a stronger garden subject with better foliage. I feel certain now that many gardeners are going to insist upon rebloom in the iris, and there is a strong tilt in that direction of thought among the big growers of iris. That is the first and main new direction.

The second, I believe, will be the inclusion of new form in the TB category. First came ruffling, then lace. I believe there will be new forms of spoons and flounces that will become greatly sought about five years down the road.

Remontancy will become more evident among the beardless iris groups. Dr. Currier McEwen has brought the Siberians far along in this direction, and has made a start with the Japanese.

Then there will surely be a few color breaks. Someone is going to use the new biological engineering, and get some pelargonium scarlet into the genetic pot of the iris. Perhaps a true green will appear. Certainly we will hope for better growth habits in some

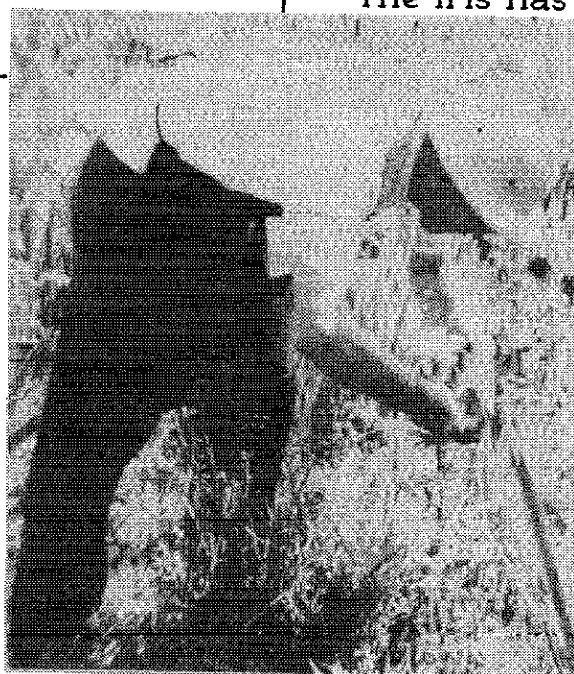
of the colors than is at present available.

Perhaps the biological engineers can introduce something into the iris plant to make it inhospitable for the borers. Perhaps also to the aphids and other pests that carry virus and scorch. Such a goal is not impossible, and seems almost necessary to the continuance of the iris as a popular perennial. Spraying may soon become available only to a licensed person.

The iris has not been known for its fragrance. There are, however, quite a number with a good fragrance, and it stands to reason that if the public wants this aspect of the iris to improve, the hybridizers will comply.

If one looks back, the progress of the iris in this century has been enormous. Let us hope for more progress in the 21st century, and along the lines noted above,

If the reader has another goal, worthwhile to the iris, let him pursue it with zeal and bring it into being. It is a great flower!



LLOYD ZURBRIGG 'AT WORK'
IN THE SEEDLING PATCH



In The News



Lloyd Zurbrigg was the featured speaker at Region 14's Fall Meeting. Ben Hager conducted Judges training on Rebloomers in Moonshine Gardens and a Rebloomer show was held. Early reports - The best ever!



October 4, 1988

Dear Mike:

It was fun looking up pictures to use for my drawings. Interesting, also, to see those awful oldies and seeing how much better my worst seedlings are by comparison.

New seedlings are popping up here and there - scattered rebloomers filling in a bit. I have been seeing some some fairly nice "pink" things from a cross of one of Earl Hall's pink seedlings X Pink Encore.

Best regards,
Dudley Carson
Willamina, OR

9-9-88

Dear Editor,

I was reading the Fall 1987 Recorder and came across an item written by a Texas grower who used dead leaves to mulch his iris in the fall. This is a great technique in parts of the country where the iris borer is unknown. But, for Eastern growers who have to contend with this pest, the use of dead leaves in winter as mulch is a terrible mistake. I know, because last winter I did just that. I pulled off the leaves in early spring and discovered, to my horror, that every single fan had the tell-tale bore hole in it.

The insects had wintered over in the same leaves that kept my babies' toes cool, and in the spring they woke up to - breakfast. I lost all my bloom and very nearly lost all my irises - only heroic spraying with Cygon 2E® and Benlate® saved them. Other clumps of iris in the neighborhood were completely bare all winter and were unaffected in the spring.

Sincerely yours,
Jane McKnew
Pasadena, MD.

July 20, 1988

Dear Mike,

It was such a pleasure meeting you and visiting with you at the Iris Convention.

I am enclosing a list of remontant iris that I have compiled over the last 20 years that we have grown in the Davis Mountain Area of West Texas (average first frost Oct. 15 - last freeze April 1; elevation 5280' - 6000') and the Bandera Area (first frost Nov. 15 - last freeze March 1). We have found these to be dependable performers in this kind of environment. The Davis Mountain area is in hardiness zone #8 and Bandera #8½-9.

Best regards,
W. Clyde Ikins
Bandera, TX

[ED. Note: For a copy of Dr. Ikins excellent list send a SASE with your request to Howard Brookins.]

THE GREAT FALL GIVEAWAY !

Win a 1989 Weiler IRIS!

**Be the first to guess the identity of the
hybridizer whose hands are pictured below.**

**Second Chance!! All entries go into a drawing - 5 - lucky
winners will receive a Weiler or Earl Hall 1988 IRIS.**

↓ The Hands ↓



The Catch!

**The only entry blank permitted is a correctly filled-out
1988 Reblooming Symposium**

On the front of the 1988 symposium you will find a space for entering your guess as to the identity of the famous hybridizer's hands. One entry per member. The editor, symposium chairman and owner of the hands are ineligible to enter.

FLOWER FUN

Directions: Identify a flower whose name reminds you of the following.
Answers are found on page 34.

1. a prehistoric fire-breathing reptile that bites
2. the universe
3. an unmarried male's shirt fastener
4. where Jill's brother is on Sunday
5. a foppish king of the jungle
6. a yellow shaft
7. a pair of edges of the mouth
8. silly pickle
9. an A.M. radiant splendor
10. colored part of the eye
11. the red growth on a rooster's head
12. a wedded precious metal
13. groups of sheep or birds
14. sky-colored ringers from the Highlands
15. feline appendage
16. dairy product nuisance plant
17. black and white smelly vegetable
18. planet for catching insects
19. a bovine petticoat
20. a daystar blossom

Robin Feathers

Extracts by
Bernice Miller



keeps my
iris rot free.
I find I can
then cover the
rhizomes with an
inch of soil and they
aren't nearly as apt to
heave out of the ground
when near zero conditions
freeze our soil soggy with winter
rains.

Gladys Lee, MD. - I should have cut a beautiful stalk of **Feedback** the day before the show {Oct. '87} and kept it warm. The day of the show I was running back and forth in a nearby store - putting the stalk in warm water; the owner of the store turned the heat up, and all sorts of funny and fun things but the buds did not open. Live and learn!

Diana Nicholls, VA. - Many older cultivars of good form have been tossed on the compost because the introduction date said "old" when they were really far superior to many of the new introductions... the three best rebloomers for me this year {1987} for length of bloom and number of stalks were **Coral Charmer**, **Immortality**, and **Baby Blessed**.

Herbert Devin, MO. - I bought **Perfume Counter** at society auction this past year, planted it and forgot it. It bloomed! As I was quite unaccustomed to fall bloom, I did not expect it - it froze in the November wind unnoticed until too late.

Bernice Miller, AL. - I use Benlate and Agristrep when I set out iris. It

Clarence Mahan, VA. - One reason people here like rebloomers is because, thanks to Lloyd Zurbrigg, Frank Jones, and a couple of others, there are nice rebloomers that really do rebloom consistently here... I was glad that no Dykes was given last year. Two eligible irises deserved it, in my estimation, but they didn't stand a chance of winning because they aren't TBs - **Butter and Sugar** is not only a fine growing shorter Siberian (which we have few enough of) but the color break of white and yellow obtained by Currier McEwen is a real achievement in the iris world and **Rosemary's Dream** - but can one really imagine an MTB getting the Dykes? I could but.....

Bernice Miller, AL. - I believe any class of iris should be considered for the Dykes if there is a real breeding achievement.

Monty Byers, CA. - The Judges Handbook mentions a new approach to classification of rebloomers:
(1) continuous (ever) bloomers - vigor is their middle name. The better they are grown, the more increases, stalks and flowers. Some of these have quality, too, now.
(2) sporadic rebloomers - can

produce a stalk most any time. Most of the Santa Cruz/San Jose type don't bloom much at all elsewhere and can cause disappointment and frustration if they are expected to rebloom anywhere but home territory. Advancement in beauty can come from these.

(3) cycle rebloomers - known for producing two distinct cycles of growth, bloom, and increase a year. Most of the things that rebloom are of this type.

(4) Repeaters - often give additional stalks anytime from right after their spring stalks until about two months later. I've found that most things given this classification, if very happy, may rebloom in the fall.

[ED. See Walter Moores' article on Page 19 which addresses this in depth.]

Frank Jones, NJ. - The rebloom began here with a seedling on 6-26-87 and ended after a freeze on 11-26-87. Besides the named varieties I had 57 seedlings to rebloom. We had 122 stalks in bloom 9-15 and there must have been over 800 stalks toward the end.

Virginia Hodges, TX. - Last fall I had more rebloomers than previously. **Certainly Certainly**, hybridized here, is the most prolific. Soil and weather here have always been ideal for growing irises, but this has been such a cold winter. We've never mulched nor worried about iris freezing - we'll have to see.

W. Terry Varner, OH. - The {1987-88} winter weather has not been the best - little snow, too much heaving and thawing. Two weeks ago I replanted about 300 seedlings that had heaved.

Richard C. Richards, CA. - In February, **Whoop 'em Up**, **Cascade Pass**, **Valentina**, **Ruth's Love**, **Splash O'Wine**, **Corn Harvest**, **Pink Feather**, **Immortality**, **Startler**, and **Double Praise** bloomed. In Southern California there is now not enough water to support the population reservoirs are so low from drought.

Bonnie Haney, MO. - My rebloom was late because of the heat and drought. In November, **Earl of Essex**, **Swift River**, **Honey Glazed**, **Summer Olympics**, **Alabama Bound** bloomed - I finally had to cut out many stalks when freezing weather came.

Earl Hall, OH. - ...I made 147 crosses after our Spring Regional and only got 59 takes due partly to dry, hot weather. On August 13-14 we let our customers come in and dig free in our West field - over 500 came to dig. I estimated we had over 50,000 rhizomes in that field and by Wednesday night we only had a 5 gal. bucketful left. A lady called and wanted some for the city park so we got rid of all of them. Now I am ready to replant around 2000 rhizomes I dug and saved for myself first.

Raymond D. Smith, IN. - It was interesting to observe the reaction of irises to drought. We had less than 2 inches of rain (total) from early spring to August. The yard turned completely brown and the government declared us a disaster area. Normal growth of new roots did not take place in iris rhizomes. Plants from year old seedlings fared better than crowded, established clumps. As the drought continued, all iris

became lighter in color and finally started to yellow. On some clumps, even leaf tips turned brown and dried up. On some, the side leaves dried up and fell on the ground until most rhizomes had but three leaves remaining. On some, every fan disappeared, leaving a mat of dry leaves as if that plant were trying to mulch itself. A few died completely but some have sent up tiny new fans after the August rains came. It appears that the old rhizomes die and yield up their moisture to the new growth.

Jim Ennenga, NE. - ... The Greater Omaha Iris Society sponsors the Sass Memorial Iris Garden on the property belonging to the SAC (Air Force) Museum. This garden will be on tour in the 1990 Spring Convention - *"Prairie In Bloom."*

Frank Jones, NJ. - We haven't had rain for more than a month and I can't water and it's now the 10th of July with the temperature all the while in the 90's. Still, a white seedling, J-79-20 started blooming in early July and now has 11 bloom stalks! This when one wonders how a plant could even stay alive in such conditions.

Dudley Carson, OR. - ... The nicest cross came up late from Glacier King x I Do. It was very ruffled and, at a distance, appeared to be white, but was basically a pale blue with the center of the falls a very pale solid green - a cool frothy confection. I hope it will continue to be as good as on its maiden bloomstalk.

Estelle Trammel, So. CA. - We have been having some gorgeous weather in the middle of Feb., after the cold-

est winter on record for 20 yrs. The iris foliage looks all the better for the cold. We had frost here every night for a month - unheard of in this area. I think the iris love a good winter chill, as long as there's no hard freezing and heaving out of the ground.

Clarence Mahan, VA. - Jennifer Rebecca and Immortality were doing super at the Convention in Oklahoma City. Many people just refuse to believe that JR is a dependable rebloomer and it attracts lots of attention even among those who don't know it reblooms.

Betty Swanson, SD. - I dearly love Sun Doll. It stays open and sunfast such a long time even with the beating from the SD wind and rains. Smells like sugar cookies - love the ruffles too, cute on one so small.

Gary Sides, TN. - This was a banner spring for excellent iris bloom, and the bonanza continued with Stellar Lights sending up a repeat stalk opening on June 6th with a nice stalk and super substantanced flowers.

Jim Headcock, MO. - Eleanor's Pride grows like a weed here and it sells like crazy for us when we list it. For that matter, all of the old Dykes sell well. I still dearly love Winter Olympics.

Monty Byers, CA. - Azure Gem is by far the most exquisitely perfect dwarf I've ever seen and there are tons (slight exaggeration) of fat Azure Gem pods ripening, mostly from Jewel Baby and Leprechaun's Delight. I do want to mention that LD is super duper - dreamy coloring with bright blue beard. It's a "must have" even if it didn't rebloom!

THE EXPERTS ANSWER

A means by which you can query the pros - find the answer to your growing problems - 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 answers will appear in this column.

Question : When is the best time to transplant a rebloomer to assure rebloom? Verona Wiekhorst CO

Answer : It depends on the behavior of the plant. Some will rebloom only if transplanted annually. Others will not rebloom the first year after transplanting. If a certain variety doesn't rebloom until established, and then only half of the rhizomes rebloom, and, because of overcrowding it will not rebloom the third year, the only way to get annual rebloom is to grow two clumps and transplant on alternate years.

R.G. Smith, Indiana

Question : One of our Immortality clumps has a stem with buds beginning to color at tips, but nothing else seems to want to put up a flower stem. Do you do anything special to ensure a rebloom? Betty Worrell, VA

Answer: The reblooming iris should not be treated in the same manner as the once-blooming iris. The latter should not be watered or fertilized in the summer at all. Many varieties will rot if given summer moisture

and fertilizer. However, the hardy remontants, particularly those produced east of the Great Divide, will give better and more abundant rebloom if given summer watering and fertilizing. It is easier to give this without fear of rot, if they are on raised ridges rather than on the level. The reblooming iris is better to be divided more frequently than its once-blooming counterpart. Every second year seems best. A very good method is to dig one half of the clump for replanting, and add compost or rotted manure to the hole from which it came. That way, one has both year-old and two-year or three-year old clones to give the desired rebloom. If a commercial fertilizer is used, be sure that the first number (nitrogen) is relatively low. Do not use lawn fertilizer, which is too high in nitrogen and low in phosphorus and potassium.

The best time to replant is immediately or shortly following the spring bloom. This allows the transplants to get a good root system going before the hottest of summer weather.

Lloyd Zurbrigg, Virginia

Reblooming Iris Slides For Rent

Sixty to seventy newer reblooming iris slides in one group, mostly 70's and 80's introductions. Another group of older introductions. For more information write to:

Earl E. Hall - Slide Chairman
1495 Enterprise Road
West Alexandria, OH 45381

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Howard Brookins, Secretary

The membership list I received dated April 26, 1987 contained 335 names, 30 of which had incorrect addresses or were deceased, and 117 members whose dues were past due, which left us with an active membership of 188 PAID members with valid addresses.

As the first person to hold the position of Secretary with the Reblooming Iris Society, I started "secretarying"; writing letters to those in arrears, reminding them of their membership expiration date, and writing letters to AIS RVPs, trying to find those who had moved. Through these efforts, 87 members were brought back into the active membership listing, bringing our membership list to 275.

Through the combined efforts of our active membership promoting Reblooming Iris, and with special efforts on the part of Moonshine Gardens and Rialto Gardens offering a free iris with a new membership application to RIS, current membership stands at 602 members; 518 paid up and 84 in arrears as of July 1st, with renewals coming in every day in response to a September 24th mailing.

As secretary, I have been sending a membership card to everyone on renewal or when joining, as I feel it is important to know your money reached the proper source, especially when going through the AIS Membership Secretary, or sending it to John Weiler or Monty Byers. The most gratifying part of the job has been receiving those nice letters and notes in response to my cards and letters.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT, RIS

Balance on hand
Mar 15, 1988.....\$3211.82

Credits

Ads in *Recorder*
and Dues Paid..... \$641.96
Total Credits..... \$641.96

Debits

Printing *Checklist '88*.. \$440.20
Yearly Bulk Mail fee.... \$50.00
One-time Bulk filing fee.. \$50.00
Mailing *Recorders*..... \$74.90
Printing *Recorders*.... \$491.05
Secretarial Expenses.... \$50.00
Total Debits..... \$1,156.15

Balance on Hand
at transfer \$2,697.63

Respectfully Submitted;

Bernice M. Miller

Bernice Miller, Treasurer

Balance on hand
at transfer.....\$2697

Credits

Ad in *Recorder*, Dues Paid
and sale of *Checklists*.... \$1010
Total Credits..... \$1010

Debits

Postage, returned check
charge, printing checks,
secretarial expenses..... \$190
Total Debits..... \$190

Balance on Hand
9/17/88..... \$3517

Respectfully Submitted;

Sue Keefe

Sue Keefe, Treasurer

R.I.S. BOARD MEETING

MAY 3, 1988

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK.

Meeting called to order by President, John Weiler. In attendance were Mike Lowe, Editor; Sue Keefe, Vice President; Bernice Miller, Treasurer; Clarence Mahan, Eastern Director; Virginia Mathews, Past President; Earl Hall, Slide Chairman; Rick Tasco, guest; and Howard Brookins, Secretary.

First item of business was a discussion of Non-Profit Organization status for the Society. Currently not registered as such, so Sue Keefe will follow through with proper procedure to gain this status. Tax benefits accrue for the society and society members. Mike Lowe is pursuing Non-Profit mailing status. This will reduce the cost of our bulk mailings of the Recorder by about 50%.

Mike Lowe suggested sending copies of the Recorder to AIS President, VP, and Editor. Discussion followed and it was unanimously agreed to start this policy with the Fall issue.

A complete discussion of necessary changes to the By Laws of the Reblooming Iris Society followed. Currently there are no provisions to replace an officer unable to fulfill the term of office for whatever reason, so provisions should be made to allow the President to appoint a replacement, with written approval of the Board of Directors. Also, there are no provisions for the President to

appoint Standing Committees as may become necessary. The terminology Secretary/Treasurer should be changed to show these are now two separate offices. After a thorough discussion, it was proposed that these necessary changes be printed in the Fall issue of the Recorder, then voted on at the RIS General Meeting in Memphis in 1989.

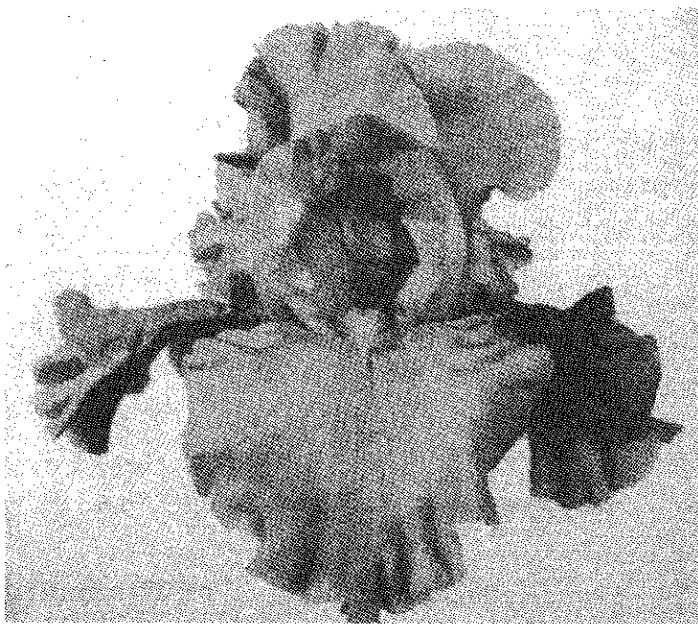
Other items of discussion were:

- the possibility of raising Advertising Rates - no action taken at this time.
- the 1989 Reblooming Iris Society Rhizome Sale - to be discussed further at the Spring '89 meeting
- the option for Air Mail delivery of the Recorder to overseas members for an additional fee of \$2.00 per year. Currently surface mail overseas takes up to six months for delivery, so it was felt those desiring faster delivery should have the option of Air Mail.
- Prices were set on the new Reblooming Iris Check List, available through the Secretary, as follows: at Convention, \$5.50; by Book Class Mail within the United States, \$6.00; Surface Mail to Canada and overseas, \$6.50 and Air Mail overseas, \$8.00. This publication has been redone starting with the 641 varieties in the 1975 Check List and adding to it all Registered or Reported Rebloomers since that time, including information on many 1988 introductions; now listing 1428 varieties.

Respectfully submitted,

Howard Brookins
Howard Brookins, Secretary

'The Lost Chord'®



V59, a reblooming Zurbrigg seedling involving Victoria Falls, Summer Holidays, Sister Helen and Grand Dame, fell prey to a greenhouse accident but fortunately not before its pollen was used in several crosses. Someone's Law (? Murphy) seems to dictate that the 'Lost Chords' are always the most beautiful iris in the patch. This photo certainly bears that out and Lloyd believes that it was one of the best things he had ever achieved.

Title 'The Lost Chord' from the song of that name by Sir Arthur Sullivan

FLOWER PUZZLE ANSWERS

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. snap dragon | 10. iris |
| 2. cosmos | 11. cock's comb |
| 3. bachelor's-
button | 12. marigold |
| 4. Jack-in-the-
Pulpit | 13. phlox |
| 5. dandelion | 14. blue bells of
Scotland |
| 6. golden rod | 15. cat tail |
| 7. tulip | 16. milk weed |
| 8. daffodil | 17. skunk cabbage |
| 9. morning glory | 18. venus flytrap |
| | 19. cowslip |
| | 20. sun flower |



In The News



Dr. John Weiler has been invited to present a paper and participate in a Three way Faculty Exchange Seminar in Seoul, Korea. The Seminar theme is *"The Application of Biotechnology to Agriculture."*

~~~~~  
Once, then bloom again.  
Spring glory remembered,  
fall beauty indeed.  
~~~~~

SMALL ELF

Dedicated to Baby Blessed

A small elf,
Dressed in yellow,
Comes to my garden each September.
Charming elf,
Wee clever fellow!
How do you manage to break slumber,
All by yourself,
No clock to follow?
How do you manage to remember,
You clever elf,
You charming fellow?

Clarence Mahan



IN MEMORIAM

HENRY DANIELSON

REUBEN T. SMITH

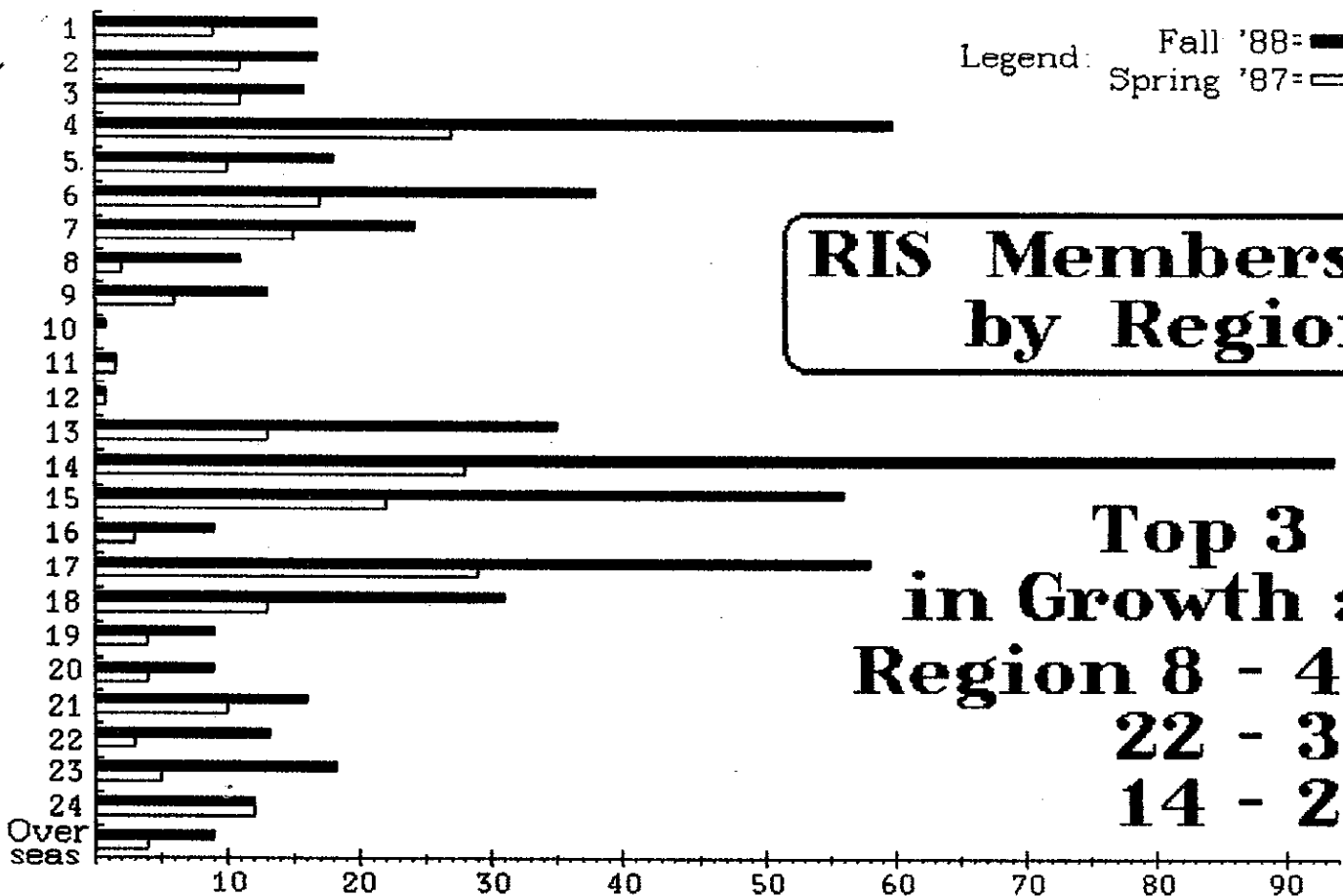
Address Correction Requested

The American Iris Society
Reblooming Iris Section
Rt-3 Box-135
Blackstone, VA 23824

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT No. 31

Legend: Fall '88=■
Spring '87=□

RIS Membership by Region



**Top 3
in Growth are:**
Region 8 - 450%
22 - 333%
14 - 228%