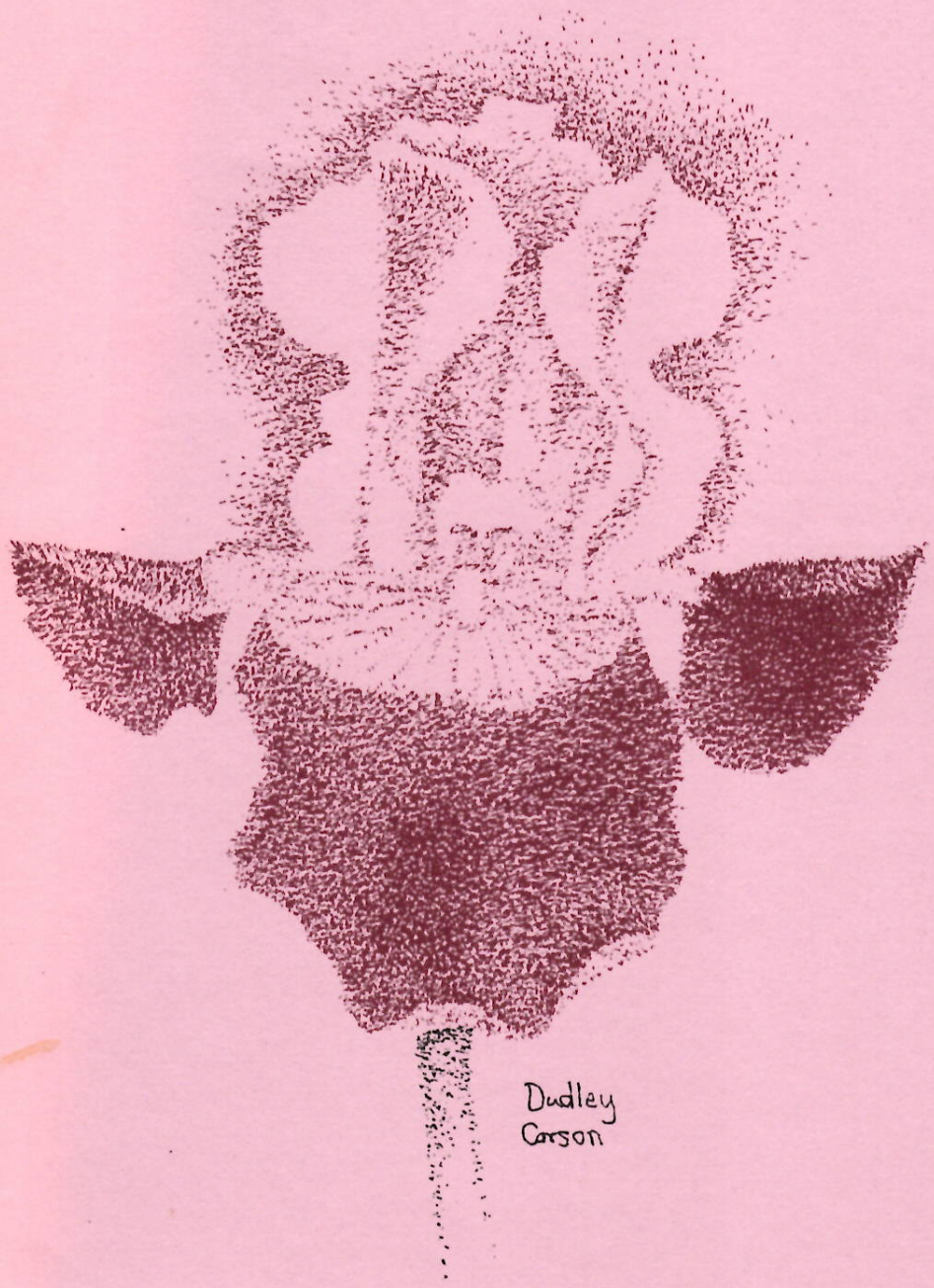


# REBLOOMING IRIS RECORDER

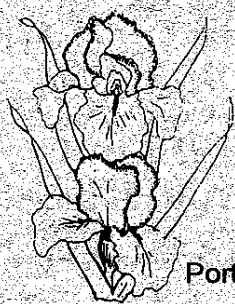


Dudley  
Carson

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







# Sutton's Green Thumb

16592 Road 208  
Porterville, CA 93257  
(209) 784-9011  
Fax (209) 784-6701

CODE: 1 = Sporadic rebloom  
2 = Reliable rebloom  
3 = Reliable multiple rebloom  
L: Late rebloom  
E: Early rebloom  
Code is for our area, USDA zone 9

TALL BEARDED	PRICE	TALL BEARDED	PRICE
AARON'S DREAM 2L	\$10.00	HOLY NIGHT 1	\$3.00
ALL AMERICAN 1	\$8.00	JEAN GUYMER 2	\$3.00
ANXIOUS 2	\$8.00	JUICY FRUIT 2	\$4.00
AUTUMN CIRCUS 3E	\$5.00	LAS VEGAS 2	\$5.00
AUTUMN ECHO 2	\$2.50	LEMON REFLECTION 2	\$3.00
AUTUMN HARBOR 2L	\$35.00	MAGIC MEMORIES 2	\$2.50
AUTUMN TRYST 2	\$10.00	MARIPOSA SKIES	\$30.00
BANANA CREAM 2	\$5.00	MATRIX 2	\$6.00
BILLIONAIRE 2	\$4.00	MOTHER EARTH 2	\$4.00
BLATANT 3E	\$5.00	NORTHWARD HO 2	\$8.00
BLAZING SUNRISE 2L	\$5.00	OLYMPIC RINGS 2	\$5.00
BLUE MOONLIGHT 2	\$4.00	PAGAN GODDESS 2	\$12.00
BONUS MAMA 2	\$3.00	PEARLS OF AUTUMN 2	\$10.00
BOUNTIFUL HARVEST 2	\$6.00	PINK ATTRACTION 2	\$4.00
BUCKWHEAT 2	\$5.00	PINKNESS 2	\$4.00
CANTINA 3E	\$5.00	PRINCE OF EARL 2	\$4.00
CEASE-FIRE 2	\$3.00	PURE AS GOLD 1L	\$8.00
CEE CEE	\$25.00	QUEEN DOROTHY 3E	\$2.50
CHAMPAGNE ELEGANCE 1	\$3.00	RECURRING RUFFLES 2	\$5.00
CITY LIGHTS 2	\$5.00	RENOWN 2	\$7.00
CLARENCE 3	\$5.00	ROSALIE FIGGE 3E-L	\$12.00
COLORWATCH 2	\$3.00	SARAH'S LAUGHTER 2	\$4.00
CORAL CHARMER 2	\$3.00	SECOND WIND 2	\$5.00
DASHING 2	\$7.00	SIGN OF VIRGO 2	\$5.00
DOUBLE CHARM 2L	\$35.00	SOLSTICE 2	\$7.00
DOUBLE TIME 2L	\$3.00	SPIRIT OF FIJI 2	\$4.00
EARL OF ESSEX 3E	\$3.00	ST. PETERSBURG 2	\$5.00
ETERNAL BLISS 2	\$2.50	SUGAR BLUES 2	\$3.00
FEED BACK 3E	\$2.50	SUMMER OLYMPICS 2	\$3.00
FOREVER GOLD 3	\$35.00	SUNNY SHOULDERS 2	\$5.00
FREQUENT FLYER 1L	\$10.00	TEA LEAVES 2	\$3.00
GLOWING SERAPHIM 2	\$3.00	TIME AND AGAIN 2	\$7.00
GOLDEN IMMORTAL 2	\$35.00	VIOLET MUSIC 2	\$5.00
GOLD REPRISE 2	\$4.00	WALTZ ACROSS TEXAS 2	\$3.00
HARVEST OF MEMORIES 3	\$3.00	WINDS OF CHANGE 2	\$10.00
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS 2	\$4.00	ZURICH 2	\$4.00

SEND \$1.00 FOR CATALOG LISTING THESE AND MANY OTHER TALL  
BEARDED AND MEDIAN REBLOOMERS.  
WE SPECIALIZE IN REBLOOMING AND SPACE AGE IRIS.

### The President's Letter

Thanks go to Kathy Guest who ---- in spite of being besieged with problems ----did a bang-up job on the last RECORDER. And, again, I followed the old saying: Find the busiest person if you want something done! Kathy will be a hard act to follow, but I feel that if anybody can do it, Ginny Spoon can! Ginny has had experience editing her chapter newsletter, and she is an expert on gardening and reblooming irises. She and her husband, Don, have a large garden and are hybridizers! RIS can have confidence in her ability and knowledge. Welcome, Ginny!

My garden is very slowly coming out of the winter doldrums. Since I reset everything last year, I probably will not have the usual outstanding bloom the neighbors and I like to see. So far, only LITTLE BLUE-EYES (Weiler '93) has had the courage to face our unusual chilly nights. SO - I'm looking forward to, not only the gardens in Dearborn (hopefully with lots of rebloomers), but also seeing you there. It is a wonderful opportunity to make new friends, compare notes with old friends and learn about another section of our country. Two years ago I visited Dearborn on a Sunday excursion from a convention of the National Association of Parliamentarians in Detroit. My chief memory of Detroit was the statue of a huge clenched fist honoring Joe Lewis - it seemed as if it would punch through the windshield-- but Dearborn was fascinating. As it happened, no one else signed up for that trip (some parliamentarians can be too dedicated), so I was alone on a 42-passenger bus staffed by a trainee driver-guide and his instructor.

Between the technology of the Henry Ford Museum and Deerfield Village, I chose the Village because I love trains, and it has a real "puff puff" on which you can ride. It also has Thomas Edison's laboratory, the courthouse where Abe Lincoln practiced law, a 19th century store, a one-room schoolhouse and the homes of Noah Webster and the Wright brothers. Either come early or stay after the meetings so you will not miss an educational trip through more than 350 years of history.

At our Board meeting, the bylaw committee (Sterling Innerst, Clarence Mahan, and your president) will present the bylaws for your approval, they are clear-cut and easy to understand. The REBLOOMING IRIS CHECKLIST is in the proof stages and may be ready

by then. Notice the "may". We are not promising. We want perfection, and while we know that is impossible, we will not do a rush job just to bring the CHECKLIST to Dearborn. However, you may expect it before midsummer. Ken Roberts has done a mammoth job. The CHECKLIST has been greatly expanded and is more easily read, even by moonlight in case you are gardening then! Have you ever gardened under a full moon? It astounds the neighbors, but it is cooler in the hot summer, just insects buzzing (and biting) - it seems quiet without the birds singing! It's sort of fun to do the unusual sometimes - - Try it! Understand what I mean about what notes we can compare when we meet in Dearborn?! Rosalie

P.S. **ATTENTION** AIS judges - and other interested members - I have been asked by the committee that is revising the *Judges Handbook* to "collect suggestions and recommendations on judging rebloomers" Since this is our life's blood, so to speak, it is VERY important for you to send me those suggestions and thoughts, etc. by the end of July or early August. I would prefer it in writing, but my e-mail address is ryfigge@aol.com. Read Chapter B9 in the Handbook - and THINK!

**Attention all Board Members:** There will be a meeting of the RIS Board at the National AIS Convention in Dearborn on Tuesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> from noon - 2 pm. Bring a bag lunch. On Wednesday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, from 9 am to 10 am there will be an RIS Section Meeting. All RIS Members please attend. There will be a short, very important business meeting plus an exciting and unusual program.

### *from the Editor*

I have grown and loved Reblooming Irises from the day I first learned about them after joining the American Iris Society and attending the National AIS Convention in 1991. While attending the convention, I also joined the Reblooming Iris Society. I later sat in front of a fellow member, Don Spoon, at the C&P auction in July of '91 and tried to outbid him for choice irises. We were married in the summer of '94, (I got back the irises he outbid me on) and we moved his irises and seedlings along with mine to our new home and garden in Cross Junction, in northern Virginia. My sincerest thanks to all who contributed to this issue.

Ginny

# **PROPOSED BYLAWS OF THE REBLOOMING IRIS SOCIETY**

## **ARTICLE I. Name**

The name of this non-profit organization (See Section 501(c)(3) IRS's Code as amended) shall be THE REBLOOMING IRIS SOCIETY hereinafter referred to as RIS, a Section of THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY (AIS).

## **ARTICLE II. Objectives**

The objectives of the RIS shall be:

- Section 1.** To support scientific research, including the culture and improvement of reblooming irises, and to encourage garden visiting.
- Section 2.** To collect and disseminate information on history, classification, hybridization, climatic range and culture of reblooming irises.
- Section 3.** To promote fall shows/exhibitions for the purpose of educating the public and fellow irisarians.
- Section 4.** To encourage membership in, and cooperation with, the AIS, regional, and local societies.

## **ARTICLE III. Membership and Dues**

**Section 1.** All members shall be members of AIS.

- (a) There shall be the following classes of members: Single, Dual, Annual, Triennial, or Life.
- (b) Only members in good standing of RIS shall have voting privileges.
- (c) Dual membership shall be limited to any two members residing at the same address with each having voting privileges; however, only one copy of the *RIR* shall be sent.
- (d) Life membership shall be non-transferable, carry full membership privileges, and shall be limited to members of the AIS.

**Section 2.** Dues for all classes of members shall be established by the Board of Directors.

**Section 3.** Honorary Life Membership may be granted by the Board to a member in recognition of distinguished service in RIS. An Honorary Life Member shall have full membership privileges, but shall no longer be required to pay RIS dues.

**Section 4.** Individuals or organizations may subscribe to the periodical publications of RIS by paying an amount equal to the annual or triennial membership dues. If such individuals or organizations do not fulfill all requirements for membership, they shall be designated "subscribers" and shall not have voting or other membership privileges.

**Section 5.** No part of the revenues of RIS shall inure to the benefit of any of its members.

## **ARTICLE IV. Meetings**

**Section 1.** An annual meeting shall be held in conjunction with the AIS National Convention, or at the call of the President.

**Section 2.** Special meetings may be called by the President or by a majority of the Board when deemed necessary. The Board shall call special meetings upon the written request of ten (10) members of RIS. Notice of such meetings shall be mailed to each voting member at least fifteen (15) days prior to the date of the meeting, stating the business to be conducted.

**Section 3.** At all meetings, the members present shall constitute a quorum.

# REBLOOMING IRIS SOCIETY

A Section of the American Iris Society

## Officers

- President:** Rosalie Yerkes Figge, 4 Maryland Ave., Towson, Baltimore, MD 21286-1100  
Phone: (410) 337-9118 Fax: (410) 494-0711
- Vice President:** Leslie Jobe, 4985 South 156<sup>th</sup> Cir., Omaha, NE 68135 - Phone (& Fax) (402) 896-3444
- Secretary:** Claire Y. Honkanen, PO Box 235, Isles of Palms, SC 29451  
Phone: (803) 886-4691 - Fax: (803) 886-951
- Treasurer:** Florence Wheat, 2201 East 3380 South Lake City, UT 84109 - Phone: (801) 485-8631

## Directors

- Midwestern:** Opal Wulf, 7172 South 70<sup>th</sup>, Lincoln, NE 68516-2607 Fax: (402) 483-7239
- Western:** Barbara Aitken, 608 NW 119<sup>th</sup> Street, Vancouver, WA 98685-3802  
Phone: (360) 573-4472 - Fax: (360) 576-7012 term expires: 2000
- Southern:** Judith Earp, RR3, Box 0A 45, Tuttle, OK 73089 term expires: 1998
- Eastern:** Mike Lowe, 12219 Ziles Rd., Blackstone, VA 23824 (804) 265-8198 term expires: 1999

## Appointed Board Members/Chairmen

- Publicity Director:** Dr. John Weiler, 1146 West Rialto, Fresno, CA 93705-0917 (209) 229-6434
- Membership:** Charlie Brown, 3114 So. FM 131, Dennison, TX 75020 (903) 463-4084
- RIR Editor:** Ginny Spoon, 1225 Reynolds Rd., Cross Junction, VA 22625 (540) 888-4447  
e-mail: (VSpoon@aol.com) call to send Fax (540) 888-3196

## Other Chairmen

- Art and Design:** Dudley Carson, PO Box 556, Willamina, OR 97396 (503) 876-6463
- Slides:** Olive-Rice Waters, 1914 Napa Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707 (510) 526-2853
- Questions/Answers:** Dr. Lloyd Zurbrigg, Box 52444, Durham, NC 27717 (919) 489-6960
- Internet:** Mike Lowe (as above)
- Symposium:** Tim Stanek, 23329 Ellington Av., Glenwood, IA 51534 (712) 527-5338
- Robins:** Dudley Carson (as above)
- Historian:** Larry L. Harder, Box 547, Ponca, NE 68870-0547 (402) 755-2615
- Past President:** Dr. John Weiler (as above)

### Membership Information

	Single	Family
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 Reblooming Iris Recorder is published biannually in Spring and Fall. Deadlines for receipt of material are:

Fall Issue: November 1                      Spring Issue: April 1  
Advertising deadlines: Fall - September 15   - Spring - February 15

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Original cover art by Dudley Carson.

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## **ARTICLE V. RIS Officers and Board**

**Section 1.** The Board shall consist of elected and appointed officers.

**Section 2.** The elected officers shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and four Area Directors. The President shall appoint a Membership Director, Publicity Director, and the *RIR* Editor.

**Section 3.** There shall be four Directors to represent four geographic areas, which will be comprised of the AIS Regions as follows:

EASTERN AREA: Regions 1,2,3,4,7,16,& 19

SOUTHERN AREA: Regions 5,10,17,22,23,& 24

MIDWESTERN AREA: Regions 6,8,9,18,21, & overseas

WESTERN AREA: Regions 11,12,13,14,15, & 20

**Section 4.** The Board shall have control and management of the affairs, policies, and business of RIS.

**Section 5.**

- (a) The President, the Vice-President, the Secretary, and the Treasurer shall be elected for a three (3) year term or until their successors are elected.
- (b) No member shall be eligible to serve consecutive terms in the same office except in the case of the Secretary and Treasurer, who may each serve two terms consecutively.
- (c) All officers who are duly elected at the annual meeting shall assume office at the close of that meeting.
- (d) The Area Directors shall be elected, one each year, for a four year term, or until their successors are elected.

**Section 6.** Business of the Board may be conducted by mail, telegraph, telephone, fax, conference call, e-mail, or other communication systems. All members shall confirm by written vote. The vote shall be recorded in the minutes.

**Section 7. Finance.**

- (a) The Board shall determine the official depository for the funds of RIS and designate the officers who may sign checks.
- (b) Debts shall not be incurred by any officer in the name of RIS unless authorized in writing by the Board.

**Section 8. Duties of Officers.**

- (a) The President shall:
  - (i) Preside at all meetings of RIS, the Board; and
  - (ii) Be an ex-officio member of all committees, except the Nominating Committee.
- (b) The Vice-President shall:
  - (i) In the absence of the President, exercise the functions of the President; and
  - (ii) Assume the office of the President in case of a vacancy.
- (c) The Secretary shall:
  - (i) Keep all minutes and records of RIS and the Board;
  - (ii) Have ballots prepared for use, when needed, for the annual election; and
  - (iii) Record, in writing, any additional nominations made from the floor.
- (d) The Treasurer shall:
  - (i) Receive, record, and account for all monies of RIS; and
  - (ii) Pay all bills approved in writing by the President.
- (e) The Publicity Director shall:
  - (i) Solicit advertisements from hybridizers and/or commercial and private gardens; and
  - (ii) Conduct a program of publicity to promote reblooming irises and the RIS.

- (f) The four Area Directors shall
  - (i) Serve on the Board;
  - (ii) Advise the President and Editor of any items of interest in their area;
  - (iii) Encourage reblooming fall shows/exhibitions and garden tours for rebloomers;
  - (iv) Support programs to educate the public about rebloomers; and
  - (v) Report to the Symposium Director, the Editor, and the President what cultivars are reported to rebloom in their respective areas.
- (g) The Editor of *RIR* shall be appointed by the President and, under the direction of the President, shall edit and publish the *RECORDER*, twice each year prior to March 31st (Spring issue) and November 30<sup>th</sup> (Fall issue).
- (h) The Membership Secretary shall:
  - (i) Receive dues and transfer the checks to the Treasurer;
  - (ii) Keep all records of members and welcome new members in writing;
  - (iii) Supply all new members with a list of sources of reblooming irises based on those growers advertising in the *RIR*;
  - (iv) Notify members, in writing, 45 days prior to their membership renewal date. At that time, notify the Director of that Area, giving the names, etc, of those members who, after 60 days, shall be dropped automatically, if no response has been received; and
  - (v) Furnish mailing labels to the Editor when requested.

## **ARTICLE VI. Committees**

There shall be the following standing committees: Membership, Slides, Historian, Internet, Symposium, Awards, and Robins. The chairs of these committees shall be appointed by the President, approved by the Board, but responsible to the President. The President shall have the authority to create additional committees with the approval of the Board when the need arises.

### **Section 1. Nominating Committee.**

- (a) The Nominating Committee shall be composed of three people: The chairman shall be appointed by the President. The other two members shall be elected at the annual meeting. The names of the Committee shall be reported in the fall issue of the *RIR*.
- (b) The Committee shall select one nominee for each office to be filled.
- (c) The report of this Committee shall be included in the Spring issue of *RIR*.

## **ARTICLE VII. Parliamentary Authority**

The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern the RIS in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and those of AIS.

## **ARTICLE VIII. Amendments**

These Bylaws may be amended at any annual meeting or special meeting of the membership by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those in attendance and voting, provided such amendments have been submitted in writing to the membership at least fifteen (15) days in advance.

## **ARTICLE IX. Dissolution of The Reblooming Iris Society**

In the event of dissolution of RIS, after paying or adequately providing for its debts and obligations, all assets shall revert to the AIS, the non-profit parent organization.



## A Unique Effort Produces a Reblooming Iris Show in Central California

by John Weiler

The Fresno, Kings, and Sequoia Iris Societies, all affiliated with AIS, combined efforts to host a reblooming Iris Show in Clovis, CA, November 10, 1996. Irises entered in the show came from gardens in a 100 mile radius of Fresno. In the Horticulture division a total of 51 registered cultivar specimens and 14 seedlings vied for ribbons and awards for the eleven exhibitors. In the artistic division five exhibitors produced 15 outstanding designs.

### Horticulture Division Awards

Best SDB	<b>Dark Crystal</b>
Best IB	<b>Low Ho Silver</b>
Best MTB	<b>Lady Emma</b>
Best Median	<b>Low Ho Silver</b>
Best Specimen in Show	<b>Buckwheat</b>
Best Seedling	QD/PT, a BB plicata
AIS Bronze Medal for second most blue ribbons	
AIS Silver Medal for most blue ribbons	

### Exhibitor

Rick Tasco, Cathey's Valley, CA  
Ray Bearden, Madera, CA  
Phil Posten, Fresno, CA  
Ray Bearden

Rick Tasco  
George Sutton, Porterville, CA  
Rick Tasco  
Michael Kreps, Visalia, CA

### Artistic Division Awards

Best design in show  
Artistic Sweepstakes - most blue ribbons,  
a tie between

Dorothy Dominici, Lemoore, CA

Debra Price, Fresno, CA  
Trudy Graber, Fresno, CA

Fall shows are planned as a joint effort of the three societies, perhaps in a different city in the region each fall. To enhance the possibility of having more specimens in future years, one or more rhizomes of some of the newest reblooming cultivars were distributed to each member of all three societies.

*Please send the Editor your reblooming show reports and what your club is doing to promote rebloomers. Have your sales been successful due to the availability or promotion of rebloomers? Did you make a special display at your show to educate the public about rebloomers? What worked, what didn't? This is your publication, so be sure to share the knowledge with others who are interested in the reblooming irises.*

*Do your rebloomers sell for more money at your bearded sale? If so, and you have made extra money for your club, have you thought about donating some to your favorite section... the Reblooming Iris Society?*



## Culture of Reblooming Irises

*Excerpted from John Weiler, Lloyd Zurbrigg and  
other Reblooming Hybridizers  
Submitted by Charlie Brown*

**Soil and Location:** Like any other iris, best performance of reblooming irises results from good culture. Give the plants a location with no less than 5 hours of sun per day during the growing season. They also require a well-drained soil where water will not stand. They should be kept damp during the growing season, but not soaked. It is best to use a soaker hose on the bed late in the evening just before dark so that any moisture in the fans may evaporate before the hot Texas sun gets to them the next day. (Other areas of the country may respond better to an early morning soaking, Editor). Best rebloom is obtained when rhizomes are planted in soil that has not been used for growing irises during the preceding two years. Plants should be divided during the summer every three to four years where the growing season is short and more frequently in the sun belt states with long summers. Once established, they respond to fertilizing with a complete mix such as (13-13-13 or 17-17-17), about one (1) tablespoonful per plant mixed into the soil 3 to 4 inches from the rhizomes. They should be fertilized at the beginning of spring when new growth is showing (early March in Texas), a second fertilizing after bloom, usually in June, and then again in late October before frost. When replanting is done, it is good practice to dig in superphosphate, one (1) tablespoon per plant as the soil is prepared.

**Planting and Care:** Planting should be the same as other irises. Early planting of reblooming irises, usually in June, may produce some rebloom in the first year. They should be planted before August to enable them to establish roots for the development of increases. Care for the plants should be the same as regular irises with the exception that they should not be allowed to go dry during the summer.

**Predictability of Rebloom:** Data already available indicates we should be able to predict areas where irises will rebloom before wide distribution has occurred. If a cultivar has rebloomed in a state such as Nebraska in hardiness zone 5, then it should rebloom in any area of that zone and any zone larger (warmer) such as 6, 7, 8, and 9. Also, if a plant has rebloomed in zone 5 and zone 9, it should rebloom in

any intervening zone. The Reblooming Iris Society would appreciate any reports of rebloom, especially of new cultivars, so that we may update our data bank and include it in the next *Checklist*. A new checklist is currently being compiled in Maryland by Ken Roberts, and should be available soon. It includes the USDA hardiness zones and states where the cultivars have rebloomed.

**New Developments in Reblooming Irises:** The gardening public has heard about the "new irises" that bloom more than once and they are in great demand throughout the U.S. Several magazine articles in *Gardening*, *Flower and Garden*, and the *Farmer's Almanac* have reported on reblooming irises. The following rebloomers have won AIS awards over the last few years:

**Sun Doll, Jewel Baby, Stellar Lights, Double Agent, Golden Galaxy, Blitz, Dark Crystal, Rainbow Sherbet, and Perfume.**

Members of the Reblooming Iris Society can obtain lists of irises known to rebloom in their region and soon in their USDA hardiness zone. Some lists, especially Texas and California have a copy charge due to size. For more information, contact Charlie Brown, Membership Secretary, RIS, 3114 S. FM 131, Denison, Texas 75020.

### ASK THE EXPERTS

**In the last issue of the Recorder, this question was asked:**

**Question:** For the first time I have a blooming stalk on **Cherie**, 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.

**Lloyd Zurbrigg replies:** The early pinks, such as **Cherie**, exhibited some remontancy and were used by hybridizers like Raymond Smith. None was truly dependable as a remontant. I used derivatives of these to get **Jean Guymmer**, a very reliable rebloomer, and the parent of **Pink Attraction**

*Please send your questions to me (the Editor) who will forward them to the experts for answers.*



## 1996 Rebloom Report for Southern California

by *Richard C. Richards*

This annual rebloom report covers the calendar year 1996. It is for two gardens, one in Corona, California, and the other in La Mesa, California, approximately 100 miles to the south. Neither garden gets much cold, and in many winters no frosts at all. The Corona garden gets hotter summers by a few degrees, and is drier than the La Mesa garden by a little, though both are in what can easily be called a dry climate. The La Mesa garden is perhaps a hundred feet above sea level and fifteen miles from the Pacific Ocean, while the Corona garden is at 600 feet in elevation and perhaps 30 miles from the ocean, with an intervening range of mountains reaching 6,000 feet at the highest peaks.

This report is a listing of the named varieties which have bloomed for me in times other than in spring. In this climate I consider spring bloom to occur between March 1 and May 31. Bloom at times other than this is off-season-bloom, or rebloom. I prefer the term "off-season-bloom", but I am in the minority on this and probably will not be able to change anyone's mind about terminology. I walk out in the garden two or three times a month and simply record the names of the varieties in bloom. Thus a variety listed as blooming for two consecutive months may be in bloom for only two weeks or less for a period which happens to cross from one month to the other, or may be in bloom for eight consecutive weeks. There is no way to tell which happened from this method of reporting. It is simply a listing of what bloomed in a given month.

Surprisingly, the season in which there is the least off-season-bloom is the summer. Varieties such as **Artistic Gold**, **Reiterate**, **Feed Back**, and others which dependably bloom in the summer here are especially appreciated. For the past four years or more I have had bloom in either garden every day of the year. In the rain I have bedraggled bloom, in the extreme heat I may have cooked bloom, but I have

bloom. I accomplish year round bloom utilizing approximately 150 named varieties, most selected for their off-season-bloom reputation. It could be done with fewer varieties, I'm sure. As I become more actively involved in hybridizing, there are fewer named varieties and more seedlings in my garden. The La Mesa garden has perhaps 30 varieties in it, many duplicates of varieties also present in the Corona garden, since it is simply a garden containing a few of my wife's and my favorites, planted near the front sidewalk so the passersby can enjoy them also. They are enjoyed by many if the comments from neighbors are to be believed.

The following is a list of alphabetical list of off-season-bloom by month. (see spreadsheet)

Note: under September - Normally September shows an increase in off-season-rebloom. I replanted 70% of the Corona garden in the summer of 1996, and the off-season-bloom reported here is mostly on the clones not divided and replanted.

Each year in the past I have picked outstanding performers for the past year, and if the criteria for excellence consisted entirely of eagerness to bloom during the off-season, a numerical tally of the total months bloom occurred would settle that. But there are other factors, such as modern form, pleasing colors, and similar characteristics that may have more weight with some growers of iris than with others. So, let me name some outstanding varieties in color classes.

**Yellows:** **Celestial Sunshine** is bright and eager, ruffled but a bit narrow in the falls. **Artistic Gold** has ancient form but blooms all summer long in some years. **Billionaire** is bright, with good form. **Pure as Gold**, a newcomer in my garden, is very bright, has modern form and good branching throughout the year.

**Whites:** **Cease-Fire** is an old dependable, with good ruffling and usually good branching on the off-season-bloom. **Zurich** is also excellent in form, in dependability, and usually in branching. If you like red beards, **Fire on Ice** and **Heavenly Bliss** both have good form and good stalks, though **Heavenly Bliss** has smallish flowers.

**Blues, Lavenders, and Purples:** **Holy Night**, deep purple, is great for the color alone, but is fairly

modern in form and usually has acceptable branching. **Misty Twilight**, pastel blue, is eager and has very good form. **Violet Classic** is dependable, with very nice color and stalks. But **Mariposa Skies**, a blue bicolor and a new introduction, has it all: form, stalks, and an eagerness to bloom that covered 8 months of one calendar year. **Autumn Clouds** is tall, pastel blue, excellent stalks, very pretty.

**Bicolors: Dante's Inferno.** Orange and burgundy is the best description of it here. Good form. **Double Agent** has light lavender standards, plush dark purple falls, and good form. Stalks can be good also when the plant is happy. Any iris can give bad stalks if conditions are less than good. I classify **Total Recall** as a bicolor, though I don't really know what to do with it. It is supposed to be smoky pearl, but for me it has nearly white standards and pale yellow falls. It has a very modern flower on good stalks on husky plants. Perhaps climate and/or soil affect color. I finally ordered it from three different sources after the original order turned up a white and yellow combination. The rhizomes from sources all over the country bloomed with identical white and yellow flowers, so I think I have the real **Total Recall**. It reblooms a lot, almost too much, but I have not lost a clump yet. Excessive rebloom of some off-season-bloomers in this climate is a problem. I have some trouble keeping **Feed Back**, and cannot keep some varieties at all. They simply over bloom and commit suicide. **Floor Show**, tan and lavender with good form and good stalks, is dependable and becoming a favorite because I enjoy that color combination.

**Plicatas: Autumn Circus** is a joy with its blue-lavender stripes on white ground. Sometimes the stripes cover the whole fall, and sometimes it is almost an orthodox plicata. **Light Beam** I classify as a white ground yellow plicata, and while the stalks are short, the flower is heavily ruffled, and it blooms off-season when it feels like it.

**Reddish Things: Reiterate** is raspberry, eager for bloom in the summer, and has good form. **Samaritan Woman** is reddish, strong, and a good rebloomer. **My Friend Jonathan** is a bit like it, but redder, and with better form. You can put **Cayenne Capers** here if you wish. Old and dependable. I love the coloring, mostly indescribable, but "reddish" is as good as any description.

**Greenish Things:** This is a class I really enjoy. **Green and Gifted** does give a greenish effect, though it is mostly tan and brownish, with a blue cast on the falls. **Green Prophecy** also gives that effect, though a slightly more brown. **Lichen** is eager, barely tall enough or large enough of flower to be a tall bearded, and puts up stalks for many months a year. It is greenish on a tan base.

**Brown:** There are a few good brown off-season-bloomers. I place **Chief Hematite** here, though it could just as well be called "reddish", and I would have even less to mention in this class. **Tea Leaves** is a grayish yellow, but appears brownish on occasion. It is dependable, has good form, tall and strong stalks. The best is **Egg Nog**. That's the color, the form is very good, the off-season-bloom is dependable. It is becoming a favorite of mine more each year.

Any reblooming iris can produce bad stalks and flowers, as can any once-blooming iris in the spring, due to quirky weather, insufficient moisture or fertilizer, pest damage, and lots of other factors. I now believe that off-season-bloomers should be transplanted every other year, and if you really like the clone, then keep two clumps and divide them alternatively, which I do with favorites. They need lots of fertilizer, so I use a soil into which quantities of alfalfa pellets have been worked, along with peat moss. Gypsum in large quantities provides for looseness in clay soils. I use Miracle Gro ® on the irises periodically in growth seasons of spring and fall, but tend to go easy on them during the winter when growth is slow and during the summer when the soil is hot. I also place in the soil beneath newly planted rhizomes, a mixture of superphosphate, bone meal, and a commercial fertilizer such as azalea or citrus fertilizer, (whichever is on sale), approximately one handful of each per rhizome. I mulch newly planted rhizomes in the summer with redwood mulch to keep the soil moist, but keep the mulch away from the rhizome. Off-season-bloomers go through two or more growth cycles a year, so they require more work, but if you believe you cannot have enough iris flowers in your garden, they will reward you for the effort.

*I put Richard's rebloom report onto an Excel spreadsheet for easier reading. I think any future reports should include the spring bloom month, otherwise it looks as if the iris only blooms during the "off season". Editor*

	Jan-96	Feb-96	Jun-96	Jul-96	Aug-96	Sep-96	Oct-96	Nov-96	Dec-96
Angelic Wings					X				
Artistic Gold	X	X	X			X	X	X	
Aspen	X	X						X	X
Autumn Circus	X			X	X	X	X		
Autumn Clouds	X	X	X						
Bess Bergin		X							
Billionaire							X	X	X
Blatant	X	X							
Blue Moonlight				X	X				
Bonus Mama					X				
Bridal Fashion	X	X							
Buckwheat			X				X	X	X
Cascade Pass	X	X							
Cayenne Capers	X		X	X			X	X	X
Cease-Fire							X	X	X
Celestial Sunshine	X				X	X		X	
Champagne Elegance			X						
Chief Hematite	X								
Curtain Up							X	X	X
Dante's Inferno	X								X
Dashing		X		X					
Dawn of Fall			X		X		X		
Double Agent									X
Double Praise								X	X
Duke of Earl		X		X					
Earl of Essex					X				
Egg Nog	X	X						X	
Eternal Bliss						X			
Feed Back	X		X	X	X	X	X		
Feminine Wiles	X	X							X
Fire on Ice	X								
Floor Show	X	X							
Green and Gifted	X	X							
Green Country				X					
Green Hat				X					
Green Prophecy		X							
Guided									X
Heather Blush		X							X
Heavenly Bliss			X	X					X
Her Royal Highness				X					
Holy Night	X	X							
Lemon Custard		X							
Lemon Reflection	X	X					X	X	
Lichen			X	X	X	X	X	X	
Light Beam			X	X	X				
Low Ho Silver						X			
Mariposa Skies	X	X							
Misty Twilight			X	X			X	X	X
Moonlight Duet									X



Month	Jan	Feb	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
My Friend Jonathan									X
Olive Reflection				X					
Pearls of Autumn	X								
Pricilla of Corinth	X	X				X	X		X
Pure as Gold									X
Radiant Angel			X						X
Recurring Dream				X					
Reiterate				X	X	X			
Remember Spring							X	X	
Rotunda	X								
Samaritan Woman								X	
Saxon	X	X							
Sea World	X	X							
Silver Dividends									X
Sister Miriam Sings	X	X							
Skookumchuck	X								
Solstice					X	X	X	X	
Spirit of Fiji		X					X	X	X
Splash O' Wine	X	X							X
St. Petersburg			X						
Star Master	X	X							
Summer Luxury			X						
Summer Olympics	X	X						X	
Sunny Disposition	X								
Sunsnap	X	X							
Tea Leaves			X				X	X	X
Then Again			X	X					
Total Recall			X	X	X		X	X	X
Violet Classic	X								X
Winterland			X	X					
Zurich		X	X	X			X	X	X

*I prefer the term **spring bloomers** and **rebloomers**. I don't think the term **off-season-bloomers** gives the correct message. It leaves us with the impression that the iris only blooms in the off-season, whereas the **rebloomer** reblooms later in the season after the regular spring bloom. I really don't care for the term **remontant** after Raymond Smith explained about how the term came to be used. He said that it was picked up by rose breeders who, for the lack of what to call their roses that bloomed beyond the spring season and in the fall, used a French word that had to do with breeding horses. Now rosarians use the term **everblooming** for the roses that bloom throughout the whole growing season. Even they don't like the term **remontant** anymore. You won't see me using that term, other than this short opinion here. Why use it when "**rebloomer**" is interchangeable? If you see **remontant** used in the **RIR**, it will be because someone else wrote it.*

*Editor*

## A Reblooming Arilbred Iris

*The following interview with Sharon McAllister, owner of McAllister's Iris Gardens in Fairacres, New Mexico, was prompted by information she provided to Lloyd Zurbrigg and Clarence Mahan on the Internet.*

**Interviewer:** Sharon, can you tell us which arilbred iris cultivar has rebloomed in your garden several times?

**Sharon:** The iris is **Persian Pattern** (Tom Craig 1950).

**Interviewer:** Will you tell us something about this iris, its background and its reblooming tendency?

**Sharon:** **Persian Pattern** is a quarterbred from **Gay Seniorita** X **IB-Mac**. That means its aril heritage is strictly from the onco species, *I. iberica*. Although its signal isn't impressive, it is more prominent than that found in many quarterbreds and it has a nice, heavy veining pattern.

**Persian Pattern** was one of my earliest acquisitions, a gift for my sixteenth birthday, when I still lived in Oklahoma. I planted it and my other first arilbred, **Butterfly Wings**, in a bed of TBs along with rebloomers like **July Beauty**, **October Shadows**, **Western Hills**, and **Winter Flame**. I didn't know that arilbreds need dry summers and rebloomers need extra water – and apparently the iris didn't know it, either, because they all thrived and the rebloomers (including **Persian Pattern**) rebloomed, as expected, with no pampering.

After I moved to New Mexico, I retrieved some of my old favorites from my mother's garden and set up a special bed for rebloomers. It got morning sun and afternoon shade – but probably the most important factor was that it was located in the coolest part of the garden, near the window left open to ease the stress on the evaporative cooler. I grew **Persian Pattern** in that bed, to see if it would respond as a rebloomer. It did. I've also grown it with the arilbreds, and found it has the ability to go partially dormant if subjected to the summer heat. I've wondered whether there are other quarterbreds with the ability to rebloom if treated as rebloomers, but don't have the conditions to test them properly.

**Interviewer:** Have you noticed any marked difference in the growth habits of **Persian Pattern** and other arilbreds you grow?

**Sharon:** I don't grow enough arilbreds of that period to make meaningful comparisons. **Persian Pattern** and **Butterfly Wings** are the two I've grown the longest (since the early 60s). Both have the ability to stay green over the summer, given even moderate shade, and also stay green over the winter. **Persian Pattern** rebloomed in both Oklahoma and New Mexico but **Butterfly Wings** has not rebloomed in either place. **Fancywork**, another Craig introduction from that era, has similar growth habits but is an even more prolific plant. Tom Craig produced several other oncobreds using **Gay Seniorita**: **American Modern** (1/4-bred) **Bamboo** (1/4-bred) **Coronation Tapestry** (1/4-bred) **Mauve Decade** (1/8-bred, which no longer qualifies as an arilbred) **Phosphorescent** (1/4-bred).

It would be interesting to see if any of these would rebloom, if grown alongside rebloomers. Craig himself listed **Persian Pattern** as a summer bloomer, while Austin described it as an everbloomer.

**Interviewer:** Are there any other cultivars or seedlings that grow similarly to **Persian Pattern** but which have not rebloomed for you?

**Sharon:** Yes, many -- and not just quarterbreds, because I've been selecting for this type of plant for many years. If a plant can go summer-dormant in New Mexico but stay green in a milder climate, it has a distinct advantage. **Persian Pattern** is the only one that I've tested with the extra shade, water, and fertilizer required to induce rebloom in even the old reliables like **July Beauty**. I'm not suggesting that a plant will rebloom IF it exhibits this growth pattern, but rather that it can rebloom ONLY IF it can bypass summer dormancy. Never dreamed I'd use Boolean Algebra in hybridizing.....

**Interviewer:** Can you tell me offhand whether you know of any offspring, of whatever generation, of **Persian Pattern**?

**Sharon:** I ran a quick search on my database, but didn't find any registered ones.

**Interviewer:** If you were going to use **Persian Pattern** to breed for rebloom, what cultivars, arilbred

or other, to you think might offer the best prospects for success?

**Sharon:** I probably wouldn't use it directly because quarterbreds like **Persian Pattern** have limited fertility:

1. Pairing it with another quarterbred of the type would probably yield very little.
2. Crossing it to a reblooming TB might produce a rebloomer but I would expect to get few aril traits.
3. Crossing it to a fertile arilbred might enhance the aril traits but would probably not produce a rebloomer.

Instead, I'd start afresh by making similar crosses using more modern breeding stock. Tom Craig undoubtedly crossed **IB-Mac** onto **Gay Senorita** because that was the way that everyone used **IB-Mac** -- it had a well-deserved reputation as an excellent pollen parent but was next to impossible to pod. I'd make my crosses in the same direction because I've found that in wide crosses the seedlings tend to have growth habits more like those of the pod parent.

My ideal TB breeders would be reliable rebloomers with pink ground, because I've found that the pink-ground plicatas and bitones give the highest percentage of seedlings with aril traits. For arilbred parents, I'd choose ones that can stay green year 'round. There are now many halfbreds that meet that criterion, especially the descendants of **Esther, the Queen**, but I'd also use a few near-arils of some demonstrated fertility, such as **Tribe of Judah**, **Whirlwind Romance**, **Code of Silence**, **Prim and Proper**, **Engraved Invitation**, and **Delicate Embroidery**.

**Interviewer:** Thank you for sharing this information with the readers of the *Reblooming Iris Recorder*, Sharon. The only person currently breeding irises who has done work trying to get cold climate reblooming arilbred irises is apparently Lloyd Zurbrigg. Perhaps, your information will inspire some more people to do hybridizing in this challenging but most interesting area.

*Thank you Clarence for forwarding this valuable interview it to me. (Editor)*

*According to a survey by Organic Gardening Magazine, interplanting encourages more beneficial insects in your garden. Members of the daisy family, especially golden Marguerite, attracted the most beneficials. Let those ladybird beetles have a place to hide and a snack. Consider planting some echinacea, golden Marguerite and feverfew in among your irises. Give the beneficials a haven.*

*Paul Black told an interesting story this spring which relates to interplanting. He said that some guest irises for a national AIS convention which were planted in a monoculture (one perennial plant only) developed scorch, while ones in the same garden, but in an area that was interplanted with other perennials, were not affected.*

*Paul also said that scorch has been found to be caused by a mycoplasma which researchers believe is spread by leaf hoppers.*

*Editor*



### Rebloom in Hardiness Zone 4, Upstate New York *by Helen Raines*

I am sending a list of irises which made fall rebloom in 1996 since I didn't get the Recorder until April 11, 1996, and it was marked for return of reports by April 1. I was once told that I may be the only one in my area reporting and thought it might be essential someone know what is happening in USDA hardiness zone 4 at Olean, New York.

A health problem may prevent me from continuing my garden just when I finally see hope for progress of reblooming irises in zone 4. I have been having rebloom of seedlings, mostly from **Immortality** x **Many Happy Returns**. Most are white and I am partial to them but on the two in purple, one gave four stalks in September so loaded with bloom in succession that they continued to October 12. Plants from the cross of **Halloween Halo** x **Immortality** were all nice but gave bloom only in Spring. I have a batch of seedlings from **High Ho Silver** x **Peach Jam** to bloom in spring, 1997. I wanted a pink so badly I crossed **Immortality** x **Presence** and got a bunch of first year bloom - all cream - so much to learn and so little time.

Below is the list of both spring and autumn bloom. A few, mostly those reset summer, 1995 gave no spring bloom but flowered in autumn. (number of stalks in parentheses)

	<u>Spring Bloom</u>	<u>Autumn Bloom</u>
SDB <b>Baby Prince</b>	0	Sept. 29 (3)
IB <b>Blessed Again</b>	May 30 (1)	Aug. 25 (1)
TB <b>Anxious</b>	0	Oct. 1 (1)
<b>Autumn Bugler</b>	May 30 (1)	Aug. 30 (2)
<b>Belvi Queen</b>	May-June (1)	Sept. 8 (1)
<b>Bloomin' Fool</b>	?	(several stalks)
<b>Bonus Mama</b>	0	Sept. 21 (2)
<b>Caroline Gibbs</b>	0	Oct. 4 (1)
<b>Eternal Bliss</b>	0	Sept. 29 (1)
<b>Gibson Girl</b>	(many)	Sept. on (many)
<b>Immortality</b>	June (many)	Sept. (every fan)
<b>Lady Essex</b>	June 2, (1)	Sept. 6 (2)
<b>Las Vegas</b>	May 30 (1)	Oct. 4 (1)
<b>Napanee</b>	June (3)	Sept. 4 (2)
<b>Northward Ho</b>	0	Sept. 10 (2)
<b>Pink Attraction</b>	June (1)	Oct. (1)
<b>Royal Summer</b>	June (1)	Sept. 3 (2)
<b>St. Petersburg</b>	June (1)	Oct. 9 (1)
<b>Sugar Blues</b>	0	Aug. 30 (1)
<b>Zurich</b>	0	Sept. (1)

A few other TB's had stalks but were too late and were caught by frost. They were, **All Lit Up**, **Double Mint**, **Feed Back**, **I Do**, **Lichen**, **Sunny Disposition**, **Vanity**, and **Winesap**.

*Don't give up on your pink rebloomer. Don produced a pink, continuous rebloomer (for us in zone 6) out of Immortality x Enchanted World. Editor*

## Can There Be Successful Crosses With JENNIFER REBECCA ?

*By Don Spoon*

Dr. Lloyd Zurbrigg recently told me that Cooley's best selling iris in 1996 was **Jennifer Rebecca**. No wonder, as it is a confection of rosy pink with beautiful ruffles and lace and a very dependable rebloomer across the country. The lighter area around the tangerine pink beards gives it gorgeous highlights, and it has a nice sweet fragrance. Most hybridizers have heard that it is not very fertile. After many attempts, most have given up trying. This beauty has been quite a challenge for me. I have crossed nearly every flower and used almost all its pollen for years. The following is my progress report, but first let's look at the pedigree of **Jennifer Rebecca**.

**Jennifer Rebecca** RE-5 (L. Zurbrigg, 1995) is out of **Grace Thomas** '79 RE-5 (a heavily ruffled yellow self) x the pale pink Dykes winner **Vanity**, Ben Hager's 1975 great rebloom carrier that has a rebloom tendency in zone 9. **Vanity**, that received the highest plurality of all the Dykes winners, is out of **Cherub Choir** RE-9 from George Shoop's **One Desire** RE c x Rudolph's Dykes winner **Pink Taffeta** RE c. **Grace Thomas** is out of **Spirit of Memphis** '76 RE-5 (Lloyd's overlooked, AM quality, modern form ruffled deep yellow) x **Returning Glory** '71 RE-4 (a glowing orange-yellow with shrimp tangerine beards by Dr. Raymond Smith). The anthocyanin pigment that makes **Jennifer Rebecca** rosy pink may be from the bluish pigments of **Grand Baroque**, as **Spirit of Memphis** is out of ((**Miss Illini** '65 RE c, a Varner deep yellow self, x **Grand Baroque** '68 RE-7 out of **Henry Shaw** RE c x **Replicata** RE-6) x **Halloween Party** '70 RE-8 by Jim Gibson out of two brown plicatas). Lloyd describes his **Grand Baroque** as a yellow amoena that prior to the third day has a lot of anthocyanin showing. **Jennifer Rebecca** inherited her beautiful lace from **Returning Glory**, that is **Lorna Lynn** '60 RE-8 (Plough's salmon self with saturn red beards) x Dr. Smith's pink **Laced Duet** '67 RE-7 out of **Lacy Lu** by Muhlestein '61 BB RE-7. I haven't found any laced parents in the **Vanity** pedigree back two generations. Lloyd was able to produce this tall (35") bearded iris, **Jennifer Rebecca**, with homozygous recessive pink and lace, a trait probably due to dosage effects or modifiers, as well as fully modern form, great branching, and packing a wallop of rebloom. Wonderfully laced irises often have reduced fertility. Sometimes they are highly susceptible to soft rot,

which fortunately, **Jennifer Rebecca** is not. It makes a splendid, luscious clump in the garden.

I once set a pod on **Jennifer Rebecca** using **Bygone Era** pollen, but none of the five seeds germinated. Another pod that took, I unwisely protected with a plastic bag with too small an air hole, and it overheated and was lost. Most of us have concluded that **Jennifer Rebecca** is pod sterile, but being a wacko pollen dauber, I will probably keep on trying. It is the challenge that motivates me. Plus, there are so few great pink rebloomers.

I have used **Jennifer Rebecca** pollen for scores of attempts with only a few successes. In my many years of crossing bearded irises, I have gotten very few bee pollinated pods, but when all the seedlings with **Ovation** as the pod parent were medium bluish selfs, I had my doubts. Regrettably, I decided to throw them all away, being convinced a bee was at work. If I had selfed or sib crossed them, perhaps I would have attained my sought after, deep pink rebloomer. When my **Pink Sunmaiden** (**Anna Belle Babson** RE-t9 x **Loveboat** RE-t9) as pod parent x **Jennifer Rebecca** gave a medium blue self and various unusual blue-lavender amoenas and bitones, I wasn't so sure the bees were at work. These seedlings will be backcrossed with **Jennifer Rebecca** pollen. **Pink Sunmaiden** has some blue tints that fade in the sun, and **Jennifer Rebecca** is rosy pink from its blue tints. My bright yellow and white **Orien** (**Stately Mansions** x **Bride's Halo**) that throws pinks when crossed to pinks, when used as pod parent x **Jennifer Rebecca** produced several flamingo pink seedlings of fairly good form and branching. One of the seedlings was rosy pink and looked like **Jennifer Rebecca**, but it was lost in my move from the Heyden Gardens to the Winterberry Gardens. However, that was all the proof I needed that **Jennifer Rebecca** was the pollen parent and could produce viable offspring.

My greatest success was using as pod parent, my reblooming (zone 7) **Sweetheart Ring** (**Romantic Mood** x **I Do**). In this cross there were lots of nice pinks, including one that I have registered as **Sweet Romance**. It is a peaches and cream, horizontally flared, ruffled keeper. But none of these seedlings has rebloomed yet. I will line them out this summer, give extra water and fertilize them to try and induce

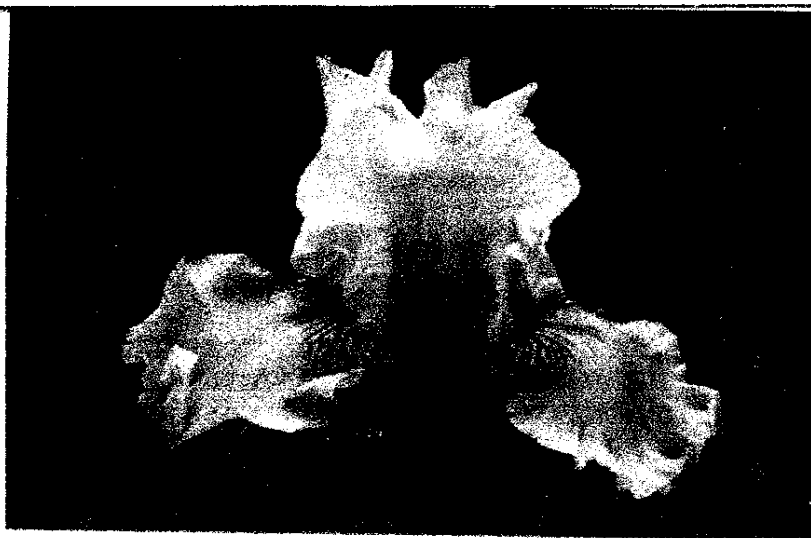


rebloom. I even tried selfing **Pink Attraction** and adding **Jennifer Rebecca** pollen as a rider and did get twelve seedlings that haven't bloomed yet. Proof of paternity may be difficult. I hope this story has you on the edge of your seat, and will challenge you to try some crosses. I predict **Jennifer Rebecca** will someday be the parent of a great reblooming Dykes winner. It is my sincere desire to produce a great pink rebloomer out of **Jennifer Rebecca** or bust!

**RE-6** means reliable rebloom to zone 6, including 7, 8, & 9.

**RE t-8** means tendency to rebloom to zone 8, including 9.

**RE c** means a rebloom carrier, parent to rebloomers.



**Sweet Romance (Spoon R. 96)**

This is Don's **Sweet Romance** (Spoon R. 96), (**Sweetheart Ring** x **Jennifer Rebecca**) which has not rebloomed for us yet (here in zone 6). It is a lovely cream and peachy pink with tangerine beards and flaring falls and looks a little like Don's **Diamond Blush** (Spoon R. 97). **Diamond Blush**, by the way, is Don's registered seedling, not mine. There was a photo of it in the last issue of the RIR crediting me with the iris. Don and I were not married at the time he made the cross, we weren't even dating!

Don has taught me how to hybridize and last year I saw my first seedlings. It is too early yet for any of my seedlings to be introduced, but I look forward to iris parenthood with great anticipation.

Editor



### **Dreaming Rainbows**

a free verse by Don Spoon

I'm always dreaming rainbows,  
Rainbows of iris flowers,  
Like drifting clouds passing by.  
Riding in a carriage drawn by two white horses  
Down the boulevard of Heaven's Central Park.  
I can reach out to the raised beds  
And touch and smell each iris variety.  
Some are planted to cover the landscape,  
Others are displayed in single clumps.  
This avenue of beauty leads to  
Different iris colors and forms  
Showing the steps to reach their perfection.  
There is a great Pavilion up ahead.  
Stepping across the gold paved floor  
I survey the greatest iris show ever  
And lightly touch them all.  
I finally reach the winner's show bench,  
To my great surprise  
The Queen of the Show  
Is one of my own introductions,  
But on the golden rosette I read,  
"Awarded to Ginny Spoon!"

## Rebloom Breeding Program Opens Many New Vistas!

*By Gary Sides*

After my recent move to Region 1 (home state Maine) from Region 7 (Tennessee) and preparation to get back into the full swing of my reblooming iris breeding program, I was totally unprepared for all the harsh realities I experienced last season. However, there was some success and I am optimistic that I can learn to cope with the weather here.

For several years now, rebloom breeders have worked with the theory that zone 8 and 9 rebloomers x zone 8 and 9 rebloomers do produce earlier rebloomers that can rebloom in the east, and those are happening more often all the time. And that rebloomer x non-rebloomer results in some good rebloomers on occasion. Desiring modern-looking early reblooming cultivars, I took this approach for my own and it seems to have worked. I took it one step further by using this theory to cross resultant seedlings amongst themselves and unbeknownst to me this parallels Marty Schafer's cousin crossing theories (AIS Bulletin, July '95). The general direction for me has been: ((RE x zone 8-9 RE) x non-RE) x similar seedling or good RE. Many good things are beginning to emerge with quite modern form, good vigor and rebloom. Being partial to plicatas and pinks, many of my crosses involve one or the other as a parent.

Serendipitous rebloomers such as **Pure as Gold & Speed Limit** seem to be occurring more often, although they have zone 8-9 RE in their background. Also, there appears to be a greater percentage of rebloomers in those cultivars that are line-bred, like **Gold Burst** by Dorothy Palmer (1980). It is interesting to note that **Originality** reblooms on the west coast and is out of a **Toastmaster** sib with lots of inbreeding, as I recall. **Toastmaster** is listed by Schreiner's as reblooming. So rebloom breeders need to just keep on doing what we're doing with an even sharper eye for form, vigor, and hardiness so that when the whole iris world awakens to rebloomers there are reliable and hardy varieties to keep the lines strong. Schreiner's (working for rebloom) introduced a dark violet rebloomer with totally modern form in '96. Can't wait to see what its parentage might be!

The really exciting cross that jump-started my program was a reblooming pink seedling (that I eventually lost) from **Returning Peace** x **Vanity**: AP22-C1Re. I put pollen of it on **Christa** and **Lady Friend** pollen on it. That first year I saved two seedlings from each cross, two pinks from the **Lady Friend** cross and a pink and a tangerine bearded white from the **Christa** cross. I replanted all of each cross that didn't bloom and saved 5 more seedlings from the **Christa** cross and 3 from the **Lady Friend** cross the next spring. One from each cross are my introductions for 1996: **October Splendor** (reblooming bright pink which consistently throws seedlings much better than itself!) and **Doctor Alan** (well branched mid-pink).

I then crossed **October Splendor** with my **Misty Lady** which led to the F46 series. And now that line has led to other really exciting seedlings. I saved 3 good seedlings from the F46 cross: F46-H1 (now named **Mystery Blush**), F46-H2B, and F46-GRe1. All are pink but in different shades. I had supposed **Mystery Blush** to be the best as a parent until I saw some things out of the other two in '95. Now I'm not so sure which is better. **Mystery Blush** has rebloomed in August in North Alabama and in October in PA...but it needs more testing.

J2-L1 is a seedling from **Mystery Blush** that is absolutely gorgeous. A very lovely shade of heavily ruffled pink, yellow and orange blendings, difficult to describe. It is most definitely destined for introduction, although rebloom is unproven. It is from **Mystery Blush** X F38-I3B: (**Lady Friend** x (C37-E14: **Summer Olympics** x **Christa**)). [cousin crossing] I have not guested it anywhere yet, because I have been trying to build up stock and use it as a parent as much as possible. First seedlings from it bloomed in '97. Need I say I'm heartily anticipating! I will send it out this summer to a few gardens and guest it at the next national convention.

K50-M7A is another **Mystery Blush** child. It is **Breakers** x **Mystery Blush** being a beautiful diamond dusted, heavily ruffled white with light yellow beards tipped blue. Only time will tell if it reblooms. It is Modern in every way!

Some good things that I am using further in my work are: C20-E12: **Titan's Glory** x **Earl of Essex**; dark violet self with super substance, ruffles, and form although branching needs much improvement.

C38-E9A: **Lemon Reflection** x **Christa**; a mauve pink, lightly laced and abundant early rebloom. A similar, but more ruffled flower than Zurbrigg's almost sterile **Jennifer Rebecca** ( '85 ), and it is quite fertile.

D55-F35A: **Coral Satin** x B99-D30: (**Immortality** x **Glory Bound**); extremely ruffled yellow with bushy beards. When used with **Harvest of Memories** (Zurbrigg '85), it gave a beautiful seedling (K39-M50Re) that bloomed in '95 one month after regular season. It was a perfect stalk with wonderful, totally modern flowers of lemony yellow and 8 buds. Need to see it again, hopefully this spring!

F38-I3B: **Lady Friend** x C37-E14: (**Summer Olympics** x **Christa**); pink with great flower, branching and growth, but no known rebloom.

F86-I2: **Inga Ivey** x **October Splendor**; late reblooming deep pink with tangerine caterpillar beards, perhaps a BB. This one also gave seedlings with totally modern form and great branching when used with **Harvest of Memories**.

F90-HN2: BC45-F37: (**Pleated Gown** x (**Lemon Reflection** x **Vanity**)) X **October Splendor**; very nice pale peach with extreme ruffling but alas, poor branching! The pod seedling is giving many fantastic seedlings when used in all directions. Anyone like a rhizome?

K12-M4C: **Cranberry Crush** x C20-E12: (**Titan's Glory** x **Earl of Essex**); wonderful blue-violet plicata with ruffling and excellent branching, but not a really good grower. I saved six from this cross!

K29-M16A: F70-II: (**Misty Lady** sib x **October Splendor** sib) x **Tomoko**; light pink bicolor with form and branching. Now if it will just rebloom! If not, the genes are lurking there waiting for the right cross to re-emerge. I kept three from this cross.

K56-M15: **Joyous Cadence** x **October Splendor**; wonderful pink, although shorter, with 7 buds, but again, form and branching!

There are some things that I'm really upset that I haven't used more in the last few years. I really enjoy **Pink Attraction** and can kick myself for not using it more. One bad thing that happens is that it blooms so heavily in the fall, I only have a few increases in the spring that are large enough to bloom. So that kind of messes up the parenting aspects for me. I'm also kicking myself that I have not used **Lemon Reflection** and **Summer Olympics** more as parents. They both are good irises and throw good seedlings. I plan to give them both a workout this spring if they bloom for me. **Immortality** should have been used much more extensively for generations of crosses by someone. I don't enjoy working with whites as a rule, so I've not used it much. If **Immortality** were outcrossed to some really good oncurs for better form, flower width and better branching, and then line bred for several generations, a whole line of everbloomers should begin to appear! I'll take K39-M50Re a few generations further to recover both the pink and everbloom trait, perhaps crossing into Betty Wilkerson's **Bridge in Time** ('95) and **Returning Chameleon** ('95) or the seedlings I have to bloom from **BIT** crossed with both **Mystery Blush** and J2-L1. All the while I continue to look for that everbloom trait to appear.

1997 promises to be the most exciting season yet with the possibility of combining several of the above seedlings in many new directions with each other and some really fabulous recent introductions from across the country! Exciting rebloomers that will be incorporated this year include: **Pure as Gold** (Maryott '93 ), **Speed Limit** (Lauer '92 ), **Chatter** (Ghio '93 ) and **Competition** (R. Smith '94). Three recently described near-everbloomers that I plan to acquire and begin incorporating are: **Barn Dance** (Byers '91), inbreeding in background, **Lady Essex** (Zurbrigg '91), a closely line-bred cultivar, and **Northward Ho** (Zurbrigg '91).

A quote attributed to Joe Ghio guides my breeding program, "Choose the very best parents available and intercross them and their progeny in as many ways as possible!" Go out during bloom season and cross any of the aforementioned varieties or choose your own parents carefully and see what exciting things bloom and rebloom for you that we can all enjoy!

## Who Will Develop Reblooming Spuria Irises?

by Clarence Mahan

Recently, while doing research on a different topic in back issues of SIGNA, I came across an article with the title "Reblooming Garden Strains" in issue No. 8, November 1971. Written by Roy Davidson, this article concludes with an intriguing thought: "A strain of remontant spurias could come from *I. autumnalis*, a plant of the *I. halophila* complex designated for its fall blossom. If a reflowering tendency of any plant can be strengthened by cultural practices and multiplied by breeding procedures, a new and valuable race may come about to gladden the days of autumn in the Iris Garden."

Remembering that a synonym for *I. halophila*, Pallas, is *I. gueldenstadtiana*, the above quote from SIGNA prompted me to recall two articles on autumn-blooming irises written by W. R. Dykes. Both of these articles are reprinted in George Dillistone's, *Dykes on Irises*. In a 1910 article, Dykes wrote: "Another regular flowerer [in autumn] is a form of the ubiquitous *I. Guldenstadtiana*. The flowers are small, of the usual dingy yellow or pale purple, and the plant can hardly claim to be even of botanical interest, the euphemistic term beloved by compilers of nurserymen's lists."

The second article which Dykes wrote about this iris appeared in *The Gardeners' Chronicle* in 1918. The following is excerpted from that article, "An Autumn-flowering Iris (GULDENSTADTIANA)":

"The sketch reproduced in fig. 63 [not reproduced in Dykes on Irises] is of an iris which does not get much attention or praise when it flowers in June, for then it is overshadowed by finer forms of the Spuria section. When, however, it sends up its second show of spikes in mid-September, and when each spike has as many as three or four flowers open at once, it is a much more valuable plant.

"Its real name is exceedingly hard, or indeed impossible, to discover, for it is one of a numerous company of Asiatic relatives of *I. spuria*, which seems to abound in every brackish marsh from Smyrna to Srinagar. The oldest name appears to be Pallas' *halophila*, 'salt-loving,' and others are *guldenstadtiana*, *sogdiana*, and *desertorum*. It is difficult, if not impossible, to distinguish herbarium specimens of the various forms, and further confusion

has been caused by the fact that all seed exceedingly freely. The seeds germinate readily and the plants grow vigorously and easily oust any more delicate species near which they happen to have sprung up. Anyone who attempts to obtain a collection of iris species by raising plants from the seeds offered by botanic gardens and continental seedsmen will find that a large proportion of the most attractive names have been attached to seeds of some form of this iris.

"The individual flowers are not large, for the blade of the fall is only about three-quarters of an inch in width, the whole flower measuring about three inches across. The colors vary, but usually consist of more or less faint purple veins on a pale mauve or cream ground, with a central yellow mark on the blade of the falls. One curious form which was sent to me as *sogdiana* by Mme. Fedtschenko has flowers of a peculiar shade of mauve-purple, which could only be matched among the pallidas, if, indeed, the exact tone ever comes even then.

"The seeds of this iris are curious, and well adapted to the marshy habitat in which it grows in the wild state. For each is enveloped in a loose, but air-tight, parchment-like covering, which enables it to float in water. On the surface it is either carried along by any current or blown by the wind until it strands on some bank, where it has more chance of germinating and growing into a plant than if it lacked this covering and sank to the bottom of the water, where the young plant would probably be drowned, even if the seed succeeded in germinating at all."

Is the autumn-blooming iris grown by Dykes really the iris that has been called *I. autumnalis*? In *The Genus Iris*, pp. 237-239, Dykes lists several irises under the heading "Unidentified Specific Names." One entry reads: "*I. autumnalis*, 'Tausch' in *Flora*, XVII. P. 522 (1834). ? = *I. spuria* var. *halophila*." In other words, Dykes thought these irises might be the same species or at least forms of the same species. But he did not know for sure.

Dykes "lumped" several irises previously granted specific status under the name *I. spuria* var. *halophila*, including *I. halophila*, *I. guldenstadtiana*, *I. sogdiana* and *I. musulmanica*. He commented, however, that there was much that was not known

about these irises (*The Genus Iris*, p. 61): "In spite of many attempts it seems impossible in the present state of our knowledge to classify the various forms of *I. spuria* that are found in the Caucasus and in Persia. The European forms seem to fall naturally into certain geographical classes and at the extreme eastern end of the habitat, the Altai and Turkestan plants can be grouped together under the name of *I. halophila*, Pallas, but in the center confusion reigns supreme. There seems to be no hope of clearing up the difficulties here involved until we can obtain in cultivation a series of plants from known localities in the Caucasus region and in Persia."

Progress sometimes proceeds at a very slow pace. In 1989, seventy-six years after *The Genus Iris* was published, Brian Mathew wrote in *The Iris*, p. 116: "*I. spuria* Linn. This species, or rather species aggregate, has caused much confusion among botanists and will no doubt continue to do so until a thorough study of the wild populations over its complete range from Europe to central Asia can be made."

Mathew, acknowledging that no classification can be definitive based on current knowledge, designates a number of irises as subspecies of *I. spuria*. Three of the irises so designated are irises which Dykes "lumped" together, i.e. *halophila*, *musulmanica*, and *sogdiana*. Mathew recognizes *I. gueldenstadtiana* as a synonym for *I. spuria* subsp. *halophila*.

What does all this mean? We do not know for certain what *I. autumnalis* is. We also do not know for certain whether the fall blooming *I. gueldenstadtiana* grown by Dykes, and included in the "lumping" under his *I. spuria* var. *halophila*, is really a form of Mathew's *I. spuria* subsp. *halophila*, *I. spuria* subsp. *musulmanica*, or perhaps even *I. spuria* subsp. *sogdiana*. If I were permitted a guess as to what it was I would speculate that it is "none of the above." Knowing that hybrid irises are more apt to bloom in the summer and fall than "pure" species, I would venture to guess that Dykes's autumn blooming spuria and the iris 'Tausch' called *I. autumnalis* were hybrids.

There is another reason for suspecting that Dykes's autumn-blooming spuria was a hybrid. I refer to what Dykes said about the readiness of the "ubiquitous *I. gueldenstadtiana*" to set seed in botanic gardens. It is precisely in botanic gardens, where species are grown

in proximity to other species, that hybrids often originate.

One fact is certain. Dykes had a form of *I. spuria* that dependably rebloomed in his garden and it was quite floriferous when it rebloomed. Does anyone today have a form of *I. spuria* that does this? Although many modern spuria iris cultivars do not perform particularly well in my garden in Virginia, many of the spuria species grow and bloom profusely. The only Spuriæ species that has given me autumn bloom, however, is a white form of *I. spuria* subsp. *carthalinia*. This happened only once.

I have long believed that the vigorous Spuriæ species and subspecies provide excellent opportunities for some hybridizer to "make a name" in the iris world. Most of our modern spuria cultivars are derivatives of *I. orientalis* (syn. *I. ochroleuca*), *I. crocea*, *I. monnieri* and *I. xanthospuria* ('Turkey Yellow'). As a result, most modern spuria cultivars are summer dormant and begin their new growth in the late fall. Although it is possible to grow select cultivars from such breeding in cold, moist winter regions such as the northeast and mid-Atlantic areas of the U.S., most of the modern spuria irises prefer a more moderate climate. The hybridizing lines that I am suggesting offer the most potential to achieve vigorous, cold hardy cultivars are in a different direction altogether.

The considerable number of iris species and subspecies that retain their green leaves throughout the summer, of which *I. spuria* subsp. *halophila* is one, have been little used by hybridizers. Dave Niswonger has been working with *I. spuria* subsp. *musulmanica* (syn. *I. klattii*) and *I. spuria* subsp. *demetrii*. For the most part, however, these vigorous irises have been mostly neglected. Many possibilities remain to be exploited. Some bright and adventurous hybridizer might even be able to develop a strain of reblooming spurias as Roy Davidson suggested in 1971. Who is going to do it?





## Twenty Years of Introducing Reblooming Irises, A Critique by Walter A. Moores

1997 marks the twentieth anniversary of my first advertisement in the *Bulletin of the American Iris Society* for the sale of irises that I have hybridized. This article is a retrospective look at the reblooming irises I have introduced over the last twenty years. Most of these are still available through various commercial sources while others, not commercially available, may still exist in private gardens. Unfortunately, I have lost several with my relocation from Texas to Mississippi, where certain cultivars did not adjust to a different climate. Many, I thought, were advancements in form, but because of their lateness in rebloom did not receive wide-spread distribution and approval as reblooming varieties. Some, too, were introduced when reblooming irises were still considered oddities. A few have been used by west coast hybridizers in their reblooming lines, which indicates their usefulness and worthiness as introductions. A few survivors of this list, outside of my own garden, may stick around and become historic irises!

**Pepper Blend** and **Grandville** were my first introductions in 1977. Both reblooming plicatas, they represented advancements in form for rebloomers when they were introduced. **Pepper Blend** was very similar in coloration to one of its parents, **Cayenne Capers**, but tended to rebloom earlier. I still see it listed in reblooming sections of various catalogs and price lists. **Grandville** was a cross of an east coast x west coast rebloomer (**Grand Baroque** x **Villa Gold**). It was very late to rebloom. It is pictured in *The World of Irises* (plate 17). Today, these two irises might be considered 'old fashioned' as they are not representative of the modern, wide form one is accustomed to seeing now.

**Burnt Offering**, 1978, is a red bitone with yellow striations at the hafts that are not distracting. It should have been reregistered as a border bearded (BB) as it is short and has small flowers. In Mississippi, it tends to give a heavy fall bloom in early November, thereby limiting its ability to recover over winter and bloom properly in the spring.

**Dante's Inferno**, a bright variegata introduced in 1979, was not registered as a rebloomer even though it was out of a line of rebloomers. It was first observed as a rebloomer in the Tulsa convention gardens in 1978 and 1979. I have had it rebloom for me in Texas only when growing conditions were quite favorable for rebloom. It has inconsistent branching as well as rebloom. It won an HM in 1982 the same year it was best specimen at the Fort Worth Iris Society Show.

**Face Powder**, 1979, is a perky little border bearded in salmon pink which was used by Monty Byers. It rebloomed late and was one that failed to adjust to Mississippi. It produced Monty's **Candyland**, and an HM for him.

**Pink Sachet**, 1979, was not registered as a rebloomer but became a fairly reliable rebloomer in colder parts of the country and eventually did rebloom in Texas. It was a blue/pink with the 'scroll' feature on the falls. It was registered at thirty inches as it grew in Texas. In Tulsa, it was overgrown at about fifty inches and did not look well. The branching was close as it grew there, and I was ashamed to see it beside another introduction of mine, **Haunting Music**, which was a runner-up for the Cook Cup in 1980.

**Desiderata**, 1980, is a pale blue/white with a self beard. Rebloom is always late in this one. It surprised me in 1993 when it beat out **Rustler** for "Queen of the Show" at the North Mississippi Lakes Iris Society spring show. This iris is still good for hybridizing for good branching. I have a seedling from **Desiderata** x **White Reprise**, registered as **Azure Reprise**, that had five flowers open displaying perfect branching last fall.

**Miss Scarlett**, 1980, probably is my most widely distributed iris and has rebloomed in a variety of climates. A red with a slight violet cast, it has charmed so many that it has been voted best median several times in the Reblooming Iris Symposium. As a border, it displays well the characteristics of the class. Occasionally, it may show short, close branching. It was awarded an HM in 1982.

## REBLOOMING IRISES

### WHAT ARE THEY?

A **reblooming** iris produces more than one crop of bloom stalks in a single growing season. The **cycle rebloomers** complete two distinct cycles of growth, blossoming and increase in any one growing season producing bloom stalks from new growth. This second growth cycle does not require vernalization (a chilling period). The rebloom time of cycle rebloomers can usually be predicted but this term is confusing since rebloom times will vary in different zones. Rebloomers include the beardless as well as the bearded varieties. Some bearded, and beardless varieties which rebloom are **repeaters**, which produce additional bloom stalks from old growth with unpredictable regularity immediately following the initial production of spring bloom. Repeaters can extend the regular spring bloom season from four to eight weeks. Some rebloomers are **continuous rebloomers**. They send up bloom stalks throughout the growing season whenever a rhizome has sufficiently matured. Rebloomers have improved greatly in both color and form since the older varieties due much to the hybridization of warm climate rebloomers against the cold climate ones. The newer varieties can now compete with the once bloomers. **Chatter** (Ghio 93), **Zurich** (Byers 90), **Rosalie Figge** (McNew 93), **Autumn Circus** (Hager 90), and **Clarence** (Zurbrigg 91), are just a few examples of this modern form.

### WHERE AND WHEN?

Some rebloomers will rebloom reliably to zone 4, while others only rebloom in the warmer zones, (zones 8 and 9 / such as CA or OR). These are called cold climate and warm climate rebloomers respectively. We list them in our catalog according to the zone in which rebloom has been reported, instead of state. For instance, our state (VA) has three zones, 6, 7 and 8. We are located in the northernmost part of VA in zone 6 where it may reach a minimum temperature of minus (-10) degrees. The state of Texas has four zones, 6, 7, 8 and 9. A good place to check for rebloom results is in the **Rebloomers Symposium** each year. Even so, the rebloom may depend on cultural conditions or some unknown factor. You may want to try growing different varieties. Don't give up if you can't get them to rebloom right away since some varieties need to get acclimated for a few years before they rebloom. For those who want to keep track of what reblooms where, plus lots of other helpful information, join the **Rebloomers Iris Society**, Charlie Brown, Membership Chairman, 3114 S. FM 131, Denison, TX 75020 (\$5 single annual, \$6 family). Of course you really should become a member of AIS if you aren't already. Write to Marilyn Harlow, PO Box 8455, San Jose, CA 95405 (\$18 single annual, \$23 dual annual). One of the first irises to rebloom for us was **Cantina** (Byers 90) in early July followed closely by **Pearls of Autumn** (Hager 93) a week later. Of our 600+ rebloomers, 130 rebloomed in 1996, 30 during July. Our August rebloom included, **Total Recall**, **July Sunshine**, **Dorcas Lives Again**, **SDB Baby Blessed**, **Pink Attraction**, **Chatter**, **Lovely Again**, and **Midsummer's Eve** (Spoon R.97)(**Immortality** x **Enchanted World**). September rebloom included, **Cantina** (again), **Heart of Ice**, **Immortality**, **BB Peach Parasol** (Spoon 97), **Matrix** (with six stalks), **Red Revival**, **Bonus Mama**, **Amanda Erin**, **Celestial Happiness**, and **BB Pink Reprise**. Snow and freezing weather usually stops them here by mid-November. Our best month here (in zone 6) for rebloom is October.

### WHY DO THEY?

Genetically controlled levels of plant hormones may cause certain irises to rebloom. This can explain why two rebloomers, when crossed with one another do not necessarily produce reblooming seedlings. Also, when warm climate rebloomers are crossed with cold climate rebloomers, then that cross may produce cold climate rebloomers with superior modern form. This explains why we grow so many zone 7-9 rebloomers; we use them in our hybridizing. It certainly is a great surprise to look in the garden in the off-season and find stalks of rebloomers literally coming up overnight. If you have had a bad spring and your spring blooms were frozen, you would still be able to enjoy iris bloom later in the year if you grow rebloomers.

**Yellow Reprise**, 1981, began the reprise series which is like a trademark for some of my reblooming irises. It was a full yellow self that showed some lace. It did not increase well in Mississippi and eventually bloomed out.

**Top Stitch**, 1981, is an interesting plicata pattern in that the standards are heavily marked with the falls only narrowly dotted and stitched. From a distance it looks like a 'reverse plicata'. **Top Stitch** blooms heavily in the summer if moisture is adequate and temperatures are mild. It was well received at the Boston convention, enabling it to win an HM in 1984.

**Palo Pinto** was introduced in 1982. Out of **Shaft of Gold**, it is tall and very late to rebloom. Golden standards tip tan-yellow falls, sanded deeper tan. A late rebloomer, it is recommended for milder climates.

**Hawaiian Surf**, 1983, is another that was not registered as a rebloomer but proved to be after registration. A bitone blue violet, it has produced two excellent reblooming seedlings in a cross with **Best Bet**. **Hawaiian Surf** displays modern form on a plant that is just a part-time rebloomer.

**Peach Reprise**, 1983, is a well-formed border bearded which in summer reblooms like its parent **Summer Luxury**. The branching may be erratic, but it managed an HM in 1986. Most of its rebloom occurs in the summer or early fall.

**Soft Halo**, 1983, represents one of the better golden haloed irises available, but the stalks produced are often unbranched, a trait inherited from one of its parents, **Bess Bergin**. Again, this iris was not registered as a rebloomer for it reblooms only when conditions are quite favorable for rebloom.

When I introduced **Dime Spot** in 1985, I thought I had created the ultimate in reblooming irises. This medium yellow with a white fall spot is perfection in certain climates such as Texas and the Southwest. The ruffled flowers are born on well-branched stalks, and the fragrance is breathtaking. Its major fault is winter tenderness. It was hard to believe that this iris could perform so well in Texas and then struggle for survival in Mississippi.

**French Provencal**, 1985, is a late reblooming pearl white showing the halo pattern only on the horizontally flared falls. It proved to be extremely rot-prone in Mississippi.

**White Reprise**, 1986, is probably the best reblooming iris I have created unless one wants to fault it for being a late rebloomer. When it was being guested for the California convention in 1986, Ben Hager bought all of the stock he was guesting. Monty Byers 'raved' on about it in his catalog. It has produced fine seedlings and hardiness in rebloomers.

**Drifting Confetti**, 1986, is the only line-bred iris I have introduced. Not registered as a rebloomer, it surprised me the fall preceding its introduction with prolific rebloom. A brown-red plicata on cream ground, it is a good fall color. Again, this is late to rebloom.

**Gold Reprise**, a sibling to **Dime Spot** that reblooms earlier, seems to be winter hardy. A golden yellow bitone, it does not possess the form that rebloomers should have for a 1988 introduction.

**Waltz Across Texas**, 1988, is a yellow plicata with tan plicata brushings on the hafts. The early rebloom stalks often are short, but the later ones achieve normal height and the flowers are not crowded. The coloring can be brilliant in the fall garden. This one reblooms early and should be more widely grown in colder climates.

**Prince of Earl** was my reblooming introduction for 1989. Coming from a long line of reblooming seedlings by **Earl of Essex**, it also should be welcomed in colder climates because of its willingness to rebloom quite early. It is a violet-purple on white plicata and is often short like **Earl of Essex**.

**April Reverie**, 1990, may not belong in this list because it gives spring repeat bloom but no summer or fall bloom. It is a quarter-bred of aril ancestry out of **Baby Blessed** x **Rare Spice**. It is a pastel blue and chartreuse with fine cinnamon dotting. It inherited the pleasant fragrance of **Baby Blessed** and aril-type rhizomes from **Rare Spice**. Its only fault is open standards on a windy day. It won an HM and was runner-up to an AM in 1996.

**Olympic Rings**, 1990, is the third iris I have introduced with the haloed pattern. On opening there may be a faint halo on the standards but quickly fades, leaving it an 'amoena halo'. It is a cross between cold climate and warm climate rebloomers and seems to be cold hardy. Well branched, it is faulted for its lateness to rebloom and slight pinching of the falls as the flower ages.

**Lake Reprise**, also 1990, is a tailored slate blue lavender. Out of **Summer Holidays**, it can summer rebloom. It may be too plain for those who prefer ruffles.

**Pink Reprise**, originally registered and introduced in 1991 as a tall, has been reregistered as a border. It is a deeper pink than **Peach Reprise** and quite a prolific bloomer. Its branching is satisfactory on spring bloom but can be bunched with cooler weather. I have had it in rebloom from July to December.

**Summer Surf**, a sibling to **Lake Reprise**, is a bitone lavender introduced in 1991. When happy, it can bloom profusely in the summer and early fall. It is well branched but quite tailored.

**Off Broadway**, 1992, is a bold variegata plicata in gold and maroon. Early to bloom in the spring, it waits until very late in the fall to rebloom, which is a major drawback as a rebloomer. In the spring, some stalks are without a lower branch, giving it a bunched appearance. It is not as sunfast as I would like, and on the third day of its bloom, it appears washed-out.

**Fall Spotlight**, 1992, is a violet and white zonal from **Magic Candle** x **Needlecraft**. Very late to rebloom, it has produced some very fine seedlings when crossed with **Victoria Falls**. Zonals and plicatas have come from this pairing. I have made the cross in separate seasons and am fascinated with the resultant seedlings. Branching and bud count are pluses from this cross.

**Violet Reprise**, 1993, and **Grape Reprise**, 1994, are from a cross of **Earl of Essex** x **Feedback**. Both are dark red-violet with **Violet Reprise** showing its plicata heritage with a white spray pattern around white beards. Both have large flowers on well-branched stalks which rebloom very

early in September. The only fault I find with them is that the falls could be more flared and ruffled.

**Scorpio Star**, 1996, is the last registered reblooming iris I have introduced. It is a dark purple-violet and is one of the zonals out of the **Fall Spotlight** x **Victoria Falls** cross. It has as many as seventeen buds on one stalk and can open seven flowers without crowding or staking. It is a late rebloomer that probably needs a little more haft width.

If you notice a skip in some of the introductory dates, it is because I had only regular, once-blooming irises to introduce that particular year.

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*Walter, thank you so much for this informative article. Not only is it interesting both for the hybridizer and non hybridizer, but it is a valuable reference. We are grateful to all the hybridizers out there who are working to improve and produce irises for our enjoyment. Hybridizers, please send us your articles.*

*Editor*

#### *Vole control*

*If you are having problems with voles, try mousetraps. Bait them with peanut butter and clean out the hole with the trap towards the tunnel with a pot covering it. Check daily. Last year I caught 18 voles and 15 field mice with this method. This year I have caught three voles. It works, but be persistent. Drop nuts down the hole to entice them towards the trap. Later, when the weather warms up, you can stop trapping when your friendly black snakes take over the vole control.*

*Editor*

*Thanks to Diana Nichols for this advice two years ago which saved my garden.*

## From the Mountains of Central Asia

by Clarence Mahan

The irises which revolutionized tall bearded iris breeding came from Asia. These are, of course, the 48 chromosome irises which taxonomists, uncertain as to their proper treatment, rather cavalierly lump under *Iris germanica*. The most important of these for iris breeding have been *I. trojana*, *mesopotamica*, and *cypriana* and the cultivar AMAS. Soon after these irises were crossed with garden cultivars having *I. pallida* and *variegata* as their genetic base, the first tall bearded irises to deserve being called cold climate remontant cultivars started to appear, e.g. AUTUMN KING (H. P. Sass, 1924).<sup>1</sup> The role of the Asiatic irises in the development of the remontant trait in tall bearded irises can hardly be doubted, whether that trait is attributable to heterosis or some other genetic factor or factors not yet understood.

To appreciate the importance of the 48 chromosome irises from Asia in the development of remontancy in tall bearded irises, one need only consider that in the miniature tall bearded class, whose members are primarily diploid, remontancy is at best sporadic and rare. There are a handful of miniature tall bearded irises which have, from time to time, rebloomed under favorable growing conditions. But what introduced MTB cultivar, one which really meets the standards for that class, is a dependable rebloomer? LADY EMMA (F. Jones 86), a prodigious rebloomer, blooms in the spring with the intermediate bearded irises, but although registered as an MTB, comes up short on meeting a number of the standards of the MTB class.<sup>2</sup>

There are other pogoniris from Asia which have not been used much in breeding programs. In the case of at least one of these, *I. albertii*, I wonder why not? I especially wonder why it has not been used more widely in breeding programs for remontant

irises because its potential for producing reblooming iris hybrids has been known since the time of Dykes.

Of the various pogoniris native to Asia, *I. albertii* has received relatively little attention, and is not widely grown in the West even today. It is a diploid with a chromosome count of  $2n = 24$ . Its discoverer, Albert Regel, was one of the great plant hunters of the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>3</sup> A young German medical doctor who had been reared in Russia, he was appointed district physician at Kuldja, an outpost on Russia's central Asian border with China. During his travel to his new post and on several subsequent excursions, he searched for and collected native plants which he sent back to his father, Edward Regel, Director of the St Petersburg Botanic Garden. In a site, described by Dykes as in "the mountains of Turkestan near Wernoje (Verni) in the valley of the Almatinka,"<sup>4</sup> Albert Regel found

<sup>3</sup> The story of Albert Regel's plant collecting expeditions is related in Alice M. Coat's *The Plant Hunters* (London, 1969).

<sup>4</sup> Dykes, W. R., *The Genus Iris* (Cambridge, 1913), p.181. This description would put the site in Kazakstan, south of Lake Balkhash, near the city of Alma-Ata. Brian Mathew, *The Iris* (London, 1989), p. 21, states that *I. albertii* "...is a native of Kazakstan in central Asiatic Russia where it grows on grassy steppes in the mountains at 1700-2000 metres altitude, particularly in the Tien Shan and Fergana ranges." This is somewhat confusing in that the Tien Shan is a vast mountain system which stretches for about 1,800 miles. Whereas the Tien Shan system does extend into eastern Kazakstan, the Fergana Range, which comprises one element of the Tien Shan, lies within Kyrgyzstan. The Fergana Valley is in Uzbekistan. G. I. Rodionenko, *The Genus Iris L.* (London, 1984), p.121, gives information on the collection of *Iris albertii* by O. E. Neustruyeva, 1947, in the Fergansk region, Lake Sari-Chilek district. Fritz Kohlein, *Iris* (Portland, 1987), p. 195, states that it "it occurs in Turkestan, Kazakstan and Uzbekistan." The entire region where *I. albertii* occurs in the wild is called by the generic term "Turkestan," and the use of this term by Regel and Dykes is understandable. For Kohlein to cite Turkestan as a locale where this iris is indigenous, however, and then cite Kazakstan and Uzbekistan, is peculiar, to say the least. From the various references cited, I have concluded that *I. albertii* is native to Kazakstan, Uzbekistan and possibly Kyrgyzstan, but I

<sup>1</sup> There were cultivars that rebloom in mild climates before the Middle Eastern tetraploids were used in iris breeding, e.g. GRACCHUS, CRIMSON KING; but these cultivars rebloom only rarely in cold climate regions.

<sup>2</sup> I do not mean to indicate that LADY EMMA is not an iris worthy of growing. Indeed, I grow it myself, and am fond of it. The problem with its classification is shared by a number of irises, many of which are quite nice cultivars, but which do not fit easily into the standards of any of the classes established by AIS.



a new iris species. Subsequently, Edward Regel named this iris for his son and published his specific description in 1877.

There is a lovely color photograph of *I. albertii* in Fritz Kohlein's book *Iris*.<sup>5</sup> Kohlein also provides an interesting, and as far as I can determine, fairly accurate description of the species. "Normally, the bloomstalk grows to only 15-20" (40-50 cm). The ground color of the flower is subdued blue-violet with rich olive-yellow to olive-brown stripes on the falls, from the throat up to the tips of the beard. These blend into a shade of violet and spread over more than half the falls. The color does not thin out, but ends rather abruptly. The beard is whitish with yellow tips. Standards are the same color as the falls, the lower third combed with olive-brown veins. The scape has several short branches, which crowd the blossoms together. Flowers have no scent. Leaf tips often are already dried out when the plant blossoms...."<sup>6</sup>

Kohlein also reports: "Unusually vigorous forms can be found on the treeless southern slopes of the Fergana Mountains, where bloomstalks reach a height of 24-28". They have a somewhat later blooming period and a cherry red seed capsule." The red color of the capsule of this form apparently disappears when the capsule fully ripens. This especially vigorous type has been designated by Rodionenko as var. *erythrocarpa*.

Kohlein states that yellow-blossomed forms are recorded and that these can be distinguished from *I. imbricata* by the fact that the former has elongated falls, while the latter has more rounded falls.<sup>7</sup> He does not give references for this yellow-flower form. Dykes, in *The Genus Iris*, stated that he had

obtained more than one pale yellow-flowered plant when he raised the iris from seed.<sup>8</sup>

Regardless as to whether one believes the yellow-flowered forms of *I. albertii* which Dykes raised from seeds were pure forms of the species or hybrid forms, his effort to distinguish them from *I. imbricata* are significant. This is what Dykes wrote: "The distinction between *I. imbricata* and the yellow-flowered forms of *I. albertii* is somewhat difficult to determine. The plants look very different when growing side by side and yet it is hard to define the difference apart from the colour. On the whole, they may be separated by the following characters:—*I. imbricata* is the dwarfer plant and has the outer spathe valve keeled. The lateral branches are also very short so that the inflorescence is very crowded....The hairs of the beard are yellow for their whole length and not bluish-white tipped with yellow as in *I. albertii*. The filaments are not infrequently mauve."<sup>9</sup> When Dykes had difficulty finding differences between two irises it could only mean one thing. The two irises are very much alike!

In *Handbook of the Irideae*, J. G Baker placed *I. albertii* in a Subgenus called *Pseudevansia* because the species has a rudimentary crest. Dykes rejected this concept. Acknowledging that some of the individual flowers showed a rudimentary crest<sup>10</sup>, he noted that it was so slight in many individual

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would admit that the apparent confusion that exists in the literature regarding this matter could have led me awry.

<sup>5</sup> In the Timber Press edition, it is between pp. 182-185.

<sup>6</sup> p. 195.

<sup>7</sup> In *The Genus Iris*, Dykes describes the shape of the falls of *I. albertii* and *I. imbricata* with exactly the same term, i.e. "obovate cuneate," and makes no distinction between the two irises in this respect. However, in *Handbook of Garden Irises* (London, 1924), p. 210, Dykes makes the distinction between the falls of the two irises: "The blade of the falls [of *I. albertii*] is strap-shaped and not rounded as in *I. imbricata*, to which *I. albertii* seems to be related by reason of its membranous, herbaceous spathes."

<sup>8</sup> Notwithstanding the awe in which I regard Dykes, I have wondered from where Dykes's obtained his seed which produced this "yellow-flowered" form, and what types of controls, if any, were employed to preclude corruption. Is it possible that the yellow-flowered forms are really hybrids, perhaps with the other parent being *I. imbricata*, which is quite similar to *I. albertii*? Interestingly, Kohlein also mentions that there is a rare "bluish" form of *I. imbricata*. Could this too be a hybrid? I am neither prepared to discount the possibility of yellow forms of *I. albertii* and blue forms of *I. imbricata*, nor convinced of their existence based on the published evidence.

<sup>9</sup> Dykes, *The Genus Iris*, pp. 181-182. It is curious that Dykes, when closely examining and comparing *I. imbricata* and the yellow-flowered form *I. albertii* does not mention shape of falls. Could the shape of the falls of Dykes's yellow form of *I. albertii* have been "rounded"? If so, this would be evidence of the hybrid origin of the yellow-flowered *I. albertii*.

<sup>10</sup> The rudimentary crest is evident in the wonderful painting of *I. albertii* by F. H. Round, Plate XXXVIII in *The Genus Iris*.

flowers as to be not evident at all. Dykes thought it "wiser to keep it among the Pogoniris." He went on to say: "I feel more justified in adopting this plan because among numbers of seedling Pogoniris I have found many with a distinct crest beyond the tip of the beard. The amount of crest varies in different flowers on the same plant and even on the different falls of the same flower. In some cases I have noticed a good half inch of crest beyond the extremity of the beard, and it is not unusual for the hairs of the later to be inserted on a distinctly raised ridge."<sup>11</sup>

In 1910, Dykes made another observation about *I. albertii* in an article he wrote for *The Gardeners' Chronicle*: "A prettier plant [than a form of *I. guldenstadtiana*] is a pearly-gray flowered hybrid of *I. Albertii* which was raised by Sir Michael Foster, of which he did not know the pollen parent. This plant is apt to flower at any time, and the blooms show clearly the influence of *I. Albertii* in the curious way in which the heavy veining at the base of the falls ends abruptly at the level of the end of the beard."<sup>12</sup> Dykes also described this remontant hybrid in *The Genus Iris*.

Writing in a 1921, Sir Arthur Hort, distinguished botanist, gardener and close friend of Sir Michael Foster, commented on *I. albertii* and its hybrids: "I should like to refer to Alberti, one of Mr. Dykes' [sic] 'Eastern group' of which I doubt if enough use has been made. Unluckily the name by some strange freak is sometimes attached to a form of graminea. The true Alberti is a tall bearded iris, not very brilliant, but with wonderfully delicate penciling on the falls. This character re-appears in two seedlings which Foster gave me. Alberti x Balkana [sic] a delightful coppery thing, and a white-flowered plant which I call privately Perpetua, because it blooms at all sorts of times as well as (very profusely) in early May: it is a charming plant, and for some reason the white butterflies are strangely fond of settling on it. For Alberti itself Foster advised the same treatment as for the oncocyclis group, but this does not seem to be

necessary, though it likes a hot dry position. Mr. Dykes has given me a yellow form of it."<sup>13</sup>

Dykes also believed *I. albertii* had much breeding potential. He used it as the pollen parent in crosses with *I. pallida*, and selected three of the resultant offspring to be introduced. The descriptions of these cultivars are included in *Iris Chronicles*, No. VIII. CHARMIAN is described as "bright pure light blue self" and "extremely free-flowering, often carrying eight fully open flowers at once on branching stems." Its height is given as 3 feet, 3 inches. CYMBELINE, the tallest of the three at 3 feet, 6 inches, is called a "pallida with bright aniline blue flowers, heavy brown reticulations and a beard which is cream tipped with golden yellow." With a height of 3 feet, OCTAVIA is described as having flowers of "clear rich purple-violet."

If one asked an authority on remontant irises which areas in the United States are most conducive to the production of autumn bloom, it is not likely the response would include Idaho. Still, nearly three decades ago, an article by Phyllis Holtz appeared in the *Reblooming Iris Reporter* about an iris that reblooms profusely in that State: "How many of you have seen *I. albertii*, R-4? It is without doubt the ugliest iris I have seen, but also the bloomingest [sic]. It starts early and stays long, with intermittent rebloom until stopped by frost. Nothing seems to faze it. After everything was through from the freeze, I finally cut off four new bloomstalks that were making a valiant effort to bloom again down in the fans. I've dug into it at all odd times of the year, and still it keeps right on blooming."<sup>14</sup>

Phyllis Holtz stated that she had started using *I. albertii*, R-4 in a breeding program to produce "very hardy early rebloomers that we need in the north." No seedlings were ever registered from her crosses. Holtz also pointed out that L.F. Randolph obtained clone R-4 from Dr. Rodionenko. She described it as a "miserable purple color" with lots of buds at the top of the stem but with no branching.<sup>15</sup>

<sup>11</sup> This comment in *The Genus Iris*, p. 181, is one of the first, if not the first, published observation of those appendages which would later be developed by Austin, Craig, et al., into horns, spoons, and flounces.

<sup>12</sup> Reprinted in Dillistone, G., *Dykes on Irises* (Tunbridge Wells, 1930).

<sup>13</sup> "Sir Michael Foster and his Irises" in *AIS Bulletin* No. 2, January 1921.

<sup>14</sup> *The Reblooming Iris Reporter* No. 18, September 1970, p. 71.

<sup>15</sup> Whereas it is true that the mountainous climate of Idaho may better approximate the growing conditions of *I. albertii* than many other regions of the U.S., the fact

Kohlein has reported rebloom on *I. albertii* in his own garden in Germany. In *Iris* he wrote: "*I. albertii* has two interesting characteristics for hybridizers. It is the earliest blooming Tall Bearded Iris and often reblooms in the fall. *I. albertii* needs a warm, dry location with good drainage, otherwise it is relatively undemanding. More resistant to bacterial diseases than some other species. Annual growth is remarkable. Extremely winter hardy. Blooming period from first half of May, often blooms by the end of April, in climatically favorable regions. Fall blossom comes end of September."<sup>16</sup>

Why have reblooming iris breeders so neglected *I. albertii*? I can suggest a several reasons. First, the relative scarcity of clones of *I. albertii* is probably a factor. There has not been a lot of information on this species in iris publications, and consequently it has not been well-known. Then, too, the use of a diploid species with modern 48 chromosome tetraploids is not an undertaking for the timid. Unless tetraploidy is induced in *I. albertii*, many failed attempts to cross the species with the modern tall bearded iris might be anticipated.

Introducing any iris species into a breeding program usually requires patience to get good results. It is a

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that the clone R-4 is such a prodigious rebloomer must cause one to question whether or not it is in actuality a hybrid form. Dykes was the first to observe that hybrids are more likely to rebloom than species. Dr. Donald Spoon has pointed out to me that the rebloom characteristic, if occurring in the wild through mutation, is not one that would likely be favored by nature. The only species that I am aware of that has a reputation for frequently producing autumn bloom in the wild is the dwarf *I. subbiflora*, which karyotype analysis indicates is an amphidiploid hybrid of *I. pseudopumila* and *I. pallida* or some other species with similar chromosome morphology. Another clue indicating that R-4 is a hybrid is its lack of branching. Although not spectacular, the stem of the species does have branches.

<sup>16</sup> Pp. 195-196. Kohlein also obtained *I. albertii* clones from Dr. Rodionenko, and one cannot dismiss the possibility, indeed likelihood, that the form that reblooms for him in Germany is a hybrid. In *The Iris* (Moscow, 1981), p. 26, Dr. Rodionenko wrote that *I. albertii* and *I. imbricata* "are readily crossed on the experimental plots of the Leningrad Botanical Garden and produce seedlings with a more vigorous clump compared to the parents." The greater vigor of the hybrids, i.e. heterosis, would not be unexpected.

lot easier to get pretty flowers by crossing two irises with pretty flowers than to use a species as one of the parents. Those who breed reblooming irises have been laboring for decades to get bigger and better formed flowers, with brighter and clearer colors and less conspicuous haft markings. Their energies been fully taxed to get where we are today. The relatively poor branching, old-fashioned flowers, and conspicuous haft markings of *Iris albertii* are going to show up in its hybrid offspring. A breeding program incorporating *I. albertii* might take years, even decades, to produce dependably remountant irises that are beautiful by today's standards.

Had Paul Cook failed to use little *I. suaveolens* (or perhaps it really was *I. reichenbachii* as he originally thought) to produce PROGENITOR, or neglected to use that ugly little hybrid for further breeding, we would not have gorgeous tall bearded irises with the dominant amoena pattern or with the delicate "Emma Cook" pattern. Great advances usually require extraordinary efforts. A little bit of luck helps, but imagination, hard work, and patience are more commonly the ingredients needed to attain great successes.

It is possible that "Albert Regel's iris" could provide the means for a giant step forward in remountant iris breeding for various classes of irises. The extreme climatic conditions of its native habitat and the proved remountant performance of some of its hybrid offspring are not without significance. This species may have the potential to extend the areas where irises dependably rebloom. The "bright pure light blue" and "bright aniline blue" seedlings obtained by Dykes when he crossed this species with *I. pallida* suggest that *I. albertii* might be a useful parent for obtaining good blue remountant irises---a goal long sought by hybridizers.

Let us hope some visionary hybridizers start using this native of central Asia in their breeding programs. I have no hesitation in expressing this view for it is merely an echo of the voices of William Rickatson Dykes and Sir Arthur Hort traveling through time and space.

## WHY BUY THEM?

Other than the fact that you double or triple your pleasure with rebloom, these irises seem to be more cold hardy than the once bloomers. On the whole, they are more resistant to rot, grow more vigorously and have less leaf spot and insect damage. Their foliage is in better condition in July and August, looking almost as well as it did in the spring if given the proper care. The once bloomers, for the most part, are in dormancy with their foliage dying back by midsummer. Some exceptions to this seem to be that a lot of once bloomers with rebloom in their ancestry (called **carriers**) have similar traits to the rebloomers. Most rebloomers are among the first to bloom in the spring. Rebloomers also sell better and hold their value longer than a once bloomer. Recently, retail sellers have discovered this fact. In our own iris club sales and auctions, the rebloomers are the first to sell (and always sellout) and bring higher prices.

## WHAT SPECIAL EFFORT?

Rebloomers take a little more care than the once bloomers but are definitely worth the extra effort. They like a little more fertilizer and water since they need an extra boost to flower again. You should fertilize in early spring and again after spring bloom. Use a fertilizer with a low Nitrogen content, such as 5-10-5, mix 50/50 with superphosphate (0-45-0), and/or incorporate some compost, bone meal, well composted manure, etc. into the soil before planting. We apply a liquid fertilizer (such as Miracle Grow ®) again in September. Basically, you don't want to let the rebloomers go dormant. Water them heavily at least once every other week if the rainfall hasn't been sufficient, so they don't dry out completely. You may want to grow the rebloomers together or mark them in some way since the once bloomers may rot with the extra water and fertilizing. **Be careful to cut all the bloom stalks after the first freeze or they may transfer rot and bacteria down to the rhizomes. Be sure and cut the developing stalks just emerging from the rhizome.** To spot these developing stalks, check the base of the fan, it will start to enlarge and you can feel (gently) with your fingers the swelling just before the plant puts up a bloom stalk. We mark all the rebloomers with pink flags so we can check for the emerging stalks after a freeze. Cut them close to ground level so the cut shows white not green, and at a slant to assist with drainage. If your climate is damp or humid, you should treat the cuts with ground lime to which Benomyl and/or Agri-strep ® has been added. We also use Agri-strep ® to treat soft rot outbreaks. Be careful using these chemicals and please follow the directions.

Since rebloomers tend to increase faster than once bloomers you may need to separate them every other year. Some cultivars need to be well established before they rebloom. In this case you should divide half of the clump and leave the rest to rebloom. Some irises will rebloom the first season they are planted. At the very first sign of leafspot, treat with a fungicide. Don't forget to change fungicides periodically since the fungi can become immune to it. If you have borers, aphids or Japanese beetles, you should choose a systemic such as Merit ® that only kills the insects that eat the leaves and does not harm beneficial insect predators. There are many organic controls available. We apply beneficial nematodes (we order from *Garden's Alive*) to help control borers. Interplanting with other perennials helps to curb outbreaks of pests. Many members of the daisy family provide food and shelter for beneficial insects. We control slugs with Epsom Salt or wood ashes sprinkled lightly around the plants. They need to be reapplied after a rain. It is possible to have an environmentally friendly iris garden if you are willing to search for alternatives to harmful chemicals.

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**CANARY DELIGHT** (J. Roberts '97) TB, 36" M. Sdlg. 573-1. This yellow amoena has delighted all. Canary falls, rimmed with white to match the standards; bright yellow beards. Wide, flaring form with excellent branching and 8 buds. Rose Princess X 326RE-2:(Immortality x Coral Chalice). EC, HC '96. \$35.00

**CORNHUSKER AUTUMN** (Weiler '97) SDB, 10", E-M & RE. A pretty maize yellow bitone with contrasting beards of light lavender-blue. Good autumn rebloom in CA & NE, hardiness. zones 9, 5, suggesting rebloom over much of the US. 2-3 buds. Involved seedlings. \$10.00

**FOND REMEMBRANCE** (Weiler '97) IB, 18", E-L & RE. Dark blue-violet bitone flowers on 2-branched stalks with 5 buds. Reblooms in CA, NE, likely most area hardiness zones 5-9. ((Third Charm x Plum Wine) x (Watersmeet x Third Charm) X Raven's Return. \$15.00

**GARDEN CLUB DELIGHT** (Zurbrigg '97) 37" M. & RE. Sdlg. JJ 93-8-2. Garden Club members consistently chose this as their favorite. Large wide flower of excellent form has a sparkling white background attractively patterned with violet markings. Growth and well branched stalks are perfection. Reblooms MD, VA, zones 6,7. Best Seedling at the Region 4 Fall Show '93. Fertile both ways. Matrix X Suky. \$35.00

**GLITTER BIT** (Weiler '97) SDB, 10", EML & RE. A beautiful flaring flower of glittering gold with shocking violet beards. 2-3 buds. Blooms for a long time in spring and again for weeks in fall in CA, MD, zones 7,9. From involved seedlings. \$10.00

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**LLOYD'S CHOICE** (J. Roberts '97) TB, 36" M. Sdlg. 525-8. Behold a purple iris with rosy hafts! Substance and branching are excellent. 7-8 buds. Greatly admired by Lloyd Zurbrigg, it is named in his honor. Not a rebloomer, it depends entirely on its blooms to win its way into your heart. Titan's Glory X Mulled Wine. \$35.00

**RAVEN'S RETURN** (Weiler '97) TB, 37", EML & RE. A beautiful, ruffled black violet bitone with dark violet beards borne on well branched stalks. Reblooms rather late some years. Ravenwood X Satin Satan sib. \$35.00

**ROMAN CARNIVAL** (Nearpass '97) TB, 36" M. Sdlg. 88-20. A terrific iris with pale violet standards suffused with lavender dots. White ruffled falls, heavily stippled purple, are highlighted by rusty orange beards. Purple Pepper X Rose Tattoo. \$35.00

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## NEW IRIS REBLOOMING INTRODUCTIONS FOR 1997 BY DON SPOON

- LUCIE ANDRY** BB, 24" (61 cm), EM & RE (zone 6). Flaring, lightly ruffled white self, yellow beards, lavender buds. (Winter Olympics x Spinning Wheel). A very useful parent for exceptional white rebloomers. .... \$25.00
- MOUSE** BB, 18" (46 cm), M & RE (Late September in our zone 6). Very dependable rebloomer. Butter yellow petals and style arms with yellow beards. Rare maculosa pattern on falls. Teardrop shaped and sized purple spots with pointed ends. This is passed to offspring as a dominant trait. Horizontally flared and ruffled wide falls with maroon veining on top of the falls. Fertile both ways. Named mouse as the smallest from this cross. (Winter Olympics x Spinning Wheel) ..... \$25.00
- PEACH PARASOL** BB, 19" (48 cm), M & RE (Late September in our zone 6). Flared and ruffled peach bitone (RHS 24D) with falls overlaid orchid (75C) and beards darker peach (25A). Very dependable continuous rebloomer with beautiful branching to 9 buds. Has rebloomed for us two months after division and replanting. Vigorous. Fertile both ways. (Faux Pas x Ozark Evening) ..... \$25.00
- LILLA'S GLOVES** TB, 32" (81 cm), EM & RE (zone 7). Lovely ruffled lavender self. (Violet Miracle x Quiet Times) ..... \$25.00
- LILLA'S STRIPES** TB, 32" (81 cm), EM & RE (Oct. in zone 6). Plum lavender plicata on white ground with darker stripe down the middle of the falls. (Lilla's Gloves x Violet Miracle) ..... \$35.00
- PRECIOUS HARVEST** TB, 29" (74 cm), M & RE (October in zone 7). Ruffled and lightly laced yellow self with lighter zonal below darker yellow beard. Falls are very wide and also ruffled at the hafts. Good branching. (Precious Moments x Harvest of Memories) ..... \$40.00
- PURPLE MAGIC** TB, 32" (81 cm), EM & RE (October in zone 7). Flaring, ruffled purple self with purple beard tipped yellow. Best modern form on a purple rebloomer we have seen. Exceptional pollen parent, fertile both ways. (Lilla's Gloves x Orbiter) ..... \$40.00
- RONEY'S ENCORE** TB, 33" (48 cm), EM & RE (zone 7). Light peachy yellow self with orange beards. (Delia's Child x Samurai Warrior). A great parent for vigorous rebloomers. .... \$25.00
- SWEETHEART RING** TB, 31" (79 cm), M & RE (zone 7). Creamy yellow standards, infused darker yellow, white falls with narrow bright yellow border, yellow beards, ruffled and lightly laced. Very smooth with modern form. Excellent parent both ways producing heavily laced seedlings. (Romantic Mood X I Do) ..... \$35.00

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