

~~Newscast A.I.S.~~

R E G I O N F O U R

Volume 31, Number 3

Dec 1989



*Karen
Stoneburner
'89*

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Credits

Cover: Karen Stoneburner	Howard Brookins:	17
Rosalie Figge: 1	All others: Staff	
Dennis Stoneburner: 2,3,4,20,21,31,41		

RVP Message



It is indeed a great honor for me to be RVP of Region 4! We have one of the most active and progressive regions in the AIS. Our publication, *Newscast*, is being used as a model for the rest of the country. A great many of our members are involved in the sections of AIS and in many cases are section officers.

Much of the success of our region is due to the leadership of our immediate past RVP, Dr. Lloyd Zurbrigg. He has worked with the chapters to promote good feelings and friendship, helped to get new chapters going and certainly been an excellent leader. During the 80's we have seen incredible growth in Region 4 in total membership, number of chapters, and increased interest in many types of irises. Can we continue this progress and be an outstanding region of the 90's? I think we can.

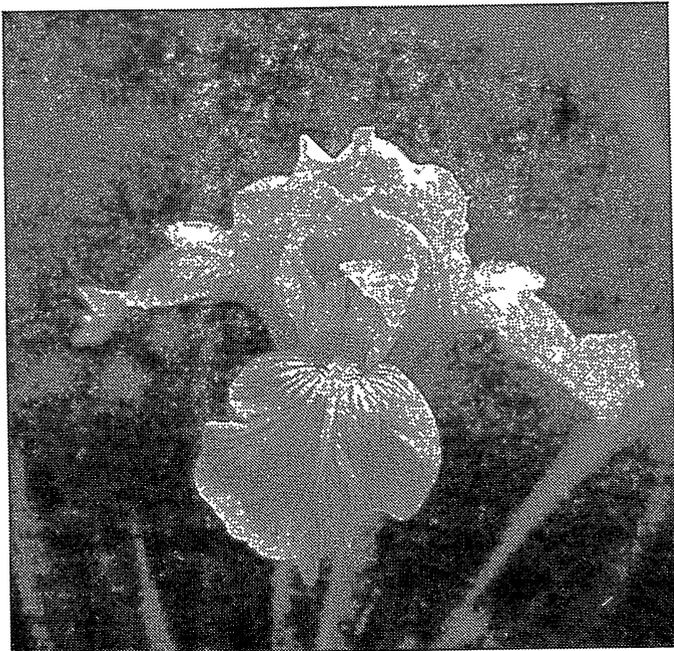
My main goal (and hopefully that of most of our members) will be to support C&P Iris Society and the 1991 national convention. A national convention is hosted by a REGION. The guests (irises that is) are here and we are caring for them as we would our own children. In May of 1991 the real guests will be here and we soon have to get ready for them.

Last Sunday one of our layleaders did the children's sermon. He asked a child to pick up one of the larger children. The boy got red in the face but didn't lift the larger child. So the layleader asked the child who was to be lifted to lie down on the floor and had about 6 of the youngest kids gather around. They easily lifted the child. With a little more help they lifted a larger, older child. Then came the huge task. Could

they lift the 170 pound layleader? Certainly. It was no trouble at all because all 12 little children helped. No one argued because he had a foot, an arm or a head to lift; together they were thrilled at their accomplishment. We can make this the best region (and the best convention) if we ask a friend to attend a meeting with us, make some cookies, hand out registration packets, count ballots, dig a couple extra irises for a sale, or pull weeds in a friend's garden.

Thanksgiving has passed, and we had so many things to be thankful for, but Christmas and the new year are ahead. Let's be grateful that we have this wonderful hobby and the friendships associated with it. Region 4, your chapter, Clarence, as convention chairman, and I are hoping that you will be able to give us the best gift of all - some of your valuable time and talents.

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BABY BLESSED (ZURBRIGG '79) HAS WON THE COOK-DOUGLAS MEDAL; THE FIRST REBLOOMING IRIS TO WIN A MAJOR AWARD!

Minutes of Board Meeting Region 4, AIS October 7, 1989

The meeting was called to order by RVP Lloyd Zurbrigg who welcomed the board and visitors to Fredericksburg.

He read greetings from past RVP B.J. Brown who reported that he and Frances were less hard hit by hurricane Hugo than most of their surrounding neighbors, losing their power for only 24 hours.

RVP Zurbrigg introduced the new officers elected in Roanoke at the Spring Meeting as follows: RVP, Carol Warner; Assistant RVP, J.D. Stadler; Secretary, Lois Rose; Treasurer, Owings Rebert; and Historian, Clarence Mahan.

Rich Randall brought up the question of when the treasurer's books should be audited. Parliamentarian Rosalie Figgè will check the by-laws.

Dr. Zurbrigg then turned the RVP gavel over to incoming RVP Carol Warner with wishes for as happy a term as he had had. Carol

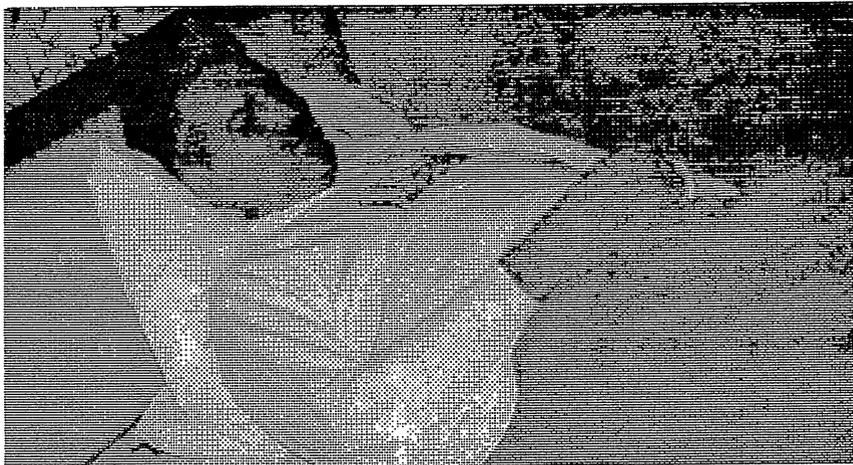
Warner in turn thanked him for a wonderful three years.

Committee Reports

Assistant RVP:
See elsewhere in *News*cast.



Immediate Past RVP: See below



RETIRING RVP RESTS ON LAURELS "WELL DONE!" SAYS
REGION!

Secretary: Minutes of the Spring Board Meeting were accepted as printed in the August 1989 *Newscast*.

Treasurer: See elsewhere in *Newscast*.

Treasurer Brian Lazarus explained that the tax ID number was included in this report so that incoming treasurer Owings Rebert would not have to use his own Social Security number to open an account. He also reported that the data is in the process of being audited and he will take back from or add to the account in case of any discrepancy. A check for the account balance was handed over to RVP Carol Warner to give to Owings Rebert, along with the \$879.00 from last night's auction.

Anne Lowe asked if anyone other than the treasurer was currently authorized to sign checks. When Brian answered in the negative, Anne moved that the RVP also be authorized to sign checks. Motion seconded and passed.

Concerning audits, Parliamentarian Figge reported that according to *Roberts Rules of Order* an audit

should be conducted annually and, in a small group like this, 2 or 3 members could audit the books at the Annual Spring Meeting. Rich Randall so moved, with the addition that the audit be the responsibility of the finance chairman or his designated deputy. Motion seconded and passed.

Historian: No report. Carol Warner reminded everyone to send Clarence Mahan, the new historian, copies of their show schedules, newspaper items, etc.

Parliamentarian: No report.

Finance: See elsewhere in *NewsCast*.

Membership: See elsewhere in *NewsCast*.

Carol Warner commended Rich Randall on the job he has done so far as membership chairman.

Youth: No report.

Carol Warner commented that youth activities have been weak in Region 4. She asked for volunteers for Youth Committee Chairman. The National youth program is very active and would provide lots of help. Brian Lazarus reported that he had formed clubs in 7 elementary schools. Many of the schools had become AIS members. He planned to donate iris to these clubs, take them on tours, and encourage their participation in shows. Anne Lowe requested that he write an article on these programs for *NewsCast*.

Diana Nicholls suggested an article for *NewsCast* reminding youth members (up to age 18) that they have a special division and don't have to compete with adults.

Editors of *NewsCast*:

Mike Lowe expressed appreciation for all the support he and Anne get—articles, pictures, encouragement, etc. Copies of the last issue have been sent to

all new members, as well as to all RVPs, Regional Editors, and AIS Section leaders. We also send to AIS President, Secretary, and Historian. Mike reminded us that all chapter newsletters should also be sent to AIS Historian, Larry Harder.

Mike feels that we need to push, through *News-cast*, what we are doing in Region 4. Our show today, for example, exceeded in number of entries all Fall shows in the nation combined last year. Thanks go to all members--the editors couldn't do it without you.

Judges: See elsewhere in *News-cast*.

Anne Lowe asked if there is or should be a policy on hours of training, e.g... 6 hours at the fall meeting. Carol Warner reported that AIS suggests a school with at least 6 hours every 2 years. Region 5 had one 4 years ago. Lloyd Zurbrigg reported one in Region 4 about 20-25 years ago. Further discussion of such a policy was tabled until the spring meeting when Dr. Epperson, new Judges' Training Chairman, would be present.

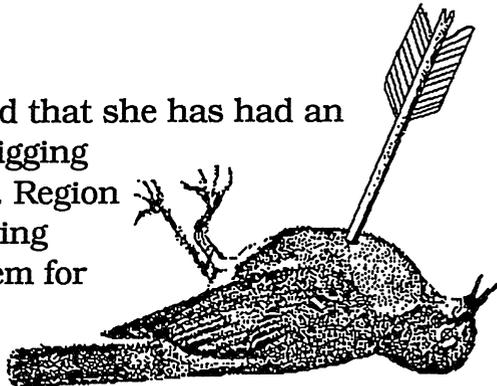
Auctions and Awards: See elsewhere in *News-cast*.

Conventions: See elsewhere in *News-cast*.

As a result of Owings Rebert's appeal for hosts for the Fall Meetings, Blue Ridge and C & P Societies volunteered to host the 1991 and 1992 Fall Meetings respectively.

Robins:

Anne Lowe reported that she has had an interesting summer digging Robins out of the dirt. Region 4 still has 4 robins flying with room in all of them for new participants. The Wild Ones (species



and beardless) Robin is in need of a director. A new robin for Medians is in incubation. Pinfeathers, the robin for newer irisarians, is really flying; with 10 members, it has made 4 rounds in a year. There are 2 new HIPS robins for those interested in historical iris-es. If you are interested in any of these robins, contact Anne.

Photography:

Carol Warner reported that current photography chairman, Frances Brown, has asked to be relieved, and that Dennis Stoneburner has volunteered to take over the job. Dennis reported that Fred Stephenson's and Frances Brown's slides have been turned over to the Region. He suggested that if each chapter would appoint a person to be responsible for taking slides for a Regional Collection, we could build a storehouse of readily available slides to rival National. [see request for slides elsewhere in this issue.] Anne Lowe commented that a good, varied set of slides is one way to interest garden clubs in iris and attract new members. Brian Lazarus reported that C & P has a book of prints on display at shows.

Publicity and Public Relations: No report.

Carol Warner asked for volunteers for this chairmanship.

Beardless and Species: See elsewhere in *Newscast*.

Carol reported that Diana Nicholls will be the new chairman of this committee.

Median Iris: See elsewhere in *Newscast*.

Dennis Stoneburner commented that the medians in the Roanoke area did very well during this very wet growing season, with no signs of rot. The medians in Kay Cooper's garden even withstood several hours completely underwater with no ill effects.

Brian Lazarus reminded everyone that Dick Sparling has an open house each year during bloom of his extensive collection of medians. He is very generous with sales and turns the money over to the Median Iris Society.

Reblooming Iris: See elsewhere in *Newscast*.

Historic Iris:

Anne Lowe, HIPS president, reported in the absence of Don Spoon, chairman of this new committee. The Historic Iris Preservation Society is in the process of amending its by-laws to conform with AIS requirements that HIPS members also be AIS members. HIPS will hopefully be granted AIS section status at the Fall Board Meeting in Wichita. A slide set is in preparation. HIPS now has 230+ members.

[Ed: Section status was granted HIPS on Nov. 4, 1989!]

Symposium Report: See elsewhere in *Newscast*.

Chapter Reports

Blue Ridge: See elsewhere in *Newscast*.

Dennis Stoneburner reported for Vic Layman. One sad note: the Gene Patterson Garden was flooded during the summer and is no more and the house is for sale. Dennis will be sending a BRIS membership list and copies of the new newsletter to each chapter. The AIS publication *Basic Iris Culture* was purchased for distribution to all new members. This really helps to recruit active, working new members. A nice article on Vic Layman's garden appeared in the local newspaper after the Spring Regional, generating so much interest in the rhizome sale that a scheduled 2-day sale sold out in 2 hours the first day, setting a new income record for the society.

Cabarrus County: No report.

Carolina Mountains: No report.

Charlotte: No Report. [Ed: received too late for this issue]

Chesapeake & Potomac: See elsewhere in *Newscast*.

Eastern North Carolina: See elsewhere in *Newscast*.

Francis Scott Key: See elsewhere in *Newscast*.

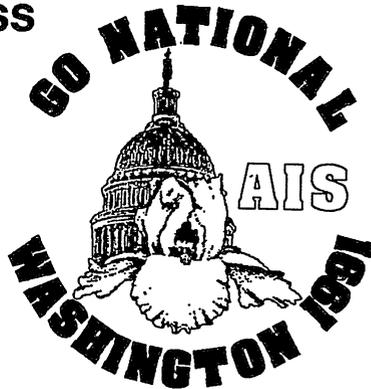
Fredericksburg-Richmond: See elsewhere in *Newscast*.

Tidewater: See elsewhere in *Newscast*.

Williamsburg: See elsewhere in *Newscast*.

Unfinished Business

Carol Warner reported that plans are progressing nicely for the 1991 AIS National Convention. 876 different guest irises, in addition to the beardless guests, have been planted in various gardens.



New Business

Mike Lowe raised the question of who pays for show medals for the Fall show. Diana Nicholls said she felt the Region got a set free. Mike will write National and find out.

Rich Randall asked for authorization to send each new member a copy of the Regional by-laws. This was approved as Regional policy.

Rich also commented that he had received a request for an updated Regional membership list - the last one was produced in February 1988. This list of over 700 names is now too lengthy for publication in

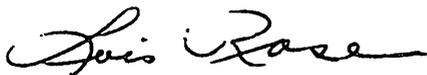
Newscast and too costly to send to each member. It was decided a new list should be sent to the RVP, Regional Secretary, *Newscast* Editors and Chapter Chairmen/Presidents.

Rich proposed a Regional membership contest along the same lines as the National AIS contest, but with more than a piece of paper as a prize. After considerable discussion of the merits of giving an award for total new members or just active new member recruitment, it was decided that Rich would print his contest proposal in *Newscast* and the region would try it for a year. Discussion of a suitable prize was tabled until the Spring Meeting.

Carol Warner announced that the Susquehanna Iris Society was sponsoring Keith Keppel for a talk and judges' training session on October 14 in Gettysburg, PA. Anyone interested in attending can get details from Carol Warner.

At 11:45 a.m. J.D. Stadler moved the meeting be adjourned. Motion seconded and passed.

Respectfully submitted



Lois Rose, Secretary



FSK Chapter Report

FSK's annual picnic was held at the Harp's summer home on July 15th.

While the Board was making momentous decisions, the FSKers were playing a fun, but educational game devised by Maynard: A contest to see who could correctly name the trees at Maywood! This game separated the biologists from the classical!

The Board decided on October 28th for their Fall Luncheon. Eventually the committee selected the Columbia Inn in Columbia as the place. Our chapter covers a wide area, and this will be in the general area where we had the Iris Show. We are looking forward to having Lloyd Zurbrigg as our guest speaker, and we hope he will come laden with Rebloomers for our exhibit. We are all so proud of Lloyd - he won the Cook-Douglas Award with **Baby Blessed**.

At last a Rebloomer has been recognized!

Our other dates for the future are tentative at present:

May 19, 1990 - **Iris Show**

July 7, 1990 - **Rhizome Sale**

The Board also decided that FSK would make a videotape of presenting iris and their culture from start to finish. We have already videotaped how to prepare the ground for planting, both by hand with shovel, and with a tiller. It has also been demonstrated how to plant both bearded and beardless irises. In the Spring we will continue with the care of the garden, preparing for a show, and how to dig, wash, etc for the sale--thus carrying this through the stages of all types of irises. This tape can then be used to strengthen our knowledge of what we have already learned. We have a professional doing the taping and editing, with various members as consultants. We hope to involve as many of FSK members as would like to take part in this project, either as script writers, demonstrators, editors, etc. FSK has also invited Marydel to consider our chapter as their home away from home until they can be re-organized. And, last but no means least, we are proud to have, again, the RVP as a member of FSK.

Rosalie Yerkes Figge

Judges' Training Report

Region 4 has a total membership of 672 which gives us an allowed quota of 101 judges. We now have 47 judges, 28 of which are counted as quota judges and 19 non-quota judges.

This year Richard Sparling and David Walsh have been advanced to Master Judges since they have now served 15 years. Mrs David Cline was advanced to Garden Judge. Alverne Perry and Freda Martin have decided not to continue in the training program. Brian Lazarus had to be dropped due to untimely vote of the official ballot two years in a row. Diana Nicholls has been appointed as an apprentice judge.

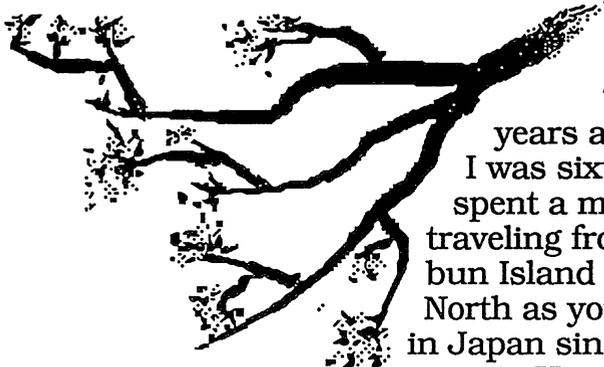
I have two more completed applications for apprentice status which are lacking some of the required 10 hours of training required. We would be happy to have any other interested members apply to the program. AIS maintains very demanding standards for their judges but the benefits are great for those involved in the program.

Dr. E. Roy Epperson has agreed to take over as Judges Training Chairman for Region 4. He will do an excellent job of keeping our records in order. I'm sure he would like to hear from members the types of programs that would be valuable to them. Personally, I would like to see a concentrated Judges Training School set up, possibly at one of the fall meetings where judges could get at least 6 or more hours of training. This is really an AIS requirement which we have not met the whole time I have been chairman.

I would like to thank our judges for the fine job they have done and are doing. Hilda Crick, the National Judges Chairman, has commended us on our program and the job that all Region 4 judges have done in meeting all requirements. Being a judge requires a lot of time and energy and it is appreciated.

Carol Warner

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Two years ago when I was sixty-one, I spent a month traveling from Reibun Island - as far North as you can go in Japan since the war - to Hiroshima. In

a small yellow backpack I had books, notes from Japanese lessons, and a minimum of clothing, as all Japan Youth Hostels have washers and driers. To my mother, who raised T.B. iris in Virginia, I sent cards showing exquisite hanashōbu, Japanese iris, from the Meiji Shrine gardens in Tokyo.

I understood that hanashōbu were hard to raise in the U.S., so last year I was surprised to find Japanese iris growing in the garden of my cousin Anne and her husband, Mike Lowe. The Lowes told me that the president of the U.S. Japanese iris association is married to a Japanese girl. I thought the organization must be serious if they have a real Japanese person involved! so I sent in memberships for my Japanese language sensei's wife and for me. I promised Lowes and myself I'd be in Manassas.

While Anne and Mike have been living around the world, I've been living in Illinois, and I was the only person from this state. I loved the beautiful name tag Mike had made on their computer. I studied the Japanese iris on display and eavesdropped in order to learn. I thought it funny to hear people speaking so familiarly of "tall bearded". The only tall bearded I felt I knew really well were Mike and my younger son, Kirby. (This sally undoubtedly also has whiskers.)

I heard someone greet lovely Joy Peters, whom I knew to be a celebrity from having seen an iris named for her, and I'd noticed she'd brought **Enduring Pink Frost**.

Anne pointed out a Dr. Currier McEwen from Maine. I had had a wonderful professor at N.Y.U.-Bellevue in the '40s named McEwen. 'My' Dr. McEwen had reassured us nursing students, "Remember: there is never an emergency — from the standpoint that there is always *something* you can do to improve any situation." He was one teacher whose words and name I never forgot, as I tried to *live* by his words. 'Currier McEwen' had a familiar ring.

A man sitting near me in the lobby was speaking to a standing couple, who I later learned were Sue Delmez and previous president Don. I had admired Delmez' iris in the showroom: how had they traveled, still so beautiful, from Missouri?!

The other man said he and his wife had lived in the Shibuya area of Japan for two years. I've recently met so many people who have lived in Japan that it didn't occur to me that this might be the Clarence Mahan of whom Anne and Mike had spoken. I later learned he was.

I sat at a table with Carol Warner, Diana and Mike Nicholls, the Lowes, a man from Monticello, and Diana's mother. I knew nothing of J.I. when I arrived, but Diana gave me a catalog from "Nicholls Gardens" from which I began to learn of what is available in the world of J.I.

The speaker of the evening, John Coble from Ensa-ta Gardens in Michigan, reassured me that everyone was invited to his judges' training session, as "that is how anyone learns to recognize good iris." He spoke with great good humor on the points of good hanashō-bu, and on the terminology of judging. After John had used the pronoun 'he' for the iris grower several times, I said gently, "You're being sexist, you know," which he accepted with good grace! An expert older than John suggested that the best iris be called 'Best of Type', rather than 'Queen of Show.' I heartily agreed, though undoubtedly for a reason different than his. I think his rationale was for a greater specificity in what judges would be rewarding. My reasoning was that, with spiritual enlightenment, differences

and dualities disappear, so why not approach enlightened thinking as often as possible while we are trying to reach that goal? That U.S. iris are potential 'queens' is just as misleading as the fact that iris in Japan are a symbol of masculinity. "Boys should grow strong as a carp and straight as an iris." Wrong. Human beings should grow strong as a carp and straight as an iris. Iris are hermaphroditic. To call one a 'queen' imputes a difference that isn't there.

During a discussion of 'typical' versus 'ideal' in the judging of iris, the logic — irrelevant to iris — seemed to be bogging down. As someone's prayer says, "With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all," but the logical smog was cleared away without my help! - an intelligent, humorous group!

Next morning, those of us in the last garden tour bus were lucky in having president Clarence as our 'tour guide.' Young Rebecca Wong from Massachusetts was my interesting seat-mate. Her husband, and his brother from the area, the Nitkas, visited behind us.

At Diana and Mike Nicholl's garden, the exhilarating smells of all of us one hundred and forty humans



AT NICHOLLS' GARDEN - R. TO L. JIM & SHIRLENE
SHRECKENGAUST, FRED HAZZARD, ARLENE ALLEN,
DR. McEWEN, BRIAN LAZARUS & UNKNOWN PHOTOGRAPHER

sparked joyous barking from neighboring dogs. I had never seen so many beautiful Japanese iris blooming in one place. Everyone was enjoying Nicholls' extensive gardens, and the lovely refreshments Diana had provided.

On our way to Carol Warner's garden, Clarence said we would notice how close Manassas was to Washington. I told him that someone had asked me whether Manassas was faster by plane or by car - I had replied that it was really faster on foot. Two nights before, I had visited an old nursing buddy in D.C. Next day, since I had grown up in Virginia, why would I need a map? I had come, *not* by 66, but down 95 and west by Robin Hood's barn. Any of McClellan's foot soldiers could have beaten me.

At the Warner's, I again marked down those Japanese iris which most impressed me. I was beginning to recognize favorites, having seen them in the showroom and at Nicholls'. Kindly women fed us lunch. I ate in the woods listening to thrushes which had captured my my heart in childhood, my first thrushes of the year.

I had looked forward for a year to meeting Suki Mahan. I had hoped I could speak Japanese to her, but I still couldn't string together more than a few words at a time. Their many hanashōbu were closer for easier loving by their carp pond. I enjoyed looking for different colors of carp and and seeing the little



'tanuki' statue (raccoon) from Japan. Everywhere we went, I thought, oh my gosh the work! and felt exhausted in sympathy.

At the Georgetown University Observatory, Dr. Don Spoon had the largest specimen I'd seen of Dr. McEwen's incredible **Japanese Pinwheel.**

Again, an amazingly tall purple iris from Ensata Gardens still in the code name stage, and **Oriental Eyes**, with lozenge-shaped colors as though superimposed on each other on the falls.

Before dinner, I asked Dr. McEwen if he had ever taught at New York University-Bellevue. He said that he had not only taught there for many years, but had gone to school there, as well. How heart warming! The Good Spirits occasionally let me re-meet wonderful people I knew in my youth, giving a real sense of life's continuity to someone who's been around for a while.



CURRIER AND ELIZABETH McEWEN

A 1931 historical monograph, *The Iris of Japan* by a George M. Reed, delighted me. When the auction began, I got a copy of the *Cumulative Checklist of Japanese Irises*, which blew my mind with the incredible number and diversity of iris available.

I had determined that I wouldn't bid on any iris this first year because I know nothing about raising them and, this year, I haven't time to learn. Also, the day lilies, T.B., and other flowers Mama had given me usually froze under a thick, cozy peat moss comforter.

All of that fell by the wayside when Clarence began extolling an import named **Sei Sho-nagon** (pronounced seh-ee show-nah-gohn). I had just bought her *Pillow Book*, a diary of court gossip which she wrote in the late tenth century. Michio Kano, our sensei, explained that Sei was her last name, nagon was her own court title, and a sho was a lower level of a nagon.

I very much wanted the iris, but I didn't want to be responsible for killing it. I said I'd bid on **Sei Shonagon** if John Coble and Dr. Bauer would raise it. If they were successful in Michigan, I could hope it would survive in Illinois. They graciously agreed to take it. Later, I told them that, like Rumpelstiltskin, all I wanted was 'her firstborn.' In discussing Sterling Innerst's Greek-named **Iapetus**, Clarence said, "I actually prefer names like **Missy Yorktowne**," eliciting much laughter from the crowd he had around his little finger. Of a bid on one iris, Clarence asked "This one is also going North?!" Someone suggested he was "getting factional!" Anne said "Battle of Manassas" to which Clarence added, "...fight it again..." Incisive Sterling replied, "We won it once", an interchange we much enjoyed!

I asked Anne and Mike, if I could get **Oriental Eyes**, if they would raise it and just give me the first couple of whatchamacallums it had. They would, so I was happy when my bid was accepted. I was able to thank Dr. Vogt next morning for one of my first Japanese iris. I don't understand the very special grace which falls on those breeders of iris like **Japanese Pinwheel, Enduring Pink Frost, and Oriental Eyes**. But then, I need not understand that grace in order to be in awe of it.

The Lowes left that night to visit their daughter nearby. I went out to say goodbye, give and get hugs, and to thank them for introducing me to a stunning new interest, and to a terrific and funny, really great group of people.

Pat Monahan Miller

Preview: Prairie in Bloom

Would your chapter like to see what Omaha Convention gardens will offer in 1990? A 21 minute VHS Video is available from:

Rich Randall
524 Windsor Gate Rd.
Va. Beach, Va 23452

Please include desired showing date.

Fredericksburg-Richmond Chapter Report

F-RIS is now completing its sixth year since reactivation. Our successful spring show saw many of the people who had previously purchased rhizomes at our annual sale exhibiting and winning ribbons. This is gratifying to us and to them and netted us several new, active members. In July, the chapter held an internal auction of Japanese Iris from The Iris Pond and the Glasshoff garden. We hope this will help to promote Japanese Iris in Region 4 and set the stage for a beardless show several years down the road.

Our annual rhizome sale, chaired by Ruth Walker was an outstanding success. Topping the year's activities was the hosting of the Regional Fall Meeting. The casual atmosphere created by our guest speakers, Melody and Jerry Wilhoit from Illinois, provided an extremely relaxed opportunity for an informative judges training session and discussion on Louisiana irises.

Our final business meeting of the year will combine election of officers with our annual Harvest Dinner in November. Officers elect are:

President: Freda Martin

Vice-President: Jack Loving

Secretary: Leslie Nelson

Treasurer: Walter Gaylord.

Anyone who would like to join us for this covered-dish dinner is welcome.

Roger Glasshoff

Irisarian Law Number Forty-nine: *When God made the lily, He was pleased. When God made the rose, He was delighted. When God made the iris, He stopped. Practice makes perfect.*

1989 Fall Regional

“I didn’t know you could keep iris in cold storage.”
“What beautiful iris!” “They grow so well in a greenhouse.”
These were just a few of the many remarks made by the visitors who came to view the Region 4 Fall Iris Show. What a golden opportunity for attending members to open a conversation about Reblooming Iris, the Iris Society, and



to promote irises in general. A total of 54 stalks made a spectacular showing as Lloyd Zurbrigg’s **Jennifer Rebecca**, entered by Diana Nicholls, reigned as Queen over a beautiful array of colorful subjects.



The judges training session on Reblooming Iris by Mike Lowe was very informative, and gave us a new outlook on rebloomers and a lot to think about.

Guest speakers Melody and Jerry Wilhoit then presented three hours of judges training on Louisiana iris. For those of us who knew very little about LAs, they opened up a whole new adventure in the

iris world. Each member was presented with a gift iris (a Louisiana, of course) - how very thoughtful of them. I wouldn't be surprised if a few LAs will be showing their beauty at Re-



gion 4 shows in the near future. The Wilhoits also presented a most enjoyable slide program following the banquet on Saturday night.

Last to be mentioned, but certainly not least, was the auction. Vic Layman was excellent as our new regional auctioneer. He was also entertaining. There were great



bargains in Louisianas-(lots of newer varieties from the Wilhoits), Siberians, species, and rebloomers, as well as many other lovely items which were auctioned off during spirited bidding, until everything was sold.

Yes indeed, a good time was had by all! *Aggie Vergon*

Report of the Assistant RVP

As your Assistant RVP, these three years have sped by quite rapidly. It has been a noteworthy and eye-opening experience in learning the inside workings and affairs in conducting the administration of a region. It likewise has been a pleasure to work alongside our most conscientious RVP, Dr. Zurbrigg. If my tenure has added any insight or enlightenment to this office, I am pleased. My only wish is that more members might be a part of the Executive Board. If any one of you is asked to fill this office, or any other for the region, please do so. It can not only be of much benefit to you, but also very rewarding for your many iris friends. Thank you for this opportunity to learn to know each of you better.

This summer has been a busy one here for the Reberts. It has been fun with the anticipation of bigger things ahead.

Best wishes to each of you and to the new officers for the coming year. May Region 4's progress continue in the upward path for which it is well known.

J. Owings Rebert, Your retiring Asst. RVP



Blue Ridge Iris Society Chapter Report

Members of the Blue Ridge Iris Society have completed another busy and exciting year. In May many of you enjoyed being with us for the wonderful Spring Regional held in Roanoke. Our rhizome sale in June was the most successful one ever. The July auction and luncheon provided good fellowship and lots of fun for all.

We helped Lloyd Zurbrigg move his seedling garden to Roanoke during the summer, and the Society planted a large area in tall bearded and Siberian varieties to be used in future sales and auctions.

A quarterly newsletter, *Blue Ridge Echoes*, was begun in September, and our membership list was computerized during the summer. Elected officers for

1990 are: President: Vic Layman
 Vice-President: Dennis Stoneburner
 Secretary: Sally Craver
 Treasurer: Kay Cooper

We are having our 1990 Flower Show on May 12th, and we plan to host the Fall Regional Meeting in 1991. A \$200 donation was made to the Region. A copy of the Roanoke Times newspaper article on our Society and Vic Layman was given to the Regional Historian.

Vic Layman

Region 4 Conventions Report

To the best of my knowledge, the report on Conventions as appears in Dec '88 Newscast is still current. Invitations to chapters to be hosts were extended at both the previous Fall and Spring conventions. Beyond next year's Fall Meeting (1990) at Tidewater, there are no further fall meeting locations spoken for. Since these invitations received no response, this is an urgent appeal to each chapter or society to seriously consider stepping forward and affirming a date or year of your choice.

As for the Spring Conventions, we are better off. They are listed as follows:

1990 - C & P; 1991 - AIS National; 1992 - Eastern North Carolina; 1993 - Tidewater. Any additions are also in order here.

Owings Rebert

1989 AIS Convention at Memphis

Bill Kuykendall

There are two reasons for attending an Iris Society Convention: one is to see the iris and the other is to see the people. I went to the 1989 AIS Convention in Memphis and saw plenty of both. Even before I picked up my packet at the registration desk, I bumped into George and Nancy Gerhardt from Pittsburgh. (I met them a few years ago when I attended an iris auction at their home. Somehow I sliced my finger in my car door as I was preparing to leave, which necessitated approaching my hostess to ask for the use of towels, cold water, and a bandage. Have you ever tried to bleed nonchalantly? They haven't forgotten me.) I introduced George to several people as "a ferocious exhibitor" and he didn't seem displeased by the description. George, Nancy, and I ate a picnic supper that evening cheek to jowl with Earl Hall, who introduced **Welch's Reward** in 1988. This iris was preserved by Mr. Hall after the death of its hybridizer. He introduced it when garden visitors kept picking it out of the seedlings.

I spent the next three days enjoying the luxury of looking at iris I didn't have to weed. Hundreds of iris were growing at the Ketchum Memorial Gardens - so many that we had to visit twice to absorb the show. Several varieties from Niswonger and Schreiners had developed into huge, floriferous clumps. **Sunshine Song** (Niswonger '85) was a very large, blocky creamy white personalized by yellow blushes on the falls. The flower is backed up by a vigorous, many flowered plant that holds the stunning beauties up well. Put

that clump in the path of a casual gardener and poof! - an irisarian is born! **Coral Chalice** (Niswonger '83), growing next to **Sunshine Song**, was a variation on the same theme - pink blushes on white, same vigorous, hearty plant habits. The co-mingling of white, yellow, and pink was a pretty, pretty combination. I've created a similar presentation at home by planting **Piping Hot** and **Wedding Candles** next to each other - the abundance of white holds the colors together. Probably the very largest clump, with gargantuan flowers, was shown by **Jesse's Song** (Williamson '83). The plicata markings are not sharply defined on this iris; the purple looks a bit smeared over the white background. It has sound, but not exciting, form. Perhaps I was too critical, playing the role of devil's advocate in judging an iris considered a Dykes contender.

The pride of Region 4 was upheld by Clarence Mahan's **Betty Frances** (1989), a pale violet. Betty is not shy about displaying her charms, even though her coloring is demure.



**BETTY FRANCES PUT ON A SPECTACULAR SHOW AT
KETCHUM**

Monty Byers had a row of Space Agers that impressed me with their refined flower. What improvements in flower form over other nearby Space Agers! Most were tall, with medium sized florets. **Easter Lace** (Byers 1988), **Howdy Do** (1986) white, and **Conjuration** (1989), a taller, larger **Alpine Castle** with long, slender appendages, all pleased me. Space Agers are here to stay, folks, and you won't have to use the term "novelty" as a euphemism any more.

If you like orange iris, I hope you were at this convention. My convention booklet has checks for good performance beside **Good Show** (Hager '88), an Orange Star look-alike; **Orange Slices** (Niswonger '87), with a strong pink undertone; and **Orange Wave** (Dr. Mohr, '88), a deep orange whose lush growth gave no one any reason to doubt its vigor. Jim Hummel had two deep oranges with branching even a purple would be proud of: **Veracity** (1987) and **Tassallena** (1988), a smaller flower with HUGE, bushy, deep orange beards. This is an iris that proves you can sometimes break the rules with good results. The hafts are a little narrow, but that only makes the beards more prominent and fleshy.

I was looking forward to seeing **Welch's Reward** after hearing about its delayed entrance into the iris world. The clump at Ketchum had fully pigmented yellow standards and quarter shaped and sized falls colored rich maroon - a smaller MTB that will find its way into the foreground of one of my iris beds. Not too far from it I found: **Witches Sabbath** (Maryott '86), deep red purple petals and contrasting light beards, and **Winemaster** (Keppel '86), an impressive, highly ruffled deep winey red. There aren't too many gold bi-tones, but I saw two in Memphis I liked very much: **Polite Society** (Hager '89) and **Aztec Treasure** (Miller '84). Aztec Treasure is the darker of the two, with

deeper falls of incredibly rich, heavily saturated gold. Some people claim **Skyblaze** (Keppel '87) is the best red-bearded blue, and if you base that opinion on architectural strength and think substance, you are probably correct.

Glitz 'N Glitter (Black '88) will have friends and foes, equally vehement in their admiration or dislike. It is a gaudy yellow with rich purple falls. The kicker is a yellow sunburst below the beard. The colors are applied in a different way than most modern iris - it does not have a silky or slick texture, but is lightly muted, as if an artist decided to use chalks to do its portrait to avoid charges of being overly flamboyant. Other irises that consistently caught my eye over the three days were **Lightening Bug**, **Idols's Dream**, **Fanfaron**, **Summer Magic**, **Blues Singer**, **Southland Grape**, **Blue Rhythm** (yes, the old one), **Swedish Modern**, **Point Made**, **Success Story**, **Superman**.

The convention picks were **Country Bride** (Dr. Mohr '87), the President's Cup winner, and **Peach Bisque** (Maryott '87), which won the Cook Cup. They won on different virtues. **Country Bride** proved that an outstanding clump really can win a convention! In one of the smaller gardens, anchoring one end of a crescent shaped bed, there was a clump that was perfect in every



DR MOHR'S **COUNTRY BRIDE**

way: sequence of flowers opening, number of stalks, placement of stalks, bud siting, perfect branching. **Peach Bisque** owns one of the best formed flowers in the business. Period. It also has intriguing color, basically orange, strong pink influence, brownish glaze. Peach cobbler, maybe? My favorite was **Coming Attractions** (Gaulter '87), a full formed, large, light blue no one else seemed able to remember back at the hotel.

I have one postscript to my Memphis vacation. I had the fortune to attend the Region 4 spring meeting in Roanoke, Virginia the next weekend. Western Virginia grows irises every bit as fine as Tennessee. Some growers in Roanoke were apologetic about the appearance of their iris beds due to bacterial rot in the early spring. Even the gardens worst affected by rot showed no more damage than the typical iris bed in Memphis. I have news for you: no one, but no one, in Memphis could compete with Gene Patterson in the area of good horticultural practices; Ama Childress' landscape planning would receive rave notices everywhere; those people people at the national convention would've given their eyeteeth to spend one hour in Lloyd Zurbrigg's seedling patch. 'Nuff said!

Irisarian Law Number Fifty: *At the Memphis Convention a duck had made her nest right in the middle of an iris bed. Moral: If you are going to have to sit all day you might as well enjoy yourself.*



"THE DUCK" (LOOK HARD!)

Membership Report

Like most reports, this one is not entirely mine to give. I'm acknowledging the accomplishments of others. By "others," I mean not only the chapter membership chairmen, but you the individuals within the chapters who are actually doing the recruiting. This is your report.

Since January 1989, due to attrition and failure to renew, we have had a decrease of 35 members. On the plus side, we have 120 new members for a net gain of 85 "increases" to our regional garden. 7 individual chapter clumps have had net increases; 1 chapter did not have any change while 3 chapter clumps have had net decreases. These decreases are a concern. With decreases, the wonderful work that has been done by the many interested, enthusiastic irisarians in the past to establish the chapters, will be for naught. We need to keep working on recruitment. The best time to do that is during blossom time when local garden tours and shows are in full swing. Another opportune time to recruit is at a flower group meeting, such as a rose society, or a local garden club. Once a year the "state federation of garden clubs" requires it's members to submit their programs for the forthcoming year. If it is announced in their newsletter that someone(s) in your chapter gives talks, they will come knocking on your door.

To chapter presidents and/or membership chairman: if, since May 89 you have not sent me the requested up-dated membership list, please do so.

During our last meeting, we heard of the problems National was having with American Hort. and labels. Lately I have not heard of any of these problems and I understand from Mike that they have been rectified.

New members take note: there may still be a lengthy delay before your cancelled check is returned. Hopefully this too will be rectified with the creation of a new "membership board." Carol Ramsey will be stepping down in November. Her position will be filled by 2 or 3 people. (That is an indication of the large work load that she has been performing.) [Ed. *Marian Harlow in California is the new one and only AIS Membership Chairman. We wish her luck. See January Bulletin for details.*]

As was noted in the August Newscast, due to space limitations, the membership additions and deletions will be published in the December issue. Thanks to the chapter membership chairmen, these new "increases" are no longer coming through the back door, as it were, from Carol Ramsey. These new members are enrolled through the chapters and they in turn are notifying me. This procedure enables us to send the current *Newscast* and a regional welcome letter months before AIS notifies Region 4.

The National 1989 Membership Contest is still in full swing. You as an individual or you as an affiliate chapter can continue to accumulate points until January 7, 1990. Send the 3 x 5 cards to Rich. After 7 January, do not stop recruiting. There will be another contest. Save the 3 x 5 cards until the rules are published. [Ed. *There is a new AIS Contest Chairman; revised contest rules should be published in the January 1990 Bulletin.*]

Think membership! AIS membership is a good stimulant to keep chapter members informed, involved and growing with the iris. Why not give an AIS membership as a Christmas or birthday gift to Mom in Indiana or an uncle in New York? *Rich Randall*

[Note from Rich at press time: **There are approximately 150 new members in Region 4 since May!**]



CO-CONSPIRATORS RANDALL AND FIGGE PLOT
STRATEGY FOR CAPTURING MEMBERS

Regional Membership Contest

Win fame and glory (and a bit 'o Money if we pry the purse open) in the all new Region 4 1990 membership extravaganza.

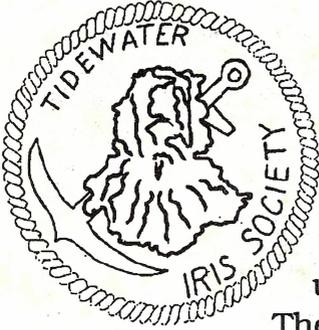
How?

Stir your stumps and haul in those people with a heretofore unrealized lust for becoming card carrying members of AIS! What are the rules? Don't bother with the fine print—just get out and recruit—the rules will appear in the January AIS Bulletin.

Send your new Member names and term of Membership to Rich Randal and he will do all the nitty gritty required. You just concentrate on pulling them in!

♥ ♥ ♥ **Join AIS** ♥ ♥ ♥

Give a Membership as a Christmas, Hanukkah, Birthday, Anniversary, Shower, Wedding or what have-you Present!



Tidewater Chapter Report

Since the Spring Regional Meeting, this chapter has continued to hold monthly meetings.

There were two programs in June:

Iris Pests and Disease and *How to Divide and Prepare Irises for the Up-coming Sale*. Also in June, 12 of our members attended the national SJI Convention in Manassas, which helped to stimulate the growing interest and popularity in our area for this lovely iris.

In July, our second annual picnic was held at the Norfolk Botanical Gardens. During this event, a logo contest, with 20 entries, was held. The winning logo is an iris superimposed on an anchor encircled by rope. [Ed: See heading this report.] Our annual July Rhizome Sale was held simultaneously at McDonald's Garden Center and The Great Big Greenhouse. We thank J.D. Stadler and the Williamsburg Iris Society for their donations. During the sale, our membership increased by 8.

In August, our meeting was a "reblooming" success. Not only did our guest speaker, Dr. Lloyd Zurbrigg, give us an informative talk about reblooming irises, but he also generously gave us a goodly number of his well known reblooming rhizomes. There were a number stalks of **Immortality** present, including one from Lois Rose's Fredericksburg garden and one from our own patch. From Pat Dawley's garden came **Baby Blessed**, another well known Zurbrigg introduction. [Ed: CDM 1989, no less!] We are sure the six members from WIS enjoyed the presentation. At this meeting, a commitment was made by our society

to host the 1993 SJI National Convention. Since we had already committed to host the Spring Regional for that year, it looks like a busy time ahead for this group.

Katherine Boyette and Pam Grover continue to be our Number One recruiters. We have 25 new members, for a total of 84, of whom 90% belong to AIS.

Rich Randall

Beardless Iris Report

Beardless irises in Region 4 are Big and getting bigger. From the smallest species to the largest or tallest Japanese and Spuria, they can be found growing in Region 4. This is, I believe the fastest growing area of iris interest today and we are not only participating but in many cases leading the way. The annual convention for the Society for Japanese Irises was a huge success in Manassas, VA on June 16 and 17. We had a record total of 138 people on the buses for the tour on Saturday. They saw probably more Japanese irises than 99% had seen in their lives. Two articles published in national magazines, *Flower and Garden* and *Modern Maturity*: have stirred amazing interest in Japanese irises. Another by our own Clarence Mahan should be coming in the American Horticulture publication.

The "Wild Ones" robin is flying well and I am always amazed at the amount of information it contains and also the variety of things people are growing. It forces me to look into *The World of Irises* to see what they are talking about. Tomorrow we are very fortunate to be able to learn a lot more about Louisiana irises. It could be the nicest thing you have done for yourself and your garden.

Carol Warner

A visit to the Garden of J. D. Stadler in Reidsville, N.C.

For several years I have been making a trek to the J.D.Stadler garden. Here one can see a wide variety of the newer introductions, blooming almost two weeks earlier than the season in Radford, Virginia. But the stellar attraction for me is J.D.'s seedling beds. In '89 the selection of numbered seedlings was at an all-time high for quality and color.

For years I have resisted the charms of **Pink Bubbles**, one of the best border iris going, but J.D.'s B33/13 has captivated me. From Pink Bubbles X Memphis Delight, it has a lovely pink color, deeper than the well-known **Beverly Sills**, and it has lots of buds. The standards are open, but they are well-held.

H 34/14 is another excellent border pink, perhaps not quite as starchy, but with closed standards. This one is more pink, while the other is more coral.

If you like contrasting texture-veining in an iris, there are two here you will love. L 7/77 is an almost-white iris with texture veining of blue throughout, and exquisite form. From Ruffled Ballet X Bubbling Over, it has only 6 buds, but it is a charmer. It bloomed well on a newly-set plant here in Radford.

Its companion, H 23, is a lovely blue, perhaps a shade deeper than the above, with blue texture veins on a pale background. Both have excellent branching. This one is from ((Celestial Dream x Sapphire Hills) X Ruffled Ballet)

If color is your prime delight, make way for J 29/9, (Veneer X Flamenco.) It is a brilliant yellow with smooth brown hafts. Nobody can miss this one! L 14/4 is a super smooth dark iris from (Holy Night X Superstition). There are absolutely no haft markings, and

the beard is the same rich near- black. I am hoping that it has inherited the tendency to rebloom from its pod parent.

The favorite seedling at our Region 4 meeting in Roanoke, was H 18-81. From his Celestial Dream x pollen of Dream Romance, it is an improvement on both parents, and that is saying a lot. Like its "mama" it is a white with an edging of color on the falls only, but in rich orchid instead of light blue. It has much ruffling and flare. Whether it is a tall or a border, this one will become popular.

I should mention J. D.'s two Siberian amoenas in yellow. They were outstanding too, and promise to be more amenable to general garden conditions in Region 4, than **Butter and Sugar**.

Let me urge you to visit this garden. You will feel welcomed, and it will be an iris treat you will not soon forget.

Lloyd Zurbrigg

Eastern North Carolina Chapter Report

In May of this year, ENC held a successful show at the Holly Hill Mall in Burlington. Mike and Anne Lowe were our capable and competent judges.

[Ed. *This show was held on Friday, May 12th, which helped alleviate some of the second weekend in May regional show congestion.*]

In July we held our summer luncheon and auction at the home of Roy and Virginia Epperson. This is always the high-light of our year. Adding to the fun was a slide show of Spring Regional gardens by Glenn Grigg.

On October 21st we will have our Fall Meeting at Alice Bouldin's home in Elon.

J. D. Stadler

Median Report

One of the overlooked Median iris is the Aril. In this area of the country, most Arils do poorly because they like a relatively dry climate. The humidity and high annual rainfall take their toll. However, the smaller Aril Breds (a mix of other bearded varieties with Aril) produce an iris we have fondly nicknamed ArilMeds. These iris do very well in this region and are unique in coloration and shape. They come anywhere from the dwarf size - **Night Light, Tiny Tyke** - to SDB size - **Canasta, Plum Cute, Little Orchid Annie** - to IB size - **Ode to Kalifa, Green Eyed Sheba, Stitchery, Syrian Moon**. I don't have any that bloom late enough to be classified as BBs, but I am sure there are some out there. Most of the more popular ones bloom early with the SDBs and IBs. Once in a while one is around when the tall come out but rarely. Even the tall Arils - **Esther the Queen, Lady Mohr, Sheik** - bloom with the early TBs. The Aril characteristics translate into these little ones: roundish form; texture that looks like crepe (on a lot of them); weird colors and combinations of colors-purples and black, brown and black, green, purple and brown, yellow with red splotches; veining. Exquisite! Then there are the normal colors: deep violets, browns, yellows, etc. They also tend to have a contrasting color as a signal. A feature of many is the biggest, bushiest beard you've seen in a small iris.

These iris like a very well drained bed in which to live. They love to bake in the sun. They have the tenacity to stand the large quantities of water we get if we plant them where it runs off. Fertilize them the same as other bearded iris. It works for me. The drainage part is important so a word to the wise...

Many also look like they are dead, but don't pull them out because they generally come back.

Other names to look for: **Big Black Bumblebee, Cairo Love Song, Califa Kabang, Desert Buttercup, Ibab, Loudmouth, Oyez, Sajetta, Shepaug River, Shondo, Sizzle, Stolbee, Temple Dancer, and Zizah.** I've got some new ones: **Jewel of Omar, Omar the Tentmaker, Cleopatra's Beauty** and a few more, but will have to wait to report until I see them. Most gardens that sell lots of medians will have a variety of ArilMeds. They are not as plentiful as other kinds but there are enough to capture your heart as they have mine.

Dick Sparling

Auctions and Awards

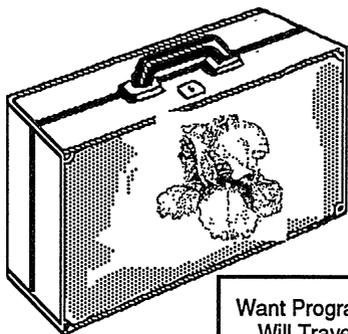
This will be my last letter as your Auctions and Awards Chairman, so I want to take this opportunity to once again thank each and every one of you for your help and generosity. We continue to set records in either the Spring or Fall auction - or both. These records are not of my doing but yours, and I earnestly solicit your continued support for the capable incoming Chairman, Vic Layman.

Without sponsorship, awards would not be possible. I want to thank Alice Bouldin for sponsoring the **Bobbie Lee Evans Award**, given each year for the Best Region 4 Seedling, and the C & P Chapter for providing the yearly **D. C. Nearpass Award** for the best introduced Region 4 Iris.

Thanks again for your loving support. May God richly bless each of you,

J. D. Stadler

Irisarian Law Number Fifty-one: *The only good argument in favor of poverty is that old saw that "an orchid is a rich man's iris."*



Want Program,
Will Travel

A Evening With Keith Keppel

Carol Warner

On October 14th seven members of Region 4 joined the Susquehanna Iris Society in Gettysburg for an evening with Keith Keppel.

Keith had some interesting new and different ideas which he shared in his judges training session. He began by addressing why we want to be judges - hopefully to learn. Judges are ambassadors of AIS, unpaid, of course, but their primary task is the voting of awards. Not everyone is going to be a good judge; it is an honor but also a huge responsibility.

Keith suggested that it might be better if judges voted only for things that did well in their area. Often awards are won at conventions because a plant does well in that particular climate or even in one particular garden. He stressed what we have been pushing all along that the plant must grow well to be considered for an award. Disease resistance, distinctiveness, branching, multi-stalked varieties, and form were discussed from a knowledgeable hybridizer's point of view. Garden judging and exhibition judging of seedlings (which are entirely different) were discussed. Seedlings should have the best possible light or natural light. This time you are judging the breeder and not the grower. Irises are constantly changing and it is the job of the judge to help them get better. Mr Keppel's evening slide presentation and talk on plicatas was also fascinating. Are plicatas "good whites (or now yellows) spoiled?" Not if you saw his slides and heard how all the pigments overlay one another to get those wonderful patterns and colors.

Region 4 Tall Bearded Symposium Results

Beverly Sills -----	44	Breakers-----	12
Titan's Glory-----	38	Cherry Smoke-----	12
Vanity-----	38	Christmas Time-----	12
Song of Norway-----	37	Cup Race-----	12
Immortality-----	31	Dazzling Gold-----	12
Lady Friend-----	27	Piping Hot-----	12
Lorilee-----	23	Sapphire Hills-----	12
Laced Cotton-----	22	Dusky Dancer-----	11
Mystique-----	22	Joyce Terry-----	11
Skating Party-----	22	Lemon Mist-----	11
Stepping Out-----	22	Michigan Pride-----	11
Superstition-----	22	Mulled Wine-----	11
Bride's Halo-----	20	Tomorrow's Child-----	11
Spinning Wheel-----	20	Cranberry Ice-----	10
Victoria Falls-----	19	Debby Rairdon-----	10
Camelot Rose-----	18	Eastertime-----	10
Dover Beach-----	18	Everything Plus-----	10
Hindenberg-----	18	Infinite Grace-----	10
Edith Wolford-----	17	Jean Hoffmeister-----	10
Gold Galore-----	17	Pink Taffeta-----	10
Mary Frances-----	17	Queen Dorothy-----	10
Copper Classic-----	16	Queen Of Hearts-----	10
Ringo-----	15	Sheer Poetry-----	10
Gay Parasol-----	14	Tide's In-----	10
Going My Way-----	14	Codicil-----	9
Idol's Dream-----	14	Dusky Challenger-----	9
Sky Hooks-----	14	Fresno Calypso-----	9
Kilt Lilt-----	13	Grand Waltz-----	9
Pledge Allegiance-----	13	Holy Night-----	9
Purple Pepper-----	13	Lace Jabot-----	9
Theatre-----	13	Latin Lover-----	9
Winter Olympics-----	13	Ruffled Ballet-----	9

67 Ballots received, 55 singles, 22 doubles, one triple for a total of 80 voters. Complete listing available from the RVP.



Spring Revisited

The 6th Annual
Reblooming Iris Show,
held in conjunction
with the Region 4
Fall Meeting in Fred-

ericksberg, 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 Speciman of Show was **Jennifer Rebecca**, exhibited by Diana Nicholls who also won the Silver Medal. Among 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 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



FALL SHOWS IN REGION 4 WERE NOTABLE FOR LARGE SEEDLING SECTIONS - THESE WERE AT FREDERICKSBURG



The Great Fall Show

C & P's 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 80 specimen 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.

We had one new exhibitor, T. Hadd of Arlington. 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.

We would like to thank Joy Peters for chairing the show and all her crew for a job well done. Thank you also goes to Mrs. McGregors Garden Shop for our show site. A special "thank you" goes to our judges, Dennis Wilke and Ruth Walker whose job was made difficult by a substantial breeze.

We hope that you came and viewed the show. 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 the sixth annual C & P Great Fall Show in 1990!

Diana Nicholls

Financial Committee Report

At our last meeting in May, Clarence Mahan reported that the C & P Chapter has the necessary finances for the National Convention in '91.

Our Treasurer's report by Brian Lazarus in the August *Newscast* looks very good with a balance of \$7,614.07.

From these figures everything looks good.

Blanche and I are sorry we will be unable to attend the Fall Region meeting in Fredericksburg. Please file this as my financial report.

Al Rice

Excitement

A very, very short true story by *Ron Harris*

The word *excitement* is defined by Webster as being something that stirs up feelings, stimulates emotions and often leaves lasting remembrance of a specific. In 1944, the year before World War II ended, I was eleven years old and the things in my life that were exciting were Cushman motor scooters, Packard automobiles, the current aircraft carriers that were being built at the Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Co., *The Hardy Boys* and *Nancy Drew* Mystery books, and Rita Hayworth, not necessarily in that order, but close.

Real excitement for me was the day that a new aircraft carrier, the Essex, Hornet, Wasp, Franklin, Ticonderoga - to name a few, slid down the "ways" at the shipyard into the waters of the James River; or when I would chance to see Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt's Packard Limousine on the way to Hampton Institute - she was devoted to this college, one of the two Negro Colleges in the United States at that time; or the day I read the Newport News *Daily Press* movie page and discovered that Rita Hayworth's new movie, *Cover Girl*, was opening at the Paramount Theater on Washington Avenue in Newport News, Virginia. In just one week, Newport News was big time, up-town, high-class metropolis, compared to mundane, old, small, country Hampton where I lived.

At any rate, the two cities were separated by a distance of only two or three miles and therefore Rita Hayworth and the Paramount Theater were easily within my grasp. During intermission at the Paramount all the house lights would come on, a solid gold velvet curtain would close, and a Hammond organ, also solid gold, would miraculously rise out of the

floor, bringing with it the one and only Gladys Lyle, organist extraordinaire, who would entertain the audience for ten minutes while the film was being re-wound.

It was during this time of my life, on the way home from some new adventure for an eleven year old, that I noticed an old fence that had previously escaped my insatiable interest and attention. The fence surrounded a somewhat nondescript house, but was wooden and blocked my view of the back yard. I decided to climb up a nearby tree to see what secrets the hidden yard held (here is where the influence of the Hardy Boys and Nancy Drew enter the scene). Quickly I reached the desired pinnacle. My eyes beheld a marvelous sight. Here before me was a garden like I had never seen. My eyes moved over what seemed like a thousand rows of blooming stately stalks of a million colors. I knew right away what they were. My grandmother and aunt both grew irises but not irises like these. These irises were blue and white all at once, maroon, tan, yellow, deep purple; a kaleidoscope of color, surely unequaled in the whole world, maybe even Richmond. I remembered reading *The Secret Garden*. Was this it? (Nancy Drew again.)

I climbed down the tree and walked slowly home, entranced by the beauty I had beheld. I made inquiries among my friends and found out that the garden belonged to an old lady (she was forty) named Mrs. Adams, that her husband was dead, and that she sold these irises to make money for herself. I also found out that these irises were very expensive - fifty cents each. That was two weeks allowance! I saved my money for two weeks, dug up a spot in my back yard and then approached the Adams house with a great deal of timidity. I pulled the rope attached to a more distant cow-bell, evoking a thunderous noise and causing

a stray cat to run for its life, and almost immediately a tall gray-haired, thin lady appeared at the gate.

"Yes," she said, "what is it?"

Lowering my eyes as well as my volume control I said, "I would like to buy an iris." (I have long since learned to repeat these words without lowering either eyes or resonance.)

"Come in," she said, opening the gate, "Which one?"

"The brown and tan one," I replied stifling the urge to stuff my hand into my mouth to chew my fingernail.

"That's **Stained Glass**," she said, more to herself than to me as she grabbed a spade and moved toward the iris. She certainly knew how to use a spade for an old lady; in no time at all she had forced it into the ground and had my iris up and ready to be bagged. She never smiled or made light conversation - she was very formal, cool, and very scary.

"This one's a little small," she said, once again forcing the spade into the ground and producing a second rhizome for my approval. It was then, just for a fleeting moment, that I thought she was going to smile, but she didn't. However, as she bagged the irises, her eyes relaxed and the corners of her mouth softened and seemed to twitch at least once, like when you're getting ready to smile.

I gave her the fifty cents, she thanked me, and I left. I hurried home and planted the two irises, spreading the roots and packing the soil tightly around the prized rhizomes like I read you should do in Collier's Encyclopedia, Volume 18, page 371; and here is where we get to the real and only true definition of the word '*excitement*' - I, Ronnie Harris, at age eleven, had started my own garden and become An Iris Owner.

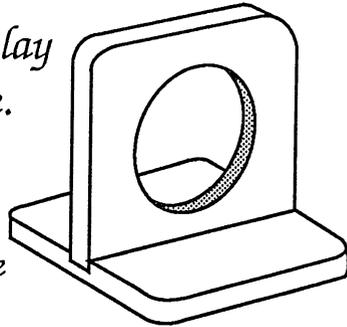


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Holders enable you to display them in a prominent place.

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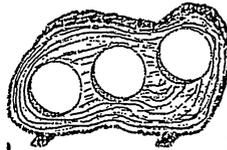
← 5" →

\$6.00



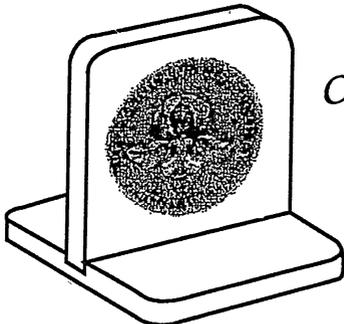
← 9" →

\$11.00



← 13" →

\$15.00



*Order from: Rich Randall
524 Windsor Gate Rd.
Virginia Beach, VA 23452
Tel: (804)340-9077*



Chickweed... To have or have not

riend, you would think with cold weather approaching, we could forget about weeds in the iris beds.

Unfortunately, that's just not so.

Wouldn't you know that the bane of the iris bed, chickweed, just loves the cold weather and short days? Just when everything else (including the irisarian) is going dormant, chickweed springs to life with renewed vigor.

It continues its spreading lush growth all winter long. You see, our beds are fertile. We've spent all summer adding goodies, (organic materials, fertilizers, superphosphate, lime, expensive bonemeal! etc) to the beds to make a good home for our precious iris.

Now as the iris growth stops and we turn our backs and our attention to other things, the insidious chickweed quickly takes advantage and takes over... thriving on left-over nutrients and rooting prolifically into the soft organic-rich soil.

We won't insult your intelligence by telling you what to do about the chickweed. Who needs to be told how to pull weeds! But, if the iris-bed needs clean-up, now is a good time to do so. You can remove dead and diseased foliage and destroy the prime wintering over site for borer eggs... as you root out the chickweed—before it gets a real stranglehold.

The alternative is, of course, to do nothing and ignore the chickweed, letting it spread and crawl around and through the iris.

When fellow irisarians accuse you of being lazy or untidy you can always say that this is your particular method of winter protection... or that the tons of

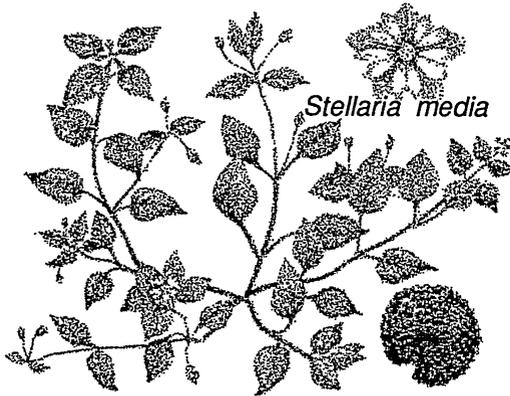
chickweed that you will have to harvest come spring clean-up time is really your prime compost pile ingredient.

You could claim that you are conducting research... testing to see which of your 35 dollar beauties can survive the moisture retentive carpet of chickweed without succumbing to rot. Tell them you will report your findings to the society as a spring program—if you can stifle your sobs).

It's amazing what can be passed off as good iris culture advice, but keep the face straight and the voice low. We're kidding... of course... get rid of the darn chickweed NOW. *Dale Martin; adapted by MBL*

[Ed: above adapted from *The Rambler*, 1984, South Penn Area Rose Society. Below used by permission, Golden Guide® **WEEDS**]

COMMON CHICKWEED probably originated in Europe



but is widespread in various parts of the world, including the U.S. This is the only species of about 100 in the genus that is abundant enough to be ranked as a weed. It prefers rich, moist, shaded soil in lawns and gardens,

often starting its growth in late fall as a winter annual. Seeds are needed for reproduction, but the slender stems, often a foot or more long, help spread the plant by rooting at joints. Common Chickweed has opposite oval leaves and small, starlike white flowers. It is variable in size.

Common Chickweed, *Stellaria media*, has tiny, dark brown seeds covered by many small irregular bumps. Another species, Stitchwort, *S. graminea*, is locally abundant in the East.





Editors' Mail

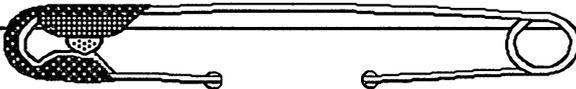
[The article by Noni Risarian has produced a bit of speculation, some of which we share with you here.]

I wonder...who could Noni Risarian possibly be?? I recall a lady in the back of the tour bus talking about her bag of books and the high-mannered English criminals. B.K.

Aug. ...there is just one question. Who is Non Irisarian, *Newscast*, p. 48? And why does he admit in public to wandering through gardens drinking? And why does he admit to being stimulated to do so by rife and abundant weedlessness? I find this to be shameless, and insist that he be expelled from all Irisarian activities and organizations, and be sentenced to read only Agatha C. mysteries. Besides, if he is speaking of Baron, Lord Chief Justice, and Chancellor of England, his first name was John. If he is speaking of the founder of the Disciples of Christ, his first name was Alexander. Tish, tish. Try to do better with the next issue.

The old retiree, RG.

[Trust RG is using the editorial HE.]

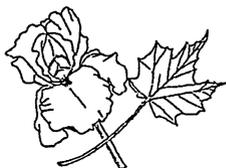


Congratulations to
Phil and Ginny Yowell who announce
the arrival of a third son:
Keith Jeffries
August 12, 1989

[From our Fall Regional guest speakers:]

We returned home safely Monday afternoon. We drove down the Skyline Drive and Blue Ridge Parkway, and also stopped at several battlefields in Virginia. West Virginia was very beautiful.

...Our best to all the nice folks in Region 4. We enjoyed our visit very much. *Melody & Jerry Wilhoit*



Reblooming Iris in Region 4

1989 has been a very, very wet year, as you all must know. On top of that came Hurricane Hugo, bearing tons more water. However, it seems abundantly evident that the reblooming iris varieties prefer lots of rain to the drought conditions of 1987 and 1988.

There have been many reports of good rebloom this summer from various locations within our region. Many of us have had to move our gardens this summer, but I still am confident that our Fall Show will have more entries than has been the case in the past two drought years. [Ed: *This was the largest Regional Fall Show ever.*]

It was my pleasure to address the Tidewater Iris Society a few weeks ago on the subject of reblooming iris, and I am pleased to have the invitation to address the Francis Scott Key Iris Society on the same subject three weeks hence.

I wish to thank all of you who helped **Baby Blessed** to win the Cook-Douglas Award this year. This is the first time that a remontant iris has won a major award from AIS. I thank you on behalf of those dedicated few who have laboured the past three decades to bring respectability to the reblooming iris. We are convinced more and more of you are going to enjoy the iris in the summer and fall in the years to come. *Lloyd Zurbrigg*

C&P IRIS SOCIETY PROGRAM 1990

All Region 4 Members are cordially invited to attend and enjoy the programs and festivities offered by C & P

Please note those meetings for which reservations are required.

Sunday, Jan. 14 — Judges Training - Dick Sparling - Meeting is at the Administration Bldg., U.S. National Arboretum, 1 PM

Sunday, Feb. 11 — The Heritage of Original Art in Agriculture - Dr. Alan Fusonie, National Agricultural Library. Who, when and why were illustrations done for the USDA publications? - National Arboretum 1 PM

Sunday, Mar. 11 — Dinner With Blaney - Don't miss this marvelous buffet dinner at Blaney's home in Silver Spring. Program will be a slide show with recorded commentary and Oriental music: "*The Japanese Garden*" prepared by the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. (*Reservations.*)

Sunday April 29 — Garden Judging Median Iris — In the garden of Dick Sparling. Not just for members training to be Judges. Come find out just WHY you may want to buy this iris. What makes it good? What do you look for to obtain a show in your garden?

Sunday, May 20 — Iris Exhibition, Smithsonian Institute - NOT a show but a way to let the public know we are around. More on this later.

Fri., Sat & Sun., May 25, 26 & 27 — C & P hosts the Region 4 Spring Meeting. This is your chance to see all of those fabulous gardens (and iris) that will be on the National tours in 1991.

Saturday, June 16 — Beardless Show at the U. S. Botanic Garden

Saturday, July 21 — Bearded Iris Sale and Auction - Garden of Celeste & Charles Cox

Sunday, Aug. 12 — Something New for Something Old - Anne Lowe, Pres. of The Historic Iris Preservation Society.

Sunday, Sept. 9 — Beardless Iris Sale and Auction - Heyden Gardens, Georgetown Univ., Washington, D.C.

Fri. & Sat., Oct. 5 & 6 — Region 4 Fall Meeting - Hosted by Tidewater Chapter 3

Sat., Oct. 15 — Reblooming Show - U.S. Botanic Garden

Sun. Nov. 4 — Fall Fling - Treat yourself to a famous Southern Maryland Church Dinner (*Reservations*) and a meeting at the house of Libby & Joe Dufresne. Program on early nurseries and landscapes, including those that sold iris, by Phil Ogilvie.

Program by Libby Dufresne

Chesapeake & Potomac Report

We have had an exceptional year. Great show!! Great Japanese Convention!! Great Auction & Sale!! Great picnic!! Great Beardless Auction!!

The cooperation of the members has been great. In my last report I would like to thank C & P for putting up with me for two years. Everything turned just grrreatt in spite of me. If it hadn't been for the membership pitching in things would have been pretty bad. We had a successful time but imagine how much more successful we would have been if three times the numbered had helped out. WOW!! A goal to work for.

Our two sales raised enough money to keep going and with one more year to go we will have covered all the initial outlays necessary for the 1991 convention. We now need to work on the people part to get them in shape for the next decade.

We enjoyed the hospitality of John and Mrs. Lawson for a lovely picnic setting, good eats and a real good time. Our sales were hosted by the Coxs' and Don Spoon and the Hoyas of Georgetown. Dedicated people. All!!

Our new officers for the coming year will be Diana Nicholls as President; Kris Forsberg, Vice President; Phil Ogilive as Secretary and Nancy Schuhmann, Treasurer. A great Convention slate! *Dick Sparling*

How Did You Become Interested in Growing Irises?

Have you ever been asked that question? Well, you have now.

Dennis Stoneburner is looking for interesting stories from Region 4 irisarians on their beginnings in "the wonderful world of irises." Please jot down a brief account of how you got started and send it to:

Dennis Stoneburner 2114 Avenel Avenue Roanoke, VA 24015



raditionally, *Newscast* carried a yearly roster of AIS members in Region 4. With increasing size compromise crept in. From 1987 until present, changes in AIS membership were published. We have now reached a size where only a listing of new AIS members is feasible.

Our Membership Chairman, Rich Randall, is providing all Chapter Chairmen with a complete Regional Membership listing. Any member desiring this list can obtain it from Rich for postage and duplication costs.

Blue Ridge Iris Society

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Bedford, VA 24523

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Shawsville, VA 24162

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Danville, VA 24540

Emily O. Lindsey
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Danville, VA 24540

David L. Merrill
Box 5812, Radford University
Radford, VA 24141

Lawrence & Michele Morgan
4956 Wing Commander Dr. S.W.
Roanoke, VA 24018

Doris Newby
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Farmville, VA 23901

Elmer & Helen Padgett
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Thaxton, VA 24174

Helen M. Townsend
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No new AIS members May '89 thru Dec '89

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Ruby Wines
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Capitol Heights, MD 20743

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Clifton, VA 22024

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Bethesda, MD 20816

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Penny Powell Woods
C/o Gilmer-Smith Foundation
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Mount Airy, NC 27030

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Prospect Hill, NC 27314

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North East, MD 21901

Yone J. Sugiyama
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Towson, MD 21204

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Westminster, MD 21157

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Baltimore, MD 21212

Medora Wright
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Baltimore, MD 21212

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Sept 89
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Fredericksburg, VA 22405

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July 89 Rena M. Jenkins
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- Washington, VA 22747

Aug 89 Jean F. Johnson
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July 89 Joe Mathias Jr.
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Spotsylvania, VA 22553

Aug 89 Wilma F. Pacey
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July 89 Mrs. Jack G. Peltier
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June 89 Caryll Peters
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Aug 89 Jerome & Jessie Sale
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Fredericksburg, VA 22401

Aug 89 Anne H. Sheleva
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Fredericksburg, VA 22401

May 89 Mrs. Christine Wedding
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Hartwood, VA 22405

Aug 89 Gayle A. Wood
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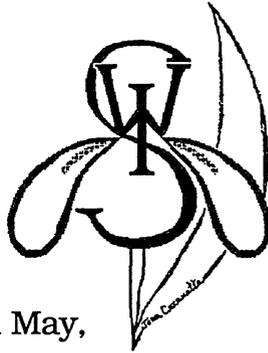
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Williamsburg Chapter Report



1989 has been a good year for W.I.S. In May we had a wonderful show with 173 bloom stems plus English Box and Collections. Also in May, we had a tour of members' gardens.

In June, officers were elected, and in July we held an educational exhibit at a local nursery. We had a successful sale in August. We welcomed several new members at our September meeting which was a picnic in the park.

Our October program will be centered around a discussion of the Fall Meeting and a slide presentation on Louisiana Irises. In November we are having a luncheon meeting at a local restaurant.

May 12th is our show date for 1990.

We now have 59 members, 77% of whom are members of AIS. We have a monthly newsletter, *Rhizome Review*, edited by Joan Caravetta. 8 of our members are here at this Fall regional.

Betty Worrell



All AIS members in the Allegheny Highlands-Virginia- West Virginia:

As the iris bloom season in our area is so far behind the show date of our nearest chapter, it would seem to be to our advantage to either reactivate the old Greenbrier Chapter or form a new chapter.

Anyone interested in this endeavor please contact me by the middle of February 1990. Be sure to give me your name and address so I can notify you of the date and time of our organizational meeting. Please write or call me.

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Note: There are no active chapters in West Virginia at this time.

**NEWSCAST is the publication of Region 4,
American Iris Society.**

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December Issue — 15 November

It's a week until Christmas; the dining room table
Is piled high with Newscasts all ready to label.
The last phrase is polished, all graphics are placed
The spelling is checked, most errors erased
The margins are justified, photos are credited
All sixty-four pages are finally edited.
This is the last job so be of good cheer
Oh merciful heavens, the labels aren't here!
Quick, make a few phone calls, Oh what shall we do?
Ah, here comes the postman, Carol Ramsey came through.
They're finally mailed and there's no further reason
To put off preparations for this wonderful season.
The fruit cakes are wrapped up all snug in their booze
The old ham is soaking, there's no time to lose.
A new family member we welcome with glee
Our first ever grandchild - Oh yes, It's a HE!
So, bring on the holly, the cedar and pine
Mix up the eggnog, break out the wine,
Skine up the silver, polish the brass
(To try to rhyme this one would really be crass!)
But let us take time to gratefully remember
Another small boy who was born in December,
And whose birth is really the primary reason
Why we have Christmas, indeed, this whole season.
To all of our friends in Region Four
We say "Happy Holidays" and so much more
May your Christmas be merry, your New Year be bright
And your iris be healthy, no leaf spot in sight!
This is the end of my ploy to be clever
May 1990 be the best year ever!



Lill Rose

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