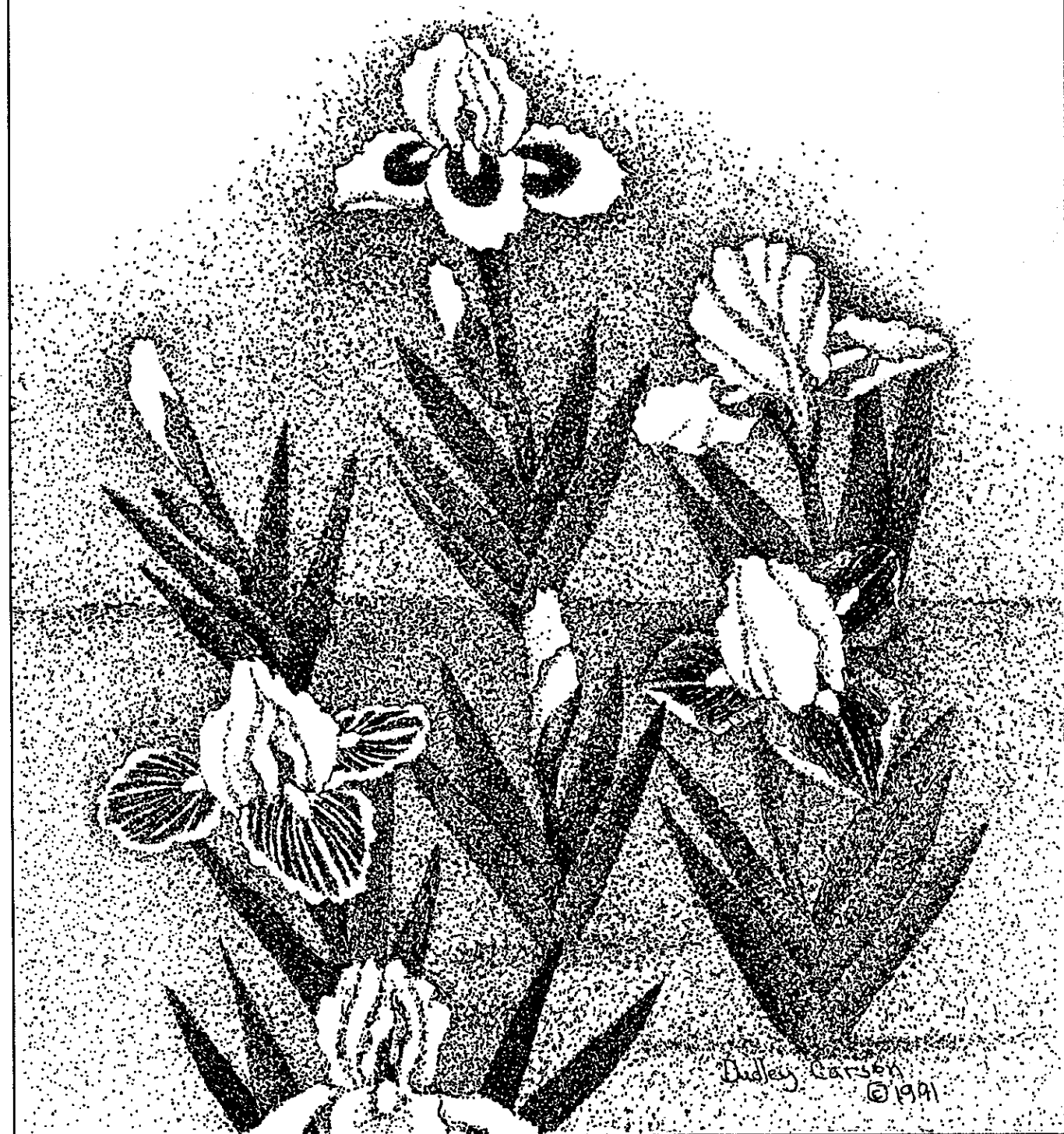


THE REBLOOMING IRIS RECORDER

FALL

1991

VOL 39



Dudley Carson
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REBLOOMING IRIS SOCIETY

A Section of the American Iris Society

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The 1991 Cumulative Checklist of Reblooming Irises is on sale for \$6.00 Make check to Reblooming Iris Society and mail to Howard Brookins, PO Box 965, Menomonee Falls, WI 53052

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EDITORS MESSAGE: Too much has been heard from the editor this issue—however one item needs explanation. The lateness of the Spring '91 RIR gyped that issue's advertisers. To compensate, a reduced size 'mini-ad' has been repeated in this issue for all who had bought space in the Spring Recorder.



1992 IRIS CALENDAR

**RAINBOW
RIBBONS**

It's time to order our seventh annual iris calendar. Make check to AIS: for single copies, send \$5.00.

IRISES

Quantity purchases come in packets of ten or multiples of ten: the price for packets of ten is \$30.00.

FOR 1992

*Order from C.J. Lack, AIS Sales Director,
718 W. 67th St., Tulsa, OK 74132*

President's Message

Howard Brookins



RIS PRESIDENT HOWARD BROOKINS AT LINCOLN IRIS SOCIETY FALL MEETING AND IRIS DISPLAY

After working for four years to continually update and add to the membership records, seeing the membership grow from 188 to 1,110 members, I now have large footprints to follow, those of past President John Weiler. John has done a tremendous job guiding a growing organization, and deserves special recognition for a job well done. I shall attempt to keep up the traditions set by John, and keep things flowing. John had set a goal of reaching 10% of total AIS Membership, and surpassed that, as we now are over 15% of AIS Membership.

Both John Weiler (Rialto Gardens), and Monty Byers and Bill Gibbs (Moonshine Gardens) have personally brought many of you members to our Society through their catalog offers, and great job of promoting remontant irises. Not only is this expensive, but time consuming in peak "busy" season. A very special thanks to both of them. It is particularly heartening to see the many 3-year renewals come in from people who joined as a result of both catalog offers. There are always some who take something for nothing, when there is no real interest, but both growers have reached many sincere remontant growers.

Of course, nobody would renew something that wasn't worthwhile, so let's not forget what a wonderful job our fine Editor, Mike Lowe, has been doing the past four years. Mike learned what his capacity was this past spring, and volunteered for a few too many jobs, but has things

under control, and is pushing me for information NOW so things will be on time! Even has taken the time to baby-sat for his first grandson this fall!

My first real treat as President of the Re-blooming Iris Society was attending the first ever showing of reblooming irises at a public display in a shopping mall in Lincoln Nebraska. Dr. Garland Bare and the Lincoln Iris Society did an excellent job publicizing reblooming irises, and my hats off to them for the attempt. I was particularly amazed at the beautiful seedlings some of their members brought to the show. Not all the hybridizing is going on in California, and I think we'll be hearing lots from the group Dr. Bare has been encouraging. Living in beautiful Wisconsin, where all the TB growers look down on remontant irises, I know it will be a long cold winter in you know where before we have a fall show here! Too bad, as this has been one of our best rebloom seasons ever. More and more I have come to believe that Remontants "like it hot!" Our hot, dry summer of 1988 was excellent for rebloom here, and this summer was three weeks ahead in degree days, so rebloom started in my garden on July 6th, and at least one stalk has been open every day since then. Earl Hall informed me he had 195 stalks in bloom on his peak day, October 6th. There has been great fall bloom on many of the remontants I've shared with open minded growers in this area who comment on the excellent quality of rebloom on *Immortality* and *Jennifer Rebecca*. In my garden, two that are "bloomin' fools" are *Belvi Cloud*, from the Jensens in Illinois, and *I Do*, from Lloyd Zurbrigg. Both have been in constant bloom since mid-August, and keep opening despite some 27-28 degree temperatures at night. A yellow SDB seedling of mine has also been busy, starting in late August, providing me with two stalks to take to Lincoln, and another stalk opening in the last half of October.

I still maintain the Check List in the computer, and am constantly making changes and additions in regards to WHERE things rebloom. PLEASE keep those letters coming with information. We now wish to list things by USDA Climatic Zones, so please report rebloom not only by State, but also by your USDA Zone. This will eventually give us the means to provide Climatic Zone lists for all parts of the country, and can be of even greater help to our Foreign Members.

So that I and others interested in reblooming shows can attend as many as possible, let Mike

know when your shows are scheduled, so that he can give you some publicity in the *Recorder*—likewise don't forget to send Mike a show write-up. I love to take photographs so feel free to invite me to your shows. 📷

HAVE CAMERA



WILL TRAVEL

THE 1991 CUMULATIVE CHECKLIST OF REBLOOMING IRISES

The Reblooming Iris Society
A Section of The American Iris Society
Edited by Howard Brookins

[Ed. I was going to include some of the letters and notes of praise that RIS has received since the publication of 'the checklist.' I rapidly discovered that available space would only allow letters or the advertisement to run. Suffice to say; The '91 Reblooming Checklist is one of the most valuable resources in my iris library.]

The best buy to date—a check or MO made out to: **REBLOOMING IRIS SOCIETY** in the amount of: \$6.00 and sent to:

Howard Brookins

PO Box 965

Menomonee Falls, WI 53052

will put one in your library.

Nominating Committee

At the Reblooming Iris Section Meeting in Atlanta, we will be electing the following officials: Vice President, Treasurer and Southern Director.

If you have nominations to make, send them to one of the committee members listed below prior to 1 March, 1992. The slate will be published in the Spring *Recorder*.

John Weiler, Chairman
1146 West Rialto
Fresno, CA 93705
1-(209)-229-6434

Lottie Ogles
1156 North Main
Joshua, TX 76058
1-(817)-295-4074

Member-at-Large TBA

Remember that the nominee must have agreed to serve prior to submission of his/her name. 📷

Falling

*The trees in the forest are dancing
As the breeze blows gently around,
The leaves are gaily dropping
In a hurry to reach the ground.*

*Summer is almost over
Fall is around the bend,
"Go back, leaves, onto the trees
I don't want summer to end."*

*But once they have left the branches
And ridden the wind to earth
There's no going back for season or trees
Until Spring brings rebirth.*

*So it is with us mortals
In a hurry to go nowhere
Just looking for new beginnings
At the wrong time of the year.*

*Let's stop and smell the roses;
Get the feel of each day's worth;
And make our lives mean something
While we inhabit God's earth.*

Betty Worrell, VA

news



A Few Thoughts about Iris Hybridizing

Lloyd Zurbrigg, Durham, NC

I have been raising iris from seed for some forty years. It would be nice to think that I have learned something worth passing along during that time. Perhaps!

The comments will be about bearded iris, although I have raised Siberians, junos and laevigatas as well. I followed the traditional advice, keeping the seeds after summer harvest, and planting about mid-October in Virginia. It is easier to control the moisture if the seeds are planted directly into a well-made bed, but seed flats are handier, and can be moved at will. Be sure that these do not dry out. I recommend sinking the flat into the earth part-way to help keep it from drying out. If you have a flood, the flat can be rescued and brought into house or garage.

Iris breeding is fun but it is also hard work. Keeping the seedlings weeded is the big chore. Now that there are herbicides and pre-emergents,

this task is somewhat easier but it is still a chore. I heartily recommend not mulching the seedlings; this ensures that only the truly hardy ones survive. If you live in the far north you might reasonably wish to ignore that advice. Within me is a strong desire to help the underdog. However, it is clear that the seedlings with a poor root system are probably worthless, and it is advantageous to discard them at transplanting time instead of hoping they will improve with time.

Above all, try to develop a goal or goals in your hybridizing instead of merely having fun. When I began I had three goals: rebloom, aril breeding, and amoena breeding. At that time the amoenas were all recessive and much harder to come by than now. There was some inhibitor present that made them rather infertile to each other. The aril breeding has almost gone with the wind but I still make a few crosses when I am able. The reblooming goal was conceived while I was still in Ontario, Canada. Had I not moved to Indiana, it might very well have terminated long ago, for the short season there barely admitted expression of this trait. So, if one goal seems unattainable, have another to change to. David Hall

worked for 19 years trying to get pinks from orchid-colored iris and finally had to admit defeat. But he changed to the blends, and within a short time came **Heritage**, and the other shell or flamingo pinks that were the sensation of irisdom in the forties.

Do not be afraid of adverse opinions! Listen to all criticism but do not capsize under it. I wish I had taken that advice in 1950. There was not a single member supporting my views on rebloom in the Canadian Iris Society. I had crossed **Autumn King** and **Martie Everest** in those early days, and had gotten five or six seedlings to bloom in the fall in Listowel, Ontario, Canada. Because they all looked alike, and because of the lack of support from other iris growers, I discarded them all! A serious error, that! Dr. G. Percy Brown had already produced many of his super-hardy varieties, but those available at that time, (about 1950), did not have enough good flower qualities to make them attractive to hybridize with.

The event that converted me indelibly to remontant breeding was as follows: I had gone to Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana to pursue musical studies. The only active AIS member there was Dr. Raymond Smith of the Speech Department. As chance would have it, his sole goal in iris was to achieve remontancy!! Thus we had a mutually enriching time of it for four years. In the spring of the last two years I was there, (1961 and 1962), my garden was annihilated by a freeze one year and hail the next! I therefore determined that rebloom was a MUST! The late Paul Cook, of Bluffton, Indiana, warned that it would likely be at least six years until I would get anything truly meritorious. That advice was given in 1962. In 1969 I brought out **Grand Baroque**, a real milepost along the way to truly good rebloomers. It came from **Henry Shaw**, possibly the best once-blooming white of its time, crossed to pollen of Dr. Smith's **Replicata**. I recall attending a Convention in Michigan soon after. The beds in the Northrup garden had been almost emptied by the forces of nature, but a clump of **Grand Baroque**, and a clump of

its "papa," **Replicata**, were serenely evident in full bloom with no weather damage!

Apart from its hardiness, **Grand Baroque** exhibited considerable ruffling and flowers of good size and fair breadth. It looked its best after being open a couple days, when the blue tones had faded out, leaving virtually a yellow amoena. As a parent it was very successful both ways. Among the many good crosses from it, the one by pollen of **Amy** was perhaps the most outstanding. **Amy** was derived from **Amethyst Flame** X pollen of Raymond Smith's **Purple Duet**. This good violet iris was in turn derived from a seedling of mine crossed with **Gibson Girl**. (**Purple Duet** was also of inestimable help in founding my violet lines.)



Joan Caravetta

BABY BLESSED (ZURBRIGG '79)

From **Grande Baroque** X **Amy** came two fine seedlings that were named **I Do** and **Baroque Prelude**. The first was white, as the name suggests, and the second a yellow amoena. **I Do** had the desired remontancy, sometimes even in late summer, and a flower that was not far from the standard for once-blooming iris. It was short of stature, and the branching was rather crowded, but it was well liked—especially by its hybridizer.

I Do turned out to be a star parent, often yielding things far, far above its own apparent abilities. Among these were: **Immortality**, **Brother Carl**, **Amain**, **Anew** and **I Bless**. Some well-known hybridizers are currently issuing introductions from **I Do**.

Try to transplant seedlings as early as possible. Unfortunately the iris season throws many barriers in the way of transplanting. There are gardens to visit, shows to judge or attend or participate in, and conventions, without even thinking of adverse weather conditions. The danger is that the really hot weather will begin before the little seedlings have a sufficient root formation. In that case, they just sit still until the cooler weather of fall and the best part of a season of growth has been lost. They do need some extra watering most summers, and a judicious use of a light mulch can be very helpful in keeping the soil temperature low enough for the little plants to keep on growing. With remontants, one can

sometimes get bloom the very first fall, and this possibility is further enhanced by early transplanting. Just last fall there was bloom on both seedlings from the cross I Bless X Marmalade Skies. Knowing that the end of the growing season had just about been reached, I potted each of these seedlings, and brought them indoors to bloom.

My friend Earl Hall of West Alexandria, Ohio, (near Dayton), reported that last fall he had a number of maiden blooms on his cross of Doll Baby and Baby Blessed. He thought the quality in these to be very high. Baby Blessed is able to give that maiden bloom a few months after transplanting to not a few of its progeny. I Bless, mentioned immediately above, is a "child" of Baby Blessed, and bids fair to perpetuate this trait, even though, as an IB, it does not have full fertility.

For three years in a row I had almost zero germination in the flats. The reason for this is still not clear. I theorize that the manufacturers of the potting soil I had used in preparing the medium for the flats had some inhibitor of germination mixed into it. My friend J.D. Stadler of Reidsville, N.C., urged me to change to planting the seeds directly into the ground and I followed his advice, with excellent results. With the move to North Carolina after 28 years in Radford, Virginia, I decided to try the flats again, and at the moment am having fair germination—so far. But it does appear that a higher percentage of germination can more easily be reached with planting seeds directly into the ground—provided that the weatherman is not too uncooperative!

In 1970 there appeared in my seedling garden an iris whose standards were buff-yellow with a flush of violet at each base; the falls were buff-yellow with violet stripes. RVP William Kelley of Lewisburg, W. VA., kept coming back to it again and again. No other sibling was at all like this one. The cross was Avis X Da Capo. Avis was an

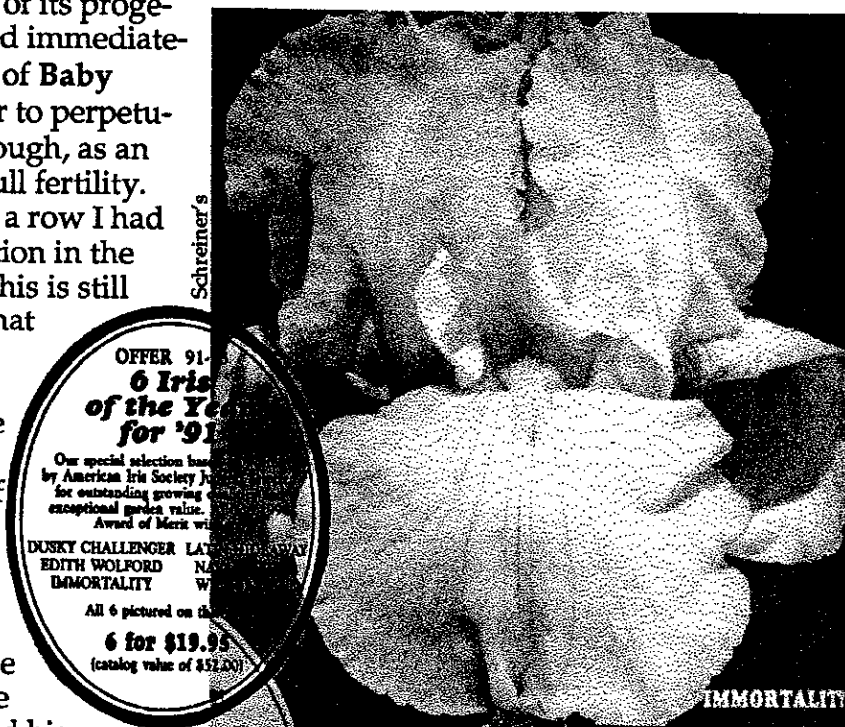
amoena from Steve Varner of Illinois, named for his lovely wife; Da Capo was one of my most dependable rebloomers. The seedling was named O My Goodness. In many ways it was very disappointing. Its pattern proved to be subject to the virus that is carried by aphids, and its popularity was reduced to zero. As a parent it gave many interesting patterns and some blue beards. This set me off on the search for blue beards, and since Avis seemed able to mask the remontancy of O My Goodness, few rebloomers came in these crosses.

Nevertheless, many of the seedlings were

numbered, and more than a dozen were named, including Oh Shennandoah, Halt, Garth, Monastery Garden, Earl, Baked Alaska, Carol Ann, Tudor England, Fair Flora, Love's Allure and Tell Tale. The latter is a char- treuse with violet beards. The spring of 1990 was near- disastrous in many parts of Region 4 but Tell Tale turned in its all- time best performance. It was magnificent. I crossed it back to one of its best seedlings out of Song of Norway, and that cross is

currently germinating well. My friend Monty Byers is the only hybridizer that I know who is introducing things from the O My Goodness lines, with Sytan last year and Thornbird the year previous (1989). As stated before, this has been a disappointing line, but I have not given up on it.

It might seem that the writer has had many goals and not a few side roads. Still it is not amiss to warn the young hybridizer not to have too many goals, lest he or she miss out on all of them. Sometimes this leads to such a heavy load of gardening



THIS COULD HAVE BEEN A GARDEN PHOTO—
HOWEVER THE SCAN OF IMMORTALITY FROM
THE SCHREINER'S 1991 CATALOG® SPEAKS
MORE ELOQUENTLY

that the fun disappears, and that is always unfortunate. One-side path that became a goal for the writer is to add spoons, flounces or other fancy appendages to the iris. This has met with great opposition from some of my best friends, but there definitely is a future for the best of these. Perhaps they are parallel in many ways to the Fuji mums.

These "space agers" made their first spectacular appearance in the seedling rows in the Thomas garden in Radford. Almost everything else had bloomed out for the year, when the cross (Golden Unicorn x Crinkled Ivory) X Super Flounce began to bloom. Two of these were so unique that I brought them into commerce. Miss Venus is a pink with huge, usually rather flat flounces. Miss Jupiter, as befits her name, is a huge tall iris with big trumpet-like flounces, and three buds in some placements. It is an aggressive iris, whereas her sibling is softly seductive. Both were fertile, but it was unfortunate that I had not saved pollen from other varieties to use on them.

In regard to not heeding every word of advice that may come your way, a well-known iris personage came to address a local chapter of the iris society, and from the podium gave strong plea against such heresy as spoons and flounces in irisdom. That may have slowed me down a little, but I was a member of two iris robins on the subject of spoons and flounces, and the encouragements of those fellow "robineers" kept me going for a number of years until the adornments became accepted by at least a minority of iris judges.

Whatever your goal, you may have to outcross from it to get some desired characteristics. With remontancy, it has been necessary to outcross to the best once-blooming varieties. I have found that the reblooming varieties successful in Mediterranean climates like coastal California are seldom successful in the East. They contain too much of the genetic material of *I. mesopotamica*. This plant estivates in the hot, arid summer of

Iraq and tries to grow all winter long. This is suitable to Iraq and to some parts of California, but it is very wrong for much of the rest of the nation. Gibson Girl, Sky Queen and Red Polish were three California rebloomers that grew rather well in the East.

Therefore, I sought out the best once-blooming varieties to cross with the remontants. A look at my violet line will illustrate that well.

Violet Supreme, ('69) is a violet rebloomer coming from Prince Indigo X Purple Duet. Jolly Goliath ('71), Goliath's Mate, and Perfume Counter all came from Purple Duet X Sunset Blues. (The latter was a California iris from two Indiana irises, Melodrama and Whole Cloth.) The crossing of Violet Supreme X Jolly Goliath gave three excellent seedlings with respect to flower quality, and each rebloomed.

These were Dawn Violet ('76), Violet Classic ('76) and Magic Violet ('79).

Violet Miracle ('79) was another meritorious seedling of Violet Classic as was the plicata Earl Of Essex ('83).

In choosing a parent for an outcross, try to select one that does not have the same faults or weaknesses of your chosen variety or seedling. If your chosen one has weak stalks, be sure that the outcross one can contribute strong stalks.

When the seedlings from the outcross have bloomed, a decision must be made as to what pollen to use on them. Usually you will want to enhance the good flower of the outcross or the desirable characteristic, (e.g. rebloom) of the other parent. Some breeders, whether of cattle, dogs or iris, will endorse line-breeding and even in-breeding, while others maintain there is a necessity for more diverse genetic material. This is a difficult decision to make, and on it hinges, probably, your level of success. If a line seems to contain an inferior genetic trait, in-breeding would seem to be ruled out, and line-breeding should be carried on with that weakness well in mind. I recall in-breeding pink amoenas, and getting lots of increase, but the foliage got successively smaller

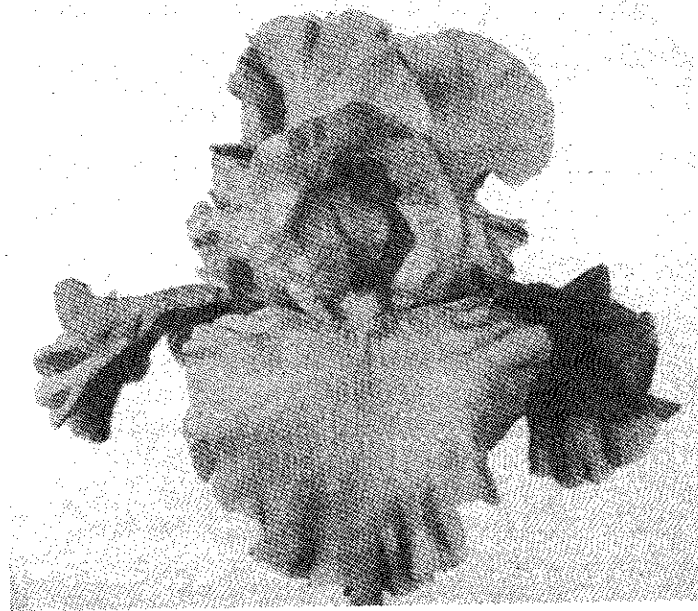


JENNIFER REBECCA (ZURBRIGG '84)

Lloyd Zurbrigg

and narrower until it became almost grasslike!

In 1970 I introduced a remontan tall bearded for Jim Gibson of Porterville, CA. Like so many remontants from southern California, it proved to be not well suited to the East. Nevertheless, it had several characteristics that the rebloomers of that day needed. It had heavy ruffling and some lace, and a novel color pattern. The standards were rich golden yellow with mahogany veins, while the white falls had a yellow rim with mahogany dots inside this rim. From this iris I got *Hallowed Thought* ('77), a laced pale blue amoena that was almost everblooming; *Fiji Dancer* ('78) like its parent in coloring but with copper-red rather than mahogany; and *Spirit Of Memphis* ('76) a supremely attractive bright yellow of extra good growth, though rather sparse remontancy. This excellent iris has given me many good offspring, such as *Garden Grace*, a plicata ('81); *Grace Thomas*, a yellow self ('82); and the latter, crossed with *Vanity*, gave me my very best iris so far, *Jennifer Rebecca*, a rose-pink self. The iris that I

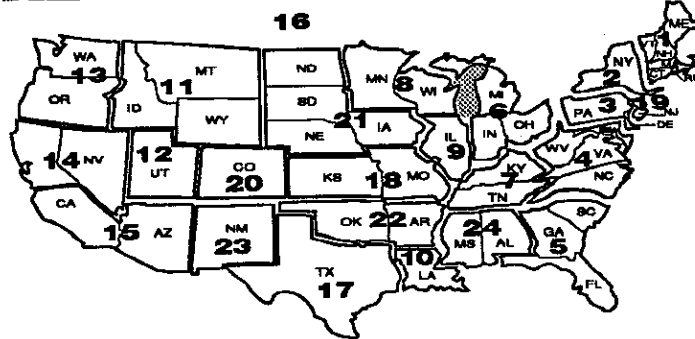


V 59 SERIES (ZURBRIGG 197?)

brought out for Jim Gibson in 1970 was *Halloween Party*, and though it was not of permanent value in itself, it added immeasurably to the reblooming iris family.

Let me challenge the "new" hybridizer to try for resistance to the iris borer, resistance to rot, resistance to leaf spot. Very few, if any hybridizers, have sought these goals, but they are of outstanding importance to the future of the iris as a garden flower. In your hybridizing have fun — but also have a goal! I wish you much joy and few frustrations.

RE-Bloom Notes USA



•15 October... We were thrilled when we got home to find *I Do* as well as *Bright Moments* blooming.

Margaret Stone, Lewisburg, WVA

•10 January...Two stalks of *Blooming Fool*, one with 3 buds and the other with 5 buds, got nipped by frost but opened in the house. It really lived up to its name.

Isabelle Campbell, Poquoson, VA

•20 January...*Leora Kate* was magnificent! I have it in several locations and had blooms from it for about 2 months. Others that bloomed for me this past fall were: *Belvi Queen*, *Curtain Up*, *Earl of Leicester*, *Feedback*, *Queen Dorothy*, *Sky Queen*, and *Summer Olympics*. I planted about 30 in the fall of '89 so I hope to have more rebloomers next fall.

Carolyn France, Memphis, TN

• 4 September...Rebloom update: *Lady Emma*, planted in July; *Baby Tears*, SDB, and *September Buttercup* with 3 stalks blooming and another coming up. A second clump of *Immortality* is putting up stalks. Are you doing anything to encourage rebloom—fertilizer, etc.?

Betty Worrell, Williamsburg, VA

•7 November...Although the new garden here was planted only this summer, there have been a few nice stalks this autumn. *Northward Ho* is the star this fall. This iris just keeps getting better and better. It is a pinkish plicata on white, with superb substance and excellent form, stalk and branching. It is truly remarkable for its parentage hardly predicts such beauty. (English Cottage x ?) X *Re-Treat*. *Immortality* gave several superb blossoms as it did for Michael and Anne, and for Ruth Walker's sister. (I got 2 phone calls last week on those.) *Jennifer Rebecca* put up a

stalk just a few weeks after it was set out and there were 2 nice blooms on **Baby Blessed** in mid-August.

Lloyd Zurbrigg, Durham, NC

•12 November...**Immortality** sold me—it was and has been my only rebloomer until this year. **Jean Guymer**, a three year old plant, put up 2 stalks and **Spirit of Fiji** and **Baby Blessed**, both planted this summer, each put up a stalk. I had to cover them with newspaper but they made it and it was great seeing them this time of year. about some varieties growing well for some people but not for others. My friend, Don Mull, just on the other side of the mountain had **Witch of Endor** rebloom for him. I gave it to him 2 years ago; mine is 5 years old and never makes an attempt!

Ellie Weikle, Shawsville, VA



...This photo needs a bit of introduction and background.

In the spring of 1989, Anne and I paid a visit to Clarence Mahan's garden. In looking over his seedlings, an extremely large, violet self caught

our eye (seedling 85X9). We were both impressed with the huge ruffled bloom. Of particular interest was that the foliage, stalk height, stalk diameter, branching, and branching placement were in proportion with the *extremely* large flower.

When we questioned Clarence as to his intentions toward introduction, he replied; "I had considered introducing it but have held off since it's just another large violet." Both Anne and I replied that it was the *largest* iris we could remember seeing, bar none. Clarence countered. "True, but... size alone doesn't constitute sufficient reason for introduction. I then asked the magic question, "Does it rebloom?"

Clarence told us that it had thrown a stalk its maiden year but had been caught by frost. At this point I said, "Introduce it! It's unique in being the largest rebloomer I have ever seen—or heard of and is close to being the largest iris I have seen, period. If it can bequeath its size and height to offspring, it will be invaluable in giving stature to many rebloomers that tend toward the runty side." I did indeed, twist his arm a bit.

Clarence replied, "OK Mike, I'll introduce it but—if I get flack—I'll tell the world 'the editor of the *Reblooming Iris Recorder* made me do it!'" He did indeed, subsequently introduce it.

Before we left that day, Clarence gave us two rhizomes to guest. We had fall bloom in '89, spring and fall bloom in '90 and when Clarence ran short of stock in summer '91 we shipped him 22 rhizomes and reset two.

Both pieces of 85X9, now **Violet Music Mahan '91**, bloomed this fall—the above photo taken in late October '91 in Virginia bears witness to the size we were discussing. The iris measures 41 inches ground to bloom top. The stalk on the left is actually a branch emerging from low on the main stalk.

Five days after this photo was taken we had freezes going to the high teens. We cut all stalks in our garden that looked as if they had any chance of opening. **Violet Music** was the last iris in bloom in our house, lasting nearly 17 days inside.

Super size, super doer, super iris! 🌸

IN MEMORIAM

Debby Clark, TX Gilbert Cipolla, CA

Celebrating Fall

Lucy Fuchs, Ambler, PA

At any good party there is a mix of comfortable old friends and new, sometimes exciting ones. The dramatic fall show is very like a party to me. Like everyone else, when it arrives, I play host to at least several chrysanthemums. They are old friends indeed, the standbys for half the autumn gardens in the country. We all know their virtues. Their vivid colors are paraded in every nursery and roadside stand we pass. But there is more to celebrate in fall than chrysanthemums. For diversity and excitement I have found several other lovely perennials that are, happily, just as easy as chrysanthemums. In addition, like eager guests early to the party, they start their display weeks before the chrysanthemums do.

In my garden the party starts in August with the Japanese Anemone Queen Charlotte. Small the first year, by the second she has become a great big pink beauty blooming with abandon for almost two months. She has made her entrance while the daylilies are still in bloom and continued for weeks after they finished. There are no diseases I know associated with this plant, and it is not fussy in any way. She can be grown in full or half sun—in short, the perfect guest.

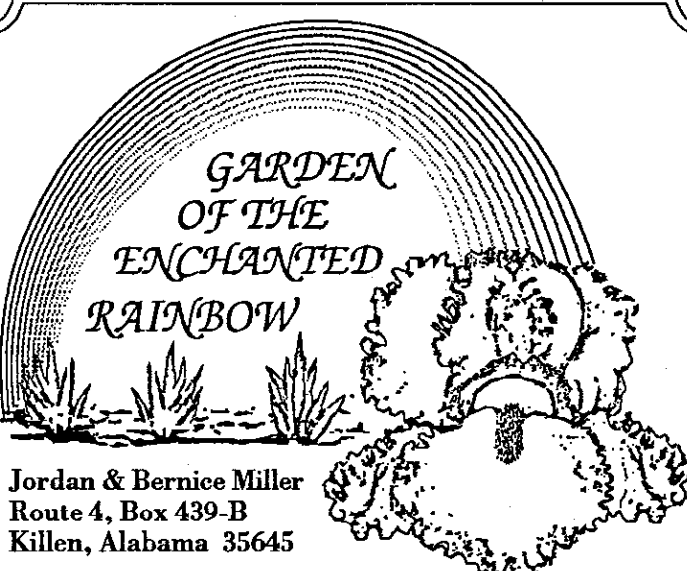
Earlier even than Queen Charlotte, the enormous white blooms of the Hibiscus Diana made her arrival. She came in early and stayed and stayed and stayed—as welcome in August and September as her first appearance in July. This lovely shrub or small tree is across the perennial bed and will continue to produce its impressive flowers until frost. I must tell you that this aristocrat is a much improved version of her undistinguished relatives, for I have never been fond of the common Rose of Sharon with its unattractive shade of purple. In addition to having much larger flowers, Diana is a triploid and does not produce seeds that require bothersome weeding.

As Queen Charlotte and Diana begin to bloom less profusely, that other wonderful Japanese Anemone Honorine Jobert makes her entrance. This anemone looks very like Queen Charlotte but is white. She is still in glorious bloom at the end of October. Both anemones, like many other perennials, will have to be divided the third year as they are vigorous growers. This is a bonus not a complaint. Since they are so

hardy and put up with part shade, I plan to try the divisions in the part of my shade garden that gets dappled sun.

Now to the stars of the show. Would you believe IRIS? Iris in September and Iris in October. At this very moment in the last week of October, I have a profusion of bloom in peach, yellow, blue, white and purple. What is more, they flowered as ardently in June. This miracle is easily performed by anyone buying what is known in the trade as Rebloomers. Why praises to these plants are not shouted and sung from every roof top is a mystery to me. They are as beautiful as any other award winning iris I have seen. Like the regular bearded iris they are easy to grow. Their bloom is spread over a long period and I have been so enraptured at such appearance that I have not separated which start in September and which in October. Suffice to say that there are some blooms each week over this time. Perhaps they are whimsical about their timing or it depends on where in the bed they are located. Whenever they bloom it is a time of magic.

Still surrounded at the end of October by so much color in my garden, I no longer sigh about the end of summer. Although the leaves have half fallen, I know I can party until the first frost. And then it is a short wait for the Hellebores. ■





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What you see below is one of the best fall iris gardens in the AIS. In July, 1990, the Reblooming society placed a recruiting advertisement in the *Bulletin* using a color

photo of a fall garden. The great temptation was to use a scraggly, poor-bloom shot of a spring garden—it would have been better than available fall garden pictures while still remaining believable. (This was not done—

the picture used was taken in Melrose Gardens in the fall.) The second picture is the cover shot from the 1992 AIS calendar. It shows Owings and Doris Reberts' *Iris Haven* in Maryland, spring of '91. Makes the other look sparse by comparison, eh? Must even the best fall iris garden pale in comparison to

spring's display? Conventional wisdom has, with ample justification, said 'yes!'

There are many reasons why spring/fall bloom disparity is a sad fact—most of these reasons well known to the reblooming iris fancier.

The editor of our local paper has wanted to have a photo feature of our fall garden the last three years running. We have canceled three years in a row. Why? The owner of the most miserable 50 foot row of *Pallida* can truthfully say "My iris bloom a heck of a lot better than that dude's!" (**Spring vs Fall!**)

I'm fed-up with always apologizing for fall bloom!

Will someone please do the following:

1. Grow as wide a selection of rebloomers as obtainable for several years in your garden.
2. Select those cultivars (regardless of age,

beauty, or modern flower form) that dependably rebloom for you, in (pick your own best time here) say, the middle of September.

3. Pick an appropriately sized patch of new ground.

4. Cultivate it well, till in a plenitude of organic material and the very best soil amendments that experience has shown

work for your rebloomers.

5. Plant 15 to 25 rhizomes of these carefully selected cultivars *per clump*.

6. Space the individual rhizomes and clumps such that they will be hopelessly overcrowded in a little over a year.

7. Fertilize well but sensibly, spray for borer, keep weeds

out and push water! (1" per week minimum—avoiding rot by whatever means necessary.)

8. At peak of fall bloom take a color photograph.

9. Send photograph to: Editor, *Reblooming Iris Recorder*.

10. Then, send photo to the Editor, *AIS Bulletin*; *Flower & Garden*; *Horticulture*; *Fine Gardening*; *Pacific Horticulture*; *House and Garden*; etc.

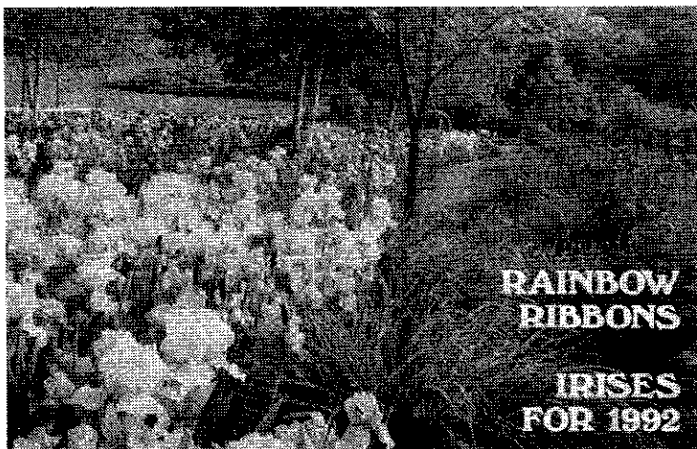
This project is the gardening equivalent of climbing Mt. Everest. No one ever promised that a fall

iris spectacular is quick, easy, cheap, or even sane. However, if we are to achieve credibility vis-à-vis spring bloom we must have someone demonstrate that spectacular, massed, fall bloom is possible.

The Editor



FALL—JULY 1990 COLOR RIS AD
PHOTOGRAPHED IN MELROSE GARDEN



SPRING—1992 AIS CALENDAR COVER
OWINGS & DORIS REBERTS' MARYLAND GARDEN

AMBERWAY GARDENS REBLOOMING IRIS

WE HAVE OVER 95% OF ALL THE REBLOOMING IRIS LISTED IN 'THE REBLOOMING IRIS RECORDED', SPRING 1991 EDITION IN STOCK. OUR STOCK IS MODERATELY PRICED AND IS GUARANTEED TO BE SHIPPED IN EXCELLENT CONDITION, GIVE US A TRY. OTHERS HAVE AND WE HAVE HAD LOTS OF LETTERS FROM OUR CUSTOMERS ALL OVER THE UNITED STATES INDICATING THEIR PLEASURE IN THE EXTRAS THEY RECEIVED AND THE QUALITY OF THE PLANTS WE SHIPPED TO THEM.

SEND \$1.00 (REFUNDABLE WITH THE FIRST ORDER) FOR OUR CATALOG DESCRIBING OUR 1000+ BEARDED IRIS VARIETIES IN THE TB, BB, MTB, IB, SDB AND MDB SIZES. WE STOCK HUNDREDS OF REBLOOMING VARIETIES AND SPECIFY WHICH REBLOOM FOR US HERE IN MISSOURI. WE ALSO HAVE MANY OF THE LATEST INTRODUCTIONS BY NUMEROUS HYBRIDIZERS OF ONCERS AND REBLOOMERS.

WE SHIP FROM ABOUT THE 1ST OF JULY UNTIL ABOUT 15 SEPT. ON FIRST COME/FIRST SERVED BASIS. PLACE YOUR ORDERS EARLY TO ENSURE RECEIPT OF YOUR FAVORITES.

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St. Louis, MO 63128

1991 AIS Awards to Reblooming Cultivars

compiled by J. Weiler

[A listing of location where rebloom has been reported follows each cultivar]

M • E • D • A • L • S

Knowlton Medal

Runner-up

Music Box Dancer (E. Roderick) CA

Hans & Jacob Sass Medal

Runner-up

Thrice Blessed (Weiler) AZ, CA, CO, IN, MA,
MO, NE, OH, OK, TN, TX, VA, WA,
England, Holland

Caparne-Welch Medal

Puppet Baby (Boswell) AZ, CA, MO

Morgan-Wood Medal

Runner-up

Windwood Spring (R. Hollingworth) MI

Award of Merit

MDB Burgundy Blues (G. Gaddy) NE

SIB Indy (R. Hollingworth) IN

SDB Plum Wine (Weiler) AZ, CA, MO, NE,
OH, OK, SC, TX, UT, VA, WA, WI

BB Nursery School (Ghio) CA, Holland

Runner-up

Peach Petals (Niswonger) Australia,
Germany

TB Champagne Elegance (Niswonger) CA,
CO, KS, MO, NE, NM, NY, OK, OR,
TX, WA, Australia, England

Sweet Musette (Schreiner) Australia

Altruist (Schreiner) OR, Australia

Holy Night (K. Mohr) AL, AR, CA,
GA, MS, OK, TX, VA

Darkside (Schreiner) CA

Honorable Mention

SDB Serenity Prayer (P. Dyer) OK

Tu Tu Turquoise (P. Black) CA, MO,
OK, TX, UT, WA, WI

Little Showoff (E. Hall) CA, MO, OH,
TX, UT, VA

Sheer Class (L. Miller) CA, OK

Cool Melodrama (H. Nichols) Germany

IB Hissy Fit (Innerst) CA

Sixteen Candles (Byers) CA, TX, UT

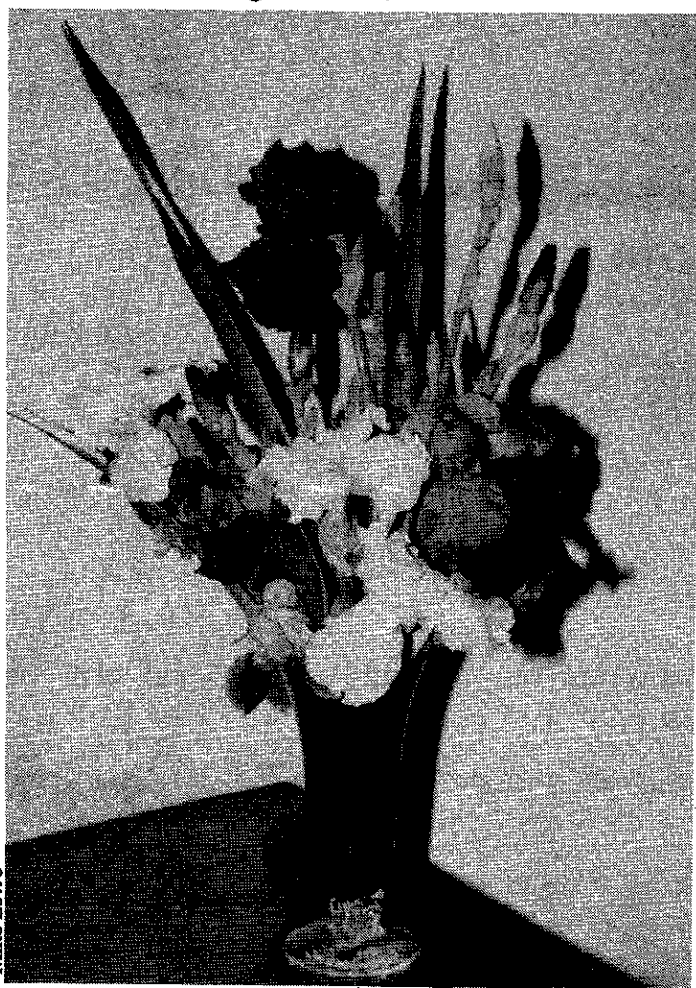
Low Ho Silver (Byers) CA, MO, NE,
TX, UT

MDB Grapelet (Aitken) WA

Garden Gnome (P. Black) OK, WA

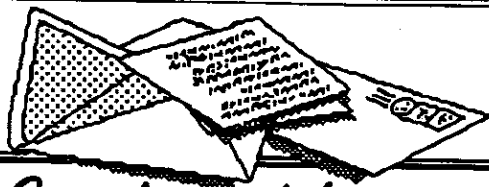
SIB Spring's Brook (Warburton) MA

Standing Tall (D. Johnson) MN



Mike Lowe

DON'T HAVE A FALL SHOW IN YOUR AREA?
MAKE AN ARRANGEMENT OF REBLOOMERS AND
DISPLAY IT PROMINENTLY—BANK LOBBY, MALL
INFO BOOTH, CHURCH, PUBLIC MEETINGS, ETC.



Cards and Letters

14 July

...There was little rebloom in my garden last year although **Orange Harvest** and **Dime Spot** put up stalks on new plants but didn't have the energy or time to produce flowers. **September Encore** bloomed in one of the gardens that I left behind. Last winter was a disaster for my garden. I lost about 30% of my TBs over winter and over half of the remainder suffered winter rot and no bloom. The new garden needs winter mulching. I'll mulch this year and hopefully that will make a difference.

Chuck Chapman

11 Harts Lane E.
Guelph
Ontario, Canada, N1L 1B1



14 August

...In the Spring 1991 edition of the *Reblooming Iris Recorder* there is an article on care of the reblooming iris. The suggestion is that the irises receive special handling, including extra water and fertilizer, as an inducement to bloom in the fall. It is with this suggestion of extra water that I want to take issue.

I am sure that there are many parts of the United States where extra summer water is needed for rebloomers. However, on the East Coast where plentiful natural rain falls most of the time, adding extra water to rebloomer beds is a prescription for disaster.

In the summer of 1988 I followed the standard prescription for inducing fall bloom, loading my clumps with water and food. I was overwhelmed with a scentless rot that started at the base of the fans and spread to engulf the whole rhizome. Massive applications of fungicide did no good. Who knows where the situation might have led except for the fact that I received my first water bill in this new house—a \$167 whopper in place of the anticipated \$30–40 one. At that point I decided the iris would have to live or die on their own; they would get as much water as God sent them and no more!

That was three years ago and I have had no

troubles with rot of any kind since I stopped the artificial watering. I plant irises, usually **Lloyd Zurbrigg's** but not always, that I am pretty sure are able to bloom on the East Coast. **Eternal Bliss** and **Feedback** are two newer ones. **Summer Olympics**, **Corn Harvest**, **Jean Guymmer**, **Grace Thomas**, **Immortality** and **Summer Holidays** are older iris, but they were bred to deliver two seasons of bloom per year and they do it—year after year, in spite of neglect, weeds, dry conditions and haphazard feedings. The only thing I do religiously is keep **Cygon2E™** on them for protection against the iris borer.

Thus, in my experience, best bloom is achieved by first selecting varieties that are capable of reblooming without an elaborate program of special culture. Then, having made the selections and planted them, it seems to me that less water, rather than more, is one of the keys to success with rebloomers on the East Coast.

Jane McKnew

238 Arundel Road
Pasadena, MD 21122



15 August

...The only improvement I could suggest in the *Recorder* is that it would be nice if you could also give, in addition to the state, the city/town location of the contributors of the various comments and articles. Since rebloom of the different varieties or cultures discussed depends so much on the climate, it helps one relate to his own situation if there is some idea of what the climate is where the article originates from. Some states have several climatic zones and knowing what part of the state can make a big difference. [Ed. *Good point—consider it done.*]

In Oz Reyna's article, he asked for suggestions and dependable rebloomers from members, but no address was included. I have a little of both and would like the message to get to him as soon as possible...

Tom Burns

5100 E. Morada Lane
Stockton, CA 95212



16 August

...of course you people have to worry about planting now, but I don't start until the middle of September. I miss some of the heat as well as rot that follows when we plant when it's wet. It is too hot (100°+) for rebloom yet and, since we

never have a drop of rain in the summer, everything has to be watered. When it does cool down and nice bloom stalks appear, then we have a hard frost, but years ago I had a nice collection that fall-bloomed so maybe I will again.

Evelyn Hayes

51 S. Byron Ave.
Lemoore, CA 93245



August

...Irises do rebloom in Michigan. Our soil is very sandy and requires about one inch of water each week to produce bloom but it can be done! Some that rebloom for me are: Coral Charmer, Queen Dorothy, Pink Attraction, Violet Returns.

Frank Crawford

7572 Smale
Washington, MI 48094



28 August

...Thanks so much for the iris. They are going in the Lena Foundation Garden. The Lena Foundation is a non-profit group that offers counseling and other help to people who are getting over a loss—a really nice group...

Beverly Raedi

5953 Partlow Road
Spotsylvania, VA 22553

[Ed. Several varieties known to reliably rebloom in the Fredericksburg area were sent for this planting—we hope they will provide inspiration and hope to all who see them in spring and fall.]



25 October

...Rebloomers! Have about 30 TBs now and a few medians. Did fertilize after spring bloom and watered (by soaker hose) about every week or 10 days. Have had lovely blooms on our breakfast table since mid-August.

All of us here in Kansas City are having trouble with cucumber beetles and once the bloom is out, they really enjoy. However, after cutting my third stalk of **Perfume Counter**, it occurred to me—not one beetle. They don't like fragrance? Dr. Zurbrigg sent me **Matrix** (E. Hall) this July and it has already had a bloom stalk—it has especially nice form.

Millie Townsend

11806 E. 39th St.
Independence, MO 64052

19 November

...At our Regional meeting a letter was read from an iris grower who bought nearly every iris in Schreiner's catalog only to lose them all to rot the very next year. (Schreiner replaced them all!) This irisarian lives in New Hampshire about 40 miles north of us, so we took on the task of visiting his garden in mid-October in order to give a report to the Region. I must admit he did something right because of all the gardens we visit each year (about 25) and all the National conventions we attend, he has the best looking plants we have seen anywhere... Each plant in his garden was groomed with leaves 3 feet tall—sickening! All plants were in raised beds from 1 foot to waist height. There was beautiful new growth on each plant. He had a double stalk of a show-bench quality **Victoria Falls** (36 inches) with 14 buds, all of which bloomed the last week of October we were told.

Larry Doucette

482 Middlesex Ave.
Wilmington, MA 01887



How many times have you heard someone extolling the virtues of a fall

reblooming stalk that has "23 buds!" or "seven branches!"
Eeccch! Bleaaah!

If quantity is that desirable, we should gently guide the poor soul towards a career in raising Brussels sprouts or, at best, gladiolus.

It is difficult to come to grips with the concept that there can be too much of a good thing. The tendency for some reblooming cultivars to set a vast number of buds on a forest of branches is a severe fault and should be judged as such.

Spring bloomers lean towards fewer buds and larger flowers. Because of this tendency, increasing the bud count has evolved as a goal that is drummed into judges and iris fanciers consciousness. Please be aware that at the other end of the spectrum are rebloomers exhibiting excess bud count in fall bloom. This must be recognized as a fault. An increase in the number of flowers will force the iris plant to simplify each flower—smaller size, less ruffling and lace. Striking a balance is always difficult... whether we deal in money, iris or politics. ■

Understanding Rebloom

John Burton, Hamilton, MA

Blooming more than once a year occurs in four different forms; sequence bloom, repeat bloom, continuous bloom and fall bloom. The first two forms are found in species of both pogon and apogon iris. The latter are the result of culture or freak weather in the wild. A species in which some plants bloom in sequence or repeat is less vulnerable to bad weather damage resulting in no seed. This would be to the advantage of species growing in less hospitable climates, which for the bearded iris means areas north of the Mediterranean. The species that Mahan (*RIS Recorder* Fall, 1989) found behind rebloomers all come from those areas or stormy areas closer to the Mediterranean.

To me, the interesting question is how an iris is able to extend the bloom season. Maddern (*AIS Bulletin*, October 1990) describes the physiology of narcissi and tulips and projects this to iris. This requires fudging to explain multibloom. Bulbs, which are mostly bud, don't rebloom, while rhizomes, which are stems, may have serially blooming buds. Maddern invokes temperature to initiate and differentiate the bloomstalk, but I suspect that

soil moisture may also be important. In Mediterranean or chaparral climates, the two factors are linked, but not so in our climate. *I. pumila* is one species which seems to require cold rather than heat to set bloomstalks.

Whatever the stimulus to form the bloom stalk, the growth and branching of the rhizome seem crucial to rebloom. All the reblooming varieties that I have grown were vigorous growers and prodigious increasers, whether they rebloomed for me or not. The iris rhizome is a semi-woody stem, and might be compared to the stem of a tree or shrub. In these, the branching form is due to a balance of vigor of lateral growth and leader dominance. Leader dominance is the suppression of lateral growth by substances produced by the top shoot. In trees, if the leader is damaged, the side shoots will take over. In iris, if the primary increase is damaged before bloom or fails to pod, advanced secondary increase (side shoots) will be able to bloom at a later date. Iris which have more advanced secondary increase in fall are better able to sequence, repeat, or fall bloom.

Leader dominance might explain why John Weiler's thrice-blooming SDBs will do so in Fresno, but in Hamilton produce only a long sequence bloom with no fall bloom. A warm Fresno spring would allow vigorous leader growth, suppressing



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lateral development, while cool Hamilton spring produces slow leader growth and less dominance. The beginning of growth in Hamilton is later and fall comes earlier, decreasing the chance that fall bloom can occur. Thus Fresno's climate gives initial, repeat and fall bloom, while we only see sequence here. In Huron, Ohio, both **Crowninshield** and **Brom Bones** bloomed earlier in the fall and for a longer time than they do here in their native garden. Leader dominance should make pod-setting suppress rebloom.

I was not surprised that Mahan found Amas behind many reblooming talls as it comes from Amasya in northern Turkey, and B. Y. Morrison noted (USDA Bulletin 1406, 1926) that Amas and its hybrids have a distinctive branching pattern compared to other 'oriental' tall species. I have not been able to study Amas, but it seems possible that it has "rebloom branching."

No one seems to confirm fall bloom in *I. pumila* or *I. aphylla* clones. I have, however, seen rebloom in the MDB pumaphyll **Velvet Toy**. I don't grow either parent, but do grow one grandparent, the *pumila* **Sulina**. My garden journalist notes that **Sulina** blooms for a long time on our one clump. Is this sequence? Very likely. We have also had rebloom on *I. reichenbachii* (*balkana*) Darby, although it hasn't done so as strongly in our garden as described by Bee Warburton. In the case of **Velvet Toy**, it is interesting that it only rebloomed after shedding its summer leaves.

Sequence and repeat bloom make sense both for the species and for the breeder; continuous and fall bloom do not, although they have garden appeal. Pod setting should discourage continuous bloom, and fall bloom can only set pods in the warmest climates. Continuous bloom is probably only possible where climate and culture are exceptionally favorable. The same is probably true of fall bloom. At Bob Sobel's garden the ability of an SDB to sequence or repeat would increase the chance of its being crossed in less favorable years. Doesn't **Grapesicle** bloom for a long time? For IB breeding, a late (repeat) stalk on an SDB blooming in TB season is the best way to go.

My soil began with little topsoil. Spring is cool and so is fall in many years. I grow varieties that rebloom, but they need good culture and a good season to rebloom well. Post-bloom feeding is essential, as is consistent watering during the dry weeks in summer. I had poor rebloom in 1990 since I got behind on early gardening due to surgery and never really caught up. However, if

everything worked all the time, it would actually be harder to check the effects of culture on multi-bloom. I still have lots to do to prove my ideas. ♣
[Reprinted from *Irid-ISM*, Spring 1991]

Treasurer's Report

Checking acct balance 2/21/91 \$531.40

Deposits:

From Depository acc.	\$1800.00
	<u>1,800.00</u>
	\$2,331.40

Disbursements:

Chk 107 Secretary	191.92
108 Printing	1602.75
109 Checklist refund	12.10
George Young	
110 Editor	<u>314.06</u>
	2,120.83

Balance 8/16/91 \$210.57

Depository Acct.
balance 2/28/91 1,044.60

Receipts:

Interest	57.67
Dues, Advertising etc	3,008.50
	<u>3,066.17</u>
	\$4,110.77

Disbursements:

Checklist 1991 5/10/91	1,248.00
To checking 8/16/91	<u>1,800.00</u>
	3,048.00

Balance depository acc. 8/16/91 1,062.77

CD - matures 3/15/1991	1,000.00
Interest	<u>39.18</u>
	1,039.18

3/15/91 to savings	1,039.18
Balance	<u>—0—</u>
CD - matures 6/25/92	3,000.00

Savings acc. bal. 2/28/91 2,257.00

Receipts:

CD matured 3/15/91	1,039.18
Interest on savings	<u>66.46</u>
	1,105.64

Balance savings acct. 8/16/91 3,362.64

Balance of all accounts 8/16/91 \$7,635.98

Evelyn Hayes, Treasurer

Fall Shows and Exhibitions

A keen-eyed reader accused me of extreme laziness—he said that Diana Nicholls had appeared on the show marque three years running. "When are you going to change the names?" I responded that Anne and I were doing our utmost to place our name in lights so to speak but the closest we came this year was Queen of Show with a rebloomer in a Spring show. Oh well—the inveterate exhibitor can always look forward to "Next Year!"



The 7th Annual C&P Reblooming Iris Show

Mother Nature has not been kind to our gardens this year. Very high temperatures with very little rainfall makes very unhappy plants. Our show was smaller than normal this year as rebloom was a little less and later to come around. Most of the bloom stalks were a bit shorter with close branching, making for blocky, bunched stalks. Our judges, Dick Sparling and Ruth Walker had a tough job. They did, however, find some blue ribbon material among the entries. **Blue Moonlight TB**, was Queen of Show exhibited by Diana Nicholls. Runners up to the queen were **Ultra Echo, BB**, exhibited by Bruce Hornstein and **Billionaire, TB**, exhibited by Don Spoon. Most blue ribbons for horticultural sweepstakes and the Silver Medal went to Diana Nicholls. Bruce Hornstein was awarded the Bronze Medal for second most Blue Ribbons. Best Seedling and the accompanying Exhibition Certificate, was awarded to CN 90, hybridized and exhibited by Don Spoon. We sincerely thank all who brought bloom stalks to enter and all who help with the show. 20

Diana Nicholls

[Ed. This space had an editor's comment regarding holding a show and not taking photos that was guaranteed to blister skin at 50 feet. I read it over the following morning, reconsidered, and trashed the comment. Regardless, please take photos at your shows!]



The Eighth Annual Region 4 Fall Show

The irisarians of Region 4 gathered in Roanoke Virginia in early

October to display Remontant iris, enjoy fellowship and learn more about medians. Our Fall meeting guest speaker and Judges Training instructor, Lynda Miller shared judging duties with Anne and Mike Lowe.

A beautiful stalk of **Perfume Counter** took Best in Show for Dennis Stoneburner who also gathered in the Horticultural Sweepstakes. Second place was hotly contested with Diana Nicholls edging Clarence Mahan out by one red ribbon. Diana also entered and received an Exhibition Certificate for Best Seedling, D-1-88, a reblooming TB.

Another dry summer hammered rebloom in Region 4, several irisarians that are usually fixtures at Fall Show entry desks turned up empty handed.

The show was not large, in fact some early concern was expressed that there would not be sufficient entries to qualify as an AIS approved show. Show Chairman Dennis Stoneburner sweated this one down to the wire when a late flush of entries boosted the show over the top.

Large or small, a Fall show elicits incredulity, interest, then acceptance among the viewers.

Let's do more Fall Shows! MBL



PERFUME COUNTER
ZURBRIGG '72
BEST IN SHOW REGION 4

Mike Lowe

Midwest Reblooming Iris Exhibit

Allan Ensminger, Lincoln, NE

The Lincoln Iris Society sponsored the first Fall Iris showing in the twelve-state Midwest Area.

This fall Meeting and Show was conceived by Dr. Garland Bare who steered the committee



GARLAND AND DOROTHY BARE

through a year of planning and programming. It was determined that our first show would be an exhibition without judging. The Meeting date was set for October 4th and 5th with the show on Saturday, the 5th, on the Mall of Lincoln's East Park Plaza. Dr. Bare, who is Midwest Director of the Reblooming Iris Society, sent invitations to all the members of the society in the Midwest area.

Unfortunately, even the best of plans can go astray. October 5th was chosen because it was the last Saturday prior to the first killing frost experienced in "normal" years. But this year our first killing frost occurred the night of September 18th and the extreme cold extended over most of the midwest area.

As one would expect, this early killing frost reduced the number of people in attendance and reduced the number of stalks exhibited in the show. But despite this, the meetings and the show were quite successful. The evening of October 4th there was a reception at the Nebraska Center for Continuing Education. The program was presented by Dr. John Weiler, past president

of the Reblooming Iris society. Thirty-six irisarians were present and everyone enjoyed this meeting.



JOHN WEILER AND TIM STANEK EVALUATE SOME OF TIM'S SEEDLINGS

Despite the early frost it was a beautiful exhibition with at least fifty stalks on display. Hybridizers will want to know which irises survived the cold.

TB Irises

Benson - Certainly Certainly
M. Byers - Lichen, Zurich
Ensminger - Peach Jam
Hager - Bonus Mama, Feedback
E. Hall - Queen Dorothy, Violet Returns
F. Jones - Autumn Mist, Golden Encore, Grape Adventure
B. Miller - Born Again
Niswonger - Late Lilac
Preston - Red Revival
Zurbrigg - Hallowed Thought, Harvest of Memories, I Do, Jennifer Rebecca
Wyatt - Corn Harvest

BB Irises

Ensminger - Color Brite
B. Miller - Leah Traded

IB Irises

Zurbrigg - I Bless

MTB Irises

F. Jones - Lady Emma

SDB Irises

Zurbrigg - Baby Blessed
M. Byers - Baby Cakes, Golden Child, Smell the Roses.

In addition there were promising seedlings on exhibit that had been hybridized by M. Byers, J. Ennenga, A. Ensminger, E. Hall and T. Stanek. Favorites of the visitors: **Born Again** for its color;

Grape Adventure for its fragrance
Favorites of judges present: Zurich and Jennifer Rebecca



Howard Brookins

LEAH TRADED (B. MILLER '90)

Saturday evening we had an especially nice banquet with 34 in attendance. The food was delicious. Dr. Bare was the M.C. Dr. Weiler presented another entertaining and educational program. Our 1991 Fall Exhibition and Meetings were so successful and enjoyable that the great majority of those who attended voted to have another Fall Iris Show in 1992. 🌸



Rebloomers in a Spring Show

The Fresno Iris Society, Fresno, California, included in its show schedule, Spring 1991, a section for reblooming irises. While the section was small in comparison to the rest of the show which had well over 300 entries, there were several remontants to interest the public.

Quality of entries was quite good among the 18 TB reblooming cultivars with blue ribbons awarded to stalks of **Autumn Echo**, **Colorwatch**, **Earl of Essex**, **Garden Grace** and **Pinkness**. Also entered were 2 BB and 2 SDB rebloomers. Best Specimen in the Section, qualifying for a large AIS rosette and a club trophy, was a beautiful stem of **Colorwatch**. This deep burgundy-brown plicata on white background had three well-spaced uniform blossoms on a perfectly balanced stalk and promise of much more bloom to

come. This same specimen gave serious competition to other section winners for Best Specimen in the Show. From reaction of visitors to the show, it is expected that there will be many more entries [*in this class*] another year.

The trial inclusion of a separate section for remontants was judged quite successful. Our schedule for rebloomers was written "for bearded irises which rebloom" with four groups: TB, SDB, Median other than SDB, and Aril or Aril-bred remontants. Small rosettes were possible for each of these groups as was a large rosette and trophy for the Best in Section. For areas of the country where other types of irises such as



Mike Lowe

THIS STALK OF VIOLET CLASSIC (ZURBRIGG '76) WON BEST IN SHOW FOR ANNE AND MIKE LOWE IN THE SPRING SHOW AT WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA

Louisiana, Siberian or Japanese cultivars are popular, there may well be enough interest in those which repeat or rebloom to include them in such a schedule.

This technique is suggested as a means of attracting attention to the reblooming trait when there are relatively few gardeners growing remontants in a given area. It is particularly valuable when it is realized that a less concentrated bloom period extending over 2-4 months in autumn makes it difficult to select a date and conduct an extensive fall show. *John Weiler* 🌸

ASK THE EXPERTS

This column was the way you could ask a question and receive an answer from one of RIS's three resident experts. There has been a dearth of questions—none in

the past two issues. Questions have resumed this issue, however there are no easy answers, if indeed answers exist. I know that a borer survey was conducted in the early eighties by Betty Wood. I am not aware of conclusive answers arising from that survey.

Unfortunately, iris are not a large factor in the commercial world—we receive little in the way of research, no great amount of attention from companies manufacturing and marketing pest and disease control materials. When you read label information, finding iris mentioned thereon is the exception rather than the rule. Experimentation is interesting but you proceed with a guilty feeling that some regulatory agency's rules are violated and a jail term looms after every spray session.

Whatever, keep the questions coming—with toughies no answer will be given with the question. We are dependent on someone in RIS having information and communicating with the editor who will publish replies in the subsequent issues.

Q—Seedling Size: When planting TB iris seedlings, some are much larger and apparently healthier than others in the container. Is this because they germinated at different times, the older being the larger, healthier, etc., or are the smaller ones just inferior?

If the second case is true, then there is no sense planting the smaller ones. If the first case applies, then all should be planted and the smaller ones will come to maturity a little bit later.

Or is there more to it than that?

Richard E. Gibson
5613 Tahana St.
Sacramento, CA 95841

Q—Iris Borers: I raise irises in South Central Virginia and am not plagued with a borer problem. The "borer line" seems to start about 75 miles to the north, slants to the Southwest, passing about 180 miles to the west of me. It is interesting to note that

borers are a common problem in the coastal area 100 miles due East of here, while the North Carolina gardens with which I am familiar to the South have no borer presence.

Several questions arise:

If borers were somehow introduced into this area, would they persist and thrive?

Am I safely beyond the infested area?

Is this area expanding?

Are there geographic limits to borer territory?

If there are limits does climate or some unknown factor determine these limits?

Cameron D. Hall
308 St. Andrews St.
Petersburg, VA 23803

Q—Longevity of Leaf Spot: How long do the spores of leaf spot remain viable in the soil?

Also:

Q—First Rebloomer: What was the first rebloomer other than species? Who were the earliest workers for remontancy?

Frank Jones
4534 Clay Chapel Road
Crown City, OH 45623

* *

Answer: Autumn King was the first iris hybridized and introduced as a remontant. It provided a foundation for some early hybridizers working for remontancy. Notable are: J.C. Nicholls of Ithaca, New York with **Surefire '27**, a yellow IB still grown; Jacob Sass with **Sangreal, '35**—blooming in my garden as I write; G. Percy Brown's entire line had Autumn King lines through **Autumn Twilight** and **September Sparkler**. Frank Jones' line traces back through G. P. Brown cultivars to Autumn King. While Autumn King is not as widely spread as the **Rameses/King Tut** remontant foundation, the Autumn King lineage seems to produce rebloomers that remont early and reliably. Whether or not Autumn King is responsible, empirical evidence suggests that reblooming lines founded on this iris share several traits, ie.:

- shortness
 - resistance to leaf spot
 - ability to continue blooming and reblooming without frequent division and resetting.
 - narrow hafts
 - pendulous falls
 - resistance to soft and botrytis rot
 - resistance to crown rot
 - moderate bud count
 - prominent haft markings
 - cold hardiness
- A table and Autumn King pedigree are overleaf.

Reblooming Trial Garden Started

Earl Hall, West Alexandria, OH

To help me know what will rebloom for me here in Ohio, I started a Reblooming Trial Garden. I have a total of 222 different named varieties and seedlings. The row is 4 feet wide and 170 feet long. I planted 3 of many varieties but I only planted 1 each of those that I didn't expect to rebloom. Some of the seedlings are from Byers, Hager, Weiler and Zurbrigg plus some of my own.

I plan to put 1 inch of water per week on this bed from July 1st to September 15th if we don't get that much rainfall. I know some growers who do this and they get rebloom on varieties that I have never had to rebloom. Also I will not dig any for orders from this row.

Next year I want to do the same thing but use lots more of my own seedlings. Next fall I hope to have a report for the Recorder.



Would you like to have a complete set of AIS Bulletins? Would you like to pay \$29.95 for your complete set of Bulletins? Better yet, if you knew that 'Root-knot Nematodes in Spurias' was discussed by Dave Niswonger somewhere there-in... and you wanted to find it in under 10 seconds... would you enjoy having access to that type of information? Would you like to have all section publications, inception to now, at your fingertips? Hang on to your chair... how would you like to have every Cooley's and Schreiner's catalog—with all color pictures included—instantly available? Sounds like a pipe dream?

It's not. It's achievable today at a reasonable price, within a reasonable time. CD-ROM and

Name	Year Intro	Type/Season & color ('39 C.L.)	Hybridizer	Pedigree	Chromosome Count
Lurida	1789	IB-M-S9D	collected, D. Solander	unknown	24 — Diploid
Purple King	1830	IB-E-R1D	collected, Wallich	unknown	24 — Diploid
Gracchus	1884	TB-M-Y9L	Charles Ware	unknown	24 ? — Diploid
Kochii	1887	IB-E-R7D	collected, Kerner	natural hybrid	44 (sterile intermediate)
Crimson King	1893	IB-E-R7D	Peter Barr & Sons	? (... x I pumila) ?	44 (sterile intermediate)
Loreley	1909	TB-M-Y3D	Goos & Koenemann	unknown	24 — Diploid
Mrs. Alan Gray	1909	TB-E-La-R1L	Sir Michael Foster	cengiilti x Queen of May	24 — Diploid
John Foster	1913	IB-E-W1	Sir Michael Foster	cyrtiana x ...	48 ? — Tetraploid
Pumila hybrida Yellow	1913	DB-E-Y4L	Goos & Koenemann	I. pumila x ...	32 — Tetraploid
Autumn King	1924	TB-M-Re-B3M	Hans P. Sass	* See chart	Autumn King is a 46

chromosome tetraploid and is pod and pollen fertile.

Mme. Chereau

H.P. Sass #1

Lémon1844

Honorale

* Autumn King

c. 1910

Lémon1844

prob Flavescens

H.P. Sass '24

Amas

c. 1907

De Candolle 1813

also known as—atropurpurea, Dykes; germanica atropurpurea;

Midnight; Nepalensis; Purple Blush;

Purple Prince; Purple Queen; Purpurea;

Royal Purple; Spectabile; Spectabilis; Striata; Trautlieb

optical laser disks are putting the capability within anyone's reach. An under \$1,200 computer or a dedicated laser disk reader for much less than that, can give you the display capability. The media is another story, requiring time and effort rather than money and technology.

Getting knowledgeable people to volunteer to transfer material from paper to electronic media is no harder than finding say... capable and dedicated editors/membership secretaries/registrars, etc. It will take funding. Not as much as you would expect and the price tag declines monthly. 75% of the required equipment is already in the possession of iris hobbyists who are also techno-freaks.

Our archives of celluloid and paper iris materials are moldering in damp garages and slowly cooking to yellow crumbs in hot attics. Worse, what treasures go into the trash when you die and your survivors can't wait to dump the 'garbage' that kept you so frivolously engrossed? Go with the professionals and all is safe, you say? A new Library Administrator/Horticultural curator arrives in office and decides to have a yard sale with that musty junk cluttering the back storeroom. Won't happen? Ha!

Next time you go to an iris club meeting and your friendly local member who also just happens to be on the AIS Board of Directors is there—prod him/her to consider an electronic archives/distribution project. ✻

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1146 W. Rialto
Fresno, CA 93705**



Descriptive catalog of
reblooming irises
available on request



Seedling Reports

Lloyd Zurbrigg, Durham, NC

Great and glorious news came a few nights ago from the Loomis Memorial Iris Trial Gardens when Mike Moller phoned to tell me that a seedling of mine won the 2 year TB competition! It is T 28 and I have heard nothing about it from anywhere else.

The T year was one of very poor germination; the seeds are from 1982. The T 28-2 is a white with blue beards like both its parents, a seedling of mine from O My Goodness lines, and Song of Norway. The outstanding feature is the branching and buds, but the beards give a pretty good contrast and grab attention. Here is the report based on the *Judges' Handbook* scoring.

Plant: foliage—9 out of 10; durability—13 out of 15 (highest of all); floriferousness—4 out of 5.

Stalk: proportion—5 out of 5; strength—8 out of 10; branching—5 out of 5; buds—13 out of 15. (11 per stalk)

Flower: color—4 out of 5; form—7 out of 10; durability—8 out of 10.

Distinctiveness: 8 out of 10.

Total was 84. Next in standing was Orange Jewellous with 82 and third was America's Cup with 78.

...I have some seedlings from this and will certainly pay closer attention to them next spring. My overview is that it is a striking plant, excellent in growth, with good, but not excellent, form and very good, but not excellent, color. I do have enough of it to be able to introduce it next year. Its coloring just might fit my mother's name, Viola Margaret White, which I would like to use... **Spirit of Fiji** scored 64; V 138-1-2, the yellow amoena out of Immortality, scored 63; V 46 Sept., which is **Lady Essex** did well at 70.

KK 84-1-2 was the very best seedling this year and is now named **Mary Estelle**. The long medium blue beards are blue to the very end,

and contrast, but harmoniously, with the pale blue petals which are exquisitely ruffled. Early! It also boasts good branching. ...it is superb in color and form, and the potential weakness could only be that the stalks are not strong enough. It is not remontant and it seems infertile!!! However, it will not be ready to introduce for another couple of years.

LL 5-1-1 (Borderline X Champagne Elegance) is the deepest yellow amoena. Short, and well-branched, it is still not clear what kind of stems it is going to have when established but the daffodil yellow color is superbly striking with wonderful rounded and lightly ruffled petals. It may be the best yellow amoena ever! We'll have to see how it grows in other gardens. It is not remontant.

There was a ruffled seedling of some charm

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: Diana Nicholls
4724 Angus Dr.
Gainesville, VA 22065



Reblooming Iris Slides Needed!

for a third set of the newest rebloomers. When you photograph a new remontant—*please*, shoot a second slide for RIS! Give us the typical mug shot, but also consider a frame filling clump shot if possible. If you are planning introduction of a promising seedling please shoot a second slide for the RIS collection. 🌸

this fall from (Beverly Sills x Brother Carl) X Pink Attraction. This is a cool or grayish white with some yellows and a supremely good fragrance.

KK 55-4-2 is a tremendous thing if it remonts, and it has a very good chance of that. **Sunny Disposition** has given several good remontants. Even if -4-2 does not remont, it should still be a wonderful breeder.

Breakers is a very good parent for quality in the flower so I will keep all the seedlings from it for another year. Matrix was excellent, especially for size and width. I used its pollen a lot. Frances Iva was also good and 'fathered' the best new plicata seedling, KK 194, which is white, lightly marked orchid. Stylish, laced, and very tall. Clarence gave more blooms than I would have hoped for! I believe it has set a couple of pods.

There were many yellow seedlings of **Harvest of Memories** that were uniformly disappointing in form and size.

...Yesterday I replanted the two LL 24 plants—the earth they were in was far too hard. Hopefully they will increase well without throwing up too much bloom. LL 24 #1 (I Bless X Marmalade Skies) is the really good one, a sharp yellow bitone IB, short this spring but such rich color! 🌸

[Ed. If you would like to submit seedlings to the Loomis Testing Program, contact Mike Moller, 3455 Valjejo Court, Colorado Springs, CO 80918.]

A and D Willott, Beachwood, OH

The Willotts brought three very nice remontant seedlings to the AIS Fall Board Meeting in Indianapolis. One was an MDB; the other two were SDBs, one of which was a velvety purple with outstanding form. 🌸

[Ed. This report was submitted by Earl Hall.]

Dudley Carson, Willamina, OR

It is now harvest time in the iris garden. I have observed three things this year that I have not noted before.

First: It is interesting to see that pods do not ripen in the order in which they are pollinated. Some of the first to be crossed are among the slowest in ripening. A good example of this is the cross using Rondo as pod parent and Duke of Earl as pollen parent. This was the third cross I made last spring; on August 20th, it is still not ripe. In contrast, Orbiter X Violet Miracle was the 45th cross made several weeks later; it has already produced pods that have ripened and

the seeds have been planted.

Second: I have noticed a great difference in the size and number of seeds found in pods. Pod size doesn't necessarily determine the number of seeds contained therein—some huge pods will have a few very large seeds while smaller pods may contain more seeds of smaller size. I have noticed that I get big pods and seeds from **Dusky Challenger**, while **Feedback** produces more seeds that are smaller. So, if I want to obtain a lot of seeds from **Dusky Challenger** I must make many more crosses.

Third: This is the first year I've used **Pledge Allegiance** as a pod parent and the first time I have seen violet seed pods, but there they are, making a colorful contribution to the summer garden.

...Studying the selected seedling beds at Schreiner's is the high point of the iris season. I go through these seedling beds jotting down the numbers affixed to tags and comparing them to the numbers in the current catalog to see how good a judge I am in selecting future introductions. In the more than 20 years of doing this, I've selected only four that did become great irises: **Rondo**, **Pledge Allegiance**, **Dusky Challenger** and **Titan's Glory**. I've no idea why the others weren't selected for introduction but Oh, what I'd have given to own many that were discarded! ❧

Earl E. Hall, West Alexandria, OH

The spring bloom season was 10 days early and very good even with all the rain we had this spring. By the end of May we were 12 inches above normal and I had lots less iris seeds (1879) to plant due to all the wet weather. Since late May it has been very dry—in June and July we had very little rain; in August and the first half of September it was better, but since then we have had almost no rain. On November 1st we were 10 inches below normal rainfall for this year. We have a creek running through the edge of our place and it is the lowest now than at any time in the 33 years we have lived here.

Our rebloom has been lots better than I expected with the dry weather. I only missed 3 days in late July of not having an iris in bloom. On October 4th I counted 195 stalks with an open bloom among my 1990 seedlings which are doing the best of any year old seedlings I have raised. Many of them also bloomed last fall. A number of the SDB seedlings bloomed lots earlier than any named varieties I have and, based on this performance, I am sure some will be worthy of introduction. I have had some colors that I

haven't seen in rebloomers before but only time will tell if they are any good. My 1988 seedlings are also doing very well but not as many rebloomed among them. I transplanted all of my best 1989 seedlings so only a few of them bloomed this fall.

My 1991 seedlings got off to a poor start due to the dry weather. I got them planted the last of May and the first few days in June, but I lost nearly half of the SDB seedlings due to the drought. Although the TB seedlings are looking nice now, they don't look as good as last year's seedlings did at this time.

Most of the named varieties had very little rebloom due to the dry weather and because I dug all the larger rhizomes to fill over 400 orders. The most rebloom came on **Violet Returns** which had a bloom open at least 50% of the days from the last of May until our killing freeze this fall. **Queen Dorothy** also did very well but nothing like **Violet Returns**. **Queen Dorothy** and **Violet Returns** were from the same seed pod (Perfume Counter X Re-Treat).

Of the SDBs, **Baby Blessed** has been by far the most dependable rebloomer I have, but I have some nice SDB seedlings that bloomed lots earlier than **Baby Blessed**. In September we went to our Region 6 Fall Convention at Muncie, Indiana and we took 20 iris blooms plus 4 stalks of iris to this meeting. I think the fall bloom was at its peak on October 5th.

On November 2nd, we took 25 iris blooms (mainly SDB seedlings) to the Indianapolis Iris and Daylily Awards Banquet which was held in conjunction with the AIS Fall Board Meeting. On this same day, I cut 40 TB stalks and brought them indoors to open, and since then we have had 1-8 blooms open each day. Today is Nov 18th. We had 2 light frosts in September which didn't hurt the iris. Around the middle of October we had 2 nights of 26° F and one night of 25° F which killed most of the blooms; however, the SDBs came back quickly with more flowers. All in all I was satisfied with our rebloom for this year. ❧

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This Watering Method Works Too

Dick Gibson, Sacramento, CA

If you are blessed with a nearly flat garden, using 5/8 inch by 50 foot soaker hose gives few problems and is of value in several ways—less and easier work, savings on water, etc..

- Water is placed only where it is needed—on the plants, not between the rows. Rhizomes can be planted on both sides of the hose.

- With rebloomers there is little need to plant on a ridge—they are almost immune to rot due to flooding, at least in this climate. Flat planting saves the labor of making the ridge and constant maintenance of the ditches created by the ridge-type method of planting.

- Walking in the garden is much easier and safer as the surface is flat and dry.

If hoses are not buried, they will put up little sprays that muddy the path and wastes water. Mulching over the hose eliminates this spraying, causes water to spread farther from the hose and, as a bonus, reduces weeding. This technique helps in watering when each rhizome matures into a clump. Weeding is confined to the areas within a few inches of the rhizomes (don't mulch here!). Between rows it is easy and fast to skim out the weeds with a shovel or hoe. A mini-rototiller may be useful here as well as helping with the technique described next.

It is well-known that planting the same 'crop' year after year will deplete the soil and/or increase toxicity. Both are true in iris culture. You must fertilize and this adds to the toxicity build-up. The soaker hose planting/watering technique has an easily utilized method to alleviate these problems.

If all rhizomes are dug and replanted 12 inches from the current planting area, the replanted rhizomes will then be in practically virgin soil.

Tilling machines preparing a 10–12 inch wide area are excellent in making this new row. With a 12 inch yearly offset, a 3 year rotation goes a long way toward solving the toxicity problem when using the same land continuously.

I used this watering method in my garden in 1990–91. To supply water to 8 hoses, I attached the water supply hose to a 1 inch plastic pipe which had been fitted with 8 outlets—one for each soaker hose. 36 inch spacing of the outlets was more than adequate. There is unequal distribution of water if the land slopes more than a

foot or so. The water supply end of the hose should not be higher or lower than the other end of the hose. The high side hose will deliver considerably less water than the lower hoses. I experienced this problem and those rhizomes that received less water were not well developed, some to a marked extent.

Eight 50 foot hoses will accommodate



Edith Wheeler

POOL OR PLANTS? SACRAMENTO REGIONAL TOUR
GARDEN OF PARK AND SHIRLEY CORTELL

800 rhizomes if rhizomes are spaced 12 inches apart and planted on both sides of the hose; 640 if spaced 15 inches apart, planted side by side.

This was not inexpensive as the hoses were almost \$10 each and the plastic pipe another \$10 or so. Of course the cost is spread over more than one season as this setup should last a number of years.

During our regional meeting I talked with a man who said "Buried 'leaky hose' is the only way to go." I have no experience with this product, however it did have a favorable write-up in a previous *Recorder* and its price is becoming reasonable.

To end this watery story—a cautionary note: six inches of rain in one week in March 1991 caused flooding to a depth of 6–8 inches lasting a week in the lower end of my garden. Established rhizomes suffered little damage though I had imagined a total loss. Rhizomes that were planted late and were apparently not well established were almost a 100% loss.

Too much of a good thing is not a blessing!

Update: Chicago Park Planting



SKYLINE photo by Mary Hanlon

CHICAGO AREA VOLUNTEERS TEND LINCOLN PARK REBLOOMERS

Richard J. Taille, Chief Horticulturist of the Chicago Park District, died just after completing the purchase and planting of reblooming iris in Lincoln Park (the first official planting by the park.)

His death is a major set-back to promotion of reblooming iris in Chicago parks. However, this project remains the first success at getting a mass planting started on city funds. There are 56 varieties planted in one garden and there has been good rebloom since *Dawn of Fall* opened on July 25th.

Grandma's Garden in Lincoln Park is divided into two sections; the north section located at the corner of Lincoln Park West and Webster Streets and the south section sited farther along West Street. Five plants of each of the following varieties (total 125) are planted in these two locations:

Autumn Bugler	I Do
Belvi Cloud	Illini Repeater
Belvi Queen	Immortality
Brother Carl	Jean Guymer
Coral Charmer	Lemon Duet
Corn Harvest	Lemon Reflection
Da Capo	Pink Attraction
Dawn of Fall	Queen Dorothy
English Cottage	Red Revival
Feed Back	Sugar Blues
Garden Grace	Summer Olympics
Golden Encore	Touch of Spring
Harvest of Memories	Violet Returns

I thank all those people who took note of my request and sent iris for this planting. 🌸

Brian Clough

[Ed. NBC News was being broadcast from Chicago this fall and this planting was briefly shown.]

Victoria Falls—Does!

Cameron Hall, Petersburg, VA

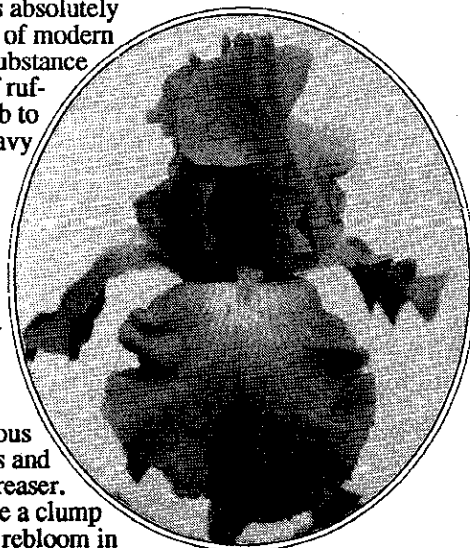
Last month on my way home from work, I passed by a vacant house where a friend had lived until just recently. Glancing at his back yard I was amazed to see a splash of brilliant blue, and realized it was coming from a planting of irises I had given him two or three years previously. I was intrigued enough to drive around the block and park, and when I walked to the back yard, there were two huge branches of **Victoria Falls**—one with two open blooms and the other with three! I've never heard of **Victoria Falls** reblooming in this area; in fact it doesn't always bloom in the spring. Figuring if I didn't take the bloom stalks, some of the neighborhood kids would destroy them, I broke both stalks and enjoyed them at home for almost a week.

Interesting how **Victoria Falls** would bloom in a neglected and extremely crowded clump in an abandoned garden when it has never done so for me—and I resent it! 🌸

VIOLET MUSIC (Mahan '91). Sdlg 85X9. TB, 40",

Very Early to Midseason, and Reblooms (October in Virginia) This beautiful reblooming medium violet self has a white blaze on the falls and a violet beard tipped yellow. It has absolutely huge flowers of modern form, great substance and plenty of ruffles. A full sib to *Suky*, the heavy fragrance of this is like a jar of spice drops. **VIOLET MUSIC** has demonstrated excellent rebloom in southern and border states. Vigorous growth habits and excellent increaser.

When you see a clump of this iris in rebloom in autumn, you truly think spring has returned. Many iris hybridizers have been using this iris in their lines. High Commendation awarded by the American Iris Society in 1990. Also featured as one of Flower & Garden magazine's "New Plants for '91"\$35.00

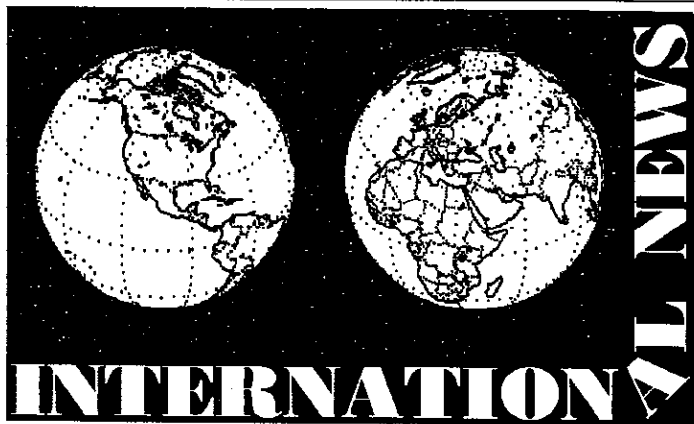


The Iris Pond

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McLean, VA 22101



By John Weiler

From Australia where the seasons are reversed from those of the northern hemisphere and where spring bloom for irises comes in October we have the following detailed report of rebloom from Barry Blyth of Tempo Two Iris Gardens, Pearceville, Victoria, Australia.

Dated January 2, 1991.

"It's hot today, about 110° F in the shade, so too hot to work. I hope the enclosed information is useful. I guess if I went around the garden I could add another twenty stems of different odd varieties with a stem or two reblooming. Another year, different ones would be out. Rebloom for me as a commercial grower is a bit of a nuisance as it messes up the stock for summer orders.

I don't consider remontancy in breeding work, it just happens and so be it. I don't know anyone here interested in remontancy, certainly know of no one breeding for it.

Reblooming at this date are the following TB varieties. The percentage given following some names indicates the amount of rebloom as compared to spring bloom for that variety. Virtually any Jim Gibson or Keith Keppel plicata can send up blooms here at anytime during the year."

(Underlined cultivars were hybridized in Australia by Barry or his children. - JW.)

American Beauty	25%
All That Jazz	30%
Altruist	scattered through year
Annabelle Babson	10-15%
Ann Shaver	40% plus winter
<u>Beau Zam</u>	20% and autumn
Best Bet	throughout year
Beverly Sills	throughout year
Bouzy Bouzy	30%
Champagne Elegance	10% and other times
Coral Light	50% very regular winter
Creative Stitchery	5%

Cruzin	60% and in winter
<u>Echo Beach</u>	10% and other times
Echo de France	5-7% misses some years
<u>English Charm</u>	15% sometimes more
Evening Frolic	5-10%
Fame	for months now
First Blush	n.c.
Fortune Teller	occasional odd stem
<u>Gambler</u>	100% and ongoing this year
<u>Green and Gifted</u>	off and on through year
<u>Hello Hobo</u>	15-20% and at other times
<u>High Waters</u>	5-10%
Image Maker	10% some winters—it's great
<u>In Smoke</u>	5%
Inner Vision	5-10% also late winter
Leda's Lover	magnificent stems 48" tall
<u>Light Beam</u>	constant bloom through year
Metallic Blue	may remont anytime
<u>Mystic Magic</u>	reblooms winter, too
My Valentine	5%
Oktoberfest	5%
Pagan Dance	75%
Panache	50% and other times too
<u>Paris Kiss</u>	also reblooms autumn
Peaceful Waters	n.c.
Peach Petals	40-50%
Olympiad	5% some years
Pink Swan	10%
Quasar	50% and winter also
Radiant Energy	5%
Saffron Flame	75%
Satin Gown	75%
<u>Sculptress</u>	50% reblooms anytime
Schortman's Garnet Ruffles	
Sea of Joy	20%
Six Pack	very regular
Skier's Delight	n.c.
Skookumchuck	through year constantly and a problem because of that
Skye	better in winter
<u>Sostenique</u>	5-10%
Starfrost Pink	5%
Sweet Musette	30%
<u>Taj Regis</u>	30-40%
<u>Taj Rani</u>	100%
Toastmaster	20%
<u>Touch of Bronze</u>	constant through year
<u>Town Clown</u>	15%

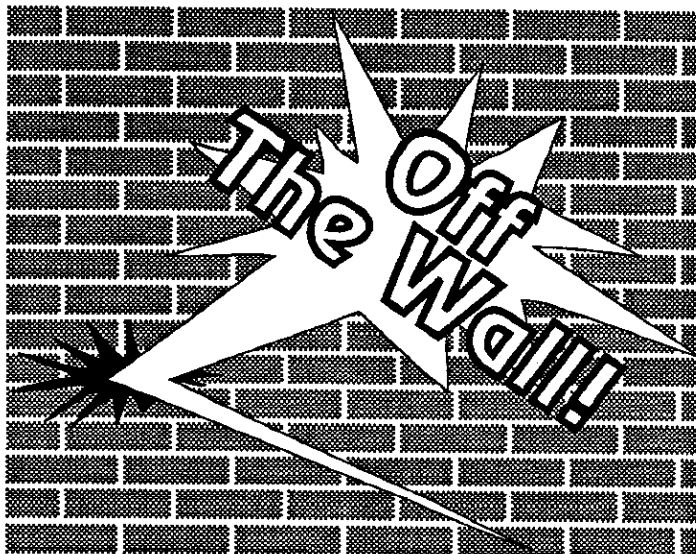
Triple Crown	—	n.c.
Voodoo Blues	—	5% some years to 50%
Wish	—	any time

"In addition to those reblooming now, mid-summer, there are others which rebloom at other times of the year. Those are listed below with some commentary."

Autograph	—	30% in winter
Bahloo	—	30% in winter
Beach Girl	—	some years
Be A Devil	—	autumn 20%
Black Ware	—	50% sometimes
Blues Brothers	—	some years
Blushing Pink	—	autumn or anytime
Breakers	—	autumn 10-15%
Broadway	—	sporadic autumn & winter
Chinese Empress	—	sporadic fall and winter
Colortart	—	sporadic fall and winter
Crystal Glitters	—	sporadic in winter
Edna's Wish	—	anytime
Elegant Blue	—	autumn to 50%
Eurythmic	—	odd times during year
Ever After	—	n.c.
Fiesta Time	—	occasionally
G'Day Mate	—	late winter
Gigolo late	—	winter
Heather Blush	—	autumn
He Man	—	winter
Hindenburg	—	anytime
Hot Line prolific	—	late winter
Liaison	—	sporadic
Liquid Smoke	—	autumn
Love the Sun	—	spectacular in winter
Lipstick Lies	—	anytime
London Lord	—	5% in winter
Magharee	—	sporadic
Mixed Doubles	—	some years good
Mountain Violet	—	100% late winter
Mulled Wine	—	sporadic
Orange Copper Waves	—	sporadic
Pass the Wine	—	some years prolific
Perfect Couple	—	regular in winter
Ranee's Palace	—	winter to 20%
Silkirim	—	sporadic
Swain	—	occasionally
Tango Bravo	—	sporadic
Victoria Falls	—	autumn
Wild Berry	—	anytime
Wild Jasmine	—	anytime
Wings of Dreams	—	late winter or anytime
Words and Music	—	usually late winter

"Finally, there are many median iris which remount, particularly Candy Walk, Strawberry Love and Pink Bubbles.

Lots of the standard dwarfs rebloom, at least 50% of them at some time." ■



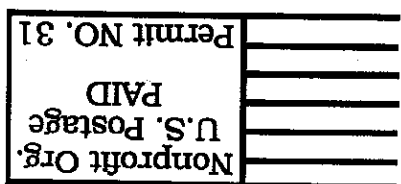
I saw a bumper sticker yesterday that said; "Honk if you Love Iris." Actually, if you look closely at AIS, the sticker should have read; "Only Honkies Love Iris." Do our by-laws state: "None but WASPS need apply" or do we rapidly turn away any prospective member who doesn't easily fit our middle-class America bent? If it gives comfort to heads long buried in sand, we are not unique in our exclusion of all but landed gentry. Garden publications, flower societies and plant clubs are only exceeded in their exclusivity by a few South African organizations.

Iris societies have been, since their inception, role models in accepting the gay life style. Should tolerance and good will stop here? Why such an acute case of color phobia? Do we truly wish to avoid the real world, pull our comfortable circle of friends close and contemplate only the flowers?

I believe it is time that irisarians joined the world of the 21st Century. Don't sit back and wait for the society leaders to initiate an outreach program. Life is fleeting and you probably won't live to see change. Get off your duff and do something, however small, to bring our flower and our friendship to all in this cynical world.

You may well ask, "What place does a controversial social issue have in *The Reblooming Iris Recorder*? We have always been the segment of AIS with the courage—or craziness—to accept change and innovation. What better place to speak out on long overdue change?" ■

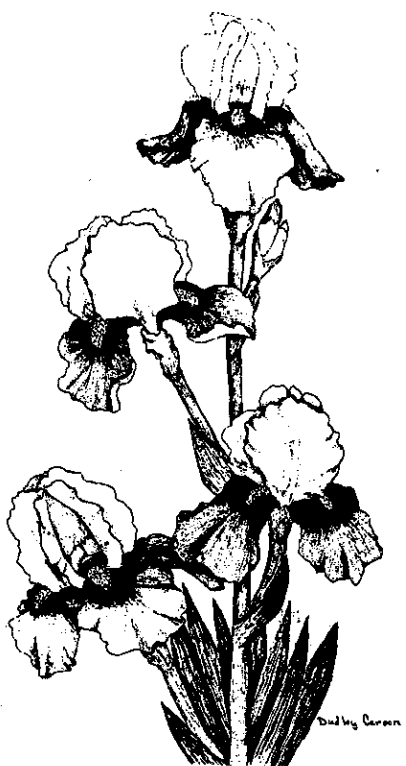
The Editor



Address Correction Requested

American Iris Society
Rebloomer Iris Section
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