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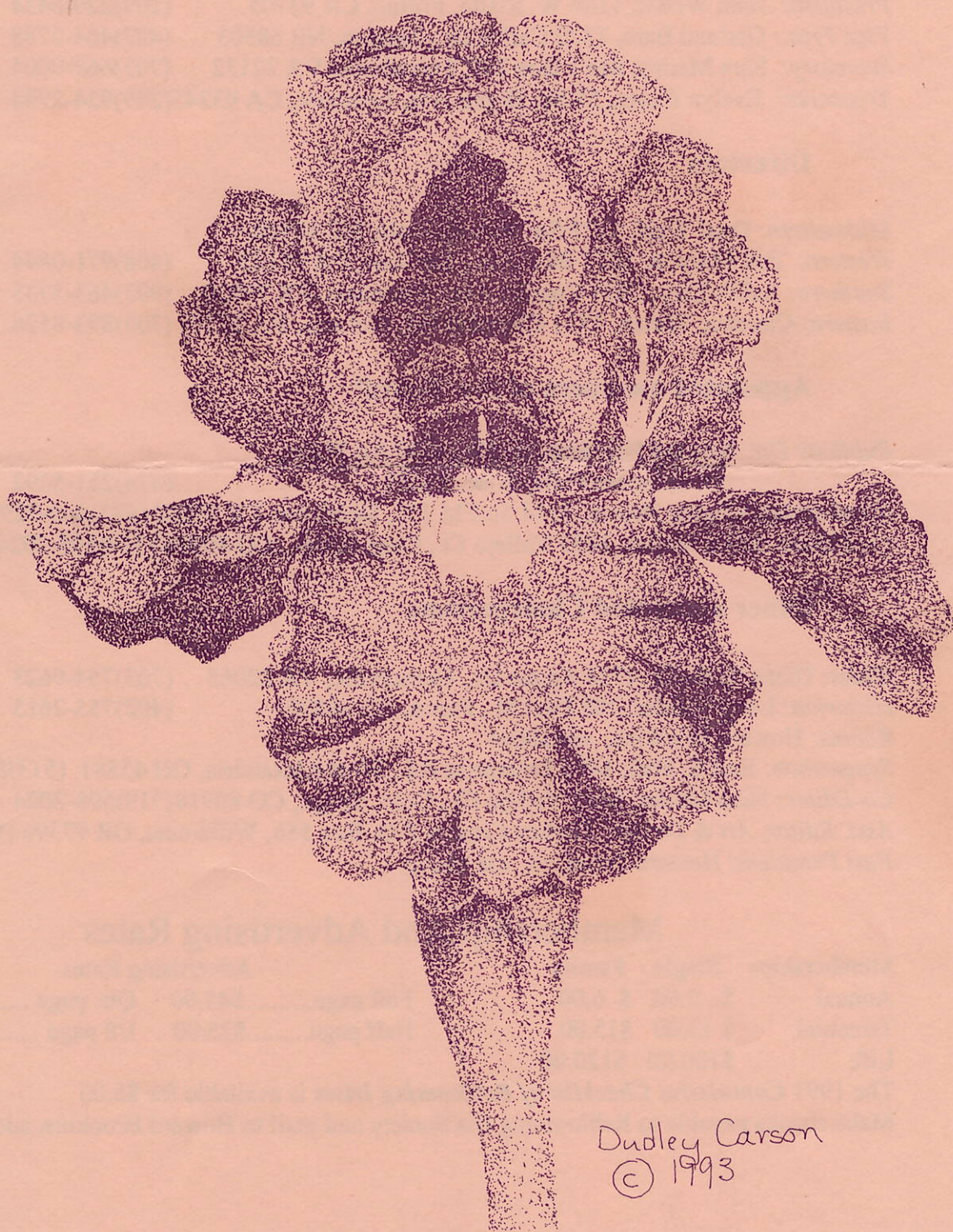
# REBLOOMING IRIS RECORDER

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Dudley Carson  
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# REBLOOMING IRIS SOCIETY

A Section of the American Iris Society

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# Reblooming Iris Recorder

Volume 44

Spring 1994

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What an exhilarating if exhausting year the past one has been! I have traveled several thousand miles speaking to various groups about reblooming irises. In August I traveled to Region 22 where I conducted a judges training school on reblooming irises and was guest speaker at the banquet held in Oklahoma City. In October, off to the East Coast to Region 4 where I was guest speaker and conducted another judges training session on remontants for the good people and friends of Francis Scott Key Iris Society. During autumn and winter I traveled over much of California talking remontants to several local Iris societies and a garden club including San Fernando Valley, Fresno, Sequoia, Kings, Leo T Clark Foothill Area Iris Societies and the Malibu Garden Club. Everywhere I went there was keen interest in the reblooming phenomenon and the quality of reblooming irises being released. RIS has well over forty new members because of these activities. More is scheduled when I will be guest speaker and conduct a judges training session for Region 15, Southern California and Arizona in early October and will have a similar program the following week for Region 14, Northern California and Nevada, again on remontant irises.

In spite of this activity, numerous personal problems have kept me from spending the hours needed on other business. Indeed, there has not been enough time nor stamina to publish a catalog and no orders will be accepted effectively terminating my general sales of reblooming irises. Much needs to be done to care for our growing membership in RIS.

We need more dedicated people to become involved in affairs of the society. We need fresh blood, new ideas, and boundless energy. We need

to have talented and interested persons identify themselves to serve in offices and on committees for the society. A nominating committee to be appointed this spring will actively be searching for people to serve as president, as treasurer and as eastern regional director for RIS. If you are interested in these positions or would like to serve the society in some other capacity, willing to spend time and effort and can attend annual national meetings in conjunction with AIS conventions please make yourself known to me or other officers listed inside the front cover of this issue. Information on your interests will be forwarded to the nominating committee promptly.

*John Weiler*



## EDITOR'S MESSAGE

We wish to thank everyone that has submitted articles for publication in this journal. It is important to our members to get reports on reblooming irises so that they can build their own garden with reblooming possibilities.

It was our hope to continue the "Ask the Experts" and "Tips from the Pros" columns, but we did not have any responses in these areas. Feel free to write with any questions or tips you may have.

It has been very informative, writing this publication. Reblooming is not as prevalent in Colorado Springs as many of the areas you represent. We have learned a lot through your articles and can't wait till the next installment.

*Mike & Nina Moller*



## A Report on Newer Remontants

John Weiler

During the past several years an attempt was made to acquire all bearded remontant introductions advertised in the AIS bulletins. While a few were inadvertently overlooked, most have been purchased and all were grown for more than a year. Plantings were made in well drained sandy loam soil which had not grown irises for three preceding years and to which well decomposed compost without additional fertilizers was added two consecutive years prior to planting. Plants were kept watered and not allowed to go dry during summers. The exciting performance of 1991 and 1992 TB remontant introductions is detailed below.

To help gardeners in selecting new cultivars for rebloom in their own gardens, information on flower, branching, bud count and vigor are included. Negative information is also given such as failure either to bloom or to rebloom, slow increase, and lack of modern form. Also included are reports of successful remontancy elsewhere for established plants, meaning that the plants have rebloomed after planting and spring bloom in other areas of the US.

Rebloom reports have come from several people identifying the state where rebloom is recorded. When possible that report is located on a map and identified to U.S.D.A. hardiness zone since it has been found that there is very good, though imperfect correlation of rebloom with hardiness zones. In general, when a cultivar has rebloomed in a given hardiness zone it can be expected to rebloom elsewhere in the same hardiness zone and in all higher numbered zones. Following comments on each cultivar both the states and the hardiness zones where rebloom has occurred are given.

It should be noted that these irises have been on the market a very brief time and reports have tended to come from the area of origin. As these same plants are more widely distributed and acclimatized, we expect many more states and hardiness zones for rebloom will be recorded for most

of them. In comments on branching, numbers are given such as 3-4 meaning three or four branches on stalks from large, mature rhizomes. Usually the higher number of branches occurs on the autumn bloom stalks. Likewise, bud count per stalk may be given by hyphenated numbers, e.g. 7-11 meaning that the total number of buds per stalk varies from one extreme to the other with higher numbers usually occurring on autumn stalks.

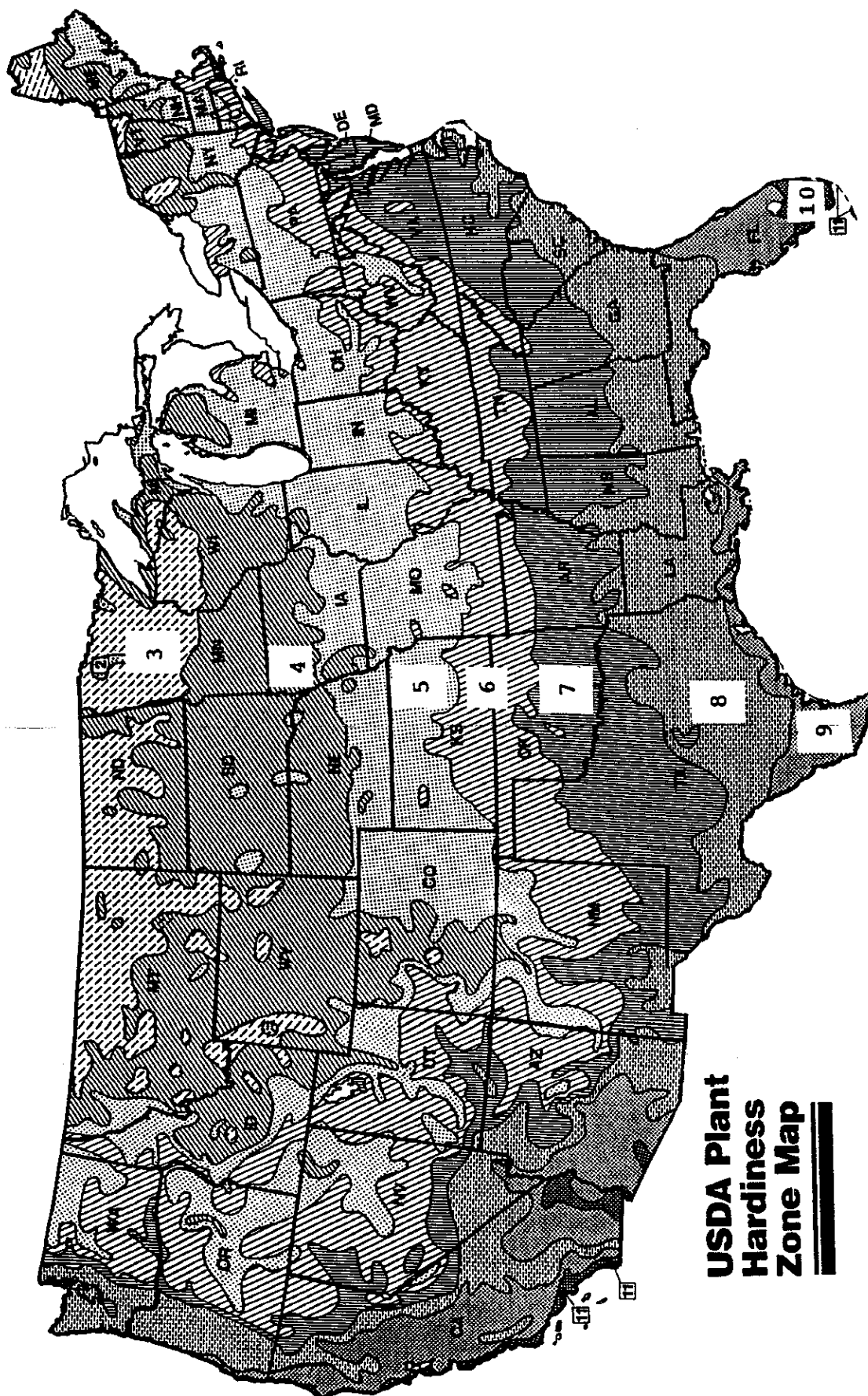
**All American** (Byers 92) In spring and warm seasons this is nearly white; in cooler parts of the growing season a pale violet with tangerine beards. Flower is of heavy substance and flaring form. The sturdy stalks have 3-5 branches plus terminal and carry 7-12 buds. Rebloom in CA (8,9).

**Anxious** (Hager 92) A broad and well formed palest violet flower is borne on stalks with 3-4 branches with 7-9 sequentially developing buds for along bloom season. This is a nice foil for gaudier colors. It bloomed both spring and late summer here. CA (9)

**Christopher Columbus** (Hager 92) A large, beautiful medium blue flower of exceptionally broad petals and light ruffling. Stalks are 3-4 branched with 7-9 buds. Increase is modest but adequate. CA (9)

**Clarence** (Zurbrigg 91) Outstandingly different! This unique flower is large, flaring and ruffled and varies in color with the season. In spring it flowers as a light, blue-violet, zonal neglecta with petals paling to white in the centers and toward the base. In warmer weather of summer its blooms are nearly amoena with white standards and white falls edged light blue-violet. In the cool of autumn, standards are light blue violet paling to white at the base and falls are a full blue violet with prominent white spots around the beards. 3-4 branches and 7-10 buds. CA, NC, VA (7,8,9)

**Creation Twilight** (B. Miller 92) No bloom from summer planting of 1992 until late autumn 1993 when it bloomed in December. Flowers are modest size, rather narrow and somewhat old fashioned form, good color of orchid pink with tangerine beards and borne on three branched stalks with 7 buds. Increase so far has been very modest. Perhaps another year of acclimatization will bring more flowering and vigor. LA (8)



**USDA Plant  
Hardiness  
Zone Map**

**Dance For Joy** (Byers 92) Flowers of excellent substance, flaring and ruffled form with prominent, uniform flounces at the end of tangerine beards against pink-tan petals are borne on sturdy stalks of 4-5 well placed branches with 12-15 buds. Good vigor and lots of increase are hallmarks. CA (8,9)

**Evelyn Warlick** (H. Wright 92) Outstanding rebloom performance starting June and periodically three more times during the summer and autumn. Alas! The light yellow flowers are narrow petaled and of rather "historic" form. Exceptional stalks have 4-5 branches and up to 11 buds. Plants are vigorous with lots of increase. CA, OH (6,9)

**Fall Spotlight** (Moores 92) Good spring bloom but no fall rebloom occurred this first year even though it made a huge clump. Sturdy spring stalks have 3 branches and 7 buds producing broad flowers of violet paling toward the centers and bases of petals. Is this a zonal? A plicata? Are these patterns related? MS, TX (8)

**Frappe** (Byers 91) A nice flower of light pink has standards a bit lighter than falls which have some texture veins. Stalks have 3 branches and 7-8 buds both spring and fall. Lots of increase and good vigor. CA (8,9)

**Genteel** (Byers 91) Very ruffled flowers of medium blue-lilac with heavy substance are produced on 3-branched stalks with 7 buds both spring and late fall. Average increase of about three per rhizomes after completing flowering. CA (8,9)

**Jungle Cat** (Byers 91) This flower is muted light orange with slightly darker rose brown lines radiating down the falls from the beards. Three branches and 7 buds on healthy plants with good foliage come in spring. The autumn rebloom is rather late here. CA (8,9)

**Lilting** (Byers 91) If pastels are your preference, this pretty flower is certain to please. Standards are clean creamy yellow and falls are white bordered with rosy pink plicata edgings. Dependable autumn rebloom comes on stalks having 3-4 branches and 7-9 buds and can start early September with most rebloom coming in October. Vigorous. CA (8,9)

**Luminosity** (Byers 91) As the name states the light yellow flowers have a luminous quality, are modest size, and well formed with light ruffling.

Three branched stalks both spring and fall for dependable rebloom and lots of increase. CA (8,9)

**Matrix** (E. Hall 91) This one grows on you after it is seen a few times. The flower is huge and very broad, a muted light yellow with very light plicata markings near the haft that are noticeable only in cool weather. Rebloom can occur mid-summer but it is the mass of autumn bloom that sets this one off as special. Stalks are generally 3-4 branched with 7-13 buds. Vigorous and rapid increaser. CA, MD, MO, NC, OH, VA. (5,6,7,9)

**Mt. Sinai Aflame** (B. Miller 92) No bloom as yet and only modest growth to make a rather small plant. AL (8)

**Northward Ho** (Zurbrigg 91) Very dependable for good growth and rebloom. This large flower is off white with rosy brown plicata marking around all petals. Stalks are well balanced with three branches and 7-8 buds. Early fall rebloom. CA, MO, NC, VA. (5,7,8,9)

**Off Broadway** (Moores 92) A very fine descendent of the famous **Broadway**, this has good growing habits. Flowers have brass yellow standards but falls are heavily bordered dark burgundy-brown with a white flash in the center. Stalks are 3-4 branched with fall stalks having the lowest branch rebranched and carrying 7-10 buds. Early October rebloom here and very nice. CA, MS (8,9)

**Renown** (Zurbrigg 92) In many ways like its parent, **Matrix** mentioned above, this has very large flowers, broad petals, and very light color near white but with a tint of blue and cream giving a greyed-white effect. Unlike its parent it has been only an average grower and is far less floriferous. Rebloom came midsummer but none in fall here. It was blooming early October during visit to the Francis Scott Key Iris Society meetings in Maryland. CA, MD, NC, VA. (7,8,9)

**Rotunda** (Byers 91) A smooth, medium violet flower with bluish beards is borne on 3-4 branched stalks with 7-9 buds. This one has tended to rebloom rather late autumn. Plants are vigorous with good foliage. CA, MO. (6,8,9)

**Second Act** (Byers 91) This lemon yellow flower has good substance, flaring form, light ruffling and dark yellow beards. Stalks have 3 branches and 7

buds but rebloom is late in autumn. CA, MO. (6,8,9)

**September Replay** (F. Jones 92) A very bright color spot for the garden this has mid yellow petals brightly edged with brownish plicata marks. Flowers could have a bit more flaring form and hafts could be broader but the plants are vigorous, produce 3-4 branched stalks with 7-9 buds for many days of bloom on each stalk. Rebloom comes three or four times during summer and fall. This is another of those from Frank Jones that you can't keep from reblooming. CA, MD, NJ. (7,8,9)

**Sign Of Vigor** (Zurbrigg 91) This has had one of the longest seasons of rebloom of any since Immortality. It begins flowering early spring with SDB's and then has rebloomed repeatedly summer and fall. In cool weather it is a neglecta plicata with light violet standards and white falls edged medium violet. In warm weather it is much lighter in color and is nearly an amoena. Stalks with 3-4 branches and 7-11 buds. CA, NC, VA. (7,8,9)

**Silver Dividends** (Zurbrigg 91) Broad flowers are large, silver white, of heavy substance and borne on beautifully spaced, three-branched stalks with 7-8 buds. Very clean and vigorous foliage sets off dependable rebloom which can come as early as July but most comes in autumn. Lots of increase with good foliage. CA, OK, OR. (7,9)

**Speed Limit** (Lauer 92) A medium blue-violet with emphasis on blue this fine flower has a startling whit spot surrounding the beards. 40 inch stalks have 3-4 branches and 7-9 buds. Rebloom here came midsummer but is also reported in autumn elsewhere. Lots of increase with good foliage. CA, OK, OR. (7,8,9)

**Suky** (Mahan 91) A beautiful flower of the zonal pattern, this has both standards and falls a violet-blue paling to white near the base and centers. Well branched stalks have 3 branches and generally 8 buds. One or two plants rebloomed once midsummer with no rebloom in autumn. This year there was no rebloom. I suspect this will be like one of its parents, **Victoria Falls**, in being a sporadic, undependable rebloomer but when rebloom does come, it will be over many areas of the US. CA, VA. (7,9)

**Summer Surf** (Moore 91) A very large flower nearly seven inches from top to bottom, this has

broad petals, ruffling and good poise with blue-white standards, bluer in cool weather, and mid lavender-blue falls. Three branches and seven buds come on stalks both spring and fall. CA, MS, TX. (7,8,9)

**Sunshine In Eden** (B. Miller 92) No bloom spring or autumn this first year and the plant has produced only modest growth and little increase. LA (8)

**Total Recall** (Hager 92) Very broad flowers of pearly gray-white and light yellow beards on sturdy, well branched stalks are borne spring, midsummer and fall here. CA (8,9)

**Violet Music** (Mahan 91) This plant has had difficulty settling into a new home. Two rhizomes purchased two years ago have made average growth but have failed to bloom in the spring. This, the second year in the garden, one plant bloomed two stalks the past autumn. Large flowers are a light to medium bluish violet borne on 3-branched stalks with 7 buds. The hafts could be broader but overall the flowers are nice and a good color in the autumn garden. Now that plants are acclimatized I expect regular spring and fall bloom. VA (7)

**Wright Flyer** (H. Wright 92) Pale blue-violet standards and medium blue-violet falls which are a bit narrow at the haft, the flowers are rather plain. Very vigorous plants have lots of bloom spring, midsummer and autumn. Stalks have 4-5 branches and up to 11 buds. Rapid increase and good foliage. CA, OH. (6,9)

Without question most of these newer remon-tants are comparable in floral quality to new spring blooming irises. Except where noted they have modern form, substance and ruffling expected in once-blooming irises. Many of them are superior in branching, bud count and plant vigor. In brief, they will compete quite well for AIS awards. Judges take note! As garden plants they are unsurpassed and give color for many weeks or even months instead of the usual two weeks of spring blooming irises. Can it be long before the gardening public will demand irises that rebloom?





## Growing Reblooming Iris

by Lloyd Zurbrigg

Since my move to North Carolina three years ago, I feel that I am learning how to grow reblooming iris all over again. The climate here is much warmer than the foothills of Virginia, and I believe that the hot nights of summer is responsible for my having much less rebloom, and much later rebloom than I had in Radford, Virginia. On the other hand, the season here is three weeks earlier in the spring, and three to five weeks later in the autumn. In 1993, the truly killing freeze came only in mid-December.

Some constants remain in iris culture. The plants wish full sun. Afternoon shade is preferable to morning shade. They do less well when competing with tree or shrub roots. Good drainage is a must for many varieties. Obviously I am talking about bearded iris, where the bulk of rebloomers are found. If compost is available it makes an ideal fertilizer. Well-rotted manure is excellent if placed underneath the plant, but should not be placed at the surface of the ground. If commercial fertilizers are used, be sure that the first number, (the nitrogen), is low. Do not use a lawn fertilizer with a high first number, like 15, 5, 5. Bone meal has always been recommended for bearded iris; it is slow acting and lasts over a long period. My own reservation with regard to its use, is that if unleashed dogs are a problem for you, do not use bone meal. The dogs will dig up your garden looking for the bones!

When dividing rebloomers, I like to keep a part of the clump intact, hoping for immediate rebloom. The other part is reduced to individual rhizomes for best increase. These will give the best performance the following year. I recommend cutting back the fall stalks after the first severe freeze, preferably on a dry, sunny day. Make the cuts at ground level, or nearly so, and make them on a slant, to assist any drainage from the stump. I much prefer to have varieties that will form a hard stump at the cut. If the variety cannot do this, rot often sets in, and with a tender variety, this can extend into the rhizome. Varieties with a goodly portion of *I. mesopotamica* fall into this category.

They want to grow all winter, as they would in their homeland. I avoid these in my hybridizing, since they are inferior in most gardens east of the great divide.

If you wish to know which varieties are suitable to your area, you may get help by writing to the president of the Reblooming Iris Society. In general, look for varieties that have been produced in your own region. At iris meetings, question those you meet, and get them to make recommendations. At the moment there are fewer rebloomers in the Border Bearded, and the Miniature Tall Bearded, and also the Miniature Dwarf Bearded.

The soil itself may spell defeat or success for you in your quest to grow reblooming irises. Ideally it should be neither too sandy nor too heavy. Sandy soil tends to lose its fertility, and to become too hot in the summer. Heavy soil is difficult to cultivate, and may be too difficult for the root tips to penetrate. Compost is effective in both cases as an additive. In many areas you may purchase top soil, potting soil, and such additives as peat moss and Perlite. I shy away from too much peat moss, lest the pH get too low (too acid). Perlite seems to affect the pH less, and is permanent. I have used it the past few years without being able to find fault. One of the newest materials to use is alfalfa pellets. Some growers are loud in their praises, and since these are fully organic, I can see no danger in using them. I began to use them only this year, but I do believe that they increased the amount of rebloom wherever they are used. They also may have a positive effective on the bacteria in the soil.

This is the new future in gardening, - - the bacteria content of your soil. It may be that some fertilizers throw the bacteria content into anarchy. I have wanted to be an organic gardener, but the iris borer prevented me until my move here. (No borers the past two years) The only sprays I used in 1993 were a light insecticide early in the season before the lady bugs beetles arrived, - - to control aphids, - - and another in the late season to kill wire grass.

It would be desirable not to have to raise the iris above ground level. It would be great to have them in a perennial border. Many modern varieties need to be mounded up, so that surface water will

not sit on the rhizomes. But, it is important to note that the rebloomers need water in summer, whereas the once-blooming sorts neither want it, nor in many cases can tolerate it. Over 50% of new iris introductions, some from gardens with irrigation of some sort, and these are not often selected with a view to their tolerance of rain in the summer. Many varieties therefore do not tolerate summer spraying or even much rain, so choose wisely according to your own growing conditions. The great benefit of rebloom iris is that one has much more time to enjoy the flowering than is the case in the oftentimes hectic spring season. May this enjoyment be yours in 1994.

## Rebloomers and Commercial Gardens

edited by Dick Gibson  
(Reprinted from Region 14 Bulletin)

There are some strong, conflicting opinions about rebloom within the iris world. In general, many of the smaller commercial gardens have been aggressive about promoting and selling rebloom. The large gardens have been far more conservative about marketing rebloomers. The editor of The Reblooming Iris Recorder published his opinion about the lack of support by the commercial gardens. His editorial generated a strong reaction. Dick Gibson, Co-editor, who is very interested in reblooming irises, contacted one Midwestern garden, a local garden and the two largest west coast commercial gardens for their comments about rebloomers and their marketing approach. Here is an edited summary of their replies.

### Schreiner's: Salem, Oregon by David Schreiner

Schreiner's has offered a reblooming iris collection, called "Double Your Pleasure", three of the past four years and plans to continue the same course in the future. We will continue to offer a selection of some of the best rebloomers based on our experience growing them here in Oregon. (This is a policy for all selections in our catalog.) The text describing the iris also describes the tendency to rebloom. The catalog includes the following disclaimer: "Remontancy though in NOT

guaranteed. It is often dependent on geographical location, climatic conditions and cultural practices. Here we offer five varieties that have been consistent rebloomers in our area. Take a chance...try to double your pleasure."

(Editor's note: The five irises in the 1992 catalog were **Best Bet**, **Immortality**, **Breakers**, **Victoria Falls**, and **Invitation**. In 1993, **Invitation** was replaced with **Champagne Elegance**.)

We, of course, are interested in growing, testing, and offering good reliable reblooming iris. I think you would be surprised to see the number of Hager, Byers, Zurbrigg etc. varieties that we are presently testing in our "unlisted X field" at this time for rebloom here in Salem, Oregon. Oddly, we have found that one of the most reliable rebloomers in our area each year is the variety **Invitation** which we introduced more than ten years ago. (60 % + each year) We are breeding towards a pink ameona with **Invitation** but are more than pleased with its rebloom habit.

### Cooley's: Silverton, Oregon by Richard Ernst

Reblooming irises have, indeed, shared the spotlight in the last couple of years with non-reblooming iris. Cooley's has planned a collection of rebloomers for 1994 to compete (hopefully) with Schreiner's "Double Your Pleasure" collection. In addition, we are currently building stock on recent reblooming iris introductions from Ben Hager. Are we giving in to pressure? No, we're just following a trend towards an increased interest in rebloomers just as we are watching Siberians and Japanese, borders and intermediates.

In my opinion, it is not justifiable to give catalog space to an iris based solely on the fact that it reblooms. Over the years, Cooley's has gathered together many different rebloomers, and tried to evaluate them in the fairest possible way. The flower itself must first exhibit those Qualities that make it distinguishable or unique from other varieties. Rebloom should be thought of as one characteristic of an iris. We can look at Dykes Medal winners as examples. Some have had poor growth, some have been trotters, I know one that falls down every year. So, why did they win? They won

because their flower possessed the "magic" that some flowers have. When it comes to awards, there are many times that hardiness, branching, bud count, fertility and disease resistance have played no part in the judging. I expect that remon-tancy, for now, will remain a quality exhibited by certain iris varieties. It is, as are other qualities, de-sired by some and not desired by others.

Any customer who inquires at Cooley's about reblooming iris is supposed to be given the same information: Rebloomers do not always rebloom. Rebloomers generally rebloom in warmer climates, not so well in cold climates. Rebloomers need more water during the summer to help the second bloom along. Rebloom is often times "bunchy", short, or top heavy. Insect damage is more prevalent, and control is more difficult during fall rebloom."

Too many of our customers think buying an iris is like buying a fuel pump at the auto parts store; take it out of the box, bolt it on and forget it. Iris are easy to grow (we all say it), but they are still living things, needing care and feeding. Re-bloomers need a little more to perform well. Per-haps if we don't try to paint too rosy a picture of rebloomers, we can educate the novices, build the membership in the AIS, and further the advance-ment for reblooming iris and the Reblooming Iris Society.

**Comanche Acres: Gower, Missouri**  
**by Jim and Lamoyne Hedgecock**

Lamoyne and I have been on the bandwagon for reblooming irises here at Comanche Acres for several years. We have purchased large quantities of reblooming stock in the past two seasons and I have been making a number of reblooming crosses each year.

We feel that the future iris introductions will be greatly influenced by the reblooming varieties and we want to be a part of this new iris trend. We will increase our offerings of these irises each year in our color catalog as stock permits. Comanche Acres will have more of our own reblooming in-troductions in the next two or three years. At pre-sent we have two introductions that rebloom: **New Beginning** and **What's Up Doc**.

**Roris Gardens: Sacramento, CA**  
**by E. Terada**

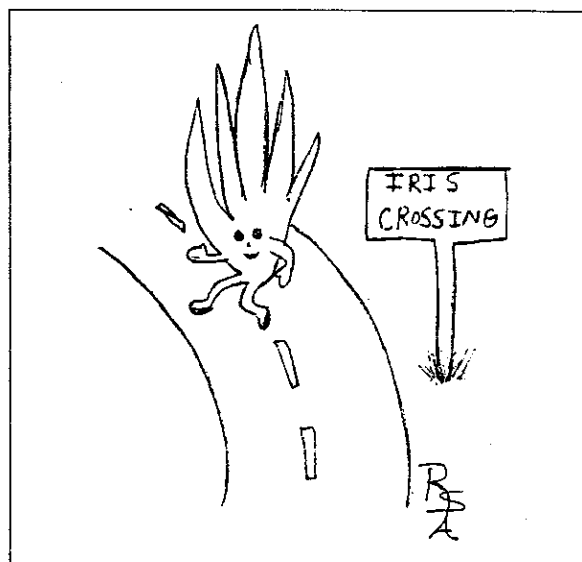
Reblooming irises are becoming a more and more important category in our catalogs as interest in them has increased. In the future, we expect to offer a collection of reblooming iris

It was surprising to find out how much interest the general public has in rebloomers when we sold them for the first time at the 1993 Iris Fair. The number sold exceeded our expectations. As a re-sult, we are focusing on increasing the rebloomer stock.

We have found considerable interest from those who have visited the springtime garden in taking their purchases with them. The idea of sell-ing in pots was attempted on a small scale during the 1993 season and was very successful. Some single-season varieties will be available in pots for the 1994 Iris Fair. We are planning to add rebloo-mers in pots for the 1995 Iris Fair.

If the sale is successful, we will increase the number of varieties at future fairs. We also plan to use rebloomers in our landscaping at the front gate in order to attract the attention of motorists who drive by in the fall season and see irises in bloom, much to their surprise. It is hoped that we will eventually be able to have an additional Iris Fair during the fall.

This attention to rebloomers does not indicate any reduced interest in the single-season varieties. We will continue to offer established better varie-ties and new introductions as we have in the past.







## Cards & Letters

### Dudley Carson comments

The following materials I have extracted from the reblooming Iris Robin D-2. It came about by a question I posed in the next to the last flight of that Robin. I thought the responses were of sufficient interest that many people would like to read this material. It relates to hybridizing and introducing one's own seedlings. I will make no comments about any part of the responses. Any decisions I make will be kept to myself. The quotations follow: "I have a rather personal question to ask, I guess of all of you. Answer it, or ignore it, or as you see fit. The question is : Do you only introduce your seedlings that have won EC awards? Or do you all feel that you know irises well enough that you introduce some that are not winners of awards? If you do the latter, by what criteria do you make your judgments in deciding to register and introduce your babies?"

"The reason for the above question is that I have been frustrated by taking my seedlings to shows, particularly in the TB classification, only to have them ignored by the judges. I know that it is foolish to take seedlings that are similar to already introduced things. But even when I take something that is totally dissimilar to anything being marketed I get the same lack of interest by the judges. I am becoming disheartened with the idea of continuing with my hybridizing program. Here in Oregon any hybridizer is up against the magnificent irises being produced by the Schreiners and Cooleys. The only solace I take in doing my thing is that neither of them are making any concerted effort in developing rebloomers. But even then, when I develop something that is of comparable quality (which reblooms) they are ignored by the judges. Obviously it is futile to work with blues, violets, plicatas, reds, etc. That does not leave a very wide spectrum to work with. Somehow, I think there should be some way of differentiating rebloomers

from oncurs when it comes to showing one's seedlings."

This is a long way of putting the question, for it involves several questions. The following are the responses.

Terry Aitkins leads off. "Dudley asked a question that I thought deserved some time, WHEN TO INTRODUCE AN IRIS. "I shall first acknowledge and apologize for being a most severe critic of introductions--both my own and other peoples. I don't think any iris should be introduced unless it has a realistic chance of winning awards. that translates into meaning--the plant represents some significant improvement over similar varieties that are already available. Conversely--how can you (in good conscience) sell someone an iris for \$35.00 if they already have a better one for \$10.00?? That is the bottom line! Only the hybridizer can make that decision. EC's and HC's should have absolutely no influence on that decision. We have composted seedlings that have both. One plant received 17 HC votes and it got thrown out because it had haft marks!--an aesthetic decision on my part. (There are nearly 1500 varieties of iris in our yard and we "cull the crop" annually for inferior varieties to make room for new varities--and yes we have thrown out \$35.00 iris (and rebloomers!).

"I might add that with this critical evaluation goes a reputation for selling a quality product and that many of our customers come to rely on our judgment. "Almost all of our introductions have won at least an HM. In retrospect I have gone back to evaluate those plants that have not won awards (about one in 10) and I find my original decision to introduce was clouded by some personal fascination with the parentage or color "direction"--when I should have explored further (another generation or two?). Those "Rose Colored Glasses" make it difficult for all of us when it comes to our own kids. "We should not be intimidated by Schreiners and Cooleys because they grow 100,000 seedlings a year (or more). It simply means we need to focus our objective--such as rebloomers--and work towards a more limited "diversity." Any hybridizer can hit "the big one" if you go after realistic objectives--use "quality parents" to produce "qualitykids."

**Diana Nicholls** comments:

"Dudley, you asked a question about introducing iris that had won EC awards. I will get on my soapbox and give my observations and understands. I have to give a program on Judges Training in a couple of weeks; so I have been working on a test to go with my program. An EC is not a recommendation to introduce an iris. It is a pat on the back. EC's come from the show bench. An HC is a recommendation to introduce an iris. It comes from, hopefully, seeing and observing an iris in the garden. AIS awards are supposed to come from garden observation. There should be one standard for iris awards. If the rebloomer is going to get the award, it has to compete with the oncer. I take issue with your comment, Terry, about only putting ones on the market that have realistic chances of winning an award. It is a good criteria. I grant you that we have a tremendous amount of look-alikes on the market and some plain old junk. But where would we be today, if Lloyd and Ray and several others had not faithfully and quietly pursued their goals in developing reblooming iris? "Dudley, if one stands back and observes, you will notice that AIS, just like almost every other organization that I know of, has a certain amount of politicking going on. Also some of the judges are lousy at their jobs. Just look at some of the Dykes Medal winners that will not perform well in all parts of the country. Next time you go on a bus trip and people are asked to vote on a favorite iris or whatever, take note. Ballots can be handed out at the beginning of the trip with a reminder given. A few people will make notes at all the gardens on good performing iris. Most of the time, unless there was a drop dead knockout clump that would take your breath away that you just could not forget, the winning iris will come from what is in bloom best at the last garden on the tour. I know of one instance in particular where an iris recently won medal status. On a tour there was one spectacular clump in bloom. Judges remembered that one spectacular clump and voted it for a medal. This is not a good grower and many people are having trouble growing this particular iris. Sometimes, I think, it would be better if iris had to be around longer before they can win awards. If they can't stand the test of time, then so be it. The

bottom line is to use your own best judgment for what you are trying to accomplish. Remember, your name is on the iris. Does it stand for what you want?"

**Lloyd Zurbrigg** comments:

"What a difficult subject you brought up, Dudley. I agree with Terry that the iris should be distinctive or better than existing varieties. But hardiness never seems to be a criterion for introduction!!! About 75% of introductions come from the West Coast, and many of these are useless here. I buy some almost every year, so it is a continuing assessment I am making. I want some of the distinctiveness these introductions hopefully possess, but frequently they lack the hardiness required in the East. I believe the introducer should try out the seedlings somewhere else than in their own climatic zone. "I very nearly did not introduce **Baby Blessed**, for it is not very distinctive in its flower, but the deciding factor was that nothing else could match it in rebloom. I do very much wish I had introduced a yellow blend with blue-based beards, that I was considering 15 years ago! A judge talked me out of doing so because it was high-branched. So the final word is, think about it carefully! I think remontancy could be listed as a characteristic of a seedling, since the show-bench does not give any hint--unless it is a Fall Show."

**Bernice Miller** comments:

"Pay no attention to EC's given to the Schreiners and Cooleys. If you have something new and better in the rebloomers and it's a good iris according to judging standards, introduce it and buy an ad in the iris bulletin to get it before the public. You can introduce them in your own name, you know. Unless you have kin or close friends among other breeders, you have to go that way. I do."

### **Educating The Public, Virginia Style**

**Fire on Ice** is in bloom now, November 15 in my garden. It provides such a nice contrast planted between **Holy Night** and **Feed Back** which are also in bloom. Other irises reblooming for me this year have not previously been reported to rebloom in Virginia are **Istanbul**, **Iceland**, **Dorcas Lives**

**Again, Luminosity, and Autumn Circus.** Two possible explanations for this are:

a) These irises are fairly new and have not been widely grown in Virginia and reported as rebloomers;

b) My unique climatological and geographical peculiarities in the area of Virginia where I live;

Portsmouth is in the southeastern part of Virginia and is part of an area called Hampton Roads which consists of Portsmouth, Norfolk, Virginia Beach, and Chesapeake. We are the only sections of Virginia that are USDA hardiness zone 8a. The other areas of Virginia are in zones 7a and 7b. I've been told by people at the Norfolk Botanical Gardens and the National Weather service that our unique geographical features, jutting out into the Atlantic Ocean and being warmed by the gulf stream, are the cause for this. Since we are different from the rest of Virginia, should these be reported as irises reblooming in Virginia?

Reblooming irises have become very popular in this area and the Tidewater Iris Society and Portsmouth, Chesapeake, and Suffolk Iris Society have done an excellent job of educating local gardeners about them. We offer many remontant varieties at our sales and have given programs on rebloomers to local Master Gardener's groups and garden clubs. Both clubs have established reblooming iris beds; Tidewater Iris Society maintains a reblooming bed at the Norfolk Botanical Gardens, and Portsmouth, Chesapeake. Suffolk Iris Society has a "Lloyd Zurbrigg" reblooming iris bed at Friendship Gardens in the Portsmouth City Park.

Bill Smoot  
Portsmouth, VA

\*We will, of course, record the irises as reblooming in Virginia. However, we will also record the fact that the area is in USDA hardiness Zone 8. Note in the following that all cultivars listed have been reported to rebloom also in areas with colder winters and shorter growing seasons. The society is in the process of converting rebloom reports from states, which may lie in two or more zones, to specific hardiness zones which at present seem to be more accurate for predictability of rebloom in areas where irises have not been

tried. Please let us know not only the state where rebloom occurs but, when known, the USDA hardiness zone as Bill Smoot has done above.

For information of the readers, the Checklist of Reblooming Irises, as updated lists rebloom for the above cultivars as follows:

**Autumn Circus** (Hager 90') CA, MO, VA (zones 6,8,9)

**Dorcas Lives Again** (B. Miller 84') AL, AR, CA, CO, CT, IA, KS, MA, MD, MO, NM, NY, TX, UT, VA, B.C. Canada, Holland (zones 5,6,7,8,9)

**Feed Back** (Hager 83') AL, AR, AZ, CA, CO, IA, ID, IN, KS, KY, LA, MD, MS, NC, NE, NJ, NY, OK, PA, SC, TN, TX, UT, VA, WA, WI, Holland (zones 5,6,7,8,9)

**Fire on Ice** (Weiler 90') CA, MO, NE, OK, TX, VA, WA, Holland (zones 5,6,7,8,9)

**Holy Night** (K. Mohr 83') AL, AR, CA, GA, LA, MD, MS, OK, TX, VA, (zones 6,7,8,9)

**Iceland** (Byers 91') CA, MO, VA, (zones 6,8,9)

**Luminosity** (Byers 91') CA, VA (zones 8,9)

**Istanbul** (Byers 89') CA, MO, UT, VA (zones 5,6,8,9)

Note that the cultivars on the market the longest have had more time to be distributed and tend to have more reports on rebloom. As the others become more widely distributed and acclimatized rebloom is likely to be reported from other states and hardiness zones.

*John Weiler*

### Cover Artwork

Artwork was provided by  
Dudley Carson.

### Cartoons

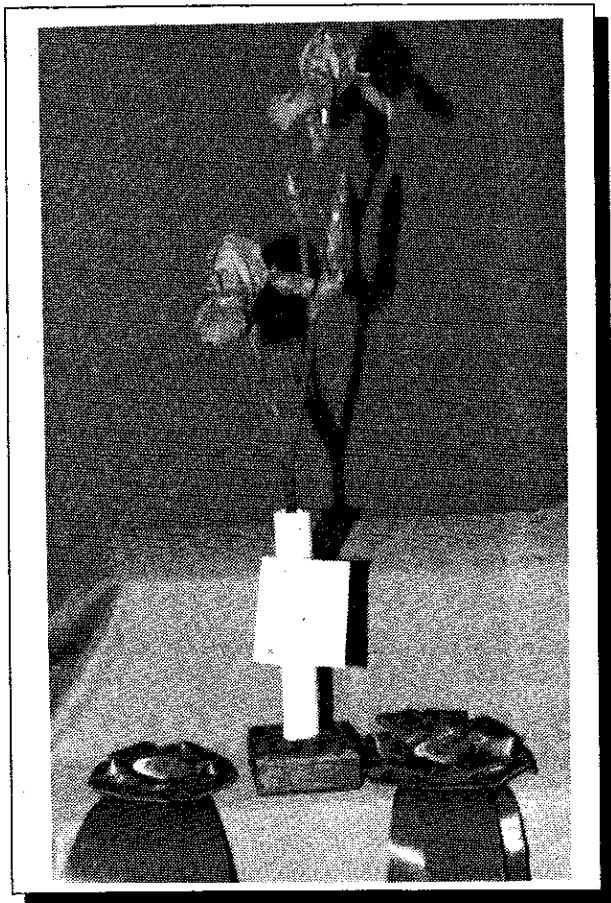
Cartoons were submitted by  
Rita S. Adkins of  
Frenchburg, Kentucky



# Williamsburg Iris Society Fall Show

Mike Lowe

Region 4 in cooperation with the Williamsburg Iris Society held its tenth annual Reblooming Iris Show on October 2nd, 1993. Joan Roberts of Friendship, Maryland took Best in Show with a lovely stalk of **Lady Emma**. Joan also walked with the Horticultural sweepstakes. Nelda Pressly of Williamsburg, Virginia was in close contention--a count of red ribbons was required to settle Silver/Bronze awards.



*Lady Emma displayed by Joan Roberts*

Perry Dyer of Blanchard, Oklahoma served with Dan Schlanger as judges and instructors at our fall show. Apprentice Dennis Stoneburner was afforded an excellent training opportunity. Our exhibitors wanted to achieve a good display for the public and, truth be told, were also hoping to have enough entries to achieve the minimum

required for presentation of AIS awards. The number of exhibitors was not a problem, eleven people averaged two stalks each for 24 total entries. All considered, with the second driest summer since records were kept and the fourth hottest summer (hottest July) on record ever, we believe we did very well indeed!

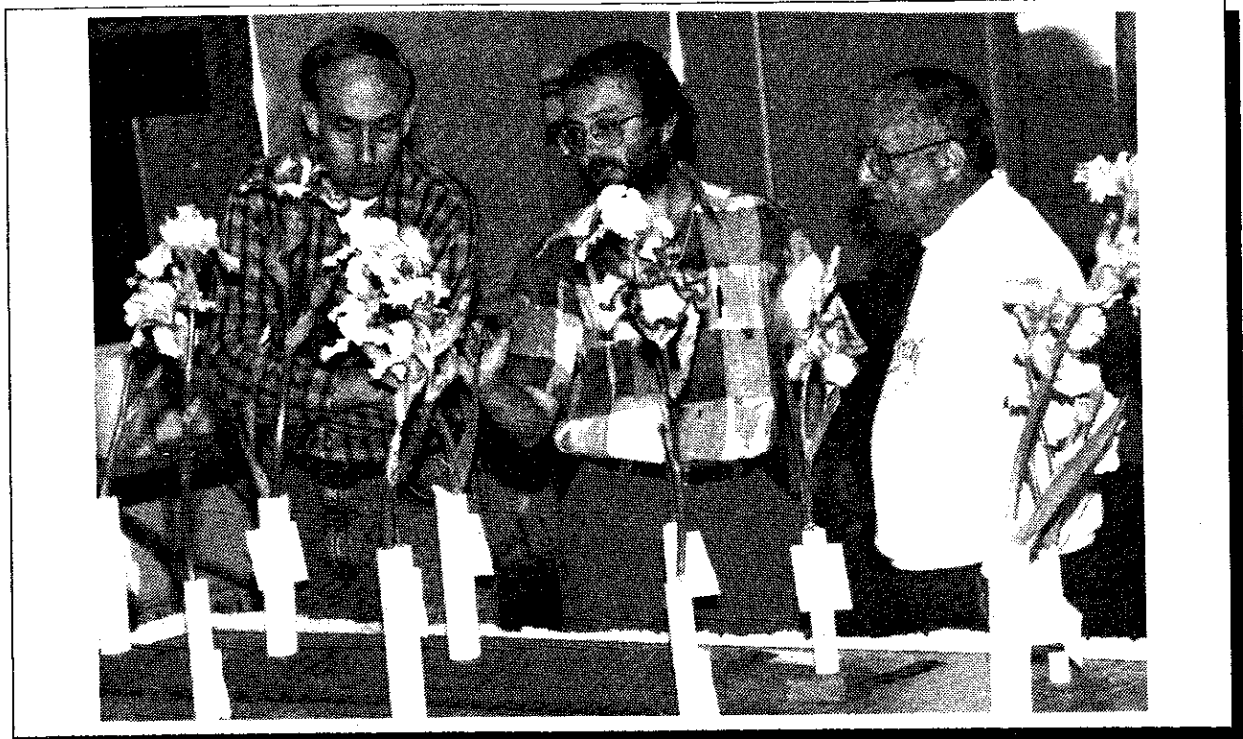
"Just the facts Ma'am." The above report is what we all too often see in the *Recorder*, if indeed the show is written up at all. But a fall show is far more. High drama, low cunning, twice the fun and a quarter of the work compared to the Spring show! "Tell me more" should now be your response and I will do just that.

A fall show is both blessed and cursed with a small number of entries. The low number of available stalks (usually 5 to 50) makes staging and conducting the show a simple task compared to a spring extravaganza. Three workers can stage most fall shows and still have time and energy to 'admire the flowers.' A small meeting room in a motel, a church or a couple of tables tucked in a wide spot in your local shopping mall will accommodate most fall shows.

The atmosphere for exhibitors is relaxed and friendly with emphasis on giving the public and the thankfully diminishing number of iris growing skeptics an eyeful of the beautiful fall flowers. A fall show is a perfect place for a neophyte to launch an exhibiting career.

Many times, achieving the twenty cultivar, five exhibitor, minimum for receiving AIS Medals is a decided challenge. Meeting show minimums requires creative grooming on the part of exhibitors and common sense and a firm grasp of an iris show's real purpose on the part of judges and show officials.

If, for example, your show is five stalks short of reaching the 20 cultivar threshold and you have two exhibitors with six stalks of **Eleanor Roosevelt** between them, take heart. Remember, show management may combine, create or delete: classes, sections, and divisions as necessary to suit conditions encountered. A Historical section, a Median section-- or several divisions thereof, a youth Division, an Educational Exhibit section-- something along the lines of the above may help to solve the critical number dilemma.



*Left To Right: Dennis Stoneburner, Perry Dyer, Dan Schlanger*

Or, a club maintained public display of remon-  
tants can be raided by those few faithful workers  
who are stuck with 90% of the work of caring for  
that planting.

Humor aside, be it an accredited show or a  
public exhibit of beautiful iris, the educational pos-  
sibilities of a fall display of iris make it all worth-  
while. Too often we expect an iris show to  
showcase perfection. We demand an overwhelm-  
ing panorama of expertly groomed stalks. Please  
do not avoid a Fall show or exhibit because it  
might fall short of expectations molded by years of  
displaying springs glorious abundance!

A strong dash of faith, a helper or two, a bit of  
space, a modicum of assistance from the weather  
and you too can pull off a Fall Extravaganza!



## **Sequoia Iris Society Fall Show, 1993**

John Weiler

The second annual fall iris show was staged by  
Sequoia Iris Society, Tulare, California on Satur-  
day, October 30, 1993. Quality irises totaling fifty  
one specimens of 42 cultivars were entered by  
eight exhibitors in the horticultural portion of the  
show. Public attendance was much greater this  
year due to local newspaper notices, information  
in *Sunset Magazine*, and an article on reblooming  
irises featured in the garden section of a newspa-  
per. Visitors were attracted from towns in a fifty  
mile radius. The usual surprise from the public  
concerning irises blooming in autumn in addition  
to spring yielded several new members for the lo-  
cal iris society and one family as new members in  
RIS.

The silver medal of American Iris Society for  
most blue ribbons was awarded to George Sutton.  
The bronze medal of AIS went to John Weiler.  
Irises winning top awards from the judges were:

### **Best Specimen in Show**

**Amanda Erin**  
exhibited by George Sutton

### **President's Choice**

**Winesap**  
exhibited by Margaret Sutton

### **Best TB by a member of the Society**

**Barn Dance**  
exhibited by John Weiler

### **Best SDB**

**Baby Boom**  
exhibited by George Sutton

### **Best IB**

**Honey Glazed**  
exhibited by Ed Matheny III

### **Best MTB**

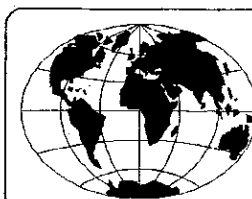
**Lady Emma**  
exhibited by John Weiler

### **Best Historical Iris**

**Sangreal**  
exhibited by Delores Bates

The best seedling was a well proportioned, broad, ruffled and frilly BB of medium yellow with fine branching and bud count, **GS-1BB** by George Sutton. Other irises winning blue ribbons were **Silk and Velvet** (SDB), **I Bless** (IB), and **Happy New Year, Istanbul, and Witch of Endor** (TB's).

In the artistic section, the best amateur arrangement which was also best in show, was by George Sutton. The best advanced arrangement and three categories in the section "Open to All" were won by Sharon Misenheimer. Plans are already under way for a third annual show with the expectation of having even more exhibitors, more specimens, and even larger audience.



### **INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

Our faithful correspondent and avid grower of remontan bearded irises in Heerhugowaard, Holland, Mr. Nico de Geus, has again reported cultivars reblooming for the first time in Holland. All plants were grown a full year or more before reporting rebloom. Cultivars on the report for the first time are listed below. While most are known rebloomers elsewhere, about one fourth of them have not before been reported to rebloom anywhere. Those cultivars are underlined. This should be very useful information for some of our friends in parts of Europe, particularly where the climate is moderated by proximity to the sea.



*Elizabeth de Geus admiring a well grow stalk of **Mother Earth** in Heerhugowaard, Holland reblooming December 8, 1993. Mrs. de Geus is 1M 68cm (5'6") tall.*



He writes "I am sending you my list of reblooming iris for 1993. We had a very cool summer with little sunshine. In autumn the rain fell many days and the flowers of the Iris quickly faded."

reblooming each year. His list of cultivars which have rebloomed two or three successive years will be included in the next issue of the *Recorder*.



# IB

Az Ap  
Golden Muffin  
I Bless  
Like A Charm  
Spring Deb  
Sunny Honey

Concoction  
Hager's Helmet  
Interim  
Low Ho Silver  
Strawberry Love

# BB

Candyland  
Late Magic  
Little Miss

Iris Bohnsack  
Little Mary Sunshine  
Peaches and Topping

# MTB

Little Me  
New Idea

Little Who  
Puppy Love

# TB

Amethyst Flame  
Beverly Sills  
Blowing Bubbles  
Burgundy Brown  
Chief Hematite  
Earl Of Essex  
Grape Adventure  
Halloween Halo  
Jennifer Rebecca  
Jolly Goliath  
Laced Cotton  
Many Happy Returns  
Northlander  
Orange Chariot  
Pink Attraction  
Pinkness  
Second Show  
Spirit Of Memphis  
Toastmaster  
Touch of Spring

Avalon Bay  
Blazing Sunrise  
Bobby Varner  
Caribbean Dream  
Desert Echo  
Edith Wolford  
Gypsy Caravan  
Harbor Blue  
Hilo Shore  
Juicy Fruit  
Maiden  
Mother Earth  
On Edge  
Peach Jam  
Pink Vanilla  
Rain Cloud  
Sky Hooks  
Tarlatin  
Touch of Bronze  
Twice Delightful

Udo Braksein, Krefeld, Germany

I have been a member for three years and it was Monty Byers, who introduced me into this society with an extra bonus along with an order from him for the first three years. Very sad that we all have lost Monty, he was one of the very first to report rebloom in his excellent catalog and he was an outstanding hybridizer.

Two times I have made a reblooming report, but did not have the time to report last year. Something about our weather conditions: last freeze with no snow cover in early March (about 20 degrees), a good iris bloom in May and first half of June, sunshine in June and July with less rain (up to 90 degrees), less sunshine in August, September and October with much rain and first freeze with no snow at the end of October, which kills reblooming activities. At the moment (11-9-93) it is very mild, no sunshine, no rain, about 55 degrees.

# TB's

<u>Iris</u>	<u>Rebloom Months</u>
English Cottage	8,9,10 (extended)
Eternal Bliss	8,9,10 (extended)
Double Up	9,10
Summer Sunshine	10
Victoria Falls	9,10 (extended)
Cloudless Sunrise	9
Buckwheat	9,10
Feed Back	8,9,10 (extended)
Beyond	10 (one stalk)
Coral Chalice	10
Lichen	10
Earl Of Essex	10
Earl Roberts	10
Garden Grace	10

# SDB's

Cry Baby	7,8,9,10 (extended)
Black Baby	7

By his consistent annual reports, Mr. de Geus is also giving many growers information about dependability of rebloom since he also lists all plants

Quirk

MTB's  
7,8 (extended)

Good gardening and my best wishes to you for next year.



## Donation To RIS

by John Weiler



The Texoma Iris Society, Denison, Texas area was so impressed with publicity on reblooming irises in three nationally circulated garden magazines, *Flower and Garden*, November 1992, *Fine Gardening*, March-April 1993, *American Horticulturist*, April 1993, and the resulting increase in local sales of remontants by their society that they generously donated \$100 of their sales money to RIS. For the third successive year members of Fresno Iris Society, Fresno, California, Sequoia Iris Society, Tulare, California, and Kings Iris Society, Hanford, California combined efforts to conduct a rhizome sale featuring remontants. Their donation to RIS totaled \$443.

Such gifts to RIS are greatly appreciated and help make possible better service to our members. For instance, we will soon be sold out of the last issue of *Checklist of Reblooming Irises*. There is much new information to add to the checklist. Added income makes it possible for us to publish a revised edition and keep the price more reasonable. The new edition is planned for publication by the end of 1994.

Other groups and individuals are also encouraged to follow these examples. As our organization grows, needs of members also grow. With burgeoning interest in remontants we must start planning to educate the public, to encourage

members of AIS to join our ranks in much greater numbers, and to make abundant and reliable commercial sources for these special irises known to our members. Donations will help with all such projects. To the above groups who have donated, an enthusiastic **Thank You from RIS!**

## Selling Reblooming Iris

by Rex L. Clark

As reblooming iris become more popular their demand often exceeds the supply. Often just because an iris is termed rebloomer, it brings an inflated price beyond its true worth, even though it may be an older iris. The buying public shouldn't be taken advantage of in this matter. Even worse (in my way of thinking) is selling iris as rebloomers just because they are listed in the reblooming checklist. Some of the more popular varieties may have rebloomed once SOMEWHERE and hence listed as rebloomers.

This category of iris should not be sold as rebloomers or at the very least, indicate this fact to the purchaser. A society may be very tempted to sell iris in this category at their club sales to raise funds. But is it really worth it? The purchaser will expect this iris to bloom at least twice within the year as would be the natural assumption when buying a reblooming iris. Selling iris as rebloomers that more than likely won't rebloom will be very detrimental to the future sales of rebloomers and the integrity of the person or Society selling the iris. This could create many hard feelings of "being taken" and cast a shadow of doubt upon the person selling reblooming iris. There are more than enough good reblooming iris to sell truthfully as such and not resort to selling iris that are very marginal rebloomers as the "real thing". So the next time you or your society conducts an iris sale, say to yourself, can I really truthfully tell the buyer this iris will probably rebloom for them. Those of us who have grown rebloomers for a while know the ones that are good rebloomers or not. Especially if you belong to the Reblooming Iris society

as their bulletins are a wealth of information as to the reblooming qualities of the many varieties.

We have a great opportunity to put the iris up as the number one flower with the many new exciting varieties coming out. Lets not let greed of the mighty dollar blow this challenge for us.

## **Rebloom Report 1993**

by Richard C. Richards  
Corona & La Mesa, California

This sixth annual report covers the rebloom in two gardens in southern California, both gardens subject to some coastal influence. There are approximately 140 named varieties in the Corona garden and less than 50 in the La Mesa garden, many of which duplicate the varieties in the Corona garden. Very few once-bloomers appear in either garden. Both gardens are heavily watered and heavily fertilized with the goal of stimulating maximum rebloom. Normal bloom season is considered to be March 1 through May 31. This may seem like a long spring season, but such is iris growing in this part of southern California, and the reporter would rather on the side of not reporting rebloom that is seasonally marginal than overreporting early or late spring bloom as rebloom, or, as the reporter prefers, off-season-bloom. Since there is virtually always some bloom in the garden every day of the year, striving to distinguish late season bloom from rebloom seems rather pointless. Holding to an especially long spring bloom season seems to minimize the possibility of reporting very early or very late normal bloom as off-season bloom.

There is rarely frost in either garden, and there has been none this year as of mid-January, 1994. Thus hybridizing goes on in every month except during the heat of summer, but by mid-October, with the onset of cooler weather, hybridizing is possible until late June, and there are usually ripening seed pods on the iris during most months of the year, including winter.

The report lists bloom observation made two or three times a month, depending on how much

spare time the reporter has. Varieties are listed alphabetically by month (except for normal spring bloom). If a variety is in bloom one month and continues into the next month, it is listed. It is common for clones growing in both gardens to bloom at the same time, but not always.

Following is the listing of irises in bloom during months other than spring months, and so are classified as off-season-bloom.

### **January**

Aspen, Autumn Evening, Blatant, Bridal Fashion, Cascade Pass, Cayenne Capers, Cease-Fire, Corn Harvest, Curtain Up, Dashing, Feedback, Gold Reprise, Heart of Ice, Holy Night, Lemon Duet, Lemon Reflection, Misty Twilight, Pharoah's Dream, Radiant Angel, Sign of Leo, Skookumchuck, Splash O' Wine, Star Master, St. Petersburg, Touch Of Spring, Violet Classic, Violet Miracle, Winterland.

### **February**

Aspen, Blatant, Bridal Fashion, Cascade Pass, Cayenne Capers, Cease-Fire, Curtain Up, Dashing, Dusky Dancer, Feed Back, Fire on Ice, Glacier King, Jennifer Rebecca, Lemon Duet, Light Beam, Low Ho Silver, Magic Memories, Many Happy Returns, Misty Twilight, Pharoah's Dream, Radiant Angel, Rio Vista, Sign of Leo, Skookumchuck, Splash O' Wine, St. Petersburg, Touch of Wine, Winesap, Whoop 'Em Up.

### **June**

Angelic Wings, Autumn Bugler, Bathsheba Comes, Belvi Queen, Brown Duet, Cayenne Capers, Celestial Sunshine, Champagne Elegance, Chimera, Corn Harvest, Double Agent, Double Praise, Feed Back, Gold Reprise, His Royal Highness, Holy Night, Immortality, Lemon Duet, Lemon Reflection, Light Beam, Low Ho Silver, Many Happy Returns, Midnight Fragrance, Mother Eve Smiles, Pink Attraction, Point Made, Ravenwood, Recurring Ruffles, Rio Vista, Royal Summer, Sign of Leo, Summer Luxury, Violet Returns, White Elephant, Winterland.

### **July**

Angelic Wings, Artistic Gold, Autumn Bugler, Autumn Clouds, Belvi Queen, Bethany Claire, Cayenne Capers, Cease-Fire, Celestial



Sunshine, Champagne Elegance, Christopher Columbus, Dorcas Lives Again, Double Praise, Dusky Dancer, Earl of Essex, Glowing Seraphim, Green and Gifted, Her Royal Highness, His Royal Highness, Holy Night, Immortality, Lemon Duet, Low Ho Silver, Misty Twilight, Orchid Lane, Point Made, Sign of Leo, Summer Luxury, Tea Leaves, Velvet Shadows, Victoria Falls.

#### August

Angelic Wings, Artistic Gold, Autumn Bugler, Autumn Clouds, Autumn Evening, Bethany Claire, Black Ware, Blatant, Cayenne Capers, Cease-Fire, Corn Harvest, Dorcas Lives Again, Dusky Dancer, Earl of Essex, Etched Burgundy, Glowing Seraphin, Gold Reprise, Halloween Halo, Hello Hobo, His Royal Highness, Holy Night, Immortality, Light Beam, Low Ho Silver, Misty Twilight, Neon Violet, Pink Attraction, Point Made, Remember Spring, Royal Summer, Sign of Leo, Tea Leaves, Victoria Falls.

#### September

Artistic Gold, Autumn Bugler, Autumn Clouds, Blatant, Brother Carl, Cease-Fire, Corn Harvest, Dashing, Dorcas Lives Again, Duke of Earl, Earl of Essex, Etched Burgundy, Feed Back, Glacier King, Glowing Seraphim, Her Royal Highness, Holy Night, Immortality, Jennifer Rebecca, Latest Style, Light Beam, Misty twilight, Neon Violet, Orchid Lane, Pink Attraction, Radiant Angel, Royal Summer, St. Petersburg, Touch of Spring, Victoria Falls, Violet Classic.

#### October

Actress, Autumn Bugler, Autumn clouds, Bethany Claire, Billionaire, Blatant, Brother Carl, Cease-Fire, Celestial Sunshine, Corn Harvest, Curtain Up, Dashing, Earl of Essex, Feed Back, Gold Reprise, Istanbul, Jennifer Rebecca, Misty Twilight, Moonlight Duet, Orange harvest, Orchid Lane, Pharoah's Dream, Purple of Tyre, Radiant Angel, Ravenwood, Remember Spring, Splash O' Wine, St. Petersburg, Summer Olympics, Tennison Ridge, Touch of Spring, Violet Miracle, Winterland.

#### November

Artistic Gold, Belvi Queen, Bethany Claire, Blatant, Brown Duet, Cayenne Capers, Cease-Fire, Celestial Sunshine, Corn Harvest, Curtain Up, Dashing, Earl of Essex, Filoli, His Royal Highness, Holy Night, Immortality, Lemon Duet, Misty Twilight, Neon Violet, Orange Harvest, Orchid Lane, Purple of Tyre, Radiant Angel, Remember Spring, Royal Summer, Skookumchuck, Splash O' Wine, Star Master, St. Petersburg, Summer Olympics, Sunsnap, Tennison Ridge, Tomorrow's Child, Touch of Spring, Vanity, Violet Classic, Winterland.

#### December

Artistic Gold, Belvi Queen, Blatant, Camelot Rose, Cascade Pass, Cayenne Capers, Cease-Fire, Celestial Sunshine, Dashing, Floorshow, Gold Reprise, Green and Gifted, Happy New Year, Heather Cloud, His Royal Highness, Holy Night, Jennifer Rebecca, Lemon Duet, Lemon Reflection, Low Ho Silver, Misty Twilight, Orchid Lane, Point Made, Radiant Angel, Ravenwood, Remember Spring, Saxon, Skookumchuck, Splash O' Wine, Star Master, St. Petersburg, Summer Olympics, Tomorrow's Child, Touch of Spring, Tea Leaves, Vanity, Victoria Falls, Whoop 'Em Up.

**Noteworthy Performers:** Past noteworthy performers continue to perform well. **Misty Twilight**, **Cease-Fire** **Radiant Angel**, **Autumn Bugler**, **Feed Back**, and **Remember Spring** have all been excellent. **Double Praise** has not quite lived up to past performance. Of last's year's picks, **Fire on Ice**, **Floorshow**, **Holy Night**, and **Winterland**, **Floorshow** has not lived up to past performance at all, while **Fire on Ice** has not been quite as nice as it was.

This year I have selected three impressive off-season-bloomers as outstanding: **Autumn Clouds**, **Point Made**, and **St. Petersburg**. I have kept in mind Patricia Shirley's comments in the Fall Recorder that quality counts for something. Of past irises, **Autumn Bugler** has put on great shows at almost any time of the year, but the quality of the flower is not high by contemporary standards.

First, alphabetically is **Autumn Clouds**. This has been spectacular on the one rhizome which

survived. The hybridizer sent me two rhizomes, which I planted in each of two gardens. The one in La Mesa promptly committed suicide by blooming out. The one in the Corona garden bloomed in July, August, September, and October, and what bloom it was each time! Very tall, very widely branched stalks with nicely ruffled pale blue flowers very month. Spectacular! Off-season-bloom was as good as spring bloom. I have plenty of increase on the surviving clump, so it does not appear that the strong tendency to rebloom will lead to suicide on this clump.

**Point Made** is a Pennsylvania iris that seems to love the clement climate. It was in bloom during June, July, and August, rested a while and did some growing, then started in again in December, and is in bloom now in mid-January. Flowers are very good, stalks are adequate, and I love the color of smoky gold standards and white falls with considerable plum black markings in a loose plicata pattern. There will be increase for spring or for more reblooming if it wants to.

**St. Petersburg** has been another prolific off-season-bloomer. January, February, September, October, November, and December and I am attempting to make it a parent this month. Basically white, there is a touch of pale yellow at the hafts to make it more interesting. Stalks have been good to very good, though bud count is diminishing with the later bloom. This seems to happen with most the off-season-bloomers after two or three months of fall and winter bloom. They just seem to run out of energy, or perhaps they are getting ready for a big push come spring.

There have been no major disappointments this year. **Paprika Fono's** continues to believe it is a once-bloomer, though it is very generous with bloom during the spring. **Belvi Queen** seems to believe that off-season stalks should be horizontal.

Let's see what another season will bring.



## Olde History

### Progress With Reblooming Irises

Clarence P. Denham

(Reprinted from American Iris Society Bulletin  
Number 215, October 1974)

Reblooming irises have made notable gains within recent years. This is especially true in the quality of new irises available. a decade or so ago practically all rebloomers were small or of inferior quality according to modern standards of judging irises. Hybridizers have outcrossed rebloomers with the best of the once-bloomers and now have a number of rebloomers of a size and quality which approaches very near that of once-bloomers.

In 1973 two TB rebloomers were voted the AIS Honorable Mention award. These were **Grand Baroque** (Zurbrigg, 1969) and **Bess Bergin** (Denman, 1972). Both of these have huge blooms six or seven inches in diameter with broad petals and broad hafts, good form, excellent substance, good branching, good bud count, good vigor, and good increase. **Grand Baroque** is a light chartreuse and **Bess Bergin** is a white with golden throat. A few irises of high quality representing other colors are: **Oh Gee** (Neubert, 1968) a campanula violet paling to almost white; **Ravenwood** (Lowery, 1971) a blue black self; **Perfume Counter** (Zurbrigg, 1972) a bright purple; **Summer Sunshine** (J. M. Gibson, 1972) copper and yellow; and **Swift River** ((Niswonger, 1973) a pale blue with touch of violet to light blue. Many others could be listed which are equal or nearly equal to these in quality.

The Reblooming Iris Society, organized at the Denver Convention of the AIS in 1967, reached a membership of over 100 within two months and within two years had almost 300 members. The society has suffered heavy losses within more recent years, but there have been some compensations of a brighter nature. There have been several life memberships enlisted since these have been made available, and more and more outstanding irisarians have announced that henceforth they shall give their primary attention to growing rebloomers-the irises of the future.

During the recent AIS Convention in Roanoke the reblooming iris enthusiasts had, for the first time, an opportunity to spend the greater portion of one day on the convention tours viewing thousands of reblooming irises in the gardens of Dr. Lloyd Zurbrigg of Radford, Virginia.

For a number of years Mr. Edwin Rundlett edited the *Reblooming Iris Reporter* on his own and sparked a lot of enthusiasm for reblooming irises. When the Reblooming Iris Society was formed this journal became the official publication of the society. When Mr. Rundlett had to retire on account of his health, the name of the publication was changed to *Reblooming Iris Recorder*, and under the editorship of Dr. Lloyd Zurbrigg it is much larger in size and covers a somewhat broader scope of activities.

Reblooming irises have recently gained considerable support in Great Britain and they now have the British Remontant Group with Mr. M. R. Norman, Chairman of the Committee and American liaison officer. They publish the *Remontant News* with Mrs. J. Hewett, Hon. *Remontant News* editor, Miss M. C. O. Fowler, Hon. Secretary-Treasurer is a member of the Reblooming Iris Society of the U. S..

## Reblooming Show and Meeting

October 7 and 8 in Omaha, Nebraska

The greater Omaha Iris Society will host a reblooming iris show and meeting October 7 & 8. The show will be held at Oak View Mall (144th and West Center Road). Entries must be in place by 10:30 AM on the morning of the 8th. Mike Moller will give 2 hours of judges training on point scoring iris in the garden. In the evening, a banquet will be held and Mike Moller will be guest speaker. For further details call or write:

Jan Fricke  
RR#1, Box 170  
Elkhorn, NE 68022  
Tele: (402) 289-4154

## Treasurer's Report

Checking Acct. Balance  
8/19/1993 **\$1,179.20**

### DEPOSITS:

Membership Chairman	1,500.00
Check Lists (Howard)	124.00
Memberships (Weiler)	210.00
Slide Rent (Nicholls)	50.00
Iris Sale, Hanford, CA	446.50
Texoma Iris Soc. Donation	100.00
	<b>\$2,430.50</b>

**TOTAL \$3,609.70**

### DISBURSEMENTS:

Chk 116 Postmaster - Canceled  
Chk 117 Postmaster - Canceled

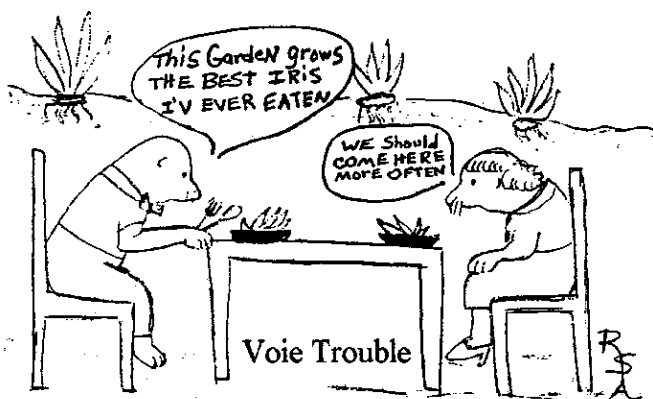
Chk 118 Cimarron Printing	1,012.85
Chk 119 Brookins - Canceled	
Chk 120 Brookins (Publicity)	89.37
Chk 121 Moller (RIR expense)	291.87
Chk 122 Nicholls (Slide expense)	46.11
Chk 123 Ruth Woerner	6.00
(dues refund Charles Woerner estate)	

**\$1,446.20**

Checking Account	
Balance 2/15/1994	<b>\$2,163.50</b>
C.D. 12/31/93	<b>\$3,753.12</b>
(7-5-94 Maturity date)	
Savings 12/31/93	3,300.57
C. Brown Membership Acct. (12/31/93)	<b>1,809.00</b>

**BALANCE OF ALL ACCOUNTS \$11,026.19**

*Evelyn Hayes*, Treasurer



## Membership Notes

Reminder to all members and associates. In order to take part in Reblooming Iris Society voting, and decisions, you must be a member of the American Iris Society also. New bylaws are coming from the American Iris Society and things will be explained in the upcoming *Recorders*. Also, please check your mailing label. It contains your expiration date after your name. Memberships expire in either July or January, even if your dues were sent in other months. Your expiration date was set so that you will receive 2 *Recorders* for each year.

Remember, if you are planning to move, please notify me with the new address, the post office will not forward your *Recorders*. They return them and charge us 35 cents postage.

**International Members Take note!** The *Recorder* will be mailed at surface rates. If you wish to have Airmail service please add \$4.00 each year to your membership.

*Charlie Brown*

## FRIENDSHIP GARDENS

specializing in

### Reblooming & Tall Bearded Irises

We feel very honored to have been selected by Dr. Lloyd Zurbrigg to carry on the tradition of Avonbank Gardens. After many years of dedicated service to the iris community, Dr. Zurbrigg has decided to retire his fine catalog. He will continue his hybridizing activities and we will be pleased to offer his most recent introductions.

Descriptive Catalog \$1.00

Joan and Ken Roberts  
2590 Wellworth Way  
West Friendship, MD 21794

## 1993 Reblooming Symposium Report

by Earl Hall

Thanks to everyone who filled out and sent me their 1993 Reblooming Symposium ballot. It helps to make our Reblooming Symposium a success. I was disappointed that more ballots were not returned to me for last year we had 135 ballots returned and this year we only had 72 ballots returned. I know there were some mistakes made on the ballot but I was told it was a computer error. The Symposium breakdown by Plant Hardiness Zone is as follows:

### USDA Plant

Hardiness Zone	No. Ballots	No. voters
3&4	4	4
5	9	10
6	20	22
7	13	17
8	10	11
9	11	12
10	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>
Total	72	81

This has been a enjoyable and satisfying year in tabulating the Symposium for me but more ballots would have been lots better. A few had their USDA zones wrong but better than last year. I used a large (4ft. by 4ft) map published by the Dept. of Agriculture showing plant hardiness zone. Check with your County Extension Agent if you want to know your zone. I hope next year we have at least 200 Symposiums returned. The results will be more meaningful.

Hats off to Dr. Lloyd Zurbrigg for he had 5 TB varieties in the Top 9 of the Reblooming Symposium. He also had the Top SDB (**Baby Blessed**) and the Top IB (**I Bless**), not Bad!





# Tall Bearded 1993 Reblooming Symposium

Total Votes	Rank	Cultivar	Hybridizer & Year Introduced	zone 4	zone 5	zone 6	zone 7	zone 8	zone 9	zone 10
54	1	Immortality	Zurbrigg '82	3	8	16	13	7	5	2
37	2	Earl of Essex	Zurbrigg '80	1	6	11	7	4	6	2
34	3	Feed Back	Hager '83	1	2	8	7	6	7	3
30	4	Corn Harvest	Wyatt '77	1	7	8	7	4	2	1
30	4	Queen Dorthy	Hall, E. '84	1	5	14	3	2	5	
29	6	Harvest of Memories	Zurbrigg '85		5	9	9	2	3	1
25	7	Jennifer								
		Rebecca	Zurbrigg '85		4	4	6	5	6	
25	7	Pink Attraction	Hall, E. '88		5	8	7	2	2	1
24	9	I Do	Zurbrigg '74		4	10	9	1		
20	10	Coral Charmer	Wright '83		3	9	4	1	3	
19	11	Belvi Queen	Jensen '76		4	10	4		1	
19	11	Champagne Elegance	Niswonger '87		3	4	1	4	5	2
19	11	Golden Encore	Jones, F. '73		5	10	3	1		
18	14	Perfume Counter	Zurbrigg '72		1	8	6	1	1	1
18	14	Violet Returns	Hall, E. '88	2	4	8	2	2		
16	16	Eternal Bliss	Byers '88	1	1	2	3	6	2	1
15	17	Juicy Fruit	Byers '89	1	1	1	2	4	4	2
15	17	Brother Carl	Zurbrigg '83		3	4	4	4		
15	17	English Cottage	Zurbrigg '76		3	8	2	2		
15	17	Summer Olympics	Smith, R. '80		4	10				
14	21	Touch of Spring	Applegate '72		3	8		2	1	
13	22	Autumn Bugler	Jones, F. '86		1	7	2	1	1	1
13	22	Cayenne Capers	Gibson '59			3	2	3	4	1
12	24	Autumn Circus	Hager '90			1	4	2	3	2
12	24	Best Bet	Schreiners '88	1	3	1	1	2	3	1
12	24	Misty Twilight	Byers '88		2	2	5	1	1	1
11	27	Billionaire	Byers '87		1		4	3	3	
11	27	Buckwheat	Byers '89		1	2	1	3	4	
11	27	Hemstitched	Hager '89			1	2	2	5	1
11	27	High Ho Silver	Byers '89	1	2	3		5		
11	27	Holy Night	Mohr, K. '83			1	5		3	2
11	27	Orchid Cloud	Applegate '74		2	4	3	2		
11	27	Remember Spring	Hager '85		1	2	4		3	1
11	27	Winterland	Byers '89		1	1	1	2	4	2
10	35	Grape Adventure	Jones, F. '86			7	1		1	1
10	35	Lemon Duet	Smith, R. '78		1	3	3	1	1	1
10	35	Oranges Harvest	Jones, B. '88		1	1	3	3	2	
10	35	Pinkness	Byers '89		1	2	2	2	3	
10	35	Sugar Blues	Zurbrigg '85		3	5		1		1
9	40	Happy New Year	Byers '89			3	1	3	2	
9	40	Northward Ho	Byers '91		1	4	3	1		
9	40	Sign of Leo	Zurbrigg '77	1		4	1	3		
9	40	Zurich	Byers '89			4		1	4	
8	44	Blazing Sunrise	Black '85		1	1		1	4	1
8	44	Matrix	Hall, E. '91		1	3	2		2	
8	44	Now & Later	Zurbrigg '72		1	1	4	1	1	
8	44	Spirit of Memphis	Zurbrigg '77		1	3	2	1	1	
7	48	Autumn Encore	Mohr, K. '77			2	1		4	
7	48	Dawn of Fall	Jensen '76		2	5				
7	48	Hallowed Thought	Zurbrigg '77		1	1	1	1	2	1
7	48	Her Royal Highness	Byers '89				1	3	1	2
7	48	Jean Guymer	Zurbrigg '77		1	4	1		1	

# Tall Bearded 1993 Reblooming Symposium

Total Votes	Rank	Cultivar	Hybridizer & Year Introduced	zone 4	zone 5	zone 6	zone 7	zone 8	zone 9	zone 10
7	48	July Sunshine	Brown, G. '65		2	1	4			
7	48	Lemon								
		Reflection	Smith, R. '78		1	2			2	2
7	48	Lichen	Byers '89		1	2	2	2		
7	48	Royal Summer	Applegate '71		1	3			3	
7	48	September								
		Replay	Jones, F. '92		2	3	2			
7	48	Sunny Shoulders	Hager '90			1	1		2	3
7	48	Victoria Falls	Schreiners '77		1	2			3	1
7	48	Violet Classic	Zurbrigg '76		2	2	1	1		1
7	48	Violet Music	Mahan '91			3	4			
7	48	Witch of Endor	Miller, B. '78			3	2	1	1	
6	63	Cease-Fire	Roberts '80				1	3	2	
6	63	Dorcas Lives								
		Again	Miller, B. '84		1	1	1	1	2	
6	63	Grace Thomas	Zurbrigg '80		2	1	1	1		1
6	63	Halloween Halo	Weiler '91		1			2	3	
6	63	Istanbul	Byers '89				1	2	2	1
6	63	Ravenwood	Lowery '71		1	1	1		2	1
6	63	Then Again	Byers '89			2	2		1	1
6	63	Winesap	Byers '89				1	3	2	
5	71	Anxious	Hager '92			2	2		1	1
5	71	Autumn Echo	Gibson '75				2		3	
5	71	Belvi Cloud	Jensen '88			5				
5	71	Barn Dance	Byers '91					2	3	
5	71	Brown Duet	Smith, R. '71		1		1	1	2	
5	71	Cloudless								
		Sunrise	Niswonger '84				1		4	
5	71	Coral Chalice	Niswonger '83			1		1	3	
5	71	Double Scoop	Ghio '81		1		1	2	1	
5	71	Floorshow	Byers '89						3	2
5	71	Gold Burst	Palmer '80			1	1		3	
5	71	Lady Essex	Zurbrigg '91		1	4				
5	71	Pepper Blend	Moore '77				1	2	2	
5	71	Seasons	Weiler '92				2		3	
5	71	Second Look	Muhlestein '70			2	2	1		
5	71	Sign of Virgo	Zurbrigg '91			3	1	1		
5	71	Skookumchuck	Gibson '83				1	2	2	
5	71	Solstice	Weiler '92				3		2	
5	71	St. Petersburg	Byers '90			1		1	1	2
5	71	Summer Holiday	Zurbrigg '79				4	1		
5	71	Tea Leaves	Byers '87			2		1	2	
4	91	Amanda Erin	Zurbrigg '85			2		2		
4	91	Autumn Clouds	Hager '90			1				3
4	91	Blue Moonlight	Byers '89		2	1			1	
4	91	Cantina	Byers '90		2				1	1
4	91	Christopher								
		Columbus	Hager '92					1	2	1
4	91	Clarence	Zurbrigg '91			1	1		2	
4	91	Dante's Inferno	Moore '79		1		1		2	
4	91	Fall Primrose	Brown, G. '53		1	2	1			
4	91	Glacier King	Carson '86				2	1	1	
4	91	His Royal								
		Highness	Byers '89		1			3		
4	91	Illini Repeater	Varner '72		2	2				
4	91	Invitation	Schreiners '82					2	2	
4	91	Magic Memories	Clark, T '73			1		1	1	1
4	91	Midnight Caller	Byers '90				2	2		

### Tall Bearded 1993 Reblooming Symposium

Total Votes	Rank	Cultivar	Hybridizer & Year Introduced	zone 4	zone 5	zone 6	zone 7	zone 8	zone 9	zone 10
4	91	Mother Earth	Hager '88		1			1	2	
4	91	Peach Jam	Esminger '89		1			3		
4	91	Red Rivival	Preston '77		2	1		1		
4	91	Reincarnation	Byers '89				2		1	1
4	91	Renown	Zurbrigg '92			2				
4	91	Saxon	Byers '90					1	3	
4	91	Sea Double	Smith, R. '71		1	3				
4	91	Sea World	Byers '90						2	2
4	91	Silver								
		Dividends	Zurbrigg '91			1		2	1	
4	91	Soap Opera	Ghio '82				2		2	
4	91	Stellar Lights	Aitken '86					2	1	1
4	91	Stingray	Byers '89				2	1	1	
4	91	Trick Or Treat	Osborne '84					2	1	1

### Border Bearded 1993 Reblooming Symposium

6	1	Miss Scarlett	Moores '80				1	1	4	
6	1	Whoop Em Up	Brady '74				1		3	1
4	3	Lenora Pearl	Nichols '90			1	3			
4	3	Little Susie	Quadros '70				3	1		
4	3	Marmalade Skies	Niswonger '78			1	2		1	
3	6	Double Up	Hager '84		1				2	
3	6	Faux Pas	Keppel '90					1	2	
3	6	Ultra Echo	Rich '72						3	
2	9	Autumn								
		Orangelite	Brown, G.P. '62				2			
2	9	Petkin	Zurbrigg '69		1			1		
2	9	Stanza	Byers '91				1		1	

### Intermediate Bearded 1993 Reblooming Symposium

22	1	I Bless	Zurbrigg '85	1	4	7	9	1		
20	2	Lo Ho Silver	Byers '89	1	3	5	3	2		2
15	3	Blessed Again	Jones, F. '76		4	7	3	1	4	
7	4	Tawny	Pray '74			1	4	1	1	
6	5	Eleanor								
		Roosevelt	Sass, H.P. '33			1	2		1	2
6	5	Honey Glazed	Niswonger '83			3	1	2		
5	7	Black Magic	Wayman '35			3	2			
4	8	Pink Kitten	Wood '77			2			2	
2	9	Brighteyes	Darby '57			2				
2	9	Cherry Supreme	Zurbrigg '77			1	1			
2	9	Concoction	Byers '91				2			
2	9	Hi	Byers '90			1		1		
2	9	Palm Springs	Byers '90						1	1
2	9	Sangreal	Sass '35				2			
2	9	Sixteen Candles	Byers '89				1		1	
2	9	Southland	Sass, H.P. '34				2			
2	9	Ultra	Sass, J. '26				2			

### Miniature Tall Bearded 1993 Reblooming Symposium

Total Votes	Rank	Cultivar	Hybridizer & Year Introduced	zone 4	zone 5	zone 6	zone 7	zone 8	zone 9	zone 10
22	1	Lady Emma	Jones, F. '86		5	8	7	1	1	

### Standard Dwarf Bearded 1993 Reblooming Symposium

37	1	Baby Blessed	Zurbrigg '79		8	11	12	2	3	1
20	2	Jewel Baby	Hall, E. '84		2	8	4		5	1
14	3	Little Showoff	Hall, E. '89		3	5	2		4	
13	4	Plum Wine	Weiler '86			3	4	3	3	
12	5	Smell the Roses	Byers '88			2	4	2	4	
8	6	Refined	Weiler '87	1	2	2	4			1
8	6	Third Charm	Weiler '82		2	2	4		2	
8	6	What Again	Ensminger '91	1	1	2	2	2	2	
7	9	Dark Crystal	Byers '88			1	1	3	1	1
7	9	Rainbow								
		Sherbert	Weiler '88	1	1			1	3	1
7	9	Thrice Blessed	Weiler '82	2	1	1	1	1	2	
7	9	Twice Blessed	Dennis '66	1	2	2	2		2	
6	13	Flower Shower	Weiler '90			1	1		4	
5	14	Mini Busy	Weiler '89			1	1		2	1
4	15	Auroralits	Weiler '90			2			2	
4	15	Baby Boom	Byers '89			2		1	1	
4	15	Darkling	Byers '89			2	2			
4	15	Frankincense	Byers '89				1	1	2	
4	15	Silk And Velvet	Willot '92					2	2	
4	15	Sparkplug	Byers '89				1	1	1	1
4	15	Tu Tu Turquoise	Black '88			2		2		
4	15	Willowmist	Weiler '83				1	1	2	
3	23	Baby Tears	Weiler '80				1		2	
3	23	Cry Baby	Ritchie '84				1	1	1	
3	23	Flower Child	Byers '89			1	1	1		
3	23	Gray Poupon	Byers '89			2			1	
3	23	Marita	Zurbrigg '89		1	1				1
3	23	Sunstrip	Weiler '86				1		2	
3	23	Third World	Weiler '82				1	1	1	

### Miniature Dwarf Bearded 1993 Reblooming Symposium

5	1	Ditto	Hager '82		1	1		2		1
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### Beardless - Japanese 1993 Reblooming Symposium

1	1	Prairie Mantle	Hazzard '76			1				
1	1	Royal Crown	Marx '61				1			
1	1	Triple Treat	McEwen '81			1				

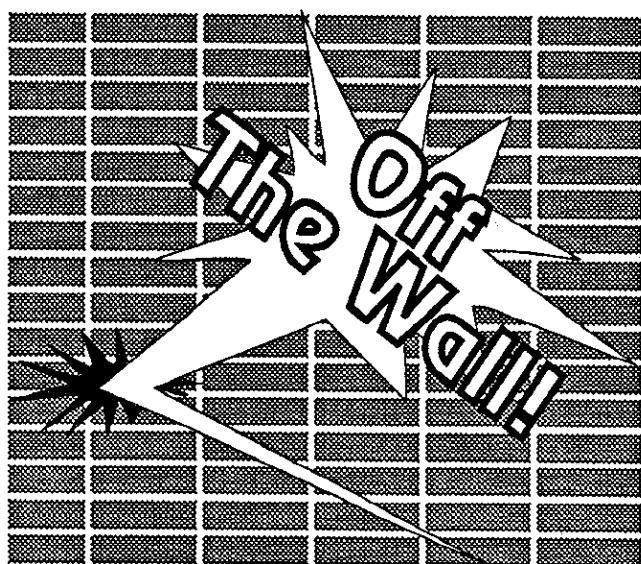
### Beardless - Louisiana 1993 Reblooming Symposium

2	1	Red Echo	Rowlan '84				2			
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### Beardless - Siberian 1993 Reblooming Symposium

4	1	Lavender Bounty	McEwen '81		1	1	2			
3	2	Reprise	Warburton '86			1	2			
2	3	Early Bluebird	McEwen '68				2			
2	3	My love	Scheffy '49				2			





A new member of our iris club, freshly come to iris but old in garden experience overall, was enthralled when she learned that we have an extensive collection of reblooming iris. "Please, call me this fall when they come into bloom and I will venture out to see a fall iris garden in full spate!" [*We are a hundred miles from our nearest iris club.*] It was my doleful duty to educate this enthusiastic newcomer to the less than overwhelming facts about fall iris bloom in southside Virginia. After a discussion of the frailties and pitfalls of providing a iris spectacle in the fall, she skewered me with a gimlet stare and demanded to know, "Well! if you truly love those pitiful things, why don't you *do* something about them?" I escaped the encounter with my aplomb and the reputation of my flower somewhat frazzled, however, the beginnings of an idea had been planted.

My ability to elicit change by punching a computer keyboard far outweighs what I can do by wielding pollen tweezers. Therefore, this proposal that may assist in quieting the taunt of spring iris fanciers, "Where's the bloom?," when they view remontant plantings. *I propose that we develop a race of fall blooming iris.* No, not the demanding task of providing spring and fall bloom on the same plant, merely new varieties of iris that bloom

*only in the fall.* Beguiling and simple in concept as this sounds, achieving it may well prove a challenging task. However, 'bloom-in-the-fall' iris cultivars would make stellar additions to the perennial world.

Many gardeners would be pleased if they could plant clumps of iris in a border featuring fall flowers and have the iris provide a flush of color that matched their spring blooming cousins. Rebloom is sparse and sporadic, however main-period bloom shifted to fall would provide a dramatic display. The Hemerocallis hybridizers approached this goal in the mid fifties when they marketed several daylily varieties whose only season of bloom was during Chrysanthemum time. After achieving partial success, breeders shifted their efforts to providing twice blooming daylilies. I personally believe the flower world is the poorer for this change in focus.

The only way that the ordinary irisarian can stimulate efforts to achieve 'Fall Iris' is to vote with pocketbook and garden space. Ask acquaintances who daub pollen if they are working towards this goal and if they are not—why not? Further, express an interest and willingness to buy iris of this type. Tell your local nursery that you are eager to purchase iris that bloom in the fall. Make your interest in reaching this goal known to those who write for gardening publications by asking to see discussion of the 'Fall Iris' concept. You might even consider making a few crosses of your own aimed at achievement in an area that is now wide open. Success would assist in validating the old boast, *Iris, an Ideal Hardy Perennial.* ☛

Mike Lowe, VA



(Editors' note: Views expressed above are those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the *Reblooming Iris Society* nor the *American Iris Society*, or officers and members of each.)

# MISTY HILL FARMS



WE WELCOME THE NEW YEAR WITH 5 NEW  
INTRODUCTIONS HYBRIDIZED BY MONTY  
BYERS.

## MOONSHINE GARDENS ALL BEARDED IRISES

ALL AFLUTTER (M. Byers by Dickey '94) Tall bearded, 36", medium, space ager. (G63-1) (Conjuration x Mesmerizer) Beautiful, large flowered brilliant bright white self. Red orange beards with large, long, very pale blue flounces turning up at the ends as if the flower will flutter away with the butterflies. This beautiful flower is not only beautiful to see but also has a wonderful light, sweet fragrance...\$35.00

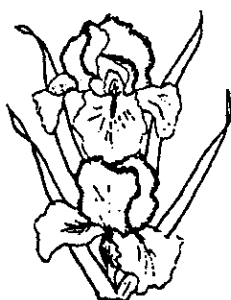
MONTY'S SWEET BLUE (M. Byers by Dickey '94) Tall bearded, 36", medium, space ager. (G60-1) (Scented Bubbles x Starship). Wonderful, large flowered dark blue-violet self. Yellow beards tipped light blue with huge dark blue violet flounces or horns. This is the seedling that won best fragrance in Florence, Italy, spring '93. If you enjoy the fragrance of iris as well as the sheer beauty, this belongs in your 5 collection.....\$35.00

PLATINUM (M. Byers by Dickey '94) Tall bearded, 30", early, RE (G39-106) (Eternal Bliss x Pacific Tide) Silver white self with silver veining on falls; white beards, yellow in the throat. This incredible white continues the tradition of outstanding reblooming whites that Monty had introduced. Once you see this flower you will understand why it has earned its precious metal name.....\$35.00

WAVES OF GRAIN (M. Byers by Dickey '94) Tall bearded, 36", medium, RE, (F51-102) (Grace Thomas x C71-1) S. golden mid-yellow; F. golden yellow with darker golden yellow veining at hafts; deep golden yellow beards. Very vigorous grower and a very willing early reblooming yellow that will stand out in your garden.....\$35.00

STINGER (M. Byers, '91) SDB, 13", medium, SA, (G18-2) (Muchacha x Egyptian) S. maize yellow with faint light violet speckling in center; F. maize yellow hafts to blended outer rim around inner lower half-halo of violet stitching, white center ground; burnt yellow orange beard, deep purple horns. Even though this was planted at the back of our display garden and a SDB among giants, it was a favorite with everyone.....\$15.00

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**AARON'S DREAM** (Sutton '94) TB 37" E-M-L and late RE. A gorgeous ruffled semi-flared pale blue almost white self with a mid blue beard. The 3 to 5 well spaced branches carry 8 to 12 well formed flowers of heavy substance. This beauty has a tendency to rebloom very late in warm climates. As with Moses' brother Aaron, a dream of greater things to come: a unique cross of Australian and American parents opens up new avenues of breeding potential. ((Faithfulness X Scented Nutmeg) X Baldwin 8241-A)) (Jolimont X Velvet Vista) **\$35.00**

**BULLWINKLE** (Sutton '94) BB 24"-26" M. A well proportioned cutie that has stayed in class for 4 years running. Moderately ruffled with 3 branches and 7-8 flowers. Standards are bright mid yellow with a burgundy mid rib; stylearms are mid yellow faintly washed burgundy. Falls are a lighter yellow ground with a light dotting of burgundy; hafts are heavily plicated and spiked burgundy. To top it all off each fall has a double rim: 1/8" light yellow outer ring surrounds 1/3" burgundy inner band. Beard is golden orange with a white touch beneath it and a burgundy stripe down the entire midline. Truly a unique iris. (((Gypsy Wings X Heat Flare) X Tulare)) X Baby Bengal))) **\$25.00**

**DREAM INDIGO** (C. Bartlett '94) IB 23" E-M. Fell in love with this one when it first bloomed here. An IB that looks like a BB in its ruffled and finished flower form. A ruffled and flared beauty with storm grey S. and semi-flaring F. of dark violet Indigo; beards are grey. Well branched with as many as 10 flowers. This ruffled beauty will be a great addition to your collection. (Gossip X Wensleydale). **\$20.00**

**FRITILLARY FLIGHT** (C. Bartlett '94) IB 26" E. This interesting IB will sometimes grow to 28" for us but usually stays in class. S. are light dove grey; F. are an interesting blend of grayed ochre yellow; beards are cream with blue brown overtones; lightly ruffled. (Mrs. Nate Rudolf X Echo de France) **\$15.00**

**LEMON WINE** (C. Bartlett '94) IB 20" E. An IB with strong SDB characteristics and good form and branching. A clear clean bright yellow with a burgundy thumbprint on the F.; beards are yellow to orange; ruffled. Very nice. ((Diligence X Eyebright) X Arden sib) **\$15.00**

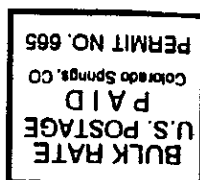
**SHURTON INN** (C. Bartlett '94) TB 34" M. We are introducing this unusual iris as a breeder iris. It doesn't always have 7 buds but is quite unusual in color with great breeding potential. Seedling # is BA-1, called Brown Amoena. S. are white; F. are an olive brown blend; beards are grey to yellow in the throat. If you want some unusual breeding in your seedlings, this one is for you. (Involved breeding including Chimbolam, Walter Bruce, Champagne Braise, Echo de France and Alpine Sunshine). Limited stock. **\$40.00**

**TEMPLECOMBE** (C. Bartlett '94) TB 30" M-L. This is registered as a short tall but has always been 27" or less for me. Well received at the '92 Region 14 Spring Regional. Peach pink, paler in center of F.; pink orange beard. (Paradise X Wings of Dreams) **\$30.00**

**TEMPLECLOUD** (C. Bartlett '94) IB 24" E-M. Another award winner for Cy is this nicely waved and ruffled amoena. S. are very pale silvery blue, almost white; F. are deep violet with brown overtones in the hafts; cream beard is tinted brown violet in throat. A. M. Wisley '91. (Little Admiral X Faraway) **\$20.00**

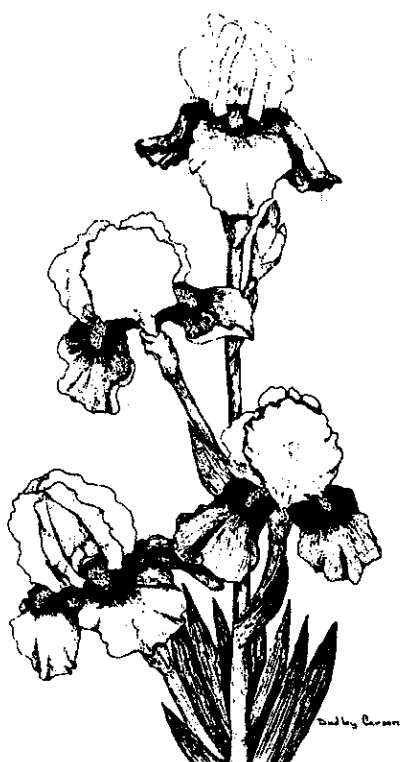
**WILD SHARON** (Sutton '94) TB 36" E-M. Very popular as a seedling. A well branched wild one! No two flowers are exactly alike. S. are white; F. technically are white ground but give the appearance of being reddish blue violet with white striping; blue violet beards; moderately ruffled. (((Big League X Stitched Beauty) X (Ribbon Round X Phoenix)) X French Gown) **\$30.00**

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