

THE

REBLOOMING IRIS RECORDER

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REBLOOMING IRIS SOCIETY

A Section of the American Iris Society

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Life.....	\$50.00			

Updated checklist is now available! Contact Howard Brookins for details.

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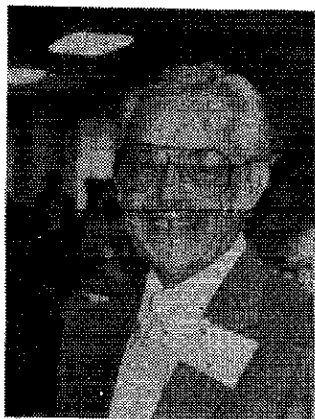
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President's Message



As the end of a two year term draws near, a bit of reflection on and a glance at the future of the RIS is in order. One of our goals, that of expanding membership, has been quite successful and has produced nearly 300% increase in members.

The issue of an updated checklist of reblooming irises also was so successful that it has been necessary to have a second printing. There has been a succession of outstanding issues of the Reblooming Iris Recorder to which our members have responded very favorably and enthusiastically. The practice of sending a letter of welcome to new members with information of irises known to rebloom in that particular area has also met with warm approval. All these are positive accomplishments by the officers and board of directors of your society.

Members have also written to suggest other ways to improve service. When possible, ideas forwarded are circulated amongst officers for action. This slows down response time but we urge your patience. One idea has been slow to be initiated since several have suggested a sheet on culture of remontants. As might be expected, there are a number of different cultural practices amongst successful growers due to differences in local climate, soil types, alkalinity or acidity, pests and diseases and a host of other variables besides the difference in gardening experiences of the persons involved. As a result, it has not been possible to develop a single set of guidelines for culture. The current issue of this publication attempts to address the problem by asking growers in different areas of the country to write about the culture of remontants in a specific part of the United States. It seems likely that we will be able in the near future to develop culture sheets for various geographic areas to send to new members when they join.

Another tremendous help has been information about cultivars which rebloom in each state, information sent in by you, the members. All these data are being added to information already stored in a computer so that we may retrieve by state or AIS Region or even USDA hardiness zones sometime in the future, the names of all cultivars reported to rebloom in any given area. Obviously, the more each of you report, the more complete our data base. In another year or two, we would like to publish a new cumulative checklist of reblooming irises.

Members from Oregon and Washington, from Colorado, Nebraska, from Virginia, from Texas and Arizona all have added significantly to our knowledge about remontant cultivars in those areas. Won't each of you take the time to study the checklist, available from our secretary, Howard Brookins for \$6, and forward any information you may be able to add either to the secretary or to me this year?

John Weiler



Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee of the Reblooming Iris Society is pleased to present the following nominees for offices to be filled by election in 1989:

President: John Weiler

Secretary: Howard Brookins

Eastern Director Clarence Mahan

Evelyn Hayes
Virginia Mathews
Clarence Mahan, Chairman



Financial Statement, RIS

Balance on hand

17 Sept. 1988.....\$3517

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Total Credits\$1279

Debits

Fall '88 Recorder \$868

Second printing, Checklist \$444

Sec'y expenses \$144

Total Debits\$1456

Balance on Hand

15 Mar. 1989\$3340

This statement given in a telephone report by:
Sue Keefe, Treasurer



Reblooming Iris Slides For Rent

Eighty newer reblooming iris slides in one set, mostly 70's and 80's introductions; another set of older introductions. Pay postage and insurance both ways. For more information contact:

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

Reblooming Iris Slides Needed!

for a 3rd set of the newest rebloomers. When your iris are in bloom this season take photographs of your best rebloomers and send the slides to Earl.

What Is A Garden?

Howard Brookins

A garden is a precious chunk of ground, living and breathing; an area not smothered by acres of concrete, not buried forever under tall buildings or shopping malls.

A garden is the opportunity to apologize to our God for all the wrongs mankind has wrought upon the earth HE created.

A garden gives one a sense of control in a world gone astray in the name of progress. Rivers may be moved, mountains leveled, wetlands filled - but my perennials will come up in the same place year after year after year.

A garden is a place to listen: to the birds singing; to the bees busy in their business of gathering pollen; to the borers munching on my iris rhizomes - a place to escape the loud "music" of the times.

A garden gives one the opportunity to anticipate the unknown: Will we have a frost? Will my blossoms be cooked by 100°+ temperatures? Will it rain? Will it stop raining? Will my seeds germinate? Will my transplants survive? Will the weeds grow? Will the herbicides also kill the flowers?

A garden is a place of great expectations: Will a seedling become a future Dykes Medal Winner? Will I produce the elusive RED iris? Will my new seedlings all be everbloomers? Will I grow the Queen of the Show?

But most important, a garden gives one the opportunity to share. To share with friends the beauty one has created. To share our love of gardening, developing lasting friendships. To share plants and garden produce. To share with one's children and grandchildren the right to be proud to have a little garden soil under the fingernails!

[Ed. This appeared concurrently in Region 4's Spring '89 Newscast.]

Reblooming Japanese Iris

Sterling Innerst

When asked to write my thoughts concerning Japanese Iris and whether it is possible and/or desirable to have them rebloom, I had to do some real soul searching. Although I know that there are those of us who say that reblooming irises of all kinds are the future - I question this!

First, I must say that if iris need extra work, food, water, dividing, etc, etc, to rebloom - forget it. I think that the TB reblooming group is saying that rebloomers need all this extra care to rebloom. Do average gardeners want this? I don't think so. I know some who do not feed, divide, and care for the once-bloomers properly. Will they then do extra for the rebloom - afraid not! You say "extra pleasure, extra work". I think that this is wishful thinking for the most part - except, of course, for the real dedicated reblooming people. After all, iris are supposed to be developed for the 'average' gardener, I believe?!

If Japanese Iris that rebloom without extra care can be developed - fine! I think that would be positive. If a TB or any other iris reblooms in my garden (and some do) it must do it on its own. They are all treated the same as once-bloomers. When iris rebloom under these conditions I then believe them to be true rebloomers. Until this is the case, I do not think the rebloom concept will be successful!

I do think it is possible to get dependable reblooming Japanese Iris. None of the modern 'reblooming Japanese Iris' do anything for me beyond blooming once - nor do the many Siberians that are supposed to rebloom.

However, several of the older Marx and Payne varieties will send up a distinct set of second bloomstalks after the flowers from the first set are completely gone. I think that, had the Marx and Payne lines been continued and concentrated, rebloom would have developed. I believe that rebloom is recessive. I think, by going back to those cultivars that have a second set of bloom under average garden care and using a modern line-breeding program, the

period between bloom sets could be extended so that one would get longer and longer periods between flowerings. This would take much discipline and dedication. I do not think any breeder wants rebloom badly enough to dedicate a lifetime of often thankless toil to it. If anybody is interested, he should start by gathering the twelve or so cultivars that send up the second set of bloomstalks and begin a comprehensive program of breeding and selecting. The use of scientific tests may enhance the possibilities; however, I know of none at this time. Now and then, I hear of a Japanese Iris that sends up one or two bloomstalks in the fall - these might be useful!

In closing, I think the keen gardener who is not primarily an irisarian, is not interested in more work. I think rebloom can be developed for average garden practices. Since there are two-set irises that bloom without extra care, why develop a strain that needs all that extra work?

I will not take on breeding for rebloom, but should it emerge within my normal breeding program, I'll be ready to further the trait.



REBLOOMING ENTHUSIASTS HAVE OTHER INTERESTS BESIDES TBs THAT BLOOM IN THE FALL! FROM THE LEFT, ROSALIE FIGGE, CAROL WARNER AND B.J. BROWN STOP BY WYATT LEFEVER'S SEEDLING PATCH AFTER ATTENDING THE NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRISES IN SUMMERVILLE, S. C.



The following 36 new Byers rebloomers are making their debut this year. Yes - 36!! of 45 '89 introductions!! They are all, at the least, big steps forward... towards the irises of the future - those thoroughly modern, class irises that will rebloom reliably, all over the country. A few of these join the ranks of the prototypes of tomorrow's irises that are already here - things like Jennifer Rebecca, Champagne Elegance, Foxy Lady, Duke of Earl, Many Happy Returns, Leprechaun's Delight and Ditto. There are many more in existence out there already, in seedling patches around the country that will be coming out within the next two or three years. Some that will be the first introductions from hybridizers that will be big names before we know it. It is the dawning of a new age! A time of earth shaking changes in the iris world!!! Will be looked back on as the time when the iris finally metamorphosed from a "spring" flower into a long blooming reliable garden perennial - just as the rose and daylily did long before.

Reblooming Tall Bearded

Gilded * I Do X (Cease-Fire x Sky Hooks) * Light blue-gray with hafts and lightly suffused borders of yellow-gold; short blue horns on the spring flowers	\$25.00
Good Fairy * (Entourage x Sky Hooks) X Heather Blush * Blended creamy peach-pink with long self horns or spoons.....	\$30.00
Reincarnation * Vanity X Moonlit * Blended pinkish mulberry with red-orange beards and short, fuzzy mulberry horns	\$35.00
Starship * Leda's Lover S (Sky Hooks x Condottiere) * Silvery white touched yellow at the hafts; Long violet horns or spoons	\$35.00
Stingray * (Cease-fire x Sky Hooks) X Scented Bubbles * A violet-blue bitone with long violet horns.....	\$35.00
Banana Cream * Soap Opera X Brother Carl * From yellow buds come glowing cream flowers with yellow hafts	\$35.00
Blue Moonlight * Feedback X Brother Carl * Pale powder blue.....	\$35.00
Buckwheat * Spirit of Memphis X Soap Opera * A yellow bitone with a varying amount of ecru influence and dark brown lines from over the hafts to just below the beards.....	\$35.00
Floorshow * Broadway X Earl of Essex * Silvery S. infused old gold; white F. with red-purple stitched borders	\$30.00
Heart of Ice * Leda's Lover X (Sky Hooks x Condottiere) * Blue-white flushed violet in the heart with green-gold hafts and has a violet streak down the falls from the blue beard	\$30.00
Heavenly Bliss * (Startler x Sky Hooks) X Heaven Helped) * White with bright orange-red beards	\$30.00
Her Royal Highness * Well Endowed X Violet Miracle * Deep, bright magenta-violet, the falls have blended red-brown hafts and a small blue-violet blaze below old gold beards.....	\$35.00
High Ho Silver * I Do X Moonlit * Silvery gray touched tannish gold at the hafts; very pale gray beards tipped gold.....	\$35.00
His Royal Highness * Violet Miracle X (Cease-Fire x Sky Hooks) * A medium deep purple bitone.....	\$30.00
Juicy Fruit * Howdy Do X Coral Charmer * Varies a lot - usually basically pale apricot blended with varying amounts of lemon and pink.....	\$25.00
Las Vegas * Broadway X Earl of Essex * Creamy tan S.; lemon-cream F. stitched bright red-violet.....	\$35.00

Reblooming Tall Bearded continued

Lichen * Spirit of Memphis X Earl of Essex * Usually light gray infused light green with full length green texture veining down the falls	\$35.00
October * Well Endowed X Violet Miracle * Gold S.; bronzy golden brown F. with a white area at the hafts overlaid with brown lines; violet beards tipped gold.....	\$30.00
Pinkness * Vanity X Coral Charmer * One of the pinkest pinks ever.....	\$30.00
Second Wind * Immortality X (Cease-Fire x Sky Hooks) * Blue-white with light blue beards tipped yellow.....	\$35.00
Silver Screen * Immortality X (Cease-Fire x Sky Hooks) * Silvery white.....	\$30.00
Then Again * Soap Opera X Brother Carl * Blue-violet.....	\$30.00
Winesap * Violet Miracle X Hell's Fire * A near wine-black bitone.....	\$30.00

Reblooming Medians and Dwarfs

Like a Charm (IB) * Thrice Blessed X (Actress x Sky Hooks) * Light yellow S.; white F. overlaid bright yellow from the hafts to ends of beards and blue-violet horns.....	\$20.00
Low Ho Silver (IB) * Howdy Do X Baby Blessed * Silvery white touched tannish yellow at the hafts; silvery white beards tipped yellow.....	\$20.00
Sixteen Candles (IB) * Third Charm X (Hallowed Thought x Glistening Icicle) * Usually a waxy light yellow bitone, sometimes the standards are nearly white and sometimes they're infused light blue....	\$20.00
Baby Cakes (SDB) * Baby Blessed X Ditto * Creamy white S.; gold F. with a toasty brown overlay and creamy white borders	\$10.00
Cinders (SDB) * Third Charm X Jewel Baby * A deep violet bitone with a reddish underglow in the falls.....	\$10.00
Darkling (SDB) * Third Charm X Jewel Baby * A deep velvety violet bitone	\$10.00
Flower Child (SDB) * Small Flash X Ditto * White standards and borders around multicolored falls - blended green-gold, wine and grape	\$10.00
Frankincense (SDB) * Small Flash X Ditto * Gold standards and borders around bright red-maroon centers.....	\$10.00
Golden Child (SDB) * Thrice Blessed X Baby Blessed * Medium light yellow with bright golden yellow fall centers	\$10.00
Gray Poupon (SDB) * Third World X Jewel Baby * Satiny greenish mustard gold with gray beards tipped mustard gold	\$10.00
Sparkplug (SDB) * Light blue-violet S.; bright red-violet F. with near horizontal white stripes radiating out from around bushy frosty blue beards	\$10.00
Twinkle Twinkle (SDB) * Baby Blessed X Ditto * White with a suffused chartreuse spray pattern over the upper 2/3 of the falls and a tiny flash of turquoise beneath white beards.....	\$10.00
Perfume (MDB) * Baby Blessed X Ditto * White with suffused green lines coming from the throat onto the falls which change to turquoise then suffuse into a soft blue area on the upper third	\$15.00

*My guesses as to the best bets among these for good rebloom in the toughest, coldest, longest winter areas are - Banana Cream, *Blue Moonlight, Buckwheat, Heart of Ice, Her Royal Highness, *High Ho Silver, Flower Child, Frankincense, *Golden Child, *Gray Poupon, Twinkle Twinkle, *Perfume.*

Get all 23 TB rebloomers for \$350.00
All 9 SDB rebloomers for \$45.00

Order directly from this ad or send for our free catalog with full descriptions of these 36, our other '89 introductions and all the other things we carry. If ordering from this ad please include \$3.00 for shipping and handling and if you live in California - the 6% CA sales tax.

Moonshine Gardens - P.O. Box 367 - Potter Valley, CA 95469

Reblooming Iris Judges Training Session Conducted by Ben Hager

Adele Lawyer

On October 22, 1988, Ben Hager conducted a Judges Training Session on Reblooming Iris at Monty Byers' and Bill Gibbs' Moonshine Gardens in Potter Valley, California. Monty Byers is an active breeder of both rebloomers and Space Age iris, and many of his seedlings were blooming at the time of the session. Lloyd Zurbrigg, a leading breeder of reblooming iris from Virginia, was present since he was the guest speaker for this, the Fall Regional of Region 14, AIS.

Ben startled his listeners with this statement:

"Within 20 years, reblooming iris will probably be the only bearded iris that anyone will bother to grow."

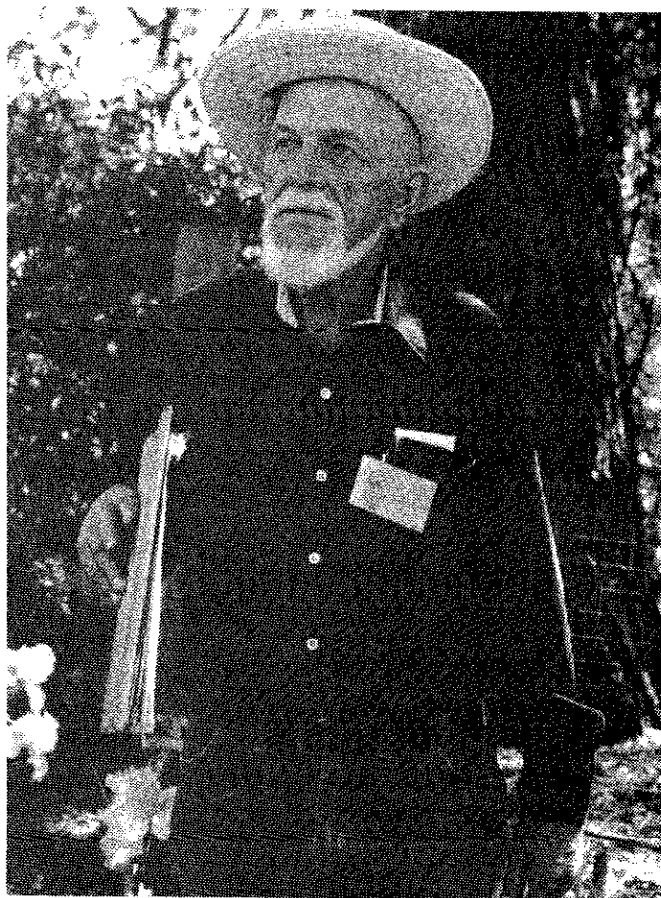
There are several reasons for this: first is their advantage of 3 months of bloom versus 3 weeks of bloom for non-rebloomers; secondly, their quality is already approaching and even equaling that of the spring bloomers; and third that, in spite of their continuous bloom, this type will grow and increase and be ready to bloom again in the spring.

There is much to learn about judging this class of iris starting with establishing that it fits into the reblooming class at all. Here, near the coast of California, "we live in an especially good climate for reblooming iris because we have long seasons. What we see doesn't necessarily give us the truth! In order to develop a class, you have to have a uniformity (of behavior), a universality. You have to have some sort of standard so you can say, 'This is a remontant iris,' - something other than that it just happened to bloom for you some time in the off-season. That in itself, doesn't make it a remontant."

"In order to be a judge of remontant iris you have to get acquainted with them. If you are

judging MTBs, TBs, or any other kind of iris, you have to be well acquainted with them, or you can't judge them. With MTBs and BBs, they are different because you have to follow certain measurements to know what they are. The measurement is the most important part. Space age iris have a different criteria. They have to have certain appendages that other irises don't have. And you have to learn what is good about the appendage and what is bad about it. The iris, itself, is judged just like any other iris. But you have to know what you are looking for when you are looking at Space Age iris."

"Remontant iris are a little more difficult. First, because we, in California, live in a climate which is especially good for rebloom. What reblooms here doesn't necessarily rebloom anywhere else. In order to belong to the class it should rebloom in a majority of other areas. Since we're not able to go around the country looking at other iris, we have to find out how they do there. And it isn't always easy to find out."



BEN HAGER CONDUCTING JUDGES TRAINING AT
MOONSHINE GARDENS, FALL 1988

"There are some features that you can look for in a reblooming iris. First of all the rebloom must be a matter of record, and for more than 1 or 2 seasons. They should bloom at a certain time of year in the fall as well as in the spring. They should consistently bloom at that time in the fall. In order for them to be universal, they must bloom well before this time of the year, (late October here on the California coast). Our Regionals are always too late to get a really good sample of rebloom. I would say that unless an iris is in full bloom here at least by the first of October, it will not rebloom anywhere else. Good rebloom is generally through September. They should bloom all through the month of September. Then they have a chance of being dependable elsewhere.

Another quality characteristic of remontants is continuing bloom. When you have 3 or 4 clumps of the same variety you would note that a good rebloomer will start blooming early and will continue to send up blooms until frost. It will not put all its blooms on at once but will continue its blooms through the season until frost. At Melrose we had some which were in bloom in August and they are continuing to bloom. This doesn't happen in the springtime bloom season. With rebloomers, you can have iris blooming in your garden, sometimes starting in August, nearly always by September, and then continuing until frost. That's about 4 months of bloom that you don't get from the spring bloomers!"

In order to find out which iris are good bloomers everywhere, "one of the first things any judge who wants to judge this class of iris should do is to join the Reblooming Iris Society. They put out very good reports. There you can find out which ones are reblooming in Iowa, in Virginia, Colorado, New England, - and when they bloom in those places, you know they are truly rebloomers! These places are different from each other. In fact, there is a difference here in northern California between the coast and the valley. We get many reports of irises that have rebloomed from areas all around the country, but not consistently rebloomed. **Vanity** and Schreiner's **Breakers** are among those reported

to have rebloomed elsewhere; but neither **Vanity** or **Breakers** have ever rebloomed for us in the valley. The climate is always nice on the coast and the iris bloom whenever they want to bloom, but in climates where you have some semblance of seasons, there you can learn more about their consistency. If we (in Stockton) get an iris that starts blooming in early August, we can be pretty sure it will bloom elsewhere in September or early October. If you, here on the coast, have some that don't bloom until the 1st of October, you might as well forget about them as universal rebloomers. There are exceptions to every rule; but that is a pretty decent rule. Off-season bloom occurs here on the coast which is not typical of other regions."

"An example of an iris that has rebloomed for us every year since we got it for the 1986 Convention as a guest is a blue seedling of Sterling Innerest. Altho it always reblooms for me, Sterling says it never any more than puts on a bud before it freezes for him in Pennsylvania. It is a beautiful iris. It has **Shipshape** on both sides of it. **Cloud Bearer**, **Double Praise**, and **Avalon Bay** all rebloom for us out in the valley. They don't rebloom for Lloyd Zurbrigg in Virginia, however. Sterling Innerest's seedling may well rebloom for him out there though." Ben Hager has crossed **Avalon Bay** with other things, Keith Keppel's **Punkin**, for instance, which is not a universal rebloomer, although it reblooms at Melrose. The progeny do rebloom well, and bloom all summer. Such varieties, then, are definitely good for breeding, but must not be labeled as rebloomers. "This can be a fault with the breeder who releases a variety as a rebloomer without properly testing it for universal reblooming. There is no way we can stop that. Judges, however, are the ones who can say whether it is or is not a rebloomer."

"If you are going to judge remontant iris, you should obviously grow some. The secret to making them rebloom is totally different from the procedure with TB iris. If you want them to rebloom they must have irrigation regularly through the summer. We get our best rebloom on first year plantings. I think this is because, on second year plants, we are not getting the ferti-

lizer down to the roots enough. After all, if you apply fertilizer to iris that bloom for 3 weeks in the spring, think of what 3 more months will do to a plant! It needs a lot more nourishment and tender, loving care. It takes that summer care to get good reblooms. Although we always got some rebloom at Melrose, it was not until we started planting our remontants next to our Japanese and Siberian beds where we could water them at the same time, that we started to get really good bloom. You should give them a good watering every two or three weeks throughout the summer. Rebloomers should be fertilized before spring bloom and afterwards. Twice a year should be enough. The fertilizer is available from 30 to 60 days after application."

Even with this summer watering, rot is not a problem in reblooming iris. Lloyd Zurbrigg agrees with this conclusion. As a matter of fact, rebloomers appear to be less prone to rot than spring bloomers. It appears to be a genetic factor.

"When you judge remontants, you do not judge them on their reblooming ability alone. We are getting some great iris in this section. Take **Earl of Essex**, here. It is getting good awards in the AIS Awards List, right along with the tall bearded, and that's going to continue to be happening. Here (on display) are some of Monty Byers seedlings out of **Broadway**. You can see the ruffling, the increased width, etc. We can judge the modern remontants on good flower quality. You have to get out in the fall to judge them. That's the time." It is not always easy to cross the rebloomers in the fall and get the pods to mature. Ben gets mature pods if he gets his crosses made by September. **Many Happy Returns** is Ben's introduction for this year. "It is not too bad an iris," says Ben. "As a matter of fact of our 5 introductions this year, **Many Happy Returns** was second in sales!" This amazed him.

"The fault of many of these late bloomers this year is the close placement of buds along the stalks. This year, due to an unusually hot summer, it is exaggerated and doing it more than usual. But when you are judging an iris for plant or flower quality there should be no difference in judging a rebloomer or a non-rebloomer. You get

far more branching in fall bloom than you do in spring bloom. Sometimes they are pretty bunched. That's all right in the garden because we're not growing them for show stalks at that time of the year. A great many of them have excessive branching."

Ben displayed some of the reblooming plants which he or others had brought along as examples of the class. "**Orchid Lane**, a very pretty color, although not exactly a modern flower, was introduced this year by Jefferies from Kansas, because it is such a dependable rebloomer. **Grace Thomas**, Lloyd Zurbrigg's wonderful yellow is another dependable rebloomer. Smith's **Lemon Reflection** was raised in Indiana and I have a whole row of them, every one of which was in bloom by the first of September. One of my seedlings that was planted out had 3 rhizomes and I counted 20 bloomstalks this fall. You'd never get that in the spring!"



MONTY BYERS, PROPRIETOR OF MOONSHINE GARDENS, AND BREEDER OF SOME OF THE BEST OF THE SPACE AGE AND REBLOOMING IRISES.

Question And Answer Period

Q. *When do you replant fall-blooming iris?*

A. "I usually don't get my rhizomes replanted until October, which is plenty early. In the hot valley, July or August are not recommended for transplanting. September is OK. This is in spite of having cool nights no matter how hot the day is. If you have fertilized and irrigated your iris well during the growing season you are going to have good bloom the next year no matter when you transplant. The bloom is set. All you have to do is plant them early enough so that they can get some roots down. I remember one year when it started raining after the iris rhizomes were dug. We stacked them in boxes and planted them out in February. Every one of them bloomed well; but then they fell over because they didn't have enough roots to hold them up!"

Gigi Hall has grown Melba Hamblen's Saffron Flame. After spring bloom in the last week of June it starts blooming again and continues until she has to dig it out of the ground to divide it for the next season.

Q. *Is it a rebloomer if it starts that early?*

A. "Yes. It doesn't matter when they rebloom as long as they do it. That one, however doesn't do it elsewhere." **Summer Luxury**, however, bloomed this spring. Then it took about a month's rest and started blooming again and it was all bloomed out in the fall. But it was a remountant.

Q. *How dominant is the reblooming characteristic?*

A. "You can cross a known rebloomer with a variety that has some characteristics like that of a rebloomer and get rebloomers. For instance **Vanity** and **Grace Thomas** produced for Lloyd a pink, **Jennifer Rebecca**, which rebloomed fine. There has to be some genetic basis on both sides because **Vanity** does rebloom some, though not for me. Monty has gotten rebloomers using **Leda's Lover** and **Skyhooks** without even planning on producing rebloomers. Then Joe Ghio

sent him a list of iris which rebloom for him, and among them were **Leda's Lover** and **Skyhooks**. So there is some genetic rationale for it."

Q. *Do other classes of iris have a rebloom period?*

A. "Siberians have a second batch of bloom, a couple of weeks after the first. I consider that secondary bloom, not rebloom because this bloom is not far enough different from the first." Gigi Hall commented that **Pescadero** is a PCN which is a rebloomer for her. It almost blooms out in the fall.

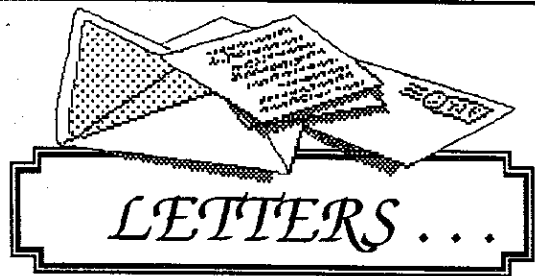
Q. *Is wet or dry fertilizer more quickly available?*

A. "Liquid fertilizer is more quickly available. I would put more fertilizer out about the first of September so that the plants would be storing up a good start for spring bloom."

Frank Foster said that about 3 years ago he tested 6 known rebloomers in his garden and in one area he used only Miracle Grow™ from April until late summer as a foliar feeding. He got the most fantastic rebloom he ever had. It was applied every two weeks consistently.

Q. *Should you remove a vigorous lower stalk before you enter a rebloomer in a show?*

A. "As long as the lower branch is in balance, I would leave it on (if you can get it into the holder, that is). If the branch comes up just parallel to the main stem it will need to be taken off because it would look too crowded. As more people grow rebloomers, we will be having more fall shows and we will have to get bigger vases to display these vigorous stalks in. You have to learn to show iris, just as you have to learn to judge them. I believe that conditioning, which includes grooming, should amount to at least 60 percent of the count. I consider that the AIS is wasting its time training someone to judge iris that some amateur has just brought in and stuck in a jar. You have to learn to take care of that iris. It takes grooming and handling. Perhaps exhibiting means learning to fool the judges."



[Ed. A little different this issue...three letters - one kicking off the other two. Read on...]

10 Jan., 1989

Dear Schreiners/Cooleys,

Another request! Editors have thick hides and I can only hope that continual (but discreetly spaced) pleas for a chunk of your time and effort pay off.

WHAT DOES THIS BOZO WANT NOW?!

An article from Cooley's/Schreiners - Richard Ernst/Robert Schreiner if possible, head grower will do.

Subject? A How-to... how you keep your display garden growing magnificently, year after year, in the same spot.

Starting in the '30's and '40's the problem of keeping iris happy in the same ground emerged. It has intensified over the years, and, in rebloomers has reached the point where rebloom is not possible unless iris are regularly moved to fresh ground.

This tendency has been abetted and accelerated by commercial growers who are also hybridizers. A yearly cycle of lift, divide, and replant in fresh soil is necessary for a commercial nursery for numerous reasons. However, when this regime is followed in the seedling bed we continually select for those cultivars that flourish in fresh soil.

Visit the garden of a long time irisarian who has been growing iris on the same ¹/₄ acre city lot for uncounted years. You may make many observations but one comment you will never utter is; "What well grown iris!" However, let this person divide and give rhizomes to a neophyte and next year when they bloom, all will agree: *C'est Magnifique!*

I believe we are traveling down a road that can only be remedied by making 'gardenability' worthwhile as a breeding goal. In the interim, advice, guidance and counsel from growers of your stature is invaluable. An article giving us the distillation of Cooley's/Schreiner's years of experience would be of immense benefit to iris enthusiasts in general and reblooming nuts in particular. Please consider writing such an article. PS: Deadline is first week of March.

Best regards,
Mike Lowe, Editor, *Rebloomer*



A constant program of balanced rejuvenation has to be practiced yearly without fail. We consider that the use of **humus** is a key word. A compost pile with a good crop of fiber plus the mineral, lime, is great for iris. We suggest Agricultural Gypsum as a fine form of lime.

I was always pleased, in years past, to visit the garden of Don Waters in Elmore, Ohio - not far south of Toledo. Don planted in raised beds and he used horse manure only as a winter mulch. He pulled a little mulch up to the plant in October and worked the spent foliage into the soil each spring. Orville Fay, who had a background of small truck farming in the strawberry growing area of New Richmond, Wisconsin, also used horse manure as a winter protection mulch.

In growing iris intensively in one area, the iris can be compared to a potato - i.e. to produce a rhizome (stored food) the root system extracts from the soil those nutriments needed for the production of stem, flower, and seed pod if desired. However, a potato farmer does not grow his spuds in the same plot every year.

In closely packed plantings, year after year, the soil has to provide the necessary nutrients. In the case of reblooming iris, in conjunction with sufficient moisture and proper growing temperatures, additional nutriments are taken from the soil. These need to be restored by the use of

humus (compost) fortified with proper chemical additives to replace those elements used. The iris is a heavy feeder and, when a plant is dug, one does not remove all the small roots, and although these then decay, the soil is old as far as the second year growth is concerned.

In the intensive cultivated plantings of California fumigation with Methyl Bromide is most helpful. We fumigate our show bed on an average of once every 5 years or so to kill any toxic residue deep in the soil. Then we top-dress with a heavy application of straw or weed-free hay to keep the soil light and friable.

A good series of articles was published in the AIS Bulletin several years ago on this subject. The title was Proper Fertilization is More Than a Pile of Manure! (See AIS Bulletin #246, July 1982, page 30; and Bulletin # 247, October 1987, page 52.) These articles were written by O. M. Otte. I'm sure Mel has a lot more to say on this subject than I.

I do stress that you get your agricultural county agent involved for suggestions on what to do to maintain fertility and combat the leaching of rains in your area. You can also enlist his aid in increasing and maintaining the all-important permeability. I think you can see that you are going to have to do some experimenting and trials.

Our display area has been growing iris for 43 years. I know of no easy way out on this - rotation being barred. Fall bloom, in my experience, is extremely variable in character. Somehow I do feel that prior weather has a big influence.

Sincerely,
Robert Schreiner



...I found your letter quite interesting. I can agree with you on a couple of points, but the overall impression I get is that the breeder is at fault. I would ask this question: if the seedlings

were transplanted into the same soil from which they were lifted, wouldn't the hybridizer still select those that grew well? Whether the seedlings are transplanted into old soil or fresh soil would have no bearing on the selection. It's all relative, so that a seedling that does well in old soil should do very well in fresh soil.

So the difference in performance must obviously lie in the "new" soil. Now we are in an area that applies to plant material of all types, not just irises. If you grow irises in a particular spot for one year, they will use X amount of various nutrients for their growth and bloom. If these nutrients, now lost from the soil, are not replaced, the soil is weakened. The next year, because of the nature of irises to increase, there will be twice as many irises in the same spot, therefore using 2X amount of nutrients from the already weakened soil.

The key to success is to replace the nutrients at the same rate as they are removed. Mother Nature does this by causing the irises to react in a manner inconsistent with man's desires. Therefore, the soil must be amended and modified and Mother Nature "fooled" into believing the irises aren't there.

All iris growers, large and small, beginner and expert, have good years and bad years. For 40 years Cooley's grew iris in display beds at the old James Street office, in the same soil, year after year after year. We fertilized, we watered, we added leaf mulch, straw, manure, and lime. We **took care** of the soil. Every few years, all irises were lifted and the soil worked deep, sometimes fumigated, and prepared for replanting. Once in a while we had a bad year: poor growth, nightmarish leaf spot, soft rot.

But this is not just irises. The 40+ foot tall pink dogwood was more beautiful some years than others.

I can remember visiting Walt Luihn in California near Hayward - every year, the most beautiful, healthy plants I've ever seen. Walt cared for his soil and his plants, and accomplished year after year what you're telling me can't be done.

Garden-ability, as you put it, certainly is (or should be) a breeding goal of hybridizers. I don't

think any hybridizer selects or reselects a seedling knowing it is a poor grower. But what hybridizer would line out his seedlings in poor, uncultivated soil? Should a hybridizer plant his reselected seedlings, products of a ten or twenty year line of breeding, in a low spot of black gumbo that puddles 3 inches deep every time it rains? I think not. Stick to the basics that my grandfather and father taught me: raised beds, good drainage, don't over-fertilize, don't over-water, and divide every three or four years. Choose a spot that gets plenty of sunshine. Keep the weeds out and the soil mellow. Watch the pH.

Your comment regarding the $\frac{1}{4}$ acre city lot was made in haste. As a child I visited just such an iris garden. The owner even did a bit of hybridizing. He transplanted his seedlings, made crosses, and divided clumps all on this city lot. His name was Dr. R. E. Kleinsorge, and he gave my grandfather, Rholin Cooley, his first irises in the fall of 1922. Over the next 40 years, "Doc Kleiny" created many fine irises - all on his small city lot.

Since you are editor of *Rebloomer*, I should probably talk about these irises. Cooley's sells many irises that are known to rebloom. We do not advertise this fact, however, because rebloomers do not always rebloom. This past year I purchased a selection of rebloomers from Dr. Zurbrigg, and, over the next few years, they will be evaluated. I understand many are dependable.

It would only make sense that if an iris has the genetic qualities that cause it to rebloom, then given a proper environment and growing conditions, it should always rebloom. Good theory, but hardly practical. The last "normal" iris season, I am told, was in 1934.

So where does this all lead? It doesn't matter if you raise irises, daylilies, or Venus fly traps, the same rules apply: recognized good gardening practices. Just make sure that what you're doing is correct for what you're trying to grow.

Happy gardening to you and your readers.

Sincerely yours,
Richard C. Ernst



How to Control the Iris Borer

For the past three years, we have tried the following method to control the iris borer without using dangerous insecticides and special spray equipment.

Our system requires four items:

1. Water hose and water supply
2. Gilmore® insecticide fertilizer sprayer, or one which will work with the type of spray you use (liquid or powder - we use liquid), attached to the end of the hose.
3. Ordinary fruit tree spray - (we use liquid with the Gilmore.) This spray usually contains Insecticide, Miticide, Scalicide, and Fungicide. (Ferti Lome™ or any good liquid fruit tree spray.)
4. Black Leaf 40® Borer Spray (Farm and Fleet)

- The first spray should be right after you have several warm nights (70 degrees) in the spring. This first spray should be fruit tree spray and should be applied to all vegetation, bushes, and fence rows that harbor the borer eggs over the winter.

- After the first spray, concentrate on spraying the iris. Be careful to spray the base areas of the fans, even after bloom, for nice looking garden plants.

- Continue to spray at 10 day intervals.
- Have one good spray around tulip bloom time.

- Be sure to alternate fruit tree spray and borer spray.

The garden should be kept weed-free if possible and the iris should have a good fall cleanup. However, this spray method will work without a cleanup.

Results depend on thoroughness and timing.

Karl F. Jensen

Growing and Hybridizing Reliable Rebloomers

Bernice Miller

A. Hints to the Rebloomer grower

(from my own experience in arid, alkaline New Mexico and acid, often very wet, Alabama)

1. Grow iris with a rebloom season that fits your own climate, soil, weather conditions and number of freeze free days; those hybridized in your own or a similar area, or those known to rebloom in your area.
2. If your rebloomer comes from a drastically different climate, type of soil, length of season adapt to your own conditions as much as possible.
 - a. If the iris comes from an alkaline area and your soil is acidic, lime your soil.
 - b. If the iris loves acidic soil and yours is alkaline, use sulphur to acidify.
 - b. If the climate from which the iris come is much warmer, mulch the iris for winter and remove the mulch after freeze danger in spring to prevent rot, especially if you have a great deal more rainfall than where the iris originated.
3. To encourage rebloom, give optimum growing conditions.
 - a. Give more fertilizer than to once bloomers to take care of extra growth and flowers.
 - b. Give plenty of water, but don't over water. Let the soil go dry before rewatering and then give a thorough soaking. This encourages more rebloom than constantly moist soil.
 - c. Attend to any traumatic conditions as leaf spot, rot, or insect infestation. Benlate® is good for fungus disorders, Agri-strep® stops southern Crown Rot. Terramycin™, 500mg to 4 oz. glycerin and swabbed on, after soft rot damage is removed, stops the spread of soft rot.
4. Aerate heavy clay soil to aid root growth with gypsum.
5. Incorporate plenty of compost, particularly in sand, or heavy clay soil to encourage root growth.
6. Cut off all rebloom stalks after freeze-up. Cut out those not in bloom. Be sure and get the embryo stalks just emerged from the rhizome. If your climate inclines to dampness, dew or humidity, the cuts should be treated with ground lime to which Benlate® and Agri-strep® has been added. In acidic soil, sulphur can be used in place of the lime or the glycerin-Terramycin™ can be used. Be sure to re-treat if rain washes off the application.
7. In very drouthy years, without extra water supply, dig a depression beside your iris clump and fill with a solution of rapid-gro or other water soluble fertilizer. Use 1/2 gal. for small clumps, 1 gal. for large clumps. Do this in mid-July and again mid August. Use the same amount of plain water between the fertilizer drenchings. You can have rebloom even during heavy drought with no extra water available from hoses.
8. To help control heaving and freezing in wet, open ground, I cover my rhizomes 1 inch deep after treating the soil to be used around the iris with Benlate® and Agri-strep®. Putting a rock on new set rhizomes can help. If they do heave, reset as quickly as possible or tramp them back into place while they are still frozen.
9. If you have a severe infestation of rot, cut back on the amount of fertilizer you use. Keep the soil lean to help get rid of the rot problem.
10. For borers use a systemic such as Cygon2E™ according to directions, being sure not to use it near edible garden plants. I am finding that when the soil is heavily limed, I have no borers there; but if rains are heavy these same iris tend to get the round-spotted kind of leaf spot, which they never get when the soil is heavily acidic.

(An extra growth hint...)

A type of powdered milk (the kind you feed an orphaned baby calf and purchased at a feed store) blended into the bottom of the hole due to receive an iris seems to result -

for me- in healthier growth and more reliable rebloom. It adds some of those rarer, sometimes lacking minerals that an iris, or a baby calf!, needs for optimum growth. The amount is so little it doesn't cause rot and it is put so deep dogs and cats won't dig up your rhizome because they smell the milk.

B. HINTS for the Hybridizer of cold-climate Iris. (Learned the hard way)

1. When adding 'glamor' from late or winter rebloomers, select only those that are most vigorous and adaptable to your conditions and a good grower in your area. As to the cold-climate parents, use the earliest rebloomer, as well as the most vigorous and glamorous of these. Those iris that rebloom in midsummer under trying conditions could be quite valuable to help produce everbloomers.
2. Test a seedling you are considering for introduction by submitting some of the increase to a lime treatment if you are very acidic, or sulphur treatment if you are very alkaline. If they do not adapt, at least inform potential

purchasers so they can have knowledge as how to treat them.

3. Weed out severely all seedlings that are poor growers, poor increasers, that show winter damage, drouth damage or damage from too much rain or at least warn the purchasers of their weakness; so they can take proper precautionary measures.
4. When selecting seedlings from the germination site to set out discard those with few roots and those without the small feeder roots that rebloomers have. It will save you lots of wasted growing space and more of your seedlings will be rebloomers.
5. Be stringent in selecting for introduction only those seedlings that exhibit a real improvement in some way - earlier rebloom, ever-blooming, more ruffling, lace or width of petal or a much sturdier, adaptable plant.
6. Crossing a known acid soil rebloomer with a known alkaline soil rebloomer, tends to throw some that can adapt to more widely variable climates.

Introductions of Frank J. Foster

Midnight Pacific '88 TB. Early to Midseason and reblooming in October in Northern California. Ruffled dark violet-purple. (Raven-wood x Valley West) X (Gibson girl x Shipshape) Excellent reports of rebloom in Midwest and northern areas \$20.00

Fever '88 TB. Midseason. Lightly ruffled bronze tan standards, bright red falls. Slight fragrance. Good garden color. Quite vigorous. (Frontier Marshal x Moonlight Duet) X (Deep Fire x Chippendale) Some attempts at rebloom in warmer climates..... \$15.00

Indiana Jones '88 TB. Midseason Ruffled golden yellow with spicy fragrance. (Kentucky Derby x Alabama Bound) X West Coast \$15.00

California Girl '86 BB. Greyed Lavender on white, plicata; deeper style arms, ruffled petals..... \$10.00

Sunshine Boy '86 IB. Ruffled and flared creamy/yellow. Most floriferous and vigorous, forming instant clumps. Destined for stardom. On display at Memphis, and Median Muster Gardens, Boston. Great for the show bench. Pod fertile (Beau x White Lightning) Should produce excellent SDB Rebloomers!..... \$6.00

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Vagabond Gardens
11115 Bodega Highway
Sebastopol, CA 95472

Comments From the Cleaning Lady

Anne Lowe

Today, while Mike crouched in front of the computer screen putting together the *Recorder*, I retreated to the garden with my trash can and kneeling pad, determined to tackle the remainder of uncleaned clumps of irises. Most of these clumps were rebloomers, left until last because I thought that the leaves and dead foliage might protect the tender new growth. Translate that to read: they were such a jungle that I put off cleaning them as long as possible. As I began pulling out handfuls of offal, I was unprepared for the large number of slushy iris fans that came out with the leaves. Whole clumps were reduced to clean, bare ground in just one pass. I was appalled. After all, we had an unusually mild winter - we even had several days in January when the temperature climbed (and stayed) in the mid-70's and a wonderful week-long spell of 85-90 degree weather in late February - great for the heating bill! Of course, in early March, the thermometer did drop into the low 20's and temperatures have see-sawed wildly ever since. We have had snow twice in the past 5 days, and tonight, April 11th, a statewide freeze warning has been issued. Looks like Southside Virginia has done it again!

These off-again/on-again temperature extremes have apparently taken their toll, especially among the rebloomers. The warm days stimulated them to put on a rapid growth spurt, which got cut off at the pass when the temperatures dropped into the 20's. This was especially

damaging to those cultivars planted just last fall. The following varieties have totally disappeared: **Sharlee, Lightly Seasoned, and Doubletime.** Among those hanging on by the skin of their slimy leaves are: **Red Polish, Autumn Memory, Amanda Erin, Pharoh's Dream, Hell's Fire, Lemon Delight, Ahead of Times, Autumn Squire, and Praline.** Even if these survive, they certainly won't bloom this spring, and, in many instances, the damage is so extensive, they probably won't bloom in the fall either.

On a more cheerful note there are some varieties that resemble the plant that ate Chicago -



SUMMER SUNSHINE (J. GIBSON '71) NOT AS POPULAR AS CAYENNE CAPERS, BUT IN OUR GARDEN, A MUCH BETTER PERFORMER AND AN EARLIER REBLOOMER

among them: **October Sun, Holy Night, Emma Louisa, Perfume Counter, Grape Adventure, Autumn Bugler, Lunar Autumn, and Sister Helen.** Already in bud with bloom stalks 6-8 inches high are **Corn Harvest, Perfect Couple** (which doesn't rebloom here but is so beautiful!), **Earl of Essex, Leora Kate** and **Summer Sunshine.** These will rate a blanket cover

tonight. A 2 year clump of **Double Scoop** looks super but it has yet to bloom (once or twice) so it's time to wave the shovel over that one. So much for the TBs - on to the median beds.

The SDBs have been a joy, beginning with **Tiny Tears** which opened (5 days earlier than 1988) on March 30th. I cut these each time a freeze is predicted and take them to my home-bound patients who have really enjoyed getting an early glimpse of spring through these little beauties. Not one SDB shows any sign of freeze damage. The only effect the cold may have had on these is a tendency of some to bloom short, looking more like MDBs, which is fine with me since we haven't yet managed to bloom those successfully here - they freeze in the winter and

cook in the summer/fall. **Khaki Print** has to be the outstanding SDB this year, followed closely by **Fingerprint**, **Sunstrip**, **Smell the Roses**, and **Plum Plum**. **Jewel Baby** really is a blooming fool! It has already put up 10-15 stalks, but at least half of these have 4 falls and 4-5 standards. Has anyone else experienced this?

Several of the IBs set out last fall are budded and at least one is showing color. I look forward to seeing **Voila**, **Born Again**, and **Cheers** for the first time. Barring any more severe frosts, we should see open blooms on **Blessed Again** and **I Bless** next week. MTB **Lady Emma** sent up a bloomstalk in early March which opened! This is an MTB? So far I see no buds among the reblooming BBs.

I don't believe there is a hybridizer in the business who can produce an iris that will reliably withstand the winter temperature extremes we have just experienced. Nor do I believe that the iris which survived unscathed this year can/will necessarily escape another similar season without damage. There seems to be no common

factor linking those irises that winter-killed or froze severely - not hybridizer, area of origin, once or repeat bloomers, or parentage. The damage seems most severe among the TBs, (perhaps because we have more of them?) While I expected to find **Autumn Squire** with moderate to severe freeze damage; its parent, **Ravenwood**, noted to be tender, is flourishing. Is a puzzlement.

The number of frozen once-bloomers doesn't even bear thinking about. Enough of them are gone that I may not need a new iris bed this year after all. I can't remember the spring that **Albicans** and **Kochii** did not have a single bloom stalk - we will see nothing from them this year.

Bob Schreiner said he felt that rebloom was very dependent on weather; Rick Ernst said, "It can always be a bad year!" They don't come much worse than the spring of 1989.

Back to the clean-up! As I am down on my knees, I will be grateful for what remains to bloom, and will await the 1989 iris season with my usual anticipation!

A Visit To Moonshine Gardens

Frank Foster

Moonshine Gardens was host garden for our Region 14 Fall Meeting in October 1988. However, a return trip two weeks later proved most rewarding, as much more (seedlings and named varieties) was in bloom at that time.

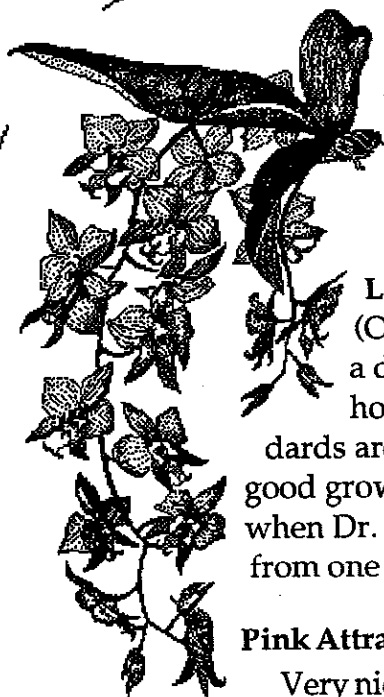
We saw **Dark Crystal**, a wine purple SDB with blue beards. It was nice to see **Cherry Supreme**, IB (Zurbrigg '79) in bloom in late October and early November. One of Monty's



BILL GIBBS AND MONTY BYERS
MOONSHINE GARDENS, OCTOBER, 1988

new introductions, **High Ho Silver**, was showing off to the fullest. This beautiful frosty, silvery white, faintly cast lavender, displayed well in the garden as it held four blooms open at once with lots more coming - a real Best of Show contender. A silvery-white companion-named IB,

Low Ho Silver, looked good also. Both of these will be 1989 introductions. We were pleased to see the older **Fine Print** (Keppel) and **Colorwatch** (Innerst '87) in good rebloom. The latter is a TB plicata of bold, burgundy red and cream yellow, a wonderful color in the autumn landscape.



Hall's 1988 & 1989 Introductions

Little Showoff (Earl E. Hall '89) Sdlg. 83-81-2N.C. SDB, 11" E.M. and Re (Oct in Ohio). Pale icy blue self with bright fuzzy lavender blue beards. From a distance, the flowers appear white. The broad compact flowers have almost horizontally flaring flaring falls that are slightly wavy and ruffled. The standards are tightly domed and closed. Substance is excellent, 2 flowers per stalk, good grower and fertile both ways. The name "Little Showoff" came to my mind when Dr. Weiler told me he had 9 bloomstalks in Oct, Nov, and Dec., 1988 from one rhizome planted in 1988 \$10.00

Pink Attraction (Earl E. Hall, '88) TB 30" EM and RE (Aug.- Oct. mostly Oct. in Ohio). Very nice form. Ruffled light pink with orange beards. Semi-flaring falls, 5 to 7 buds, 2 to 3 branches plus spur and terminal.

Jean Guymer X Vanity. Good grower and fertile both ways. EC in 1986. \$12.50

Violet Returns (Earl E. Hall, '88) TB 30" EM and RE (Aug. and Sept. in Ohio) Violet of average form, but a very strong, dependable rebloomer in Ohio and colder climates. Yellow beards. Standards are closed, falls semi-flaring, 7 buds. Perfume Counter X Re-treat. Fertile both ways \$25.00

Welch's Reward (W. Welch by E. Hall R. '87) MTB, 22", M. S. yellow; F. red purple with $\frac{1}{8}$ " yellow margin; white hafts with bright red-purple veining going down into falls which makes the flower stand out. Very vigorous grower and fertile both ways. Not a rebloomer. Special Price..... \$5.00

Queen Dorothy (E. Hall 84), TB, 29 $\frac{1}{2}$ " E-M & RE (Aug-Oct in Ohio. I have had it to bloom in May, June, July, Aug, Sept., Oct. and Nov., here at our place) S. white with $\frac{1}{2}$ " edging of mid-violet; F. white with $\frac{3}{8}$ " edging of mid-violet; yellow beard. Perfume Counter X Re-Treat \$5.00

Coral Charmer (Horace Wright '83) TB, 30", E-M & RE. Medium pink self; tangerine beard. Dependable rebloomer in Ohio \$4.00

Jewel Baby (E. Hall 84) SDB, 12" VE-VL and RE (Oct in Ohio) Dark purple; mid-violet beard; slight spicy fragrance. Sapphire Jewel X Baby Blessed \$2.00

————— Free price list — Add \$2.00 for postage and handling —————

Hall's Flower Garden

1495 Enterprise Road.

West Alexandria, OH 45381

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.

[Ed. This issue, only one question is covered. It was such that answers from each section of the country were solicited. Each contributor did an in-depth answer for his region.

Question: What are your experts recommendations for fertilizing rebloomers? I haven't been growing them that long, but I have heard that they need different handling than the usual iris. Asking good gardeners how, when and what to use has me somewhat confused as no two answers have been the same. My soil is a sandy loam - an old field - but it does need some help.

Donald R. Sorensen
5000 Eleven Mile Rd.
Rockford, MI 49341

Answer: Lloyd Zurbrigg - Radford, Virginia. — Please make a distinction between those varieties which are truly remountant in the Eastern half of the nation, and those that are remountant on the West Coast. The latter may or may not be suitable for cold winter climates.

Granted that we are speaking of truly hardy reblooming varieties for cold winter climates, they should be encouraged not to stay idle all summer, except in the very hottest climates. They should be given regular waterings, at least from mid-July onward, so that growth is prepared, and the rebloom may start in August.

I prefer to feed the iris plant when it is put into the ground. The rebloom is stronger on established plants. One way to have the best of both worlds is to move half of a clump, filling in the hole with some good compost and a little fer-

tilizer. The half that is transplanted will be ready to give its best performance the following summer and fall.

Last year, 1988, set all-time records for heat, and, in many areas of Region 4, for drought also. It was a difficult year for rebloom. Nevertheless, I had at least one iris in bloom from June through October 5th when the frosts began. There was a lot of bloom throughout September.

The remountant iris varieties prefer new soil, like the once-blooming sorts, but they will tolerate old soil, on the average, better than those once-blooming varieties. If possible, learn the pH of your soil, and have it about 6.5. Add compost, soil-conditioners as needed, manure and fertilizer, when you plant, putting these well below the surface of the ground. Here in heavy clay soil, the conditioners are a help. In your sandy loam, these might not be so necessary, though I believe the compost might be even more important, to prevent the minerals from leaching away. Use a fertilizer with a low first number such as 5-10-10 or even 0-20-20. Do not use a lawn fertilizer with a high first number (Nitrogen), unless your iris foliage looks very weak.

The fact that each gardener has a different answer is confusing, but stems, in part, from the fact that each garden is slightly different from every other garden. Observe your plants carefully, and they may be able to signal their needs to you. The one big difference between the needs of the once-blooming and the hardy remountant varieties is the summer watering. The underground "leaky pipe" type of watering promises to be a real boon. It is more economical, and it avoids putting water on the top of the ground where it can abet various forms of rot and leaf spot.

Answer: Raymond G. Smith - Bloomington, Indiana — To respond to Don's question without writing an essay, I will first outline my most successful soil reconditioning program. and then make a few generalizations regarding the fertilization of soil for growing irises.

In 1950 we purchased a home in Bloomington, IN which included an acre sufficiently level and shade-free to be suitable for growing irises.

But when the portion which had been a vegetable garden was examined for plowing, it was found that the heavy use plus erosion had so exhausted the soil that it would no longer support a respectable crop of weeds. The hard brown clay subsoil was visible.

Happily an ad appeared in the daily paper: "Will deliver well rotted sawdust for \$10 per truckload. Use for Pete Moss." (phoned in perhaps?) Knowing Pete's reputation as a conditioner of iris soil, I made enquiry and determined that the truck was indeed a large dump truck. I ordered five loads. Next, because of the compacted clay, I ordered fifty yards of coarse sand. A third ingredient (at \$1.00 per load) was granulated sludge from the city sewage system. The sludge was about half sand as bulldozed from sand-covered settling beds. A friend had a pick-up truck with high sideboards and we shovelled and hauled 110 loads of about 1.5 tons each.

The three ingredients were mixed by volume, 1 part each of sand and sawdust with 2 parts sludge. It required several years to get this mixture cultivated and plowed into the clay. But as a result the irises thrived and rebloomers performed beautifully. Several thousand seedlings were grown each year, many of which bloomed in October from April germination of the same summer. Except for a few free-for-the-shoveling pick-up loads of horse manure and a few more from the cattle sale barn, almost nothing more was added to the soil for 15 years. Conclusion: a good iris soil can be made from a combination of hard work and a few natural ingredients.

Perhaps the best source of advice on fertilizer for your area will be that of the iris grower who lives closest to you. Usually soil within an area of five miles is quite similar, although great variation within short distances is not uncommon. First try his/her methods. If they don't work for you, you will have to experiment. The iris is a rugged species and generally responds well to average garden care. Good rebloom requires not only a reliable rebloomer, but a bit more of **everything**. However, too much is as bad as too little.

In addition to people as sources, there is written assistance available. Fifty years of American Iris Society Bulletins can be found in many

public libraries. These contain dozens of articles on iris culture. If not the library, then the grower will have these bulletins. Another good source is *The World of Irises*, an inexpensive volume all about irises published by the American Iris Society. If you still can't get the answers, just "bug" the editor. He will find out for you.

Answer: John Weiler - Fresno, California. —

The difficulty in writing about culture of any Iris becomes evident as soon as the pen is in hand, for, in any geographic region there are so many variables that techniques which work for one grower do not apply to the gardener across the street. Soil on one side of the street may be a heavy clay whereas the garden across the street is built on the sandy alluvium of an old stream bed and the house down the block has a garden in 12" to 30" of beautiful sandy loam which overlies impervious layers of hard pan. Because of slight changes in elevation, frost pockets develop in lower spots preventing good growth on sensitive plants or damaging open flowers of irises blooming in fall when only a half block away on slightly higher ground subtropical plants like Bouganvillea thrive. Diseases like Iris rust are very prevalent in the coastal fog belt of Northern California but are rarely heard of twenty miles inland. The Iris borer so devastating east of the Rocky Mountains is not a problem in the entire region west of the continental divide. *Botrytis convoluta*, commonly infects Iris rhizomes in our northern states producing a dry rot which is only occasionally reported and never seems to be a major problem in the warmer Sunbelt states. In spite of all the variability in soil, climate, diseases and pests, even in closely adjacent areas, and the imposition of even more variable cultural practices by gardeners of vastly different training and experience, some common points may be singled out for successful culture of irises. Bearded irises grow better and produce more flowers when planted where they will get full sunshine for no less than a half day. It is also wise to select a site where irises have not grown for two or more years. Many have noted unusually strong growth for irises planted in "new" soil. Others have com-

mented on how frequently the beginner exhibits the best specimen in the show and sweeps most other awards as well. This performance in "new" soil is related to what farmers have known a long time. If the same crop is grown in the same soil year after year, two problems arise. One problem may be that certain nutrients are removed from the soil. These may be replenished if it is known which chemical or compound is lacking. The second problem may arise when pathogens (often microscopic) build ever larger populations and debilitate the crop. Farmers solve this problem by rotating crops so that different plants are grown on a three to five year rotation plan. Absence of the right kind of plant causes drastic reduction in populations of the pathogen.

The soil should be well drained so that water either percolates to deeper layers or runs off quickly so that water never stands over the crown of the plants. If the soil is heavy clay or very compacted, irises will benefit by the addition of agricultural lime or gypsum. These substances when applied to the surface of worked soil and then watered in well tend to produce a crumb structure of soil particles which open up and aerate the root run. Almost all soils have better tilth if well decomposed organic matter is worked in before planting. This may be compost, well-rotted animal manures, or any of the commercial preparations available at garden centers. In fresh soil not used for gardening earlier, fertilizers may not be necessary. In gardens when replanting irises or treating established plants, some fertilizers will be beneficial. Superphosphate may be worked into older areas of the garden to stimulate bloom. Since it acts slowly and moves downward very gradually, it is best to incorporate it well in the top six inches of soil about once in five years. For established Iris plantings, a complete fertilizer not too high in nitrogen, the first of three numbers appearing on the container, is best. These are applied at half the strength recommended for lawns at least twice during the growing season. One application is made just before growth begins in the spring. The second is given immediately after spring bloom is completed. Here in the west where growing season is 9-12 months, a third applica-

tion is made in late summer as temperatures begin to cool. This last application is not recommended for areas where cold winters prevail.

Much has been claimed about different culture for reblooming irises. It is often stated, for instance, that remontants must have extra fertilizer and water if a second or continuous season of bloom is wanted. These statements may be true for some growers under certain conditions but they tend to lead gardeners into overwatering and overfertilizing. What must happen if an Iris is expected to bloom well more than once a year is that the plant must be kept growing actively throughout spring and summer. In some soils this may demand frequent summer water and more fertilizer. In other cases the extra water may produce root diseases caused by fungi (molds) active during warm seasons. The extra water may also spread microscopic pests such as nematodes throughout the soil. For watering, it is best to wait until the soil is dry to a depth of 3 inches before applying extra water (Iris roots run much deeper) and then to give a good soaking. If summer rains are too few, it may be necessary to add extra water to rebloomers but only enough to prevent a check in growth. Frequent, light sprinklings are not recommended nor is additional fertilizer other than that mentioned above.

In summary, the following points will help produce rebloom in your Iris patch.

1. Select a site that is sunny at least half a day during growing season.
2. The soil should be well drained.
3. Heavy or compacted soils should be amended with humus and some form of calcium
4. Fertilize earliest spring and immediately following spring bloom with a complete fertilizer at half the strength recommended for lawns. At about five year intervals incorporate superphosphate.
5. In sandy soil and where summer temperatures are high, water only after the soil is dry to a depth of three inches and then give a good, deep soaking.
6. Reblooming irises are best grown just as we grow good specimens of spring blooming irises.

One of the best soil additives for holding moisture, in my opinion, is vermiculite, for it holds such a lot of water in suspension and leaves much moist air for roots. Another good additive is compost---but, as you who read are soon aware, compost has so many differing definitions and often includes material that is not truly satisfactory for good compost (like diseased plants, weeds with seeds, coarse items that do not decompose properly - large stems, etc.) Also, few persons add enough soil, fertilizers, or manure to the compost pile or turn the compost pile often enough to sufficiently incorporate air into it.

Being in a relatively high rainfall area, a major concern for me is the acidity/alkalinity of the soil. . . the very important pH reading. Does a lot of acid rain make a difference to the soil? How can you tell? Soil should be tested for pH before lime is added. Since it takes almost a year for the lime added to soils to be able to alter the alkalinity one should always allow for time to elapse before the change shows up. It is wise to let about two weeks elapse between adding the lime and adding the fertilizer, as they sometimes adversely interact with each other to form ammonia which, when it combines with water, produces an increased alkaline condition. I understand that too much alkalinity is even worse than too much acidity.

Always there is the need for sufficient sun-

shine. I have been amazed at how many persons think it is desirable to plant irises at the foot of tree trunks. Also, it takes much watchful care if irises are planted in among other flowers, for all plants expand, extend and grow, and many other flowers are very strongly invasive without the gardener noticing during the time when irises are not actively blooming. Iris are apt to be crowded out - they do need space to spread their roots.

Since you love irises enough to read everything you can find written about them, isn't it frustrating to find so many varying instructions and/or suggestions about how to be successful with them? It is especially so when the article you are reading gives only the author's name, and absolutely no information about the type of soil being gardened, much less the climate or rainfall or watering practices or fertilizing program or frequency of attention given to the plants? And what about the careless information being given, especially by persons who are willing to give you a whole bushel-basketful of "extra" irises?

There is much to observe and to learn in becoming a successful gardener of anything. Although I have left more unsaid than I have mentioned, if you can provide trace minerals, organic material, appropriate amounts of water, proper pH, adequate sunshine and space, you should routinely see rebloom comparable to once-bloom in your garden.



FROM THE PROS UPDATE

Louise Smith's Garden In Winter
Freeze-thaw is always a problem in Virginia as is a succession of warm days in mid and late winter. Bricks help keep heaving at a minimum and also tend to keep the plants cold during the unseasonably warm snaps - holding them dormant 'till it really is Spring!

Blue-beard: The Lure of a Challenge

Lloyd Zurbrigg

What makes a person start on a nearly-impossible quest? What makes a person compete in the Olympics? What makes a person try to climb Mt. Everest? There must be some excitement called forth by the difficulty that finds a responsive note in the human psyche; otherwise why would anyone try so hard against the odds?

On a much reduced scale, the iris world offers some nearly impossible challenges. A true red eludes us still, as does a true spectrum blue. We are getting close to the absolute black iris, thanks to the struggle of hybridizers for many iris generations. Some are now trying to add lace to the blacks, while others are trying to place a red beard on a black iris. The task must be difficult, or someone would have succeeded by now.

Back in 1967 at the Denver Convention, Dave Niswonger invited me to attend an informal meeting of a few hybridizers who were trying to put blue beards on a pastel flower. I declined, thinking, no doubt, that I had enough challenge in trying to get some quality into the remontants. But at the Roanoke Convention in 1974, Dave was in my seedling garden and found a yellow blend with blue beards. He became quite excited about it. At his insistence, I watched it carefully, and eventually named it **Halt**. It came from my **O My Goodness** lines, as have several others with blue beards. It was not a large flower and the blue beards faded in hot climates, but it did have excellent branching and remontant factors.

This launched me onto a search for the elusive blue beards. The quest was very low key at first, but over the years it has mounted in energy. Among the early seedlings of **Halt** was a truly beautiful wide violet with deep blue beards, of excellent form and size. It was named **Song of Salvation**. Oh that it had been yellow with those beards instead of violet!

A very attractive iris, with many good points and blue-based beards, came from the cross **Pantomime** x **O My Goodness**. This was registered

Art of Raphael, and is a unique grey-chartreuse in color. I used it widely in crosses and it was a ready parent. With pollen from a **Halt** seedling, it gave a seedling similar to itself, but with deep violet beards. This was named **Tell Tale**. Unfortunately, it was not as good in form or growth, but the beard color is very good.

O 192 bbb is a striking seedling with blue beards, although each hair of the beards is tipped with yellow. It is a blend of golden yellow and veronica violet, with texture veining of violet. The hafts are a smooth brown-gold, which extends around the fall in a rim. Large and fairly wide, this iris won the best seedling award in our Blue Ridge Show a year ago - but it has not been introduced.

Song of Norway, of course, was the great milestone in the search for blue-bearded pastels. It is an excellent flower on superb stalks and always a challenger in competition. I should have ordered it much sooner. When I did order I sent to five different gardens for it. Not one of the five plants bloomed the next year, and I feared that it was another Californian that was not going to adapt to the east. Since then, however, it has done fairly well, and I have used it heavily in my crosses.

Bred to **Tell Tale**, it gave three seedlings last spring, all of them interesting, and the couple dozen still unbloomed give sharp anticipation to the waiting for this May bloom season. Two of these were grey-toned yellows with blue-based beards. (One might expect true blue beards in a cross of two blue-bearded parents, but it is not that easy!)

Another **Song of Norway** cross was to a yellow seedling that had both blue beards and remontancy in its pedigree. The most exciting of these, HH 110-1-2, was a pale green iris with baby blue beards. This was neither tall nor sturdy, but I used it anyway, and it was fertile. Another exciting one, HH 110-6-1, was a white with yellow hafts and blue beards!; yet another was a somber grey-lavender with very, very dark blue beards; a fourth had yellow stands, white falls, and an edging of plicata markings! Fertility was very high in this cross.

From the same yellow seedling above,

crossed to another blue-bearded yellow blend of mine, came a superb wide cream, HH 111-2-1, of excellent form and charm, but its beards were only marginally blue. Its sibling, HH 111-1-1, was a white with excellent blue beards.

The use of **Song of Norway** probably goes against remontancy. Fortunately, both **Immortality** and **Brother Carl**, two of my most ardent rebloomers, have given blue-bearded seedlings occasionally. V 103-6-2 is a proven remontant, and is white with blue beards. This came from **Immortality X (Summer Holidays x Sister Helen)**. It has been sent to Omaha and to Washington, DC.

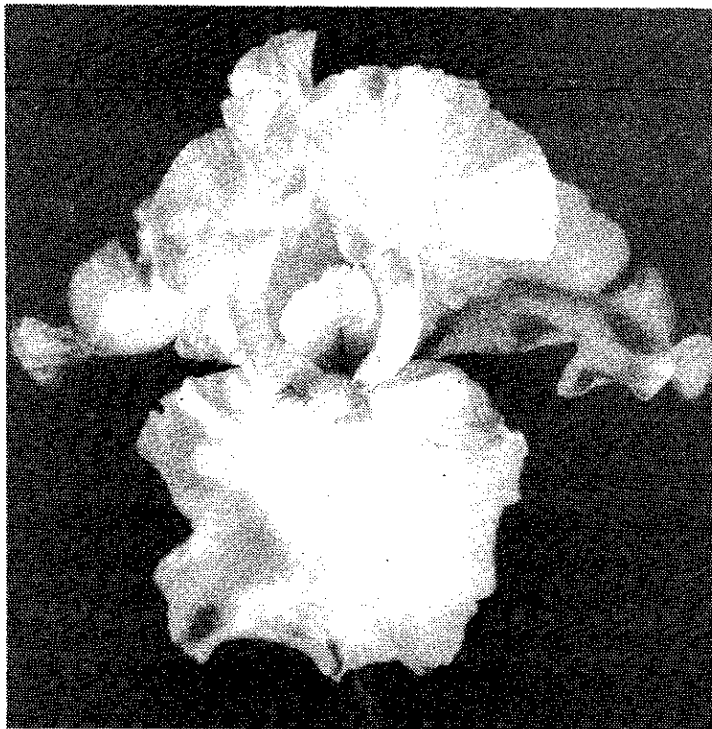
Much to my surprise, **Brother Carl** gave a white with pale blue beards when crossed to George Slade's white **Lot's Wife**; and another with **Song of Norway**. Earl Hall also has a very nice blue-bearded near-white from **I Do x Violet Miracle** (86-85-3S), and still another from **Lacy Snowflake x English Cottage**. (**Immortality** came from the cross **I Do x English Cottage**.) This clearly indicates that remontancy need not be abandoned in the quest for blue-bearded pastels.

Now upon the scene enters the lure that verges on folly. Last spring ('88) there appeared among the seedlings a deep yellow amoena! Some years ago I had a nice yellow amoena with superb branching. The falls were not very deep in color, and the form, although good, was not outstanding, so it was discarded. Interestingly enough, it had blue beards in its ancestry. It was bred to a **Key Lime** seedling, a near-amoena, derived, like the amoena, from **Grand Baroque** line-breeding. One of the resulting seedlings was a very rich yellow that I dubbed "Butter", but I was disappointed not to have gotten an improved amoena. With no thought of amoenas,

"Butter" was crossed to **Immortality**. The first two of some dozen seedlings bloomed last spring, and one was a deep yellow amoena. This was sent to Omaha and Washington, DC, even though it may not measure up in form and is untested for remontancy. It proved to be fertile

both ways and its increase here this fall was excellent.

This startling appearance of a deep yellow amoena acted upon my imagination like a lure to a trout. I want to add blue beards and assure remontancy! A seedling that might be useful to this is V 112-1-1, a reverse bicolor in yellow and white with blue beards from ((**Spirit of Memphis x Jean Guymer**) x **Actress**) X **Immortality**. Both V 103-6-2 and



V-103-6-2

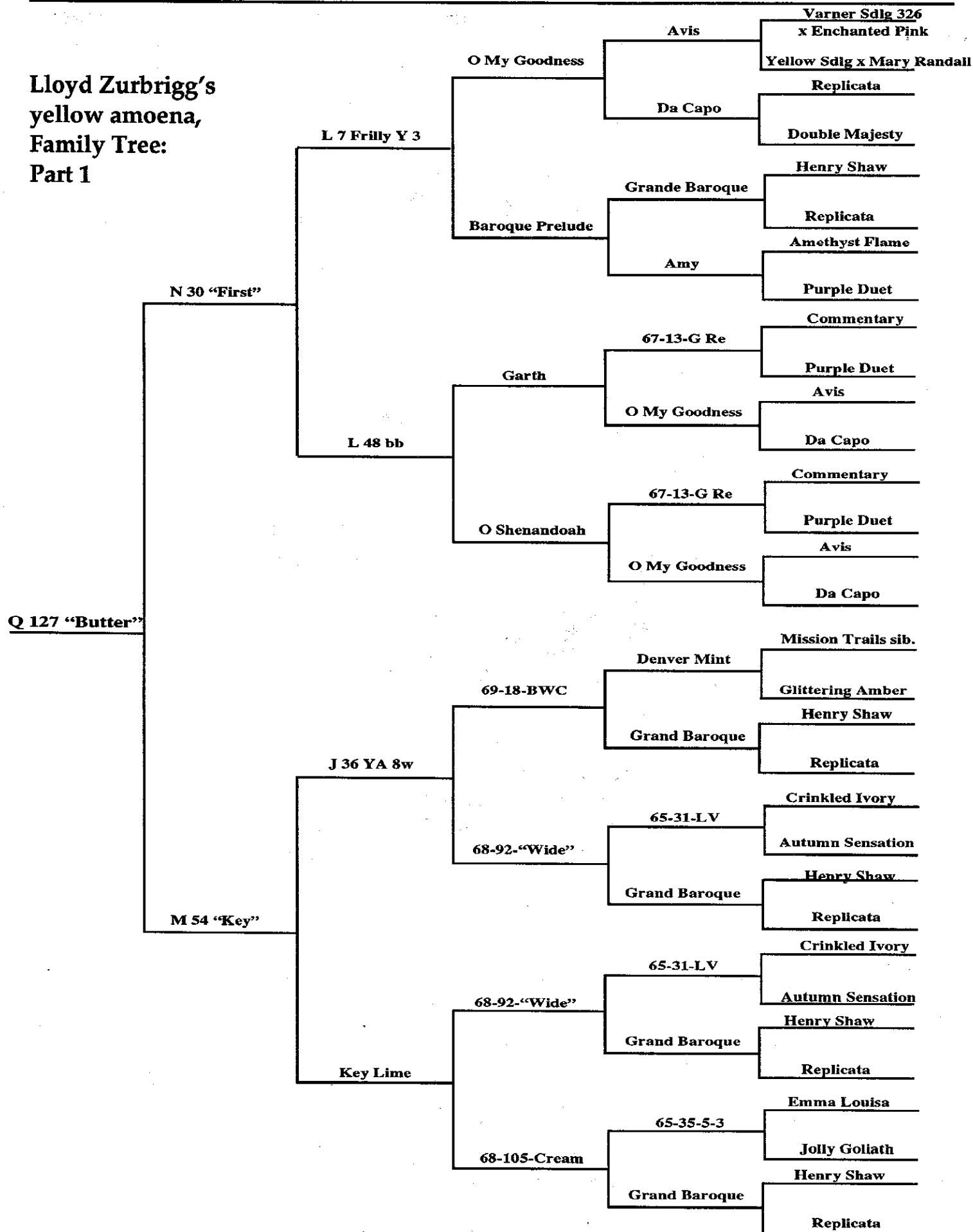
HH 110-6-1, mentioned above, may help. There are seedlings still to bloom from P 23 TY, a yellow bi-tone with blue stigmatic lips but yellow beards, that remonted. (Parentage on this was **Halt X Earl**.) There is also Q 4, a yellow amoena from **Baked Alaska X Art of Raphael**. There is lots of blue-bearded ancestry there!

There is no dearth of yellow amoenas without the blue beards in their pedigrees. V 197-1-4 has blended yellow falls and bluish beards - it comes from **Hour of Prayer X Trumpet Concerto**! V 34-2-2 is from **Trumpet Concerto X Anew**. Less surprising in pedigree is V 93-1-4 which is from (**Key Lime x Latest Style**) X **Hallowed Thought**.

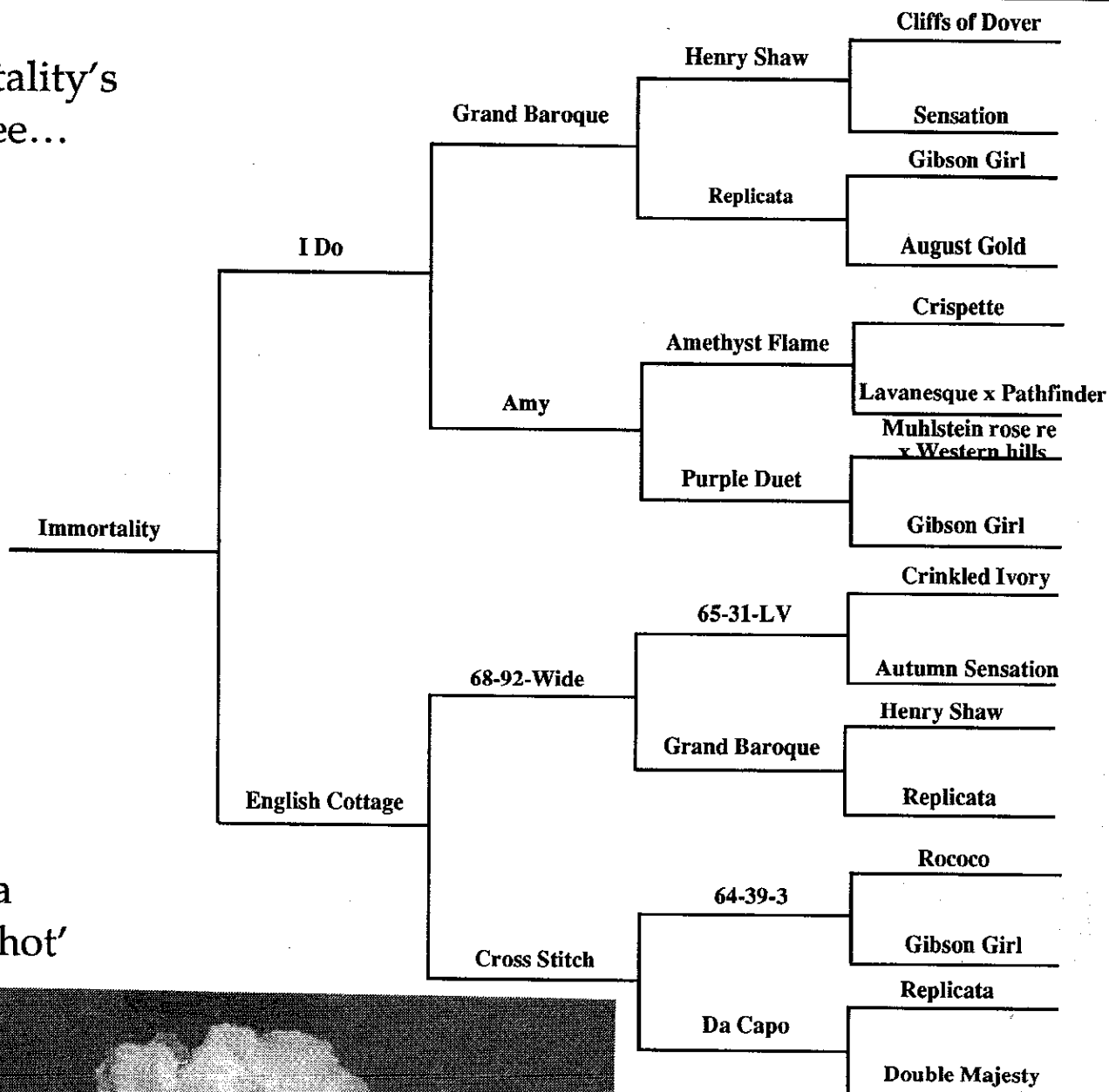
It is odd that the blue-bearded yellow amoenas are so common among the standard dwarf bearded varieties, and as yet unattained among the tall bearded! This poor hybridizer is sadly hooked upon trying to change that!

[Q-127 "Butter" & **Immortality** charts pp. 27 -28]

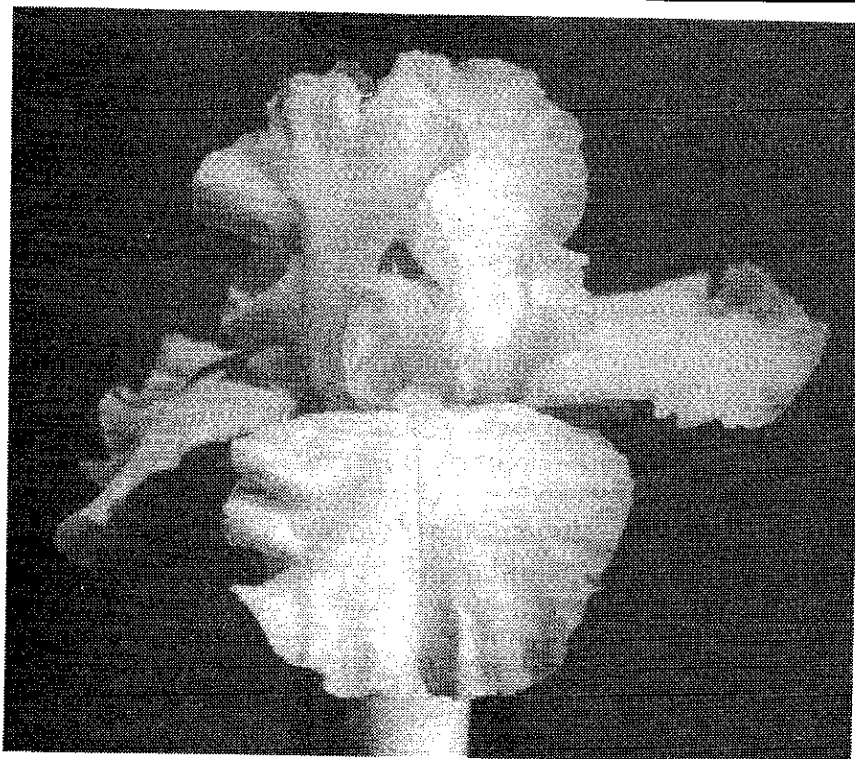
**Lloyd Zurbrigg's
yellow amoena,
Family Tree:
Part 1**



Immortality's pedigree...



...and a
'Mug shot'



Yellow amoena, Family Tree: Part 2

The "Butter" X Immortality cross produced the yellow amoena guesting at Omaha 1990 and Washington, DC - 1991.



THE GREAT FALL GIVEAWAY WINNERS!

The hands on
page 27 of the
Fall Rebloomer

were those of Lloyd Zurbrigg.

The first correct answer was given by Clarence Mahan of McLean VA. He wins John Weiler's 1989 TB introduction, **Golden Galaxy**.

SECOND CHANCE

drawing winners were:

Mark A. Cook,	Lexington	KY
Larry Doucette	Wilmington	MA
Everette Lineberger	Inman	SC
Patricia Sinasohn	San Francisco	CA
Richard C. Tasco	Apache Junction	AZ

They will each receive a 1988 introduction by John Weiler or Earl Hall.

Introducing for 1989

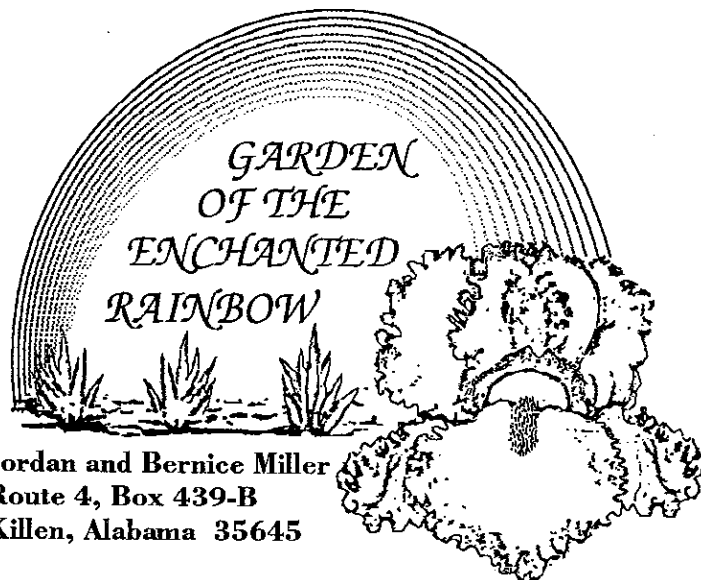
Bathsheba Comes - Bernice Miller, R-1989, 38", EM and Re in Oct in AL. A smooth blend of garnet and deep rose; more garnet in hot spells, more rose in cool. Three branches and terminal with 10-12 buds from double sockets, even triple. Large flowers. The first completely clean, wide-hafted red rebloomer before freeze. Lightly ruffled with closed standards. Flaring falls. Sturdy texture. Slight fragrance. Bronze beard. Very fertile both ways. Vigorous, disease resistant, and a good increaser.

Gideon Victorious X Samaritan Child..... \$35.00

Celestial Joy - Bernice Miller, R-1989, 34", TB, EM and Re in July and early October in AL. Nice sized peach with soft pink overtones. Very clean, lightly flaring, with hint of lace. Well branched, especially in fall. Has six branches and terminal, two of them base-branched with several branches themselves, carrying up to 16 blossoms, opening two at a time over a very long period. Faint fruity fragrance. Extremely fertile both ways, giving some lovely reblooming seedlings. Tested in both alkaline and acidic soils, proving vigorous, disease resistant, and a good increaser. Jean Guymer X (((Christable x Jean Cayeux) x Happy Birthday) x Fall Primrose) x OneDesire)..... \$35.00

Elect Lady - Bernice Miller, R-1989, 34", LM, no rebloom as yet. Nice sized purest pink with no hint of salmon or orchid. Lightly ruffled and laced. Well closed standards. Flaring 45 degree angle falls. Prominent sweet fragrance. Pink beard, slightly coral. Not as fast an increaser as it sib, Celestial Joy. Fertile both ways, but pollen is best for me. Its seedlings occasionally throw rebloomers. Tested in both alkaline and acidic soils and proved disease resistant and a hearty plant. Jean Guymer X (((Christable x Jean Cayeux) x Happy Birthday) x Fall Primrose) x One Desire) Not for sale this year. Too many people want it. Needs more increase before introduction.

Heavenly Sunshine - Bernice Miller, R-1989, 38", TB, EM and Re in October in AL. Sunshine yellow, nicely ruffled with some lace and a cream spot below orange beard. Three well-set branches and terminal, with 10-12 buds, usually double, even triple socketed, Slightly narrow at hafts but much admired by garden visitors, especially in the fall. Clean flower, slightly fragrant. Crisp, excellent texture. Fertile both ways. Tested in both alkaline and acidic soils, proving vigorous, disease resistant, and a good increaser. Magic Memories X Corn Harvest..... \$35.00



Jordan and Bernice Miller
Route 4, Box 439-B
Killen, Alabama 35645



**Special Offer on 1989 New Introductions
1, 2, & 4 - All three for \$75.00**



Fall Meeting And Show Region 14

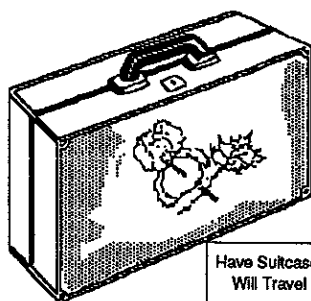
Lloyd Zurbrigg

The Fall Meeting and Show of Region 14 was held in Potter Valley and Ukiah, California on October 22-23, 1988. Judges' Training was given by Ben Hager in the Moonshine Gardens of Monty Byers and Bill Gibbs on October 22nd. There was an admirable display of stalks from the Melrose Garden to back up the display garden at Moonshine.

On Sunday a record attendance of 99 persons saw the Show and attended the business meeting. Queen of Show went to **I Bless**, entered by Monty Byers. Best Seedling went to a superbly wide seedling of **Earl of Essex**, shown by Ben Hager.

Outstanding to these eyes, were the series of blue seedlings from Melrose gardens - outstanding in width and form and color.

There was, however, a strong tendency for



too many buds and branches. A violet-blue avoided these faults and was superb. Also outstanding was a white with heavy gold hafts out of **Gold Burst**. Another that attracted lots of attention was a 'child' of **Dazzling Gold**, with all the glamour and ruffles of that well-known variegata.

Among the seedlings from Monty was a cool white with bluish beards that will be named **Hi-Ho Silver**. He also displayed a superb wide yellow that, I believe, was out of **Spirit of Fiji** and **Grace Thomas**. A real hit was a variegata dwarf of wonderful appeal.

It was my privilege to address the meeting on my breeding endeavors in the past, and deliver a prognosis about the future of the iris. Great interest was shown in a VCR taken by Vic Lay-

man of Roanoke, much of which showed my garden in Radford. It was a pleasure to bring the meeting our greetings from Region 4.

[Reprinted from Newscast Mar. '88. Ed. If you present a program out of region let us know. We plan to make this a regular feature in the Recorder.]



LLOYD ZURBRIGG (LEFT) AND BRYCE WILLIAMSON AT
REGION 14'S FALL MEETING

Y'All Come

Ramona Howard

The South Plains Iris Society of Lubbock, Texas has graciously extended an invitation for the next Region 17 meeting in the fall of 1989. Dr. John Weiler of Fresno, California, will be our guest speaker and instructor of the judges' training school on Reblooming Irises.

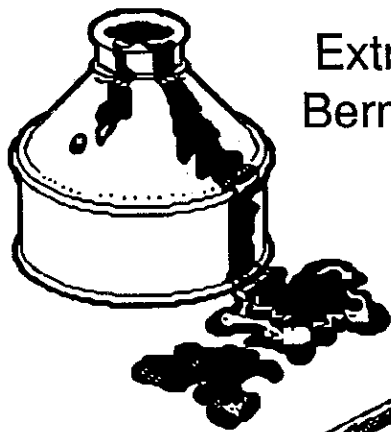
If possible, we will hold a mini flower show of rebloomers, or at least have a display of those in bloom during the meeting. The date has been tentatively set for October 13 - 15, 1989.



[Reprinted from the Region 17 Newsletter, October 1988 Ed. - John never rests when an opportunity arises to spread the good word on rebloomers!]

Robin Feathers

Extracts by
Bernice Miller



Shirley Trio: Here, in early October, in bloom are **Tupelo Honey**, **Autumn Echo**, and **Feedback**. (California - 10-88)

Mabel Matthews: My soil has a lot of sand in it and the slope is nice in most places. When I separate my plants, sometimes the roots are 12 inches long. They keep growing further down into the sand and drag the plant with the roots. I have to lift up most of the plants in certain areas when I reset. I reset them back on top of the ground at crown level and throw a little dirt on top of them in the fall just before it gets too cold. Usually I put pine needles on top of that. In the spring, we remove most of the needles and shred them up with the lawn mower, and then I sprinkle the short needles back onto the ground around the plants. As I do my fertilizing, I dig some of the needles into the soil. Eventually it rots and furnishes some acid and mulch. My azaleas think this is great. (Texas - 4-88)

Mike Lowe: I'm taking a noon break, sitting at the keyboard and hoping that what I hear outside is a patter of raindrops rather than the sound of prematurely dry leaves falling. I have difficulty in accepting with equanimity the blows that weather has delivered. I know that I shouldn't carp when others are losing a livelihood but it is hard to sit by and see a passionate interest go down for lack of water. *{Know just how you feel, Mike. Some of us had that terrible drouth last summer too.}* (Virginia - 6-88)

Chuck Chapman: There are some reblooming iris in this area (Southern Ontario) with at

least 6 people that I know who are growing or about to get some rebloomers. The growing season is probably longer here than you would think; last severe frost is around the beginning of May and the first severe frost around the end of September / beginning of October. This year my only fall bloom stalk was on **Golden Encore**. Another grower reports bloom on **Carol Ann**, **English Garden**, **Summer Fantasy**, **Lovely Again**, **Red Revival**, **Golden Encore**. Still another gardener reports rebloom on **Lavish**. (Canada - 5-88)

Mac Shawe: I will try keeping the roots wet while preparing the bed for replanting iris, hoping they will continue to function. On replanting: I feel if the rhizome does not have to put out new roots, it can use that energy to rebloom. Any comments, anyone? *{When I lived in New Mexico and had irrigation water when I needed it, keeping the iris, roots and all, in a tub of water seemed to help. Here in Alabama with no extra water and extreme heat, the iris do as well with roots drastically trimmed and dry, That way not so many roots have to die slowly after they are moved and new roots seem to pop out easier.}* (Maryland - 6-88)

Gladys Lee: Because of surgery, I missed our spring show and lots of bloom. But one thing I did not miss was the beauty of nature. Everything looked so green after I returned home and lots of iris were still in bloom. I pulled a chair up to my back porch and absorbed the beauty; so many birds, squirrels, iris, azaleas, sunshine, greenness - all so marvelous, especially the iris with all their intricacies and shading of color. The miracle of nature has made me heal, physically and emotionally. (Maryland - 6-88)

Bernice Miller: The past summer was a hard one on my rebloomers, except for some that really showed up as resistant to heat and drouth in dust dry soil and were presentable as far as being melted down by the heat. They were some smaller of bloom and not as well branched as

mented on how frequently the beginner exhibits the best specimen in the show and sweeps most other awards as well. This performance in "new" soil is related to what farmers have known a long time. If the same crop is grown in the same soil year after year, two problems arise. One problem may be that certain nutrients are removed from the soil. These may be replenished if it is known which chemical or compound is lacking. The second problem may arise when pathogens (often microscopic) build ever larger populations and debilitate the crop. Farmers solve this problem by rotating crops so that different plants are grown on a three to five year rotation plan. Absence of the right kind of plant causes drastic reduction in populations of the pathogen.

The soil should be well drained so that water either percolates to deeper layers or runs off quickly so that water never stands over the crown of the plants. If the soil is heavy clay or very compacted, irises will benefit by the addition of agricultural lime or gypsum. These substances when applied to the surface of worked soil and then watered in well tend to produce a crumb structure of soil particles which open up and aerate the root run. Almost all soils have better tilth if well decomposed organic matter is worked in before planting. This may be compost, well-rotted animal manures, or any of the commercial preparations available at garden centers. In fresh soil not used for gardening earlier, fertilizers may not be necessary. In gardens when replanting irises or treating established plants, some fertilizers will be beneficial. Superphosphate may be worked into older areas of the garden to stimulate bloom. Since it acts slowly and moves downward very gradually, it is best to incorporate it well in the top six inches of soil about once in five years. For established Iris plantings, a complete fertilizer not too high in nitrogen, the first of three numbers appearing on the container, is best. These are applied at half the strength recommended for lawns at least twice during the growing season. One application is made just before growth begins in the spring. The second is given immediately after spring bloom is completed. Here in the west where growing season is 9-12 months, a third applica-

tion is made in late summer as temperatures begin to cool. This last application is not recommended for areas where cold winters prevail.

Much has been claimed about different culture for reblooming irises. It is often stated, for instance, that remontants must have extra fertilizer and water if a second or continuous season of bloom is wanted. These statements may be true for some growers under certain conditions but they tend to lead gardeners into overwatering and overfertilizing. What must happen if an Iris is expected to bloom well more than once a year is that the plant must be kept growing actively throughout spring and summer. In some soils this may demand frequent summer water and more fertilizer. In other cases the extra water may produce root diseases caused by fungi (molds) active during warm seasons. The extra water may also spread microscopic pests such as nematodes throughout the soil. For watering, it is best to wait until the soil is dry to a depth of 3 inches before applying extra water (Iris roots run much deeper) and then to give a good soaking. If summer rains are too few, it may be necessary to add extra water to rebloomers but only enough to prevent a check in growth. Frequent, light sprinklings are not recommended nor is additional fertilizer other than that mentioned above.

In summary, the following points will help produce rebloom in your Iris patch.

1. Select a site that is sunny at least half a day during growing season.
2. The soil should be well drained.
3. Heavy or compacted soils should be amended with humus and some form of calcium
4. Fertilize earliest spring and immediately following spring bloom with a complete fertilizer at half the strength recommended for lawns. At about five year intervals incorporate superphosphate.
5. In sandy soil and where summer temperatures are high, water only after the soil is dry to a depth of three inches and then give a good, deep soaking.
6. Reblooming irises are best grown just as we grow good specimens of spring blooming irises.

after good rains and a cool spell in the fall. **Belvi Queen, Summer Holiday, Remember Spring, Lemon Duet, Dorcas Lives Again, Jephthah's Daughter, Late Lilac, Autumn Chameleon, Ice Ballerina, Born Again, Baby Blessed, Baby Tears, Third Charm, Leprechaun's Delight**, and especially **Royal Summer** which sent up stalks at 6 different times from one large, well-established clump.

Among those, which are dependable in a normal year but which showed no sign of rebloom were: **Magic Memories, Witch of Endor, Sea Double, Violet Classic, Red Grapes, First Snowfall, Neon Violet, Brown Duet, Immortality, Spirit of Memphis, Second Look, Widow of Nain, Emma Louisa, Returning Peace, Samaritan Child, and Purple of Tyre**. Guess they were reluctant to put up a stalk after such trying conditions and a very cool spell the first three weeks. The temps hovered around the 30's at night and the 50's in daytime. It made stalks grow slowly and blooms open slowly too. Mother Nature didn't send a killing frost till Dec. 1st....(Alabama)

John Chambers: A review of pollen daubing - Is this line breeding?

- a. make an outstanding cross
- b. the cross has 2 or 3 outstanding sibs
- c. cross the sibs with each other
 - 1) hope for 2 or 3 more outstanding children with desired traits
- d. sib the first generation back cross to a third generation
- e. continue to cross the best with the best 2-3-4-5 generations if they are still strong, well growing plants
- f. out cross the best of these with similar iris or cross 1st generation back cross with back-crosses in other generations

(This should really give an outstanding cross a workout as to what it can produce and the top quality and advances you can get from the original cross. I would really call that line breeding.)...(California)

Gary Sides: Speaking of seeds, mine germinated like crazy. Many crosses looked like 80-90% germinated. I'm going to account for that with the early fall planting - mid-October, and the extra water I poured on them. This year I made

over 100 crosses and don't know what possessed me to do that many, but thank goodness several of them didn't take. I'm sure I'll do what I did with seedlings last year - not plant any but the largest and healthiest looking ones; and I still planted better than 50% of the total number of seeds of most of the crosses I made. (Tennessee)

Ben Watson: I have grown iris here for over 30 years, and see this over and over again: my soil is essentially acid sand and lava dust soil with 5.5 pH. It is best suited for rhizomes from Northern California, Oregon, and Washington. These show strong bloom and increase immediately. However, iris from the limestone areas of the country such as Ohio and the mid-continent, require as much as three years to start performing for me. (New Jersey)

Lloyd Zurbrigg: For once there were no late frosts here and we got to see the dwarfs and medians under normal conditions. The SDB out of **Immortality** was very good, in spite of being moved. and did not heave at all when many others did. It was also fertile again this year - a greenish yellow amoena. (Virginia)

Monty Byers: The RE seedlings were planted with a handful of fertilizer and dried milk for calves in each hole. It sure seems to work wonders - along with lots of summer water of course. Some have already given 5 stalks by early September and still have big fans to go. The dried milk is Bernice's idea and I'm spreading the word....(California)

Jim Ennenga: My soil here is alkaline, but after using a lot of fertilizer, it will turn up acidic. This year I am using a new soil conditioner I have never tried before. I am a member of the Metropolitan Planning Agency for this area. I have long preached that we should use the sewage sludge for fertilizer. Omaha has finally seen the light and is selling it to farmers at \$10 per yard. We have no detectable heavy metal or PCBs. I bought a 16 yard load and am putting a couple of shovels into each clump that I rejuvenate. Next year should give me some idea about what it will do. (Nebraska)



Rebloom Report, La Mesa and Corona, California - 1988

R. C. Richards

This report covers two home gardens, one in La Mesa, California, and the other in Corona, California, approximately 100 miles to the north. The two gardens have approximately the same climatic conditions.

Normal spring bloom season I consider to be from March 1 to May 30. Any other bloom is considered rebloom, though some might want to call early summer bloom "repeat bloom", or make some other distinction.

Garden practice consists of watering twice a week during most of the year, with the exception of a few weeks in late fall and early spring when the occasional rains come, and fertilizing four times a year (as close to December 1, March 1, June 1, and September 1 as I can manage).

Spraying for aphids is done in the spring and sometimes in the fall. Weeding goes on whenever I have the time. Most watering is by overhead sprinkler, except when hybridizing is going on and then running water is used. One can get away with a lot if the climate is dry enough. Rot of any kind is seldom a problem. Chlorine is used to control what little rot shows up. Old foliage is pulled from the plants whenever it occurs.

Several irises endeared themselves because of especially good performance this year:

Radiant Angel (Miller): started blooming in med-October and will still have a few flowers left after New Year's Day.

Immortality (Zurbrigg): This iris bloomed all year long, or more accurately, for six months apart from its spring bloom. For an eastern iris this one likes the west just fine.

Corn Harvest (Wyatt): this iris blooms seven months apart from spring bloom season. Anytime it has the strength to bloom, it does.

Double Praise (Hamner): this iris blooms summer, fall, and winter here, and puts on a good show when it does. If I were going to hybridize for a good reblooming orange, I sure would use this one as one of the parents.

Big Disappointments: I have had **Symmetry** for two years and have only seen the foliage; same for **Summer Luxury**. **Designer Gown** has refused to bloom for over a year, although it did bloom in the autumn of 1987. **White Reprise** attempted to rebloom neither summer nor fall but it did have a nice spring. I'll wait another year or two to see if it will rebloom once it is really settled into this climate.

[Ed. The above was extracted from a comprehensive bloom report which, due to limitations of space, could not be published in its entirety.]



Overheard in the garden

Sometimes dreams are erased by the pitiless hand of fate. This surely was the case for Joan Roberts of West Friendship, Maryland, who planned on having a brilliant display of reblooming iris for the D. C. Flower and Garden Show in February. She and her husband, Kenneth, had an exhibition of a greenhouse, and the featured flower was to be the bearded iris.

Fate stepped in when her aunt became seriously ill. The main burden of the illness fell on Joan's shoulders, and the iris varieties in pots were, perforce, ignored. By the time the illness had run its course, insect pests had defaced many of the iris plants. Only a token display was ready on the date of the show.

However, Joan has discovered that, on the average, the potted plant needs over two months (closer to three) to come into bloom. She also has found that only the larger rhizomes are suitable for forcing.

We hope that in another, more propitious year, she will be able to fulfil her dreams of a lavish display of bearded iris varieties. This suggests something for many of us to try: a way of bringing color to the drabness of February.

furnished by Lloyd Zurbrigg



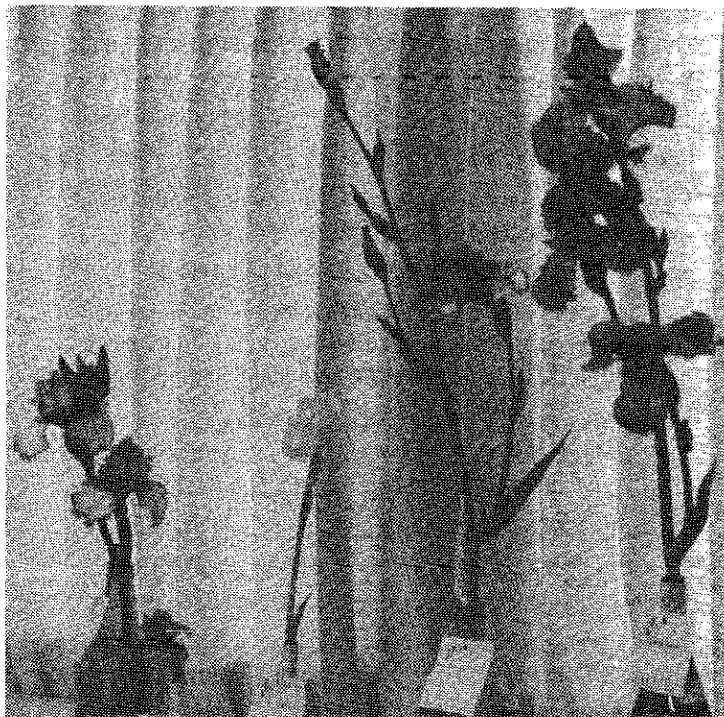
Region 14 Fall Show Report

Frank Foster

The 1988 Region 14 Fall Show, sponsored by the Redwood Iris Society, was held on October 23, in Ukiah, California. The 26 entries included TB, IB, SDB, and species.

- The Best Specimen of Show went to **I Bless**, IB, exhibited by Monty Byers.
- The Best Seedling Award was won by Ben Hager for **REV 889 BLTR**, TB.
- The Silver Medal was won by Monty Byers; the Bronze Medal was awarded to Ben Hager.
- Among the varieties exhibited at this show were: **Baby Blessed**, **Smell the Roses**, **Lemon Reflection**, **Feedback**, **Garden Grace**, **Sugar Blues**, **Born Again**, **Grace Thomas**, **Many Happy Returns**, and **Earl of Essex**.

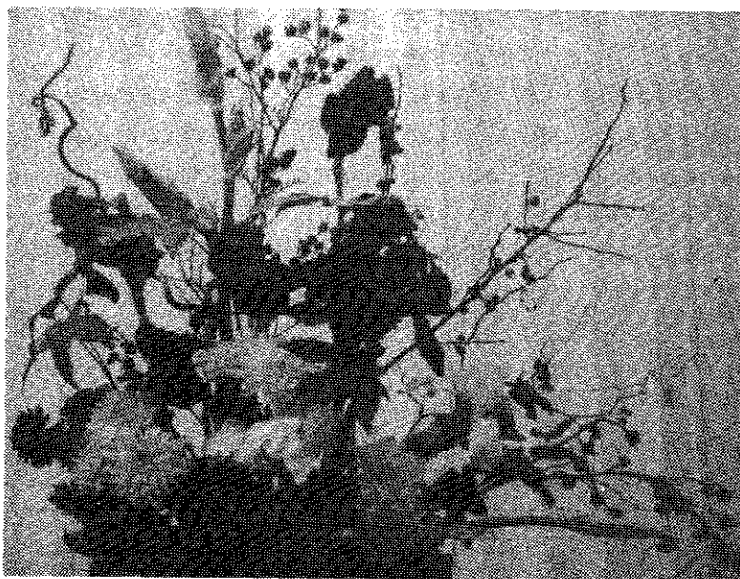
SOME EXHIBITS AT THE REGION 14 FALL SHOW



Fifth Annual Harvest Dinner

Lois Rose

The Fredericksburg-Richmond Iris Society held their Fifth Annual Harvest Dinner, and final meeting of the 1988 season, on Nov. 19th in Spotsylvania Co. VA. This well-attended event attracted 32 members and guests. As a reminder of spring - or, more accurately, a reminder that iris also bloom in the fall - Phil Yowell brought a lovely arrangement featuring several iris from his garden.



PHIL YOWELL'S HARVEST DINNER CENTERPIECE

The 1988 Region 4 Fall Show

Barbara Lozaw

The 1988 Fall Meeting, Region 4, American Iris Society, was held at the Howard Johnson Motor Lodge in High Point, NC and the Eastern North Carolina folk surely made us feel welcome.

The AIS accredited fall iris show was displayed and judged in the Guilford Room on Saturday. The judges were Ruth Walker, Polly Price, and Dave Walsh. Queen of the Show was the SDB, **Refined**, exhibited by Diana Nicholls. Special Horticultural Awards were won by B.J. Brown, Mike and Anne Lowe and Lloyd Zurbrigg. The Silver Medal went to Diana Nicholls; the Bronze Medal was awarded to Lloyd Zurbrigg.

Fourth Annual Great Fall Show

Diana Nicholls

On anything but a spring day, the "Spring Renaissance" reblooming iris show sponsored by the Chesapeake & Potomac Iris Society, was held at Mrs. McGregors' Garden Shop on Oct. 22, '88. Judges for our show were our Maryland friends Dennis Wilke, Alice Miller, and Rosalie Figge.

Gladys Lee exhibited a very nice stalk of **I DO**, Queen of the Show, which did remind us very much of spring in the garden.

The AIS Silver Medal for most blue ribbons was won by Dianna Nichols, and the Bronze Medal was won by Gladys Lee. Our good friend Frank Jones was able to come down from Mercerville, N.J. and enter quite a few stalks. Frank had some very nice seedlings of his own, Clem Reeves and Norman Noe. Best Seedling Rosette went to Clem Reeves' **F-61-1**, a lavender MDB. Everyone is waiting for Clem to register and introduce this lovely iris.

Nicholls Gardens



JAPANESE

MDB

TB

IB

SDB

SIBERIAN

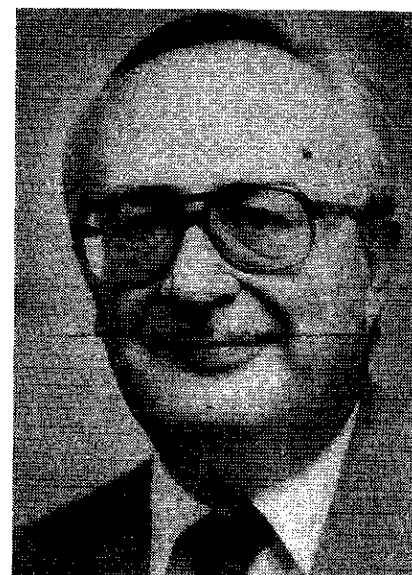
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Clarence E. Mahan was born in Dayton, Ohio in 1939, and spent his formative years on a large dairy and tobacco farm near Miamisburg, Ohio. He served in the U.S. Army from '59 to '62. His formal education includes a BA degree with honors from the University of Maryland, a MA degree in history from American University, and a M.B.A. degree from Syracuse University.



In 1962, Clarence joined the career Federal Service, and since 1986, he has been Director of Research Program Management with the EPA. In '84, President Reagan awarded him the Presidential Rank of Meritorious Executive for career achievements.

In 1987 Clarence and his wife Suky (nee Kim) celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary. They have two children. Sean, 24 is attending the Medical College of Virginia, and Christiane, 18, is a freshman at George Mason University. Clarence and Suky share a love for gardening and irises, and grow over 1,200 varieties at their home in Mclean. In 1985, Clarence launched The Iris Pond, a commercial outlet for specialty irises. His other great horticultural love is heritage roses, and he and Suky grow many, as well as lots of peonies, daffodils and hostas. Clarence and Suky have an official SJI display garden. They grow large collections of JIs, species, MTBs, and rebloomers. Clarence is an avid promoter of AIS, and has been awarded certificates for outstanding recruitment service. He is an A.I.S. garden judge, President of the SJI, past editor of Region 4 *Newscast*, Chairman of the '91 AIS Convention, and Eastern Director for the RIS. He is a past president of C & P Iris Society, which he helped reactivate in 1982. An enthusiastic iris hybridizer, Clarence has a number of seedlings that have won regional and local awards; several are in the process of introduction. In '87 he introduced a purple version of *I. florentina*, the historic "orris root" iris, under the name **Elsie Crouch Diltz**.

RIS President Visits Korea

Our president, John Weiler, participated last October in an international symposium on Biotechnology in Agriculture held in Seoul, Korea. The symposium was coordinated by officials of Kon Kuk University, Seoul, Korea and sponsored jointly by that university; The National Chung Hsing University, Taiwan, Republic of China; and California State University, Fresno, California. Papers given at the symposium were in the areas of both plant and animal science, micro-biology and their effects on agricultural economics.

In his paper, Weiler explored the techniques used in embryo culture and embryo rescue in plants to develop new varieties of fruits not obtainable by usual breeding techniques. Embryo culture was demonstrated using techniques long known for quick germination of Iris embryos by removing them from the seed coat and surrounding nutrient material to place them on sterile nutrient medium formulated in the laboratory in test tubes. Iris seeds normally germinating in soil requiring anything from four months to twenty years to germinate were stimulated to germinate completely in 7-010 days in the artificial medium. If the techniques were modified by adding more complex nutrients and growth regulating hormones, immature embryos of fruits which normally abort before maturity could be "rescued" and grown to maturity under sterile conditions. With the embryo rescue procedure, it has been possible to develop much earlier ripening peaches and nectarines and to produce new varieties of seedless grapes, revolutionizing production of those fruits in California.

Following the symposium, Weiler and his wife visited other cities in Korea, palaces of former rulers, museums, archaeological sites of ancient civilizations, and sampled exotic foods. Amongst surprises were: 1) The Korean language is more closely related to slavic tongues than to other oriental languages. 2) Archaeological treasures abound and verify the existence of complex culture considerably pre-dating our

Christian era. 3) Seoul, risen from ashes of the Korean war has a larger population than New York City and is a completely modern city of skyscrapers, freeways, and traffic problems. 4) The food is different and quite good. The "national food" appears to be Kim Chee offered everywhere. It is a fermented and pickled dish based on Chinese cabbage but spiced by additions of onions, garlic, and ground, hot red peppers. 5) Vesper Iris, *Pardanthopsis*, is native to parts of Korea as are other plants grown in American gardens such as hosta, magnolia, chrysanthemum, and lilac.

furnished by John Weiler



Overheard in the garden

We really enjoy our customers. Earl does the work and I do the talking and meet the customers. One day a lady called and wanted to know how to get to our place. I gave her instructions and before she hung up she said she thought she would want "one of everything." When she got here and saw what we had, she said "I had no idea there were so many irises." (We have over 1000 varieties.) She didn't get one of everything but we have become very good friends.

Another lady didn't pick up her peony order for awhile, so I called her a second time to tell her that the peonies were ready. When she came, she explained that I had first talked to her daughter who thought I said her mother's panties were ready and that they were in the barn. Since the daughter didn't understand what the call was about, she hadn't even told her I called.

That same day, a second lady came for her peonies and her daughter had also answered my first call. She told her mother I said she could pick up her package at Penney's and the lady knew that she hadn't ordered anything from Penney's.

I thought I talked plainer than that!

furnished by Dorothy Hall

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OUTSTANDINGLY DIFFERENT IRISES
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1989 INTRODUCTIONS

Tall Bearded

GOLDEN GALAXY (Weiler 89) TB 35" M-L. A full, shimmering deep yellow of beautiful smoothness with orange beards, this has broad petals, good substance and is sunfast. Stalks are 3-branched carrying 7-8 buds. For us this is a sporadic rebloomer, some years repeating in early summer. Two of the past 5 years it has also rebloomed in November, too late for most parts of the country. Other years it has failed to rebloom. It may be useful in breeding work with other reblooming cultivars. Good vigor, rapid increase and fertile. Flaming Victory X reblooming sib to Fame. **\$30.00**

Border Bearded

BLACKBEARD (Weiler 89) BB 25" L-VL. A flower of startling contrast, this is palest blue-violet with a shocking black-violet beard, each hair of the beard black to the tip to give fully saturated color. The tailored flower has heavy substance and is near the upper limits of size for BB. Stalks of three branches produce 7 buds. The plant has good vigor, is modest of increase and fertile both ways. ((Goodnight Irene x Blue Luster) x (Matinata x Stylemaster)) X ((Matinata x Stylemaster) x (Regalaire x Nobleman)). See our color ad in the April, AIS Bulletin. **\$25.00**

FRIZZY LIZZY (Weiler 89) BB 24" M-L. A fitting feminine companion for Blackbeard, this is a beautifully formed flower of deep, brilliant orange sporting a darker orange beard. Proper size for a BB, the flower has widely flaring, crinkle-ruffled falls and domed, closed standards. Won best seedling of Fresno Show, 1988 and has performed in class in the Midwest. Very reluctant as a parent. (Oriental Knight X (Flaming Victory x Perfect Accent)) See color ad in the April, AIS Bulletin. **\$25.00**

Reblooming Standard Dwarf Bearded

MINI BUSY (Weiler 89) SDB 8" E-L and RE. This well formed flower of eggshell white is lightly bordered with lavender-blue to violet plicata markings heavier on standards than falls. It blooms abundantly in earliest spring, repeats with a few blooms late in TB season and scatters bloom over a long fall period. The first of our remontan SDBs with the plicata pattern. Very good vigor and fertile both ways. (Twink x Third Charm) X Muchacha. **\$12.00**

PRIOR INTRODUCTIONS OF SDB REBLOOMERS

Listing States Where Fall Rebloom Has Been Reported

Baby Tears	Near white standards, light yellow falls. AL,CA,IN,KS,NE,OH,TX,UT	\$ 2.00
Leprechaun's Delight	Light yellow with darker yellow spots & blue beards. CA,IN,NE	5.00
Plum Wine	Popular, dark, smooth wine-violet of precise form. CA,MI,NE,OH,OK,SC,VA,WA	4.00
Sunstrip	Bright yellow standards, burgundy red falls edged yellow. CA,OK,UT,VA,WA	4.00
Rainbow Sherbet	The first ever bicolor of soft yellow standards, ruffled peach falls. CA,WA	7.50
Third Charm	A medium blue-violet with darker violet spot on falls. CA,IN,OH,NE,VA	2.00
Thrice Blessed	A mid-yellow self with blue-white beards. CA,IN,MA,NE,OH,WA, & England	2.00
Willowmist	A soft cream with a very green tint. AL,AZ,CA,IN,NE,OR,VA,VT,WA, & England	2.00

Special Offer to Reblooming Iris Society Members

With your order of \$10 or more, if you send a separate check payable to RIS either to renew or extend your membership we will send free irises worth more than the cost of membership as follows.

Renew or extend a family membership for 3 years, \$10 and receive our 1989 SDB rebloomer, Mini Busy plus your choice of Plum Wine or Leprechaun's Delight.

Renew or extend a single membership for 3 years, \$7.50 and receive our 1989 SDB rebloomer, Mini Busy.

Renew or extend a family membership 1 year, \$4 and receive our 1988 SDB rebloomer, Rainbow Sherbet plus your choice of Third Charm or Thrice Blessed.

Renew or extend a single membership 1 year, \$3 and receive our 1988 SDB rebloomer, Rainbow Sherbet.

Write for a free price list of TB and Median Bearded Rebloomers

Include \$2.50 postage with each order

California Residents add 6% Tax

1988 Reblooming Symposium Results

Earl Hall

This year working on the 1988 reblooming Symposium has been the most enjoyable and educational yet for I received 81 Reblooming Symposiums representing 88 people. Five were from Canada. Thanks to everyone that sent theirs in. I hope I receive 200 or more in 1989. The more I receive, the more information about rebloomers.

This year, I made one chart with the total votes of all the irises voted on in each class. Then, I divided them up into three groups: one group for those having 180 days or less of freeze free days of growing season; the next group is for those falling in the 181 to 293 freeze-free days range; finally, the listing tabulates those from regions having 240 and over, frost free days.

In the TB class it was a tight race for first place - **Earl of Essex** received 47 votes for first, **Corn Harvest** and **Immortality** tied for second with 46 votes. **Feed Back** had 36 votes for 4th and **Queen Dorothy** had 34 votes for fifth place. There were 247 TB irises on the list.

Ditto was solidly in first in the MDB race, garnering 14 votes. Again, **Baby Blessed** was first by far with 43 votes in the SDB poll. **Jewel Baby** was second with 18 votes. **Blessed Again** and **I Bless** tied for first place in the IBs with 20 votes each. **Miss Scarlett** pulled 14 votes in taking the top spot in BBs. **Lady Emma** was the best vote-getter for the MTBs with 11 votes.

Comments about the most dependable rebloomers.

To me the Symposium tells the story well, but I will give some of the comments: **Baby Blessed** again was listed as most dependable. Those that were specifically mentioned three or more times were; **Belvi Queen**, **Coral Charmer**, **Corn Harvest**, **Earl of Essex**, **Feed Back**, **Golden Encore**, **I Bless**, **Immortality**, and **Queen Dorothy**. Many said 1988 was their poorest rebloom year ever due to hot weather and drought. Many

rebloomers that sent up bloomstalks never opened or were very slow to open. A few said 1988 was their best rebloom year yet. The results of The Great Fall Giveaway, run in Fall '88, are listed on page 31. The hands were those of Dr. Zurbrigg. Most guessed either Dr. Zurbrigg or Dr. Weiler.

The vote on the preferred type of Symposium format ran:

New type (this year - '88) - 45

Old type (last year - '87) - 23

therefore, what you see is what you will have.

I hope you enjoy the Reblooming Symposium results.

Ranking # of Votes		1989 Symposium Results			
		Variety	TBs	Hybridizer	Yr
1	47	Earl of Essex		Zurbrigg	'80
2	46	Corn Harvest		Wyatt	'77
3	46	Immortality		Zurbrigg	'82
4	36	Feedback		B. Hager	'83
5	34	Queen Dorothy		E. Hall	'84
6	29	I Do		Zurbrigg	'74
7	25	Jennifer Rebecca		Zurbrigg	'85
8	24	Summer Olympics		R. Smith	'80
9	22	Coral Charmer		H. Wright	'83
10	21	Brother Carl		Zurbrigg	'83
10	21	Late Lilac		Niswonger	'74
10	21	Lemon Reflection		R. Smith	'78
13	20	Belvi Queen		C. Jensen	'76
14	20	Golden Encore		F. Jones	'73
15	19	Spirit of Memphis		L. Zurbrigg	'77
16	18	Jean Guymer		L. Zurbrigg	'77
17	17	Hallowed Thought		L. Zurbrigg	'72
17	17	Pepper Blend		W. Moores	'77
19	15	Remember Spring		B. Hager	'85
20	14	Cayenne Capers		J. Gibson	'59
20	14	English Cottage		L. Zurbrigg	'76
20	14	Latest Style		L. Zurbrigg	'79
20	14	Re-treat		R. Smith	'78
20	14	Red Revival		F. Preston	'77
20	14	Sign of Leo		L. Zurbrigg	'76
20	14	Victoria Falls		Schreiner's	'77
27	13	Autumn Echo		J. Gibson	'75
28	13	Orchid Cloud		C. Applegate	'74
29	12	Autumn Bugler		F. Jones	'86
29	12	Duke of Earl		M. Byers	'87
29	12	Lemon Duet		R. Smith	'78
29	12	Witch of Endor		B. Miller	'78
33	11	Champagne Elegance		D. Niswonger	'87
33	11	Harvest of Memories		L. Zurbrigg	'85
33	11	Now and Later		L. Zurbrigg	'72

1989 Symposium Results

Ranking	# of Votes	Variety	TBs	Hybridizer	Yr
33	11	Perfume Counter		L. Zurbrigg	'72
33	11	Second Look		T. Muhlestein	'70
33	11	Skookumchuck		J. Gibson	'83
33	11	Sugar Blues		L. Zurbrigg	'85
33	11	Violet Classic		L. Zurbrigg	'79
41	10	Born Again		B. Miller	'78
41	10	Grape Adventure		F. Jones	'86
41	10	Royal Summer		C. Applegate	'71
41	10	Tea Leaves		M. Byers	'87
41	10	Violet Miracle		L. Zurbrigg	'79
46	9	Cease Fire		S. Roberts	'80
46	9	Eternal Bliss		Byers	'88
46	9	Touch of Spring		C. Applegate	'72
49	8	Cross Stitch		L. Zurbrigg	'73
50	7	Coral Chalice		Niswonger	'83
50	7	Da Capo		L. Zurbrigg	'69
50	7	Fire Siren		L. Zurbrigg	'75
50	7	Maiden		Byers	'88
50	7	Stellar Lights		Aitken	'86
50	7	White Reprise		W. Moores	'86
56	6	Billionaire		Byers	'87
56	6	Blazing Sunrise		P. Black	'85
56	6	Dante's Inferno		W. Moores	'79
56	6	Dime Spot		W. Moores	'85
56	6	Double Praise		B. Hamner	'77
56	6	Jaunty Texan		C. Denman	'73
56	6	Mabel Andrews		L. Zurbrigg	'83
56	6	Mulberry Mist		J. Burch	'77
56	6	Pink Attraction		E. Hall	'88
56	6	Summer Holidays		L. Zurbrigg	'79
66	5	Breakers		Schreiners	'85
66	5	Brown Duet		R. Smith	'71
66	5	Curtain Up		Byers	'88
66	5	Desiderata		W. Moores	'80
66	5	Double Scoop		J. Ghio	'81
66	5	Glacier King		D. Carson	'86
66	5	Illini Repeater		S. Varner	'72
66	5	Misty Twilight		Byers	'88
66	5	Orange Harvest		B. Jones	'88
66	5	Red Polish		T. Craig	'67
66	5	Returning Peace		R. Smith	'74
66	5	Sea Double		R. Smith	'71
78	4	Beau Catcher		T. Craig	'55
78	4	Certainly, Certainly		B. Benson	'81
78	4	Double Mint		M. Byers	'87
78	4	Earl of Leicester		L. Zurbrigg	'85
78	4	Eternal Prince		J. Nelson	'86
78	4	Leora Kate		R. Buckles	'63
78	4	Light Beam		L. Blyth	'85
78	4	Mother Earth		B. Hager	'88
78	4	Purple Duet		R. Smith	'66
78	4	Rio Vista		B. Brown	'77
78	4	Soft Halo		Moores	'83

1989 Symposium Results

Ranking	# of Votes	Variety	TBs	Hybridizer	Yr
78	4	Violet Returns		E. Hall	'88
90	3	Bess Bergin		R. Denman	'72
90	3	Beverly Sills		B. Hager	'79
90	3	Cafe Society		Ghio	'85
90	3	Cascade Pass		R. Cooper	'72
90	3	Catchy Name		Seligmann	'83
90	3	Dorcas Lives Again		B. Miller	'84
90	3	Gideon Victorious		B. Miller	'85
90	3	Grace Thomas		Zurbrigg	'80
90	3	Hawaiian Surf		Moores	'83
90	3	Lightly Seasoned		L. Zurbrigg	'79
90	3	Magic Memories		T. Clark	'73
90	3	Pacific Tide		L. Cowdery	'86
90	3	Pepper Lane		C. Jensen	'76
90	3	Pink Sachet		W. Moores	'79
90	3	Scented Nutmeg		Maryott	'83
90	3	Second Show		Byers	'87
90	3	Splash O' Wine		Vogel	'73
90	3	Tomorrow's Child		B. Blyth	'84
108	2	Alpen Majesty		Zurbrigg	'69
108	2	Amain		Zurbrigg	'83
108	2	Amanda Erin		Zurbrigg	'85
108	2	Anew		L. Zurbrigg	'83
108	2	Artistic Gold		Denman	'72
108	2	Attention Please		H. Mohr	'74
108	2	Autumn Encore		K. Mohr	'77
108	2	Autumn Mists		F. Jones	'70
108	2	Autumn Night		R. Smith	'68
108	2	Avalon Bay		B. Hamner	'74
108	2	Best Bet		Schreiner	'88
108	2	Bethany Claire		L. Zurbrigg	'85
108	2	Colorwatch		Innerst	'87
108	2	Dawn of Fall		C. Jensen	'76
108	2	Designer Gown		Ghio	'85
108	2	Double Time		B. Hager	'84
108	2	Foxy Lady		B. Williamson	'87
108	2	French Provencal		Moores	'85
108	2	G'Day Mate		Maryott's Gdn	'87
108	2	Halloween Pumpkin		Byers	'86
108	2	Holy Night		K. Mohr	'83
108	2	Ice Ballerina		Wyatt	'73
108	2	Invitation		Schreiner's	'82
108	2	Jael's Conquest		B. Miller	'86
108	2	Jepthah's Daughter		B. Miller	'86
108	2	Jolly Fall		L. Zurbrigg	'77
108	2	Lavish		Applegate	'74
108	2	Liason		Ghio	'86
108	2	Lovely Again		R. Smith	'66
108	2	Midnight Pacific		F. Foster	'88
108	2	Orchid Lane		R. Jeffries	'88
108	2	Pink Encore		E. Smith	'83
108	2	Punkin		Keppel	'81
108	2	Radiant Angel		B. Miller	'88

1989 Symposium Results

Ranking	# of Votes	Variety	TBs cont.	Hybridizer	Yr
108	2	Rainy Falls		Maryott	'84
108	2	Rip Van Winkle		L. Austin	'63
108	2	Shoot The Moon		Byers	'87
108	2	Spyglass Hill		R. Gibson	'82
108	2	Stepping Proud		Danielson	'85
108	2	Summer Whitewings		G. Brown	'61
108	2	Swift River		D. Niswonger	'74
108	2	Windsurfer		Maryott	'83

1989 Symposium Results

Ranking	# of Votes	Variety	MDBs	Hybridizer	Yr
1	14	Ditto		Hager	'82
2	4	Plic Sand		Dalgaard	'78
3	3	Buddha Song		B. Dunbar	'70
4	2	Velvet Toy		B. Dunbar	'72
5	1	Puppet Baby		Boswell	'82

1989 Symposium Results

Ranking	# of Votes	Variety	SDBs	Hybridizer	Yr
1	43	Baby Blessed		L. Zurbrigg	'79
2	18	Jewel Baby		E. Hall	'84
3	15	Thrice Blessed		J. Weiler	'82
3	15	Willow Mist		J. Weiler	'82
5	12	Third World		J. Weiler	'82
6	11	Smell The Rsoses		Byers	'88
6	11	Third Charm		J. Weiler	'82
8	10	Baby Tears		J. Weiler	'80
8	10	Plum Wine		J. Weiler	'86
10	9	Refined		J. Weiler	'86
10	9	Twice Blessed		D. Dennis	'66
12	6	Triplicate		J. Weiler	'83
13	5	Dark Crystal		Byers	'88
13	5	Rainbow Sherbert		J. Weiler	'88
15	4	Blitz		J. Weiler	'88
15	4	Leprechaun's Delight		J. Weiler	'86
15	4	Small Flash		P. Black	'83
18	3	Khaki Print		J. Weiler	'83
18	3	Ripe Raspberry		B. Dunbar	'72
18	3	Sun Doll		B. Jones	'86
18	3	Sunstrip		J. Weiler	'86
22	2	Azure Gem		Hamblen	'82
22	2	Cry Baby		Ritchie	'84
22	2	Honey Dip		Aitken	'85
22	2	Little Bishop		Weiler	'82

1989 Symposium Results

Ranking	# of Votes	Variety	IBs	Hybridizer	Yr
1	20	Blessed Again		F. Jones	'76
1	20	I Bless		L. Zurbrigg	'85

1989 Symposium Results

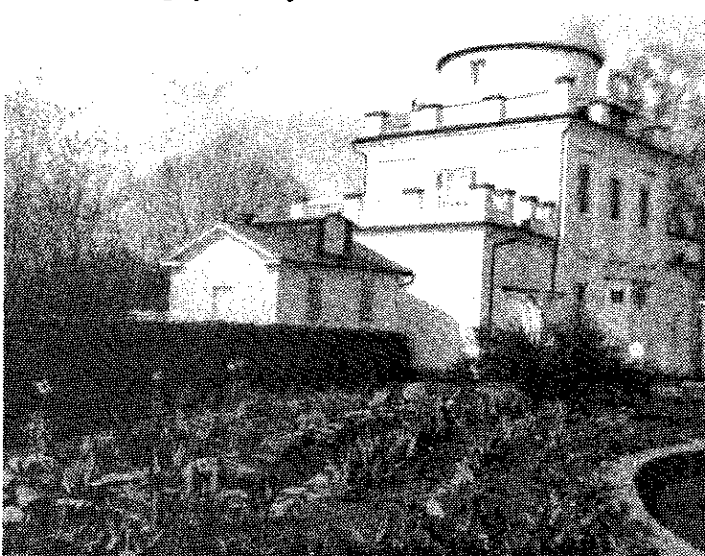
Ranking	# of Votes	Variety	IBs cont.	Hybridizer	Yr
3	17	Honey Glazed		Niswonger	'83
4	12	Tawny		T. Pray	'74
5	8	Eleanor Roosevelt		Sass-McDade	'33
6	3	Black Magic		T. Craig	'35
6	3	On Demand		Nichols	'83
8	2	Ebony Embers		Brizendine	'65
8	2	Yellow Knife		F. Dyer	'84
8	2	Yellow Wave		S. Weiler	'82

1989 Symposium Results

Ranking	# of Votes	Variety	BBs	Hybridizer	Yr
1	14	Miss Scarlett		W. Moores	'80
2	10	Little Susie		C. Quadros	'70
3	5	Child Star		J. Ghio	'75
3	5	Marmalade Skies		Niswonger	'78
3	5	Petkin		L. Zurbrigg	'69
6	3	Whoop'em Up		B. Brady	'74
7	2	Cotati		Foster	'79
7	2	Double Up		Hager	'87
7	2	Face Powder		Moores	'79
7	2	Heaven's Bounty		B. Miller	'83
7	2	Late Magic		H. Wright	'83
7	2	Oracle		Ghio	'72
7	2	Pink Bubbles		Hager	'80
7	2	Ultra Echo		Rich	'72

1989 Symposium Results

Ranking	# of Votes	Variety	MTBs	Hybridizer	Yr
1	11	Lady Emma		F. Jones	'86
2	2	Otay		W. Snell	'74
3	1	Topsy Turvy		Welch	'64



PREVIEW OF '91 - THE HAYDEN DISPLAY GARDEN
AT GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY. CURATOR, DON
SPOON, PROMISES REBLOOMERS APLENTY!

TBs - 180 or less Freeze Free Days			TBs - 181 to 239 Freeze Free Days			TBs - 240 to all Freeze Free Days		
Ranking	# of Votes	Variety	Ranking	# of Votes	Variety	Ranking	# of Votes	Variety
1	17	Immortality	1	19	Immortality	1	20	Corn Harvest
2	15	Queen Dorothy	2	17	Earl of Essex	2	17	Earl of Essex
3	12	Golden Encore	3	14	Corn Harvest	3	14	Feedback
4	11	Corn Harvest	4	12	Feedback	4	10	Immortality
4	11	Earl of Essex	5	11	I Do	4	10	Pepper Blend
6	9	Belvi Queen	5	11	Late Lilac	6	9	Summer Olympics
6	9	Coral Charmer	5	11	Queen Dorothy	7	8	I Do
6	9	English Cottage	8	10	Brother Carl	7	8	Jennifer Rebecca
6	9	Feedback	9	9	Jean Guymer	7	8	Queen Dorothy
6	9	I Do	9	9	Latest Style	7	8	Victoria Falls
6	9	Jennifer Rebecca	11	8	Belvi Queen	11	7	Autumn Echo
12	8	Lemon Reflection	11	8	Jennifer Rebecca	12	6	Cayenne Capers
13	7	Brother Carl	11	8	Now and Later	12	6	Cease Fire
13	7	Royal Summer	11	8	Re-treat	12	6	Hallowed Thought
13	7	Sign of Leo	11	8	Summer Olympics	12	6	Spirit of Memphis
13	7	Summer Olympics	16	7	Born Again	12	6	Violet Classic
13	7	Touch of Spring	16	7	Coral Charmer	17	5	Champagne Elegance
18	6	Autumn Bugler	16	7	Lemon Reflection	17	5	Coral Charmer
18	6	Harvest of Memories	16	7	Orchid Cloud	17	5	Dante's Inferno
18	6	Jean Guymer	16	7	Pepper Blend	17	5	Duke of Earl
18	6	Late Lilac	16	7	Remember Spring	17	5	Eternal Bliss
18	6	Lemon Duet	16	7	Spirit of Memphis	17	5	Jaunty Texan
18	6	Re-treat	16	7	Witch of Endor	17	5	Mulberry Mist
18	6	Red Revival	24	6	Hallowed Thought	17	5	Remember Spring
24	4	Cross Stitch	24	6	Red Revival	17	5	Second Look
25	5	Grape Adventure	24	6	Sign of Leo	17	5	Skookumchuck
25	4	Hallowed Thought	27	5	Autumn Echo	17	5	Stellar Lights
26	4	Pink Attraction	27	5	Cayenne Capers	17	5	Tea Leaves
26	4	Spirit of Memphis	27	5	English Cottage	17	5	White Reprise
26	4	Sugar Blues	27	5	Tea Leaves	30	4	Billionaire
26	4	Violet Miracle	31	4	Champagne Elegance	30	4	Lemon Reflection
32	3	Duke of Earl	31	4	Coral Chalice	30	4	Orange Harvest
32	3	Latest Style	31	4	Da Capo	30	4	Orchid Cloud
32	3	Perfume Counter	31	4	Duke of Earl	34	3	Belvi Queen
35	2	Bethany Claire	31	4	Eternal Bliss	34	3	Cafe Society
35	2	Cayenne Capers	31	4	Fire Siren	34	3	Cascade Pass
35	2	Champagne Elegance	31	4	Grape Adventure	34	3	Catchy Name
35	2	Double Praise	31	4	Lemon Duet	34	3	Coral Chalice
35	2	Gideon Victorious	31	4	Maiden	34	3	Double Praise
35	2	Holy Night	31	4	Perfume Counter	34	3	Double Scoop
35	2	Ice Ballerina	31	4	Purple Duet	34	3	Glacier King
35	2	Lavish	31	4	Second Look	34	3	Golden Encore
35	2	Leora Kate	31	4	Skookumchuck	34	3	Harvest of Memories
35	2	Lightly Seasoned	31	4	Sugar Blues	34	3	Illini Repeater
35	2	Now and Later	31	4	Summer Holidays	34	3	Late Lilac
35	2	Orchid Cloud	31	4	Violet Miracle	34	3	Maiden
35	2	Remember Spring	47	3	Autumn Bugler	34	3	Perfume Counter
35	2	Rip Van Winkle	47	3	Cross Stitch	34	3	Rio Vista
35	2	Sea Double	47	3	Curtain Up	34	3	Sugar Blues
35	2	Skookumchuck	47	3	Desiderata	52	2	Amanda Erin
35	2	Summer Holidays	47	3	Dime Spot	52	2	Attention Please
35	2	Victoria Falls	47	3	Earl of Leicester	52	2	Autumn Bugler
35	2	Violet Returns	47	3	Golden Encore	52	2	Beverly Sills
35	2	Witch of Endor	47	3	Mabel Andrews	52	2	Blazing Sunrise

TBs - 180 or less Freeze Free Days			TBs - 181 to 239 Freeze Free Days			TBs - 240 to all Freeze Free Days		
Ranking	# of Votes	Variety	Ranking	# of Votes	Variety	Ranking	# of Votes	Variety
56	1	Anew	47	3	Misty Twilight	52	2	Born Again
56	1	Autumn Night	47	3	Mother Earth	52	2	Breakers
56	1	Bess Bergin	47	3	Sea Double	52	2	Brother Carl
56	1	Best Bet	47	3	Second Show	52	2	Brown Duet
56	1	Beverly Sills	47	3	Violet Classic	52	2	Certainly, Certainly
56	1	Blazing Sunrise	60	2	Alpen Majesty	52	2	Curtain Up
56	1	Born Again	60	2	Amain	52	2	Da Capo
56	1	Breakers	60	2	Autumn Night	52	2	Dime Spot
56	1	Brown Duet	60	2	Beau Catcher	52	2	Double Mint
56	1	Da Capo	60	2	Billionaire	52	2	Fire Siren
56	1	Dawn of Fall	60	2	Blazing Sunrise	52	2	Halloween Pumpkin
56	1	Designer Gown	60	2	Brown Duet	52	2	Jean Guymer
56	1	Divinity	60	2	Certainly, Certainly	52	2	Latest Style
56	1	Dorcas Lives Again	60	2	Double Mint	52	2	Light Beam
56	1	Double Scoop	60	2	Eternal Prince	52	2	Mabel Andrews
56	1	Earl of Leicester	60	2	Foxy Lady	52	2	Magic Memories
56	1	Eternal Bliss	60	2	Glacier King	52	2	Misty Twilight
56	1	Fire Siren	60	2	Harvest of Memories	52	2	Pacific Tide
56	1	G'Day Mate	60	2	Hawaiian Surf	52	2	Pink Sachet
56	1	Jaunty Texan	60	2	Illini Repeater	52	2	Red Polish
56	1	Jepthah's Daughter	60	2	Invitation	52	2	Returning Peace
56	1	Jolly Fall	60	2	Light Beam	52	2	Shoot The Moon
56	1	Lovely Again	60	2	Red Polish	52	2	Splash O' Wine
56	1	Lovely Letty	60	2	Returning Peace	52	2	Spyglass Hill
56	1	Mabel Andrews	60	2	Royal Summer	52	2	Violet Miracle
56	1	Malaguena	60	2	Stepping Proud	52	2	Witch of Endor
56	1	Mother Earth	60	2	Swift River	83	1	Anew
56	1	Night Affair	60	2	Victoria Falls	83	1	Artistic Gold
56	1	Pacific Tide	60	2	Violet Returns	83	1	Autumn Apricot
56	1	Pepper Blend	60	2	White Reprise	83	1	Autumn Encore

MDBs - 180 or less Freeze Free Days			MDBs - 181 to 239 Freeze Free Days			MDBs - 240 to all Freeze Free Days		
Ranking	# of Votes	Variety	Ranking	# of Votes	Variety	Ranking	# of Votes	Variety
1	2	Ditto	1	6	Ditto	1	2	Ditto
1	2	Velvet Toy	2	4	Plic Sand	-	-	-
-	-	-	3	3	Buddha Song	-	-	-

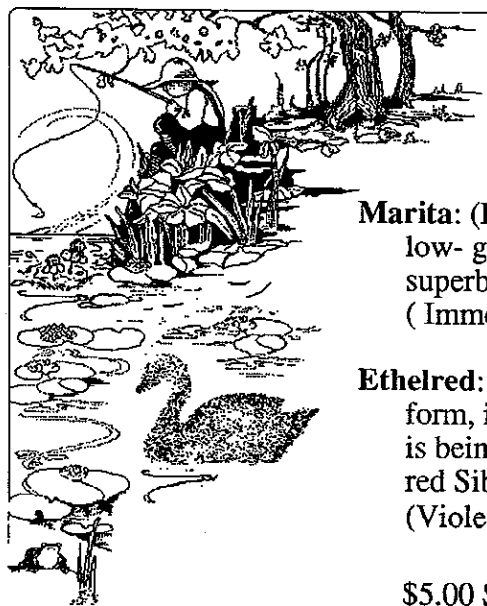
SDBs - 180 or less Freeze Free Days			SDBs - 181 to 239 Freeze Free Days			SDBs - 240 to all Freeze Free Days		
Ranking	# of Votes	Variety	Ranking	# of Votes	Variety	Ranking	# of Votes	Variety
1	7	Jewel Baby	1	22	Baby Blessed	1	9	Baby Blessed
2	6	Baby Blessed	2	9	Jewel Baby	2	5	Thrice Blessed
3	5	Thrice Blessed	3	6	Plum Wine	2	5	Willow Mist
4	4	Smell The Roses	4	5	Twice Blessed	4	3	Baby Tears
4	4	Third Charm	5	4	Baby Tears	4	3	Small Flash
4	4	Third World	5	4	Leprechaun's Delight	4	3	Smell The Roses
7	3	Refined	5	4	Smell The Rsoses	4	3	Third Charm
7	3	Willow Mist	5	4	Third World	4	3	Third World
9	2	Baby Tears	5	4	Willow Mist	9	2	Azure Gem
9	2	Plum Wine	10	3	Dark Crystal	9	2	Blitz
9	2	Triplicate	10	3	Ripe Raspberry	9	2	Dark Crystal
9	2	Twice Blessed	10	3	Thrice Blessed	9	2	Jewel Baby

SDBs - 180 or less Freeze Free Days			SDBs - 181 to 239 Freeze Free Days			SDBs - 240 to all Freeze Free Days		
Ranking	# of Votes	Variety	Ranking	# of Votes	Variety	Ranking	# of Votes	Variety
13	1	Cry Baby	10	3	Triplicate	9	2	Plum Wine
13	1	Khaki Print	14	2	Rainbow Sherbert	9	2	Rainbow Sherbert
13	1	Leprechaun's Delight	14	2	Refined	9	2	Refined
13	1	Rainbow Sherbert	14	2	Third Charm	9	2	Sun Doll

IBs - 180 or less Freeze Free Days			IBs - 181 to 239 Freeze Free Days			IBs - 240 to all Freeze Free Days		
Ranking	# of Votes	Variety	Ranking	# of Votes	Variety	Ranking	# of Votes	Variety
1	7	Blessed Again	1	9	I Bless	1	5	Honey Glazed
1	7	I Bless	2	8	Honey Glazed	2	4	Blessed Again
3	4	Honey Glazed	3	6	Blessed Again	2	4	Tawny
4	2	Tawny	3	6	Tawny	4	2	Eleanor Roosevelt
5	1	Eleanor Roosevelt	5	5	Eleanor Roosevelt	5	1	Black Magic
-	-	-	6	3	On Demand	5	1	Chimera
-	-	-	7	2	Black Magic	-	-	-
-	-	-	7	2	Yellow Knife	-	-	-
-	-	-	7	2	Yellow Wave	-	-	-

BBs - 180 or less Freeze Free Days			BBs - 181 to 239 Freeze Free Days			BBs - 240 to all Freeze Free Days		
Ranking	# of Votes	Variety	Ranking	# of Votes	Variety	Ranking	# of Votes	Variety
1	1	Borderline	1	5	Little Susie	1	8	Miss Scarlett
1	1	Double Up	1	5	Miss Scarlett	2	4	Child Star
1	1	Heaven's Bounty	3	2	Late Magic	2	4	Marmalade Skies
1	1	Little Susie	3	2	Petkin	4	2	Cotati
1	1	Marmalade Skies	5	1	Candyland	4	2	Face Powder
1	1	Miss Scarlett	5	1	Celestial Dream	4	2	Oracle
1	1	Pink Bubles	5	1	Child Star	4	2	Whoop'em Up

MTBs - 180 or less Freeze Free Days			MTBs - 181 to 239 Freeze Free Days			MTBs - 240 to all Freeze Free Days		
Ranking	# of Votes	Variety	Ranking	# of Votes	Variety	Ranking	# of Votes	Variety
1	3	Lady Emma	1	6	Lady Emma	-	-	-
-	-	-	2	2	Otay	-	-	-



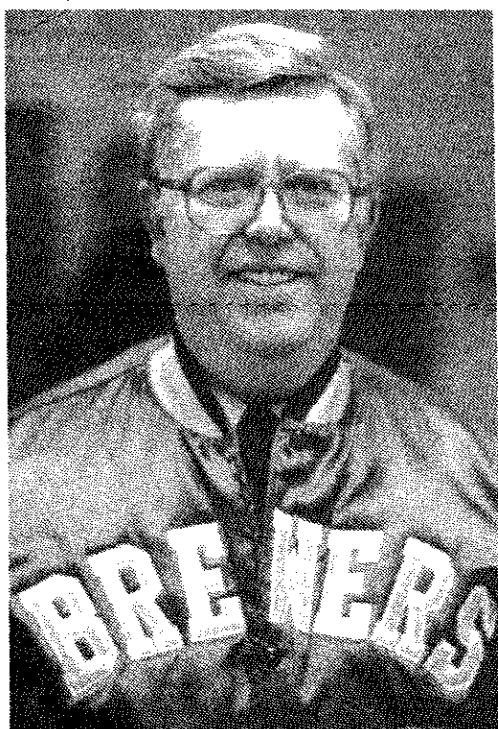
FOR 1989 AVONBANK INTRODUCES...

Marita: (L. Zurbrigg) SDB. EE & RE. in Sept. in Virginia. S. white; F. yellow-green, the color achieved by texture lines rather than a spot pattern; superb form, being twice as wide as other remontant SDB's. EC 1988. (Immortality x Welch H 503) \$25.00

Ethelred: (L. Zurbrigg) Siberian. This large, showy red Siberian of classic form, is out of **Violet Repeat** which is probably also the pollen parent. It is being introduced after 15 years for those who are seeking a reblooming red Siberian, even though it does not itself give a second season of bloom. (Violet Repeat, probably selfed)..... \$25.00

\$5.00 Shipping and handling with each order. VA residents add 4.5% tax

708 Noblin St.
Radford, VA 24142



Howard L. Brookins

Born 3/14/29
in Fon du
Lac, WI

Introduced to
the Wonder-
ful World of
Iris by my
father at the
age of 6,
when I start-
ed taking
care of Dad's
iris bed, and
making
'points' with
my teachers
by bringing

bouquets to school.

Spent two years serving my country as Supply Sergeant in the U. S. Army during the Korean War, in the beautiful area near Port Townsend, Washington.

Married Anita Kadow Benno on 6/22/57, at the time a widow of eight years with two sons, Greg and Jerry, which I adopted and gave my name. Added one more son, Brian, and three daughters, LuAnn, Margaret, and Jonell to the family. Grandfather of Brandon, Tracie, Colet, Linda, John, Teresa, 'Squeekie,' Erin, Jeremy, and David.

Employed by Lever Brothers as a Senior Account Sales Rep for the past quarter century.

Active in Church functions, including being in charge of Bingo and working with youth groups. Hobbies: gardening, computerizing garden records, and photography. Raise a fair sized vegetable garden, and have over 8,000 square feet of raised perennial beds, specializing in reblooming iris, and beardless of all forms, with a collection of nearly 200 rebloomers, and about the same for Siberians. Also raise Japanese, Setosa, Spuria, Pseudacorus, and Louisiana's. Received my first EC for a SDB seedling last year, so have the "itch" to do more hybridizing. Will have over 200 Siberian seedlings in bloom this year - if we ever have spring (it's 25 degrees as I write this

on April 13th.) Also have some 2,000 assorted beardless seedlings growing in the house under lights.

Completed the Check List for the Reblooming Society in 1988, and the Siberian Check List in 1989. One can really learn a lot about iris by doing a Check List!

I have really enjoyed communicating with our members throughout the world as RIS membership secretary the past two years. Keep those cards and letters (and checks) coming!



Michael B. Lowe

Born: December 13, 1937 in Madison, WI.

Raised in Devil's Lake, ND where iris don't grow!

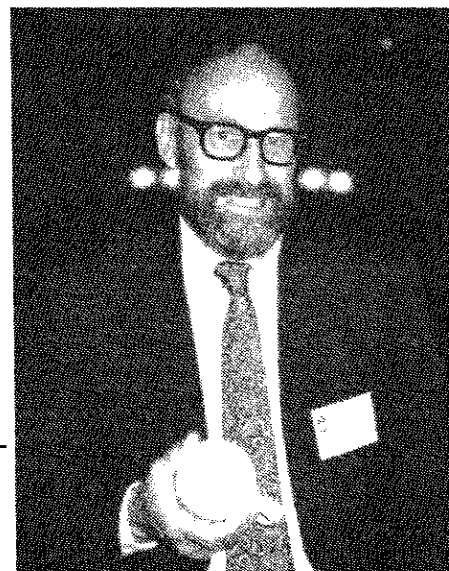
Entered Navy in 1955

Married Anne Sommerville Smith, widow with one son, on 12/9/61. Father of Hannah and Eric; grandfather-to-be in December.

BS degree in Biology, SUNY in 1976; graduate work in micro-biology, VCU- ongoing.

Last Navy job was Commander, Naval Satellite Communications Terminal, Driver, VA. Retired in Sept. 1976 when detailer offered a 3 yr. tour on a carrier and settled into an 1840 vintage farmhouse in Southside VA. Enter iris! We raise about 1000 iris, mixed varieties, 150 of which are rebloomers.

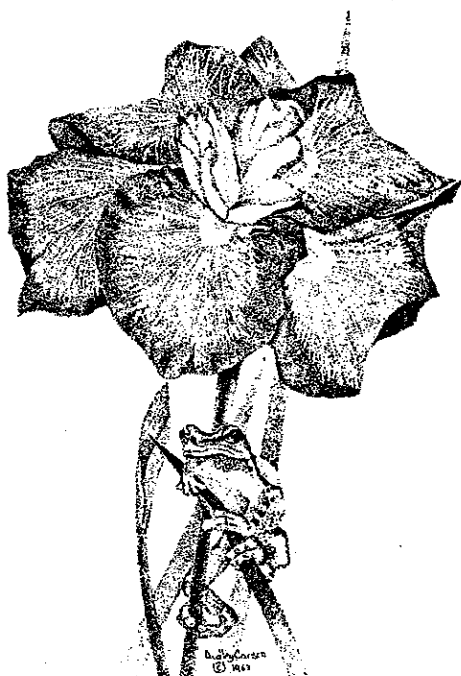
Hobbies/special interests: computer consulting; iris publications, especially graphics, editing, and lay-out; antique sterling flatware, sugar-shells in particu-
la; Chinese and Italian cooking. Editor of The Reblooming Iris Recorder since 1987, Co-Editor of Region 4 Newscast, graphics editor of Roots (HIPS Journal.)



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AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY
Reblooming Iris Section
Rt-3, Box-135
Blackstone, VA 23824



Dudley Carson's Northwest Scenes

Note Cards, are 4 1/2" by 5 1/4" when folded. They come eight to the package according to the category. A package of eight individual items may be ordered. Each package contains 8 envelopes.

Categories are: Mountains, Coastal Scenes, Flowers, IRISES, Animals, Horse family, Cat family, Dogs, Butterflies and Moths, Birds, Owls, Water Fowl, Mushrooms, Farm Animals, Sea Creatures, Dinosaurs, Fishes.

For an illustrated brochure listing individual drawings in above categories, and other items; please send stamped, self-addressed envelope, or order from this ad.

The price of each package of note cards is \$3.00 - Please add 15% for postage and handling - 10% if order is over \$15.00

Make check payable, and send order to:

Dudley Carson

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