

THE

# REBLOOMING IRIS RECORDER

FALL

1989

VOL  
35



Dudley  
Carson  
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# Table of Contents

President's Message.....	John Weiler .....	4
Nominating Committee Report .....		5
Repeat Bloom In Siberian Iris.....	H. Brookins.....	5
The Origins of Remontancy.....	C. Mahan .....	6
A Portrait of A Friend, Frank Jones.....	Marisa & Norm Noe.....	11
In Memoriam, Barney Hobbs .....	R. G. Smith.....	16
Dues Change Notice .....	J. Weiler .....	17
Border Patrol.....	W. Moores .....	19
A Sad Story .....	V. Mathews .....	20
The A.I.S. Honorary Awards.....	H. Stahly.....	21
It's A Weed!.....	J. Weiler, C. Mahan, W. Terry Varner, L. Zurbrigg, M. Lowe.....	22
A Visit to Nicholls Gardens.....	M. & A. Lowe.....	25
Reblooming Iris in Region 21 .....	J. Ennenga .....	24
A Message From the Secretary.....	H. Brookins.....	

## Regular Features

Officers .....		1
Advertising rates and Deadlines .....		1
Membership rates .....		1
Financial Statement .....		4
Slide Information .....	E. Hall .....	4
Overheard In The Garden .....		14
Have Suitcase, Will Travel-Reg. 19.....	A. Lowe.....	15
The Experts Answer .....	Editor.....	17
1989 AIS Awards to Reblooming Cultivars .....	H. Brookins & J. Weiler .....	18
Fall Show Reports .....	A. Lowe, D. Nicholls .....	26-27
A TIP from the PROS .....		27
Off the Wall! .....		28

## Advertisements

Slides (RIS) .....	5
1990 Iris Calendar (A.I.S.) .....	20
Northwest Scenes (Dudley Carson).....	Back Cover

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- Photo Credits:** Howard Brookins: pp. 3, 5R., 24  
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# REBLOOMING IRIS SOCIETY

A Section of the American Iris Society

## Officers

<b>President:</b> Dr. John H. Weiler, 1146 West Rialto, Fresno, CA 93705	Tel:(209) 229-6434	<b>Terms expiring:</b> Spring '91
<b>Vice President:</b> Gary Sides, 405 Pettus St., Lawrenceburg, TN 38464	Tel:(615) 762-0502	Spring '90
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<b>Treasurer:</b> Sue Keefe, 2100 Tarleton, Midland, TX 79707	Tel: (915) 697-6320	Spring '90
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## Membership And Advertising Rates

Memberships	Single	Family	Advertising Rates		
Annual .....	\$3.00 .....	\$4.00	Full page .....	\$25.00	Qtr.page \$10.00
Triennial ....	\$7.50 .....	\$10.00	Half page .....	\$15.00	1/8 page .....\$7.50
Life.....	\$50.00				

 Old rates apply until 1 Jan. 1990

**Back issues:** volumes 31 thru 33, are available from the Editor

**Vol 34 zerox® only - check for price**      **Vols 31-33 - \$2.50 per volume includes 1st class postage**

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

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

October Issue - Sept. 1

April Issue - March 1

**Advertising** October Issue - Aug. 15

April Issue - Feb. 15

Permission is granted to reprint any article appearing in RIR unless specifically prohibited. Proper credit must accompany the reprint.

# President's Message



It is the best of all possible worlds. It is the worst of all possible worlds. The best of all possible worlds is the continuing increase in RIS membership, more than 300 percent during the past two and one half years. It is the worst of all possible

worlds since membership dues have never completely covered operational expenses of the Society, a fact which worsens with an expanding membership roster. Society expenses result from producing *The Reblooming Iris Recorder*, postage, membership renewal notices, those incurred by Society officers in discharge of duties. Solutions have been slow in coming but there are signs of several possible solutions.

Hats off and enthusiastic thanks are due to some of our members for outstanding service in helping solve immediate financial problems. First must go my thanks to Frank Jones, our long time member, hybridizer of most dependable remontant irises, a devoted enthusiast of the reblooming cause, a good friend. Because of failing sight, Frank has had to give up most of his Iris garden with its many projects to produce better quality rebloomers. He donated all reblooming cultivars in his garden to the Reblooming Iris Society to raise money for our treasury. Second, thanks are due to Mike and Anne Lowe who travelled to Frank's garden to dig, label, wash, and trim the many hundreds of rhizomes. Various frustrating attempts by Mike Lowe to generate a sale finally resulted in a large purchase by a wholesale nursery with the proceeds, \$1,100.00 going to RIS. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Frank, Mike and Anne.

Realizing that a more permanent solution must be found, our Board of Directors has addressed the problem of ever escalating costs to operate the Society. We do not feel that quality or quantity of *The Reblooming Iris Recorder*

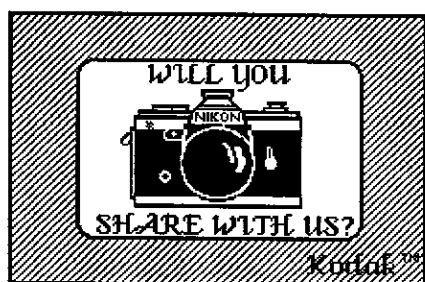
should be sacrificed. Neither can we curtail the membership secretary's functions of notifying when membership fees are due nor the welcome letter to new members. These items account for more than ninety five percent of Society expenditures. The Board's deliberations have resulted in (1) a unanimous vote to increase membership fees slightly as listed elsewhere in this issue of *The Reblooming Iris Recorder*, the first increase in many, many years; (2) to increase slightly the cost of commercial ads which are currently considerably less than ads in similar AIS section publications; (3) to encourage reblooming enthusiasts in various parts of the country to conduct sales of remontants and to contribute some or all proceeds to the Society.

Items one and two above will help prevent rapid depletion of the treasury but will not solve all financial needs of the Society over a long term. The third item will likely be difficult to initiate and maintain. It does appear, however, that it will be possible for one group here in the West to conduct such a remontant sale to the public next year. A public sale in various parts of the country will be a good way to spread news and enthusiasm for remontancy to gardeners who are stunned to hear that such irises even exist. The income from sales used to benefit RIS would solve financial problems for the indefinite future. If you or your local group may be able to organize a sale of rebloomers for benefit of the Society during the coming year, please let me know in writing as soon as possible.

As our Society grows, its needs will change. Less than three years ago, collating accumulated data on rebloom reports from around the country led our secretary, Howard Brookins, to publish a revised *Checklist of Reblooming Irises*. Assuming that only a small percent of our members would want such a checklist, only 100 copies were published with the expectation that those would supply demand for three to five years. With a hefty membership increase and with more demand from then current members than anticipated, the checklist was sold out in a year. A second printing of another 100 copies was authorized and that is now nearly exhausted. Membership still grows. In the meantime the

increased membership is producing a mass of information on rebloom which is still pouring in from around the country. We now have information indicating good rebloom performance in parts of the country where skeptics have claimed, "They won't rebloom here." Neither have the reports been confined to bearded irises since some have included clones of Japanese, Siberian and occasionally other beardless groups. This means we should now consider publishing a completely revised edition of the Checklist to include all new information, perhaps with a more substantial number of copies. A larger and growing membership, better availability of reblooming irises, improving flower quality and dependability of remontancy, the public clamor for irises which rebloom, all signal a rapidly rising spiral of growth and interest in our Society. Help us sustain that growth by supporting the RIS in every way you can. Become involved!

*John Weiler*  
John Weiler, President



## 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.

## Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee of the Reblooming Iris Society is pleased to recommend the following slate for offices to be filled by election in 1990:

Vice-President:..... Richard Tasco  
5855 E. Pioneer  
Tel: (602) 982-2433 Apache Junction, AZ 85219

Treasurer:..... Evelyn Hayes  
51 S. Byron Dr.  
Tel: (209) 924-2984 Lemoore, CA 93245

Midwestern Director ... Garland Bare, M.D.  
1320 Carlos Drive  
Tel: (402) 464-2788 Lincoln, NE 68505

Respectfully,

*Evelyn Hayes*  
Evelyn Hayes, Chairperson  
Nominating Committee



## Financial Statement, RIS

Balance on hand  
15 Mar. 1989..... \$3340

Credits  
Dues, Checklists, Ads..... \$2341  
Rhizome sale..... \$1104  
Credit restricted for AIS Ad ..... \$100  
Total Credits ..... \$3545

Debits  
Spring '89 RIR printing ..... \$787  
Photos, Mail permit, postage ..... \$229  
Sec'y expenses ..... \$265  
Total Debits ..... \$1281

Balance on Hand  
26 Oct 1989  
Treasurers account..... \$5058  
Membership holding account ..... \$546  
Total ..... \$5604

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

# Repeat Bloom In Siberian Iris

Howard Brookins

**H**aving such a great love for iris in general, and beardless iris in particular, I added some "repeat" blooming Siberians to my collection in the spring of 1988, hoping to enjoy a longer bloom season in the garden. Then when finishing the *Siberian Iris Check List*, I corresponded with Siberian experts around the country, many of whom chilled my thoughts of expecting repeat bloom on Siberians. The general viewpoint was they wouldn't repeat in my cold Wisconsin climate, but only under more favorable growing conditions. As with rebloom in the bearded category, everyone passes on the picture of dark gloom. "It ain't gonna work!"

To this, I say "Try it, you'll like it!"

I am a firm believer in the old theory "nothing ventured, nothing gained." Also, I believe a little "Tender Loving Care" goes a long way towards success in the garden. To aid me in this direction, I installed a drip irrigation system in my raised perennial beds this spring, passing the line just behind the row of "repeat" blooming Siberians. I also spray my Siberians with Miracid®, to counteract the high lime content of my well water, and apply a small amount of 10-10-10



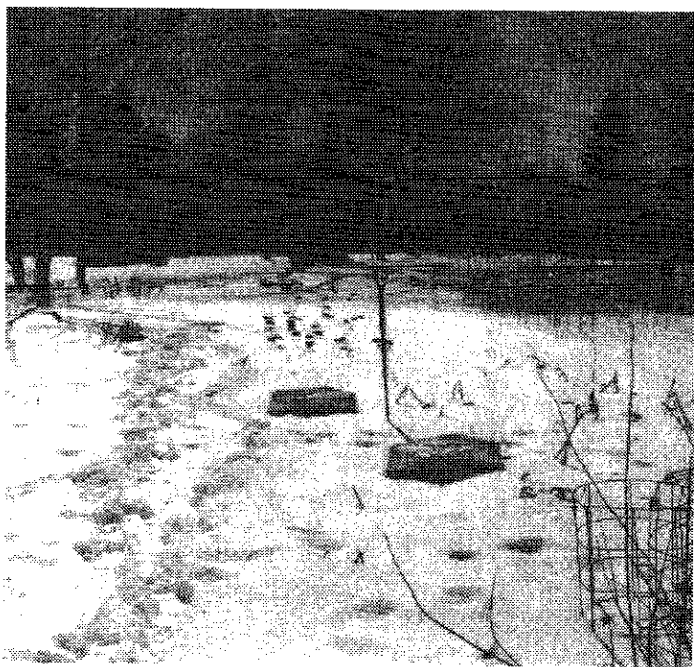
ONE OF HOWARD'S BEST PERFORMERS,  
LAVENDER BOUNTY

granulated fertilizer, containing 11% sulfur early in the spring. Results: Lavender Bounty

bloomed late May, early June, and put up 7 repeat stalks in late June, early to mid July. Also repeating were My Love, and Welcome Return. All had been in only one year, so I can't wait until they become established clumps.

Another surprise in my bed was rebloom on an established clump of *I. pseudacorus*. Like everyone else, I planted it and forgot it, feeding with the Siberian Iris, and watering with the same drip irrigation system. In the five years its been there, it faithfully blooms along with the TBs, as it did this year. Then on July 9th, I began to think it was sure having a long bloom season this year, and closer observation showed there were two new bloom stalks, among the many stalks with heavy seed pods.

Again, the answer is TLC, Food and WATER! And Full Sun. So for those interested in rebloom



HOWARD'S GARDEN ON THE FIRST DAY  
OF SPRING, MARCH 21ST '89

in the garden, but in too cold a climate for reliable rebloom on bearded iris, I say try some beardless varieties. There are repeaters in Siberian, Louisiana, Spuria, and Japanese categories. And now *pseudacorus*!

[Ed: *Early Bluebird* is a reliable repeater in Region 4. Also we had what I would be tempted to call rebloom (mid-July after late June first bloom) on a one year clump of *Bishop's Pawn*]

# The Origins of Remontancy

Clarence Mahan

What is the origin of remontancy in modern reblooming irises? If we knew the answer to this question we could use the knowledge to plan our hybridizing efforts to better effect. When I undertook to find an answer, I was surprised to learn how limited past research efforts have been. Instead of finding much speculation, positing of hypotheses, and arguments pro and con for alternative views, I found a few brief comments and speculations. The major work on the issue remains Edwin Rundlett's article "Whence the Remontants" in the March 1971 *Reblooming Iris Reporter*.

The facts presented in "Whence the Remontants" are sound. One of Rundlett's contributions to increased light on the subject was the development of a pedigree chart for G. Percy Brown's **Autumn Twilight**. From this pedigree and other research facts, he hesitatingly hinted that *I. variegata* might be a source of remontancy.

Another possible origin of remontancy mentioned in Rundlett's article is the true *I. pumila*. **Twice Blessed** (Dennis, 1966) derived from a cross of **Clear Sailing** X Schacht true *pumila*, **Brighteyes** (Darby, 1958) came from Welch H503 (a true *pumila*) X **Missouri Night**. Hans Peter Sass's use of the 40-chromosome *I. chamaeiris* (now designated *I. lutescens*) to get a race of remontant but sterile intermediate irises is also mentioned by Rundlett.

In an article in *The Garden* in 1918, W. R. Dykes described a number of irises which bloomed for him in the autumn. He wrote: "In any large collection of irises it frequently happens that here and there an odd flower spike appears in August or September. This year I have already seen flowers of the Balkan *I. reichenbachii* and of the wild form of *I. variegata*, and I remember once having a number of spikes of **Gracchus**, a garden variegata, late in September." The remainder of the Dykes article concerns two irises that dependably rebloomed in his garden.



*I. APHYLLA* PLATE 21 HANDBOOK OF GARDEN  
IRISES

One of the irises Dykes cited as reblooming every year was a form of *I. aphylla* that came from Hungary. He described this iris as "remarkable for the vivid dark-purple coloration of the base of the leaves and also of the whole of the inflorescence when this first appears among the leaves." The iris was "much branched" and of a deep purple color with a bluish beard.

The second iris that Dykes described as being a regular rebloomer in his garden was a hybrid of a purple "chamaeiris" and *I. trojana*. This iris was 20 to 24 inches tall, with two lateral branches "arranged as in typical *I. germanica*." It bore four or five flowers of dark bluish purple.

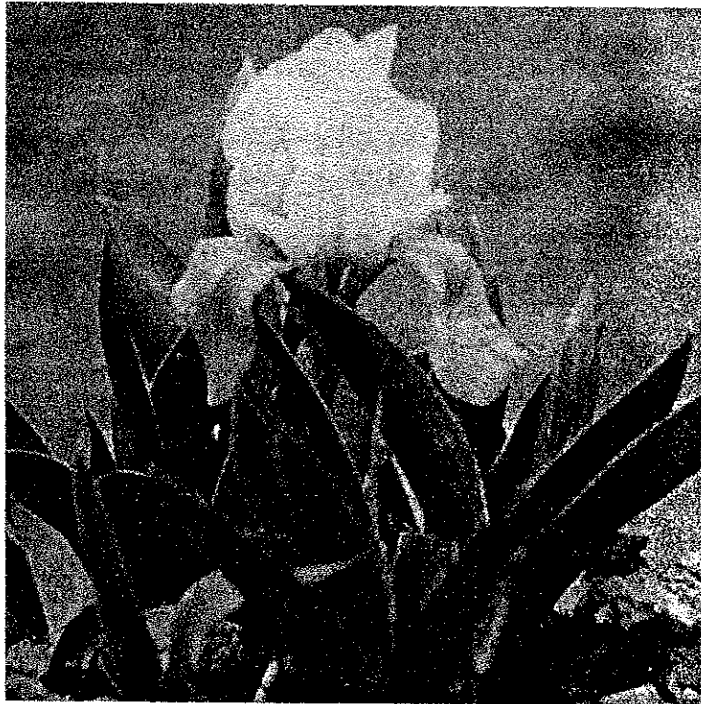
In *The Genus Iris*, Dykes described *I. subbiflora* and explained that this iris was first observed by Clusius in Portugal about 1565, and subsequently referred to as *Iris lusitanica seu biflora*. Clusius gave it this name because he discovered it blooming in November, and observed that it regularly bloomed in both spring and autumn. An error in the *Hortus Eystettensis* led Linnaeus to confuse this iris with *I. aphylla*, leading to much subsequent confusion among students of the genus *Iris*.

Also in *The Genus Iris*, in describing *I. lurida*, Dykes wrote: "It has the additional advantage of sometimes flowering a second time in autumn,



which is a further argument in support of the theory of its hybrid origin. In cultivating a large collection of Irises, it will be found that hybrids are much more apt to flower a second time in the autumn than are species." On the subject of *I. lurida*, Dykes also observed: "The colour and shape of the falls seem to point to *I. variegata* as one of the parents and the theory of its hybrid origin is supported by the fact that it appears to be sterile. The only difficulty is that it flowers early, about a month before *I. variegata*." If one of the parents of *I. lurida* were a dwarf species, the early flowering habit would be what one would expect.

As a source of remontancy in modern bearded irises, *I. lutescens* (syn. *I. chamaeris*) is not a likely candidate. The Sass sterile intermediates, such as **Southland** and **Eleanor Roosevelt**, are



LUTESCENS (I. CHAMAERIS) GARDEN IRISES  
PHOTO BY L. F. RANDOLPH

grown in collections of antique irises; but this route to remontancy in modern irises was, as Rundlett pointed out, a blind alley. The prolific, reblooming **Lieutenant de Chavagnac** (André, 1926) and **Jean Siret** (André, 1926) are most probably hybrids of *I. lutescens*. Although they have been widely grown in gardens ever since their introduction, they do not appear to have played a role in modern rebloomer development.

The difficulties one faces in keeping *I. subbiflora*

alive and happy in wet cold winter climates was well documented by Dykes. It is not likely that this species has contributed to remontancy in modern bearded irises. I do not know of any authority who has suggested it as a remontant progenitor.

Is it likely that *I. reichenbachii* has contributed to rebloom in modern irises? Paul Cook's use of a species presumed to be *I. reichenbachii* to create **Progenitor** is well known. The research of Walter Welch provides a rather convincing case that the **Progenitor** ancestor was actually a form of *I. mellita*. In cold weather areas, at least, **Progenitor** descendants are not noted for a proclivity to rebloom. There are, however, some modern reblooming irises, such as **Violet Miracle** and **Earl of Essex**, which have some **Progenitor** heritage.

The possibility that *I. mellita* might have some remontant breeding potential is suggested by the fact that Dykes at one time grew a clone of *I. rubromarginata*, a form of *I. mellita*, which flowered for him quite regularly in September and October. He reported this in an article in *The Gardeners' Chronicle* in November 1910. Interestingly, he does not mention this iris in his 1918 article on autumn blooming irises. One might suspect that the "reblooming" clone either stopped blooming in the fall or that it disappeared altogether from his garden. Many of us who have undertaken growing *I. mellita* would suspect the latter, for this is not an easy iris to keep content.

I have found no convincing evidence to support a case for either *I. reichenbachii* or *I. mellita* being sources of remontancy in modern irises.

How about *I. aphylla*? Has this species brought remontancy to modern eupogons? This species is in the background of some tall bearded remontants.

In 1972, Bee Warburton wrote an article for the *Medianite* entitled "Is Iris Aphylla Remontant?" and concluded: "It is much more natural that the southern European plants, which have a natural summer dormancy and are winter evergreen, should bloom for a second time in late fall, than that a northern plant, which becomes dormant quite early in fall should make haste to



put up some belated stalks before it goes to sleep for the long, cold winter. Too be sure, just enough reports of such behavior come in to leave an open question, but on the other hand, there is no guarantee that such reports are not due merely to belated first flowering of plants that failed to show in their usual spring season. But then, there is the example of *I. Balkana* [generally considered a form of *I. reichenbachii*], which is also a deciduous species and doesn't ordinarily rebloom; but the Darby form nearly kills itself every fall with excessive second flowering. It certainly is possible that an occasional clone of *I. aphylla* might do this, too. Does anybody know of one? Apparently no one has ever responded positively to this question.

As to the *I. aphylla* clone that rebloomed for Dykes, I can find no subsequent mention of it in iris literature. On the same basis that Dykes speculated that *I. lurida* is of hybrid origin, i.e. that it rebloomed at times, one might suspect that Dyke's reblooming *aphylla* was in fact a hybrid too. The hypothesis that *I. aphylla* has been a source of remontancy in modern irises does not seem to have factual support.

The idea that *I. trojana* might be important in the development of reblooming irises was first suggested to me by the extraordinary branching of many tall bearded irises that rebloom in areas with cold winters. This branching is often even more pronounced in the autumn inflorescence than in the spring. The branching habit also suggests *I. variegata* and *I. aphylla* as ancestors. Although some rebloomers have an *I. aphylla* heritage, most do not. But many modern tall bearded irises have *I. variegata* in their background. Branching alone would, therefore, be insufficient evidence to make a case for *I. trojana* as a remontancy source.

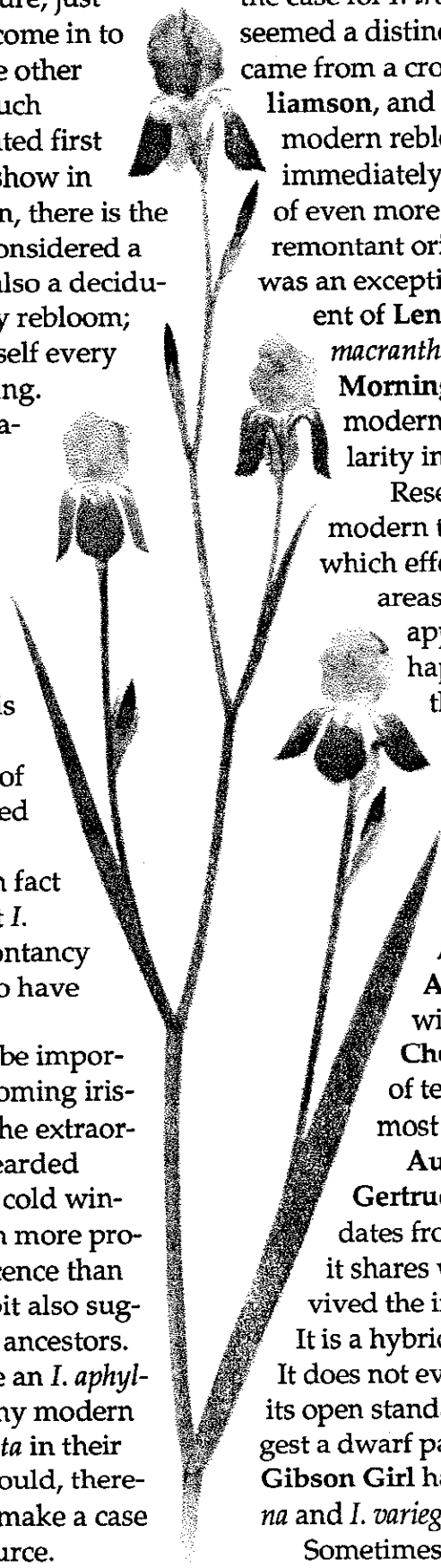
When I discovered that **Morning Splendor** (Schull, '23) was an

occasional rebloomer in warmer climate areas, the case for *I. trojana* as a source of remontancy seemed a distinct possibility. **Morning Splendor** came from a cross of *I. trojana* X **Lent A. Williamson**, and is in the genetic makeup of many modern rebloomers. One fact that did not immediately impress me, but which may be of even more significance in the search for remontant origin, is that **Morning Splendor** was an exceptionally wide cross. The pod parent of **Lent A. Williamson** was **Amas** (*I. macrantha*). **Lent A. Williamson** and **Morning Splendor** were two of the first modern garden tetraploids to gain popularity in this country.

Research into the backgrounds of modern tall bearded remontant irises which effectively perform in cold winter areas reveals that certain ancestors appear more than any others. Perhaps the four most prominent of these remontant "studs" are **Autumn King**, **Autumn Elf**, **Autumn Sunset**, and **Gibson Girl**. Records on the early Sass irises, including **Autumn King**, are incomplete and not dependable. But the cross that produced **Autumn King** is believed to be **Amas** X a blue tetraploid seedling with perhaps **Honorabile** and **Mme Chereau** in its background. The source of tetraploidy in the pollen parent was most probably **Amas** or *I. trojana*.

**Autumn Elf** resulted from a cross of **Gertrude** X **Gracchus**. **Gracchus**, which dates from 1884, has the distinction, which it shares with **Honorabile**, of having survived the infamous AIS blacklist of the 1920's. It is a hybrid of *I. variegata* and some other iris. It does not evidence *I. pallida* characteristics, but its open standards and short height might suggest a dwarf parent. Both **Autumn Sunset** and **Gibson Girl** have backgrounds involving *I. trojana* and *I. variegata*.

Sometimes omission is as important as inclusion in gaining understanding. When one examines modern



*I. TROJANA* THE GENUS IRIS  
PLATE 37

remontants that perform in colder areas, what one does not find is much of a heritage from *I. cypriana* or *I. mesopotamica*, whose huge flowers and dislike of England and the eastern and northern U.S. as growing environments so frustrated early iris hybridizers in those areas.

Anyone who gardens on the East Coast who has tried to grow certain warm weather rebloomers such as **Red Polish** or **Jaunty Texan**, irises with *I. mesopotamica*, in their backgrounds, can attest to what Dykes said about the tender Middle Eastern species: "...they suffer by reason of their habit of beginning to grow in the autumn, only to have the growths battered and broken, if not destroyed, by rough weather in the winter. The plants are then too feeble to flower in spring."

**Jaunty Texan** was growing in my garden for 4 years before I saw a bloom, but it tried to bloom in the fall every year. It never succeeded in blooming in the spring. It was exhausted from the beating it received every December. When one goes back to the pedigree charts for the warm weather rebloomers, one usually finds a strong inheritance from *I. mesopotamica*. Most of the irises reputed to be strong warm weather area rebloomers are fairly vigorous growers in Virginia, which is not the case of many "once bloomers" from a *mesopotamica* or a true *cypriana* lineage. (An iris that was frequently grown in England and the U.S. and called *I. cypriana* was actually *I. trojana*, resulting in a confusion of these two species. *I. trojana* thrives in the English type climate and soil; *I. cypriana* does not.)

**Baby Blessed** (Zurbrigg, 1979) is the most dependable reblooming iris I grow. It seems to produce dependable rebloom in all except the harshest climates, and even produces bloom stalks in the far north from time to time. Its pod parent, **Baby Snowflake**, comes from **Blue Sapphire** X Welch H503, a form of *I. pumila*. It certainly would be difficult to believe that the **Snow Flurry** and **Chivalry** genes of **Blue Sapphire** could provide a source of remontancy. Did the occasional remontancy of **Baby Snowflake** come from the *pumila*?

The pollen parent of **Baby Blessed** is **Twice Blessed**, which as Rundlett pointed out is

derived from **Clear Sailing** X Schecht true *pumila*. **Clear Sailing** is not a remontant, but it does derive a strong heritage from *I. trojana* and *I. variegata* from such ancestors as **Tiffany**, **Rameses** and **King Tut**, named cultivars that often appear in the pedigrees of remontants and remontant parents. Is the Schecht *pumila* the source of **Twice Blessed's** remontancy? Unless the *pumila* is itself a remontant, or unless it is assumed that a mutation is involved, it is difficult to answer positively.

Both **Twice Blessed** and **Baby Snowflake** are



PUMILA THE GENUS IRIS W. R. DYKES

occasional rebloomers in cold climate areas. They cannot be depended upon to rebloom every year. Both are first generation offspring of very wide crosses involving tall bearded irises with *I. pumila*. **Baby Blessed** has rebloomed every summer and autumn in northern Virginia, and done so with abandon even when the weather made it "a bad year for rebloomers." It is a second generation product of two very wide crosses.

Based on the foregoing facts, there appears to be four "strains of remontancy" in our garden eupogon irises. First, there are the remontant intermediate irises resulting from various tall bearded irises crossed with *I. lutescens*. It has been known that *I. lutescens* is not a homogeneous form, but rather is a differentiated hybrid with two pairs of apparently unrelated kinds of chromosomes. The offspring of crosses involving

tall bearded irises with this dwarf amphidiploid are sterile. If we classify remountants by origin, these irises comprise the lutescens strain.

The second strain of modern remountant irises are what we have come to call, in common parlance, cold climate tall bearded rebloomers. These irises are all hybrids. *I. variegata*, *I. trojana* and **Amas** are common ancestors of these irises. Tetraploidy in these irises came through *I. trojana* and **Amas**. This group of remountants may be referred to as the variegata-trojana strain.

The third fairly distinct type of reblooming iris is the warm climate rebloomer. These irises usually have a strong legacy from *I. mesopotamica* or *I. cypriana*, as well as from *I. variegata*. In areas of mild and dry winters, they are fairly reliable rebloomers. Only rarely do these irises rebloom in climates such as the East Coast of the U.S. or England. These irises constitute the mesopotamica strain. A number of hybridizers have worked to combine this type with the variegata-trojana type rebloomer to get improved flower size, form and color; but the resultant progeny have usually not shown strong remountant tendencies. One of the best cultivars of this "mixed" type is **Earl of Essex**.

A fourth strain of rebloomers involving tall bearded hybrids crossed with *I. pumila* has emerged in the last few years. **Baby Blessed**, **Third Charm**, and **Little Bishop** are examples of this type of iris. So are the older **Little Blackfoot** and **Baby Snowflake**. We might call these irises the pumila strain.

The intermediate iris **I Bless** (I Do X Baby Blessed) is an example of an iris that combines the genes of the variegata-trojana strain with the pumila strain. If, as I suspect, this type of iris offers outstanding potential for improved remountant irises that rebloom in various types of climates, we will be seeing more and more representatives of this group.

Probably all modern reblooming irises, including our modern remountant dwarfs, have some heritage from *I. variegata*. Most have some heritage from *I. trojana*, but this heritage is least in the warm climate rebloomers. In one strain of rebloomers, remountancy did not appear until *I. pumila* influence was introduced. In another strain of irises, *I. mesopotamica* figures prominently as a forebear; and this strain, while normally vigorous in nearly all parts of the U.S., does not rebloom often in cold climate areas.

For years I was amazed that Rundlett concluded "Whence the Remountants" with the assertion that remountancy is not caused by genetic factors but rather by "special climatic influences." Climate is an important factor influencing rebloom;

but to deny the probability of genetic causes on this basis seemed to me to be an extreme conclusion. Based on the facts at hand I would not rule out a genetic origin for remountancy. However, as Rundlett undoubtedly believed, there may be no specific gene for remountancy.

A hint as to what causes remountancy is very likely to be found in the observation of Dykes: "...hybrids are more apt to flower a sec-

ond time in autumn than are species." All who have experience growing reblooming irises know that they are as a group, the most vigorous eupogons. To accept the importance of hybrid vigor, or heterosis if you prefer the scientific term, as a major cause of remountancy, does not require a denial of the role played by genetics. The genes of *I. variegata*, *I. trojana*, *I. pumila*, and *I. mesopotamica*, when merged in different combinations, create something new and wonderful. But this product is "greater than the sum of its parts" because of heterosis. When very strongly expressed, the result may be an iris that reblooms under favorable climatic conditions.



*I. VARIEGATA*

IRIS FRITZ KOHLEN

# A Portrait of a Friend, Frank Jones

*Marisa and Norm Noe*

Frank P. Jones was born in Bordentown, New Jersey, on January 30, 1906. He was the middle child of 7 (6 boys and one girl). Shortly thereafter the family moved several times, to Delaware, Baltimore, other Maryland places, and back to New Jersey again to the Princeton area. Because of the many moves, Frank was only able to get a sixth grade education and that was only because Mt. St. Mary College in Maryland opened its door to the neighboring farmers' children. He then had to go back to work on the farm.

In 1939, tired of waiting for his draft number to be called, he volunteered for the service where he stayed for 8 months. He then returned home to New Jersey. After Pearl Harbor, Frank was recalled and went to the Pacific where he remained for 4 1/2 years. Here he was part of a truck convoy which was very dusty work. At times he would look up when he heard the planes fly overhead and think how nice it would be to be up there over that dust. One day, soon after that, he heard about a need for people to fly for supply drops and he volunteered. After about a year, he was due for a rest leave. He was asked if he would be interested in going on a special assignment to China for 3 months instead. Again, he volunteered, this time to ride the Hump, which he did almost every day until the 14th Air Force took over.

With 1200 hours of flying time behind him, Frank returned home to the Princeton area in 1945. It was here that he met a beautiful lady,

Emma Elizabeth Stout, whom he married in December of 1947.

Frank has had a variety of careers, including farming, working with his uncle in a saw mill, custodian of St. Paul Church in Princeton, working with his brother in the long distance moving business, as a gardener, then as a watchman at the Cointreau plant in Pennington/Lawrenceville for 24 years. He retired two years ago when the plant moved to another location.

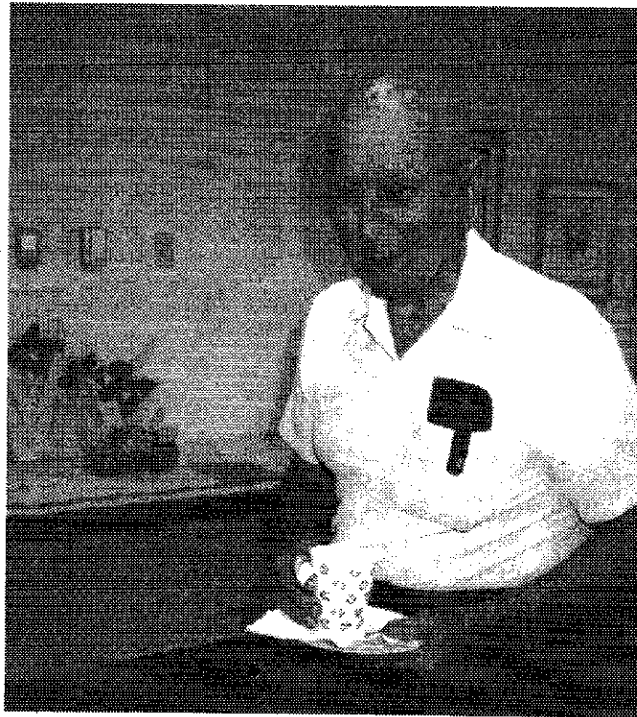
It was during his time as a gardener on an estate in Princeton that Frank became interested in irises. The owner's mother was interested in irises and there were irises everywhere on the grounds. Frank had to take care of these irises. He liked what he saw. So began Frank's love

affair with the irises. He became very interested and right away he started working with rebloomers. He felt that since they took the same space as the once-bloomers, why not extend the bloom into the fall.

One day the head gardener asked him to knock off for the rest of the day and go with him to Rutgers University to look at the iris display bed. He went and found out that the iris show was going to be that weekend. He attended that iris show and joined the A.I.S. This show was the first show

put on by the newly formed Garden State Iris Society. He dropped out of the A.I.S. for a year and then rejoined in July of 1961 and has been a member ever since. He attended several national conventions with the first in Newark in 1961 and subsequently the Newark 1966, Philadelphia 1973, and Roanoke 1974 conventions. Since 1982, he has only missed the 1985 Convention, and that was because he was attending the ordination to the priesthood of one of his nephews.

For many years, Frank had a beautiful garden in Trenton on Newkirk Avenue. Backed by



FRANK P. JONES

a beautiful hedge, the iris beds were all around the perimeter of the property. Among the lovely irises, he grew many horticultural specimens. Everywhere one turned, he would find something interesting. In 1971, Emma's health got worse. She could no longer go up the long steep steps into the house and to the second floor on her crutches - she was now totally dependent on her wheelchair. They sold their beautiful home and park-like garden and moved into a ground-floor apartment not far from the Mercer County College in Mercerville.

Now Frank was without a garden, so he began planting along his apartment. It soon became evident that this particular tenant was different. He planted irises and anything he thought would go well with them. His irises were now at different friends places. Then Mercer County College came to his rescue. The administration let him use a half acre of land along the road leading to and not far from the greenhouse. So Frank began turning this land into another garden, a miniature park. Here he grew 800 or 900 varieties of irises and continued his hybridizing of rebloomers. Although he only introduced six irises, his garden flourished with his seedlings. There was always something blooming in Frank's garden. His iris season began early in the spring and went to late fall. His primary interest was in medians and tall bearded, but he grew a wide variety of irises, which included almost every type of iris that would grow in New Jersey.

Here is the registration and introduction information for the six irises that Frank has introduced:

**Autumn Mists** (1970) TB, 29", E & RE. Blue-white self; pale yellow beard tipped white. August Indian X Reeves F-60-1: (Happy Birthday x Fall Primrose).

**Golden Encore** (1973) TB, 35", E & RE. Vivid yellow (Nickerson 5Y 8/12) self with small white blaze on the falls; bright gold beard. J-66-8: (Reeves F-60-1: (Happy Birthday x Fall Primrose) x Fall Primrose) X Renaissance.

**Blessed Again** (1976) IB, 19", E & RE (late September). Standards light yellow; Falls warm white; orange beard, paler at tip. Twice Blessed X Summer Fantasy.

**Lady Emma** (1986) MTB, 24", M & RE. Standards of Dresden yellow (RHS 5A) and falls of primrose yellow (7A) with beards of Indian yellow (17A). Rebloom begins in early September in New Jersey and continues through to frost with an average of 8-10 buds per stalk. Twice Blessed X Autumn Orangelite.

**Grape Adventure** (1986) TB, 29-30", E & RE. Deep violet standards (RHS 86A) over dark violet (83A) falls with a white sunburst blaze around dark violet beards. Abundant grower with 9 branches and rebranches carrying an average of 15-20 plus blooms. Aroma of ripened grapes. Rebloom begins in mid-September in New Jersey. J-75-14: (Emma Louisa x J-72-143) X Violet Supreme.

**Autumn Bugler** (1986) TB, 28", E & RE. Standards slightly darker than spectrum violet (RHS 82A) over dark purple falls. White beards with orange tips. Has 4-5 branches and an average of 8-12 buds. Rebloom begins in mid-August in New Jersey. Sib to Grape Adventure.

Frank's most popular introduction has been **Golden Encore**. In its year of introduction, it placed fifth in the national tall bearded rebloomer symposium conducted by the Reblooming Iris Society. The following year it was first. For the 12 years for which we have records, it always placed in the top ten and was first four times. This enduring popularity is due mainly to its clean golden color and its reliable rebloom in a wide variety of climates. Newspapers from the area would come to photograph his garden. The Goebel Crafts (Laszlo Ispanky) of North America used **Golden Encore** as the model for their famous iris porcelain. In October 1977, the Garden State Iris Society presented a framed picture of **Golden Encore** to Frank as a special award in appreciation of his contributions to our fall iris shows and displays during the 1970s.

Twenty years ago this month, we met Frank and Emma Jones at the fall tour of his garden. It was our first introduction to iris gardens and iris people!! The garden was beautiful. The park-like setting was extraordinary. We looked at the garden and at one of his pink seedlings that everyone was admiring. While most of the

people were in the garden, several ladies went in the house to see Emma, who was sitting in her wheelchair (she had difficulty walking as a result of polio when she was 9 months old.) Our brief visit turned into a visit of several hours.

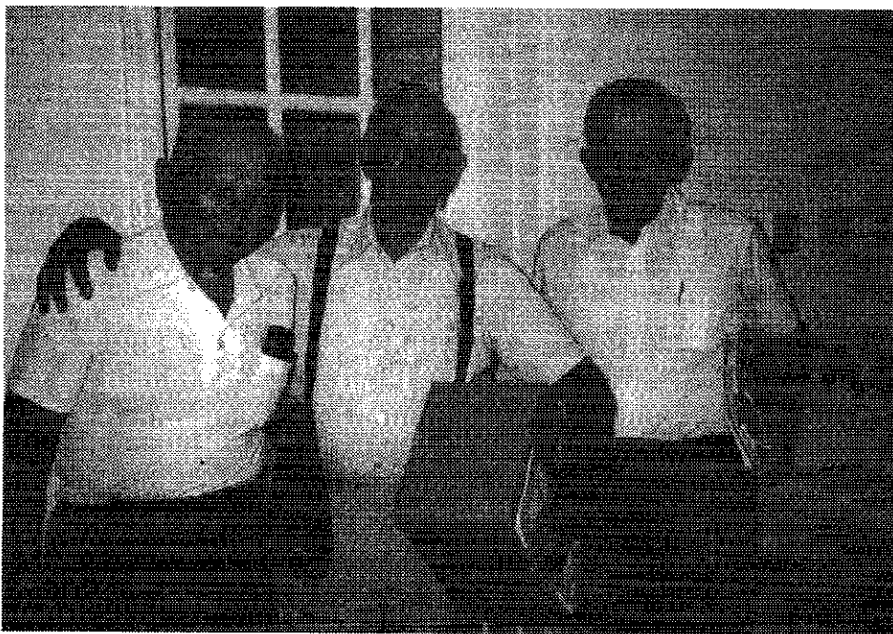
Shortly after that, Frank and Emma came to see our garden in Middletown. After Frank looked at the garden, they joined us for some refreshments. That was the start of our long and special relationship. We have always thought of Frank as not only a hybridizer of rebloomers but as that very special person who was always there for you, ready to help, always volunteering, and most of all, always giving not only of himself but of anything he had that he thought others would like and appreciate. Frank's expressions of love, generosity, and humility make him a unique person.

All during the years we have known Frank, he has always thought of others, whether it was his wife, Emma, their mothers (his mother died at the age of 106 not long ago), or other members of the extended family. Recently, although not feeling well himself, he helped to care for Emma's brother and his wife, both of whom had cancer in addition to other problems. During this difficult time preceding their deaths, Frank was there to lend a helping hand. Frank used to stop by to see friends he knew were not well, and even helped move one by driving him to Illinois and then flying back. During our RVP years, he often came to our house and helped with the newsletter by collating and folding it. Once he even came up to babysit for our daughter because we were working and then, because of a snowstorm, what was normally a 45 minute drive, took him 5 or 6 hours to get home.

After Emma's untimely death in 1981, Frank once again began to attend national AIS conventions. He also attended the Hump pilots conventions and took tours with them to China and Burma while reliving his Hump experiences. This year he went to Alaska with them.

Frank has been a tireless ambassador for the A.I.S., giving irises to anyone, even paying their dues as a gift to get them started. Whenever we have needed help, he has been there to help out, always asking what else he could do. He has donated all his "left overs" to our annual iris sale, bringing in hundreds of rhizomes yearly. He has always been enthusiastic about rebloomers and encouraged people to try them. Frank feels that, while in spring, rebloomers have single stalks, in the fall, some of them come up like shrubs. He has brought irises to the Region 4 fall shows, fueling their enthusiasm for rebloomers.

Frank has given hybridizing demonstrations to students from Mercer County College. His



IRIS FRIENDS: FRANK JONES, WINKIE STEINHAUER, RAY BLICHARD

garden was always open to anyone, whether one was an irisarian or just a visitor, and so was his home. Any irisarian would be especially welcomed and many have had the pleasure of accepting his hospitality. He is the happiest in the company of other irisarians.

Frank has always enjoyed reading and used his night watchman's time to catch up on his reading or on the writing of his iris robin letters. He is always eager to learn more. If he does not know something, he has to find out.

In the 1970s, he received the New Jersey Garden Club medal for his hybridizing achievements. Frank has never wanted to be a judge. When asked, he would say, "Leave that to the



experts - I'm only a dirt gardener." In his apartment hang two beautiful oil paintings, a still life and a landscape. When we asked where they came from, he answered that years ago, he worked a bit with the brushes. Too bad he did not continue with them, he would have been a great painter!! The landscape is a favorite. It is the place of his childhood and has many characteristics of a Grandma Moses painting.

Frank has been suffering from severe arthritis of the neck for several years and although it somewhat impaired his turning, it never stopped him from doing what he loved - gardening, reading, visiting friends, and traveling.

A serious vision problem arose this year, and in the spring it became evident that Frank's eyesight was progressively deteriorating. He could no longer read easily. He could no longer drive, not even to his beloved garden. He now depended solely on friends. It was time, he felt, to give up his garden and move on. His nephew invited Frank to go to Ohio to live with him and his family. He has a nursery and landscaping business there and a large farm. Frank can have a garden and with the help of his grandnephews, he may be able to do some limited hybridizing.

As the time came to dismantle his garden, Frank donated the rebloomers to the Rebloom-ing Iris Society and all the other irises to the Garden State Iris Society for the annual iris sale. Every one of his rhizomes sold out. On October 8, we had our last meeting at Mercer County College with Frank's garden as the main attraction. Although there were fewer plants, there was still enough bloom for all of us present to take one last look.

Frank will be leaving this area and will be going to Gallipolis, Ohio, at the end of November. His nephew has a trailer ready for him and some of his irises have already been moved. What can we say about Frank except that he is a generous, wonderful, humble, super guy, who happens to be our friend, and that we love him.

As he leaves, he will take with him many memories, especially those of a life well lived. And, although he is going to Ohio to live, he will always be in our hearts in New Jersey.

## How Do You Check ID's on Rebloomers?



OK, OK, it blooms in the fall and, voilà - it must be a rebloomer! No, I mean how

can a person be certain that they

really do have... pick one — **Summer Olympics** for example. There it is, blooming in my spring garden... somehow it just doesn't strike me that the flower I'm looking at really fits what I've heard **Summer Olympics** looks like. Now, what catalog do I pull out and compare the iris I have blooming in my garden against its beautiful color picture? Schreiner's?, Cooley's?, Roris?, Black?, Comanche Acres?, Pacific Coast Hybridizers?, etc. etc? You get the picture, oops — you don't get the picture — not in any commercial catalog that I receive. So, off to the old standby, *The World of Iris*. Intense flipping of pages, muttering curses under breath - I guess the rebloomers just weren't popular enough to have warranted a color picture. Perhaps it really is as R. G. Smith defined a rebloomer in a moment of black humor, "*A Rebloomer? Oh, that's an antique iris that blooms in the fall!*"

Picture me if you will, newly come to rebloomers, growing a moderate collection recently acquired. One of the centerpieces of my reblooming stable was **Spirit of Memphis**. Trouble was, first fall - it just sat there - no hint of rebloom. I grumbled a little and wrote it off as being not acclimated. Second fall, a replay of the first refusal. By now I was starting to bad-mouth it a bit. Fast forward to spring and a visit to our garden by Clarence Mahan. I pointed out the reluctant rebloomer - bemoaning the fact that Lloyd Z. would foist a dud like this off on the gullible public. Clarence chuckled and said, "Mike, I really hate to tell you and spoil your humor, but that is not **Spirit of Memphis!**" Off to the compost heap with the offender and off with an order for **S. of M.** but - I had missed three years of possible fall bloom. All of which goes to illustrate the point,

### How do you identify a rebloomer?



# The Things I Do For Love

Anne Lowe

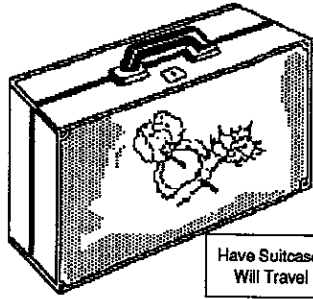
It all began in a hotel room in Memphis...! Now that I have your attention, I'll proceed with this little tale.

During an informal RIS board meeting at National, the ways and means of increasing revenue for the Society was discussed at length. Since an Editor accounts for the single largest expenditure of Society funds, Mike felt compelled to make a contribution to the cause via some sort of rhizome sale. The ways and means

were elusive. News that failing eyesight was forcing Frank Jones to give up his New Jersey garden and that he had offered the reblooming rhizomes for sale to benefit the Society provided the way. The means would take a bit more doing. Many phone calls and several weeks later, Mike finally located a commercial source interested in acquiring reliable reblooming irises right here in Region 4. We elected to go

after the iris ourselves. (In our household, we operate on the principle of "You scratch my back and I'll scratch yours." After all, Mike helps me with all things HIPS; could I do less for his rebloomers?) However, a certain amount of juggling would be needed to accommodate my Physical Therapy Homebound patient schedules and our local rhizome sale, for which we had much digging to do. Somehow it all came together and we, along with shovel, scissors, markers, and every paper sack we could lay our hands on, were Jersey bound on a Monday afternoon in mid-July.

We spent the night with our daughter in Northern Virginia, and arrived at Frank's around noon on Tuesday. The rest of that day was spent in the garden, looking at iris and locating those clumps we would dig and process during the next two days. We decided that Frank



would locate, Mike would dig, and I would process (cut, mark, wash, count, and bag). The two men gave me a hard time because I would be working in the shade of the garden's only tree. As he moved confidently among the iris, it was hard to realize that Frank's vision was so limited. He knew exactly where every

plant was and there were a lot of plants! We saw some familiar iris but many were new to us. Frank is an excellent teacher and generously shared his experience and other gems of wisdom at each clump. Many times, I wished for a tape recorder. All too soon, it was getting dark and time to bed down for the night at Frank's apartment - but not before several hours of good iris talk!



FRANK JONES IN HIS NEW JERSEY GARDEN

Wednesday dawned clear and cool, and Mike and I were at it by 8 o'clock. We set a moderate steady pace which we hoped would see us through the day. Frank has many friends and admirers who dropped by at intervals all during the day, providing some relief from an otherwise monotonous job. Frank greeted these visitors with a smile and, once again no question was too

trivial to be answered. It was a marvelous experience to watch Frank interact with all these folks. Their affection and respect for this quiet gentleman was evident. Nearly everyone left with a rhizome or two - after all, "the college would plow the remaining plants up next spring." Occasionally I found it necessary to slip into what Mike calls my "Simon Legree Mode" as I continued to process while the men often stopped to debate the merits (or lack of same) of various cultivars.

Despite the steady flow of cut and count, I managed to accumulate a few goodies for our own garden. I lost track of the times Frank would call "Do you grow..." or "You really ought to have a piece of this one." He knew of my interest in the older irises, medians, and Siberians, but daylilies, Louisianas, species, poppies, mint and columbine also joined the Lowe

pile which grew - and grew - and grew.

By sundown, we had amassed as many bags of rhizomes as our elderly vehicle could hold, and we decided to call it quits and drag our dirty, aching, sunburned and blistered bodies homeward. We would return in the morning to repack the car, and pick up our own plants and any stray cultivars we might have missed (perish the thought).

Mother Nature decreed otherwise. Next morning it was raining an inch an hour with no sign of let-up. Mike and Frank dashed over to the garden to pick up our plants - what a muddy mess - and the back of the wagon was packed and repacked to accommodate it all. It all went in - and the rain continued.

We decided to hit the road just before noon and we ran out of rain before we ran out of New Jersey. We were tired so we took our time and a few lesser roads on the way south to Staunton, Virginia where we would spend the night. The radio told us that the rains continued in Mercerville so we didn't feel so bad about cutting our digging expedition short.

Friday morning found us on Andre Viette's doorstep in Fishersville with the 1700 rhizomes (which would upgrade the Viette reblooming iris offerings) and an itemized bill in hand. Andre and Mark graciously took all we had brought. Business concluded, we had a wonderful time looking at the Viette daylilies, hostas, and perennials. We even worked out a trade - some of their plants for some of our more recent iris rhizomes later in the summer.

It was gratifying to depart with more than \$1100 (not bad for 2 days work) and the knowledge that two years down the road, Andre Viette Farm and Nursery would boast the finest collection of reliable reblooming irises in the East. And we did it - with a lot of help from our friend, Frank Jones.

Words can't express our regrets for the shut down of Frank's garden or for the circumstances which brought it about. We can say "Thank you, Frank Jones, for your generosity to the reblooming iris cause which you have supported so long and so well." We also add our personal thanks for the two days we spent with you. In addition to the many plants, all of which are alive and well, we brought back memories which will live for a long time here in Southside Virginia.

## In Memoriam

On July 20, members of the Reblooming Iris Society lost one of their earliest and staunchest supporters with the passing of Bernard E. Hobbs (1920-1989). His vocation was that of supervising engineer for over thirty years with Station WRTV, Indianapolis; his avocation, along with his wife Emma (both Master Judges) was to grow, hybridize, and promote many of the most beautiful irises grown in Indiana. Although officially members of Region 6, the Hobbs' influence extended nationally. That influence consisted of wise counsel, inspiring enthusiasm, complete dedication, and boundless effort in promoting the cause of all types of irises. Beginning in the late 1950's the Hobbs' gardens west of Noblesville, Indiana were always graced with a bed of good rebloomers.

Barney was a great organizer. He initiated regional tours to visit the Fall bloom of growers such as Earl Hall and Raymond Smith. He persuaded beginning growers to exhibit in shows and to hybridize, and older growers to register and introduce their outstanding seedlings. It can truthfully be said of Barney Hobbs that he never met a person who was a stranger for more than a couple of minutes, nor ever saw an iris that didn't have some possibilities. He was an outstanding irisarian in every sense of the word and will be sorely missed.

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HONEY GLAZED (NISWONGER '83)

# 1989 AIS Awards to Reblooming Cultivars

*compiled by J. Weiler and Howard Brookins*

## Cook-Douglas Medal (SDB)

votes

63 ★★ Baby Blessed (L. Zurbrigg)

runner-up

62 Little Episode (D. Rawlins)

## Morgan-wood Medal (Siberian)

Runner-up

82 Chilled Wine (B. Hager)

## Sass Medal (IB)

152 ★ Honey Glazed (D. Niswonger)

## Williamson-White Award (MTB)

45 Little Paul (K. Fisher)

## Award of Merit

### TALL BEARDED

145 Chico Maid (W. Luhin)

96 Designer Gown (J. Ghio)

92 Malaguena (J. Ghio)

runners-up

72 Pray for Peace (G. Plough)

67 All That Jazz (D. Denny)

67 ★★ Immortality (L. Zurbrigg)

66 Navajo Jewel (J. Weiler)

65 Cafe Society (J. Ghio)

### STANDARD DWARF BEARDED

70 ★★ Jewel Baby (Earl Hall)

### MINIATURE DWARF BEARDED

41 Puppet Baby (C. Boswell)

## Honorable Mention

### TALL BEARDED

98 Marriage Vows (J. Ghio)

63 ★ Champagne Elegance (Niswonger)

28 Magic (B. Hager)

47 Fortunata (J. Ghio)

## Honorable Mention

### TALL BEARDED (cont.)

43 Chuckles (J. Ghio)

36 Foxy Lady (J. Nelson)

31 ★★ Fame (J. Weiler)

31 Pacific Tide (L. Cowdry)

28 Mountain Violet (B. Hamner)

26 ★★ Jennifer Rebecca (L. Zurbrigg)

26 Little Much (J. Ghio)

### INTERMEDIATE BEARDED

26 ★★ I Bless (L. Zurbrigg)

### STANDARD DWARF BEARDED

20 ★★ Leprechaun's Delight (J. Weiler)

19 Mary's Lamb (P. Black)

20 ★★ Sunstrip (J. Weiler)

### HONORABLE MENTION (SIBERIAN)

26 ★ Shirley's Choice (C. McEwen)

In the above list, those cultivars marked with a double star; ★★, were registered as remontants, those with a single star; ★, have been reported to rebloom from several areas in the United States. Unmarked cultivars have been reported to rebloom occasionally in very narrow climatic bands such as coastal or southern California.



BABY BLESSED (L. ZURBRIGG)  
COOK-DOUGLAS MEDAL WINNER 1989

# 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. The one question submitted this issue was not your 'garden variety' query—I have taken it upon myself to furnish an answer of sorts.]

**Question:** This is not a reblooming iris question, but your question and answer column seems to be the only one in AIS magazines—so here goes. I buy my iris from a large company. They give free bonus plants for orders over a certain value. Are these of comparable quality to the plants they sell? I am beginning to suspect that they are like anything for nothing—exactly that.

*Mid-western Iris fancier*

PS - I will not be hurt if you choose not to answer this.

**Answer:** First I would like to make a clear distinction between iris developed to use as a bonus and those regularly priced, normally introduced iris that are often given as free extras. You would expect the latter to vary in quality as do iris in general. A very different situation is encountered in iris introduced solely as a bonus giveaway. My off-hand reaction is to say that

generally, bonus iris tend towards the second rank. If we grant that American Iris Society judges do a good job of evaluation when voting iris awards we can perhaps obtain an objective answer by examining AIS awards over a period of time. To this end I have compiled an analysis of AIS awards given bonus iris versus awards won by priced introductions. Specifically, one firm's bonus iris and their new introductions offered for sale from 1981 to 1985 were tabulated for AIS awards, HC on through AM.

The results were as follows:

## Awards through 1989 on 75 introductions of one hybridizer - 1981-'85

		# of awards	%
20 free bonus plants	HCS-----	0-----	0%
	HMs-----	4-----	25%
	AMs-----	0-----	0%
		# of awards	%
55 priced introductions	HCS-----	19-----	34%
	HMs-----	33-----	60%
	AMs-----	8-----	14.5%

From this tabulation, it would seem that the bonus iris are inferior when compared against this companies priced introductions. A check of bonus versus sale iris of two other firms reveals a similar trend.

**Conclusion?** - bonus iris tend to be sales enhancers. The garden value of these plants is not highly thought of by AIS judges. It is one way of obtaining recent introductions without paying the usual 25 to 35 dollars charged for a hybridizer's top quality introductions. These may well be the only 'brand new' iris many people will ever grow.

## An Increase In Dues Scheduled For RIS Members

The RIS Board of Directors has unanimously approved a modest increase in membership dues to take effect January 1, 1990. Details and justification are contained in The President's Message of this issue. Our schedule of fees is as follows:

<u>Single Annual</u>	<u>Family Annual</u>	<u>Single Triennial</u>	<u>Family Triennial</u>	<u>Life</u>	} Until 12/31/89
\$3.00	\$4.00	\$7.50	\$10.00	\$50.00	
<u>Single Annual</u>	<u>Family Annual</u>	<u>Single Triennial</u>	<u>Family Triennial</u>	<u>Life</u>	} After 1/1/90
\$4.00	\$5.00	\$10.00	\$12.00	\$80.00	

Please note expiration date of your membership on the mailing label of this issue. If you pay dues before January 1, you will save by remitting the lesser, current rate. After January 1, the new schedule will be in effect. Prompt payment of dues directly to Membership Secretary Howard Brookins also saves work for him and the cost to the society to remind you when dues are payable.

# Border Patrol

Walter A. Moores

**B**order bearded irises, whether they remont or not, are probably the most controversial of the bearded irises. When released and removed from their nativity, many have a tendency to misbehave more than any other bearded types. Some grow out of class, thus exceeding the height regulations so prescribed by purist judges.

Also, some hybridizers who should know better are guilty of introducing a spectacular flower, TB in size, on a short, clubby stalk and calling it a border because there is no official class known as a "short tall."

If an SDB overgrows, one can call it an IB and get away with it. Conversely, with a runt IB one can call it an SDB and it wins awards, and nobody knows the difference except those who study the R & I publications. There is no such flexibility for a border. According to Bennett Jones in *The World of Irises* a border bearded is a plant with flowers five inches wide and 3.5 inches high on stalks approximately 25.5 inches in height with foliage in quantity, size, and proportion; all in balance with the flowering scapes.

In the *Handbook for Judges and Show officials* a border bearded iris is defined as a four to five inch flower on a stalk that is sixteen to twenty seven inches tall with the leaves being shorter than the flower stalks and the flower size reduced in proportion to height. Does this mean that one should introduce a spectacular five inch flower on a sixteen inch stalk? The handbook doesn't say, but probably not. It does say that large flowers suitable for tall bearded irises appear out of place on a short stalk.

Bennett Jones states there is no established

form for border bearded irises. Lace and ruffling are fashionable, but the grace and charm of the more tailored flowers should be remembered.

The *Handbook for Judges and Show Officials* states that the smaller irises demand a certain simplicity in order to avoid fussiness and over decoration obscured by excessive ruffling and lace. Open standards are acceptable if well held. The flare of the falls is dependent on height and eye level. Shorter BBs should exhibit the most flare.

Earlier BBs came from crossing tall bearded irises. These runts were too interesting to cull and became the basis of study for some hybridizers. Still, today, many of the borders are segre-

gates from tall bearded breeding but the border specialist will, obviously, cross border to border.

BBs blooming in the fall are as pleasing as BBs blooming in the spring. In fact they may be better than some reblooming tall in that some standards for judging BBs are not as stringent as for TBs in such instances as form and open standards

This writer has been guilty of turning loose several BBs, and, surprisingly, a few have won awards.

Miss Scarlett (1980, HM 1982) made it to the top of the RIS Symposium. She is a wine red with ruffled petals,

and, alas, open standards. Since she is from Tom Craig lines, she does not do well in colder climates. In sending guests to Boston, I was requested to replace all plants after the first winter. They again succumbed the second winter, so a word of caution about her proclivity for warmth is in order. Another fault is her inconsistent branching, but for color and earliness of rebloom Miss Scarlett cannot be faulted.

Top Stitch (1981, HM 1983) is a violet and white plicata out of *Stepping Out* which can be quite prolific with summer rebloom in mild climates.



THE YARDSTICK SPELLS FINIS TO MANY ASPIRING REMONTANT BORDERS

**Peach Reprise** (1984, HM 1986), like one of its parents, **Summer Luxury**, tends to do all of its reblooming in early summer. It is a ruffled peach pink with glowing amber hafts that is proving its worth in producing other BB rebloomers that bloom early enough to beat the frost.

**Pinch of Spice** (1984, HM 1986) Although not registered as a rebloomer, it is remontant in California. Possessing a lot of potential, it comes from Jim Gibson's **Ville Gold** by Neva Sexton's **Shaft of Gold**.

**Face Powder**, introduced in 1979, is a unique shade of pink but is very late to rebloom. Monty Byers has introduced another border pink from it, **Candyland**.

In later work with borders, **Peach Reprise** and two border seedlings out of **Osage Buff** are proving to be excellent parents. In crossing these borders with other borders, all progeny have stayed in the border class.

The future of borders is unlimited as we educate the public to the fact that BBs are not runt TBs. Too, they may be the irises of the 21st Century as increasing population crowds the earth and shrinks available garden space. What a bonus if they rebloom!



## A Sad Story

In 1986, all my iris beds were established, and kept weeded and watered. I was not without iris bloom from late March to early December. Spring 87 saw good bloom, but beds were not as well cared for as the year before during the summer, and only the most dependable varieties rebloomed. The beds were not cleaned up before winter.

In spring 88, bloom was much less than normal. I was unable to garden the whole 88 season — weeds grew higher than my head, and they were not watered. In fall 88, there was no rebloom whatever!

In spring of 89, only the hardiest varieties bloomed at all, after a winter of hot then cold, then hot, then cold again. I lost many irises, newly set ones, and other perennials. In some

of the iris beds, vetch (acquired with the topsoil I bought to make the raised beds) was waist high, the iris plants completely invisible. This seem to indicate quite conclusively that the secret to good rebloom is keeping the irises in good



growth all summer. A friend came in recently with a big weed eater and cleaned out most of the vetch, so I can at least see where the pathways are. I hope I can manage to get the irises dug and beds remade this year, thus rather starting over. The vetch was no particular problem when I was able to keep them hoed, but when unchecked it certainly takes over. I have excellent soil — it used to be the barn lot — and the soil brought in is sandy. I also have nut grass and wild onion, practically impossible to eradicate, so I will need to do some fumigating. I have read that spreading clear plastic and leaving it for the summer will generate enough heat to kill whatever was under it. Has anyone had experience with this?

The moral to this story is - Old ladies who like to garden should:

- A. Have unlimited funds for hiring help, or
- B. Be remarkably free from arthritis.

*Virginia Mathews*

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# The AIS Honorary Awards

Hal Stahlly

**A**uthorized by American Iris Society By-Laws, the Honorary Awards Committee is responsible for recommending to the Board of Directors those persons whom they think worthy of receiving one of the Society's "special" awards. These are awards that, with one exception, are given to people, not to iris cultivars. The role of the Committee is advisory; the Board is not bound to approve committee recommendations.

Traditionally the Committee has been made up of all past presidents of the Society, the chairman being the immediate past president. In recent years, beginning at a time when there were only two living past presidents, the Committee has been augmented by additional presidential appointees.

The Committee recommends persons for two honorary awards that are given more or less regularly. One of these is the *Distinguished Service Medal*. This award is made in recognition of outstanding service to the American Iris Society at the national level. Service is judged on the basis of amount and quality of work done in such capacities as Board member, national officer, judges' training activity that is national in scope, writing for national publication, and other less tangible but vital acts of national service.

The *Hybridizer's Medal* is awarded to iris breeders of outstanding achievement. This achievement may be based on the number of a hybridizer's originations that have won the Award of Merit and equivalent or higher honors. The ratio of high award winners to total introductions might also be considered. In addition, the *Hybridizer's Medal* could go to someone working in an area where high-award introduc-

tions would not be frequently attainable. For example, some persons have done significant work in breeding species irises but have been voted few or no awards by AIS judges. Generally speaking, then, if persons have by any criterion done outstanding work in iris breeding, they should be considered for this medal.

Although not awarded every year, the two preceding medals are given quite regularly. The two remaining honorary awards are made only very infrequently. The American Iris Society *Gold Medal* is presented to those who have provided highly distinctive service over a long period of time. It honors those persons whose contributions have been truly exceptional in the fullest sense of the term.

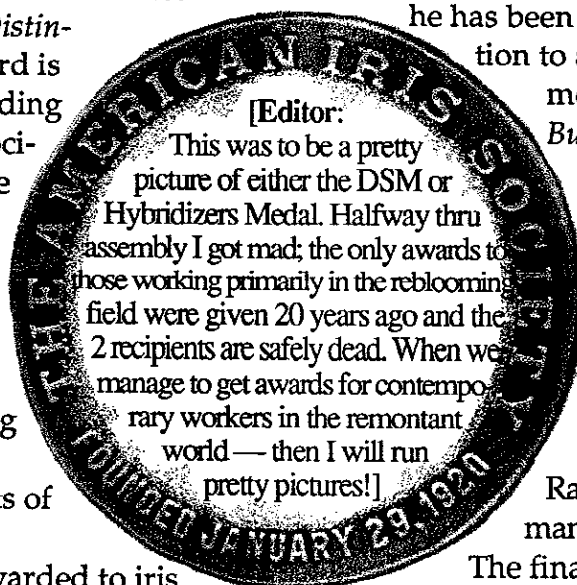
This award was made for the first time in 1930 to Dr. John C. Wister, the first AIS president who had at that time been in office for ten years. The citation in AIS *Bulletin* No. 38 (January, 1931) states, "The Gold Medal of the Society, which is the highest honor the society can bestow, was presented. . . in recognition of his ten years of devoted leadership, years in which

he has been a constant guide and inspiration to all interested in the development of Iris culture." Page 71 of *Bulletin* No. 38 is devoted

entirely to a more detailed description of Dr. Wister's achievements. To date the *Gold Medal* has been awarded to seven persons. They are Dr. Wister, Grace Sturtevant (1935), Ethel Anson Peckham (1940), Lowell Fitz Randolph (1970), Jay C. Ackerman (1985), Melba Hamblen (1985).

The final honorary award, the *Board of Directors' Award*, is made to an iris cultivar. It is given only to irises which did not win the Dykes Medal but which have, through the quality of their descendents, shown themselves to be markedly exceptional parents — true landmarks in breeding. At this writing only three irises have been honored with the award: *Snow Flurry*, *Tobacco Road*, and *White Swirl*.

Honorary awards are not given lightly. It is





intended that they signify exceptionally high levels of achievement. At times a person may be suggested for an award on the basis of outstanding work that is local or regional in scope. Such a suggestion is not likely to be supported even though the person in question might be quite deserving of some recognition. In cases like this, local or regional organizations might want to develop or supplement their own awards structure, to include one or a very few awards that are highly selective. Some regions and some local societies have in fact originated medals for this purpose and award them sparingly. American Iris Society honorary awards, though, are always based on achievements that are national or international in scope. The Honorary Awards Committee makes its recommendation to the AIS Board at the annual fall Board meeting. Nominations may be made to the Committee at any time during the year; most nominations are made by Committee members, but this can be done by any member of the Society. Each nomination needs to be accompanied by as complete as possible a supporting statement citing the achievements on which it is based. In late summer the committee makes its choices and the chairman prepares the report to the Board. The Board of Directors makes the final determination during this meeting. They discuss Committee recommendations and, upon a unanimous favorable vote, confer the awards. Recipients are notified immediately by the president; the awards are formally presented the following spring during the national convention.



## ***It's a weed!***

"It's a weed!" "Well, gee... I know it grows well - but it doesn't grow that well!" "No! No! I mean it's out of place - and the definition of a plant out of place is — **A Weed!** It's out of a cross of a Tall Bearded X Standard Dwarf Bearded. Therefore, by definition, it should be an Intermediate Bearded iris!" "It was registered and introduced as a Miniature Tall Bearded: since it is out of place - it's a weed!" Saying this,

my well read garden visitor took his cane and irritatedly whacked the offending bloomstalk of Lady Emma. I grabbed his elbow and steered him to a clump of his favorite rebloomer, cautiously inquiring as to what in the world he was mad about. "It's a long story and no one is completely right," he said, "but, let me bring you up to date."

We repaired to the comfort of a shaded garden bench and the saga of Lady Emma unfolded...

[Ed: I am using short essays from a number of irisiarians who have grown **Lady Emma** and have opinions concerning this controversy. They are interesting in themselves, but they should make us cognizant of issues and problems in assigning a classification to a new cultivar. They may also prod us into new awareness of the rigidity of categories, and raise the query: "Is this rigidity a good thing?" Classifying a Tall Bearded rebloomer is a cinch. It either does (rebloom) — or it doesn't, and no problem either way. We are in a much more difficult area when dealing with classifications that impose rigid guidelines for inclusion in class.]

## **MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING** John Weiler

**Lady Emma**, one of the very few irises registered as MTB which also blooms more than once each year, is the center of controversy. The controversy seems to revolve around whether or not the clone should be registered as MTB since it arose as an offspring of SDB and TB parents (**Twice Blessed** x **Autumn Orangelite**), usually a type of pairing which leads to traits defining IB irises. However, in *The world of Irises*, 1978, Jean Witt (p. 127) notes this type of cross as a standard "experimental approach" to produce MTB of improved colors. Some would question today whether **Autumn Orangelite** is a TB iris since the *AIS Checklist*, 1969 gives its registered height as only 18 inches, far too short by today's standard to be considered TB even though its genetic background is from TB parents of greater height. For registration of any clone, the AIS accepts the hybridizer's word for traits of the clone. It remains for judges to cast awards ballots for eligible, registered clones considered most worthy and which fit the characteristics of the intended

class. It is tempting to cite numerous instances of award winning median irises which, in this garden, rarely conform to all class traits of flower size, stem thickness and height, foliage and overall proportion but I will not digress. How does Lady Emma fit the MTB class?

The clone has foliage of proper size, flowers in the proper size range most of the time and stems that are thin and flexuous, well branched and of proper height most of the time. Occasionally, the regular spring bloom may produce stems just a bit tall and flowers just a bit large. The rest of its bloom season which may be mid-summer some years and throughout fall and early winter most years, as well as occasional early bloom with SDB in spring, it conforms quite well to class in this garden. The light yellow color is not the cleanest yellow available in the class. nor is flower form as broad and flaring as some recent MTBs. However, the glorious flowering week after week and month after month repeatedly during the year set it apart from all others in the class. I find no difficulty evaluating Lady Emma as MTB. Here, the extended and repeated bloom make her most desirable. She is, indeed, a lady.

The controversy is much ado about nothing.

#### COMMENT ON LADY EMMA *Clarence Mahan*

In the spring, Lady Emma (F. Jones, 86) consistently blooms with the Intermediate Bearded (IB) irises in my garden. Of course there are some MTBs that do bloom quite early, Inner Fires (Witt, 83) and Almond Spice (Dunbar, 79) being two that come to mind. The flower size and stalk size of Lady Emma are in good proportion, and the branching and bud placement are superb when the cultivar is well grown. I know of no reason why Lady Emma does not fit readily into the IB class. Lady Emma would undoubtedly win many judges' votes if it were judged as an IB. There are very few IB's with such excellent bud count and which produce such outstanding stalks. In the MTB class, Lady Emma will be penalized by judges because of the strict size limitations that have been established for MTBs. It is interesting to note that Lady Emma is one of few dependable remontants that has a strong

heritage from *I cypriana* and *I mesopotamica* as well as *I. trojana*. Needless to say there is lots of *I. pallida* (e.g. Gertrude) and *I. variegata* (e.g. Gracchus and Hector) in its background as well.

#### LADY EMMA *W. Terry Varner*

We have grown Lady Emma since 1986 when Frank sent it here for use in our remontant Miniature Tall Bearded program. It is a nice colored yellow and has grown in the same spot since it was received. It bloomed in the fall of 1986 and has bloomed faithfully each succeeding spring and fall.

It is registered as an IB-MTB from Twice Blessed X Autumn Orangelite. First, being 44¢, (¢=chromosome) I knew it would difficult to work into our new remontant line. To date I have had not been able to set seeds with its pollen on my 4n things which is difficult with any 44¢ X 48¢ or 44¢ X 24¢. Second, the plant is vigorous with the foliage becoming taller than most MTBs after spring bloom. This does not detract from its garden use. The stems have always grown too tall and are not within MTB restrictions for slenderness and flexibility. The flower has consistently been too large for an MTB. It is possible that the vigor of remontant iris will make it very, very difficult to obtain a remontant MTB within the MTB restrictions. Third, being the first remontant MTB on the market, it gives those interested in a line of remontant MTBS a starting place. The biggest problem is finding genetic compatibility.

#### LADY EMMA, CENTER OF CONTROVERSY

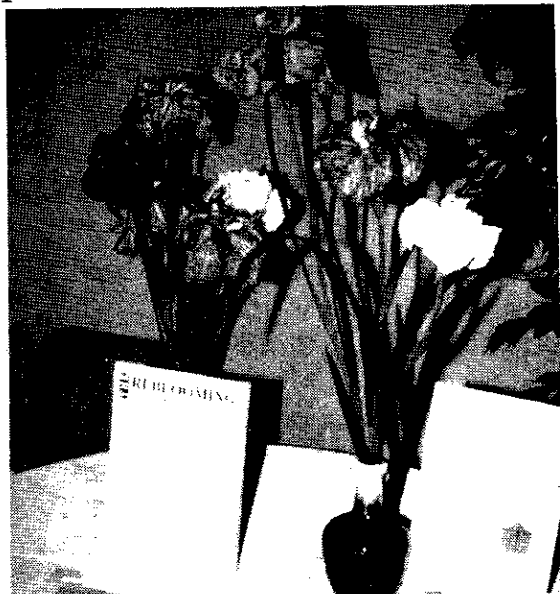
*Lloyd Zurbrigg*

With the introduction of Lady Emma, the remontant iris enthusiasts rejoiced that they had, at last, a remontant table iris (MTB). There is no question about the remontancy; it is a wonderful grower with abundant rebloom. Its thin stems and style of branching seem to be very close to the Miniature Tall Bearded style and requirements — closer certainly than to those for IB. The flowers are a mite big, and it may push the upper limits for height, especially when well grown. One solution might be to call it a tall bearded. However, seeing a

stalk of it at the Fall Show without an open flower, I admired immensely the appearance of that stalk and its branching. It was a work of art. I hope it may stay in the MTB classification, for it certainly approaches it rather closely, especially if it is not given heavy fertilization.

[Ed: Lady Emma tends to 'hold-over' a rhizome that has matured, but not yet put up a bloom-stalk just at the onset of winter. When the first spring warmth arrives, this held-over stalk will shoot up and bloom, giving the impression that Lady Emma blooms with the IBs. Close observation indicates that her main spring bloom period is nearly co-incident with TB bloom onset albeit a bit early.

The listing in the AIS ten year *Check List*, 1969, listed the pollen parent of Lady Emma as {Autumn Orangelite (G.P. Brown R '61). TB Re 18"}. I went hoofing down the 18" trail, suspecting that it was a mis-print and the actual height of Autumn Orangelite was nearer 28" than 18". Howard Brookins also suspected a typo in the height and in the 1988 *Checklist of Rebloom-ing Iris* listed Autumn Orangelite as 28 inches. I just (late Oct) obtained a copy of the individual year *Registration Listing* for 1961 and... eureka!-it listed Autumn Orangelite **BB** Re 18". It was a typo but in the class, not the height!]



THE *RECORDER* FEATURED AS PART OF THE WELCOMING DISPLAY AT THE SJI REGISTRATION DESK PULLED IN A FEW NEW MEMBERS!

## Reblooming Iris in Region 21

James L. Ennenga

This summer and fall have been ideal for rebloom in Region 21. Unfortunately, I was unable to take full advantage of the season, since I replanted my entire garden of reblooming irises this year. I had let it go too long to leave it unattended any longer. On September 22nd, I cut a bunch of my seedlings to show my brother in Wyoming (we visited him for two weeks), and on our return October 7th, bloom was still continuing. I think that yesterday, October 17th, ended the season. Last night's temperature was 26 degrees, and tonight is predicted in the teens. Until now we have just had light frosts.

Rebloom in my garden started in July with the Siberian Violet Repeat. Many of Frank Jones' seedlings rebloomed prior to my replanting the garden. I also had a couple of unusual rebloomers this year. A clone of the Spuria species *I. halophila* rebloomed three times, and the Louisiana iris Devil's Advocate (an *I. fulva*) also rebloomed. The remainder of the fall bloom has been on my own seedlings, with the exception of Sugar Blues which put a stalk up in spite of having been transplanted. I cut it last night with one bloom open.

Interest in reblooming irises in Region 21 has certainly changed in the last 20 years. In those days, Clifford Smith of Vermillion, South Dakota, Art and Irene Nelson of Omaha, Nebraska, and I were about the only ones who deliberately grew reblooming irises. Right now we have 16 RIS members in the region. All of the members are in either Nebraska or Iowa, extending from the western end of Nebraska (Gering) to the eastern end of Iowa (Atalissa).

Lloyd Zurbrigg's fine iris, Grace Thomas, has been responsible for a number of reblooming iris growers here in Region 21. Doctors Lynn and Barry Stoll of Atalissa, were hooked by her charm. So were Karen Conoan and Richard Kohout from the Greater Omaha Iris Society. Others throughout the region have responded to this

fine iris, and as the quality of our irises improves, we can be sure more people will grow reblooming irises. I know that Dave Niswonger did not introduce **Champagne Elegance** as a reblooming iris, but she rebloomed in several gardens here in Omaha last July. A stalk of **Champagne Elegance** on the table of reblooming iris rhizomes at our July rhizome sale caused the entire stock to be sold, both to our members and to the general public.

At the Region 21 Iris Auction I noticed one Lincoln AIS member putting out a big wad of cash on newer rebloomers such as **Belvi Cloud**. I hope Dorothy doesn't look too closely at his check book. Rebloomers sold well at the auction and should result in new members for us from South Dakota.

Although Allan Ensminger frequently has fall bloom on his seedlings, he has not taken advantage of it. Fortunately, Dr. Garland Bare, an RIS member in Lincoln, does watch his seedlings, and Garland has registered seedling 81-74 as **Peach Jam** since it has the fragrance of peach jam. It has pink flowers splashed and streaked with purple and mauve. I have a start in my garden which has not yet bloomed. It reblooms faithfully for Garland, and, knowing the quality of Allan's iris, I'm sure it is good.

We have come a long way in the development of reblooming irises for the colder climates. I'm sure that irises that will rebloom in July for me will rebloom in South Dakota and possibly in North Dakota. I can't see anything but a growing interest in rebloomers here, and I am looking forward to our first Fall Show.



## A Glimpse of the Future

An 14 October garden visit gave us a good look into the iris future. In our society publications and in conversations with reblooming enthusiasts one is constantly warned "*A fall garden is not a glorious spectacle to rival spring.*" We beg to differ.

Diana and Mike Nicholls live on a 5 acre,

rolling Virginia home site, 35 miles west of Washington, D.C. Fall blooming iris in this garden are worth the drive and a visit. From this garden have come 4 of the 6 Silver Medals and half the Queens of Show awarded at Fall shows in the U. S. during the past two years. At the recent Region 4 Fall show, Diana tucked a Silver Medal and Best in Show into her collection and went on to repeat the performance at the C&P Great Fall show the following weekend.

Our visit fell halfway between these two shows. We saw thirty to fifty different cultivars in bloom, and there were stalks in bud on another thirty or so. The bloom list read like the top half of the Reblooming Symposium and represented all classes of bearded irises. There were a few unexpected varieties in flower as well as several seedlings to be seen and evaluated - a real plus for a judge at this time of year.

We have visited this garden often throughout the season, and at each visit one could honestly state: "it's a median garden" - "it's a TB garden" - "it's a beardless garden" - and so on. However, despite being a Regional tour garden, a Japanese Iris Convention tour and display garden, a Median display garden, and scheduled as a tour garden for the 1991 National Convention, irises are not the predominant theme here. Dahlias, daylilies, roses, fruit trees, grape arbors, herbs, hostas...and a host of other perennials all meld into an eye pleasing melange that provides bloom interest first frost to last. As each member of the garden family steps forward to take its turn, the rebloomers here are well able to hold their own.

The landscaping skill necessary to produce this pleasingly integrated whole, while still showcasing iris, is a rare commodity among serious irisarians. Nowhere is this talent better demonstrated than in the Nicholls Garden in Gainesville, Virginia.

**FYI** - Change Frank Jones'  
Address To:



**Frank Jones**  
**Rt-2 Box-175-1A**  
**Crown City, OH 45623**

## Spring Revisited

The 6th Annual Reblooming Iris Show, held in conjunction with the Region 4 Fall Meeting in Fredericksburg, VA, was the largest one ever with 54 irises entered by ten exhibitors. An especially wet summer and absence of the usual early frost throughout the entire region produced some lovely blossoms and impressive show stalks. Especially notable were two stalks of **Jennifer Rebecca** (Zurbrigg '85) which exhibited unusual height and branching. Vic Layman probably was tempted to yell "Timber" as he used a chainsaw to cut his entry of this cultivar.

Best Specimen of Show was **Jennifer Rebecca**, exhibited by Diana Nicholls who also won the Silver Medal. Runners-up to the Queen were **Tawny**, an IB exhibited by Anne and Mike Lowe and **Harvest of Memories** which helped Dennis Stoneburner earn the Bronze Medal.

There was an unusually large showing of seedlings representing Lloyd Zurbrigg, Norman Noe, and the late John Moffitt. The Best Seedling Award went to V4-1-3, a frosty white ruffled beauty hybridized by L. Zurbrigg.

The show was judged by Clarence Mahan, McLean, VA and guest judges/convention

FALL IRIS SHOWS		
Silver Medal	Queens of Show	Bronze Medal
Diana Nicholls	Jennifer Rebecca	D. Stoneburner
Diana Nicholls	Blessed Again	Vic Layman

speakers Melody and Jerry Wilhoit from Kansas, Illinois. Vic Layman from Roanoke apprenticed. We tend to take fall shows for granted since reblooming enthusiasts in Region 4 have the opportunity to judge

or exhibit twice each autumn. The Wilhoits, who grow many reblooming irises in Illinois, reminded us that they had never attended a fall show nor had they had the chance to judge one. We were delighted to provide that dual opportunity. Perhaps they will be able to generate interest for showing rebloomers in Region 9. ASL



## The Great Fall Show

The C & P Great Fall Show, held on October 21, 1989, was truly great - our biggest show yet! Tall Bearded, Intermediate Bearded, Miniature Tall Bearded, Standard Dwarf Bearded, and a Louisiana iris made up our fifth reblooming show. Sixteen exhibitors brought in 74 entries. The show included two collections.

There were 29 blue ribbons, 17 red ribbons, 16 white ribbons, and 17 honorable mentions awarded. **Blessed Again**, a Frank Jones Intermediate Bearded introduction, exhibited by Diana Nicholls, was selected as Best Specimen of Show. The AIS Silver Medal for most blue ribbons was won by Diana Nicholls. The Bronze Medal for second most blue ribbons was awarded to Vic Layman. Best Seedling was V-95 October, a tall bearded yellow with a heavenly fragrance, hybridized by Lloyd Zurbrigg.

Rich Randall came up from the Tidewater Chapter, bringing with him the Louisiana, **Red Echo**. Lloyd Zurbrigg brought many seedlings for us to view. The rest of the blooms were brought in by the reblooming enthusiasts in the immediate area. There were many cultivars seen that have not been exhibited in previous shows.

A special "thank you" goes to our judges, Dennis Wilke and Ruth Walker whose job was



VIC LAYMAN PREPARES ENTRIES FOR THE  
REGION 4 FALL SHOW

made difficult by a substantial breeze.

If you are not currently growing rebloomers, do try a few. It is wonderful to have iris season more than just once. You can also then bring your bloom stalks to your Great Fall Show in 1990!

Diana Nicholls

Show Secretary / Awards



### ERRATUM: 1988 Cumulative Check List

Cinderella's Coach is incorrect, as the iris described was declared obsolete in the 1985 *Registrations and Introductions*, and the following iris registered under the same name:

Cinderella's Coach (Hager, Ben, R 1985) Sdlg: T3615RO TB 36".. (91cm) EM & re (Reblooms in San Jose and Scott's Valley, CA) Ruffled pumpkin flesh orange; tangerine beard. Punkin X T29950B:(Hayride x T27350r: (((Norah x Thisbe) x Glittering Amber) x (T983 x Glittering Amber))) x Picture Perfect)). Melrose Gardens 1986 HM 1988.

Youth Dew (Zurbrigg, Lloyd, R 1983) This is an incorrect listing, as the first Youth Dew listed is correct. Somehow the description for Mabel Andrews appeared after the extra Youth Dew name. Those who work with computers and word processor programs know that these things happen on occasion. Of course it's NEVER the OPERATOR'S fault!



When tens of thousands of dollars hang on your plant growing practices, you use the best. Tobacco farmers raise

their finicky transplants in fumigated, irrigated and manicured plant beds. An effective new method of irrigating the rot and mold prone tobacco seedlings is buried (5" to 8") 'Leakey Hose'. This hose is made of recycled tires and 'weeps' water throughout its length. It was first marketed at a very high price, but is now being offered by agricultural Feed and Seed stores who carry a kit which will irrigate a 12'x100' area for 75 to 90 dollars. By using this for iris, not only do you gain the benefit of rot-fighting root zone watering, but you also save a significant amount of water compared to other irrigation methods.

## A Message From The Secretary

With Membership in the Reblooming Iris Society approaching the 700 member mark, we are experiencing many problems in projecting future expenses and obligations. Our greatest concern is knowing how many copies of the Recorder to print each time. As stated elsewhere in this issue, our costs have caught up with income, so as Secretary I try to keep costs to a minimum, as do many of you members. This is where a major problem lies. Many members renew their Section Memberships along with their AIS Memberships, sending one check for all, and only spending one \$.25 stamp for postage. Fine in theory, except as Section Memberships keep growing, it has created an impossible bookkeeping task at the National level. We who do volunteer work have jobs and families and gardens just like everyone else, and there are just so many hours in every day. The last time I received information from AIS on Reblooming Renewals through AIS was in APRIL, FIVE months in the past. This leaves us with 144 members who are in arrears according to OUR records. That's nearly 25% of our membership.

With printing charges approaching the cost of membership dues, we can't afford to spend money we don't have, so as a result we printed too few spring issues, and ran out. NOT GOOD! Also, the policy of mailing FIRST CLASS mail to those who pay late costs us nearly \$.80 MORE than the bulk mailing cost, and the postal service is talking another increase!

### WHAT CAN YOU AND I DO?

1. We will institute a policy of sending a POST CARD reminder when your dues have expired, mailing around January 2nd and July 1st. **Please don't be offended if we cross in the mail**, and you've already sent in your dues.
2. Please mail direct to the R.I.S. Membership Secretary, NOT to A.I.S. The exception being our foreign members, who have to pay more for the cost of a check or Money Order in American dollars than the membership costs. They save by sending ONE form of financial transaction.
3. Remember, the \$.25 you spend for extra postage helps keep the cost of membership



down, as you reduce OUR costs as a Society, and our only source of income is YOU! That extra quarter may save you \$.50 or \$1.00 per year in future dues costs.

4. Late payments of dues, AFTER the bulk mailing of the Recorder will be credited as being received for the next period. Example: your dues are due on January 1st, and you pay in April AFTER the Recorder is mailed. We will extend your TERM DATE to July 1st, and you'll miss the spring issue. EXCEPTION: if you enclose an extra \$1.00 to cover First Class Mailing and envelope costs, we'll send you your missed issue.

5. These policies will start with the FALL 1989 Issue, so those who are late to respond to the September mailing will miss this Fall Issue.

6. When sending in your renewal to the Membership Secretary, remember the list of Reblooming Iris for your Region furnished when you joined R.I.S. This was compiled from information sent in with renewal letters, and information sent to other officers. If you've had luck with rebloom on iris NOT on that list, "pass-it-on". Send the list of new names along with your renewal (get your quarters worth.) It won't cost you any extra, and will help us further our knowledge about rebloom around the country. This information will be included in future Regional Listings, AND be included in future printings of the *CHECK LIST*

7. To those of you who pay on time or in advance, may I take this opportunity to say a special "thank you." And to the many who have sent rebloom information, an extra "Thank You." Sending out over 500 pieces of R.I.S. mail a year takes time and effort, but your kind notes and letters make it all worth while!

### REBLOOMING LISTS BY AIS REGION

As mentioned in the Secretary's Message, we furnish all new members a list of what has been reported as reblooming in their Region. Long term members may have joined prior to this information being available, so the Secretary wishes to make this available to all, for a minimal cost. For ALL areas, send a Self Addressed STAMPED Envelope, and I'll forward you a sheet. (See list below where there is a fee due to size of the lists) If you'd like another Region with similar climatic conditions, send a minimal fee of \$ .10 each to cover

copy costs, EXCEPT for the following Regions, with specific costs, due to size of the lists:

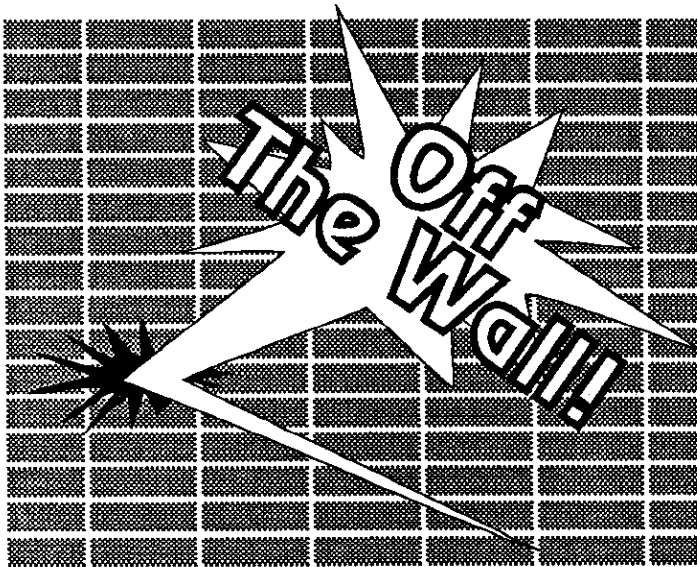
Region 4: MO, DC, VA, WV, NC: .....\$ .30

Region 6: OH, IN, MI: .....\$ .30

Region 13: OR, WA: .....\$ .30

Region 14: 15: CA, HI, NA, AZ: .....\$1.10

Region 10: LA: NO LIST AVAILABLE



*[This column is for those wacko ideas that may contain just enough merit to deserve printing.]*

You say you're impatient with the rate of acceptance of rebloomers in AIS? Well, do an end-around. Take rebloomers straight to the gardening public. How? A bit of time, a bit of money, a moderate chunk of ground, and a lot of 'Joe Isuzu' type salesmanship. Here's the scam:

Set aside a chunk of land sufficient for several 100' rows. Select a rebloomer that you believe to be a cast-iron, never-fail, country-wide ever-blooming performer. Obtain as much of it as you can, line it out for increase. When you have several thousand rhizomes, make your pitch to every mail-order nurseryman in business till you find a taker. Extol the benefits of a new race of iris — bear down on the sale-ability of ever-blooming plants — offer your stock at a price too good to refuse. When talking up the benefits of the deal, imagine that you are writing headlines for the *National Inquirer*™.

Smooth out every obstacle that you possibly can — remember, it's the foot-in-the-door that counts here. You may be surprised where this takes you *and* our favorite iris!



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