

THE REBLOOMING IRIS RECORDER

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Winterberry Gardens
Don and Ginny Spoon
1225 Reynolds Road
Cross Junction, VA 22625



REBLOOMING IRIS SOCIETY

A Section of the American Iris Society

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Annual:	\$5.00	\$6.00
Triennial:	\$13.00	\$15.00
Life:	\$100.00	\$120.00

Advertising Rates

Full page	\$45.00	Quarter Page	\$15.00
Half Page	\$25.00	1/8 Page:	\$10.00

see information this issue

The 1991 Cumulative Checklist of Reblooming Irises is out of print!! An expanded up-to-date checklist with USDA Zones and States is now being edited by Ken Roberts of Friendship Gardens.

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THUMBNAILS

LARRY HARDER

My part of the world is really not a reblooming area. I have tried many, and only a few actually do rebloom for me. I usually have a few each year, but none have been faithful in their performance. One exception is Earl Hall's QUEEN DOROTHY. I have always wanted to have SDB's rebloom in the garden and for a number of years I raised seedlings with that goal in mind, but was never able to get them to repeat in the fall.

I have been a member of the RIS since it started and have followed its high and low ebbs. It seems like in the past few years, we are finally able to get the message to the general public that some irises *do* bloom twice in a given year. The Southern part of Nebraska enjoys a lot of bloom each fall and we have started to have a gathering each year where we bring flower stalks to show to the public... some years are sparse, but other years there are a *fantastic* number of blooms.

I was first asked to be Historian when Jim Ennenga was President of the Society, probably because I was AIS Historian at the time and so this position ties in closely with that.

Personal history: I worked for 35 years for the US Government in the USDA Department, Farmers Home Administration. I have long been associated with the many iris societies, but am interested in all types of plants. I belong to 30 different plant societies (including all of the specialty iris societies) and subscribe to almost all of the gardening magazines. So my gardening interests are widespread, but I have mainly limited myself to following the iris, daylily and hosta activities and participating in their national convention and activities and have served on all their national boards.

FLORENCE WHEAT

After working for many years as Credit Manager for the two daily newspapers in Salt Lake City and serving on several Boards of Directors in the credit industry, I retired and am now spending many happy hours doing gardening and church work. I love all kinds of flowers, especially irises. It's my job to grow and maintain them, and Bill's responsibility is the vegetable garden.

I am presently serving as Treasurer of 3 iris groups: the Utah Iris Society, Region 12 of the American Iris Society and the Reblooming Iris Society. So you see, I haven't left the world of Finance completely!

Florence and Bill have 4 grown children, 14 grandchildren & 2 baby Great-granddaughters.

LLOYD ZURBRIGG

I was introduced to plant breeding at age 12 by Alex Edmison, minister of our small-town church in Listowel, Ontario, Canada. He and I both switched to iris breeding at the time I left for the university in Toronto. For many years I checked on his new seedlings in his retirement in Brighton, on Lake Ontario.

In 1958 I went to Bloomington, Indiana, for master and doctor degrees in music. There I met the only AIS member in town, Dr. Raymond G. Smith, a professor in the speech department. His main interest in iris was to develop rebloom! Talk about coincidences! He gave me room in his garden to continue growing my seedlings. When I left for Radford, Virginia, I took his best new seedlings with me and continued breeding rebloomers.

For 28 years I was professor of music at Radford college which became Radford University, retiring to North Carolina in 1990. I have also been breeding Space Age irises for some 25 years and have an interest in blue-bearded pastels and amoenas. I still try a bit of crossing in airbreds and have several types of beardless and crested.

My wife is Juanita, also a musician. I have two step-daughters, Jennifer Rebecca and Amanda Erin, and a daughter, Bethany Claire. All three girls have iris namesakes.

OPAL WULF

I and my husband, Henry, have been growing iris since 1980, shortly after moving to a three acre piece of property. We decided after a few years and many added iris beds to call our garden "Wulf's Backachers". I have been hybridizing since the 1990 AIS convention which we co-chaired. As I am not retired, I spend much of my time at the insurance brokerage office, owned by our daughter and myself. With over 30 years in the business, needless to say, I look forward to slowing down a bit and spending more time with the iris growing. I am concentrating on the hybridizing of MTB and BB iris as I think both types have room for improvement. My hope is to develop both with reblooming capabilities, plus good form, color and bloom. In the winter when I cannot be outside, I spend time in my basement studio painting.. what else? Iris! Or, as the spirit moves me, working in stained glass. When those hobbies cease to interest me, I work on one of my yet unfinished quilts, or I settle in with a good murder mystery.

LESLIE JOBE'

As I write this short bio, Wayne and I are moving from Roswell, NM to Omaha, NE. We are not strangers to Omaha, as we lived there for 2 years some time ago.

We have 7 children and 10 grandchildren, with No. 11 on the way.... and we can't forget Scooter, our "child" at home (he doesn't know he's a dog).

I grew up in Dodge City, Kansas and started with iris there with the Boothill Iris Society, then we moved to Midland, TX with the Permian Basin Iris Society... then onto Omaha and the Greater Omaha Iris Society. There was no iris society where we lived in Houston, so when we found out we were moving to Roswell, NM, I checked to see if there was one nearby. There was, and I became a member of the Roswell Iris Society. Wayne was not able to attend meetings since they met in the morning... so we founded the Pecos Valley Iris Society, which met in the evening. It could have almost been called "Reblooming" Society, since there is heavy emphasis on rebloomers, and we had our first fall show last year. We are reluctant to leave Roswell, but we're looking forward to returning to Omaha.

We have a 26-ft. U-Haul just for all our plants, with 12 big boxes of iris (700 varieties) plus potted Louisianas, Japan Spurias and Siberians.

ROSALIE FIGGE

I've been a widow for over 20 years and live alone with a tortoise shell cat named "Minerva", but called "Pretty Girl." I have 2 daughters, 7 grandchildren and 7-2/3 greats.

I was born in North Carolina, but grew up in suburban Philadelphia. As a child I devoured Western adventure stories and movies and vowed I'd marry a blue-eyed man from the West -- and did. My late husband was from Colorado; he was a professor of anatomy in medical school and did cancer research. I divided my time between the children, volunteer work in his lab, and serving as his editorial assistant.

My winter hobby is genealogy, with some parliamentary studies (I'm Corresponding Secretary for the Maryland Association of Parliamentarians).

As for irises, I was the first to really feature Rebloomers in this area, and I was Editor of the RECORDER for 7 years when the membership was barely 200 -- it is now about five times that.

I really enjoy introducing people to the beauties of Reblooming Iris.

CHARLIE BROWN

I am 64, a retired nurse anesthetist. I have sent over 2,000 varieties of irises, TB's, Me spurias and Louisianas. I have over 250 varieties of rebloomers, (or, at least *reported* to rebloom) and have at least 50 that are consistent. I do sell rebloomers on a limited scale.

I spend most of the warm weather with the irises. During the off season, I build model armor, inspired by armor from WWII. I try to keep up on computers and, in the past, did installation and setup for people. I am now into video sales, but most of that by the wayside.

I'm twice retired - from the military in 1972 and from the hospital in 1992. Donna and I have two sons. Howie, our oldest, is a physician in Jacksonville, FL and Carlton, our youngest, is married with two children and works in Sherman, TX, just ten miles away.

KATHY GUEST

I've been a gardener for most of my adult life and shoe-horn a good collection of irises into a small suburban lot. Fortunately for me, I'm the only gardener in our house - so although I do have to sweet-talk my husband, Leonard, out of his lawn now and then, at least I don't have to share.

Leonard, a middle school Technology teacher, and I have been married for 17 years. We have 2 children each.. all adult and married but one out on their own. We live in East Aurora, NY - 20 miles south of Buffalo - where the short growing season preclude many rebloomers... but the snow cover provides excellent mulch!

I tend to get involved with many things and hope that this newest adventure will be a grand time for us all.

"What!, you mean it blooms in the Fall?"

During the cold harsh winters there are two activities I enjoy that help take away the chill and make the season a little shorter. One is reading about the type and amount of rebloom from the different parts of the country. The other is pouring over catalogues, both old and new, planning the next big BUY. I would like to address some concerns related to both of these.

In the last several years, there has been a flood of information about rebloomers coming from various sources including the Reblooming Iris Society, national and regional conventions, local society meetings, garden tours, and flower shows. More hybridizers are trying to achieve rebloom and the official checklist is growing and being updated as this issue goes to press. BUT, there is still the problem of the general public not knowing and/or understanding about rebloomers. How many times have you heard in the garden or at shows; "You mean they bloom twice!!!", or "I didn't know they bloom in the fall!", or my favorite; "What's THAT..., an iris blooming NOW!!!!" There are other funny ones, and many of us can recite more, but this brings up a serious point I want to make:

We need to rethink *how* we inform the public about irises, and in particular, Reblooming Irises. Not enough emphasis is being placed on rebloom, and the future of rebloom. Not enough hybridizing efforts are taking place. We seem to place more accent on once-bloomers because of their flower beauty, color and form. Granted, many people *only* look at the flower and forget about the garden effect of the plant, or the effect of more bloom. We, as informed growers and promoters of the iris, need to change that. We need to set up display beds for the public to see. We need to have informational brochures available like other sections have, with photographs and lists of growers from the different areas of the country. We should devote a large display at shows to rebloom, even setting up a special section on rebloomers, or at least placing notices on the cultivars noting their rebloom for that area. If enough people would GROW reblooming irises, you could even have a Fall Show like a couple of regions have now. We need to speak to garden clubs and other groups, showing slides and having information to

We need to rethink how we inform the public about irises and, in particular, Reblooming Irises

handout. Local Extension Offices are a good source for spreading the word, but they need to know that rebloomers even exist. Many Extension Offices write for local newspapers and have spots on local television that can promote rebloom. In my city, the local agent does a spot during the evening weather report at least 4 times per month. Can you imagine the response to a spot showing reblooming irises in September/October? *Lastly* we need to keep those that have responsibility for the checklist informed as to the rebloom in your area. This can be done either directly, or through your regions. In several regional publications, there is a form printed so everyone in the region can report to a regional coordinator. In Region 4, this report is printed in its entirety so the membership is kept up-to-date. We are only hurting ourselves by sitting on our hands and not promoting Reblooming Irises.

Reading publications like the AIS Bulletin and the RIS Recorder can be a great source of information and reading enjoyment. Reading catalogues can be an eye-opening experience, and sometimes a real knee-slapper. One of the first catalogues I ever received was from MOONSHINE GARDENS, owned by the late Monty Byers. His excitement was evident in the descriptions of his crosses and introductions. But when reading his and other catalogues from all over the country, the following abbreviations leave me confused and perplexed:

RE, re, Re, rE --- enough already!!!

How many catalogues do you receive each spring with these designations beside them? What do they really mean? Will they rebloom for YOU, the iris grower, or for the general consumer who isn't a member of any iris Society? (For that matter, will they bloom at all!) The Reblooming Iris Society, along with many growers across the country are now facing a "Moment of Truth". Catalogues with disclaimers like "These *iris* have a *tendency to rebloom in late summer or early fall. This however is not guaranteed. It is often dependent on geographical location, or climate conditions, and cultural practices.*" are not enough. Even local societies that sell reblooming iris in their sales and charge a higher price, need to come clean concerning reblooming iris. That truth is - **do they rebloom in your area.** I

mean *really* rebloom, not once every 3 to 4 years, and only if you baby them all summer and maybe if the frost will hold up for a week or two. An iris that "reblooms" only in California does not merit the title "RE-BLOOMER" *period*. If we all could have the two growing seasons California enjoys, we could have a garden that is a showplace twice a year, not once.

What should define a Reblooming Iris? For starters reblooming iris should rebloom consistently in at least 4 of the five areas of the country. These areas can be drawn to different specifications, but should include the southwest (TX, AL, OK, LA), mid-Atlantic (VA, MD, NC, SC, TN), midwest (KS, MO, NE, IN, IL), northeast (PA, NY, NJ), and the west coast (CA, OR, UT, WA). A reblooming iris should rebloom 3 out of 4 years, hopefully 2 to 3 weeks before the normal frost date for the particular part of the country. Bottom line is that late rebloom isn't rebloom. Some catalogues include the states or countries that have reported rebloom. This is good and should be continued.

A reblooming iris should be grown the same as other once-blooming iris with no special treatment. The general consumer will not take the extra time and effort to baby an iris to rebloom. How many of us tell people at shows or sales that irises are *so* easy to grow and maintain. For the most part that is true, but most people will not take the time to remove bloomstalks after bloom or even weed their gardens, let alone giving extra water or fertilizer.

If our goal is to advance the cause of the Reblooming Iris, we need to be totally honest about its rebloom. This includes the registration and introduction, sale and promotion of the cultivar. If we don't, the consumer will catch on, and we will suffer the results.

Dennis Stoneburner Region 4

COMING NEXT ISSUE!!!

Complete instructions (handout form) on how to grow your rebloomers for optimum performance!
Don't touch that dial!

ADVERTISERS!

The next issue of the RIS Recorder will be the Spring Issue - the time when iris folk's thoughts turn to IRIS!

We invite you to send your "camera ready" ad copy,* *no later than April 15th* to insure that your message is in the hands of the folks who want it.

Our advertising rates remain the same for the Spring Issue:

✓ full-page - \$45 (limit one)**

✓ half-page - \$25

✓ quarter-page - \$15

✓ eighth-page - \$10

* rates negotiated case-by-case for non camera ready copy

** rate until we determine 'per page' cost

This is *your* audience!

Forward (with check payable to RIS, please) to:

Kathy Guest, Editor,
494 North Street, East Aurora, NY 14052-1446

MEMBERSHIP MESSAGE

submitted by Charlie Brown - Membership Chair

As of this writing (Ed: September) there are currently 930 active members in RIS.

Due to the change in membership year by AIS, *all memberships will end on December 31st*. There will no longer be a July expiration.

All members that had expiration dates for July 1, 1996 will receive the next issue of the *Recorder* (this one) and their membership has been extended to December, 1996. Any members with expiration dates in July of future years will be extended to the December of that year.



lros@loc.gov (Lois Rose)

Linda wrote that **ENGLISH COTTAGE** never rots for her. I have never had it rot, either, and I, too, have had my share of rot and almost every other iris disease in the book. In fact, most of Lloyd's rebloomers that I grow--**IMMORTALITY, BROTHER CARL, HARVEST OF MEMORIES, SPIRIT OF MEMPHIS, I BLESS, I DO, EARL OF ESSEX, BETHANY CLAIRE** (talk about a SUPER grower!)-have never had any tendency to rot for me, although other growers in my area (Virginia) have reported some.

However, I find with rebloomers in general that even if they do rot they are such fast growers that they usually increase faster than they rot. The same goes for their resistance to or ability to overcome other diseases as well.

Other advantages of rebloomers: Because they are such vigorous growers they put out a root system faster and are less apt to frost heave during winter. (This is important to me because I am usually late getting my irises planted and don't have time, energy, etc. to mulch my beds and remove the mulch in the spring.) And if they do happen to heave, they are more apt to survive being stuffed back in the mud in early spring.

I don't pamper my iris. So I have discovered over time which are hardy enough to survive in spite of me. Almost all my rebloomers are on that "hardy" list!

Lois Rose in Central Virginia 25 mi SW of Fredericksburg in southern Spotsylvania County



jwallen@BLomand.Net

Linda, your comments about rebloomers tolerating more organic material make sense. In other words.....

Rebloomers' rapid reproduction, requiring regular ration refills, retards rot rate.

Overusing organics on "oncens" offers ominous organisms optimum onset opportunities.

Julie A. Irwin

Keep those Slides Coming!

Thanks to Diana Nichols for efficient handling of the rebloomer slides - slides have gone to Arkansas, Texas, New Mexico & California & Oklahoma..

We are pleased to welcome *Olive Rice-Waters*, who will take on the task of Slides Chairman, effective with this announcement.

Remember to make 2 copies of your rebloomer slides - one for you and one for the RIS Slides Chairman!

REBLOOMING IRISES IN HARDINESS ZONE 4 MITCHELL, NEBRASKA

by LeRoy Meininger

I raise and sell iris now that I'm retired. I also am a hybridizer and trying to get iris seedlings that will rebloom in our part of the country. I have several seedlings that look promising. We just went through a 24 hour blizzard that sent our wind chill down to -52 degrees F! Absolutely brutal!

Here in Mitchell, Nebraska, elevation around 4,000 ft., the fall of 1994 was very kind to iris growers. We did not have a killing freeze until November first. Temperatures had dropped into the mid to upper 20's but the iris kept on blooming.

The following is a list of iris that rebloomed for us and did exceptionally well last fall: **PINK ATTRACTION** and **PEACH JAM** were outstanding. Also good were **VICTORIA FALLS**, **TOUCH OF SPRING**, **IMMORTALITY**, **VIOLET RETURNS**, **CORN HARVEST**, **KING'S TRIBUTE**, **I BLESS**, **HALLOWED THOUGHT**, **LICHEN**, **AUTUMN ELEGANCE**, **BOUNTIFUL HARVEST**, **ORCHID CLOUD** and **EARL OF ESSEX**. **SIVA SIVA** and **HOME COMING QUEEN** sent up stalks but didn't make it. Our thanks to the hybridizers who are making the fall reblooming season possible!

In 1995, our rebloom season was cut short by a killing freeze on September 18th, but the following iris did manage to rebloom: **GOLDEN CHILD**, **SUGAR BLUES**, **DUKE OF EARL**, **SPIRIT OF MEMPHIS**, **BUCKWHEAT**, **BONUS MAMA**, **IMMORTALITY** and **ROSALIE FIGGE**.

IRISES THEN AND NOW

1997 IRIS CALENDAR

It's time to order our twelfth annual iris calendar.

Make check to AIS; for single copies, send \$5.00. Quantity purchases come in packets of ten or multiples of ten; the price for packets of ten is \$30.00.

Order from Jerry Gifford, AIS Sales Director, P.O. Box 1414, Antioch, TN 37011

REFLECTIONS ON REBLOOMERS

by Bill Maryott

Remontancy is clearly the most important characteristic today in Tall Bearded Iris. As a long-time commercial grower located in downtown San Jose, California with over six thousand visitors each year, we have been overwhelmed with the interest in rebloomers by the general public. An article in the April, 1996 *Sunset* magazine resulted in even *more* visitors and phone calls. Traditionally, many of us dyed-in-the-wool irisarians knew that iris bloomed in the spring and we waited, sometimes very impatiently for their display. But the public wants no part of that; they want instant gratification. They want to buy irises, plant them and start seeing them bloom. They want rebloomers. No, actually they want *everbloomers*.

Reblooming irises are not something new. I have old catalogs from the 1930's with several pages of rebloomers. We have also been growing rebloomers for many years. ELEANOR ROOSEVELT, BLACK MAGIC and GIBSON GIRL come to mind. Then why is it that remontancy has suddenly taken on such a new, keen interest? Honestly, I'm not really sure, but I believe it may have to do with the tremendous improvement in flower quality.

We have pioneers such as Raymond Smith in Indiana who has devoted his life to reblooming irises. I visited him earlier this spring and found him absolutely delightful. Not only does he have an ongoing reblooming breeding program in a very harsh southern Indiana winter climate, but he handcrafts beautiful violins as a hobby. Lloyd Zurbrigg is another well-known breeder who has devoted many, many years to the pursuit of lovely rebloomers. We have been privileged to grow many of his irises.

Most of the major breeding efforts have occurred in the East. The interesting thing is that cold climate rebloomers are absolutely reliable rebloomers in the warm climates, but most of the warm climate rebloomers will not rebloom in the cold climates. Many of our best rebloomers have genes from cold climate rebloomers but were made in the West. BOUNTIFUL HARVEST is an example as it is bred from the very dependable EARL OF ESSEX.

I was in Missouri not too long ago on an iris tour in the Fall. We visited local gardens with beds of rebloomers in full bloom. The people were just ecstatic over the blooms. What I found interesting is that the quality of those flowers were of no comparison to the rebloomers we grow and sell. Of the 47 rebloomers we listed this year commercially, only one iris, the lovely CHAMPAGNE ELEGANCE was made in the East. All of the other rebloomers were made in mild climates.

Two breeders in California have been especially influential in modern warm climate rebloomers. Ben Hager made the wonderful MOTHER EARTH and INNER VISION. The late Monty Byers made ALL AMERICAN and MESMERIZER. Several of the other really nice rebloomers appear to just rebloom coincidentally. I don't believe there was a conscious effort to make rebloomers such as COMPOSED, FEMININE WILES, PAPRIKA FONOS, PERFECT COUPLE, MEGAN ELIZABETH and REITERATE.

I continue my breeding efforts with rebloomers. My own creations have become extremely popular with our customers and relatively unknown outside of our garden. TWICE TOLD is an interesting bicolor, BOOMERANG a lovely blend, SUNMASTER a modern ruffled yellow and PURE AS GOLD, a lovely formed gold with near everblooming tendencies here. Two older rebloomers so popular here that I'm not able to keep in stock are DOUBLE AGENT and SWEET REFLECTION. I have not publicized my own rebloomers much with the AIS for two reasons. First, they will likely not rebloom for folks in cold climates and secondly, they are usually sold out before the garden closes in the spring.

All seedlings that rebloom off season are retained until there is adequate stock to evaluate in the Spring. If the cultivar can compete against the best of breed in the Spring season, it is named and introduced. If the cultivar does not meet the quality of the latest "oncens", it should be destroyed. I have perhaps a half dozen rebloomers in the reselect beds being watched at this time for future introduction. I would like to encourage anyone interested in hybridizing to consider working with remontancy. It is one of THE most important characteristics a tall bearded iris can have.

FALL REBLOOMING SHOW & SALE

The Leo T. Clark Iris Society presented its sixth annual re-blooming show and sale at the North Valley Plaza Mall in Chico California. There were 28 entries and 7 artistic arrangements shown on October 19th and 20th. A display table exhibited several less than perfect rebloomers for the public viewing. Ten anxious exhibitors awaited the decisions of judges, Besse Garner, John Garner, Daniel Johnson and Roger Jensen and artistic judge Patricia Cossell. Best arrangement was won by National Flower Judge Erna Garton. Junior member Kris Kooi won best arrangement in the junior division. Way to go Kris!!! Best tall bearded - a beautiful stalk of Autumn Tryst was entered by Anna Lee Hansen. Best dwarf - Dark Crystal was entered by Bob Annand. Best median and Queen of Show was Precious Little Pink shown by Claudia Owen. Of course the most often asked question as always was - How do you get them to bloom this time of the year? A very successful rhizome sale of beardless irises and reblooming irises was realized under the command of co-chairman, Arthur Goodwin. It was the first time our Society had a complete sell-out of rhizomes! Art is an excellent salesman and extremely knowledgeable of most all the varieties of irises. He is the only one I know that has the book "The World of Iris" almost worn out due to use. We were surprised how well the beardless irises were received and all sold. Some members are working on having a second Spring show in May so the beardless irises have a chance to be seen by the public. A second show would enable iris growers at the higher elevations to exhibit their bearded irises as their bloom season runs two to three weeks later than in the valley.

Some of the irises seen at the show were: Hemstitched, Feedback (2) Zurich, Belvi Queen, Billionaire, Barn Dance, Duke of Earl (3) Autumn Tryst (3), Bountiful Harvest, Smell the Roses (3), Little Show Off, Flower Shower, Darkling, Sparkplug, Dark Crystal, Sunshine Boy, Lo Ho Silver, I Bless and Precious Little Pink.

submitted by Rex L. Clark



HAVING A FALL SHOW??

Don't forget to send in your report to the RIS Recorder so that we can all enjoy it!

Sharp pictures too!

CHESAPEAKE & POTOMAC FALL SHOW

The C&P Fall Show was held on Saturday, October 19, 1996 at Behnke's Nursery in Beltsville, Maryland. There were 10 exhibitors that presented 47 stalks for judging. Martha and Joe Griner of Region 19 were the judges.

Our theme was Returning Beauty. We had a bountiful pot-luck lunch provided by Clarence & Suky Mahan. We enjoyed the public as well as the Behnke's staff members coming in to view and ask *lots* of questions about these reblooming irises.


AWARD	IRIS	EXHIBITOR
Queen	Waves of Grain - Byers	Ginny Spoon
1st Runner Up	Frost Echo - Aitken	Ginny Spoon
2nd Runner Up	Haven - Byers (IB)	Ginny Spoon
3rd Runner Up	Bountiful Harvest - Hager	Ginny Spoon

Show results were:

Silver Medal	Ginny Spoon
Bronze Medal	Gladys Lee

The show contained 22 TB's, 12 medians and 13 seedlings. Those of you who couldn't attend missed out on another part of our expanding Iris World!

submitted by Ginny Spoon

 CEMahan@aol.com

In a message dated 96-08-21 Lloyd Zurbrigg writes:

>Dare we mention the good Doc Brown? For all around grow-ability, especially in the North, no one has equaled some of his things! And if you want a landscape iris...

Lloyd has arrived! How wonderful. Welcome, dear man! We have been talking about you on-line for months, so now you are here! Since Mike brought up G. Percy Brown, truly one of the greatest breeders of iris of all time, despite the lack of recognition afforded him, I will tell you a little story. Last month at the C&P Iris Society July iris sale, people donated more rebloomers than any other types of irises. And someone bought almost a bushel of rhizomes of the iris G. PERCY BROWN. Of course, it is now passé, but it does rebloom! Most of the rhizomes were left over, and we gave all of the ones left over to the new Central VA Iris Society....so when you visit Richmond in the future you are going to see acres of G. PERCY BROWN blooming and reblooming.

AN APOLOGY FROM A SENIOR CITIZEN

North Carolina is much less conducive to getting good iris rebloom than were the foothills of western Virginia. The summer heat is doubtless the reason, for the nights seldom bring relief from the heat, and the plants just aestivate. I hate being without rebloom at the time of the Region' 4 Fall Shows.

Seeking to add new colors to the existing rebloomer varieties may be part of my trouble. Certainly I have tried to get blue-bearded pastels to rebloom, and it seems a difficult goal to be trying to effect. After promising myself to leave hybridizing of reds to others, I have made a few crosses in that difficult area, with LADY FRIEND as a pivotal parent.

Another line that has captured my fancy is the Space-Age novelties. This has been difficult to work with, and I have been at it for twenty-five years. The late Monty Byers gave popularity to this group of iris, and he and his partner grew seedlings from SKY HOOKS at the rate of 30,000 a year. Many of these were not fully hardy in the East, but all were characterized by better-formed blossoms, and mostly more consistency in the spoons and flounces. We traded seedlings, and at once I found that the use of his things greatly improved the form in my seedlings.

Immediately, I wished to get reblooming Space-Agers. Monty gave us three or four, but they did not rebloom with any regularity in Virginia. I have used RENOWN, CLARENCE and NORTHWARD HO in this line for remontancy GODSEND and MESMERIZER for the Space-Age factor. It is worth noting that MESMERIZER reblooms well in parts of California. I got my first fall bloom on a Space-Ager 15 years ago, but a really good and reliable one still evades me.

Perhaps I shall have to move further north to get the rebloom? Perhaps just new ground here? Perhaps move to the west coast where rebloom is so much easier?

submitted by Lloyd Zurbrigg



e_galla@moose.ncia.net

I also have one Siberian that really rebloomed as opposed to continuous blooming. ILLINI ENCORE came back about 4 weeks after initial bloom and then three weeks after that - but the last bloom was almost on the ground. I have three I.E. because I am partial to lavender pink and red-wine, red-violet SIs. Only one rebloomed.

Ellen Gallagher NH

huh???

This being a 'full-service' publication, and Lloyd having stumped both the Editor and the President, we offer the following (paragraph 1 of "An Apology..")

(A)estivate: a combination of two words meaning 'heat' and 'summer'

1. to pass the summer
2. *zool.* to pass the summer in a state of *torpor*

Torpor: a state of mental and motor inactivity with partial or total insensibility; suspended animation; dormancy, sluggishness or stagnation of function; lethargy, apathy.

Spring Season, 1996.

Lloyd Zurbrigg

Hurrah for a season without a killing late frost. I understand that growers north of North Carolina were not so lucky. The last freeze here was late in March, and I brought inside all the flats of iris seeds, and put them under light and gave them heat, resulting in remarkably good germination. Is it not possible that germination starts outdoors and then the nascent seedlings are killed by a heavy freeze?

The highlight here was a sterling performance of BLESSED ASSURANCE. The stalks had been a cause of concern, but they were just fine. It will be a short IB, but is about 3" taller than SUN DOLL, and nearly an inch wider at the haft, and just as bright, but in daffodil yellows. Now, if we can get a good season for rebloom, this one should really strut its stuff! It set two pods here, and several more at the Roberts's garden in Maryland.

The latest attempts to get reblooming Space-Agers were tentative. Perhaps the best was out of ZURICH, but it was not introduction material. I have been using MESMERIZER a lot, with such rebloomers as RENOWN and SUNNY DISPOSITION and NORTHWARD HO. GODSEND is another I have used a lot, and continue to remember Monty Byers and thank him for providing such beautiful flowers. Another nice one is from ANEW, a white with yellow haft and blue horns.

A pink seedling from HANDS UP won best seedling at the FSK Show in Baltimore in May, but it has little or no rebloom behind it. A pink with pink flounces was taken to Leesburg VA and the Region 4 Spring Show; had it been the stalk that I saw in the garden of Anne and Michael Lowe, it would have elicited "raves" This is a GODSEND seedling from one of my Space-Age seedlings.

Along the same line are some seedlings from NORTHWARD HO X ROCK STAR. Oddly enough, the very best in color waited until this year to bloom. They may therefore be of less use in getting remontants, but they have been put to work nevertheless. The most exciting had rich apricot background with dark raspberry markings generously applied, and superb form. I like ROCK STAR, and it performs well here.

Yet another approach was the cross PINKNESS X GOD-SEND. These tended to be narrow, but a few were good, and several had horns. The best was almost an orange-pink, with good horns on all blossoms. PINKNESS has not rebloomed here, but grows very well, and the seedlings in this cross were wonderful in growth.

With all these attempts, it seems most likely that some new and exciting rebloomers will appear by the year 2000



GOT A QUESTION?????

Our president has asked me to have a *Question and Answer Department* in the *Reblooming Iris Recorder*. We will have a panel of growers who will answer your questions, not just myself, and we trust this will be of help to some of our iris growers and hybridizers. Please send questions to me at:

Dr. Lloyd Zurbrigg
Box 52444
Durham, NC 27717.

Question: For the first time I have a blooming stalk on CHE-RIE, an early Dykes. This has been reported before, I'm told, but I wonder how often and in what parts of the country (zone and state). I also wonder what made mine rebloom this fall!! I've had the Dykes bed for 30 years. R.Y.F.

Question: A big surprise - at least for me - or has anyone else had MT. COOK A' DAWNING (S. Foote '72) rebloom for them? Some years ago, I had an interesting experience at a national AIS meeting. I was trying to take a picture of MT. COOK A' DAWNING without all the feet of some people behind it, so I politely explained that it was one of my very favorite irises and would they please step aside. They did, and the woman explained that her father with her - Mr. Foote - had hybridized it, so I took the three generation picture... the granddaughter was also present. The moral... Always be complimentary! R.Y.F.

A History The *Triple R* Reblooming Robin

In 1950 Edwin Rundlett of Staten Island wrote in the American Iris Society (AIS) Bulletin asking for people to join a Reblooming Robin. Twelve people responded including the famous hybridizer Doc Percy Brown and our own Bonnie Haney. Bonnie is the only charter member remaining.

After a while more people asked to join the robin and Edwin decided to start another flight. He asked the twelve original members to choose a name for their robin as another was to be formed. A member from Falls Church, Virginia named Ellen Crouch chose *Triple R* which stood for Reblooming Round Robin. Our name was born!

Edwin died September 12, 1982. He was very instrumental in organizing the Reblooming Iris Society (RIS) which became a Section of AIS in 1963. He also was the first editor of the *Reblooming Recorder* then known as the *Reblooming Bulletin*. He received the Distinguished Service Medal of the AIS in 1969.

Rick Tasco

Kathy Guest adds....

Joining a ROBIN is one of the most satisfying things an irisarian can do. This is your opportunity to learn from the pros, ask any questions you may have and share stories, problems and questions about rebloomers in your own Zone, Region and Garden!

To join, just send a request to Dudley Carson (address in front of RECORDER). It's a wonderful way to make that winter pass!

say your piece

Rosalie Figge reports that the RIS Bylaws are currently undergoing revision... so if you have a suggestion, a comment, a complaint or an observation, please advise ASAP so that they may consider while reviewing the bylaws.

WHY Rebloomers? - Why NOT?

by Rosalie Yerkes Figge

The title expresses the right idea. If you enjoy irises once, why not *twice*? - Or even thrice in some cases? The former President of the Reblooming Iris Society said at least five years ago that Rebloomers will *take* over the iris world in another twenty-five years, and that is happening. Already, two of the leading bearded iris suppliers are listing a few possible Rebloomers.

The Rebloomers (Remontants, for the purists) are one kind of iris where the demand is greater than the supply. The old criticism of their worth is no longer appropriate. The modern form and colors are as beautiful as any regular one-time bloomer, and they are just as easy to grow. And just think how they fit in with today's economical pattern of re-cycling

There are some (misguided) people who feel these special treats of horticulture should "do their thing" with no extra help. Rebloomer lovers disagree. Don't you praise your child for good grades? Don't you compliment your spouse for looking especially attractive? Some plants, like some people will continue their display in spite of all odds - look at the weeds!

BUT! Anything worth having is worth that extra bit of encouragement, such as extra water if rain is scarce. That is important for most perennials, and Rebloomers can be intermingled with your roses and other flowers that don't want to be kept soggy all the time. In fact, they will mix better with other plants than the onceers. A little extra fertilizer would not be amiss, a treatment of MIRACLE-GRO helps, or whatever you usually use just work it around the plant area. But WATER is the keyword.

Please note: Not all irises have the ability to rebloom - or to rebloom in all climates. It is a genetic trait. Therefore, it is necessary to start out with Rebloomers that are known to rebloom in your part of the country. The reliable suppliers of Rebloomers will mark "RE" in their catalogs for those irises that have rebloomed in their own gardens and "re" for those reported to rebloom elsewhere, listing where. This enables the gardener to buy those known to rebloom in their own area, taking a

gamble if they want to select the others just as an experiment.

The growth cycle of Rebloomers is accelerated, and their peak bloom is a week to ten days before the onceers. Then the Rebloomers retire to re-group so the other irises can reap the admiration due them. However, the Rebloomers are busy getting ready for their next 'show'. This can occur during the summer, through the fall, and on and on like the Duracell battery'. The stopper is a heavy frost. It is not unknown to have bloom - even at Christmas!

Remember that all irises need about a half-day of sun, and the bearded need well-drained beds. When creating a new bed, there are certain 'goodies' that can be worked into the newly tilled area such as 10-10-10 or 5-10-10 fertilizer, or the extra treat of superphosphate 0-44-0 (or whatever the number between the zeros - it used to be 0-30-0). It is especially good for irises because they do not need a high-nitrogen content that is used for vegetables and leafy plants. In the last few years, those of us in the East have learned about ALFA-BITS a secret that the western growers have used; with such success. It helps with soil that has lost its virginity! After all, the farmers plow back alfalfa in their fields for natural fertilizer (a kind of "gold in them thar hills"), so why not useful for the gardens. The horse food formula is preferred over that for rabbits. It comes in several forms. The large chunks are too big because of the time involved for crushing. The meal is too fine to distribute easily. But the pellets are just right! They are about the size of a pencil eraser. The best place to find ALFA-BITS is in a feed Store near horse country. Call first! Other "goodies" are peat moss and horse manure, the latter called "black gold". Be sure fresh manure is not against the rhizomes. All this should be well mixed before planting. It is ideal to have a soft rain the night before planting and another afterwards. How much of this you do all depends on the kind of soil you have.

When it comes to planting the rhizome, that again is done according to the time of year and the kind of soil. In this area, [Maryland/Virginia .ed] the rhizomes should be planted even with the soil surface so the sun can warm them, unless you plant late (September). Then, have them just barely covered so they won't

heave during the freezing and thawing during the winter.

The closer the plants are placed, the sooner they will need to be replanted. However, there is a feeling that rebloomers do better if irritated by moving! Someone has even suggested just lifting the rhizome out of the ground and replacing. In any case, plant from 10 to 24 inches apart, depending on your expectations. Be sure other plants (if you mix them in a bed) do not overshadow the rhizome so it gets no sun. The rhizome you plant will bloom only once (this is true of all bearded irises). The increases (like little bumps) along the sides are the "daughter" rhizomes, which will produce the next blooms and the increases on them become the granddaughter one, etc. If the irises are not dug every three or four years, the increases become tangled, sort of interdigitated, and that cuts down on the bloom. Dig with a garden fork (better than a spade which cuts off roots, and the soil can be shaken off the rhizomes as they are dug). Separate the rhizomes carefully, discarding the old rhizomes and replant the new fans, perhaps sharing the extras with others. At this time, cut the green fans to 8 or so inches. This prevents the tall leaves from being so top-heavy that the plant topples over and thus out of the ground. Routinely cutting leaves of all irises throughout the garden in August as our parents did, is not recommended - only when transplanted.

Note that the fans grow from the center out, spreading at the top. When the outer leaves have turned brown, they will come off easily with a slight tug. Do not pull more strongly. This creates a wound susceptible to invasion of possible problems. Browning leaves should be cut off to keep the beds clean, in order to eliminate all debris for egg laying borers. CYGON-2 can be sprayed for the borer and BENLATE for leafspot. The leaves can be trimmed and discarded, although the spottedness does not harm the iris, but they are an eyesore.

After the bloom season, break off the old stalk at ground level with a quick back and forth snap movement of the stalk - or cut at rhizome level so that a hard white area shows - not tinged greenish which is softer and allows rot to set in.

It should be noted that some beardless irises also have the ability to rebloom - only the hybridizers prefer the term "repeaters". The irises "repeat" almost immediately after the initial bloom season, within a possible two weeks, and continue sporadically, but with no great rush or show.

Now for a serious discussion about water! For years I depended on God to water my irises, the garden and grass. Some people still do, and depending on the rains and their soil, may get by. However, one year when it was particularly dry, I (not being an enthusiastic hose-lugger) noticed there was practically no rebloom in my garden. What a blow for a Rebloomer advocate as well as a clear indication that Rebloomers really need more water. I have been very happy that a friend introduced me to soaker hoses, now that I have a more extensive area for Rebloomers (and Japanese and Siberians). The hose needs to be laid up and down between the rows -- the soaker waters about six inches on each side. The water goes where it is needed - on the roots, and not the leaves. It may seem expensive and troublesome at first, but they may be left throughout the season and over the winter. This saves water and also my energy since I do not have to lug that heavy hose around. God still takes care of the grass and regular irises. Bearded irises should not be mulched. Mulch the bed, if you like, but keep the rhizome exposed to the sun. Mulch may be used to cover the soaker hose, of course. Some people think mulch cuts down on leaf spot because the dirt does not splash up on the irises when it rains.

I hope you have now been converted to Rebloomers. It is so rewarding to have this beautiful flower brighten the garden in the fall. AND such fun to astound the uninitiated who are not aware of the phenomenon of this versatile flower. AND if you are a flower show enthusiast, what easier way to snare that coveted blue ribbon with a fall-blooming iris properly exhibited!

Reprinted from Horticultural Society of Maryland - October, 1996

✱ *Remontant (a Haiku by Julie Allen)*

*Leaves no longer green,
Air so crisp and cool, and yet
Here an iris blooms*

MORE THOUGHTS ON IRIS REMONTANCY ORIGINS - Clarence Mahan

Last year an iris breeder whom I greatly admire told me that he disagreed with my view that remontancy in irises is genetically dominant. I was taken aback by his comment. I told him I do not recall ever thinking that remontancy might be dominant, let alone write or speak such an idea. He remained convinced that I had written an article in support of this view despite my protestations.

Several years ago I wrote an article for the *Reblooming Iris Recorder* to present some facts, ideas, and tentative conclusions on the source of reblooming tendencies in modern bearded irises ("The Origins of Remontancy", Vol. 35, Fall 1989). In this article, which was subsequently reprinted in the *AIS Bulletin* (No. 277, April 1990), I suggested that the source of the reblooming characteristic in modern bearded irises might be heterosis, i.e. hybrid vigor.

In "The Origins of Remontancy", I noted that William Rickatson Dykes was the first to observe that an iris that tends to rebloom is likely to be an interspecific hybrid. But that does not mean that all hybrids, even in the first generation, are going to evidence rebloom tendencies—just those cultivars which result from interspecific breeding where the vigor of growth and bloom has been greatly magnified over that of the parent species.

If remontancy results from heterosis, it would not be transmitted to progeny as either a dominant or a recessive characteristic. Heterosis is the increase in such characteristics as size, growth rate, fertility and yield of a hybrid organism over those of its parents., which are genetically different from one another. In the first generation, hybrid plants and animals frequently, but not always, show, in greater measure, desired characteristics of both parents. If the hybrid line is continued without introducing new genetic material, studies have shown that hybrid vigor diminishes in subsequent generations.

All modern bearded irises are hybrids, but not all of them evidence vigor, let alone rebloom. On the other hand, irises which demonstrate a strong proclivity for reblooming are exceptionally vigorous. As John Burton has written ("Understanding Rebloom," *Reblooming Iris*

Recorder, Vol. 39, Fall, 1981), "All the reblooming varieties that I have grown were vigorous growers and prodigious increasers, whether they rebloomed for me or not." In cold, wet winter regions, such as northern Virginia where I garden, even the warm weather rebloomers tend to be exceptionally vigorous—they just aren't rebloomers in this climate. One of the characteristics of remontant irises that points to heterosis as a source of rebloom is this great vigor that they demonstrate.

One of the characteristics of remontant irises that points to heterosis as a source of rebloom is this great vigor that they demonstrate

If heterosis is primarily responsible for rebloom in modern irises, we could draw some significant conclusions. Hybrid vigor decreases in later generations if new genetic material is not introduced into the

breeding. Consequently, strict line breeding would not likely produce irises that rebloom better than their ancestors. In fact, line breeding would likely produce less rebloom in subsequent generations. For example, crossing IMMORTALITY with itself, or with I DO, one of its parents, or with MATRIX, or ZURICH, i.e. its progeny, would have less potential for obtaining improved reblooming seedlings than crossing IMMORTALITY with a vigorous iris which has a different heritage.

Most of the best cold weather rebloomers introduced during the past several decades have resulted from crossing strong rebloomers with vigorous irises having different genetic material in their makeup. The best reblooming pinks, i.e. PINK ATTRACTION, JENNIFER REBECCA, PINKNESS, have come from crosses between a strong rebloomer with VANITY. All of Monty Byers rebloomers seem to be the result of fairly wide crosses, e.g. ETERNAL BLISS, BUCKWHEAT, ZURICH. Several strong rebloomers have come from wide crosses involving VIOLET MIRACLE and vigorous irises having a different background, e.g. ROSALIE FIGGE, MATRIX, VIOLET MUSIC. FEED BACK and QUEEN DOROTHY are progeny of PERFUME COUNTER and rebloomers from different lines, i.e. CLOUD BARON and RE-TREAT.

One exception to this wide cross rule is LATE LILAC, whose parents were both the result of RIPPLING WATERS X LOVELY LETTY. Still, these two irises were out of Hall and Fay pink lines, in which much diversity appears. Unfortunately, the pedigrees of these two irises involve many numbered seedlings whose parentage is not readily ascertainable. We do know that Hall

was still using *I. pallida* in his breeding just a few generations removed from RIPPLING WATERS.

Probably IMMORTALITY is as close to a "line-bred" iris as any modern rebloomer. The cross that produced it was I DO X ENGLISH COTTAGE. Both of these parents have GRAND BAROQUE in their lines, and in earlier generations, strong heritage from REPLICATA and GIBSON GIRL. But GRAND BAROQUE came from a wide cross, i.e. HENRY SHAW X REPLICATA, and there are a number of irises out of diverse lines in IMMORTALITY'S ancestry, e.g. AMETHYST FLAME, CRISPETTE, CRINKLED IVORY, and ROCOCO.

The desirability of using wide crosses to get rebloomers is not an original idea. Lloyd Zurbrigg concluded this many years ago. He expressed this view in an excellent article he wrote for the Reblooming Iris Recorder (Vol. 39, Fall 1991): "Whatever your goal, you may have to out-cross from it to get some desired characteristics. With remontancy, it has been necessary to out-cross to the best once-blooming varieties."

If the best chance for getting new, improved reblooming irises is by crossing strong rebloomers with vigorous irises with different genetic material in their backgrounds, we are fortunate that bearded irises have a rich genetic heritage from many diverse species. And we still have species material to work with. Only a few iris breeders are introducing "pure" species irises into their breeding programs, but this would be a promising approach to take to get reblooming seedlings if heterosis is the primary source of rebloom. This route is not easy because one often gets "old fashioned irises" from crosses using iris species.


For more than a decade, Dr. D. C. Nearpass has been working on developing miniature tall bearded irises which have flowers that are miniature replicas of tall bearded iris flowers. Dr. Nearpass, believing this goal will likely be obtained only at the tetraploid level, introduced several forms of *I. aphylla* into his breeding. From this *I. aphylla* breeding, a number of seedlings have shown a strong proclivity for rebloom. This is further evidence supporting the view that heterosis is the primary reason some irises rebloom.

In looking for potential parents to cross with cold weather rebloomers to get good reblooming seedlings

there is one avenue I do not recommend. Dr. Zurbrigg told me long ago that crossing cold weather rebloomers with warm weather rebloomers was not likely to be a productive course of action. This is because warm weather rebloomers contain too much genetic material from *I. mesopotamica*.

Of course I had to learn the hard way. From a number of crosses using good cold weather rebloomers and good warm weather rebloomers, I obtained only one seedling that ever rebloomed. And after six years, it has never rebloomed again. In the future I shall listen to Lloyd Zurbrigg and avoid wasting my time.

I do not know if heterosis is the source of rebloom in modern bearded irises. It is, however, a logical explanation. Until it is disproved, I am going to continue to use it as the working hypothesis in any breeding I do for reblooming irises. On the other hand, I welcome any evidence that can be put forth to prove or disprove it.

 gigi.hall@mtv.gtegsc.com (Gigi Hall)

Karin Hinson wrote:

I am looking for names of JI that rebloom in the mild west coast climates.

Gigi answered:

Five Japanese Iris (JI) have rebloomed for me this fall: Abundant Display, Haku Botan, Izu No Umi, and Worley Pink. The fifth was one of my dark purples, and I don't recall the variety this moment.

The JI rebloomers are like the bearded rebloomers. Some are dependable, and seem to rebloom at the same time each year. Others are sporadic rebloomers, and either don't rebloom every year or rebloom reliably only in mild coastal climates. Of the above, Izu No Umi, is the most reliable - it has October bloomed for me two years out of the last three. It rebloomed in gardens in Fremont (mine), Mountain View (Barbara Gordon) and Los Altos (Edie Guidoux) this fall - Gigi


AIS AWARDS TO REBLOOMING IRISES

by John Weiler

Each of the past several years, reblooming irises have been appearing in increasing numbers on the AIS awards lists. This is a strong and unbiased indication the remountants are competing successfully with once-blooming cultivars. A careful search through the 1995 AIS awards with verification of rebloom in the Checklist of Reblooming Irises indicates that the trend is continuing. All iris cultivars receiving AIS awards in 1995 which have been reported to rebloom are listed below. Some, particularly those which have been on the market for several years have rebloomed in many areas and different climates of the United States. Others have been reported to rebloom only once. Those that have rebloomed only in one area may eventually be proven to be dependable remountants over a much wider area but others will continue to rebloom only in a limited area.

To help those selecting reblooming cultivars for the gardens, I have indicated both the state(s) where rebloom has been recorded (by official abbreviations) and, when the information is available, the USDA hardiness zone(s) where rebloom has occurred (numbers in parentheses). Of the two, the hardiness zones have been more useful in predicting rebloom for a cultivar in an area where it has not been tested. Thus, if a cultivar has rebloomed in hardiness zone 5 in Salt Lake City, UT it is highly likely it will rebloom in hardiness zone 5 elsewhere around the country such as Omaha, NE or upstate NY.



 VBrown7688@aol.com

Finally I have some more rebloom. Today we have **ON DEMAND** blooming and bloomstalks on **PENNY CANDY** and **BABY BLESSED**. **ON DEMAND** is one of the most reliable rebloomers I have. This little IB blooms twice a year, every year. I just love it. **PENNY CANDY** has me a little confused. #1, it's an MDB which I usually have trouble with and #2 - it's not listed in my 1988 Cumulative Rebloomer List as a rebloomer. I don't believe it's ever rebloomed for me before, but it sure is fixing to now.

BABY BLESSED is another trusty rebloomer. I hope this is the start of many more.

Dana Brown, Lubbock TX

1995 AWARDS at a Glance...

JOHN C WISTER MEDAL

(Runner Up)

Champagne Elegance (Niswonger) CA, CO, KS, MD, MO, NE, NM, NY, OK, OR, PA, TX, WA. (5,6,7,8,9)

KNOWLTON MEDAL

(Runner Up)

Sonja's Selah (Ensminger) CA. (9)

COOK-DOUGLAS MEDAL

Serenity Prayer (Dyer) OK. (7)

(Runner Up)

Plum Wine (Weiler) AZ, CA, MD, MO, NE, NY, OH, OK, OR, SC, TX, UT, VA, WA, WI (5,6,7,8,9)

C. G. WHITE MEDAL

Persian Padishah (Shockey) NM (7)

AWARD OF MERIT

TB

City Lights (M. Dunn) CA, KY, TX(7,8,9)
Suky (Mahan) CA, VA, Ontario, Canada (5,7,9)

(Runners Up)

Busy Being Blue (Denney) CA. (9)
Lemon Fever (Maryott) CA. (9)

IB (Runners Up)

Kermit (Ensminger) TX. (CA)
Hissy Fit (Innerst) CA. (9)

SDB

Comeback Trail (H. Nichols) OK. (6)

MTB

Ozark Sky (Fisher) CA. (9)

HONORABLE MENTION

TB

Clarence (Zurbrigg) CA, IA, NC, PA, TX, VA. (5,6,7,9)
Cannington Bluebird (Bartlett) CA, TX. (7,9)

SDB

Little Blue Eyes (Weiler) CA, NE. (5,9)
Indian Beauty (Weiler) CA, ID, OK, TX. (6,7,8,9)

SUCCESSFUL FALL SHOW IN CENTRAL CALIFORNIA

The second reblooming iris show for the southern Central Valley was held at Hanford, California on November 4, 1995. Sponsored jointly by Kings and Sequoia Iris Societies, this is expected to be an annual affair and welcomes all types of irises which rebloom in autumn. Both horticultural and artistic competition stunned the public at a shopping mall, a public accustomed to expect iris bloom only in spring.

In the horticultural section, ten exhibitors accounted for fifty-one specimens. Bearded irises dominated the show with most specimens coming equally from TB and SDB classes, although IB and MTB were also represented. The surprise of the show was a beautiful specimen of the Japanese Iris **GAY GALLANT**. For the artistic division, all entries featured irises. Competitors created arrangements from small to quite large. The best arrangement in the show was a very large design with sweeping lines by Dorothy Dominici entitled "I Love Irises".

AIS awards for horticultural classes follow:

Silver Medal (*most blue ribbons*): Ray Bearden, Madera CA
Bronze Medal (*second most blue ribbons*) George Sutton, Porterville, CA
Best Seedling - John Weiler for 87-81-1RE, SDB yellow ground plicata.

AIS special rosettes and club trophies were awarded as follows:

Award	Iris	Exhibitor
Best Specimen of the Show	Leprechaun's Delight	Ray Bearden
Best Tall Bearded	Violet Music	John Weiler
Best Japanese Iris	Gay Gallant	Ed Matheny III
Best MTB	Lady Emma	George Sutton
Best SDB	Leprechaun's Delight	Ray Bearden
Best Plicata	Auroralita	Ray Bearden
Best Jim Gibson Introduction	Cayennne Capers	Diana Hughes

Although it has proven difficult to select a date when a large number of remountants will be reblooming, the smaller show with reblooming irises attracts enormous interest from the public. Since this is true, plans are being made to hold autumn iris shows each year, sponsored by one or more of the three local iris societies within a thirty mile radius in central California.

 DFingerhoo@aol.com

In a message dated 96-11-14 14:18:08 EST, Rick Tasco wrote:

<< OK, now it's up to the rest of you--what's reblooming in your garden today! This kind of report would help those of us interested in rebloomers to see what's reblooming where. No offense intended for those of you who are freezing or under snow right now. >>

Well, Rick, there's a frozen stalk of **QUEEN DOROTHY** under a couple inches of snow---(reminds me, I have to get out there and take care of that, or the plant will rot!) Does that count?

Anyway, welcome to the list. I remember your **RUFFLED GODDESS** from a recent convention--and I don't find all of the guests memorable!

Dorothy Fingerhood, NY

No Till Gardening

by Francis Gouin, Professor Emeritus

Have you ever wondered why you spade or rototill the garden every year? If you are doing it mostly to make it easier to plant or to make it look more attractive, you are doing more damage to the soil than if you were to leave it alone. If you are rototilling or spading for the purpose of incorporating lime or organic matter, then you are improving the soil. But simply spading or rototilling the soil for visual effects destroys the soil structure as well as the organic matter contained in the soil. Further tilling promotes drying of the soil, and eventually prevents roots from penetrating deeply by compacting the soil beneath the disturbed layer, creating what is known as a plow pan. With time this plow pan hardens and becomes impervious to water and plant roots. That is why farmers have to sub-soil and why gardeners have to double-dig.

In other words, we have learned over the years that plowing, rototilling and cultivating soils, on a regular basis, often does more harm than good. If the soil is in good tilth, it is best to leave it alone. That is the principle for promoting no-till farming. No-till not only encourages the accumulation of organic matter in soils, but encourages deep penetration of plant roots thus making the plants more drought tolerant. No-till also encourages earthworms to invade the garden. Earthworms do not like to occupy soils that are disturbed regularly. Many people often wonder why they don't have earthworms in their garden. Now you know why. Mother Nature doesn't plow, rototill, or spade.

No-till gardening requires less energy, less time, less fertilizer and results in stronger and more drought tolerant plants and fewer weeds. Every time you disturb the soil you bring more dormant weed seeds to the surface to germinate and grow. If you were to cultivate your garden in the dark, you would have fewer weeds because the germination of most of our annual weeds is triggered by exposure to light. Also every time you disturb the soil you destroy organic matter and

No-till gardening requires less energy, less time, less fertilizer and results in stronger and more drought tolerant plants and fewer weeds

you discourage worms, the natural aerators of good earth. A soil that is productive is one that is biologically alive with microorganisms, worms, and other crawling things.

The technology for no-till gardening is ideally suited for the flower garden. Once you have improved your soil by incorporating lots of compost or other organic materials into it, stop working it. After raking away the surface debris in the spring, plant the flowers and mulch with compost. The debris that you removed from the garden will become the compost for mulching the garden in the fall or next spring. Now that we have a bountiful supply of commercial compost available, let the compost feed the plants as well as serve as mulch. If weeds become a problem, simply use a sharp hoe and cut the weeds off just at the soil line and do it in the evening or on a very cloudy day. A sharp hoe that is used properly will scarcely disturb the surface of the soil while effectively decapitating annual weeds. You don't have to grub them out of the ground unless they are perennial weeds. Annual weeds do not accumulate reserves in their roots and their roots do not develop adventitious buds that will develop into new plants from roots. However, allowing weeds to grow several inches tall makes hoeing difficult and results in disturbing the soil and exposing more weed seeds to germinate. You will soon learn that the

less you disturb the soil, the fewer weeds will grow. Once your garden grows dense, weeds will become less of a problem because competition will shade them out. Persistent perennial weeds such as Bermuda grass, nutsedge, quackgrass, dandelions, etc. may have to be controlled with 'Roundup'. 'Roundup' applied as a directed gentle spray, or with a paint roller or paint brush, will permanently kill perennial weeds without disturbing the soil or leaving a soil residue.

Your garden soil will improve by leaps and bounds by simply feeding and mulching your plants with compost, and worms will return. You will find that your plants will be more drought resistant as their roots will penetrate deeper into the ground. The roots of the new plants will

follow the channels created by the worms and the roots of the previously grown plants. Gardening will become more pleasurable because you will be enjoying it more while working at it less. Since perennial gardens are essentially grown no-till, why not make the annual garden no-till also?

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Some discussions on fertilizing.....

 73372.1745@compuserve.com

What kind to use? My first concern is to "feed" the soil. I test it, and compensate for deficiencies in preparing the beds for planting. Next, I think in terms of feeding the plant. For iris, that means a mixture with at least as much potash as nitrogen -- usually more. Save the high-nitrogen fertilizer for the veggies.

When? By the life cycle of the plants, not the calendar. Late summer/early fall, when the plants break their summer dormancy. Late winter/early spring, when they break their winter dormancy. Periodic foliar feeding through the spring growth spurt.

Notice how I dodged the question of how much? My soil test kits came with excellent instructions -- too much to post here. Plants, like people, benefit from a balanced diet.

Too much nitrogen is said to make iris susceptible to rot. This seems quite logical to me, although I haven't been able to prove it in our naturally nitrogen-poor soil.

Too much phosphorus is said to lead to bloomout. I have to agree with this, because I've had much less bloomout even in the TBs since I stopped using superphosphate in our naturally phosphorus-rich soil.

Too much potash produces large rhizomes and a massive root system, which does make digging rather hard on the gardener's back.

Sharon McAllister Southern New Mexico



 FPKT93A@prodigy.com

Here is a comment from Texas. I have over 200 reblooming varieties. I fertilize about 3 times a year with a mixture of 17-17-17, super phosphate and timed-release 13-13-13. I use about 2 table-spoonsful per plant worked into the sand about 4-6 inches away from the plant. I usually wait until there is rain forecast and apply so that the rain washes the mixture into the soil. We try not to water too much here because of the heat and sun. Too wet plants get rot, but this year we have not had the problem. For the Rebloomers, I fertilize early spring after last frost, again in late May to early June, and then again in October. This year I did the fertilizer early since we did not get summer or spring rains. Now we are getting 2-3 inches every 10 days.

Charlie Brown, TX

 KOEKKOEK@dordt.edu (Arnold Koekkoek)

Linda commented on the fertilization of reblooming iris=great growth and if some rot it didn't matter much because the growth kept ahead of it. But, watch out with the non-rebloomer.

That advice confirms what our club was told by Dr. Garland Bare, Lincoln, NE, who is probably this region's resident expert and chief enthusiast for reblooming iris. When he spoke to us, his advice was (1)put your rebloomers in a bed separate from the others, (2)water once a week because they don't go dormant, (3)they need fertilizer twice a year, in early spring before bloom and two weeks after the spring bloom, and (4)most of them need total sunshine for reblooming, though INTYGRATION will bloom well in shade.

I have not followed that program as I should, not simply due to sloth, though I must admit that's part of it, and I'm sure I would have had more rebloom if I had. Separate bed is part of the plan for next year's replanting.

Arnold Koekkoek, NW Iowa, zone 4

Chrysanthemum Scent (a Haiku)

*All around and yet I see
An iris bloom! Ah!*

Clarence Mahan

1995 REBLOOMING SYMPOSIUM

TALL BEARDED IRISES

TOTAL VOTES	CULTIVAR NAME	HYBRIDIZER & YEAR INTRODUCED	ZONE 4	ZONE 5	ZONE 6	ZONE 7	ZONE 8	ZONE 9	ZONE 10	
44	Immortality	Zurbrigg, L.	'82	4	10	13	8	4	4	1
39	Queen Dorothy	Hall, E.	'84	3	10	11	6	2	5	1
38	Feedback	Hager, B.	'83	1	7	6	9	6	7	2
27	Earl of Essex	Zurbrigg, L.	'80	1	4	4	7	6	3	2
26	Corn Harvest	Wyatt	'77	3	8	4	6	3	1	1
24	Buckwheat	Byers, M.	'89	2	1	11	4	2	3	1
23	Pink Attraction	Hall	'88	2	4	8	4	3	1	1
21	Harvest of Memories	Zurbrigg	'85	2	3	6	5	3	2	0
19	Champagne Elegance	Niswonger	'87	1	4	6	1	4	2	1
18	Autumn Circus	Hager	'90	1	1	7	3	3	2	1
18	I Do	Zurbrigg	'74	1	3	6	7	1	0	0
17	Clarence	Zurbrigg	'91	0	1	7	7	1	2	0
17	Jennifer Rebecca	Zurbrigg	'85	0	3	4	6	2	1	1
16	Belvi Queen	Jensen	'76	1	5	4	2	3	1	0
16	Violet Music	Mahan	'91	1	1	4	6	1	3	0
15	Coral Charmer	Wright	'83	3	5	4	2	0	1	0
15	Eternal Bliss	Byers	'88	0	2	1	3	4	1	4
15	Rosalie Figge	McKnew	'93	1	0	5	5	2	1	1
14	Autumn Bugler	Jones	'86	0	2	4	5	1	2	0
14	Bountiful Harvest	Hager	'91	1	3	1	1	2	4	2
14	Matrix	Hall	'91	1	1	4	5	2	1	0
13	Bonus Mama	Hager	'90	2	2	4	1	0	3	1
13	Brother Carl	Zurbrigg	'83	1	3	5	4	0	0	0
13	Misty Twilight	Byers	'88	1	3	2	3	2	1	1
12	Juicy Fruit	Byers	'89	0	0	2	1	2	5	2
12	Northward Ho	Byers	'91	1	1	3	5	1	1	0
12	Pinkness	Byers	'89	0	1	7	2	1	1	0
12	Victoria Falls	Schreiners	'77	1	3	3	0	2	2	1
11	English Cottage	Zurbrigg	'76	1	3	6	1	0	0	0
11	Speed Limit	Lauer	'92	0	0	2	0	3	4	2
10	Anxious	Hager	'92	1	0	2	4	1	2	0
10	Billionaire	Byers	'87	0	1	1	3	2	2	1
10	Double Scoop	Ghio	'81	0	2	2	1	2	3	0
10	Hi Ho Silver	Byers	'89	0	4	0	1	3	2	0
10	Winterland	Byers	'89	0	1	2	1	1	3	2

TOTAL VOTES	CULTIVAR NAME	HYBRIDIZER & YEAR INTRODUCED	ZONE 4	ZONE 5	ZONE 6	ZONE 7	ZONE 8	ZONE 9	ZONE 10
9	Hemstitched	Hager '88	0	2	2	1	1	2	1
9	Mother Earth	Hager '88	1	2	5	0	1	0	0
9	Renown	Zurbrigg '92	0	0	4	3	1	1	0
9	Sign of Leo	Zurbrigg '77	1	0	4	3	0	0	1
9	Sugar Blues	Zurbrigg '85	2	0	1	2	2	1	1
8	Autumn Tryst	Weiler '93	0	0	3	2	2	1	0
8	Golden Encore	Jones '73	2	2	4	0	0	1	0
8	Grape Adventure	Jones '86	0	1	5	1	0	1	0
8	Lichen	Byers '89	2	1	2	0	1	1	1
8	October	Byers	0	1	1	2	4	0	0
8	Skookumchuck	R. Gibson '83	0	1	0	0	5	1	1
8	Total Recall	Hager '92	1	1	0	3	1	2	0
8	Violet Miracle	Zurbrigg '79	0	1	2	3	2	0	0
8	Zurich	Byers '89	0	1	3	3	0	0	1
7	Halloween Halo	Weiler '91	0	0	1	0	4	2	0
7	Holy Night	Mohr, K. '83	0	0	3	1	1	1	1
7	Istanbul	Byers '89	0	0	4	0	1	2	0
7	Jean Guymier	Zurbrigg '77	0	1	3	1	2	0	0
7	Now and Later	Zurbrigg '72	0	0	1	1	2	3	0
7	Summer Olympics	Smith '80	2	1	1	2	1	0	0
7	Sunny Disposition	Zurbrigg '91	0	0	3	3	0	0	1
7	Touch of Spring	Applegate '72	2	0	3	0	2	0	0
6	Blazing Sunrise	Black '85	0	0	2	1	3	0	0
6	Invitation	Schreiners '82	0	2	2	0	2	0	0
6	Peach Jam	Ensminger '89	2	0	2	0	1	1	0
6	Solstice	Weiler '92	0	0	1	2	1	1	1
6	St. Petersburg	Byers '90	0	0	2	0	1	2	1
6	Sunny Shoulders	Hager '90	1	1	0	2	0	1	1
6	Tennison Ridge	Begley '89	0	0	0	0	4	2	0
6	Then Again	Byers '89	0	1	0	2	1	2	0
5	Best Bet	Schreiners '88	0	0	1	0	1	2	0
5	Blatant	Byers '90	0	0	0	1	0	2	2
5	Cease Fire	Roberts '80	0	0	0	2	1	0	2
5	Frequent Flyer	R. Gibson '94	0	1	2	0	0	2	0
5	Hallowed Thought	Zurbrigg '77	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
5	Happy New Year	Byers '90	0	0	0	1	2	1	0
5	Orchid Cloud	Applegate '74	3	0	0	1	1	0	0

TOTAL VOTES	CULTIVAR NAME	HYBRIDIZER & YEAR INTRODUCED	ZONE 4	ZONE 5	ZONE 6	ZONE 7	ZONE 8	ZONE 9	ZONE 10
5	Pure As Gold	Maryott '89	0	0	0	0	1	3	1
5	Red Revival	Preston '77	0	3	1	1	0	0	0
5	Stingray	Byers '89	0	0	0	1	3	1	0
5	Tea Leaves	Byers '87	0	2	0	0	1	1	0
5	Violet Classic	Zurbrigg '77	0	0	0	1	3	1	0
5	Violet Returns	Hall '88	2	0	1	2	0	0	0
5	Winesap	Byers '89	0	0	1	0	1	2	0
5	Witch of Endor	Miller '78	0	0	5	0	0	0	0
4	Color Watch	Innerst '87	0	2	3	0	0	0	0
4	Dashing	Byers '91	0	0	0	0	3	1	0
4	Eggnog	Byers '90	0	0	0	0	2	1	1
4	Eternal Waltz	Danielson '89	0	0	0	2	0	2	0
4	Glacier King	Carson '86	0	0	0	1	3	0	0
4	Grace Thomas	Zurbrigg '80	0	0	1	3	0	0	0
4	Lady Essex	Zurbrigg '91	0	0	2	2	0	0	0
4	Perfume Counter	Zurbrigg '72	0	0	1	2	1	0	0
4	Recurring Ruffles	Hager '90	0	0	0	1	2	0	1
4	Reincarnation	Byers '89	0	0	0	1	0	2	1
4	Remember Spring	Hager '85	1	1	0	1	1	0	0
4	Rotunda	Byers '91	0	1	0	0	2	1	0
4	Saxon	Byers '90	0	0	1	1	2	0	0
4	Second Look	Muhlestein '70	1	0	1	1	1	0	0
4	Sign of Virgo	Zurbrigg '91	0	0	3	0	0	1	0
4	Spirit of Memphis	Zurbrigg '77	1	0	0	3	0	0	0
4	Wright Flyer	Wright '92	0	0	2	1	0	1	0
4	Las Vegas	Byers '89	0	0	1	0	1	1	1

**1995 REBLOOMING SYMPOSIUM
BORDER BEARDED IRISES**

TOTAL VOTES	CULTIVAR NAME	HYBRIDIZER & YEAR INTRODUCED	ZONE 4	ZONE 5	ZONE 6	ZONE 7	ZONE 8	ZONE 9	ZONE 10
7	Baby Bengal	Sutton '90	0	0	0	1	4	1	1
6	Whoop Em Up	Brady '74	0	0	0	1	2	2	1
4	Lenora Pearl	Nichols '90	0	0	0	1	1	2	0
4	Marmalade Skies	Niswonger '78	0	1	1	0	1	1	0

BORDER BEARDED IRISES
(continued)

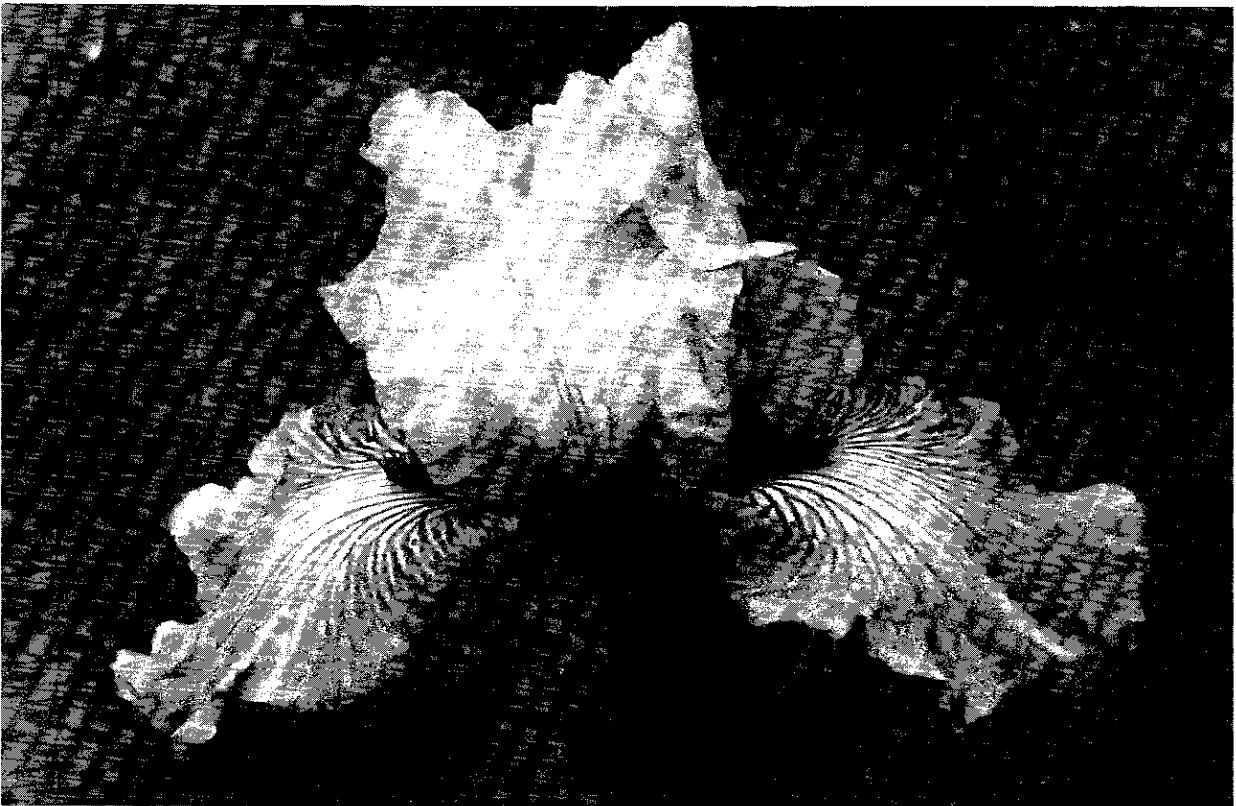
TOTAL VOTES	CULTIVAR NAME	HYBRIDIZER & YEAR INTRODUCED	ZONE 4	ZONE 5	ZONE 6	ZONE 7	ZONE 8	ZONE 9	ZONE 10
4	Faux Pas	Keppel '90	0	0	0	0	1	2	1
3	Little Susie	Quadros '70	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
3	Miss Scarlet	Moores '80	0	1	0	1	0	0	1
3	Sonja's Selah	Ensminger '89	0	0	1	0	2	0	0
2	Color Bright	Ensminger '86	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
2	Jazz Star	Wight, T. '90	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
2	Pet Kin	Zurbrigg '69	0	0	0	2	0	0	0

INTERMEDIATE BEARDED

TOTAL VOTES	CULTIVAR NAME	HYBRIDIZER & YEAR INTRODUCED	ZONE 4	ZONE 5	ZONE 6	ZONE 7	ZONE 8	ZONE 9	ZONE 10
18	Lo Ho Silver	Byers '89	0	3	5	4	3	2	1
17	I Bless	Zurbrigg '85	1	1	6	7	2	0	0
7	Black Magic	Wayman '35	0	1	3	3	0	0	0
7	Blessed Assurance	Zurbrigg '95	0	0	2	5	0	0	0
6	Eleanor Roosevelt	Sass, H.P. '33	0	0	1	0	2	2	1
6	Honey Glazed	Niswonger '83	0	1	2	0	1	1	1
5	Blessed Again	Jones '76	0	1	3	1	0	0	0
5	Erect	Black '89	0	0	0	0	4	1	0
5	Sixteen Candles	Byers '89	0	0	0	1	3	1	0
5	Tawny	Pray '74	0	0	0	0	3	1	0
3	Palm Springs	Byers '90	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
3	Pink Kitten	Wood '77	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
2	Bright Eyes	Darby '57	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
2	Concoction	Byers '91	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
2	Hissy Fit	Innerst '89	0	1	0	0	0	1	0

MINIATURE TALL BEARDED

TOTAL VOTES	CULTIVAR NAME	HYBRIDIZER & YEAR INTRODUCED	ZONE 4	ZONE 5	ZONE 6	ZONE 7	ZONE 8	ZONE 9	ZONE 10
22	Lady Emma	Jones '86	1	3	9	5	1	2	1



*Peachy pink and diamond-dusted, blending into Victorian smokey lavender...
This reblooming seedling by Ginny Spoon is sure to please.*

The End

This issue was very late when it was finally done on 12/13... printer lined up and hopes high. The next day, my father had two massive heart attacks - with no warning - and we lost him.

Since that day, I have personally had a string of bad luck and I'm afraid the RIS Recorder suffered because of it.

Rosalie has been aware, and has been very patient... but she asked that some mention be included in this issue.

My deep apologies to you all... I know how it is to wait for a publication.

Kathy Guest