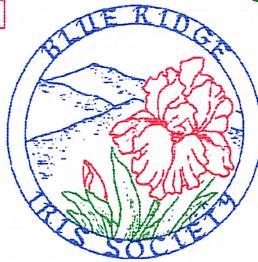


# Newcast A.I.S.

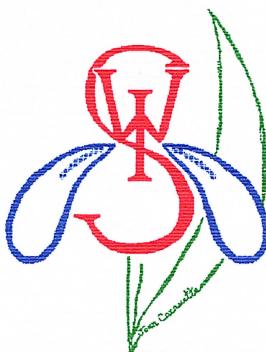
REGION FOUR

Volume 33, Number 1

March 1991



Fredericksburg-Richmond



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**Photo Credits:** Cover: Region 4 Society Logos  
 R. Sparling - bottom 10 D. Schlanger - 1, bottom 16  
 C. Cox - top 12 H. Brookins - bottom 40  
 L. Rose - bottom 15 Graphics, etc. - M. Lowe

# RVP's Message

Region 4 members have looked forward to Spring 1991 with busy anticipation for several years. The world situation and the economic recession will have some effect on our convention but so far



all climatic indicators point toward an outstanding bloom season. The winter has been mild and spring is teasing us with many April days in February. This week I had about 20 bluebirds in the yard and we have had flocks of wild geese flying over every day. Their noisy honking makes me stop and look up every time. How blessed we are that they are not enemy planes dropping bombs on our beautiful part of this earth! Our prayers must be that soon the countries of the Middle East will be able to enjoy the promise of beautiful spring flowers and the return of birds.

We are happily looking forward to hosting the A.I.S National Convention and enjoying the friendships we have expanded in these planning stages. For me, the best dividends of A.I.S. membership have been the friendships — the wonderful people brought together by their love of and interest in irises. Soon we will have the opportunity to meet many other iris enthusiasts from all over our nation as we join in the many meetings and programs planned for Saturday and Sunday, May 18 and 19, and then as we tour the twelve gardens May 20 – 22. I attended my first national in Denver in 1982. Since then I feel that I have good friends all over this country. Region 4 members who aren't able to attend all of the events are very much encouraged to participate in the dinners, or the

tours or any other part of the convention. Partial registration information was available through your chapter president or may still be available from the Lowes. Remember, it may be 15 years (or more?) before Region 4 will host another national.

I am very pleased to announce that the Carolina Mountains Chapter has now become an A.I.S. affiliate. This brings Region 4's total to eight. Alleghany Highlands affiliated last year, who wants to be next?

Iris catalogs have been arriving and our mouths are watering. The best way to decide what you might want for your garden is to see the plant growing in one of the tour gardens. We received a total of 1035 different cultivars as guests. There is surely something tempting for your "want list." I might remind you to try to see the plant first and then the flower. We always try to emphasize this aspect in judges' training sessions but not all of our members attend those sessions. A good iris plant should produce healthy increases, at least 2 to 5 for each blooming rhizome, and should have attractive foliage which exhibits good disease resistance. It would be nice if the stalk also had seven or more nicely spaced buds which will open in succession to give a long bloom period. After you have evaluated the plant, then evaluate the flower and see if it is one you want to add to your collection.

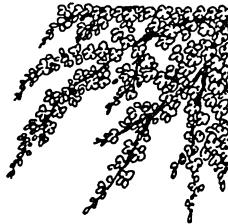
"GO NATIONAL" and have a wonderful bloom season!

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# Convention Update

*Stand Up and  
Be Counted*



One of the most eagerly awaited events of the National Convention takes place during the Opening Banquet. It is the Roll Call of Regions where attending members from each of the 24 AIS Regions stand as their region number is called.

As host region we should have the largest representation at this event. To make sure that this happens, we are extending the present April 1st deadline for Banquet Reservations to **April 26th**. Make your Opening Banquet reservations now and stand up for Region 4 on May 20th. *Don't let us down!*

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## Open Letter to Convention Garden Owners

Dear Happy Gardeners:

To those of you who were on tour during the Spring Regional, a hearty thanks! To those of you who weren't, thanks for standing by "just in case." I'm sure you were just as disappointed in the bloom season as I was. Just keep your fingers crossed that it can't happen two years in a row!

My guests have grown like weeds. However, we must all be vigilant in checking for rot and even another round with borers during the winter, and especially in the early spring. Heat and humidity can

cause a variety of problems, as we all know.

This article is to stress the duties of a **guest gardener**. When we agreed to accept convention guest irises, we took on an obligation to grow someone else's iris for them. We became custodians. We must do everything in our power to keep these guests growing well. As we do not own these plants, **or any part of them** (pollen, seeds, pods, etc.) we cannot use them as we would other iris is our gardens. We don't use the pollen. If a seed pod is set by bees it should be destroyed. All bloom stalks should be broken off and thrown out. No flower stalk may be used on the show bench unless permission is received from the owner in writing. This applies to introduced irises as well as seedlings.

Later this year I will send a letter to hybridizers regarding the disposition of the rhizomes. You will be informed as to what is to happen to the iris in your garden. Seedlings, for which we do not receive instructions are to be **destroyed completely**, regardless of what we think of the iris. On named iris the hybridizer will generally make a gift of one rhizome to the host garden; the rest are then disposed of according to instructions. **No nubbins are to be kept**. While there will be many disposition plans, the two detailed above are the most usual ones.

Right after Convention, you will be asked to submit to me a close count of rhizomes on each kept iris. This will facilitate allocation of iris throughout the region. A plan will be devised for numbers of rhizomes to be shipped to other chapters. The details on digging, assembly, and shipping are still to be worked out. At the very least, it will be a hectic time for us.

I suggest that you try to line up people to help in your garden during the early spring as well as just prior to convention. I'll try to twist arms for you but this responsibility is primarily yours.

You are all invited (urged) to attend Convention Committee meetings. Perhaps you could bring some observations about the guests that bloomed: numbers, what you liked, etc. This material can be used to

supplement the garden reports being written for the spring *Newscast*. If you can't attend, send any reports to me.

*Dick Sparling,*  
Guest Iris Chairman

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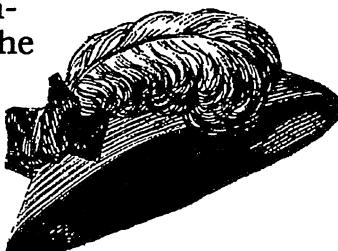


## *A Tip of the Hats to the Owners of the 1991 Convention Tour Gardens*

The owners of tour gardens are the unsung heroes of a flower convention. On their shoulders rests the ultimate verdict, good or bad, of the overall gathering. No matter how efficient the organization, regardless of the extra features or the caliber of the banquet food, the *pièce de résistance* is the viewing of the flowers in the tour gardens. This is an awesome responsibility.

Region 4 gardeners do their own work. Few, if any, have outside help (no estate gardeners in this crowd) and some garden owners do not have a spouse or close relatives with whom to share the load. There are many aspects incumbent upon being a tour gardener which can be assisted from without the immediate family—weeding, affixing labels, grooming and even cutting grass—and how about providing food and drink for the weary gardener(s) at appropriate intervals?

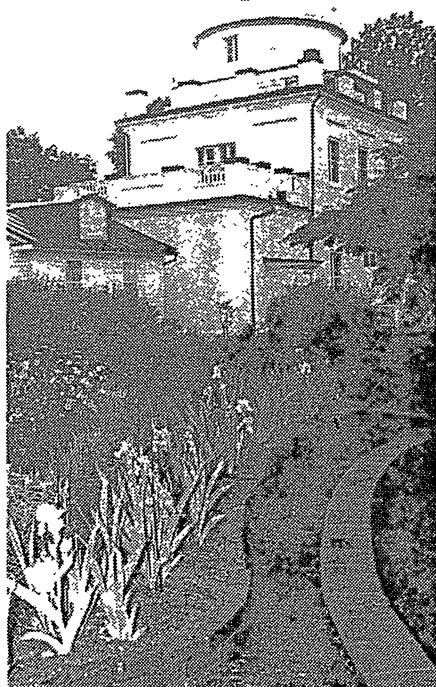
Sometimes events in the lives of a tour garden owner must take precedence over preparations and maintenance of the guest iris beds. When this happens repercussions sift down through the convention committee to the region and beyond. It behooves us all to see that the 1991 AIS Convention Tour Gardens present the best possible face this spring. Please consider offering your back, hands, and knees to these dedicated folks who will present Region 4 to national convention guests in May. •



# 1991 Tour Gardens

The March Newscast traditionally features florid write-ups of the spring tour gardens, and this year the task is an especially daunting one. Since all 12 of these gardens have been discoursed upon at length, what more can we possibly say about them?

It is difficult to showcase our favorite flower and integrate it into the overall landscape at the same time—the dilemma of Iowa corn rows versus the occasional clump in a perennial border. A garden is an intensely personal endeavor which mirrors the attitudes and personality of its owner, and each tour garden presents a unique approach in featuring the iris. We have departed from the usual ‘picture of the owner and lots of flowers’ approach to bring you an eclectic look at what the Region 4 gardeners offer you for this 1991 National Convention.



## Heyden Observatory Garden

The religious influence plays an integral part in the layout and landscaping of this walled garden which lies at the foot of the Heyden Observatory on the campus of Georgetown University in Washington DC. This inner city planting is supervised and tended by Dr. Don Spoon, who teaches in

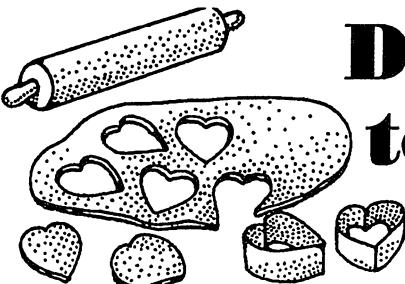
the Biology Department at the University. An interesting watering mechanism, constructed of rock and brick by Don and his son, provides water to a wide variety of plant material, including many perennials and some unusual rock garden plants. Approximately 140



guests, as well as a personal collection of irises (bearded and beardless) and many Spoon seedlings will be seen here. A spectacular view of the entire garden can be seen from the top of the Heyden Observatory which may be open during the garden tour.



**CCC sez: \***



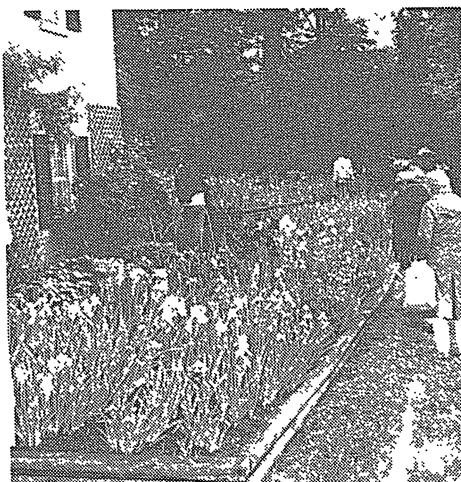
**Don't forget  
to make the  
cookies!**

\* see page 43

Carefully trained old roses cover the wooden fences which surround the front and side yards of the garden of Clarence and Suky Mahan (a.k.a. *The Iris Pond*). These flowers from a by-gone era provide a sweetly scented background for an impressive planting of bearded irises of mixed types, some of which are very old and rare. Old mingles with new in perfect harmony here.

The visual impact of Suky's peony collection beside the house will delight you and herbs crushed beneath your feet will scent the air as you take this path toward the back garden to view the guest iris. On the right you will see the 130 guests in their terraced beds; to the left is Clarence's large collection of Japanese and Siberian Irises which are attractively integrated into an oriental setting, complete with pond, bridge and koi. More than 20 *laevigatas* comprise an unusual iris collection that you won't want to miss.

The Mahans are versatile gardeners; many unique plants other than irises will be found at *The Iris Pond*. Clarence's enthusiasm for collecting is evident all through this lovely garden. ♦



**K**nown nationwide for their collection of antique roses, Nick and Rosanne Weber departed from the familiar to take on approximately 750 of the convention guest irises for the 1991 Convention. Situated in what appears to be a somewhat casually landscaped setting are small naturalized areas such as the waterlilies in a series of small pools which are surrounded by spring-flowering bulbs, shrubs and trees of all sizes. All plantings, including the roses, are carefully contrived to blend into their surroundings.

Their personal iris collection is minimal and al-

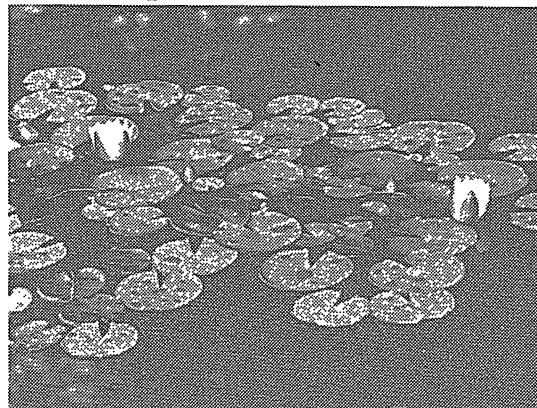


though growing irises is a very different thing from raising roses, the Webers have gone out of their way to give the guest irises every opportunity to thrive.

Planted in long rows in new soil are Siberians, spuri-

arias, and arils as well as many TB and median cultivars. These are separated by ample walkways so that you may view them from both sides.

There is much to see in this spacious garden—be sure you don't overlook some of the hidden gems at *The Heritage Rosarium*. ☙



**B**oxed iris have never been more attractively presented than in the *Green Box Iris Garden* of Dick and Meredith Sparling. A flop-eared rabbit and an impressive array of bearded iris in full bloom will greet you as you get off the bus. Descend to the back garden via wide terraced stairs which run through the rock garden at the top of the hill to admire the bearded irises in their green boxes. Among the more than 650 guest irises

planted here are all the median guests as well as one

of the largest personal collections of medians, old and new, in the country.

The bog planting at the bottom of the gently sloping back garden is Dick's solution to an excess water problem and bears out the old adage "If you can't beat 'em, join 'em."



Old or new, large or small, bearded or not—there is something here for everyone. Oh yes—be sure to check out the snack site which may be found under a shady bower at the back of the house. ☺



No matter how often one visits the garden of Mike and Diana Nicholls, there is always something new and interesting to be seen.

This year, two pools joined by a graceful trail of falling water add yet another dimension to this imaginatively landscaped garden.

These watergardens contain a variety of plants and goldfish and are an interesting contrast to the nearby island-type beds in which reside nearly 300 guest iris plants.

Close-by and worth noting is Diana's extensive collection of reblooming irises.

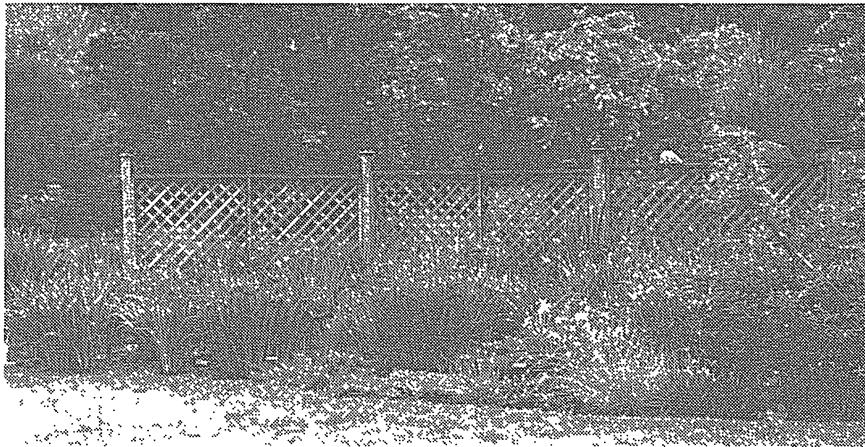
Immediately behind the house lie perennial beds edged with miniature and standard dwarf irises.

These are viewed from curved brick paths which run along the base of a hill whose planting is reminiscent of an English Cottage Garden—or is it a rock garden?

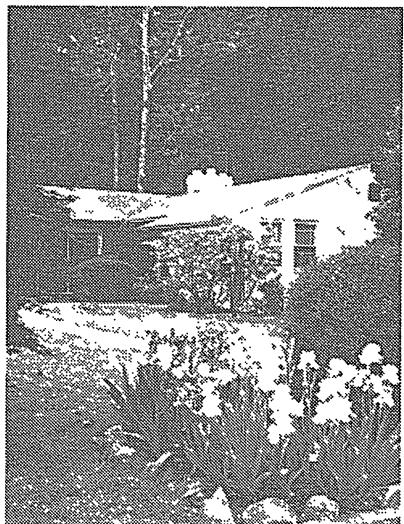
## NICHOLLS



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The use of lattice-work dividers provides an attractive background for a lush planting of Japanese and Siberian irises, while roses, clematis and many bedding plants provide contrasts in color and texture throughout. Lest you think the Nicholls plant a feast just for the eyes, be sure to take note of the fruit and vegetable plantings at the back of the yard. All plants in this garden are well grown, attesting to the fact that Diana is, indeed, a very good gardener. •



**N**owhere is the use of iris as a part of an overall landscape better illustrated than in the lovely garden of Charles and Celeste Cox. Beautifully integrated plantings of all kinds of things—herbs and azaleas, mature trees and

roses—grace this lovely garden, making you forget that you are in the heart of a busy urban community.

Although there are few guest irises here, the large planting of new (and some not so new) irises which borders the front yard and edges the busy street will stop you as well as the passing traffic.

If solitude is your thing, don't miss the wooded area at the back of the property, through which a path edged with ferns, azaleas and rhododendrons winds



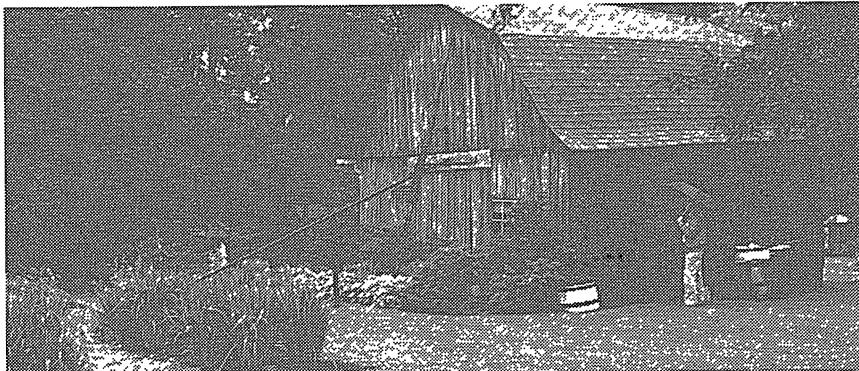
between mature trees. You will want to linger here to savor the quiet ambience of this small and elegant garden. \*



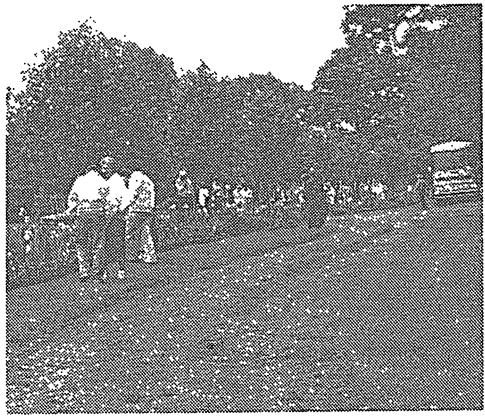
**F**armer John' Lawson is an incredibly talented gardener who has turned an old farmyard into a display of horticultural excellence where tasty vegetables grow happily alongside the bearded iris. In addition to more than 125 guest irises, you will see an impressive collection of alliums and more Kiss Me at the Garden Gate (probably better known as *tradescantia* or spider wort) than you knew existed. A collection of older Siberians attests to John's interest in the past



and his concern with conservation of older irises. Surrounded by Northern Virginia suburbia at its



best (worst?) this garden is proof positive of what imagination, talent and hard work can achieve. ☺



Joanne and Dick Murphy say Glen Cairn Farm is their retirement home, but there is little evidence of idle retirement here. Dick has constructed and Joanne has landscaped 13 curving island beds along the driveway, and even before the bus stops, you

will get a glimpse of the iris treats in store for you. These beautiful beds, with ornamental trees and perennials creatively interspersed, are host to nearly 190 guest iris.

Across the yard from the guest beds are 18 rows of award winning irises, ranging from a complete collection



of Dykes Medalists to all the AM winners since 1972. As you run your eye over the stunning array of color you will note the departure in recent years from the traditional blue irises and you may be prompted to say: "You've come a long way, baby!"

This is a working cattle farm and directly behind this colorful display you might see several horses standing hipshot in the sun or assorted sizes of cattle in a more distant field. Perhaps they also play a part in producing the outstanding bloom you have seen here. If this is retirement, lead me to it! ☺

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**CCC SEZ: Send Cookies!!!** *see page 43*



**T**he Iris Haven Garden of Doris and Owings Rebert is haven indeed to one of the largest collections of older irises in the East. Approximately two-thirds of the Rebert irises are of the antique/historic genre and many of them fall into the 'less-often-seen' category. The Reberts like medians and vice versa. A large number of SDBs are planted along the top of the stone retaining wall beside the house as well as along edges of many of the upper iris beds in front of the IBs. Here, too, is another collection of Dykes Medalists, both French and American; the English Dykes Collection stops at 1980 when importation connections made these cultivars difficult to obtain.

All is not old; many recent introductions can be seen here along with more than 150 guest irises. Since this is one of the northernmost of the convention gardens, we may well see some of the 40 guest medians in bloom



here during the tour. The memory of the exuberant display of iris in bloom, stretching from road to over the hill, will linger long after Convention 1991 is history. \*

**T**here is no inkling of the treat in store as you walk through the side gate and into the backyard garden of Rosalie Figge. Irises, along with a host of companion plants, are grown here with great care and love in the numerous beds which were designed and laid out to accommodate the traffic flow. There are areas for rebloomers, for the 'old ones', for Siberians and other beardless varieties and, for the most part, the irises are arranged alphabetically by iris name, not hybridizer's name.

Among these plantings you will find fifty 1990 introductions including 19 rebloomers and more than 160 introductions from 1987, 1988 and 1989—



125 Japanese Irises which (it is to be hoped) will not be in bloom. All this and 100 guests as well!

Our backyard should look so good! »

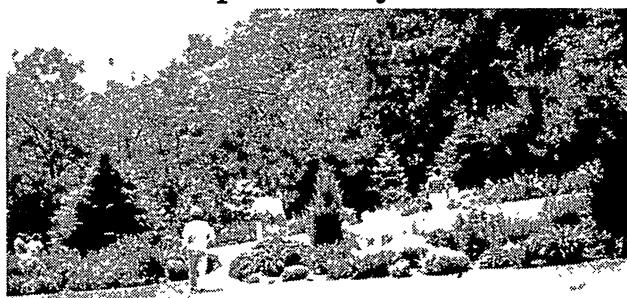
perhaps the largest personal collection of new irises in the area. However not all is new—Rosalie has a complete Dykes collection (American, British and French) as well as many interesting and unusual antique varieties. This garden also contains nearly

Rolling woodlands, green pastures, flowering shrubs, evergreens, red land, spacious lawns and iris—all these and more will be seen at *Draycott*, the gracious Maryland home of RVP Carol



Warner and her husband Andy. Approximately 160 guests are planted here, along with Carol's own extensive collection of Japanese, Siberian, tall bearded and median irises. Carol is the chief architect and weed puller for the large island beds in which huge peonies, daylilies, shrubs and perennials are creatively placed. Nearby, large conifers loom protectively over a bed of colorful TBs.

There is ample space in which to spread out and view the many iris plantings offered here.



Past the stone house is a pool surrounded by dogwoods and azaleas. In the delightfully cool and shady woods beyond this area you will find naturalized plantings of wild flowers, hostas and many other shade tolerant plants.

From the time you top the rise and see the curved iris beds that line the driveway until you slowly straggle

back down the hill to your bus, you will be delighted by the artistically beautiful garden that is *Draycott*.



**T**he Westminster City Hall Iris Garden, planned and nurtured by Doris and Owings Rebert of the Francis Scott Key Iris Society, is dedicated to the iris introductions of Region 4 Hybridizers. This planting includes irises of all ages and, despite the changes in form over the years, some of the older varieties



hold their own with the best of them. Every iris you see here is eligible for the President's Cup which is given each year to the favorite iris hybridized within the Convention host region.

The Westminster City Fathers can be justly proud of this lovely iris display bed located on the grounds of their City Hall. \*



MAYOR OF WESTMINSTER EXPRESSES APPRECIATION TO LLOYD ZURBRIGG,  
THEN RVP, REGION 4

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To quote Sir William Temple (from *C & P Iris News*):  
“As gardening has been the inclination of kings and the choice of philosophers so has it been the common favorite of public and private men; a pleasure of the greatest and the care of the meanest; and indeed, an employment and possession for which no man is too high or too low.”

# Treasurer's Report – Region 4 – AIS

For Period November 10, 1990 to March 15, 1991

November 10 Balance \$8219.89

Receipts:

Interest on Account (4 mo.) ..... \$133.82

Newscast - Non Reg 4 Members..... 24.00

Donation - AIS Refreshments ..... 50.00

Donation - Williamsburg Iris Soc. ..... 300.00

Total Deposits..... \$507.82

Complete Totals \$8727.71

Expenditures:

Membership Committee ..... \$62.24

Nat Conv Treas. Refreshments ..... 50.00

Dunn-Rite Printing (Dec. Newscast) ..... 714.00

Lowes Editing Newscast..... 210.52

Postage - Treasurer..... 5.80

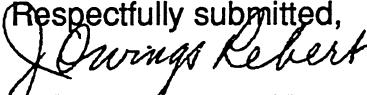
Membership Award Contest ..... 158.00

(Recipient – Ruth Walker)

Address Labels – AIS ..... 62.14

Total Expenses ..... \$1,262.70

March 15 Balance \$7,465.01

Respectfully submitted,  
  
J. Owings Rebert, Treasurer

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## Nominating Committee Report

At the Region 4 Board meeting in May, the Nominating Committee will propose the following slate of officers for election:

**RVP: Carol Warner**

**Ass't RVP: J. D. Stadler**

**Secretary: Lois Rose**

**Treasurer: Owings Rebert**

**Historian: Clarence Mahan**

*Roy Epperson, NC   Rosalie Figge, MD*

*Phil Ogilvie, DC   Margaret Stone, WV*

*Rich Randall, VA, Chairman*

# 1991 Calendar

## Sales Around the Region

### April 16 (Tuesday)

*Tidewater Iris Society - Sale at the Dome,*  
Virginia Beach, Virginia

### May 25 (Saturday)

*Alleghany Highlands Chapter - Sale*

### June 22 (Saturday)

*Blue Ridge Iris Society Sale - Roanoke Garden  
Center, Roanoke, Virginia*

### July 6 (Saturday, 12 Noon)

*Eastern North Carolina Auction at home of Roy  
Epperson, High Point, North Carolina*

### July 20th (Saturday)

*C & P Bearded Sale & Auction - Falls Church  
Community Center*

*Blue Ridge Iris Society Auction - Roanoke Garden  
Center, Roanoke, Virginia*

*Francis Scott Key Iris Society Sale - Watson's Garden  
Center, Lutherville, Maryland*

*Carolina Mountains Auction - Meadows Community  
Center, Hendersonville, North Carolina*

### August 10 (Saturday 9:30AM)

*Williamsburg Iris Society Sale - Outlet mall,  
Lightfoot, Virginia*

### September 8 (Sunday, 1:00 PM)

*C & P Iris Society Beardless Sale and Auction at the  
home of John Lawson, Annandale, Virginia*

### October 5th

*Region 4 Fall Auction - Roanoke, Virginia*

# 1991 Introductions From Region 4 Hybridizers

**Ack-countable** (W. Ackerman '91) JI, 6 falls. Arching falls are sparkling white with rich mulberry mottling and stippling; white style arms edged mulberry; yellow signal. (*Available through Nicholls Gardens.*)

**Brocade Blue** (W. Ackerman '91) JI, 6 falls. Violet-blue around yellow signal blending to brighter shades of violet-blue near the ruffled edges. (*Available through Nicholls Gardens.*)

**Oriental Bouquet** (W. Ackerman '91) JI, 10 petals, 6 petaloids, 8 stylearms. This multi-petaled 'bouquet' has a very pale violet-blue ground with dark violet veins, heavier around green yellow signal, which stop short of the edge to give the effect of a lighter border. Good substance and lower height makes this an ideal plant for the front of the garden. HC 1989. (*Available through Nicholls Gardens.*)

**Bobbie Lee Evans** (A. Bouldin '91) Siberian. Deep violet blue self. Swank X unknown.

**Katie Beth** (A. Bouldin '91) Louisiana. S. light lavender, lighter in center; F. deep lavender—an unusual smoky color. Parentage unknown.

**Sakako** (E. Hulbert '90) JI, 6 petal. White, white rays running into wide pink border; yellow green signal; white style arms and crests edged pink. Sakura-jishi X self. (*Introduced last year but somehow we missed it. Available through Cooper's Garden, MN.*)

**Suky** (C. Mahan '91) TB, E-M and RE in milder climates. S. white, flushed violet toward edges; F. medium to deep violet with large pure white zonal area; white beard; large ruffled flowers, excellent form, good bud count and branching; pronounced spicy fragrance. Violet Miracle X Victoria Falls

**Violet Music** (C. Mahan '91) TB. E-M & RE. Medium violet self with white blaze on falls. Huge flowers,

modern form, plenty of ruffles, great substance, heavy spicy fragrance. Full sib to **Suky**. HC 1990.

**Despite ALL** (L. Powell '91) TB .S. rose; F. deeper rose; orange beard. Pronounced sweet fragrance. Two Pinks X Spring Portrait

**Ballerina Princess** (J. Stadler '91) BB. Heavily bubble ruffled white with blue-violet edge on falls; yellow beard; slight sweet fragrance. Celestial Dream X Dream Romance.

**Crystal Flair** (J. Stadler '91) TB. Very pale blue with darker veining on falls; white beard, yellow in throat; heavily bubble ruffled. Ruffled Ballet X Bubbling Over.

**David Keith** (J. Stadler '91) TB. Maroon black self with self beard and slight sweet fragrance. Holy Night X Superstition.

**Michelle Stadler** (J. Stadler '91) BB. S. deep coral pink; F. medium coral pink; deep pink beard; ruffled and lightly laced with slight spicy fragrance. Pink Bubbles X Memphis Delight. EC 1987.

**Clarence** (L. Zurbrigg '91) TB. M & RE. Lovely lumina-ta amoena with white S. and light violet F, washed white over the hafts and around the yellow and white beards. Sweet perfume, well-branched, impeccable substance and form. Unknown parentage.

**Frances Iva** (L. Zurbrigg '91) TB. A very early creamy yellow plicata with blue-brown markings rather frugally applied. Form, substance and branching superb. Raspberries & Cream X Spirit of Fiji.

**Just Mee** (L. Zurbrigg '91) TB. White ground marked violet with excellent show bench appeal. Parentage unknown—possibly Earl of Essex X self.

**Lady Essex** (L. Zurbrigg '91) TB. M & RE. Wide, rounded white F. daintily edged in orchid violet; S. white with heavier marking; light yellow beard; deep violet styles; branching adequate. Good parent for BB. (Needlecraft x Earl of Essex) X (Cross Stitch x Earl of Essex).

**Northward Ho** (L. Zurbrigg '91) TB. EM & RE. This

pinkish brown plicata is very wide and very large. It has good rebloom and it is hoped that it will push the boundaries of rebloom farther north as is evident from the name. (English Cottage x unknown) X Re-treat.

**Sign of Virgo** (L. Zurbrigg '91) TB. EM & RE. This amoena plicata has white S. and white F. marked violet; medium size flowers on superb stalks with excellent branching; wonderful fragrance. (involved breeding) X Earl of Essex.

**Silver Dividends** (L. Zurbrigg '91) TB. M & RE. Silver white self, gently ruffled, very smooth with good branching. Brother Carl X (Summer Holidays x Sister Helen). EC 1989.

**Sunny Disposition** (L. Zurbrigg '91) TB. M & RE. Large, well-formed primrose yellow on good stalks; sweet fragrance. Harvest of Memories X Immortality. EC 1989. ☺

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## Awards around the Region

First runner-up to the 1990 Payne Award was Bill Ackerman's **Wine Ruffles** and, if that's not enough, the #4 runner-up was **Grape Fizz**, also by Dr. A. This year the world, next year the stars.

The first introduced remontant to receive an Award of Merit is **Immortality** (Zurbrigg '82). Be sure to check your 1991 Schreiner's catalog, page 27—and we quote... "Immortality is perhaps best known as THE reblooming wonder..." Congratulations to Lloyd for winning a major award two years in a row.

HCs go to Clarence Mahan for his big and beautiful **Violet Music** and to J.D. Stadler for J29-9, the gold and rust beauty that wowed 'em in Omaha last year.

Jane McKnew was awarded an EC for her Re-blooming TB 1-2; Bill Ackerman received the EC for his JI A-4-4-86; an EC goes to John Wood for N-101-89, type unknown. ☺

# Raising Species Iris From Seed

Elaine P. Hulbert, Floyd, VA

Region 4 is a pretty good place for most iris species. The Pacific Northwest probably accommodates the less hardy species better than the Middle Atlantic States, but we can handle almost everything but the Pacific Coast Natives successfully here, and we can do better with the Eastern natives and the Louisianas. There is no iris I can think of that isn't worth at least a trial in our area.

But probably I should try to tailor my advice to the two types of grower who will be interested in this article.

One group will be those who have not had any occasion to try growing irises from seed at all. Others will be planting seeds because they are unable to get the rare species (or variations thereof) in any other way. If you are a beginner at growing from seed you will probably want to start with something sure-fire, and the obvious choices are *I. siberica*, *sanguinea*, *setosa*, *ensata* and *tectorum*. Seed of these is usually available in quantity, germination is quick, plants mature and bloom in the second year, and they need little care in the permanent border.

Equally easy are *versicolor* and *pseudacorus*, but these have the disadvantage (if it is a

disadvantage for you) of requiring a good deal of room to make a proper show. The color forms of *versicolor* can be a lot of fun, but even seed from segregated forms is more likely to give the familiar blue-violet than the reds, pinks and whites that add so much to a big planting of bog-irises.

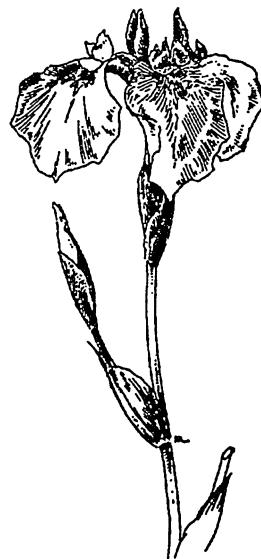


*I. tectorum*



*I. versicolor* You are not likely to have a wasteful abundance of seed of any species unless you can harvest your own. Thus you will probably want to plant your seed in pots rather than in the open ground. A commercial seed-starter is likely to be too light to keep the seed for the above varieties moist enough. Since iris seedlings are almost immune to damping off, they can be planted in garden loam lightened with vermiculite or perlite to encourage root development. There is no better way to ensure germination than to put the pots out to take a winter's weather, preferably plunged in the ground and lightly mulched. You can look at them occasionally to see that they stay moist, and should see germination in April. (At this stage pots may be better protected indoors if your area is likely to get severe cold shocks at this season.)

From this point on your only really iffy decision is when to transplant. By the time the weather is really promising all seedlings will probably have at least four leaves, but two-leaved seedlings are not too small to work with. A spell of overcast damp weather any time in May, June or even July will do. Lining out is quite straightforward with these vigorous species. You can dump the pot into a bucket of water and fish out the seedlings one by one, giving the roots a good deep hole for anchorage. I don't think any fertilizer is called for in the irises' first year, but the better the ground has been dug the better the all-important root growth will be. These



*I. pseudacorus*



*I. ensata*

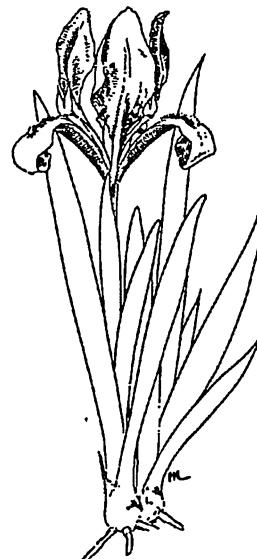
Actually a hybrid though we may speak of 'hybridizing' when we cross *ensata* clones. Whether your seedlings came from named clones or not you are likely to get a wide variety of enchanting forms and colors when you raise these. All of them look "finished". It may seem impossible that so little effort—because they germinated easily and grow vigorously—could give such results but it does. Ordinary garden sites suit them very well, and if they can be planted by midsummer in their first year, most of them will bloom the next June and July. Plenty of added moisture is welcome throughout their careers (except in winter), and from the second year on, heavy fertilizing is recommended too.

Rock gardeners can have a lot of fun with seed-raised *pumila*

species all go thoroughly dormant when the cold weather arrives, and will probably manage quite well through their first winter even if you haven't got around to mulching them until midwinter.

Except for *tectorum* these species do best in sunny places, and they all love moisture but are very tolerant of ordinary garden conditions.

I must include a rave about seed-grown *ensata*. The "Japanese Irises" you know are all derived from this one species. None is ac-



*I. pumila*

and *cristata*, but unfortunately their seed is not so easy to come by, even though both are widely grown. When I have been lucky enough to get a good potful of seedlings of either of these, I have planted them out as early as possible, May or early June, taking hunks of two or three seedlings at a time from the pot with as much soil as possible, using a tablespoon, because the root systems are by no means as long and bushy as those of irises we dealt with earlier. Firming in with a couple of small rocks will help, on the sunny and shady sides of the rock garden respectively. It is gratifying to see *pumila*'s extravagant bloom in its second year, when you can separate the mixed-up clones to give each one its best chance to multiply.

Louisiana irises are difficult to start from seed, sometimes taking several years to germinate. I have planted these in open ground with some success; af-

ter the long wait they are easy to spot once they do come up as the new leaves are big and quick growing. Weeding is not so difficult as it would be for the little grassy PCNIs, for example.

Those Pacific Coast Natives are tempting because the seed is plentiful and the color forms offered sound attractive. Potfuls will be germinating from midwinter on, and you have a whole lot of seedlings to find spots for by the time your ground has warmed up. This placement is the



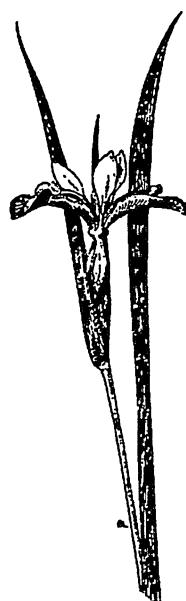
*I. cristata*



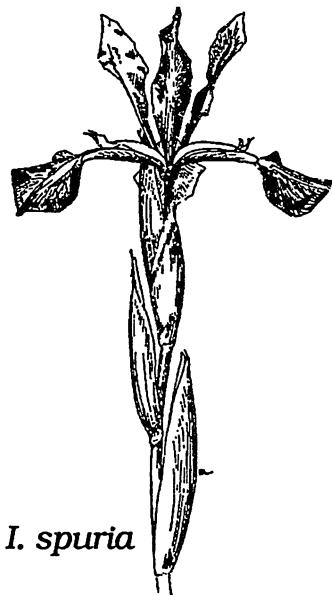
*I. douglasiana*

hard part of raising PCNIs; they don't like too much sun, too much shade, or too much constant moisture. For me, they seem to find themselves most at home among other smallish plants in high shade, where there is shelter from all extremes. They transplant easily in the seedling phase, but are very hard to move later. If you can get them through their first winter, they will probably bloom (and set seed) for you very nicely

and make you feel that no trouble was too great. However much trouble, the results from seed are almost sure to be better than any results from importing plants from the West.



*I. graminea*



*I. spuria*

iris that everyone has room for, but unfortunately there is almost no variation to play with. The larger species whose seed is available are slower-growing, but like graminea they are practically permanent once established, and whether received as *carthaliniae*, *notha*, *halophila*, *musulmanica* or *spuria* itself, they will flower in some pattern of blue-violet, yellow and white with slight but pleasing variations.

To deal briefly with some other species you may be able to get seed of: *lactea*, *virginica*, *prismatica* and *aphylla* are all quite easy to start and rewarding in their maturity. But there is a special group I would

like you to consider—the sino-siberians or 40-chromosome siberians. These do so much better from seed than from nursery stock that even growers who would not mess with seedlings will find them worthwhile. You may have to settle for hybrid seed because hybridization among *chrysographes*, *clarkei*, *delavayi*, *forrestii* and *wilsonii* happens everywhere these species grow side by side—but all the variations in flower color, leaf form and stature are nice, and some individuals will come close to the species. Blossom form is quite uniform throughout, much like that of the 28-chromosome Siberians though without the fullness of, say, *sanguinea*. A good many clumps can be accommodated in less space than

what is needed by the 28s. And although they are not proof against the severest winters or prolonged spring drought, they can, in favorable circumstances, give you charming displays of bloom in late spring and early summer, as well as the pleasure of growing some things absolutely unique.

I haven't dealt with what is for some experienced growers a favorite system of germinating seeds, the refrigerated packet of moistened vermiculite. It requires another step of transplanting to pot before the lining out, and only fills a real need if you have so much seed



*I. wilsonii*



*I. chrysographes*

you want to cut down on the number of pots you are carrying, or you are trying to shorten the stratification period. However, plenty of ideas for germinating difficult seeds can be found if you search the literature.

SIGNA's seed list is available to anyone sending a self-addressed stamped long envelope to Phoebe Copley, 5428 Murdock, St. Louis, MO 63109. You can join SIGNA and get the list automatically by writing to Florence Stout, 150 N. Main St., Lombard, IL 60148.

The British Iris Society issues a list that is quite extensive and includes some rarities not usually available through SIGNA. The present Seed Distribution Officer is Mr. R. E. Wilson, Dalehead, 100 Blackburn Rd., Chorley, Lancashire, England, PR6 8TJ.

Rock garden societies offer a number of the smaller iris, and some species nurseries include offers of seed along with listings of iris plants.

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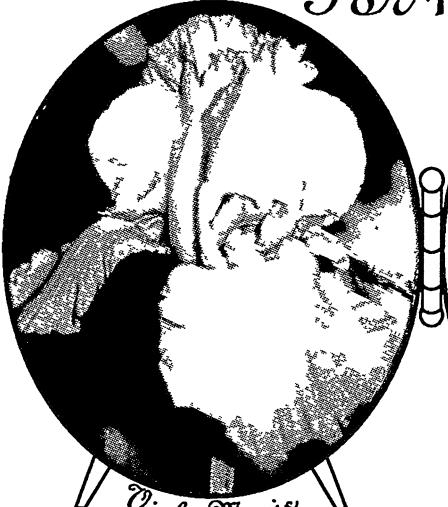
[ED: *Elaine Hulbert, past president of SIGNA, is both a knowledgeable irisarian and a talented writer. She has given us an article that is basic enough for beginners, yet sufficiently advanced to interest the more experienced irisarian. The graphics used in this article were drawn by Benjamin Y. Morrison and appeared in U.S.D.A. Farmers Bulletin No. 1406. They are as topical and fresh now as when they were drawn in the early 1920s.* ]

## So you're coming to convention...

When you register for any convention event, a Registration Packet is prepared in your name. This envelope contains, among other things, your name tag (which is an instant introduction to other irisarians) and tickets for bus tours and banquets (without which you don't get in).

The packet must be picked up from the Registration desk in the hotel prior to the event. Tour buses leave the hotel at 7 AM, so allow yourself a little extra time to hit the registration desk before you board the bus.

For 1991



Violet Music

Please see  
page  
Thirty Four

Suky

**SUKY** (Mahan, 91) (Sdlg 186-1) TB, 37", Early to Midseason. This gorgeous iris, pictured in the April 1991 *A.I.S. Bulletin*, has been a sensation since its maiden bloom. Standards are white, flushed violet toward the edges: falls are medium to deep violet with very large pure white zonal areas extending from hafts to nearly halfway down the falls. Violet style arms provide additional striking contrast. White beard and pronounced spicy fragrance. Large flowers, excellent form, ruffled! Good bud count and branching. The most spectacularly beautiful iris to come from my seedling patch ever, it is named in tribute to my wife—in my eyes only she is more beautiful. Will rebloom in mild climates, but normally too late for northern Virginia. Pollen fertile: producing marvelous offspring for Dr. Lloyd Zurbrigg. VIOLET MIRACLE X VICTORIA FALLS. Picked as one of Flower & Garden magazine's "New Plants for '91" (March 1991 issue) .....\$35.00

**VIOLET MUSIC** (Mahan, 91). Sdlg 85X9. TB, 40", Very Early to Mid-season, 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

Price List \$1.00

7311 Churchill Rd.

31

McLean, VA 22101

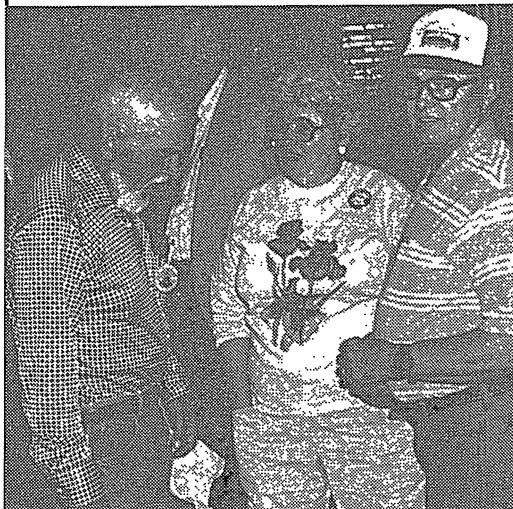
## **Convention Snapshots**

**Convention "Worst Case Scenario"**



**The Buses Came...  
The Bloom Didn't**

**Ben Hager, Anne Lowe and  
Warren Wiekhorst...**



**Ben conducts a judging  
session on the "Tee Shirt Iris"**

**A Space Age  
Convenience...**



**AIS President Ken Waite  
2nd Vice Pres Jim Copel**



**"Some AIS jobs require you  
spend a lot of time here..."**

ersion



"Next Year it's in Atlanta!"



'91 Chairman Mahan  
and Reg 4 RVP Warner

and  
and



*"I've got it surrounded!"*

Linda Miller shoots for  
the *A.I.S Bulletin*

Seen in an Omaha  
Convention Garden



Perhaps the California  
drought is moving east?

to  
"

J

Love

Suky

Mahan 1991

# The Unbalance Of Nature

*Bill Ackerman Ashton, MD*

**A**re you having more than the usual problem with squirrels and deer this year in your iris, and garden, in general? Blame the gypsy moth! During the past two years, they have devastated the oak trees in this area. Result, no acorn crop! Squirrels, deer, and many other local wild creatures depend largely upon acorns to fatten up for the coming winter. Without acorns, they become desperate and range far and wide to find alternative foods. The large number of road kills this year is evidence that all is not well in the animal world.

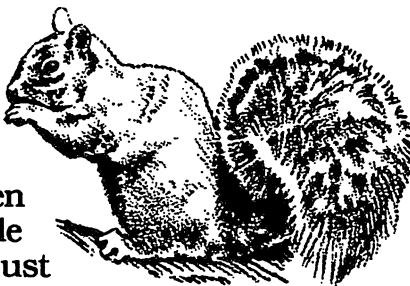
It is interesting that there have been a number of letters to the editor of the Washington Post this past month regarding the many squirrel, 'road kills.' Various reasons have been suggested, concerning what are termed 'kamikaze' squirrels. However, I have seen nothing recorded about the lack of acorns as a cause.

Abundant acorn crops during the late 1980's caused a population explosion of both squirrels and deer. (This, coupled with mild winters has meant large broods of squirrels and many deer 'twins.') Now, I expect, if we have a severe winter, there will be a crash. Nature can be bountiful at times, but also very cruel. What can we do? There are a number of approaches that can be taken. The most obvious is to fence in your garden and cover your precious iris with wire. During the past several months, my family and I have spent many hours erecting fencing around our property against the deer. It has been a losing battle. They can clear a six-foot fence with ease and have a knack for searching out weak points in our fences. They mock

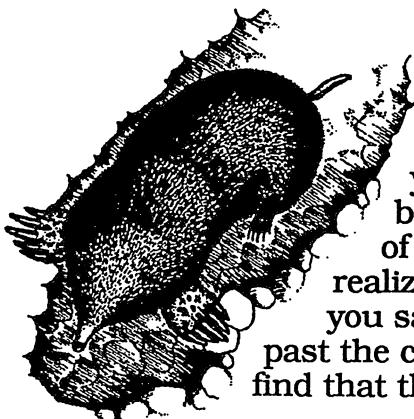


me by standing in my garden and staring at me, not moving until I come within a few yards. Then, they merely amble away. I am not a hunter! Despite everything, I doubt if I could shoot one of these creatures. Thus, I have become a victim of too bountiful nature. All I can do is try to find the spot of entry and repair it (difficult with several acres!)

Squirrels are another matter. We tried trapping them and transporting them across the Patuxent River to the next county. I should have known this would not work, because squirrels are very territorial. Introduce a squirrel into a new territory and the 'residents' will drive him out. We trapped and transported at least two dozen squirrels with little observable results. There seemed to be just as many as before. Then, my daughter had an idea. Each squirrel we trapped was marked with red nail polish on its tail. You have probably guessed it by now—we were soon observing squirrels in the yard with red markings! We found that it took each squirrel about two days to make the journey home!



There is an old saying, "if you can't lick 'em, join 'em." Now we buy cracked corn and other goodies and feed our local population hoping they will leave our garden alone. In large part, they have, and we have learned to coexist.



## Of Moles...

"Pesky varmits!" That's the reaction that you get when you mention voles. Chat on a bit further about this scourge of the garden and you soon realize that your listener thought you said "moles." After you reach past the confusion of vole/mole, you find that these uninvited residents of



## and Voles...

your garden are as misunderstood as any pest combination that we encounter.

First, an often stated but not really wholly believed fact about moles. They do not eat iris roots, they eat grubs and earthworms. The pest that munches off the entire root mass of your prize beardless iris is probably a vole.

Of course, moles love your JI and Siberian iris beds. An abundance of mulch and rich, humusy soil ensure that earthworms abound and this is happy hunting ground for moles. The damage directly attributable to moles, however, will be a result of their tunneling around and under the roots of irises. They seem to prefer the soft soil around a newly planted, expensive iris.

The real knockout punch comes from a co-resident of the mole run—the vole (often commonly called Pine or Meadow mouse). They are distinguished from mice by their stout build, small eyes, blunt snouts, small ears and short limbs and tails. They live about a year, breeding almost continuously.

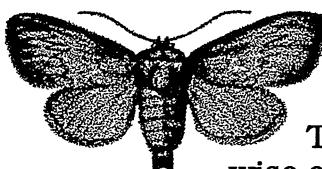
There is no way that a vole can be classed as a picky eater. Listed below are a few of the favorite grists for this li'l critter's mill: established roses which are cut off at the ground; whole areas of the daylily bed that simply disappear; mature azaleas that wilt and keel over, rootless, in the first high wind; Siberian and Japanese fans that turn brown and become a handful of sere material fit only for the compost heap. These plants have one thing in common—mulch which provides a medium for the vole to burrow and nest in as well as a haven for grubs and earth worms—which attract the tunneling mole.

Now that we have stated the problem, what can we do to control these destructive pests? All the talk about spearing moles at dawn leaves me slightly nauseous,

the electronic bonger has received mixed reviews, poison peanuts are unsafe and mothballs raise ecological hackles. You might consider: eliminating mulch; planting enough irises for both you and the varmints; enjoying a respite during the cyclical low population period and hoping for the best during peak vole population periods. You might even attempt to get rid of grubs with milky spore or dig the earthworms and go fishing—often. Joking aside, the only sure-fire solution we know about is the one employed by Walter Smith in Williamsburg. Walter dug out Louise's seedling beds to a depth of about 18 inches, lined them with hardware cloth and filled them in with good, amended and enriched soil. The results were spectacular and there was no evidence of either moles or voles. While this is an extreme measure and a lot of digging, it does work!

This article may tell you more than you ever wanted to know about moles and voles. However, many of you have probably encountered these destructive little guys and misery loves company. If you have solutions, please let us hear from you. We suspect that this problem will continue to plague us for years to come, and we can all benefit from the experiences of fellow irisarians.

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## ...and Borers!

This scourge can bring an otherwise environmentally aware irisarian to

the point of using DDT, napalm, poison gas and a sledge hammer. Confined mostly to the Eastern United States from Canada to mid-Virginia and going west through Iowa, this devastating pest can level an untreated garden. Cygon 2E®, a systemic insecticide, is the weapon of choice in the battle against borers. The pictorial essay on the following two pages documents the discovery, and elimination of a borer in a guest planting.





**The Victim:** a clump of **Betty Frances** in a Maryland Convention garden. Telltale ragged, notched leaf edges and slimy leaf bases signal the presence of an iris borer larva.



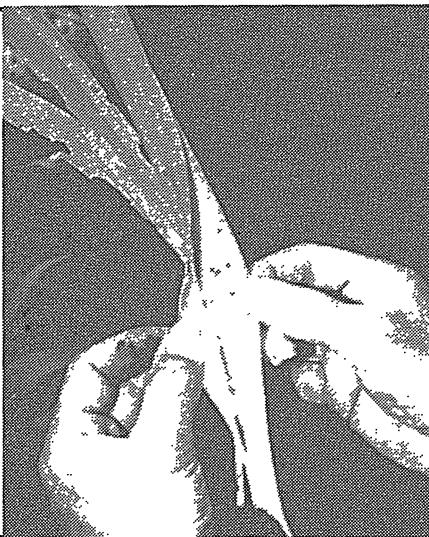
**The Hybridizer:** Clarence Mahan applies one of the most effective borer killing techniques known—a sharp squeeze of the iris fan right where the larva is located.



**The Teacher:** Rich Randall asks, "Why not take the opportunity to show those who perhaps have never seen a borer or borer damage, just what the little varmit looks like and what happens to the iris fan he lives in?!"

### **The Larva's Happy Home:**

A center leaf with notched margins, a chewed out 'tunnel' headed for the rhizome, and a trail of frass—debris and excrement—indicate that we have tracked the borer to his lair. The next picture in this sequence should have shown the culprit... but remember that energetic 'squish'...?

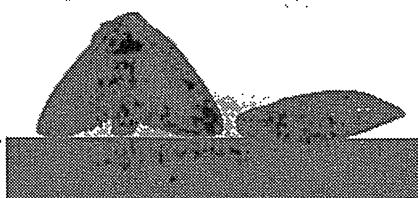


**Viewing the Remains:** As this is a family magazine, you'll have to use your imagination here. A drawing of an intact larva is shown on page 38. Not to give the wrong impression of the owner's diligence, this clump was the only one infested in a very large garden.



### **Iris Borer Moth and Pupa:**

The moth is nocturnal and the pupa is found in soil around iris clumps—both not often seen.



# On Raising And Enjoying Iris

Walter P. Smith, Williamsburg, VA

Iris have rightfully been described as being the most beautiful of all flowers. They are found throughout most areas of the world, growing in such diverse situations as mountains and swampland. Those seen today in most gardens in the United States are hybrids which have been developed over many years by hybridizers seeking new color combinations, new fragrances, sturdier plant growth, re-blooming capability and other improvements. It has often been said that probably more desirable variations can be created by hybridizing irises than from any other flower. The old-fashioned purple "Flags" often seen in Grandma's garden are among the ancestors of many of today's hybrids.

Perhaps the least recognized feature of irises is their broad range of fragrances. Although some have no fragrance at all, and a very few have undesirable scents, some of the most pleasurable aromas imaginable are now found in many hybrids.

As with other plants, there are several classifications of irises being grown and enjoyed by gardeners across the country. Perhaps the most widely seen are those called Tall Bearded. Most commercial iris catalogs feature this type. Among the others are Dwarf Bearded, Japanese, Siberian, and those grouped as 'species'.

Iris generally prefer full sun, but many will do well in somewhat shaded areas if the soil is well drained and has been properly prepared with fertilizer, organic material and soil supplements, and has been brought to a pH (degree of acidity) of between 6.5 and 7.5 by the addition of ground limestone to reduce acidity or the addition of a sulfur compound to increase acidity. Although all plants have their own preferred pH range (for example, azaleas do best under more acid conditions), irises seem to prefer a neutral pH of around 7.0.

There are two easy ways to determine the pH of the soil in your garden; testing of soil samples (which may be done through your local Agricultural Agent, usually without charge) or by the use of a simple pH meter which may be obtained at most garden centers for about \$20.00.

Irises in the Williamsburg area reach peak bloom during the first half of May in an average-weather year. Individual plants bloom over a period of several days, with each bloom lasting two to four days with overall bloom lasting as long as five weeks. In general, the Dwarf varieties bloom the earliest: often during late March and early April.

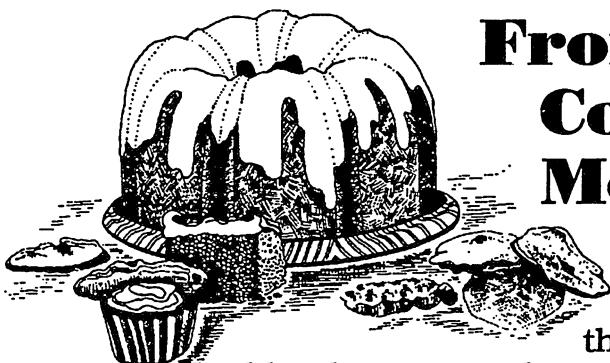
Those of one type—remontants or rebloomers—have the capability of blooming at least twice over an extended period in the same season. One variety, a beautiful, fragrant white named **Immortality**, put up six bloom stalks from May to December during its first year in our garden.

Although iris rhizomes can be planted any time during the normal planting season, the best time for planting in this area is from after bloom time until early September. Rhizomes planted during this period have time to develop a vigorous new root system before severe winter weather conditions appear. Rhizomes will often produce bloom during the year following planting, but there should be no concern if bloom is delayed until the second season. In this area this is a normal rate of development.

Care of the plants is relatively simple. Beds should be kept free of weeds, grass and old leaves. Other debris, including old bloom stalks, should be removed as a general sanitation measure. Moderate amounts of fertilizer (an excellent formula for general use in the Williamsburg area is 10-10-10, now available with the very necessary trace minerals added) should be applied in early spring, and water should be supplied during dry periods. Fertilizer should also be added when planting or replanting rhizomes in late summer.

In a word, irises will provide many days and weeks of unique viewing and fragrance pleasure if they are

merely given those conditions necessary for the successful operation of any garden: properly prepared soil, fertilizer, water, and cleanliness. More detailed information about iris culture in various localities may be obtained from Garden Centers, commercial growers, Agricultural Agents, informed individuals and by membership in the American Iris Society and its many affiliated organizations, such as The Williamsburg Iris Society.



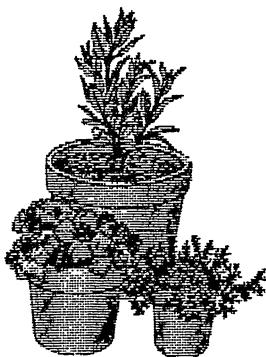
## From the Cookie Monster:

Only the iris beds are more popular than the refreshment

tables during a garden tour—and even the iris come second to some individuals! Irisarians all over Region 4 have been asked to donate baked goods to be served in the 1991 convention tour gardens. We need approximately 1,600 dozen (19,200) cookies. A 'Cooky' can be a pound cake, banana bread, brownies, or a real cookie. In response to a request for convention "cookies" one Region 4 member who will not be here during the convention, but who wanted to help, made a generous financial donation. We say "thank you".

How about sharing a recipe for a favorite baked goody? If you can help in any way, please contact your local cookie chairman. If your chapter does not have one of these important people, please contact **Convention Cookie Coordinator (CCC)**, Rich Randall. Telephone: (804) 340-9077

Region 4 is noted for its good cooks and warm hospitality. Please help us maintain our reputation for both during the National Convention tours. ♡



# Herbs For the Perennial Border

*Isabelle Campbell, Poquoson, VA*

Herbs require a well drained sunny to partial shade area with plenty of room and a moderately fertile soil to thrive. Herbs are mostly pest and disease free. Some, such as marigolds and painted daisies, will even ward off invaders in your vegetable garden. A slightly acid pH range of 6.5 to 7.0 is ideal for most herbs except for the lavenders, thymes, rosemarys and rues which require a more alkaline soil. A good application of wood ashes or dolomitic limestone can be used to increase soil alkalinity.

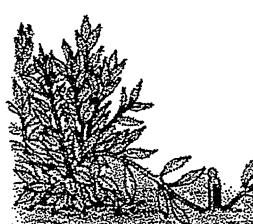
Propagation is by plant division, layering, tip cuttings and seed.



*Make a slanted cut underneath a thick*



*Daub hormone rooting powder into the cut*



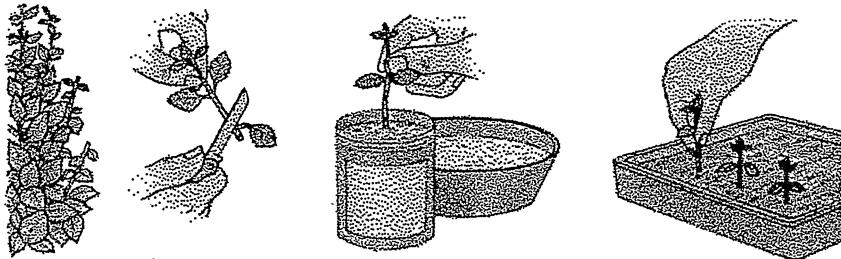
*Bury the cut in soil and peg it down*

A few can even be rooted in plain tap water. The best time to divide is in early spring as soon as new growth begins to show. Hardy annual seed may be sown directly in the garden in early fall.

Herbs may be started indoors from seed as follows:

- ☛ dampen any good commercial seed growing mix slightly and place in seed pots, pressing the soil in the pots.
- ☛ sprinkle seed on top of growing medium and cover lightly.
- ☛ if seeds need light to germinate, leave them uncovered.

Slip the pots into a plastic bag and place in an area out of direct sunlight. As soon as germination shows, remove plastic bags and continue to grow until seedlings develop at least two true leaves. Then transplant to individual pots until it is time to plant them out in the garden.



*Remove lower leaves from a stout stem 4" long*

*Dip the cutting in water then into rooting hormone powder*

*Plant cuttings into sharp sand or rooting compost mixture*

### **Perennial Herbs for Full Sun**

Lavenders, Thymes, Rosemarys, Rues, Bay (these may require a sheltered planting), Artemesias: suggested varieties are Powis Castle, Huntington, Lambrook, and Versicolor, Sages, Salvias, Yarrows, Alliums, Orris, Oregano, Marjoram, Hyssops, Balms, Hollyhock Niger, Borage, Columbine, Savorys, Santolinas, Feverfew, Nigella sativa.

All of the above come in foliage colors ranging from various shades of green to blue, yellow, greyish-white, purple and variegated. Also, all bloom in various colors.

### **Annual Herbs for full sun**

Marigold tenuifolium and Lemon Gem, Calendula, Basil, Dill.

### **Herbs for shade or partial shade**

Sweet Woodruff, Lady's Mantle, Violets, Corsican Mint, Helleborus niger, Vincas, Sweet Flag, Irish Moss, Scotch Moss, Wintergreen and Ginger.

### **Herbs for Planting Between Cobblestones and Bricks in Walkways**

Corsican Mint, Creeping Thymes, Mazus Reptans, Lawn Chamomile, Cunningham Mint, Irish Moss, Scotch Moss and Compact Oregano.

None of these are more than 2 inches tall and will stand light foot traffic.

Herbs are versatile garden plants: they can stand alone as shrubs; they readily integrate among other plantings; they serve as fragrant edgings, foundation plantings and walkways; they provide food for birds and some of the more exotic insects as well as man. Try them—they will greatly add to your gardening pleasure.

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EVEN IF YOU ARE A CHARTER MEMBER OF THE 'PLONK' SCHOOL OF ARRANGING (CUT THE FLOWERS AND PLONK THEM INTO A VASE) YOU CAN'T GO WRONG WITH JIS

# Make No Mistake: Convention Cookies With Flour!

I love to gather 'round iris folks  
And lately the word is break a few yokes.  
At meetings now, we hear lots about cookies  
Start cooking, I hear, experienced and rookies.  
There was plenty of info on the subject I found  
RICH RANDALL spoke a lot and *BIN*\* recipes abound.  
So I said, "What the hey, I'll give it a try!"  
But the experience almost killed both my wife and I.

I knew that I needed flower, sugar, and butter  
Since the variety wasn't named, I talked to "anutter."  
I decided to consult RENA (Kizziar), expert on the *BIN*  
But all that she gave was a shrug and a grin.  
"Come on RENA," I said with a nudge  
"The missing ingredient... which flower for the fudge?"  
She smiled and I thought, "she's not going to give"  
A Betty Crocker bakeoff she's going to relive?

So I called up GAIL PARKER, who edits the *BIN*  
And I said, "GAIL, the main ingredient's not in!"  
"I've made up one batch with the flowers I've got  
I've used **Gold Burst/Immortality** and neither's so hot."  
"I tried it on the kids—they think I'm crazy,  
I gave some to the hamster—he's pushin' up daisies."  
Then GAIL made me realize, this was all so inane  
The flour you use comes from a grain!

Now go ahead and laugh, it isn't so funny  
I've spent weeks on this thing, my time and my money.  
The kids' hamster is dead, my family's gone nuts  
My irises are neglected, I feel like a klutz!  
How in the world did I get in this fix?  
The intention was good, but the flowers don't mix.

Bob Smithson, 1990

Tidewater Chapter

**CCC SEZ: Cookies! (p. 43)**

\* *Blooming Iris News*

# 1991 Calendar

## Shows Around the Region

### April 27 (Saturday)

*Williamsburg Iris Society Show* - Outlet mall,  
Lightfoot, Virginia

### May 5 (Sunday)

*Charlotte Chapter Show* - Eastland Mall  
*Eastern North Carolina Open Garden* - 2-5 PM at  
garden of Roy Epperson, High Point, North Carolina

### May 11 (Saturday)

*Carolina Mountains Show* - First Congregational  
Church Educational Bldg., Hendersonville  
*Tidewater Iris Society Show* - Pembroke Mall,  
Virginia Beach, Virginia

### May 25 (Saturday)

*Alleghany Highlands Chapter Exhibition*

### June 1 or June 8 (Saturday)

*Tidewater Iris Society Beardless Iris Show* -  
Lynhaven Mall, Virginia Beach, Virginia

### June 22 (Saturday)

*Joint FSK/C&P Beardless Iris Show* - Chatham  
Mall, Ellicott City, Maryland

### October 5th (Saturday)

*Blue Ridge Iris Society - Region 4 Fall Show* -  
Roanoke, Virginia

### October 12 (Saturday)

*C & P 7th Annual Great Fall Show* - Botanical  
Gardens, Washington, DC

## **"The cold neutrality of an impartial judge."**

*E. Roy Epperson, JT Chairman, Region 4*

**E**dmund Burke wrote the above words in 1794 in *Preface to the Address of M. Brissot*. Although "cold neutrality" would at first glance appear to be a left-handed compliment, it is in fact a very favorable comment to make about an accredited judge of the American Iris Society.

The following statement is taken from the *Handbook for Judges and Show Officials*, 5th Edition, published by the American Iris Society.

The judges' training program is one of the most vital parts of the American Iris Society. Members who serve as judges have duties and responsibilities to fulfill, so serving as a judge requires constant study, garden visiting and growing a representative collection of iris.

The accredited judge is the backbone of the AIS judging program and is responsible for the selection of award winners. It is the judges' votes that determine which irises receive awards and thus are recommended to the public. Serving as a judge is an honor and duties should be fulfilled with dedication. The judge is a representative of the American Iris society and should conduct himself in a manner which will bring credit to the organization.

Because the judge is, in many ways, the most important official of the AIS, guidelines have been established for the training and selection of judges. These regulations are a minimum standard, and the conscientious judge will usually exceed the requirements.

How does one become an accredited judge of the American Iris Society? As the excerpt above indicates there are minimum standards established for becoming an accredited AIS judge. Judges in training need to accomplish the following:

**To be completed before being appointed an APPRENTICE JUDGE**

1. Make application to the Regional Judges' Training Chairman for entry into the training program.
2. Complete three (3) years of continuous AIS membership.
3. Successfully complete a minimum of two training sessions for a total of ten (10) hours.
4. Receive the recommendations of five (5) Accredited Judges.

**To be completed as an APPRENTICE JUDGE**

1. Maintain continuous AIS membership.
2. Complete two, two-hour sessions of garden training under different Accredited Judge-instructors and file the report of each session.
3. Complete two, two-hour sessions of exhibition training under different Accredited Judge-instructors and file the report of each session.
4. Successfully complete a two-hour course on Awards and Balloting.
5. Complete all of these requirements within three years after being appointed an Apprentice Judge.
6. Complete a Regional Activity Report each year.

Having completed the above requirements you are now ready to be advanced to Garden (Accredited) Judge by your RVP. I would advise each person who wants to become an AIS judge to find a willing mentor to work with. The majority of accredited judges should welcome the opportunity to work in a student-teacher capacity with you. Each student judge should obtain his/her own copy of the *Handbook for Judges and Show Officials*. (It is a three-ring binder and costs only \$6.00 complete or \$4.00 for the loose-leaf pages.) *The Handbook* gives all the guidelines, point scales, etc., but there is absolutely no substitute for experience in the field.

"...backbone of the AIS judging program.  
...determine which irises receive awards. ...the most important official of the AIS." In the vernacular

"Heavy, man!" Accredited judges must be responsive to the AIS requirements and must be dedicated to the concept of fairness. An impartial judge does not display favoritism to any particular growing area; to any particular hybridizer; to any particular type of iris; nor to any particular form, color pattern, or personal bias of any type.

If we as judges demonstrate fairness, accountability, responsive actions, and cold impartiality, then as W.S. Gilbert has a character say:

"For now I am a Judge,  
And a good Judge too."      \*

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## **"Youths who wish to be judges must have membership in their own name."**

*Marilyn Harlow, Membership Chairman, AIS*

Judging from letters received at the American Iris Society membership office in San Jose, CA, it would seem that Youth Membership needs a more complete definition.

The confusion seems to lie first with "Family" memberships. To most of us, the word "Family" usually means parents and children. To AIS, Family Membership is simply a term which means two people at the same address. This membership may be comprised of ANY two people of any age: husband and wife, (example, John and Helen Jones), mother and daughter (example, Sophia Rice and Margaret Smith), two friends at the same address and so forth. Family Membership does NOT mean mother, father and ALL the children.

Recently, a young teenager began his training as a student judge. His parents incorrectly assumed that because they had a Family Membership, the child was automatically included. When it came time to submit his name for the apprenticeship program, it was determined that he did not have a membership in his own name, and therefore could not become an apprentice. What a let-down for this eager, interested

young man. While nothing can be done at the moment to relieve the immediate situation, the problem can be solved for the future. In this particular case, all the parents need to do is send \$2.00 and the youth's name and date of birth to the membership secretary. The payment of dues automatically gives the name of the youth to the Youth Chairman. While it does not give the youth a *Bulletin*, the youth will receive information about Youth activities from the Youth Chairman.

Youths, age 18 and under, who wish to be members of AIS can do so in one of two ways. If an adult member of the youth's family has an Annual or Family Membership, then a youth may join for an additional \$2.00. Only one *Bulletin* is sent to the address submitted. If there is no adult member of the family who is a member, then a youth, age 18 or under, may join on his/her own for \$3.25 with full membership privileges. Either of the foregoing methods would allow the youth to participate in judges training, provided the membership is continuous as mentioned in the *Judges Training Handbook*.

One other method is also acceptable. A youth could be the second person of a Family Membership. The dues amount is the same. (A Family Annual membership is \$11.50. A Single Annual membership is \$9.50 and the Youth membership is \$2.00, totaling \$11.50) In this example, the membership secretary is not informed that the second member is a youth, so his/her name is not sent to the Youth Chairman, and the Youth is not notified of youth activities. Because the Youth is listed, however, it does satisfy the Judges Training requirement of having a membership in his or her own name.

If you want to be positive that your Youth Member is indeed on the roster of the AIS, then a letter to either the AIS membership secretary or your RVP will give you the answer. All RVP's have a printout semi-annually of the members in their respective regions. The membership secretary maintains the current list of all members of the American Iris Society.



LARRY WESTFALL, REGION 3, INSTRUCTS DIANA  
NICHOLLS IN THE FINER POINTS OF SHOW JUDGING JIs  
AT THE C&P/FSK BEARDLESS SHOW, WASHINGTON, DC

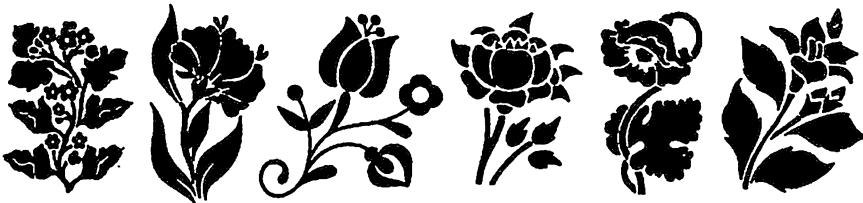
# JUDGES:

**Will you expire August 1st 1991 from lack of  
the requisite 5 HOURS TRAINING?**

## **Fear Not!**

**3(three)** hours of training will take place 11 May from 10 AM until 2 PM in Roy Epperson's High Point North Carolina garden. 1 hour of grooming by J.D. Stadler and 2 hours of general Garden Judging by Roy Epperson will be given.

This, in conjunction with the **2(two)** hours of training available at the '**91 National Convention**', 18 - 22 May, 1991 will set you straight even if you have been in hibernation the past 2 1/2 years !!



## Are Your Iris Lonely?

*Freda Martin, Fredericksburg, VA*

Some of us plant our iris in rows like corn; others stick them in among other plants; still others have a garden plan. However we do it, with a little thought and effort we could make our garden more attractive and give our hard-working iris suitable companions.

If we want other plants that bloom in or near the same time, we have many choices. One that springs to mind is the Peony. These come in so many colors and flower types you are sure to find a few you like to add red, pink and white accents to your plantings. Just remember they do take a fair amount of space and don't like to be moved once they are established.

Columbine is a lovely choice since it comes in many colors. Coral Bells give an airy feeling and the foliage is pretty all summer. Dianthus (pinks) are nice in front of the border while Bleeding Heart, Foxglove and Delphinium add color and texture. Blue Salvia—in several different forms—and Bachelor's Button are good fillers as is *Pyrethrum* (Painted Daisy). If you have a fence, a pole, a trellis, or even an old tree stump, you will want at least one Clematis.

Poppies in shades of white, pink, red and orange make a wonderful display, and *Monarda* (Bee Balm) will draw the humming birds all summer. Candytuft is a great edging, especially around azaleas, and Shasta Daisies are welcome anywhere. We have not even mentioned winter-hardy gladiolas, early blooming roses, lilac, Flowering Almond and Weigelia.

But perhaps you would rather your iris had beautiful companions all summer. No problem! Plant some

Daylilies which will come into bloom just a few weeks after the iris. Even the older, less expensive ones are pretty and, since they multiply so quickly, you should be able to find someone who is glad to share with you.

Pink and purple Coneflower and spiky pink *Lythrum* are good choices as are the several varieties of Companulas. Veronica adds a touch of blue or purple and, if deadheads are kept picked, will bloom several times during the summer.

You will want perennial Phlox with its rainbow of colors for late June and July; also 'real' (*Rubrum*) lilies and Red Hot Pokers (a.k.a. *Tritoma* or Torch Lily) for the hot summer months. For the back of the border, yarrow and hollyhocks (both old-fashioned standbys), *Baptisia*, *Crocosmia* (*Montbretia* kin), *Coreopsis*, *Gillardia*, *Lupine*, Globe Thistle and hardy Geranium offer long summer bloom. How about some Baby's Breath to add filler to the arrangements you will want to make to bring the wealth of your garden inside? The grey-green of Dusty Miller pulls all colors together and lasts until frost. You may also want a few annuals such as Gerbera Daisy, zinnias and marigolds.

In late August and September come 'Mums' and Sedums, Dahlias and Japanese Anemones. Of course, many of the summer flowering plants will continue to bloom until frost.

Would you believe there are plants that bloom in winter?—*Helleborus Niger* (the so-called Christmas Rose), winter-flowering jasmine and early crocus. Nandina will give you beautiful panicles of red berries for Christmas—if the birds will share with you!

There are many shrubs for you to enjoy through the year: the Viburnums, Rhododendron, Mountain Laurel, Euonymous, Ilex, Crape-myrtle and Buddleia, to name a few. In addition, consider the following: plants chosen for their foliage—Caladiums and Dusty Miller; plants for drying for winter arrangements; plants to grow in the shade such as Hostas, Begonias and the plumed Astilbes; hedges of roses or hibiscus; tree roses or peonies.

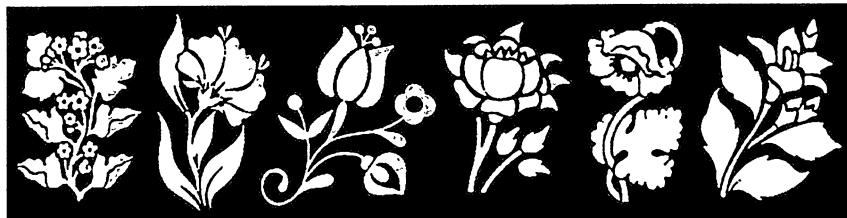
Running out of space? Consider the dwarf varieties of many plants and shrubs that are just as desirable as their larger cousins. Don't forget tubs and pots for the patio or porches—or—how about an herb garden on the window sill?

By this time you may be wondering if you will need a second mortgage. Maybe not. This just gives you some choices. Many plants can be started from seed—a little trouble to be sure, but much cheaper. Friends, neighbors, even strangers can be asked to share, and most will. Walk or drive through your area at different times of the year and take note of what is growing well and when. Make sure you know what plants flourish in your locality. Study catalogues—they usually have 'specials' or lower prices for larger orders. If you find others who want to order perhaps you could pool your orders and take advantage of special rates. Your county Extension Service can be a good source of plant and culture information.

If you make a plan for your garden you will be happier with the results. Most plants look better when several are planted near each other—you see this when your spring bulbs bloom. Take note of the height of each plant and be sure the taller ones are in the back of the border. Don't worry too much about mixing colors—Mother Nature makes everything blend!

Don't over plant! Remember you will have to take care of these plants as well as your beloved iris. Try a few new plants every year. Remember that some plants must go in in the Fall.

By the way, tell your iris what you are going to do for them—a little competition is a good thing!





## The Feline and the Fancier

There once was a kitty who slept in a bed  
Of daylilies lavender, yellow and red.  
She wasn't concerned with the colors displayed;  
What she cared about was the lovely, cool shade.  
Her mistress, the gardener, had other ideas:  
She'd been breeding for new flower colors for years.  
So you can imagine her utter delight  
When she spied, midst the seedlings, a small patch of white!  
"At last! I have done it! The whitest by far!  
Gentle Shepherd, Joan Senior, can't equal this star!  
I'll be rich — I'll be famous! No other can match  
This seedling sublime in my daylily patch!"  
As she stood entranced, searching her mind for the name  
That would carry her flower to daylily fame,  
Her precious new seedling — Oh Curses! Oh Drat!  
Had heared itself up and turned into a cat!  
To all hybridizers, the moral is clear:  
Don't evaluate seedlings unless very near.  
(And keep in mind — though it may fail to <sup>""</sup> amuse...  
That cats will continue to snooze where they choose!)

—JCS 1990



# Request For Guest Irises

## X TWO

The Tidewater Iris Society will host both the 1993 Society For Japanese Iris Convention and the 1993 Spring Regional Meeting. The Guest Iris Committee invites hybridizers to send rhizomes of recent introductions and seedlings that are under serious consideration for introduction for both of these conventions.

SJI Awards will be given to Favorite Japanese Guest and Favorite Japanese Garden Iris. The Bobby Lee Evans and D. C. Nearpass Awards will be given at the spring Regional.

When sending guest irises, please observe the following guidelines:

1. Up to 4 rhizomes of each variety will be accepted.
2. The iris guests will be accepted from July 1 - September 15, 1991.
3. The following information should accompany each plant:
  - a. hybridizer's name and address
  - b. name or number of the variety or seedling
  - c. type of Iris
  - d. height and color
  - e. year of introduction if applicable
4. A receipt listing the garden locations of the plants will be mailed to all contributors. Plants will be handled with full courtesy to the hybridizer. We will exercise all precautions to see that plants do not set seed or that pollen is not used. The Guest Iris Committee will not be responsible for losses beyond its control. Reports of losses will be promptly issued to the hybridizer.
5. Only rhizomes received through the Guest Iris

Chairman will be listed in the convention booklet. When guest irises are named, it will be the responsibility of the hybridizer to notify the Guest Iris Chairman not later than December 1, 1992.

6. After the conventions, disposal will be as directed by the hybridizer.

All guest rhizomes or any related correspondence should be sent to:

Rich Randall, Guest Iris Chairman  
524 Windsor Gate Rd.  
Virginia Beach, VA 23452 (804) 340-9077

## X Three!

### \* Hybridizers: \*

The Region 4 1992 Spring meeting will be hosted by Eastern North Carolina Chapter. IF YOU WANT YOUR INTRODUCTIONS AND SEEDLINGS SEEN... GET ON THE STICK AND SEND THEM TO:

ENC Guest Iris Chairman

W. J. D. Stadler

1613 Country Club Rd.

Reidsville, NC 27320

You would be well advised to send enough rhizomes to make a good looking clump... as the response has been poor to terrible the first year. Do you want your iris seen—or are you ashamed of your hybridizing efforts?

## X Four!!

Owings and Doris Rebert maintain a display bed of Region 4 introductions at City Hall, Westminster, MD. With a great deal of effort they have obtained the cultivars that are growing there now. Region 4 hybridizers are not sending their current introductions to the Reberts for display in this bed. It is on tour for the National this year.

***What does it take to get hybridizers off the dime?***



# **We welcome the following new members to Region 4:**

## **Alleghany Highlands Chapter**

No new A.I.S members December 1990 thru March 1991

## **Blue Ridge Iris Society**

Jorge & Barbara Newton  
PO Box 858  
Meadows of Dan, VA 24120

## **Cabarrus County Chapter**

No new A.I.S members December 1990 thru March 1991

## **Carolina Mountains Chapter**

Mrs. Sue Anders 420 Tracy Grove Rd. Hendersonville, NC 28792	Ruth Hoerich 215 Newport Rd. Hendersonville, NC 28739
Carolina Mountains Iris Soc. % Mr. Walter Hoover PO Box 337 Saluda, NC 28773	Melinda Neighbors 120 N. 22nd St. Hendersonville, NC 28739

## **Charlotte Chapter**

No new AIS members March 1990 thru March 1991

## **Chesapeake & Potomac Iris Society**

Patrick Brennan 408 Branch Rd. Vienna, VA 22180	A. Brown 2101 South 27th St. Arlington, VA 22206
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## **Chesapeake & Potomac Iris Society, cont.**

<b>Josh Copeland</b> <b>1949 Winterport Ct.</b> <b>Reston, VA 22090</b>	<b>Mrs. R. McQueen</b> <b>3418 Q Street NW</b> <b>Washington, DC 20007</b>
<b>Linda Enoch</b> <b>304 West Alexandria Ave.</b> <b>Alexandria, VA 22302</b>	<b>Moira Rankin</b> <b>7005 23rd Place</b> <b>Hyattsville, MD 20783</b>
<b>Richard Galloway</b> <b>Jessie Cohen</b> <b>2115 Hanover St.</b> <b>Silver Spring, MD 20910</b>	<b>Jane Roberts</b> <b>2017 Highboro Way</b> <b>Falls Church, VA 22043</b>
<b>Mrs. Charlotte Golin</b> <b>27 Walker Ave.</b> <b>Gaithersburg, MD 20877</b>	<b>Velma E. Rosenkranz</b> <b>625 Hamlin St. NE #6</b> <b>Washington, DC 20017</b>
<b>Mary Hager</b> <b>1607 8th Place</b> <b>McLean, VA 22101</b>	<b>Dr. Robert Trimmer</b> <b>20410 Bargene Way</b> <b>Germantown, MD 20874</b>
<b>Suzanne McIntire</b> <b>2908 North 22nd St.</b> <b>Arlington, VA 22201</b>	<b>Bettina Ward</b> <b>PO Box 1240</b> <b>Middleburg, VA 22117</b>
	<b>Trudi Wolin</b> <b>632 Whitingham Dr.</b> <b>Silver Spring, MD 20904</b>

## **Eastern North Carolina Chapter**

<b>Milton Blake</b> <b>Rt 3, Box 35-A</b> <b>Chadbourn, NC 28431</b>	<b>Kirk Mattson</b> <b>127 Bee Gee Rd.</b> <b>Lumberton, NC 28358</b>
<b>Mrs. Sandra Bryan</b> <b>Rt 7, Box 589</b> <b>Hickory, NC 28601</b>	

## **Eastern Shore Iris Society**

<b>Frances Landing</b> <b>1028 Adams Ave., Apt. 2C</b> <b>Salisbury, MD 21801</b>	<b>Mary Jane Reeves</b> <b>1410 Frederick Ave.</b> <b>Salisbury, MD 21801</b>
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## Francis Scott Key Iris Society

Karen Kumor  
1308 Ramblewood Rd.  
Baltimore, MD 21239

## Fredericksburg-Richmond Iris Society

Mrs. Frances Barbee	C. Murphy Street
Rt. 2, Box 180-B	6 Purvis Lane
Louisa, VA 23093	Fredericksburg, VA 22405

Ryan Glasshoff  
1111 Wythe Ct.  
Fredericksburg, 22405

## Tidewater Iris Society

Anna Brooks	Web & Sarah Gould
2205 Front Lake Dr.	1545 Waterway Circle
Virginia Beach, VA 23454	Chesapeake, VA 23320

## Williamsburg Iris Society

Mr. & Mrs. William Wade  
25 Atkins Lane  
Newport News, VA 23602

# In Memoriam

William (Bill) Phillips  
F&K Iris Society

Georgiana Rebleich  
F&K Iris Society

Z. Robert Turadian  
F&K Iris Society

# American Iris Society Region 4 Board

- Regional Vice President** – Carol Warner (301) 374-4788  
16815 Falls Rd., Upperco MD 21155
- Assistant RVP** – J.D. Stadler (919) 342-0006  
1613 Country Club Rd., Reidsville, NC 27320
- Immediate Past RVP** – Lloyd Zurbrigg (919) 493-9037  
Box 52444, Durham, NC 27717
- Secretary** – Lois Rose (703) 582-5779  
9000 Marye Rd., Partlow, VA 22534
- Treasurer** – J. Owings Rebert (301) 848-3781  
152 Leister's Church Rd, Westminster MD 21157
- Historian** – Clarence Mahan (703) 893-8526  
7311 Churchill Dr., McLean, VA 22101
- Auctions & Awards** – Victor Layman II (703) 366-4572  
3560 Hershberger Rd., Roanoke, VA 24017
- Beardless & Species** – Diana Nicholls (703) 754-9623  
4724 Angus Dr., Gainesville, VA 22065
- Conventions** – J.D. Stadler
- Editor Newscast** – Anne & Mike Lowe (804) 265-8198  
12219 Zilles Rd., Blackstone, VA 23824
- Finance Committee** – Dr. A.W. Rice (703) 343-4360  
2817 Avenham Ave. SW, Roanoke, VA 2401
- Judges Training** – Dr. Roy Epperson (919) 883-9677  
1115 Delk Drive, High Point, NC 27262
- Median Irises** – Richard Sparling (301) 774-4151  
18016 Lafayette Drive, Olney, MD 20832
- Membership Committee** – Rich Randall (804) 340-9077  
524 Windsor Gate Rd., Virginia Beach, VA 23452
- Parliamentarian** – Rosalie Yerkes Figge (301) 337-9118  
4 Maryland Ave., Towson, MD 21204
- Photography** – Dennis Stoneburner (703) 982-2176  
2114 Avenel Ave, Roanoke, VA 24015
- Publicity/Public Relations** – Vacant
- Reblooming Irises** – Dr. Lloyd Zurbrigg
- Robins** – Libby A. Cross (703) 747-2123  
Rt 4 Box 399M, Covington, VA 24426
- Youth** – Vacant
- Alleghany Highlands Chapter** – Libby A. Cross
- Blue Ridge Iris Society** - Dennis Stoneburner

**Cabarrus County Chpt.** – Diane Shue (704) 782-6227  
49 Main St, Concord, NC 28025

**Carolina Mountains Chpt.** – Walter Hoover (704) 749-5846  
Box 337, Saluda, NC 28773

**Charlotte Chapter** – Evelyn Johnson (704) 596-2921  
5230 Manning Rd., Charlotte, NC 28213

**Chesapeake & Potomac Iris Society** – Diana Nicholls

**Eastern NC Chapter** – J.D. Stadler

**Eastern Shore Iris Society** – Helen F. Walsh  
8213 Shire Dr., Berlin, MD 21811

**Francis Scott Key Iris Society** – Rosalie Figge

**Fredericksburg– Richmond** – Jack Loving (703) 775-4043  
Rt 1, Box 405, King George, VA 22485

**Tidewater Chapter** – Patricia B. Dawley (804) 340-8542  
115 S. Greatneck Rd., Virginia Beach, VA 23454

**Williamsburg Iris Society** – Bill Weaver (804) 229-3432  
114 Argall Town Lane, Williamsburg, VA 23185

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

Region 4 is comprised of the states of **Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, and the District of Columbia**.

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**Deadlines for receipt of NEWSCAST  
material by the editors are:**

**March Issue — 15 February**

**August Issue — 15 July**

**December Issue — 15 November**

Normally this is the Editors' Corner—however, we ran out of space this issue and used the page for notices. Have a good convention, we'll be back in August.

Anne and Mike

WANTED: someone to share  
convention hotel room

If you want to go to Convention, would like to share a hotel room but don't have a roommate, contact Brian Lazarus (301) 721-0631 or Rich Randall (804) 340-9077. They are coordinating a room sharing project. Give them a call.

Individual Region 4 Iris Societies have volunteered to pay the \$40 differential (\$118 vs \$158) for youth convention registrations as follows:  
Tidewater-1, Williamsburg-2,  
C & P-up to 10 after other chapter sponsorships have been utilized.

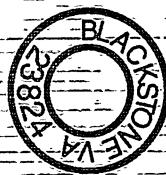
The Carolina Mountains Iris Society would like to extend an invitation to those passing through our area on their way to or from the National Convention to visit our gardens.

Arrangements can be made by calling our secretary, Jeanne Grundies at (704) 891-4074 or chapter president Walter Hoover at (704) 749-5846.

Errata: Credit for the Alleghany Highlands Chapter Logo is shared by two people: the original design was conceived by Libby Cross; the addition of the humpback bridge and the finished logo is the work of professional artist Lynn Mitchell.

American Iris Society  
Newscast, Region 4  
12219 Zilles Rd.  
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Address Correction Requested



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